



# South Africa@work

Newsletter of the South African Consulate General in New York City

Volume 2 Issue 2

April—June 2001

## Special Features

President Mbeki's speech on the Budget of the Presidency ..... 1

Minister Trevor Manuel's speech at the National Assembly ..... 1

### In this issue:

Joint Statement by President Bush and President Mbeki ..... 2

Minister Tshabalala-Msimang's speech at the UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS 4

From the Desk of the Consul General ..... 5

Highlights from the South African Media 6

Calendar of South African Events 8

Extracts from Speech by President Mbeki on the Budget of the Presidency: June 21, 2001

## South Africa: Working Together for Change

A few days ago, our people joined in their thousands solemnly to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Soweto Uprising; to pay tribute to the thousands of young people who died and were maimed so that all of us should be free; to commit our country to the development, upliftment and happiness of the young; to reaffirm our resolve to defend our democratic gains.

As we marched down the streets of Soweto to commemorate the fateful march of June 16, 1976, we saw a young white girl in her early teens standing together and holding hands with young black girls in the streets of Soweto, a happy smile on her face, an enthusiastic wave to the marchers, safe and relaxed in the company of her friends.

Our observance of the 25th Anniversary of the Soweto Uprising was, therefore, also a celebration. We gathered in many parts of our country, including Soweto, to celebrate our historic achievement that the children of our country, across the color line, can, today, walk together, hand in hand, as friends.

We celebrated the fact that our people can march down our streets without fear of being shot and killed, regardless of the cause they seek to advance.

We celebrated the achievement that we could gather together, as South Africans, and set ourselves common national tasks focused on ensuring that the society we are building presents a much happier future for the young than the

future our children faced 25 years ago.

We gathered to celebrate the fact that we could, together, salute the victories of both Andrew Kelehe, this year's Comrades Marathon male winner, and Retief Goosen, victor at the 2001 US Golf Open.

It would be correct to say that, as South Africans, we could not but observe the 25th Anniversary of the Soweto Uprising. After all, June 16th was proclaimed our National Youth Day precisely to pay permanent tribute to the youth who died for our liberation.

But, of great importance, we were also joined in the com-

*(Continued on page 2)*

Excerpts from Minister Manuel's speech: National Treasury: June 14, 2001

## Economy: Steady Improvement

Madam Speaker, there is ample evidence of a steady improvement in the performance of the South African economy over the past three years. Real growth of gross domestic product increased to 3.1% last year, after just 0.7% in 1998 and about 2% in 1999. Despite the sharp rise in oil prices and the depreciation of the rand, price inflation has remained moderate and in the first four months of this year has made encouraging progress towards our target range of 3 to 6% for next year. Exports grew by over 7% in real terms last year and have continued to perform strongly this year, despite the adverse international environ-

ment. The balance of payments and the nation's foreign reserves are in a healthier state that they have been for many years and the public sector borrowing requirement has fallen from over 5% of GDP to just 10.98%, down from about 13% a year ago. The steady decline in long-term interest rates since 1998 is perhaps the most notable signal of the fact that our financial infrastructure is powerfully positioned for a robust expansion over the years ahead. It reflects confidence that inflation is under control. It means that funds are available for investment. It reduces the cost of capital to businesses seeking to build new plant or purchase

equipment. It lowers the cost of borrowing for government, raising the affordable level of real spending on public goods and services. It represents a significant decline in the price we must pay to attract foreign portfolio investment into our bond market. The interests of consumers are closely bound up with another financial reform namely the introduction of the inflation-targeting regime last year. We believe that we are on course to achieving the 3 to 6% target for 2002 agreed with the SARB. Because we have little control over exogenous shocks such as increases in the price of

*(Continued on page 3)*

Current Exchange Rate:  
US\$1.00 = R8.01  
July 3, 2001  
Source: Wall Street Journal

*Produced by the*

### South African Consulate General

333 East 38th Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10016  
Tel: (212) 213-4880  
Fax: (212) 213-0102

#### Email:

sacg@southafrica-newyork.net

#### Website:

www.southafrica-newyork.net

*President Mbeki's Speech*  
(continued from page 1)

memorations by the peoples of the world. For example, to mention only three countries, two events took place in Mozambique, one involving the government of that country and another that entailed a visit to a cemetery where many of our country's liberation fighters are buried.

Rallies and public meetings were held in various parts of the Republic of Congo, including the capital city, Brazzaville.

35,000 people participated in a mass rally in Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

In all these instances, the countries that held June 16 meetings last week had been active participants in the protracted global struggle against apartheid. Perhaps, it was therefore to be expected that they would, once again, express solidarity with us as we commemorated the Soweto Uprising.

But I believe that if we were to conclude that this was the only, or even the principal, reason that these other peoples remembered June 16, we would be wrong. There is another and larger reason for the renewed expression of solidarity that we saw last week.



Our country contains within it, in a concentrated form, many of the major and interconnected challenges that face the global community. Similarly, it has within it the potential for the successful resolution of these challenges.

As an African country, affected by both conscious and sub-conscious negative and pessimistic views about the role, the place and the future of Africa and the Africans, we are also faced with the challenge practically to disprove this negativity and pessimism.

What we do must also succeed to bridge the structural gaps that exist between South Africa as a country of the South and the countries of the North.

We stand out as a country that must succeed to create a non-racial society and thus address the important issue of the defeat of racism globally. This must be expressed both in the defeat of racist consciousness and in the reconstruction of our country to end the racial disparities we have all inherited.

The relationship between race, gender and poverty dictates that we also succeed in the effort to achieve the emancipation of

women. Neither the internal North-South division nor the racial imbalances can be solved, if the disempowerment of and discrimination against women are not brought to an end.

The poverty that affects millions of our people is yet another feature of our reality. Once more, we will not succeed to overcome the internal and external North-South divide, racism and sexism unless we eradicate poverty among all our people.

The world community of nations is aware of the fact that our young democracy is confronted by the task to achieve forward movement towards the simultaneous resolution of all these problems. Of course, these problems are not exclusive to us, but find a particular expression in our country that highlights the historic and global importance of our national project for reconstruction and development.

Since 1994, our parliament has considered various White Papers and other policy initiatives and approved hundreds of laws focused on the creation of the policy guidelines and the legislative framework that would guide us as a government in carrying through our process of reconstruction and development.

Consistent with our Constitution and law, our judiciary, and especially the Constitutional Court, has also helped to establish the legal framework to which we have referred.

(Continued on page 5)

## JOINT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AND PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI

President Bush and President Mbeki committed to build on and strengthen the already excellent ties between the United States and South Africa. We committed ourselves to achieving our shared goals of building a stronger strategic partnership and promoting economic growth and democracy in Africa and globally.

We reaffirmed that our governments will meet regularly, to consult on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues of shared importance, and that ongoing co-operative efforts, begun under the direction of the Binational Commission, shall continue and be enhanced in the critical areas of agriculture; conservation, environment and education; justice and anti-crime; science and technology; sustainable energy; and trade and investment. We will establish a joint secretariat to direct and co-ordinate the consultations and to provide recommendations to both governments. We discussed the Millennium Africa Recovery Program (MAP) and agreed to work together for a prosperous, democratic Africa. We af-

firmed our support for the MAP's core goals of conflict resolution, good governance, sound economic management, and fighting HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We affirmed that additional efforts to combat the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are urgently needed, and we renewed our commitment to working together against them and the conditions that enable the diseases to proliferate. We agreed to support the establishment and funding of the global trust fund for HIV/AIDS and other diseases as a unique public-private partnership to bring needed resources to the battle against these diseases through a multi-sector integrated strategy.

We pledged to work together to support the launching of a new round of World Trade Organization negotiations and affirmed that we have many common interests, in particular the growth of agricultural trade and a shared commitment to working together to bridge the digital divide in Africa. Likewise, we confirmed our satisfaction that the Afri-

can Growth and Opportunity Act (AGO) has produced positive results in South Africa, and has already led to expanded trade and investment between the two countries.

We affirmed our mutual desire for a peaceful, democratic, prosperous Zimbabwe, in which human rights and rule of law are respected. We agreed that a dialogue between the Government of Angola and UNITA rebels on implementing the Lusaka Protocol offers the best promise for peace. We affirmed our commitment to progress toward resolving the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC) and agreed to cooperate on conflict resolution efforts throughout Africa.

President Bush looks forward to the opportunity to visit South Africa as part of the effort to continue building and fostering the growth of our bilateral relationship and promoting our shared agenda.

*Minister Manuel's Speech*

(continued from page 1)

crude oil, the agreement with SARB provides an escape clause. This escape clause was deliberately agreed to take account of serious supply shocks and to avoid unnecessary monetary tightening, particularly when inflation is seen as an aberration. Given the importance attached to this regime the Treasury and the Reserve Bank have formed a joint task team to develop our understanding of the inflation process, the implication of both macro and sectoral policies and propose further steps in the inflation-targeting framework. The new target will be announced in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement. The healthy state of the nation's finances is a critical foundation for growth, but it does not guarantee economic success.

And so, our efforts must now turn to the details of industrial policy, the provision of infrastructure, investment in skills, the structure of our labor markets and the evolution of transport, communication and other services on which dynamic growth and employment creation depend. These are themes that extend well beyond our mandate in the Finance Ministry, but we have a modest role to play, which is the subject of this budget debate. Our influence is not limited to our national boundaries. As a country, we have actively participated in shaping the international economic agenda through our participation in various multilateral forums. In chairing the annual meeting of the Boards of the IMF and World Bank in Prague last year, we gave prominence to the pressing need for democratization of the international financial institutions, to the urgency of developed country reforms to complement those of developing countries in attacking poverty, and the importance of measures to ensure a more equitable distribution of the benefits of globalization. We have called for fair access to markets as an important aspect of the development agenda.

We have also been contributors to the economic and social well being of our continent and region. In the past year, President Mbeki has elaborated a vision for economic recovery in Africa that rests on the foundations of democratic governance, that emphasizes sound and sustainable economic policies and that puts the needs of the very

poor first. Mindful of the message our President has taken to the British Government this week, it is appropriate that this House should note our own substantial commitments to the development of our region and our continent. These include contributions to the Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative and to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility of the International Monetary Fund. We have cancelled Mozambique's debt. The National Treasury vote includes annual provision for payments to the African Development Fund of the African Development Bank, which provides financial assistance to the poorest countries in Africa on highly favorable terms. Our shareholding in the African Development Bank has increased to just over 4% and we expect the Bank to play an active role in supporting the goals of the Millennium Africa Recovery Program. Our largest contributions to neighboring countries are not made

Year	GDP Growth
1992	-2.1%
1993	+1.2%
1994	+3.2%
1995	+3.1%
1996	+4.2%
1997	+2.5%
1998	+0.7%
1999	+1.9%
2000	+3.1%

through the voted appropriations, but through a revenue-sharing partnership. The Southern African Customs Union provides for transfers of some R8 billion a year to Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia out of a common revenue pool. We are hopeful that a revised agreement will soon be given effect, enhancing its develop-

ment impact by reserving a component of the pool to be distributed in relation to income per capita.

In our quest for setting world-class standards, we have proactively participated in

various international programs and processes. In 1996, we subscribed to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS), and we are one of the very few countries to have fully complied, within the set time frame. We have also agreed that a Report on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) should be undertaken of our economic and financial data. We have participated in three Financial Sector Assessment Programs (FSAPs) all of which confirm a general soundness of the financial system, and see no risks to macroeconomic stability. They present a broadly positive endorsement of the South African financial system. South Africa's markets are described as "highly developed and balanced", government financial and monetary policies as "sound", the national payment system as "modern and sophisticated", and the legal and regulatory framework "impressive in the comprehensiveness of its coverage". The reports note that the financial sector's resilience contributed to the economy's successful weathering of the 1997/98 financial crises. This year we will further strengthen the institutional framework by establishing a single regulator. The International Monetary Fund's annual Article IV consultations and report to the Board in March this year again drew attention to the healthy state of our public finances and the robustness of our economy. Our tax reform strategy, the reduction of the budget deficit, our debt management reforms and the progress made by the Reserve Bank in reducing its forward foreign exchange exposure have been noted favorably.

Madam Speaker, the fundamental reform of our economy is well underway. The significant restructuring of our public finances will continue to bear fruit for many generations to come. Because our public finances are in such a healthy state, we are better positioned to continue to spend more on education, health, social services and infrastructure. All of which contribute significantly to the eradication of

poverty and creation of a better life for all. What we need now is something that no economic model can give us, namely a healthy dose of national pride in what we have achieved. We must state quite unequivocally that our economy has never been in better shape. Let us now build on these achievements.

PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANNUAL GDP BY INDUSTRY AT CURRENT PRICES							
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.6	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.2
Mining and quarrying	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.5
<b>Primary Industries</b>	11.9	10.8	11.0	10.5	10.1	9.5	9.7
Manufacturing	20.9	21.2	20.2	19.9	19.31	18.8	18.8
Electricity and Water	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.9
Construction	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.8
<b>Secondary Industries</b>	27.7	27.9	26.5	26.3	25.5	24.7	24.4
Wholesale and Retail trade' hotels and	14.2	14.3	14.0	13.7	13.3	13.2	13.1
Transport and Communication	8.7	8.9	9.2	9.2	9.5	9.9	10.1
Finance, real estate and business ser-	16.0	16.4	16.6	17.5	18.4	19.6	20.3
Community, social and personal ser-	16.2	16.2	17.2	17.1	17.4	17.1	16.3
General government services	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0
Other producers	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.1
<b>Tertiary Industries</b>	60.4	61.3	62.5	63.2	64.4	65.8	65.9
All industries at basic prices	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

*The full text of this speech is available at [www.southafrica-newyork.net](http://www.southafrica-newyork.net)*

## Speech by Minister Tshabalala -Msimang delivered at the United Nations Special Session on HIV/AIDS, New York City

Mr. President  
Secretary General  
Ministers  
Your Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Our country South Africa is one of the most affected by HIV and AIDS. We have come to New York not just because we care about our people and country but also because in a real way the destiny of nations and the peoples of the world will take a turn for the better or the worse depending on how we elect to conduct this important gathering.

South Africa has to contend with this catastrophe against the background of pervasive poverty, underdevelopment and a range of other public health challenges.

Clearly, our response to the challenge we face has to be rooted in this reality.

There is a lot which we know, helps to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS. Most of these strategies are eloquently covered in the draft declaration before us. Fundamental amongst these, is the need to anchor our efforts in strong preventive programs, with a specific focus on the Youth; in the empowerment of women and the girl child and in ensuring that MEN become part of the solution. The national program we pursue incorporates all these elements.

Some of the key prevention programs we have in place are:

- \* The Life-skills program which is a compulsory component of our schools curriculum

- \* Free supply of quality condoms

- \* Public awareness campaigns that target all sectors of our society. Although still at the beginning of a long journey, we are encouraged by some of the results from some of these programs.

Many HIV/AIDS prevention programs have additional benefits that may be overlooked. Many of these interventions involve many role players and target communities with wide spread positive outcomes.

For example, condom programs also prevent other STI's that are spread in the same way as HIV. Life-skills programs in schools and encouragement of condom use among adolescents who engage in sex will complement efforts to postpone sexual debut, re-

duce teenage pregnancy and abortion and as a result improve school completion rates among young girls. Young girls will thus be able to acquire skills, be productive and have a better quality of life.

Although these benefits are difficult to quantify, they should not be overlooked.

Programs to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV pose significant challenges in developing countries where breast-feeding is the norm and lack of access to safe water and sanitation is a reality. In order to unravel these challenges, South Africa has embarked on a program to provide a package of care for pregnant women who are HIV positive at selected sites in all our nine provinces.

We have learnt through the preparation of these sites, that indeed there is far more to this program than the mere administration of an anti-retroviral drug. Concerns raised about the emergence of resistant viral strains following exposure to this drug, will also be examined in these pilot sites. We, however, see this challenge posed not so much as a deterrent but a call for an intensified effort.

But let me stress that the solutions we seek are those that are rooted in our reality and which will enhance the capacity of our countries and more specifically help secure our health systems in order to better respond to the many public health challenges that accompany HIV and AIDS. In our country, for example, where we face both an HIV/AIDS and TB epidemic, it is clear that one of the major determinants of our overall success relates to our ability to scale up our TB programs, secure high full treatment rates, reduce treatment interruptions and contain the rise in Multi-drug Resistance TB. (MDR TB).

As we continue to act on the basis of the best evidence available to us today – let us also continue to support research and scientific enquiry into this complex phenomenon. Let us also not forget that some simple interventions such as the management of opportunistic infections and the provision of nutritional support for HIV infected in-

dividuals has a significant impact on the quality of life. Let us not shy away from the simple truth that much as we

know a lot today, there are many facets of both the HI virus and the syndrome of AIDS that need further elucidation. Amongst these efforts we include the international search for appropriate vaccines in which our country actively participates.

Needless to say, the millions already infected and affected cry for care and support now. We need to move with a greater sense of urgency – all of us! We support the view that prevention care and support are sides of the same

coin and mutually reinforce each other.

Our task is to mobilize for the requisite resources to provide a comprehensive program.

We need to assist formal and informal social support networks as may exist. In addition, greater involvement of communities especially People Living With AIDS is key to our success.

Mr. President, AIDS constitutes a global crisis. No one country has the luxury to opt out. What may seem to be an act of generosity may in fact be nothing but enlightened self-interest.

In this regard, we should try to leverage and strengthen regional efforts. In our own region the SADC Heads of State and Government have endorsed a regional multi-sectoral strategy on HIV/AIDS.

We welcome the growing number of pledges that have been made to the global AIDS and health fund and eagerly await an escalation in both the number and size of contributions in keeping with the scale of the problem. We are, however, a little concerned that the lack of finality around its actual working may be presenting an obstacle to additional pledges.

Since it is not in our collective interest to have the generosity of the international community restrained by issues of process, we would lend our voice to calls for the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, to continue his leadership role and to assist us in navigating

*(Continued on page 5)*



(Continued from page 2)

Only yesterday, correct references was made to the fact that our democratic parliament has sought to ensure that it opens itself up to access by all our people. The people have therefore been important actors in the determination of the policies and the legislation to which we have referred.

I am certain that the House will agree that we need to review this public participation continuously, to improve access by the public to the determination of the destiny of our country.

As a result of the serious work that the Government, parliament, the general public and the judiciary have done since 1994 to place our country on a path of fundamental social transformation, the Government is firmly of the view that, substantially, we have elaborated the policy, legislative and constitutional base that will enable us to achieve the transformation of our country.

This base encompasses a wide variety of challenges that our country faces, including the creation of a non-racial and non-sexist society; the eradication of poverty; economic growth and development; the protection and development of children, the young and disabled; human resource development; the modernization of our country consistent with advances in science and technology; popular participation in the process of governance, especially at the local level; and the assumption by our country of its rightful place within the international community.

Of course, there are a number of areas that continue to receive attention as we seek to finalize our policy and other positions.

These include youth policy, the role and place of our traditional leaders, the establishment of the Commission on Linguistic, Cultural and Religious Rights and the policy framework relating to information and communication technology.

Work on these issues and other issues will proceed apace. However, this does not gainsay the fact that, as we have said, substantially, we have established the policy and legislative base that enables us to effect the social transformation that our country needs.

Accordingly, the central challenge we face as Government is the task of implementation. The order of the day is that we take all necessary measures to ensure that the policy and legislative measures for the reconstruction and development of our country that have already been adopted, are further translated into an actual process of the transformation of our society.

To summarize the message we seek to communicate to this House and to the country today, it is simply this—let us get down to the serious business of work—working together to create a new South Africa; working together to build a country free of racism and sexism; working together to end poverty, unemployment and the social marginalization of any of our people; working together to give an example to the whole world, that, as a people, we have the capacity to succeed, however difficult the challenges we face. The order of the day is to get down to the serious business of working together for change.

*The complete text of President Thabo Mbeki's speech is available at the South African Consulate General's website:*

(Continued from page 4)

Speech by Minister Tshabalala-Msimang delivered at the United Nations Special Session on HIV/AIDS in New York City

the final stages of this course. In the meantime, Chairperson, we would be quite content to hear from others that the cheque is in the mail.

Let me conclude by thanking the international community for the support given to us during our recent court case against some elements in the pharmaceutical industry. In particular I wish to recognize the efforts of the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan and my President Mr. Thabo Mbeki. Let me also signal my governments determination to forge enduring and constructive partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry—an undeniable key stakeholder in health care delivery.

Affordable access for the majority is a basic requirement if this century is truly to be an African century. This calls for a better balance between creating a system of incentives to drive innovation and strategies to ensure that advances translate into benefits for those most in need. Let us be bold and think more creatively. This session and the creation of a fund are small but very important first steps.

## *From the Desk of the Consul General*



Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York and as chairman of the Gala Benefit Committee of "The Second Night for the Children Gala", thank you for your generous contribution towards the work of two extraordinary organizations, CARE International and the Nelson Mandela Foundation that are dedicated to giving children a head start in life.

This year's Gala was a fabulous success and with your assistance, the event raised about \$135,000 and we are grateful for your support. Our success could not have been possible without the generosity of donors like you.

As we bid farewell to this year's edition of "The Second Night for the Children Gala", you may still however, visit us at [www.NightForTheChildren.com](http://www.NightForTheChildren.com) to keep abreast of the many exciting news and updates featured on our website.

Again, we very much appreciate your participation in the "Second Night for the Children Gala" and on behalf of the children, thank you from the bottom of our hearts and hope to see you at the next event this time next year of which you will be notified.

Sincerely,

*Thami X N Ngwevela  
Consul-General*

# Highlights from the South African Media

## South Africa, Lesotho Sign Accord for Mountain Park

Southern Africa's third "peace park" has become a reality, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between South Africa and Lesotho to conserve the Maloti-Drakensberg mountains. The move has unlocked a massive \$15m (about R120m) grant from the World Bank-administered Global Environment Facility. It has also been heralded as a move to restore the pride of a mountain range divided by decades of colonialism. At a ceremony in Sehlabathebe, Lesotho, this week Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Valli Moosa and his Lesotho counterpart, Minister of Environment, Gender and Youth Affairs Mathabiso Lepono, signed the agreement to establish the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area. (Star, June 13, 2001)

## US Assists SAPS

The United States Government has injected \$2.2m (about R17.8m) into training programs for South Africa policemen in a bid to reduce crime. Head of the international narcotics and law enforcement section in the US Embassy in Pretoria, Susan Snyder, said that the amount was increased by \$700,000 (R5.6m) since last year. Among the goals of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement program is the promotion of international cooperation in fighting drug trafficking, crime, combating the security threat posed by international organized crime and helping emerging democracies strengthen their national law enforcement agencies. (Sowetan, June 15, 2001)

## Treaties Aim to Foil Crooks

The United States and South Africa endorsed two treaties tightening the noose around criminals trying to hide behind international borders. The agreements—an extradition treaty and a mutual legal assistance treaty—would enhance joint efforts by the countries to fight crime. Protocols to put the accords into effect were signed by Justice Minister Penuell Maduna and US Charge d'Affaires John Blaney. "These treaties will make it harder for criminals to use international borders to hide from justice," Mr. Blaney said. The new extradition treaty, a revised version of a 1951 agreement, expanded the parameters under which an individual could be extradited from either the United States or South Africa. The legal assistance agreement would beef up cooperation with regard to

investigation, prosecution and prevention of crime. Mutual assistance related to the taking of statements, locating suspects, recovering fines, providing records, serving documents, and carrying out requests for searches and seizures. (Pretoria News, June 26, 2001)

## New Immigration Law Will Ease Foreign Access

South Africa is revamping its immigration laws to make it easier for foreigners to work in this country, but employers will have to pay a special tax on their salaries in many cases. Elderly foreign nationals will also find it easier to retire in South Africa under the new Bill, which a government adviser said had been approved by Cabinet and was expected to be passed by Parliament before the end of the year. It will allow foreigners under the age of 25 to work in South Africa for one year in any field of employment, and smooth the way for seasonal workers from neighboring countries. New taxes of between 1% and 3% of salaries will be slapped on most companies employing skilled foreigners. The Bill will do away with the onerous condition requiring companies that wish to employ foreigners to prove that a suitable South African cannot be found to do the job in question. "What we are doing is making a foreigner more expensive, and if the employer needs him, he will take him. We are letting the free market decide who gets the job," said Mario Ambrosini, the special adviser to Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the home affairs minister. (Sunday Times, June 24, 2001)

## South Africa, US Sign New Extradition Deal

South Africa will in future demand written guarantees from countries seeking the extradition of criminals, that they will not be tortured or sentenced to death if convicted, Justice Ministry spokesman Paul Setsetse said. In an interview after the United States and South Africa signed a new extradition treaty this week to allow greater cooperation in the fight against crime, Setsetse said South Africa's Constitution forbade the imposition of the death sentence for any crime. South Africa was also forbidden by the United Nations charter on human rights to participate or facilitate in any acts that constituted torture as punishment for any crime. "Any court seeking the extradition of any indi-

vidual so that they may face a trial should make a written guarantee that the individual so that they may face a trial should make a written guarantee that the individual will not be tortured or sentenced to death. "If the country does not provide the guarantee, South African courts can refuse the extradition request," said Setsetse. (The Citizen, June 27, 2001)

## South Africa's Program for HIV Patients Now in 51 Nations

A partnership between the Government and American drug manufacturer Pfizer to treat opportunistic infections in HIV-Aids patients has been successful that it is being expanded worldwide. This was revealed during a visit by Department of Health officials and Pfizer executives to the Pretoria Academic Hospital, where the partnership is already operational. In terms of the partnership, Pfizer is supplying the Department with its Diflucan drug which treats fungal infections. The drug has already been given to more than 600 HIV/Aids patients suffering from cryptococcal meningitis and oesophageal candidiasis, two common opportunistic fungal infections among people living with Aids. (Sowetan, June 15, 2001)

## Ramos Upbeat on S. Africa

South Africa appears to be on the track for an international credit rating upgrade later this year, according to National Treasury Director-General Maria Ramos. What was needed now was a healthy dose of positive and forward-looking thinking from local investors, she said. Speaking on SABC's Newsmaker program, Ramos—whose contract with the Treasury was renewed for three years by the Cabinet last week—said South Africa had made "tremendous progress" since the last international credit rating review. "As you know, Moody's (Investor Service) have got us on a positive outlook, and they will be here some time after September. Last time they had concerns about the privatization program, expenditure on infrastructure and investment." These issues had all been handled in this year's Budget, and would continue to be dealt with over the next three years, as the Budget framework indicated. "I think the new open forward position—which was also a concern, not just of the rating agencies but of international investors—has come down very dramatically." (The Citizen, July 2, 2001)

## US Policy on Africa to Focus on Business Links

US Policy toward Africa under President George W. Bush will emphasize business development and trade links as well as partnerships with African countries to find solutions to African conflicts, Mr. Bush's top Africa adviser says. "Being a business person, I understand the vital importance of the economy and economic links. Africa is going to reach its potential via the private sector, which will include involvement of the African private sector, the US private sector, the European private sector and the Japanese private and Far Eastern private sector," Walther H. Kansteiner, the newly confirmed assistant secretary of State for African Affairs, said. "It's the international private sector and the small entrepreneurs and mid-sized businesses that will make Africa succeed," said Mr. Kansteiner, who advised US businesses on their investments in South Africa before joining the State Department. But economic development can not happen in countries at war, Mr. Kansteiner said, which is why his team at the State Department will equally focus on finding solutions to Africa's conflicts in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Zimbabwe and Sudan. "We have two hands, and I think these can be done simultaneously," Mr. Kansteiner said. (Pretoria News, June 15, 2001)

## South Africa to Come Out Fighting in Next Round of WTO

South Africa was going into the next round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations fighting, Alec Erwin, the Trade and Industry Minister said on June 7, 2001. A key issue of the agenda would be reforming the farm subsidy policy in the European Union (EU). Farm subsidies in the EU were a "massive distortion" of world economy and an obstacle to growth, Erwin told the World Economic Forum meeting in Durban. Niall Fitzgerald, the co-chairman of Unilever, said: "The EU knows it has to change the common agricultural policy." At the moment, "each cow in the European herd" was subsidized to the tune of \$1 a day—while in the developing world 1 billion each had to live on \$1 or less. Until now, development issues had not dominated the WTO agenda, though 80% of the world's population lived in developing countries. Southern Africa had a golden opportunity to fight for better access to world markets at the WTO meeting in Doha, Qatar later this year. (Business Report, June 8, 2001).

## Joint Statement by the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Chamber of Mines of South Africa

Top government officials and senior mining industry executives have made a significant breakthrough on various contentious issues related to the draft Minerals Development Bill.

The Bill is due to be tabled in Parliament later this year.

At a Lekgotla (meeting) held in Mpumalanga on 8 and 9 June 2001, the high level government and mining industry teams have resolved major areas of disagreement that have been present since the Bill was released for public comment on 18 December last year.

The Government delegation at the Lekgotla was headed by Advocate Sandile Nogxina, Director General in the Department of Minerals and Energy. Rick Menell, President of the Chamber of South Africa, led the industry team.

At the end of the two day session the leaders of both delegations, and the members of the respective teams, agreed that the Lekgotla had been held in a spirit of mutual understanding aimed, in the interest of the country as a whole, at finding a solution to the impasse.

Agreement was reached on the following key issues:

- *Policy principles underlying the draft Bill*
- *A need to attract investment in the mining and minerals industry*
- *Security of tenure*
- *Discretionary powers of the Minister and good administrative law.*
- *That the mineral rights regime should be brought in line with the internationally accepted norms and standards which recognize the State's custodianship of the nation's mineral resources*
- *The appeal process to the courts*
- *Mechanisms to implement the transitional measures with a view to phasing in the new legislative framework with minimum disruption to the mining industry*

The parties have also agreed to hold further meetings in order to develop a comprehensive strategy of implementing black economic empowerment and the general transformation of the mining industry.

## Chamber Plans to Provide US Access

A Florida-based chamber of commerce is hoping to become the main point of contact for South Africa and US firms seeking to do business with one another, says South African expatriate Anton Hendlar. The Johannesburg-born financial manager is the new president of the South Africa-USA Chamber of Commerce based in Fort Lauderdale—a Florida staging post for South African Air-

ways flight from this country to Atlanta. Working in cooperation with the South African Embassy in to become a one-stop shop for South Africans seeking to invest in and trade with the US, and also for those in the US eyeing the South African market. An early achievement has been in assisting Seald Sweet, a Florida distributor of citrus fruits, in expanding exports and imports of citrus fruit between South Africa and the US to take advantage of seasonal shortages. (Business Day, June 28, 2001)

## Calendar of South African Events

### *Exhibition: William Kentridge*

June 2, 2001 – September 13, 2001  
New Museum of Contemporary Art  
583 Broadway  
New York City

The first American retrospective of internationally acclaimed South African artist William Kentridge opened at the New Museum of Contemporary Art on June 2, 2001 and remains on view through September 16, 2001. The exhibition includes eleven of Kentridge's animated films together with over 60 drawings, two new sculptural installations, and videotapes of theater and opera productions designed and scripted by the artist. Known for expressing the complex political and historical realities of his homeland, Kentridge's poetic and haunting work transcends the problems of South Africa to address the human condition in general. Co-organized by the New Museum of Contemporary Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, William Kentridge will travel across the United States over the next 18 months, concluding in the artist's native South Africa in 2003.

The exhibition will travel to the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (October 14, 2001 - January 2, 2002), the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston (March 1 to May 4, 2002), the Los Angeles Museum of Art (July 21 to October 6, 2002) and finally to the South African National Gallery, Cape Town (December 7, 2002 - March 23, 2003). Philip Morris Companies is the sponsor of the national and international tours of William Kentridge.

*For more information about the New York exhibition, please contact Lauren Tèhan, PR Coordinator at (212) 219 -1222 extension 394, fax (212) 431 -5328, email ltehan@newmuseum.org or visit the New Museum's website: [www.newmuseum.org](http://www.newmuseum.org).*

### *Matchmaking Opportunity Exhibition*

14 - 17 October 2001  
Sandton Convention Center  
Johannesburg, South Africa

The Matchmaking Opportunity Exhibition is the premier event on the South African Business Calendar and will run from the 15th to the 17th of October 2001 at

the Sandton Convention Center in the heart of the business capital of South Africa. The Matchmaking Opportunity Exhibition is a unique and focused business forum aimed at creating a platform in Africa for business trade and provides the ideal networking climate for companies to interact with the key decision makers in the South African business environment. The Matchmaking Opportunity Exhibition will form part of the South African Business Week, which will promote both local and international trade. The exhibition is held in tandem with the Annual South African Chamber of Business (SACOB) Convention.

*For more information, please contact Babs Engelbrecht, Sales Executive at tel. 011 27 11 794-5511, fax 011 27 11 794 -5811 or by email [sacob@rai.co.za](mailto:sacob@rai.co.za)*

### *World Wilderness Congress*

2 - 8 November 2001  
Port Elizabeth, South Africa

The World Wilderness Congress will convene in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, South Africa from November 2 to 8, 2001. The Congress will be limited to approximately 800 people from overseas and Africa.

For information about the Congress, visit their website: [www.worldwilderness.org](http://www.worldwilderness.org)

### *World Conference Against Racism*

August 31 to September 7, 2001  
Durban, South Africa

The World Conference against Racism (WCAR) will take place from August 31, 2001 to September 7, 2001 in Durban, South Africa. The conference will focus on action-oriented and practical steps to eradicate racism, including measures of prevention, education and protection and the provision of effective remedies. It will be a unique and important opportunity to create a new world vision for the fight against racism in the 21st century.

For more information about WCAR, please visit <http://www.un.org/WCAR/>.

### *Earth Summit 2002*

South Africa

In February this year, President Thabo Mbeki, on behalf of the South African government, made a formal offer to the United Nations to

host the Ten year Review Summit of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002 (UNCED 2002) popularly referred to as the Earth Summit 2002 in South Africa. The overwhelming support for the South African offer among UN member states culminated in a resolution of the Second Committee of the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of United Nations General Assembly on Environment and Sustainable Development, on Friday, December 08, 2000, formally accepting with gratitude the offer of the South African Government to host the global event in South Africa.

*For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.environment.gov.za/earthsummit2002/index.html>*

### *Establishment of a New Center for Transitional Justice*

The International Center for Transitional Justice is a newly-established human rights organization based in New York City. The Center aims to strengthen the field of transitional justice—helping societies to respond to a legacy of widespread human rights abuse—through technical assistance, training, networking, documentation and strategic research. Working closely with colleague organizations, the Center responds to requests for assistance and comparative information from non governmental organizations and governments in an effort to promote accountability after repressive rule or civil war. Depending on the context, its work will focus on strategies to document abuse or establish truth commissions, prosecute perpetrators, reform abusive institutions, provide reparations to victims of violence, and/or promote reconciliation. The president of the Center is Alex Boraine, the former deputy chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa and currently an adjunct professor at the New York University School of Law.

*The Center is located at 20 Exchange Place, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10005, tel. (212) 651-1444, fax: (212) 651-1455.*