



AfriForum

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BILTONG BULLETIN

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Greetings to all readers!

As usual, we start with the formalities: To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, send your comments or a contribution, contact us at alana@solidariteit.co.za. This free newsletter for South Africans living abroad appears on a monthly basis in both Afrikaans and English. New subscribers are always most welcome. Remember that even though we select our advertisers with great care, we cannot guarantee their services and cannot be held responsible for their actions.

LEESHOEKIE

If you love wine or the wine industry, **WineLand** is the magazine for you. **WineLand** puts you in direct touch with the wine industry community at all levels, as well as wine lovers with more than a fleeting interest. Visit www.wineland.co.za.

WEBSITES

Sandra sent a message from Italy to tell us that www.kuduclub.com is a great site for South Africans abroad interested in watching MNET. Thank you Sandra!

Tired of political interference in South African sport? Visit www.loudlysa.co.za.

CAUSE OF THE MONTH: CRIME

Crime dominates the news scene in South Africa. Businesses recently organised a group discussion on this topic and all participants reported that crime has become the number 1 point on their agendas. Commercial crime annually costs businesses between R50- and R150-billion, while the costs of anti-crime measures add 1% to 3% to sale prices. In addition, lower productivity results from employees becoming victims of crime and foreign investments are also negatively influenced.

Recently a protest march against crime in South Africa took place in London – does anyone have news for us about this event please?

NATURE CONSERVATION



- Of the 671 butterfly species known in South Africa, 2 have already become extinct, 1 cannot be found and 38 are under serious threat. Of the 4 000 species in Africa, 17% are found in South Africa. A Southern African butterfly protection survey (SABCA) has

been established by the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the Lepidopterology Association of South Africa and the University of Cape Town's animal demography unit in order to establish to which extent species are being threatened and to put measures in place to protect them. The project is being funded by the Norwegian government.

- Last month we reported that the seal-hunting season has opened in Namibia. Francois Hugo, a Capetonian, raises orphaned seal pups and then rehabilitates them. He is successful in 90% of the cases. Francois is the founder of the seal conservation organisation Seal Alert, and has been involved with the saving of seals in Hout Bay since 1999. Seal Alert's bank details are SEAL ALERT TRUST, account number 146 907 9410, branch code 146 905, Nedbank, Northrand branch.
- Research is being done to establish the influence of cellular telephones on insects. This follows after the discovery that ant species are decreasing at an alarming rate in Gauteng.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS SNIPPETS — JULY / AUGUST 2007

- Have you subscribed to ***Biltong Bites***, our daily free email with a summary of the main articles of the day as published in *Beeld*, *Pretoria News*, *Business Day* and *Citizen* yet? Not? Well, subscribe now by sending an e-mail with the subject "Bites" to alana@solidariteit.co.za.
- The popular actor and singer, Bill Flynn, passed away in July 2007.
- Willow Creek olive oil, which is produced close to Worcester in the Western Cape, has won a gold medal in the 2007 Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition.
- Property prices still remain high, although the market seems to be stabilizing. In July 2007, the record price of R29,5-million was paid for a house of 1000m² on a stand of 2900m² in the Zimbali Coastal Resort on the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal.
- SA Airways would prefer passengers rather to book their tickets online. To encourage them to do so, higher service fees of between R200 and R500 will be levied from August 2007 on over-the-counter bookings. Reservations can be made at www.flysaa.com.
- Government officials emphasise that Zimbabweans cannot apply for refugee status in South Africa as their situation does not comply with the definition given by the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees. Currently starving people are flooding across the South African border and it is estimated that millions of Zimbabweans are in South Africa illegally.
- The new Child Act passed in June 2007, amongst other things stipulates that both parents of a child henceforth will share custody and decisions about the child's future, and not just the mother or father as before. This includes decisions about the child's health, education and religious upbringing. Un-wed fathers now will have more rights in respect of their children too and in some cases such rights will even be extended to grandparents. A more controversial aspect of the Act is that girls of 12 years and older will henceforth have the right to abortions without parental consent.
- Woolworths' modern distribution building in Midrand won the 2007-award of the SA Association of Property Owners for its environmentally-friendly design. There were 43 entries in this competition this year, which proves a growing environmental consciousness amongst property owners and builders in South Africa.
- After the devastating fires in the country, the forestry industry faces huge shortages. Thousands of hectares of plantations were destroyed by fires in KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and the Western Cape. Winds of up to 120 km/h made matters worse and it was often impossible for airplanes to assist with the fire-fighting. The total cost of the fires still has to be calculated.
- Buddy, the South African dog who worked at the Bagdad airport as "explosives' expert", broke his leg, and was flown back to South Africa at a cost of R80 000, has made a complete recovery and resumed his duties in Bagdad in July 2007.
- More toll-roads are planned for Gauteng in order to fund the improvements of R22-billion which the roads in the province urgently require.

- Reorganisation might result in the SA Defence Force's number of generals being cut. Currently there are 220 generals in the Defence Force– the highest number of generals per number of soldiers in the world.
- Africa contributes only 2-3% to the world's total expenditure on research. Only 1,2% of the world's researchers are from Africa.
- A huge sinkhole unexpectedly appeared near the Bapsfontein Hotel. It is between 10 and 15 meters deep.
- Eskom's profit after taxation for 2006/2007 amounts to R6,45-billion – a growth of 39%.
- PPC Cement's Young Concrete Sculptor competition for artwork containing cement is currently underway. Information can be obtained from concretesculptor@ppc.co.za.
- South African Raymond Rahme (62) beat 6 500 other players by winning the third place in the Poker World Cup Series. He won more than R21-million in the process.
- Pierre Fouché has been awarded the 22nd Absa L'Atelier art award. The Gerard Sekoto award of the year went to Nina Barnett for her animation work *Voda Voda*.
- Parliament is considering possible legislation to prohibit teachers from smoking at school and school tuck-shops from selling unhealthy snacks like potato-crisps and chocolates. [*Thank goodness my schooldays are over! - AB*]
- Fuel shortages were reported in South Africa during August 2007 as a result of strikes in the petrochemical industry.
- Ryan Cox, one of South Africa's most promising cyclists, died after the artery in his left leg ruptured.
- Transnet will spend more than R200-million on improvements in the Durban Harbour to ensure the more efficient unloading and handling of containers.
- SA Airways is set to retrench 711 employees in an effort to address its financial problems.
- Millions of litres of sewerage poured into the Hartbeespoort Dam due to sewerage-pumping stations being out of order in the vicinity. The Hartbeespoort Dam Water Action Group (HWAG) is monitoring the situation closely and describes the situation as an ecological disaster.
- Siphon Nopotwe (23), who lives in a shack in Batho, near Bloemfontein, has been awarded the first prize in his division of line-dancing in Blackpool, England. He was given a hero's welcome upon his return home.
- Statistics SA' recently released population figures estimate that there are currently 47,9 million people living in South Africa. Of them approximately 5,3% are HIV positive. The population growth decreased from 10,4% in 1996-2000, to 6,4% in 2001-2006.
- South Africa annually suffers a loss of R5-billion as a result of cable theft. Cables are for example stolen in order to recycle and sell the copper contained therein.
- On 16 August 2007 a total of 19 women will be inaugurated as judges. Currently 16% of the judges and 35% of the magistrates in the country are female.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Coffee Cheesecake [forget all about that diet for now ...!]



Crust:

400 gram Romany Creams / chocolate cookies

80ml melted butter

Filling:

10 ml gelatin

250 ml cream

500 grams cream cheese

15 ml instant coffee powder

200 grams chocolate

Method:

Crush the biscuits. Mix with butter and use to line the bottom and sides of a pie dish. Chill. Sprinkle gelatin on 30ml water. Heat gently till the gelatin melts, but do not bring to a boil. Beat the cream till stiff peaks form; fold the cream cheese into the cream. Dissolve the coffee powder in 15ml boiling water and add together with the gelatin-mixture to the cheese-mixture. Mix thoroughly. Melt the chocolate over boiling water or in the microwave-oven. Stir regularly till completely molten. Add to the cheese-mixture and fold in to create a marble effect. Pour into the chilled crust and refrigerate till set.

LETTERS, MARKET SQUARE AND REQUESTS

[Letters are published in the language received]

- **Leslee, previously from the USA, now in Johannesburg, asks:** Is there any interest in a support group for foreign spouses of South Africans living in South Africa? If there is, then let me know. I will be happy to help with the organization of such a group! Settling in South Africa can be a traumatic experience. It will be ideal to share your experience with others who are in the same boat. Any ideas in this regard? Please let us know at alana@afriforum.co.za.
- **The SA Congregation in the UK writes:** SA Congregation is an inter-denominational, Christian congregation of mainly Afrikaans-speaking South Africans who are currently residing in the UK. Currently there are more than 5 000 Christians in our congregation! We have several service points all over the UK currently managed from four congregations – London, Suidwyk, Noordwyk and Middellande-wyk. If you are presently living in the UK, or intend to settle here, you definitely have to visit our website at www.sagemeente.com.
- **Jannie & Judy writes from Toronto:** We will soon be returning from Canada to Pretoria. We would like to hear from anyone returning at the same time and interested in sharing a container with us, shipped from Toronto to Durban. You may contact us directly at info@gloryofafrica.com.
- **Johan en Maryna het uit Engeland van hulle laat hoor:** Julle nuusbrieffie het nou al 'n kuiergas in ons huis geword en dis so lekker as hy (julle) hier kom inloer – so 'n koel briesie wat deur ons Engelse huisie trek. Ons woon en werk nou al 5 jaar hier tussen die Kakies en dit gaan goed met ons. Waar ons ook al in die wêreld is, bly ons nog in die holte van God se hand, sê ons dankie vir gister en vra ons mooi vir more. Elke keer as ons wonder wat nou, voorsien die liewe Vader en staan ons stom van verbasing as ons sien hoe die legkaartstukkies inmekaar pas. Ons hou nie op om vir julle te bid nie. Moenie ophou om vir ons te bid nie. Ons is bitter ver van mekaar af maar in ons harte is ons baie naby aan mekaar. Lief vir julle!
- **Nog 'n baie gewaardeerde lekkerleesbrief kom van Stephan:** Goeienaand uit Ierland uit! Ek het 'n rumour gehoor dat hierdie webtuiste bestaan en begin soek op die net, nie lank nie en ek het rustig gesit en lees van my land en sy mense. Ek stem met jul saam oor hoe moeilik dit is om jou land te verlaat en op 'n ander plek 'n bestaan te maak – ek dink die Afrika-geen in ons almal maak dit baie moeilik, dit het my meer as twee jaar gevat om myself hier te vind. Ek is 'n Suid-Afrikaner wat in 2001 oorgekom het na Europa toe oorgekom het op 'n "werkswakansie", maar weens my ouderdom op daai tyd (42) en die Schengen Konvensie was ek nie eers welkom in Engeland nie, op die einde het ek in Ierland opgeëindig op die rug van die *Celtic Tiger* – Ierland se ekonomiese ontploffing. Hier het my werkswakansie omgesit in 'n liefde vir 'n land met 'n diep geskiedenis en ek praat nie hier van die Noorde nie, ek praat van die Kinders van Lir, Cuculhann en 'n menigte van hul ander voorvaders. Tot vandag toe sal 'n boer 'n "fairy fort" op sy plaas net so los en nie eers naby die fort die grond bewerk nie want hul glo dat as jy die fort versteur die "klein mense" jou sal kry (doodmaak). Ek is getroud met 'n Ierse burger (wat mal verlief is op RSA!) en alhoewel ek baie gelukkig is in Ierland en 'n goeie werk hier het het my hart en siel maar in Afrika. Daar is nie 'n dag wat verby gaan wat ek nie die reuk van
 - * geploegde grond,
 - * 'n reënbui,
 - * 'n boomstomp op die braaivuur,
 - of
 - * naggeluide en

* son op jou rug mis nie - ek kan aangaan vir ewig.
Ek sal graag jul nuusbriewe ontvang - veral ***Biltong Bulletin***.

Dear friends, thank you for all the wonderful letters received during the past month and for all your interesting contributions. We hope to hear from you soon and wish you everything of the best till we meet again!

Alana & Colleagues

AfriForum

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