



**AfriForum**

'n Inisiatief van Solidariteit  
An Initiative of Solidarity



# COME HOME NEWSLETTER

Number 40 - June 2007

Dear Readers

Hope that you are all well!

Once again, we start with the usual essential news: This is the free newsletter of the Come Home Campaign of AfriForum for all South Africans intending to return to South Africa, in process of returning or just back home. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter, send your comments or make a contribution, contact us at [alana@afriforum.co.za](mailto:alana@afriforum.co.za). Mark the email "SUBSCRIBE", "UNSUBSCRIBE", or with the topic of your choice.

The newsletter is a monthly email publication which is available in either Afrikaans or English. New subscribers are always most welcome. Also bear in mind that although we select our advertisers with care, we cannot guarantee or be held responsible for the quality of their services or products. Advertisements are published free of charge. Please also feel free to comment on their service delivery.

## SUGGESTION

Leslee, previously of 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!*

To adapt in South Africa can be a daunting task and I am sure that it will help to talk to someone who has gone through the same process as foreign national. Any ideas in this regard? Let us know at [alana@afriforum.co.za](mailto:alana@afriforum.co.za) please.

## REQUEST

Scott Calvert of the Johannesburg office of the *Baltimore Sun* is now looking for a South African family with teenagers who recently relocated to the USA. He is writing an article about South Africa emigration and would like to discuss their experiences with them.

Scott can be contacted directly at [scottmcalvert@gmail.com](mailto:scottmcalvert@gmail.com), tel 0027-72-1375735 or 0027-11-8806529.

## CONVERSION OF FOREIGN DRIVER'S LICENCES



Do you have problems converting a foreign licence to a South African one? We would love to hear from you in this regard, as this seems to be a huge problem and we would like to gather

as many examples of the problems in order to discuss this with the Department of Transport. Let us know as soon as possible at [alana@afriforum.co.za](mailto:alana@afriforum.co.za). We will also tell you what to do re such a conversion as soon as we have 100% reliable information.

### **AFRIKAANS READING MATTER**

**VELLETJIES** is die naam van 'n elektroniese nuusbrieff wat uit slegs twee A4-velletjies bestaan, en elke vyftiende dag gestuur word. Dit is 'n gratis diens aan Afrikaanse kunsliefhebbers, veral liefhebbers van die woordkunste. Die lesers noem dit graag **SKOONASEM VELLETJIES**; daar is geen raampie met LSNV, dus geen ouderdomsbepanking, in een hoek nie. **VELLETJIES** strewende na uitnemendheid, nie nivellering nie en verwelkom bydraes, wenke, kritiek, maar sal noodwendig na harde kopie toe moet gaan met dit wat meer as genoemde twee velletjies mag beslaan. Dit sal dan ook elektronies aangekondig word. **VELLETJIES** stel graag Afrikaanse skrywers en digters saam met hulle publikasies bekend, ook Afrikaanse organisasies met kultuurbetrokkenheid, en bereik na skatting sowat 22 000 e-pos-adresse. **VELLETJIES** is as van opvoedkundige waarde bestempel en kry groen ligte van sommige gesiene Afrikaanse literatore en akademici. Nog niemand het die redaksie oor **VELLETJIES** gelooi nie. Almal verwag klaarblyklik eerder dat daar fyn marokynse leer van gemaak sal word vir goudbedrukte bindwerk van dit wat uitnemend is in Afrikaans. Kom neem gerus 'n aandeel op. Navrae kan gerig word aan Johann de Jager by [bentakom@absamail.co.za](mailto:bentakom@absamail.co.za).

### **SHOPPING**

Christmas is just around the corner! Linda writes: *Extensive lines of gorgeous South African tabletop and giftware items available to order at wholesale price points for businesses at [www.moloafricaimports.com](http://www.moloafricaimports.com). Site also includes a retail section for smaller purchases. View these stunning handmade product lines online today at [www.moloafricaimports.com](http://www.moloafricaimports.com). Sourcing for additional unique product lines available.*

### **PROPERTY NEWS**

Read more about property matters, the latest news about the new Credit Act and the rising interest rate at [www.realty-1.co.za](http://www.realty-1.co.za).

### **WHAT AM I ALLOWED TO BRING TO SOUTH AFRICA?**

We are quickly repeating the basic regulations for the shipping of household goods:

In terms of rebate item 407.06 of the Customs and Excise Act it allows you to bring back the following free of duty: Household furniture, other household effects and other removable articles, including equipment necessary for the exercise of the calling trade or profession of the person other than industrial, commercial or agricultural plants and excluding motor vehicles, alcoholic beverages and tobacco goods, the bona fide property of a natural person (including a returning resident of the republic after an absence of 6 months or more) and members of his or her family, imported for own use on change of his or her residence to the republic: Provided these goods are not disposed of within a period of 6 months from the date of entry.].

Contact the following agents for quotes to ship your goods back to South Africa:

- ❖ Doug Wiviott, Rainier Overseas Movers, Inc, [doug@rainieros.com](mailto:doug@rainieros.com);
- ❖ Paul McAvoy, George Baker (Shipping) Ltd, (UK Agents for South African Removals), [paul.mcavoy@georgebakershipping.com](mailto:paul.mcavoy@georgebakershipping.com) of [paul@southafricanremovals.com](mailto:paul@southafricanremovals.com).

### **COMING HOME CHECKLIST**

Fanus Jonck who helps us with tax advice, has compiled a coming home checklist of things you should do before returning to South Africa. This month we are publishing the first

installation, with sincere thanks to Fanus. Contact him at [tax@jonck.net](mailto:tax@jonck.net) with all your tax enquiries.

### Coming home checklist

This list makes the process look rather daunting, but it is worth the effort. Most of these things **have to be done**; they are unavoidable so you would do better to know about it in advance - it will **save** you lots of **time and money**. This list is not exhaustive. It is a collection of **suggestions** from people who have gone through the process you are about to embark on.

Before you leave foreign ground ...

1. Cancel all existing contracts (Mobile phone contracts, Insurance, AA membership, Gym memberships etc.):
  - Don't leave owing money! You will be blacklisted. Even if you are *gatvol* of the place now, don't think for a second that you will never go back;
  - It is difficult to prove your contract is terminated without the necessary documents, so keep your docs;
  - A bill of a thousand pounds sent to SA after a year is not a joke;
  - Telephone calls from SA to a foreign country to settle these matters are expensive;
  - Find out about cancellation clauses;
  - Inform the company that you are leaving the country;
  - Settle the contract up front;
  - Obtain a written letter of acknowledgement that the contract has been cancelled and settled.
2. Settle local government bills (Electricity, Water, Council tax, Telephone)
  - Get your name removed from all bills for your digs;
  - Do not leave your digs and let the phone bill stay in your name - even if it is your mate's. They will leave too and just let the next people keep it in your name. I know of too many horror stories!
3. Bank accounts
  - **N.B.** For the last four months before you return home, transfer R5000 p/m. into your South African bank account. When you return this will look like a salary (you are self employed). This will save you a lot of trouble trying to get cell phone contracts, credit card accounts etc.;
  - If you have foreign investments, it is worth keeping one foreign bank account open (so if you sell an investment, the money can be transferred into it);
  - **N.B.** It is imperative that you have an account that is accessible via the internet as it is far easier to administer;
  - Notify the bank that you will be leaving the country;
  - Supply the bank with your new contact details;
  - Leave a small balance in the account such that they don't close it;
  - Ask about service charges and if they are excessive, change the type of account;
  - Close all non-essential bank accounts as they are difficult to administer from SA;
  - Disputing bank fees is a very expensive telephone call from SA;
  - If you have credit cards make sure you cancel any auxiliary services attached to the cards e.g. Card Protection Plan Insurance, monthly subscriptions etc.;
  - Cancel with **company concerned** as your bank cannot accept cancellation on their behalf - anything with your name on it is a contract with you not your bank account.
4. Investments

- Obtain a valuation certificate for all your offshore investments on the date of your departure. It is much easier to arrange from there and you need it when you get back to SA;
- Keep a certified copy of share certificates/documents (I left mine with a reputable company and they went bust);
- Inform the assurance companies, stockbrokers, investment advisor, company etc. of your new address in SA - or that of a reliable relative;
- Get your affairs in order as they are difficult to administer from SA;
- If you own property over there, leave it in the hands of a reliable agent (if there is such a thing) who does not rip you off. If you find one let me know so we can all use them;
- Once you are SA tax resident ensure they are not deducting the tax of 10% gross rent as they are apparently obliged to do. Explain to them that you are no longer resident of that country and therefore not liable for the tax. This is complex and differs between countries.

**To be continued ...**

### **“THE EXODUS QUESTIONNAIRE FOR OVERSEAS SOUTH AFRICANS”**

Pieter de Lange contacted us and wanted to know whether we could be of help with his research about South African emigration. He writes:

*For some time now, there has been a marked exodus of skilled South Africans, to such an extent that it was estimated that in 2000 more than 20% of South Africans with a tertiary education were working abroad. This questionnaire aims to determine what caused South Africans to leave in the first place, how they see themselves living abroad, how they perceive the “new South Africa” and what their future intentions are. The objective is to publish a book, which will reflect this, so any individual contribution regarding personal experiences or particular viewpoints will be welcome. No ideological agenda or commercial gain is connected to this information.*

By the way, Pieter originally went to practise in London as dentist in 1974. He is currently living in the UK. To date, more than 200 people have completed his questionnaire and he especially also welcomes people who share their experiences with him in detail. He is currently busy with research about emigration at institutions such as the Free Market Foundation, Universities of the Free State, and Stellenbosch, SA Institute for Racial Relations and with the assistance of internationally renowned authors such as Hermann Giliomee and R.W. Johnson.

If you are prepared to answer the questionnaire, send an email with the subject QUESTIONNAIRE to [de\\_langepieter@hotmail.com](mailto:de_langepieter@hotmail.com). All emails will be answered after 10 July 2007.

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH DENIZATION AFTER EMIGRATION**

In April we received the wonderful offer from Dr. Adriaan du Plessis in Australia that we may distribute his guide on migration and denization in a new country free of charge. Anybody who would like to receive this guide electronically should send an email to us at [alana@afriforum.co.za](mailto:alana@afriforum.co.za) with the subject BOOKLET. We would like to emphasize again that it is free. Adriaan says that he is too busy to be contacted personally, but the guide should address most questions. Thank you once again, Adrian!

### **INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANTS AND RETURNING SOUTH AFRICANS**

Annatjie has just updated our free information brochure with details about South African cost of living, etc. For a free copy in MS Word, send an email with the subject IMFO to [alana@afriforum.co.za](mailto:alana@afriforum.co.za).

### **INVEST IN PROPERTY IN PRETORIA**

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### **MEDITATION**



*So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
Isaiah 41:10*

During the Second World War this sentence popped up all over: "Killroy was here!" It was seen on walls in Germany, on buildings in Tokyo, and even on large boulders in the USA. It seemed as if Killroy had been everywhere.

God is not like Killroy. He does not write His Name on the walls and boulders of life, however, He is here indeed, every day, every hour and every second. To translate the well-known words of the late Francis Schaeffer freely: "He is here and He does not keep quiet." Never doubt the presence of the Lord.

He is here with you on your personal pilgrimage. God's miraculous thoughts work in harmony with His Will to ensure that everything happens under His Sovereign control.

[FROM: Charles R. Swindoll, *Wysheid vir die weg*, CUM, 2003]

Kind regards to all in July!

*Alana & colleagues*

*AfriForum*

[[www.comehome.co.za](http://www.comehome.co.za) / [alana@afirforum.co.za](mailto:alana@afirforum.co.za)]