



AfriForum

'n Inisiatief van Solidariteit
An Initiative of Solidarity



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 very carefully, we cannot guarantee their services and cannot be held responsible for their actions.

The year started at a fast and furious pace and we have a lot of news to share with you. Please keep on sending us your contributions - it is much appreciated!

BOOKWORM'S CORNER

Books & Leisure is the first-ever consumer magazine for all those book fanatics around southern Africa who love to read. B&L is a quarterly magazine with over 200 book reviews, interviews with authors and other fascinating articles that deal with books and related subject matter. B&L takes books and reading where it's never been before – making it fun and desirable. This unique publication is targeted at all readers of magazines and books from all age groups. The magazine also features book club reviews and who is reading what. All the TOP 10 reads by all kinds of people, retailers, professions and MUCH more. The beauty about books is that they cover all genres and all topics – which means that there is something for everyone. Visit www.booksandleisure.co.za for more information.

CAUSE OF THE MONTH

Are you emigrating, remigrating or stying right where you are? This topic enjoys a lot of attention in the media. What is your opinion? Let us know, please? Send your email to alana@solidariteit.co.za. We will publish all contributions under "Inputs" on our web site www.comehome.co.za / www.komhuistoe.co.za. All will be published anonymously, unless you specifically ask for it to be published under your name. We thank you in anticipation for your contributions!

WEB SITES

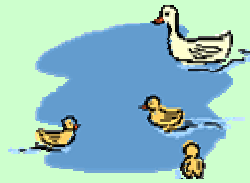
Ever dreamt of your own place at the seaside, or in the mountains, or on the plains of the Karoo? Or are you returning to South Africa in the near future, but do not have enough cash to build your own large home immediately, but you do not want to enrich a lessor either? Then we have news for you which we have just stumbled across in a decor magazine. Imagine a compact, but trendy and modern little home, delivered to your doorstep and all you have to do before moving in, is only to select the fittings, link the electricity & water & sewerage and pay. No mess, no fuss. Have a look at the Zenkaya web site – you will even have a cosy little stove in one corner for fires in winter and a stoep for your coffee and Ouma rusks ... We attach a bit of the information from the site below:



ZENKAYA is the ultimate choice in ready-made living space. Offering highly insulated wall panels and high quality finishes, Zenkaya offers a life in style. Zenkaya is all about convenience; from the moment you order it to when you live in it. Zenkaya is a fusion of modern technology and practicality which will give you peace of mind. The Zenkaya is delivered completed, ready to live in, to your site right on the back of a flat bed truck. Zenkaya is for the discerning people who value things differently. Those who appreciate their time and don't want to spend that unforeseen time and energy to control and manage the construction and design process, especially when it is a far away place. Visit www.zenkaya.com for more information, different sized options and more photos.

NATURE CONSERVATION

As of 1 January 2007, individual **scuba divers** will need a permit to be allowed to dive in marine conservation areas of the Western Cape, at Bird Island, Pondoland and along the coast of KZN. The permits cost R75-00 per year or R45-00 per month and can be obtained from post offices. Currently scuba diving schools are exempted from this requirement. More information is available from www.deat.gov.za.



Gauteng is one of the richest **bird-watching** areas in the country. Etienne Marais of Centurion has challenged fellow bird-watchers in Gauteng to see how many different bird species they will be able to observe in the province this year. More than 500 species have already been identified in Gauteng! No prizes will be awarded, this challenge is just for fun. Information is available from him at etim196@telkomsa.net or from his web site at www.birding.co.za.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS SNIPPETS — JANUARY 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.
- "Tackies" can now be worn as part of a school uniform. According to the Department of Education's latest school uniform directives, tackies, sandals and track-suits are now all acceptable as school uniform items. With these directives the Department endeavours to cut the cost of school uniforms and set a simpler, standard uniform in place to make sure that the cost of clothing will not prevent pupils from attending educational institutions.
- As of midnight on 16 January 2007, South Africans have to call 10-digit numbers for local calls, in other words they have to include the 3-digit area code even when calling to the same area that they are calling from. For international calls, the 09 code has been changed to 00. The South African international call directory will henceforth be available from the number 10903.

- Economists seem to agree that the rand is not weaker because of any fundamental economic changes. They ascribe uncertainty about the rand to a stronger dollar and lower gold price.
- The English Academy of South Africa has just announced that Jane Taylor and Russell Brownlee will share this year's Olive Schreiner prize for literature for their respective novels *Of wild dogs* and *Garden of the plagues*.
- Direct foreign investment in Africa has reached an all time high, but investment specifically in South Africa decreased by 43% in 2006.
- According to Absa, house prices increased in 2006 with an average of 15,2%, but this growth will probably level out to 9% during 2007 as a result of increasing interest rates. Absa also states that the current value of an average middle-class home is R857 400.
- An international karaoke competition took place in Finland recently. Participants entered from 32 countries and a South African, David September, won the second prize. It was the fourth time that the competition took place. Mr September won prizes to the value of R50 000. He had always wanted to become a professional singer, but never had the opportunity to do so. He has now decided to focus on karaoke.
- This year less litter ended up on South African beaches than in previous years. Vodacom's annual beach cleaning campaign collected 28 807 bags of litter from 23 beaches in KZN, the Eastern Cape and Western Cape, compared to 47 000 bags in 2005/2006. More than 230 unemployed people were used between 16 December and 8 January to keep municipal beaches clean in these provinces.
- Jordy Smith of Durban this month won the most prestigious junior surfing title in the world when he came first in the Billabong Junior Championship in Sydney.
- Dr Simon Geldenhuys (55) of Centurion has been teaching in the middle East since 2003. He says that he would much rather work in South Africa, but after applying unsuccessfully for 514 positions, he has given up hope of ever doing so again. He is currently employed as principal of the Al Noor International School in Bahrain. The school has 4 200 pupils who follow three different curricula. He especially misses his family, friends and Afrikaans. His former colleagues confirm that he is an expert in the field of education, yet the Department of Education is not interested in employing him ... a tragedy!
- Mr Jonathan Stone, former CEO of Goodyear, has been appointed as managing director of SA Rugby (Pty) Ltd.
- One of the newsmakers of the month is a lady who got stuck on New Years Day for 9 hours in the "tunnel of love" in the Cango Caves. Veronica Hlabelela slipped in the tunnel and her foot got stuck. The other 22 people in the group exploring the caves were also stuck behind her until she could be rescued with specialized equipment. The Cango Caves management has stated that they will in future select the people who will participate in this specific tour with greater care.
- According to the paper *Beeld* of 6 January 2007, a South African child's chance to die as a result of unnatural causes, is two times higher than that of children in other parts of the world.
- Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs, replied to a question in Parliament that the South African government is considering giving financial support to the Hamas government in Palestine.
- The cellular telephone network MTN reports that its clients sent 1,17 milliard SMS messages on Christmas and New Years Day. This is 49% more than in 2005.
- Jan van Rooyen, a South African and former professor and head of the Department of Criminal and Procedural Law at Unisa, now lives in Gainesville, Florida (USA), where he manages a very successful business, *Gainesville Violins*. This company is doing so well, that he has also opened branches in Tampa, Jacksonville and Dallas. He builds and restores violins under the name *Jan Van Rooyen & Associates Violins* and these violins are in demand all over the world.
- Former State President Marais Viljoen passed away on 4 January 2007. He was buried in the heroes' acre in Bloemfontein.
- A study of the South African Institute for Race Relations (SAIRR) indicates that the number of robberies with aggravating circumstances increased in Gauteng with 29,6% between May 1994 and 2006. In this province, approximately 552,1 armed robberies took place per 100 000 people last year. In the same period, the number of murders in South Africa did decrease with 28,6%, but South African crime statistics are still extremely

high, says Mr Kerwin Lebone, researcher of SAIRR. "The fact that the statistics show a general decrease in murders and other crimes, will not comfort the majority of South Africans," he adds. According to him, research indicates that South Africans feel unsafe even though crime statistics look slightly better. The greatest cause for concern, is the level of violence which increasingly accompanies robberies. Mr Werner Vermaak, spokesperson of ER24 in Gauteng, states that during the past few weeks, the level of violence which accompanied robberies where paramedics of ER24 treated victims, definitely increased. He also says that such incidents took place in all areas.

- An increasing number of talented South Africans continue their tertiary studies overseas. They are mostly students who did not get selected by local universities for courses where student numbers are limited. IPSA is an institution which helps such students to find study opportunities in the USA at a cost of R3 500 to R17 500 per student – visit www.ipsausa.com for more information.
- South Africa has just become a non-permanent member of the UN's Security Council. In the first vote in which the South African delegate was allowed to vote, it sided with Russia and China against the motion tabled by the USA, UK and France, calling for intervention in the human rights abuses in Myanmar. Emeritus Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu is one of the people who expressed his profound disappointment in the South African vote.
- Telkom's service delivery often leaves much to be desired. A first in South Africa is that a group of about 200 consumers pooled their resources and published a slashing attack by means of a full page ad in the *Mail & Guardian* against Telkom. The ad mentions that Telkom made a profit of R9,3 milliard last year, while South Africans still pay of the highest tariffs in the world for communication services.
- The head office of Old Mutual relocated from Cape Town to Sandton. This is only one of several major businesses which now favours Gauteng above the Cape. This trend is a cause of concern for the Western Cape's economy.
- Ant Stott has just won the Dusi canoe marathon in a record time of 8 hours, 3 minutes and 41 seconds. Michael Mbanjwa came second. The female winner was Abbey Mediema, who set new record times in all stages of the Dusi.
- South Africans are definitely not colour blind when it comes to the colours of their cars – they love variety. Of the new cars sold in 2006, 26% were silver, 23% white, 14% black (the colour growing fastest in popularity), 14% blue and 23% other colours. By the way, AfriForum's staff's cars are all either white or black!
- From 7 to 28 February 2007, a mini-census will be conducted amongst 284 000 South African households. In the past, South Africa had a national census every 5 years, but this is a most expensive exercise and only a few of the most affluent countries in the world, like Canada and Ireland, still follow this practice. This smaller census will help South Africa to gather data until the next full scale census can be undertaken in 2011. It will help with data on demographic and social tendencies such as migration patterns, unemployment and poverty.
- Even stricter anti-smoking legislation is currently being debated in Parliament.
- Camdeboo Mohair, a South African company which produces top-class mohair products, has just signed a contract with Alfred Dunhill to produce luxury mohair clothing for the latter. The members of Camdeboo Mohair produce 80% of the world's top-class mohair.
- Local jeweler, Yair Shimansky, was the lucky man who got to cut a rare pink diamond of 3 carats. It was found on the West Coast and is valued at about R1,5 million. Pink diamonds are suddenly very popular as a result of the movie *Blood Diamond*. Diamonds are found in all colours, with yellow and brown being the most common colours.
- Markinor's two-yearly research project, the *Government Performance Barometer*, indicates that South Africans feel more threatened than ever before. According to their report, 49% Indian, 43% white, 37% brown and 14% black South Africans feel that their lives are under direct threat.
- A soccer game at Ellispark between Orlando Pirates and Black Leopards had to be stopped this month after a violent storm started and players were struck by advertising boards which had blown away. Fortunately no-one was injured seriously and the match was rescheduled.
- According to Unicef, South Africa has more than 1,2 million Aids orphans. This means that 49% of the orphans in the country have been orphaned as a result of Aids. A spokesperson of the Department of Health said in reply to this report that she has not had

time to study the report yet. She added that the Department also does not refer to these children as "Aids orphans", as this term will "stigmatize" them.

- Different generations of South African families increasingly prefer living together on the same premises. According to the Chas Everitt International Property Group, up to four generations lately tend to share a home or stand. This is a more affordable, but also more social option. Apparently the same tendency is also found in the USA lately.
- World-class diagnostic equipment for cancer to the value of R13 million is gathering dust in the Helen Joseph Hospital in Johannesburg. The reason for this sad state of affairs is a drastic shortage of trained staff. Only 26 of the hospital's 73 positions in the radiology unit is currently filled. The Gauteng Department of Health has not commented in this regard yet.
- Lawrence Folley (79), one of South Africa's greatest baritones, passed away this month in the UK. He relocated to the UK to be closer to his three daughters, who are currently all living there.

WELFARE

The South African Association for Autism will appreciate your support. Their mission is to support autistic people and their families by organising outreach programmes, helping them to build their capacity and educating the general public about autism. The Association also subsidizes Unica School and hostel, as well as the Lethabo Le Khutso service centre for adults with autism. More information is available from afautism@iafrica.com.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Quick & Easy Aniseed Rusks

375 grams butter
4 eggs
15 millilitres aniseed
2,5 millilitres cream of tartar

470 millilitres white sugar
2 kilograms self-raising flour
10 millilitres salt
1 litre boiled milk

Method:

1. Melt the butter and sugar, leave to cool and whisk eggs into the mixture.
2. Sift the dry ingredients together and add with the milk to the egg mixture.
3. Add the aniseed and mix to form a dough.
4. Leave for 5 minutes and then roll the dough into small balls.
5. Pack the balls tightly together in 2 greased bread tins of 220 by 120 millimetres.
6. Bake for about 1 hour in a pre-heated oven at 180°C.
7. Leave to cool, then dry.

LETTERS, MARKET SQUARE & REQUESTS

- For information about cheaper flights between New Zealand/Australia and South Africa, you may still contact **Delia and Evert van Dijk** at deliag@slingshot.co.nz or 0064-9-5701490.
- **Linda sends us this news from the USA:** Extensive lines of gorgeous South African tabletop and giftware items are available to order at wholesale price points for businesses at www.moloafricainports.com. The site also includes a retail section for smaller purchases. View these stunning handmade product lines online today at

www.moloafricaimports.com. Sourcing for additional unique product lines also available.

- **Adriaan writes from Australia:** Nog 'n mylpaal in Australië – ons het begin om dienste te hou op die platteland. Daar het soveel meer mense hierheen geëmigreer, dat ons nou 'n leraar uitstuur om hulle te bedien. Die Perth Afrikaanse Gereformeerde Kerk is nou die grootste gereformeerde gemeente in Wes-Australië. Ons is die enigste kerk wat alle eredienste en Sondagskool in Afrikaans aanbied. Desember het byna 100 gesinne hier in Perth uit Suid-Afrika aangekom, en Januarie, lyk my, gaan 100 verbygesteek word. Besonderhede oor die kerk is beskikbaar van ds.gawie@parc.org.au of www.parc.org.au. Terloops, in Australië kry 'n plaasboer permanente verblyfreg as hy twee jaar op kontrak vir 'n boer in Australië kom werk. Daarna kan hy sy eie plaas bekom, met 'n staatsubsidie. Baie graan- en wynboere maak van die geleentheid gebruik. Groete uit Australië!
- **More news is always welcome!**

With all our best wishes till next time!

Kallie, Annatjie, Deon & Alana
AfriForum

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