



AfriForum

'n Inisiatief van Solidariteit
An Initiative of Solidarity



COME HOME NEWSLETTER

Number 37 - March 2007

Dear Readers

Hope you are all well!

Once again, we start with the usual essential news: This is the free newsletter of the Come Home Campaign 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@solidariteit.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.

This month we once again have many useful tips and we would like to thank all who contributed information and interesting questions to make this possible. Your support is much appreciated!

IMFO

Annatjie has just updated our brochure with the latest information about the cost of living in South Africa. To receive it free of charge, send an e-mail with the subject "IMFO" to alana@solidariteit.co.za.

MEDICAL INSURANCE SCHEMES

Looking for a good scheme? Visit these sites to compare benefits and costs:

www.discoveryworld.co.za

www.medihelp.co.za

www.sizwe.co.za

www.ingwehealth.co.za

www.fedhealth.co.za

www.pharos.co.za

www.momentumhealth.co.za

www.telemed.co.za

www.oxygen.co.za

HELP WANTED – SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES ...

Ela writes: *My husband, my son and I are South Africans seriously considering returning back to South Africa this year. I wonder if you could help with the following: I would love to get in contact with some other parents who have lived abroad for more than 5 years and already returned. Thanks in advance.*

If you would like to write to her – her address is ela.defreitas@gmail.com.

POS VIR AFRIKAANSE ONDERWYSER(ES)

Julle weet nie dalk van 'n baie oulike onderwyseres wat werk soek nie? Iemand wat selfgemotiveerd is, 'n "go-getter" wat sal help ontwikkel aan 'n klein privaatskooltjie? Die posisie is in die Strand. Dit is vir 'n dubbelmedium klassie van Graad 4 tot 6. Kontaknommer: Cheryllee of Riaan Jordaan, 0027-72-6001141.

CORRESPONDENCE RE THE SKILLS SHORTAGE

In response to a contribution about the skills shortage in South Africa, published in our previous newsletter, I received the following contributions:

Dear Alana

Responding to the skills shortage - Peter's issue - I am in a similar situation than Peter. It took three years for an organisation in South Africa to offer employment to me. Why? Because I am white and mid aged, seen as a racist and the majority of organisations regard you as obsolete (45 years old). I cannot apply for an business loan, because I must have a business partner from an disadvantaged background. Apart from the PhD program that I follow, I have a number of other skills such as making furnitur decoupage, building project, farming and so on. I have been loyal to this country for years, but because o my background I actually do not exist. I work in an academic environment with no recognition of my previous experience, if I communicate in Afrikaans I am regarded as the part of the oppressors. I am entirely satisfied in my environment, but cannot resign or apply for a similiar position because of the color of my skin, and no-one will offer me a position. Our present young active members of our economy arrogant, selfish and greedy for only money. Have no idea how all this fits in the society, as the examples are set according to our political leaders standards. Sorry to disappoint you Peter, but I would have expected you to stay on in the foreign country, at least you are respected in terms of what you have achieved academically, skill-wise and as human being. Here in South Africa it saddens me to thir that we are slowly working towards a poor country, depleting our human and natural resources because our selfishness and greed.

Regards

H

Beste Alana

Begin van vorige jaar wou ek ook terug na Suid-Afrika. Ek het my CV aan vele agente gestuur. Ek het o gebel met weinig effek. Probleem is dat daar blykbaar geen werk is nie. Ek het ook 'n MSc en daar was vir my gesê kom maar eers na Suid-Afrika en dan kan ons iets reël. Hulle wou nie eens soek vir 'n werk of my op hulle databasis hou nie. Die tye het regtig verander van die dae toe daar eg 'n te kort was aan h opgeleide mense. Aan die een kant hoor ons van die sogename "braindrain" en Kom Huistoe-Veldtog, maar aan die ander kant is daar blykbaar geen werk vir mense met opleiding nie. Waarskynlik het SA nie nou mense nodig wat werk soek nie, maar mense nodig wat werk genereer. Dit is waarskynlik 'n hoender en eier dilemma. Wat dink julle is die oplossing vir die probleem of moet ons bly in die buiteland? Ek natuurlik heen en weer gaan, 2008 na SA en dan weer 2010 terug na die buiteland. So werk dit ook nie.

Groete

L

Hi Alana

In reply to the gentleman who wrote about the shortage of skilled workers. I agree with him about agenci and companies not replying to you. My husband is an Engineer and his CV was sent to agencies, companies and your site, with no replies. A company even advertised on the Come Home site, phone ca

were made from the UK to the company, but still no one had decency to reply to the call. If someone had taken the effort and time to send CV or make telephone calls at great expense from UK then the least you can expect is a reply. We have been trying for the last 2 years to try and take up position so we can move back to the country we want to be in. Someone needs to speak to all those people if they want help finding people then they should do their job correctly. Thanks for letting me say this!

A

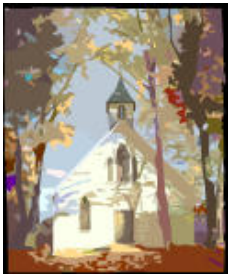
We can add that Solidarity has just embarked on a campaign to try and find employment for as many unemployed South African artisans as possible locally in order to address South African labour shortages and therefore we need the CVs of such artisans. If you have not sent us your CV yet, do so now. Please use the address alana@solidariteit.co.za.

The debate also continues – more contributions are most welcome and we will try to get more feedback on this crucial topic.

AFFORDABLE FLIGHTS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALASIA

Evert & Delia van Dijk can still help in this regard. Their new contact details are evertvandyk@worldonline.co.za or 0027-12-3445748. They can now also book flights to Perth via Mauritius.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH ABROAD?



Visit www.crossroad.co.za/overseas.htm.

IMMIGRATION / CITIZENSHIP

Belinda wanted to know: *I was born and grew up in South Africa and 8 years ago moved to the Netherlands to work. During this time I applied for a Dutch passport which I am now in possession of. Having received a Dutch passport, I had to forfeit my South African passport. In December I visited South Africa and used my Dutch passport to enter. On my return to the Netherlands at the South African customs I was told that I had to have a permanent residential sticker in my Dutch passport as I am a born South African. I was not informed about this before then. I would in the future like to return to South Africa. Could someone please help with this question; how can I apply for a permanent residential permit while I am still working and living in the Netherlands?*

Thanking you

Belinda

Dear Belinda

Thank you for interesting question! I gather that you were a South African citizen by birth up to the time when you had to renounce the citizenship to get the Dutch status and passport. In a case such as yours, a former South African normally automatically becomes a South African permanent resident upon renouncing their citizenship. That means that for the rest of their lives they have access to live and work in South Africa, without having to apply for immigration documentation. If they ever decide to do so, they can also have their South African citizenship reinstated. To find out whether you indeed have permanent residence status, you should first apply for determination of your status, by completing form BI-529 [can be e-mailed to any interested person or downloaded from www.dha.gov.za] and adding certified copies to it of :

1. Your unabridged birth certificate;
2. Your marriage certificate (if applicable);
3. Your South African ID/passport, if still available;
4. Your current Dutch passport;

5. Proof that you had renounced the SA citizenship.

Complete the form in as much detail as possible - fill in "Unknown" if you are not sure about details. It is a free process and can be done at any office of the South African Department of Home Affairs, embassy or consulate. The process takes \pm 3 months and at the end you will be informed what your current SA status is. If it confirms that you have permanent residence status, you can have your Dutch passport endorsed accordingly the next time when you visit South Africa again, by applying for the endorsement at a Home Affairs office. The consulates normally prefer that passport should be endorsed in South Africa, and not by them. Hope this helps - more questions are most welcome!

Kind regards

Alana

FIND ACCOMMODATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Visit www.realty-1.co.za for all your property & accommodation requirements in South Africa.

RELOCATION FROM THE USA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY TO SOUTH AFRICA

For free quotes, contact Doug Wiviott, Director, International Business Development at Rainier Overseas Movers Inc., e-mail – doug@rainieros.com or toll free in the USA at 800-426-9928 extension 220.

DRIVER'S LICENCES

Remigrants always have questions about the conversion of their driver's licences. Have a look at all the information in this regard available from the sites [http://www.arrivealive.co.za/forum2/default.asp?\\$sid=&](http://www.arrivealive.co.za/forum2/default.asp?$sid=&) and [http://www.arrivealive.co.za/forum2/topic.asp?\\$sid=&id=100](http://www.arrivealive.co.za/forum2/topic.asp?$sid=&id=100). Thank you to Jonckie Jonck for this reference!

SUNNY SOUTH COAST

Tertius Bartmann (jftbartmann@telkomsa.net), estate agent of KZN sent us the following appetizer:

Scenic beauty, tranquility, warm and sunny climate, exciting holiday destinations, adrenalin rush activities, excellent sport facilities, arts and crafts, golden beaches, bubbly coastal villages, and hearty hospitality. These are just a few examples of the experiences and facilities which you will discover when you visit the South Coast or relocate here. The lower South Coast is also known as the Hibiscus Coast and it boasts green rolling hills, subtropical woods, sparkling waves and spectacular beaches. Consider the following:

- Nature and marine reserves
- Massive annual sardine migrations in June/July
- Whale and dolphin watching
- Bird, crocodile and snake farms
- More than 386 bird species in woodlands, coastal and river areas
- Breathtaking adventure tourism opportunities like kloof swinging, *abseiling*, white water rowing, mountain biking, and 4 x 4 routes
- Nine great 18 hole golf courses
- A shipwreck museum in a lighthouse!
- Excellent internationally accredited Blue Flag beaches at, inter alia, Hibberdene, Ramsgate & Marina Beach which observe international standards in terms of water quality, environmental education, safety hygiene, facilities and life saving services
- Great surfing conditions
- Interesting arts and craft routes and programmes
- Huge variety of excellent accommodation facilities and romantic dining spots

Lovely coastal villages like Shelly Beach, Uvongo, Margate, Ramsgate, Southbroom, Marina Beach, Trafalgar, Palm Beach, Munster, Leisure Bay & Port Edward.

It is in your reach! Visit us ...or make the Hibiscus Coast your home!

TAX ISSUES

Fanus Jonck, tax specialist, sent us the following information:

I am dealing daily with various expats in need of South African tax information. I would like to share the following tax information with you:

1. In both South Africa ("SA") and the UK an individual is not taxed on a certain amount of income. In SA the threshold is now R43 000, therefore if you have a choice on the time to come back to SA, do not do that on 28 February – as this is the tax financial year-end! If you want to return back to SA and start working in February in SA you will be able to earn one month's income tax free, if your income is less than R43 000. If you earn more, only the portion that is more than R43 000 will be taxed at 18%, because income between R40 000 and R112 500 is taxed at 18%. The same applies to the UK. If you have therefore a choice on coming back to SA, rather do it between 1 May and 31 January!
2. If you as a SA resident are working in the UK, buy a flat in SA and earn rental income, you will not pay any tax if your rental profit is less than R43 000. That is if you earn no other SA sourced income. You however still need to register in SA as a provisional taxpayer. If you have a few properties in SA and some of it is in both your and your spouse's names, then that rental income will be taxed in both your and your spouse's hands. If the two of you therefore receive less than R86 000 in rental profit, you will not pay any tax in South Africa.
3. From 1 October 2001 individuals must include 25% of any taxable capital gains in income and thus taxpayers whom are subject to tax at the 40% marginal rate are taxed at an effective rate of 10% (25% x 40%) on capital gains. If you are living in a foreign country and sell a South African property or shares, you will not pay any capital gains tax in South Africa if your capital gain is less than R187 000. That is only applicable if you have received no other SA sourced income. Please take note that you will not pay more than 10% capital gains tax in South Africa if you are selling property or shares in South Africa. To pay at 10% you need to earn more than R450 000 of other South African sourced income. If your property is in a Close Corporation ("CC") and your CC is selling the property, then the CC will pay capital gains tax at 14,5%.
4. If you are outside SA for more than 183 days in any 365 day period then you do not pay tax in SA on your foreign income. If you are leaving SA and for example work in the UK for 5 months, then you need to take another 5 weeks holiday outside SA boundaries not to pay tax in SA on your foreign income.
5. South Africans should use the opportunity to get their tax affairs updated with new Tax Amnesty for small businesses – this applies also to all individuals, trusts and companies that are trading. If you had your own legal firm and did not submit any tax returns for the previous 4 years, you have now just to submit your 2001 tax return and pay 2006 taxes. The same applies if you have for example two properties in a Close Corporation or Trust or in your own name and you did not declare the rental income. If you have had two properties since 2000, then you should in fact ask an accountant to draft financial statements for all the tax years since you acquired it in the Close Corporation or Trust. If you apply for amnesty, you only need the 2006 financials to be drafted. You are therefore saving both tax and audit fees for the years before the 2006 financial year!
6. If you as a South African return from for example the UK, and you have bought a property in the UK from which you are earning rental income, then the Double Tax Agreement ("DTA") between South Africa and the UK states that rental income from immovable property may be taxed in the state in which such property is situated. Therefore the UK may tax the rental income if you let UK property out. The DTA does not however preclude SA from also taxing the rental income. Where rental income is taxable both in the UK and SA, you would be able to claim a foreign tax credit in your SA annual income tax return to the extent that UK taxes have been paid.
7. Please make sure that if you have assets in various countries that you have a will in each country. If you have a South African will that was drafted by a bank then you need to change it. The banks will not draft a will for you if they are not the executor. Rather have your spouse named as the executor or your brother/sister. If you die, then they could go to lawyers or accountants that will be happy to split the executor's fees with them and do all the necessary work! If your assets are R2 million then the executor fees will amount to R70 000!

You are welcome to contact **Fanus Jonck** (tax@jonck.net) with all your questions.

AFRICANEWS WIRE

AfricaNews Wire is a new development of the free e-mail newsletter **AfricaNews** which gives readers the opportunity to send their contributions with an African flavour to be published on the internet. Send your photographs or videos to info@africa-news.net.

RELOCATION FROM THE UK TO SOUTH AFRICA

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Paul McAvoy

George Baker (Shipping) Ltd

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email : paul.mcavoy@georgebakershipping.com

email : paul@southafricanremovals.com

Website - www.southafricanremovals.com , www.georgebakershipping.com

Paul writes: *The company trades in accordance with the standard trading conditions of the British International Freight Association 2005 and the National Guild of Removers and Storers.*

GREETINGS!



It is almost Easter. May this be a special time of spiritual growth for you all and if you are travelling during this time, enjoy it and return home safely!

With best wishes

Alana & colleagues
AfriForum

www.comehome.co.za / alana@solidariteit.co.za