

COME HOME NEWSLETTER

Number 34 - December 2006

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@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.

Christmas Greetings to all!



As mentioned in our previous newsletter, our web site has been supplemented, improved and relaunched – please visit it at www.comehome.co.za!

We have a large number of CVs on our new database. If you are looking for a South African employment opportunity from January 2007, please send us your CV too. This is a free service.

The Festive Season is here and the year is winding down. We will DV be open for business until 22 December 2006 and then reopen again on 3 January 2007. During this time, enquiries may be sent to our e-mail address (alana@solidariteit.co.za) or via the web site. We promise to answer it as soon as we are back again.

And now for the news ...:

[INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COST OF LIVING](#)

Annatjie has just updated *IMFO*, our brochure with information about the South African cost of living. Send an empty e-mail with the subject "IMFO" to us to receive a free copy by e-mail. It comprises 14 A4 pages and has been compiled in MS Word. The brochure can be used to find out what consumer goods cost in South Africa – from an Opel Corsa Lite to a Porsche, a kilogram of potatoes, a pair of socks, a kilogram of washing powder or even an average home in Gauteng ... and much, much more. *IMFO* is updated on a quarterly basis.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PROPERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA?

Visit www.realty-1.co.za for practical answers to all your questions and also subscribe to the great monthly newsletter of Realty-1.

INCREASE IN WAGES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN DOMESTIC WORKERS

As from the 1st December 2006 wage increases will apply to domestic workers. The Department of Labour has published guidelines according to which these increases have to be made. The Department's web site also includes examples of contracts which you have to use for your workers, as well as a detailed explanation of the legislation and requirements in this regard. It is a good idea to have a look at this if you intend employing domestic workers when returning to South Africa. The Department's address is www.labour.gov.za.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY

During the first three quarter of 2006 the South African economic growth rate exceeded 4,4% year-on-year. This is still not the optimal 6% growth rate that will be required if South Africa wants to meet the ASGISA (Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa) objective of a 50% reduction in unemployment, but it is a step in the right direction. If the agricultural sector is removed from the GDP equation, the economy grew by 5%. The cause of the negative (-14,9%) growth rate in agriculture can be traced to a request last year by Grain South Africa for less planting to be done. Planting is expected to double next year to more than 2,7 million hectares, which will probably enable the agricultural sector to make a positive contribution to GDP.

The latest inflation figures for October 2006 show that CPIX declined from 5,1% to 5,0%. Expectations had been for a figure of 4,8%. The lower CPIX is probably due to the lower fuel prices of late, and more fuel price reductions are expected in the holiday season, which will have positive consequences for inflation. PPI declined from 9,2% in September 2006 to 9,0% in October 2006. This is still a relatively high percentage and a lower PPI is important, being the leading CPIX indicator. If the PPI comes down, the CPIX will eventually follow suit.

It is important to keep an eye on the rand's volatility. If the currency were to quickly strengthen significantly, it would be cheaper to import products and services from abroad than to manufacture locally. This can cause increased unemployment, due to a decline in local production caused by cheap imports. A weak rand means that we get more rands when local products are exported.

The factor outlined above – high inflation and high consumer spending (with little consumer saving) create a favourable climate for another 50 basis point increase in December. This brings the repo rate to 8,5%, with the prime lending rate at 12,5%. On a more positive note: the stronger rand and lower fuel prices may forestall interest rate hikes (after possible increases in February and April next year), provided that consumer spending declines! Interest rates may perhaps be steadier in 2007, as long as consumer spending and inflationary pressure caused by food prices are controlled.

REQUEST TO ALL SOUTH AFRICANS WITH A PASSION FOR AFRIKAANS

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns beplan om sy 100-jarige bestaan te vier deur van ons taal se mooiste gedigte met vertalings in Engels te publiseer. Dit sal 'n koffietafelboek wees. Omdat Afrikaans op sy mooiste en oorspronklikste manifesteer in gedigte, meen ons dat so 'n publikasie dalk 'n vertoonstuk vir Afrikaans in u nuwe permanente of tydelike vaderland sou wees. Om dit te kan uitgee, moet ons 'n aanduiding kry van die afsetmoontlikhede van so 'n publikasie. Dit moet naamlik 'n finansiële haalbare onderneming wees. Na skatting kan so 'n publikasie, as dit 'n glansuitgawe gaan wees, minstens R200-00 per eksemplaar kos. Ons doen 'n beroep op u om op hierdie skrywe te reageer indien u in bogenoemde publikasie sou belangstel. Indien u miskien sal oorweeg om so 'n bundel aan te skaf, stuur net 'n leë e-pos aan gedigte@getresponse.com. Ons waardeer u inset! Onthou dat u onder geen verpligting is om dit wel te koop nie!

POSITIONS FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORS AT OLD MUTUAL

Jannie Heymans of **Old Mutual** (Hatfield area, Pretoria) is still looking for people who are interested in a career as Financial Advisors. CVs may be sent to him:

By hand to: Jannie Heymans, Old Mutual Hatfield Branch, 1 Pencardia , Second Floor, 509 Pretorius Street, Arcadia, Pretoria;
By mail to: J.G. Heymans, Old Mutual Hatfield, PO Box 5, Pretoria, 0001, SA;
By fax: For the attention of Jannie Heymans – +27-12-4835325;
By email to: jheyman@oldmutual.com.

UPDATE – CHEAP FLIGHTS

The Van Dijks want to help South Africans to travel more affordably between New Zealand/Australia and South Africa. People who will fly between the countries during April 2007 by direct flight, should contact them immediately please. As soon as they have a group of 16 or more passengers, they can fix a date for the flights in April 2007. Each member of such a group will save approximately R1 000 or 200 AUD at the current exchange rate. You can contact Evert and Delia van Dijk at deliaq@slingshot.co.nz or in Australia at (09) 5701490.

BEAUTIFUL PUBLICATION AVAILABLE – Joburg! The Passion Behind a City



Affinity Publishing in South Africa has recently published a book entitled *Joburg! The Passion Behind a City*. This 408 page coffee table-style book includes around 1000 pictures and 100 articles reflecting the renewal and development underway in Johannesburg at multiple levels – from infrastructure to social investment – and as such offers readers insight into the transformation taking place throughout the whole metropolitan area, from Midrand to Soweto.

It recognises the people behind Joburg's rejuvenation and showcases the positive change that these people – either through their individual actions or those of the organisations in which they work – have brought about in the city.

Anyone considering investing in Johannesburg should read this book. *Joburg! The Passion Behind a City* conveys a message of optimism and pride regarding this extraordinary city, its people and its future.

Joburg! The Passion Behind a City can be purchased directly from the publisher at R330-00 (excluding delivery). For more information or to place an order please contact Joburg@brandsandbranding.co.za or log onto www.thejoburgbook.co.za.

GOOD NEWS FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T "TRAVEL LIGHT" ...

Postnet provides a special service for people who travel by air and are stuck with excess baggage. You can save up to 40% by using this service. Baggage will be delivered to more than 400 airports all over the world. Postnet will even pack it for you, or pick it up from you. Information is available from www.postnet.co.za.

RENT PROPERTY IN THE CAPE



People wishing to rent property in the Cape, may contact www.capetownplaces.com. They offer houses or apartments (empty or fully furnished) for long term contracts from R1 500 to R30 000 per month, as well as accommodation for shorter terms, such as for holidays, at weekly rates. They are also willing to help you get rental vehicles, childcare or will even organise holiday excursions for you. Contact them at tel: 0027-21-4259945, e-mail: info@capetownplaces.com or visit www.capetownplaces.com.

INFORMATION ABOUT INVESTMENTS, MEDICAL SCHEMES OR SHORT-TERM INSURANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Send any requests in this regard to us via our website www.comehome.co.za. It will be passed on to our cooperating experts as soon as possible for knowledgeable answers. This is a free service of AfriForum's Come Home Campaign.

HEALTH TIP

The stress caused by modern life leads to more and more blood pressure-related complaints. A few of our friends recently suffered strokes – most of them people under the age of 50. In one of the cases people with the victim did not realise what was happening and thought that he was drunk. By the time he got help and the stroke was diagnosed, he had already suffered neurological damage. Many of you might already have received the following by email, but please read it again:

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours, he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke. He says the trick is getting a stroke recognised, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours. Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms of a stroke. For recognising a stroke, remember the "3" steps with the letters STR:

S: Ask the individual to **SMILE**.

T: Ask the person to **TALK & SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE** (coherently, i.e., "It is sunny out today").

R: Ask him or her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**.

Another "sign" of a stroke is this: Ask the person to stick out their tongue. If the tongue is "crooked", if it goes to one side or the other, that may also indicate a stroke. If he or she has trouble with any one of these tasks, get medical help immediately and describe the symptoms to the medical professional.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE OF KALLIE KRIEL, CEO OF AFRIFORUM

Become more involved in 2007!

At this time of year, many people are busy making new year's resolutions. AfriForum's wish is that all of our resolutions for 2007 will include the decision to become more involved in our cultural and local communities in the coming year.

During the past decade, we have increasingly withdrawn from the South African public debate and actions. Many people "emigrated" inwardly – even though they are still living in South Africa, they focus on their own economic survival only, spiritually isolated from the community in which they find themselves. Others go even further and physically relocate to another country.

This withdrawal in the first place resulted in the community losing its figurative voice. An absent or inaudible voice is simply ignored in decision making processes. May our community regain its public voice to an even larger degree in 2007.

A second negative result of withdrawal is that the sense of kinship in local communities suffers. Some of us do not even know our neighbours. Humans not only are individuals, but also social beings. You can only lead a full life by both practising individual activities, but also participating in community actions. May we care for and support each other in the coming year.

On behalf of AfriForum I would like to thank you for your support during 2006 and wish you everything of the best for 2007!

ALSO WITH FESTIVE GREETINGS AND WISHES FOR A BLESSED 2007 FROM:

Alana & Annatjie

Migration

AfriForum

[Alana@solidariteit.co.za / Annatjie@solidariteit.co.za]