

COME HOME NEWSLETTER

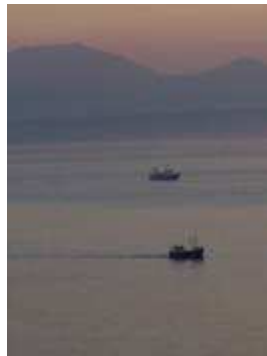
Number 38 - April 2007

Dear Readers

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.

Sincere apologies for the newsletter being late! All the public holidays in April and May convinced me to spend some days at the seaside. It was great. Below you can see the view which greeted me every morning in Mossel Bay! We hope that you had a wonderful April too.



In reaction to complaints from a few people that our South African service providers do not respond to their e-mails at all, we include comments from one of our most reliable contributors, Alison Papefus of Placements in Education:

Every CV we receive gets a response – saying whether we have accepted it for checking or not. So if anyone did not receive a response from us the chances are 90% that we did not receive the CV. Possible reasons:

- The sender is on a dial up and is logging off before mail has been scanned and sent. So it appears in the sender's "sent" box but the Virus Scan caught it and took too long to scan it, so actually it was never sent (common on dial up, esp, with Norton Anti-Virus). Solution: Stay on line 10 minutes AFTER sending e-mail.*

- *The attached file of the CV that the sender is trying to send is bigger than 5 Megs and is being deleted automatically by servers who won't receive files bigger than 5 Megs. Solution: Delete all the graphics, scans and pictures from the CV.*

Thank you Alison, we hope this will help the desperate e-mailers out there. Please remember to inform us if you do not hear back from our service providers, in order that we may find out what went wrong.

HELP REQUIRED PLEASE!

Once again we urgently need help please. The IFP is organising a conference about the South African brain drain for later this month and the Come Home Campaign has been asked to participate too. During the conference, the organisers would like to play sound-clips of people currently abroad, who cannot or do not want to return. The conference will cover what should be done to encourage South Africans to return and participants who are still overseas will be expected to state what should change before they will consider returning. If you are prepared to participate in this manner from abroad, all you need to do is to send your photograph and your telephone number to us at alana@solidariteit.co.za. We will make sure that a sound recording is made by phone, which can then be played during the conference. We thank you in anticipation for your cooperation – in this way you can make your voice heard for a better South Africa!

FOR PEOPLE WHO INTEND DRIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA SOON

The Arrive Alive web site published information especially for visitors from abroad – see <http://www.arrivealive.co.za/pages.asp?mc=save&nc=Advice Foreigners>.

WANTED: EMIGRANTS SOON ON THEIR WAY TO THE USA

Scott Calvert of the Johannesburg office of the Baltimore Sun writes:

I am trying to find a family that has decided to emigrate BUT won't be leaving SA until maybe the end of the year and that has at least one teenage child (15- 19 years old). I'm interested in doing a story about such a family and am particularly interested in looking at the whole leaving from the perspective of a teenager. (I am doing several stories this year focusing on South African youth). Ideally, the family would be headed to the US since that's where my paper is, though I realize most go to Australia, UK, New Zealand or Canada. The closer they live to Johannesburg or Pretoria, the better for me just in terms of convenience. Do you know of a family that fits the above description? Or if not, could you suggest someone I could ask about it? Obviously the family and the teenager would have to agree to be interviewed for a newspaper story. Thanks for any assistance you can provide!

Scott can be contacted directly at scottmcalvert@gmail.com, tel 0027-72-1375735 or 0027-11-8806529.

POSITION AVAILABLE

The following position is available:

Key attributes: Quality orientated, team player, high levels of stress tolerance, natural organizer and planner;

Qualifications & experience: Civil engineering background will be an advantage, at least 10 years experience in formwork design, practical experience in assembly and use of formwork, ability to substantiate designs by calculations, well-developed interpersonal skills, well-developed PC skills.

Main responsibilities: Establishment of minimum drawing office standards with drawing production, checking and register maintenance; ensuring that design standards conform to SABS

and DIN standards and codes of practice; compilation and maintenance of standard equipment fabrication details; establishment of training procedures and monitoring of the technical department status; liaising with Germany on technical matters as required; assistance in designing of special projects when required; assistance in design preparations for tenders when required; management and development of technical staff in conjunction with the Branch Technical Manager.

Salary: ± R530 000 to R560 000 per annum or between R50 000 and R70 000 per month.

Contact: Tyren at 0027-72-8275956 or 0027-21-557 2607 or tyrenglobal@telkomsa.net

COURSE FOR ENTREPRENEURS IN LONDON



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT

How to Start and Run your own Business

A course for prospective entrepreneurs

This workshop will enable a person to start their own businesses, either by buying an existing business or starting one from scratch. Or venturing into any entrepreneurial enterprises as owner or manager. Whether in South Africa upon their return or in England.

This course is presented by Prof Tommy du Plessis, Director of the Potchefstroom Business School. Du Plessis is not unknown to the world of business. As a regular columnist in Beeld, a daily South African newspaper, he gives advice on a large number of topics that deals with entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Business Management. He is also a regular contributor to the SA Times in London's column on Business Start-ups.

The course will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the 24th - 26th of May at South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London. The course is aimed at anyone working and living in London and surrounding areas wishing to start and run their own businesses.

The course is sponsored by Breytenbachs and SA Times in London. For reservations contact:
Mrs Rochelle Fourie, Breytenbachs at 0207 499 3111

The course: "How to start and run your own business"

Module 1: Do you have what it takes?

Course participants will be given an opportunity to look at the profiles of successful business owners and evaluate how to become successful in business in their own right.

- Characteristics of successful business owners
- Can creativity be taught?
- Is business experience a pre-requisite for success?

Module 2: Can you make it work?

In this module course participants are taught an invaluable technique that will enable them to determine for themselves whether a prospective business venture is feasible over the long term or not. The "critical rate of return" for a specific business plays an important role.

- Characteristics of successful businesses
- Generating ideas leading to a successful business
- How to determine the viability of a business with special emphasis on Financial Feasibility as well as the Marketing Feasibility.
- Determining the selling price of a business.

Course participants will be doing a case study that will involve their own prospective businesses. A DVD that will assist them with this will be handed out as part of the course material.

Module 3: How do you convince your "sleeping" partner?

The purpose of the module is to enable participants to compile a Business Plan. Whether it is for a banking institution, a partner or any other interested party that has to be convinced of the probability of the success of the business venture, a Business Plan is the most common method in which plans for the future are to be documented.

- Introduction (Why? For whom? What does the end user want to know?)
- How to write a Business Plan.

Module 4: What else do you need to know before you start?

In this section participants are acquainted (to what depth will depend on the time available) with the skills they will have to acquire over time to ensure the sustainable success of their businesses. Aspects covered will include the following:

- Principles of finance and "potholes" to avoid.
- A Basic Management Information System.
- Marketing techniques that really work.
- Ensuring satisfied customers.
- "Dealing" with your staff.
- The management of cash.

SATIMES



Breytenbachs

SIBISA

POTCHEFSTROOM
NWU
BUSINESS SCHOOL

[UK INCREASES VISA FEES](#)

South Africans going to the UK, should take note of the following SAPA report of April 2007:

The British High Commission has doubled visa fees for young South Africans wishing to work and travel in the United Kingdom, News24 reported on Wednesday. It said the new fees jumped from R1 483 to R3 030 on April 1. The website of UKvisas, which manages the UK's visa operations, states: "...those that benefit from the migration system should help pay for it. This is a widely accepted principle internationally in visa charging." It said the increase would also help beef up controls and customer service. Additional revenue would be spent on improving technology and risk management processes, as well as on marketing and information campaigns. Thousands of young South Africans apply each year for a UK working holiday visa, offered to Commonwealth citizens aged between 17 and 30. The visa allows them to travel to the UK for up to two years, and to work for 12 months of that time. Jan Schavemaker, logistics manager for Visa Express in Cape Town, said that the new visa costs, combined with courier costs and visa consulting company costs, could raise the cost of applying for the visa to around R4 000. Schavemaker said speculation in the travel industry was that the increase in visa fees was an attempt to decrease the number of applicants and encourage serious applications.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH EMOTIONAL SIDE OF EMIGRATION PROCESS

In April we received the following great offer from Adriaan du Plessis from Australia:

I am a psychologist in Australia, previously from SA. I wrote a little booklet on how to cope with immigration. You have a network of South Africans in different countries subscribing to your newsletter. If you think it is appropriate, you can forward the booklet electronically to interested parties free of charge. There might be some useful strategies in there to help them cope. I know your push is to get people back to SA. The reality is that very few will be able to. Meanwhile we have to manage. It is easier if we support each other. Hopefully this will be helpful.

Anybody who would like to receive this booklet electronically can email us at alana@solidariteit.co.za with the subject BOOKLET. We would like to emphasise that it is free. Adriaan says that he is too busy to counsel people personally, but the booklet is comprehensive and should be adequate. Thank you ever so much Adriaan – we appreciate your offer and efforts highly and agree that mutual contact and support is as essential as the Come Home Campaign!

NEWS FOR RETURNING TEACHERS

Alison Papenfus of Placements in Education sent the following contribution:

To go or to stay now that summer is here ... *May is the most glorious month in northern Europe. Days lengthen – and become warmer. Buds turn into flowers, puddles dry up (well, nearly) and birds sing with enthusiasm. Those who have hibernated through the winter emerge with new energy and say "It was worth it!" as they shed jerseys and anoraks for blazers and cardigans. But was it?*

Internationally, the consensus is that teaching in Europe is one of the most stressful occupations around. Not only is there physical danger, there is also the daily grind of being sworn at by kids and trampled in the Underground. To go home to a rather run-down flat with six locks on the door is not the average South African teachers' dream. When you think of sunny Saturdays watching the kids play cricket, of umpiring swimming with sun screen on, sunbathing round the pool at Christmas and afternoons of practical lessons at some location where real grasshoppers chirp – is it REALLY worth it for 8 weeks of sunshine?

South Africa has its problems. Our schools probably do not have all the technology that European, Australian and North American teachers are used to, but we have more than a few things that the competitors do not. Our kids do not swear at their teachers. Our weather allows teachers to do practical stuff – lots of it. Sports are a way of life – because the sun shines rather

more than half the time, definitely more than 8 weeks a year, and our birds are a great deal better looking than anything you will find in Hyde Park. It is time to come home.

If you are looking for a teaching post where you can enjoy being in Africa then our site is the place for you, because we believe that South Africa is still a great place to teach – and to live! Alison Papenfus, eap@icon.co.za, www.placementsineducation.co.za.

PROPERTY NEWS

The web site of Realty 1, www.realty-1.co.za, always has useful information for people interested in property matters. Here is an interesting excerpt from the latest Realty 1 newsletter:

SUNDAY WEEKEND ARGUS - Property, 8 April 2007

Homeowners in the Western Cape and parts of the Eastern Cape are increasingly using their homes to get credit, says Charl Theron, property specialist at Walkers Attorneys and conveyancing convener of the Cape Town Attorneys Association.

In analysing statistics for property transfers at the Cape Town Deeds Office, Theron says that about 30% more bonds were registered than transfers in 2006 and this indicates increasing use of mortgage bonds as credit.

In 2006, 103 359 conventional deeds were transferred and 133 820 bonds were registered. This is marginally less than the previous year (105 277 transfers and 138 253 bonds). He says among the reasons for the higher number of bonds registered could be that low interest rates, combined with the huge increase in property prices, have enabled property owners to unlock the value of their properties by registering further bonds for renovations.

It could also be that homeowners, realising that, although they could sell their homes for considerably more than they paid for them, any profits made from these sales would be swallowed up by the purchase of new homes, payment of estate agent commissions and transfer costs, of which the transfer duty is the largest portion.

Statistics show homeowners are staying put and renovating, or leveraging their bonds to finance high-priced items. In 1992, there were 85 106 transfers compared to 103 359 in 2006, while 93 717 new bonds were registered compared to 133 820 in 2006.

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.

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.

RELOCATION FROM THE UK TO SOUTH AFRICA

Visit www.southafricanremovals.com or contact:

Paul McAvoy

George Baker (Shipping) Ltd

UK Agents for South African Removals

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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.*

TAX MATTERS

Fanus Jonck (tax@jonck.net) will gladly help with tax questions. Contact him directly by email with your questions. If the questions are too complicated to answer for free, he will send you a quote for his services first before proceeding. In the next issue of the newsletter we will publish a few of his useful tips for the return process. Thank you, Fanus!

FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

This article is from the Free Market Foundation – hope you will enjoy it!

Privatise SA's tertiary medical education facilities By Jasson Urbach

SA continues to suffer from a chronic shortage of skilled health care professionals. This threatens the ability of health care providers, including government, to provide health care to those who need it. Last year, the Minister of Health, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang released the final draft of a discussion document entitled, 'A National Human Resources Plan for Health', which largely responded to a report that an estimated 23 407 SA-born health care professionals were working in five OECD countries.

Given the inadequate numbers of health personnel and increasing burden of disease, particularly the onslaught of the HI virus, fears are growing that patients will be subjected to increasing risk. Indeed, the Health Systems Trust estimates that SA will require an additional 3,200 doctors and 2,400 nurses by 2009 in order to care for its large number of HIV infected patients. The doctors and nurses who have decided to work elsewhere cannot be blamed for the looming crisis. The free movement of labour is a fundamental and inalienable right of individuals, irrespective of the circumstances they leave behind.

So what needs to be done to increase the supply of skilled health personnel in South Africa? The immediate response would be to let skilled foreign health professionals practise in SA to partially address the current shortage. A long-term strategy would require the government, and more specifically the department of education, to relax the controls on tertiary education facilities, make entrance to these facilities less restrictive, and allow the private sector to provide a large percentage of tertiary medical education.

If this is done, a significant part of the burden currently faced by the public sector will be eliminated. SA private hospitals are well-established centres of excellence and world-renowned

for their high levels of care. Privately run education facilities, if conducted in co-operation with these hospitals, will thus attract a significant number of internationally recognised lecturers, which will increase the available pool of knowledge, as well as international students, who potentially will remain to work in SA.

To reverse the so-called brain drain, the SA government should allow the private sector to relieve some of the burden currently placed on public sector education facilities. The private medical schools could operate on either a for-profit or non-profit basis.

The private sector generally provides services that are superior to those provided by the state because it is subject to the disciplines imposed by competition and consumer choice, and the education and training of students within private sector tertiary institutions would benefit from such disciplines. Privately run medical schools will not solve the chronic medical staff shortage overnight but will certainly aid the long-term efforts to increase the numbers of medical professionals in SA.

Author: Jasson Urbach is an economist with the Health Policy Unit (a division of the Free Market Foundation). This article may be republished without prior consent but with acknowledgement to the author. The views expressed in the article are the author's and are not necessarily shared by the members of the Free Market Foundation.

This is all for now, folks!

With kind regards

Alana & colleagues

AfriForum

[[www.come home.co.za](http://www.comehome.co.za) / alana@solidariteit.co.za]