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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,

■ The war in Ukraine and its economic impact poses a major challenge for regions such as southern Africa. Once again it is the poorest who suffer the most and are helpless against rising living costs. In the coming years, the primary focus in southern Africa will be on improving food security. A Swiss project has just been launched in Zambia to help reduce hunger over the next five years - see article.

■ Warm regards,
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

A new Swiss project aims to improve food security and nutrition in Zambia

NIRAS Zambia, the Community Technology Development Trust and the Swiss based Research Institute of Organic Agriculture with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) have launched a new five year US\$10 million food security initiative – Markets and Seeds Access Project (MASAP) – to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty in Zambia.

Agriculture is the backbone of Zambia's economy. More than 80% of Zambians are employed in the agricultural sector with 90% of those being women. Therefore, accelerating agricultural growth is a key means of eradicating poverty and increasing food security in rural areas where poverty is widespread.

MASAP will link smallholder farmers with seed and commodity producers and farmers' associations. Different stakeholders in both urban and rural areas such as seed companies, commodity processors, insurance companies and financial institutions will also be engaged.

The crops targeted by the project – common bean, cowpea, groundnuts, pigeon pea and soybean etc. are the



Seed is the fundamental input in the agricultural value chain, and lack of access especially for smallholder farmers holds back potential growth.
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foundation of Zambia's food and nutrition security and a source of income for many smallholder farmers. Nevertheless, the competitiveness and profitability of most smallholder legume farmers are constrained by low productivity due to limited access to improved seed and limited markets.

Speaking during of the MASAP launch event in Zambia, SDC Head of

Cooperation in Harare, Dr. Frédérique Weyer said, "The success of agriculture in Zambia and everywhere else in the region is highly dependent on easy access to high-quality, improved seed. For Switzerland, seed is a key input for improving agricultural productivity and ensuring food security, and access to quality seed facilitates food resource diversification and improved nutrition at the household level." The launch of the project hap-

ned during a time when Switzerland is working on a new bilateral cooperation programme with Zambia that will focus on food systems, health, social protection, climate change and governance. A key Swiss priority in the new cooperation programme will be to partner with the Zambian government and the private sector among other actors to advance the country's self-reliance through more effective enterprise-driven economic growth, and increased resilience among its vulnerable citizens.

In addition to Zambia, the project will also be implemented in Zimbabwe.

KATTI STASHED N\$100M IN SWISS BANK

Businessman Knowledge Katti stashed more than N\$100 million in a bank in Switzerland from 2010 to 2013 – the period he was accused of cheating his business partners, doing favours for politicians, and speculating with oil and phosphate licences in Namibia.

It was also around the same time that the Bank of Namibia's Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) started questioning the flow of money from his bank accounts, some of which was allegedly paid to government officials to access exploration deals. Katti is among more than 20 Namibians or people linked to Namibia named in the leak of secret bank accounts held by Credit Suisse in Switzerland.

Banks are increasingly under pressure to be extra careful when dealing with suspicious clients, widely known as 'politically exposed' individuals. Politically exposed individuals are those who are or have been entrusted with a public function, such as that of president or minister. The definition, according to the FIC, extends to their close associates.

Katti is considered politically exposed because of his close ties with politicians such as president Hage Geingob, ex-energy minister Obeth Kandjoze, who is currently the director of the National Planning Commission, former justice minister Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, and former Public Service Commission member Teckla Lameck. Katti has paid N\$200 000 towards Geingob's medical expenses at the same time he was executing his oil speculation deals.

The businessman has in the past denied any wrongdoing relating to his role in oil deals. It is not clear where Katti's Switzerland millions originated from, but the cash flow coincided with his involvement in two natural resource-based deals between 2010 to 2013.

Katti is not considered to have committed any crime.

Article: The Namibian

SWISS CONNECTION EVENT

On 7 March Swiss Connection Cape Town organized a networking event.

Max Arnold and Elbie Postma Botha of Boost Africa Foundation, a non profit organization, gave an introduction about the work they do in the township of Dunoon in Cape Town.



From left Michael Hauser, Kirsten (guest), Thuso, Max & Elbie of Boost Africa and Karin (guest)

Boost Africa inspires individuals and the community around them to engage in educational activities that unlock their potential. 55% of people in South Africa live below the poverty line.

The wine for the evening was offered by Ingrid & Luca Bein of Bein Wine and finger food by STBB. If you like to receive invitations for other networking events of Swiss Connection, visit www.swiss-connection.info or email michaelhauser@swissconnection.info

ONLINE DESK FOR SWISS NATIONALS RESIDING ABROAD

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) is providing Swiss nationals residing abroad with an online desk for consular services.



This allows you to view and update your data, for example change of address or civil status. You also have the possibility to order certain documents online and pay for them by credit card.

The desk can be accessed on the FDFA website www.eda.admin.ch under 'Online desk' and on the websites of the Swiss representations.

We plan to expand the services offered via the online desk on an ongoing basis and hope that with this innovation, Swiss nationals residing abroad will be able to communicate even more easily with the Swiss representations abroad.

If you have any questions concerning the online desk, please contact the Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa in Pretoria (southernafrica@eda.admin.ch).

The Team of the Regional Consular Center (RCC) Southern Africa

ASO

Hans-Georg Bosch was re-elected for a 3rd - 4-year term (2021-2025) as member of the Auslandschweizererrat, representing the countries in Southern Africa. A hearty welcome to Pierre-Yves Roten, resident in Mauritius, who is currently the 2nd Member of the ASR representing Southern and Southeast Africa. Currently the main topics remain E-Voting and the perennial banking issue. On both fronts there are some developments. You are welcome to contact me via aso@hbosch.com.

SWISS CLUB INFO

GAUTENG

SWISS SOCIETY ALPINA

Pretoria, Contact: *Hans-Georg Bosch*, President T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222 swissclub.pta@hbosch.com

■ On 8th March we held our 2nd virtual AGM and the committee was re-elected with the exception of the Secretary, Biffy van Rooyen and BeisitzerIn Jeannette Bühler-Alfaia who both stepped down due to their work load commitments. The club is now looking for suitable candidates to fill these two vacant positions. On a sad note, an obituary for Edwin Walliser, an erstwhile president of the Club in the 1980's, was read by Sonja Bosch. Edwin passed away in late February this year.

The club is now looking forward to a more social interaction this coming year with a planned Fondue Evening and the 1st August Celebration on Saturday, 30th July.

SWISS COUNTRY CLUB

31 Moerdyk Street, Midrand
Contact: office: *Max Waspe* 083 412 0161, T 011 805 3039, office@swissclubjhb.co.za, www.swissclubjhb.co.za

SWISS COUNTRY CLUB REST

«The Courier», T 011 053 040
Devan Govender,
C 079 519 3563, Tue-Sat 11-21h30
Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h

■ Our Clubs of Society: Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch, Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch.

SWISS RIFLE CLUB JOHANNESBURG

Contact: info@srcjhb.co.za
Website <http://www.srcjhb.co.za/>

■ We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call *Daniel*: 082 569 9146

PRO TICINO PRO GRISCHUN BOCCIA CLUB

Johannesburg
Contact: *Felix Gerber*
gerber.felix@icloud.com

CAPE TOWN

SWISS SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB
& SWISS RIFLE CLUB

P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town 8000
Contact: info@swissclub.co.za / rifle-club@swissclub.co.za
PRESIDENT: *Christian Schiess*, president@swissclub.co.za C 079 088 8233
VICE PRESIDENT/Treasurer: *Andreas Reichmuth*, treasurer@swissclub.co.za C 083 297 3803 SECRETARY: *Chayenne Rusi*, secretary@swissclub.co.za C 082 569 8446

EASTERN CAPE

SWISS CLUB EASTERN CAPE

Contact: *Janine Läderach*
C 078 534 2021 jladerach@gmail.com

SWISS COMMUNITY EAST LONDON

Contact: *Paul and Christine Stiffler*
T 043748 3542, C 083 700 8846,
C 083 287 4324,
paulstiffler@telkomsa.net

KWAZULU-NATAL

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Durban, President - *Philippe Lanz*
C 082 493 2673, T 031 765 1625
p.lanz@absamail.co.za
www.swissclubnatal.org.za

■ JASS EVENTS: This is held on the second Friday of each month and will commence at 2 p.m. and is held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay (directions on our website).

IMPRESSUM

DELEGATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Hans-Georg Bosch, aso@hbosch.com

OSA - Delegate of the Council of the Swiss Abroad responsible for Southern Africa and representing Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Pierre-Yves Roten, pyroten@mac.com

OSA - Delegate of the Council of the Swiss Abroad responsible for Southern Africa and representing Mauritius

Editor of *Swiss Review Southern Africa*, *Gisela Piercey*, giselapiercey@gmail.com

NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES

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04/22	09/09/2022	07/10/2022

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY AND DON'T EMAIL THE EDITOR OF SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA. THANK YOU.

■ SPORT TARGET SHOOTING:

Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 0830 a.m.- Nottingham Road (calendar available on our website).

**For more up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative Website – www.swissclubnatal.org.za*

LIMPOPO

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH

Louis Trichardt, Contact: Michael & Susanne Holford C +27 83 229 3787
sftwater@mweb.co.za

CLUB SUISSE DE MAURICE

President: *Rudolf Koller*
+230 5 802 55 50
clubsuisse demaurice@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://fr-fr.facebook.com/swissclubmauritus/>

HONORARY CONSULATE
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

DURBAN

CONSULAT HONORAIRE DE SUISSE / HONORARY
CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN DURBAN

Flat 1, Retford Hall
151 Lena Ahrens Road, Glenwood
Durban 4001
AFRIQUE DU SUD
Telephone: +27 83 767 28 32
Email: durban@honrep.ch

BOTSWANA

CONSULAT HONORAIRE DE SUISSE / HONORARY
CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN GABORONE

Bryte Risk Services Botswana
P. O. Box 1221, 7th Floor Building 2
(Fairscape Tower)
Fairscape Precinct, Plot 70667
Gaborone, Botswana
Telephone: +26 771 54 3491 or
+26 73 635 010
Email: gaborone@honrep.ch

ZAMBIE

CONSULAT HONORAIRE DE SUISSE / HONORARY
CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN LUSAKA

697 Kalambo Road, North-End DBD
Lusaka, Zambia
Telephone: +260 211 224 580
or +260 211 225 436
Email: lusaka@honrep.ch

NAMIBIA

CONSULATE GENERAL HONORAIRE DE SUISSE /
HONORARY GENERAL CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND
IN WINDHOEK

Craft Café Namibia
Namibia Craft Centre
Old Breweries Building
40 Tal Street, Windhoek, Namibia
Telephone and Fax: +264 816 507 075

MAURITIUS

CONSULATE GENERAL HONORAIRE DE SUISSE /
HONORARY GENERAL CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND
IN PORT LOUIS

24, avenue des Hirondelles
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