

Regional news : Southern Africa

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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

DEAR READERS

In my opinion, more attention should be paid to innovations from African countries, because they often arise under much more difficult conditions than in western countries. The South African company SodaWorld, which offers artists a platform in the Metaverse,

is currently making a name for itself because they managed to get a prestigious Swiss venture capital firm on board. More information in the article.

WARM REGARDS, GISELA PIERCEY



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

Zimbabwe:

New Swiss Ambassador Stéphane Rey arrives in Zimbabwe

The new Swiss Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, Mr. Stéphane Rey, arrived in Harare on 4 September. Ambassador Rey succeeds Ambassador Niculin Jäger, who led the Swiss Mission from 2018 to 2022.

Prior to his arrival in Harare, Ambassador Rey was the Head of Peace Policy and Programmes at the State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, where he oversaw all peacebuilding and mediation initiatives worldwide for Switzerland.

Previous roles in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs included Deputy chief of mission at the Swiss Embassy in Tehran (Iran), head of the political affairs team at the Permanent mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York and deputy head of the UN Security Council and political affairs unit in Bern.



Stéphane Rey,
Ambassador of
Switzerland to
Zimbabwe, Zambia
and Malawi.
© Embassy of
Switzerland in
Zimbabwe.

Prior to joining the Swiss diplomatic service, he was a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Afghanistan and in Sierra Leone. He also served as a humanitarian policy officer at the UN Office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA) in New York.

Stéphane Rey is also a member of the UN Secretary-General's Peace-

building Fund Advisory Group, after being re-appointed by António Guterres in August 2022.

A native of Fribourg, Switzerland, he holds an MA in History and Literature from Fribourg University and an MSc. in Social policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Ambassador Rey arrived with his wife, Sogol Jafar Zadeh Rey.

South Africa:
Africa's only Metaverse venue
bags Swiss VC funding

Billed as Africa's first and only Metaverse venue, SodaWorld has secured initial global investment from a prestigious Swiss venture capital firm. The technology start-up enables artists to earn much-needed revenue from within the Metaverse.

SodaWorld is one of but a few international platforms to utilise the much-hyped Metaverse in a way that benefits creatives.

Soon after receiving investment from CV VC, SodaWorld was announced as one of only two global projects to be featured on the Venice virtual reality programme at Venice Biennale, an international cultural exhibition hosted annually in Italy. The event was announced as part of the official line-up of Venice Immersive 2022.

On 2 September, SodaWorld streamed a South African curated music experience live from the Soda Studios in Johannesburg. This music event was live streamed via the SodaWorld immersive VR technology and VRChat functionality enabling guests in Venice to experience a twin VR version of the event. Guests in Venice will be immersed in a range of different African flavours from traditional instruments and linguistics specialist rappers to future facing Afrotech DJs.

Liz Rothenthal, curator of Venice VR, says, "Featuring Soda as one of our two worlds where a live event will be held specially for Venice Immersive is a very exciting strong point of our overall selection. Soda is a vibrant hub of immersive creativity in South Africa, both IRL and online. Leading the way in exploring hybrid events, breaking grounds in what the metaverse is becoming, Soda is a totally unique and brilliant initiative



SodaWorld is one of but a few international platforms to utilise the much-hyped Metaverse in a way that benefits creatives. Photo: Supplied/Ventureburn

that we are extremely proud of bringing to our world-wide audience."

SodaWorld's unique functionality, recently launched via a beta version of the Sodaworld.tv platform, a Twitch and Netflix-style portal that enables artists to engage an online audience, is the basis for the investment from CV VC, whose mission is to expose the untapped potential of blockchain technology.

Olaf Hannemann, chief investment officer and co-founder of CV VC adds, "CV VC is a blockchain tech early-stage VC headquartered in the world's most mature blockchain hub, 'Crypto Valley', Switzerland. We invest in start-ups who demonstrate a capability to transform the way the world interacts and transacts using blockchain technology.

"The dynamic team at SodaWorld have shown an energy, determination, and industry expertise to do just that for artists and creators. Core to blockchain is its ability to build trust. The entertainment and performance sector need to rebuild trust especially from the creator's perspective. The SodaWorld platform can achieve this and more, new revenue streams for creators."

CV Labs Africa managing director Gideon Greaves says, "As the incubation business pillar of CV VC, we at CV Labs Africa are stoked to work with the team at SodaWorld who are build-

ing on blockchain to enable artists to monetise immersive fandom.

"Their enriching platform empowers African creators to connect with global audiences via the brave new world known as 'the metaverse' which in simple terms is an interactive and augmented digital reality world, accessible by fans anytime and anywhere and where fans can actually interact with artists and visa-versa. The opportunities are endless. Africa is blessed. It has in its hands a facility, SodaWorld, which can facilitate creators access this Metaverse."

ARTICLE: VENTUREBURN

ASO Matters

On 19th August I attended the Bi-Annual ASR Council Meeting, which this year was held in Lugano. For the first time since 2018, we were able to meet face to face and networking could resume.

The most important aspects that were discussed were the ever topical E-Voting, the banking accounts issue and a lot of time and effort was afforded to how we can further improve serving the Swiss Expats in the various regions represented by the ASR delegates. Further to our efforts started in 2017, we have started with our own Facebook page for the Southern African

Region, where we will share vital information with a much broader audience. We encourage you to partake in the discussion on that platform. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085059717532>

On 17th March 2023 the next Council Meeting will take place in Bern.

HANS-GEORG BOSCH, DELEGATE OF COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA 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 30th July we held our National Day Celebrations at our usual venue, namely the Church Hall of the Johannegemeinde adjacent to the DSP. The event was well attended with a strong showing of Embassy and Regional Consular Centre staff. HE Ambassador *Dr. Nicolas Brühl* held a speech welcoming all. It was the first live 1. August Event since 2019. On this occasion we also welcomed Mr. *Andrej Sadek* and bid farewell to *Jeannette Bühler-Alfaia*, who has left the Consulate after her 4 year term came to an end. We wish both all the best for their new postings. Our new Secretary, *Caroline Silvester* has taken up her position now and all enquiries should be addressed to her. - swissclub.alpina@gmail.com
Hans-Georg Bosch - President

SWISS COUNTRY CLUB

31 Moerdyk Street, Midrand

Contact: office: *Max Waspe* 083 412 0161,

T 011 805 3039 office@swissclubjhb.co.za

Website <http://www.swissclubjhb.co.za/>

SWISS COUNTRY CLUB REST

«The Courier», T 011 805 3040

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 /

rifleclub@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 +2778 534 2021, jladerach@gmail.com

SWISS COMMUNITY EAST LONDON

Contact: *Paul and Christine Stiffler*

T 043 748 3542, C 083 700 8846,

C 083 287 4324, paulstiffler@telkomsa.net

KWAZULU-NATAL

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Durban, Contact: President *Philippe Lanz*

C 082 493 2673, T 031 765 1625

p.lanz@absamail.co.za

<http://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).

■ SPORT TARGET SHOOTING: Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 08:30 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

clubsuissede Maurice@gmail.com

Facebook: [https://fr-fr.facebook.com/](https://fr-fr.facebook.com/swissclubmauritius/)

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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
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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

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

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