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Editorial

Dear readers,

On 30 November 2014 the Swiss will vote about the Ecopop initiative. Please study this initiative carefully as it has severe consequences for all the Swiss living abroad. They would no longer be able to return to Switzerland if the maximum immigration limit were reached. No exceptions are taken into account. The number of Swiss living abroad amounts to around ten percent of the Swiss population. Please don't forget to cast your vote, it counts!

Enjoy the reading,
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA

World Bank Group and SECO to support South Africa on financial sector development

The World Bank Group and SECO signed an agreement for a USD 4.12 million program. The four year program will support efforts by South Africa to strengthen its financial regulatory reform agenda, deepen its capital markets and develop an appropriate framework to support long-term infrastructure finance in support of the National Development Plan.

This Trust Fund program will also help facilitate access to finance for the financially excluded population as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. *“Financial sector development and specifically financial inclusion is a government priority. We look forward to this collaboration which will provide international best practice and take forward our plan to improve the regulatory environment in order for the financial sector to better serve the country's needs,”* said Ismail Momoniat, Deputy Director General at National Treasury.

Activities supported by this program are related to crisis management and resolution; market conduct regulation and supervision; capital markets



Left:
Asad Alam and Swiss
Ambassador Christian
Meuwly

development and regulation; the anti-money laundering/ combating the financing of terrorism regulatory framework; innovative retail payment instruments and delivery channels; small and medium enterprise finance; debt rehabilitation and insolvency provisions for individuals.

“Switzerland has a strong record of experiences and good practice to share when it comes to a stable and well-developed financial sector and anti-money laundering. Switzerland also assists in improving the regulatory framework conditions for

financial stability and supervision as well as in supporting the development of capital market and financial infrastructure.” said H.E. Christian Meuwly, Ambassador, Switzerland.

South African Immigration regulations changes

The South African Department of Home Affairs has implemented very important new travel regulations.

The South African immigration authority "Department of Home Affairs" informs that after 28 May 2014 every traveler or resident overstaying his/her permit or visa will be declared an "undesirable person", in accordance with the amended Immigration Act. Instead of paying a fine, the overstay - detected on leaving the country - will automatically prompt an interdiction of re-entering the country: Overstay for max. 30 days: 12 months interdiction; repeated overstay within 24 months for max. 30 days: 2 years interdiction; overstay for more than 30 days: 5 years interdiction. The South African authorities apply these regulations rigorously and so far no exceptions are known to the Embassy.

Renewals or changes of permit/visa have to be applied for at least 60 days before the valid permit/visa expires. The applications have to be submitted at the Visa Facilitation Centres appointed by the Department of Home Affairs. It is recommendable to already procure the necessary documents for the renewals (for ex. return flight, health insurance and proof of financial means) before entering the country.

Contrary to the former regulations, the confirmation that the renewal has been applied for does not protect the traveler from being declared as an undesirable person and subsequently from receiving an interdiction to enter the country any more. It is not known yet if the applications for renewal can be processed within 60 days. The parties concerned have to realize that they will be declared as undesirable persons if they leave the country after the permit/visa has expired and before the decision for the renewal has been granted.

Additional stringent conditions will apply for parents travelling with minors after 1 October 2014. (There have been discussions to postpone the new regulations for minors to a later date.) They have to be able to show the minor's notarized full (unabridged) birth certificate in English to the South African immigration authorities. When only one parent or a third person is travelling with the minors, they will need additionally from each parent not accompanying them a legalized affidavit in English allowing the child to travel. It is recommendable to mention the contacts of the parents in the affidavit.

Please inform yourself in good time about the new regulations at the Department of Home Affairs (www.dha.gov.za) or a South African representation abroad. Only the South African authorities can provide final answers in this context.

Update from the Auslandschweizer Kongress

Dear fellow Swiss,
From 15th - 17th August I attended the Auslandschweizer Kongress, which was held in Baden-AG this year.

As per a request from the publisher of Swiss Review, a detailed report of the events will not be published here but has been sent to all the presidents of the various clubs in the countries falling under the responsibility of Marcie Bischof and myself as your elected ASO delegates: South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Should any Swiss Club in these countries not yet receive my frequent news postings, then please send us an email to aso@hbosch.com and I will make sure that your club will be put on the distribution list. These mails are always sent to the presidents of the various clubs.

Just a quick news flash: From next year, 14 cantons, now including Zürich and Glarus will be able to vote electronically.

We wish all of you a successful and pleasant last quarter of 2014.

Your ASO Delegates
Hans-Georg Bosch and
Marcie Bischof

IMPRESSUM

Delegates of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad for Southern Africa:
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DEADLINES SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA 2015
01/15 18/12/2014 Distribution 28/01/2015
02/15 26/02/2015 Distribution 30/03/2015
03/15 17/04/2015 Distribution 27/05/2015
04/15 27/07/2015 Distribution 02/09/2015

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY DIRECTLY.

Swiss Club Info

SWISS CLUB JOHANNESBURG

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Wolf, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152, office@swissclubjhb.co.za, www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier»

Our Club House/ Restaurant has a new roof! Our 1 Aug Celebration was well attended by + 1200 people. Skittling Interclub Challenge: 12 Oct Chairman's Invitation: 1, 2 Nov, Folklore evening: 4 Nov, "Fernkegeln": 16 Nov, Swiss Christmas Lunch: 7 Dec. Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Sat of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thu of the month for lunch. Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs. This is done with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel on 082-5699146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

On 2 Aug the National Day celebration was held at the Church Hall of the Johannesgemeinde. The event was well attended and we were pleased to welcome Carine Carey, the new No.2 at the Embassy, we welcome her and her husband Thierry as new club members. Ambassador Christian Meuwly donated a case of white Swiss wine. On a sad note we mourn the passing on of our honorary members, Ruedi & Hanni Grossenbacher.

The year end function will be held on 15 Nov at the same venue. We encourage members with children under the age of 11 years to come to this event, as the Samichlaus is eager to welcome them. For enquiries: swissclub.pta@hbosch.com

SWISS CLUB CAPE TOWN

Swiss Social&Sports Club, Bill Peters Road, Green Point, www.swissclub.co.za .
PRESIDENT : Stefan Pflöcksch, stefanp@execsonthemove.co.za
T 021 715 2703, C 082 920 9351
VICE PRESIDENT: Nicky Rodrigues nicky.rodrigues@za.sabmiller.com
T 021 658 7276, C 072 218 5759
SECRETARY: Marcie Bischof mwbischof@telkomsa.net
T 021 554 0176, C 082 925 2280

The club remains open every Wed and Thu for dinner. If you are not on the data base to receive the "newsflash" please contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on 0214348405. Active sub-sections: Rifle Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club. The ladies meet monthly - last Wed. Please contact info@swissclub.co.za or André Häberli, Membership & Advertising, Cell 076 933 03 04. Newsletter for regular updates: www.swissclub.co.za

SWISS CLUB NATAL

President Philippe Lanz. C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625, pl@swisscontact.co.za.
Secretary Jolanda Wolf, C 082 696 5996.
Up-to-date information: www.swissclubnatal.org.za.

JASS EVENINGS: Westville Country Club, Link Rd, Westville. Jass evening every second Friday of the month 18h for dinner. 19h start Jassen: 14.11, 12.12. (Price Jassen), 9.1., 13.2., 13.3. TARGET SHOOTING: Dave Nicol Shooting Range, Nottingham Road, Midland, starting at 9.30am: 25.10., 22.11.6.12. 7.12. Year End function, 24.01. Swiss Film Evening, 8.03. AGM.

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH

John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, the_dieners@bluewin.ch; comm.member Mark Krebs C 0823281098, T w 0413671422; Yvonne Bruehwiler, secretary, C 0834408130

On 2 Aug we celebrated the Swiss National Day and we had a very good turn. The highlight was the visit of Swiss Consul Sabine Jenkins with her husband Nick. Everybody had a good time and the traditional Lampionumzug was exciting for the kids. Concerning the Fondue Plausch I had the impression that some members are not around during the first part of October. The provisional date will therefore be the 24 Oct, an invitation will be sent.

SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON

c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler, T 0437483542, C 0837008846, C 0832874324, christinestiffler@telkomsa.net

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH

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Louis Trichardt 0920, Secretary: Suzanne Holford-Salchli Suzanne.holford@gmail.com

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