



# THE MERCURY

SINCE 1852

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018

GET A HEAD START WITH BUSINESSREPORT



## CELEBRATING MANDELA'S CENTENARY BIRTHDAY: PAGES 2,4,6,7&8

### BRICS BUSINESS COUNCIL OPTIMISTIC

# SA closer to \$100bn target

Bheki Mbanjwa

**S**OUTH Africa is edging closer to reaching its ambitious target of attracting \$100 billion (R1.327 trillion) worth of investments, with its BRICS partner China expected to announce a massive investment injection in the coming weeks.

This is the view expressed by Anil Sooklal, South Africa's BRICS Sherpa, who was speaking during a BRICS round-table discussion in Richards Bay yesterday.

The talk is one of the events being held ahead of the BRICS Business Council meeting which kicks off in Durban on Sunday and the BRICS Summit and Business Forum to be held in Joburg later this month.

The meetings are expected to be used as platforms to facilitate foreign direct investment into the country as part of trying to boost the sluggish economy.

These meetings will also be used to strengthen economic ties while at the same time showcasing South Africa and the opportunities available in the country.

Sooklal said the international community was now showing renewed confidence in the country and its leadership, adding that China is expected to invest more than \$300bn in South Africa.

"There is renewed confidence and refocusing in South Africa, not just from the BRICS countries but globally," said Sooklal, who recently accompanied President Cyril Ramaphosa on an investor roadshow to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia.

He said he expects that China, one of South Africa's biggest trading partners, will even top the investments the country has been promised by the Saudis and UAE.

Sooklal said about 1 100 journalists had registered for the BRICS summit in a clear sign that the world will be focusing on South Africa.



PUMI MOTSOAHAE ANIL SOOKLAL SELLO RASETHABA



Sello Rasethaba, a member of the 25-member BRICS Business Council, also expressed confidence that China would invest more in South Africa than what Saudi Arabia and UAE had committed.

The BRICS Business Council comprises five businesspeople from each of the member countries with the South African chapter being chaired by Sekunjalo chairman Dr Iqbal Survé.

Rasethaba said while South Africa was a small economy compared to other BRICS partners it was treated equally by its partners.

He added that there was a perception that the BRICS meetings were "high-level things", which was not true as they could provide trade opportunities for small entrepreneurs.

The BRICS Business Forum in Joburg will also include an exhibition by the entrepreneurs. "BRICS is real, it will encourage even the small village entrepreneur to export goods," he said.

Rasethaba said the country would have to work hard to turn its fortunes around.

Sooklal said BRICS had led to bilateral relations between member countries being accentuated.

Since South Africa last hosted the BRICS summit in 2013 there

have been many positives, including the establishment of the BRICS development bank. Since its establishment, the bank has disbursed more than \$5bn in loans and will now be looking to lending to the private sector.

Gary Bell, chief executive of Bell Equipment, implored the country to do more in terms of the beneficiation of raw materials.

"We need to start adding some value right here at home. Every country sees exports as a victory in the game and imports as defeat. We really need to change the game and I'm quite encouraged by the new approach," he said.

Bell said the country has the necessary skills and human resources to take it to the next level.

Earlier yesterday the panellists, business leaders and media representatives attending the event were taken on a tour around the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ), which has signed investments worth more than R11bn.

Pumi Motosahae, the chief executive of the RBIDZ, said the zone had attracted investments from different parts of the world in sectors such as chemicals, pipe manufacturing and renewable energy. This included R1.4bn from a company in Singapore.

Sooklal said there were many opportunities that South Africans needed to exploit, adding that there was no reason why the economy could not grow by 4% to 5%.

He added the country needed to scale up its trade with other BRICS countries.

### GIVE A CHILD LOVE, LAUGHTER AND PEACE – MANDELA



In commemoration of Nelson Mandela's centenary birthday, 100 children from The Mercury Hibberdene Children's Holiday Home were treated to a day of fun at Wild Coast Sun's Wild Waves Water Park. The event was made possible through generous sponsorship from Wild Coast Sun, FNB KZN Volunteers and Ramsamy International.

With the celebratory cake are Kovilan Ramsamy, managing director of Ramsamy International, Prega Govender of FNB KZN Volunteers, Yogas Nair, The Mercury editor and the Home's board chairperson, Wild Coast Sun general manager Myan Moodley, with children Thando Sibisi, Sisipho Mvubu, Ayakha Mbutho and Vukile Momoza.

## Zille granted urgent interdict over tweets

Zelda Venter



HELENE ZILLE.

HELENE Zille yesterday obtained an urgent interdict against Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane and the Speaker of the Western Cape legislature to prevent them from acting against her regarding her controversial tweets on colonialism.

Mkhwebane, in a report issued last month, directed that the Speaker, Sharna Fernandez, had to take action against the Western Cape premier within 30 days.

But Zille said in papers before the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, that she would later approach the court to review and set aside Mkhwebane's report.

She only wanted an urgent order at this stage to put the remedial action on ice, pending the outcome of the review proceedings, which could take some time.

The Speaker did not oppose yesterday's urgent proceedings, while Mkhwebane said she would abide by the decision of the court. Judge Norman Davis granted the order without hearing legal arguments after he had read the court papers. No date has yet been set for the hearing of Zille's application to review Mkhwebane's report.

Mkhwebane held Zille accountable for her tweets regarding certain benefits of colonialism, made after a trip to Singapore last year, which sparked a public outcry.

The public protector found that the tweets violated sections of the Executive Ethics Code, as well as the constitution. She directed the Speaker to table her report before the Western Cape legislature by July 23, for it to take appropriate action to hold Zille accountable.

Zille said she had no choice but to ask for an urgent interdict, as Mkhwebane, unlike the Speaker, refused to give an undertaking that the implementation of her remedial action could be suspended pending the review application.

"The interdict is necessary to prevent prejudice to my office by the provincial legislature's implementation of the remedial action, which I contend is unlawful... the open-endedness of this remedial action exacerbates the potential prejudice to me - it is unknown and unpredictable as to what sanction the provincial legislature may impose in response to the remedial action," Zille said.

Regarding her review application, Zille said Mkhwebane had committed several errors in law when she came to her findings in her report.

"The public protector's findings and remedial action also unjustifiably limit the right to freedom of expression," she said.

Zille did not deny having made the tweets. She however vehemently denied that the tweets could be interpreted as meaning that she "celebrated oppression and racism".

Zille said her tweets must be seen in context.

"I did not state, and do not believe that colonialism is worthy of celebration. I recognise that colonialism and apartheid subjugated and oppressed the majority in South Africa and benefited a minority on the basis of race."

Zille said that after realising that her tweets had been misunderstood and had caused offence, she unreservedly apologised.

## Get your rates, electricity bills online

Nosipho Mngoma

THE eThekweni Municipality has urged residents to register to get their rates and electricity bills online, as the post office strike continues for a third week.

Deputy head of customer services Khanyi Gama said in a statement yesterday that the municipality had difficulty getting bills to customers due to the ongoing strike at the SA Post Office (Sapo).

"We utilise the post office to get our bills to our customers. We acknowledge that customers have not received their monthly bill and we urge them to register on e-Services as it is fast, efficient, paperless and convenient."

"Customers can contact the municipality if they require a copy of their bill," Gama said. Nobuhle Njapha from Sapo apologised for any inconvenience caused by the non- or late delivery of bills as a result of the industrial action.

She said unprocessed mail had accumulated in sorting centres and would take roughly 20 work days to process.

Meanwhile, the post office had since revised its wage increase offer of 6% to 6.5%, backdated to April 1, and agreed to employ 500 part-time workers permanently, said Communication Workers Union (CWU) provincial secretary Thami Mzileni.

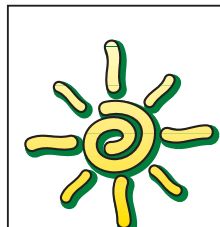
He said the post office had also agreed to allow a task team to work on how to convert the remaining 2200 workers to permanent employees, but in the meantime their working hours would be increased

to 6½ hours instead of four a day.

Speaking to The Mercury after taking the new offer to workers in KwaZulu-Natal yesterday, Mzileni said they would engage at a national level and then take the workers' mandate back to the post office.

The union said it still wanted an 8% wage increase. The strike also affects Telkom workers.

The municipality said residents could register for e-Services at <https://eservices.durban.gov.za/v2/>. The portal allows the updating of account information and delivery of accounts to linked e-mail addresses. For queries: <http://correspondence.durban.gov.za:200/>.



Dbn 12/23 Pmb 4/21

SEE PAGE 12

### IN BUSINESSREPORT

Bid to revive platinum industry

Gold	.....\$1 232.80	£1.....R13.22
JSE All	.....56 113.06	£1.....R15.45
Dow Jones	.....25 093.73	£1.....R17.41

Subscribe: 080 0204 711

**THE COURIER GUY**

WE WOULD LOVE TO HANDLE YOUR PACKAGE

Thank you Kwa-Zulu Natal and ALL our loyal Customers for voting The Courier Guy the BEST courier in 2017!! We love to handle your package!

**WINNERS OF:**

- Best Courier Company in SA - The Star 2017
- Best Courier Company in Pretoria - Pretoria News 2017
- Best Courier Company in Johannesburg - Best of Joburg 2017
- Best Courier Company in KZN - Zululand Observer 2017

Head Office  
11 Milano Close  
Cosmos Business Park  
Malibongwe Drive, Kya Sands

National Call: 0861 203 203  
Email: [sales@thecourierguy.co.za](mailto:sales@thecourierguy.co.za)  
[www.thecourierguy.co.za](http://www.thecourierguy.co.za)