

**2<sup>nd</sup> AFRICA WATER WEEK**

**9 – 13 NOVEMBER 2009**

**GALLAGHER CONVENTION CENTRE  
MIDRAND, GAUTENG PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The African Ministers' Council on Water in keeping with its decision to institutionalize the annual Africa Water Week is pleased to announce that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Water Week (AWW2) will be held at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. During the AWW2, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference (PANAFCON II) will take place at the same venue.
- 1.2 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Water Week Conference will be both unique and innovative in character as the main focus will be on implementation and partnership as Africa sprints towards the 2015 MDG targets. It will bring together through a strong unity of purpose, African countries and UN agencies, civil society groups, the private sector and development cooperation partners, to address the critical issue of water and sanitation, which is a key to sustainable development on the continent. The Conference will be a direct response to the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments on water and sanitation adopted by the African Union Heads of state and Government (Egypt, July 2008).

## 2. MEETING DATES

- 2.1 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Water Week is a week long event comprised of different sessions throughout the week. The Conference will be held from 9 – 13 November 2009 and the proposed programme is as follows:
- 2.2 Registration of delegates should start from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from 08h00 – 17h00
- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 🚩 Day 1 – 9/11/2009:  | Welcome and Opening of the Conference   |
| 🚩 Day 2 – 10/11/2009: | Technical sessions  |
| 🚩 Day 3 – 11/11/2009: | Keynote Address by President Jacob Zuma<br>Conclusion of technical sessions (half day)<br>Panafcon II (closed session)<br>Panafcon II (high level political segment – open session) |
| 🚩 Day 4 – 12/11/2009: | AMCOW-TAC meeting<br>AMCOW-EXCO meeting   |
| 🚩 Day 5 – 13/11/2009: | 7 <sup>th</sup> Session of AMCOW  |
- 2.3 **Gala Dinner:** The Minister of Water Affairs will host the Gala Dinner on 11 November 2009 where her counterparts and other delegates will be in attendance.

## 3. VENUE

- 3.1 The Department of Water Affairs has secured the Gallagher Convention Centre as the venue for hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Water Week.

## 4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Department of Water Affairs of the host government is responsible for the general organisation and conduct of the sessions and meetings. The Government of South Africa, as host, will also be responsible for logistics support such as, conference facilities, security, protocol, transport, accreditation and accommodation.

## 5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 An estimated total number of seven hundreds (700) delegates, fifty three (53) African Ministers responsible for Water, invited Special Guests, representatives of Donor and UN Agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Water Sector Professionals and Academia as well as the general public are expected to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Water Week.

## 6. REGISTRATION TO THE CONFERENCE

6.1 All categories of delegates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Water Week are advised to visit the Website [www.dwaf.gov.za](http://www.dwaf.gov.za) for more information regarding registration to the conference.

## 7. ACCREDITATION OF DELEGATES

7.1 Delegates to the Conference will be accredited according to their categories, i.e. Ministers, Special Guests, Conference Delegates, Media (Local & International), Service Providers, Gallagher Convention Centre personnel, DWA personnel, Emergency Medical Services personnel, AMCOW officials, etc.

7.2 All delegates will have to register in order to be accredited to participate at the conference. Accreditation Cards/Badges will be issued on arrival and should be worn visibly throughout the conference to avoid any inconveniences.

7.3 All delegates shall be required to produce passport, RSA identity documents or RSA driver's licence in order to be accredited. No other form of identification document will be allowed.

## 8. ACCOMMODATION

8.1 The following hotels have been identified for Ministers accommodation:

Name of Hotel	Contact Nos.	City	Prices (USD)	Grading
The Michelangelo Hotel	+27 (0) 82 782 3142 +27 (0) 21 794 9050	Nelson Mandela Square Sandton	From \$362.00	5 Star
Hilton Hotel Sandton	+27 (0) 11 322 1888	138 Rivonia Rd, Sandton	From \$320	5 Star
Sandton InterContinental Towers	+27 (0) 11 780 5555	Cnr 5 <sup>th</sup> and Maude Street	From \$450	5 Star

8.2 The following list indicates the names of the hotels where delegates can consider for their accommodation. These hotels are located in close proximity to the conference venue and are suitable for purposes of transportation to and from the conference venue.

Name of Hotel	Contact Nos.	City	Prices (USD)	Grading
Midrand Conference Centre	+27 11 315 8326	Midrand	U\$ 166	4 Star
Protea Hotel Midrand	+27 11 318 1868	Midrand	U\$ 214	4 Star
Centurion Lake Hotel	+27 12 643 3600	Centurion	U\$ 173	4 Star
Protea Hotel	+27 12 663 8700	Centurion	U\$ 160	4 Star

Waterfront Centurion				
ESKOM Convention Centre Midrand	+27 11 651 6694	Midrand	U\$ 61	4 Star
Mercure Accor Hotels	+27 11 312 2020	Midrand	U\$ 120	3 Star
Holiday Inn Express Woodmead	+27 11 260 4000	Woodmead	U\$ 108	3 Star
Midrand Executive Hotel	+27 11 021 9115	Midrand	From U\$ 80	2 Star

***For further information on accommodation please contact the following person:***

## **9. TRANSPORTATION**

- 9.1 Each Minister will be transported from and to the Airport on arrival and departure in a luxury vehicle driven by a South African Police Services (SAPS) Close Protector.
- 9.2 For the duration of the Ministerial Meeting, Ministers will make use of the VIP Cars and small luxury coaches driven by SAPS Close Protectors for transportation to and from the conference venue. These services will be made available for the duration of the Conference and any arrangement beyond the Conference should be made with respective Embassies or High Commissions.
- 9.3 A Shuttle Service will be available for all other Delegates to and from the Airport, and between Hotels in the Midrand area and the conference venue at Gallagher Convention Centre provided that their registration forms with travel schedule is received on time.
- 9.4 The Shuttle Service will commence from the Airport on 08 November 2009 to make provision for Officials arriving for the Senior Officials Meeting and will end on the evening of 14 November 2009. Delegates arriving before or leaving after this date must make their own arrangements for transport from and to the Airport.
- 9.5 **Public Transport:** Delegates who will want to travel and attend to private businesses are advised to make their own travel arrangements, and the transport systems mentioned below could be considered.
- 9.5.1 **Minibus taxis** - Like many African cities, Johannesburg and Pretoria have a public transport system in the form of minibus "taxis". These are not taxis in the typical Western sense of the term – they won't give you a lift to your doorstep. Rather, they are small-scale bus services, often unmarked, operating with neither timetables nor formal stops. Taxis are the cheapest form of transport in Johannesburg and Pretoria, and are the daily transport lifeline of the bulk of the working population.

More adventurous travellers will find them an interesting African experience – the closest you may get to mixing with ordinary people. They are also the only form of public transport that penetrates every last sector of the city, including the poorest shack settlements.

But there is a reason why delegates should exercise caution. Use of the taxi system for anything other than a short drive requires an expert knowledge of the unwritten lore of hand signs indicating which taxi is travelling where, and an understanding of the various routes and how they intersect.

- 9.5.2 **Metered taxis:** There are conventional metered taxis, but unlike in many other countries these do not cruise the streets in search of passengers, and must generally be summonsed by telephone. Major hotels do often reserve bays for taxi companies, however, and in those that don't, reception staff can quickly make arrangements for visitors.
- 9.5.3 **Railway system:** The metro railway system is the cheapest form of transport, connecting central Johannesburg to Soweto, Pretoria and most of the satellite towns along the Witwatersrand. The railways transport huge numbers of workers every day.

## **10. SECURITY**

- 10.1 As South Africa is a developing country, crime does exist, so we would advise you to take a few basic precautions. All valuables, passports, cameras, should be locked in the safe of your hotel. Valuables should be carried discreetly when walking in cities. Gold and other expensive items offered for sale by street vendors are likely to be fakes or stolen property. Do not participate in pavement games as they are operated by well organised gangs and money can be stolen while you are distracted.
- 10.2 Public transport is available in South Africa so there is no need to hitch-hike. Local residents will advise you on safe transport. If driving, do not pick up hitch-hikers and ensure that your car doors are locked at all times. The South African Police are easily recognised in their blue uniforms and by their white and blue patrol vehicles.
- 10.3 The South African Police Service will be deployed to the conference venue to ensure the safety of all delegates. They will also be entrusted with controlling access to the conference, so it is important that every delegate obtain valid registration permits before the conference.

## **11. PROTOCOL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MINISTERS ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

- 11.1 OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) is the official port of entry and departure for Ministers and their delegations.
- 11.2 Full Protocol facilities will be in place at ORTIA to assist Ministers and a maximum of two (2) personal entourage on arrival with transfer to their dedicated transport to their hotels or directly to the conference venue. The same assistance will be provided on departure.
- 11.3 Resident Heads of Mission of the countries in question will be given access to the State Protocol Lounge (SPL) to receive their respective delegations should they so wish. Such Heads of Mission are requested to provide the Department of Water Affairs with their details in good time.

## **12. VISAS**

- 12.1 All visitors to South Africa must hold valid passports. Citizens of countries that require visas for South Africa should obtain these beforehand at the appropriate South African diplomatic or consular missions.

12.2 Visas are considered by the S.A Missions abroad and must be affixed in the applicant passport before departing to the RSA because they are not issued on arrival at South African ports of entry and it can only be obtained from S.A Mission / Consular Representative where the applicant is either a Citizen or Permanent Residence of that specific country. Applicants arriving without visas will be refused entry into R.SA , placed on return flights in terms of legislation and penalty of R10 000,00 will be issued to that Airline. No fixed travel arrangements must be made prior to the issuing of the visa and 5 – 10 days must be allowed for the processing of an application. Applications lodged at a place other than the S.A Missions/Diplomatic or Consular Representative may take longer processing time.

### 12.3 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

12.4 An acceptable passport / travel document to be valid for no less than 30 days after the expiry of the intended stay and containing at least 1 unused page when presenting it for endorsements.

A valid visa, if required

12.5. Sufficient funds

Visa applications and passports may be forwarded to the relevant South Africa Mission by courier service or travel agent. Applications should be accompanied with the necessary visa fees (47 US Dollar) in respect of countries whose passport holders are subject to visa fees.

Passport / Travel Document Holders Who Are Exempt From  
Visas For South Africa

Subject To Change Without Notice

The citizen who is a holder of a national passport (diplomatic, official and ordinary) / travel document of the foreign countries / territories / international organisations listed below are not required to hold a visa when reporting to an immigration officer for an examination at a South African port of entry, subject to the terms and conditions set out in this list, including inter alia the intended period of stay in the Republic.

The holder of a national South African passport, travel document and document for travel purposes.

The citizen who is a holder of a national passport (diplomatic, official or ordinary) / travel document of the following countries / territories / international organisations is not required to hold a visa in respect of purposes for which a visitors permit may be issued or by virtue of being a person contemplated in section 31(3)(b) [diplomatic & official visit] for an intended stay of **90 days** or less and when in transit:

African Union Laissez Passer  
Andorra  
Argentina  
Australia

Austria  
Belgium  
Botswana  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Ecuador  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Iceland  
Israel  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Liechtenstein  
Luxemburg  
Malta  
Monaco  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Paraguay  
Portugal  
San Marino  
Singapore  
Spain  
St Vincent & the Grenadines  
Sweden  
Switzerland

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, British Islands Bailiwick of Guernsey and Jersey, Isle of Man and Virgin Islands, Republic of Ireland, and British Overseas Territories

**Note** that a national of the following countries **do require a visa**: British Dependent Territories, including Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Henderson, St Helena, Ducie and Oeno Islands, the Sovereign Base Area of Akrotiri and Dhekelia and the Turks and Caicos Island.

Uruguay  
Venezuela  
United States of America

The citizen who is a holder of a national passport (diplomatic, official and ordinary) / travel document of the following countries / territories / international organisations is not required to hold a visa in respect of purposes for which a visitor's permit may be issued or by virtue of being a person contemplated in section 31(3)(b) [diplomatic & official visit] for an intended stay of **30 days** or less and when in transit:



Antigua and Barbuda  
Barbados  
Belize  
Benin  
Bolivia  
Cape Verde  
Costa Rica  
Cyprus  
Gabon  
Guyana

Hong Kong [only with regard to holders of Hong Kong British National Overseas passports and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passports]  
Hungary  
Jordan  
Lesotho  
Macau [only with regard to holders of Macau Special Administrative Region passports (MSAR)]  
Malaysia  
Malawi  
Maldives  
Mauritius  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Peru  
Poland  
Seychelles  
Slovak Republic  
South Korea  
Swaziland  
Thailand  
Turkey  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe [only in respect of government officials, including police on cross border investigations]

Agreements have also been concluded with the following countries for holders of diplomatic and official passport holders.

Citizens who are holders of **diplomatic, official and service passports** of the following countries do not require visas in respect of purposes for which a visitor's permit may be issued or by virtue of being a person contemplated in section 31(3)(b) [diplomatic & official visit] for the **period indicated** and transit:

Albania	(120 days)	Madagascar	(30 days)
Algeria	(30 days)	Morocco	(30 days)
Angola	(90 days)	Mozambique	(90 days)
Belarus	(90 days)	Paraguay	(120 days)
Bulgaria	(90 days)	Poland	(90 days)
Cyprus	(90 days)	Romania	(90 days)
Comoros	(90 days)	Rwanda	(30 days)
Croatia	(90 days)	Slovak	(90 days)

Egypt	(30 days)	Slovenia	(120 days)
Guinea	(90 days)	Tanzania	(90 days)
Hungary	(120 days)	Thailand	(90 days)
India			
Ivory Coast	(30 days)	Tunisia	(90 days)
Kenya	(30 days)	Vietnam	(90 days)
Mexico	(90 days)		(90 days)

Notwithstanding this Schedule, a foreigner whose visa exemption has been withdrawn shall comply with the visa requirements until notified by the Department that his or her visa exemption has been re-instated by the Department on petition or of its own accord.

Visas are not required by passport holders of Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi who are entering the Republic as commercial heavy-duty vehicle drivers provide their visits do not exceed 15 days and on condition that they can produce a letter confirming their employment with a transport company on entry.

Staff members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) who travel on SADC laissez-passers are exempt from visa requirements for bona fide official business visits up to 90 days and transit.

Holders of United Nations (UN) laissez-passers are exempt from visa requirements when visiting the Republic for periods not exceeding 90 days for purposes for which a visitor's permit may be issued, and for official business purposes and transits and when accredited for placement at a UN mission in the Republic for the duration of their accreditation. Volunteers attached to UN agencies and travelling on ordinary passports are exempt from visa requirements, provided they are in possession of the relevant letters or identification documents to identify themselves at ports of entry as personnel of an UN agency.

### **13. MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

- 13.1 The National Department of Health, Directorate Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Management is responsible for the coordination of health and emergency medical services and disaster planning for all Government Hosted events.
- 13.2 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:** With respect to the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) – the Gauteng Department of Health has been tasked with providing emergency medical services to the event. This on-site service is extended to all Ministers, delegates and support staff and consists of a medical facility at Gallagher Estate Conference Centre – with full resuscitation capability, an on-site advanced life support paramedic and a fully staffed ambulance operating from 08h00 until 18h00 daily and during the Gala Dinner as scheduled.
- 13.3 **PORT HEALTH SERVICES:** The National Department of Health also ensures the provision of Port Health Services at all of its International Airports (O.R. Tambo, Durban etc), to ensure that all visitors/delegates comply with the South African Department of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines and policies pertaining to Vaccination Certification.

## 13.4 IMMUNISATIONS

- 13.4.1 **Yellow Fever:** In terms of both the South African Department of Health and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and policies pertaining to Yellow Fever, a Vaccination Certificate from travellers over one year of age entering South Africa from yellow fever endemic regions is required. Visitors who travel through or disembark in these Yellow Fever Endemic areas are required to be vaccinated against the disease before entering South Africa.
- 13.4.2 **Malaria:** The conference site, Gauteng Province, is Malaria free. If you plan to travel outside the province be aware of Malaria areas in the country. No official conference events are planned to take place in Malaria zones. If you plan further travels in a Malaria zone, consult your travel doctor to prescribe the most appropriate anti-Malaria agent for your purposes.
- 13.5 **HEALTH CARE:** As with all international travel, it is strongly advised that delegates are adequately covered by international health insurance for the duration of the conference. An on-site emergency medical facility is available to delegates during conference hours at the venue.
- 13.6 **AMBULANCE TRANSPORT:** Ambulance transportation to either state or private healthcare facilities is for the account of the patient.
- 13.7 **HOSPITALISATION:** Hospitalisation to either a state or private healthcare facility is for the account of the patient.
- 13.8 **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:** The Department of National Health utilizes the services of the City of Johannesburg Environmental Health to ensure that there are no potential environmental threats to delegates ranging from water contamination, food sanitation to public health hazards and surveillance.

The above –mentioned are provided so as to ensure your health and safety.

## 13.9 IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	– TOLL FREE	10177
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES	– TOLL FREE	10111
ALL EMERGENCIES CELLULAR	– TOLL FREE	112

## 14. VAT Refunds

### 14.1 What is VAT?

Currently set at 14%, Value Added Tax (VAT) is included in the price of most goods and services. Foreign visitors are not exempt for paying VAT on purchased goods. They may, however, claim back VAT paid on items taken out of the country when the total valued exceeds R250. The refund may be lodged with the VAT Refund Administrator's offices, which are situated at Johannesburg and Cape Town International Airports, various land border posts and designated commercial harbours. Note that the refund claim should only be lodged with the South African

Customs Authorities at points of departure where the VAT Refund Administrator is not present.

#### 14.2 **Who Can Claim?**

Foreign passport holders (South African Passport holders are excluded from the Scheme) who travel to the Republic of South Africa on a non-resident travel document and export moveable goods from the Republic of South Africa.

#### 14.3 **How to Go About Claiming Your Refund**

Simply identify yourself as a tourist to shop assistants, and request a tax invoice for the goods you have purchased. A Tax Invoice must contain all the following information:

- The amount of VAT charged, or a statement that VAT is included in the total cost of the goods.
- The quantity and full description of the goods purchased.
- A unique serialised tax invoice number.
- The buyer's name and address.
- The amount of VAT charged, or a statement to the effect that VAT at the rate of 14% is included in the total cost of the goods.

#### 14.4 **What documentation do you need to claim a VAT refund?**

You need an original tax invoice reflecting the seller's name, address VAT registration number, invoice number, your name and full postal address, a complete description of the item/s purchased, the cost of the item/s in Rand with the VAT reflected separately or the cost including VAT with a statement that the price includes VAT.

NOTE: Carbon copies, photostat copies or facsimiles of the original tax invoices are not acceptable. You must insist on the correct documentation when purchasing an item.

You must hold a foreign passport reflecting your country of residence/citizenship as other than South Africa.

#### 14.5 **What procedure must be followed when claiming a VAT refund?**

When departing from South Africa, you must present the tax invoices, together with all the items on which a VAT refund is claimed, at the VAT Refund Administration for inspection and endorsement of the tax invoices.

NOTE: It is essential that all the items on which VAT Refund is claimed, are presented for examination. If you cannot display the items and documents, you will not obtain a VAT Refund.

#### 14.6 **How to claim VAT if a problem was experienced at the airport**

The information here-under is an extrapolation from the website of the VAT Administrator. Additional information as to detailed guidelines and the correct forms as well as time frames for submission can be obtained from [www.taxrefunds.co.za](http://www.taxrefunds.co.za)

- Due to circumstances some travellers are not able to process their VAT refunds prior to departure from South Africa.
- It is possible to have the VAT refund forms stamped by the Customs Officer of the travellers home country on arrival.

- It is further possible to have the form stamped at any South African Representation Office abroad (Embassy - High Commission - Consulate) provided the goods are presented for inspection together with the relevant invoices.

The relevant Office does not assume any responsibility for the posting of the application nor for the processing of the application.

## 15. ENTERTAINMENT

Don't feel stuck in a rut when you are staying in a city or town - in South Africa there's plenty of urban adventure just around the corner. Indeed you're missing out if you ignore the vibrant variety of multi-ethnic experiences waiting for you on your doorstep.

### 15.1 City Highlights

**Johannesburg:** A great city for shopping, eating out and nightlife, Johannesburg is the commercial heartbeat of South Africa. Visit Museum Africa, which offers a superb insight into the country's history or the Johannesburg Art Gallery, to see exquisite South African and international works. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange has a public gallery, while on the city outskirts is "Gold Reef City", a re-creation of the city when it was a turn-of-the-century gold mining town.

**Pretoria:** This is an attractive metropolis, with much to entice the visitor including museums and historic buildings, like the Union Buildings as well as the Kruger House Museum and Melrose House on the old Church Square, the imposing Voortrekker Monument and other attractions including an excellent zoo and botanical gardens. Pretoria is nicknamed "Jacaranda City" because of the purple-blossomed trees which bloom in late-September and October.

### 15.2 Festivals

Most cities have annual shows or fairs, offering entertainment of every kind, presenting the city's special talents and drawing large crowds. Many are beginning to offer informal music festivals on weekend afternoons or late into the evening. These vary from classical string ensembles to jazz groups or feature national and international singers.

The International Eisteddfod of South Africa is a music and dance festival, with elements of folk as well as classical traditions. It attracts high-quality competitors from all nine provinces and entries from as many as 30 other countries. The event lasts about 10 days and takes place in September in Roodepoort near Johannesburg.

**Flea Markets and Shopping:** Flea markets are to be found in all South Africa's major cities, Johannesburg, Pretoria to name but a few. They operate mainly during weekends, giving small traders the chance to sell a wide range of South African crafts and providing shoppers with the opportunity to pick up unusual souvenirs at cheap prices.

Visit the huge flea market at Bruma Lake near Eastgate shopping centre, a mere 15 minutes drive from central Johannesburg. Close to the flea markets are the sophisticated shopping centres and malls providing a totally different experience, but offering bargains just the same.

### 15.3 Museums, Art Galleries and Parks

Every city has a number of museums, art galleries and parks for the enjoyment and enlightenment of both locals and foreign visitors alike. Museums throughout the country present a variety of artworks and exhibitions that reflect the diversity of South African art and culture.

Commercial galleries in major cities provide a constantly changing programme of exhibits. Some of the best works are presented each year under the auspices of the FNB Vita Art Now exhibition at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, which attracts up to 120,000 visitors a year.

#### **15.4 Soweto and other neighbourhoods**

Made famous by news coverage of conflicts during South Africa's struggle for democracy and peace, Soweto is now on the tourist circuit, as are other major townships in the country. Many visitors are attracted by the renowned jazz clubs and lively drinking establishments known as shebeens.

Visitors are advised to book organised tours both to gain a greater insight into the community and for the sake of security. The name Soweto is an acronym for South Western Townships. Located outside Johannesburg its creation was the result of forced resettlement under the notorious Group Areas Act of the apartheid years. President Nelson Mandela was living in Soweto at the time of his arrest and still has a house there. Today the township covers approximately 150 sq km and has a population of about 3.5 million drawn from all nine ethnic African groups.

#### **15.5 Theatre**

The State Theatre in Pretoria and the Civic Theatre in Johannesburg offer a wide range of entertainment, from opera to contemporary theatre. Scan the local newspapers to see what's showing. Booking is easy via Computicket.

### **16. GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **16.1 Banking Services and Currency**

Banking hours are from 09:00 to 15:30 on weekdays and from 08:30 to 11:00 on Saturdays. Banking amenities are available in the vicinity of the Gallagher Convention Centre and most banks have cash dispensing machines accepting Visa, MasterCard and Cirrus. Bureau de Change facilities are available at the OR Tambo International Airport and in some places around Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Most internationally recognised currencies and travellers cheques can be exchanged at commercial banks, hotels and international airports. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

There is no limit on the amount of foreign currency that may be imported into South Africa by individual non-residents, provided that it is declared on arrival to facilitate the exportation thereof on departure.

The unit of currency is the Rand (R) that is divided into 100 cents. Exchange rates are subject to fluctuation. At the time of printing (October 2009) the rate of exchange was approximately US\$1 = R7. 39.

#### **16.2 Climate and Clothing**

**GAUTENG CLIMATE:** Gauteng is said to offer one of the world's best climates: summer days are warm and wind free and winter days are crisp and clear. Johannesburg and Pretoria differ in temperature by about 2% (Pretoria being the warmer of the two).

**JOHANNESBURG WEATHER:** Johannesburg has a delightfully mild climate, neither humid nor too hot. There are about six weeks of chill in mid-winter (from July to August) and summer offers warm sunshine followed by balmy nights (October to March). The seasons are flexible, one running into the next, and summer habitually spills over into spring and autumn. The nights can be chilly particularly in winter. Bring a jacket to wear in the evenings. The rainy season is in summer rather than winter. Rainstorms are often harsh accompanied by much thunder and lightning and occasional hail, but they are brief and followed by warm sunshine.

**PRETORIA WEATHER:** Pretoria's climate is similar to that of Johannesburg, but it lies at a somewhat lower altitude than its neighbour and its air temperatures are, on average, about two degrees higher. This is a summer-rainfall region. Between November and February summer thunderstorms produce flashes of lightning and brief but torrential afternoon downpours. Summer days are hot, though rarely to the point of discomfort.

### 16.3 Time

The time in South Africa is GMT +2

### 16.4 Electricity Supply

220/230 volts AC at 50 cycles per second. Three rounded pronged plugs are universal, so take an adapter. Most hotel rooms have 110 volt outlets for electric shavers and small appliances.

### 16.5 Postal Services

Postal services are available at most hotels in Gauteng, however, Post Offices are open Monday to Friday from 08h00 to 16h30 and on Saturday from 08h00 to 12h00. Closed on Sundays. Mail may be addressed to you Post Restante. The main post offices have special counters for this purpose. Postage stamps are widely available (e.g. at some cafés and branches of the Central News Agency - CNA).

### 16.6 Drivers' Licences/Permits

Drivers must have valid driving licences, which carry a photograph of the holder, and is either printed or authenticated in English. South Africa recognises international driving permits issued under the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic.

### 16.7 Business and Shopping Hours

Offices and businesses are generally open from 08:00 hours to 17:00 hours, Monday to Friday. Shopping hours vary but most shops are open from 09:00 hours to 17:00 hours Monday to Friday and from 09:00 hours to 13:00 on Saturdays. Some shops are open on Sundays between 09:00 hours to 13:00.

**17. OTHER FACTS OF INTEREST**

**POPULATION:** 45.3 million

**CAPITAL:** Pretoria, with Cape Town as the legislative capital

**LARGEST CITY:** Johannesburg

**AREA:** 1.22 million sq km (470.693 sq miles)

**MAJOR LANGUAGES:** 11 official languages, including English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa, Zulu etc.

**MAJOR RELIGIONS:** Christianity, Islam and indigenous beliefs

**MONETARY UNIT:** 1Rand = 100 cents

**MAIN EXPORTS:** Gold, diamond, metals, minerals, machines

**GNI PER CAPITA:** US \$4,960 (World Bank 2006)

**INTERNET DOMAIN:** .za

**INTERNATIONAL DIALLING CODE:** +27 (0027)