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budget vote speech

The United Nations World Summit
on Sustainable Development
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LEND A HAND FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Johannesburg Summit is about the construction of a global partnership for the environmentally sustainable social and economic development of the poor. Argues Valli Moosa in his budget vote debate in Parliament



“ Two principles: **sustainability**, and, **partnerships** have become imperatives in almost all human activity. Just as the system of apartheid was unsustainable – it imploded on its own immorality. So too, will a world which feeds on the earth at a rate faster than it is able to replenish itself. Today, the world harvests fish faster than the fish reproduce - will future generations have fish to eat? We pump carbon dioxide into the air faster than the production of oxygen by forests. We destroy the earth as we develop. Sustainable Development is principally about *human* welfare rather than merely a “green” question.

It is no accident that the programme for the African renaissance is entitled the New Partnership for Africa's Development. For the poor of this world, for the marginalized, for the African, the words of John Donne ring truer than ever.

“ No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main.”

Working in partnership - acting together with others - makes it possible to tackle local and international needs with the urgency needed.

EDITORIAL

‘Lend a hand to Sustain our World’

When world leaders gathered at the millennium summit in the year 2000 they stated unequivocally that: “ We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.” (**Millennium Declaration 2000**). This is a sentiment that is to set the Agenda for the World Summit on Sustainable Development challenging all the peoples of the nations to **sustain the world** .

The reconstruction and development programme with a foresight and a vision for our country and the world is a clear demonstration that sustainable development is a guiding pillar of this government's programme and our contribution to **sustain the world**.

And so, in keeping with this vision, sustainable development became a thread that ran through the work of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEAT) in this past year. The unveiling of a new sustainable fishing regime; the concretisation of new standards for emissions; the agentisation of our weather services to ensure sustainability; the consolidation of regional solidarity and peace through the remarkable transfrontier conservation areas...All of these initiatives that are covered in the Budget Speech 2002 rise to the challenge of using the resources of our land, sharing and deploying these in a manner that does not compromise the needs of generations ahead of us: The real meaning of sustainable development.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development is not simply another conference on the global environment. This summit will consolidate the notion that environment and development are inextricably linked. The South African theme for the summit, People Planet and Prosperity reflects aptly this triangle of interdependent goals – the social obligations, economic imperatives and environmental considerations.

Many people have still not grasped the meaning of sustainable development. One crucial task of the summit is to show that it is far from being as abstract as it sounds. It is a life-or-death issue for millions of people and it must involve the people who will benefit from its outcomes – outcomes whose success shall sustain our world.

This special edition of Bojanala is based on the speeches of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. All stories are extracts from these speeches except where otherwise indicated.

Please send us feedback - tell us how you can respond to the call to lend a hand for sustainable development.

Onkgopotse JJ Tabane
Editor



A publication of the
Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism

This is the universal challenge of Sustainable Development faced by humanity today! This is the challenge before the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Johannesburg Summit is about the construction of a global partnership for the environmentally sustainable social and economic development of the poor.

The decade since the Rio Earth Summit held in 1992 has seen the process of globalization create unprecedented wealth, productivity and trade, while many developing countries, and Africa in particular have been pushed to the fringes of the global system. Each year in the past decade an additional 10 million people have joined the ranks of the very poor in Africa, Asia and

Sustainable Tourism

on working together

In his novel, *The Heart of Redness*, Zakes Mda takes us to Qolorha-by-Sea on the Wild Coast:

"The developers, two bald white men and a young black man, come early on a Saturday morning and insist that the meeting be held at the lagoon.... The young black man is introduced as Lefo Leballo, the new chief executive officer of the black empowerment company that is going to develop the village into a tourist heaven.... The two elderly white men – both in black suits- are Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones...

Mr. Smith talks of the wonders that will happen to Qolorha-by –Sea. There will be boats and water-skiing and jet skiing...

'Right here,' says Mr. Smith, 'we shall see the biggest and most daring rides of all roller coasters in the world...over the rough sea.'

'That is not all my dear friends', says Mr. Smith excitedly. 'We are going to have cable cars too. Cable cars shall move across the water from one end of the lagoon to the other.

But Camagu is not impressed.

'You talk of all these rides and all these wonderful things,' he says, 'but for whose benefit are they? What will these villagers who are sitting here get from all these things?... These things will be enjoyed only by the rich people who will come here and pollute our rivers and our ocean.'...

(Zim, an elder, says) '...This son of Cesane is right. They will destroy our trees and the plants of our forefathers for nothing we, the people of Qolorha, will not gain anything from this.'

'You have nothing to offer these people.' Says Mr. Jones to Camagu. 'If you fight against these wonderful developments, what do you have to offer in their place?'

(Camagu replies) 'The promotion of the kind of tourism that will benefit the people, that will not destroy indigenous forests, that will not bring hordes of people who will pollute the rivers and drive away the birds.'

'That is just a dream,' shouts Lefa Leballo. 'There is no such tourism.'

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Latin America. For these people, the fine words of Agenda 21 have meant little.

The last decade has been marked by unprecedented level of global concern for the protection of the Earth's fragile environment. South Africa is of the view that the Johannesburg Summit must negotiate a new global deal or partnership that brings the economic and social pillars of sustainable development back into the equation. Our watchwords are People, Planet, and Prosperity.

A new global deal on sustainable development is possible because of certain key international developments: The decision of

the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 to halve world poverty by the year 2015; the World Trade Organisation's Doha decision to embark on a development round of negotiations; and, the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus by UN Finance for Development's conference providing a framework for development financing.

The main task of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development is to focus on implementation plans.

It must result in a programme of action whose elements will include access to fresh water and sanitation, access to energy, food security, health care, primary

education and technology transfer.

For us on the African continent, this programme of action will be informed by NEPAD.

The formal intergovernmental negotiations will be paralleled by a wide range of side events, cultural activities, the Civil Society Forum, and many interest groups expressing their views and contributions on a sustainable future for the planet. These activities are where some of the real dynamism and creativity of the Summit will be expressed, and where most of the large number of people visiting the Summit will be engaged.

Parliamentarians from around the world will also be gathering in a special stakeholder event. Members of this house are playing a key role in facilitating this event. I would like to commend the role played by the Portfolio Committee and its chairperson, together with Globe South Africa, in promoting

dialogue on the key issues to be addressed at the Summit.

Logistical preparations for the Summit are at an advanced stage.

Government has established a dedicated non-profit organization the Johannesburg World Summit Company (JOWSCO) to manage these preparations. JOWSCO is managed jointly by national government, the Gauteng Province and the Jo'burg Metro.

In preparing the logistics we have paid careful attention to issues such as black economic empowerment, community participation and environmental best practice.

We aim to make the Summit "carbon neutral" by reducing green house gas emissions and investing in forestry projects that will absorb the equivalent carbon dioxide emissions generated by Summit activities. Gauteng is leading the project to "green" the Summit, and I would like to commend MEC, Mary Metcalf, for her visionary role in this regard.

The three spheres of government are also jointly making key financial contributions to running the Summit, with a total government contribution of R200m. These funds are being leveraged with donor and corporate sponsorships to make up the total Summit budget of R551m. I would like to give special thanks to those sponsors who have generously assisted South Africa to pull off a major event of this scale. In all, we aim to leverage the national government budget of R140m four times over. We estimate that this will bring at least R1,5 billion into the South African economy, in addition to the benefits in terms of branding, imaging and tourism, which are less easy to quantify. The preparation time South Africa has had for this Summit has been extremely tight. I am nevertheless confident that all our arrangements are on track, and that we have both the capacity and commitment in our management team to do this country proud in hosting this Summit.

We look forward to hosting the speaker of the house, together

with other members of Parliament, in Johannesburg, and hope that we can continue to rely on your support in the complex preparations for the Summit over the next few months." ■



Tourism Grows in Leaps despite September 11

Minister Moosa argues that Domestic Tourism remains the bedrock of South African Tourism. During the period April 2000 to May 2001, 15 million South Africans undertook more than 34 million domestic trips providing a R9,7 billion boosts to the economy....

" The Johannesburg Summit takes place at a time when South Africa's position as a **world tourism destination** continues

to strengthen.

Domestic tourism remains the bedrock of our tourism industry. The country's domestic market attributes some 67% of the total South African industry and contributes more than R16-billion of the R24.5-billion generated from the combined and foreign tourism spend.

During the period April 2000 to May 2001, 15 million South Africans undertook more than 34 million domestic trips providing

a R9,7 billion boosts to the economy.

During President Mbeki's official visit to China in December last year President Jiang Zemin agreed to grant South Africa the coveted 'Approved Destination Status'. This places South Africa among only 17 countries of the world that can be promoted as a tourism destination in this huge market. Moreover, South Africa is only one of two countries enjoying this status outside East Asia.

continued...

2001 Facts and Figures of Tourism in SA

- 2002 started well for tourism to South Africa with a growth of 3,7% in foreign arrivals in January.
- The monthly figures showed an increase of 18 479 compared to January 2001.
- The growth occurred largely out of the UK and Germany, two of South African Tourism's high priority markets.
- Growth from the UK was 14.6 % and growth out of Germany was 14.7 % for January 2002 compared with January 2001
- While there was growth out of China and Thailand off a lower base, the biggest gains for Asia were made in India with an 18.2% increase.
- Total tourist arrivals out of Africa increased from 362 794 to 374 269 (up 3.2%) despite arrivals from Lesotho continuing its downward trend. The downward trend of Lesotho arrivals has been continuing for the past three years following the restructuring of the gold industry.
- Total tourist arrivals in 2001 were 5.78 million compared to 5.87 million in 2000.
- The arrivals for the rest of Africa in 2001 increased from 2 668 407 to 2 836 637 (up 6.3%).
- Total arrivals, without Lesotho, in 2001 was 4 504 585 which is higher than 2000 by 185 697 (up 4.3%).
- Arrivals for the year 2001 from the UK grew from 349 652 to 356 759, an increase of 7107 tourists (up 2.0 %).
- 2001 also showed growth out of the East with Japan up 8.5%, China up 3.2% and India 7.9%.
- The Netherlands showed the results of continued market activation by the trade in growing 5.4 % in 2001.
- Travel patterns out of the USA, one of South African Tourism's keys focus areas, were dominated by 9/11.
- Growth out of the USA pre 9/11 was 2.31 % with 124 153 arrivals up to the end of August 2001, compared to 121 344 arrivals in the same period the previous year.
- The year ended with an overall 2.4% decrease in US arrivals (170 611 compared with 174 728 in 2000).

continued...

One of the projects that lie close to my heart is ensuring that our country fully exploits the benefits of e-business to leapfrog into the new millennium.

I am proud to say that South African Tourism will launch a state of the art e-business platform at the tourism Indaba on the weekend of 10th May. It will place us up there among the best in the world and will bring great benefits to provinces and business.

I would like to express appreciation to the tourism industry for the strides being made quality control and consumer protection. The Tourism Grading Council of SA, appointed by cabinet in September 2000, has already graded 700 establishments as part of the Star Grading System. An establishment is awarded Stars by registered assessors. Of the 33 assessors registered by the Council 18 are historically disadvantaged individuals. The Star grading is the only system recognized by government and the Tourism Business Council.

Black economic empowerment and the promotion of SMME's continue to be an integral part of government strategy. Last year a record of 138 Black owned enterprises were represented at the annual Tourism Indaba. This year the number will increase by 23% to 193.

In order to realise higher levels of growth in tourism, we need to increase the number of tourists to South Africa, we need to find ways to increase how much tourists spend, we need to get a broader geographic spread, we need to decrease the seasonality patterns and we need to make more conscious efforts to ensure that tourism growth creates opportunities for empowerment.



Kruger's profitability has increased four fold

"The Kruger National Park, the jewel of this country's natural heritage, and the pride of our nation, continues to contribute to the tourism appeal of South Africa. The Kruger's average occupancy rates are higher than industry norms and its profitability has increased five-fold in the last four years. It is at the same time regarded as a global conservation success story. My appreciation to David Mabunda, the Kruger Director, and his team for a job well done. Also to the Honorary Rangers for their voluntary work in the Kruger and other parks in the spirit of vuk'uzenzele.

South African National Parks, has in the recent period acquired land for the consolidation and the

between the governments of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The three countries have signed the text of the international treaty in terms of which Park would operate and the tripartite structures are meeting regularly. Coutada 16 has been upgraded to a national park in terms of Mozambican law. The first group of elephants has been translocated from the Kruger to Mozambique. Through the use of radio collars the movement of these elephants are plotted daily by an elephant specialist in order to draw lessons for the situation that will arise when the fence is removed. From the South African side all obstacles to removing sections of the fence have been addressed by the relevant

government departments. The Mozambican authorities are busy with the process of community consultations. This is an important factor that would inform the actual timing of the removal of the fence.

A project of this magnitude and importance requires care and diligence. It also requires resolve and determination.

The creation of the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park in Kwa-Zulu Natal has consolidated 16 parcels of land into a single world heritage park. To date 87 expressions of interest for the investment opportunities in the park have been pre-qualified. It is expected that contracts will be concluded in the course of this year". ■



expansion of the Addo, Marakele, Vhembe-Dongola, Augrabies and Aghulas National Parks. The government will continue to make funds available for the acquisition of land for this purpose.

South Africa continues to place emphasis on the development of transfrontier parks for the sake of conservation and for the promotion of regional economic growth.

During this past year, the so-called Gaza-Kruger-Gonarezhou Transfrontier Park was officially named the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park by agreement

Saki Macozoma Bows Out

During his budget Speech the Minister announced that Mr. Macozoma, Chairperson of SA Tourism requested to be relieved of his duties....

"Madam Speaker, I would like this opportunity to express gratitude on behalf of government to the chairperson of the South African Tourism board, Mr. Saki Macozoma, who has requested to be relieved of this duty. He has been responsible for successfully overseeing a critical phase in the history of South African Tourism".

FISHING SUCCESS

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism took its most confident step yet towards resolving the issue of black economic empowerment and the role that it should play in the allocation of commercial fishing rights.... Minister Moosa Explained to MP's how...

South Africans can truly be proud at the success in the sustainable use of our valuable marine resources. Not only are our fish stocks among the best managed in the world but it is also a sector in which very satisfactory advances has been made in transformation, transparency, fairness and Black economic empowerment.

The first phase of the rights allocation process was completed in February 2002.

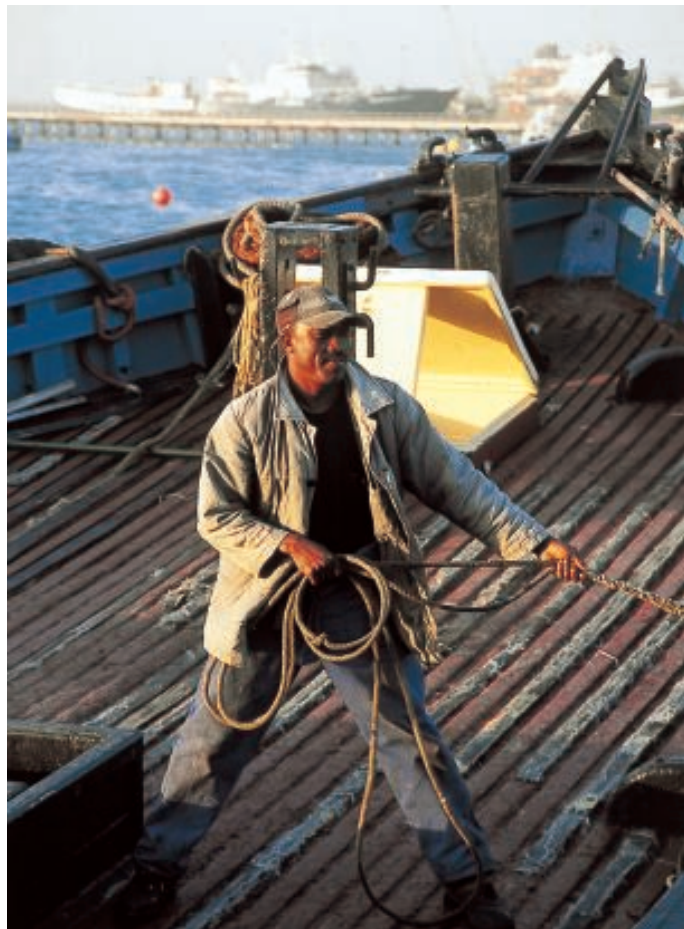
Throughout the process, the Department was mindful of the allegations of corruption, racism and nepotism that have plagued the allocation process for decades. Indeed, one of the Department's most significant achievements has been to establish a fair, rational and transparent system for allocating rights - a system that has been praised by a wide range of stakeholders in the fishing industry.

Furthermore, a preliminary analysis of DEAT's allocation records has demonstrated that the South African fishing industry has transformed into an industry that reflects a high degree of black economic empowerment, both in terms of asset ownership and employment equity, specifically at senior management level.

For example, in the hake trawl fishery, 73% of rights holders are majority owned by historically disadvantaged individuals. This figure is particularly impressive when one considers that less than 20 years ago the total allowable catch (TAC) for hake was shared among only six white-owned

companies. Today the hake trawl TAC is shared among 51 right-holders.

Through the establishment of a rational and legally sustainable framework for the allocation of rights, the Department made a realistic attempt to introduce stability and black economic empowerment to the South African fishing industry. ■



Fishing some more

By very strictly determining a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for each species, it has been ensured that the fish stocks are replenished year after year. South Africa's pelagic fishing industry – which catches pilchards and anchovies - is enjoying one of its best catch years. Oceanographic surveys that are conducted by researchers in the department have demonstrated that, since acoustic surveys were first instituted in the early 1980's, populations of pilchards and anchovies in South African waters have *never been higher!*

It is therefore my pleasure to announce that, I have this morning determined the revised TAC for pilchards for 2002 to be a record 257 978 tons, an increase of 75 978 from 2001. I have further determined the TAC for anchovies for 2002 to be 259 726tons. This makes the pelagic catch 158% higher than the 1994 figures and is largely due to sound fisheries management. ■

Fishing Facts & Figures

- In 1998, the hake longline fishery was identified as one in which real opportunities could be offered to HDI-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs).
- The Department's allocation records demonstrate that this has been achieved. In the hake longline fishery, 80.4% of fishing rights were allocated to companies that are majority HDI-owned.
- Other fisheries for which preliminary indicators of black economic empowerment have been released are:
 - The abalone fishery – 87.2% majority HDI-owned.
 - The pelagic fishery – 75.8% majority HDI-owned.
 - The West Coast rock lobster fishery – 66.7% majority HDI-owned.
 - The squid fishery – 33.4% majority HDI-owned.
 - The shark longline fishery – 23.8% HDI-ownership



coastcare
our coast for life

Sustainable use of natural resources pays! Crime Does Not

As we improve the system we step up the fight against crime and corruption in fishing.

A multi-disciplinary task team, comprising officials from the Scorpions, DEAT, the South African Revenue Service and the Asset Forfeiture Unit, conducted a ten-month investigation into Hout Bay Fishing Industries. The investigation spanned a number of continents and resulted in the arrest of several employees of Hout Bay Fishing Industries and 11 fisheries inspectors.

Ten days ago, on 30 April, Hout Bay Fishing Industries (Pty) Ltd, represented by the chairman of the company, Arnold Maurice Bengis, pleaded guilty to 28

charges of contravening the Marine Living Resources Act, admitting that between 1999 and 2001 the company knowingly and intentionally participated in the over-fishing of south coast rock lobster, west coast rock lobster and hake. A director of Hout Bay Fishing Industries, Colin van Schalkwyk, has pleaded guilty to 301 charges of corruption relating to the bribing of fisheries inspectors.

The total penalty imposed on Hout Bay Fishing, in terms of the plea bargain, amounts to record R40million.

The Scorpions must be singled out for praise for the sterling work done.

Plastic Bag Regulations are now Law

The recent period has been characterized by heightened awareness among South Africans about waste management and the litter that pollutes our living spaces. The publication of draft regulations almost two years ago proposing a prohibition on the production and distribution of thin plastic bags had the effect of focusing the public mind and, in particular, that of industry on the problem of litter.

Today, having taken into account, the results of the extensive consultation process, we publish regulations ending the free for all in the production and distribution of plastic bags. Rather than a blanket prohibition the product is subject to regulation. The regulations place a lower limit of

30 microns on the bags and prohibit advertising on bags thinner than 80 microns. Acceptable industrial tolerances will be developed in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry. An important challenge is the need to promote collection and recycling. Consideration is therefore being given to a new tax on plastic bag production in order subsidise collection and recycling in accordance with the polluter pays principle.

In order to ensure sufficient time for implementation, these regulations come into force 12 months from today. We believe that this approach takes into account the main concerns of labour and industry and at the same time achieving the anti-litter and anti-waste objectives of broader society.

a BIG Thank You!

The Who's Who Behind the Portfolio

I would like to express my gratitude to an excellent and dedicated team of public servants associated with this portfolio:

Murphy Morobe and Mavuso Msimang, Chairperson and CEO of South African National Parks;
Professor's Prince Nevuthalu and Brian Huntley, Chairperson and CEO of the National Botanical Institute;
Saki Macozoma, Cheryl Carolus, Chairperson and CEO of South African Tourism (a special word of thanks to Mr. Macozoma who has asked to be released);
Sizeka Rensburg and Donovan Nadison, Chairperson and CEO of the South African Weather Services;
Moss Mashishi, CEO of the Johannesburg World Summit Company;
the Director-General Chippy Olver, who has been deployed to work full time on the WSSD negotiations;
the Acting Director-General, Patrick Matlou, who has held the fort since January;
the Executive Managers of the Department, Nombasa Tsengwa, Horst Kleinsmidt and Pamela Yako;
my Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi;
and, the dedicated team of women and men in the Ministry and the department.

I express my thanks to the members of the portfolio committee and especially Chairperson Gwen Mahlangu for encouragement and for keeping my team and I on our toes! Thank you, to all....



At last Vessels to Patrol our waters

In order to more effectively protect South Africa's valuable fish stocks, government has decided to acquire four state-of-the-art fishing patrol boats. The purchase of the protection vessels dramatically improves the department's ability to patrol our coastal waters – including the South African waters around the Prince Edward Islands, an area which is frequented by Patagonian tooth fish pirates.

It is my pleasure to announce that the department has awarded the contract worth R303,6m for the building of the three inshore vessels to a local shipyard, Cape Town's Farocean Marine. The offshore vessel will be built by Damen Shipyards of the Netherlands at a cost of R210, 1m.

Deputy Minister REJOICE MABUDAFHASI

*of Environmental Affairs
on the World Summit
On Sustainable
Development*



"In the past year we have positioned this country on the cutting edge of change. We have been charged with a responsibility to steer NEPAD. This is to fight poverty, hunger, illness and illiteracy. Our eco systems are deteriorating due to human activity and at times it is as a result of need not greed. The integration of environment and development is of great importance to

address the basic needs. We need to act fast to save our planet as we already suffer the results of environmentally unfriendly behaviour. Though it will take time to correct the damage we have to work globally in order to succeed. WSSD will bring the whole world to a crossroads where we will globally craft the future of the people and the planet in order to prosper".

Clean Up South Africa for A better Life

*In her contribution to the debate
The Deputy Minister of
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
made a call to clean up our country
through dealing with waste and
clamping down on pollution.*

The Deputy Minister
continued.....

We held a national waste summit last year in Polokwane where all stakeholders and community participation was a success. The summit was to educate stakeholders, increase awareness of the public, ensure sustainable development, etc. Last year we reported that the various spheres of government were collaborating to sort out the rather disconcerting situation of pollution in Durban South.

With the help of communities in that area our intervention to fast track the stemming of high pollution levels in this regard have entered its second phase. A dedicated management structure consisting of government, industry and communities for implementing the Air Management programme is in place.

Additional equipment to monitor and quantify pollution in the area

will be installed soon by the Ethekweni Municipality. This will ensure that accurate information on pollution levels is continuously available to enable corrective measures to be taken in time. We are now going to deal with other areas that are heavily polluted like the Vaal Triangle and Caltex in Cape Town using the same approach.

Last year the government adopted new guidelines for sulphur dioxide, which are based on World Health Organization Standards. This was a first step in our efforts to address the unacceptable levels of this and other toxic substances commonly found in the air of our urban and industrial areas.

The development of similar standards for other substances like benzene is in progress and these will be announced when the new law is promulgated. These initiatives must send a strong message to those who take the issue of pollution lightly that we will only get tougher in our quest to clean up our country.

The fight to reduce the unacceptable levels of air

Zero Waste by 2022

Last year the country was horrified when children were seen playing with dangerous medical waste. At the same time we have become accustomed to spills on our roads and oceans where lives are risked by transportation.

This must stop!

- Environmental Affairs and Tourism will be developing the Hazardous Waste Management guidelines for sector managers and Provinces which will be published in July,

- Furthermore DEAT envisages publishing a Waste Manifest system in 2002.
- We are also currently involved in the development of a Health Care Waste management document.

The Thor chemicals challenge that resulted in a number of workers being poisoned and some dying, communities being poisoned, livestock poisoned, environment damaged and ground water being contaminated is about to be resolved.

continued...



Bye, Bye to Leaded Petrol

Diesel and petrol driven vehicles have been identified as major contributors to air pollution in urban areas. To this end the Department of Minerals and Energy in consultation with the departments for Transport and Environmental Affairs and Tourism has recommended the total phase-out of lead in petrol as well as the reduction of sulphur in diesel.

These actions will facilitate the legislation of stringent vehicle emission standards. The Department is developing a National Strategy to address vehicle emissions. This strategy, together with the accompanying emissions standards will be unveiled at the end of 2002.

pollution in all the affected areas of our country is an ongoing process. A new draft bill on Air Quality Management is currently being drafted to replace the old and outdated legislation of 1966.

This new legislation, which is due to be promulgated by the end of 2002, ushers in a revolutionary approach on the prevention of air pollution that our people breathe in that it will provide for the criminalisation of any acts which may impact negatively on the health of our communities. Through this legislation, those who pollute the air will be prosecuted, and even jailed. ■

Zero waste by 2002

...continued

Environmental Affairs and Tourism is addressing the requirements of the Davis Commission in dealing with the problems of the remaining mercury waste.

Asbestos is also one of the injustices that received attention from my department. DEAT is currently coordinating the implementation of the Asbestos Summit resolutions and the cabinet decision on asbestos management.

The highlights include:

- The closure of the last South African Asbestos mine.
- A feasibility study on the socio-economic implications of phasing out asbestos completely in all applications (principally housing materials), which will be conducted as a cooperative effort between the departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Trade and Industry, which should be completed by June 2002.
- Newly published Asbestos regulations for occupational safety by the Department of Labour.
- DME is rehabilitating Mines

The South African chemical industry is dominated by local companies, which grew from the industry's historical base in explosives for the mining industry, followed by the development of nitrogen-based fertilizers and Sulphuric acid.

In SA we derive oil from coal on a large scale done by Sasol resulting in the foundation of a significant polymer industry. Although relatively small by international standards, the chemical industry is a significant player in the South African economy, contributing around 5% of gross domestic product and employing about 200 000 people.

The industry produces 13 000 tones of primary and secondary process chemicals annually, and is the largest of its kind in Africa. This led to South Africa acceding to the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions - to align current legislation with the new Constitution and with global chemicals management.

- A special unit has been set up in DEAT to implement a system aimed at preventing major industrial accidents as well as

systems for emergency preparedness and response.

- DEAT has also initiated a national chemical profile report.

This baseline study should be finished by July 2002 and will give an overview of South Africa's chemical industry and will form the basis of a system of national co-ordination.

Recognising that waste management is a priority for all South Africans, and the need for urgent action to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste in order to protect the environment; the department hosted the national waste summit at Polokwane in September 2001.



South Africa has signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent procedure for certain hazardous chemical and pesticides in international trade. Both conventions will be ratified before the World Summit in August 2002.

The Rotterdam Convention was designed to protect countries lacking adequate infrastructure to monitor the import and export of dangerous chemicals.

The Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure ensures that governments have all the information they need about the materials for assessing the risks and taking informed decisions on chemical imports.

The Stockholm Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants bans 12 of the deadliest man-made substances and allows for the inclusion of others.

South Africa is participating in the technical committee of the UNEP-initiated Intergovernmental Mercury Assessment. This assessment will feed into the process DEAT is undertaking with Thor Chemicals. This committee will also look at the Environment and Health impact of Lead and Cadmium.

The summit gave birth to the Polokwane Declaration on waste management with the vision to implement a waste management system that contributes to sustainable development and a measurable improvement in the quality of life, by harnessing the energy and commitment of all South Africans for the effective reduction of waste with the goal to "Reduce waste generation and disposal by 50% and 25% respectively by 2012 and develop a plan for ZERO WASTE by 2022."

Zero waste is a radical new solution for a wasteful society – one that aims to redesign the way resources flow through communities, and at the same time creates significant employment and economic development opportunities.

In keeping with the directive on the issue of plastic bags Cabinet has approved the promulgation of the plastic bag regulations. We have been in discussion with our colleagues from the Department of Trade and Industry and engaged industry to present an environmentally friendly alternative to the regulations. We are satisfied that the regulations as we promulgate them today have taken into account the views of all relevant role players.



The Cleanest Town Competition

The case study of the plastic bag regulations is the turn-off to the high road scenario for integrating the economy into the environment. It is not only a success story of Government delivering on its policies, but it represents a milestone in building the capacity to get practical solutions established and operational.

As such, the learning experience of developing these regulations will prove to be of inestimable value as government and business begin to engage in transforming the "business as usual" paradigm into a new paradigm of change management on a larger scale.

The modest contribution to waste management policy implementation made by the plastic bag regulations is the start of changes that will bring more profound benefits of better waste management to all South Africans. As an integral part of this initiative, the plastic bag regulations will provide ways of effectively reducing the overall number of plastic bags produced and thereby reduce the number of plastic bags released into the environment.

At the same the regulations will reduce the percentage of plastic waste from factory production processes and create price incentives to produce unprinted bags uncontaminated by ink. This measure will significantly increase the benefit streams from recovering waste for recycling.

Of taking one small but significant step in this direction has been gratifying. ■



Another exciting initiative embarked upon by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and aimed at changing people's attitudes towards waste is the Cleanest Town Competition, which was launched at the national waste summit. This competition was developed to work towards a sustainable future, a healthy environment, a strong economy and a quality of life for all citizens. It contributes towards building clean living spaces through:

- Increased public awareness and education on waste management and issues related to waste and pollution management including environmental impact of waste. This enhance the socio-economic development of South Africa, the health of its people and the quality of its environmental resources; and
- Encouragement/ motivation of communities to clean up their residential and working spaces.

The department is also working on the "green government

through waste prevention, recycling and acquisition policy that would ensure that all government departments contribute to waste minimisation.

The objective of this policy would be to advocate and assist environmental efforts of all tiers of government in waste prevention, recycling, the affirmative procurement of guideline items (these would be identified), and the acquisition of recycled and environmentally preferable products and services.

Government facilities and services are probably the largest paper users within South Africa, and potentially one of the most powerful forces for buyer-led changes to shift the market toward recycling, reuse and energy efficiency.

Government departments are also major purchasers of energy using equipment, and government "leadership by example" can serve as a powerful element of an overall national policy on energy efficiency.

Perhaps most significantly, the government sectors buying power and active, visible leadership offer a powerful non-regulatory means to stimulate demand for energy-efficient products and services.

In turn, government leadership leads to a positive response from domestic suppliers of energy-related products and services, encouraging them to introduce more energy-efficient products at competitive prices once the public sector helps establish a reliable entry market.



Women and The Environment

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development. The international community has endorsed several

plans of action and conventions for full, equal and beneficial integration of women in all developmental activities.

Women leaders on environment recently held an international conference on the 7 – 8 March 2002, which discussed and identified measures to address some pertinent environmental and sustainable development issues concerning globalization, poverty, and equity from the gender perspective.

Our challenge is to create internationally and nationally an environment which is conducive to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty. Meeting this challenge requires the full participation and partnership of all stakeholders, i.e. international, regional organizations, national and local

governments, civil society, the private sector and NGO.

It also requires approaches to take into account the different roles of men and women to enable them both to place an essential role in promoting sustainable development in the management and conservation of natural resources. Environmental Affairs and Tourism deemed it necessary to hold national workshops that would address gender and sustainable development.

The workshop will culminate in an international conference of women leaders on sustainable development, which we could hold in support of NEPAD initiatives on gender and environment. ■

Also of critical importance is the dawn of the weather services and its part in supporting our role in mitigating the terrible effects of climate change. This is an attempt at combating poverty through practical interventions.

This an attempt at combating poverty through practical interventions such as the planned new weather radar in the under-developed, vulnerable, rural community of Empindweni in the Umtata Area of the Eastern Cape, will anticipate approaching extreme weather 250 km ahead of time, a first for the people in the eastern part of the Eastern Cape, southern parts of KZN and will cover the southern half of Lesotho.

This collaborative project with the University of Fort Hare and the Eastern Cape Provincial Government is a shining example how weather infrastructural equipment will for the first time:

- Reduce the chances of crop and live-stock losses for subsistence farmers
- Ensure that warnings for tornadoes will be more timely to mitigate the loss of life characterized by weather in this region
- Bring employment to the community through the installation of the radar and a observational post to track and record climate patterns in the area.

I recently had the honour to welcome a multi-billion rand



SOUTH AFRICAN WEATHER SERVICE

programme, which aims to action activities related to the NEPAD for African countries in the area of global meteorological observation system.

During this meeting I was informed of the two billion Euros programme by officials from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The two-men delegation, hosted by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), were on a five-day visit to South Africa to discuss with the department areas of collaboration and support for WSSD. The WMO, through funding requested from the European Union by the African Sub-Regional Economic Grouping, would manage the four-year programme from their offices in Nairobi.

This service forms part of the total African Meteorological solution for sustainable development and will play a big role in assisting other countries in the region in implementing the programme. The successful implementation of this programme will translate into more accurate forecasting of the weather and a positive impact on the socio economic development of the country. ■



The African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in sub-Saharan Africa was adopted at a conference held in Cape Town in 1998.

It is an innovative, programmatic initiative that enables African stakeholders to define priorities, hotspots and sensitive areas affecting the marine and coastal environment on the basis of comprehensive assessments and to develop concrete project proposals.

Undertaken initially in eleven sub-Saharan countries, it integrates socio-economic as well as scientific and technical considerations into proposed interventions.

The African Process will finalise this first cycle of project development at a Partnership Conference, where the Programme of Interventions will be formally adopted; implementation of the proposals is scheduled to begin parallel with the initiation of a new analytical phase enabling other sub-Saharan countries to participate in the Process.

The Partnership Conference, which will be held at Heads of State level during WSSD, will bring together a broad group of stakeholders and partners including representatives from African and donor countries, private sector, intergovernmental and international organisations, and non-governmental organisations.

The significant level of political endorsement by African leaders is evidenced by the decision adopted by the July 2001 OAU Summit held in Lusaka, to hold the Conference at the level of Heads of State. The main purpose of the Partnership Conference is to promote the implementation of the African Agenda for the development and protection of the coastal and

marine environment.

A "Super" Preparatory Committee meeting will be held in Abuja, Nigeria in June 2002, which would include a wide range of stakeholders and potential partners. At this strategic meeting, the Programme of interventions will be reviewed and discussed in preparation for the Partnership Conference.

African countries outside the process were requested to submit project proposals for consideration. A Harmonisation Committee, consisting of South Africa as Chair, the ministers of Mozambique and Nigeria, will be assessing all projects shortly after the meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire next week. This is the final Working Group Meeting in preparation of the Super PrepCom.

We are getting tremendous support from developed countries. We have subsequently also received support from Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) an organisation of members of parliaments in the USA and Europe.

The African Process is a shining example of the type of practical initiatives required by the vision for NEPAD. Both the upcoming "Super PrepCom" as well as the Partnership Conference will be an opportunity for the African community to work together with its partners and friends.

WSSD will craft new partnerships that will ensure sustained implementation of concrete actions that will make a difference in the lives of the people of this planet.

The African Process is a key element in our NEPAD strategy to reduce poverty in Africa by Developing and Protecting the Marine and Coastal Environment. ■

The House Responds: Quotes from Members of Parliament

DP

Statement from Mampe Ramotsamay

"Two years ago Minister Valli Moosa spoke about changing the face of tourism. He promised the Portfolio Committee and the Nation that if the status does not change "we have to close shop". The Portfolio Committee raised sharply the matter of representation of Black Tourism Businesses at the Indaba 2001."

The old face of tourism is beginning to change. Last year at Indaba 2001 Black Tourism Business rose from 138 to 149. This year Indaba 2002 which will be held in Durban from 11 May 2002 we are told the number will increase to 200.

ANC

Environmental Affairs and Tourism is the one area where all people and groups can find common ground. It is possible to remove party politics from environmental affairs and, as a United Nation, focus on the important issues and goals.

This route has been followed in many countries with great success. Eradicating litter, cleaning of rivers, protecting our trees, promoting tourism and many other goals should become national goals.

Success in major national priorities will contribute to national building and a better understanding of our environmental problems. Much work has been done in this regard, but we have not managed to get sufficient grass root support. Support has usually come from relatively small groups of concerned citizens, interest groups or pressure groups.

In the case of promoting tourism we do have excellent plans in place.

E K Moorcroft M

With regard to the Department Budget, it is pleasing to see that the medium term expenditure estimate indicates a modest increase for the years 2000 through to 2004. This follows a trend which has been evident in the past years, and which seems to indicate that the Honourable Minister has succeeded in convincing the Honourable Minister of Finance and Cabinet that this Portfolio has an exceptionally important role to play in the future of our country.

For too long in the past Environmental Affairs and Tourism languished on the Cabinet's back burner, and it is high time that the Portfolio be now given recognition for its importance, and be elevated accordingly. For this reason, the World Summit on Sustainable Development which takes place in our country in August and September of this year, could not have come at a better time. It will focus the attention of the world in general, and of South Africa in particular, on the importance of the environment and of those who are custodians of it.

The budget vote before us deals with important issues in our daily lives hence an increase of 6.7% over the last financial year.

We commend the Department for having accessed R79.2 million for the financial year under review from overseas instances such as the EY, Denmark and US for preserving the environment and developing Spatial Development Initiatives along the east coast. A flagship of such initiative is the extended Addo Elephant Park.

UDM

INDABA: The Tourism Crossroads

MOOSA OPENS BIGGER AND BETTER TOURISM INDABA

SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2002: The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mohammed Valli Moosa, officially opened a bigger and better Tourism Indaba.

Addressing delegates at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Minister Moosa praised the Indaba as one of the biggest and greatest tourism exhibitions, with over 1 300 exhibitors and 70 countries participating. He said the Indaba was one of the projects that are contributing towards the realisation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) goals. At the heart of Nepad is a vision for sustainable development of the continent. This year's Indaba also happened as South Africa celebrates its country's pride in having been chosen to host the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4 this year. This event -- the biggest-ever global conference gathering -- will provide a privileged platform for South Africa to showcase itself to the world on an unprecedented scale, and the Indaba marks the start of this process. Minister Moosa said the Johannesburg

Summit, Indaba and a whole range of other events have placed South Africa as an emerging "preferred destination" to host international conferences.

"It is our view that the Tourism Indaba can now aim to become one of the three biggest markets in the world," he said. The Minister further praised KwaZulu-Natal and Durban for "remarkable work" in promoting the province and the city as a tourism destination, saying that in a short space of time the brand "Kingdom of the Zulu" has become known both domestically and internationally. The Minister also praised the work done by the South African Tourism management and board in promoting the country. **"They are truly making us proud of being South African"**. He said South African Tourism continued to play a creative role in growing tourism, one of which was a launch of its e-business on (Sunday, 12 May 2002), which was a state-of-the-art database for tourism. He said tourism was also an important economy through the promotion of small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs), as well as the promotion of emerging entrepreneurs and black-owned businesses.

The Minister praised development initiatives such as ETEYA (Emerging Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year Award), whose future has been embraced by the industry as embodied by the vision of the Federated Hospitality Association of South Africa (FEDHASA). He also used the occasion to announce a new tourism award -- the Enterprise of the Year award -- to be awarded to an enterprise that has done the most work in the development of SMMEs. An impressive 193 SMMEs are participating in this year's Indaba; only 34 SMMEs participated in 2000. He said while the past six months had seen most of the world's tourism destinations being negatively affected by the post-September 11 terrorist attack on New York, South Africa came out unscathed.

"I am proud to announce that South Africa has defied gravity. The post-September 11 period has seen tourism in South Africa grow. For instance, there was a 14,5% growth in the number of visitors from Europe and Germany in January this year, compared to the same period last year. We are no longer working at becoming world players in

tourism -- we are world players in tourism," said Minister Moosa.

He urged the international community to support tourism in South Africa and the African continent as a whole. **"I call on the international partners to know that when you promote South Africa and Africa, you are not just doing business; you are a partner in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000, which recognised that the biggest developmental challenge facing the world is the development of Africa. You and I and the rest of us are part of making that history,"** he said.

On the Monday following the Minister's speech, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism held a media briefing to outline progress with the preparations for the Johannesburg World Summit, launched a handbook on tourism funding for SMMEs, and released guidelines on responses against illegal tour guiding.

The United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development
26 August - 4 September 2002



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