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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL FOR TRADE PARTNERS AND INVESTORS

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SOUTH AFRICA – ALIVE WITH POSSIBILITY

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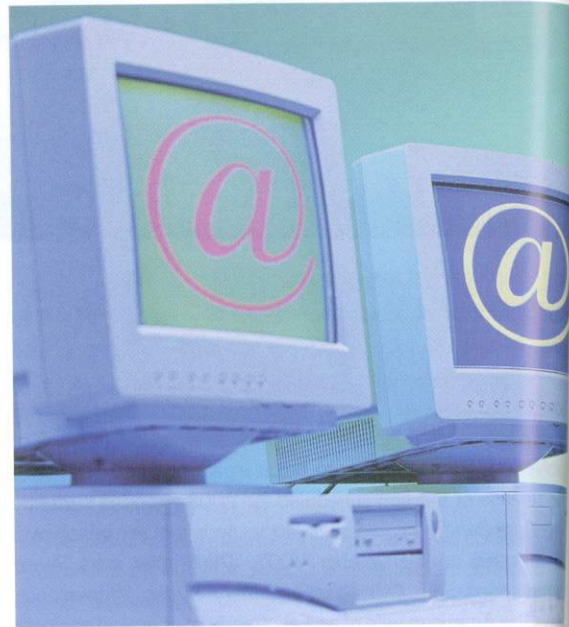


PETROL PIPE PLANNED

A joint venture between a South African and a Mozambican company will see the construction of a R4-billion liquid petroleum pipeline between the two countries. The planned infrastructure aims to reduce South Africa's reliance on Durban harbour, and offers hope that inland fuel prices might drop in the long term. The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) has issued a licence to build the pipeline from Maputo to Kendal in Gauteng, via Nelspruit, to Petroline RSA, which will build the pipeline jointly with Petroline SARL of Mozambique.

Detailed design and environmental impact assessments for the project are currently under way, and according to Petroline RSA Director Pinky Moabi construction will start at the end of the year. The pipeline should be fully operational by the end of 2009.

According to Petroline, the pipeline will carry 3.5 billion litres of fuel a year and supply 25% of the fuel demand in Mpumalanga and Gauteng.



E-SCHOOLS DRIVE IT

The first of South Africa's six e-schools was launched recently with a view to increasing the use of technology in education and growing learner IT skills. Supported by IT company Hewlett Packard (HP), and forming part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) e-schools project, Maripe Secondary School at Bushbuckridge in Limpopo is the first school to be equipped with an HP computer lab, complete with servers, personal computers, printers, faxes, scanners, copiers and wireless connectivity. The first African e-school was opened in Uganda in June 2005, while Egypt's first e-school was launched earlier this year.

Says HP South Africa CEO Thoko Mokgosi-Mwantemba: "Through this initiative, teachers and the local community will be able to learn the ICT skills that are needed to participate as equals in the global knowledge economy."

R165M BPO APPLICATIONS APPROVED

South Africa recently approved three business process outsourcing and offshoring (BPO&O) investment applications, valued at R136.5-million, according to Trade and Industry Minister Mandisi Mphalwa.

The national government has identified BPO&O as a potential job creation sector, and is developing a national standard on BPO&O to market the country as a "quality destination" for investment. Says Mphalwa: "The way we market ourselves as

South Africa for business process outsourcing is not so much a cheap location, which tends to be the situation in some of the dominant recipients of business process outsourcing, but we are projecting ourselves as a destination that also provides quality. A total of seven applications were received for companies to establish BPO&O operations in South Africa, while the first three approvals will create in the order of 7 300 jobs by 2010, and 2 600 immediate jobs.



MANDELA'S ELDERS WILL TEACH THE WORLD

Out of deep concern for the challenges facing our planet and its people, Nelson Mandela, Graça Machel, and Desmond Tutu convened a group of leaders to contribute their wisdom, leadership and integrity to tackling some of the world's toughest problems.

On the occasion of his 89th birthday in Johannesburg, Mandela declared The Elders – a group of international wise men and women who will use their skills to catalyse peaceful resolutions to long-standing conflicts and articulate new approaches to global issues. He was joined by founding members of the group, Desmond Tutu, Graça Machel, Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter, Li Zhaoxing, Mary Robinson, Richard Branson, Peter Gabriel and Muhammad Yunus. Founding members, Ela Bhatt and Gro Harlem Brundtland were unable to attend.

Said Mandela: "Together we will work to support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict, and inspire hope where there is despair."



NOTHING TO WINE ABOUT

South African wines recently scooped 195 medals at the 24th International Wine Challenge held in London. An annual event, the International Wine Challenge is the world's largest blind wine tasting competition. At this year's competition, 9 358 wines were judged from 35 different countries, by 400 judges. The judges were of 19 different nationalities and included 33 Masters of Wine. Since South Africa improved its status by 48 medals (last year the country was awarded 147), it was acknowledged – along with Spain, Argentina, Greece, Chile and England – as a country that performed notably better than last year. Of the Challenge's 260 gold medals, South Africa was awarded 12.



HOLD-EM CHAMP MAKES HISTORY

South Africa's Raymond Rahme finished third in the 2007 World Series of Poker, the most prestigious set of poker tournaments in the world. He beat over 6 350 players from around the globe in the No-Limit Texas Hold'em World Championship, earning over \$US3-million and putting South Africa onto the international poker map.

Rahme is the first person ever to appear at the final table of the Main Event from Africa. He secured a place at the prestigious event as a member of the All Africa Poker Team after placing in the top five at the Piggs Peak Swaziland's All Africa Poker Tournament in June. Although he has played stud for three decades, Rahme has only been playing the game of Hold'em for about two years.