



Addressing the global threat of climate change

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA



Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, with UNFCCC Executive Secretary Ms Christiana Figueres during a press conference after the Pre-COP17 Ministerial meeting.

*Writer: Clayson Monyela**

Photo: Jacoline Prinsloo

We have all witnessed acute changes in weather patterns around the globe.

Internationally, there have been devastating floods in Pakistan and the crushing power of a tsunami in Japan. In Africa, we witnessed the helplessness of humanity when confronted by nature's destructive power, as evidenced in Somalia.

Here at home, we have experienced some of the coldest winters on record throughout the country, and changing rainfall patterns in the Eastern Cape. These climatic challenges certainly have an impact on both our way of life as well as on our ability to feed our societies.

While our Earth's climate has always changed,

flowing through a series of warming and cooling cycles, recent large-scale anthropogenic influences have led to dramatic changes within this system.

As a result, the Earth has entered a warming cycle at an unprecedented speed at a time when it should be cooling. With the increases in knowledge, innovative communication and mobility within our globe, the international community could not ignore these unprecedented changes our planet is undergoing.

Hence, in 1988 the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and its specialised agencies acknowledged the planet's increasing climate change and its reciprocal effect on the world as a common concern for all of humanity.

The UNGA recognised that an urgent need

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existed for governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to collaborate in a concerted effort to prepare a framework convention on climate change. Many discussions and processes were undertaken, which eventually culminated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which came into being on 9 May 1992.

The UNFCCC was a negotiated process among member states in response to the scientific evidence of the dangers posed to humanity by the increased concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs), principally carbon dioxide, methane, Chlorofluorocarbon and nitrous oxides, in the atmosphere.

The effect of these gases on the world's climate was found to lead to increases in sea levels and temperatures, and other far-reaching consequences that would ultimately threaten humanity's existence.

The UNFCCC consists of 194 member states as parties which meet annually at the Conference of the Parties (COP). Under the convention, member governments commit to:

- gather and share information on GHGs, national policies and best practices
- launch national strategies for addressing GHG emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries
- cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

South Africa ratified the convention in 1997, at which stage the convention became binding. This means that South Africa is obliged to adhere to all the obligations imposed on it in terms of being a party to the convention. It also means that we can now benefit from provisions in the convention, for instance by accessing international funds dedicated to mitigating climate change.

South Africa is classified as a developing country in terms of the Convention and is not obliged to adhere to the more demanding commitments placed on developed countries.

However, related South African policies such as the policy on integrated pollution and waste management place emphasis on cleaner technology and production and a shift

to sustainable development. This, accordingly, supports a proactive approach in formulating a climate change policy.

In addition, a proactive approach, including early mitigation action, adaptation plans and improvement of knowledge may have some advantages, including helping to reduce the global problem proactively, giving South Africa more time to prepare for meeting GHG reduction targets when eventually they are imposed on developing countries.

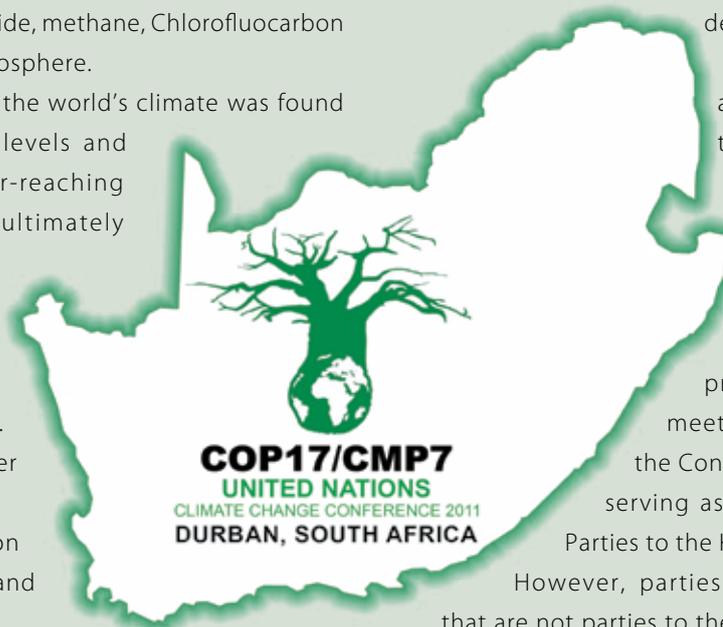
The COP also serves as the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) to the Kyoto Protocol, which adopts decisions and resolutions on the implementation of its provision. This annual meeting is referred to as the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP).

However, parties to the convention that are not parties to the Protocol are able to participate in the CMP as observers, but without the right to take decisions.

The Kyoto Protocol, linked to the UNFCCC, is an international agreement that was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997. The Marrakesh Accords, which detailed the rules for the implementation of the protocol, were adopted at COP 7 in Marrakesh in 2001.

The major distinction between the protocol and the convention is that while the convention encourages industrialised countries to stabilise GHG emissions, the protocol commits them to do so. Further, a key component of the Kyoto Protocol is that it lays down binding targets for 37 industrialised countries and the European community for reducing GHG emissions.

The Protocol also affirms the principle that developed countries have to pay billions of dollars and supply technology to other countries for



climate-related studies and projects. South Africa acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in 2002, since the protocol, like the convention, is designed to assist developing countries to adapt to the hostile effects of climate change.

From 28 November to 9 December 2011, South Africa will host the UN and 194 world nations in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, for the 17th Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP17), which also serves as the seventh meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP7).

Given that the Kyoto Protocol is expected to expire in 2012, COP17/CMP7 is considered a significant gathering of nations to commit to the second period for countries to cut their GHG emissions. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, will serve as President of COP17.

One of the key priority areas government will address at COP17/CMP7 is to achieve a balanced outcome and will, among other things, require the operationalisation of the Cancun Agreements, as well as commitments to deal with the unfinished business from the Bali Roadmap and Action Plan.

The hosting of COP17/CMP7, as a developing country, indicates South Africa's commitment to addressing the global threat of climate change. The country aims to lead the world in forging a common consensus in terms of addressing the adverse affects of climate change.

South Africa will ensure that the process upholds rules-based multilateralism and will aim to facilitate an outcome that is fair, transparent and inclusive, and which upholds the convention's principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities.

The negotiations in Durban will be a party-driven process, with South Africa playing an enabling role for parties to find agreement on the salient issues of climate change. South Africa will not seek to impose a solution of its own, as the UNFCCC is governed by its own processes and rules of procedure, which strengthen multilateralism and the legitimacy of the whole process.

Since climate change is one of the greatest threats to sustainable development and the broader wellbeing of humanity, COP17/CMP7 is considered the most important climate change conference gathering of our time as the effects of climate change,



if left unchecked, will undo all the modern advancements made by the global community to eliminate the harsh realities facing the people of the world.

Government is confident that COP17/CMP7 will rally the international community towards ensuring our existence and the planet's survival is not threatened by our actions and inactions to address the adverse effects of climate change.

For more information, visit: www.cop17-cmp7durban.com [®]

***Clayson Monyela is the Deputy Director-General: Public Diplomacy at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.**



Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tina Joemat Pettersson addressing delegates at the African Ministers Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture.

Climate-smart agriculture an African priority

Ensuring food security in a changing climate is one of the major challenges facing the globe in the 21st century and for Africa to achieve its development goals, climate change adaptation is a priority, writes **Nthambeleni Gabara**.

Photo: Samuel Kgatla

Agriculture is undoubtedly the most important sector in the economies of most non-oil exporting African countries. It constitutes approximately 30% of Africa's gross domestic product and contributes about 50% of the total export value, with 70% of the continent's population depending on the sector for their livelihood. It is also a major cause for climate change, directly accounting for approximately 15% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or as much as approximately 30% when considering land-use change, including deforestation directed by agricultural expansion for food, fibre and fuel production.

For these very reasons, agriculture is critical to achieving global climate goals.

The world, including Africa as the greenest continent, stands to benefit from climate-smart agriculture because of the vulnerability of rural populations to climate change and their dependence on agriculture for livelihoods.

Some 650 million people on the African continent are dependent on rain-fed agriculture in fragile en-

vironments that are vulnerable to water scarcity and environmental degradation.

Africa is leading the way in putting this issue on the global political agenda and focusing on early action.

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, has placed the concept of climate-smart agriculture in the spotlight, realising that a robust debate on climate change and its impact on agriculture is crucial to the survival of the continent and its people.

"Millions of hungry and starving individuals have their hopes invested in us. Despite our serious challenges, we still have hope. It is vital to take account of agriculture, food security and land in the climate-change negotiations," she says.

Joemat-Pettersson hosted the African Ministers in Agriculture Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture in Johannesburg in September with the objective of sharing perspectives among the leadership, exploring challenges and identifying new opportunities for agriculture in Africa.

Themed *Climate-Smart Agriculture Africa: A Call to Action*, the conference was part of the build-up to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

African ministers responsible for agriculture are hoping to use

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COP17 to push for the adaptation of a climate-smart agriculture concept. Climate change is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world, and nearly decades of UN negotiations on the phenomenon have thus far failed to find an absolute approach to curbing the release of GHGs.

"As African ministers responsible for agriculture, we will be going to the COP17 Conference with one idea of pushing for climate-smart agriculture. Speaking in one voice on agriculture as African ministers, food security, adaptation and mitigation will be our key focus areas for 'climate-smart agriculture' at the conference," said Joemat-Pettersson.

According to the Minister, climate-smart agriculture, which is a fairly new concept on the continent, includes proven practical techniques and approaches that can help achieve a triple win for food security, adaptation and mitigation.

Climate-smart agriculture seeks to increase productivity in an environmentally and socially sustainable way, strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change and reduce agriculture's contribution to climate change by reducing GHG emissions as well as increasing carbon storage on farmland.

"We agreed to call upon COP17 to establish an agriculture programme of work that covers adaptation and mitigation," she said.

The ministers agreed that food security, poverty and climate change were closely linked and should not be considered separately.

"There was also an affirmation that Africa's priorities are to implement climate change programmes and projects to attain development goals, including the millennium development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty with emphasis on achieving food security, especially for the most vulnerable groups," she said.

The conference called on African countries and partners to accelerate the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) by increasing financial support to their respective countries' agricultural invest-

ment plans towards climate-smart agriculture.

There was also a call for the African Union and other partners to mainstream climate change principles into the CAADP and to further support a climate change adaptation-mitigation framework.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's Assistant Director-General, Alexander Muller, told the conference that Africa had taken the global lead in bringing together agriculture and climate change.

"It is a signal of utmost importance that Africa has put climate-smart agriculture high on the political agenda," he said.

However, he said, Africa could only successfully implement the concept of climate-smart agriculture if the international community met its promises to support climate change adaptation and investment in agriculture.

"Agriculture and climate finance have to be brought together. Handling one at the time is not going to help enough to meet the multiple challenges. Urgent action is needed and you can count on our organisation's support," Muller told the African delegates.



Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister, Tina Joemat Pettersson, left and International Relations and Cooperation, Minister Maite-Nkoana Mashabane at the African Ministers climate-smart agriculture conference.

Also in attendance was COP17 President and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, who said the world gathering in Durban offered a unique opportunity for Africa to shape the global climate agenda and establish an agriculture work programme that is informed by science and covers adaptation and mitigation.

According to Nkoana-Mashabane, agriculture has the potential to cost-effectively mitigate GHGs through changes in agricultural technologies and management practices. "Improvements in water conservation and demand management and its spatial distribution will exacerbate the need for better water harvesting, storage and management."

On COP17, the Minister said: "It is critical that we have to start looking beyond this highly anticipated event. We need to link climate change, food security and poverty; we need to engage on emerging issues, including finance and technological support, and approaches such as climate-smart agriculture that are geared towards addressing food security, adaptation and mitigation."

The conference in Durban later this month will focus on issues such as incorporating agriculture into the climate change negotiations at the UNFCCC; identifying new financing opportunities; expanding research, risk management and measurement methodologies; enhancing information and knowledge exchange; and establishing early action plans to identify and upscale best practices. ☺



Greening the economy

On the eve of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of 17 Parties (COP17), the dialogue around it has been dominated by concepts such as sustainable development, carbon footprints and a relatively newer one – the green economy. **Mbulelo Baloyi** unpacks this concept and what it could mean for South Africa's job-creation imperatives.

Government's job-creation blueprint, the New Growth Path (NGP), has identified six priority areas as part of the comprehensive ongoing programme to create jobs.

Speaking to participants at labour and business summits earlier this year, the Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel, outlined how jobs would be created through a series of synergies between the private sector and government.

The Minister said that one of the priority areas was a job-creation programme in the green economy, adding that the green economy focused on expansions in construction and the production of technologies such as solar and wind energy, and biofuels.

Clean manufacturing and environmental services could create 300 000 jobs over the next 10 years. "Government and business need to work together on concrete plans to develop the economy and drive green jobs. The green economy is central to South Africa's plan to grow its economy and create jobs through green industries and environment-friendly initiatives," says Patel.

Using incentives offered by the Department of Economic Development's Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) such as the R10-billion Jobs Fund as announced by President Jacob Zuma during the State of the Nation Address earlier this year, government hopes to create 40 000 to 50 000 jobs through loans to entrepreneurs.

The Economic Development Department has targeted some sectors of the economy as part of the drive to create a green economy.

"Over the past century and a half, industrialisation across the world was carbon-based and in many cases energy inefficient. This had to do with how we build cars, dig for minerals, generate energy or build houses. Most of the industrialisation that has taken place has been carbon-based," says Economic Development Department Communication Specialist, Zubeida Jaffer.

She says government sees opportunities across the economy, from transport and construction to energy-generation and manufacturing, to change to this new form of economy.

"The energy required to manufacture a product from raw material to a saleable product will have to be reduced by looking at all aspects of its value chain, including logistics, transport and improving the way products are processed and final articles are produced. Innovation in production methods, improved use of materials and processes, as well as a reduction in waste and better recycling of products can all ensure that the way South African products are manufactured cleaner and greener with less impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change," says Jaffer.

"Jobs are also being created by expanding existing public employment schemes to protect the environment. The Integrated Resource Plan for Electricity (IRP2) aims to use renewable energy to open up major new opportunities for investment and employment in manufacturing new energy technologies as well as in construction."

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The IRP2 is currently under development by the Department of Energy and will look at the electricity demand forecast for the next 20 years and determine exactly how this will be met. The main strategies to achieve these targets are:

- comprehensive support for energy efficiency and renewable energy as required by the IRP2, including appropriate pricing policies, combined with programmes to encourage the local production of inputs, starting with solar water heaters
- public employment and recycling schemes geared towards greening the economy
- stronger programmes, institutions and systems to diffuse new technologies to small, medium and micro-enterprises and households
- greater support for research and development and tertiary education linked to growth potential and developing South Africa as the higher education hub for the continent.

The type of jobs will vary per sector and the required level of skills and training depends on the activity, but it includes artisanal, engineering as well as production and technical jobs.

Asked how government will balance environmental concerns and job creation, Jaffer says government recognises that green-led industrialisation, based on today's technologies, will cost more than coal-based industrialisation.

"For this reason, we are advocating a global deal for developed countries to support efforts in the global south by making funding and technologies available. At the same time, if we do not act, and make our contribution, then future generations of South Africans will pay a high price through climate change that can devastate livelihoods.

"The available scientific evidence is compelling and we need to invest now for a more sustainable future. If we act now, we can also seize the opportunities – throughout human history, crises created new development trajectories – sometimes political, sometimes economic. We are at the cusp of such a moment now and South Africa needs to take bold steps."

South Africa has already pioneered some green technologies, though not on the scale required. Government is now planning very significant investments, in technology development as well as production capabilities, to drive opportunities in the green economy.

"Projects ranging from demand-side management by Eskom, to rolling out one million solar water heaters by 2014, to the consideration of large-scale solar-power farms in Upington in the Northern Cape, will fast-track the migration of South Africa to a greener industrial base," says Jaffer.

She adds that the department's development finance institution, the IDC, plans to play a leading role in the development of the green economy through investments in green industries.

"It will implement the agenda of the NGP through targeted investments in developments related to energy efficiency, renewable energy; fuel-based green power, emissions and pollution mitigation and biofuels."

Government and the private sector will also have to explore new, innovative ways to produce products and services faster, cleaner and more efficiently across the technological spectrum.

"This involves the development and commercialisation of new, advanced materials such as bio-composites that are recyclable and based on organic materials, or lighter but stronger materials that do not require heavy industrial processes to be produced."

Government is also looking at advanced electronics that permit the intelligent use of power or sensors that can control or regulate drive systems, motors in mines or in vehicles, or alternate energy products such as wind turbines, which are critical to a greener future.

Jaffer says the energy mix for South Africa's future includes biofuels and bio-diesel that offer opportunities for agricultural development and rural development.

Government is looking at how to ensure security of supply and greater localisation through local manufacturing of the technology or its application. Through the IDC, government intends to invest more than R22 billion on green enterprises that seek to support South Africa's new energy mix as well as novel solutions for various sectors, including mining and transport.

The Economic Development Department has identified the area of mining as another where new technologies related to carbon sequestration offer the opportunity to reduce GHG emissions. It is also looking at development and investment in mass transport and rail to make the transport sector greener. Overall, the department is gearing up for maximum localisation of manufacturing and jobs. ☺



Zero emission bike powered by hydrogen fuel cells

Winning key battles in the **war on crime**



Minister Nathi Mthethwa

Writer: Mbulelo Baloyi

A new culture of professionalism, improved investigations and greater community involvement in the fight against crime are among the key drivers of the remarkable decrease in crime statistics over the past two years, says the Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa.

In a wide-ranging interview with *Public Sector Manager* in the wake of the release of the 2010/11 crime statistics, Mthethwa said another breakthrough intervention was the extension of the training of policemen and women from one year to two years.

"We have done so primarily because we feel that there are aspects of policing that have to be included in the curriculum," says the Minister. "One such aspect is the investigative

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capacity. We want to ensure that even though someone is not a detective, he or she has basic detective skills."

The 2010/11 fiscal year saw a decline in the incidence of key categories of crime, including contact crime (against a person), which went down by 6,9% compared to the year before.

Murder, which was around the 20 000 mark about a decade ago, dropped to 15 940 cases recorded during the period under review.

"Murder is just one aspect, but there is a whole host of crimes, such as the trio crimes (house robberies, business robberies and vehicle hijackings) where we are making progress. We recorded a 10,7% decrease in trio crimes and are definitely making serious dents."

The Minister says that as the police force intensifies its fight against certain categories of crime, the inevitable result sees the displacement of crime, where new forms of crime emerge.

"The more resources you put into fighting a particular crime, the more there tends to be a shift to other crimes."

He cites examples of the decline in the number of bank robberies over the past two years and the emergence of cyber-crime, where international syndicates with sophisticated equipment are now targeting South Africa, using the Internet.

"We are finalising our policy on cyber-crime. Our Hawks, working with our Commercial Crimes section, are making headway on this aspect of crime."

Asked about corruption involving police officers, Mthethwa said the fact that these incidents were known and corrupt officers were routinely arrested represented progress in keeping the ranks clean.

"For me that is very positive, because it could have been a situation where nobody knows that there are police who are doing wrong. But because within the South African Police Service (SAPS), you have dedicated men and women who wake up every day

knowing that their mission is to serve and protect the inhabitants of this country, you will see this kind of development. I would say that they should continue unashamedly to arrest anybody who finds himself on the wrong side of the law, even it means it is their colleagues."

He adds that part of the new plan in the fight against crime includes the enhancement of human resource development and attracting a new cadre of police officer.

"We are focusing our energies on a strategy that will try to satisfy our philosophy that we only attract police officers who want to join the force with the view that they remain with us from the time of recruitment to retirement. We are looking at a new cadre of police recruit who is upright and has potential."

The SAPS has done away with the corruption-prone procedure of having a single recruiting officer in each province, which lent itself to brown envelopes exchanging hands.

"We are strengthening our community policing forums (CPFs) to vet potential recruits. Our CPFs in various policing clusters will be actively assisting us in recruiting new trainees. They will vouch for

"We are finalising our policy on cyber-crime. Our Hawks, working with our Commercial Crimes section, are making headway on this aspect of crime."

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the good standing within that particular community of any potential trainee, so that we avoid finding ourselves with undesirable elements who join the police with ulterior motives.”

It is against this background that new recruits also spend an additional year in training, starting this year. They are schooled in all aspects of policing, including investigation and being detectives. The Minister explains that this ensures that every functional police officer has basic knowledge of how a statement should be taken, and how to secure a crime scene so that vital clues are preserved.

“While interventions have helped to make progress in the fight against some crimes, we still have a challenge with social crimes such as rape and child abuse, because there are other societal factors that inhibit our investigations. That is why we have a joint initiative led by the Department of Social Development, particularly where it relates to dysfunctional families, alcohol and drug abuse. These are societal problems and as police we can only attend to the resultant problem, not the underlying symptoms – hence the involvement of the Department of Social Development.”

The 2010/11 statistics revealed a decrease in drug use, partly as a result of proactive police action, where suspects were arrested during cordon-and-search and roadblock operations.

“We emphasise the need to strengthen the partnership with members of the community. It is crucial that they work together with the police to expose these kinds of crime, because we believe that if matters are reported at that level, you are sure to secure convictions. We are saying that if there is going to be any measured success of partnership with our community, it is in working together to get rid of the scourge of crimes such as rape within our society.”

The Minister also anticipates a stronger, more effective iteration of the watchdog Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD), which will soon be known as the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) and will report to the Police Ministry.

“The reason for this change is that the ICD had challenges. It would investigate matters and recom-



mend action to be taken to the police management, but in some instances there was no willingness to follow such recommendations; hence it was seen as toothless. The new IPID is going to be reporting directly to the civilian structure, namely the Ministry. The ICD worried itself with complaints and eventually became a complaints forum.”

The Minister is satisfied with the accuracy of the crime statistics, saying even pessimists who tended to challenge the statistics in the past had been silenced.

“We have seen an improvement in the collating of information for crime statistics purposes. Even our detractors, including (some) academia, have not been able to challenge us on the accuracy of our statistics and we are certain that by working with our communities and organised business we will defeat the scourge of crime.” SM



Take a Sho't Left, **experience**

Writer: Refilwe Thobega

Photo: Courtesy Sho't Left

If you are planning that well-deserved and probably long-overdue holiday, you need not look further than South Africa. With its breathtaking views, rolling hills, magnificent coastline and the memorable encounters with the Big Five that many come from afar to experience, our country is the ideal holiday destination – even for those who live in it.

People often think that a holiday involves spending thousands of rands and catching a plane out of the country when, in fact, affordable, fun-filled travel is possible right here.

South African Tourism (SAT) has invested R30 million in the fresh new Sho't Left: There's No Such Thing as a Wrong Turn Campaign. The campaign entails a handful of South Africa's most vibrant, trendsetting artists sharing inspiring stories of their travels within Mzansi and places special emphasis on hidden travel gems that many have heard about but not explored. The campaign is aimed at young, upcoming individuals; couples and families – in fact, everyone who has both the resources and the desire to travel.

"The long-term objective of SAT's domestic strategy, through the Sho't Left Campaign, is to create a culture of travel among South Africans. The short-term objective is to get South Afri-

cans to take shorter breaks in Mzansi more often," says Regional Director of SAT, Phumi Dlomo.

He adds that while SAT's role is to market the country to South Africans, it is still important that they ensure that South Africans are able to easily book an affordable holiday in the country.

"There is interest from South Africans in travelling in their country and they are already travelling in one form or another. Sho't Left helps make it more affordable and accessible," says Dlomo.

Through the campaign, travellers have access to information on where to go, enjoyable activities to keep them busy and travel deals that will ensure they do not spend a fortune.

The Tourism Growth Strategy aims to make tourism the leading economic sector in South Africa and so promote the sustainable economic and social empowerment of all South Africans. South Africa is marketed as an integral part of Africa and particularly the subcontinent of southern Africa.

To accomplish these goals, SAT commits to



Mzansi!

meaningfully contribute to the Government's objectives of increased gross domestic product growth, sustainable job creation and redistribution and transformation by:

- increasing tourist volume
- increasing the geographic spread, length of stay and tourist spend
- improving seasonality arrival patterns
- working to transform the industry so that historically disadvantaged South Africans may benefit from the sector.

Domestic tourism is critical in generating the bulk of the country's tourism revenue, and creating and sustaining much-needed jobs in the industry. When you travel in South Africa, you create jobs, invest in our economy and support a vibrant industry that is rapidly becoming a benchmark for international excellence.

Dlomo admits that there have been challenges. "Getting South Africans to spend on a holiday versus purchasing a new accessory, be it a TV or



a cellphone, is the biggest challenge. Another challenge is ensuring that South Africans understand that when travelling to a different province to see friends and family, they need to engage in tourist behaviour by participating in leisure activities and visiting leisure attractions."

Sho't Left experiences include bus retreats, coastal getaways, city breaks, mountain escapes, countryside meanders, day trips, cultural discoveries as well as sport, adventure and events.

Travel packages are structured to accommodate all preferences and budgets, from backpackers to five-star boutique hotels. At Mountain Lover, for instance, for R1 000 per person, travellers can enjoy accommodation in a beautiful game reserve against the slopes of the Magalies Mountain.

Set on the highest point in the range, the tented chalets each have braai and self-catering facilities, and a patio. Up to four people can be accommodated in the cottages, making it ideal for friends or small families. Game drives are included every morning. This particular offer is valid until 3 January 2012.

It is these and many other packages in all nine provinces that should entice South Africans to travel and learn more about their country. Dhloomo says that it is enriching, surprising, delightful, fun and easy to travel locally. "It also introduces you to new ideas, new people and new places." ☺

For more information on domestic travel and tours, packages and experiences, visit: www.southafrica.net/shotleft, www.facebook.com/shotleft or www.twitter.com/shotleft.

