



**BRITISH CHAMBER
OF BUSINESS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**



Newsletter Issue 8 • April 2017

Article 50 Triggered • InvestNI visits SA • Cape Town Event • Membership Drive

Message from British Chamber CEO, David Dawson

In my message last quarter I said '2017 looks interesting from a political and economic perspective'. Did any of us anticipate quite how 'interesting' it would be? Now more than ever, organisations like the Chamber have a role to play in representing the views of business to government and in providing a platform for members to connect with and support each other as we navigate the choppy waters ahead.

We bade farewell last quarter to Dame Judith Macgregor. Soon we will welcome our new Chamber Patron and High Commissioner, Nigel Casey, CMG, MVO. No stranger to South Africa, he previously served in Johannesburg and has been Ambassador to Bosnia & Herzegovina. We expect all members will have the opportunity to meet and engage with him in the coming months.

Best wishes,



UK Prime Minister triggers Article 50

On March 29th, UK Prime Minister Theresa May triggered Article 50. This finally sets in motion the negotiations that will end with the UK leaving the European Union in 2019. She commented that, 'We all want to be part of a truly Global Britain, that gets out and builds relationships with old friends and new allies around the world'. Read more about her plan for a stronger, fairer Britain here: planforbritain.gov.uk/

Invest Northern Ireland visits SA

Johannesburg Chamber members had the opportunity to meet InvestNI CEO, Mark Ennis, and a visiting Northern Irish trade delegation at a reception hosted by the Chamber last month. In Cape Town InvestNI visited Barclays Rise, the Bandwidth Barn and Thomson Reuters Labs. Stay posted for news of a South African office promoting SA/NI trade and investment.



Cape Town Chamber members enjoyed some respite from a tumultuous week for the South African economy by entering the refreshing Greenhouse space at Deloitte. We ignored our newsfeeds for an hour and took a longer term view as Dr Morne Mostert, Director of the [Institute for Futures Research](#), shared with us his findings on the *Future of Work in South Africa*.



Asked where South Africa is going, members agreed that we are moving further away from cohesive collaboration, and closer to factionalism and exceptionalism. If you missed out, learn more about the 'Madrid Scenarios' in this [video](#). Pictured with Eimear Costigan (British Chamber) are speaker Dr Morne Mostert, and Marius Alberts, Regional Leader for Deloitte.



This year we aim to increase membership numbers by 40%. Our members are our best brand ambassadors and we need your support. We urge you to introduce companies in your network to the Chamber. For every two new members you introduce, you enter a draw for a return business class ticket to London, courtesy of **British Airways**. Why not invite a business contact or two to the next Chamber event?

Member News

A warm welcome to new members **CapitalN**, **DHL Global Forwarding**, **Firecracker**, **IASeminars**, **Morongwa Consulting**, **Move Up UK Visa Solutions**, **Renderheads** and **Seascope Stainless Steel Services**. Many thanks to members **KPMG**, **British American Tobacco** and **Deloitte** who have sponsored recent Chamber events. Congratulations **Abaco Consulting** on winning Best Management Consultant Firm (South Africa) in the Acquisition International Business Excellence Awards. **Focus Africa Advisory** invite you to check out their [2016 Mozambique Incident Heat Map](#); they also offer a weekly Mozambique Media Review.



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AFRICA TRADE TEAM LAUNCHED

Emma Wade-Smith now heads up DIT's Africa trade team. Generating demand for UK goods & services, encouraging UK investment here and promoting the UK as a great place to invest are its priorities.



SAVE THE DATE: JOHANNESBURG
Who doesn't have questions about Brexit's impact on SA / UK trade? Join us to put yours to **Minister Rob Davies** on April 20th. [#BritChamEvent](#) sponsored by **Jaguar Land Rover**.



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