



10 July 2018

BRICS IN SA

Security for prosperity

South Africa hosted the Eighth National Security Advisers Meeting on 28 and 29 June 2018 in eThekweni.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of State Security of South Africa, Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, and attended by the Minister of the Institutional Security Cabinet, General Sergio Etcheberry from Brazil; Secretary General of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Mr Nikolai Patruchev, the National Security Adviser of India; Mr Ajit Doval; and Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, Mr Yang Jiechi.

The national security advisers underlined their collective commitment to cooperate in preventing, mitigating and combating security threats. They acknowledged the positive contribution of BRICS countries on issues related to security.

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BRICS Security Ministers Meeting, 28-29 June 2018

In this regard, the BRICS countries will work towards the consideration and elaboration of a BRICS intergovernmental agreement on cooperation.

The national security advisers also deliberated on peacekeeping and transnational organised crime and resolved that discussions will be held before the end of the year towards the proposed establishment of working groups on these topics.

Finally, the national security advisers discussed the proposal to establish a BRICS Intelligence Forum, as recommended by Brazil. Further deliberations on this proposal are expected to follow.

BRICS REPORT

Governance in perspective

The Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of South Africa, Mr Andries Nel, officially opened the BRICS sectoral meeting known as the BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Government Cooperation Urbanisation Forum, held in East London on 28 June 2018.

The BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Government Cooperation Urbanisation Forum promotes engagement between BRICS states through cities and local bodies. It promotes people-to-people cooperation among BRICS nations and collaboration at local government level.

The first day of the forum was attended by local government officials and global representatives from BRICS member states. Setting the scene, Premier Phumulo Masualle officially welcomed delegates to the Eastern Cape and thanked the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality for hosting such a significant forum. He highlighted the importance of respecting each other's sovereignty as well as multilateralism as a way towards building our economies.

Premier Masualle expressed appreciation that Buffalo City was chosen to host this important precursor meeting ahead of the BRICS Summit. Touching on the theme of the meeting, the Premier stressed the importance of municipalities that were able to meet the demands of communities. He said unviable municipalities that had the potential for becoming local economic hubs were ideal for this kind of innovation as well as complex and expensive infrastructure projects such as the development of ports to stimulate the Eastern Cape Oceans Economy as well as the building of key strategic infrastructure projects such as dams like uMzimvubu.

"We are also encouraged by the sentiment to open up our collective borders as BRICS Member States to unleash tourism potential between and among our countries," said Premier Masualle. Deputy Minister Nel emphasised the country's continued role in the global arena as per the National Development Plan, which recommends that the country's global foreign policy positioning should commence with establishing greater leverage in multiple international affiliations.



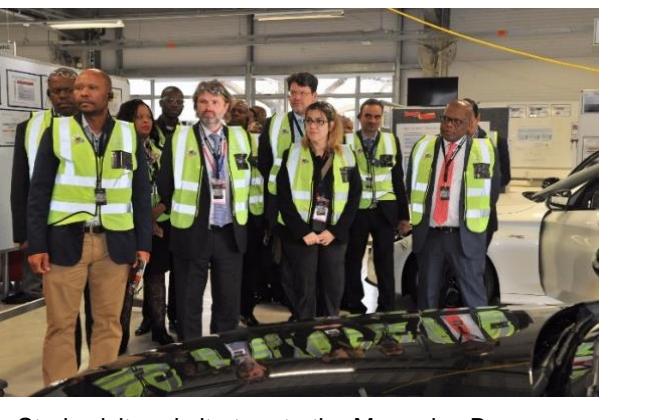
Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance, Mr Andries Nel, during the official opening of the BRICS Friendship Cities, Local Government Cooperation and Urbanisation Forum



Premier of Eastern Cape, Mr Phumulo Masualle



President of the United Cities Local Government Association, Cllr Parks Tau



Study visit and site tour to the Mercedes-Benz Plant and East London Industrial Development Zone by the Ministerial delegation



The delegation from Brazil, Russia, India and China and Mayor Cllr Xola Pakati of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality making their presentations during the first meeting



Did you know?

- South Africa became a member of the BRIC bloc in 2011.
- As the only African country in the bloc, South Africa has taken the responsibility of representing the voice of the continent.
- BRICS countries occupy 26% of the global territory.

- The 10th BRICS Summit marks the second BRICS Summit to be hosted by South Africa.
- South Africa hosted the Fifth BRICS Summit in 2013.
- The BRICS Plus creates a platform for greater interaction and partnerships among countries of the South to shape the agenda to effect changes in the global economy.
- BRICS is seized with finding solutions to many issues that affect the bloc and the developing world in the areas of health, investment, infrastructure development, education, labour, communication, academia and others.
- South Africa's largest export destination within BRICS remains China, followed by India, Brazil and Russia.

UNDERSTANDING BRICS

Origin of the Sherpa

What is a Sherpa?

The role of the Sherpas can be seen as "informal" in nature, but in terms of enhancing cooperation and consensus-building, it is a critical one.

In the governmental and diplomatic arena, a Sherpa is usually a senior official, often a career diplomat who has been appointed by a Head of State or Government. They are tasked with being their countries' representatives in multilateral organisations or fora. This is in respect of preparatory work and coordination concerning their countries' activities and events, linguistic inputs, as well as positions on particular issues within a particular organisation such as BRICS.

The Sherpas guide their principals in terms of policy, agenda-setting for cooperation, and the drafting of resolutions, declarations, communiqués or statements. This entails decisions taken at high-level meetings and/or summits.

Historical background

In attempting to trace the origins of the term "Sherpa", *The Ascent of Sherpa* by Nancy Friedman (2013) refers to the momentous historical milestone of the first humans to summit Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world. The ascent of Edmund Hillary from New Zealand, and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay of Nepalese descent, on the morning of 29 May 1953 to the summit of Everest brought acclaim to the Sherpa clan. Sherpa is the English modification of a Tibetan word meaning "dweller in an eastern country", originally referring to the Sherpa people, Asian nomads who migrated from Eastern Tibet to Nepal. The word is also used in the personal names of the ethnic group.

According to Bruce Foreman's *The Sherpa Cheat Sheet: 9 Things you were Embarrassed to Ask* (2017), the word is pronounced "shar-wa" by the Sherpa clan. Sherpas climb and assist expeditions up the Himalayan Mountains. They prepare camps, the load and meals, and they chart the course for the professional climbers. In essence, they conduct the risky part of the enterprise by running ahead and setting up the ropes and ladders in order to ensure the safety of their clients and to enable the clients to reach the summit.

Before going further with the explanation of the term "Sherpa" within the realm of diplomacy, it is important to understand the origins of another term to which Sherpa is often connected, i.e. Summit. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines a summit as "the highest point of the hill or mountain". Within diplomacy and politics, the term was reportedly first used by Sir Winston Churchill. (*The Palgrave Macmillan Dictionary of Diplomacy*, 2003). This was during the Cold War, in order to describe a face-to-face meeting between Heads of State/Government, especially at a time when these meetings were a rare occurrence.

Sherpa in the diplomatic field

Although the term "Sherpa" has been used in various contexts, such as in fashion or business, it has equally been used in the diplomatic field, where the symbolism of "reaching the top" is more pronounced. Its origins in this regard date back to the 1970s (Michael Quinion, *World Wide Words*, 2005). Thomas P Thornton stated that former President Jimmy Carter was referring to Ambassador Henry Owen in a self-effacing statement in a letter, made in respect of the latter's contribution as a Sherpa in the Group of Seven (G7) Summit preparations in 1977. He wrote: "You did a superb job on the Summit meeting in London. Your tremendous talents really paid off. Thank you for letting me take credit for your good work." (Alan Beattie *et al*, *Sherpas are the unsung heroes at the G7 negotiations*, 2016).

The initiative of "Sherpas" preparing the work ahead of the G7 Summit was a result of the former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who invited the leaders of Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States to meet in 1975. He invited the leaders to appoint representatives (from the foreign and finance ministries, as well as note-takers) to meet ahead of time for "fire-side chats" in order to prepare for the "Summit". The aim was to cut out the "bureaucracy and formality" and to ensure a relatively nimble decision-making apparatus (Alan Beattie *et al*, 2016).

According to Friedman, the term Sous-Sherpa ("sous": a French word meaning "under") refers to the official/s who work closely with the Sherpa – subject matter experts in finance/economics or diplomacy who report to the Sherpa. The word was informally used first by the European Union (taken from the term "sous-chef").

LAUNCH OF THE MEERKAT TELESCOPE ON 13 JULY 2018

His Excellency Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, and Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, Minister of Science and Technology (MPT), will unveil MeerKAT, the 64-antenna radio telescope in the Northern Cape.

In pictures: National Security Advisers Ministers' Meeting, 28 – 29 June 2018



BRICS Governance Seminar, 4 July 2018



Upcoming events

10 July	Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education, Cape Town
12 July	Launch Centre for Entrepreneurship, Gert Sibande District, Mpumalanga
13 July	Minister Nathi Mthethwa will host a BRICS Outreach in Mpumalanga
13 July	Launch of the Meerkat 64 dish satellite, Carnarvon, Northern Cape
15- 18 July	BRICS Youth Summit, Bela Bela, Limpopo

Message from the President

Listen to the South African President, HE Mr Cyril Ramaphosa's welcome message on www.brics2018.org.za.

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