



BRICS NEWSLETTER

26 July 2018

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Issue 7

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President Ramaphosa leads the hosting of the 10th BRICS Summit

President Cyril Ramaphosa is leading the South African government in hosting the 10th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg.



President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, HE Mr Michel Temer



President of the Russian Federation, HE Mr Vladimir Putin



President of the Republic of India, HE Mr Narendra Modi



President of the People's Republic of China, HE Mr Xi Jinping

This is the first occasion on which President Ramaphosa hosted the Summit, following his election as President of South Africa in February 2018. This morning, the President welcomed his counterparts from Brazil, Russia, India and China at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg where he chaired two meetings of the BRICS leaders.

The restricted session, where the leaders received a briefing by the Chair of the National Security Advisors, was followed by an open session where representatives of the BRICS Business Council, the New Development Bank and the media were present.

Speaking during this session, President Ramaphosa said South Africa chose the theme: "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution" because it was reflective of the core priorities of each one of the BRICS members, notably to strive towards the creation of an inclusive society and global partnerships that would bring prosperity to all humankind.

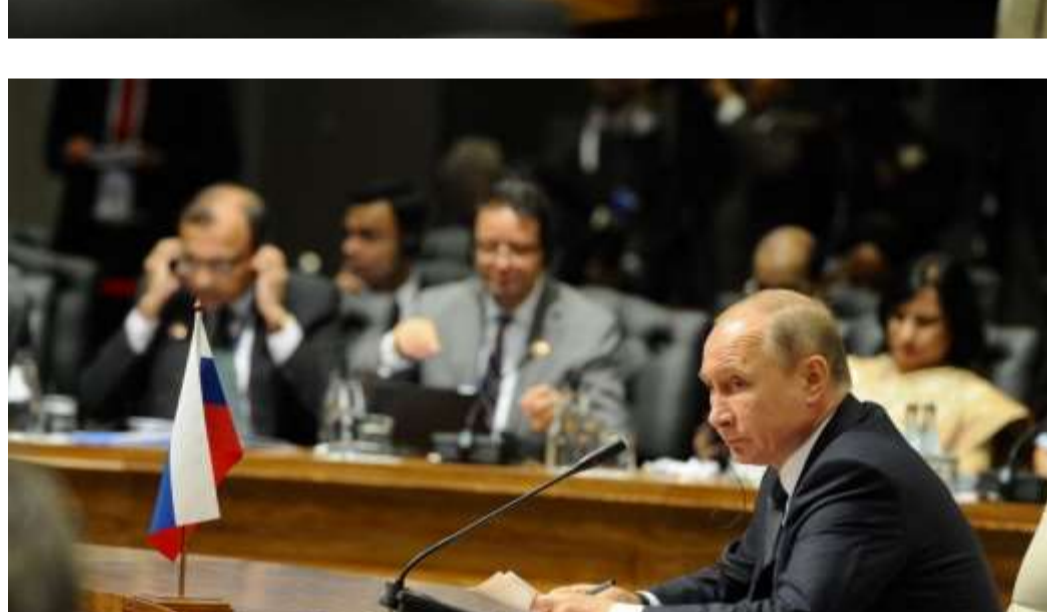
Addressing the importance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, President Ramaphosa said: "South Africa is acutely aware of the disparities in the levels of development around the world and has thus elected to bring a specific focus to this issue, with the expectation that, through our collective effort, we will be able to make significant strides towards addressing the challenges and opportunities that this may present".

He said it had been shown over and over that the collective achievements of the BRICS Forum "strengthen the Group's standing in international affairs, as well as in our drive for economic development. It is for this reason that we neither ignore, nor take for granted the reality that is the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the impact that it will have on the world and on the global economy. If we are to adequately prepare for the inevitable changes that it will bring about and if indeed we are to benefit from these changes, then it is critical that we seek to understand this phenomenon."

"We must encourage our officials to engage in robust discussions in order to develop concrete actions so that as a bloc we collectively provide an alternative to the status quo and ensure that we are in a position to benefit from the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, that will assist us in building a brighter, shared future for humanity."

For the full speech visit www.brics.gov.za.

In pictures: BRICS restricted and open sessions



"It is in your hands"

As the Heads of State and Government were not able to visit the Maropeng in person, the experience was shared with them via a live satellite video link as a reminder of "our shared origins and of our common future".

Maropeng is one of eight World Heritage Sites in South Africa, and is widely recognised as the place from which all humankind originated. The 47 000-hectare site has unearthed the best evidence of the complex journey that the human species has traversed. It is a place of pilgrimage for all humankind and a place of ongoing scientific discovery into our origins. It is also a place of contemplation – a place that allows us to reflect on who we are, where we come from and where we are going to. The World Heritage Site status that the area now enjoys ensures that what is deep within its core will be forever protected and that the generations that follow ours will continue to benefit from ongoing explorations. Over R189 million has been invested in roads and bulk infrastructure to develop the site and leverage private sector investment in tourism development.

"Ten years ago, our five countries came together resolute in the desire to bring reform to the current international governance system, to make it more representative of the contemporary realities and to address many of today's most important challenges, notably terrorism, poverty and climate change. The mutual interests that united us then far outweigh any differences that we may have, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to pursue mutually beneficial cooperation and to work towards improving the quality of life of our respective populations," President Ramaphosa said.

The handprints of each of the leaders were taken. President Ramaphosa explained:

"As we mark the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, it is befitting that we recall one of his most influential speeches made in 2007, at a concert in his commemoration under the banner of 46664. Addressing a crowd of thousands at what would be one of his final public appearances, former President Rolihlahla Mandela said that "it is now in the hands of your generations to help rid the world of suffering". In closing he summed up, with these five enduring words: "it is in your hands"

"With these simple words, he entrusted us as leaders and custodians of the future with the mandate of working towards a better world and future for all humankind. This year, we as a country, have decided to honour the centenary of Madiba's life under the theme, 'BE THE LEGACY'. In so doing, we have chosen not only to honour his legacy in words, but also to commit ourselves to living up to, and crafting the vision of the society that he held for us all. Having passed his baton on to us, it is incumbent on us as BRICS states, through our alliance, to collectively commit ourselves to crafting an equitable international world order, preserving the rule of law and protecting the human rights of our people.

"I ask of you, fellow Leaders of the world's foremost emerging markets and developing countries; collectively representing over half of the global population, representative of some of the most innovative, historically important and impactful societies of our globe to join with me in honour of the late Madiba by making an imprint our hands in a gesture which mimics that of Madiba. These imprints will join those of Madiba at Maropeng, the Cradle of Humankind thus echoing Madiba's commitment to a better life and a better world for all our people."



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Comments can be sent to mndeni@gcis.gov.za or greeffm@dirco.gov.za.



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