

## **Azerbaijan - South Africa Bilateral Relations**

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on April 29, 1992.

### **1999**

South Africa's Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan (with residence in Ankara), Thomas Wheeler paid a visit to Azerbaijan. During the visit, the Ambassador met with the speaker of the Milli Majlis (National Assembly) of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. M. Alasgarov, Prime Minister Mr. Artur Rasi-zade, Foreign Minister and other officials.

On May 3, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa visited Azerbaijan

On May 12, President Heydar Aliyev was invited to attend inauguration ceremony of the President of South Africa

On October 22 Deputy Minister of Department of the International Relations of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. A. Pahad, invited Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. K. Khalafov, for official visit.

On August 29-30, the South African Foreign Ministry delegation led by the Head of the European Department Mr. Grobler paid an official visit to Azerbaijan. During the visit, the delegation met with Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Mr. Artur Rasi-zade, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Khalaf Khalafov, the President of SOCAR Mr. Natig Aliyev, and Minister of Commerce Mr. F. Aliyev.

### **2001**

On April 4-6 South Africa's Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan (with residence in Ankara), Thomas Wheeler made a farewell visit to Baku.

### **2004**

Ambassador Sobizana Mngikana (with residence in Ankara) presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev.

### **2005**

On October 4-7, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa accredited in the Republic of Azerbaijan (with residence in Ankara), Mr. Sobizana Mngikana, paid a working visit to Baku. During the visit, he met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov and Deputy Minister of Economic Development Mr. M. Cabbarov.

### **2007**

On October 22-23, South Africa's Ambassador to Turkey and also accredited in Azerbaijan, Mr. Sobizana Mngikana paid visit to Azerbaijan in connection with the completion of his duties.

### **2008**

On June 10-11 South African delegation led by the First Lady Mrs. Zanele Mbeki attended the International Forum titled "Expanding the Role of Women in Cross-Cultural Dialogue" in Baku.

## **2009**

In February Ambassador Mr. Tebogo Sekolo (with residence in Ankara) presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev.

## **2011**

On August 16 President of Azerbaijan appointed Mr. Elkhan Polukhov as Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of South Africa.

## **2012**

On January 12 Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. E. Mammadyarov in New York. Two Ministers discussed issues of common interest such as working together in the UNSC.

On February 1, Ambassador Polukhov presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma.

On October 14-16, official delegation led by the South African Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. T. Makwelta visited Azerbaijan.

On November 9, Ambassador Mr. V. Khumalo (with residence in Ankara) presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev.

On November 14-15 Ambassador R. Molekane, Deputy Director-General: Europe Branch conducted an official visit to Azerbaijan for senior officials' political consultations.

## **2013**

On May 7-8 Deputy Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Mr. Marius Llewellyn Fransman paid an official visit to Azerbaijan.

On 31 October - 1 November, Chairman of the South African's Parliament Commission on Arts, Culture and Heritage, Ms. Thandile Sunduza, together with South Africa's former Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan (1999-2001) and one of the founders of the "Friends of Azerbaijan" NPO, Mr. Thomas Wheeler, participated at the 3rd Baku International Humanitarian Forum.

## **2014**

On February 20-27, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov paid official visit to South Africa, Mozambique and Botswana. As part of his first official visit to the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Mammadyarov met with the Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Ms. Nkoana-Mashabane. During the meeting the "Memorandum of Understanding on Regular diplomatic consultations between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of South Africa" was signed. During his visit to the Republic of South Africa Minister E. Mammadyarov also met with Mr. Dikobe Ben Martins, Minister of Energy of the Republic of South Africa.

In May Mr. Khalaf Khalafov, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan received a delegation led by South African Ambassador V. Khumalo.

On July 23 - August 1 Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra performed at the Gabala International Music Festival, organised by Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

On August 3-9 the delegation of Azerbaijan Architects Union visited Durban, to attend the XXV International Congress of the International Union of Architects.

On October 2-3, King of Vha Venda Community, H.M. Mr. Toni Peter Mphephu, took part in the IV Baku International Humanitarian Forum.

## **2015**

On 12 October Ambassador Polukhov gave live interview at the 101.9 CHAI FM (Jewish community) radio station in Johannesburg.

On December 6 South African journalist Marianne Schwankhart published article in Sunday Times titled "Azerbaijan: a rare stop on the old Silk Road". The visit of the South African journalists to Azerbaijan was organised by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to South Africa.

## **2016**

On 15 March Deputy Minister of Public Services and Administration of the Republic of South Africa, Mrs. Ayanda Dlodlo, visited Azerbaijan and met with Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Mahmud Mammadgulyev.

On May 5-6 Ambassador Polukhov participated at the African Regional Conference entitled "Open Government for Sustainable Development in Africa" in Cape Town at the invitation of Deputy Minister of Public Services and Administration of the Republic of South Africa, Mrs. Ayanda Dlodlo.

On June 6 Delegation led by Deputy Director of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) of the South African Republic, Mrs. Judith Maya, held inter-ministerial consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. During the visit, the delegation also held meetings at "ASAN Service", and at the ADA University.

On November **28 - 29** Delegation headed by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, paid an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan. During the visit, Minister met with President Mr. Ilham Aliyev, Minister of Economy Mr. Shahin Mustafayev, Foreign Minister Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Director of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy Mr. Hafiz Pashayev and Chairman of ASAN Service Mr. Inam Karimov.

On December 5 Mr. Azad Naghiyev, by the decree of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has been appointed as Charge d'Affaires to the Republic of South Africa.

## **2017**

On March 11, Mr. Azad Naghiyev met with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane in Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal. At the meeting Mr. Naghiyev and Minister Nkoana- Mashabane discussed the various issues of common interests.

On April 26, Mr. Azad Naghiyev gave live interview to Ubuntu Radio (official radio of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation). Interview was dedicated to the 25<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and South Africa. Mr. Naghiyev described progress made and current developments in the relations between two countries.

On April 27, H.E. President Ilham Aliyev congratulated H.E. President Jacob Zuma with the Freedom Day and expressed his warm wishes to all South Africans.

On May 5-6, delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Ms. Makhotsa Magdeline Sotyu attended the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On May 27, Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. E. Mammadyarov exchanged congratulatory letters on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries.

On June 19, Chargé D'Affaires, Mr. A.Naghiyev held a meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the Olympic Committee of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Sam Ramsami. The meeting focused on cooperation between the Olympic Committees of Azerbaijan and South Africa.

On 20 August, Chargé D'Affaires Mr. A.Nagiyev met with the Director of the South African Tobacco Institute (TISA), Mr. Frank van der Merve and discussed cooperation between the two countries in the tobacco production field.

On September 10, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. E. Mammadyarov sent a congratulatory letter to the Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa H.E. Mrs.Maite Nkoana-Mashabani on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and the South Africa.

## **2018**

On February 28, the delegation of South African businessmen led by the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Pule Isaac Malefane, held a presentation of investment opportunities of South African Republic in Baku. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the South African Embassy and the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation.

On March 8, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. E. Mammadyarov sent a congratulatory letter to H.E. Mrs. Lindive Nonseba Sisuluyeh, on the occasion of appointment as the Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

From April 5 to April 6, the Republic of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation delegation led by Deputy Minister Mr. Lewellin Landers took part in a mid-

term ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, which was held in Baku.

On April 24, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of South Africa, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, sent a letter of congratulations to President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. S.Ramaphoza.

On September 9-13, the delegation of Prosecutors of Azerbaijan led by Deputy Prosecutor General, Head of the Anti-Corruption Department and Member of the Executive Council of the Association, Kamran Aliyev, took part in the 23rd Annual Conference and General Assembly of the International Prosecutors Association which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan was awarded an Honorary Diploma for their outstanding contribution to the IPA's activities and for the successful organization of the 45th meeting of the IPA Executive Committee held in Baku in April 2018. At the IPA General Meeting, Mr. Kamran Aliyev was elected as Vice President of the Association.

On 10-13 September, the delegation from the Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan headed by Deputy Minister Mr. Elmir Velizade, took part in the International Telecommunication Union (Telecom World 2018) exhibition, held in Durban, South Africa. The achievements and innovation services of Azerbaijan in the field of Communication and High Technologies were demonstrated at the national pavilion.

On October 4-6, during the 6th Baku International Humanitarian Forum, the Senior Military Navy Commander of the Republic of South Africa, Vice Admiral, Mr. M.S. Hlongwane, who trained at the Baku Higher Military Maritime School from 1986 to 1991, took part in a meeting for foreign alumnus who studied in Azerbaijan.

**Azerbaijan's trade relations with South Africa**  
**Trade turnover, export and import volume (million US dollars)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Trade turnover</b>	<b>Export</b>	<b>Import</b>
2010	17,51	0,01	17,5
2011	1	0	1
2012	2,6	0	2,6
2013	74,82	0,02	74,8
2014	1,8	0,1	1,7
2015	30,36	4,7	30,31
2016	6,52	0,28	6,24
2017	7,164	0,001	7,163
2018 (Jan-Sep)	162,17	0,009	162,161

**Source:** Statistics Azerbaijan ([www.stat.gov.az](http://www.stat.gov.az))

The main products exported from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of South Africa include kerosene fuels, parts of electric transformers, other devices for measuring liquids and gases for jet engines etc.

The main products imported to the Republic of Azerbaijan from the Republic of South Africa: agricultural products such as cashew nuts, pineapple, avocado, orange, mandarin, grapefruit, grape, pear and quince, kiwi, peach, plum, fish; metals products such as wires, wings, chrome ore, gold and other metal construction products

**The composition of the working group on inter-parliamentary relations  
between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of South Africa**

1. Musabayov Rasim - head of the group
2. Aliyeva Sona
3. Xalilov Mirzajan
4. ibrahimli Fazail Feyruz
5. Kazimli Xanhusayn
6. Quliyev Azay
7. Musayev Elshen

**The legal base**

**Signed documents**

1. Azerbaijan State Telegraph Agency (AzerTAc) and the South African Government Press Office  
Bua News Memorandum on mutual cooperation and exchange of information
2. Memorandum of Understanding on "Regular diplomatic consultations between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of South Africa". Pretoria 2014, 21 February.
3. Diplomatic Academy of Department of International Relations and Cooperation of Republic of South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ADA University in Baku on 29 November 2016.

**Documents under consideration:**

1. Memorandums of Understanding on Education Co-operation - Free State University and Nakhchivan State University, Pretoria University and Baku State University.
2. "Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of South Africa" is being considered by South Africa.
3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of

the Republic of South Africa on visa-free travel for citizens having diplomatic and service passports is being considered by Azerbaijan.

4. The Agreement on air communication between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the government of the Republic of South Africa is being considered by South Africa.
5. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on cooperation in the oil and gas sector is being considered by South Africa.
6. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on cooperation in the field of defence is being considered by South Africa.
7. Draft Memorandum of Cooperation in the area of Tax Administration's Activities between The Ministry of Taxes of Azerbaijan and relevant government body of South Africa.