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AMAZING

FACTS ABOUT

SOUTH

AFRICA

Yes, South Africa is known as a world in one country.

Yes, the South African transition is one of the great historic achievements of the modern world.

Yes, South Africa is facing new challenges.

Yes, South Africa has a developing economy.

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**BUT
DID
YOU
KNOW
THAT...**

ELECTRICITY

- Eskom, South Africa's national electricity utility, is the world's fourth largest electricity utility in terms of both sales volume and nominal capacity. Eskom generates more than half of the African continent's electricity.
- Matimba Power Station is the world's largest direct dry-cooled power station.
- Kendal Power Station is the world's largest indirect dry-cooled power station.
- South Africa electricity is the 2nd cheapest in the world.

○ South Africa is involved in one of the largest civil engineering projects in the world: the Lesotho Highlands water project, a water and electricity cooperation project. This project boasts having the highest power pylons as well as the longest headrace tunnel in the world.

○ The Lost City Resort Hotel is the largest theme resort hotel in the world as well as the largest building project undertaken in the southern hemisphere.

○ A South African company, Grinaker Construction Ltd, set a world record in civil engineering when it rebuilt, after extensive flood damage, one of South Africa's major bridges - the John Ross, in only 84 days.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

● South African company Denel has designed and manufactured a unique light-weight low-earth-orbit satellite.

● A specialized electronic tagging system has been developed in South Africa. Supertag is the only system in the world that can accurately and simultaneously "read" the entire contents of a supermarket trolley at once.

○ South African researchers have developed a rapid test method for alkali-aggregate reaction - the damaging of concrete constructions by the increased alkali content of cement. Results can now be achieved in 12 days instead of 12 months.

○ South Africa has developed a unique technology for biologically removing sulphate from waste water. The process is cost-effective and produces valuable sulphur as a by-product.

○ Onderstepoort Biological Products(OBP) produces about 100 to 170 million doses of vaccine yearly of which 25% is used by countries outside South Africa. OBP frequently assists worldwide with the control and eradication of serious animal diseases all over the world.

OIL-FROM-COAL

○ The South African oil company Sasol has established the only commercially proven oil-from-coal operations in the world.

● Sasol 's Secunda factories were the biggest petrochemical projects undertaken on a single site at any one time in the world.

● Sasol's mines at Secunda form the largest underground coal mining complex in the world.

● The oxygen plants at Sasol Two and Three are the world's largest.

MANUFACTURING

- Iscor is the world's thirteenth-biggest steel producer and has been rated the world's most cost-effective producer by the London analyst Casenove.
- The Alusaf Hillside Smelter project will, upon completion, make South Africa one of the top five primary aluminium producers in the world.
- BMW of South Africa (a subsidiary of BMW AG Germany) provides more than 70% of the leather requirements of BMW AG's worldwide production.
- More than 20 000 caterpillar machines and engines used on mining, forestry, construction and farming projects in sub-Saharan Africa have been developed in South Africa. South Africa is the only country outside the USA which manufactures this equipment.
- The Columbus joint venture, aimed at the beneficiation of South African raw materials, will make South Africa the sixth largest stainless steel-producing country and the largest single-location producer in the world.

ECONOMY

- The Johannesburg Stock Exchange is ranked ninth in the world in terms of market capitalization.
- South Africa today has one of the lowest ratios of gross foreign debt to GDP of any developing or semi-developed country.
- The Beer Division of The South African Breweries Limited ranks among the top 10 brewing companies in the world. Two of its brands, Lion and Castle, are among the 25 most popular in the world.

- South African company, NAMPAK, is the 12th largest packaging corporation in the world.

- Barlow Rand was listed as the world's 30th largest employer in the Fortune magazine's list of the top 500 corporations in the world.

MINING

- South Africa has 91% of the world's manganese reserves, 82% of its platinum group metals, 58% of its chrome, 53% of its gold, 50% of its vanadium and 30% of its fluorspar. South African mining technology is of the most advanced in the world.

- South Africa has the fourth largest coal reserves in the world. Its coal industry ranks sixth in the world in terms of output of hard coal and third in the world in terms of sea borne international coal trade.

- The De Beers Group of companies control more than 80% of the world supply of rough diamonds.

- South Africa mines deeper than any other country in the world, at depths of almost 4 kilometres at the Western Deep levels Mine.

- The Rand Refinery is the largest refinery of gold in the world.

- The CSIR laboratory houses the cable test facility with the highest workload in the world. Some 5000 new and used mine hoisting cables are tested each year.

- Pretoria Portland Cement (PPC) operates the largest and most modern lime plant and limestone quarry in the world.

- South African company Anglo American corporation is the world's biggest producer of non-fuel minerals.



○ Six out of 11 gold mines in the world producing more than 1 million ounces of gold in 1993 are in South Africa.

AGRICULTURE

○ A leading South African brand of pure fruit juice, Ceres, has won the International Award for Food and Beverages every year since 1987.

○ The new KWV grape-concentration plant at Vredendal in the north-west Cape will establish South Africa as the No.1 producer of grape concentrate in the world.

○ South Africa is the second largest exporter of fruit in the world.

○ South Africa is the world's biggest producer and exporter of mohair.

○ South Africa is the world's fourth largest wool exporter.

○ South Africa's man-made plantation forests are the fastest growing in the world, growing at 18 cubic meters per hectare annually, compared with three to eight cubic metres in Canada and 12 cubic metres in the southern states of the USA.

○ South African company SAPPI is one of the top 10 exporters of paper and pulp in the world.

○ South Africa is the world's 2nd largest exporter of canned fruit.

CONSERVATION

● South Africa was the first country in the

world to introduce stringent anti-whaling laws.

● South Africa became the first country to prohibit the capture of great white sharks.

● The Kruger National Park, the Grande Dame of nature reserves, supports the greatest variety of wild life species on the African continent.

● More than 800 bird species, one tenth of those known to man, are found in South Africa.

EDUCATION

○ The University of South Africa (UNISA) is a pioneer of tertiary distance education and one of the biggest correspondence universities in the world.

○ UNISA's Graduate School of Business is the largest in the southern hemisphere.

● South African university Medunsa is the only university in the world devoted entirely to medical science and health care.

SPORT

● South Africa won the Rugby World Cup in 1995.

● South Africa won the All Africa Games.

● South Africa won the Africa Cup of Nations Soccer Championship.

● South Africa Boxers won seven world titles in 1995.