

**GREETING BY AMBASSADOR BR SISULU: WEBINAR ON  
TRADE & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH  
AFRICA – 08 JUNE 2022**

Mr Sotiris Mousouris, President of the African Hellenic Chamber

Mr Alvin Botes, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-Operation

Mr Ioannis Smyrlis, Secretary General of International Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

My Counterpart, H.E. Mr George Aravositas, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic in South Africa

Distinguished Guests and;

Esteemed Presenters who will carry this virtual conference on their very broad shoulders,

It was earlier this year that Mr Sotiris Mousouris invited me to their annual pita-cutting event with the Board of the African Hellenic Chamber, and during our deliberations, informed me of the idea of a virtual conference on trade and investment opportunities in South Africa.

I was enthusiastic in my support for such an initiative because I was cognisant of the fact that Africa has become a priority for Greece and it is imperative that we, as the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Greece, take full advantage of every opportunity accorded to us, to promote our country and bring

awareness of all the opportunities that it could offer to potential partners.

My conviction about the importance of this virtual webinar was later amplified during my meeting with Minister Nikos Dendias, who bemoaned the low levels of trade and investment flows between our countries and was greatly pleased when I informed him of this webinar and the positive outcomes that it could present to us.

Ladies and gentlemen, this webinar is taking place at a time when the Hellenic Republic, particularly the Foreign Ministry is focusing on Africa.

We have seen Minister Dendias' energetic engagement of fellow African countries in the past few months. Most importantly, for us, the webinar takes place when we are waiting to host Minister Dendias in South Africa, in the, not so distant, future, as an official visit has already been slated by the Minister.

I would like to conclude, by thanking Mr Mousouris and the Board of the Chamber for this collaboration, which is a clear indication of the close ties between South Africa and Greece. The importance of these ties is, of course, also clearly demonstrated by the presence of my principal, Deputy Minister Alvin Botes, today.

I am hopeful that through the informative presentations, we will have a fruitful engagement with tangible outcomes for South Africa and the Hellenic Republic.

I Thank You!