

# Business delegation made a strong case for SA as an investment destination at Davos

The delegation that represented South Africa at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Switzerland has returned home - after having ambitiously promoted Africa's most industrialised country as an attractive investment destination, with potential to generate long-term returns for investors.



Source: Supplied. Sithembile Ntombela, acting chief executive officer of Brand South Africa.

A day before the start of the World Economic Forum (WEF 2022), which took place in Davos from 22 to 26 May, *S&P Global* upgraded South Africa's economic outlook to "positive" from "stable" due to improvement in the country's fiscal position. This was boosted by an increase in prices of commodity exports, which in turn improved tax revenues.

This piece of positive news came on the back of *S&P Global's* peer, *Moody's*, making a similar move in April when it upgraded South Africa's outlook from "negative" to "stable".

The change of heart by these credit-rating agencies on South Africa has been influenced by South Africa's full commitment to implementing economic policy reforms aimed at stimulating economic growth, boosting competitiveness, and attracting investment following the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic.



## High-level business delegation to represent South Africa at WEF 2022 in Davos

23 May 2022



"The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) that South Africa launched in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic is bearing fruit. In addition, the South African government launched Operation Vulindlela, which is fast-tracking implementation of structural reforms in key sectors such as energy and logistics," said Sithembile Ntombela, acting chief executive officer of Brand South Africa.

About 60% of the structural reforms have been implemented, laying the foundation for accelerated economic growth and attracting more investment.

WEF 2022 was dominated by talks on the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, the Covid-19 pandemic, and rising global inflation. Many countries, which rely heavily on Russian food (grain) and energy imports (oil and gas), are concerned about their economies sliding into a recession after Russia being slapped with economic sanctions.

The sanctions have disrupted global supply chains and sent prices of energy and food skyrocketing, leading to an increase in inflation across the world, particularly in the United States and Europe.

## SA to contribute to global food security

“This is particularly concerning given that the world economy is barely emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic and is still very much fragile. As a strong food-producing country, South Africa is ready to contribute to global food security by increasing its agricultural exports,” said Ntombela.



### Rising food prices hit poor people the hardest: a close look at inflation in South Africa

Jannie Rossouw 14 Jun 2022



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected the global economy to grow by 4.4% in 2022, but this forecast is being revised downwards because of the impact of the sanctions on Russia.

The South African delegation, comprising more than 35 business representatives, led by Minister of Human Settlements and head of Cabinet Economic Cluster, Mmamoloko Kubayi, came back from WEF 2022 excited about the prospects that lie ahead.

The delegation provided an update at WEF 2022 on ERRP and Operation Vulindlela - launched in 2018 - which are supporting President Cyril Ramaphosa's five-year drive to attract R1.2tn into our economy .

Four years on, and despite disruption by the pandemic, South Africa has raised R1.14tn, amounting to 95% of the target set by the president.