Date November 6, 2012
Re NESANET: network for South African alumni of Dutch knowledge institutions

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria is interested in gaining more insight in the number of South Africans that have studied in the Netherlands, or have been engaged in research at a Dutch knowledge institution.

Because of the high mobility of the alumni population - as a result of which contact information is outdated very quickly - the Embassy has chosen to use social media to interact with this group in a more effective way. Via a special Facebook page we want to inform them about events and news that could be of interest to them and that strengthens the connection between South Africa and the Netherlands.

We understand that due to privacy legislation it might not be possible for you to provide us with the contact details of the alumni that you have on record. Therefore we would kindly like to request your cooperation in the promotion of our Facebook page among the students of your University that have studied in the Netherlands, so that they can themselves decide to join this network. For your convenience we would like to suggest a short text that can be posted in your own social media groups and pages.

You can find us by typing ‘nesanetalumni’ into the Facebook search bar and to click on the ‘like’ button.

The text that could be used is:

Netherlands South African Alumni Network (NESANET)
The Netherlands Embassy would like to reach out to South African alumni that have studied in the Netherlands. We are currently carrying out research on how to meet the interests of this group best. We would also like to improve our contact database and get the statistics right. Do you have ideas or know of other alumni? Help us and invite them to join NESANET and give us your feedback on:
www.facebook.com/Nesanetalumni

Furthermore we would appreciate it if you could provide us with information on how many South African students from your university have studied in the Netherlands.

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Our reference
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Netherlands over the past five years. The information that we have available now is unfortunately incomplete. We would like to keep track of whether the number of South Africans who have studied in the Netherlands is increasing. Within this part of our research we are not so much interested in names and addresses but more in statistical information. If you could email us your data to pre-os@minbuza.nl, we will ensure the complete dataset is forwarded to you after we have compiled the complete overview. Attached to this letter you will find an Excel sheet for easy reference.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope there is an opportunity in the near future that we can meet in person and discuss the cooperation between South African and Dutch universities and the role the Embassy can play in strengthening the knowledge exchange.

Kind Regards,

Erik Litver
Deputy Head Economic Affairs