

4TH GERMAN – AFRICAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2022

WELCOME NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

On behalf of my government and the people of South Africa, I welcome you to the upcoming German-African Business Summit 2022, which will be held in our country from 6-8 December 2022.

It is pleasing that a number of countries from Africa are represented, reflecting the continent's diversity and manifold opportunities.

Partnership between countries has the power to facilitate progress, world peace and mutual prosperity.

Partnership is also important for the broader effort to make it easier to invest and do business in Africa.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, our most pressing priority is a swift and equitable economic recovery that leaves no-one behind.

Platforms such as German-African Business Summit facilitate greater bilateral trade and investment.

Germany is one of South Africa's most valued strategic partners. It is our second largest trading partner, a major investor and a big market for inbound tourism. South Africa is currently home to around 600 German companies and bilateral trade between our two countries is growing.

Together with fellow African leaders, we are working towards a new vision of sustainable social and economic development, contained in the African Union Agenda 2063. This aims to enhance the capacity of African States and regional institutions to fulfil the collective vision of an integrated, peaceful, united and prosperous Africa.

Delegates from Germany and African countries, your visit is a manifestation of the very strong and cordial relations between our respective countries.

The African Continental Free Trade Area, which will be one of the topics highlighted at the Summit, will not only benefit countries on the continent, but will also create conditions for greater flows of trade and investment between Africa and the rest of the world.

This Summit, with all that it offers, is testimony to the fact that Africa is a continent of innovation and opportunity with a strong focus on the future.

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