

South African Boat Builders Seek Footprint in Miami-Dade County, FL.

Miami, Florida....Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

Representatives of the South African Consulate General in New York, **Mr. Gugulethu Gingqi**, Consul (Political) and **Ms. Maria (Bing) Alo-Villareal**, Export Marketing Manager were in Miami to attend the Miami International Boat Show and Strictly Sail Miami (February 12 - 15, 2015). They paid a courtesy visit to the Honorable Commissioner Audrey Edmonson in her downtown office at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center. Mr. Gingqi expressed his government's appreciation to Commissioner Edmonson for leading several successful trade missions to South Africa which resulted in the signing of a sister cities agreement between Miami-Dade County and the City of Cape Town, signing of a cooperative agreement between PortMiami and the South Africa Ports Authority, etc. Commissioner Edmonson thanked the delegation and stated that she will continue to engage with the relevant South African authorities for a Consulate or trade office in Miami as well the reestablishing direct air service between South Africa and Miami International Airport.



L-R: **Mr. G. Gingqi**, **Commissioner Edmonson** and **Desmond Alufohai**.

Also, Commissioner Edmonson attended the Boat Show to meet with officials of the South African Boat Builders Export Council (SABBEX). SABBEX officials announced that it had secured funding from South Africa's Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) to support its members for an extended promotional program in Miami, Florida.

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Commissioner Edmonson, together with Bill Talbert, Desmond Alufohai, Richard Zurba, Akeem Brutus and Abigail Ellary, met with representatives of the South African Boat Builders Export Council (SABBEX) and the Marine Industry Association of South Africa (MIASA) at the Hilton Hotel, Cape Town during Enterprise Florida/Miami-Dade County's official Trade Mission to South Africa in 2014.



Pictures of Commissioner Edmonson at the Miami International Boat Show, Bayside, Miami (South African Pavilion).