

Diplomatic coup for local businessman

A WELL-KNOWN businessman and chairman of the Plexus Group in Durbanville, Dr Prieur du Plessis, has been appointed as honorary consul of Slovenia in South Africa.

The Republic of Slovenia has recently announced that it is furthering its diplomatic relations with South Africa by establishing a consulate in Cape Town.

Du Plessis has specifically been tasked with public relations and

normal consular tasks, providing assistance to Slovenian citizens in South Africa, promoting all-round co-operation between Slovenia and South Africa, and expanding links between the two countries in the fields of commerce, tourism, culture, science, education and sport.

"Slovenia and South Africa have much in common – in particular that both are relatively young democracies and have a great deal to offer each other by means of bilateral interaction," he said.

"South Africa already has a diplomatic mission in Slovenia.

"Through the local Slovenian consulate, a two-way diplomatic channel has now been created to fully capitalise on what the two countries can offer each other," Du Plessis said.

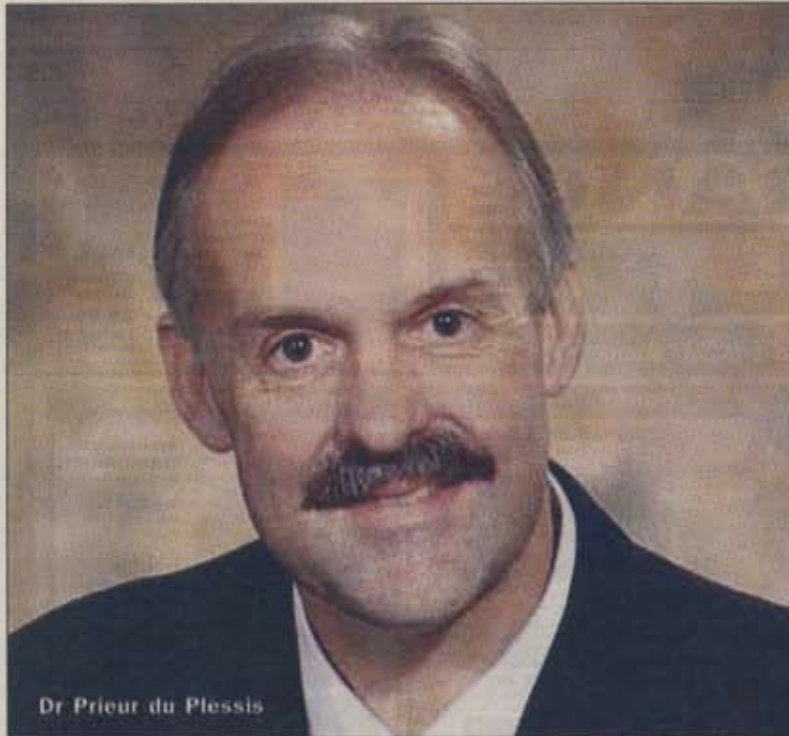
One of his first initiatives will be to take a South African business delegation to Slovenia to explore the investment climate and trade potential.

Several other joint projects between Slovenia and South Africa in the fields of cultural activities, education, literature and science have also commenced.

Du Plessis is assisted in these endeavours by his wife, Mrs Isabel Verwey, a former television producer and presenter.

Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, has been named as the Unesco World Book Capital for 2010. South Africa has been invited as a special guest to this occasion, affording South African authors participation on a world stage," Verwey said.

An international photographic competition for children will also be presented, with the South African winner visiting Slovenia and vice versa, while an exchange project concerning music is also being discussed, she said.



Dr Prieur du Plessis



Mrs Isabel Verwey

