

# REGIONAL NEWS

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Editorial

DEAR READERS

Zambia sometimes flies a bit under the radar. It is therefore noteworthy that Switzerland just launched a US\$50 million development programme

with Zambia to deepen the collaboration between the two nations for the next four years.

WARM REGARDS, GISELA PIERCEY



GISELA PIERCEY,  
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW  
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

### Zambia:

## Switzerland signs Framework Agreement on international cooperation with Zambia

On 12 December, Switzerland and Zambia formalized their commitment to enhance collaboration through a comprehensive framework agreement on international cooperation.

Approved by the Federal Council in June 2023, the agreement covers technical, financial, and cultural cooperation, as well as humanitarian aid. Both Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, Mr. Stéphane Rey and Zambia Permanent Secretary for International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Etambuyu Anamela Gundersen, expressed confidence that the agreement will contribute significantly to both social and economic development in Zambia. The signing of the agreement marks a crucial milestone in the ongoing partnership between the two countries, paving the way for impactful initiatives and positive outcomes in various sectors.



Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi Mr. Stéphane Rey and Zambia Permanent Secretary for International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Hope Kalabi Situmbeko during the signing ceremony of the Framework Agreement on International Cooperation in Lusaka. © Embassy of Switzerland in Zimbabwe

**Zambia:**

## Switzerland launches US\$50 million development programme with Zambia

Switzerland and Zambia have launched a groundbreaking bilateral new Swiss Cooperation Programme valued at US\$50 million for the next four years, showcasing a deepened collaboration between the two nations.

The programme, celebrated in a recent event in Lusaka, addresses the pressing challenges and contribute significantly to sustainable development in Zambia. Noteworthy features include a comprehensive approach covering food security, healthcare, social protection, climate change, and governance, with a specific focus on the well-being of women and youth. A key aspect is the strategic partnership with the private sector. Government officials in Zambia expressed gratitude to stakeholders and acknowledged the success of the launch, marking a significant chapter in diplomatic relations.



Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi Mr. Stéphane Rey during the launch of the new cooperation programme with Zambia.  
© Embassy of Switzerland in Zimbabwe.

**South Africa:**

## South Africa's Payment24 accelerates European expansion with acquisition of Swiss firm Inergy 24

South Africa's Payment24, a global payments platform provider specialising in payment and loyalty solutions, has acquired Switzerland-headquartered Inergy 24 to accelerate its expansion in Europe.

Payment24 began life as a digital fuel management solutions and telematics platform, but has expanded to become a global platform developer specialising in payment and loyalty solutions for the financial, oil, retail, convenience, transport, and logistics industries. It has a presence on five continents and in 18 countries.

Its acquisition of Inergy 24 will see the company further expand in Europe, with the two businesses collectively providing customers throughout Europe with access to the Payment24 platform, including payment, fleet management, mobile and retail, loyalty, electric vehicle (EV), and cloud payments solutions.

“As a fairly new player in the European digital and fuel payments ecosystem, our platform provides customers bound to unwieldy legacy payment solutions with an entirely reimagined digital solution that is quick and easy to deploy. This is extremely exciting time to enter the

European market, and we are experiencing enormous interest in the platform and its additional retail and banking capabilities,” says Shadab Rahil, joint-CEO at Payment24. “Our investment in Inergy 24 allows us to better serve and deliver solutions to clients across Europe.”

As part of the agreement, the Payment24 team has appointed industry expert Alan McGown as the CEO of the Inergy 24 and joint Payment24 CEOs Rahil and Nolan Daniel will serve on the company's board.

Alongside ongoing investment and access to its platform, Payment24 will provide Inergy 24 with access to its development, support, sales,



SA's Payment24 accelerates European expansion with acquisition of Swiss firm Inergy 24  
Photo: Disrupt Africa

and marketing teams.

“The investment from Payment24 comes at a time when European businesses are hungry for a change from outdated, inflexible payment solutions,” said McGown. “The modularity and expandability of the Payment24 platform allows our customers to think beyond payments and add elements such as loyalty, telematics, mobile payments, and even vouchers to their offerings. Its EV payment is also exceptionally relevant for the growing ESG requirements in Europe.”

Over the last three years, the Payment24 platform has grown from a fleet management and petroleum payments solution to an all-encompassing payments and transacting solution, Daniel said.

“We are constantly developing the platform, and today we are delivering solutions to customers in the banking, oil, retail, convenience, transport, and logistics markets. In addition, our ongoing development and the inclusion of technologies such as AI to the platform ensure that our clients benefit from constant modernisation and can adapt their offerings at the speed of business,” he said.

The startup recently launched a Cloud Switch, a cloud-based payment solution that decreases time to market for businesses wanting to upgrade their transaction switch-

ing systems. A fully integrated, versatile, hardware-less payment switch that supports a myriad of payment methods, CloudSwitch combines cloud technology, various payment methods, robust POS compatibility, and a suite of value-added services to deliver an all-inclusive transaction environment.

Payment24 said the solution serves the unique needs of acquiring banks, fuel retailers, merchants, and retailers, and dramatically decreases the time to market for businesses wanting to upgrade their transaction switching systems.

“Cloud Switch embodies our dedication to transforming the payment ecosystem. This solution empowers acquiring banks and fuel retailers to easily manage complex payments, harnessing the cloud’s power for unmatched scalability and reliability,” said Rahil.

“Ultimately Cloud Switch was developed to cater to a global market but developed with the localisation capabilities required to adapt it to every region it is deployed in. We believe it marks a significant stride in financial technology, bringing versatile payment methods, seamless transaction flows, and vital real-time monitoring capabilities into our clients’ hands. Our goal is to simplify, streamline, and secure the payment processes, and Cloud Switch is a testament to that mission.”

SOURCE: DISRUPT AFRICA

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Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h

■ Our Clubs of Society: Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club.

Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch, Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch.

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■ We will celebrate the 75th anniversary in 2024, in the 200th year of the Swiss Shooting Sport Federation. We shoot at the Navy's KLAVER shooting



range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town, near "Just Nuisance" grave. Occasionally we use the Atlantis 'Good Hope' range of the SA Army. In May we hold our popular 'Piggy Shoot' at the WCSU range, also near Atlantis.

**KWAZULU-NATAL**

**SWISS CLUB NATAL**

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■ **JASS EVENTS:** This is held on the second Friday of each month and will commence at 2 p.m. and is held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay (directions on our website).

■ **SPORT TARGET SHOOTING:** Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 08:30 a.m.- Nottingham Road (calendar available on our website).

\*For more up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative website – [www.swissclubnatal.org.za](http://www.swissclubnatal.org.za)

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**IMPRESSUM**

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**NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES**

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