



Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN
SOUTH AFRICA

Real frustration



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Chamber's Note

Real frustration

On Monday this week, the Ever Given container ship was freed from the Suez canal, relieving the mounting trade emergency which saw more than 400 trade vessels prevented from arriving at their destinations. The absurd scenario had the same economic implications as a natural disaster, slowing down or preventing the flow of goods and the completion of the trade.

The coronavirus has been a similar phenomenon but instead of a natural disaster that puts a stop on supply, it has been first and foremost a blockage to production. In this instance, the disaster has meant that people are unable to go to work. Furthermore, the solution to the coronavirus's economic impact is far more complex than that of the Ever Given. While the hopes of the world economy still rest on a successful vaccine rollout, the task has been anything but smooth.

South Africa is yet to produce the kind of vaccine response that would dent another wave of infection. To date about 240-thousand vaccines have been administered in the space of over a month. At this rate, it will take more than ten years to vaccinate the entire population.

One of the bright lights for SA has been the contracting of Aspen's Gqeberha plant to produce vaccines on behalf of Johnson&Johnson. While this does not automatically mean that the doses will be given to South Africans, Aspen SA CEO Stephen Saad has stated that production in South Africa definitively improves South Africa's hand, predicting that, starting in April, half of South Africans will receive the vaccine produced in the Eastern Cape. At the same facility, Aspen will also be producing another 400-million dose for the African Union.

While the vaccine rollout is delayed in South Africa, the opportunity should be taken to learn from the successes and failures elsewhere, nowhere more so perhaps than from Europe. Currently, most of Europe has vaccinated about 15% of its population. Meanwhile, the US is nearing 45%, Britain has passed 50%, and in Israel, nearly everyone has received the first shot. In Europe, frustration is mounting over the lackluster vaccine rollout to date, and Italy is no exception to this trend. Europe's attempt at a cooperative response has been undermined by frustrated member countries deciding to go it alone in terms of their vaccine response.

With the oldest population on the European continent and the highest daily deaths of Covid related deaths amongst any major country in Europe, the implications for Italy are all the more worrying. Unused doses may go bad, proving that production of the vaccine is only a fraction of the task at hand. The remainder of the job consists of the bureaucratic rigmarole of distribution of the serum, registration of patients, training of staff, and ensuring that the process is fair.

Meanwhile, the mutation of the virus poses the additional threat that existing vaccines become obsolete. Already South Africa has chosen to avoid the AstraZeneca formula owing to its low effectiveness in combatting the variant first found in the Nelson Mandela Bay area late last year.

On several occasions, analysts have pointed out irrationalities about our current economic system. That several countries have contracts for more doses per person than is necessary while others are unable to even inoculate the critical section of their population, is bound to undercut our global covid response. If there is one thing that we have learned from the Covid crisis is that when people are removed from an economy, the economy stops functioning. Perhaps this realization should form the guiding principle in our vaccination efforts.

Italcham!

Job Opportunity

ASSISTANT TRADE ANALYST



ICE Agency (ITA) is the Government entity that promotes the internationalization of Italian companies according to the policies of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. ITA provides support to Italian companies for the internationalization of their activities. The ITA office in Johannesburg is setting up the procedure for the selection of an employee to be hired on a permanent contract with the qualification of Assistant Trade Analyst. (cod. 3.1 Marketing

General requirements for admission:

Candidates with the following requirements can participate in selection tests:

- a) Have, on the date of this notice, completed the 18th year of age;
- b) Have not, at the date of this notice, exceeded the 60th year of age;
- c) Is of a healthy physical constitution;
- d) In possession of the following qualification: Degree. Possession of a Bachelor's in Economics or Finance will entitle to an increase in the score as indicated in point 10 below –"Evaluation of additional requirements";
- e) Are South African citizens or are in possession of residence in South Africa for at least two years. ICE Agency (ITA) in Johannesburg cannot issue any work visa;
- f) Absence of any criminal convictions as well as pending charges;
- g) Proficiency in Italian and English (written and spoken);
- h) Good knowledge and use of the internet and the most popular social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.).

Additional Requirements:

- i) Have obtained a Bachelor's in Economics or Finance studies, or equivalent subjects, attaching an authentic copy;
- j) Have obtained a Master's in Marketing, Economics or equivalent subjects, attaching an authentic copy;
- k) Have had previous work experience with duties equivalent to those referred to in this notice, attaching the letters of reference from previous employers.

Instructions for submitting applications to participate:

To participate in the selection tests, candidates should send the following documents:

- a) application form, signed and scanned, to be drawn up in Italian and English according to the PDF model downloadable here Application-form-Italian and Application-form-English;
- b) copy of the currently valid identity document;
- c) Curriculum Vitae in Italian and English. Questions and attachments should ONLY be sent via Email to johannesburg@ice.it Att. Mrs. Antonella Marucci - No later than **11:00 am on April 6th, 2021.**

For more information:

[Click here](#)



Due Date: 6 April 2021

Email: johannesburg@ice.it