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'SA is Russia's most NB African trade partner'

South Africa is Russia's leading trade partner on the African continent, president Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation was cited by Eye Witness News (EWN) as saying yesterday (Monday) during a meeting with president Jacob Zuma.

A presidential spokesperson said in a press statement that discussions between the two leaders had advanced the strong bilateral cooperation between the countries.

Zuma is currently in Russia on a working visit to attend the Jubilee Celebrations on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Great Patriotic War (WW II).

He held wide ranging talks with Putin, which included an assessment of bilateral cooperation, the status and implementation of Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Agreements, and preparations for the 13th ITEC Session to be hosted by the Russian Federation during the latter part of 2015. They also discussed preparations for the 7th BRICS Summit scheduled to be hosted by Russia from 8-9 July 2015.

According to the presidency, the leaders agreed on the need to intensify cooperation in various areas including trade and to further explore opportunities in the areas of mining, energy and agriculture amongst others.

FTW www.ftwonline.co.za