



June 2006

dfa **Now**

Your voice to be heard



**Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
presenting the Foreign Affairs
Budget to Parliament**

Dear Colleagues, welcome to another informative issue of the *DFA Now*.

June is the month of the youth and we join the country in celebrating the achievements of the youth of 1976, who on 16 June (30 years ago) stood up to get their voice heard. In addition, we also join the rest of the African continent on June 16, in recognising and supporting the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) 'Day of the African Child'.

On 29 May 2006, our Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe presented the Department's budget vote speech for 2006/07. It is important for all of us to be familiar with what they have presented so as to accurately support and deliver on what the Department is meant to achieve.

In this issue we cover the following: the recent G77 and China meeting; Africa Day celebrations; DFA Girl-Child activities, DFA candle light memorial; June 16 programme; GEPF advise; the first letters to the Editor; and introduce you to the members of the Auxiliary Services. Hoping that you will enjoy it.

Please note that this newsletter is for you, therefore we need your views/opinion on it. Please forward your inputs to the Editor before the deadline. ▶

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the DFA or the editors. The deadline for contributions is 3 July 2006. Contributions may be sent to cbe300 or mokhetheap@foreign.gov.za

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Letters to the editor

Balanced ...

I'm very impressed with the *DFA Now* format. It is a complete and substantive document, offering one a balanced view of policy and intra-departmental activities, i.e. IBSA article verses the back page section (where were u...?). This is the way to go. Keep up the good work! ▶

Ambassador BIL Modise

Great ...

Hi, congratulations. The new *DFA Now* looks great. Kind regards.

Beppie Viljoen

Hardcopy ...

Thank you for sending *DFA Now* out in hardcopy. I enjoyed paging through it and reading the articles. If it is

only available electronically, I can promise you I will never read it – much more relaxing to page through a magazine. Maybe in the next issue you can inform us on the progress of the new building. I pass the site everyday and wait in anticipation for the first movements there. Thanks again.

Riana Pieterse

Editor's response

Dear Riana

Please note that according to the Departmental Management Committee (CMC), chaired by Mr Apleni, we will have a report on the new building in the near future. The Department is just awaiting the finalisation of the official processes on the matter.

Paseka Mokhethea - Editor

NB: Sincere thanks for all the letters.

For more information on the Department visit www.dfa.gov.za
The *DFA Now* is also available on the internet and intranet

IN JANUARY 2006, SOUTH AFRICA COMMENCED ITS ROLE AS CHAIR of the G77 and China, an alliance that was established in 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries. It is the largest coalition of developing countries in the United Nations, with a 132 Member States.

The G77 deals primarily with economic and environment development issues. Its main aim is to promote South-South co-operation and help to strengthen economic and technical co-operation among developing countries themselves. It provides a platform for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic and development issues in the United Nations (UN) system, including poverty-related issues. Additionally, the importance for developing countries of the need to co-ordinate common positions among themselves on global issues is increasingly being recognised in the current globalised environment.

In its capacity as Chairperson of the G77 and China, South Africa has the responsibility of negotiating on behalf of the Member states at international fora all over the world. South Africa's commitment to the promotion of South-South co-operation as an important means of addressing the development needs of the South (developing countries) is central to its leadership role of the G77. As Chair, South Africa has a further opportunity to assume a leading role in representing and promoting the interests

South Africa plays a prominent role in advancing the development agenda of the South by way of strengthening South-South co-operation through active participation in groupings of the South, such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 77 and China (G77).

Get to know the Group of 77 and China

of developing countries in a variety of UN Bodies. In the current global environment South Africa is at the same time faced with particular challenges and very high expectations, both from within as well as outside of the G77.

The Chair of the G77 receives its mandate from the Member States and as such, is expected to defend that mandate. The mandate of the G77 is to promote delivery of the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goals, the World Conference Against Racism plan of action, the Monterrey Consensus and NEPAD objectives.

As the Chair, South Africa leads the New York Chapter of the G77 on a daily basis and also leads the G77 participation in numerous other meetings. South Africa also has the responsibility of overseeing the work pro-

gramme and the budgets of the G77, as administered by the Secretariat. As the Chair of G77, the year 2006 holds many challenges and opportunities for South Africa in advancing the development agenda of the South.

Although South Africa's tenure is only half completed, South Africa is already developing a notable legacy as Chair by the manner in which effective and skillful leadership has been provided to the Group in what has already turned out to be a very demanding and challenging year. Several fractious issues, many of them new, have dominated the UN agenda so far this year in the context of the ongoing debate about the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. To date, South Africa has succeeded in keeping the G77 unified on a wide range of issues and has ensured effective G77 participation in the negotiations on these issues, which have frequently been divisive. To date, South Africa has successfully led the G77 and China through a particularly difficult time, when the Group has maintained its unity and cohesiveness. The ongoing challenge for South Africa, as Chair, will be to continue to do so, while renewing the levels of trust and partnership between the G77 and other negotiating partners, with a view to moving forward on the key issues relating to UN reform. By continuing to provide such effective leadership in the current challenging climate, South Africa's legacy as Chair of the G77 will be all but assured.

Currently, plans are being finalised to convene a G77 meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology on 3 September 2006. The Ministerial will take place on the sidelines of the 10th General Conference and 17th General Meeting of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) and 9th General Assembly of the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNSO) scheduled to take place in Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 2 – 6 September 2006. ▶

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo South Africa's representative to the United Nations.



THE MINISTERIAL MEETING PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY

for the G77 Member States to deliberate on important issues such as the development follow-up to 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) reform, system wide coherence, mandate reviews, management reform and providing predictable financial resources to the United Nations. The importance of participation by Member States in the issues that were discussed is that they are closely related to the vision of the Group to articulate their common views in international fora, and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues in the United Nations.

At the Special Ministerial Meeting, Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 and China voiced strong views on the direction of various on-going United Nations reform processes. The Ministers endorsed the positions taken by the G77 and China diplomats in New York and adopted a 32-paragraph statement of the G77 and China Ministerial Declaration on United Nations reform. Opening the meeting, Deputy Minister Pahad said the Special Ministerial Meeting was held to discuss urgent issues in the United Nations (UN) that have arisen since the last G77 Ministerial meeting in September 2005. Deputy Minister Pahad added that the group attaches high priority to strengthening the UN in accordance with the 2005 World Summit outcome so it can address urgent economic and social issues. Global partnership for development must be enhanced to realise the outcomes of major UN summits and conferences, he said, adding that the group reaffirmed the role of ECOSOC as a principal body for the promotion of development cooperation, co-ordination, policy making, review and dialogue on international economic issues.

In summing up the debate, Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad said the many statements indicated that the G77 and China were united in its broad approaches. He added that there was need to put to rest the misconception that the G77 is not committed to UN



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan chairing a G77 and China meeting in New York, March 2006.

Recently, South Africa chaired the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China. The meeting took place on the margins of the NAM Ministerial Meeting on 29 May 2006 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The South African Government was represented by Deputy Minister Pahad, who led the South African delegation and also chaired the Special Ministerial Meeting.



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aziz Pahad.

The Special Ministerial Meeting of the Group the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G77 and China

29 May 2006, Putrajaya, Malaysia

reform. The Group seriously wanted to transform the UN but as a "club" not of the more powerful, but of all involved. This had to be explained to the world at large, as the misrepresentation

against the Group's position should not continue. "We should be evolving public opinion for effective transformation of the UN," the Deputy Minister added. Furthermore, Deputy Minister



Our national and regional interests can only be served if we are cohesive and understand the issues at stake.

Pahad said the G77 would continue to dialogue with the Group of Eight (G8) and the European Union (EU). The dialogue would not be for dialogue's sake but to put across the G77's concrete concerns.

"Our national and regional interests can only be served if we are cohesive and understand the issues at stake," said the Deputy Minister, adding that the reform process should not be a case of the strong dictating to the weak. With the continued support of its members, the G77 was confident that it will transform the UN in the interests of all.

In essence, the G77 remains committed to internationally agreed development goals and multilateral commitments including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and initiatives aimed at poverty eradication. ▶

Africa Day Celebrations

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS held a very successful Africa Day workshop, whose theme was "An African Growth Trajectory". The workshop was attended about 250 participants, comprised of members of the Diplomatic Corps, Business community, International organisations, Civil society and senior management of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

At the event, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Mandisa Mphahlele delivered a keynote address And our Deputy Minister, Ms Sue Van der Merwe facilitated the 1st session that was characterised by fifteen-minute presentations by Messrs Raymond Kramer (on Assessment of Risks in Africa) Admassu Tadesse (Financing for Growth in Africa), Bheki Sibiya (Experience of business in Africa) and Victor Mathale (Economic prospects in Africa).

Ambassador Duarte, DDG: Branch Africa Multilateral facilitated the 2nd session panel discussion constituted of African Ambassadors/High Commissioners who responded to presentations done by the 1st session presenters. The panel discussion was followed by the comments and questions from the audience.

The Africa Day Celebrations workshop provided a platform for the African Ambassadors/ High Commissioners to promote investment and trade opportunities on the continent. It also gave an opportunity to the African Ambassadors/High Commissioners to address concerns of the private sector with respect to the challenges of doing business on the continent.

In true celebratory mood, the Department of Foreign Affairs hosted a Gala Dinner after the workshop characterised by musical rendition from Musa Manzini. The Gala Dinner was graced by, amongst others, the presence of our Deputy Minister Sue Van der Merwe, our Director-General, Dr A Ntsaluba and the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Mr Tito Mboweni.

The former Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, Ms Thoko Didiza, who was the guest of honour, delivered the keynote address at the gala dinner. The evening was concluded by H.E Dr Al Zubeidi, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, by delivering a vote of thanks. ▶



*Ambassador M Seleka
Director: African Union*

THE SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH took to the streets the struggle for national liberation. Their courageous actions completely changed the political landscape of our country towards the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and a prosperous people. This year, 2006, the National Youth Commission (NYC), in partnership with the national Government, Provincial Youth Commissions (PYCs), Gauteng Provincial Government, the City of Johannesburg and youth formations, has developed a national programme to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of that fateful day.

This year's programme seeks to achieve the following:

- Retrace the impact of the footsteps of the 1976 Soweto Uprisings generation in the evolution of our country
 - Entrench youth participation in the national development programme to fight poverty and create jobs
- Rally our youth around a common youth development cause through an Integrated Sustainable Youth Development Strategy.
- To empower youth with relevant skills for sustainable livelihoods. Among the key national youth development initiatives is the National Youth Service programme
- To ensure that the legacy of June 16, 1976, lives on



THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 16

“taking into account the growth initiative, the National Youth Development Policy Framework will be reviewed and so will the impact of the current array of youth development institutions.”

Age of Hope: Deepening Youth Participation in Development on June 16, 1976

The programme has the following activities and focus areas:

RECONNECTING WITH HISTORY TO ACCELERATE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The NYC, after consultation with youth formations, took a decision that the launch must be held at the Morris Isaacson High school in Soweto. The move is informed primarily by the fact that history tells our country that the school was the starting point of the peaceful student march of 1976. Unfortunately the apartheid government reaction resulted into violent confrontation that resulted into the shooting and killing of more than 1000 young people throughout the country. Today, our country is a democracy and youth development opportunities continue to grow for sus-

tainable livelihoods of all South African youth, both black and white. It is for this reason that the youth development fraternity decided that on the occasion of the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of June 16, 1976, our youth must be taken back to this point of history? Morris Isaacson High school.

10TH YEAR OF INSTITUTIONALISED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

As part of developing this year's special programme, the NYC also noted the fact that our country completes 10 years of the institutionalised youth development in the form of Youth Commissions. Among the key break-

throughs the NYC was able to make are the following: Development of the National Youth Development Policy Framework to guide youth development in South Africa. Lobbying for the setting up of programme to respond to the economic plight of youth South Africans in the form of Umsobomvu Youth Fund Successfully lobbying and advocating for the adoption of the National Youth Service programme by Government in 2003. Development of guidelines for municipalities to ensure integration of youth development into the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), including Local Economic Development plans. Ensuring that there is increased access to higher education by

all, particularly youth from previously disadvantaged communities. The 2005 Medium Term Expenditure Framework of Government saw an increase of the allocation to the National Student Finance Aid Scheme primarily set up to assist students from previously disadvantaged communities. So is the recently released budget statement of government. Ensuring integration of youth development into key national development initiatives such as the Expanded Public Works Programme, Learnerships, Community Development Workers, and more recently, the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGISA).

DEBATING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1994 (05/JUNE/2006)

In preparation for the Youth Policy

Review Convention, youth leadership will converge at the Hector Peterson memorial to deliberate on the state of our democracy. It is acknowledged that the democratic order has made significant strides to advance young people post the apartheid era. Such initiatives include the setting up of youth development initiatives such as Youth Commissions, and other programmes such as Umsobomvu Youth Fund, learnerships, community development workers, the extension of the expanded public works programme etc. However, research shows that the evolution of the national development programme requires more acceleration of youth development towards the implementation of a seamless integrated strategy. The success of such approach has shown positive signs in the implementation of such strategies in other vulnerable such as people with disabilities and women. Government and the private sector are accelerating the process of meeting the set development targets of a number of vulnerable which include women and people with disabilities.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY REVIEW CONVENTION (05-08/ JUNE/2006)

The NYC made proposals to Govern-

ment on the need to have integrated youth development in SA. Subsequently, Government (Cabinet Statement, 23 November 2005) emerged with a statement that reads, “taking into account the growth initiative, the National Youth Development Policy Framework will be reviewed and so will the impact of the current array of youth development institutions.” It is against this background that a decision was taken that a National Youth Policy Review Convention must be held as part of this year's Youth Development Month programme. The Youth Convention will intricately assess the impact youth development initiatives and institutions have made on the lives of young South Africans. It will also peruse the recommendations that emerged from a research study conducted by the NYC which supports the proposal of a merger of the functions of the National Youth Commission and Umsobomvu Youth Fund to form a Youth Development Agency. The consideration of merging functions of certain institutions emerged from the Ten Year Review of Government. Provincial Youth Commissions are currently convening provincial summits to ensure widespread consultation and maximum participation by all youth development sub-sectors towards the Convention. Expected to emerge from the Convention is the Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Youth Development in South Africa. The Strategy will serve as a benchmark against which to measure government commitment to youth development in its implementation of the Programme of Action, including current interventions such as ASGISA. The Convention is expected to resolve on the steps to be taken to kick-start the Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Youth Development and the institutionalisation of the Youth Development Agency.

IS ASGISA TALKING TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?

The NYC welcomes Government's commitment towards ensuring that youth development is fully integrated into ASGISA as advanced by the youth sector early this year. As part of its ongoing monitoring and evaluation work, the NYC will assist in ensuring that the

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Ambassador Modise's farewell function, 20 May 2006



A bright future

DFA's Take a Girl Child to work Day



Our □
the Department for 'Take a girl child to work day'.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATED in the annual "Take a Girl Child to Work Day" held on 25 May 2006. Under the theme- Nurturing self esteem. The campaign initiated by Cell C and endorsed by Departments of Education; and Communication, is supported nation-wide. It aims to expose girl children to various occupations, thus broadening their career choices. This is the Department's second year of participation, following a very successful and well-supported event last year. The Department hosted 20 girls from Kgomotso Comprehensive High School in Soshanguve, Pretoria accompanied by their two teachers.

The girls were welcomed in the Department by the DDG of FSI/HRM, Ambassador January-Bardill, accompanied by senior managers and other departmental social partners, in a ceremony held at the Union Buildings.

This was followed by exposing the girls to the foreign embassies accredited to South Africa. To this end, the Desks arranged visits to Indian High Commission and Equatorial Guinea Embassy. The girls were educated on the purpose of the embassy, the functions, as well as basically seeing what an embassy looks like. They were accompanied by desk officials, Ms Carol Rath and Ms Kgaugelo Maake.

They were then taken through training on Protocol, which was an eye-opener for them. The Department believe that this is a skill that

they could use throughout their lives.

As the day coincided with the Africa Day celebration, it was deemed necessary to expose the girls to the activities marking the Africa Day celebration at the Gallagher Estate. The girls' presence was acknowledged by Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe and other speakers. They received a very warm welcome and VIP treatment. The Deputy Minister then took time off to meet and engage them. In their own words, the girls expressed that they "felt very honoured".

The co-ordinators would like to thank all Branches and Business Units that made this a memorable day for the girls.

*Sub-Directorate:
Transformation*

DFA – Candle Light Memorial Day

“Lighting the Path to a Brighter Future”

THE ANNUAL CANDLE LIGHT MEMORIAL DAY

was celebrated worldwide on 21 May 2006, under the theme - “Lighting the Path to a Brighter Future”. The 2006 theme aimed at encouraging communities to incorporate advocacy activities that extend beyond the official candle-light event.

The focus of the day was on remembering those who have been touched by HIV and AIDS and keeping these memories alive through collective action. Nationally, the event was held in the Free State on 21 May 2006. South Africans commemorated the day by lighting candles and mourning the loss of their loved ones.

The Department through the Employee Wellbeing Centre joined the world in commemorating the day. To this end, a departmental event was held on 22 May 2006, to afford DFA employees the opportunity to remember and honour loved ones who have died of AIDS related illnesses. DFA employees were requested to voluntarily submit the names of those they'd like remembered on this day. The names were read out during the event.

Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe led the lighting of candles. During her opening remarks, she reminded us that HIV and AIDS does not discriminate. It is not limited to a particular, race, gender, nation, social class or geographical location. She further mentioned that the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan captured this very well when he said that “We must make people everywhere understand that the AIDS crisis



is not over; that it is not about a few foreign countries, far away. This is a threat to an entire generation, that it is a threat to an entire civilisation.”

The key-note address was delivered by Dr Lucky Mazibuko, a well known AIDS activist and SOWETAN columnist. During his speech he emphasised that South Africans should accelerate their involvement in the fight against HIV and AIDS and ensure that those who are negative remain negative and those who are positive are supported and cared for.

The event, which was attended by a large number of DFA officials, was published in the PRETORIA NEWS as well as the STAR. The huge turn out indicated DFA employees' commitment to the fight against HIV and AIDS and the support to those living with HIV and AIDS.

The EWC would like to thank all DFA employees for their participation,

and would like to thank Public Diplomacy and especially Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe for making this a special occasion.

The following National Prayer dedicated to all those touched by HIV and AIDS was read during the event:

“We ask for your special blessing on all those infected by AIDS

Show your great love to those in need as they

Remember their loved ones who have died of HIV and AIDS.

Provide strength to those caring for the sick and the needy.

Help us build a healthy, loving and supportive Nation”.

Remember, we may not be all infected but we are certainly all affected. It is important to work together to eradicate the stigma around HIV and AIDS.

*Employee Wellness Centre
(EWC)*

Where were u ...?

