



March 2008

dfa **Now**

Your voice to be heard



For more turn to page 7: Media briefing by Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad

President Thabo Mbeki and First Lady Zanele Mbeki with their Indian counterparts President Manmohan Singh and First Lady Gursharan Kaur

DEAR COLLEAGUES

The March issue of DFA Now lead with President Thabo Mbeki's Commonwealth Day message. In his message the President emphasises the importance of climate change and the impact thereof on development, especially in Africa. Deputy Minister Pahad's media briefing give us the usual political background to keep us up to date on international events, impacting on South Africa and seeking our involvement. We also carry the three contributions from our missions. Switzerland reports on the visit my Minister Dlamini Zuma, while Namibia report back on their successful hosting of South Africa Week in Windhoek. The mission in Brazzaville gives us some insight into the developments at their mission, celebrating its third year of existence in 2008.

We trust that you enjoy this issue. As it is the norm please don't forget that we rely on your assistance in meeting the printing deadline. Therefore, in future to ensure the DFA Now is released on time please assist us by meeting the submission deadline for articles. Please forward your letters and articles to the Editor before the deadline.

Happy reading!

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Creative corner

photographs of power

photographs are not taken but given
yours too are the bounty of appreciation
from the womb you emerged as a bundle
to provide us with a radiant picture of a smile
yet we live in the gloomy days of tears
torn amid a world of hope and despair
everyday is a day of struggle
and your pictures are portraits
of the new international struggle
the power struggle for economic justice

your photographs are reminders
that you are born in a volatile terrain
where human life is threatened with extinction
as the human race is doomed by a deadly pandemic
you emerged from your photos to an angry world
where people's freedoms are castrated
by the so-called war on terror
where human dignity is curtailed
by the damning global apartheid
you are welcome to join
the power struggle for change
power is not given but taken

- Kaya Somgqeza
(28/07/07)

Commonwealth Day: Massage of President Thabo Mbeki

fronts the twin challenges of defeating the scourge of poverty and underdevelopment that continues to afflict billions in the countries of the South, and modifying life styles in the countries of the North, to reduce and eliminate the threat to the environment. The world community of nations has agreed that all of us have a shared but differentiated responsibility to protect the environment. While we sustain and accelerate the advance against poverty in the countries of the South, and continue to improve the standard of living in the countries of the North, we must, together, continuously address the challenge of the protection of the environment.

We in the Commonwealth can make a vital contribution to the achievement of the urgent goals encapsulated in the theme - "The Environment: Our Future" – if we adopt and implement policies that respond to this task practically. What we do must make the unequivocal statement that we are determined that Planet Earth will, forever, remain a place of domicile for the human species and all other animal and plant life which is our neighbour in the common habitat. Our celebration of Commonwealth Day 2008 will achieve real meaning only if, on this day, we renew our pledge that we will, at all times, act in a manner that says – to guarantee our future, we will protect the environment!

COMMONWEALTH DAY: MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI



President Thabo Mbeki

Our theme for 2008 is “The Environment - Our Future”

Each year when we celebrate Commonwealth Day, we strive to promote understanding of an important global issue. Our theme for 2008 is “The Environment - Our Future”. This was agreed at the last Heads of Government Meeting, held in Uganda, and incorporated in the Commonwealth Lake Victoria Climate Change Action Plan.

The environment is central to life

itself and is linked to such issues as climate change, sustaining biodiversity and conserving water resources. For our survival we rely on our soil resources for agriculture, on our fish resources for food, on our biodiversity for tourism, on herbs and medicinal plants for health care, to cite but a few examples. Environmental degradation poses a threat to all humanity, but has the most adverse impact on the poorest of the poor. The national economies of African countries rely mainly

on agriculture and on extraction of mineral and biological resources. On our continent, Africa, better environmental management is not just a matter of preserving our natural heritage. It is a matter of survival. Climate variations already pose a serious threat to livelihoods and economic development in much of our Continent, and are likely to be aggravated by climate change over the next few decades. Along with issues such as negative elements of globalisation, conflict and instability, and the burden of disease, environmental degradation is one of the major factors threatening the fragile progress in economic, social, and political development that many African countries have achieved over the past few decades.

What is needed now, and very urgently, is respect for the ecological processes that have made the planet our home. These processes shape the climate, cleanse the air and water, regulate water flows, recycle essential elements, regenerate the soil and enable ecosystems to renew themselves, giving all humanity the possibility to achieve sustainable utilisation of nature’s biodiversity. Together with raising awareness of the vulnerability of these processes, we also need to educate ourselves to use renewable resources such as cultivated land, wild and domesticated animal and plant species, forests, rangelands, and the marine and freshwater ecosystems in a sustainable manner. The depletion of non-renewable resources like minerals, oil, gas and coal must also be avoided. Their life must be extended for the benefit of future generations, while we also develop and use the necessary technologies to address the challenge of greenhouse-gas emissions. Recycling of used materials, more economic use of our resources and greater utilisation of renewable substitutes must constitute an important part of our armoury of responses. All these interventions are essential if the earth is to sustain billions more people in the future, continuing to give all humanity the possibility to enjoy a decent and improving quality of life. Humanity con-

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Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma in photograph 1, paying a courtesy call on former UNSG Mr Kofi Annan. 2, holding discussions with President Pascal Couchepin, the current President of Switzerland. 3, with her counterpart Mrs Michalene Calmy-Rey at a film show that depicted the plight of women in many parts of the world, commemorating International Women's Day. 4, speaking at the official opening of a trade investment road show under the banner, "Business Opportunities in SA"

Minister's official visit to Switzerland



Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Calmy Rey signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Strengthening of Mutual Cooperation, Geneva

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr NC Dlamini Zuma visited Switzerland from 6 to 10 March 2008 to further consolidate existing political, economic, scientific and social relations between South Africa and Switzerland. The Minister's visit coincided with the commemoration of International Women's Day, which was celebrated in various parts of the country, and the Minister was privileged to join her counterpart Mrs Michalene Calmy-Rey at a film show that depicted the plight of women in many parts of the world. On the 8th March 2008 Minister Dlamini Zuma held bilateral discussions with the Swiss Federal Councilor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Calmy Rey, in Geneva. The meeting between the two Ministers focused, amongst, others on the evaluation and review of the bilateral relations between the two countries. The issues that received attention during the meeting included the following:

- Status of political bilateral relations
- Trade and Investment relations
- Progress with regard EFTA/SACU Agreement
- Development cooperation i.e. trilateral cooperation
- Cooperation at multilateral level
- Cooperation on Women Rights issues

At the conclusion of the bilateral discussions, the two Ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Strengthening of Mutual Cooperation. The MoU provides the basis for further collaboration in a number of areas that are geared to benefit the peoples of both counties. The Minister also paid a courtesy call on the former United Nations (UN) Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan in Geneva. During the visit the Minister also met with the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms Arbour. Before concluding her five day visit to Switzerland on 10th March

2008, Minister Dlamini Zuma officially opened the Trade and Investment Road show organized by the South African Embassy in Bern in collaboration with Mr Hajo Leutenegger, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Canton Zug. The theme of the event was called; "Business Opportunities in South Africa," to encourage potential investors to consider South Africa as the destination of choice.

Dr Anna Mokgokong, Chairperson of SEDA was invited as the guest speaker at the same event to share perspectives from the private sector point of view on the Trade and Investment environment in South Africa. Ms Sybil Rhomberg from the Capital Goods Expert Council was also one of the speakers. The Road show brought together Swiss captains of industry with interest in investing and those who already have operations in South Africa.

Excerpts of the Minister's speech:

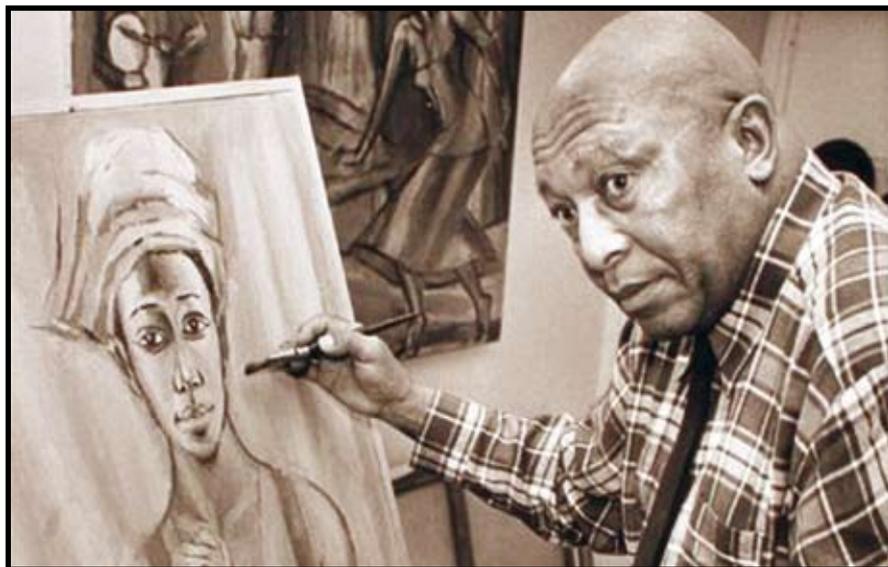
"In the past 14 years since South Africa saw the end of apartheid, our country has developed into an open free economy, which has undergone fundamental changes and unprecedented growth. South Africa offers political and macroeconomic stability with a highly developed infrastructure, abundant in raw materials and a sophisticated financial sector, with a steadily increasing industrial and services sector. These make South Africa an attractive business destination. South Africa is seen in a continental perspective as the engine for growth for the rest of Africa.

Switzerland ranks as 7th on the list of Trade and Investment partners with South Africa with more than 150 Swiss companies employing about 30 000 South Africans, besides the long established multinationals an increasing number of small and medium sized enterprises have opened businesses in South Africa in recent years."

South Africa week in Windhoek, Namibia

The High Commission hosted a very successful week full of South African culture from 9 to 13 March 2008. It was decided that although Namibia is a direct neighbour and Namibians are frequently travelling to South Africa, we should also enable those Namibians that do not have the means to travel to South Africa, to get a taste of what makes us South Africans proud. The Mission, in association with SAA, the Sun International Hotel Group, and with Nedbank as the main sponsor, brought the personal collection of the late Gerard Sekoto to the National Art Gallery of Namibia for an exhibition running up to 16 May 2008. The exhibition was opened by the Namibian Minister of Information and Broadcasting on 9 March 2008. The Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town made the collection available to the Mission.

The next day "Ladies in Jazz" a six member ladies' band from Tshwane had a capacity audience on their feet at the National Theatre of Namibia. The Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources indicated that he was amazed by these six talented ladies and that they should definitely return to Namibia as they were excellent ambassadors for South African culture. During the week, the Kalahari Sands Hotel hosted a South African Food Festival and on the 11 March, the High Commissioner hosted a selected group of guests to taste real South African delicacies, such as mo-



The late Gerard Sekoto

pani worms, tripe, bobotie and koeksisters. Saxenburg wine estate kindly sponsored their excellent wines for the evening. Both the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources as well as the Deputy Minister of Sport and Culture attended the dinner.

On 12 March a South African fashion designer, Palesa Mokubung showcased her designs also to a capacity audience. The Deputy Minister of Education as well as a few other ladies immediately placed orders from Palesa. Once again Saxenburg sponsored the evening with a cheese and wine to end off on a high note. The Week ended with a Women's Dialogue with the General Manager of South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), Ms Girlie Njoni as the

main speaker. The Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare as well as her Deputy and the Deputy Minister of Health also took part in the discussion "Women unite in Action and Act in Unity for Development". Women, mostly from grassroots level showed much interest in working closer with women in South Africa and also forming a Namibian Women in Dialogue (NAWID).

The week of the events as well as those following saw the Mission gaining wide coverage in the media and thus definitely succeeded in sharing with Namibians what makes South Africa tick. The Mission was also very happy to have the SA Soccer under 20 Amajitas playing against their Namibian counterparts on 8 March 2008 in Windhoek.





Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with her African and Indian counterparts at the Indian-Africa Forum Summit

Media briefing by Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad



We commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the murder of the outstanding leader and patriot Chris Hani. We therefore use this occasion to convey our prayers and best wishes to his wife Dimpho Hani and his family. It's a day on which South Africans must recall his life and emulate leadership, his value systems and what contribution he made to the struggle. Our country needs outstanding leaders of this stature.

Heads of Mission meeting Africa and Europe

A meeting of the Heads of Mission of the 66 Missions in Africa and Europe combined will be held from 11 – 13 April 2008 in Vienna, Austria. The agenda will include thematic debates on the relations between Africa and the EU, peace and security on the African continent and the South Africa – EU strategic partnership. A workshop will also be held on the 2010 World Cup.

Africa – India Partnership Summit

South African President Thabo Mbeki on Wednesday 9 April 2008 concluded his official visit to India where he led a senior South African government delegation to the inaugural Africa – India Partnership Summit scheduled from Tuesday – Wednesday 8-9 April 2008. President Mbeki's delegation included Mrs Zanele Mbeki, Foreign Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Trade and Industry Minister Mandisi Mphahlele, South Africa's High Commissioner to India Francis Moloi as well as South Africa's Ambassador to Ethiopia Chris Pepani. President Thabo Mbeki and Heads of State and Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tanzania and Nigeria as well as Chair of the African Union Commission Alpha Konare participated alongside Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the Summit that considered the mo-

dalities to strengthen the cooperation ties between Africa and India.

Accordingly, the Summit agreed that co-operation between India and Africa would be strengthened in the following areas:

- Economic co-operation through agriculture, trade industry and investment, small and medium-scale enterprises, finance and regional integration;
- Political co-operation through peace and security as well as civil society and governance initiatives;
- Science, technology, research and development through science and technology, information and communication technology programmes;
- Co-operation in social development and capacity building in the field of education, health, water and sanitation, culture and sports, and poverty eradication;
- Tourism;
- Infrastructure, energy and environmental issues;
- Media and communication

SA - Mozambique Heads of State Bilateral Economic Forum

President Thabo Mbeki will on Friday 11 April 2008 pay an official visit to Mozambique for the Heads of State Bilateral Economic Forum. The Heads of State Bilateral Economic Forum allows the Presidents of both countries to preside over the review of progress made with regards to strategic projects between the two counties. The Forum further serves as a platform for reinforcing bilateral economic relations between South Africa and Mozambique. Relations between South Africa and Mozambique are very close, underpinned by the growing ties in trade, investment, tourism, migration and security. South Africa has emerged as the main trading partner for Mozambique and its main source of foreign direct investments. The creation of a transport and development corridor (i.e. Maputo Development Corridor) linking the port of Maputo with South Africa's industrial heartland symbolises the importance of these bilateral ties. The extent of economic relations between the two countries warranted the creation of a Heads of State Bilateral Economic Forum in 1997, which is meant to convene on a regular basis (at least twice a year) and preside over strategic projects between the two countries. Furthermore, a Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC), which was entered into in 1994, serves as a framework of co-operation for all line-function departments between the two countries. Discussions between the South African and Mozambican Heads of State are likely to include: Trade and industry issues; Tourism and environmental issues; Finance issues; Minerals and energy issues; Transport and communication issues; Agricultural issues, and Migration issues

Total exports by South Africa to Mozambique in 2007 (up to November) were valued at over R8 billion. South Africa imported goods from Mozambique to the value at over R2 billion in the same period. This showed a dramatic improvement for Mozambican exports to South Africa from R318 590 000 in 2006 to over R 2 billion in 2007; an increase of more than

600 percent. South Africa's exports to Mozambique have continued to grow as well moving from just over 6 billion to more than 8 billion; a growth of more than 25 percent.

South African Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka pays official visit to the Republic of Ireland

The South African Deputy President, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, supported by Deputy Foreign Minister, Ms Sue van der Merwe, on conclusion of her official visit to The Netherlands, is paying an official visit to Ireland, scheduled from 9 -10 April 2008. Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka is hosted by her Irish counterpart, Prime Minister Mr Bertie Ahern. The Deputy President and her delegation visit Ireland within the context of consolidating and expanding South Africa's special relations with Ireland. The visit further strengthens existing co-operation with Ireland on Government's Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGI-SA), and Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA). Discussions between Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka and Prime Minister Ahern on Wednesday 9 April 2008 were expected to include, among others: The status of bilateral political, and economic relations between the two countries as well as Africa and the European Union in general; Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT); SMME 's Development; Expanding South Africa's manufacturing base; and Co-operation in the agro-industry.

Whilst in Ireland, the Deputy President and her delegation also attended a business meeting arranged by Sir Anthony O'Reilly with captains of Irish business.

Ireland's development assistance to South Africa amounts to about Euro 11 million, annually. Irish Aid is mainly focused on five priority areas: Education, where the assistance is mainly channelled into capacity building; Health, HIV/AIDS; Water Supply and Sanitation; as well as Good Governance, Democracy and Human Rights.

In 2006, Ireland made a contribution of Euro 800 000 to South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission for their work in the DRC. Ireland also has a military presence of about 430 personnel in Liberia as part of UNMIL, the largest such deployment by a western European country to a UN mandated Peace Keeping Operation in Africa.

Minister Dlamini Zuma to hold bilateral discussions with Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs Ursula Plassnik

South African Foreign Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma will visit Vienna, Austria from Wednesday-Saturday 9-13 April 2008 where she is scheduled to hold bilateral political, economic and trade discussions with the Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs Ursula Plassnik on Friday 11 April 2008.

The meeting between Ministers Dlamini Zuma and Plassnik will be held ahead of the Europe Africa Regional Heads of Mission (HOM) Conference, which will take place from Saturday-Sunday 12-13 April 2008 in Vienna. Minister Dlamini Zuma will hold discussions with Minister Plassnik within the context of South Africa's priority to strengthen relations with countries of the North with a view to consolidating the African developmental agenda. In this regard discussions between the two Ministers will include amongst others: Overview of bilateral relations between South Africa and Austria; the African Agenda; and Multilateral issues.

Nepad Review Summit

South African President Thabo Mbeki will attend the NEPAD Review Summit which will take place in Dakar, Senegal, on 15 April 2008.

The NEPAD Secretariat prepared a concept paper for the NEPAD Review Summit. The way forward as stated in the concept paper is indicative of overcoming the weaknesses within NEPAD, as well as enhancing the successes of NEPAD. This includes the following:

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Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma at the United Nations

- Consolidating and widening ownership and leadership of NEPAD at all levels;
- Ensuring more effective engagement and participation by all stakeholders, particularly civil society, and private sector as well as parliamentarians;
- Mobilising domestic resources by encouraging production, fighting waste and corruption, promoting better resource control and management, initiating productive projects, and encouraging savings;
- Continuing advocacy for expanded and substantial debt relief, increases in direct foreign investment, improved terms of trade and greater access to the markets of industrialised countries including the removal of distorting tariff and non-tariff barriers;
- Establishing implementation networks between member states and RECs; and identifying targeted regional and national programmes and ensure predictable and sustainable financing mechanism to sustain coordination;
- Strengthening regional integration particularly through enhanced investment in infrastructure (given the role the latter plays in this matter);
- Expanding inter-African trade to consolidate African regional markets;
- Branding of NEPAD to facilitate the tracking of its activities and impact;
- Strengthening the institutional and human capacities of RECs to fulfil

their mandates in implementing NEPAD;

- Ensuring wider participation in the APRM; and
- Strengthening NEPAD in all dimensions.

SA Presidency – UN Security Council

South Africa is holding the rotating monthly Presidency of the United Nations Security Council during April 2008. In this capacity, South Africa is responsible for helping to prepare the agenda of the Council for the month in consultation with other Council members, chairing meetings of the Security Council, help guide the Council to decisions on a range of issues on its agenda and act as the Council's official contact point for other UN Member States, the media and civil society. The Presidency also offers an opportunity to promote a theme that is of particular regional or national importance.

The theme of South Africa's first Presidency of the Security Council in March 2007 was: "The relationship between the UN and regional organisations – and in particular the African Union – in terms of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter". A decision was taken at that time to carry this theme through for the duration of South Africa's two-year term on the Council. Consequently, the same theme holds for our

Presidency of the Council this month. In an effort to consolidate complementary themes relevant to Africa that are explored in the Security Council, South Africa is also linking the topic of cooperation between the UN and the African Union to the issue of conflict resolution in Africa.

Two special events are planned for this month in this regard:

Firstly, President Mbeki has extended invitations to Heads of State and Government of those countries i.) that currently serve on the UN Security Council ii) that are members of the AU Peace and Security Council and iii) African countries that are on the agenda of the UNSC to an open debate to be held on 17 April 2008 at the UN Security Council Chambers in New York. On 16 April 2008, the UN Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council will hold a joint meeting, at ambassadorial level, in New York.

Security Council Summit on 16 April:

The meeting of the Security Council that President Mbeki will chair on 17 April will see a continuation of this discussion, but at a higher political level and inside the Council chambers in the presence of the wider UN membership. African countries that are on the agenda of the Security Council will be afforded an opportunity to share their impressions of the UN and AU's conflict prevention and resolution efforts and the general UN membership will reflect on how best to strengthen cooperation between the UN and regional organisations.

Other issues on the agenda of the Security Council for April 2008:

The mandates of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), which helps to support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the North and South, and the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) will expire and are subject to renewal. South Africa strongly supports the mandates of both missions and hopes to see them renewed. With regard to Sudan, the Security Council will also be closely monitoring the situation in Darfur and the status of deployment of

the UN/AU mission (UNAMID). The international community continues to be concerned about the situation in Darfur and attaches great importance to the full deployment of UNAMID. South Africa is of the view that more needs to be done to support the Middle East peace process and is concerned by the Security Council's lack of response to recent developments in that region. The Security Council will also receive briefings from the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on the UN Missions to Georgia and Kosovo.

AFRICA

Zimbabwe elections

The South African Government joins the entire international community in expressing its congratulations to the people of Zimbabwe for the peaceful environment in which the recent elections for the Presidential, House of Assembly, Senate and Local Government were held. In this regard, we join the international community in expressing our congratulations to President Thabo Mbeki for the work done, under the SADC mandate, to help create a climate conducive for the holding of these elections (through facilitation of discussions between ZANU-PF and the two MDC factions) to create conditions to ensure that the outcomes would not be contested. Accordingly, and in response to the official announcement of the House of Assembly, Senate and Local Government elections, we congratulate all political parties for their performance in these elections. South Africa has noted the Preliminary Report of the majority of the members of the SADC Observer Mission that "Despite the concerns raised before the elections, the mission evaluated and observed that the basic conditions for a free, peaceful and credible election were there and that the results of these elections were a credible expression of the will of the majority of the people of Zimbabwe. " In this regard, we take cognisance of the recommendations of the SADC Observer Mission that "there is need for some changes in the electoral process in Zimbabwe so that there is equal access to state media by all political parties, voter education and the

decisions made must be published. Accordingly we express the hope that the relevant Zimbabwean authorities will indeed act upon this and other recommendations, as part of efforts to strengthen institutions of democracy in their country."

It is important that the expressed will of the people is respected. The ZEC should explain the delay in the announcement of the results. This will calm the situation and ease the tensions. The MDC has gone to court to get the ZEC to release the results of the presidential ballot and judgement has been reserved until Monday 14 April 2008.

ZANU-PF is contesting the results in several wards and some ZEC officials have been arrested. Mr Tsvangirai's visit to South Africa [he met with the President of the ANC and Minister Mufamadi]. He also visited Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. An Extra-Ordinary Summit of SADC will be held in Zambia on Saturday the 12th of April 2008 to deal with developments in Zimbabwe.

Kenya

South Africa has noted recent developments in Kenya and expresses its concern about the reports of renewed violence with serious consequences on the lives of ordinary people of Kenya. Kenya is a key player in the region and the continent, and a peaceful, stable and prosperous Kenya is a sine quo non for Africa's future. In this regard, we appeal to the main political protagonists in Kenya, to act in the letter and spirit of the agreement facilitated by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and reach an agreement around the constitution of the cabinet, in the best interests of Kenya, and to avoid any further destabilisation in Kenya.

Sudan

Darfur - UN and African Union Envoys Begin New Round of Consultations. Jan Eliasson of the UN and Salim Ahmed Salim of the AU are scheduled to meet in Khartoum with Sudan's chief

negotiator on the Darfur issue, according to Nafie al-Nafie; the former rebel and the current senior assistant to the President, Minni Minawi; and Foreign Minister Deng Alor. Talks will then be held in Juba with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Repairing relations between Sudan and its neighbour Chad are a prerequisite to resolving the crisis engulfing Darfur. Eliasson and Mr. Salim will hold consultations from 15 to 20 April with those movements in Darfur that have not signed previous key peace accord and with representatives of civil society.

UNAMID Intensifies Political Dialogue with Government

Joint Special Representative of the UN/AU Mission in Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, held a series of high-level talks with Sudanese officials, to coordinate activities and maintain the momentum of processes that aim at creating a stable atmosphere conducive of meaningful peace talks and better security on the ground. Discussion revolved around the status of deployment of the UNAMID troops. The coming two months are expected to witness the deployment of additional military personnel from Egypt and Ethiopia. Equipment for the Egyptian troops has already arrived and is being transported to designated locations in Darfur. An advanced force of approximately 90 is already on the ground, and the remaining troops should follow soon.

Normalisation between Chad and Sudan, within the context of the Dakar Agreement.

A meeting to follow-up on the implementation of the agreement is due to take place in Libreville, Gabon, on 10 April 2008.

Joint Special Representative for Darfur is expected to fly to New York to participate in a joint meeting between the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council on Africa, on 16 April 2008.

SA Embassy Brazzaville: 3 Year Commemoration



1. President Thabo Mbeki and President Denis Sassou N'Guesso (State Visit, November 2005)

2. Mrs Zanele Mbeki and Mrs Antoinette Sassou-N'Guesso (First Ladies, State Visit 2005)

3. (from right to left) Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sue va der Merwe, Minister Mandisi Mpahlwa and Ambassador WG Makanda (State Visit November 2005)

4. Congolese traditional dancers

This year commemorates three years since the SA Embassy, Republic of Congo (RoC) was opened in July 2005 and HE Welsh Makanda was appointed as Ambassador. During this period and through the hard work, effective, professional, committed, dedicated and dynamic Leadership of HE Makanda and his team the Embassy has established lasting bonds and synergies with the Republic of Congo which lend impetus to the Mission's dealings in the pursuit of programs which drive, accentuate and enhance the African Agenda of building a solid African unity, of structuring a self-reliant, proud, dignified, responsible, disciplined, prosperous African continent founded on universalistic and sustainable values of freedom, democracy, humanitarian principles and justice. In this period, various activities have been hosted by the Embassy including SA Week. High profile visits have taken place through the initiative of the

Embassy including, visits by President Mbeki, First Lady Zanele Mbeki, Ministers of Foreign Affairs Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Transport Minister Jeff Radebe, Trade and Industry Minister Mandisi Mpahlwa, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sue van der Merwe amongst others. During this time a Memorandum of Cooperation between PetroSA and SNPC (Societe Nationale du Petrole du Congo) was signed.

In pursuit of SA's foreign policy objectives, the Mission's focus during this period has been to break down the colonial legacy of artificial barriers dividing the two countries erstwhile Anglophone and Francophone geopolitical communities and develop an energetic intercourse which maximises commonalities and weave a complimentary tapestry with the countries diversities. In this regard various agreements have been signed. The Embassy is pursuing a number of projects in various sectors including mining, hospitality, Congo Port

development, agriculture, student exchange, trade, business, youth leadership dialogue, and rural and social development amongst others. The Embassy is also looking at the exploration of areas of cooperation in skills transfer and development, and the formation of joint ventures which have a beneficial social impact on the countries' broad impoverished masses. These include the student exchange/ internship programme with, the establishment of a Business Forum between South Africa and RoC Business. A conference and a visit to Congo by SA Business people is planned for end July in this regard.

Following from the previous Senior Officials Meeting, the Embassy is organising workshops on agriculture, skills development, social and rural development to be held in South Africa for the officials of the RoC. South Africa is to share and exchange experience with the RoC and also learn from each other's experience. The

first Workshop will be held in South Africa, Pretoria on 31 June- 2 July 2008 hosted by JIPSA, on Skills development. Officials from the Department of Youth Affairs, from the RoC will attend this workshop and also conduct meetings with various Youth Structures. In addition, the Embassy in Partnership with the Department of Agriculture (RoC) is working on a project on Investing in Agriculture, RoC. This will involve exchange of expertise and identification of areas for investment (RoC) in the agricultural sector. A delegation from Agri-SA (Agriculture South Africa), will be visiting the RoC and RoC officials will attend a workshop on agriculture in South Africa. Both countries have potential for a broad spectrum of cooperation in various sectors, such as financial institutions, science and technology, security and crime prevention, maritime cooperation to protect our naval interests and our sea resources, etc. To this end, in addition to agreements already signed in 2005, the Embassy is currently negotiating an extended network of protocols and Agreements as part of an institutional framework within which to forge closer bonds. Agreements on Transport, Youth, and Sports cooperation are expected to be signed during the coming SOM (26 May), JCC (27-29 May) scheduled to take place in Pretoria this year.

It is worth mentioning that the SA Embassy (RoC) and MTN (RoC) have recently agreed on a partnership to promote 2010 in the Republic of Congo. Various activities are planned for the years 08-09 to market, popularise and promote 2010 including local soccer and volley ball tournaments, concerts, exhibitions, a fashion show etc. Discussions are underway, regarding the first planned event (SA wine promotion) scheduled to take place end July.

It is also important to make mention of the fact that the Embassy in partnership with the RoC, Ministry of Youth will commemorate Youth Day by hosting a Youth Leadership Conference in Brazzaville. Discussions will also include the formation of the

Republic of Congo (RoC) - Republic of SA (RSA) Youth Leadership Forum/ Dialogue and the possible MoU on Youth Cooperation. This is critical to South Africa's foreign policy objectives, our commitment to Africa, growing inter/ intra regional relations, our vision of a united and prosperous Africa. This is imperative to the strategic role, participation, interaction and contribution of youth to Africa's developmental process. This initiative will create a platform where youth leaders of South Africa and the RoC, Institutions and Departments that deal with Youth development, exchange and formulate ideas on the African Agenda. It is important to note that the AU has developed a policy Framework in the form of the African Youth Charter, which prescribes responsibilities to member states for the development of youth. A platform like this therefore contributes to the great strides that have already been taken in breaking down the barriers to achieve the AU/ NEPAD objectives. To commemorate Women's Day the Embassy will host a conference on the strategic role of African women to Africa's development on 9 August 2008. This conference will also serve as a platform where women of the RoC and South Africa share issues of common interest on the developmental agenda of the continent and challenges thereof. On 24 September (Heritage Day) the SA Embassy will host the first cultural and heritage event. South African arts and craft will be exhibited. This event seeks to promote and market South Africa's rich diverse cultural heritage, cultural tourism and as a tourism destination. It also seeks to promote cultural exchange between the people of the RoC and South Africa, and also to create relations between the Traditional Leaders of both countries.

The Embassy is looking forward to celebrate the 3rd National Day this year. Since the opening of the Embassy we are proud of flying the South African flag high in our host country. We are looking forward to pursue South Africa's foreign policy objectives with the same spirit, vigour, dedication and commitment in the years to come.

Window into Languages: French

English

1. Good morning
2. Good evening
3. Hello
4. I am _____
5. My name _____
6. I am a diplomat
7. I am South African
8. I am from South Africa
9. Thank you
10. Goodbye

French

1. Bonjour
2. Bonsoir
3. Salut
4. Je suis _____
5. Je m'appelle _____
6. Je suis diplomate
7. Je suis sud africain
8. Je suis de l'Afrique du Sud
9. Merci
10. Au revoir

Where were you..?

