



May 2007

dfa **Now**

Your voice to be heard



**Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with
Deputy Minister Ms Sue van der Merwe during
the DFA Budget Vote 2007**

DEAR COLLEAGUES

Welcome to the DFA Now.

The month of May was another high-activity month for the Department, with the Minister's budget vote address to Parliament as the highlight. The presentations by both our Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe have set the tone for the Department's planned activities for the year 2007/08. Let us all familiarise ourselves with the subject matter of these addresses to ensure that we put all our efforts towards the achievement of the correct objectives.

With the intention of keeping you updated, the DFA Now brings you the coverage of these and other Departmental milestones.

Please remember that in order to meet the deadline in the future and release the DFA Now on good time please assist us by meeting the deadline for the submission of articles. Please assist us by forwarding your letters and articles to the Editor before the deadline.

Happy reading!

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Our Mission in Pictures (Berne)



Did you know?

Information about government services is now available in all 11 South African official languages at www.services.gov.za. The website is a single source of information offered at national government level. The information includes services for individuals, organizations and foreign nationals.



Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Mandisi Mphahlele and his counterpart Mrs Doris Leuthard, the Federal Councillor (Minister) for Economy in Switzerland during later's official visit to South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA-SWISS BILATERAL RELATIONS: SWISS MINISTER LEUTHARD 'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, 7-9 MAY 2007

South Africa's relations with Switzerland have once again been lifted to yet another level when a high level delegation of Swiss government and business undertook an official visit to South Africa from 7 to 9 May 2007. The delegation was led by the Federal Councillor (Minister) for the Economy, Mrs Doris Leuthard, who travelled to South Africa at the invitation of her South African counterpart, Mr. Mphahlele, Minister for Trade and Industry, and had a number of meetings with various other South African Ministers.

The two Ministers reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the areas of trade and investment. As a further expression of confidence in doing business in South Africa, Mrs Leuthard utilised the opportunity to launch the Swiss Business Hub in South Africa. Similarly, Mr

Umbricht, the chair of the Swiss Southern Africa Chamber also gave an indication that his organisation is considering opening its own chapter in South Africa.

The visit comes at the time when South Africa and Switzerland are working to increase their level of interaction on all levels. There has since been a number of high level visits between the two countries in which various areas of cooperation were identified. Amongst others, at the beginning of this year President Mbeki visited Switzerland to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF) that was held in Davos. Political bilateral discussions were held between the President and Madame Calmy Rey, the current President of Switzerland.

The visiting Swiss delegation also met with the Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel and at the conclusion of the meeting, a

Non-Double Taxation Agreement was signed. An updated bilateral Air Services Agreement was also signed with the Minister of Transport, Jeffery Radebe, to further expand the areas of cooperation between the countries.

The Minister of Education, Naledi Pandor as well South Africa Women Business Association also met with the Swiss delegation.

During her final leg of the visit, Mrs Leuthard met with Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and the issue of skills development was identified as an area in which the two countries could cooperate.

Furthermore Switzerland is noted for having among the best hotel schools in the world and the opportunity for South African hospitality students to receive further training in Switzerland was considered. With re-

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DFA TAKE A GIRL-CHILD TO WORK BRINGS LEARNERS TO THE UNION BUILDINGS

The Chief Directorate: Gender recently hosted the annual Take a Girl Child to Work programme on Thursday, May 24 at the Union Building. The overall theme for the event linked with one of our key DFA priority areas: the consolidation and growth of the African Agenda. The focus of this event, sought to elicit the perspective of South African girl-children on the future of Africa as a continent that is entering a new age of hope, growth and prosperity, and the specific agenda of vulnerable groups like the Girl-Child in shaping our thinking around that agenda. The event was attended by 67 girl-children, and as always, we also invited Kgomoetso and Saulridge High School respectively from Atteridgeville and Soshanguve to participate.

We invited our girl children in Grades 11 and 12 of our officials from our missions and Head office to participate, and we are pleased to report that the day was a wonderful success. A very warm thank you to all of our staff and transferred officials who supported this event. It was clear from the entries received from the learners of DFA staff that they had internalised quite a bit of information around the context of the work that their parents perform at DFA! The judging panel was very impressed with the depth, in some cases, of the contributions of the learners around the importance of Africa, the growth of the African Agenda, and the role of the girl-child within that growth. We can say with confidence that our learners have an appreciation of what it means to be a South African Girl-Child in Africa and we invite you to read the winning entries and judge for yourself...

Winning Essays/Poems in no particular order:



A GIRL-CHILD IN 2020

**By Akhona Gubevu
Grade 11, Pretoria Girls High**

A life for a girl-child in South Africa will be filled with peace and harmony. Many opportunities will be open to them in the year 2020. Our second South African Woman President will be inaugurated by 2020.

In the year 2020 a girl child will not have to worry about discrimination or being discriminated against, not just on her colour but also her culture, tradition, religion and beliefs. There will be gender equality. She will not have to feel marginalized because she is a girl that she is weaker than man mentally and physically. The girl-child in South Africa will have full access to education. She won't have to worry how much it will cost, because she can go to school regardless of her social status.

Every girl-child will lead healthy lives not based on how much she weights, but on how she takes care of herself. Girls need to be taught at an early age that beauty is within. They have to take good care and love their bodies unconditionally, and if they nurture and present themselves their inner beauty will radiate and they will flourish. They will learn to fall in love with the person they see in the

mirror. When a child sees how beautiful she is, then she will see that everyone around her is also beautiful.

A girl-child should have a loving home with parents. Not every child has both parents but they should not be restricted from having a roof over their head. A girl-child will be living in a home filled with love from everyone. No girl-child will roam around the streets or will have to beg for food by 2020. They will be fed because a well fed child will be nourished and a nourished body means better mentality. A girl-child who is frequently fed will have strength to go to school and be educated and be a better person.

Opportunities will be open for most of them but it will be their choice to decide or choose their career. That is the beauty of this nation. The girl-child will go to school to learn the basics about life and decide what to do with the knowledge she gained.

There is so much diversity in cultures, traditions and race in South Africa. Every girl-child will experience other girl's traditions, cultures, etc. Every girl-child has something to be proud of about her country. No girl-child will feel inferior. Our cuisine in South Africa is something spectacular. I wouldn't blame any girl-child to have a little bit of a guilty pleasure when it comes to Mzantsi's cuisine. We have every kind of food for every kind of girl-child. We have boerevors for meisies, umnqa for iintombi, koeksisters for coloured sisters and morogo for banyana. The girl-child in South Africa will prosper and enrich her life bring hope for other young girls and her country too. Doors will be open, diversity shared among each other.



GRANDCHILD OF MY MOTHER

By Thapelo Moloto
Grade 11, Saulridge High School, Atteridgeville

There in the distance bells are ringing
Mothers and daughters are ululating
Fathers and sons are busy dancing
Birds are singing, bees are buzzing
And the sun is shining

It is a new day with new dreams
All darkness has gone with sleep
Get off your knees, lift your feet, run to the streets
And let the world know (about) the arrival of peace.

She has come to show us the light
She has arrived to be president not a housewife.
Only born in the middle of the night
She lives a life that brings a smile to everyone who sees this child,
Because she is independent and a CEO of a mine.

Feed her with endless amounts of hope
Give her equality to contribute to her growth
Clothe her with freedom, fairness and laughter
Allow her to breath in the air full of culture
For she is Affluent, Righteous and a Career of love
She is the grandchild of my mother
And she resides in AFRICA



AN AFRICAN GIRL

By: Thembisa Mpoza
Grade 11, Saulridge High School

She is the pride and the ride of Africa
She is a descendant of the deserts
She is of the struggle
She is the fruit of the African woman
Yes, she is the African girl

She holds her head highly between her shoulders
Like a rose among thorns
She creeps even to the heavens
Because she knows only the sky is the limit
She is the African daughter

She is gold dug from the dark soils of Africa
She is of humble spirit and courage
She is of what was foretold: the Promised Land
She is the crown of prosperity
No, she is not a mother she is an African girl

She sings hymns and rhymes but not of the struggle
She is a man yet a man can not be
She is strong but steel she is not
She shed a tear though tears not her emotions
She is the African girl child



Director-General Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba with the winners of the DFA writing competition



SOUTH AFRICA A PLACE OF HOPE AND PROSPERITY

By Tsatsawani Chauke
Grade 11, Hoerskool Voortrekkerhoogte

It is the year 2020, only three years after South Africa has finally been declared as a first world country. If you have not been to our beautiful country over the past ten years, you will get the shock of your life!

South Africa is a place for a girl child to be in, in the 21st century where she doesn't have to fear crime because South Africa's crime rate has dropped by 50% since 2010. The girl child is free to venture into any field of her choice; she is exposed to the world of education, opportunity and entertainment. The girl child is seen as equal by a boy child. More and more girl children are taking over their fathers businesses and it is a completely natural thing.

The girl child is seen as the next president, the greatest sports player, the care giver, the one with determination, hope and faith. In our country there is no discrimination, everyone is equal with equal opportunities. She is the one who brings awareness of our natural resources, our non-renewable resources and how beautiful our continent is. The girl child has a huge platform to work or play on. Our country has succeeded to make the girl child feel really at home. Africa, the sky is the limit for our girl children; no wait-there is no limit!

Boardrooms that were once filled with men will now be filled equally with women. Technology has developed our teaching and learning skills that our girl children are passing beyond average. The girl child in South Africa knows her rights, takes responsibility for them and stands up for them. Our girl children are free, free to talk, free to take opportunities and free to fulfil her dreams.

The girl child has found comfort in knowing that she is wanted, cared for and loved. Our girl children have showed us the hope of prosperity, equality for all, fairness, love and ubuntu. The girl child in South Africa doesn't wish to stay in America, because she has everything she needs and more in her own continent Africa. In our continent, the girl child is the heart and soul of the nation.

If a girl child think it is impossible to do something- let her come to South Africa. She will take the word can't out of her vocabulary, because our country is a country of hope, prosperity and alive with possibilities.



“THE LIFE OF A GIRL CHILD IN 2020...”

By Motlatsi Mabidilala
Grade 12, Kgomotso Comprehensive High School
Soshanguve

Fear has meant many things at different times. Once men feared wild animals; then he feared man-made objects, like aeroplanes. In the 21st Century he should fear a girl-child in 2020...

2007, entangled with poverty, negative attitudes, gender equality and hopelessness. I am an 18 year old girl in matric in a diverse continent called Africa, the same continent which is quoted as “...beautiful, regenerating and a continent with a lot of potential...” I reside in Soshanguve, a township outside Pretoria, which is situated in the core of South Africa. My country as quoted by President Thabo Mbeki as “...A country which is alive with possibility...”

When I hear this I often nod my head, thinking a lifetime of hard work I have lived yet one opportunity I am still thriving to retrieve. But everyday to thrive for what people would like is only a dream, I would partly agree with this statement, see they are correct but it's not only a dream it is a dream that has vision, hope and action, enough to make me a determined dreamer, not just a dreamer, operative word being determined.

I am thriving on one moment, which will allow me to feel dimity.

In that moment I want it all.

In that moment I have it all.

I have made the plans and if chance be put in my hand it shall not be freed.

In my moment I am free of all shenanigans, free of poverty, gender equality and negativity.

Hope is my driver and my background is my motivation because I am paving the way for all future girl-child's

One thing that has been exposed to me via the radio and newspapers is the ideology of a United Africa. With Africa day on peak this is much of relevancy, because we need to change the image of Africa, this being one way of removing a portrayal of a child with Kwoshikoe, standing on a muddy footpath with an empty dish in his hands. A girl-child that is not willing to talk because of her sexual abuser told her if she said a word about the events of their engagement she will die. Let us create a better and revolutionised Africa.

As the Department of Foreign Affairs of South-Africa the vision you carry is that our continent should be prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united which contributes to the world. Let us as civil society embody ourselves with such a vision for our continent. Further taking steps to ensure that measures are taken. Change begins when you personally become the change you want to see in the world.

An 18 year old, in Matric entangled with self belief, opportunity that are unstoppable, hope, fairness and prosperity. I live in Soshanguve in the year 2020 and I feel all immense opportunities that all girl-childs have, are also accessible to me. Somehow I don't feel that men are superior to me, I feel that all genders are equal, you see this is what I am surrounded with, people who want to better the lives of others.

There is so much the African continent is offering to me, and all girl-children. As a girl-child I feel that life in South Africa is not only alive with possibility but its alive with possibilities. I see the footprints of my post girl-sisters and realise they are strong pioneers, entrepreneurs and unstoppable ladies.

I realise my lifetime is made up off millions of moments and in my moments I am hopeful, prospering, dynamic and able. I can see that my life isn't only a hopeful dream but destiny. My future is so bright and right, that I know without any doubt or misconceptions. The way forward from where I am standing is merely splendid. Then I am reminded I am a South –African girl- child living in 2020...

Continue from pg 3 ...

spect to the Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGISA), the Deputy President indicated that in addition to Switzerland being ideally placed to assist candidates in the tourism sector, sectors such as the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, maintenance of infrastructure and the financial sector should be further explored.

It will be recalled that South Africa has recently been identified by the Swiss as one of their strategic partners outside the European Union. The visit by the Swiss Councillor for the Economy is yet another practical expression of the high esteem in which South Africa is held. Given its central location in Europe and fact that Switzerland ranks in the top ten



Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor A Manuel together with Mrs Doris Leuthard, the Federal Councillor (Minister) for Economy in Switzerland, signing a double taxation agreement in Pretoria

list of trading partners of South Africa, there is no doubt that South Africa will naturally

engage with Switzerland and play a pivotal role in the promotion of ASGISA and JIPSA objectives.

During the meetings between the Swiss business delegation and the Department of Trade and Industry those Swiss who have existing businesses in South Africa, presented a positive overview of the South African economic environment and embraced the South Africa's banking system, which

according to their evaluation is among the best worldwide.

The existing bilateral relations between South Africa and Switzerland are excellent, with particular reference to of our bilateral trade.

YOUTH MONTH



YOUTH DAY AND NATIONAL YOUTH MONTH PROGRAMME

What started as a class boycott by students of Orlando West High School on June 16th 1976, turned into a bloody confrontation between the minority government of South Africa and the young black revolutionists. The revolt ignited solidarity action in other parts of the country and the world, and quickly developed into a national strike by the youth, demanding that apartheid be replaced by a democratic government. These unprecedented events in Soweto and other parts of South Africa became significant milestones in the development of the liberation struggle and the youth day commemoration as we have come to know it today.

This year, all the activities surrounding the youth month was conducted under the theme "Deepening youth participation in development through service". The theme also serves as a national call to all our youth to act in concert with all South Africans as we renew our pledge in the national quest to build a better life for all.

MINISTERIAL YOUTH IMBIZO

The Minister in the Presidency, Dr Essop Pahad, officially launched the Youth Development Month programme at a Ministerial Imbizo held in Lejweleputswa District Municipality (Hertzogville) in the Free State on Sunday, 3 June 2007. In attendance were young people from various sub-sectors including youth with disability, young women and other youth from minority groups.

The National Youth Commission, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 31st anniversary of National Youth Day, acknowledged that a lot has been achieved, but challenges still lies ahead. Unemployment amongst the youth has been identified as a problem followed by limited access to education and exposure to an unhealthy environment due to poverty. It also acknowledged that government has put in place a number of interventions to address these challenges which include the rollout of learnerships, recruitment of unemployed youth into the Expanded Public Works Programme, and other opportunities arising out of the build-up towards the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

The Youth Programme commenced with various activities conducted under the auspice of the Provincial Youth Commissions in all nine provinces. Amongst others these activities included the anticipated participation of President Thabo Mbeki in addressing a rally on Youth Day, June 16th at the ABSA Stadium in the Buffalo City District Municipality (East London) were more than 20 000 young people was expected to attend.

President Thabo Mbeki also convened a PYWG (Presidential Youth Working Group) where Government interact with youth leadership on matters of national importance including the rollout of the National Youth Service programme.

A Youth Festival took place in Mdantsane's Sisa Dukashe stadium, Eastern Cape, on 14-15 June 2007 where a Youth Volunteer Mobilisation programme towards 2010 was unveiled with the Department of Sport and Recreation and the 2010 Local Organising Committee. Working with local youth structures, young people, from the ranks of the unemployed to school pupils, was encouraged to avail themselves to do

volunteer work in activities that lead up to the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

The Presidential National Commission on Information Society and Development (PNC on ISAD) exposed the youth to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) opportunities at Mdantsane Indoor Sports Center. A Youth Hub on ICT was set up where officials shared information with youth on various careers in the ICT industry.

The Department of Trade and Industry has also committed to set up an Economic Participation Hub to inform youth on the opportunities this Department provides through their agencies. The intention is to empower youth so that they can participate in the SMME sector and other opportunities presented by national interventions such as the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa.

As part of creating awareness and upscaling the National Youth Service programme, a National Youth Service Hub was set up with Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the National Youth Service Unit in the Sports Centre.

The Youth Development Month will be concluded with the inaugural sitting and the launch of the Youth Development Forum to be chaired by Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and the NYC Chairperson, Nomi Nkondlo. The aim of the forum is to accelerate the involvement of the private sector companies in youth development. The Youth Social Dialogue programme will also continue where youth will debate strategies to promote social cohesion in our communities. The outcomes of these discussions will feed into our evolving youth development agenda.

All the activities will ensure that youth formations continue to play a key role in mobilising our youth to participate in community development towards the alleviation and total eradication of poverty. As part of national Government the DFA supports all these initiative aimed at mobilising the youth to help themselves and for the youth to participate in the national drive to create a better life for all. In engaging other countries on the continent we share in the efforts meant to give all the youth of Africa opportunities to realise their true potential because today's youth are the leaders of tomorrow.

Information supplied by the National Youth Commission

Where were you..?

