



May 2008

Now

Your voice to be heard



MINISTER'S BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER STATE PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA

This year, 2008, marks the 90th birthday of that great icon, hero and leader of our people; Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Nelson Mandela continues to inspire hope in millions of our people as they struggle for a better life for all. In July the world will join us in celebrating a life that epitomises the triumph of humanity over adversity and the victory of the human spirit over the apartheid system – a crime against humanity.

Sithi halala Madiba! Ukhule uzukhokhobe. Wuyibekile induku ebandla! Usibuyisele isthunzi somuntu omnyama umhlaba jikelele!

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

CUSTOMARILY the Minister's presentation of the DFA Budget Vote to Parliament is the biggest event as it outlines the policy way-forward for the Department. For this reason it is important for all of us to familiarise ourselves with what the Minister said in her speech during May.

In this issue of the DFA Now we report back on the DFA's Budget Vote Gala Dinner. Furthermore, Deputy Minister Pahad's media briefing is covered and we have our second edition of Freedom Day Celebrations held all over the world by our Missions. We also have an in-depth Q&A with the Chief Directorate: Gender, and brings you the Minister's Speech at the opening of the revamped Protocol Lounge at the OR Tambo International Airport. The Language Unit keep us updated on the happenings in their environment and we have a note of thanks from the EWC.

We hope that you enjoy this informative issue. Please forward your letters and articles to the Editor before the deadline.

Happy Reading!

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Departmental Activities

AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL DAY is a day that is internationally commemorated on an annual basis. The Candle Light memorial Day took place on 20 May 2008, under the theme: Never give up; Never forget."

The mission of the Candle Light Memorial is to:

- Remember those that have passed on,
- Make others aware of HIV & AIDS,
- Urge leaders to make a difference,
- Break down the stigma and discrimination that are just as infectious and hazardous.

This Day has become an integral part of the Department's HIV and AIDS programme as it is used as a vehicle to create awareness on HIV and AIDS. This year, in addition to awareness creation, DFA employees participated in a community outreach activity and

Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the AIDS Candlelight Memorial 2008



donated clothes, toys and food parcels to the Siyafunda Haven and Day Care Centre in Soshanguve. A few colleagues accompanied the EWC team and the Peer Educators to hand over the parcels and commemorated the Day with the community of Siyafunda. The DFA team was humbled by the reception received from the Management of Siyafunda Day Care and the surrounding community members. We

all attended a brief and well organised memorial service for those who have passed away due to the effects of HIV & AIDS. The DFA donations were received with much delight.

To all of you who actively supported the course, you have indeed made a difference in other people's lives.

We would also like to thank those who heeded the EWC call to commemorate the Candle Light Memorial day in their Directorates and observed a moment of silence in remembrance of those who passed on due to the pandemic.

Last but not least, the EWC hereby acknowledges the two Learners, Nokuthula and Motshwanetse for their planning, energy and all efforts in ensuring the smooth running of the Day

Together we can do more.
Le ka moso. ▶

"Like all other patriots, we love our country and its peoples – all its peoples ..."

Opening of the State Protocol Lounge

IT IS INDEED A PRIVILEGE to be accorded the honour of officially opening this State Protocol Lounge located in an airport whose name, conjures memories of the great heroism of our people in the bitter struggle against apartheid –which the world had condemned as a heresy and a crime against humanity. Accordingly, as we officially open this State Protocol Lounge we must necessarily ask the question what Oliver Tambo, in whose name this international airport is appropriately named, would have said given the opportunity to open this facility.

In a Statement at the Plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the UN in New York 26 October 1976 speaking on the vision of a future South Africa, Oliver Tambo said:

"Like all other patriots, we love our country and its peoples-all its peoples. It is a varied land of snow-capped mountain peaks, of deserts and sub-tropical greenery covering vast mineral resources. Its warm seas to the east and cold ones to the west contain also large animal and mineral resources. Our peoples, with their varied cultures which are continuously mingling and interacting to their mutual enrichment, exhibit, despite their conditions, a great love for life and a sensitive joy in the creative and human endeavours of the peoples of the world, without exception. We will create a South Africa in which the doors of learning and of culture shall be open to all. We will have a South Africa in which the young of our country shall have the best that mankind has produced, in which they shall be taught to love the people of all races, to defend the equality of the peoples, to honour creative labour, to uphold the oneness of mankind and to hate untruths, immorality and avarice. We will have a South Africa which will live in peace with its neighbours and with the rest of the world".

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

Today, Oliver Tambo is no more, however, the principal task facing all of us who will utilise and work in this facility, is to ensure that in our daily interactions with the people and guests that will go through this facility we exhibit none other than the values and ethos for which Oliver Tambo dedicated his entire life. Accordingly, we must through this facility, express to the world and its peoples as Oliver Tambo said, our humility, the warmth and love of our people and our country, our varied cultures, our great love for life, and a sensitive joy in the creative and human endeavours of the peoples of the world. As Oliver Tambo would have reminded us, the dawn of peace, freedom and justice in our country is partly a consequence of the sacrifices that the peoples of the world made for us today to enjoy our freedom. Accordingly, as we open this State Protocol lounge, which we believe will indeed serve as a gateway into our country, the region and most certainly our continent, will convey to the peoples of the world, our gratitude for the international solidarity displayed during our own national struggle for peace, freedom and justice.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma at the Official Opening of the State Protocol Lounge at OR Tambo International Airport, 8 May 2008

We wish to assure your excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners present here today that we will endeavour to ensure that this facility conveys an unequivocal message of our commitment to help facilitate and assist the peoples of the world represented in our country through your embassies and high commissions, to do the work you have to do in our country unhindered. Critical for those of our Department who will daily work in this facility and therefore be our first point of contact with the international community, is to recognise the honour bestowed upon them in working in this facility located at the Oliver Tambo International Airport. Accordingly, we urge them to treat this jewel of our people like the apple of their eye! We must therefore work not just for the sake of working but must necessarily be inspired by the vision and mission that sustained Oliver Tambo throughout his life - an unflinching sacrifice and humility in the service of the people of our country! Your motto as you go through your daily chores in this facility should indeed be motivated by none other than what Oliver Tambo said "love for the people of all races, defend the equality of the peoples, honour creative labour, uphold the oneness of mankind and hate untruths, immorality and avarice".

On behalf of our President, Thabo Mbeki, the Government and people of our country, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who took their time off, including the Airports Company of South Africa, staff of the Protocol Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs, to receive and welcome our guests in a warm and friendly manner and to make the necessary arrangements to make today indeed a great success-Your contributions adds to our peoples efforts daily to make South Africa a better country to live in! ▶

Minister Dlamini Zuma

Celebrating Freedom Day *(continued from April issue...)*

Japan

MORE THAN 450 GUESTS, including many South Africans in Japan, celebrated the 14th anniversary of Freedom Day on 25 April 2008 at the Hotel Okura. South African Tourism joined together with the Embassy to put up South African banners and decorations which were further enhanced by the beautiful floral arrangements of proteas and strelitzias in the reception hall. A photographic exhibition by the renown Japanese photographer, Mr S Sawano, of many spectacular South African scenes, including our famous Namaqualand flowers, was a focal point. This year's celebration took place in what is often referred to as the "Year of Africa" in Japan. Japan hosts both the TICAD IV in May 2008 and the G8 Summit in July 2008. This places Japan in an important leadership role in global development. The National Day celebration also presented a good occasion to introduce the recently formed South African Chamber of Commerce in Japan and its members which will promote commercial activities between South Africa and Japan. Many opportunities exist for expanding business interests further. After the reception, guests did not leave empty-handed as they were provided with a South African Tourism gift bag. Those who could not be at the celebration were able to read Ambassador Ngubane's National Day messages that same day as these were carried in three major newspapers in special National Day supplements. ▶



Switzerland & Lichtenstein

THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN BERNE, Switzerland accredited to the Principality of Liechtenstein, hosted a unique double National Day Celebration in 2008, with two events, one in Bern and the other in Vaduz. In Bern the Mission hosted an evening Freedom Day cocktail on 24 April at the Restaurant Grand Societe. The event was attended by members of Diplomatic Corps, Swiss government official and several important businesspersons. Musicians, Jabu and Themba Ndlovu performed the National Anthem and a few other selected songs, which added to the pleasant ambience. History was written on 05 May 2008, when the Embassy held its first Freedom Day in Vaduz, the capital of the Principality of Liechtenstein, following the establishment of Diplomatic Relations since 1993. The aim was to raise our flag in Liechtenstein as well as to recognize and invite the South African population residing in the state to share in the celebration. Through dogged detective work, the Embassy "discovered" 8 South African families settled in the Principality. The full compliment of excited South Africans arrived promptly for the Luncheon cocktail, held at the Hofkellerei des Fürsten von Liechtenstein. Our South African guests were joined by the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Chief of State Protocol from the government of Liechtenstein. Following Ambassador Sebati's keynote speech, delicious food and South African wine were served. A great time was held by all, but especially by the South Africans as for the first time our people celebrated Freedom Day in Vaduz nestled under the snowy Alps. ▶

Jordan

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, the Embassy's Freedom Day celebrations have gained the reputation as one of the best (if not the best) national day celebrations in Jordan. This year's celebration has once again confirmed our reputation and enabled us to showcase South African culture, food, wine and flowers. Just under a thousand people attended our Freedom Day celebration in Amman where they were entertained by the Jonas Gwangwa Jazz Band. As with previous years, venison (kudu, crocodile and zebra) was imported from South Africa and bobotie prepared under the guidance of the Ambassador's wife was served together with world class South African wine, as always. Freedom Day celebrations remains one of the most powerful tools and effective means for marketing South Africa. At no other event is it possible to expose so many prominent people to South Africa. ▶

Thailand

SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATED NATIONAL DAY on Sunday, 27 April and invited guests were welcomed to a reception in Bangkok on 28 April 2008. The purpose of the celebrations is to look back with pride on what we have achieved, to remind us of the wonderful values for which our constitution and country stand for and to help us re-dedicate ourselves to improving the lives of our people. In his speech at the ceremony Ambassador Douglas Gibson thanked the friends of South Africa and invited *'those who are not yet very familiar with us to get to know us better. You will find that South Africans are big-hearted, tolerant and gentle people who will welcome you and yours with open arms. We are ambitious for our country. We know that it is a good place to live, a wonderful place to invest and a great place to visit. We want others to know this too. South Africa is the gateway to Africa and we believe that it is also Africa's gateway to Asia'*. ▶

more pictures on the back page

Budget Vote 2008

UNDER THE THEME "Business Unusual – All Hands on Deck – to speed up Change", "President Thabo Mbeki committed all of government to advance towards the realisation of the all important goal of a better life for all our people, including the need to focus on key areas in terms of our system of international relations, with a particular focus on African issues and South-South relations". Those were introductory remarks of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma when she delivered the Budget Vote Speech to the National Assembly on 13 May 2008 in Cape Town. The Minister's speech focused on developments within the African continent, South-South relations and the United Nations.

Minister Dlamini-Zuma mentioned that Africa in responding to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century replaced the OAU with the AU, which in its five years of existence has made a lot of progress towards the political and economic development and integration of the continent. This included developing the socio-economic programme of the AU, NEPAD, as well as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which is a system of self review by African peers to ensure commitment to democracy, human rights and good governance. "Recognising that we are responsible for our own development, we launched the Pan African Infrastructure Development Fund (PAIDF) with a view to driving and sustaining Africa's infrastructure development in various fields" said Minister Dlamini-Zuma.

The Minister's speech further elaborated on South Africa's efforts in conflict resolution and peacekeeping missions. The Minister mentioned that as South Africa understands that there can be no development without peace and stability, the country was involved in peace keeping missions in the DRC, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Comoros, Ethiopia, Eritrea and



other countries. South Africa further prioritised economic diplomacy and played a pioneering role in establishing South-South institutions like the India-Brazil-South Africa Forum (IBSA), New Africa – Asia Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and others. Pertaining to the United Nations, the Minister alluded to the fact that South Africa has entered its second and final year as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and as such South Africa stated its objective in the UN Security Council the need to advance the interests of Africa in particular and the South in general in the mainte-

nance of global peace and security.

The 2008 Budget Vote Speech was followed by a Gala Dinner that was hosted by the Minister and attended by Parliamentarians, Business, members of the Diplomatic Corps other various stake holders and DFA staff members. This was preceded by a Live Breakfast Show on SABC Africa on the 14th of May. The breakfast show was attended by students, MPs and academics and as such Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma was interviewed about her Budget Vote Speech, while also responding to questions from the floor. ▶

Somkgele Mnguni - Marketing

Q&A

With the Chief Director, Gender, Ms Ruby Marks

"... persistent sexism and sex stereotyping may still underpin prevailing attitudes and behaviour towards women, whether they are part of management or not".



The Chief Directorate: Gender is relatively new in DFA. To what extent do you feel you have established yourself, and made known to the Department of what the Directorate set out to do?

The Chief Directorate, Gender was established in October 2006, with a mandate to ensure that gender is routinely considered in all aspects of the "business" of the department. Since then, the unit has been able to arrange several successful programmes and awareness raising sessions on the following topics: gender-based violence; men and masculinities (a programme for men only); developing relationship resilience for accompanying spouses of transferred officials (spousal programme); diversity management as part of the induction programme of designated ambassadors; gender justice and international relations (for the cadet programme); and bring a girl-child to work. The Unit also pioneered a work shadowing programme last year for a grade 11 student who participated in the take-a girl child to work programme. The student was placed in the Director-General's office for a work exposure programme. The Unit was also responsible, with the support of the Labour Directorate, to organise a workshop for SMS on the development of a draft sexual harassment policy. As a result of this, a DMC directive was issued that the Chief Directorate: Gender conduct sexual harassment policy for all staff members at all levels of the organization.

The concept of Gender is many times misinterpreted as only to do with the emancipation of women; can you explain what Gender means?

Gender is defined as the social relations and the social construction of stereotypical roles for men and women. Sex, on the other hand refers to the biological difference between women and men. These social constructions are transmitted to us through our primary caregivers, our schools, our religious institutions etc. It is a central organizing principle of societies, and often governs the processes of production and reproduction, consumption and distribution. The institutional consumption of gender in this case would refer to

the differential ways in which we shape women and men's job entry and career progression, and distribution to where and how women are placed within the hierarchy of DFA. Simply put, "women" refers to the biology of a woman, and "gender" to the social relations and constructions of power between women and men, shaped as it is by variables such as race, class, religion, culture, ethnicity and other forms of diversity. Despite this definition, gender is often misunderstood as being about women only. However, as we see from the definition, gender issues focus on women and on the relationship between men and women, their societal prescribed roles, their differential access to and control over resources, the gender division of labour, and their different interests and needs.

Why do you see this Chief Directorate relevant in Foreign Affairs because we have a Constitution that secures equity for all who live in the country?

Gender equality has always been a core value of the struggle for a democratic South Africa, and has been adopted into our governance process. It has been this strong political commitment, together with a steadfast administrative will, that has successfully enabled us to craft gender sensitive legislation and other measures to promote the achievement of empower-

ment and equality. This conducive and enabling environment continues to create the policy enabling conditions for women's advancement within the Public Service. But you are right. Why should we have a gender policy and programme within the Department if we have such progressive gender constitutional provisions? Simply put, the constitutional imperative is necessary, but not a sufficient condition to ensure that embedded patriarchy and certain negative interpretations of "culture" are addressed. Indeed, getting more women into management is necessary, but not sufficient to ensure that we achieve institutional transformation that will address our history of systemic race and gender discrimination. In other words, persistent sexism and sex stereotyping may still underpin prevailing attitudes and behaviour towards women, whether they are part of management or not. Addressing the effects of gender discrimination and inequality is thus a necessary part of our overall social project of transformation. Without surfacing the assumptions upon which gender hierarchy is built within DFA, our attempts will remain, at best, a piecemeal one that pays lip service to gender equality. It is therefore important that the constitutional imperative around gender be translated into policy and procedural guidelines to guide an internal gender policy and plan.

What are the core duties of the Chief Directorate and what do you want to achieve within the Department?

I'm glad you've asked this question, because I sometimes get the impression that staff assumes that the Unit is only concerned with gender as a biological construct (in other words, a head count of women), and not with gender as part of a set of social and power relations within DFA! This assumption renders gender as a "soft" process issue, and translates the task of the Gender Unit very narrowly into acting as the "gender police" of DFA! Briefly, the strategy that we employ to work on gender issues does not rely on guilt as a currency to "make" people feel compelled to act in gender normative ways! Instead, we deal with the process and product issues that are part of the mandate of the Department. These ranges from running gender awareness programmes to unpack key concepts around gender, race, power and disability - in fact, the full spectrum of diversity, of course using gender as a lens from which to consider how these forms of diversity play itself out in practice. But we also focus on "product" issues related to the output of different branches. The vision of the Chief Directorate: Gender, is to address and remove all institutional and attitudinal barriers that impact on the full inclusion of women at all levels of the work of the Department, and the gender dimensions of DFA's mandate and mission.

partnership with SAWID (South African Women in Dialogue), the CGE (Commission for Gender Equality) and the IDT (Independent Development Trust). This Forum was formally launched and later endorsed at the IBSA Ministerial Summit in May 2008. The main objective of the IBSA Women's Forum is to contribute to the transformation of women's lives in the three countries, thereby supporting their government's efforts to deepen South-South Cooperation and promoting equitable and sustainable development within and among their countries. Brazil will also be hosting a tri-lateral workshop during July 2008 to give impetus to South Africa's proposal to discuss the development of an inclusive macro-economic framework that will contribute to the development of an economic paradigm that will enhance women's economic participation and social upliftment.

How far is the DFA with Gender issues and in creating an awareness of such an issue?

The DFA still have a long way to go: our departmental equity report sharply reveals a gender skewed pattern of mostly men at senior management level. We have only 32% of women at SMS level, whereas the DPSA sets a target of 50% women in SMS level by March 2009. This target was approved by Cabinet in March 2006. But many women at middle and junior manage-

ment levels also suffer from what I would call the "sticky floor" syndrome - in other words, remaining "stuck" in the same position for years on end, with seemingly little hope of promotion. The same situation applies at all levels of the organization. In this regard, it would be important to understand what the gender assumptions are (not only for women but for men as well) that keeps women "stuck". Is it attitudinal on the part of managers (male or female)? Is it a sense of personal disempowerment on the side of women who may not think that they would be able to cope with a more senior responsibility? Is it an organizational culture phenomena that somehow make women feel that they would not be taken seriously if they applied for these positions? These are the kind of issues around which we have to create awareness and start an internal dialogue about. This is a dialogue that requires the voices of women as well as men. No one should be outside of the process to implement a more gender-responsive DFA structure, culture and strategy.

Tell us something about how you became involved in work around gender?

That's an easy question to answer! My passion and commitment to gender, race and class issues is really rooted in my own value framework of equity, social justice and non-discrimination. This resulted in my involvement since the very late 70's in social activism through community organizations and the Women's Movement. Professionally, through training and lecturing, I've specialised in organizational development, change management, diversity management and race and gender analyses, and worked with numerous voluntary organizations and the public sector in South Africa, Nigeria, Madagascar, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States. My academic studies, research and publications focussed on gender, race and class intersections and institutional transformation. I regard myself as fortunate to combine my values with my daily work, and I always remember that I stand on the shoulders of all the women who have contributed to the changes that we have in our country today. ▀

XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS

LET ME BEGIN WITH AN ISSUE

that has in the last few days dominated local and international media – attacks against foreigners and South African nationals in South Africa. We are very concerned that the violence continues and that new outbreaks of violence are occurring. The South African government condemns the unprovoked attacks by elements within our society on vulnerable foreign nationals. It is our view that at this very difficult and challenging time, we avoid sensationalism. It is the role of the media to investigate more deeply growing reports of the involvement of criminal and other elements in instigating and provoking these attacks, largely against foreigners. Journalists have a very important role not just to report elements of this phenomenon but to try to contextualise why this phenomenon has hit South Africa so seriously in the last few days. I also believe that it is the time to avoid politicking and politicising this situation. As you know, yesterday the Secretary-General of the ANC met with the Secretary-General of the IFP to see how we can collectively work towards ending this violence and it is important for other political parties to stop making generalised comments and join the national effort to deal with this phenomenon. It is also important to deal with, what I believe, is unsubstantiated criticisms of either the police or the government generally in dealing with this. I believe it is a matter of record that the police, and reservists, in very difficult circumstances have attempted to do their best in dealing with what has been a totally unexpected phenomenon in our country. It is our view that most of the foreigners amongst us have sought refuge and safety in our midst due to a variety of social, political and economic factors which forced them to relocate to South Africa. It is therefore incorrect for us to shut the door on them, seek to ostracise them, intimidate them or ask them to return to their countries. Our responsibility and indeed moral obligation as a Government and people is to extend our hospitality to them as they did when thousands of our people fled into exile during our struggle for liberation. We must remember that had it not been for the enormous support that we, as South Africans, received



Briefing to the media

By Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad

in African countries in the bleak years of Apartheid, we may not have achieved the Democratic Revolution.

Many innocent fellow Africans, particularly in the Frontline States paid with their lives to protect and shelter our people, yet all they ask of us is to allow them to be treated in a humane and dignified manner. We cannot forget that the then Apartheid government carried out massive destabilisation campaigns precisely because they gave support to the South Africa democratic struggle. We must never forget this message to be forgotten. We call on our law-abiding citizens to cooperate with the authorities to bring this shameful behaviour to an immediate end, especially as we celebrate Africa Day this coming weekend which is an appreciation of our African heritage, identity, culture, resilience and pride in our diversity.

Let us not overlook the disturbing fact that sinister forces appear to have a hand in the escalation and spread of this repulsive behaviour which has regrettably led to the loss of innocent lives, both of foreigners and South Africans. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Government as a whole expresses its regret at the events of the past two weeks in this regard and calls upon all political parties and people, civil society and faith-based organisa-

tions to intensify efforts to restore calm and peace and allow the reintegration of all affected people into the respective societies that they have come to call home and family. Let us not allow a handful to erode our kindness, compassion and spirit of Ubuntu.

PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI TO LEAD SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION TO AU COMMITTEE OF 12 MEETING

PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI, supported by Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, will on Wednesday 21 May 2008 depart for Arusha, Tanzania where he will attend the 1st Meeting of the Committee of Twelve African Union Heads of State and Government scheduled for Thursday – Friday, 22-23 May 2008. President Thabo Mbeki will attend the Committee of Twelve Meeting within the context of ongoing discussions within the AU regarding the political and economic integration of Africa in establishing the Union Government. Accordingly, the Meeting is expected to consider the Report from the African Union Executive Council of Ministers following their deliberations in Arusha earlier in the month, together with the

Report of the Ministerial Committee of Ten on the Union Government.

PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI TO LEAD SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION TO TICAD IV

PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI, supported by Foreign Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, will lead a senior South African government delegation to the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Yokohama, Japan from Wednesday – Friday 28-30 May 2008. President Thabo Mbeki will attend TICAD IV, held under the banner of "Towards a Vibrant Africa: A Continent of Hope and Opportunity," within the context of South Africa's priority to consolidate relations with Japan with a view of strengthening North-South relations. In this regard, TICAD IV provides a valuable opportunity to promote the African Agenda as a priority with Japan and its development partners.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT MLAMBO-NGCUKA TO PAY TWO NATION CENTRAL EUROPEAN VISIT

WORKING VISIT TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

DEPUTY PRESIDENT PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA will pay a Working Visit to Prague, the Czech Republic from Monday – Tuesday 19-20 May 2008 where she will be hosted by her Czech counterpart Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek.

Issues on the agenda of discussions between Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka and Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek on Monday 19 May 2008 in Prague are expected to include, among others:

- The status of bilateral political, economic and trade relations between South Africa and the Czech Republic;
- Developments within the African Continent: although a new member of the EU, the Czech Republic is playing a constructive role on

the Continent and amongst others, provides between 50 to 60 scholarships to sub-Sahara Africa;

- Developments within the European Union
- South Africa – European Union relations with the SA-EU Troika Ministerial and Summit meetings to be held in June and July respectively;
- Progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and
- Others issues of mutual interest.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

UPON CONCLUSION OF HER WORKING VISIT to the Czech Republic, Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka will travel to Bratislava, Slovak Republic where she is scheduled to pay an Official Visit from Wednesday – Thursday 21-22 May 2008. Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka will be hosted by her Slovakian counterpart Prime Minister Robert Fico. Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka will be supported by Deputy Ministers Sue van der Merwe, Elizabeth Thabethe, Derek Hanekom, and Ntombazana Botha.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT MLAMBO-NGCUKA TO LEAD SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION TO SOUTH AFRICA-NIGERIA BINATIONAL COMMISSION

DEPUTY PRESIDENT PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA will on conclusion of her official visit to the Slovak Republic, on Thursday 22 May 2008 travel to Abuja, Nigeria where she is scheduled to lead a senior South African government delegation to the 7th session of the South Africa – Nigeria Bi-National Commission (BNC) scheduled for Friday 23 May 2008. The South Africa – Nigeria BNC will be co-chaired by Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka and her Nigerian counterpart Vice President Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR NC DLAMINI ZUMA TO CO-CHAIR 7th

SA – RUSSIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma will, together with Minister of Natural Resources Yuri Trutnev, co-chair the 7th South Africa – Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) in Moscow Russia from Thursday – Friday 22-23 May 2008. Minister Dlamini Zuma will co-chair the 7th session of the South Africa – Russia ITEC within the context of South Africa's priority to consolidate and strengthen bilateral political, economic and trade relations with a view to enhancing North-South dialogue. In this regard, bilateral trade and economic relations with the Russian Federation are governed under the umbrella of the ITEC and this mechanism is likely to continue to enhance mutual beneficial trade and economic ties between the two countries. Ministers Dlamini Zuma and Yuri Trutnev met in Moscow in February this year to prepare for the 7th South Africa – Russia ITEC. The 7th South Africa – Russia ITEC is expected to assess the current status of and prospects for bilateral trade-and-economic co-operation

DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR AZIZ PAHAD TO VISIT SWITZERLAND

DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Aziz Pahad will on Sunday 25 May 2008 depart for Berne, Switzerland where he will co-chair, together with his Swiss counterpart State Secretary Michael Ambuehl the South Africa – Switzerland Joint Working Group Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 27 May 2008. Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad will lead the South African government delegation to this session of the South Africa – Switzerland Joint Working Group Meeting within the context of South Africa's priority to strengthen bilateral political, economic and trade relations with Switzerland with a view to

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consolidating North-South relations. Accordingly, the 2008 session of the Joint Working Group will, for the first time, take place under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Mutual Cooperation, signed by Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and her counterpart, the Foreign Minister Michelene Calmy-Rey, on 08 March 2008 in Geneva.

ZIMBABWE

THE PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS AND RUN-OFF

MR MORGAN TSVANGIRAI announced on 10 May that he will contest the presidential run-off and will return to Zimbabwe to start campaigning once his personal safety has been guaranteed. Mr Tsvangirai further put conditions on his participation in the run-off including presence of international observers, reconstruction of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and SADC peacekeepers. In response, Justice Minister Chinamasa has stated that Western observers will not be allowed to monitor the run-off unless Western countries first lift sanctions against Zimbabwe. He further said only observers from the countries that were invited for 29 March elections would

be invited. These included observers from African countries and organisations; Asian countries, Latin American countries, Middle East and Russia. On 16 May, ZEC announced that the presidential run-off will be conducted on 27 June 2008. The presidential run-off will be held concurrently with the three by-elections (Pelandaba-Mpopoma; Gwanda South and Redcliff constituencies) where some candidates died before the 29 March harmonised elections. Following the announcement of the run-off, it is now expected that the relevant Zimbabwean authorities will issue invitations for observation of the run-off. SADC is expected to send observers again after receiving an invitation from Zimbabwe. South Africa, as it did during the 29 March elections, will contribute to the SADC Election Observer Mission.

DARFUR

DETERIORATING security, harsh conditions and other obstacles have considerably slowed the deployment of the joint United Nations – African Union Mission in the Sudanese region (UNAMID). UNAMID is increasing its activities with each passing month but still needs to be strengthened considerably

before it will be able to implement its mandate. UNAMID could be at 80% of its authorised strength by the end of the year. This would include 15 300 out of 19 555 troops, 3 018 out of 3 772 individual police officers and 12 out of 19 formed police units. To reach those targets, a wide range of units would have to be deployed before the rainy season starting with key enabling points such as engineer, transportation, logistic and medical groups.

One of the central requirements was a significant strengthening of the Mission's engineering capacity. There must also be a significant improvement in the movement of goods from Port Sudan to Darfur. Customs clearance is taking one month – which is too long. Insecurity and banditry is causing local contractors to refuse to transport assets. The road movement of equipment was taking an average of seven weeks.

SOMALIA

WE REMAIN VERY CONCERNED about the deteriorating situation in Somalia. The violence has escalated, different forces are reported to be operating from Somalia and indeed, the danger of Somalia deteriorating further and therefore becoming a haven for other elements is increasing.

BURUNDI

THE PEACE PROCESSES have been stalled until recently. The Facilitator Minister Nqakula and Ambassador Mamabolo travelled to Dar to meet with Rwsa again on the 5th February, where the Programme of Action (POA) agreed at the Special Envoys Burundi seminar in Cape Town (22-23 February) was presented to the Palipehutu-FNL. The POA envisaged that representatives of the Palipehutu-FNL would return to the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) and Joint Liaison teams (JLT's) by end February, and that the leadership of the Palipehutu-FNL would return to Bujumbura by the end of March. The plan was for the first 6 months of the renewed mandate was to focus on the implementation and finalization of the DDR process, and the beginning of the SSR process. The plan for the second 6 months was to focus on post-conflict reconstruction assistance with specifically identified projects. These dates will have to be revised to take into account the latest developments on the ground. Unfortunately, the Palipehutu-FNL did not follow through with the implementation of the POA, to which



From left: Tanzanian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr Seif Ali Iddi, Palipehutu-FNL Leader, Mr Agathon Rwsa and Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Charles Nqakula.

they agreed. The Palipehutu-FNL continued to raise the issue of amnesty, and at the end of March backed out of finally sending their representatives to Bujumbura.

The Facilitation feels that the issue of immunity has been adequately dealt with through three previous provisions, namely:

- The CCFA provides provisions and guarantees of immunity.
- Legislation 1/32 of 22 November

2006, passed by both houses of the Burundi parliament provides immunity.

- Presidential decree, no 100/357 of 20th December 2006, specifically identifies the Palipehutu-FNL as the beneficiary of immunity.

The Facilitation, and the Political Directorate, provided guarantees that the immunity of the Palipehutu-FNL would be protected. ▀

NOTE: The Deputy Minister's briefing was edited for length.

15 NEWLY RECRUITED EMPLOYEES at salary levels 1-5 from the Department attended the Massified Induction Programme (MIP) which was conducted from 22-23 May 2008. The training was co-ordinated by Mr Peace Kennedy from the Directorate: Generic Skills Development under the leadership of Ms Sajeeda Sheik.

The Directorate Generic Skills Development has co-ordinated an intensive 8 day training course 'train-the-trainer', in partnership with SAMDI for 3 DFA volunteers who will be facilitating the MIP in the Department for new employees viz:

- Mr James Mogale
 - Mr Ebrahim Abramjee and
 - Ms Vivienne Hlatshwayo
- The first MIP in the Department

DFA rolls out the massified induction training programme

was outsourced to SAMDI, facilitated by Baswabile Matjila and co-facilitated by our internal facilitators, James and Ebrahim. James, Ebrahim and Vivian are now accredited and licensed facilitators of the MIP and they will be facilitating the MIP in the Department in the future. We congratulate them. We take this opportunity to express heartfelt appreciation to James, Ebrahim and Vivian for being so willing, committed and dedicated to the development of our employees. We thank them and their managers, Rinda van der Walt and Rachel Morake for willingly accepting this additional re-

sponsibility. The relationships and the partnerships forged during this process between the Directorates Generic Skills Development and the Language Directorate is the 'cherry on the cake' and we intend to continue to build on this.

The training was facilitated in response to the Directive of the Minister of the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi. The Minister of DPSA's directive indicates that with effect from 1 April 2008, all new entrants to the Public Service need to undergo this training. Failure to do so

would result in their probation not being confirmed.

The MIP is a government initiative to ensure that all new public servants understand the goals, structures and key policies of government. This programme complements the current DFA 1 day Induction Programme and 5 week Orientation and Foundation course which are in place to receive and integrate new employees into the Department

The objectives of this training are to:

- Welcome new employees to the Public Service
- Ensure that they understand the challenges that Government faces, Government's vision for development and key programmes of action

- Provide a basic understanding of the Constitution, the three spheres of Government, the role of the Public Service and social partnerships
- Empower new employees to understand their rights as well as Public Service regulations and benefits
- Introduce new employees to Batho Pele, the values of the Public Service, and key initiatives to improve service delivery.
- Make employees aware of the importance of building relationships and communicating well with colleagues and the public
- Help employees understand the fight against corruption and how the Government expects them to behave

The training was interactive, informative and enhanced the partici-

pants' ability to portray and convey the vision, goals and the values of government when they perform their duties as Public Servants in their respective Branches. Topics were thoroughly and professionally explained to the satisfaction of our new employees. The facilitators were able to contextualise their presentations to the Public Service environment in general and to the DFA in particular.

At the conclusion of the training, Ebrahim Abramjee thanked our new employees for choosing to work for the DFA. They were also praised for their enthusiasm, co-operation, lively participation and discussions during the training. He expressed hope that this Induction Training Programme will have a positive impact in their work and performance. ▀

Language Training Unit

Where were you ...?

