in LA begun a STEM journey with Prof. Hildreth “Hal” Walker in June 2012. This journey later brought in the Superintendent-General of Education in KZN, Dr Nkosinathi Sishi in December 2012. It has culminated with the roping in of the sole surviving Astronaut, Dr Edwin ‘Buzz’ Aldrin, the second man to walk on the face of the moon from one of the most successful projects ever launched by the US, the Apollo XI project in June 1969. Prof. Hal Walker played a critical role in the launch of Apollo XI, so critical was his input that without it, Apollo XI wouldn’t have taken off. His role was never recognized because of his colour until President Obama did so publicly after assuming the Presidency of the US.

Prof. Walker is no stranger to South Africa. He, his wife Dr Bettye Walker and a group of young students from minority groups in the US were granted an audience by the then President Nelson Mandela in 1998 “the Year of Science and Technology in RSA”. Madiba requested the Walkers’ who run an A-MAN STEM Academy in LA, to factor in their plans the extension of STEM Education to the majority of pupils from previously disadvantaged students. From then on, the Walkers have never looked back and have extended their projects to Mamelodi, Gugulethu and Khayelitsha. They are now part of this Mission’s move in conjunction with the KZN Department of Education to help establish a KZN STEM Centre in the Province.

As South Africa inches closer to the end of its second decade of our Freedom, it has at no other time in its history had the value of an educational system based on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This need remains greater and desirable. We, as a nation, have reached a critical stage in our young Democracy to face a challenge of producing a workforce equipped with qualifications and expertise in STEM disciplines if we are to compete with the rest of the world and succeed on the global stage. STEM opportunities worldwide abound yet our country is producing fewer and fewer undergraduates and post-graduates in these gateway disciplines. As a country, we come nowhere near the likes of Singapore, China, France and South Korea who produce 67%, 50%, 47% and 38% STEM-related under-graduates respectively in the previous decade.

With the above in mind, the Mission
The Mission has successfully linked Distributed Renewable Energy and Technologies (DRET), a company operating from the city of Huntington Beach, California with South Africa’s Mzesi Energy Solutions. DRET is a manufacturer of vertical axis wind turbines which harness kinetic energy in the wind and converts it to mechanical power. These stackable turbines are efficient, and with the use of a generator the mechanical power can be converted to electricity. Relations between the two companies commenced more than a year ago and the Mission is happy to announce that DRET has now formed a joint venture company in South Africa called DRET SA. This company was registered during a recent visit by DRET executives, Messrs, Bob Pandya and Jim Moore. This endeavour will lead to crucial technology transfer as well as job creation for the people of South Africa.

Consul-General Ndaba was privileged to visit DRET’s Manufacturing facility to see first hand the vertical axis wind turbines in October of 2013.

Consul General Ndaba recently visited the City of Portland, Seattle and the Port of Portland. The Port of Portland generates 96% of the city’s revenues. This visit was necessitated by the need to establish partnerships between South African businesses and those in Portland.

In the Consul Generals keynote address on South Africa and Africa, he stressed the importance of the Port of Durban and the Port of Richards Bay.

Emerging possibilities are on the horizon which include the interest shown by the Portland Port Authority and Vigor Industrial, a private company which specializes in Ship Fabrication and Repair. The Port of Portland is warming up to the idea of establishing a Port Alliance with the Port of Richards Bay, while Vigor Industrial has expressed an interest in a dry dock at the Port of Richards Bay.

The Mayor of Portland will be attending the C40 Mayors Summit in Johannesburg next year and other key departments are looking towards South Africa’s National Development Plan (NDP) in an effort to share best practices, skills and education in the year 2014.
In its objective to promote Arts and Culture, Film and Creative Industries, the Mission recently attended the Premiere of Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom to pay tribute to Elder Statesman Nelson Mandela at this truly historic event.

A long term goal is to promote the presence of the Los Angeles Mission as the solitary point of contact for all those that wish to film in South Africa, gain knowledge about South Africa’s Film Industry, and for those that wish to assist in taking South Africa’s Film Industry to the next level through skills transfer and education.

A Long Walk to Freedom’s Premiere took place on November 11 in Los Angeles at the Arclight Cinerama Theater in Hollywood, California. The movie hit theaters in Los Angeles on November 29, 2013.

Produced by the Weinstein Company this movie features Idris Elba who plays the role of Nelson Mandela, Naomie Harris who plays Winnie Mandela along with Tammy Pheto as Evelyn Mase, Raad Moosa, as Ahmed Katarday and Tony Korgoge as Walter Sisulu among others.
South African film-makers, producers and directors visited Los Angeles to attend the American Film Market (AFM) and mingled with some of the key players in the industry. During their presence the Mission arranged for the group to meet with Mr. Ram Sarangapani, Managing Director of the CRIYA Group, and Actor Bill Cobbs.

CRIYA Group is a well respected name in Australia's Film Industry which specializes in 2D & 3D animation. The Group, which also has offices in Chennai, India offers services in digital paint, character design, storyboarding, editing, crown simulation. Stereoscoping, special effects and much more.

Mr. Sarangapani’s group is currently seeking international production and co-production ventures with South African entities.

As the South African Film Industry continues to grow, the Los Angeles Mission is committed to making connections and building relationships to foster new developments and bring enhanced skills to the industry.


(l-r) Ms. Terry Pheto with SA Producers, Directors and Film-
South Africa, has yet another official submission for the Academy Awards.

Nominated by the International Press Academy, this Ian Gabriel Film is representing South Africa in the category for "Best Foreign Language Film."

Consul-General Ndaba was recently invited to attend a private screening of the film in Los Angeles.

Four Corners is a film full of suspense, its setting takes place in the gang war areas of the Cape Flats. This intense film depicts the struggle to protect turf between sections 26 and 28 prison gangs both inside and outside the prison walls.

Lead actor Brandon Daniels plays a compelling role in the film and was joined at the screening by Director Gavin Hood, Genevieve Hofmeyer, Retired Constitutional Court Justice, Professor Albie Sachs, Senior Executive: Global Media & Entertainment at Ernst & Young, Sylvia Ahi Vosloo, Actor, Danny Glover and others.

Mr. Danny Glover immediately began showing his support of the film by tweeting a very positive message after the screening was completed.

The film has several additional screenings remaining and Mr. Gabriel is hopeful to gain the support needed for the film to make it through to the next round of voting.

This film is extremely impressive in that the budget was a mere $1 million (R10 million) which was raised within the country by local entities. A film of this calibre would generally cost much more.

The Consulate continues to support South African films and assists those that have an interest in filming in South Africa. We’ve posted a flyer on our website for your viewing.

Show your Support

www.fourcornersthemovie.com
www.vimeo.com/fourcornersmovie/trailer
www.facebook.com/fourcornersmovie

(l-r) Actor, Brandon Daniels, Actor Danny Glover, Film Director Ian Gabriel and Consul General Ndaba

(l-r) Retired Constitutional Court justice Albie Sachs and Consul General Ndaba
E. J. Jackson, of Jackson Limousine Service, graciously invited Consul General Ndaba to be a part of a momentous occasion, the Jackson Foundation’s 31st Annual Turkey Dinner giveaway.

Mr. Jackson has been giving away turkeys with all the fixings to thousands of families for over 30 years. The Jackson Foundation has estimated that they have fed over 206,000 families, giving away a total of 415,000 turkeys! This year was no different as the Consul General rolled up his sleeves and helped to distribute some 10,000 turkeys.

Mr. Jackson saw the need within the Los Angeles community for families to have a nourishing meal for the Thanksgiving season. The Jackson Foundation has truly given many families much to be thankful for.

Senator Roderick Wright, of the 35th Senate District and Actor Lou Gossett were also in attendance along with many others to lend their support to E. J. Jackson and the Jackson Foundation.

Consul Johan Klopper took the opportunity to support South African Olympic Cyclist, Bernard Esterhuizen on 23 November 2013. Mr. Esterhuizen competed in the Los Angeles Grand Prix (LAGP).

The Los Angeles Grand Prix (LAGP) served as a point accumulation opportunity for cyclists to qualify for the UCI World Cups later in the year.

In addition to hosting domestic and international elite competitors, the race also integrated adaptive sport by running events that made up the 2013 US Paralympic National Championships.

The South African Cyclist ended up taking silver in the races which gives him a promising outlook for the UCI World Cups.

In July the Mission volunteered in honor of Nelson Mandela Day to support the MetroKidz Organization of Los Angeles. Servicing local communities weekly, the children have grown to know and love the MetroKidz staff. Many of the families are underserved and do what they can to make ends meet.

It was out of hearts of compassion that the Consulate Staff donated out of their own means to help Metrokidz to provide Christmas toys for the local families. The Metrokidz Christmas party will take place on December 19th where they will be expecting some 250 children and their families to gather.
TENTATIVE TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1 - Depart for South Africa – 21st March 2014 • Depart from USA to Johannesburg

Day 2 - Flight connection to Johannesburg – 22nd March 2014

Day 3 - Arrive in Johannesburg and welcome dinner – 23rd March 2014 • Arrive in Johannesburg • Meet & Greet and Transfer to Hotel • Welcome Dinner

Day 4 - Apartheid Museum and Soweto Tour – 24th March 2014 • Soweto and Apartheid Museum Tour

Day 5 - Road transfer to Bakubung Safari Lodge – 25th March 2014
  • Depart for Pilanesburg National Park
  • Welcome 4x4 Game Drive

Day 6 - Full Day 4x4 Game Drive – 26th March 2014

Day 7 - Transfer to Johannesburg Airport for the flight to Cape Town – 27th March 2014
  • Meet & Greet and Transfer to the Hotel • Jazz Safari and welcome Dinner in the local community

Day 8 - Cape Town City Tour and evening at the Cape Town Jazz Festival – 28th March 2014

Day 9 – Cape Town Winelands tour and Cape Town Jazz Festival – 29th March 2014

Day 10 - Cape Peninsula Tour – 30th March 2014

Day 11 - Last minute shopping and transfer to airport and flight back home – 31st March 2014  Depart for the USA

Optional Victoria Falls Add On

Day 11 – Transfer to Cape Town International and flight to Victoria Falls – 31st March 2014
  • View the Victoria Falls
  • Accommodation at Zambezi Sun

Day 12 – Victoria Falls Day activities – 1st April 2014 thru 5 April 2014

During a chance meeting at the Jackson Limousine Turkey Giveaway the Consul General met Mr. Gregory Johnson, Director of Marketing of KJLH Radio Station. KJLH has served the Los Angeles Community since 1965 and since 1979 has been owned by international music superstar Stevie Wonder.

As a result of that meeting, Mr. Gregory later informed the Consul General of plans for the radio station’s second South African Jazz tour. It is the goal of KJLH to provide their listeners with the quality listening experiences that one can only get through immersion.

This tour promotes the arts as well as tourism. According to Mr. Johnson, the Cape Town International Jazz Festival will be the centerpiece of the tour.

Future discussions are in the works with the Consul General and Mr. Johnson for the South African Jazz Tour, the 20th Anniversary of Freedom Day, and how KJLH can most effectively commemorate the Life and Legacy of Nelson Mandela.
“Social equality is the only basis for human happiness.”

Nelson Mandela