The Berlin Wall Monument unveiled its newest addition of artwork to the Wall on July 18, 2014. The stunning depiction of Nelson Mandela pays tribute to his life and legacy as he stands tall, resembling his immoveable tenacity and determination. World renowned muralist, Kent Twitchell had the honor of painting the mural in the Miracle Mile District of Los Angeles. The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles performed on this occasion under the direction of Charles Dickerson.
Representatives from nations around the world gathered to witness the unveiling and share their expressions about the history and achievements of the icon, Nelson Mandela. Consul-General Ndaba thanked the LA City Council and others for recognizing not only South Africa, but the memory of the late founding president, Nelson Mandela as well.

The ceremony was led by Councilman Tom LaBonge & Director of Arts and Culture, Kamilla Blanche, who were joined by many other international leaders such as Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the Consul of Germany, representatives from Canada, China and several African countries, along with Councilman Curren Price and City Attorney Michael Feuer.

From the Desk of the Consul-General

This quarter was again dominated by the City of Angels’ (LA)’s continued remembrance of the “Icon of Icons” and the Founding Father of the South African nation, Nelson R. Mandela. Madiba was first honored with a plaque at the LA Coliseum Court of Honor on 14 May 2014. On 18 July, the City of LA officially recognized this day as “Mandela International Day” by passing a Resolution to this effect. On the same day, the City unveiled a mural of Madiba on the Berlin Wall Monument, where he shares that spot with Presidents JF Kennedy and Ronald Reagan.

We also joined the “Legacy of Hope” Foundation, on 18 July in celebrating Madiba’s Labour of Love, “The Nelson Mandela Children’s Hospital.”

~Ndaba
A DTI delegation, led by Minister Rob Davies, visited Los Angeles from 7–8 August. This visit was a follow-up to the visit to South Africa by senior Hollywood film executives, which the Mission initiated and arranged in February 2014. Minister Davies held, inter alia, meetings with senior executives of Walt Disney, Warner Brothers, Marvel, 20th Century Fox, Sony and NBC Universal.

The objective of the visit was to establish what Hollywood’s requirements to ensure that South Africa remains a favorite film shooting destination of these film studios. There was a general consensus amongst the film studios that the lack of enough sound stages in South Africa is the main negative, whilst depth of crew, equipment, locations and production facilities are the positives. At the conclusion of the visit, the Minister decided that DTI will arrange a film trade visit to LA in early 2015.

( l-r ) Mr Sandile Tyini, Minister (Economic) SA Embassy in Washington; Mr Francois Truter, DTI Chief Director: Service Incentives; Ms Raleigh Barrett, Administrative Rep.: LA Consulate; Mr Johan Klopper, Acting Consul-General, LA Consulate; Dr Robert Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry and Mr Dean Hoff, DTI Director: Service Industries.

DDG Maya also visited the Los Angeles Mission. During her brief visit she had the opportunity to meet with many of our interlocutors. Courtesy visits to the Los Angeles Sister Cities office, the Port of Los Angeles High School, the A-MAN STEM Center, and Los Angeles City Hall were arranged for her.
To honor Nelson Mandela’s wish, the Legacy of Hope Foundation hosted an evening to raise global support for Africa’s 4th dedicated children’s hospital to be built in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2016.

During this event, Consul-General Ndaba, paid tribute to the former Elder Statesman, Nelson Mandela. Celebrities such as Ruby Bridges, Tata Vega, Bothale Boikanyo amongst others also paid tribute to the Icon.

The Legacy of Hope Foundation has to date raised $58 million of the $100 million needed, thanks to the generosity of musical bands and celebrities worldwide. Additionally, in mid-December of this year; Legacy has scheduled a proposed simulcast to take place in New York at the Barclay Center in support of the ongoing Nelson Mandela Children’s Hospital campaign project.

The Hospital will provide free and accessible healthcare for children in need; celebrating the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his love for children.

The Legacy of Hope Foundation is led by Mr. Eric Gast (CEO), Ms. Jennifer Trubenbach (President) and Ms. Sibongile Mkhabela (CEO); Nelson Mandela Children’s Hospital Trust along with the many Nelson Mandela Children’s Hospital Patrons.

(Courtesy of BenarGeer Photography)

(Right) Mr. Abbey Makena, South African Consulate-General Los Angeles, Consular Staff with daughter

Legacy of Hope Reception
Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)

YALI affords its fellows the opportunity to study in top universities in the United States. Their six to eight week coursework and executive leadership training focuses on one of three areas: civic leadership, business and entrepreneurship or public management. The student engagement offers mentoring and networking opportunities as well.

Mandela Washington Fellows attended a Presidential Summit and Town Hall in July 2014 prior to participating in eight-week internships with over 80 American nongovernmental organizations (NGO’s). During the Summit fellows had the opportunity to engage with leaders from both the public and private sectors.

Additionally, Consul-General Ndaba met with several fellows that were in the western region to applaud their efforts and encourage them to continue in pursuit of their discussed future goals.

Orange County Water Replenishment

The Orange County Sanitation District runs the world’s largest Purification System for Potable Reuse. The Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) takes highly treated wastewater and purifies it using a three-step advanced treatment process consisting of microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide.

Operational since 2008, the GWRS has been very successful, producing up to 70 million gallons of high-quality water daily; enough water to supply 600,000 residents from central and northern Orange County, California.
The Port of Los Angeles in partnership with the State of California Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has developed the country’s first Maritime Law Enforcement Training Center. The training center caters to state and local Law Enforcement personnel with training focus that provides basic training through advanced instruction for crewmembers on law enforcement and public safety vessels operated by local authorities.

Consul General Ndaba recently visited the training center with his sons taking a course in Maritime Law Enforcement and personally toured the facilities. The Maritime Law Enforcement Training Centers’ curriculum includes boat handling, charting, navigation rules, vessel boarding, arrest procedures, vessel identification, searches, and counter-terrorism practices and is available to municipal, state, and local agencies through advanced instruction for crewmembers on law enforcement and public safety vessels operated by local authorities.
A recent visit to Fresno, California proved to be very successful. The Los Angeles Mission sought to develop relations with many of the key stakeholders in Northern California. Engaging various entities including Sister Cities of Fresno, the Fresno County Office of Education, the Fresno Black Chamber of Commerce to determine the feasibility in sharing common interests.

Among the meetings that took place, Consul-General Ndaba and Consul Johan Klopper explored educational, economic and cultural opportunities with Fresno State Department of Viticulture and Enology in Stellenbosch on the behalf of the Mission; environmental and wildlife issues with Yosemite Resource Conservation and Development Council and the Fresno Chaffee Zoo were also explored.

Discussions were formed around Trade and Investment with the Director of Global Markets: US. Department of Commerce; International Trade Relations and Director of the Bakersfield & Fresno U.S. Export Assistant Centers, shared interests in the Tourism Industry took place with the CEO of Fresno/Clovis Convention and Visitor’s Bureau. Additionally, the International Center for Water Technology, ICWT, an energy technology incubator was also among the many meetings that took place in Fresno.

It is the Missions’ goal to explore possibilities that exist within the jurisdiction, thus taking advantage of resources and skills to enhance current goals of South Africa and Africa as a whole.
News

Special Edition Newsletter

Our Special Edition Newsletter was released November 2014 and contains special projects of the LA Mission which took place during the 2nd Quarter. The Newsletter features the most prominent visit of the AUC Chairperson, Her Excellency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and the high level delegation which was led by MEC Michael Mabuyakhulu.

What’s happening in Los Angeles

To get up to date information on the on-going projects of the Mission visit our website at:

www.dirco.gov.za/losangeles