Her Excellency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, was warmly greeted by Consul-General Cyril S. Ndaba, upon her arrival at Los Angeles International Airport on September 28, 2014.

Consul-General Ndaba hosted a high-level dinner that evening at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, during which the Dean of the African Consular Corps in Los Angeles, Consul-General Zerihun Retta of Ethiopia, welcomed her on behalf of the African Consular Corps.

Her Excellency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma was elected in 2012 by the African Union Commission (AUC) as its Chairperson, making her the first woman ever to lead the AUC. Prior to her current assignment, the Chairperson held the position of South Africa’s Minister of Health until 1999, under Former President Nelson Mandela, as well as the position of Minister of Home Affairs under the Presidency of His Excellency Jacob Zuma.

During her tenure in these high-level positions, Her Excellency Dlamini-Zuma made great strides in promoting Africa’s interests, which she is vigorously continuing to do in her current position as Chairperson of the AUC.

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Her Excellency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, was invited to speak on “Africa: Visions and Priorities for the Next 50 Years” at a meeting and luncheon hosted by the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. During her address, the Chairperson highlighted several key issues including the fact that Africa needs to industrialize and increase its manufacturing capabilities with the assistance of investment from countries such as the US; and Africa’s need for infrastructure such as transport and water distribution. However, by means of technological leapfrogging present shortcomings can be overcome. She stated that, besides an increase in industrialization and manufacturing, priorities for the future of Africa include: youth capacity-building; empowerment of women; increase in agricultural output; adding value to commodities, and paying attention to diversity. She went on to remark that, “people who are marginalized will turn to ideology.”

The last week of September and the first week of October saw the Chairperson of the AU commission, Dr. NC Dlamini-Zuma, the former Deputy President of South Africa, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuko and a high-level KwaZulu Natal delegation led by the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs all descending on Los Angeles and the West Coast. Each was on these shores for varying reasons and joint projects with the mission have been ensued as a result of their visits.
A HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION DESCENDS UPON THE WEST COAST

The KwaZulu Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Mike Mabuyakhulu led a high-level delegation comprising of the former MEC for finance Mrs. Ina Cronje, CEO of Trade and Investment KwaZulu Natal Mr. Zamo Gwala, HOD of Department of Economic Development, Mr. Desmond Golding and the CEO of the Richard Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone, Mr. Pumi Motsoahae. The delegation visited Los Angeles, Portland and San Francisco where it participated in business, trade and investment seminars.

"The broad network exposure and reach yielded by this trip is most profound …"
Mr. Phumelele Motsoahae, CEO Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone, KZN

Hon. Michael Mabuyakhulu, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

In Portland before the start of the trade and investment seminar. Special guest, Mr. Antwaun Griffin, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Trade Administration, who travelled all the way from Washington, DC to join us.

At the port of Portland receiving the ins and outs of ship preparing and ship building from our host, the Director for Operations Dr. Mark Shiely, first on the left.

(l-r): Ms. Ina Cronje, MEC Mike Mabuyakhulu, CG Ndaba

(l-r): MS, Ursula Sjoroos, representing SANPARKS, CG Ndaba, Ms. Ina Cronje (Former MEC for Finance), Mr. Joe Sive, (Chairman of African Investment Fund) MEC Mike Mabuyakhulu, Mr. Desmond Golding (HOD for KZN Department of Economic Development)
Los Angeles Mission Goals

We are focused on furthering South Africa’s top priorities by seeking out, researching and participating in projects that will benefit South Africa’s economy, infrastructure, port development, empowerment of women, enhancement of its education system and much more.

Over the past few years the Mission has sought to increase its efforts in building relationships on the West Coast to offer a variety of exchanges from the Arts and Culture to Trade and Tourism Industries.

These exchanges have given rise to education transfer, skills transfer, enhancement of STEM education, opportunities to advance Arts and Cultural interactions, Maritime education, security, economic development and more.

Additionally, the LA Mission has been purposeful with its’ inclusion of the SADC regions as a part of its focus. Partnering with local stakeholders to promote opportunities for investment in the SADC regions will not only benefit South Africa, but the entire southern region of Africa, as a whole and, eventually the African Continent at large.

Los Angeles Mission

Addressing the Priorities of South Africa One Project at a Time