Great anticipation filled the air as many inquired about the upcoming elections. The elections took place abroad on April 30, 2014. The Los Angeles Mission welcomed over 200 registered voters.

The process was streamlined by the Mission’s Election Team which proved to be a great benefit logistically. The morale of expatriates, travelers and visitors was impressively high, and many dawned their South African sports attire and t-shirts.

Moments like these are unforgettable; the excitement and enthusiasm expressed by the voters showed their support and pride for South Africa and their freedom to vote. Witnessing their expressions was a reminder of the strength of the people.

We will be forever grateful for those that have pioneered the way clear for others. The sacrifice of Former President Nelson Mandela and countless others will never be forgotten.

1) Consul Staff posing with Consul-General on voting Day. (l-r) Vice Consul– Mrs. Philipine Rapia, Consular Rep.–Mr. Abbey Makena (back row), Consular Rep.–Mrs. Liza Fontelera, CSM–Mrs. Peggy Motloha (back row), Consul-General Ndaba, Admin. Rep.–Mrs. Connie Ronquillo

2) Anxious voters traveled from Las Vegas, Nevada via charter bus to cast their votes
3) Mrs. Fontelera assisting Republic of South Africa expatriates
4) RSA expats casting their votes.
“We who have suffered and continue to suffer the pain of oppression know that underneath that face of Los Angeles lies the great and noble spirit of the citizenry.” These were among the poignant words spoken by Nelson Mandela at the LA Coliseum only four months after his release from prison in June of 1990 as 70,000 plus beheld his face.

Recently, the LA Coliseum posthumously inducted Former President, Nelson Mandela into their Court of Honor and he was represented by a bronze plaque. Consul-General Ndaba was graciously invited to the event and spoke about the Elder Statesman thanking the LA Coliseum and others for “remembering South Africa” and honoring the “Icon of all Icons”.

The plaque was a commemoration to Mandela’s unwavering commitment to social justice, a battle he continues to fight even in his passing. The wave of justice that he has begun will never end.

Several gathered including Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Councilman Curren Price, Jr., Councilman-Tom LaBonge, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and others to witness the unveiling of the dedicated plaque hung in honor of Mandela. Much to their surprise the wind stirred up and all but took the veil off as if Madiba was unveiling his own plaque!

* The Nelson Mandela plaque that almost unveiled itself at a function held at the LA Coliseum

(l-r) Consul General Ndaba

(l-r) Nelson Mandela (artwork)
Billionaire RSA/Chnese American and Philantropist Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and Consul-General Ndaba
Consul-General Ndaba attended the Annual reception hosted by the Governor of California, Mr. Jerry Brown, and the Reception Committee; the 89th Annual Host Sacramento Breakfast hosted by the California Chamber of Commerce; and the Annual Networking Luncheon hosted by the Northern California World Trade Center.

Relationships continue to develop between KwaZulu Natal and Oregon, the cities of Portland and Richards Bay as well as the School of Forestry with the Umfolozi FET.

Sacramento

Consul-General Ndaba attended the Annual reception hosted by the Governor of California, Mr. Jerry Brown, and the Reception Committee; the 89th Annual Host Sacramento Breakfast hosted by the California Chamber of Commerce; and the Annual Networking Luncheon hosted by the Northern California World Trade Center.

Support for SADC increases

On the West Coast

The Consulate-General and the Oregon Consular Corps held a SADC/Africa Day in conjunction with the Oregon International Business Awards and Consular Corps Gala. This high profile event featured the presence of Governor John Kitzhaber, Congressman Wyden, Mayor of Portland, Mr. Charlie Hales along with the Port of Portland’s Executive Director, Mr. Bill Wyatt.
In early May, Consul-General Ndaba and Mr. Mark Chiavello, the Head of Standard Bank, Corporate and Investment Banking in New York co–chaired a meeting to discuss economic developments and opportunities in South Africa. Attendees included bankers, investors, venture capitalists and a representative from the United States Trade and Development Agency. The Consul–General shared the progress of current projects such as the Richard's Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBDIZ) Master plan and KwaZulu Natal (KZN) in general. Conversations stemmed around the importance of smart business partnerships between the US and South African owned businesses. These partnerships will also be necessary for the acquisition of Funds for those interested in expanding into Africa through the proposed Trilateral Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) which is comprised of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Eastern African Community (EAC), and the Common Market for Southern and Eastern Asian Regional Economic Communities (COMESA REC’s).
“Africa” has been the theme of the Gala for the last two years emphasizing the importance of the African continent as a whole. The African theme was retained as a result of the recommendation of Consul-General Ndaba to Mr. Rovsek and his wife, Mrs. Jeri Rovsek.

Team South Africa (SAA, SATOUR, SANPARKS) from the West and East (NY) descended upon the San Diego Ritz Gala in full force. Teaming up on a 14-day Safari package in the Republic of South Africa; SAA and SATOUR’s contribution was bid on and raised a staggering $27,000!

Many compliments were given on South Africa’s Flora and Fauna at the booths, along with inquiries about the country and the plight of the Rhino.

Overall the event proved to be exceptional and once again “Africa” shined.

At the invitation of Mr. Samuel Miller, a Corporate and Commercial Attorney, the Consul-General recently attended a Wine and Whiskey Tasting. Mr. Miller is licensed to practice law in California, England, Whales and South Africa. His expertise in inward investment and cross-border business; he assists his clients in navigating through the intricacies of international investment.

The event was hosted at the InvestCloud’s office and the Beverly Hills, Ashton Martin Showroom. InvestCloud deploys enterprise software and outsourced operations for leading brokers, prime brokers, hedge fund administrators, custodians, asset managers, hedge funds and wealth managers that include many of the leading companies in the industry today. The event afforded the Consul-General the opportunity to interact with potential investors and philanthropists.
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