

2012/13

Budget Vote

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, to the National Assembly

25 APRIL 2012



VISION

OUR VISION IS AN AFRICAN CONTINENT, which is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, nonracial, nonsexist and united, and which contributes to a world that is just and equitable.

MISSION

WE ARE COMMITTED to promoting South Africa's national interests and values, the African Renaissance and the creation of a better world for all.

VALUES

THE DEPARTMENT of International Relations and Cooperation adheres to the following values:

- Patriotism
- Loyalty
- Dedication
- Ubuntu
- Equity
- Integrity
- Batho pele

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Budget Vote Speech

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Honourable Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, to the National Assembly

25 April, 2012

**CHAIRPERSON;
HONOURABLE CHAIR OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION;
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION;
YOUR EXCELLENCIES AMBASSADORS, HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND
REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;
FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS ;
COMRADES AND FRIENDS,**

“
...We are standing in an incredibly privileged position today, where we can witness Africa’s epic comeback. We are all aware of Africa’s history. Many of us have even been closely intertwined with Africa’s struggles, pain and suffering. But today we can stand here and proudly watch Africa finally rising. There is no doubt that these are only the first rays of light, glorious Africa is yet to reveal itself.
”

THESE ARE THE WORDS of President Jacob Zuma at an Africa Dialogue event recently held at Sun City.

Honourable Members, today we stand before you to say, and proudly so, that South Africa is one of the rays of light of this glorious Africa that is revealing itself. We are on

course towards creating a better South Africa and contributing to a better and safer Africa and the world. In the three years of the Third Administration, we have been building on our achievements and lessons learnt on the foreign policy front since 1994 through an approach based on both continuity and change. We continued to consolidate our strategic advances and areas of strength in our foreign policy and, at the same time, found novel and innovative approaches to improving on our work by tackling new challenges. Eighteen years on since 1994, our country is standing tall in the global family of nations.

This is the task of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). As reflected in our strategic plan and the Annual Performance Plan (APP), we execute this task by enhancing continental development and integration, with a focus on South Africa's role in consolidating the African Agenda, including SADC integration and the promotion of peace and security in Africa; advancing South

Africa's national interests through the enhancement of South-South and North-South Cooperation; and advancing South Africa's national interests through participation in institutions of global governance.

In the past year, the Department managed to achieve milestones with the Budget Allocation passed by this House. We have to do our work within the constraints imposed on us by our limited financial and human resources, as well as conditions prevailing in the world, including the international balance of forces which are not always favourable to the pursuit of our vision of a better South Africa, Africa and the world.

The period we live in today is faced with significant challenges that affect the entire human race. All over the world, our people are concerned about the multiplicity of global crises, ranging from the decline of major economies of the North; an ecological crisis due to climate change; rising food prices; the energy crisis; to the heinous, mass and random killing of innocent people through acts of terror; and the fact that for the poor of the world we will not meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the midst of all these challenges and uncertainties, we are indeed inspired that the work we do - including our contribution to global politics - plays a part in giving our people hope for a better world.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

When our forebears formed the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) almost fifty years ago, they gave the people of this continent hope in their struggle against colonial rule and in pursuit of the right to self-determination. When our leaders transformed the OAU ten years ago into the African Union (AU), they gave our people more hope in their quest for democracy, development, and a continent free of wars, poverty, ignorance and disease.



South Africa was there when the OAU was formed, represented by the leadership of our national liberation movement. The AU was formed in this country, in the city of Durban, with South Africa as a full member. Africa is the centrepiece of our foreign policy to this day.

It is our considered view that based on the experience of the first ten years, the AU must do more in:

- Focusing on the development of the African continent, including fighting and reducing poverty, inequality and underdevelopment;
- Eradicating conflicts on our continent by providing African solutions to African problems;
- Building sustainable economies and enhancing continental interconnectivity through infrastructure to promote intra-African trade, among others;
- Consolidating democracy and good governance in our respective countries;
- Providing for our people in the spheres of education, food security, health, shelter and job creation;
- Accelerating our integration in all spheres with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as the building blocks;
- Advancing and defending the interests of Africa in global affairs; and
- With 2010-2020 being declared by the AU as the Decade of Women, developing and implementing clear programmes to ensure the emancipation of this sector of our population.

These priorities inform the contribution that South Africa will continue to make to the programmes and activities of the AU.



Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma talks about her candidature as AU Commission Chairperson during the GIMAC press conference at the AU media center 26 January 2012.

It is with this agenda in mind that we accepted with humility the request of SADC to field Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma for the position of the Chairperson of the Commission of the AU. The election of Dr Dlamini-Zuma to this position will ensure that the Southern Region is also given an opportunity – for the first time in the five decades since the formation of the OAU and its successor, the AU – to contribute at the highest level to the affairs of our Union. The principle of rotation and regional representation is entrenched in the internal democratic processes of the AU. If elected, Dr Dlamini-Zuma will serve all AU Member States as a loyal servant of Africa. She is not being fielded as a candidate to pursue the interests of any particular country or region. She will be guided in her work by the statutes of our Union, our programmes, as well as decisions of AU Policy Organs, especially the Assembly and Executive Council.



Joyce Banda holds a ceremonial sword at her inauguration as Malawi's new president, becoming its first female leader.

Together with SADC, we are working with the Government of Malawi for the successful hosting of the July Summit of the AU in our region. We are in solidarity with the people of Malawi following the passing of their President, His Excellency Prof Bingu wa Mutharika; and once again congratulate Her Excellency Madame Joyce Banda on her elevation to being the first female President in our region and the second in Africa.

Honourable Members, when the OAU Summit met in July 1990 in the midst of the end of the Cold War, the independence of Namibia, and the beginning of the transition to a new South Africa, it adopted its historic **Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World**, in which it proclaimed, and I quote:

At this crucial juncture when our continent is emerging with difficulty from a phase in its history that focused mainly on political liberation and nation building, and is about to embark on a new era laying greater emphasis on economic development, we need to strengthen the Organization of African Unity so that it may also become a viable instrument in the service of Africa's economic development and integration. Consistent with this goal, we

rededicate ourselves to the principles and objectives enshrined in its Charter, to our faith in ourselves and to our continent, with greater determination to be masters of our destiny. In this spirit, we reaffirm our commitment to revive the ideals of Pan-Africanism and commit ourselves ... to maintain and strengthen our unity and solidarity and to pool our resources and wisdom in order to face the challenges of the decade of the 1990s and beyond, change the bleak socio-economic prospects of our continent and guarantee a better life for all peoples and future generations yet unborn... (end quote).

More than two decades since the adoption of this historic Declaration, we are still determined to change the bleak socio-economic prospects of our continent. Accordingly, the last Summit of the AU, that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January this year, focused on what we must do to promote intra-African trade and infrastructure development. Our President currently chairs the AU/NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Championing Initiative; and he is responsible for championing the North-South Road and Rail Corridor project. Addressing the infrastructure backlog on our continent will be a giant step towards guaranteeing a better life for all African peoples and future generations yet unborn.

Africa is stronger when it is united. Africa's voice is heard when we speak as one. We prosper better and faster when we work together as a continent, for our unity and integration.

The SADC-EAC-COMESA tripartite formation is testimony of how RECs can serve as building blocks for the unity and integration of our continent. While SADC is working towards full implementation of its Free Trade Area and the establishment of the SADC Customs Union, we have commenced with negotiations to establish this tripartite formation which is a recognized pillar of the roadmap developed towards the operationalisation of the African Free Trade Area by 2017.

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HONOURABLE MEMBERS

The recent events in Mali and Guinea Bissau remind us of the challenges still before us and the fragility of democracy and peace and stability on our continent. In this regard, we are at one with the ECOWAS and the AU in rejecting unconstitutional changes of government and secessionist tendencies. We have availed ourselves to the Government of Mali to provide the necessary support to their transition. We support the ongoing ECOWAS and AU mediation efforts in Guinea-Bissau to resolve the situation there. We urge the Bissauan military to allow its people to continue with the electoral process of electing a new President.

In the past year, South Africa continued to contribute to peace and security in Africa,



(From left) Minister Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu and Minister of Correctional Services, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula form part of South Africa's envoy to the SADC Ministerial Council held at the SADC Summit, Luanda, Angola , 11-18 August 2011



President Jacob Zuma during the High Level Panel Ad Hoc Committee on Libya, held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26 August 2011.

utilising in particular our second tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council(UNSC), and our membership of the AU Peace and Security Council, and the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

NEPAD has been our flagship programme on the development front, and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) provides us with a concrete example of how we can help each other, in a constructive way, to build and consolidate democratic institutions in our respective countries. South Africa will be preparing its third report on the implementation of the national APRM Programme of Action for submission to the APR Forum during 2013.

In this regard, I would like to congratulate Ms Baleka Mbete, our former Deputy President, on her appointment to the APR Panel of Eminent Persons for a four year period.

Over the past year, NEPAD has been celebrating its first decade of existence. Today NEPAD has been fully integrated into the structures, processes and programmes of the AU. The foremost achievement of NEPAD over the past ten years has been to redefine the development agenda for the continent, to overturn the Afro-pessimism that pertained in the past. Today, as President Zuma observed in Sun City, Africa is viewed as a continent of hope and opportunity – a continent emerging to be the next major global growth pole.

Looking forward, besides focusing on infrastructure in attaining regional integration and opening up intra-African trade and investment, NEPAD is emphasizing the importance of self-reliance and of mobilizing the domestic resources that are available on our continent. This is particularly important in terms of the current global environment and the need for African ownership of its own development.

South Africa remains committed to supporting the implementation of NEPAD. We will continue to provide a home for both the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the APRM Secretariat, and will ensure that we meet all our commitments in this regard.

Similarly, the draft protocol of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) that seeks to make this institution more effective, is in the process of being validated. It will then be submitted to the next AU Summit, in July 2012, to be considered for adoption. South Africa will continue to discharge its host country responsibilities to the PAP.

However, we must be concerned that with three years remaining to the 2015 deadline for attainment of the MDGs, our continent is the region of the world least likely to meet these very basic targets. Therefore, we must do more individually as countries and collectively as the RECs and the continent in the measures we have taken to achieve these MDGs.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

The SADC region is progressing well in the areas of peace and security, development, and democratisation. The successful elections in our region recently in Seychelles, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are pointing in the right direction for the political future of SADC. The DRC has had a difficult past and will need the support of all of us, including our international partners, in its efforts to consolidate democracy and overcome challenges of post-conflict reconstruction and development.

On our relations with our SADC neighbours, in the past year, we convened high level engagements at Heads of State level during which we had diplomatic consultations on areas of mutual concern on our continent. We also used the opportunity to follow-up on progress made in various areas of cooperation.

As member states of SADC, we remain seized with finding a lasting solution to some of the challenges in our region. We have witnessed significant progress with regard to the implementation of the SADC-endorsed Roadmap on Madagascar. South Africa, as Chair of the SADC Organ Troika, and through our Special Envoy on Madagascar, Deputy Minister Marius Fransman, remains hopeful that stakeholders in Madagascar will demonstrate the required determination and will to fully implement the Roadmap.



From Left to Right:
Tanzania Deputy
Minister for Foreign
Affairs and International
Cooperation, Mr Mahadhi
Juma Maalim, Deputy
Minister, Mr Marius
Fransman, Zambia
High Commissioner to
South Africa HE Mr M
S Chikonde SADC Troika
meeting

We continue to work with the leadership and people of Zimbabwe within the SADC-determined framework for the full implementation of the Global Political Agreement.

As the Kingdom of Lesotho prepares to hold its elections on 26 May 2012, we wish them well and trust that this election will usher in new hope for the people of Lesotho.

In the context of the Joint Bilateral Commission, South Africa continues to engage the authorities in Swaziland towards the resolution of their domestic challenges.

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON,

Our country is engaging the new leaderships in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya with a view to strengthening our bilateral relations and promoting cooperation on continental and global issues. We are ready to share with these countries our experience in transitional justice and constitution-making, among others.

In Libya, and as we had warned, the collapse of the government of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi resulted in a worrying security development in the Sahel region. Countries in the Sahel region such as Chad, Niger, Mauritania and Mali, are at the receiving end of the impact brought about by the disappearance of arms from Libyan military depots and the forced return of migrants from that country. Combine these factors with drought, then you will understand what the Sahel countries are going through. The AU Peace and Security Council convened a ministerial session in Bamako, the capital of Mali, ironically a day before the coup, as an act of solidarity with these countries and to mobilise continental and international support. South Africa has heeded the call by these countries for humanitarian relief.

South Africa remains seized with the issue of the status of Western Sahara. We

will continue to support the peace efforts of the AU and the United Nations on that protracted conflict.

Our relations with sister countries of Central Africa are another priority on top of our agenda.

The same goes for our relations with countries of West Africa which are progressing in the right direction, with Nigeria as one of our strategic partners in that region. In this regard, we pledge our solidarity with the Government and people of Nigeria in their struggle to defeat the menace of terrorism.

We must also use this opportunity to once again congratulate the people of Senegal on a very successful election; and His Excellency Macky Sall on his election as the new President.

In the Horn of Africa, we remain concerned about the tension between Sudan and South Sudan. We will continue our engagement in post-conflict reconstruction and development support to both countries in the interest of peace, development and prosperity. We are hopeful that the mediation efforts by the AU High-Level Implementation Panel, IGAD, the AU Peace and Security Council, and the United Nations Security Council, will yield positive results towards restoring normalcy in that part of our continent.

On Somalia, we worked closely with our SADC neighbours, civil society and corporate South Africa to provide humanitarian relief to the people of that country. I had an opportunity to engage with the President of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia recently. I also received my Somali counterpart in South Africa, during which time we signed an agreement to establish Diplomatic Relations between our two countries. We have pledged R100 million towards capacity-building and

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skills development projects for Somalis, as well as the development of democratic institutions of governance, nation-building and reconciliation. This pledge is to support efforts of the TFG and complement the noble security contribution by AMISOM and Ethiopian troops.

Another result of instability in Somalia has been the growing scourge of piracy. Cooperation with our SADC neighbours along the Indian Ocean shoreline, especially the Indian Ocean island states of Mauritius and Seychelles, will be enhanced to address this challenge and support efforts in the region to safeguard the sea routes from pirate attacks. We firmly believe that the solution to this problem lies on land and therefore our enhanced political strategy on Somalia will seek to build capacity to find a political solution, while at the same time combating piracy, prosecuting perpetrators and establishing the necessary correctional institutions to deter such activities in future.

In this regard, I wish to pay homage to our compatriots being held captive in Mali and Somalia. To Steven McGowan, Bruno Pelizzari, Deborah Calitz, and your respective families – I want to say, we are with you. Furthermore, finding and returning the remains of our late brother, Anton Hammerl, is still a priority for us.



The United Nations and Arab League Joint Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Kofi Annan meeting Major-General Robert Mood of Norway, who will head the planning team that will discuss the modalities of the eventual deployment of a UN supervision and monitoring mission.

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON,

The growing importance of Asia and the Middle East in the global economy cannot be over emphasised especially in the context of the current global financial crisis. The Middle East remains strategic in the global supply of oil, and developments there affect the price of oil, a factor which has an impact on our own economy and the general wellbeing of our people. This region also possesses significant sovereign wealth funds that we source for our own development. We continue to pursue our economic and political objectives in the region through, among other means, two-way high-level visits.

This region is also on the global peace and security agenda, at the centre of which is the Israel-Palestine conflict. The South African Government supports a two-state solution with Palestine and Israel existing side-by-side in peace within internationally recognised borders (based on the June 4, 1967 borders), with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

We are concerned that the patience exercised by the people of Palestine is wearing out and there is mounting fear that hope will soon be replaced with hardened attitudes.

On Syria, we welcomed the announcement by the Government there that it has accepted the proposals by the United Nations and League of Arab States Special Envoy, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, for the restoration of peace in that country and responding to the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. We call on all parties involved in the conflict to accept the proposals of the Special Envoy and commit to a peaceful and an all-inclusive dialogue. We are encouraged that the UN monitors are already on the ground.

South Africa continues to encourage the peaceful resolution of disputes surrounding

the nuclear programme of Iran and encourages further discussions, negotiations and co-operation in order to promote mutual confidence. Co-operation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is indispensable in contributing to build the required confidence.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Asia provides significant opportunities for growth in the global economy currently and in the future. In the context of South-South cooperation, we shall continue to develop and deepen our cooperation with the countries in that part of the world to take full advantage of the trade, investment and human resource development opportunities provided for our country and people by this region.

The holding anchor of our South-South cooperation strategy is the BRICS partnership mechanism with China, India, Brazil and Russia. President Zuma has just returned from the Fourth BRICS Summit in India, and South Africa will be hosting the Fifth BRICS Summit in early 2013. The BRICS is becoming an increasingly important formation of like-minded countries. Our membership of BRICS has three objectives in mind, namely: to advance our national interests as outlined in the President's recent State of the Nation Address; to promote our regional integration programme and related continental infrastructure programmes; and to partner with key players of the South on issues related to global governance and its reform. As the host of the next BRICS Summit, we have a contribution to make to the realisation of the objective of establishing the BRICS Development Bank.

The India - Brazil - South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) continues to play its unique role as a body bringing together three democracies of the South from three continents.

Equally, we remain committed, as part of our South-South agenda, to our relations



BRICS LEADERSHIP: SEATED FROM RIGHT: President of the Republic of South Africa: Mr Jacob Zuma, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil: Ms Dilma Rousseff, President of the People's Republic of China: Mr Hu Jintao, President of the Russian Federation: Mr Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister of India: Dr Manmohan Singh

with countries of South- and Central America, as well as those in the Caribbean. We must expand our diplomatic footprint in that part of the world. Furthermore, we continue to join the international call for the lifting of the US-imposed economic embargo on Cuba.

South Africa has been given the distinct honour of hosting the historic African Diaspora Summit which will take place next month on Africa Day (25th May). This Summit will help create sustainable partnerships between the African Diaspora and the African continent through a realisable Programme of Action; create sustainable dialogue, partnerships and strengthen Pan-African solidarity for a better Africa and the Diaspora; and promote South-South cooperation in the betterment of the African continent and the Diaspora. It will draw, among others, on the outcomes of the African Diaspora Ministerial conference co-organised by South Africa, the AU and the CARICOM in Jamaica in 2005, as well as the important contribution of Conferences of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora held in Senegal in 2004 and in Brazil in 2006.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

Ties with the United States of America are one building block of our partnership with countries of the North. The Strategic Dialogue with Secretary Clinton is proving to be a sound platform for strengthening our bilateral relations and the discussion of global issues of mutual concern. Secretary Clinton and I plan to meet later in the year to develop this dialogue further.

Canada is another North American partner whose contribution to our economy and national priorities we continue to appreciate.

Europe remains South Africa's partner in terms of trade, investment, tourism, technical cooperation, and development partnership. Despite current economic challenges in the Eurozone, we are hopeful that we will build on the successes of the past year and continue to consolidate relations with some of our key strategic partners in the region, especially the European Union, as a bloc, and individual states such as France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Russia, the Nordics, and Turkey. Increasingly, the Central and Eastern European region is also beginning to contribute in a significant way to our country's national priorities. We have to focus more resources on this region and tap into what it has to offer, especially in the areas of skills development, science, technology and agriculture.

We are humbled that Japan continues to strengthen its partnership with South Africa and the rest of the African continent in spite of the hardships brought about by a national tragedy in the form of an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

South Africa believes firmly in multilateralism and that our institutions of global

governance must be reformed with a view to making them more representative and sensitive to the interests of developing countries. This is a perspective that informed our priorities during the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. We supported the candidacy of Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria for the presidency of the World Bank because of the urgency we attach to reforming the Bretton Woods institutions. Nevertheless, we congratulate the newly appointed President of the World Bank.

Our non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2011 to 2012 continues to provide opportunities to contribute to international peace and security. We had an opportunity to serve as the President of the Security Council for the month of January 2012 during which we convened a High Level debate on strengthening the relationship between the UN and regional organizations, in particular the AU, in the maintenance of international peace and security. President Jacob Zuma presided over this debate whose conclusion unanimously adopted resolution 2033 (2012).



South Africa assumes the presidency of the UNSC for the month of January 2012. Seated alongside President Jacob Zuma is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon.

Honourable Chairperson, you will be pleased to know that our country is currently leading the process of developing a new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2013-2017. This is collaboration between our UN partners, national departments, provincial governments and civil society. This framework will ensure that all assistance from the United Nations agencies operating in South Africa will be aligned with our own identified national priorities.

As part of its continued and strong commitment to multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation, DIRCO is in the process of finalizing a host-country agreement with the African Union for South Africa's hosting of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) in terms of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, otherwise known as the Treaty of Pelindaba.

Furthermore, we seek to use our membership of the G20 to promote and strengthen the interests of Africa and of the South. As the co-chair of the G20 Development



Working Group (DWG) since its formation in 2010, we have played a key role in helping to monitor the implementation of the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan for Development (MYAP) which directs the initiatives undertaken by this working group.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

South Africa, Brazil and India - as hosts of the climate change, sustainable development and biodiversity international conferences, respectively – have been working together to coordinate positions as part of the bloc of developing countries, and also to share experiences.

We must reiterate our appreciation to all South Africans for their support in successfully hosting the historic COP17/CMP7 in December last year. Not only did we secure the 2nd Commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, a key outcome for Africa, but we also made history with the unanimous adoption of the Durban Platform for Enhanced

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Action. The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action in effect resets the multilateral system while the 2nd Commitment period on the Kyoto Protocol stabilises the transition to the future on the basis of the Durban Platform. We took a significant step in the implementation of the Bali and Cancun decisions, including on difficult issues such as response measures and loss and damage. In addition to this, we managed to achieve the establishment of the Green Climate Fund; the Adaptation Committee and the Technology Mechanism.

South Africa's COP Presidency continues until we hand over to Qatar in Doha at the end of this year. Between now and then, a lot has to be done to ensure the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action while phasing-out the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action under the Convention.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as the Rio+20 Summit, which will convene in Brazil in June 2012, will coincide with the 10th anniversary of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) which took place in Johannesburg. I am confident that its deliberations and final outcome will take into account the report of the High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability which had our President as one of its two Co-Chairs.

For its part, in October this year, India will host the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which will address key strategic issues relating to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Our State Protocol Branch remains committed to coordinating major national and



Opening Ceremony of the Second COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Summit of Heads of State and Government. Front row from left: Chairperson of East African Community, His Excellency Pierre Nkuruziza (President Burundi), President of Republic of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma and Deputy Chairperson of AU Commission His Excellency Erastus J O Mwencha

international events. The successful hosting of flagship events such as the SADC-EAC-COMESA Tripartite Summit and COP17/CMP7 serves as a good follow up to the successes of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

South Africa is looking forward to hosting the 2013 African Cup of Nations in January next year.

Our intergovernmental work has further strengthened and given impetus to our relations with different Provinces. We will work harder and smarter to create synergies between provincial and national activities, especially the Premiers' Offices and Local Governments. We must coordinate better on our engagements with Foreign Governments.

We will keep on strengthening our public engagements through the various programmes coordinated by our Department's Public Diplomacy Branch in order to raise awareness about our foreign policy implementation. Our outreach and public



A High Level meeting (Trilateral Project) to improve Rice and Vegetable Production in the Republic of Guinea. Chaired by Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim (centre) attended by the Guinean Minister of Agriculture – Mr Jean Telliano (left) and the Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development – Mr Ho Xuan (right). Pretoria, 20 July 2011

participation programmes throughout the country are a platform for DIRCO's dialogue with all South Africans on our foreign policy.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

The Department is entrusted with responsibility to foster partnerships through the African Renaissance and International Relations Fund (ARF). In the past year, the Department continued to support various partnerships. For example, in Sierra Leone, we have partnered with Cuba for the deployment of 29 Cuban doctors and nurses for the provision of adequate primary healthcare. We are also engaged in a rice project with Guinea in partnership with Vietnam.

The necessary modalities regarding the establishment and implementation of the South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA) are now in place. Once established, the SADPA will replace the ARF.

We value our interaction with their Excellencies representing the various missions accredited to South Africa. The Minister's Annual Dinner and the Annual Diplomatic Fun Fair are our flagship events in this regard. Our two Deputy Ministers and I will continue the practice of meeting with the different regional groups of diplomats accredited to our country.

Our draft White Paper is currently before Cabinet for approval. Consultations with relevant stakeholders have been concluded. The process towards the establishment of the South African Council on International Relations (SACOIR) has been through Cabinet and this body will be operationalised in due course. Furthermore, we remain seized with the work of finalising the different phases of our Foreign Service Bill (FSB), which is intended to regulate the establishment, administration, organisation and control of the foreign service in line with international conventions.

Honourable Members, all these achievements have been possible because we work as a Team at DIRCO. Each and every member of our Department is an embodiment of our "I am a South African Diplomat" campaign. The quality of our Human Resource Capital is indeed key in ensuring that DIRCO achieves its objectives. We have filled most of our key Management positions and are in the process of doing the same for other outstanding vacancies. The Department has improved its employment equity status with regard to the employment of female SMS members. We continue to provide support to employees and their families, especially in countries which experience difficulties as a result of either political conflict or natural disasters.

We are committed to ensuring that the quality of training of our diplomats is among the best in the world.

Team-DIRCO attaches great importance to a good working relationship with our Committee, Honourable Members. We must thank you for your invaluable support

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...as our country celebrates the centenary of the African National Congress(ANC), we also pay tribute to countless heroes and heroines who helped liberate our region

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without which many of our achievements would not have been possible.

The Department received an unqualified Audit Report from the Auditor General for the 2010/11 financial year. We are giving careful attention to areas identified in that Report requiring improvement.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

This year is historic for a number of African countries that are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their independence from colonial rule. I have in mind here Algeria, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. In this regard, we wish to reiterate our condolences to the people and government of Algeria on the sad passing of one of the stalwarts of our liberation movements and Algeria's first President, His Excellency Comrade Ahmed Ben Bella. His selfless contribution to our continent will always be remembered.

This month is also historic. 38 years ago today, on 25 April 1974, Portugal experienced what became known as the "Carnation Revolution" – an event which was precipitated by the anti-colonial struggle in Portuguese colonies. Following this revolution, the new government in that country withdrew its troops from the colonies, thus creating conditions for the eventual liberation of Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Today, as our country celebrates the centenary of the African National Congress, we also pay tribute to countless heroes and heroines who helped liberate our region from Portuguese colonial rule. The independence of Angola and Mozambique in 1975 opened a new chapter in the struggle for freedom in our own country.

As we celebrate our Freedom Day the day after tomorrow, we will remember our national heroes, among them Comrades Solomon Mahlangu and Chris Hani, for their ultimate sacrifice.

Another tribute must go to the founders of the OAU. They ensured that the apartheid question was amongst the important resolutions adopted by the inaugural Summit of the OAU. These courageous African leaders were convinced of the imperative and urgent necessity of coordinating and intensifying their efforts to put an end to the criminal policy of apartheid. For this immeasurable contribution to our struggle for liberation, today we must take a moment, pause and look back at what this glorious organisation, the OAU, and its leaders have contributed to the struggle for liberation in our country, especially its Liberation Committee.

When we observe the 50th anniversary of the OAU next year, we will remember the prophetic words of **OR Tambo in his address to the Liberation Committee in Arusha, Tanzania, in February 1983**, when he said, and I quote:

"Africa is pledged to the total liberation of our continent. Accordingly, she has an obligation to continue to mobilise the necessary political and material resources to ensure that this objective is achieved in Namibia and South Africa. The OAU, itself an eminent product of Africa's liberation, remains the one vehicle we have at our disposal to coordinate and mobilise this continental effort aimed at the completion of the task of finally expunging colonialism and racist domination from our continent, consolidating our independence and proceeding with our development programme." (end quote)



Yes, with South Africa and Namibia now free countries, Africa is today consolidating its independence and proceeding with its development programme. Ours is a century full of promise and hope in our quest for a better South Africa, and a better and safer Africa and the world.

I thank you.



Budget Vote Speech

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,

Ebrahim Ebrahim, to the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation

25 APRIL, 2012

CHAIRPERSON;

HONOURABLE CHAIR OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION;

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION;

YOUR EXCELLENCIES AMBASSADORS, HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS; AND

COMRADES AND FRIENDS

OUR FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS are guided by our principles, foremost amongst which is the desire for a more just, humane and equitable world. In the conduct of our international relations, we attach the utmost importance to the promotion of human rights, democracy, justice and international law. Inspired by our history and ethos, we believe that it is both in our national interest and our moral duty to champion human rights struggles around the world. We remain convinced that our goal should not merely be to condemn human rights violations but to do something concrete to address them. We take pride in following a uniform and principled approach to human-rights and conflict resolution that respects the universality of the rights of victims. We eschew the double-standards, selectivity and

political expediency of 'a la carte humanitarianism', the cynical practice of manipulating human rights to further other diplomatic or geopolitical agendas, including regime change.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON

It is now more than a year since the first stirrings in Tunisia ushered in the much belated Arab Awakening, spilling over into Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria and further afield. These popular uprisings have fundamentally challenged the whole Arab order, giving renewed hope and energy to people of the region and beyond for liberty, democracy and a better life. South Africa welcomes the positive changes that have been taking place in the MENA region. We have availed ourselves to post-uprising states to share our experience of successful political transition as they lay the foundations for their new systems of government.

We commend the good progress being made in the unfolding democratic transition in Tunisia. We have noted with great satisfaction the election of a National Constituent Assembly in October 2011, including the far-sighted decision to establish a coalition government which consists of three major political parties.

South Africa is closely following developments in the transitional process in Egypt. Our country continues to interact with the role-players to identify possible areas of cooperation in the drafting of the new constitution. We welcome the decision by Egypt to give renewed priority to Africa in its foreign relations and remain committed to the deepening of our bilateral relationship.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Since 1994 South Africa has chosen to defend those whose rights have been



Deputy Minister Ebrahim accompanied by Ambassador Ms Myende-Sibiya South Africa's representative to Egypt meets Dr Navil Al-Araby Secretary-General of the League of Arab States during his visit to Egypt, 29 February 2012

trampled upon, including the right to self determination. We remain deeply concerned about the state of affairs in the Western Sahara, the only outstanding decolonisation issue on the agenda of the African Union. We continue to reiterate the need for UN Resolutions to be implemented and the right of self-determination of the Western Sahara to be respected in terms of international law. South Africa firmly believes that there can be no lasting solution if the international community stands idle while the people of Western Sahara continue to suffer. We continue to emphasise that the UNSC should add a Human Rights monitoring component to the mandate of MINURSO, a glaring anomaly which creates the impression that some powers do not give priority to the human rights of the people of Western Sahara.

South Africa has re-established full bilateral relations with the new governing authority in Libya. We wish to see the new authorities make a success of establishing a successful, democratic post-conflict state. To this end, we have begun a process to assist Libya in constitution-making, national reconciliation, the integration of the

various brigades into a national defense force, and economic development.

Unfortunately, the predictable fallout from the collapse of the government of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi has contributed to a dramatic security and humanitarian emergency in the drought-affected Sahel region. We have responded by providing humanitarian relief.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

War and violence severely undermine human rights, ripping apart lives and livelihoods. An important contribution that South Africa has made to the protection of human rights is our investment in peace mediation efforts, in Burundi, the DRC, Sudan, Cote d' Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Libya, Madagascar and elsewhere. We believe strongly that the key to the lasting solution of conflicts is through inclusive processes of dialogue and reconciliation that address the underlying causes of disputes and reconstruct

viable polities. Military intervention and regime-change solutions are almost always counterproductive, exacerbating conflicts and prolonging the killing.

We are pleased that our approach has been validated in Yemen, where mounting domestic and international pressure finally led to a political settlement that ended the 33 year rule of President Saleh and led to the formation of an inclusive government under former Vice President Hadi. We are convinced that the patient mediation effort that the international community employed in Yemen is the model for solving other crises in the region, not the aggressive intervention that we witnessed in Libya.

South Africa remains deeply concerned by the situation in Syria. We welcome the news that the advanced team of observers has been able to visit key hotspots, including Homs, and that they have observed a marked decrease in violence. The deployment of UNSMIS will be important to ensure that the 6-point proposal of the Joint Special Envoy, Kofi Annan, is implemented, and will likewise play a crucial role towards the goal of promoting an all-inclusive process of peaceful dialogue leading to a political outcome that responds to the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. It is extremely important that all members of the international community give the Annan plan a chance to succeed, and uphold and respect the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON

The Arab Spring has demonstrated clearly that people cannot in the end be denied their legitimate rights, that their aspirations cannot be reduced to a security problem to be managed. After six decades of war and agony, Palestinians must be given their due. South Africa remains disappointed that no progress has been made in the latest round of talks under the auspices of Jordan, because of the Israeli failure



UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan on his arrival at Yayladagi refugee camp in Hatay province, Turkey.



Press conference by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria to discuss the Commission's work and the latest human rights situation in Syria.

to submit proposals on borders and security as required by the Quartet. Instead, the Israeli Government continues its acts of aggression, such as home demolitions, restricting the access and movement of the Palestinian people, the continued siege of Gaza, and above all, the relentless expansion of Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land with the evident intention of creating a Greater Israel.

We call on Israel to reconsider its refusal to allow the emergence of a Palestinian state and to accept the hand of peace that has been extended by the Palestinians and the Arab world. A viable Palestinian state living side-by-side with Israel would be an enormous boon to Israel, leading to its full acceptance in the region, and providing by far the best assurance of its long term security and prosperity.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

We have taken note of the withdrawal of all US combat troops from Iraq at the end of 2011, but remain concerned at the ongoing terror attacks which continue to kill or injure a significant number of innocent Iraqi civilians. We continue to hope that the US troop withdrawal will provide the impetus for the peaceful resolution of remaining sectarian disputes within the democratic framework so painfully established in Iraq since the demise of the Saddam Hussein regime nine years ago.

We congratulate Myanmar on the successful parliamentary by-elections that took place on 1 April, which resulted in the election of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and a number of her colleagues from the National League for Democracy. South Africa shares the general view that the way in which the parliamentary by-elections were conducted is indicative of a commitment on the part of the Government of Myanmar to continue down the road of political reform, and we hope that the spirit of optimism which prevailed during elections will continue to be sustained.

We have urged the Sri Lankan Government to grasp the opportunity to finally settle the conflict in Sri Lanka, including the speedy implementation of the Sri Lankan Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission Report, as well as the setting up of an impartial, inclusive and transparent mechanism to hold those people responsible for human rights violations to account. We stand ready to assist and share with the government and people of Sri Lanka our experiences on reconciliation and nation-building.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

Our diplomacy of Ubuntu recognises not only our moral interconnectedness, but that in an interdependent world, it is ultimately in our national interest to promote and support the positive development of others. As a trustee of our common values and humanity, DIRCO will continue to work as effectively as we can to advance all categories of human rights during the 2012/13 budget year and beyond.

I thank you



The Special Envoy of the Secretary - General, Mr. Vijay Nambiar, met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her residence



Budget Vote Speech

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Marius Fransman, to the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation

25 APRIL, 2012

**CHAIRPERSON;
HONOURABLE CHAIR OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION;
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL
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YOUR EXCELLENCIES AMBASSADORS, HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND
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FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS; AND
COMRADES AND FRIENDS**

TWO DAYS AGO on 23 April we commemorated the 19th Anniversary of the death of Cde OR Tambo, one of Africa's, if not one of the world's finest diplomats. He was not only a formidable leader but also a visionary that understood and articulated the nature and character of struggle and what is imperative for the liberation of Africa and the oppressed people's of the world.

On the occasion of this DIRCO Budget Vote 2012 I want to share what he said to the NAM Heads of Government Conference in Havana in 1979 and I quote:

"Within the context of the struggle for the democratic restructuring of international economic relations, our peoples are fighting to put an end to their dependent and subordinate status; (and) to regain sovereignty over their natural resources." Close quote.



Last month on 16 March 2012 during the New Age Presidential Breakfast President Jacob Zuma reiterated this imperative when he said; and I quote:

“Government has committed the next 20 years to strengthening economic development and transformation in South Africa”.

The President said this with the greatest confidence because he knows that the foundations of our domestic priorities and government’s commitments are now mirrored by a very strong and formidable foreign policy. A foreign policy that no longer only focuses on regional, continental and international peace and stability, democracy and international human solidarity alone, but one which seeks to include and balance it with our domestic economic policy priorities. The link between our foreign and domestic policies cannot be overemphasised – the two are inextricably linked. It is by no means a coincidence that we have utilised our diplomatic relations and partnerships to respond to, amongst others, the question of unemployment through the promotion of economic diplomacy.



President Jacob Zuma during a live broadcast of the SABC News Morning Show held in partnership with Transnet, SABC News and the New Age Newspaper 16 March 2012.

In this regard, our country’s foreign policy articulates a grand vision of a harmonious world in which our national interest that includes economic development is the driver of our external relations. This is a foreign policy juxtaposed with our domestic priorities. It is for this reason that within our foreign policy trajectory lays a very important developmental imperative that promotes economic development. Economic development that should benefit all South Africans and the poor and the marginalized in particular.

We are still concerned about the alarming rate of unemployment and the challenges this phenomenon creates for our people and our country. At this stage, the rate of unemployment in the fourth quarter of 2011 stood at 23.9 percent. Furthermore, figures show that from 2000 until 2008, our unemployment rate averaged 26.38 percent reaching an historical high of 31.20 percent in March of 2003 and a record low of 23.00 percent in September of 2007.

In trying to navigate solutions to unemployment through economic diplomacy, we must link this effort with questions such as: what intervention mechanisms do we need to put into place in order to attain the desired economic growth in our country? How do we utilise our missions abroad in a way that they contribute to the creation of decent jobs, for our people - young and old?

If we are unable to achieve these core objectives then by and large our Foreign Policy will remain foreign to the very people it should benefit i.e. the poor and marginalised communities.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

It is therefore critical that our country must produce the kind of diplomats who possess the requisite skills and developmental paradigm to utilise diplomacy in a way that helps to promote trade and investment between us and other nation states in order

to benefit Africans and South Africans in general and the poor and marginalized communities in particular.

In this regard, during the last financial year, DIRCO, in partnership with the DTI, the Department of Tourism, SA Tourism, Brand South Africa and all the nine provinces, made an effort to develop an economic diplomacy toolkit. Subsequent to this, the first economic diplomacy workshop was held on 5 – 9 March 2012 with political line function officials in the Europe region.

This was a major milestone in our endeavours to build economic diplomacy capacity in DIRCO, and more workshops will be rolled out in other regions in the current financial year.

Clearly, the success of economic diplomacy will determine the extent to which South Africa can achieve its domestic priorities. For our country to meet these domestic priorities, our economy must be able to participate in the global market place. Our economic diplomacy must include the creation of sustainable jobs and scaled up investments in employment intensive sectors. Accordingly, the creation of larger markets through regional integration will be instrumental in improving our global competitiveness.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

In order to demonstrate the extent of our commitment to job creation, our foreign policy trajectory is also reflective of South Africa’s various growth plans and strategies such as:

- 1 The New Growth Path (NGP),
- 2 The National Industrial Policy Framework (NIPF),

- 3 The Industrial Policy Plan (IPAP2); and
- 4 The Trade Policy and Strategy Framework (TPSF).

All these represent our overarching economic development policy framework which seeks to accelerate GDP growth. But what should be of importance about these frameworks is how we link them to our present day challenges in such a way that they can respond to the question of unemployment and promote economic development. These frameworks and other trade strategies must leverage the new opportunities arising from more integrated global and regional markets to support the country development objectives. This can only be achieved if we utilise opportunities arising from our association with emerging economies, especially those developing nations of the South.



HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

As you are aware, the shift of global power is pointing towards stronger developing nations such as India, Brazil, China and Russia. Honourable Chairperson, for this reason, we are proud to be associated with countries whose economies have grown significantly in the past decade. The shift of this global power is in our favour. We will continue to leverage new opportunities, using our back to back membership of both BRICS and IBSA to advance the course of our foreign policy and the advance of our national interests. Recent reports have shown how South Africa brings into IBSA a larger African market of approximately one billion people. We validate these reports as a true reflection of how committed we are in putting Africa's interests first. We therefore must continue using this membership to ensure that dividends of IBSA are felt directly by other developing nations – in Africa and elsewhere.

Our association with IBSA as well our strategic membership of SADC continues to provide us with the necessary space to strengthen our support to countries such as, amongst others, Madagascar, Somalia and Palestine.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

As Minister has aptly indicated earlier in her budget vote speech, South Africa remains seized with efforts to strengthen SADC's mediation efforts in Madagascar. Our commitment to the mandate bestowed on us by SADC has shown some commendable signs of progress. Our task therefore, as the Organ Troika (comprising of South Africa as Chair, Zambia and Tanzania) was to actively engage and persuade the Malagasy political stakeholders to sign the "Roadmap for Ending the Crisis in Madagascar" as a matter of urgency in order to return the country to constitutional normalcy.

I stand before this house fully motivated to announce some of the achievement of



Deputy Minister Marius Fransman with Madagascar Foreign Minister Pierrrot Jocelyn Rajaonarivelo, extending a helping hand in distributing blankets and food donated by Al-Imdaad Foundation based in South Africa.

SADC in Madagascar, these are as follows:

- A strategic mission was undertaken to Madagascar in September 2011 to consult with the Malagasy political stakeholders in order to finalise the process of the signing of the Roadmap; this was followed by consultations with key stakeholders, such as civil society organisations, the Head of the High Authority of Transition and the Heads of the Armed Forces;
- It was agreed that the High Transition Authorities (HTA) shall allow all Malagasy citizens in exile, for political reasons, to return to the country unconditionally. This included Mr. Marc Ravalomanana. Subsequently, the HTA undertook to provide the necessary security and safety to all Malagasy returnees and also develop and enact the necessary legal instruments such as an amnesty law to ensure that the political freedom of all Malagasy citizens in the inclusive process of the transition, towards free, fair and credible elections is secured.



Deputy Minister Marius Fransman at Morning Live during a fundraising effort for the Somalia phone in programme. to extend humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

These achievements paved the way for continued Inter-Malagasy dialogue towards the formation of transitional institutions and processes contributing towards a conducive environment for the holding of peaceful, credible, free and fair elections.

More importantly, the Implementation Framework spelled out key performance areas, responsible agencies, timeframes and actions to be undertaken towards free, fair, transparent, neutral and credible elections in Madagascar. When SADC called for the establishment of a liaison office in Madagascar, we were amongst the first to honour this request. We have since complied and deployed an official to the liaison office in Madagascar.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

The African Union is the overarching custodian for the implementation of peace and security measures and strategies in the continent. For this reason, I felt honoured to

have an opportunity to brief the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the International Contact Group (ICG) on developments in the Madagascar mediation process. In view of this commendable progress, the AUPSC took a position to fully support this process and mobilise the international community to provide support to the transition process in Madagascar.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

Deeply concerned, moved and disturbed by developments in Somalia, our government responded to the call by SADC to extend humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia. In partnership with Angola, Namibia, Mozambique and Tanzania, we offered pledges and contributions in a form of, amongst others, food aid. Our Department of International Relations and Cooperation remains seized with outstanding work towards coordination of all SADC pledged for humanitarian assistance.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

Moving on to South-South cooperation, it may be recalled that the IBSA Fund was created in 2004 out of the IBSA Dialogue Forum which is a Head of State-level



initiative to enhance cooperation among the three developing countries, India, Brazil and South Africa. Its purpose is to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be jointly adopted and implemented in interested developing countries as examples of best practices in the fight against poverty and hunger. In this regard, this fund initiated the successful construction of a Multi-purpose Indoor Sports Hall project in Ramallah. The completion of the Ramallah multi-purpose indoor sports hall is testimony to what can be achieved if the hands of friendship are extended to other countries in need.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

Without any doubt, this is the first step in what we trust will be a valuable and worthwhile initiative towards our contributions to developmental initiatives.

Much closer to home, yet on the same terrain of development. I am convinced that our view of development, as a country, is anchored upon firm foreign policy principles to ensure a more just, free and equitable Africa and world at large. These principles continue to provide guidance in the work we do – at home and abroad. This is an important source of reference in our conduct of global affairs, especially on issues of development and partnership with our neighbours. We are, therefore, committed to ensuring the establishment of the South African Development Partnership Aid (SADPA) agency becomes a success. In principle, the successful establishment of this structure will see our country counted amongst countries that contribute towards development of other nations.

The South African government recognises the importance of using its development cooperation funding efficiently and effectively to address the challenges of poverty alleviation, underdevelopment and marginalisation of Africa, in particular, in the South. It is recognised that these challenges simultaneously reflect South Africa's

own interests for security and development, and reflect its solidarity with the plight of people elsewhere.

The Draft Bill for establishing the Partnership Fund (to replace the ARF) and the Business Case for creating SADPA have been completed and is under evaluation by DIRCO management and the relevant partners departments. Work is underway to develop the operational policy, systems and tools for operationalising SADPA.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

In the management of the Department, we continually strive to adhere fully to the Government approved Governance Framework which also includes the Public Finance Management Act, the Treasury Regulations and the Minimum Information Security Standards. We continue to assess business and operating processes to ensure that these are updated and also improve their efficiency and effectiveness. Measures are being introduced to improve the turnaround of payment to creditors. Furthermore, significant improvements were made to the Department's fixed assets.

Whilst we have made considerable progress in stabilising the Department's ICT infrastructure, improvements on this area will continue in order that the Department operates in a more efficient and effective manner. We are also required to provide the necessary facilities for the Department to conduct its operations at Head Office. In this regard, we are currently in discussions with the National Treasury to consider alternative models for the accelerated acquisition of properties, especially Chanceries and Official residences.

In 2008, the Department launched ROSA (Registrations of South Africans, Abroad). This is a system that allows South Africans who are travelling abroad to register their details with our Department. In the event of emergencies, the Department will

then be in a position to identify and make contact with South Africans abroad. I therefore once again urge all South Africans travelling abroad to utilise this facility when travelling abroad.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

The year 2012 marks the 100 year anniversary of the oldest liberation movement in Africa, and the world - the African National Congress (ANC). Therefore it may be recalled that Cabinet had since issued a statement that noted that these Centenary Celebrations were National celebrations, and therefore not exclusive to the ANC.

It is for this reason that these celebrations provides our Department of International Relations and Cooperation and diplomats across Africa and the world an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of the liberation movements not only in South Africa but on the entire continent over the past 100 years. Particularly in relation to international relations, diplomacy and the ANC's role there in.

Since the ANC's inception in 1912 international diplomacy was the key tool used to challenge the colonial and subsequent Apartheid regime, eventual international one of four key pillars of the struggle for a democratic and free South Africa. It is this movements principles based upon the panAfrican philosophy, international human rights and international human solidarity with the oppressed poor and marginalized, that has today informed South Africa's constitutional, legislative and policy platform for international relations. A policy platform that is principled and of which all South Africans can be proud of. One which seeks to ensure that we become a more free, fair, just, equal, non-racial and non-sexist society in Africa and the world at large.

To this end, we must, therefore, use this year to celebrate the heroes and heroines of Africa and South Africa in particular, for it is these heroes and founding fathers

that have imbued the principles for our foreign policy today. We must sing praises of those whose tireless fight for our independence in the last century led to the end of colonialism and oppression throughout the continent. Let us take a moment and celebrate their great sacrifices and contributions to the people of South Africa, Africa and the World.

In particular I want to make special mention of four extraordinary patriots in this regard, one who was born in the month of April and three that died in this month. Firstly Josiah Tshangana Gumedi, the 3rd ANC President and tireless fighter for democracy. Although it is argued that his greatest legacy was to build a closer alliance between the ANC and the working class, he was from the outset a diplomat as well who used his skills tirelessly in the fight for equal rights of Africans in general and South Africans in particular.

Secondly Oliver Reginald Tambo the longest serving ANC president whose contribution to democracy, international relations and international human solidarity stills reverberates today. Finally Solomon Mahlangu and Chris Hani.

These patriots, Tambo, Hani and Mahlangu died in this month of April and were unable to witness the fruits of their sacrifice of a free and democratic South Africa.

In conclusion honourable speaker let me conclude by quoting what OR Tambo said to the International Conference in support of the liberation movements of Southern Africa and in support of the Frontline States, on 10 April 1979 when he said:

"We are moved to recall the words of our late President Chief Albert Luthuli when he opened the 42nd Annual Conference of the ANC in 1953: Our interest in freedom is not confined to ourselves only. We are interested in the liberation of all oppressed people in the whole of Africa and in the world as a whole... Our active interest in the extension of freedom to all people denied it makes us ally ourselves with freedom forces in the world."



Budget Vote

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
Deputy Minister Marius Fransman, to the National Assembly

25 APRIL, 2012

Honourable Speaker almost 60 years later these words remain relevant and are what informs and remains instilled in our foreign policy today.

I thank you