

2013/14

Budget Vote

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

30 MAY 2013



VISION

OUR VISION IS AN AFRICAN CONTINENT which is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist 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.

CONTENTS

Budget Vote Speech

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, to the National Assembly **1**

Budget Vote Speech

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, to the National Assembly **23**

Budget Vote Speech

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Mr Marius Fransman, to the National Assembly **33**



Budget Vote Speech

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

Cape Town, 30 May 2013

HONOURABLE SPEAKER;
HONOURABLE MEMBERS;
YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AMBASSADORS, HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND
REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS;
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;
FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS;
COMRADES AND FRIENDS,

A FEW DAYS AGO, President Jacob Zuma was in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Organisation of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) – our Pan-African organisation founded in 1963 for promoting our unity in diversity, strengthening our solidarity, and building on our common history and shared values.

Kwame Nkrumah captured this vision in his address to the inaugural meeting of the OAU when he said: *Our objective is African union now. There is no time to waste. We must unite now or perish.*

Indeed, we have not perished – today, we are a continent on the rise. We pay tribute to our forebears for their foresight that gave our continent the OAU and its successor, the AU.

“

*In just 19 years, we
reset South Africa's
international relations
that were constructed
and developed
during 400 years of
exclusion, colonialism
and apartheid.*

”

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

Next year will be 20 years since as a nation we began our journey in 1994 towards a better South Africa in a better Africa and a better world.

During the negotiations, we spelt out our transformation agenda in our May 1992 document rightly entitled *Ready to Govern: ANC Policy Guidelines for a Democratic South Africa*, which set four foreign policy goals for the post-apartheid dispensation, namely:

- the transformation of our foreign policy with the view to democratising our international political and economic relations for peace and friendship
- our integration as a full member of the international community
- to develop a foreign policy that will promote regional cooperation, peace and security
- to establish a professional foreign service in which training, employment equity and affirmative action will be important components for the attainment of high standards of service.

Soon after the 1994 elections, we elaborated these ideas further in a document we called *Foreign Policy Perspective in a Democratic South Africa*, which provided additional details of the foreign policy that the new Government was going to pursue.

All these unfolded in an era of the transition from the end of the Cold War to a new world order which many thought would be dominated by a triad made up of North America, the European Economic bloc, and Japan.

In just 19 years, we reset South Africa's international relations that were constructed and developed during 400 years of exclusion, colonialism and

apartheid. Today, the goals we set for ourselves when we began this journey have been achieved:

- our country is no longer a pariah state but a valued and respected member of the international community
- we have a dynamic, independent foreign policy that speaks to our domestic priorities, which is supported by a professional foreign service
- we expanded our global footprint from 34 to 126 missions across all continents and time zones
- our international trade surged, creating millions of jobs; and tourist arrivals continue to grow year after year
- our African Agenda has placed our continent at the centre of our foreign policy
- our relations with countries of the South are firmly grounded on shared interests and common challenges
- our partnership with countries of the North is based on mutual respect and cooperation
- we are active in the multilateral system for the transformation of the global governance architecture
- our economic diplomacy promotes South Africa's broad economic objectives globally
- we are considered globally a member of what has become known as "emerging powers".

In the next year and beyond, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) will lead a coordinated campaign, through the footprint we have established, to diversify and consolidate our international relations. The budget we present to you today is about availing more resources so that DIRCO can power ahead into new frontiers of cooperation, contributing towards the eradication of poverty, inequality and unemployment. The proposed figures are attributable to our reality of operating in an international environment.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Our journey since 1994 whose achievements are widely recognised has been through small but yet giant steps that we take, working together with our people. This Administration is one such giant step.

In 2009, this Administration made a number of foreign-policy commitments to the people of this country in the context of the five priorities of creating decent work and sustainable livelihoods, while focussing on education, health, crime and rural development. This was done with an understanding that the cornerstone of our foreign policy lies in our domestic interests.

We stand before you today to affirm that these commitments we made in 2009 have been fulfilled. We therefore wish to thank all who responded to our call that working together, we can do more.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

Our relations with our neighbours are in good shape, thanks to our bilateral mechanisms as well as the integration objectives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Southern African Customs Union.

Bilaterally, we continue to work for strong diplomatic and economic ties with countries of our region; and our bi-national and joint commissions, including continuous exchange of high-level visits, have all been instrumental in this regard.

We stand for a strong SADC as an integrated community in various domains that is supported by an effective Secretariat.



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, with Dr Thomaz Salomão, SADC Executive Secretary (left), and Dr G Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, SADC Council Chairperson, during the opening remarks of the SADC Double Troika Meeting

SADC has taken a lead in working for peace and stability in our region, and our contribution in this regard has been through preventive diplomacy and mediation; our membership of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security; and through regional peacekeeping efforts.

As a member of the SADC Organ Troika, we have urged the leaders in Madagascar to put their country first and act in accordance with the letter and spirit of the roadmap that they themselves have committed to in order to ensure a credible election with an acceptable outcome.

We remain seized with the process of assisting the parties in Zimbabwe to implement the Global Political Agreement and the Roadmap to elections in the context of the SADC mediation framework.



President Jacob Zuma and Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan at Tuynhuys. President Jonathan was on a State Visit to South Africa to strengthen bilateral and economic relations between South Africa and Nigeria, 7 May 2013, Cape Town



President Jacob Zuma addressing the SADC Organ Troika Meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique, ahead of the 32nd Heads of State and Government Ordinary Summit on 16 August 2012

We welcome the proposal for an Intervention Brigade as a realistic option to bring security normalcy to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). SADC's leadership has set a good example by deploying its brigade as part of this intervention force. Our government condemns in no uncertain terms attacks on civilians, humanitarian actors and MONUSCO peacekeepers.

These excellent relations we have with our neighbours extend to all regions of our continent.

During his recent State Visit to our country, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan emphasised the value to Africa and the importance of a strong working relationship between South Africa and Nigeria.

We remain concerned with the peace and security situation on our continent. The stabilisation of the Great Lakes Region, Central Africa, North Africa as well as parts of West Africa and the Horn of Africa requires urgent attention if we are to consolidate the gains we have made in recent years to restore peace to Africa. We are therefore in

full support of peace initiatives in the DRC, the Central African Republic, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Somalia, and between South Sudan and Sudan. Libya, Tunisia and Egypt need all of us as they transit towards a new socio-economic and political dispensation. We firmly support the ongoing constitutional processes in these countries and are indeed ready to revitalise our structural bilateral consultation mechanisms with them.

The humanitarian assistance we provide is an act of solidarity with sisterly countries in need.

We have for many years been seized with the issue of the status of Western Sahara. It remains our firm commitment to continue supporting all efforts aimed at achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution in that country. The self-determination of the people of Western Sahara is essential.



President Jacob Zuma greeting South Sudan President Salva Kiir during the opening of the AU Summit Ethiopia, July 2012



United Nations Security Council meeting: Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

(INSERT) IDP Camp in Zam Zam

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The primary objective of the OAU was to achieve a better life for the people of Africa, eradicating all forms of colonialism, and defending their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

We must therefore recall to memory the contribution made by the Conference of All Independent African States and the All African People Conference (AAPC) to the birth of the OAU, because it was these two conferences that led the way and shaped the ideas that are associated with the OAU today.

The AAP Conference, which met for the first time in December 1958 in Accra, Ghana, was a gathering of anti-colonial movements fighting for freedom, along with the few independent African states under the clarion call “Hands Off Africa!”. While the African National Congress (ANC) could not attend this conference because of

restrictions imposed on it by the apartheid regime, it was nonetheless represented by one of its leaders who was resident in Ghana, a former Treason Trialist, Comrade Alfred “Tough” Hutchinson. He read the ANC’s message to delegates which I wish to quote:

We ... welcome the convening of the Conference and wholeheartedly congratulate its organisers. We should like particularly to place on record the deep appreciation of the oppressed people of South Africa of the fact that those who have already achieved their freedom and independence have not forgotten their duties and responsibilities to those who are still in chains, and to the sacred cause of African freedom and independence.

This history is important not only because of the background it gives to the origins and outlook of the OAU, but also to demonstrate that South Africans were not bystanders in the evolution of the OAU. Indeed, the ANC participated in the inaugural meeting of the OAU in 1963 and continued as a member through the Liberation Committee, which was established for the execution of the OAU’s objective of decolonisation.

As such, a series of national activities are envisaged for our own celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU under the theme: “Pan-Africanism and the Renaissance”. A special sitting of this House is to



Patrick Duncan (left) and Alfred Hutchinson (right), South African delegates to the first All African People’s Conference (AAPC) in Accra, Ghana, December 1958. Hutchinson was a leader of the African National Congress (ANC) in the Transvaal. From December 1956 until late 1958, he was one of the accused in the Treason Trial. Following his acquittal, he left South Africa without a passport and went to Ghana and attended the AAPC on behalf of the ANC. He stayed in exile. Patrick Duncan was an anti-apartheid activist and at the time a member of the Liberal Party and editor of “Contact.” In 1963, Duncan went into exile and joined the Pan-Africanist Congress.

convene so that our Parliament can also pronounce itself on this important Pan-African event.

The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of our Union is the beginning of another voyage towards the centenary of the continental body in 2063.

Today, Africa is different from what it was 50 years ago. Not only is the decolonisation process almost complete, but significant progress has also been achieved towards African unity. Our continental Peace and Security Architecture, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) are all among the concrete steps we have taken to find African solutions to our challenges of peace, development and democracy.

South Africa’s contribution to this Pan-African endeavour is the reason our country is respected on the continent and globally. Our role during the transition from the OAU

to the AU, in the establishment of NEPAD and the APRM, as a member of the AU Peace and Security Council, as well as our commitment to the AU Commission and other organs of our Union are all informed by our belief that a better Africa is possible, and in our lifetime.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

Building strong South-South relations is another leg on which our foreign policy stands. We do this through:

- establishing good bilateral relations with countries of the South
- developing a focussed strategy and approach for engagement with the “emerging powers” of the South



President Jacob Zuma at the BRICS breakfast, announcing the BRICS Business Council



IBSA 5th Ministerial Meeting, Presidential Guesthouse, Pretoria. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with her Indian counterpart, Minister SM Krishna, and Brazilian counterpart, Mr Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Minister for External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil

- participating in mini-lateral bodies of countries of the South such as the Non-Aligned Movement for the pursuit of the interests of developing countries in the global system.

In this regard, our government is inspired by the outcomes of the recent Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Summit as contained in the eThekweni Declaration and eThekweni Action Plan.

The IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) Trilateral Agreement celebrates its 10th anniversary this year; and we will use this to reflect on the milestones and long-term future of this formation.

What makes our South-South engagement strategy so effective is the fact that it is rooted in strong bilateral relations.

Our relations with the countries of Asia continue to strengthen at a pace that necessitates a greater focus to the East Africa and Asia share a complementary outlook for the future.

China and India are not only strategic bilaterally, but are also partners through BRICS and IBSA. Furthermore, their partnership engagements with Africa resonate with our African Agenda.

With regards to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), you would recall that South Africa assumed the Co-Chairship in June 2012 in Beijing. We remain committed to work together with China over the next six years to ensure the implementation of the Fifth FOCAC Beijing Action Plan (2013 – 2015).

The Gulf region is equally important as a political player in global affairs as well as a source of foreign direct investments and destination for our exports.

However, peace in the Middle East remains elusive despite the various efforts to bring some respite to the almost daily toll of human life and shattered livelihoods of people. The view that the conflicts in the Middle East constitute a risk for international peace and security is not far-fetched. It is for this reason that we will continue to direct our efforts in contributing to the peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Palestine, Syria and other areas of conflict in that region.

As President Jacob Zuma said in his State of the Nation Address: *We stand with the people of Palestine as they strive to turn a new leaf in their struggle for their right to self-determination; hence we supported their bid for statehood. The expansion of Israeli settlements into Palestinian territories is a serious stumbling block to the resolution of the conflict.*



Bilateral discussions between the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, and Syrian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Faisal Mikdad

Our relations with Latin America and the Caribbean region are also underpinned by shared South-South values and goals. This partnership is indeed strengthened by the presence of a large African Diaspora in the region. We are committed to the expeditious implementation of the five legacy projects of the AU Diaspora Summit we hosted last year.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

We have good bilateral relations with countries of the North. Our strategic political dialogue with the United States of America (USA) continues to positively impact our bilateral relations. The USA remains our major trade, investment, tourism and technology partner.

Europe remains South Africa's main trading partner, source of investment and valuable supplier of cutting-edge technology and capacity-building. Our partnership with the European Union serves as a platform for political dialogue and the expansion of our economic ties.



Deputy Minister Marius Fransman led a South African delegation to a TICAD Meeting in Addis Ababa. He met with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and also delivered an intervention on behalf of South Africa

We are looking forward to participate in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development V Summit to be held in Yokohama, Japan, from 1 to 3 June 2013.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Our country attaches great importance to promoting multilateralism. Since re-entering the world stage in 1994, South Africa has taken up many international positions of responsibility; often the task was daunting but through the innovative hard work and dedication of our people, we have consistently recorded resounding successes. Today, we are an influential global player.

We have sought to utilise our various memberships in the international fora to promote our national interests and advance the African Agenda.

The United Nations (UN) remains one single forum where nations of the world converge under one roof to discuss issues of common interest. South Africa's election to the UN Peace Building Commission, following directly on our UN Security Council membership, is testament to our continued commitment to global peace and security. It also coincides with our membership of the Economic and Social Council, which is the principal coordinating body for economic and social matters within the UN system.

Building on G20 reforms of the international financial architecture and the Bretton Woods Institutions, we should intensify our advocacy and diplomatic work on the transformation of the global governance system. The expansion of the UN Security Council in the permanent category should be a priority.

South Africa has continued to play an active international role in numerous multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation meetings, because this is important to our agenda for the creation of a peaceful and prosperous century.

The next three years will also be critical in setting the post-2015 agenda for the international partnership for development.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

This journey to freedom, as our icon Madiba taught us, is but a long walk. Every good step we take is just the beginning of a better one. Some priorities should therefore preoccupy our approach into the future.

We have initiated implementation modalities on the National Development Plan. One of these is on South Africa's national interests with the view to elaborating a policy and strategy in a manner that balances our domestic priorities with equally important

“

South Africa has taken up many international positions of responsibility; often the task was daunting, but through the innovative hard work and dedication of our people, we have consistently recorded resounding successes.

”

imperatives of cooperation and partnership as well as Pan-Africanism and South-South solidarity.

The African Agenda must be consolidated. The AU continues to be the primary vehicle that carries the hopes and aspirations of all Africans. As we look to the future, as South Africa, we embrace *Vision 2063* of the AU, which is encapsulated in the 50th Anniversary Declaration adopted recently at the conclusion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. This Vision contains priorities that form the pillars of the tasks bestowed on us by history in our march to the next 50 years of our Union in 2063.

The achievements of decolonisation must entail self-reliance and true socio-economic emancipation.

The success of NEPAD's Presidential infrastructure initiative that we champion and the AU's Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa is essential not only to our integration agenda, but specifically for the realisation of the continental Free Trade Area.

The current trend of gaining political power unconstitutionally has to be halted. In this regard, the decision taken by the recent AU Summit, at the initiative of South Africa on the urgent establishment of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises is historic, and indeed a leap towards the operationalisation of the African Standby Force.

Elections should not be a source of dispute and political instability but a democratic path through which the people decide peacefully on who should govern them as stipulated in the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

"The essence of development along your own lines is that you must have the right to develop, and the right to determine how to develop. Its essence is freedom and – beyond freedom – self-determination. This is the vision we hold for our future and our development."

- Speech by Albert Luthuli at a public meeting organised by the South African Congress of Democrats, 1 February 1958



HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

We are glad to announce that the administrative requirements for the establishment of the South African Development Partnership Agency have now been completed. The Proclamation was signed by President Zuma and the Agency will soon become operational. Shortly, we expect to table a Bill in Parliament for the creation of the Partnership Fund for Development. This Fund will replace the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund and provides the mechanism for the funding of development cooperation programmes administered through the Agency.

The establishment of the South African Council on International Relations is also in the final stages.

DIRCO has made strides to improve on our human resource capacity by filling some of the key positions which were vacant. Organisational development remains at the heart of a well-functioning organisation.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE CADET PROGRAMME

Ms NP Malekane

Ms M Letlala

Ms NS Msimang

Our department took heed to a Presidential call for job creation. Since 2005, DIRCO has placed unemployed youth on Cadet, Learnership and Internship programmes through which we continue to contribute towards job-creation initiatives. Today, beneficiaries of the Cadet Programme, Ms M Letlala, Ms NP Malekane and Ms NS Msimang are here as my special guests. I am also pleased to be joined by 20 scholars from three schools in Cape Town, that are, Langa High School, Zonnebloem Nest Senior Secondary School and Beauvallon Secondary School who are here as part of the DIRCO's "Take-a-Girl and Boy-Child to Work Day".

We remain committed in our efforts to further respond to another Presidential call to prioritise "communication and marketing" in our work. We continued to

strengthen our Public Diplomacy mandate through informative public participation platforms to enhance communication between government and the public. We believe that the establishment of our Internet-based radio station "UBUNTU Radio" will further enhance and strengthen our desire to reach out to our national and international partners with ease.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS,

The foreign policy goals we set for ourselves when we began this journey in 1994 have been achieved. We have now reached a turning point where we have to marshal our forces in order to remain among the top economies of the world of today and the future, we are ready for this task. History defines destiny, not only in humans, but also among states. We are stronger and more determined for the long walk in this journey to a better South Africa in a better Africa and a better world.

As we say in the anthem of the AU:

*Let us all unite and toil together
To give the best we have to Africa
The cradle of mankind and fount of culture
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.*

I thank you!



Budget Vote Speech

By the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, to the National Assembly

Cape Town, 30 May 2013

HONOURABLE SPEAKER;
HONOURABLE MINISTER MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE;
MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS PRESENT;
HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER MARIUS FRANSMAN;
THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION;
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;
YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS;
REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS;
INVITED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

OUR FOREIGN POLICY of Ubuntu expresses the desire for others to also have what we want for ourselves. South Africa's foreign policy, like that of any other state, is a projection of our domestic imperatives. Through our foreign policy, we project South Africa's vast opportunities as an investment destination of choice, as a world-class tourist destination and as an exporter of quality goods and services.

Indeed, this is what we do on a daily basis through all our Missions abroad, through our high-level visits, diplomatic interactions and the various channels of mass communication. A recent study released by Brand SA affirms that South Africa

ranks very favourably, especially with regard to financial infrastructure, competitiveness, governance and human development in comparison to global and emerging market competitors. These findings were compiled from data sourced from the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Economic Forum and the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, among others.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

It is in our national interest that we continue to champion the promotion of human rights in our country, Africa and the world.

The major hallmarks of our human rights agenda are most visible in the conduct of our foreign policy strategies, particularly, in our efforts to strengthening the African Agenda. Our involvement in peacekeeping missions in Africa finds expression in our key foreign policy strategy on Africa.

We are inspired by the belief that the promotion of human rights is essential for the development and prosperity of any nation in the world.

It is not surprising that South Africa is increasingly called upon to share its experiences and to play an active role in mediating between conflicting parties, in assisting with post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts by those countries emerging from conflict, and to assist others in developing their own mechanisms for reconciliation and nation-building.

We have demonstrated our commitment to continue monitoring the ongoing political transitional processes in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. We have offered our assistance and experiences to the transitional governments and political role



Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim during an engagement with a delegation from Sri Lanka

players in these countries, particularly in the drafting of their respective constitutions and in the reconciliation process.

We must also emphasise that, for Libya in particular, we have made an undertaking to share our experience with the formation of a National Defence Force as well as the establishment of an institution similar to our Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We will be firming up this commitment in the near future.

We have been actively involved with the Government of Sri Lanka. Our approach has also taken into account the important role of civil society, non-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders. The idea behind our involvement is to help the people of Sri Lanka in dealing with the aftermath of the civil war that took place in 2009. I have personally visited Sri Lanka to engage in various forums, mainly about our own experiences. Similarly, I also had an opportunity to engage with a number of delegations visiting our shores from Sri Lanka on the same issues. We will continue our efforts to share the message of hope and peace with the people and the Government of Sri Lanka.

Such countries are constantly reminded of the importance of strengthening economic ties, which in turn ensures that the transition to peace is accompanied by visible and growing prosperity among all sectors of society.

Our message is therefore consistent throughout – the importance of establishing inclusive dialogue, the importance of justice, democracy, the rule of law and a legitimate Constitution as a basis for peaceful co-existence.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

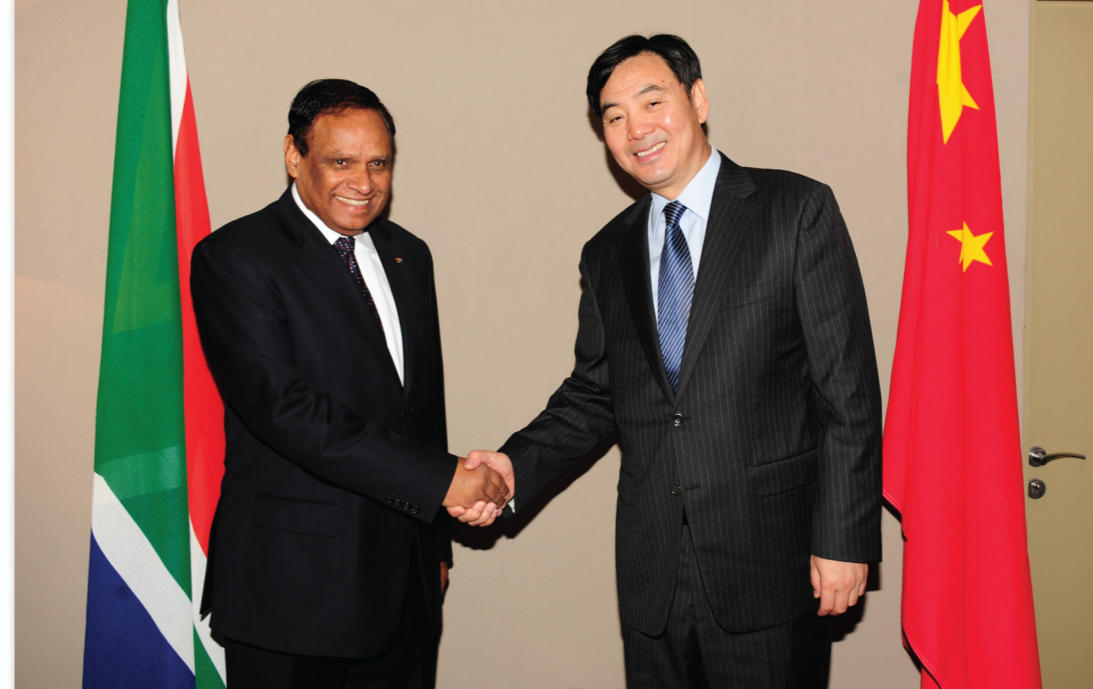
As the Minister has already indicated, Asia remains a strategic continent for South Africa, and our political and economic relations continue to strengthen.

The importance of some of the countries, notably China, Japan, India and South Korea as foreign direct investors in our country could not be overemphasised. The region's importance for South Africa is underscored by the fact that Asia is the fastest-growing region in the world, followed by Africa. Although trade between South Africa and these countries is growing, the skewed trade in their favour requires sharp focus.

The South African Government will continue to strengthen its engagements with all its key partners, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Another important structure that defines our milestones is the South Africa-China Strategic Dialogue. This is an important platform where we engage on



Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim receives his Chinese counterpart during the fifth session of the establishment of the Joint Working Group on South Africa-China Cooperation

issues of common interest and mutual benefit. At its fifth session, which took place in November 2012, the establishment of the Joint Working Group on South Africa-China Cooperation featured prominently. It was also during this session that the Chinese Government offered a total of 200 scholarships to the Government of South Africa. We must take advantage of this opportunity.

Our relations with Japan remain solid. We continue to enjoy cordial bilateral relations with this part of Asia, through our Strategic Cooperation Partnership. In March this year, I had an opportunity to co-chair the 12th South Africa-Japan Partnership Forum meeting, which was an important milestone in the evolution of our bilateral relations, focussing on the official development assistance from Japan to South Africa, and the upcoming Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V).

Our relations with South Korea are sound, particularly in the fields of trade, information and communications technology and water management.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

Our engagements with Central Asia, specifically, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are gaining momentum. Towards the end of this year, we expect to welcome President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan in South Africa. We are looking forward to a stimulating dialogue on issues of common interest.

We are also making economic strides in neighbouring Uzbekistan. Sasol has established a permanent presence in this country, and will partner with the Uzbek Government in the production of liquid fuel from gas.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

The deteriorating military and humanitarian situation in Syria and the resultant number of fatalities, internally displaced people and refugees continues to increase. South Africa has condemned the ongoing violence perpetrated both by the Government of Syria and the atrocities committed by rebel and sectarian groups. South Africa is convinced that there can be no military solution to the crisis and urges all parties to immediately put an end to the violence, to start engaging in dialogue, and reach an agreement on a political transition based on the Geneva Communiqué of June 2012.

The granting of Observer Status to Palestine by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly last November was a significant turning point in the struggle for Palestinian statehood. We again urge all parties in the Palestine/Israeli conflict to enter into genuine negotiation, to create an independent Palestinian State, based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.



Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim during a Working Visit to Iran

Likewise, we continue to support the right to self-determination of the Saharawi people.

The Republic of Iraq remains an important country for South Africa. We are guided by our shared common history of a struggle for independence and self-determination. We have already welcomed and hosted the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Iraq to our shores in November 2012, and an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries was signed.

Although the Islamic Republic of Iran finds itself in a difficult position internationally, our government is of the view that we should continue to maintain good relations with this country. At the invitation of Dr Hossein Abdollahian, Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister for African and Arab Affairs, I paid a visit to Iran in April 2013. One of the objectives of my visit was to encourage his government to take the necessary steps to seek consensus with the UN and its agencies on its nuclear programme.



Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff; South African President Jacob Zuma and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh hold hands at the press conference during the IBSA Summit held at the Presidential Guest House, Pretoria, South Africa. 18 October 2011

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) and Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) are both strategic platforms, which allow for South-South politico-economic cooperation to strengthen and counteract the global balance of forces.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Moving closer to the prospects that the Indian Ocean Rim holds for our development, it must be emphasised that this formation has attracted the quest for influence and hegemony in the geostrategic context, driven by global

competition for natural resources and market share. A clear strategy to engage this formation is therefore necessary for our own economic development.

In the immediate neighbourhood, these include countries such as India, which is projected to rank third-largest in the global economy by 2050.

The need to leverage this agglomeration of key economic anchor countries is in congruence with South Africa's domestic priorities, namely economic growth, job creation and skills development, as well as the regional and continental integration agendas.

Clearly, South Africa's foreign policy continues to evolve and respond to the dynamics of the ever-changing global politics.

We will therefore continue to work effectively to advance our national interests through our foreign policy engagements.

I thank you.



Budget Vote Speech

By the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Mr Marius Fransman, to the National Assembly

Cape Town, 30 May 2013

HONOURABLE SPEAKER;
HONOURABLE MINISTER MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE AND OTHER MINISTERS WITH US TODAY;
HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER EBRAHIM EBRAHIM;
THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION;
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;
YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS;
REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS;
INVITED GUESTS; LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AS OUR FOREIGN POLICY approaches its 20th anniversary next year, it is critical that we fully assess the progress made in respect of our international relations agenda. It is appropriate that we evaluate the impact of our engagements against the agenda we have placed before us. In her address, our Minister did justice to that.

Today, South Africa is a better place than it was 19 years ago. Our promise to create a better life for all our people is beginning to see the light of day. When the African National Congress took over the reins of government in 1994, our new government was faced with multiple challenges of transformation. Today, this country has been transformed in every sphere.

Today, our international relations engagements have elevated our country from a pariah state to a great nation we can all be proud of. We have opened up economic



Address by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman, at the 25th remembrance ceremony for Dulcie September in Arcueil, France, 29 March 2013

opportunities for our people, integrated our land into the global village and played no small role in bringing peace and stability to our continent. But we also recognise the challenges that still lie ahead.

From increased levels of education, access to water, electricity, sanitation and housing, to a visionary foreign policy that is premised upon the principles that our economic prosperity as a country is intrinsically linked to the prosperity of the rest of Africa. Over the past 19 years, we have promoted relations with strategic partners, and built formidable partnerships with like-minded states, we developed and implemented a robust and independent foreign policy agenda that is founded on the principle that there can be no development in Africa without peace and no peace in Africa without development.

We have played our role in preventing and mediating conflicts across our continent, and we have committed our resources to post-reconstruction and

development on our continent. We have developed and implemented independent bilateral, multilateral and trilateral policies that are aimed at transforming the international multilateral global architecture in favour of the developing world. We have successfully designed and implemented a foreign policy based on the principle of Ubuntu, human rights, human development and international solidarity with the developing world and oppressed.

Today, we can confidently say that we have made progress. Africa today is a far more peaceful (albeit the challenges) continent than it was two decades ago. Today, even the *Economist* magazine, which a decade ago spoke about Africa being the Dark Continent, acknowledges that Africa today is the hopeful continent that is rising and that the next decade will even be better. In brief, this is what this great nation and our foreign policy have contributed to in the past 19 years.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

This year 2013 marks the penultimate year before our country celebrates the 20th anniversary of our freedom in 2014. This year is also the 25th anniversary of the death of another great patriot, diplomat and protégé of our leader OR Tambo – Comrade Dulcie September, a women, activist, internationalist and cadre from the Cape Flats who was brutally assassinated in Paris by the apartheid regime for her commitment to international solidarity, justice, peace, democracy, non-racialism and non-sexism and whose assassins have to date still not been brought to book. In the words of one of our other giants of diplomacy and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, the late Comrade Alfred Nzo, when he spoke at Dulcie's funeral *if ever there was a soft target, Dulcie was one.*

These comrades and patriots lived and died for the ideals of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa, Pan-Africanist unity, Ubuntu, international solidarity

with the oppressed masses of the world, peace, stability and friendship. So, to the families of these great patriots and heroes and heroines of the struggle, some of whom are present here today, namely the nephew of Comrade Dulcie September, Mr Michael Arendse, we say to you thank you, Baie Dankie, Enkosi Kakhulu.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The extent to which we succeed in our foreign policy is directly dependent upon the support and mandate we receive from the masses for our foreign policy agenda. Yet, our foreign policy initiative has historically been perceived by ordinary South Africans as an area that is divorced from our communities and our domestic priorities. Secondly, a perception exists among ordinary South Africans that our objectives and victories within the international relations arena has neither correlation nor impact on local community priorities and daily existence. It is for this reason that the Public Participation Programme under



The BRICS roadshow in KwaZulu-Natal



the leadership of our President and, approved by Cabinet in 2010, has been fully utilised by our department to debunk these misconceptions and ensure that our people are fully involved in the development and implementation of our foreign policy agenda in a manner that they both understand and directly and indirectly benefits them.

In this regard, we have over the past few years successfully revved up and effectively implemented this public participation platform to demystify the work we do and its impact on local communities. We have used this space to reinforce accountability to citizens and robustly engage with them in respect of policy priorities through continuous public participation events throughout the year, giving impetus to the letter and spirit of the constitutional principles as it relates to developmental public participation. We have in the past three years travelled the length and breadth of this country. We engaged and interacted with the citizens through structured meetings. We shared and debated our foreign policy trajectory with students, business, the elderly, our youth, non-governmental and community-based organisations and across all other spectrums of society.

Yesterday, was the latest in a litany of examples where we had a very successful community engagement in Gugulethu, Cape Town, and an opportunity to interact with more than 2 000 people. In addition, we have had focussed sectoral meetings with the different sectors of society as well as mass-based community consultation meetings in preparation for the COP17/CMP7, the Global African Diaspora Summit, and recently the fifth BRICS Summit, among others. This year, we also intend to establish BRICS community chapters which will form the basis for community empowerment by our BRICS countries within local communities, giving impetus to BRICS commitments at a local level. This will ensure that small, medium and micro-enterprise; women; youth; and



The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman, speaks to the Angolan Ambassador based in South Africa during a public participation programme in Saldanha Bay

disabled entrepreneurs are able to be brought into and benefit from our international trade relation dialogues.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON,

The promotion of peace, democracy and justice on the continent is critical for stability. Our Minister has just announced the progress made thus far regarding the establishment of the South African Partnership Development Agency (SADPA). The Agency will serve as the focal point for all South Africa's outgoing development assistance. It will provide greater policy cohesiveness, harmonisation, synergy and coordination among all spheres of government. We believe that South Africa is uniquely placed to develop partnerships with African countries, and other partners of the South, the multilateral institutions, civil society and the private sector, in a manner that drives innovation around African developmental challenges for the creation of



President Jacob Zuma arrives at Desroches Island, Seychelles, for the SADC Troika Meeting on Madagascar. With him is the President of Seychelles, Mr James Michel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles, Mr Jean-Paul Adam, and the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman.

self-sufficient societies, reducing the need for aid and capitalising on the human and natural resource assets of Africa. In this regard (even prior to SADPA through the African Renaissance Fund), we have already committed millions in aid to Somalia for capacity-building in a number of areas, including and in particular in programmes that seek to strengthen its governance and financial institutions and architecture. This we hope, in line with our vision, will ensure that Somalia will become more sustainable and less dependent upon international developmental aid in the long term.

Another of the Agency's key strategic focus areas will include the development of an integrated continental skills database which will strengthen our continental and developing world partners with the matching, placing, sharing and



Deputy Minister Marius Fransman with Seychelles President James Michel and Madagascar leaders, Mr Andry Rajoelina and Mr Marc Ravalomanana.

exporting of human capital in and between countries in an integrated manner based on our continental agenda. It will also allow us to ensure a more synergised trilateral arrangement between countries such as Cuba in the deployment of their skills across Africa, particularly in the area of engineering and health, among others.

We will continue to use all our diplomatic tools and fora, including development aid to further our policy position of international solidarity and support the people of Palestine, Cuba and Western Sahara, among others.

In this regard, we once again call on our civil-society organisations to work in partnership with us in finding a lasting and peaceful solution to the situation in Palestine and Western Sahara. We also make the clarion call to our members of civil



Deputy Minister Fransman (seated centre left) concluded his trip to Cuba with a series of bilateral consultations with government ministries. The Deputy Minister met with Mr Hernandez Guillen, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment; Mr Oscar Martinez Cordoves, Deputy Chief of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party; and Mr Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (seated centre opposite to Deputy Minister Fransman)

society to increase its support and international solidarity for the release of the remaining four members of the Cuban Five.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

We have also participated fully in the resolution of conflicts in the region. To use one example: since the 2009 coup, Madagascar has been suspended from membership of both the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union, pending restoration of a constitutional order. The road ahead seemed very long for the Malagasy. Our country as a member of the SADC Ministerial Committee Organ Troika as well as the chair during the period 2010 to 2011 committed itself to ensure that Madagascar implemented its Roadmap to return it to constitutional normalcy. For our part, we will continue to work closely with the SADC Troika on Politics, Defence



Deputy Minister Marius Fransman with Prof. Cyril Karabus in Abu Dhabi



Prof. Karabus arriving back in South Africa

and Security Cooperation in its efforts to finding lasting peace and stability through peaceful elections.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Our department remains central in the coordination of the implementation of South Africa's foreign policy pursuant to Cabinet's approval in 2008 of the "Measures and Guidelines for Enhanced Coordination of South Africa's International Engagement". Our success in securing the release of Professor Cyril Karabus is an example of an expression of this mandate. This case was an example of a sterling social compact between government, civil society, media, members of the religious and cultural communities and numerous businesspeople nationally and internationally as well as the Professor's family. It is proof of what we can achieve when we are united as

a nation and pull together with a unity of purpose based on the principles of human rights, Ubuntu and humanism. I hope that we will be able to emulate and build upon this goodwill and social cohesion across all sectors in other areas.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

In a complex and insecure world, it is necessary that South Africa articulates and presents its foreign policy positions with a singular voice since we are a unitary state and not a federal one. Consequently, being a unitary state we have one foreign policy for our democratic state under one executive authority – President Jacob Zuma – and by implication, matters of state in relation to foreign policy are executed by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) at the instruction of the President of the Republic of South Africa.

Yet, over the past few months, we have experienced inherent intergovernmental policy tensions as it relates to implementation of foreign policy where provincial and local governments operate in silos, creating a multiplicity of foreign policy positions and decisions and by implication contradictions.

Within this context, I want to address an issue currently confronting our country and the people of the Western Cape. It is wrong for any city, metro or local municipality in South Africa to invite a head of state to receive a Freedom of the City Award without following the appropriate intergovernmental relations framework and protocols both in letter and spirit by not consulting with national government and in particular, DIRCO, as the custodians of foreign relations. Equally so, it is both ethically and morally wrong not to consult residents of that city or local municipality when making such a decision.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The extent to which our country can achieve its domestic priorities, especially job creation, depends on the potential successes of our economic diplomacy – economic diplomacy should be an instrument that reinforces our vision of a better South Africa in a better Africa. Our economic diplomacy initiatives must therefore find expression in the vision set out in our National Development Plan (NDP). For us to succeed in building an alternative continental global economic system, the NDP must have a strong focus on Africa, especially our quest to promote peace, democracy and justice on the continent.

Having due regard for the above, our Diplomatic Academy continues to provide training on economic diplomacy to our prospective diplomats, in order to enhance the work of our missions abroad. Introducing this training has set our missions on a path to influence and set the agenda of public discourse on economic diplomacy.

On that note, I also want to add by calling upon all our young people to start interacting with our DIRCO website as it will provide them valuable insight into the requirements and skills required for those wanting to choose a career path in diplomacy.

Today, Africa is rising. Let us also rise as peoples of Africa. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the OAU/AU, let us recommit ourselves to promoting an integrated, prosperous, peaceful and unified Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

I thank you.



ISSUED BY:

THE DEPARTMENT
OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION,
REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA



international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA