

DEPARTMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION



Budget 2009



Extracts from the Freedom Charter

Adopted at the Congress of the People, Kliptown, on 26 June 1955

WE, THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, declare for all our country and the world to know:

- that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;
 - that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;
 - that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;
 - that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;
 - And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together equals, countrymen and brothers adopt this Freedom Charter;
 - And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.
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- The People Shall Govern!
 - All National Groups Shall have Equal Rights!
 - The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth!
 - The Land Shall be Shared Among Those Who Work It!
 - All Shall be Equal Before the Law!
 - All Shall Enjoy Equal Human Rights!
 - There Shall be Work and Security!
 - The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened!
 - There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort!
 - There Shall be Peace and Friendship!
 - South Africa shall be a fully independent state which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;
 - South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation - not war;
 - Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all;
 - The people of the protectorates Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland shall be free to decide for themselves their own future;
 - The right of all peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close co-operation.

**Let all people who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:
THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT
OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY**

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**Address by the Minister of
International Relations and Cooperation,
Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, to the
National Assembly on the occasion of
the Budget Vote**

Thursday 18 June 2009

**Honourable Speaker
Honourable President Jacob Zuma
Honourable Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe
Honourable Members of the National Assembly
Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee of
International Relations and Cooperation and the Select
Committee on Trade and International Relations
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Acting UN Resident Representative Dr Stella Anyangwe
Comrades and Friends
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen:
Fellow South Africans**

I**N HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS** President Jacob Zuma identified the priorities of our Government. In that context the President also articulated a vision of South Africa's role; taking into cognisance that working together with the rest of the world we can do more in bringing global peace and prosperity. Our mandate as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation is to contribute to the realisation of this Agenda.

*Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.*

Honourable Members

I table this Budget Vote, two days after the 33rd anniversary of June 16, 1976 whose heroes and heroines were inspired amongst others by the vision of the Freedom Charter whose 54th anniversary we celebrate next week. I mention this because the Freedom Charter declared that “There shall be Peace and Friendship”. Thus, the presentation I make before you today, is an attempt to contribute towards the realisation of this vision.

Today we present the Budget of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. The important decision of our Government to change the name of the Department speaks of the need for us to focus on partnerships and sustainable relations that will advance the interests of our country, contribute to the development of Africa and make the world a better place. We have committed that this will also be manifested through the creation of a South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA). Work has started towards the realisation of this goal.

We want the creation of this Agency to take our work on development cooperation to greater heights in terms of its focus as well as its depth. It will be recalled that in 2008 Cabinet requested the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, to develop a policy framework on development assistance by South Africa. The Agency is therefore located within that context and will be the key vehicle for the delivery of development cooperation.



Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane presenting the Budget Vote Speech to Parliament. Seated from right to left (front row) are Deputy Ministers Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim and Ms Sue van der Merwe. Seated behind the Minister (on the right in the second row) is Mr Thulas Nxesi, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation.

Honourable Speaker

It is our firm conviction that South Africa’s destiny is inextricably linked to our Mother continent and that; working together with the sister people of the continent; will contribute towards a better Africa and a better world. Thus, as we begin this term of our Government we are called upon to redouble our efforts to seek peace, security and development in Africa. We believe that these are interlinked, as we cannot hope for development without peace and security. Ka gobane –Tau tsa hloka thobela ke mojano. Ebile ntlo lerole gae tswale kgosi.

We therefore wish to take this opportunity to stress the following pillars for our engagement with the continent.

First, the strengthening of regional integration. From the

experience of other regions of the world we have witnessed the benefits that come from strong regional integration. When successful, regional integration has been closely associated with peace and development amongst others. We seek the same for our beloved continent.

It is therefore imperative that we focus on the further development and strengthening of SADC and the African Union (AU). Regional Economic Communities, such as SADC, are also key pillars for the broader continental integration. The African Union cannot be strong if Africa's regional economic communities are weak. It is this perspective that forces us to work for greater political cohesion and a stronger economic integration in our region. We have made advances in this regard, as evident from the launch of the SADC Free Trade Area in South Africa last year.

Of course, we know that the path is not going to be smooth as evidenced by the current differences we have amongst ourselves on the question of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). But we are firmly of the view that none of these challenges are insurmountable as long as we act guided by the undisputable reality of our interdependence.

We shall continue to work with the people of Zimbabwe to support the implementation of the all inclusive agreement. We call on the leadership of Zimbabwe not to waiver and implement fully the letter and spirit of the Global Political Agreement. We pledge to step up efforts to promote bilateral cooperation between our two countries on a wide range of

areas. We also call upon the international community to lift sanctions and fully engage the government of Zimbabwe and help respond to the calls for help from her people.

Through SADC we are also seized with the situation in Madagascar and we hope that we can contribute to bring normalcy to that country. Tomorrow, the leadership of the SADC Organ Troika (Swaziland, Mozambique and Angola) and South Africa will meet here in our country ahead of an Extra Ordinary SADC Summit on Saturday, 20th June 2009, specifically to focus on how to restore durable peace in that sister country, Madagascar.

At the continental level we will continue to be fully engaged in the strengthening of the African Union. We are prioritising our contribution to the important discussion on the question of the Union Government. This debate is drawn from the long standing vision of some of the illustrious leaders of Africa



South African President, Mr Jacob Zuma in discussion with SADC Executive Secretary Dr Augusto Salomao at the start of the SADC Extraordinary Summit. SADC met to discuss the situation in Madagascar – Sandton, Johannesburg.

such as Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere and others, who wished to see a deeper unity of our continent. These forebearers believed that the strength of Africa lay in unity, Sepedi sa re Tau tsa hloka seboka di shitwa ke nare e hlotsa.

It therefore behoves our generation to continue to work towards this vision. Our generation, however, has to engage in this debate fully cognisant of the position and the place of our continent today. We have the benefit of learning from the history and the experience. We also need to be guided at all times by the fact that the integration of our continent is not an end in itself but rather a basis to help address the myriad of challenges facing Africa, at the centre of which are the scourges of poverty and underdevelopment.

We will also enhance the work that we have started in bringing closer alignment between SADC, COMESA and the East African Community (EAC).

The stabilisation of our continent needs to be anchored in visible programmes of socio-economic development. In this regard we recognise that NEPAD remains a key mechanism



COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Summit, (from left): Thomas Salamao, SADC Executive Secretary; Kgalema Motlanthe, Former President of South Africa and Chairperson of SADC; Paul Kagame, Rwandan President and Chairperson of the EAC; Yoweri Museveni, Ugandan President; Mwai Kibaki, Kenyan President; Jakaja Kikwete, Tanzanian President. Kampala, Uganda, 22 October 2008.

for the achievement of this socio-economic development. NEPAD programmes on infrastructure, food security and others would address priority challenges faced by

African countries. The underdevelopment of infrastructure limits the chances for Africa's development and also delays even the closer integration of our economies. It is for this reason therefore that we believe that the implementation of NEPAD programmes at all levels needs to be enhanced.

Second, support for peace, security, stability and post-conflict reconstruction initiatives. We know from our own experience that the achievement of peace and stability can be a painstaking effort requiring patience and perseverance. However, we also know the dividends that come with peace. It is this understanding that has informed our cooperation with the sister peoples of the DRC, Burundi, Sudan, Comores, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire and many others, as they seek to bring peace to their own countries. The peace dividend that all these countries seek is economic growth and

development. We are enjoined to play our role in continuing with this important work.

South Africa's men and women continue to serve in peacekeeping missions in various parts of our continent. We are proud of the role that these patriots play. Thus, we need to ensure that the operationalisation of the SADC Brigade, the strengthening of the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare and the launch of the Regional Early Warning Centre in Gaborone receive our focus.

Honourable Speaker

The third pillar of our continental strategy is the strengthening of bilateral political and socio-economic relations with countries of the continent. We enjoy strong bilateral relations with countries on the African continent. Through these partnerships we wish to foster stronger political relations, people-to-people solidarity, trade, investments and tourism. Our relations with the countries on the continent find expression through various bilateral political agreements and commissions that we have entered into. The Department is doing an audit of these partnerships in order to identify ways in which we can strengthen them, focusing particularly on the interventions necessary to promote intra-African trade in mutually beneficial and sustainable ways.

The evolution of our Foreign Policy has ushered in an era of trilateral cooperation whose practical expression of these is also found in the developmental projects that South Africa is

undertaking in various parts of the continent. These, among others, range from the electricity generation project in Guinea-Conakry, the rice and vegetable production project conducted jointly with the government of Vietnam in Guinea-Conakry, the IBSA Livestock Development and Agricultural project in Guinea-Bissau and the Cuban Medical Brigade in Mali.

Of significance in 2009 is that South Africa and Nigeria will celebrate ten years of formal diplomatic relations. This is an important opportunity to evaluate progress made and identify further areas of cooperation between our two countries.

There can be no lasting peace on the African continent as long as the people of Western Sahara continue to suffer and to live in conditions of occupation. We are convinced that urgent steps are needed to resolve this last case of decolonisation on our continent in line with UN processes.

As we seek more cooperation and the integration of our continent we are convinced that Africa cannot only be defined by geography, but we should also come together around a set of values that define our humanity. For this reason the promotion of democracy, the respect for human rights and the improvement of governance are vital for our success as a continent. Indeed we see progress being registered in all these areas throughout the continent. In our own region, South Africa and Malawi are the latest countries who have just held democratic elections. These values are also supported by the principles of the African Union such as its

continued rejection of unconstitutional changes of power. In this regard another important structure on which we should focus is the African Peer Review Mechanism. The APRM holds the potential to enhance the popularisation of these progressive values on our continent.

Honourable Speaker and Members

During his address to the nation, President Zuma reiterated a need to work together with the countries of the South within the framework of South-South Cooperation. Our commitment to South-South cooperation is driven by our need to pursue stronger political relations with countries of the South but also to focus these relations towards advancing our domestic priorities. It is about expanding the horizons of opportunity for our country.

It is now a reality that the global economic geography is changing; with growing importance of the emerging economies of the South as contributors to global economic activity. There is also growing recognition that the emerging economies of the South will be key catalysts of global growth as we emerge from the current economic crisis. We have to seek out and grasp these opportunities. This is both good in the short term but also importantly helps us strategically diversify our economic partnerships so as to be able to withstand both the current and future economic shocks.

In October 2009 we will participate in the 4th IBSA Summit to be held in Brazil where the emphasis will be on finding



3rd IBSA Forum Summit (from right): Former South African President, Kgalema Motlanthe, Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, and Brazilian President, Lula da Silva.

ways of enhancing the implementation of the twenty bilateral agreements already signed in this trilateral initiative. Through IBSA we plan to further increase the levels of trade to the target of US\$ 25 billion by 2015 and finalise the modalities for IBSA Outreach to other countries. IBSA has indeed become a strategic mechanism for linking our three continents. We are convinced that the implementation of the agreements we have entered into should elevate these links further, including through air and sea.

In addition to our partnership through IBSA, we will continue to strengthen our strategic bilateral relations both with India and Brazil. With India we share strong historical relations

spanning through every stage of the evolution of modern day South Africa through the 20th century. Ours has been a relationship steeped in politics and struggle. That is why we wish to congratulate the people of India for the manner they conducted their recently concluded elections, thereby once again entrenching the place of India as the largest democracy on earth. We owe it to our forbearers to continue the current encouraging trend of increases in both trade and investment between us. We recognise and appreciate the role played and commitment made by India to help us train our youth for the challenges of the modern economy.

Bilateral trade with Brazil is also on the increase. Of course we have to attend to the structure of the trade which currently is tilted in favour of Brazil. Brazil, having the second largest concentration of Africans - second only to Nigeria - is a logical partner of our continent. We are encouraged by the increasing realisation of this fact by the government and people of Brazil.

Beyond IBSA we are broadening our political and economic relations with countries of the South in general, in Asia, Middle East and Latin America. It is from these expanding relations that South Africa seeks to also leverage support for our domestic priorities. Amongst others, we believe that our focus should be on investments, two-way trade as well as tourism opportunities with these countries of the South. Already some of the bigger investments in South Africa come from countries of the South. We have also formed structured bilateral relations using joint commissions with some of



Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Sue van der Merwe, on the Occasion of the "Showcase South Africa, Leverage China Opportunities" Expo 2010 Shanghai China Roadshow, 29 May 2009.

the countries in Asia, Middle East and Latin America. The countries of the Middle East in particular, in spite of the global economic crisis, continue to be a source of FDI which we can access by leveraging the huge resources in their Sovereign Wealth Funds.

In 2008 we completed a successful celebration of the 10 years of diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China. Part of the focus was to ensure the visibility of our two countries in each other's territories but also enhance people-to-people relations. We believe that we achieved the objectives we had set ourselves. This has also set the stage for our preparations to participate in the Shanghai Expo next year.

At the political level our relations with countries of the South are critical in addressing some of the global challenges that we face. Therefore our continued partnership with these countries in the context of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 remains important. In July we will participate in the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Egypt wherein we shall seek to enhance the political solidarity of the South as a force for the resolution of some of the challenges facing the world today.

The 2nd South America-Africa Summit to be hosted by Venezuela in September 2009 will also be a key event in the context of our pursuit of South-South cooperation. The Summit aims to expand the knowledge among the countries of Africa and South America and to encourage the exchange of information and experiences, as well as to work collectively on matters of mutual interest, especially in the fields of poverty alleviation, sustainable development, science and technology and cultural exchange.

Honourable Speaker

South Africa remains extremely concerned with the lack of progress in the Middle East peace processes. The establishment of a viable Palestinian state existing side by side in peace with Israel, as well as to Israel's withdrawal from other occupied Arab land, such as the Syrian Golan Heights is our request. We have during our tenure as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, strongly condemned the Israeli air and ground assault on Gaza. We therefore call on all parties in the peace process to refrain from any acts

of violence and counter violence which could further impede the peace process and also for the inclusion of all key role players in the process on non-ideological grounds. The challenge of the time for the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships is the immediate resumption of the negotiations as the only basis for stable peace. We also welcome President Barack Obama's overtures on the two state solution thus reiterating our long held view on the correctness of the "two state solution" approach.

Honourable Speaker

We have also stated the importance that our Government attaches to our relations with the developed countries of the North. We also participate in trilateral partnerships with some countries of the North in support of peace and development on the African continent. Our focus in the coming period will be to place our Government's strategic priorities at the centre of our relations with the developed countries of the North. The various cooperation mechanisms that exist with these countries will be structured to achieve this objective.

In September 2009 we will host the South Africa-European Union Summit. This is the second Summit since the launch of the Strategic Partnership between the European Union and South Africa.

It is important that our European partners should support the development focus of our regional integration. It is regrettable that the discussions and plans for the EPAs have so far tended to move contrary to this spirit despite our best efforts. We reiterate again that this process could have major ramifications for the unity and economic development of our region.

This year, marks the centenary of our relations with Japan. This affords us the opportunity to reflect on how to better focus our partnership in trade, development and investment.

We shall continue to strengthen our bilateral relations with Russia through our structured coordination framework, ITEC.

Our bilateral relationship with North America and the United States in particular to us is key. In this regard we will continue to explore ways of deepening the political relations between South Africa and the United States. We have noted the various policy pronouncements by the new American administration in which they express an intention to engage with the world on Zimbabwe in different terms. South Africa welcomes this trajectory.

Our foreign policy has always been informed by a strong belief in the multilateral system of global governance. It has been through the multilateral system that we have always come together to address the many challenges that confront the world today. At no time has this cooperation under the multilateral system been more important than it is today. Nations of the world have to come together to deal with the effects of the global financial crisis. We have to take action with others to address climate change. Indeed these are among the urgent priorities that we will address this year in our multilateral engagements.

Through the Group of 20 a framework has already been set for common responses to the global financial meltdown. We



Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and the Russian Federation Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology, Mr Yuri Trutnev during the Inter-governmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) held at the Izulu Hotel in Durban, Kwa Zulu Natal province, South Africa.

all have to commit ourselves and show political will to the implementation of the decisions of the G20. The next G20 Summit in September should hopefully be an occasion for taking stock of progress made with implementation.

We also support the actions taken within the United Nations to address the financial crisis. We believe that the United Nations will allow all nations of the world and those that are not part of the G20 process an avenue to participate and voice their opinions on this global crisis.

The international community will gather in Copenhagen in December 2009 to look at steps that need to be taken to address climate change. This is an immediate and pressing problem for all countries. Numerous studies show that Africa will be one of the most vulnerable regions as a result of climate change. We therefore expect a balanced outcome from Copenhagen that will address the needs of all states.

We will have an opportunity to address these issues also through our engagement with the Group of 8 (G8). The 2009 Summit of the G8, under the Presidency of Italy, will prioritize the global impact of the financial crisis, climate change and biodiversity, illegal immigration and food security, Africa's development cooperation and commitments made by the G8 through the African Action Plan. The Summit will further receive a report on the Heiligendamm Dialogue Process. As a member of the G5 countries, South Africa will prioritise the implementation of commitments from the Kananaskis and Gleneagles Summits and pursue a more inclusive process within the G8, based on partnership, equality and mutual respect.

South Africa's experience as a member of the United Nations Security Council has redoubled our commitment and sense of urgency towards reform of this institution. South Africa is actively engaged in the negotiations on Security Council reform that are currently underway in New York under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly. In this context we have stressed our commitment to the broader reform of all the institutions of global governance. We will therefore work with other countries to realise these reforms in order for these important institutions to be able to respond to the many challenges that currently face us.

Honourable Speaker and Members

It is also important for us that we should continue to build on the partnerships we developed during our tenure as a non

permanent member of the Security Council. This will help us to advance specific initiatives such as security sector reform and the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organisations. The UN Security Council remains a critical institution for South Africa and Africa in general given its mandate of the maintenance of international peace and security. Its agenda is still largely focused on challenges in our continent.

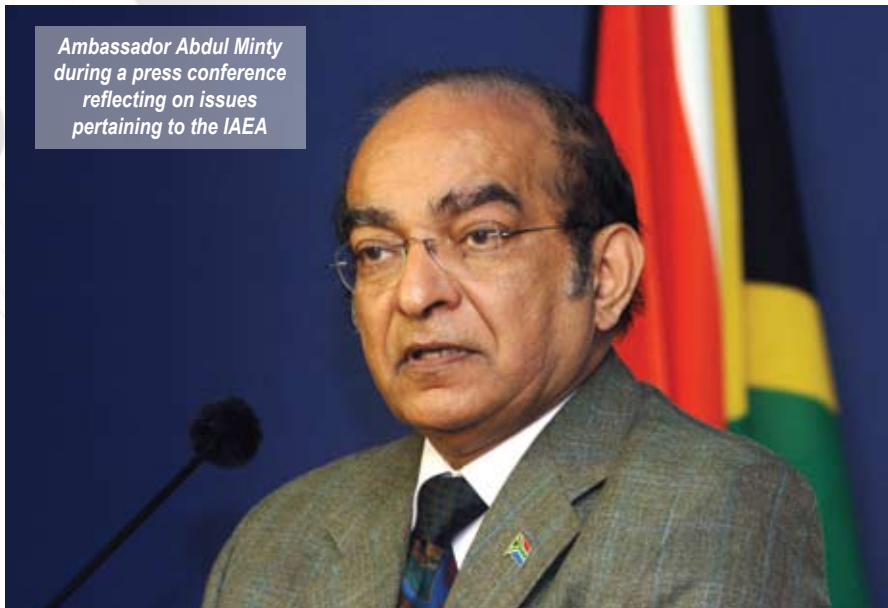
The UN Durban Review Conference which took place early this year in Geneva was a success in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances. We will continue to play our part on the international front to rid the world of the scourge of racism. At the same time, our Department will deepen its collaboration with civil society and other players to implement our National Action Plan in the fight against racism, xenophobia and all intolerances.

In the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control South Africa will continue to actively pursue and promote the importance of cooperation; assistance and equal access to advanced technologies for peaceful purposes. This includes access to adequate renewable sources of energy to underpin sustainable development, including access to nuclear energy for all states, consistent with South Africa's domestic energy policies and programmes. In our interaction in multilateral fora, we will also continue to strive to identify, together with our African partners and other developing countries those areas where they have implementation challenges in terms of their international obligations and undertakings.

Our Government took a decision to support the candidature of Ambassador Abdul Minty for the position of Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We are convinced that Ambassador Minty is eminently qualified for this position given his background and experience.

Honourable Speaker

The name change presents us with an opportunity to reposition our brand as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, here at home and abroad. In this regard we will continue engaging on massive imbizo with our people, stakeholders, organs of civil society and the mass media.



Ambassador Abdul Minty during a press conference reflecting on issues pertaining to the IAEA

The nature of international relations work means that the success of the Department of International Relations depends on its people. These are the fine South Africans who serve our country both at headquarters as well as in our many Embassies, Consulates and High Commissions abroad. Our three-year human resources strategy launched in 2007 is focused on developing a cadre of “People who are committed to making a difference for South Africa”. It places emphasis on people issues and the facilitation of the achievements of our foreign policy objectives. The focus of this Human Resource strategy is aimed at creating a conducive work environment that enhances performance and nurtures talent and retains it for now and the future.

South Africa’s increasing role in international relations also calls for a capable and committed cadre of diplomats. The expansion of our representation abroad, particularly in Africa, necessitates that we increase our capacity in terms of numbers, and deepen our skills in various areas of Diplomacy. Therefore we have continued to increase the capacity of our Diplomatic Academy. It has become the strategic nerve centre for the training of our diplomats and for the provision of broader ongoing training programmes including the participation of SADC and AU countries. Our Diplomatic Academy has also partnered in the training of the diplomats of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa, Western Sahara and Sudan.

We are convinced that the launch of a Masters in Diplomacy Degree with the University of Pretoria will increase the

knowledge base of our managers and generally contribute to higher standards of professionalism in our international work.

In line with the President's call for "the creation of decent work", DICO is consolidating its Cadet Programme which recruits and grooms young graduates to be the future of South African diplomats. To date, almost 95 young South Africans have been trained and absorbed by DICO.

As we continue to expand our work and with the growing importance of our country – we continue to witness high levels of both outgoing and incoming visits, as well as increasing activity by the diplomatic community accredited to our country. We shall continue the work of strengthening our protocol services, including our hospitality services, namely our Diplomatic Guesthouses and the Protocol Lounges, both at OR Tambo and here in Cape Town. This is necessary to project our spirit of Ubuntu and ensure that our visitors at all times feel welcome on our shores.

A key area of focus in the coming years is the need to anchor our policy perspectives and approaches among



Young graduate recruits from the Cadet Programme 2008/9 being groomed to be future South African diplomats.

our people. The work we do must be connected to our people in very concrete and visible ways and they must not only understand, but be able to find their bearings in the midst of confusion that is sometimes deliberately meant to discredit our policies and create divisions amongst us. This we believe will also help avoid the recurrence of the xenophobic incidents of yesteryear. In addition, guided by our belief that indeed working together we can do more,

we commit to enhanced partnership and cooperation with non-state actors (business, labour, research institutions, academia and so forth) to advance our international relations framework and better position our country in the world.

All of this unfortunately requires resources. We say this mindful of the current challenges and the competing needs facing our country in these difficult times. But we have to say that a number of requests we made during the budget process could not be met, thereby putting pressure, especially on our operating budget. We are also apprehensive about the impact of the economic crisis on exchange rate volatility since a significant part of our budget is spent abroad and is, therefore, very sensitive to these fluctuations. We shall, however, work together with our Parliamentary Committees to share information on an ongoing basis.

A major milestone our Department will achieve this year is the housing of our cadre ship at the new campus in Tshwane. This process has already commenced. I wish to thank our Government for this significant investment and pledge that under our watch we shall ensure that all of us fully appreciate that, as servants of the people, we are expected to honour this product of their sweat, their tears and their blood.

We also commit to play our role to ensure that the ongoing Confederations Cup becomes a resounding success. This

will be our building plank as we join all South Africans in inviting the world to our shores for the 2010 FIFA World Cup – which will be the greatest ever spectacle that will indeed affirm that Ke nako – AFRICA' s time has come.

This year, 2009, marks the 91st birthday of our great icon, hero and leader of our people: Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who continues to inspire hope in millions of our people as they struggle for a better life for all.

As President Zuma indicated, “that on the 18th of July, each year, our people, together with the rest of the world, will have an opportunity to do something good to help others” In this regard we call upon all our missions abroad to propagate *ubuntu*. Working together with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Missions will dedicate time to participate in humanitarian causes that honour Madiba’s legacy.

With all humility, I take this huge responsibility assigned to me by our Government and our people, to thank President Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and our leadership collective for this expression of confidence.

I also wish to pay tribute to my predecessors – one; an outstanding son - the other; an outstanding daughter of our people. To both comrades, the late Alfred Nzo and my sister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma – I say thank you for the work you have done to position our country where it is today – a respected and principled member of the global community of nations.



Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Thulas Nxesi, during the Budget Vote Speech presentation to parliament, 2009.

My appreciation also goes out to Deputy Ministers Ebrahim Ebrahim and Sue van der Merwe for their unwavering support, Mr T Nxesi, Chair of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Co-operation; and Mr GD Gamede, Chair of Select Committee on Trade and International Relations for their oversight role and guidance in our work. I would also like to thank the DG, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba, and all managers

and officials of the Department for their hard work and continuous readiness to serve. To all of them, I say let's walk and work together as; Working together we can do more.

Honourable Speaker, it is our hope and wish that the house will approve the Budget of the Department of International Relations for this financial year. The budget allocation for the 2009 MTEF Budget Allocations is as follows:

1 Administration:	993 100
2 Foreign Relations:	3 128 000
3 Public Diplomacy & Protocol Services:	215 300
4 International Transfers (UN, SADC, ARF, AU):	1 000 000
Total:	5 337 000

Ndo livhuwa
Kea leboga
Ni khensile

**Reply to the Budget Vote by the Deputy
Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim,
to the National Assembly,**

Thursday 18 June 2009

Honourable Speaker

Honourable President Jacob Zuma

Honourable Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe

Honourable Members of the National Assembly

**Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee of
International Relations and Cooperation and the Select
Committee on Trade and International Relations**

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has often been said that Foreign Policy is the art of the possible, which makes foreign relations the means by which we intend to achieve our goals. Our approach to international relations over the next five years will be driven by the need to deliver to the masses of our people, which is at the core of our National Interest. Given that the gap between rich and poor is wider in our country than in any other, it is all the more imperative that our foreign policy priorities reflect our domestic agenda. While actively pursuing our national interests, we will also place a greater emphasis on human rights issues and the promotion of political solutions to violent conflicts around the world.

*Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim*

To achieve these objectives, the main priority of our Government in implementing its international relations will be the consolidation of the African Agenda. We will focus on deepening political and economic continental integration, strengthening bilateral relations with strategic countries, resolving civil conflicts peacefully, and preventing gross violations of human rights. Beyond the African continent, our foreign relations will focus on strengthening South-South cooperation by building on our strategic alliances with India, Brazil, and China. We will capitalize on the good relations we have with countries of the Middle East to bolster trade, while at the same time supporting the motive forces in the region seeking democratic change and justice for the Palestinians. We will also continue to further North-South cooperation, particularly within the context of the G-20. As committed multilateralists, we will sustain our robust engagement in multilateral fora, while pushing for the reform of the United Nations and the international financial institutions.

As a Department, we owe a debt of gratitude to our former Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and her Deputy Mr Aziz Pahad who, over many years, laid a solid foundation for our international relations, and positioned our country as a significant regional power and an important member of the global south. Without their leadership and foresight we would not be the force on the international stage that we are today. Under the experienced stewardship of our President Jacob Zuma, and our new Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, we intend to capitalize on the gains made and steer our country towards new heights in the pursuit of a

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Aziz Pahad at a farewell function to honour his (Mr Aziz Pahad) long standing contribution to the department and government as a whole. Galagher Estate, Midrand, 26 November 2008.



moral foreign policy that makes a better life for all South Africans its first priority.

Honourable Speaker, in order to build an environment in which socio-economic development can take place both in South Africa and the region, we need to ensure greater levels of human security for our people. Our understanding of human security is the freedom from want and the freedom from fear. One of the ways to address the pervasive lack of human security on our continent is to promote peace and stability by resolving ongoing violent conflicts.

Confronting the tragedy of our continent's conflicts brings a certain image to mind – that of a little girl in Darfur. She walks hand in hand with a doctor from Doctors Without Borders, her



Burundi Peace Talks. From right: Mr Jacob Zuma (Deputy President 1999 – 2005), Mr Pierre Nkurunziza, Mr Nelson Mandela (President 1994 – 1999), Mr Domitien Ndayzeye and Jean Minani.

naked body so thin and frail that she can barely support her own structure. She hasn't eaten for days, she has been raped, her family destroyed after her village burnt to the ground, the effects after a scorched earth policy had been exacted. This is the reality of our children, our African children, in some of the most neglected corners of our continent. It is such children that wait very patiently for us to say something, do something, while we talk of an African Renaissance.

Is this what it means to be African if you are caught in the arc of conflict that cuts a large swathe through the heart of the continent? It is the image that we have all fought against - it is the image that we have worked so hard to change. Some of us sat through sleepless nights of negotiations between the warring parties in Burundi, led by President Zuma at the time – weeks that turned into months. We worked tirelessly to

convince the Rwandan troops to withdraw from the DRC, and we painstakingly monitored progress in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between North and South Sudan.

As South African policy-makers we have made these sacrifices out of our commitment to reverse the image of Africa as a continent fraught with endless bloodletting. We have made these contributions as we believe that Africa is the place of endless possibilities, a continent rich in human potential and untapped natural resources, a continent rich in culture and history, a place that can regain its soul once the guns fall silent.

Ultimately we have witnessed the dividends of peace in Burundi; we have watched a new democratic dispensation emerge in the DRC that has developed new levels of cooperation with its neighbour Rwanda. The peace agreement between North and South Sudan still holds as the country prepares for national elections early next year. Our efforts, and those of other peace loving nations within the African Union, have borne fruit. We will strive to consolidate peace and post-conflict reconstruction in those countries emerging from war, and assist the AU to forge new and sustainable peace processes where peace has so far been elusive, such as in Darfur and Madagascar.

South Africa's central involvement in the resolution of the long standing conflict in Sudan will continue in order to ensure implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We also need to play a more direct role in bringing

peace to Darfur, a conflict which does not fall within the parameters of the CPA. The ongoing human rights violations being committed against civilians in Darfur, and the worsening humanitarian crisis are of such a magnitude that we cannot afford to dissociate ourselves from this ongoing conflict. Failure to address the root causes of conflict in Darfur could ultimately lead to the unravelling of the CPA itself.

Our Government has paid particular attention over the past decade to the root causes of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This has assisted us in formulating an effective strategy for moving the country towards a sustainable peace. Given the geo-strategic importance of the DRC and the implications for the region of continued instability in that country, it is imperative that South Africa remains involved in solving the immense political and developmental challenges that exist. The DRC provides immense opportunities for South African businesses in the future, and has resources which could be harnessed for the benefit of the entire Southern African region. By supporting democratic processes in that country, and assisting the government of the DRC with long term developmental planning, South Africa is not only investing in its future, but that of the region.

We recognize that our region is also directly affected by the economic and political instability in Zimbabwe, which necessitates that Zimbabwe remains a top priority for our Government. We are well aware of the negative impact that constant flows of refugees and illegal immigrants have on

our economy - an excessively heavy burden at a time when we are faced with serious domestic challenges of our own in terms of service delivery and provision for basic needs. We will prioritize the need to assist in the reconstruction of Zimbabwe's shattered economy, and will both support and pressure the Government of National Unity (GNU) to operate as a unified team. As our President has said, we need to make the GNU work as there is no other alternative, and we call on Western countries to lift all sanctions against Zimbabwe and assist in the reconstruction of the country.

We cannot confine our efforts at conflict resolution to Africa alone. As our Freedom Charter of 1955 stated, "we strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of international disputes by negotiation not war." Many warring parties around the world have sought, and continue to seek, South Africa's



Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim welcoming the President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe during SADC arrivals at OR Tambo Airport.

assistance in bringing protagonists to the table, and sharing with them the South African experience in conflict resolution. Some of us have responded to the calls for intervention in places like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kosovo, Bolivia, Northern Ireland, and Palestine. It is an honour to share our lessons learned and make suggestions on how our experiences can be adapted to different conflict theatres – this is part of our progressive internationalism. We must continue to play this role internationally as it is part of a unique niche that we have carved for ourselves, emanating from our specific historical experience.

The conflagration in the Middle East is of particular concern, as tension continues to escalate between Israel and the Palestinians as well as Israel and its neighbours. The situation on the ground has dramatically deteriorated, and we are now faced with a situation where there is an escalation as opposed to a scaling back or dismantling of illegal Israeli settlements. Palestinian water sources and agricultural land are being annexed at an unparalleled rate. The recent disproportionate use of force by the Israeli security forces against the civilian population of Gaza has only served to further inflame the passions of those seeking to establish a Palestinian state.

While the region welcomed the statement made in Cairo by President Barack Obama which advocated forward movement on the peace process, the recent statement made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has destroyed the hope of many in the region for a speedy resolution to the

conflict. We acknowledge our limited ability to significantly alter the conflict dynamics, but we will continue to advocate for an immediate return to peace negotiations that is inclusive of all stakeholders, including Hamas.

As a middle power we also recognize the limits of our ability to reverse human rights abuses globally, but this does not absolve us from standing on principle and speaking out against cases of gross violations of human rights and international law. As the Indian novelist and peace activist Arundhati Roy has said,

“It has become clear that violating human rights is an inherent part of the process of implementing a coercive and unjust political and economic structure on the world. Without the violation of human rights on an enormous scale, the neo-liberal project would remain in the dreamy realm of policy.”

We intend to more robustly flex our muscles on human rights issues so that we can never be accused of betraying the ideals on which our democracy was founded.

In conclusion, to give meaning to our new name as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, we need to ensure that our international cooperation yields concrete results in terms of social upliftment, more job opportunities, and a greater measure of human security for the masses of our people.

I thank you.

**Reply to the Budget Vote by the Deputy
Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation, Ms Sue van der Merwe, to the
National Assembly,**

Thursday 18 June 2009

Speaker

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane

Ministers

Deputy Ministers

Honourable Members

Excellencies High Commissioners and Ambassadors

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Guests

We gather here today at a very difficult time in modern history. Across the globe families are in distress as jobs and livelihoods are lost. We are not immune to this, here in our own country. It will be our challenge to mitigate the effects of this crisis for our people.

President Zuma said in his inauguration address: "The dreams and hopes of all the people of our country must be fulfilled. There is no place for complacency, no place for cynicism, no place for excuses."

We in the international relations field have our own important part to play in the fulfilment of these dreams and hopes.

The work of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the past



*Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Ms Sue van der Merwe.*



Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Sue van der Merwe during the Budget Speech presentation, 2009.

administration, and now the Department of International Relations and Cooperation is premised on the principles and philosophies of our constitution. It arises from our history and has been forged and honed by great leaders of our movement, the African National Conference. These principles still guide our work today and are anchored in our belief in human dignity and the assertion of universal human rights.

In the introduction to a book entitled “Legacy of Freedom: The ANC’s human rights tradition” the then Secretary General of the ANC and now Deputy President of the country, Kgalema Motlanthe, wrote:

“As demonstrated by the Africans’ Claims, the ANC has always linked national unity and international solidarity. Today, our commitment to multilateral participation in the international arena is evident in our efforts to

advance the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the vitality of the United Nations.

Of the African Union, formed during the year of the 90th anniversary of the ANC, it can truly be said that it seeks to live up to the outlook presented to our people more than 90 years ago by Pixley ka Seme when he said: ‘There is today among all races and men a general desire for progress, and for cooperation, because cooperation will facilitate and secure that progress.’

He further wrote:

“... we are convinced that we share this vision and value system with the overwhelming majority of the Africans masses everywhere on our continent.”

The ANC tradition to advance human dignity and opportunity for all South Africans, underpins our work to this day.

I remind us here today of this history so that we do not forget the great and extraordinary leaders of our movement who begun nearly a century ago to craft and frame our country and our world. ANC founder Pixley ka Seme attempted as early as 1923 to formulate a Bill of Rights. Others, extraordinary people and ordinary people in our country, continued this work.

Our South African history is replete with examples of how our ANC leaders saw us as integrally linked to the international community, how we see ourselves as not greater nor lesser

than other people of the world, but linked as one humanity. I continue to be inspired by the vision of our early leaders in this regard.

I say all this now as I believe that the writings and thinking of our extraordinary leaders can serve to guide us, like a thread, through all the difficult challenges that we face at the beginning of the 21st century.

The Minister has mentioned the economic integration of our region. She has underscored the importance of building our region into a cohesive political and economic block. This is both necessary, if we are to compete in the world, and desirable if we are truly to share the values and principles our leaders fought for.

We have deep political and historic ties with our neighbours in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The ongoing work to harmonise our economic infrastructure and planning is key to our advancement as a region. Last year we launched the Free Trade Area at the SADC Summit in Sandton. The next steps are more intricate, but not unattainable. It is our belief that these next steps should be based on developmental imperatives and should strengthen the region as an economic block, for trade with the rest of the continent and the world; and strengthen cooperation amongst the countries in the region as people with a common history and a common destiny.

Regional Integration is also the basis for future continental

unity, a dream of our leaders throughout the decades.

The Minister has alluded to the difficulties that have arisen in the negotiations around the Economic Partnership Agreement between SADC member states and the European Union. This is a complex process, and it goes to the very essence of how we as South Africa, and indeed how we in SADC, see our future together as an integrated region.

I have mentioned that the FTA was launched in 2008 at the Summit in Sandton where South Africa took over the rotational Chair of the Community. This FTA needs to be substantially implemented as part of the process towards a full SADC Customs Union, which will involve, amongst other things, the setting of a common external tariff among countries with vastly differing profiles.

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic, Karel Schwarzenberg co-chaired the 8th Ministerial meeting between South Africa and the European Union, 16 January 2009, Kleinmond, Western Cape.



We believe that we need to prioritise sectoral cooperation and infrastructure programmes including human resource capacity as essential elements of creating conducive conditions to advance the integration agenda.

We believe we need to set realistic timeframes in our plans and continue to harmonise and implement those common policies which are in place such as the Protocol on Facilitation of Free Movement of Persons, amongst others.

In other words we favour a developmental approach to integration, including importantly, the implementation of infrastructure projects in association with NEPAD and other international investors and donor agencies. The development of infrastructure is essential in creating the atmosphere and conditions for successful and sustainable economic integration.

We plan in the coming weeks and months to take up this debate with our neighbouring countries in the SADC family in a robust, open and transparent manner, to thrash out our common vision for our region and to move the debate to an active phase where we can consolidate the gains we have made and move towards a sustainable and cohesive region, one of the building blocks for eventual Continental Union.

It is unfortunate that, despite the good intentions of the European Member states, the EPA negotiations had the opposite effect. Those negotiations tended to divide us as a region and have, we believe, set our integration agenda back.



President Jacob Zuma greets Swaziland King Mswati at the SADC Extraordinary Summit on Madagascar. Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoane-Mashabane looks on.

We therefore also plan a robust engagement with our partners in the European Union in this regard, together with our SADC colleagues.

Linked to this and as part of our pursuit for a more cohesive and integrated region and continent, is the development of the South African Development Partnership Agency as described by the Minister. Already South Africa's foreign policy approach has been to align our domestic priorities and interests with our work with neighbours on the continent. This is not altruism; this is purposeful fulfilment of those hopes and dreams of our people of which President Zuma spoke. As we work with our sister departments to give life to this Agency we will remember that this is another stage, not only in fulfilling the dreams and hopes of South Africans today,

but in realising the dreams of our leaders in the ANC, past and present.

The Agency should therefore be responsible for the implementation of South Africa's international development cooperation and partnership policy. It will involve cooperation with developed and developing countries and will focus, although not exclusively, on our work in Africa. It will articulate South Africa's objectives in joint programmes with countries of the South, and will seek to strengthen our relationship with Northern partners through, amongst others, tri-lateral cooperation.

The thread of our history will be drawn through in this process. We will seek in this Agency to strengthen democratic institutions and effective governance structures. Much of our work will focus, as it has done, on peace making, peace building and post conflict reconstruction on the continent and we will seek to improve and manage the effectiveness of South African efforts in this area.

Also, we will seek to build capacity in areas including education and in health, and cooperate in many other areas with our neighbours on the continent and our partners elsewhere.

Over the next three years, the African Renaissance Fund is expected to expend over R1billion, and this is provided for in our medium term expenditure framework. How we align the work of the ARF with the new Agency will be a matter for discussion and decision over the next few months.

During the course of this year, the work in developing the Agency will be taken forward by our Department as lead department, working together with our sister departments and the details of its functions and modus operandi will be articulated more fully by the end of the financial year.

Speaker, Ministers, Honourable members,

In these difficult times, we remain committed to the fulfilment of the hopes and dreams of our people. We believe this can be achieved in the broadening of our international cooperation efforts - whether this be:

- in our regional efforts at deepening integration;
- or through our support for post-conflict reconstruction in Sudan;
- with our partners in the north through trilateral cooperation;
- through deepening our cooperation with countries of the South such as IBSA partners;
- with our engagement on such matters as trade agreements with the European Union.

All this work is reflected here at home in the way our own country develops. It reflects in:

- how we grow our economy and see jobs being created;
- how we cooperate with other countries to expand and better our education system so our people become skilled in the areas appropriate to modern global realities;
- it will reflect how the world sees us and we them – will they visit us as tourists and business people, will we visit them?



*Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Fatima Hajaig and
Iraq Undersecretary, Mr Labeed Abbawi.*

All these things will improve the lives of our people. Our election slogan... "Together we can do more", applies as much at home as it does in work we do in the international sphere.

Speaker, honourable members

As I have the privilege to return to this position having served for 5 years in the previous administration, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those I have worked with during these past 5 years. To former Foreign Affairs Minister Dlamini Zuma and Deputy Ministers Pahad and Hajaig, I thank you for your wisdom and guidance. I learned an enormous amount from all of you. And to the dedicated and resourceful

officials of the department, led by our exceptional Director General, Ayanda Ntsaluba, I owe a debt of gratitude for all of your professionalism in the past 5 years. I am delighted to be working with you all again.

As the President has said, there is not place for complacency, for cynicism or excuses. We have work to do... and with guidance of Minister Nkoana-Mashabane and Deputy Minister Ebrahim, and the support of our Director-General and a dedicated and resourceful staff in our Department, I am sure we can achieve our goals.

Thank you.

**Statement on the Budget Vote by
Mr Thulas Nxesi, Member of Parliament and
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on
International Relations and Cooperation**

**Honourable Speaker,
Members of Cabinet,
Honourable Members of the National Assembly,
Members of the Portfolio Committee,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Fellow South Africans,**

Honourable Members, let me start by congratulating the Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DICO) for a comprehensive and forward looking speech which sets an ambitious agenda for the coming session and beyond. But before I go there allow me to digress for a moment.

As a new member of this House, and especially since my nomination as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, I have been asking the question: What is my role here? What is the role of the Portfolio Committee in relation to the Department? Yes, I know about the oversight role we play, and I am inspired by the injunction from President Zuma to hold ministers to account – but what does this mean in practice?

For enlightenment I turned to the Sunday newspapers: in particular an analysis of the State of the Nation Address

*Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on
International Relations and Cooperation,
Mr Thulas Nxesi MP.*

in *City Press* (7 June) which quotes political analyst Chris Landsberg on foreign policy: *“It’s an institutionalized strategic and policy legacy; even if you want to change it radically you can’t.”* Now I’m worried – no radical change possible? A commentator I respect greatly - Professor Siphon Seepe - supports this view: *‘differences now are about style and not policy.’*

As Honourable Members of this House I think we need to question this conclusion – otherwise we become the rubber stamp that the President warned against. To this end I am going to make two propositions, which I table for debate and comment.

- 1 Parliament and the Portfolio Committee in particular, need to play a role in facilitating debate on foreign policy issues, to foster public understanding and awareness, and to provide a platform for solidarity and civil society to raise issues of concern.
- 2 Our understanding of international relations will be enriched by greater knowledge of the social structures of the countries we interact with, so that we assume a departure away from international relations being the strict preserve of the ruling elites, academia and the diplomatic community but that we integrate other interested parties and stakeholders.

This needs to be democratised and transformed. Let me give an example. We all hailed NEPAD as a progressive policy, which sought to place Africans in charge of their

own economic destiny – and it was a massive step forward from the neo-colonial dependency models which preceded it. But the South African and African trade union movement raised questions: where was the input from civil society organisations and labour? The economic model underlying NEPAD looked uncomfortably close to that of neo-liberalism. We never had that debate.

It has been noted, albeit with great concern that Africa’s development initiatives, including NEPAD, tend to rely heavily on assistance from external partners that do not have obligations towards the AU. This means that such initiatives may suffer should the partners decide to shift their priorities. Assistance from our international partners is welcome provided that it does not come with conditions. Our aim should be to avoid the legacy of the disastrous policies akin to the Structural Adjustment Programmes that left many African countries poor and with weak governing structures.

Honourable Members, as South Africans we benefited greatly from the solidarity of the rest of the world who were appalled by the racist oppression that prevailed under apartheid. Anti-apartheid movements, trade unions, faith and civil society organisations, moved by our common humanity, pressured their governments to take a progressive stance. In this they were often assisted by political parties, legislatures and parliamentary committees in other countries. I think we have sometimes been slow to show the same kind of solidarity – basic humanity – that we ourselves benefited from. I definitely see a role here for the Portfolio Committee

on International Relations and Cooperation in promoting a mass based, activist approach to international relations and international solidarity.

Let me also say that it is dangerous to exclude the masses from our debates on international relations. Yes, economic deprivation was a root cause of the xenophobic outbreak of last year. Yes, delayed responses in managing the influx of foreign nationals was a contributory factor. But I also feel that the absence of public debate and understanding on immigration set the scene for the xenophobic catastrophe last year. In raising these debates, the Portfolio Committee has an important role to play in combating racism and xenophobia, and the implementation of recommendations from the World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of Discrimination.



*World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of Discrimination.
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms Mary Robinson during a press conference – September 2001, South Africa.*

Let us start right now by celebrating the decades-long interaction between the workers of South Africa and the rest of the sub-continent which under-pinned the mining industry and the economic development of South Africa. Let us remember that the leader of South Africa's massive Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU) in the 1920s, Clements Kadalie, hailed from Malawi.

My second proposition is that South Africa's foreign policy since 1994, crudely stated, was short on class analysis. Let me pause and pay tribute to the principles that have guided this country's foreign policy since democracy. We have boldly stated a progressive position: anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist; support for non-alignment and non-interference; respect for the sovereignty of nations and an agenda for African empowerment and development. But if we don't recognise the social divisions within nations, we run the risk of siding with the elites against those who are oppressed.

Let me give an example that I know well. In Ethiopia today 200,000 teachers are denied the right to join the trade union of their choice. The independent Ethiopia Teachers Association (formed in 1949) has been systematically repressed since 1993. Its assets were seized and handed to a pro-government group. Leaders and members of ETA have been imprisoned, tortured and assassinated. Despite complaints from the ILO, there has been little protest from African leaders. Currently two individuals are still detained – Wubit Legamo and Meqcha Mengistu. Both were tortured, in the case of Wubit leading to the loss of her five month

old foetus. Hon Members, African countries must openly embrace the African Peer Review mechanisms and strictly abide by recommendations therefrom. This will eventually allow for open debates on where headquarters of our continental organisation should be. Honourable Members, it is our duty to raise these uncomfortable questions even to our own Executive. Our Constitution is founded on the principle of respect for human rights. We need to emphasise that workers' rights are human rights as well.

Let me take forward this train of thought. As a result of South Africa's relatively strong economic position on the continent, South African companies have expanded rapidly into the rest of the continent, bringing jobs and investment. A less charitable interpretation is that South African capital acts as a sub-imperialist power on the continent in pursuit of profit at any cost. Can I suggest that this House needs to be developing a code of conduct for such companies, which respects labour and human rights whilst acting in partnership with other countries to promote sustainable and socially responsible development. The Shell Company was recently embarrassed by its activities in Nigeria. South African companies can learn from this.

As this legislature, I believe that we have to come down heavily on the side of promoting peace and democracy on the continent. Let me quote from an ANC briefing document from 2008 on Foreign Affairs:

“In reality, a symbiotic relationship exists between armed conflicts and economic poverty. Where armed

conflict is widespread, economic poverty exacerbates and sustainable development becomes impossible. In countries where poverty increases, the risk of instability and violence grows. Which means that poverty and underdevelopment are, nothing less than, threats to democracy, peace, and stability because these economic realities generate conflict between individuals, communities and countries.”

Let me take from the concluding words of President Obama's recent speech in Egypt:

“The Talmud tells us, the whole of the Torah is for the purpose of promoting peace. The Holy Bible tells us, blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of god.”

But, we will not be able to move towards finding lasting peace



US President Barack Obama (Left) shakes hands with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak during a bilateral meeting at the presidential palace in Cairo on June 4, 2009.

throughout the globe under the current of global governance. It is our duty to ensure that we foster a world where there is universal respect for human rights, and where international security, development and adherence to international law are actively promoted. The debate on the reform of the United Nations, and in particular, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has been going on for a while now without any significant movement. It is understood that it is a great challenge to force change from above, as the countries that hold veto power in the UNSC are reluctant to change the rules of the game.

Honourable Members, I thank you for your indulgence. I have digressed long enough. To return to the Ministers speech, let me comment briefly on the proposed South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA), crucial I believe to strengthening the African Agenda. As South Africans and Africans – for too long we have been the passive recipients of aid (often with conditions attached). It is with pride I look forward to the day that as South Africans we become net exporters of development aid.

I believe that this development reflects our commonly held belief that the economic well-being of this country is inextricably linked with the development of the continent at large. In particular I believe that we have an obligation to assist in the development of the “frontline states” and neighbouring states who sacrificed so much in the fight against the apartheid regime. Let us remember the raids launched from this country by the racist apartheid army against Lesotho,

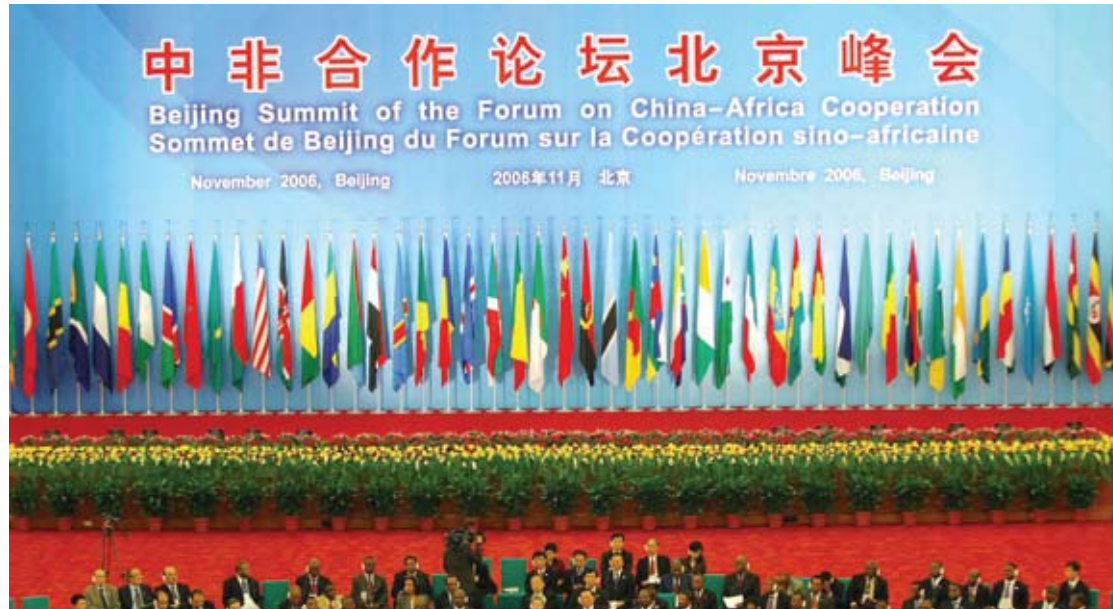
Namibia, Botswana, Angola and Mozambique, where the innocent were butchered in their sleep. Those countries suffered in defence of our course. The Agency clearly has a role to play in expediting the implementation of cooperation agreements, not only with our neighboring countries, but also with the rest of our development partners, especially in the South. We hope this will lead to wider regional development and contribute to sustained peace that will be the foundation for building democratic societies.

South Africa should broadly seek to strengthen bilateral relations with African states at all levels of interaction, including at grassroots level. South Africa should seek to build bridges with fellow African states and work with other countries to mitigate the effects of the food crisis that has been exacerbated by the global economic meltdown. In this regard Government should forge strong partnerships with the country's non-governmental organizations, particularly those that work in the humanitarian sector and engage these on ways to lend assistance to other countries, by among other things forming alliances with counterparts in those countries. Government is obligated to work with civil society through commitments made under NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Minister, I am concerned by the R10 million cut in the programme for Public Diplomacy. This country needs to continue promoting its values, policies and image – this has become even more necessary during the current economic crisis with all its attendant political risks.

Since 1994 this country has been prominent in the call for support for international peace and multilateralism. The signs are positive. The Obama presidency has sent out clear signals that it wishes to turn away from the unilateralism of the previous administration. There is a new spirit abroad: a respect for peoples of different cultures and faiths. As South Africans, I believe that we can identify with this spirit and need to support these developments, always mindful of course of the continuing threat from the corporate elites that dominate the world economy. Ours must be anchored on human rights, solidarity, peace, and democracy, based on mutual respect and human rights, not just expanding markets and profits.

But I want to send out a word of caution against those that have objections on the relationship between South Africa and China. Our cooperation with China is underpinned by our commitment to strengthening South-South relations and the consolidation of the African Agenda. China is also a partner in efforts to influence transformation in global governance. South Africa should continue to strengthen relations with the



First Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation – Beijing, November 2006.

South through cooperative mechanisms established with China, such the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). We will also pursue the development agenda with nations in East Asia through the New Africa-Asia Strategic Partnership. Emphasis should be placed

on the fact that there is no competition for influence on the continent with China, but more of a cooperative relationship amongst strategic partners. However, we will not ignore the issue of human rights and through the Portfolio Committee's interaction with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation we will deal with this issue in its proper context.

With these few words, I commend the Minister on her speech and programme. I welcome the budget vote in respect of International Relations and Cooperation and call on Honourable Members to fully support and vote in favour.

I thank you.

Notes

