



BUDGET VOTE 2010

- our values:
- Patriotism
 - Loyalty
 - Dedication
 - Ubuntu
 - Equity
 - Integrity
 - Batho pele
 - Humanity





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

Minister

*Chairperson
Honourable Chair of the Portfolio Committee on
International Relations and Cooperation,
Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee of
International Relations and Cooperation,
Your Excellencies Ambassadors,
High Commissioners
and Representatives of International Organizations,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
Fellow South Africans, Comrades and Friends,*

Nearly a year ago, our Fourth Democratic Government was installed on the basis of an Election Manifesto which promised that “Working Together We Can Do More.” Embodied in this were the aspirations of our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and our children. Hardly three months thereafter, we stood before you promising in our First Budget Speech that while our department would consolidate those areas where it was on track in terms of its international activities, it would urgently have to locate itself squarely in the national effort to ensure that all of us, bound together by a common patriotism, will rise together with a singular sense of purpose in pursuit of the agenda outlined by the President.

We stand before you today confident that our Department has not only fully aligned its work to our key domestic priorities, but that it has also woven these into our strategic focus which is based on the primacy of the African continent; the centrality of our region (SADC); our commitment to South-South relations; the centrality of multilateralism; the significance of relations with countries in the northern hemisphere; and the strengthening of the social, political and economic relations.

Therefore, Honourable Members, DIRCO, working together with other departments, will be the bridge builder required to forge a better democratic South Africa, a better Africa and a better World. DIRCO will be the path-finder of new opportunities and the breaker of obstacles.

Our country finds itself today in a position of responsibility as a member of the international community. We are constantly reminded – when we are invited to forums such as the G20 and Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington last week - that more is expected of us. For our country, our region and continent this is a responsibility we can neither shirk nor fail in.

In rising to this challenge, we should never miss the opportunity to look back and learn from our successes and setbacks in our endeavour to remain focused on our goal for a better life. We must also frankly assess our capacity against the weight of rising expectations.



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim and Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane delivering the department's budget vote speech in Parliament

We at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation have been involved in this exercise. We will be coming to this House in the course of this financial year to engage Honourable Members further on the substance and direction of our foreign policy and for your support in order to strengthen DIRCO in its principal advisory and implementing role on international relations. This will culminate in a White Paper that will serve as a guide in the conduct of foreign policy.

We will also present a Bill for the establishment of the South African Development Partnership Agency for your consideration. This will give legal framework to the execution of our foreign policy and facilitate more effective cooperation.

We are currently in the process of consulting our stakeholders on the need for the establishment of a Foreign Policy Council which will serve as an avenue for our non-state actors to interface with DIRCO on our foreign policy development and implementation.

As part of our public diplomacy, we have commenced our outreach to speak directly to

communities about our foreign policy. We have as a consequence been to Limpopo, the Eastern Cape, and (recently) the Free State. We intend to visit other provinces in the course of this financial year. Our Annual Conference is also a platform for us to reach out to our think-tanks for dialogue with them on our foreign policy. Implicit in this is also accountability to the people whose mandate put us in office.

We are cognizant of the fact that we can do our work better and more effectively as the focal point for our foreign policy in our Government, when all the international engagements of our Government Departments, our Provinces and Municipalities, are well coordinated to avoid duplication, working at cross-purpose, or functioning in a manner that could suggest to our partners abroad that we are not a well organized government and country.

Over the past sixteen years since our freedom in 1994, we have accomplished many achievements in our country on the foreign policy front. But there are also experiences whose lessons we cannot ignore.

Therefore, moving forward in this Fourth Administration, we have to build on our achievements and the wisdom that we have gained from the lessons learnt. There must be continuity to consolidate our gains, but also change to improve on our work and respond effectively to emerging global trends.

Building on the foundation of our foreign policy and our constitutional values, we must pursue more strongly the dynamic linkage between what we do abroad and what we want to achieve in our country. We should continue to bring into full view our national interest in the context of our Pan-African commitments and our role and responsibilities in the world.



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane during the Public Participation Programme in the Free State Province

Chairperson

The year 2010 is historic in many ways. The 21st of March 2010 marked fifty (50) years of the Sharpeville massacre, which was a significant turning point in our liberation struggle, and gave impetus to the establishment of the anti-apartheid movement across the world.

This year we are also celebrating the centenary of Kwame Nkrumah and the 110th anniversary of the First Pan-African conference which was held in 1900 under the leadership of Henry Sylvester-Williams.

We will also join the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo when they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their country's independence on 30 June 2010. We remember Patrice Lumumba – whose tragic death is another story in the chronicle of the painful history of this continent.

Chairperson

South Africa remains committed to regional economic integration in Africa. We believe that our work in the SADC should build on the free trade arrangement achieved in 2008 by fo-

ocusing on boosting regional production capacity, facilitating cross border trade, and developing cross border infrastructure.

We also believe the time has come to extend preferential markets across Southern and Eastern Africa through the Tripartite Free Trade Area that will draw together SADC, East African Community and COMESA.

The decision by the 14th Session of the African Union to integrate NEPAD into the African Union and establish the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) as a technical body of the AU is an important step towards the acceleration of the implementation of the NEPAD programme. The newly established NPCA will give focused attention to the implementation of the regional integration programs and projects whilst the Africa Union Commission will continue to deal with policy and serve as the secretariat of the AU.

The AU/NEPAD African Action Plan for the period 2010 to 2015 is a master plan for concrete projects that will serve as a catalyst for the development of our continent. We call upon our partners to work with us in mobilizing requisite resources and in the implementation of this master plan.

The accession by 30 (out of 53) of our countries to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), is a concrete demonstration of the strides we are making as a continent with regard to promoting democratic governance and people-centered development.

Even more encouraging is the fact that a substantial number of these 30 countries, including ours, have already undergone the peer review process which entails (among others) developing a national programme of action to improve the systems of political and economic governance and putting measures in place for socio-economic development.

This positive development, including the increasing number of elections taking place in our respective countries, augurs well for our efforts aimed at consolidating democracy in Africa.

The establishment of the Pan-African Parliament was a step forward in giving all the peoples of Africa a voice in the running of the affairs of our continent. As provided for in its founding protocol, the PAP has to be transformed from a consultative to a legislative body.

In transforming the PAP, we will need to take into account its experience and history since its establishment in March 2004 with the view to building a strong, efficiently run and effective PAP at the service of the African people. In this regard, we wish to congratulate Advocate Zwelethu Madasa for his appointment as the Head of the Administration of the Pan African Parliament.

Our determined focus on NEPAD, the APRM and the PAP is in line with our long standing commitment to doing whatever we can to support African Union organs and institutions that are based in our country. It is also part of our overall program of engagement with the African Union, and this includes our support to other AU bodies such as the AU Commission whose capacity and capability, as the engine room of the AU, are indispensable to the achievement of the objectives for which the AU was established. We are working with fellow African countries and the AU Commission to ensure the speedy operationalisation of the financial institutions that are envisaged in the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

The work we do with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities should be complemented by strong bilateral relations which are focused on tangible results with other African countries. To this end, we are currently strengthening our bilateral mechanisms to ensure that they work better for our mutual benefit.



The President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma addressing the United Nations General Assembly

The gains we have made on the continent have not been without setbacks, especially in the area of peace and security, including the resurgence of coups and other forms of unconstitutional change of government. We are unanimous in the African Union on the urgent need for the strengthening of our response to situations of unconstitutional change of government, and close loopholes in our existing instruments and mechanisms.

The African Union has declared the “Year of Peace and Security in Africa”, and we are therefore called upon to redouble our efforts in the resolution of conflicts on our continent. Honourable Members, that as from April 1st 2010, South Africa became a member of the African Union Peace and Security Council for a two year period. We also have the support of the African Union to seek in October a non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2011 to 2012.

I have no doubt in my mind that you will use this House, including your committees, to reach out to parliamentary bodies all over the world for their support. We see our membership of

the AU PSC and that of the UN Security Council as an opportunity to continue contributing our efforts and resources to the peace, security and stability of our continent and globally.

South Africa will continue to carry out the SADC mandate to facilitate negotiations between Zimbabwe's ZANU-PF and the two MDC formations for the implementation of the Global Political Agreement. We are also pleased to have reached a stage where we can say that our facilitation efforts to end the conflict in Burundi are drawing to a positive close, and join the international community in looking forward to elections which will start next month.

South Africa's commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and matters of post-conflict reconstruction on our continent are well demonstrated by our continued engagement in the Sudan. With elections having taken place a week ago, South Africa remains of the firm view that this democratic process holds profound consequences for the future of the Sudan.

We must also use this opportunity to confirm that we are working with all involved for the safe release of our four compatriots who were recently kidnapped in Darfur.

The continuing impasse in Madagascar is still another concern for us that will require our resolve as SADC and the entire African continent, to stand firm against unconstitutional change of government. We look forward to the outcome of the consultation on Madagascar to be hosted by President Zuma on 28 April. We urge all the leaders of Madagascar to use this opportunity to advance the cause of peace, stability and democracy in the interest of the Malagasy people.

The last few decades have seen the ascendance of some countries of the South to an influential role in global affairs. Indications are that they will be a more formidable force in the future. Some – like China, India and Brazil – are rapidly increasing their weight in the global economy, transforming the balance of forces internationally in favour of the South.

We have to intensify our bilateral relations with countries of the South, especially with those that are strategic to us because of their economy, history and geopolitical orientation. We also have to take full advantage of South-South multilateral forums such as the Non-Aligned Movement, the G77+ China, and IBSA.

We have been intensifying our engagement with China, India and Brazil (among others) through our bilateral relations, the IBSA, and our outreach to the BRIC. For instance, we are working on elevating our relations with China to a comprehensive strategic partnership level. The IBSA Summit that met last week in Brazil was convened back-to-back with that of the BRIC. Our business sector was represented in the first BRIC-SA Forum that met just prior to this.

We have to pay dedicated attention to partnerships which other key South countries have with our continent such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC); Africa's comprehensive partnership with India; and the Korea-Africa Forum.

We will spare no effort in strengthening the progressive forums of the South - notably the Non-Aligned Movement, G77 + China, Africa-South America Summit, and the New Africa-Asia Strategic Partnership (NAASP). These forums have demonstrated to us – some even during the difficult years of apartheid – that they can be trusted allies and partners in our struggle for a better world and Africa.

We continue to build on the long history of our bond of friendship and solidarity between us and countries of the South. We will continue to learn from their experience, especially in how, in spite of the colonial history that they share with us, they managed to transform into tigers that some of them are today. We will also continue to strengthen people-to-people and

cultural exchanges between us and the South, and use our bilateral relations and structures such as IBSA to intensify exchanges between us in areas of mutual benefit. We will continue to provide our support to the settlement of the Palestinian question in the context of the two-state solution, and call for the speedy resolution of the question of the Western Sahara.

We remain committed to the strengthening of ties between the African Diaspora and our continent, and are still prepared host the African Diaspora Summit.

In this regard, we should rally behind Haiti in this difficult moment of its long history. The response of South Africans to the tragedy that befell the Haitians has been overwhelming – and indeed a clear expression of our ubuntu. We are doing our part as DIRCO to contribute to the humanitarian effort currently unfolding in Haiti. Also, we will not rest until an inclusive democratic dispensation is achieved in Haiti.

Our approach to bilateral and multilateral engagement with countries of the world is not limited to Africa and the South. We also value our relations with countries of the North. Each of these geopolitical spaces – that is Africa, the South and the North – is indispensable to our balance and sustained forward movement in international relations and cooperation.

The Obama Administration in the United States of America has taken steps which have helped create conducive conditions for re-engagement between our two countries. This has culminated in the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding to anchor a strategic partnership between South Africa and the United States two weeks ago.

The European Union as a block remains our strategic partner, especially in the areas of development, trade, and cooperation. The Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement, whose instrument of ratification has been tabled for consideration by this House, provides a

framework to this strategic partnership. We are partners with the EU in tackling some of the pressing issues in the continent like institutional state building in the DRC and post conflict reconstruction in Burundi and Sudan.

We have to speed up and conclude the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations in a manner that would not undermine regional integration on our continent. This will also help strengthen the partnership between Africa and the European Union. South Africa's partnership with the North is not limited to the United States of America and Europe. It also includes important partners such as Japan and Russia. In the context of changing relations between the North and the South, we appreciate the role of the G20 as a new center in the global political economy.

Honourable Members,

The United Nations, representing as it does the universal voice of humanity, is still pivotal in global politics especially with regards to building peace and development in the world and promoting the protection of human rights for all peoples.

The MDGs are a good example of the collective agenda of what nations of the world can set for themselves when they work together. Thus we intend to play an active role at the MDG Review Summit scheduled for later this year so that we can contribute to accelerating the flow of resources to Africa for the achievement of the MDG targets.

With regards to reform of the United Nation itself and its key institutions, the fifth round of negotiations in New York should be another opportunity for Africa and its partners for reform to rally behind an agenda that will ensure that the composition and work of the UN Security Council reflect the geopolitical reality of the 21st century.

South Africa is in support of the view which was expressed at the last Summit of the African Union that Africa should from time to time re-assess and strengthen its approach to these reforms to ensure that we achieve our common objective.

Whilst appreciating the important steps that have been taken recently towards the reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions, we believe that more must still be done towards addressing concerns of developing countries with respect to the relevance, transparency, and representativity of these institutions.

Our participation at the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington recently was guided by our three-pronged principled approach to nuclear matters – and these are: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear material. We shall also be working for a successful consensus outcome in the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference scheduled for next month.

Today (the 22nd of April) is the 40th Earth Day – we celebrate our planet and close ranks to secure its future especially against the threat of climate change. Everywhere – in our country and all over the world – people are planting trees on this day to green our future. On Earth Day we remind ourselves of the Kenyan proverb that says: “Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents; it was loaned to you by your children.”

Although we did not conclude a binding agreement at COP15, South Africa regards the Copenhagen Accord as a step towards an inclusive multilateral outcome that must be concluded in the near future. Accordingly, we are in contact with the government of Mexico

(as the host of COP16 this year) and intend to take full advantage of the opportunity to make our contribution to this endeavor when we host COP 17 in 2011.

Honourable Members,

We at DIRCO have effected measures to strengthen the department internally. Notwithstanding the financial constraints and austerity measures implemented by the Department, we are confident that we will deliver on our Strategic Plan for 2010-2013. We have a good and dedicated team at DIRCO. I must recognize here my colleagues, Deputy Ministers Ebrahim Ebrahim and Sue van der Merwe – as well as our senior management and staff under the leadership of our Director General Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba.

We also thank the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation and our Cabinet - for continuing to support us.

In the next 49 days we will be hosting FIFA World Cup. Our Department, including our Missions, are giving full support to ensure the success of this event.

Honourable Members,

We thank all of you for your continued support and for your support of this budget as well.

I thank you!



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

deputy minister

*Honourable House Chairperson,
Minister Nkoana-Mashabane,
Cabinet colleagues,
Honourable Members of the National Assembly,
Honourable Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio
Committee on International Relations and Cooperation,
Members of diplomatic corps, La dies and gentlemen,
Fellow South Africans,*

The context under which we present this budget has been articulated by the President during his 2010 State of the Nation Address when he said, in part, that the programmes and work of various Government Departments will be measured by outcomes, developed through our performance monitoring and evaluation system. Such an approach to the work of our Government is critical because we have committed ourselves to five priorities of education, health, rural development and land reform, creating decent work, and fighting crime.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Make no mistake, these are not mere interests that we wish to pursue but as the former Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) once noted, these priorities speak to three inter-linked and fundamental freedoms namely, freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity. These are freedoms that should be enjoyed by the peoples of South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world.

Accordingly, our commitment as a Department, based on the co-operative system of Government, is to contribute to the creation of a better South Africa, in a better Africa and a better world.

Honourable Members,

It is first and foremost in our continent of Africa where we will continue to focus our energies on the realisation of these freedoms through our concerted efforts to contribute to a peaceful and stable continent. Therefore, while we join the twenty-seven African countries marking their 50th anniversaries of independence, we remain conscious of the fact that thousands of ordinary African citizens, still struggle to lead a life free from fear because of conflicts, and freedom from want because of poverty and related challenges.

We will therefore not abrogate our responsibility to see the protracted negotiation on the political stalemate in Zimbabwe coming to an end. To demonstrate our eagerness to have this stalemate resolved in Zimbabwe, our President has deployed a high-level mediation team to Zimbabwe to facilitate the implementation of the Global Partnership Agreement (GPA) in keeping with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) mandate. It is precisely because the issues at stake in Zimbabwe are of such fundamental freedoms that the political dialogue has been protracted, and South Africa, in its capacity as the facilitator has to approach this situation with much care.



For the first time in 24 years, we recently witnessed the holding of multi-party elections in the Sudan enabling the people of this country decide who should lead them. Despite claims of irregularities and pronouncements that these elections did not meet international standards, they nevertheless mark the start of an irreversible process leading up to the referendum in 2011. Our efforts will be geared towards contributing to a stable Sudan, in particular support to the people and the current Government of South Sudan.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) we will continue our extensive efforts to assist the Government in state building, and to deliver a better life to its people. Given the history of the DRC as one in which the main interest of foreign countries has been the exploitation of natural resources, we take pride in the fact that our country is making tangible positive interventions to enhance economic and political governance and social development. As the rest of Africa celebrates its independence from the bane of colonialism, it is unconscionable that the people of Western Sahara are yet to enjoy their right to self-determination.



President Jacob Zuma during the SADC Troika Summit in Maputo, Mozambique

With concern, our Government has noted the deteriorating human rights situation in the occupied territories of Western Sahara. In this context, it is our observation that the latest report of the UN Secretary-General on the Situation in Western Sahara failed to adequately address the question of human rights violations. In the context of multilateralism we will among other things engage on the issue of including human rights within the mandate of the UN Mission in Western Sahara. We will continue advocating our principled stance for the people of Western Sahara to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In his speech to the Council of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) in Tripoli in January of 1971, Oliver Tambo spoke strongly to the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and I quote: *"The intransigence of Israel in its continued occupation of Arab land and its denial of the just demands of the Palestinian people has turned the Middle East into an explosive battle ground seriously endangering world peace and security"* – close quote.

Guided by Oliver Tambo's reading of the situation in the Middle East a few decades ago, our present-day commitment to contribute to a better world will ring hollow if we deviate from a simple truth that the Israel-Palestine conflict is primarily about freedom to live in dignity.

In our continued engagement with this situation, the two events that had and will have a bearing on the Middle East Process were the Israeli invasion and assault on Gaza in 2009 and the election of a right wing government in Israel. Let me also take this opportunity, to once more salute Justice Richard Goldstone and the team of eminent Jurists that he led, whose painstaking work exposed the calculated and well orchestrated violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza.

This administration will continue to support international efforts aimed at bringing a lasting solution to this conflict. Specifically, we will also play our part as a member of the international community in ensuring that:

- The recommendations of the Goldstone Report are implemented;
- That the economic strangulation of Gaza is lifted;
- That the cleansing of Palestinians from Jerusalem and land targeted for further settlement construction comes to an end.

We will continue to call for a total settlement freeze, we will also insist on a “just peace” to be reflected in all new peace proposals, which should make provision for the right of return for Palestinian refugees, East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, and for Palestinians to have complete control over their natural resources, such as water.

To achieve this, we will aim for a seamless co-ordination between our Head Office and our various multilateral and bilateral Missions on whose agenda of work the question of Palestine is discussed.

The armed struggle in Sri Lanka between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has ended, but many of the underlying issues have not been resolved. Many countries were shocked at the brutality of the war, which led to the displacement of tens of thousands of people, many of whom are still in camps.

We appeal to the Sri Lankan Government to expedite the return of displaced Tamils and reintegrate them into society. South Africa in the past has expressed its willingness to assist in peace and reconciliation in the country and we are prepared to continue our efforts in this.



*Left: Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim meeting with the Iranian Head of Culture and Islamic Relations Organisation, Mr Mehdi Mostafavi
Right: UAE Foreign Minister meeting with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane*

Chairperson,

As highlighted by the Minister, the issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation remain part of our foreign policy engagements in multilateral forums. We will continue to support the work of the International Atomic energy (IAEA), as the competent and legitimate forum on issues of nuclear energy. It is in this context that we will continue to actively participate and pronounce ourselves on all matters within the IAEA especially the legitimate rights of all States to use nuclear energy for peaceful means.

Accordingly, in the run-up to the 3-28 May 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, South Africa will maintain, amongst others:

- Its support for the full implementation of the Treaty, as well as its universality;
- That nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are inextricably linked, and both therefore require continuous and irreversible progress;
- That the peaceful use of nuclear energy is inextricably linked to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations under the Treaty;

- That the IAEA should be provided with the necessary support and assistance to fulfil its statutory mandate.

It must therefore be expected that during the 2010 Review Conference, South Africa will focus, amongst others, on the necessity to implement all treaty obligations and previously agreed-to commitments and to ensure that such obligations and commitments are not reinterpreted, discarded, or negated.

Chairperson,

I join the Minister and Deputy Minister van der Merwe in declaring the Department's readiness to play its key role in ensuring that our country hosts a spectacular FIFA World Cup. On that note, allow me to express my gratitude that my work is made easier because of the comradely spirit that I find in both the Minister and Deputy Minister van der Merwe. I am indebted to the dedication of my personal-support staff; and I am appreciative of the commitment of the Director-General, his senior management team and staff to the mandate of this department.

To the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, we are at your disposal to be called upon to account and I look forward to our fruitful interactions during this financial year. Let me conclude by echoing the words of President Zuma during his closing remarks at the 13th Ordinary Session of the AU that: "We will ... continue to be very active on the international front, in pursuit of the goal of achieving a just world and a better Africa."

Thank you.



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

deputy minister

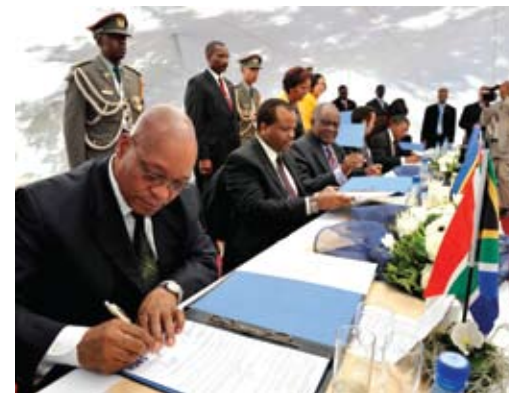
*Chairperson of the House,
Minister Nkoana Mashabane,
Deputy Minister Ebrahim,
Ministers, Deputy Ministers,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners*

The presentation of our budget to this house comes, as the Minister has said, just 49 days before the kick-off the FIFA World Cup Soccer tournament - the first time ever on African soil. It is with a sense of excitement that our country readies itself to welcome hundreds of thousands of fans from the length and breadth of our continent and from all over the world.

The FIFA World Cup will be important to South Africa in many ways. It will showcase South Africa to the world as a tourism and investment destination; it will enable us to show that South Africa and Africa can successfully host an event of this magnitude, and thus it will give us the opportunity to realise some of our objectives as outlined by the Minister.



President Zuma during the SACU Conference in Windhoek, Namibia



The Minister spoke of how we leverage support for our national interests through our international relations work. During the World Cup we will have a once in a life time opportunity to do this through the experience of the fans that come, but also through the television coverage all over the world.

The Minister also described our work as bridge builder and as pathfinders for new opportunities in our efforts to build our country. We want to show today how we are doing that and draw the link between our international efforts and our ambitions for a better life for all our people.

Thus our work starts here in South Africa and then extends to the international community through a very extensive network of bi-lateral relationships with virtually every country in the world. We have missions in 105 countries and representation through non resident ambassadors in many more. Naturally though, we place emphasis on our relationships with neighbours on the continent and our immediate neighbours in the SADC region.

Working with our sister departments of Finance and of Trade and Industry, we have made significant progress in the past few years on integrating our region. We already have strong political bonds with our neighbouring countries, which bonds have their roots in our history. It is our challenge now to translate those strong bonds into practical benefits for our people. Having launched the SADC Free Trade Area in 2008, our work now focuses on consolidating the FTA and moving steadily towards a SADC wide customs Union. Currently 13 countries with a registered market of 170 million people with a combined GDP worth US\$ 360bn comprise our SADC FTA region. When Angola and the DRC join, 77 million more people will be added, with an additional market of US\$71bn. Such a position will greatly enhance our attractiveness as a trading entity and we continue to work actively to consolidate this position.

This process of regional integration has to leverage the experience of our 100 year old Southern African Customs Union (SACU). It is also critical that, as we build a SADC wide Customs Union, we be vigilant and ensure that the measures we take will serve to cushion us during stormy periods such as the current global economic crisis. Therefore we must build a Customs Union able to diversify its economic relations, particularly with the rapidly growing markets of the South.

At the frontline of our efforts at promoting our trade and economic interests are our diplomats, posted in all corners of the world, who are now all exposed to specialised training in economic diplomacy. The main elements of this training focus on providing diplomats with an analysis of the international economic environment, on studies on legal aspects of economic interaction, as well as briefings on the interrelations between economic diplomacy and South Africa's foreign policy.

We use both our bilateral relationships as well as the many multilateral forums to which we belong to promote South Africa and encourage investment.



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim and Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe



The United Nations Security Council in session

A huge opportunity to promote South Africa this year will be the Shanghai Expo, to be officially opened on 1st May. This is a world Expo, which only takes place every 5 years and is considered the Olympics of the economy, science and technology. It gives South Africa the opportunity to showcase itself as a unique combination of a modern economy, that is globally oriented, but with the spirit, energy and human-centeredness of Africa. We have a magnificent South African pavilion, which we anticipate will attract much interest from the estimated 70 million visitors to the EXPO. Several South African companies, including those with cutting edge technologies will participate in our stand, and we will have the opportunity to further promote the FIFA World Cup to this huge audience.

South Africa is the largest economy on the African continent, many South African companies have global reach, and our diplomatic efforts are as extensive as many countries larger and more powerful than we are. We believe this imposes on us a particular responsibility. We see our work therefore, not only as promoting the interests of our own South African people, but the interests of our neighbours on the continent must also be a priority for us.

South Africa has a modern infrastructure, including a sophisticated telecommunications network, highly developed financial services industry, and developed transport networks among others. We are therefore in a strong position on the continent to act as a hub, a stimulus for growth for the region and a driver of continental prosperity. A prosperous continent will be to the benefit of us all.

So since our country gained its freedom, South Africa has focused its foreign policy on the African agenda, on building African Institutions and on promoting peace on the continent. We have spent considerable energy and resources on these efforts. As mentioned by the Minister, we now need to consolidate those efforts and streamline them to greatest effect.

And to do this we have begun work on the establishment of the South African Development Partnership Agency. The concept of such an agency has been agreed by Cabinet, and we are working on the next stage of its development. Our thinking includes working on the existing African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARF) and expanding it to become the envisaged agency. This will require a new piece of legislation which will be brought before this parliament in due course.

It is envisaged that such funding as is already earmarked for the ARF would form part of the initial budget of the Agency. We have held discussions with many similar agencies in other countries, including those countries from the developed and developing world, to gain from the international experience and to inform our work in this regard. We have had an enthusiastic response from our development partners and will continue discussions with them so as to leverage trilateral cooperative methods to further enhance the effectiveness and the impact of this Agency.



Members will be engaged in this discussion through the law making process and we look forward to your inputs in this regard.

Focus for the Partnership Agency will be on African partnerships and the Minister has earlier outlined the work we do in the African Union context. It was therefore with great humility that we received the support of the African Union in our bid to serve a second term on the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member.

Our current membership of the AU Peace and Security Council will provide us with a good synergy in promoting the closer relationship between regional peace and security structures and the UNSC. We will keep this house updated on developments in this regard as the campaign for our candidature progresses.

Chair

I would like to acknowledge the distinguished guests we have here today from the institutions studying international relations, guests from academia and from the diplomatic corps and thank them for their ongoing cooperation. But in line with the Ministers leadership in bringing international relations to our people, I have also invited to this budget vote today, some members of my own community; from Stellenbosch, where I have my constituency office; from Claremont where I work with a community based group of domestic workers on a housing project, and my comrades in my branch! I did this so that they could be here - in a sense representing the broader South African community - so they could see how our international efforts impact on the lives of ordinary South Africans. I wish to thank them all for coming and I hope that they have found this interesting and that they now understand why I am so often absent!

I would like to thank the Minister and Deputy Minister for the pleasure of working with you both. I too would like to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the professionalism and

support that I receive from our Director General and the officials he so ably leads. They are some of our brightest minds and contribute significantly to the challenging world of our international interactions. I am proud to be part of our South African diplomatic service and I thank them most sincerely for their hard work and dedication to the cause of South Africa's international work.

Thank you



Chairperson of
International Relations
and Cooperation,
Portfolio Committee
Mr Thulas Nxesi

Chairperson

I thank the Honourable Minister for her very informative and engaging presentation on her Budget Vote. I noted Honourable members that the Department has a huge mandate, though their allocated budget of R4.8 billion for 2010/11 has decreased by nearly a billion rand from the R5.6 billion which was allocated for the 2009/10 financial year. We trust, Honourable Minister, that your department will be creative enough to manage and execute its mandate within the existing allocation.

From the onset, I must hasten to raise an issue which is very important in the execution of the mandate of the Portfolio Committee. While we strive to monitor and oversee the Department's activities, the current oversight model in parliament poses some challenges to the work of the committee. Although the Committee has formal access to the Department and query it where necessary, the committee has not been able to conduct effective inspection in loco or oversight visits, in all the areas under the Department including South African missions abroad and project areas where South Africa is involved in pursuance of the African Agenda. However, it brings me a great sense of comfort to mention that this challenge is being actively addressed, before it becomes an impediment, by relevant authorities in Parliament. The Committee will be able to reach all responsible for the execution of South African international relations policy and measure the Department's service delivery on the basis of the impact it exerts internationally.

Despite the challenges I alluded to, the committee continues to execute its mandate and consequently I am aware Madame Minister, that your Department is faced with two major capacity-building challenges:

- Firstly, in property and asset management, because of the huge property portfolio your Department has to manage in the missions abroad.

- Secondly, there is a need for training in the new skills of economic diplomacy to address current developments in international relations. The global shift towards closer cooperation in economic development requires highly trained and experienced men and women who can effectively represent this country in global economic engagements. This is all the more urgent in the wake of the global economic meltdown, and the tentative moves by the international community to restructure international financial institutions and economic relations.

Honourable Minister,

I am convinced that the creation of the South African Development Partnerships Agency (SADPA) will fill the existing gap around effective coordination of economic engagements with the outside world. However, the real relationship with the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARF) or demise thereof, must be explored further, in order to have continuation with regard to the consolidation of the African Agenda as a matter of urgency.

Madame Minister,

I wholeheartedly support the principle of deepening relations with countries in Africa through opening diplomatic missions in all African countries. However, the Department should probably identify and prioritise countries in Africa with which South Africa can foster strategic partnerships for development. Zimbabwe should be one of such countries.

Honourable Members, at this juncture, I would like to commend all diplomatic efforts undertaken by DIRCO under the able leadership of President Zuma, on behalf of SADC, to ensure compliance with the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in Zimbabwe. Since these interventions, a number of positives have emerged both politically and economically including; creation of democratic space, polarization of political parties has been abated,

there are signs of economic recovery including stable prices of commodities, added value to the currency, increasing levels of investments from the SADC, Asia, South Africa has injected R300 million, and international community's involvement through trilateral arrangements.

I call upon all South Africans in unison, to rally behind the efforts by the President of South Africa on behalf of SADC at this critical and sensitive stage of mediation in Zimbabwe.

Honourable Minister,

The struggle for self-determination by the people of the Saharawi Republic remains a sore thumb in the history of liberation in Africa. All necessary measures have to be taken to put back into the global agenda, the resolution of this conflict and actively engage the international community on the plight of the Saharawi people.

Honourable Minister,

The development and streamlining of public diplomacy strategies cannot be overemphasized. The Department must be more visible and less elitist in its conduct of South African international relations policy. The Minister must ensure the strengthening of democratic accountability of foreign policy nationally, and ensure there is a national dialogue internally on the policies South Africa pursues individually or jointly with the international community in pursuit of effective global governance. Clearly the Portfolio Committee and this Parliament have a crucial role to play in democratizing international relations. I hope the House will not think of me as arrogant if I quote from my response to last year's international affairs budget to make the point. I suggested then that we need to discuss the following propositions:

- "That the legislature and the Portfolio Committee need to play a role in facilitating debate on IR&C issues, to foster public understanding and awareness, and to provide a platform for solidarity and civil society to raise issues of concern.

- "That our understanding of IR&C will be enriched by greater knowledge of the social structures of the countries we interact with, so that we do not simply deal with ruling elites, but also see all sides of the picture."

I believe that our ability as a nation to wield 'soft power' in international relations is greatly strengthened to the degree that our own people are able to understand and support policies which not only advance our national interests, but contribute to global peace and sustainable development. I might also add that success in this area would also start to address the xenophobic fears that have regrettably manifested themselves in recent years.

Turning to South-South relations: these are fast developing into bigger strategic partnerships of emerging powers to promote mutual economic development, at the same time leveraging their growing influence to challenge unfair trade relations with the rich industrialized economies of the world. South Africa's participation in IBSA is remarkably visible, and IBSA's programmes are aimed at addressing domestic priorities. In the past (IBSA) Summit, it was agreed that the parliamentary sector should exercise oversight over all IBSA Agreements and ensure implementation takes place. It is important that as soon as possible South Africa also assesses opportunities in BRIC, and eventually joins this grouping as the two organizations' mandates are highly complimentary.

Honourable Members,

Hosting and participation in international conferences should not be the only yardstick for the work of the Department. Money should be spent on conferences where South Africa will impact on shaping the agenda and will accrue benefits for our population and that of the Continent as a whole. The measure of performance here should be tangible results and not mere presence only.

Honourable Minister,

South Africa must stand ready to take advantage of the current realignment of forces taking place in world politics and international relations. As we participate in global power structures like the G8 and the G20, we must be ready to advance strategic interventions to influence the agenda.

South Africa should continue to act internationally as a facilitator and moderator, deploying soft power with clear objectives and goals, including:

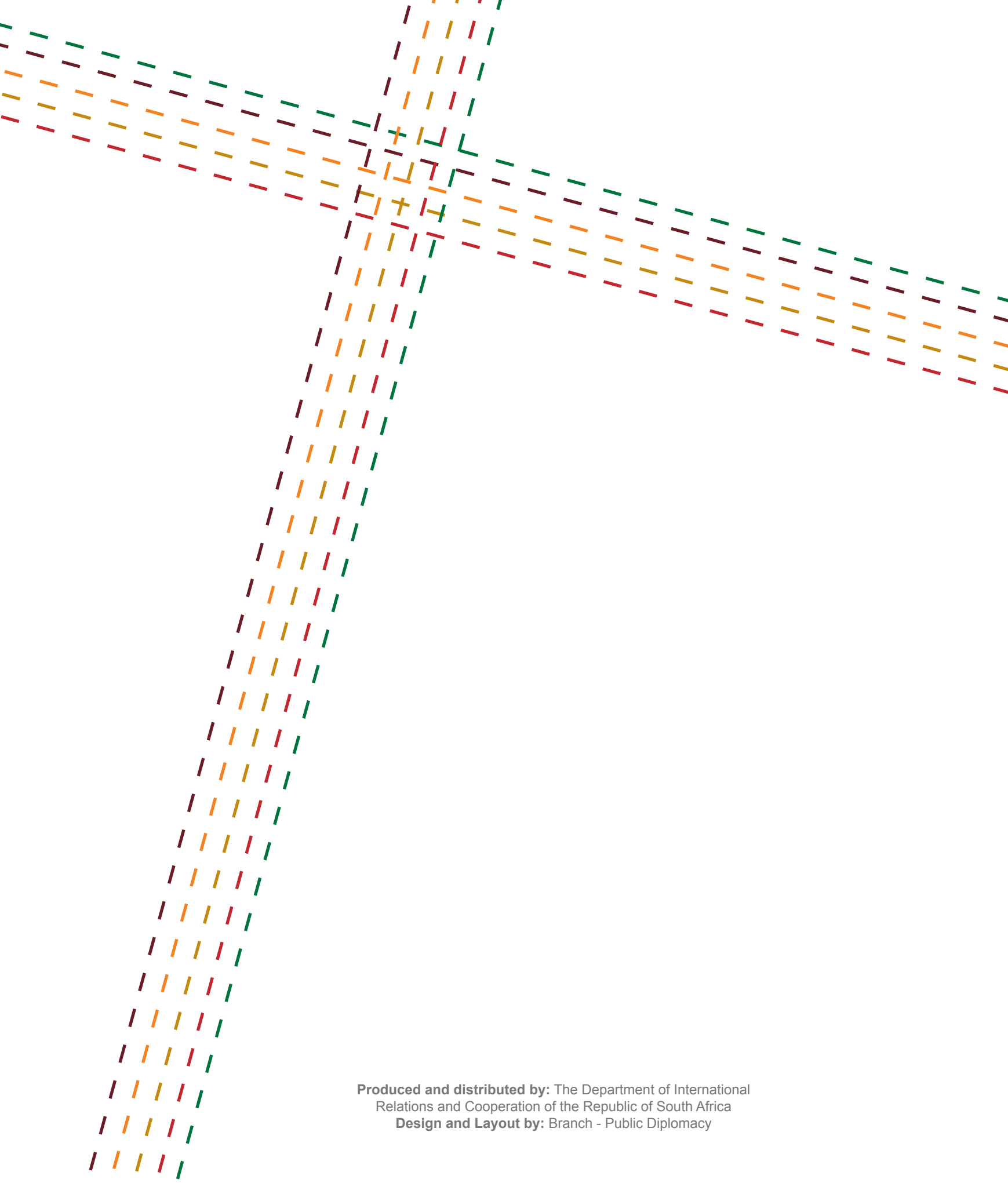
- to consolidate and elaborate our role as an emerging power;
- to maintain momentum for the promotion of the African Agenda; whilst
- participating fully in the process to develop a more equitable system of global governance.

The campaign for the release of the Cuban Five should be intensified to ensure adherence by the international community to a universal application of human rights principles.

One final note of caution is that this House must be concerned about the manner in which international engagements and visits are conducted without proper consultation with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. We would like to see the Department strengthening its hand in the coordination of international engagements and visits by sister Government Departments, provincial and local governments, as well as Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures. This is necessary to prevent wasteful duplication, possible competition and conflict of interest and to ensure that as a country we speak with one voice. We need to remind the Department that it has been given such a mandate by the Cabinet meeting of 19 November 2008 when it approved the document on Measures and Guidelines for the Enhanced Coordination of South Africa's International Engagements.

I thank you.





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