

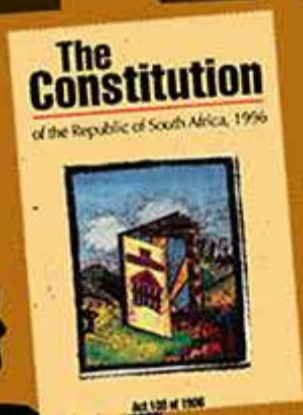
IT'S
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VOICE

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

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Volume 2, 2017

Editor's Letter

Dear Diplomats,

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Greetings! It is three months into the year and that brings us to the March edition of It's Your Voice. Our editorial team has ensured consistent delivery of quality content in previous editions and this one is no different.

In this edition, we've covered a very sensitive topic in the workplace – sexual harassment. The work environment consists of individuals from all walks of life who all have different opinions and beliefs about what sexual harassment is and is not. On page 7, we give you all you need to know about sexual harassment in the workplace.

One of our colleagues abroad reflects on the 10 things he likes the most about Bulgaria. In Globe at a Glimpse, find out what the Mission in Norway got up to as they represented our beloved country at the Oslo and Bergen Travel Expo 2017. Mr Harry Fasasie, who is a Protocol Officer in the department lets us in on a typical day in his life and then in our Head Office feature, we wrap up the month of March in pictures.

In conclusion, we always encourage a healthy lifestyle for all our employees in DIRCO and that's the reason we have the DIRCO Sports Council. The council, which consists of five sporting codes partnered with the Department of Science and Technology and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) sport councils and they recently participated in a tournament at the CSIR sports grounds. All the details are in the Lifestyle feature on page 12.

We hope you enjoy this March edition. 🌐

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TSELISO MATLAKENG

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OPEN DAY

By Kgopotso Rapakuana



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) through Directorate: Internal Communication and Social Media hosted the DIRCO Open Day on Thursday, 30 March 2017. The event targeted 60 tertiary students from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and University of Pretoria (UP) studying International Relations, Political Science and related fields. The purpose of the Open Day was to educate students about the mandate of the department, experience the work environment and different branches within the department. Furthermore, the occasion exposed them to how South Africa's Foreign Policy is implemented.

Mr Albert Geldenhuys from HR made a presentation about the department and Ambassador Nkosi informed them about the life of a Diplomat. Thereafter, they visited the different sections in the department to experience the work environment. Branches within the Department had exhibitions were they showcased the work they do and had interactions with the students. 🌐





AMBASSADOR SEKOLO ON THE NUCLEAR FUTURE

"We believe South Africa's success story will inspire other countries on the continent to consider nuclear energy as part of their energy mix."

The Africa Utility Week website recently published the following exclusive interview with Ambassador Tebogo Seokolo, Chairperson of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors. At the upcoming African Utility Week from 16 to 18 May in Cape Town, Ambassador Seokolo will be part of the Nuclear Power Africa Session on "Sub-Saharan Africa's nuclear future".

Ambassador Seokolo is the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations (UN) and International Organisations in Vienna, Austria. In this capacity, he represents South Africa in the Board of Governors of the IAEA. In 2016, he was elected as the Chairperson of the IAEA Board of Governors for the period 2016/17. Ambassador Seokolo also serves as South Africa's Ambassador to Austria.

Thank you for your time Mr Ambassador. You were appointed as chair of the IAEA in October last year. How would you describe the last few months in the position? Were there any interesting developments?

As one of the founding members of the IAEA, South Africa is humbled by the honour and trust that IAEA member states, through its Board of Governors, have entrusted on its shoulders at a time when this organisation is celebrating 60 years and when the world is facing a period of uncertainty. This is a responsibility that South Africa takes seriously. Over the last months, South Africa has had the privilege of presiding over

three sessions of the board, which considered a number of critical issues, including monitoring the nuclear agreement between Iran and Permanent Members of the UN Security Council plus one (P5+1); nuclear-related developments in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK); adoption by the Board of Governors of the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA; and recently during its session in March, the appointment of the IAEA Director-General.

Are there any specific projects that are in the offing this year by the IAEA that are of particular importance?

The mandate of the IAEA is primarily to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons as well as promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. These entail, among others, providing technical support to its members, upon request, to:

- develop or/and expand their nuclear power programmes
- use nuclear science and technology to achieve the global and national development goals, especially in areas such as agriculture, human and animal health, water management and environment.

The IAEA will continue during the course of this year to implement programmes and projects to address these issues. The renovation and modernisation of the IAEA Nuclear Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf, Austria, is the key major infrastructure development project that the IAEA is focussing on. The construction of the new laboratories has commenced – thanks to the voluntary contribution of around 31 million euros

by IAEA member states. More financial resources are still needed for this project. Together with the Ambassador of Germany to the IAEA, Mr Friedrich Däubler, I have been privileged to lead efforts to mobilise support and financial resources for this project.

South Africa as a founding member of the IAEA attaches great importance to the mandate of the agency. Can you elaborate?

There are two dimensions to the mandate of the IAEA, namely: security and development. Whereas over the years, security has received considerable focus, South Africa welcomes the recent attention that the development mandate of the IAEA is receiving. South Africa believes that the dualism of security and development inherent to the IAEA mandate should serve as its strength in order to galvanise all its members behind its programmes. This is key because the majority of IAEA member states come from the developing countries, and most derive benefits from the IAEA development programme.

In your view, which are the next African countries to advance nuclear power and how optimistic is this in the African economic environment?

According to the IAEA, 30 countries are considering or planning a nuclear power programme, including African countries such as Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco and Nigeria. This is a welcome development for economic development on the African continent. The growing interest for nuclear power on the continent is based on a common understanding of the important role nuclear can play in addressing

the countries' energy security needs and mitigate against the impact of climate change.

What in your opinion are the hurdles preventing the rest of sub-Saharan Africa in joining the nuclear movement?

The key hurdles preventing countries from joining the nuclear movement are the same globally and therefore are not unique to sub-Saharan Africa. The setting up of appropriate legislative and regulatory infrastructure as well as building the institutions needed – with a clear allocation of roles and responsibilities – such as government body, regulator, owner and future operator are some of the challenging impediments. However, finance and technological capacity by far are the biggest impediments for countries joining the nuclear movement.

Will South Africa's nuclear success create a road map for sub-Saharan Africa on how they should proceed going forward?

Perhaps not a road map but rather valuable lessons on the road traversed. Our experience of managing a nuclear programme spans more than 50 years. We have managed nuclear facilities safely and securely, and over the years, we have cumulatively built the necessary human capital. We are one of 30 countries in the world which generate nuclear power. We believe this African success story will inspire other countries on the continent to consider nuclear energy as part of their energy mix. However, this requires detailed and elaborate planning as well as consultation with all the relevant stakeholders.



What lessons do you think South Africa can share from its experience with nuclear energy?

Managing a nuclear programme is a complex process. Nuclear technology is a specialised niche technology that requires a highly skilled work force. Consequently, it is necessary for the employees to be continually trained. Fortunately, South Africa in collaboration with the IAEA, offers training to most African states, upon request, on various aspects of the nuclear cycle. In this regard, South Africa has put its nuclear facilities at the disposal of trainees from the continent to deepen their practical knowledge of the subject. South African experts also actively participate in various IAEA peer review missions, both on the continent and beyond, as part of the country's contribution to the development of the nuclear

programme in various countries, some with existing facilities and others embarking on new programmes.

How important are capacity-building and skills development in the nuclear sector on the continent?

As indicated, capacity-building and skills development in the nuclear sector are extremely critical. South Africa is probably the most advanced on the continent in terms of nuclear education and skills development. A number of universities offer various nuclear-related programmes with graduates offered job opportunities in related institutions in the industry, both in the private and public sectors. Thus, most African countries leverage on South Africa's infrastructure to capacitate their own. For example, in October

2016, the IAEA in collaboration with South Africa, organised a joint South Africa-IAEA Nuclear Energy Management School in Cape Town, the first of its kind in the region, designed to help promote and foster knowledge on a wide range of areas related to the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Similarly, the North-West University and the University of Witwatersrand are in the process of implementing Nuclear Technology Management (NTM) programmes targeting education of present and future managers working in the nuclear sector. These programmes are part of the International Nuclear Management Academy initiative, launched in 2015 to support international collaboration among nuclear engineering universities to develop a framework for delivering master's level education programmes in NTM.

You are part of a session at African Utility Week's Nuclear Power Africa Conference Session on "Sub-Saharan Africa's Nuclear Future" – what will be your message at the event?

I am pleased to be able to take part in the forthcoming Nuclear Power Africa Conference and to reflect on the prospects of nuclear power on the African continent. I believe that for Africa's economy to grow, it has to address the energy challenges that the continent faces. Nuclear power, together with other renewable energy sources, could transition African countries to a more reliable and affordable energy future. Nuclear is affordable in the long term; it is reliable and a low-carbon technology.

Published in the African Utility Week on 22 March 2017. <http://www.african-utility-week.com/IAEA-nuclear-interview>

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1. Chinese Ambassador Tian Xuejun farewell lunch hosted by Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.
 2. Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane meeting with her Ghana counterpart Ms Shirley Ayorkor Botchway.
 3, 10, 11 Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and family members of Amb Roy Sethapelo at the Ambassadors memorial service held at DIRCO head office.
 4, 7 International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosts her Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, on Friday, 10 March 2017, in Pretoria.
 5. Ubuntu Radio presenter Thelma Ngobeni interviewing Swiss Amb H Budliger Artieda.
 6, 8 Deputy Minister Landers hosting a farewell function for High Commissioner Judith Macgregor.
 9. Group photo of officials who received their certificates

12. DTRD Graduation Ceremony for the female mediation training group.
 13. DTRD female mediation training group in class.
 14. Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane interacting with SACOIR.
 15. Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane meeting with Indian High Commissioner Ms R Ghanashyam.
 16. Deputy Minister Landers meeting with Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Terens Quick.



FAREWELL MESSAGE BY MR WOLF ROTHKEGEL



The time has come to say goodbye and to express my appreciation to DIRCO for the most interesting and challenging 43 years, which included eight postings and numerous exciting visits, that I could have wished for as it enriched the life of us as a family in so many special ways. It started in 1974 when I was requested to charter an aircraft for the then Prime Minister for his visit to President Houphouet-Boigny in the Ivory Coast ... and fortunately didn't end there decades later during the civil war when we had to be evacuated by the United Nations. Particularly gratifying was the role I was privileged to play in respect of the establishment of relations with Tanzania and Zambia, having met with so much generosity and goodwill as well as acts of hospitality and kindness in all of the African countries I dealt with. The same applies to Europe, which became our home for almost 20 years during which time our three daughters were born. As a migrant from Namibia, whose parents grew up in China and Austria respectively, I trust

that South Africa will always welcome foreigners who love this extraordinary country and want to contribute to its well-being as well as that of our continent.
 With kind regards, also from my wife Joey.
 Salani Khale, Totsiens, Auf Wiedersehen!
 God bless
 Wolf Rothkegel
 wolfrothkegel@gmail.com





A day in the life of ... **Harry Fasasie**

1. Tell us about yourself.

Born in the Eastern Cape, at the age of four, we moved to the well-known location, Reiger Park, which is situated on the East Rand of Gauteng.

That is where I completed my schooling. After completing High School, I joined South African Airways as a customer services agent and served for 11 years. I am currently an Assistant Director at the Directorate: State Protocol Lounges (SPL) based at OR Tambo International Airport.

2. What is your daily routine?

As a shift supervisor (protocol officer), one has to ensure the smooth running of daily operations with a complex team as the environment is very dynamic and demanding at times. Currently, we are working two shifts: morning and afternoon. One is informed and guided by the Daily Operational Schedule to plan the operations for the day. Once the workplace is entered, the daily scheduled get perused and protocol officers are assigned accordingly to execute their tasks. Shift briefings are conducted at the beginning of each shift to ensure optimal results and to discourse any challenges immediately

that could damper the daily operations. Inspections are regular done for the hospitality infrastructure, vehicles and office equipment and catering stock are checked to enable us to serve our guests with hot and cold beverages. Any faults or non-operational equipment are reported immediately. I facilitate the arrival and the departure of our guests according to the daily schedule. On-flight arrival guests are met and conducted to the SPL with their entourage. Immigration and customs (baggage) formalities are cleared. On-departure check-in and immigration formalities are adhered to and guests are conducted to their respective flights. Vehicle Kilos get recorded on the Log Sheet after usage of each trip undertaken. I attend to all e-mails and ensure that all booking requests are captured and responded to accordingly by the receptionist. I complete daily shift reports and submit them to the Deputy Director for perusal and inputs. Hand-over reports are compiled at the end of each shift and inspection of vehicles is done with the incoming Supervisor.

3. How long have you been with DIRCO?

I've been with the department of choice since 21 November 2005. I started as a chief administration clerk. In 2007, I was promoted

to Senior Foreign Affairs Administration Officer and in 2009 to Assistant Director in the same Directorate.

4. What do you enjoy most about working for DIRCO?

It has a vast and broad spectrum of career opportunities, training and development programmes.

DIRCO is the organisation of choice that most citizens want to see themselves associated with; an organisation that values its employees by investing in them through intensive training programmes domestically and international. This is underpinned by one of its strategic priorities to "Provide a world-class and uniquely South African State Protocol Service". The protocol and etiquette that its people portray individually and as an organisation is superb.

5. What do you do to relax?

Listening to opera, R&B and jazz to have peace of mind. I also enjoy good food and good South African red wine. 🍷



1. NEW CHANCERY



In March 2015 after 12 years, the Chancery relocated from the oldest part of the city to an area called Doctors Garden.

The new Chancery is an old house consisting of four floors and my office is right on top (In the roof). Imagine the exercise I get as there is no lift. I sometimes feel like the yellow smiley from a Pack Man game going up and down.

The building is beautifully restored and provides a sense of old-world charm with parquet floors and decorative ceilings. There is also a beautiful landscaped garden at the back of the house.

The house portrays a sense of sophistication that is not overbearing and visitors have a sense of being welcome, exemplifying Mzansi hospitality.

2. PROXIMITY

Bulgaria is situated in the Eastern part of Europe and is regarded as one of the Balkan countries (Balkan Mountain range). The country provides for a direct gateway to several European countries. Countries that border Bulgaria are Turkey, Romania, Serbia and Greece and as a resident or long-time visitor, all these countries are reachable within a two- to four-hour drive. During my stay in Bulgaria, I have visited places such as Istanbul, Thessaloniki (Halkidiki) and Bucharest. It certainly is a convenient departure point for the avid traveller.

3. SOFIA CITY

Sofia is a vibrant city with most of the inhabitants living in apartments. Here, the closer you live to the city centre the better. Bulgarians love eating out and socialising, especially during the summer months and you will find a wide array of restaurants, bars and cafés.

The city is very safe. On my arrival, staying in the hotel, I woke one morning at 3h00 by loud singing and laughing. Looking out the window to investigate the cause of my discomfort, I saw two young girls walking down a narrow alley, obviously on their way home from a good night/morning out with no care in the world.

Here, everybody walks –from young to old. I sometimes find myself in awe of old people with bent backs walking where they want to be, without any assistance other than the occasional walking stick. Most amenities are in close proximity to each other. Should you need transport, taxis are readily available and affordable. You can also take the underground train should you need to be on the other side of the city. It is advisable to always have cash on hand (Leva & Stotinka's) as credit and debit cards are not readily accepted everywhere.

4. ADJUSTMENT TO THE LOCAL CONDITIONS



If I must single out something very iconic of Sofia, this would be it. The Orthodox Church with its gold domes is named after Saint Alexander Nevski and is majestically located in the centre of the city. The church was built in honour of all the soldiers who died during the Russo/Turkish War 1877 –1878. It is certainly a must-see when in Sofia.

5. VITOSHA MOUNTAIN



Vitosha Mountain is seen from almost every area in the city. In a sense, it provides for nostalgic reminiscence of Table Mountain. You can drive up the mountain with a cobbled road almost 20 km long. In summer, it greets you with beautiful green canopies of trees and the odd hiker is visible exploring the many hiking trails. In winter, the mountain is completely covered in snow and frequented by many skiing enthusiasts and the views are spectacular.

I did venture to try the skiing thing, once ... and found it better to stay on solid ground as I could not stop once I got going. I think my instructor of the day was also relieved as he did not have to run behind me and holler "Gennie djou must STO-O-OP" and I am not one to ignore good advice, I know my limitations. So I did stop, eventually with the tips of my skis pointing skywards.

6. PLOVDIV



Plovdiv is approximately a one-hour drive from Sofia. It is an excellent place to go to for a one-day visit. However, be prepared as you will be walking up steep staircases and cobbled roads. Here, you'll find some of the most beautiful ancient merchant houses built atop the hills with amazing architecture with arches, turrets and even wooden houses that stood the test of time.

However, the ancient marble Roman theatre, which is still in use today is absolutely indescribable.

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not one to ignore good advice, I know my limitations. So I did stop, eventually with the tips of my skis pointing skywards.

7. BABA MARTA



Baba (Grandma) Marta ushers in spring on 1 March every year. This custom is essentially to wish great health, good luck and happiness to family and friends.

In Bulgarian folklore, Baba Marta is a grumpy old woman who changes her mood very rapidly and it reflects in the changeable March weather. When she is smiling, the weather is sunny and warm, but if she gets angry, the cold will stay for longer and it may even snow.

By wearing the red and white colours of the Martenitsa, our predecessors asked Baba Marta for mercy. They hoped that it would make winter pass faster and bring spring.

White symbolises strength, purity and happiness. The red is associated with health, blood, conception and fertility. The most typical Martenitsa represents two small wool dolls: Pizho and Penda. Pizho is the male doll, usually dominating in white. Penda is the female doll, usually dominating in red and distinguished by her skirt. Out of twined red and white threads are also made bracelets, necklaces, tassels, pompons, balls, squares and human or animal figures. When someone gives you a Martenitsa, you should wear it either pinned on your clothes, on the hand tied around the wrist or around your neck until you see a stork, or a fruit tree in blossom for the first time in the season. After that, you can tie it on a blossoming tree for fertility.

8. RILA MONASTERY



The Rila Monastery lies in the Rila Mountain, is situated 117 km away from Sofia and is no doubt the most popular tourist site among all monasteries in Bulgaria equally for its size, natural surroundings, architecture, wall paintings and ancient history.

9. ROSE OIL/YOGURT

Bulgaria is famous for its rose oils which are used in cosmetics, perfumes and even rose water and are readily available in all curio shops.

Traditional Bulgarian yogurt is delicious and nourishing. Originally, the bacteria essential to the yogurt fermentation process was discovered by a Bulgarian scientist. Nutritionally rich in vitamins, minerals, good fats and protein, yogurt has been a traditional Bulgarian food associated with good health for thousands of years.

10. SNOW



Being South African, this to me, was a very strange phenomenon to see so much snow falling at once. Not even mentioning the minus degrees in temperature. The thing I like the most about the snow is when it starts – it is as if everything goes completely silent and you have a feeling of something dazzling happening. Driving in the snow got some time getting used to. With my first experience, I was driving 10 km per hour much to the dismay of fellow Bulgarian homebound motorists. 🚗



Globe at a glimpse



Oslo & Bergen Travel Expos 2017: Successful Promotion of South Africa

The Oslo Mission participated in the annual Oslo Travel Expo from 13 to 15 January 2017, which gathered 600 travel exhibitors and approximately 40 000 visitors over the time span of a weekend in Norway's capital.

Oslo Travel Expo – Telenor Arena has become one of the most popular and important international meeting places for the travel industry worldwide, and it is hence the ideal platform for promoting South Africa to a large and travel-eager Scandinavian audience.

The Oslo Mission had a beautifully decorated stand with stunning images and video clips from the rainbow nation, as well as flags, artefacts and promotional material consisting of maps, DVDs and leaflets.

The stand received a lot of positive attention and a solid stream of pleasant visits, with the staff providing information, inspiration and insights to a large number of potential tourists to South Africa.

The SA Embassy also got the opportunity to showcase South African culture through a beautiful musical performance by Xoliswa Roaldsoy (vocals) and Zwai Mbula (marimba) to the great delight of the audience.

On 28 January 2017, Makhosazana Mepha and Maria Nkwane of the South African Embassy in Oslo continued the tourism promo trail to Norway's second-largest town, beautiful Bergen, where they flew the South African flag high over the wintry west-coast city.

It was a lovely weekend in the name of tourism and the Embassy officials had great interactions with a number of travel-eager Expo attendees.



Oslo Travel Expo 2017: Flying the South African flag high at the largest travel expo in Norway



A stunning South African musical performance at the Oslo Travel Expo

Sixth African Film Week held in Greece

The Sixth African Film Week in Greece brought to the big screen charming images from the African continent: urban legends, exoticism from the past, personalities and modern human stories. The festivals were held in Athens at the Greek Film Archive from 9 to 15 March 2017, and for the first time in Thessaloniki, at the Pavlos Zannas Hall, from 16 to 22 March 2017 with free entrance.

The Sixth African Film Week was organised by African embassies and honorary consulates with residence and accreditation to the Hellenic Republic, in partnership with the Greek Film Archive, the Thessaloniki Film Festival and the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports.

The South African Embassy and the organisers were honoured with the presence of Ntshavheni Wa Luruli, Director of the South African film, *Elewani* (Awards: South African entry for Best Foreign Film for the 2015 Oscars; Best Actress, Amaa Awards, Best Production Design, Amaa Awards; Durban Film International Film Festival opening night film; Berlin International Film Festival Official Selection). Mr Luruli had the opportunity to provide a short briefing on the South African film industry and intermingled with the audience following the screening of *Elewani* at the opening of the film week on 9 March 2017 at the Greek Film Archive. This offered viewers a greater insight into the South African culture and traditions of the Venda people.

Beloved Africa, but also its lesser known side, was revealed through a fascinating mosaic of 18 films from the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and Tunisia.

Participating South African films included:

- *Elewani* by Ntshavheni wa Luruli: A romantic film about love that confronts Venda family traditions
- *Leading Lady* by Henk Pretorius: The substance hidden away from the lights and glamour of Hollywood.



On 24 February 2017, DIRCO partnered with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for the DST Annual Sports Day, at the CSIR sports ground.

The purpose of the event was to promote physical wellness and foster team spirit and camaraderie among the employees of DST, CSIR and DIRCO through the following sports:

- soccer
- netball
- aerobics
- volleyball
- chess.

The occasion started with a win by the DIRCO Soccer Legends over the DST Legends. DIRCO's winning streak continued when the DIRCO Football Club won the first game against the DST Football Club. The DIRCO volley ball team did not disappoint as well by winning two sets against DST.

Despite their efforts, the DIRCO netball team, which was the only team to compete against both CSIR and DST, lost both games.

The DIRCO aerobics team brought life, fun and laughter by introducing participants to sessions that included Zumba as well as kick boxing..

The DIRCO Sport Council and Employee Health and Wellness (EHW) would like to encourage colleagues to participate in at least one sporting code to promote a healthy lifestyle.

For more information regarding the different sporting codes, contact EHW office, Motaum@dirco.gov.za or send an e-mail to VHQ-Dirco_Sports_Council@dirco.gov.za.

As we say, #healthiswealth.



DIRCO PARTNERS WITH DST FOR ANNUAL SPORTS DAY EVENT

By Mavis Chuene, DIRCO Sports PRO



international relations
& cooperation

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