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Editor's Letter

Dear Diplomats,



We are two years into the second decade of South Africa's democracy, and as we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we also reflect on the sacrifices the youth of 1976 made as they fought for fair education laws.

As we remember Oliver Reginald Tambo during what would have been his centenary, we recall that he was passionate about the youth. OR Tambo, a trained teacher, seized every opportunity to elevate the

vital importance of education by strongly advocating for the youth to further their education. Tambo understood and constantly communicated the benefits of education. He urged the youth to stay in school and empower themselves and eventually contribute to the continued growth of South Africa's quality of education for future generations. He also believed that our country would one day be liberated, and thus education would be a requirement for the empowerment of leaders who would govern the envisioned democratic state. It is, therefore, no surprise that many of our Missions hosted marvellous events in commemoration of the struggle of the youth of the day, and we're delighted to share some moments from those occasions in this edition of the newsletter.

Can you believe that we are already halfway through 2017? So much has already happened here at home as well as globally, and DIRCO is not slowing down as we enter the second semester of the year. One such exciting event was the fifth Annual South African Institute of International Affairs Young Leaders' Conference. It was held at

Maropeng, Cradle of Humankind, from 10 to 12 July and culminated at the OR Tambo Building on the 13th, with an address by Deputy Minister Nomaindiya Mfeketo. Find out how youth representatives from the various countries across the Southern African Development Community region were engaged on tools and techniques for effective negotiation.

Colleagues, in this issue we extend a warm welcome to DIRCO's new DG, Mr Kgabo Elias Mahoi, who has been acting in the position for almost a year. Read his inaugural contribution to our new feature, "A Word from the DG", where he expresses with enthusiasm, his vision for the department during his upcoming term. We wish DG Mahoi well.

MATHAPELO MONAISA



Why can't you be like other girls?

It's never too early. Teach children, the men and women of tomorrow, gender equality. This Women's Month, Brand South Africa celebrates the women of South Africa for playing their part in building our nation and taking our country forward. As we honour women and their achievements, let's break the cycle of limiting children and passing on old-fashioned beliefs about what they can or can't do based on gender.

It starts with you.

A word from the Director-General



Kgabo E Mahoai

After having served in the Public Service in various capacities, my appointment as Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation marks yet another thrilling episode in my 30-year career in service of our people. I fully embrace this task with great humility and gusto. For almost a year, I was privileged to serve this department as its Acting Director-General. During this period, I have worked with some extraordinary men and women whom, when duty called, displayed their team-work spirit and patriotism. To this day, I remain humbled by such outstanding and exceptional sense of selflessness demonstrated by colleagues. There is no doubt, whatsoever, that our foreign policy is in good hands.

Now, the task ahead for me is to navigate the early days of my new assignment in order to provide leadership to this department. It is my desire to work with you to develop strategies for the ever-changing global agenda. With just a few months into this assignment, I want to acknowledge and recognise the significant role you play in driving our foreign policy agenda, and your understanding of what underpins it. I am grateful to you for that.

It is with great humility that I recognise the critical leadership role displayed by the Minister and our two Deputy Ministers, steering us towards greater heights. With such unquestionable leadership, we are set for a soft landing in our international relations engagements.

There cannot be any better assurance for triumph other than such illustrious and outstanding leadership.

The work of our department is complex, although often mistakenly perceived as elitist in letter and spirit. The task ahead for us is to demystify this perception by demonstrating how our foreign policy agenda is intrinsically linked to the National Development Plan (NDP), providing clarity of thought towards the achievement of specific and identifiable developmental goals. Our aspirations, informed by the NDP, are aimed at providing the required international relations platform for the establishment of strategic partnerships in the quest for the elimination of poverty and reduction of inequality by 2030. The extent to which we can succeed in this regard, depends on how well we can harness the energies of our people in the direction of inclusive economic growth through increased meaningful and gainful participation, and enhance the capacity of the State and promote leadership and partnerships throughout societies.

Key to promoting inclusive growth will be a total commitment by our missions abroad to the objective of mobilising potential investors in their countries of accreditation to invest in South Africa. Our strategic ability to seize available opportunities abroad stand us in good stead and is the foundation for the attainment of the economic development agenda aimed at addressing the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality. A people-centred development agenda should inform the basis of our actions in addressing a multiplicity of challenges confronting us, including making sure that education is future-oriented to help establish a workforce better prepared to adapt to the demands of increased inclusive growth.

Government has already stated the key elements of most of our domestic priorities under the umbrella of the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF 2014 – 2019) – this means we have our work cut out for us. The MTSF reflects the mandate obtained by the current administration and sets out objectives and targets to achieve, including those contained in the NDP. In particular, Outcome 11 articulates the creation of a better South Africa, in a better Africa and a better world. We therefore have to constantly assess our work in order to consolidate our gains, particularly our efforts to achieve the intended objectives of Outcome 11.

While we reaffirm the centrality of the African Agenda in our foreign policy, we should also act on this reaffirmation. Our commitment to the pursuit of the African Agenda must enjoin us to place it at the centre of all our global engagements. It is therefore of critical importance

that we take a step back, pause and reflect on what needs to be done to revive, and give renewed meaning to our relations with countries on the continent. If we are truly to succeed in silencing the guns by 2020, our efforts should go beyond simply contributing our annual contributions to the African Union but also service our bilateral relations in order to show commitment and inspire courage. Our Heads of Mission conferences in totality ought to produce tangible results; we have to walk the talk and implement the recommendations we make. Only through this can we be certain that our foreign policy is on course.

Our hosting and chairing of the Southern African Development Community Summit this year is a great example of another opportunity for South Africa to strengthen regional integration initiatives. The same can be said about our membership of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), which has consolidated our position globally and within emerging markets. This partnership is yielding fruitful benefits as the New Development Bank is in place and will soon launch the African Regional Centre in Johannesburg. South Africa will take over the Chairship of BRICS from 1 January to 31 December 2018, and will therefore host the 10th BRICS Summit. We will also have an opportunity to assume the Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association in October 2017. This is a strategic formation that seeks to create a platform for countries in the Indian Ocean Rim to deepen cooperation in areas such as the Ocean Economy for shared prosperity. This is the prosperity we ought to share with the continent.

Despite our ever-growing relations with countries of the South, we remain committed to working with our traditional partners of the North through a number of initiatives, including structured bilateral mechanisms. These countries offer great opportunities for us. While we cannot ignore their global power and influence, it is critical that we leverage existing fora to articulate our extreme contempt for the lack of transformation of most of the institutions of global governance.

Through our Co-Chairing of the Development Working Group of the G20, we will promote the principle of inclusivity for the benefit of our continent and the global South. In this way, we will ensure that the trajectory of the support from the G20 is aligned to Africa's development agenda.

The United Nations (UN) with its near universal membership and vast agenda remains the most important multilateral institution and the centre of global governance. Our key priority is the advancement of the reform agenda in order to strengthen the UN. Accordingly, our mandate entrusts us to ensure continued coordination

of South Africa's international engagements so that we remain relevant, useful and influential in all these formations. Our global influence and relevance will be determined by the radiance we display in global fora. On the home front, there is a need for all of us to put all hands on deck to ensure that the department is on a sound governance and administrative footing by achieving better audit outcomes. This can only be achieved if we have systems and processes in place, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to stay on course. We are also called upon to exercise high levels of accountability, integrity and ethics. Honour and ethics must define our collective moral compass since they go to the essence of public affairs. Since the beginning of time, only individuals perceived to be honourable could be trusted with governance and public business.

The core of public representation and administrative ethics is integrity. Those who serve in government with integrity must and should understand that they have a special moral obligation to the people they serve. Having said that, an important lesson to learn from the words of Mahatma Gandhi is a realisation that when he said, "be the change you want to see in the world", he was just not telling us to lead by example, or to not get entangled with trivialities when the task ahead is to build own character and integrity. However, what he actually said was something much deeper and profound. I share the actual quotation with you below:

"We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of outer body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the outer world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change toward him. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do." – Mahatma Gandhi. As a collective, we must learn from Mahatma Gandhi's wisdom. It teaches us the importance of integrity, honour, ethics and morality. Our work and conduct ought to be defined by these ethos. If we do so, together we can create a lasting legacy for posterity and succeed in building this country for the achievement of a larger, prosperous future. All of us have the skills and capabilities to build a prosperous nation – let us do it and inspire the people we represent to believe in us, and trust that someday, the NDP will bear fruit. Other than a desire to build a prosperous nation, South Africa is about building friendships in order to leverage our developmental aspirations. We are about cooperation, and not competition – hence our clarion call for a better South Africa, a better continent in a better world. 🌍

FACT: 80% OF WORLD TRADE IS TRANSPORTED VIA OUR OCEANS



The South African Maritime Safety Authority SAMSAs is ensuring Safety of life and property at sea while unlocking the full potential of the Maritime Industry. www.samsa.org.za



A group of bright young people from different backgrounds across the southern African region were selected to participate in the Fifth Annual South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) Young Leaders' Conference that took place between 10 and 13 July at Maropeng, Cradle of Humankind. Representatives from government, the United Nations, various diplomatic missions and civil society joined the conference as speakers, mentors and observers.

On the first day, the atmosphere in the Maropeng Conference Centre was filled with excitement, as the young delegates prepared for what was set to be a challenging five days. However, what I did not expect, was to find people younger than the "young" I anticipated. There was no one even close to the age of 35 – the oldest person in the group was 21 years old. I was amazed.

The delegates were divided into three committees, National, African and Global, to discuss the growing youth demographic in Africa and the implications that it will have on the future of the continent and global community. They were furthermore given research perspectives, ranging from peace and security, tertiary education to technology, communication and social media. As part of this, the delegates hosted their own negotiation sessions on topics with the theme: "African Potential: Creating a Youth Dividend for the Continent".

Mr Itchell Guiney from the Department of Environmental Affairs shared a very entertaining presentation on the art of negotiation after which the negotiations officially began. The negotiation took place every day until Wednesday, 12 July. The delegates used their knowledge, experiences, passions, and history as reference to contribute to the negotiations. They worked together day and night to compile a 2017 Young Leaders' Declaration, which was handed over to the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Nomaindiya Mfeketo, on the day of culmination, Thursday, 13 July.

It was an eye-opening experience for me, to the extent that it had me re-evaluating my contribution and role in moving the African continent forward. I was honestly inspired by the conviction and passion showed by the young delegates and their keen interest in what is happening around them. I can say that the future of the African continent is in safe hands. 🌍



SAIIA Young Leaders Conference

By: Tseliso Matlakeng



South Africa's Ambassador to Guinea Conakry, Ambassador Mzwandile Mdingi, was appointed by the Guinea Government as the "Godfather" of the African Child for the June 16 campaign to end girl childhood marriages and promote the protection of children.

The South African Embassy in Guinea Conakry officiated at the commemoration of the 16 June 2017 event in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Action, Promotion of Women and Children. The event was attended by more than 1 000 children, two Cabinet ministers and several senior Guinea government officials. Members of the Diplomatic Corps also dignified the event with their presence. The event which was hosted on Friday 16 June, formed part of 30 days of activities organised by the Guinea Government in memory of African children who perished in Soweto on 16 June 1976.

Ambassador Mdingi was requested to honour this historical political incident by accepting the appointment as "Godfather" of the African Child during the 16 June 2017 commemoration. In his remarks, Ambassador Mdingi reiterated the call by the African Union to end child marriages on the African continent. He said that child marriages denied an overwhelming number of girl children on our continent the right to complete their education, to enjoy their childhood as children and to live healthy, fulfilling lives free from childhood pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Among the keynote speakers at the event was the Minister of Social Action, Promotion of Women and Children. The Minister denounced children abuse and called for an end to girl child marriages in her remarks. 🌍



Ambassador Mdingi appointed Godfather of the African Child

Ambassador Mdingi addressing dignitaries and children at the 16 June event
Top Image: A drama group portraying police brutality during the 16 June 1976 demonstrations

A drama group portraying the imprisonment of learners during the 16 June demonstrations



WHO WAS IN THE BUILDING



1. DTRD training: Youth Capacity-Building programme on Mediation and Conflict Resolution
2. Ambassador of Myanmar, HE M Swe
3. President of the Republic of Madagascar, HE Mr Hery Rajaonarimampianina at the Madagascar Trade and Investment Summit
4. Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane meeting with Heads of Mission Designate
5. Employee Health and Wellness blood donation

6. Ambassador of Guyana, HE Dr K Hunte with Thelma Ngobeni at Ubuntu Radio
7. Ms Milis' Uthando Mbete, Junior Researcher from the South African Liaison Office (SALO) on the first wave with Tali Mundzhedzi on Ubuntu Radio
8. Mr Bernhard Meyer, Chief Director: Tourism Incentive Programme, Department of Tourism
9. Mr Nesang Maleka, SA Youth in Travel, Tourism and Hospitality





The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF)

Overview of Fund benefits

GEPF is a defined benefit pension fund, meaning that all pensions and related benefits are guaranteed and that members will never receive less than the benefits for which they qualify.

Benefits for contributing members

Retirement benefits

The GEPF provides for normal, early and late retirement, as well as retirement for medical reasons. Members whose jobs have been affected by restructuring or reorganisation receive severance benefits.

Normal retirement:

60 is the normal retirement age for members. The benefits paid depend on whether a member has less than 10 years' pensionable service, or 10 or more years of pensionable service. Members with less than 10 years' service receive a gratuity (lump sum cash payment) equal to their actuarial interest in the Fund. Members with 10 or more years' service receive a gratuity and a monthly pension (annuity).

Early retirement:

Under certain circumstances, members may retire early, meaning before reaching the normal retirement age of 60. Again, years of pensionable services determine the benefits. Members with 10 or more years of service receive annuities and gratuities. These are calculated in the same way as for normal retirement, but with a reduction of a third of one percent for each month between the dates of early retirement and normal retirement.

Ill health and other retirements: Enhanced benefits are paid when members retire for medical reasons, when injured on duty, or when their posts are abolished through organisational restructuring.

In these circumstances, members receive both annuities and gratuities. For members with less than 10 years' pensionable service, benefits are based on an increased period of service and calculated as a percentage of the member's final salary. Members with more than 10 years' service are also paid an annual supplementary amount.

Resignation benefits

These benefits apply to members who resign or are discharged due to misconduct or an illness or injury caused by the member's own doing. These members have two options: either they can be paid a gratuity (lump sum) or have their benefits transferred to an approved retirement fund. If benefits are being transferred, the GEPF pays the member's actuarial interest to the member's new fund.

Death benefits

Death benefits are paid when a member dies while in service, or within five years of becoming a pensioner. The GEPF also pays annuities to the surviving spouses or orphans of members who die while in service or after retiring.

Death while in service: The benefit paid is based on the member's period of pensionable service. It is payable to the surviving spouse or beneficiaries or, if there are no beneficiaries, to the member's estate.

Death after becoming a pensioner: Retirement or discharge annuities are guaranteed for five years after a member goes on pension. If the member dies within this period, his or her beneficiaries receive the balance of the five-year annuity payments (excluding the annual supplement) in a cash lump sum.

Spouse's annuity: A spouse or eligible life partner is entitled to a percentage of the annuity paid to the member at date of death. The same applies if the member dies while in service and had a full potential service period of at least 10 years (meaning pensionable service years plus unexpired years for normal retirement). In the case of members who retired before 1 December 2002, the spouse's annuity is 50% of the annuity the pensioner was receiving at the date of death. Members who retired on or after 1 December 2002 have the option of increasing the spouse's annuity benefit from 50% to 75%.

Orphan's annuity: The GEPF pays annuities to the orphans of members who became pensioners on or after 1 December 2002. Orphans annuities are also payable when a member dies in service with a potential service period of 10 years or more. These annuities are paid when a member's spouse dies, leaving eligible orphans.

Funeral Benefit

The GEPF provides for funeral benefits on the death of members and pensioners, or the death of spouses and eligible children of members and pensioners.



www.gepf.co.za

Call Centre - 0800 117 669





Q & A

A day in the life of ... Edwina Fradie

1. Tell us about yourself

I am Edwina Fradie, born and raised in Cape Town. I obtained my Bachelor of Social Work Degree in 2003. I relocated to Johannesburg during 2007. 1 August 2017 marked 10 years in Gauteng and I guess that makes me a Gautenger now. I have over 15 years' experience in different fields of social work, from community work, statutory and court work, play therapy, and child to family care. For the last 10 years I've been in a wellness environment in different government departments.

2. What is your daily routine?

Coffee first, strong one! Most of my days consist of consultation sessions which are planned one or two days in advance. So, the mornings are there to prepare myself (recap last session, planned intervention) for each of the clients. I provide psycho-social counselling to officials in Head Office and missions. The types of intervention could be personal (family and marital problems, substance abuse, etc.) or work-related (stress, conflict and absenteeism) and all these interventions are confidential. I provide telephonic counselling to officials based in missions.

It's important to be flexible because my job can be unpredictable since we accept and welcome walk-ins without appointments at any time, or my assistance might be needed with a crisis at Head Office or in the missions. Part of the responsibility within a wellness environment is to promote healthy lifestyles, therefore, part of my job is to arrange wellness events for Head Office and state protocol lounges and compile awareness articles throughout the year.

In addition, I manage the Spousal Support Programme within the directorate, providing support to all spouses posted with officials abroad through psycho-social counselling to spouses when needed.

I also make regular courtesy calls to follow up on their adjustment

and to remind them that we're there for them. I present workshops to spouses before they leave for postings in order to prepare them, focussing on awareness of culture shock, enabling them to deal with it and equip them with skills on how to adjust to a different country. Upon their return from postings, I present a workshop, again focussing on reverse culture shock with the aim of how to settle and adjust back in South Africa.

3. How long have you been with DIRCO?

I joined DIRCO in May 2013 as Assistant Director (Wellness Practitioner) within the Directorate: Employee Health and Wellness.

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

I get to do what I love and that is practising Social Work; making an impact on employees' lives through counselling and awareness programmes. It's also a learning experience for me seeing that working specialised field in DIRCO.

It's also rewarding knowing that we play an integral part within DIRCO by providing psycho-social counselling and support to our diplomats at missions and Head Office. Through our services, we address any problems that officials may experience and empower them with the necessary skills to address these challenges, be it personal or work-related. The results are healthy and productive employees who represent South Africa well all over the world.

6. Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?

I'm a huge rugby fan. Coming from Cape Town, I grew up supporting Western Cape but nowadays I'm a proud Lions supporter. Sorry Dad. 🏉

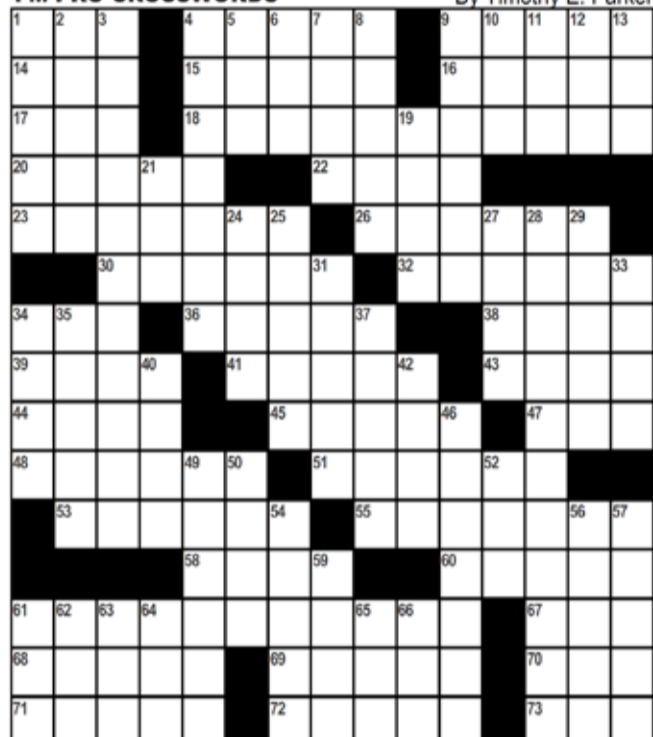


ACROSS

- 1) "Gaping" gullet
- 4) Robin of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"
- 9) They measure up
- 14) Lennon's mate
- 15) Pool problem
- 16) Slip the clutches of
- 17) "Neither" go-with
- 18) How to announce a boxing match
- 20) Confuse
- 22) Eyelid protuberance
- 23) Makes impure
- 26) Detonate
- 30) Complied with commands
- 32) Two out of 100?
- 34) Paddle kin
- 36) Tied the knot again
- 38) Shelter for birds
- 39) Stalag inmates
- 41) Clear, as a cloudy windshield
- 43) "Let it ride," to a proofer
- 44) Bumpy gait
- 45) Hindu dignitary
- 47) Govt. cosmetics watchdog
- 48) Undresses
- 51) "Holy" Ohio town
- 53) Cleverly skillful
- 55) Italian seaport
- 58) Conspirators' plan
- 60) Draw a conclusion
- 61) One way to keep up
- 67) .com relative
- 68) Just plain bad
- 69) Place to sweat
- 70) Cells for women only
- 71) Survived somehow
- 72) Fashioned into a sphere
- 73) Top of many rating scales

I'M PRO CROSSWORDS

By Timothy E. Parker



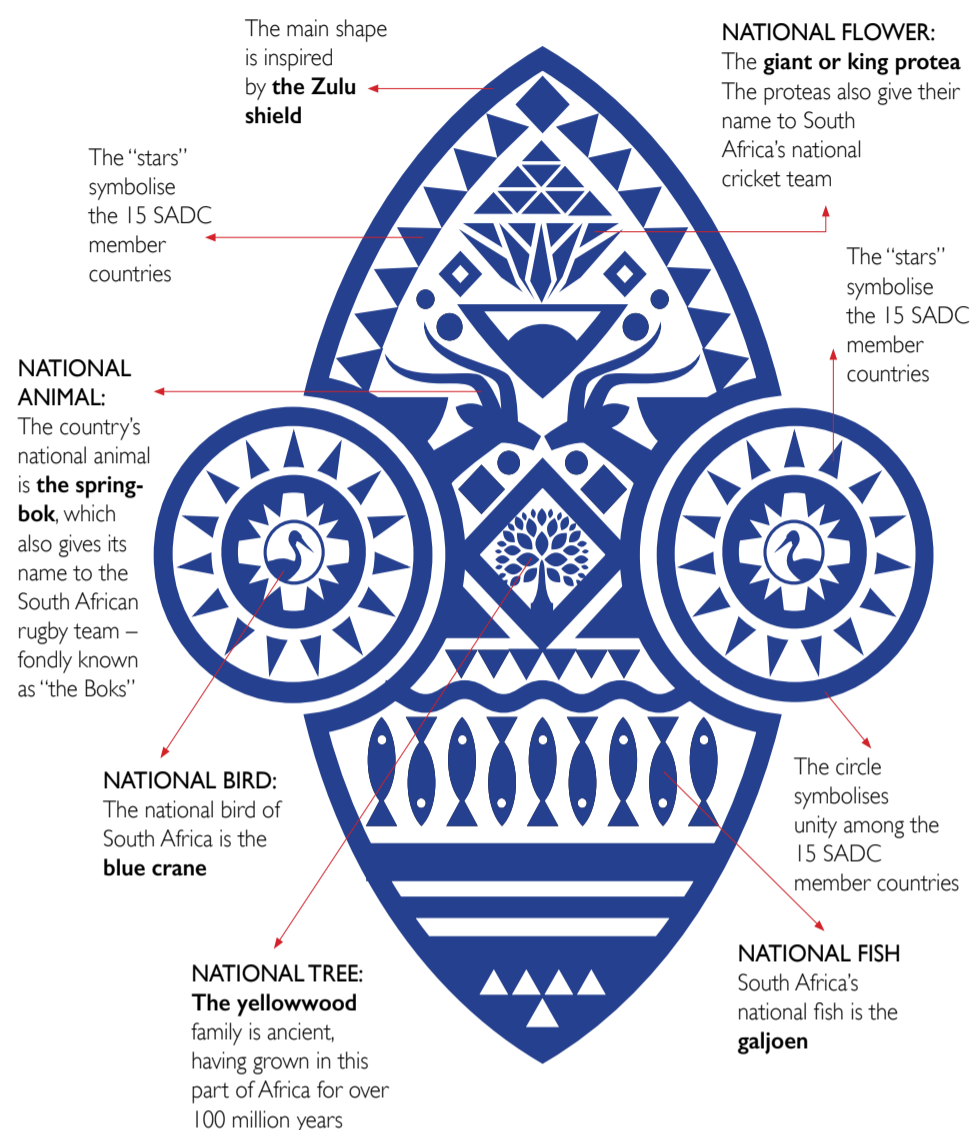
DOWN

- 1) Single-celled organism
- 2) Battery post
- 3) Verbatim
- 4) Name-affixing tool
- 5) Right-angle pipe
- 6) Long ___ and far away ...
- 7) Bird sounds
- 8) Tests for weight
- 9) Cylindrical and tapering
- 10) Vestment for a priest
- 11) Afghani coin, once
- 12) Tokyo, way back when
- 13) Mend with a needle
- 19) Court call, if tripled
- 21) "Ad" or "women's" follower
- 24) Watched closely
- 25) Setting in "Les Miz"
- 27) Mythical monsters
- 28) "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand" go-with
- 29) Honored with a bash
- 31) Skim, as milk
- 33) ___ new record
- 34) Makes a choice
- 35) Main blood vessel
- 37) Martial arts schools
- 40) Recipe directive
- 42) Elaborate party
- 46) Whirlybird landing place
- 49) Easy out, often
- 50) Farm storage unit
- 52) Bookcase locale, perhaps
- 54) Human trunk
- 56) Chicken's lack?
- 57) Nose or heart, e.g.
- 59) Old Russian ruler
- 61) Sink in the middle
- 62) Helium's atomic number
- 63) Terrestrial amphibian
- 64) British saloon
- 65) Bathroom fixture
- 66) 67 degrees, 30 minutes



South African ethnic elements included on the SADC artwork

South Africa's national symbols are rich in heritage, and tell the stories of the country's abundant natural resources and cultural diversity.



SADC Summit

at DIRCO from 9 – 20 August 2017

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established as a development coordinating conference (SADCC) in 1980. It subsequently became a development community in 1992, where the SADC Treaty was adopted. The treaty redefined the basis of cooperation among member states from a loose association into a legally binding arrangement. SADC is an intergovernmental organisation comprising 15 southern African member states.

South Africa will host the 37th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government at DIRCO from 9 - 20 August 2017, during which South Africa will take over from Swaziland as Chair of SADC, until August 2018. The 37th SADC Ordinary Summit will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the formation of SADC, on 17 August 1992 in Windhoek, Namibia. It will take place under the theme: "Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains". The theme addresses two key issues to help move the industrialisation programme in the region:

- "Partnering with the Private Sector" is focused on the need to build up the region's capabilities both inside and outside government to support industry
- the second component of the theme around "... Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains", complements the first, with a focus to attract private-sector players into the prioritised value chains.
- South Africa's strategic direction as Chair of the Summit will be aimed at achieving two main objectives:
- institutionalisation of the relationship between governments and the regional private sector
- operationalisation of the SADC-adopted Industrialisation Policy and its Costed Action Plan.

The role of Chair provides the Government of South Africa with a unique opportunity to revitalise SADC's regional work programme, and is an opportunity to drive implementation of the SADC integration



agenda. South Africa as Chair will also emphasise the mobilisation and partnership with the private sector in the implementation of the Regional Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

There will also be prioritisation of projects that will have regional impact. The convening of Industrialisation Week in July is South Africa's Chairship legacy and was held in the build-up towards the 37th Ordinary SADC Summit.

The following events will take place on the sidelines of the summit:

- 17 August: Morning Live broadcast
- 17 August: Ministerial welcome reception
- 19 August - State Banquet
- 20 August - Post-Summit Gala Dinner for the SADC Media Awards at Freedom Park.



NOTICE BOARD

WHITE PAPER ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Cabinet approved the *White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (WPRPD) on 9 December 2015. It commits duty bearers to realising the rights of persons with disabilities by:

- Accelerating implementation of existing legislation that advocates equality for persons with disabilities.
- Taking calculated action to ensure that their rights as equal persons are upheld.
- Removing discriminatory barriers to access and participation.
- Ensuring that universal design informs access and participation in the planning, budgeting and service delivery value chain of all programmes.
- Recognising the right to self-representation.
- Acknowledging that not all persons with disabilities are alike, and that personal circumstances, gender, age, sexuality, religious and cultural backgrounds and geographical location require different responses.
- Embedding the obligations contained in the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in legislation, policy and service delivery. This also includes the relevant articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The WPRPD is built on nine strategic pillars:

- Strategic Pillar 1: Removing Barriers to Access and Participation
- Strategic Pillar 2: Protecting the Rights of Persons at Risk of Compounded Marginalisation
- Strategic Pillar 3: Supporting Sustainable Integrated Community Life
- Strategic Pillar 4: Promoting and Supporting the Empowerment of Children, Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
- Strategic Pillar 5: Reducing Economic Vulnerability and Releasing Human Capital
- Strategic Pillar 6: Strengthening the Representative Voice of Persons with Disabilities
- Strategic Pillar 7: Building a Disability Equitable State Machinery
- Strategic Pillar 8: Promoting International Cooperation
- Strategic Pillar 9: Monitoring and Evaluation.

The directives under each of these strategic pillars task duty-bearers with the responsibility of eradicating the persistent systemic discrimination and exclusion experienced by persons with disabilities (see full white paper online - www.gpwonline.co.za).

Pillar 1: Removing Barriers to Access and Participation

The WPRPD provides clarity with regard to the responsibility of duty-bearers to ensure that there is a structured programme in place that aims to change the attitudes and behaviour of society in general, and duty-bearers in particular, towards persons with disabilities, including their families. The policy also puts measures in place to ensure that people with disabilities and their families can negotiate freely and safely within the built environment, and make use of transport services, including scholar transport services. It requires of everyone to make all information and communication platforms fully accessible to children with disabilities, and requires the development of costed plans for the recognition and development of South African Sign Language (including the tactile form), Braille standards as well as equitable access for children who are print disabled.

This confirms that finally steps are taken to ensure that hearing-visually impaired children and teenagers, regardless of where

they live and how wealthy their families are, have access to support measures that enable them to access all services available to the general public.

Pillar 2: Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at Risk of Experiencing Compounded Marginalisation

Important policy directives in this pillar include a review of all laws which deprive persons with disabilities from the right to take decisions and manage their own finances. It also requires that police services and courts put measures in place to ensure that they can open cases, give testimony and have access to justice. This pillar also requires that government develops a national action plan to inform and empower children with disabilities and their families of what their rights are, as well as how to access recourse should these be infringed upon.

Pillar 3: Supporting Sustainable Integrated Community Life

Pillar 3 provides clarity on what needs to be done to ensure that children with disabilities and their families can participate in all programmes and services in their neighbourhoods; that families receive financial and non-financial support services as well as information on what services are available; and that all community services must be accessible. The pillar also requires of government to develop a sustainable community-based system for personal assistance to support independent living within the community for, among others, persons with disabilities.

This subsidised system must be:

- Person-centred and self-directed.
- Maximise opportunities for independence and participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the community.
- Be responsive to the particular needs and circumstances of persons with complex and high needs for support.
- Provide persons with disabilities requiring personal assistance with choice of where they live and with whom they live.
- Provide access to relevant integrated community and home-based support services for persons requiring independent living. Personal assistants include personal aides, guides, lip-speakers, whisper interpreters, South African Sign Language interpreters, note-takers, interpreters for hearing-visually impaired persons, service dogs and guide dogs.

Pillar 4: Promoting and Supporting the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

This pillar requires that government puts in place a tracking and referral system for children with disabilities between the ages of 0 and 18 years of age to ensure that they have access to all the information, support and services they require to:

- develop (early childhood development programmes)
- learn and be educated (lifelong education and training)
- live and play with other children in their neighbourhoods (social integration support)
- be healthy and be assisted to communicate and negotiate their way independently (access to healthcare and lifestyle support)
- learn to make decisions of their own (supported decision-making)
- take action if their rights are violated (strengthening recourse mechanisms).

Pillar 5: Reducing Economic Vulnerability and Releasing Human Capital

This pillar focuses on the steps government must take to ensure that hearing-visually impaired children, teenagers, adults and their families have an adequate standard of living by, among others, reducing the cost of disability for persons with disabilities and their families through social protection measures as well as tax rebates; by strengthening affirmative action for employment opportunities; and by creating opportunities for preferential procurement.

Pillar 6: Strengthening the Representative Voice of Persons with Disabilities

This pillar provides guidance and requires that specific steps be taken to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to represent themselves; and that they can make their collective voice heard in issues affecting their lives through, among others, organisations for persons with disabilities. It calls in particular for preference to be given and steps to be taken to strengthen and support groups who do not have a strong voice.

Pillar 7: Building a Disability Equitable State Machinery

This pillar focuses on the responsibilities of government institutions, Parliament and institutions promoting democracy to ensure that they do not discriminate against children and adults with disabilities and their families, and that they can be held accountable if they fail to promote, protect and uphold the rights of persons with disabilities. Measures to achieve this include, among others, changing the way in which they design, plan, budget, deliver services, monitor and report on progress, as well as what training they should provide to ensure that public servants and officials are able to carry out their duties.

Pillar 8: Promoting International Cooperation

South Africa has acceded to, or ratified, most of the African regional and international human rights instruments in the area of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

The African Union's adoption of the Declaration of the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities in 2000 places responsibilities on African states to implement Decade programme activities. South Africa supports and participates in the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities (2010-2019).

Pillar 9: Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring process involves collecting, analysing and reporting data on inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts as well as external factors, in a way that supports effective management of implementation of the WPRPD. Evaluations will assess relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability, and thereby provide credible and useful information to answer specific questions to guide decision-making by staff, managers and policy-makers on accelerating the implementation of the WPRPD. Impact evaluations will examine whether underlying theories and assumptions were valid, what worked, what did not and why. Government performance information will triangulate with the tracking of statistical and financial information and citizens' voices.

The WPRPD and its Implementation Matrix can be accessed from <http://www.gov.za/documents/white-papers>

The policy is also available in large print, audio, Braille and electronic format and can be requested from DisabilityRights@dsd.gov.za



UBUNTU RADIO - TALIFHANI MUNZHEDZI


The show offers a first wave of news and analysis from South Africa and the rest of the continent, with the final hour focusing on South Africa's foreign policy. We track South Africa's progress in implementing the National Development Plan, Agenda 2063 and the sustainable development goals. Experts share the stage to map the path South Africa ought to travel to achieve these goals.

While remaining local in focus, the show exposes issues happening on the continent and around the world and how they relate to South Africa while at the same time articulating South Africa's position. Listen to FIRSTWAVE with Tali Munzhedzi from Monday to Friday between 6 am and 9 am on DSTV 888 and on www.ubunturadio.co.za on web and on mobile.


The show also features regional reports from Africa (Mondays), Europe (Tuesdays), Middle East (Wednesdays). First Wave also include the popular feature #UbuntuRadioDebate, which premieres Thursdays at 08h05 CAT where academia, think-tanks and representatives from the South Africa Government debate pertinent issues about the country, the continent and the globe. To participate in the debate, you can call LIVE on 012 329 2729.




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By Timothy E. Parker

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ACROSS

- 1) "Gaping" gullet
- 4) Robin of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"
- 9) They measure up
- 14) Lennon's mate
- 15) Pool problem
- 16) Slip the clutches of
- 17) "Neither" go-with
- 18) How to announce a boxing match
- 20) Confuse
- 22) Eyelid protuberance
- 23) Makes impure
- 26) Detonate
- 30) Complied with commands
- 32) Two out of 100?
- 34) Paddle kin
- 36) Tied the knot again
- 38) Shelter for birds
- 39) Stalag inmates
- 41) Clear, as a cloudy windshield
- 43) "Let it ride," to a proofer
- 44) Bumpy gait
- 45) Hindu dignitary
- 47) Govt. cosmetics watchdog
- 48) Undresses
- 51) "Holy" Ohio town
- 53) Cleverly skillful
- 55) Italian seaport
- 58) Conspirators' plan
- 60) Draw a conclusion
- 61) One way to keep up
- 67) .com relative
- 68) Just plain bad
- 69) Place to sweat
- 70) Cells for women only
- 71) Survived somehow
- 72) Fashioned into a sphere
- 73) Top of many rating scales

DOWN

- 1) Single-celled organism
- 2) Battery post
- 3) Verbatim
- 4) Name-affixing tool
- 5) Right-angle pipe
- 6) Long ____ and far away ...
- 7) Bird sounds
- 8) Tests for weight
- 9) Cylindrical and tapering
- 10) Vestment for a priest
- 11) Afghani coin, once
- 12) Tokyo, way back when
- 13) Mend with a needle
- 19) Court call, if tripled
- 21) "Ad" or "women's" follower
- 24) Watched closely
- 25) Setting in "Les Miz"
- 27) Mythical monsters
- 28) "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand" go-with
- 29) Honored with a bash
- 31) Skim, as milk
- 33) ____ new record
- 34) Makes a choice
- 35) Main blood vessel
- 37) Martial arts schools
- 40) Recipe directive
- 42) Elaborate party
- 46) Whirlybird landing place
- 49) Easy out, often
- 50) Farm storage unit
- 52) Bookcase locale, perhaps
- 54) Human trunk
- 56) Chicken's lack?
- 57) Nose or heart, e.g.
- 59) Old Russian ruler
- 61) Sink in the middle
- 62) Helium's atomic number
- 63) Terrestrial amphibian
- 64) British saloon
- 65) Bathroom fixture
- 66) 67 degrees, 30 minutes



Globe at a glimpse



The unveiling of the statue of Nelson Mandela celebrations

On 16 June 2017, Ambassador Mzwandile Mdingi was invited to speak at the unveiling of the Nelson Mandela Statue in Conakry. The three-metre statue of former President Nelson Mandela was erected by the Conakry Provincial Government, Conakry Capital of the Book in collaboration with the SMB Winning Consortium Foundation. The unveiling of the statue was arranged to coincide with the 16 June event in Conakry, which took place at the National Assembly to commemorate the International Day of the African Child. The statue was designed by a French artist, Mr Stephane Cipre. The Nelson Mandela statue is one of the biggest and probably the first to be erected on the African continent by a private organisation. It was erected along a very busy highway adjacent the houses of the National Assembly. It was inaugurated simultaneously with the statue of the current President of Guinea, Professor Alpha Conde. In his remarks during the official unveiling ceremony of the statue, Ambassador Mdingi thanked the Government of Guinea, the Governor of Conakry, the SMB Winning Consortium Foundation, Conakry Mondiale du Livre and the artist for honouring South Africa on 16 June – Youth Day, celebrating the brave youth who on this day in 1976 stood up against the tyranny of apartheid. The Ambassador further stated that he believed that the statue of Madiba in Conakry epitomised the South African struggle and indeed the struggle for freedom from colonialism and apartheid throughout Africa. The Ambassador also stated that it would be remiss of the Embassy to try and describe in a few minutes



Ambassador Mdingi and the french artist, Mr Stephane Cipre, in front of the statue of Nelson Mandela



Ambassador Mdingi addressing the dignitaries and media at the unveiling of the statue of Nelson Mandela

the life and work of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, or to describe the world he lived in, where in South Africa during apartheid, the mere possession of his words or image would result in instant imprisonment. However, internationally his words

and image became a symbol galvanising the call to freedom, justice, equality and human rights of the oppressed, not only for South Africans but for people across the world. The Ambassador encouraged the audience to read Nelson

Mandela's own words from his autobiography, "A Long Walk to Freedom", which symbolises his indomitable spirit that led him to work tirelessly and selflessly even after retirement in the service of humanity, it is, essence, the spirit of this statue. 🌍

SA Embassy in Palestine hosts Youth Day event

The Mission, in cooperation with the Palestinian youth non-governmental organisation, the Witness Centre for Citizen Rights and Social Development, organised and hosted a Youth Day event on 15 June 2017 in Ramallah. The event was attended by about 30 young Palestinian professionals active in various sectors of Palestinian life such as academia, business, civil society and others.

The format of the event enabled the Mission to show the 25-minute SABC-produced documentary on the 1976 uprisings, which included chilling personal accounts of survivors of what exactly transpired during the event.

The screening of the video was then followed by remarks by Ambassador Ashraf Suliman who expounded on the theme of this year's Youth Day celebrations by reflecting on the heroic achievements of the youth of 1976, the current challenges facing young people in South Africa and the importance of education and economic empowerment.

Wafa' Saadeh of the Witness Centre for Citizen Rights and Social Development, reminded the audience of the challenges facing Palestinian youth within the context of the Israeli occupation and the lessons to be drawn from the South African experience. Time was also allocated for a question-and-answer period during which the Palestinian youth noted their appreciation for South Africa's support for their struggle for freedom and dignity, lessons to be learned and the need for closer relations with their South African counterparts.

The centre also handed over a letter to the Mission, expressing their well wishes to South Africa on Youth Day, restating their



commitment to peace and to fight extremism and to focus on education and economic empowerment. South Africa was also thanked for its continued support to the Palestinian people.

The event was undoubtedly a success as the Mission achieved its three broad objectives in hosting the event, namely;

- celebrating the contribution of the young people of 1976
- fostering closer cooperation with Palestinian young people and their organisations
- profiling South Africa in Palestine.

The quality of the young Palestinians who attended the event was note worthy and the event received coverage in both the electronic and print media.

The event also demonstrated a desire among young Palestinians for closer relations and cooperation with their South African counterparts, something that this Mission would be exploring in more detail going forward. 🌍



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