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SPECIAL ISSUE

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Oliver Tambo's statue at the entrance of the Mbizana Municipal Library in Bizana

Editor's Letter

Dear Diplomats,

As we draw to the close of Oliver Reginald (O.R.) Tambo's centenary year, it is important to reflect on the impact that the former president of the African National Congress (ANC) and other struggle heroes had on the South Africa that we are privileged to live in today. O.R. Tambo, together with a team of dedicated freedom fighters, worked tirelessly and strategically to ensure that they hand over to future generations, a South Africa that respects the human rights of all who live in it. Essentially, Mr Tambo left us an enduring heritage that has unarguably enriched South Africa's Constitution. During O.R.'s tenure as president of the ANC, the movement formally subscribed to the Geneva protocols. To this end, O.R. contributed to the guidelines for the commission on the Constitution. To further promote his commitment to elevating children's rights and the status of women in society, he ensured that these issues were well spelt out in the ANC's Bill of Rights and South Africa's Constitution.

It was during O.R. Tambo's leadership that the foundations of a multi-party democracy after liberation that encourages freedom of speech, assembly, association, language and religion were created and thus the multiparty system that exists today.

This special edition of *It's Your Voice* celebrates South Africa's foremost diplomat, O.R. Tambo, as we take a journey into Bizana in the Eastern Cape, which is the birthplace of Mr Tambo, to commemorate the centenary of this South African hero. The town was the host of O.R.'s 100th birthday celebrations in October, and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) was there to document key locations as we remember his life and times.

DIRCO hosted a series of debates during O.R. Tambo Month in which students from various tertiary institutions participated. The theme, "In the Footsteps of O.R. Tambo", unearthed tremendous talent and knowledge



of the struggle stalwart among the youth, which was indeed encouraging. A number of brilliant students were identified during the debates and given the opportunity to share their thoughts on one of South Africa's forefathers of democracy. Get to know about them in this issue.

Colleagues, it is a great pleasure to share with you, Ambassador Robina Marks' impressive experience as we continue to celebrate women in diplomacy in our Womandla feature. She tells us about

the impression that a poem by Ma'm Dora Tamana has had for her as a female diplomat.

In this edition, we also share an exciting holiday destination to consider as we approach the festive season.

Happy O.R. Tambo Month!

MM

Mathapelo Monaisa

Daddy was there for us, says Tselane Tambo

Despite his demanding political programme, late African National Congress (ANC) leader Oliver Tambo made time for his family and when he was home, he made it count.

Tselane Tambo, the daughter of the longest-serving President of South Africa's liberation party, the ANC, recently shared her memories of her father.

As the country celebrates the centenary of Tambo and pays tribute to a political figure, Tselane remembers a man who once came to her rescue when, as a 12-year-old, she accidentally broke one of her mother's plates.

"It broke! Bury it in the garden before your mother finds out!", Tselane was instructed by her father.

"I remember I buried it in the garden. Mom didn't notice or ask about the missing plate. A few years later, we were doing gardening and we dug up pieces of that plate," Tselane remembers with a giggle.

This is one of the many fond memories she has of her revered father whom many of his comrades simply referred to as O.R.

Tselane joined many other South Africans who came out recently to honour her father for his contribution to the liberation of South Africa in a year he would have turned 100 years old. Tambo was born in the village of Nkantolo, Eastern Cape, on 27 October 1917. He spent many years in exile following the banning of liberation movements, including the ANC.

Sadly, Tambo never lived enough to witness South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. His legacy lives on and the centenary celebrations at his home village that attracted thousands of people, prove that he still yields immense respect among South Africans even as he lay in his grave.

Although Tambo's demanding political life meant that he would often be away from his

family, his daughter insists, when their father was around, he made the moments special.

"A lot of the time he wasn't there but when he was there, he was significantly there. My father was so concerned with so many things; it was special when he had time for me," says Tselane Tambo.

The Tambo family has nothing but praise for the manner South Africans have remembered O.R. throughout the year. Government had devoted 2017 to the celebration of Tambo's life and the work of the man after whom the continent's biggest and busiest airport is named. Recently, a statue in Tambo's honour was unveiled at the O.R. Tambo International in Johannesburg.

Throughout the year, scores of people have paid tribute to Tambo, describing his contribution to South Africa's freedom as unsurpassed.

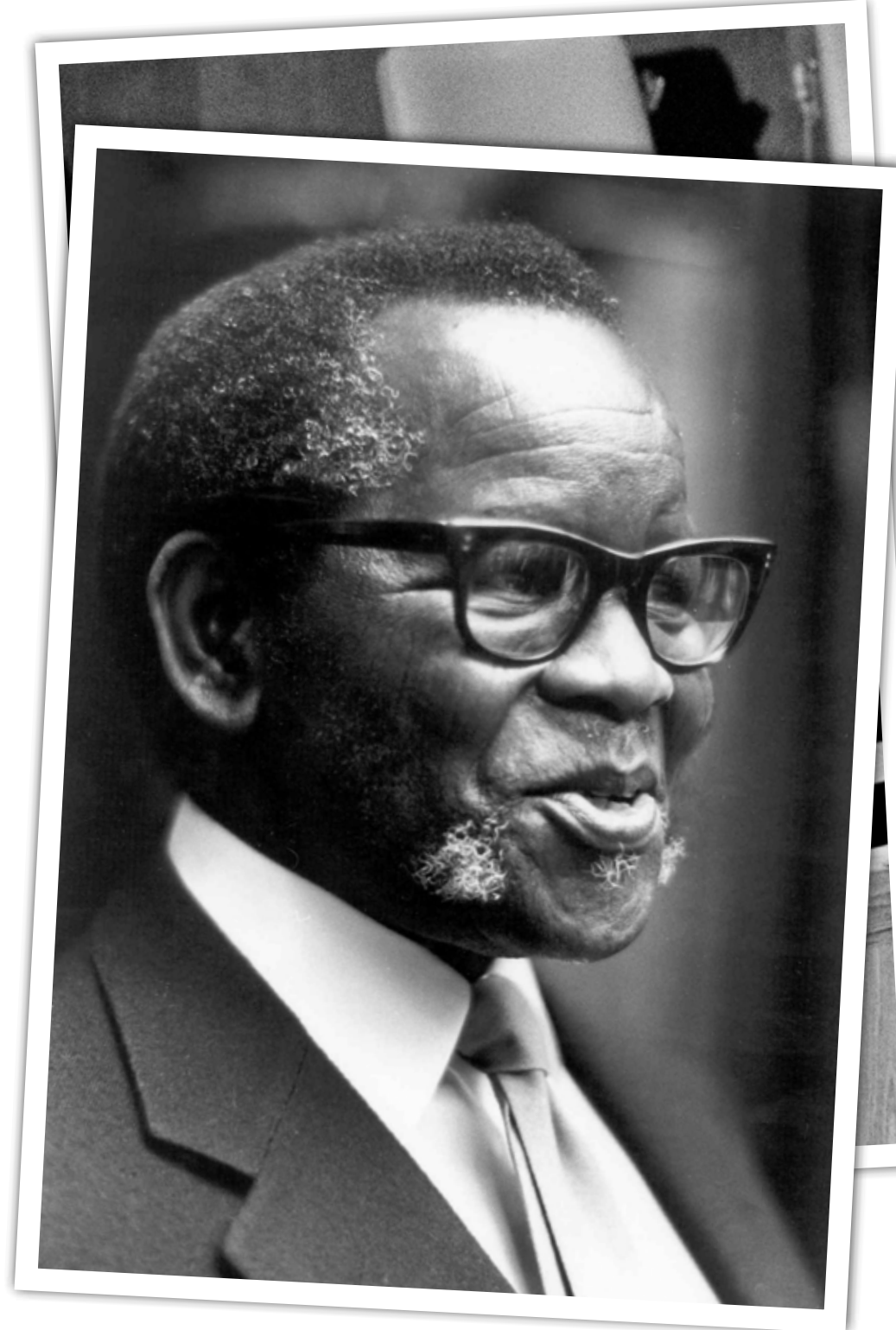
The Reserve Bank and the South African Mint have launched a series of commemorative coins honouring Tambo. Three of the four coins are collectible while the fourth is a circulation R5 coin as part of the centenary celebrations.

The collective coins all bear Tambo's face at various stages in his life as well as the much sought-after R500 gold coin depicting an older Tambo in his well-recognised glasses.

Artist Sindiso Nyoni says he jumped at the opportunity to design the new coins. Nyoni has previously worked with SA Mint in creating centenary medals for the Johannesburg Art Gallery in 2015. The artist is part of SA Mint's design advisory panel.

The young artist, whose background is in graphic design, was initially nervous about translating his work, which is usually in poster format onto a coin.

"I was not too sure of how they would translate onto coins. However, the process went so quickly and everybody loved them," says Nyoni. The coins went into circulation on 27 October, the birthday of O.R. Tambo.



"A lot of the time he wasn't there but when he was there, he was significantly there. My father was so concerned with so many things; it was special when he had time for me,"



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“In the footsteps of O.R. TAMBO”

To commemorate O.R. Tambo's Centenary, the Directorate: Public Participation Programmes hosted a series of debates. The participants were students from tertiary institutions in Pretoria, namely: University of Pretoria, Tshwane University of Technology, and Unisa. The total number of invited students was 160 and they were from the Faculties of international relations of the aforementioned institutions. The debates took place at the different institutions under the supervision of DIRCO, hosted by the Branch Public Diplomacy. The judging panel identified the best performers who were given the opportunity to write an essay about O.R. Tambo as an internationalist, to be featured in *It's Your Voice*. Paballo Ponoane, Jacob Mahlangu and Neo Nyaka share their thoughts on South Africa's foremost diplomat.

THE O.R. TAMBO DEBATES

Critical reflections on O.R. Tambo's role in international relations

BY JACOB MAHLANGU

O.R. Tambo's brief biography
Oliver Reginald Tambo was born on 27 October 1917 in a village called Nkantolo in Pondoland, Eastern Cape. From an early age, his life was influenced by politics, due to his father's interest in raising political awareness regarding his opposition to British colonisation of Pondoland in 1878. His father named him "Kaizana" after Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany before his name was later changed to Oliver. Oliver excelled at his studies and was accepted at Saint Peters, which was a well-known school for black children in Johannesburg where he was exposed to institutionalised racism



“Most of his years as a member of the ANC were spent in exile, travelling the world and bringing awareness and support for the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa.”



and segregation for the first time. He studied Law, with the intention to assist black people in their struggle against apartheid. In 1953, Chief Albert Luthuli was elected as the president of the African National Congress (ANC) and Tambo was appointed as national secretary. Most of his years as a member of the ANC were spent in exile, travelling the world and bringing awareness and support for the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa. This article highlights the role he played in international relations.

O.R. Tambo's accomplishments, contributions and role in international relations
O.R. Tambo is considered to be a pioneer of the South African liberation struggle, making an invaluable contribution to the end of apartheid. He was an educated intellectual who was constantly featured in international talks at various institutions and conferences, and he used that opportunity to voice his negative opinion about the apartheid regime in South Africa. During 1980, he delivered a speech at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation where he encouraged the strengthening of the sanctions against South Africa by the international community. He perceived them to be a powerful weapon in

weakening the aggressive posture of Pretoria's capacity. He considered sanctions to be another method used for cutting off support for a racist South Africa. O.R. Tambo's entire life was committed to creating international awareness regarding apartheid and building an international anti-apartheid movement. His efforts included traversing the world to convince a range of formations to end their support for apartheid South Africa.

His fight in the struggle when viewed in an international relations perspective, helps us in identifying ill-treatment of citizens in the domestic territory of other countries, such as the Palestinian issue. He contributed to the promotion of idealistic notions of unity, cosmopolitanism and non-discrimination due to ethnicity, language and culture. In the modern era, his ideas, aspirations and efforts have inspired international concern and conventions in dealing with the security of citizens despite their territorial boundaries, morality and the now universal doctrines that emphasise respect and protection for human life, human rights, individuals' self-determination, freedom and the end of oppression. He strongly stood for humility, sacrifice, constructive criticism, self-criticism, discipline, hard work, honesty, internal debates and mutual respect.

O.R. Tambo was considered to be a link that connected democracy to a massive amount of



oppressed people, and he also restored and perpetuated peace and love among the people of the world. Due to his progressive thinking, his ideas continue to shape the diplomacy of countries across the world, especially on the African soil and in South Africa in particular. South Africa's established relations and people-to-people interaction with countries like China

have a historical background that ensured their success. O.R. Tambo played a central and major role in the foundation of such relationships as he visited China back in 1963, 1975 and 1983 to seek counsel and support for South Africa's struggle for freedom. He devoted his life in servicing humanity. Those who went into exile with him commended him for being a great mentor and leader. He had

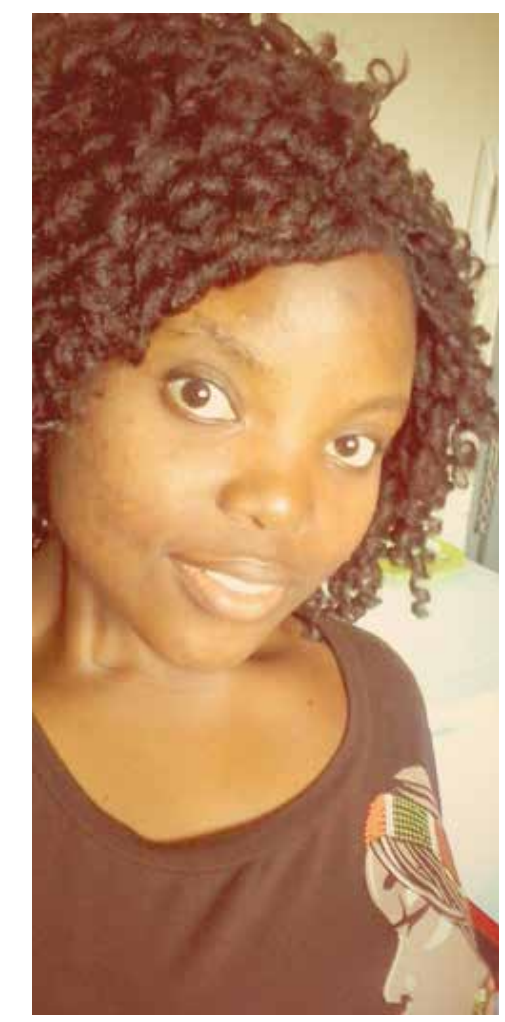


a huge influence in the ANC during the difficult times of loneliness and uncertainty while he was in exile. Those who worked closely with him called him a political visionary and a man who possessed foresight. His leadership and sense of politics were moulded by his rural roots, and his educationally acquired expertise.

O.R. Tambo's role in international relations shaped how we view the international political system in the modern era such as how international organisations and institutions instill the values of humanity, peace, mutual agreements and understandings, morality, democracy, diversity, multiculturalism and political representation for marginalised people.

A critical reflection of Oliver Reginald Tambo's role in international relations

BY NEO MADIETE NYAKA



It is imperative for the South African Government to continuously reflect on the greatest leaders in the history of South Africa as they contributed to the existence of the current democratic state. The year 2017 is focused on celebrating the life and legacy of Oliver Tambo and his contribution to the South African State and the African National Congress (ANC). Tambo was born on 27 October 1917 in Nkantolo, a small village 20 kilometres away from Pondoland. He was a husband, father, teacher, lawyer and political leader by profession. The most significant role he contributed to the history of South Africa was to mobilise the international community to become aware of the liberation struggle of the ANC and support the movement in its mission to fight against the oppressive apartheid regime. However, his contribution was not an easy task, but in his lifetime, he successfully executed this mission, leaving behind a legacy that still forms the base of the South African State and its motives in international relations.

His legacy
Oliver Tambo was one of the privileged Africans to acquire good education. He attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Fort Hare. He then enrolled for a Diploma in Higher Education at the same institution. It was during his student years that he became involved in politics and was as a result expelled from university. He later became a teacher of Mathematics and Physics at St Peters College. In 1951, he qualified as an attorney and later opened a successful law firm with Nelson Mandela. Tambo continued with his political activities within the ANC, fighting for the freedom of all the people who were discriminated against by the regime. In 1944, he was active in the formulation of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL). A decade later, he was elected as the secretary general of the movement and became a member of the National Action Committee which drafted the Freedom Charter, one of the most important documents that contributed to the peaceful

formulation of the contemporary South African State. In 1957, Oliver Tambo was elected deputy president of the ANC following the 1956 Treason Trail of 155 ANC members who constituted the majority of the leaders of the ANC. The movement had to adapt a new strategy to fight against the regime. Consequently, the ANC sent Tambo to a mission in exile to gain international support for the liberation movement in South Africa. Oliver Tambo went abroad as the representative of the ANC and to a great extent, as a representative of world peace and justice of the people who were disadvantaged by the policies of the apartheid government. He educated and mobilised the international community about the values of the ANC, its intentions and called for the freedom of his fellow comrades who were sentenced to life imprisonment. He was thus an ambassador of the marginalised Africans in South Africa.

His values
Through public diplomacy, he maintained international relations with other states and organisations to foster peace in South Africa. His strategic approach to liberate South Africans from the fascist government was acquired through his communal upbringing. He did not hesitate to ask for support and for help from these bodies to save humanity. He understood the values of freedom. Additionally, maintaining good international relations with the international community was not an easy task, because the apartheid government also practised public diplomacy by informing the community that the ANC was a terrorist regime with communist tendencies. However, O.R. was a wise man who valued freedom and a democratically inclusive society. This led to the success he achieved by mobilising support for peace in South Africa, emphasising the principles of human rights in the United Nations. He informed the organisation about the important role it should play towards bringing peace in South Africa through its humanitarian motives. Tambo also rallied for a movement that would impose

sanctions on the apartheid government because the government did not respect universal human rights. Oliver Tambo was the voice of the people and his role in international relations during the apartheid era was a testimony towards the international community. He used the principles that guided this community to his comparative advantage to bring peace in South Africa.

Position of South Africa today
Oliver Tambo used diplomacy to gain support for his party. His diplomatic approach was unique. It was constructed by the humanistic assumption of Ubuntu. The message that Oliver Tambo preached to the international community was that, through unity and support, South Africans could be liberated. He called for a common humanity, through collaboration and cooperation to fight against the oppressive government. His approach towards the relations he had with the international bodies is adapted today as South Africa's foreign policy (White Paper on Foreign Policy, entitled "Building a Better World: The Diplomacy of Ubuntu"). Thus, his human approach to bring peace and stability is still influential in the domestic state. Common humanity builds a society that is united and solid, and pays no tribute towards the physical differences of our socially constructed formalities of identification and differentiation.

Conclusion
The celebration of Oliver Tambo's Centenary this year serves to inform society about their being. It reminds the civilians about the means that constructed the State of South Africa and promotes peace and stability in the State. Internationally, it serves the practice of public diplomacy, not only for South Africans but for marginalised Africans as a whole, maintaining that common humanity is essential within the international system. Oliver Tambo dedicated his life to the survival of humanity, and in the year 2017 we celebrate him for saving humanity and bringing peace in society, thus serving justice for all.

Oliver Reginald Tambo

The Road To Bizana

BY MATHAPELO MONAISA



2017 has been a special year – a year of deserved admiration and celebration of South Africa's foremost diplomat, Mr Oliver Reginald Tambo. O.R., as he was and still is affectionately referred to, was one of the forefathers of our country's democracy, tirelessly dedicating his life to the eventual emancipation of South Africa and her people. On 27 October 2017 – O.R.'s birthday – the small town of Bizana, where Mr Tambo originates from, hosted a landmark event in celebration of his Centenary. A team from the Branch: Public Diplomacy headed to the Eastern Cape to visit O.R.'s birthplace during this auspicious occasion.



O.R.'s classroom at Marelane Primary School in Ludeke Township, Bizana



The Tambo second homestead post removal from their land in the 1950s



Holy Cross classrooms and dormitory where O.R. attended and lived



The O.R. Tambo Monument situated at the entrance of Nkantolo where the O.R. Tambo centenary celebrations took place on Friday, 27 October 2017

DAY 1

We drove into the humble yet busy Bizana on an incredibly foggy day as the town was preparing for the delegates expected to descend upon Nkantolo that week. The streets were buzzing with activity and there was a celebratory mood in the air ahead of Oliver Tambo's centenary celebrations later that week. The Mayor, Councillor Thobeka Mafumbatha, was in high spirits as she shared with us the various activities that Mbizana Municipality had planned for the upcoming days. There was plenty happening and they had never before hosted an event of this magnitude, with so many delegates to cater for. However, she was confident that all the necessary arrangements were comfortably in place. With the assistance of the marvellous staff in the Mayor's Office, we were then offered a tour of Bizana.

DAY 2

Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo was born on 27 October 1917 in the village of Nkantolo, Bizana, in the Mpondoland region of the Eastern Cape. He was the child of Mzimeni Tambo, a farmer and assistant salesperson at a local trading store, and Julia, who was the second

of Mzimeni's three wives. O.R.'s father instilled a love for education in his children, and thus O.R.'s insistence on African National Congress (ANC) cadres being educated. Our guide for the week, Mr Lizo Fikela, from the Mayor's Office, was extremely knowledgeable on the town, and especially the sites that were specifically relevant to O.R. He spent the day giving us a history lesson on Mr Tambo's early life, as we traversed the streets of Bizana.

Tambo began his formal education at Marelane Primary at Ludeke Township, and this was our first stop. O.R. attended that school until Standard 6, when he moved on to secondary school. The school premises are spacious and consist of O.R.'s former classroom – a small building which probably accommodated at least 50 pupils. Naturally, because it was a Missionary School, there was a chapel on the school grounds, which still stands.

Our next stop was the gravesite of Oliver Tambo's parents. Mr Tambo senior was buried alongside his spouses on the land that was originally owned by him. As a young boy, O.R. and his family lived

on this vast piece of land atop a hill that still has the most beautiful views of the Nkantolo landscape. There is a marvellous mountain range that can be seen from the Tambo's gravesite, which has been aptly named the O.R. Tambo Mountains. It was at the gravesite that we met Mzukisi, a family member, who shared details of O.R.'s life as a very religious schoolboy in Nkantolo. This location is now part of the O.R. Tambo heritage sites in Bizana. In the 1950s, the Tambo family was moved from their old home because of the Group Areas Act, to another area a few kilometres from this site. Hence the location of the next stop on our tour of Bizana.

When O.R.'s parents moved to the new place, he continued to visit and lived in one of the huts built on the premises. He came home when he was able to, even when he lived in Johannesburg where he worked with Madiba in their law firm. The new homestead was on lower land, and unfortunately, did not have the same magnificent views as their original home.

The journey then led us on an incredibly long drive to O.R.'s next school, Holy Cross Mission

School, which he attended after completing his education at Marelane Primary School. Mr Fikela explained how far Oliver Tambo had to travel daily from home to the Holy Cross Mission School. The school was approximately 16 km away from O.R.'s home. This was an excruciatingly long distance for a school child to walk every day. Eventually, Oliver's father gave him a horse to transport him to school until he finally became a resident at the school's boarding facilities, which were situated a few metres outside the school grounds. The Holy Cross Church, where O.R. and his classmates worshiped regularly, was also built next to the school. Today, one can find the Holy Cross classrooms, dormitories, church and hospital all within the 3-km radius of this section of Bizana.

We concluded the day at the Mbizana Municipal Library where a stately statue of O.R. has pride of place at the entrance of the building. The statue is of O.R. disembarking an aeroplane upon his return home, suitcase on the floor next to him. It is a fantastic continuation of the recently unveiled statue at the O.R. Tambo International Airport. On this day, the weather gods had granted our wish for good weather, as the day was in contrast to the

previous one. It was sunny and rather warm as a South African spring day is normally expected to be. By the end of the day, the DIRCO team had a bout of sunburn, but it was all worth it.

DAY 3

Yet another early morning on the third day as we headed to the site where the 1960 leg of the Pondoland Revolt in Flagstaff, Bizana, occurred. Between 1950 and 1960, the Pondo people resisted the rise of the colonisers and their attempts to reshape and re-engineer Pondoland and to co-opt their chiefs. O.R. is said to have participated in these revolts at some point during this time.

DAY 4

On Friday, 27 October, Mayor Mafumbatha hosted thousands of people, including Cabinet ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps, academics and multitudes of dignitaries together with the people of Bizana at the sports ground in Nkantolo. It was a cold, wet day, but this could have not deterred a soul from going to witness the commemoration of one of South Africa's most revered leaders, who sacrificed his family life, career and general social

life to see his vision of a free and fair South Africa where all people, regardless of race or gender, live and work together in peace. It was a thoroughly successful event which was televised and well covered on various social media platforms across the day.

The road to Bizana was a long, yet gratifying trip. One that I would readily agree to embark on again, and would recommend it to anyone and everyone as it is an invaluable educational experience that I believe is essential, especially for scholars. As we returned home, we lamented over the wealth of information – visually and mentally – that we were exposed to and amassed. We couldn't have asked for a better tour guide and a better setting.

From humble beginnings to selfless achievement of the goal of the ANC, Mr Oliver Reginald Tambo certainly led with humility and grace and for this, many across the globe are forever appreciative of his work in the liberation struggle. 🇿🇦

Her Excellency Ms Ruby Marks



ABOUT HIGH COMMISSIONER ROBINA MARKS

HE Ms Robina P Marks is the South African High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh. Prior to this, she served as Ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma) and Laos. She was also Permanent Observer at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Additionally, she served as Dean of the African Ambassadors' Forum, convened the Female Ambassadors' Forum and also initiated the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) ambassadors' forums in all countries of accreditation.

High Commissioner Marks was born on 21 January 1963. After completing her schooling, she pursued her interest in education by completing a Teacher's Diploma and BA Honours (Sociology, University of the Western Cape); Advanced Diploma: Institutional Development, University of Manchester; and Master's in Gender and Development at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom (UK). She was also a Research Fellow at the Centre for Gender in Organisations, Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts, and a Visiting Lecturer at the African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town. She began her career as an Organisational Development Practitioner with senior portfolios at the Cape Teachers Professional Association and Career Research and Information Centre, SAWID (South African Women in Dialogue); Gender Equity Adviser at the Department of Environment Affairs in the Western Cape; Manager of the Lewisham Refugee Network in the UK; consultant to the Development Bank of Southern Africa; and as an independent consultant on institutional transformation and diversity management in several countries in Africa, including Nigeria, Uganda, Madagascar, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. She has also worked with the European Union's Mission in South Africa, UNIFEM, and the Ford Foundation. She also served as an Institutional



Transformation Adviser to the Minister for Safety and Security. She then served at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) as Chief Director: Gender prior to the Office of the Director-General with a particular brief on mainstreaming gender into foreign policy. In this capacity, she was responsible for representing South Africa at the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women, the African Union Women's Directorate and the Southern African Development Community

Gender Secretariat. Within South Africa, she hosted, with the Progressive Women's Movement and SAWID, several peace roundtables with women in countries that were emerging from conflict. These included Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Sudan and South Sudan. These dialogues assisted in popularising UN Resolution 1325 in particular, and served as an impetus to build solidarity among women across political parties so as to contribute to lasting peace.

She was also responsible for overseeing the development of South Africa's National Action Plan on UN Resolution 1325.

Additionally, she coordinated the development, through consultative forums, of the first African Women's Consultative Conference on "Women and Climate Change" when South Africa held the Presidency of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that culminated in a declaratory statement adopted by the congress.

A former political detainee under the then Internal Security Act, during the anti-apartheid struggle, Ms Marks was a student, community and trade union activist, a gender activist and a regional organiser of the United Democratic Front, a forerunner of the then banned African National Congress (ANC), and an anti-apartheid forum that campaigned for the release of political prisoners and the unbanning of all political organisations.

Ms Marks has a particular interest in issues of transitional justice, human rights, gender, peace and security, and issues relating to dealing with inter-generational trauma and creating communities-in-dialogue for social cohesion. She has published monographs and papers on the Politics and Practice of Identity Politics, Organisational Transformation, Engendering Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, and Gender, Peace and Security.

In October 2011, she accepted an invitation to become a diplomat and the President, on the advice of the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, appointed her as the Ambassador to Thailand. She took up her appointment in Bangkok on 23 March 2012 where she served until June 2016. Subsequent to that, she was nominated and appointed High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, also accredited to Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh from 1 July 2016.

IN CONVERSATION

1. What would you say are the highlights of your diplomatic career?

It's already a highlight to serve as a O.R. Tambo diplomat who strives to represent the qualities of integrity, patriotism, humility and loyalty – particularly in a department that is consistently voted as one of the most desirable workplaces by graduates! More specifically, though, serving as a diplomat requires such a range of skills and competencies that my highlights are varied. Those that stand out include coordinating and spearheading a consultative process at provincial, national and continental level to develop a Gender and Climate Change Declaration in support of South Africa's Presidency of UNFCCC/ COP17 in 2011. This Declaration was adopted and incorporated into the final Climate Change Outcomes, and remains as reference for all international climate change negotiations as a visible demonstration of our commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality.

Another highlight for me occurred during the time that I served as South Africa's Ambassador to Thailand. At the time, Thailand had imposed a ban on the import of grapes from South Africa, and as a result of this, we had lost out on a sizable



Ambassador RP Marks (back, middle), with Embassy officials

portion of trade revenue for eight seasons – revenue that we could ill afford to lose. This had serious consequences for our farming sector, and contributed to unemployment and job insecurity for farm workers. Lifting this ban became one of the cornerstones of our economic diplomacy strategy. After intense lobbying and many meetings, the ban was finally lifted just before I left my station, and since then, our trade figures have grown substantially.

A final highlight in my current posting is witnessing the intense respect with which Sri Lankans regards South Africa's reconciliation process, and in particular, their appreciation for the work that Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as Special Envoy as appointed by President Jacob Zuma, is doing to support reconciliation.

2. What is your country of accreditation and what is your favourite thing about it?

I'm accredited to Sri Lanka, as well as Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh. This means that our programme is quite busy and time for relaxation tends to come up "under matters arising"! I am fast becoming an expert on cricket having watched

several matches, and will probably be a tea connoisseur by the time that my postings ends! I look forward to spending time visiting tea and cinnamon plantations in the future.

3. Has it been difficult to balance family and a career in the Public Service and if so, how have you managed?

It's interesting how the work-life balance question is always asked to women, and so seldom to men! All of us have to find work-life balance, but as long as male partners prioritise their careers over their family life, leaving women to carry a larger burden for the family, balance will remain a pipe dream. Unfortunately, our society continues to penalise and punish women for their ambition, and praise and reward men for theirs. It's interesting that career ambition is judged so differently: a women working late or travelling on official duty is oftentimes judged for spending time away from her family, whereas men are admired for their commitment. This is something that all supervisors have to be aware of, less we reinforce gender stereotypes. Equal access for women and men to training opportunities in other countries, official travel or postings does not mean equal and equitable outcomes. For example, an unequal distribution of responsibilities between women and men at home means that women have to consider far more than their male partners when it comes to considering time away from home to pursue career-advancement opportunities. Consider this: men in a partnership where there are children can take up opportunities where they are seldom required to be concerned about arrangements in the household – cooking, cleaning and childcare responsibilities. Women, on the other hand, would have to consider a number of concerns: Who will look after the children? Monitor the homework? Ensure that there's sufficient food in the house? Take or fetch the children from aftercare? Check whether a child-minder (also a woman faced with the same concerns!) can sleep in or take on the extra tasks. And the concerns don't end there, because while she is away on duty she would also have to monitor and check: Are the children safe? Did they do their homework? How does she reassure her partner who might feel insecure or threatened by her absence? Did the child-minder come to work? A gender-blind assessment of what shapes women and men's participation in the workplace will always reinforces unequal gender roles, and perpetuates inequality. So, it's about more than simply lamenting the fact that women are in the majority within the department, but in a minority when it comes to senior management. We need to change mind-sets, and question the gendered assumptions that make it difficult for women as well as men to achieve a work-life balance. Work balance therefore is not something that is possible until women and men take equal responsibility for productive and reproductive work. Unless supervisors understand how gender inequality shapes the choices of their staff, and develop mechanisms in the workplace to address this, work balance will remain a pipe dream. In other words, balance is possible, just not at the same time!

Remember that your value is not determined by how you look. Manage your impact – we live in a sexist, patriarchal society where you have to think about how dress is interpreted for women as well as men. Remember that NO is a sentence in situations where you feel unsafe as a woman. Volunteer for new tasks. Do the things that no-one else is prepared to do – chances are that you can turn it into an opportunity to shine like the star that you were meant to be. Trust yourself. Find opportunities where you can practise being brave. Always go to meetings prepared. Do your homework. Expect more of yourself. Speak up, even if your voice shivers. Everyone has to start somewhere, and people are often more compassionate than we think. Don't hide beneath the radar – nothing grows in shadows. Shine.

5. What are the greatest obstacles you have faced as a female Ambassador?

The world of diplomacy still uses as its referent a profile that is male. I've had experiences where people assumed that my junior male officials were the Head of Mission, and where male officials explained things to me that I already knew. In this regard, I've often had the impression that some men were disappointed that I do, in fact, comprehend the international and national context, and am always ready to lead on subjects, deal with media interviews, or do public speaking. It's amazing how often some men assume that female heads of mission are only there to be "the flowers" in the room! It can be exhausting to deal with, but you have to use that expectation to your advantage to explode some stereotypes. It's easy to be complicit with sexist practices that

4. What words of wisdom would you give to young female diplomats starting their career?

Always do the thing that you think you cannot do – that's where your growth will take place. Its



okay to feel fear, as long as you harness it into a plan. Maintain your integrity at all times and don't compromise yourself for short-term gains. Be kind. Listen to your intuition – it's your secret female weapon! Find a mentor, you don't have to re-invent the wheel. Mentor other women so that you can lift others as you climb. Be brave and take risks. Speak up and speak out. Don't shrink yourself, and make sure that you are visible through what you say, and how you are prepared to back it up.

Remember that your value is not determined by how you look. Manage your impact – we live in a sexist, patriarchal society where you have to think about how dress is interpreted for women as well as men. Remember that NO is a sentence in situations where you feel unsafe as a woman. Volunteer for new tasks. Do the things that no-one else is prepared to do – chances are that you can turn it into an opportunity to shine like the star that you were meant to be. Trust yourself. Find opportunities where you can practise being brave. Always go to meetings prepared. Do your homework. Expect more of yourself. Speak up, even if your voice shivers. Everyone has to start somewhere, and people are often more compassionate than we think. Don't hide beneath the radar – nothing grows in shadows. Shine.

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exclude you, because as women we have all been socialised to be "nice" girls and avoid appearing disagreeable. And oftentimes, I am the only female in the room (women diplomats are in the minority worldwide), but you have to be prepared to stand up for yourself.

I had an experience where a senior male official from an accredited country spoke only to a junior male official and ignored me completely. In that situation, it's best to politely ask them if they want to continue the meeting without you! I've also had to deal with male officials who have tried to create the impression that they were sent to serve with me so that they could be the brains! This type of micro-aggression is all too common, and we have to learn to recognise them and call out the behaviour, or it will be reinforced as a practice and ultimately shape how women are regarded. Fortunately, incidents such as these have been in the minority, and quickly dealt with. And I have worked with a number of men who understood that we were working together in partnership to serve our people. And on occasion, I've been able to learn from male diplomats who shared their experiences with generosity and with zero condescension. As a member of a fairly young (only 23 years old cohort of female diplomats after 1994), we have a duty to speak up and share our strategies so that the next cohort of female diplomats are better equipped to deal with these situations. Speaking up also means that we teach men (and sometimes women too who have internalised patriarchy!) how to treat us – and that's a lesson that can go a long way!

6. Which female figure do you draw inspiration from?

My greatest inspiration remains my mother, a single mother who worked as a domestic worker. Like many other single black women, she was unable to get a council house, and so we moved from one backyard shack to another. I credit her with my resilience, focus, discipline, tenacity and self-belief. As a diplomat, I draw my inspiration from Ma'm Ruth Mompoti, who always greeted by saying in such a humble way, "My child, what did you do for our people today?".

Dulcie September, the ANC representative in Paris, France, who were assassinated there also stand out for her fearlessness, strength and patriotism. And O.R. Tambo, who remains my lodestar of guidance. Within the department, I am proud that it was women who provided me with the access and opportunity to serve: former Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Minister Maite Nkoane-Mashabane saw within me potential to serve as a diplomat long before I recognised it within myself. Respectively, they have been both "mother" and "sister" to me, and have mentored me just by their example of leadership, assertiveness and commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality. I credit both of them for their support and inspirational leadership.

7. Name a book that changed the way you see the world?

Actually, there are two books and one poem: "The ABC of Dialectical Materialism"; "Rules for Radicals" by Saul Alinsky and a poem by the late Dora Tamana that I was privileged to hear her reciting at the launch of the United Women's Congress in 1981. The first helped me to understand society and the causes of change, the second helped me to be a creative and innovative community and trade union organiser, and the third inspired my passion for working with those who are most vulnerable and exploited in our society. Taken together, it provided me with the theory that informs all of my practice!

But nothing explains the interaction of these theories better than Ma'm Dora Tamana's poem that still reminds us of the challenges that we have to address as women and as diplomats:

*You who have no words, speak.
You who have no homes, speak.
You who have no schools. Speak.
You who have to run like chickens from the vulture, speak.
Let us share our problems so that we can solve them together.
We must free ourselves.
Indeed, we must free ourselves.*



IBSA Eighth Trilateral Ministerial Commission

BY GARETH REES, TERRY GOVENDER AND RUDOLPH STROEBEL

The Eighth Trilateral Ministerial Commission (ITMC) Meeting of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum was held in Durban on 17 October 2017.

The ITMC was chaired by Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and comprised Minister Nunes Ferreira of Brazil and Minister General (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd) of India.

The core focus of the meeting was to consolidate the political and socio-economic dimension of IBSA – the *raison d'être* of the grouping: "a pioneer meeting of the three countries with vibrant democracies, from three regions of the developing world, active on a global scale, with the aim of examining themes on the international agenda and those of mutual interest."

One of the biggest successes of the IBSA Dialogue is the IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger. As a unique development funding model for South-South funding and support, the IBSA Fund has to date committed some US\$36 million to development projects around the world.

In this regard, the IBSA ministers received a presentation from the United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation on the strengths and achievements of the IBSA Fund.

Ambassador Anil Sooklal, South Africa's Sherpa to the IBSA Dialogue, chaired the IBSA Sherpas Meeting on 15 October, prior to the ITMC meeting. The Sherpas presented a consolidated report to the ITMC, which was endorsed by

the ministers. The report highlighted the need for streamlining and clustering the various work groups around the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) three pillars of development, namely social, economic and environmental development. The IBSA Sherpas have been tasked with infusing renewed impetus into the revitalised IBSA working groups, especially around the SDGs.

The ITMC also endorsed the creation of a Working Group on the Blue Economy, which will seek closer collaboration on issues affecting the blue/oceans economy, and maritime governance, including coastguard cooperation.

Additionally, the ITMC issued a Joint Communiqué articulating the joint positions on global and regional issues of the IBSA dialogue partners and highlighting the political commitment to the continued importance of IBSA.

Therefore, the relevance of the IBSA Dialogue Forum as a positive global force to influence international affairs, especially in the development arena, has once again been reaffirmed. The signing of the IBSA Fund Agreement on the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger signals a clear commitment by India, Brazil and South Africa to address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment in the developing world – a key national priority for South Africa.

The hosting of the ITMC provided a launch pad for the hosting of the IBSA Summit by India in 2018. Preparations are underway for the hosting of the summit and South Africa remains committed to contributing to its success. The year 2018 will mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the IBSA Dialogue Forum. The IBSA foreign ministers have committed to promoting high-level events in order to showcase IBSA as a global development partner.



Minister Nkoana-Mashabane attending the Ministerial Meeting of the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) forum on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, chaired by India

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Fatima Chohan, recently handed over a smart ID card to South Africa's Ambassador to Italy, Tembi Tambo, as part of the commemorations marking the centenary of her father, the late Oliver Reginald Tambo.

The smart ID card handover was timed to coincide with the centenary year of the South African icon as a tribute to the struggles waged by OR Tambo and his wife, Adelaide Tambo, in pursuit of human rights, citizenship and justice for all.

The initiative was also part of the general drive by Home Affairs to get all South Africans to apply for smart IDs. The department will work with various institutions and groups in the next few months to create awareness on the importance of smart IDs.

Presently, the department is engaging the family of the late Ahmed Timol and learners from Manenberg on the Cape Flats, as part of its roll-out.

"It is important for us to pay tribute to leaders such as Oliver and Adelaide Tambo, so that we can reflect on their values and the sacrifices they made to move the country forward.

"It is through their efforts, alongside many South Africans, that their children and grandchildren and millions of South Africans now have basic rights previously denied," Deputy Minister Chohan said.

The four machines that are used to print smart ID cards were named after Sophie de Bruyn, Rahima Moosa, Helen Joseph and Lilian Ngoyi, leaders of the 1956 anti-pass laws march.

Smart IDs are more convenient than the current IDs and are much safer since personal information is carried in a computer chip on the card. The chip cannot be stolen from the card and neither can the information in it be duplicated. They will drastically reduce the potential for identity fraud. – Source: SANEWS.gov.za



Ambassador Tambo gets smart ID card



Walking in his footsteps



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- LUXURY TOWERS
- INTERCONTINENTAL
- Southern Sun
- Southern Sun
- Garden Court
- Stayeasy
- SUN 1
- INTERCONTINENTAL



SUDOKU

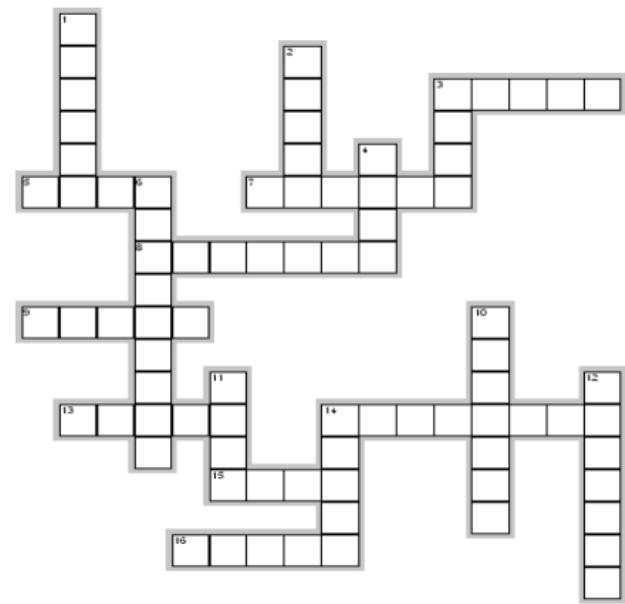
PUZZLE 1

1	4	2		9				5
7			4					8 9
8		5						2 4
2				4	8			
	3				1	2	6	
	8			7	2	9	4	1
	5		2		6			
	2	8			9	4	1	
	7	9	1		8	5	3	

PUZZLE 2

1				9	4	7		5
5	7	3	1		2			
	4			5	3	1		8
	8	1	5	6	7	3	4	
			8		1			7
	5	6	4		9			2
4	6							9
	3		9	1				7 6
9				4				

CROSSWORD



Across

- 3. to lose blood (5)
- 5. to experience something physical or emotional (4)
- 7. to damage a muscle or similar soft part of the body caused by using that part too much (6)
- 8. to cut a body open for medical reasons (7)
- 9. to use drugs, exercises, etc. to cure a person of a disease or heal an injury (5)
- 13. to produce liquid through your skin because you are hot or nervous (5)
- 14. to fall down because of illness or weakness (8)
- 15. to feel pain in a part of your body (4)
- 16. to make air come out of your throat with a short sound (5)

Down

- 1. to hurt or cause physical harm to a person (6)
- 2. to suddenly become unconscious for a short time, usually falling down (5)
- 3. to cause something to be hurt by heat (4)
- 4. to swallow or use a medicine or drug (4)
- 6. to take care of someone or something (4-5)
- 10. to rub your skin with your nails (7)
- 11. to have or cause an uncomfortable feeling on the skin (4)
- 12. (an illness) to become more serious (7)
- 14. to get an illness, especially one caused by bacteria or a virus (5)



Time Out

BY JACOLINE SCHOONEES

The Milkyway brightly visible from the chalets doorstep



1 DECEMBER 2017
WORLD AIDS DAY
 LET OUR ACTIONS COUNT
 IT IS MY RIGHT TO KNOW MY STATUS. PREVENTION IS MY RESPONSIBILITY



Chalets with a view. The sun setting over the Cathedral Peaks



Didima chalets connected with footpaths leading to main reception

I don't often get an opportunity to take some leave and hit the road to somewhere quiet and beautiful. In February this year, I visited Didima Camp, situated in the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park. It's just before the established Cathedral Peak Hotel on the same entrance road. Yes, the G&T sundowners there are still a winner, but not what I was looking for. A fireplace with a view of the Milky Way.

Didima is that for me, and more. It's quiet and offers the most amazing sunsets and bright Milky Way views at night.

I love taking pictures for our *Ubuntu Magazine* while on a quick breakaway, and as per my expectation, Didima catered for all my photographic desires. All I needed to do was point, shoot and enjoy the results.

If you are planning to go, please heed my advice. There is a restaurant available, but packing your own food is a fantastic option too as there are wonderful braai facilities on offer. Each unit has a small fridge, microwave and kettle. Most important, just bring your tired body and soul and get your recharge going.

ALL WOMEN SHOULD KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT BREAST CANCER

BY EDWINA FRADIE

DIRECTORATE: EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS (EHW)



October is international breast cancer awareness month. According to CANSA (Cancer Association of South Africa), breast cancer is the most common cancer among South African women, however, a diagnosis does not have to be a death sentence if it is detected early enough. Herewith some facts every women should know.

- Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among South African women, with one in 31 women diagnosed in her lifetime. This statistic spans all race groups.
- The older you are, the greater risk you face when it comes to developing breast cancer. However, the disease can and does strike women under 40.
- You should examine your breasts every month, and go for regular mammograms from the age of 40.
- When detected early, breast cancer has up to 95% chance of successful treatment.
- One of the greatest risk factors for breast cancer is obesity, especially after menopause. Other risk factors include being a smoker, not being physically active, consuming alcohol, and age, among others.
- Women who have breastfed, especially for longer than a year, may face a lower breast cancer risk than women who haven't ever breastfed, studies have found.
- Studies suggest that women who suffer from stress are twice as likely to develop breast cancer than those who don't experience stress.
- If you want to help reduce your risk of breast cancer, do the following, starting right now: stop smoking; limit your alcohol intake; exercise at least moderately (aim for three times a week, for 30 minutes each time); find out what your healthy weight is and stick to it; always wear sunscreen when you're outdoors, in every season; revamp your diet, cutting out junk food, sugar and high-fat foods; and try to keep stress to a minimum.
- All adult women should have annual women's wellness check-ups, which include breast exams. These examinations can help to detect any problems early, and to treat them quickly and efficiently for your best chance of recovery. Breast cancer can be beaten, but early detection is the key.

SOLUTION

PUZZLE 1

1	4	2	8	9	3	6	7	5
7	6	3	4	2	5	1	8	9
8	9	5	6	1	7	3	2	4
2	1	7	9	6	4	8	5	3
9	3	4	5	8	1	2	6	7
5	8	6	3	7	2	9	4	1
4	5	1	2	3	6	7	9	8
3	2	8	7	5	9	4	1	6
6	7	9	1	4	8	5	3	2

PUZZLE 2

1	2	8	6	9	4	7	3	5
5	7	3	1	8	2	9	6	4
6	4	9	7	5	3	1	2	8
2	8	1	5	6	7	3	4	9
3	9	4	8	2	1	6	5	7
7	5	6	4	3	9	8	1	2
4	6	5	3	7	8	2	9	1
8	3	2	9	1	5	4	7	6
9	1	7	2	4	6	5	8	3

Solution

Across

- BLEED
- FEEL
- STRAIN
- OPERATE
- TREAT
- SWEAT
- COLLAPSE
- HURT
- COUGH

Down

- INJURE
- FAINT
- BURN
- TAKE
- LOOK AFTER
- SCRATCH
- ITCH
- DEVELOP
- CATCH

Across

- to lose blood (5)
- to experience something physical or emotional (4)
- to damage a muscle or similar soft part of the body caused by using that part too much (6)
- to cut a body open for medical reasons (7)
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international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

