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Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

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Minister's welcome note

Dear colleagues,



It is my honour to be writing to you today in my new role as the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. It is a position that I am excited to hold because of the importance that international relations plays in ensuring that South Africa is able to achieve its critical triple priorities of eradicating poverty, unemployment and inequality. Our foreign policy rests firmly on the principles of democracy and human rights, well positioning us to champion the African Agenda in a world that is increasingly

volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. Since the advent of democracy much good work has been done by DIRCO to ensure that South Africa takes its rightful place in the global community of nations. We have participated meaningfully in multilateral bodies, carried out successful keeping peace interventions, consolidated our bilateral relations, enhanced our nation brand and attracted significant inflows of foreign direct investments and tourism.

The task ahead remains mammoth. We need to redouble our efforts in economic diplomacy to further bolster and grow our economy and create much-needed jobs and eradicate poverty. We need to expand our public diplomacy efforts to send out the message to every corner of the world that South Africa is open for business and that this beautiful nation is alive with possibilities.

We need to use all tools available to us to contribute to a better South Africa in a better Africa and a better world. In his visit to DIRCO – the first of the national departmental visits promised in his state of the nation address – President Cyril Ramaphosa said that DIRCO is “the face and mirror of this country”. This is a huge responsibility but also one that you have demonstrated that you are willing and capable of carrying out.

Colleagues, the fact that you are civil servants and diplomats means you have already answered the President's clarion call for all South Africans to put up their hands and be sent in service of this country.

In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to engaging with staff in the pursuit of the attainment of our foreign policy objectives.

I am heartened by the fact that I have joined the department in this, the year that South Africa and the world celebrate the centenary of Nelson Mandela.

He was a global icon for peace and democracy, a champion of human rights and reconciliation. He left an enduring legacy of which we can all be proud.

I have no doubt that in the execution of your duties, every single one of you is committed to the ideals and principles for which Madiba stood and will use the occasion of his centenary to continue to fly the South African flag high.

South Africa's future is indeed bright.

Kind regards,

Dr Lindiwe Nonceba Sisulu (MP)

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Celebrating O.R. Tambo in Zambia



The South African Mission in Zambia hosted the O.R. Tambo Centennial Birthday Celebration on Sunday, 21 January 2018, at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka where O.R. used to attend church during his time in exile. Bishop John Osmer from the Cathedral Church, who was also the former Chaplain of the African National Congress (ANC) during the time of the struggle, informed the Mission that O.R. was a full member of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

The Dean of the Cathedral Church, Father Charley Thomas, also gave very valuable information about O.R. and his role as a member of that Church.

The Mission therefore involved the Church during the O.R. Tambo Centennial Birthday Celebrations, particularly during the Zambia-South Africa Week, which happened from 23 to 27 October 2017. Father

Thomas thereafter requested a donation of O.R. Tambo banners that were on display throughout the celebration.

The High Commissioner found it prudent that the donation be done in a ceremonial way at the church with Father Osmer, the High Commissioner as well as the political section attending the special ceremonial church service dedicated to O.R. Tambo.

Deacon Reverend Rabson Tembo based his sermon on uplifting families as O.R. valued families. Quoting O.R.'s positive approach to empowering women, he celebrated his concern for the empowerment of women and furthermore used the SA High Commission as the perfect example of women in diplomacy being in positions of power. The event was a befitting closure to the O.R. Tambo Centennial Celebrations.

The Jeddah Travel and Tourism Exhibition



From 28 February to 2 March, the South African Consulate and two South African tourism companies participated in the Jeddah Travel and Tourism Exhibition (JTTX). The largest tourism exhibition in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been running for eight consecutive years, and the Consulate has participated for the last four years.

The South African participants were Sebaka Private Game Lodge and Tamrich Tours.

Sebaka specialises in outdoor lodges, as well as hunting, and is an ideal getaway for those looking for serene nature, adventure and an escape from the city lights. Tamrich is a firmly entrenched tourism agent and operator in South Africa – creating full tourism packages as well as assisting foreign or domestic tourists with specific tourism requirements.

Both companies have been working with clients from the Middle East for over a decade; therefore, they know the market well, as well as general and specific requirements from clients who come from Saudi Arabia or the Middle East.

These companies hope to set up long-lasting partnerships with tourism providers in Saudi Arabia, in order to fully promote all of the beauty and diverse holiday opportunities that South Africa offer.

The South African Consulate in Jeddah has decided to make a concerted effort to promote new areas in South Africa, which are largely unexplored by tourists from Jeddah or the Middle East in general. These include: the Drakensberg Mountains (in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State), the many offerings of the Mpumalanga province (Bourke's Luck Potholes, God's Window, Kruger National Park, Pilgrims Rest and the Blyde River Canyon) and Limpopo province (offering a wide array of outdoor activities, private game reserves and private game farms).

The Consulate provided a “mini-cinema” at JTTX 2018 – showcasing the latest short film produced by South African Tourism, which details the journey of Bheki, a tailor, who traverses South Africa in search of a perfect dress for a bride to be.

Reflections on the legacy of Nelson Mandela

BY CHUMA MAPOKGOLE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR: HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTORATE AND WRITES IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY



In essence, he became a symbol of the armed struggle, mass mobilisation and international solidarity, all aimed at the creation of a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was released unconditionally from prison on Sunday, 11 February 1990, after 27 years. The great moment arrived when he appeared on the balcony of the Cape Town City Hall to address a crowd of approximately 50 000 people.

In his opening address, he said: “I stand here before you not as a prophet but as a humble servant of you, the people. Your tireless and heroic sacrifices have made it possible for me to be here today. I therefore place the remaining years of my life in your hands”.

Indeed, he lived to be a servant of the people and placed the remainder of his life in the hands of all South Africans. None of us today can challenge the fact that since his release and the unbanning of the liberation movement, he played an important role in persuading the ANC to abandon the armed struggle. We know that this was a difficult decision with the potential to divide the ANC. Once more, Mandela managed to steer the ANC on a negotiated path, and contrary to what prophets of doom predicted, the ANC emerged stronger and united. He instilled confidence in the majority of South Africans and peace-loving people all over the world.

Nelson Mandela became a symbol of resistance against the unjust and oppressive laws of apartheid and an advocate for a negotiated settlement.

changes in the terrain of struggle, and identify potential obstacles as well as opportunities in reaching the objective of a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa; hence he chose dialogue over armed struggle.

South Africa almost imploded when Chris Hani was murdered on 10 April 1993, and it was at that time that Madiba had to address the nation. In his address, he appealed for calm and urged people to commemorate the memory of Hani by committing themselves to peace.

Many believe that on that fateful day, he became the country's defacto president, a view I personally share. The fact that Mandela was able to negotiate South Africa through the minefield of the transition and play the role history required of him, is testimony to his ability to do what is right by first acknowledging that at times he might be wrong.

Another memorable moment of Mandela's leadership was when he visited Betsie Verwoerd, the wife of the architect of apartheid, Hendrik Verwoerd. Who would have thought that a leader of the liberation struggle could embrace the enemy in the manner that Madiba did? We now know that in his crusade to build a united, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa, he embraced every conceivable enemy of the liberation struggle.

He also brought the nation together on those glorious days when he wore a Springbok rugby jersey and when he held the Soccer World Cup after South Africa had won a bid to host the 2010 tournament. Those images of a united South Africa will forever be in our memory and be a legacy for generations to come. As we celebrate the

centenary of this doyen of our struggle, it is incumbent upon all of us to mobilise the masses against poverty, inequality and violence against children and women at home and in war zones. We have to commit ourselves to uphold Madiba's vision of a society where there is no discrimination on the basis of race, gender and ethnicity.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has described Mandela as a leader who sought not to cultivate an army of followers, but an army of leaders, people able to take responsibility for determining their own destiny, the destiny of their organisation and the destiny of their country.

His contribution towards a culture of promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the attainment of sustainable development and protecting the environment, peace and security around the world is unparalleled in the 21st century. In this he laid the foundation for the diplomacy of Ubuntu.

Mandela was able to navigate the murky waters of South Africa's transition and inspire the world mainly because of his African style of leadership built on the concept of Ubuntu, based on humility, compassion, integrity and most importantly, his ability to embrace collective leadership.

He stressed the notion that African leadership meant service to humanity. Alongside Albert Luthuli, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr and similar selfless leaders, Mandela became a champion and icon of those less fortunate, more vulnerable and those denied human dignity.



Farewell Dinner for
High Commissioner Mnguni



On 29 January 2018, the High Commission of South Africa in Lagos, Nigeria, hosted a farewell ceremony for High Commissioner Lulu Louis Mnguni. He is described as a man with a colourful history, whose service to South Africa and his humanity will forever remain etched in the minds of officials who worked with him. When many rationalised about the need to fight against apartheid, he and his generation were inspired by the clarion call – Organise or Starve – and they chose to organise. Today, our freedom is a palpable reality due to their commitment to our struggle. High Commissioner Mnguni belongs to a generation whose courage and determination was

inspirational. Despite his academic, intellectual and athletic prowess, he chose a path whose dangers were real. Speaking to the guests gathered at this august occasion, Minister plenipotentiary in Abuja, Mr Bobby Moroe said: "A beckoning future though distant with unknown outcomes was too strong to dissipate. For those of you who may not know, his Excellency was also a philosophy lecturer and an underground activist for the ANC during his time at university. I am also told by one of his Doctor friends that he was an excellent inter-university marathon athlete. A great runner whose long run/walk to freedom yielded results." He added: "We are celebrating the completion of yet another of the marathons, a

diplomatic marathon - service to Africa in general and of course South Africa in particular. The work he did was exceptional. He was a diplomat par excellence, a feat which earned him accolades among his peers and colleagues. Our country will receive him with pride and admiration. Diplomacy is characterised by peace and good neighbourliness, a task he has fulfilled with grace and honour. Our bilateral relations are today the better for it. High Commissioner Mnguni is now transiting back home in the year in which the country is celebrating one of the greatest leaders of all time in Africa and the world, the late President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. He returns at a time when South Africa has just taken leave of

departed cultural activists and great leaders Prof. Keorapetse Kgotsitsile and the jazz maestro Bra Hugh Masekela. High Commissioner Mnguni will insert himself in any effort to preserve their legacies for posterity. Once an activist, always an activist! The Mission in Lagos has taken High Commissioner Mnguni's leave with pride and in the knowledge that his journey was determined by history and crowned by the forebears. A journey completed with grace and humility. "A journey whose fruits continue to blossom for both South Africa and Nigeria. An unending marathon whose end post is an Africa free from hunger, poverty, conflict and ethnic strife." 🌍



Tell us about yourself

I am a woman of substance and I am content with my life. I was born and bred in Port Elizabeth and started working in the homeland called Ciskei in 1982. From there I was transferred to the Port Elizabeth Consulate, where I dealt with documents and all consulate matters.

What is your daily routine?

Every day is different, there is definitely no routine – this is of course what you would expect from working as a transport officer in a highly active environment. Most of the time, I spend dealing with requests and approvals of vehicles and meeting with my principals for Directorate meeting matters.

How long have you been with DIRCO?

I started working in the then Department of Foreign Affairs in 1995 at the Transport Section. Being in Pretoria opened my mind as I have learnt and explored many things. When I arrived, my kids were still young; now they are all grown-up and they have followed careers of their own choice, like the Navy, which I have dreamt of. These are milestones I am grateful for as I will be retiring this year.

What do you enjoy most about working for DIRCO?

This section is my home, and as I am here most of the time dealing with different people; I feel as if I have a family at work. You get to interact with ambassadors and colleagues, visitors and a

diversity of people with various requests and you have to cater for their needs. This makes it great because you have a lot of interesting stories to share with your family when you get home.

What do you like most about your job?

It makes me remarkable. Everyday, I am being called at all corners, "Mam Vee", because I assist even during ungodly hours. I feel honoured about the compliments I receive the following day.

Anything else you would like to tell us

I am an easy-going person and widely loved by colleagues at DIRCO. I leave no stone unturned. Everyone calls me Mam Vee. Even on the bus, the interns like to tease me and they enjoy my sense of

humour. When I finally finish my term at the end of June, I will go back to Port Elizabeth, where I will have quality time in my house, Emtshaweni. When we opened that house on 21 December 2014, we called it KHAYALAM.

I will also have quality time with my husband; my grandchildren will only visit on intervals and should come with their parents. I will attend church and be involved in community services at large.

The legacy that I am leaving behind in DIRCO, especially the Transport Section, includes my angelic voice during memorials, birthdays and other events. Above all, I will be remembered by my elegant dress code on all occasions and my spirit of diplomacy. 🌍

MEET THE NEW DIRCO CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, NCEDISA MAYEKO

BY NCEDISA MAYEKO



I became a Clinical Psychologist by chance or some may call it fate. As I was about to walk out of my house to hand in my application forms at university, a woman started talking about the shortage of Xhosa-speaking clinical psychologists in the country on Umhlobo Wenene.

I then registered for a BA (Psychology and Social Work) at the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE). Some years later, I enrolled for a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). Towards the end of my fifth year of study, my lecturers offered me to seek employment as I had been a counsellor to a clinical trainee. I grabbed the opportunity. Was it chance or fate? You decide. I was born in PE. I am a married mother of two boys and a two-year-old girl, my most cherished role. I matriculated in PE in 1994 and enrolled for a BA degree in 1995 and an Honours in Psychology during 1998 at UPE. The financial situation at home forced me to seek employment as I had been a breadwinner since age 17. During 2007, I enrolled for a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology at the NMMU (Former UPE). Between 1999 and 2007, I worked as a research assistant, counsellor and junior lecturer at UPE. I started my career as a Clinical Psychologist at the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital's Mental Health Unit in Mthatha in 2010. On arrival, I was the only

Psychologist and due to my efforts, by the time I left three years later, there was one Clinical Psychologist and two registered counsellors. In 2013, I moved to the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in East London, and worked at the Female Centre there. Some may shudder at the thought of working with women who may have taken the lives of others. However, I will be forever grateful to those ladies for allowing me into their most exposed personal spaces, thereby allowing me to make attempts at rehabilitation. I joined DIRCO on 1 January 2018. My biggest aspiration is to comprehend the human mind, thereby contributing to improved psychology practice in South Africa, assisting people to reach their full potential. DIRCO offers me the unique opportunity, in my capacity as a psychologist, of being able to intervene positively in officials' lives. These individuals have experienced a myriad of situations in the various countries they have resided across the globe. As a scholar of Psychology, this is an opportunity I could not turn

my back on. The first two months at DIRCO have been interesting – from the warm welcome and brief orientation by Chief Director Mashao, to the assistance, extensive orientation and continued daily support from colleagues in the Employee Health and Wellness Unit. I have to mention that DIRCO's elaborate building and view in my office still take my breath away. My tasks involve but are not limited to the following:

- providing psychological services to all DIRCO officials and their families (both at Head Office and Missions)
- bereavement
- wellness days and wellness-related articles
- training.

I function at best as a Clinical Psychologist. I wish to enable colleagues to see that in order for one to obtain psychological services, one does not need to approach a private practitioner. I aspire to learn as much as possible and grow in my career path as a Clinical Psychologist. 🌍

ON-AIR

“THE DIPLOMAT” WITH THELMA NGOBENI

“The Diplomat” interviews with HE Thaninga Shope-Linney, South African Ambassador to Cuba

BY TSELISO MATLAKENG



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation has established a 24-hour Internet-based radio station called Ubuntu Radio. Ubuntu Radio sets in motion dialogue on South Africa's foreign policy, and stimulates public discourse on issues of national and international significance.

The station is the first-ever Internet based radio station under the stewardship of a government entity in South Africa. For more information, please visit our website www.ubuntu-radio.com. This web address will also link you to a live broadcast of our shows. We are also available on the DSTV platform on audio channel 888.

Among a variety of shows on Ubuntu Radio is “The Diplomat”. The show seeks to create a platform and promote an ongoing conversation between the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and its key stakeholders at home and abroad. It is a knowledge-based show, focusing on travel and tourism, current affairs, with a slant on global developments. It is a daily talk show broadcast live from 09h00-12h00, and is hosted by Thelma Ngobeni.

During Apartheid, Cuba condemned the then government in South Africa and demanded the release of Nelson Mandela.

The two nations fought each other in the Angolan Civil War until 1988: the apartheid government of South Africa supported the nominally anti-communist National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and Cuba supported the socialist People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

In 1988, Cuba, Angola and South Africa signed the New York Accord, in terms of which Cuba withdrew its troops from Angola in exchange for South Africa granting independence to Namibia.

On 11 May 1994, Cuba and South Africa established full diplomatic relations. To talk more on relations between the two partners, Ubuntu Radio host, Thelma Ngobeni, spoke to Her Excellency, Ms Thaninga Shope-Linney South African Ambassador to Cuba on The Diplomat.

Ambassador Shope-Linney, let us lay the ground for our discussion by you giving us a detailed background on the state of the bilateral relations between Cuba and South Africa?

We consider Cuba as a strategic partner because we have very strong diplomatic, political relations between the two countries.

We still have to work on our economic relations but our political relations are extremely strong and Cuba is a country that we call a friend; a country that we call a serious strategic partner to South Africa.

What would you say are the highlights or the milestones since the establishments of full diplomatic relations between the two partners?

What we do hold annually, is a joint consultative mechanism (JCM) that we have with the Cuban

Government, and that's actually a big achievement because we don't have that kind of interaction with all the countries that we conduct bilateral relations with but also at the same time every year, South Africa participates in a trade fair that is held in Cuba.

South Africa and Cuba cooperate under the auspices of the South Africa-Cuba JCM, with the fourth session having taken place in Cuba on 17 and 18 October 2017. Can you please tell us more about the importance of this mechanism and the priorities for both countries?

Logically, any joint mechanism's objective should be to strengthen relations – economical and political. As I have said, our relations with Cuba are already strong, especially politically. Economically, we still have quite a few challenges and most of them are not necessarily

because of the problems between the two countries but because of the economic blockade that has been imposed on Cuba for more than 50 years. So, through these mechanisms, we take a look at ways in which we can increase cooperation between the countries, taking into consideration that we still have this blockade.

It is a very important mechanism because we have discussions where we advise each other on how we can improve relations, whether economical or political.

There are over 30 signed bilateral agreements in place between the two countries covering vast areas of cooperation. Please mention some of these agreements.

We have health, arts and culture, human settlements, defence, education, water and sanitation and as you know, our greatest pride that we have in Cuba is the Nelson Mandela-Fidel Castro medical training programme for tertiary students. At the moment, 2 700 doctor students are beginning their careers as doctors in Cuba.

So that for us, is one of the greatest achievements I can say we have because it is going to guarantee that when these students graduate and officially become doctors, we can then also have doctors working in the rural areas where some of them actually come from. It is an opportunity also for these learners because most of them come from previously disadvantaged communities.

We are also looking at improving in other areas.

The late president Nelson Mandela and former South African Communist Party (SACP) leader, Chris Hanu, have both credited the country for helping South Africa during the struggle for a free and non-racial country. And just recently, we were commemorating the fourth year of the passing of former President Nelson Mandela. The year 2018 will mark a major milestone in the incredible story of Nelson Mandela, his centenary. Any plans in place to celebrate this milestone?

The whole of 2018, we will be commemorating the name of Nelson Mandela.

We will have the “Walk for Mandela”, which we host in Cuba annually but this year, it will be bigger and in line with the centenary of Nelson Mandela.

We are going to continue having our film exhibitions, wine tasting sessions and we're going to unveil the bust of Nelson Mandela.

During Africa Month, in May, we are going to have many activities that will be looking to commemorate Africa but in line with the evolution of Madiba and Africa. 🌍



VOICES FROM DIRCO

A lifetime experience at DIRCO

BY MABELA QHOMELA (INTERN)



This is neither an extraordinary story nor experience but it is my story and the experience has contributed significantly to my growth to date. I was born and raised in Khubetsoana, Maseru, Lesotho, where I lived for the most part of my life, I then relocated and now I call Woodland Hills, in Bloemfontein, my home.

An internship programme at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in general was of a particular interest to me, because it has been my aspiration to be a diplomat since I was in the first year of my LLB degree. I was never interested in private practice, despite the fact that I was studying Prior to joining DIRCO, I graduated with a Master's of Law in International Trade Law in 2015.

I joined this department attached to the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser (International Law) (OCSLA) (IL) and it has been more than I could have ever imagined it would be. Having no prior professional experience whatsoever, the only job I had had was as a volunteer at the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) in its Education Sector at the University of Cape Town during my student years. I was elated to begin this new chapter in my life. I have worked with a great group of skilled professionals, and I have seen and learnt what a great team can achieve when working in unison.

I am confident that these qualities have rubbed off on me.

I already possessed research and analytical skills when I joined DIRCO and my time here

has seen me develop them further and attaining application and execution experience. My stay in OCSLA (IL) also enabled me to obtain a more practical perspective on operations in some of the most renowned international institutions and organisations that OCSLA (IL) advises South Africa on in the international law and fora. Additionally, the meaningful responsibilities I have been given, complemented by the valuable support and guidance throughout the internship, allowed for the improvement of my presentation and organisational skills. It has been both rewarding and encouraging to work with colleagues who invited me to their meetings with different diplomat counsellors of other countries to South Africa, and not only expected me to ask questions and give my views on subject matters discussed during meetings but insisted I do.

It was gratifying to be shown appreciation and know how much colleagues wanted me to learn and grow.

It really has been fulfilling to wake up every day and look forward to going to work not knowing what the day had in store for me, but being assured that whatever it was would be challenging and intellectually stimulating.

I also played a significant role in conducting research in preparation for South Africa's appearance before the International Criminal Court (ICC), on the case on non-cooperation by South Africa in the arrest and surrender of the President of Sudan. I also attended court cases at a local level where this matter was heard, including the hearing on South Africa's withdrawal from the ICC.

The cherry on top to make this already great experience amazing, was that I had the opportunity to visit some of the world's most prominent judicial courts in the international law and international relations sphere such as the ICC, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. There, I met, conversed and received words of great wisdom and encouragement from some of the courts' brilliant legal minds in the form of its esteemed judges. Add a number of other international organisations into that mix. Now tell me this is not fantastic! This has been a deeply informative, technically engaging and thoroughly gratifying experience from which I have gained referees ready to vouch for me professionally. I have formed valuable friendships with colleagues not only from OCSLA (IL), but a few other Directorates who have shown me but of support and encouragement, thus I have built a solid network.

My passion lies in these three facets of international discipline: international trade issues strictly focusing on the World Trade Organisation, climate change and maritime issues.

I have no idea what is in store for me when the programme ends, but my goal remains to navigate my way into the international arena because it is the only arena in which I can pursue my goals, realise my dreams and it is where my heart is. Who knows ... maybe I will come back to realise my goal of being a diplomat in the not so distant future – then DIRCO will also gain an individual who is a diplomat at heart. 🌍

Why can't you be like other girls?

PlayYourPart PlayYourPartSA

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.

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Lessons learnt from Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), through the Branch: Public Diplomacy, hosted the DIRCO Open Day on Friday, 23 February. The Directorate: Internal Communications and Social Media runs two open days per year during which high school pupils and tertiary students are given the opportunity to spend some time in the O.R. Tambo Building interacting with and learning from officials. We hosted grades seven to nine who are interested in following international relations, politics, law and related fields as careers. The department invited three schools, namely: Willowridge High School, Reitumetse School and Charlton Vos College. As part of their visit, the pupils were requested to share some thoughts about the former President of South Africa, Tata Nelson Mandela. This was in celebration of the centenary of our country's first democratically elected president. The participants were asked to write briefly about "The lessons they have learnt from Madiba's legacy". Here are some of the responses.

Speech Bubble 1: Tata taught us peace, equity and equality among everyone, not only South Africans, but the rest of the world. He also taught us forgiveness.

Speech Bubble 2: Nelson Mandela taught me to respect, love and treat people exactly the same. He also taught me to treat people the same way I would expect to be treated.

Speech Bubble 3: The legacy of Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela has taught me that you don't give up on what you believe in and he has taught me that Ubuntu is the key to this world should oppress anyone because of the colour of their skin.

Speech Bubble 4: Nelson Mandela has taught me how to be dignified. He taught me to be calm in all that is done and handle every situation with care: "Look where we are today".

Speech Bubble 5: Nelson Mandela taught me the importance of having humanity, patience, respect, generosity and showing love to fellow brothers and sisters. He has played a big role in the lives of many people. He has proven that anything is possible through dedication and focus, and lastly shown giving up is never a way out. You should face your difficulties in order to prosper.

Speech Bubble 6: Nelson Mandela has shown and taught me the importance of having humanity, patience, respect, generosity and showing love to fellow brothers and sisters. He has played a big role in the lives of many people. He has proven that anything is possible through dedication and focus, and lastly shown giving up is never a way out. You should face your difficulties in order to prosper.

Speech Bubble 7: Nelson Mandela has taught me that through time you are blessed with the divine right to forgive one another and build a foundation as ONE. He proved that anything is possible through dedication and focus, and lastly shown giving up is never a way out. You should face your difficulties in order to prosper.

Speech Bubble 8: Nelson Mandela has taught me that perseverance isn't a bad thing, but one of the few factors that influence the great things that are about to come.

Speech Bubble 9: Madiba to me is not only the first black President but he is the bravest black father. He taught me to first look out for people; he taught me how to unite. He brought humanity to our country. Without him, we wouldn't be where we are today. He taught us how to unite with blacks and whites. Colour to him didn't describe who we are. In our generation now, blacks and whites are holding hands as one.

Speech Bubble 10: Tata Madiba makes me feel special in this world because he fought for us and did everything in his power to save our country from injustice. I salute Madiba.

Speech Bubble 11: I believe that my success is yours. I learnt from Nelson Mandela that we should stick together as we are one. I am because you are.

Speech Bubble 12: Always have a positive mindset and never give up on your dreams and goals. Education is the most powerful tool.

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SUDOKU

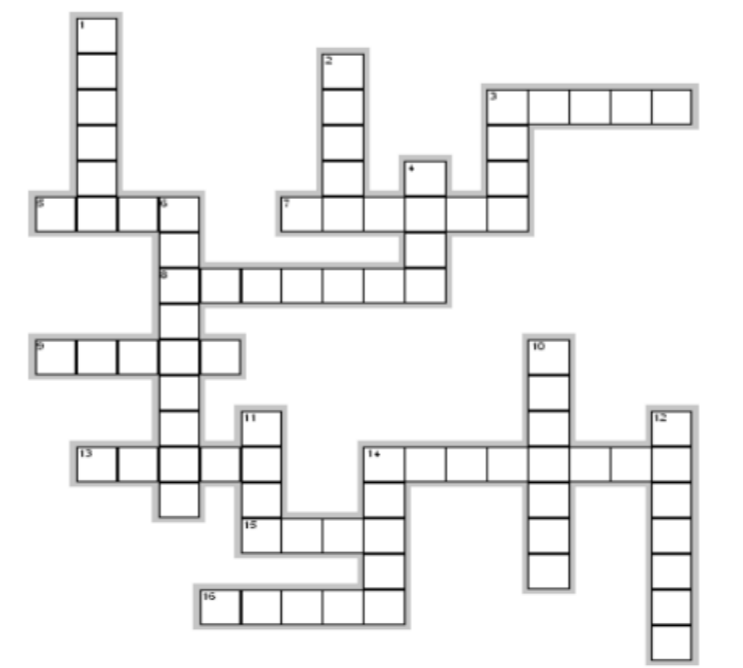
PUZZLE 1

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**
- 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)
 - to use drugs, exercises, etc. to cure a person of a disease or heal an injury (5)
 - to produce liquid through your skin because you are hot or nervous (5)
 - to fall down because of illness or weakness (8)
 - to feel pain in a part of your body (4)
 - to make air come out of your throat with a short sound (5)
- Down**
- to hurt or cause physical harm to a person (6)
 - to suddenly become unconscious for a short time, usually falling down (5)
 - to cause something to be hurt by heat (4)
 - to swallow or use a medicine or drug (4)
 - to take care of someone or something (4-5)
 - to rub your skin with your nails (7)
 - to have or cause an uncomfortable feeling on the skin (4)
 - (an illness) to become more serious (7)
 - to get an illness, especially one caused by bacteria or a virus (5)

Sharing economy: A vital catalyst to trigger Africa's economic growth



By Sisa Ntshona, Chief Executive Officer,
South African Tourism

Sharing and communal existence have been intrinsically linked to the African way of life for time immemorial. A Sharing Economy is broadly described as a socio-economic network in which assets or services are shared between private individuals, either free or for a fee. This concept is a great fit to the African way of sharing and co-creating. Advancement in

technology and globalisation has also ensured that this system stands today as a vital catalyst in Africa's growth story, especially in this era of innovation and need for inclusive economic growth.

In many countries on our continent, the informal sectors and high rates of unemployment (specifically among the youth) have necessitated the creation of sharing economies to bring more participation in the economy. This includes small businesses collaborating, for example, to bring about economies of scale – for the benefit of many. And the tourism sector, both continentally and globally, has been a great sector for the concept of shared economies to become dynamic and thrive.

The introduction and wide usage of "disruptors" such as the sharing of transport, homes and working spaces, will only lead to more of our people seeing value, ownership and participation in the sector. The United World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) recently announced that global international tourist arrivals grew by a remarkable 7% in 2017 to reach a total of 1,3 billion – with Africa's growth estimated at 8%, reaching a record of 62 million international arrivals in 2017.

This growth alludes to the continent's ability to attract more international leisure tourists and make

waves as a serious global player in hosting regional and global meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions. Another important aspect is that it demands of Africa's entrepreneurs and people wanting to enter the industry to find innovative ways to capitalise on the mounting global interest in Africa. This will ensure that growth not only happens in big metros, but bring in the smaller towns in the peripheries.

The emergence of the sharing economy – in players such as Airbnb and Uber – has already disrupted many industries outside of tourism.

Certainly, Africa's economic, demographic and infrastructural profiles all point to a viable environment for the ideas of the sharing economy to take root and flourish. At this year's Meetings Africa, the continent's premier business events trade show held from 27 to 28 February at the Sandton Convention Centre, we examined how a sharing economy could transform people's lives, positively and sustainably. This was a platform for players in the tourism and other economic sectors, to share ideas, expertise and learnings to propel the continent's growth.

It further cemented partnerships that would position Africa globally as an ideal Meetings,

MEETINGS AFRICA

Advancing Africa Together

26 FEBRUARY 2018: BONDAY
27-28 FEBRUARY 2018:
EXHIBITION
SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



Incentives, Conventions, and Events (MICE) destination.

We as Africans possess the determination and insight to adopt and create innovative business solutions tailored to the continent's unique needs.

The growth of our continent depends on diverse minds with a common purpose connecting and working towards a common goal. Technological innovations to advance the model of shared economies can certainly offer new choices for consumers to access goods and services, and new opportunities for small and emerging businesses – particularly those operating in the tourism and business events space – to gain a foothold and prosper. 🌐

The innovators, rather than the dinosaurs, of the digital era

BY AMANDA KOTZE-NHLAPO
CHIEF CONVENTION BUREAU OFFICER



greatly to the economy, not just in terms of their immediate impact – such as exhibitors and buyers booking into hotels, eating at restaurants and the associated services used – but also through the B2B transactions conducted on the floor.

South African Tourism owns and manages two trade shows every year: Meetings Africa and Africa's Travel Indaba. Since its inception 13 years ago, Meetings Africa has grown exponentially in stature and influence to be regarded as Africa's premier business events trade show. Africa's Travel Indaba is an entrenched global event that has showcased myriad African leisure travel experiences for some 37 years and routinely attracts in excess of 7 000 buyers, exhibitors and visitors. But is there still a place for trade shows such as these in the modern, digital era – are they still relevant and effective, or are they going the way of the dinosaurs? Across the world, people are designing their own holidays, based on word of mouth and what they can unearth online. They can closely refine their Internet searches, read traveller reviews and then book directly with the establishment and airlines. And when it comes to packaged holidays, travel buyers could theoretically liaise directly with potential products without the need for a physical platform such as a trade show. The same could be said for business events – why not just book your meetings in cyberspace?

Add to the mix the success of short-term accommodation disruptors such as Airbnb and private taxi services such as Uber, and it's fair to wonder whether technology won't render certain traditional models of doing business obsolete.

The virtual marketplace can throw up some great hidden treasures and bargains. But it can also be pretty overcrowded and bewildering to navigate, and often it's a case of taking an educated gamble. There are some horror stories, with broken promises leading to broken hearts and ruined holidays. Seeing is believing has never been more true! Similarly, business events buyers also want to meet and engage with potential partners who will help them to stage

a conference, incentive or exhibition in a particular destination. These buyers also value this one-on-one personal interaction as being critical to their decision-making process.

So, what's the middle road? The good news is that technology and trade shows aren't mutually exclusive, but are actually complementary partners. And the exhibitions realm, far from being a relic of the past, is arguably stronger than ever. In fact, according to the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, which held its 84th annual congress in South Africa 2017 the exhibitions industry is experiencing rapid growth and this trend is expected to continue, particularly in Africa as the continent gains traction as a go-to business events and leisure destination. Part of their success is no doubt because exhibitions are evolving with the times to remain a powerful and effective tool in the modern marketing arsenal.

At South African Tourism's trade shows, for example, we are harnessing the power of technology to connect like-minded people in the travel business through our online "match-making" or diary system. It taps into the virtual world to set up real-world meetings. Exhibitors, buyers and journalists are able to use this diary tool to search for close "matches" aligned to their requirements, and then set up one-on-one meetings.

This "match-making" yields an excellent chance of eventually leading to a "date" – in other words, a mutually beneficial deal, sale or outcome.

At last year's Africa's Travel Indaba, 16 500 confirmed meetings took place, more than 2 000 up on the previous year's figure. Each person who participated in the online diary system set up an average of 9.5 meetings over the three public show days – generating true bang for their trade show buck.

Similarly, at Meetings Africa 2017, there were some 5 600 pre-scheduled meetings via the online diary system, a 12% increase from 2016, connecting some 300 exhibitors from 18 African countries with almost 250 carefully vetted international and regional buyers. Their estimated

collective buying power: a cool R2,3 billion. Exhibitors provided positive feedback on their return on investment, with many securing conferences and meetings for the next few years in addition to the exposure to, and networking with, industry players. They say that by taking part in this tradeshow, they gained much-needed visibility and credibility for their businesses too.

"Connecting some 300 exhibitors from 18 African countries with almost 250 carefully vetted international and regional buyers."

Exhibitors use trade shows to demonstrate new innovations and technological advances to buyers, who can experience and test them on site.

Furthermore, the educational programmes linked to trade shows also showcase cutting-edge technology to enrich the knowledge base of the respective industries. This shows how exhibitions such as Meetings Africa and Africa's Travel Indaba continue to evolve and shine as relevant events where conversations take place, productive meetings are held, products are sampled, fascinating discussions unfold and the travel world converges to get excited about all things African.

Make no mistake: the international exhibitions space is a highly competitive one. Buyers are spoiled for choice, with multiple tourism and business events trade shows across the globe vying for their attention. For this reason, it is a feather in South African Tourism's cap that we are able to attract the world's top buyers to our trade shows, demonstrating that our country offers a strong and distinctive value proposition. This robust competition makes it even more vital that all of us in the business of tourism need to use all the physical and digital tools at our disposal to nurture and build a culture of travel.

It's clear that people want to build human connections with businesses, and that's what South African Tourism's annual trade shows are all about: tourism's human touch. The 13th instalment of Meetings Africa, Africa's premier business events trade show, took place at the Sandton Convention Centre on 27 and 28 February 2018, preceded by a Business Opportunity Networking Day (BONDAY) for exhibitors on 26 February 2018. 🌐



Time Out

BY JACOLINE SCHOONEES

The Milkyway brightly visible from the chalets doorstep



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

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international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

