

IT'S YOUR VOICE

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat



UBUNTU AWARDS

SOUTH AFRICA
2018



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South Africa's fifth President, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, attended the first Ubuntu Awards hosted by DIRCO's new Minister, Dr Lindiwe Sisulu at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The President and Minister proudly presented Ambassador Lindiwe Mabuza and Ms Sophia Williams-De Bruyn with their awards at the prestigious event. Ambassador Mabuza and Ms Williams-De Bruyn were winners of the Ubuntu Lifetime Achievement Award in Diplomacy and O.R Tambo Lifetime Achievement Awards, respectively at the Ubuntu Awards 2018.

Guest Editor's Letter

Dear Diplomats,

I am so excited for the opportunity to be guest editor for this issue of *It's Your Voice*. As I depart DIRCO at the end of my internship at this remarkable Department, this is the final publication that I will be producing. It has been an honour to work on it and meeting various colleagues as they contributed.

Welcome to the month of March, when we celebrate Human Rights Day in South Africa. On 21 March 1960, the community of Sharpeville and Langa townships, like their fellow compatriots across the country, embarked on a protest to march against pass laws. The apartheid police shot and killed 69 of the protesters at Sharpeville, many of them shot while fleeing, resulting in countless deaths across the country. The tragic event came to be known as the Sharpeville Massacre and it exposed the apartheid government's deliberate violation of human rights to the world.

After South Africa's first democratic elections, the democratic Government declared March 21 Human Rights Day, to commemorate and honour those who fought for our liberation and the rights we enjoy today.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation embarked on a number of events during the month. We highlight the courtesy visit to DIRCO by President Cyril Ramaphosa, as part of his undertaking in the 2018 State of the Nation Address to engage with government departments. During his address to DIRCO officials, he stated that as DIRCO we were responsible to deliver this beautiful country to the world, and the reason why we had tourists and people coming to South Africa was because of us, DIRCO officials. This makes me very excited and ready for the year ahead.

The department's highlight in this quarter was hosting the fourth annual Ubuntu Awards under the theme "Honouring Madiba: A Global Champion of Human Rights, Peace and Reconciliation". We witnessed South African citizens who played an active role in projecting a positive image of South Africa internationally through diligent service in their respective fields, being honoured and celebrated on the evening of 22 March 2018.

The year 2018 is indeed historical as we celebrate the centenary of two great giants, Mrs Albertina Sisulu and Mr Nelson Mandela, who had both contributed immensely to the freedom and democracy we enjoy today. The strong foundations that they both laid empowers this generation to press on and to make society a better place to live in.



During this year of renewal and hope, we are reminded of the fundamental link between national liberation and gender emancipation. The Mediation and Support Unit hosted the Women's Capacity-Building Programme, which sought to build capacity for female mediators through enabling them to contribute towards a peaceful resolution of conflict, and most importantly, to infuse women issues into peace-building processes.

South Africa is proud to be the Chair of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) forum this year, and President Ramaphosa will host the 10th BRICS Summit in July in Sandton. This is a huge milestone for South Africa and yet another success factor in our history's archives!

The month of March marked the end of the DIRCO 2016/18 Internship Programme. I am one of the 60 interns that the department incubated and I feel so proud and highly fortunate, the journey that was really a rollercoaster but yet a joy ride. Kedibone Mokgoko, one of the interns, writes about the experience and opportunities DIRCO offered her. Her sentiments are shared by myself

and all the other interns. However, we sadly experienced a loss through the unfortunate passing of one of our fellow interns, Siqobile Thobela. May her soul continue to rest in peace eternal.

My wish is to see all the interns succeed in their respective career paths because the world is yet to see their talents and skills. The best is yet to come!

I will not conclude without pondering on lifestyle issues as each day we work towards maximising our level of health and wellness to live long. I was highly impressed to see some of our DIRCO officials flying the department's flag high when they participated in the Two Oceans 56-KM ultra-marathon and all had exceptional runs.

We look forward to more tremendous achievements and patriotic enthusiasm as the year continues.

KM

Khensani Myambo



President Ramaphosa engages with DIRCO staff

BY KHENSANI MYAMBO

President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) on Tuesday, 6 March, as part of his undertaking in his 2018 State of the Nation Address to meet with government departments.

The President's engagement with DIRCO officials took the form of an extended briefing on South Africa's foreign policy priorities and key international events that will form part of the President's schedule in the coming months. The occasion also gave President Ramaphosa an opportunity to meet the political leadership, senior management and staff of DIRCO.

President Ramaphosa, who was accompanied by The Presidency's Director-General, Dr Cassius Lubisi, advisers and officials, was received by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Lindiwe Sisulu, and Deputy Ministers, Mr Luwellyn Landers and Ms Reginah Mhaule.

President Ramaphosa underscored the centrality of DIRCO "as the face and mirror of our country" in solidifying South Africa's position in the region, continent and the world and sustaining the pursuit of a better South Africa in a better Africa and a better world.

The President called on the department to use South Africa's diplomatic presence globally to attract investment and facilitate greater volumes of trade.

Minister Sisulu committed that DIRCO would in 2018, as the year of President Nelson Mandela's centenary, advance regionally, continentally and globally, Madiba's values of resolving international disputes through peaceful means.

Quotes from President Cyril Ramaphosa on the day:

- "You deliver this beautiful country to the world. The reason why we have so many people coming to South Africa as tourists, is because of the work you are doing."
- "A lot of wonderful things are going to keep on happening to us as South Africans this year, I say to you, you are the face of the country, you are the face of South Africa."
- "When I go to the United Nations with a number of you, we will be going to present Nelson Mandela to the world. We are going to tell the UN that this is our Mandela, the Mandela that we gave to you as the world."
- "I have not been able to find great faults in the work that you are doing, if I find faults, I will come and stand here again. That is the mandate I received from our people that we must get our country, South Africa, working. Thuma Mina!"



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BRICS: What are the benefits for South Africa and Africa?



BY NOZUKO SIYOTHULA
DIRECTORATE: BRICS

The Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Forum is a grouping based on the shared values of the need to restructure the global political, economic and financial architecture to be more balanced, representative and equitable, as well as to ensure that the international system rests on the important pillars of multilateralism and international law. The BRICS countries are committed collectively and individually to striving for the mutual advancement and development of all its members and of the countries of the Global South.

Institution-building efforts are critical within the BRICS Forum, as they illustrate a shared interest in the development of the respective domestic economies and strategies to overcome common challenges, notably in addressing issues such as infrastructure development and industrialisation. The launch of the New Development Bank (NDB) and African Regional Centre (ARC) is an indication of the commitment BRICS members have towards the fulfilment of eradicating inequalities in their respective countries. The NDB has since its inception signed partnership agreements with a number of multilateral development banks, regional and national development banks and private-sector banks to address the challenges related to infrastructure.

Furthermore, the ARC is an integral demonstration of the commitment of BRICS to the African continent, as driven and championed by South Africa, specifically through its support for the continent's industrial and infrastructure development agenda. The ARC is intended to play a catalytic role in providing financial and project preparation support for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in South Africa and Africa, with an initial phase focusing on project preparation and facilitation.

The measurement of any benefits that South Africa has derived from its membership of BRICS can only be judged from the mandate as set forth by the National Development Plan (NDP). The main objective of the NDP is to address the challenges of development; notably the elimination of poverty and reduction of inequality by 2030 and building a prosperous and equal society. Therefore, South Africa has sought and will continue to seek to leverage its membership of the forum in order to address these challenges and accomplish the goal of



building an inclusive society, while also placing the interests of Africa on the agenda of BRICS.

South Africa assumed the rotational Chairship of the BRICS Forum from China on 1 January 2018 and will be the BRICS Chair until 31

December 2018. President Cyril Ramaphosa will host the 10th BRICS Summit, scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 25 to 27 July 2018. The 2018 Summit will be a seminal milestone for BRICS collaboration, as

it represents a decade of BRICS cooperation at the highest diplomatic level. It is an event that will celebrate BRICS achievements in the past decade and propose strategies on how best to build the forum going forward.

The Fourth Annual Ubuntu Awards

BY TSELISO MATLAKENG



Launched in 2015 by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), the Ubuntu Awards celebrate South African citizens who play an active role in projecting a positive image of South Africa internationally through diligent service in their respective fields.

In commemoration of South Africa's first democratically elected president, Mr Nelson Mandela, this year's awards were held on 22 March 2018 under the theme: "Honouring Madiba: A Global Champion of Human Rights, Peace and Reconciliation".

Among the participants were members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other high profile guests.

Speaking at the glittering event, held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, President Cyril Ramaphosa thanked the nominees and recipients of the Ubuntu Awards 2018 for being ambassadors and keeping South Africa's flag flying high.

He said the work of the award winners was very important as it kept the legacy of the late former statesman Nelson Mandela and struggle stalwart Albertina Sisulu alive.

"President Nelson Mandela spared no energy in pursuit of a just and equitable world.

"We have gathered here today to honour those who have distinguished themselves in pursuit of Madiba's dream and those who have received these awards must pride themselves in knowing that whatever award you received, it

is an honour that is being bestowed on those of you who have received in remembrance and in pursuit of Nelson Mandela's dream.

"We are proud of all the nominees because their efforts resonate with the commitment of MaSisulu to improve the living conditions of the people of our country and our continent," he said.

This year's winners were:

- Ubuntu Social Responsibility Award: Jam Foundation
- Ubuntu Youth Diplomacy Award: Thato Kgathanye, founder of Repurpose School Bags
- Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Africa): Aspen Pharmicare

- Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Global): Standard Bank and Old Mutual
- Ubuntu Sport Diplomacy Award: Amanda Dlamini
- Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Youth) – Public Vote: Siba Mtongana
- Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Veteran) – Public Vote: Ladysmith Black Mambazo
- The Minister's Lifetime Achievement Award in Diplomacy: Ambassador Lindiwe Mabuza
- O.R. Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award: Sophia Williams-De Bruyn





UBUNTU AWARDS

SOUTH AFRICA 2018

CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE IN DIPLOMACY

This year's winners were:

UBUNTU SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD: JAM FOUNDATION



The Jam Foundations' Peter and Ann Pretorius, were proud recipients of the fourth annual Ubuntu Award in the Social Responsibility Award.

Joint Aid Management International (JAM), a locally founded international non-governmental organisation, has for more than 30 years committed itself to turning the tide on poverty and hunger for African rural communities, especially children.

JAM has been at the forefront of the war against hunger since 1984, when founder Peter Pretorius was left stranded in Pambarra, Mozambique, for 10 days. There he witnessed the horrific consequences of starvation, with children dying every day around

him. Along with his wife Ann, they committed their lives to supporting the fight against hunger in Africa. In over three decades, JAM has progressed as an organisation that reflects strong and expansive development. It has grown into a global movement that affects visible change in the lives of African children and communities through a multipronged approach that includes, among others, the roll-out of emergency response, agricultural development, school feeding and nutritional assistance, as well as clean and safe water supply in some of the hardest-to-reach parts of the continent.

"We are deeply honoured to receive the 2018 Ubuntu Award. Serving Africa is close to my heart and its people are the reason for our hard work. We continuously push ourselves to grow and develop our aid organisation. From initially providing life-saving nutritional relief in one country, we now roll out many specialised programmes to meet the needs of the five developing nations (South Sudan, Rwanda, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa) in which we work," says JAM CEO, Peter Pretorius. JAM SA is currently feeding over 90 000 pre-school children in more than 2 000 centres across South Africa.

Bill Gates personally recognised for its innovation: repurposing schoolbags. Her pursuit to do work that has real-world impact, has seen her founding her second company, Seven Twelve, a personal development agency.

UBUNTU YOUTH DIPLOMACY AWARD: THATO KGATLHANYE



Founder of Repurpose School Bags and hailed as a "new breed of a businesswoman in Africa" by Forbes, Kgatlhanye is an award-winning entrepreneur, author and public speaker.

Thato Kgatlhanye is one of South Africa's leading young entrepreneurs. She holds a BA in Brand Management from VEGA School of Brand Leadership in Cape Town and started her career in New York, working with American marketing guru and author Seth Godin. Upon her return, she founded Rethaka, a manufacturing company which

She has been recognised on numerous platforms, the most recent being listed on the highly acclaimed Forbes 30 under 30 list, she received the International Elle Impact Award, and in 2016, she became the youngest woman at age 23 to appear on the cover of Forbes Women Africa. As a thought leader on hacking innovation in Africa, she has appeared on various stages as a keynote speaker in South Africa and abroad.

She was the first recipient of the Women's Award for exceptional national service and is the last surviving leader of the Women's March. Williams-De Bruyn was a founding member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. After the government introduced the Population Registration Act in the 1950s, she was appointed as a full-time organiser of the Coloured People's Congress in Johannesburg

On 9 August 1956, she led the march of 20 000 women on the Union Buildings of Pretoria along with Lilian Ngoyi, Rahima Moosa, Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu and Bertha Gxowa to protest the requirement that women carry pass books as part of the pass laws.

Sophia was only 18 years old, making her the youngest of the four leaders. These women ducked through the guards at the doors to deliver their petitions outside the ministers' doors. After the Coloured Population Act was passed, Williams-De Bruyn was assigned by the Coloured

UBUNTU ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY AWARD (AFRICA): ASPEN PHARMACARE



SE Limited-listed Aspen Pharmacare (APN), South Africa's largest pharmaceutical company, was presented with the Economic Diplomacy (Africa) Award.

Accepting the award from Minister Sisulu, Stavros Nicolaou, Senior Executive – Strategic Trade Development, said, "We are extremely humbled to have been considered as worthy recipients of the Economic Diplomacy (Africa) Award. Our ongoing commitment to manufacturing excellence, cutting-edge technologies, scientific development and our significant skills and

competency investment in our people, has led to Aspen becoming South Africa's most globalised company. It is particularly pleasing that we are now ranked globally as the leading supplier of anaesthetics outside of the United States of America (USA) and the second-largest global supplier of injectable thrombosis products, both in complex, and high-value added technologies. We have never forgotten our South African roots and continue to make significant manufacturing investments in our country, continuously expanding both our domestic and export capability."

Nicolau concluded: "While this award recognises the present, we look forward to working with our multiple partners and stakeholders, which include South African Government, in uplifting disadvantaged communities through our numerous socio-economic enhancement programmes in the fields of healthcare and education and continuing to contribute to much-needed economic growth, development and job creation in our country".

UBUNTU ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY AWARD (GLOBAL): STANDARD BANK AND OLD MUTUAL

Director of Governance, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs, Mr Joel Baepi accepted the award on behalf of old mutual. Old Mutual provides investment, savings, life assurance, asset management, banking and property and personal insurance in Africa, Europe, the Americas and Asia. It has 18.9 million customers and approximately 64 000 employees.

Old Mutual began in Cape Town in 1845 as South Africa's first mutual life insurance company, offering financial security in uncertain times. Today, the group is made up of four strong businesses operating successfully in their respective markets and enabling positive futures for their stakeholders. Old Mutual has been listed on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges, among others, since 1999.



UBUNTU ARTS AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AWARD (YOUTH) – PUBLIC VOTE: SIBA MTONGANA



Siba Mtongana is a South African multi-award winning celebrity chef, author, food writer, food judge and media personality known for her books and food-focused television shows, which are regularly broadcast in more than 150 countries.

Mtongana learned to cook from watching her mother. As a young girl, Siba would exchange chores with her sister, Zanele, who disliked cooking and preferred cleaning. Siba, who loved cooking from a young age, was only too happy to trade her dustpan and brush for pots and pans.

She grew up in Mdantsane, between East London and King William's Town, in the Eastern Cape. She has a degree in Food and Consumer Science, with a major in Food Science and Nutrition from Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town.

She has over a decade of experience in the food and media industry. She first made her mark as the Food Editor of the iconic South African magazine, *Drum*. In March 2011, while she was Food Editor of the magazine, she got the opportunity to star in her

first television show, called *Drum Presents Cooking with Siba*. The programme went on to win a South African Film & Television Award in 2013 for Best Lifestyle and Variety Show. In 2014, she joined the debut season of *Chopped SA* as one of the main judges.

She is an ambassador for Foodbank South Africa, an organisation that helps fight hunger or malnutrition in the country.

She has won numerous awards, including the International Food Show Woman Award and also the Special Award Of The Jury for her cookbook,

My Table by Siba Mtongana, in 2017. Her previous cooking show, *Cooking with Siba*, won Best Variety Lifestyle Show for 2013.

She was honoured as one of the 200 young South African's to look out for in 2013 and beyond for her groundbreaking achievements as a black South African in the food world.

She was honoured by *O Magazine* for being one of the most influential African woman rocking the world for 2014 alongside Thuli Madonsela, Nyupita Nyong'o, Dr Precious Moloi Motsepe, to name a few.

THE MINISTER'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN DIPLOMACY: AMBASSADOR LINDIWE MABUZA



Ambassador Dr Lindiwe Mabuza is a former South African Ambassador who hails from Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal. She left South Africa in 1961 and lived in Lesotho for several years where she enrolled to study English at Roma University. She later moved to Swaziland after graduating to teach English and Literature.

Ambassador Mabuza boasts a commendable professional career that spans the globe. She was an Assistant Professor at Ohio University where she taught Literature, History, Studies of International Racism and Injustice for eight years. Dr Mabuza is a widely respected poet with five volumes of poetry published around the world – an incredible feather in her cap.

Dr Lindiwe Mabuza joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1975 and became a journalist for the ANC's Radio Freedom, based in Lusaka. Because of her passion for women's issues, Mabuza

was involved with *Voice of the Women* (VOW), the ANC's feminist journal, which encouraged women to write poetry. The VOW gave its readers a platform in which to express themselves and to tell the world about their lives. These stories were later published in a collection in 1980 under the title, *Malibongwe*. Further to that, Dr Mabuza is the co-editor of *Oliver Tambo Remembered*, a tribute to one of South Africa's greatest leaders. Through her role as Chairperson of the ANC Cultural Committee from 1977 to 1979, Ambassador Mabuza had the opportunity to enhance her creativity. In an interview in 1995 she stated: "Poetry is part of the struggle. You use the armed struggle; you use political methods ... You recite a poem. It's better than a three-hour speech. It gets to the heart of the matter. It moves people."

Dr Mabuza's career path changed when she ventured into diplomacy. She has served as South Africa's Ambassador to Germany, Malaysia, the Philippines and the United Kingdom. One of the most memorable creations by Ambassador Mabuza was the ANC's ensemble *Amandla!*, which she promoted widely in Scandinavia.

Among the many awards she has received, are the Yari Yari Award for her Contribution to Human Rights and Literature from the New York University in 1997, and The Order of Ikhamanga in Silver for her contribution to mobilising the use of arts and application of creativity for democracy.

UBUNTU SPORT DIPLOMACY AWARD: AMANDA DLAMINI



Johannesburg. She made her debut for the senior national team in 2007 in a 5-0 loss to Nigeria in an Olympic qualifier.

Dlamini scored her first international goal against Netherlands. She was the top goal scorer of the 2008 Sasol Women's League. She was part of the squads that won bronze and silver medals at the 2010 African Women's Championship and 2012 African Women's Championship; at the 2010 championships, she was named Most Valuable Player.

Dlamini was captain of the national team between 2011 and 2013. She became the fifth female football player to win 100 caps for South Africa following a friendly match against the USA in July 2016, following Janine van Wyk, Nompumelelo Nyandeni, Portia Modise and Noko Matlou.

In 2012, she founded the Amanda Dlamini Girls Foundation aiming to provide basic help to girls in rural areas.

O.R. TAMBO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: SOPHIA WILLIAMS-DE BRUYN



People's Congress to work with Shulamith Muller on issues relating to pass laws.

In 1959, she married Henry Benny Nato De Bruyn and they had three children. Her husband was also an activist in the liberation movement and an Umkhonto we Sizwe soldier. Their home became a haven for other anti-apartheid activists such as Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsoaledi and Wilton Mkwayi.

By 1963, her husband was forced into exile in Lusaka, Zambia, where he was appointed Chairperson of the Regional Political Committee of the ANC.

She joined him six years later and went on to complete her studies and obtain her teacher diploma by 1977, all while working as an administrator for the ANC in Lusaka.

She was one of the founding members of the ANC Education Council formed in 1980. The council set the curriculum for the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College which was established in 1978 by the exiled ANC in Mazimbu, Tanzania.

She returned to South Africa with her husband after the ANC was unbanned. Her husband served as South Africa's Ambassador to Jordan until he passed away in 1999. She was a member of the Commission of Gender Equality before joining the Gauteng Legislature in 2004 and becoming its Deputy Speaker from 2005 until 2009, before moving to national Parliament.

In 1999, Williams-De Bruyn was awarded the Ida Mntwana Award in Silver. In 2001, she received the Mahatma Gandhi Award.

UBUNTU ARTS AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AWARD (VETERAN) – PUBLIC VOTE: LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO



Ladysmith Black Mambazo, winners of five Grammy Awards, was assembled in the early 1960s by Joseph Shabalala, then a young farmboy turned factory worker.

A radio broadcast in 1970 opened the door to their first record contract – the beginning of an ambitious discography that includes more than 60 albums. Their philosophy in the studio was and continues to be just as much about preservation of musical heritage as it is about entertainment.

The group borrows heavily from a traditional music, called isicathamya, which developed in the mines of South Africa, where black workers were taken by rail to work far away from their homes and their families. Poorly housed and paid worse, the mine workers would entertain themselves after a six-day week by singing songs into the wee hours on Sunday morning. When the miners returned to the homelands, this musical tradition returned with them.

During the 1970s and early 1980s Ladysmith Black Mambazo established themselves as the

most successful singing group in South Africa. In the mid-1980s, the American singer/songwriter Paul Simon visited South Africa and incorporated the group's rich tenor/alto/bass harmonies into his famous *Graceland* album – a landmark recording that was considered seminal in introducing world music to mainstream audiences. A year later, Paul Simon produced Ladysmith Black Mambazo's first worldwide release, *Shaka Zulu*, which garnered the group their first Grammy Award, in 1988, for Best Folk Recording.

In addition to their work with Paul Simon, Ladysmith Black Mambazo has recorded with numerous artists from around the world, including Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton, Sarah McLachlan, Josh Groban, Emmylou Harris, Melissa Etheridge and many others. Their singing voices can be heard in several films.

A favourite of the late President Nelson Mandela, Ladysmith Black Mambazo travelled with him when he went to Oslo, Norway, to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. One year later, they were singing at the inauguration of the newly elected President. After many more special appearances with the South African icon, Mandela proclaimed the group South Africa's Cultural Ambassadors to the World.

In January 2018, the male choral group won their fifth Grammy for Best World Music Album for *Shaka Zulu Revisited*. They also have 19 Grammy nominations, an Academy Awards nomination and an Emmy Awards nomination.



RUN AS ONE
QUALIFIER
OLD MUTUAL
TWO OCEANS
MARATHON

Team DIRCO participates in **Two Oceans 56-km ultra marathon**

BY ERROL LEBEYA



The Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon – 56 km around the Cape Peninsula – has earned the reputation as the world’s most beautiful marathon. The first race was held in 1970 and saw 26 runners line up to face the unknown challenge. Since then, the race has become a national institution and a firm favourite with local, upcountry and international athletes.

The 49th consecutive Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon remained on the traditional route via Chapman’s Peak, Hout Bay and Constantia Nek.

The first Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon race was held in 1970 and saw 26 runners line up to face the unknown challenge. Since then, the race has become a national institution and a firm favourite with local, upcountry and international athletes.

The 2018 race, held on 31 March, saw DIRCO represented by six participants, who all had exceptional runs.

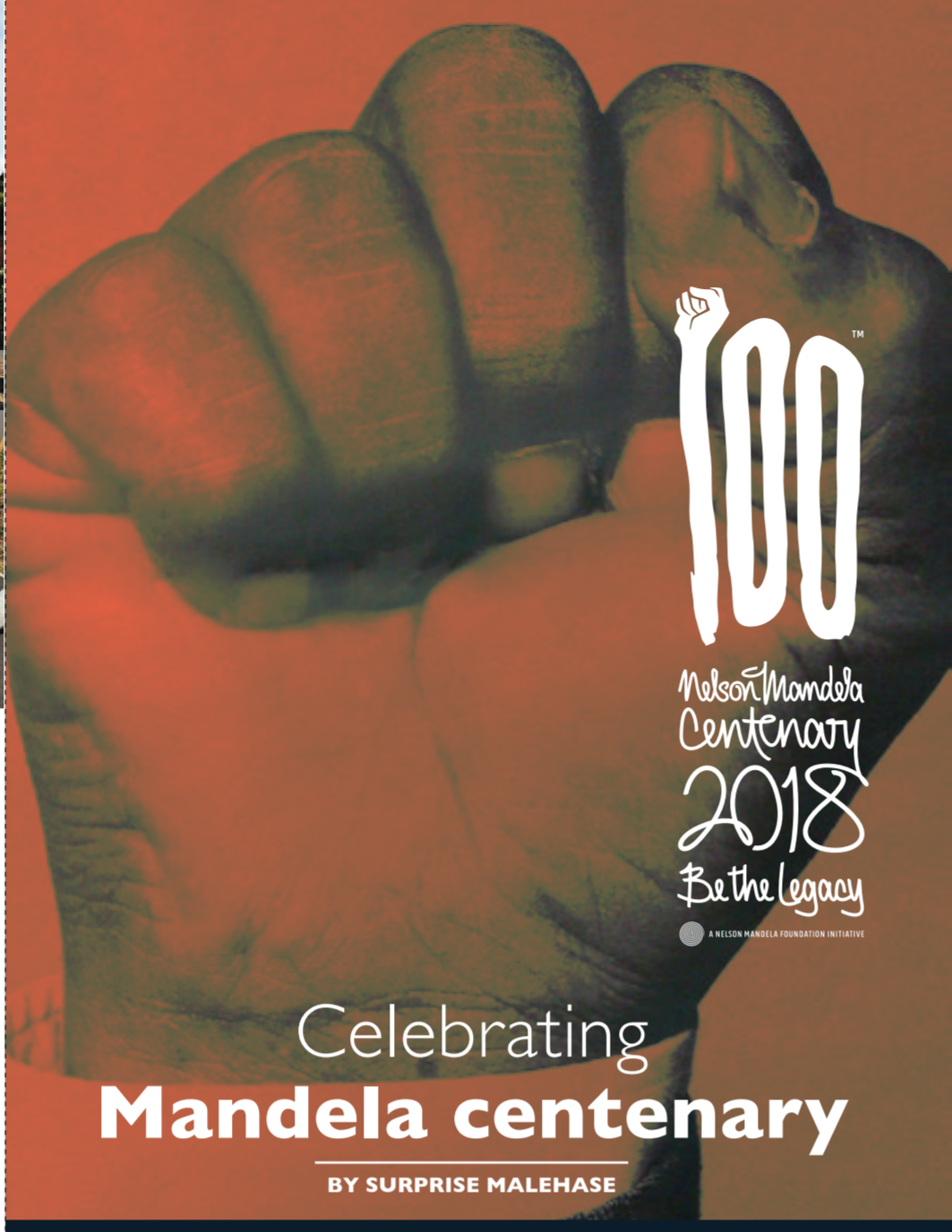
Participants could choose from various distances – the scenic 56-km ultra marathon,

popular 21-km half marathon or the 5-km or 2,5-km fun runs.

The annual event attracts close to 26 000 participants across all the distances and provides them with a mixture of breathtaking scenery, a gruelling test of fitness for both the elite and recreational runner, and an unrivalled race organisation and atmosphere.

Participants consistently vote it as one of the best in South Africa and it continues to attract strong fields and an increasing number of international entrants. The event has become synonymous with the Easter Weekend in Cape Town, with the pre-race activities at the expo, family day, and fun runs on Easter Friday. En-route entertainment on the race day provides fun, excitement and a unique experience to runners, family, friends, and spectators alike.

DIRCO was proudly represented by the most incredible team, namely: Mr Phakamisa Siyothula, Mr Lunga Motau, Ms Tebogo Machete and Mr Errol Lebea. Mr Labane Gideon and Ms Martha Randima. Well done Team DIRCO on an amazing race.



As we reposition South Africa in this new dawn, we do so in a year where the people of our country, Africa and the world celebrate the centenary of one of the outstanding leaders the world has ever known, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Madiba demonstrated that the world could be at peace if we are all committed to live together as one people guided by the principle that we are all equal in the eyes of God. What truly defined Madiba was the ability to unite people across colour and ethnic lines.

He did that when he led us into democracy and chose to put reconciliation and nation-building as a central theme in his term of office. I’m convinced that Madiba would be proud of the progress made since the advent of democracy. I would like to believe that he would be cautious in his observation because our freedom is not yet complete, and for as long as we remain an unequal society with regard to the economy; for as long as we still have inequality in banking, manufacturing, land distribution and mining; and imbalances in our education system, our freedom is not yet complete. However, we have, without doubt, made significant progress in many areas of development.

As we present South Africa anew to the global stage, we do so proud of the contribution Madiba made in stabilising our democracy. Another giant of our democracy whose centenary we celebrate this year is Mama Albertina Sisulu. This daughter of our soil demonstrated throughout her life that no nation could be free until its women are free. She will forever be remembered as one of the outstanding leaders who fought for the emancipation of women.

President Cyril Ramaphosa reminded us that this year is a year of renewal and unity. Our democracy has been tested and triumphed



because of the independency of all Chapter 9 institutions that support our democracy. And for as long as those institutions are not compromised, our democracy will remain strong.

As I conclude, I would like to take a cue from Minister Lindiwe Sisulu who reminded the global community that the land debate in our country was not a threat to our democracy, but a sign of a healthy democracy. Madiba laid a great foundation as an architect of our democratic order, by making sure that the foundation is deep and solid.

President Ramaphosa recalled the words of Bra Hugh Masikela (*Thuma Mina*), which has now become a central theme in this dawn, and this reminds us that we fall and rise together as one nation and one people. I therefore would like to join the chorus and say: “Send me”.

DIRCO and Royal Norwegian Embassy contribute to women’s role in international peace-building processes

BY ANDRE GROENEWALD
MEDIATION SUPPORT UNIT

This year, we will be celebrating the centenary of the first democratic President of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Madiba left an indelible mark on our society, having laid the foundation for a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

As newly elected South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa noted in his State of the Nation Address in February: “In this year of renewal and hope, we are also celebrating the centenary of another giant of our struggle, Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu.

“Through her leadership, Sisulu embodied the fundamental link between national liberation and gender emancipation. As we therefore also mark her centenary, we reaffirm that no liberation can be complete and no nation can be free until its women are free and fully empowered.”

The Women’s Capacity-Building Programme forms part of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation’s continued efforts to institutionalise South Africa’s contribution to international peace-building processes. To this end, the department, through its International School in the Diplomatic Academy and the Mediation Support Unit, makes its contributions in many areas.

The Women’s Capacity-Building Programme seeks to build capacity for female mediators through enabling them to contribute towards the peaceful resolution of conflict and, most importantly, infuse women issues into peace-building processes. We have been honoured to host these women, who carry not only their own aspirations but also those of their communities.

Another contribution has been through the Gertrude Shope Annual Forum, which was established in honour of Mme Gertrude Shope, one of South Africa’s gallant pathfinders who we are blessed to still have in our midst.



Ambassador Thembele Joyini addresses guests during the capacity Building Programme

The main objective of the Capacity-Building Programme is to contribute to the development and capacity of a next generation of female mediators, particularly women in Africa. This also links the programme to South Africa’s continued commitment to the African Agenda and specifically:

- Aspiration 6: The aspirations reflect our desire for shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, for a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the full potential of women and youth, boys and girls are realised, and with freedom from fear, disease and want.
- Aspiration 31: There will be transformative leadership in all fields (political, economic,

religious, cultural, academic, youth and women) and at continental, regional, national and local levels.

- Aspiration 45: Africa’s women and youth shall play an important role as drivers of change. Inter-generational dialogue will ensure that Africa is a continent that adapts to social and cultural change.

Agenda 2063 continues further by stating that: “No society can reach its full potential, unless it empowers women and youth and removes all obstacles to women’s full participation in all areas of human endeavours. Africa must provide an enabling environment for its women, children and young people to flourish and reach their full potential. Empower women and youth; promote

lasting peace and security; build effective developmental states and participatory and accountable institutions of governance.”

The programme, which commenced on 26 February, was fairly comprehensive and spanned 13 days. The class of 2018, which consisted of 21 participants from South Africa and abroad, started with the topic Women in Peacekeeping, Negotiations and Mediation. For the duration of the programme, participants interrogated topics such as:

- Personal Style in Negotiations
- Women’s Role in International (Peace) Negotiations
- Developing Analytical Skills
- Negotiations Techniques
- Leadership in Africa
- Conflict Analysis
- South Africa’s experience in Truth and Reconciliation
- Mediator’s Skills and Attitudes and Mediation in the African Context
- Introduction to Constitution Drafting.

On Saturday, 3 March 2018, the participants visited Soweto and the Constitutional Court. This was followed by the conclusion of the programme on Friday, 9 March 2018, and a graduation ceremony for the participants in the Women’s Programme. It was noted that these initiatives that served to develop and empower communities were made possible by the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The department believes that this programme affords participants the sufficient skills and knowledge to contribute constructively to their respective communities.





A Modern Mentor Working in a Millennial Workplace

BY KOOBASHNI PADAYACHEE VACIK

Members of the DIRCO Internship Programme 2016 – 2018

In 1996, when I joined the Department of Foreign Affairs (now called the Department of International Relations and Cooperation – DIRCO), we did not use buzz words such as mentoring or coaching. There were, however, many officials who informally mentored new recruits like me. Chief directors, former ambassadors and Locally Recruited Personnel taught me, a township girl, how to become a diplomat.

In August 2016, after 20 years of working for the department, I finally landed my dream job, DIRCO's Internship Coordinator. At that point, I decided that I would do what many of my mentors had done for me: provide advice and professional guidance but I would also help to shape our new recruits (interns) character, values and self-awareness.

Many of our interns ("my kids") arrive at DIRCO straight out of university. Unlike me, who arrived at the department not being very computer savvy, our interns are millennials who grew up with computers, iPhones, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and various other forms of Social Media. They live in a world where every post, picture or purchase is posted to social network platforms and comments flood their accounts within seconds.

My experience with millennials is that they are very interested in finding a mentor. According to Ms Monica Higgins, a Professor at Harvard's Graduate School of Education: "One senior person can no longer be the only place you turn for career support". Although each DIRCO intern was officially assigned a mentor, there are also informal mentors who assist them during their time at DIRCO. In many instances, the informal mentors

do not receive the recognition they deserve, even though they physically work side-by-side with our interns, guiding and assisting them for most part of their 40-hour work week. I would like to acknowledge and express my sincere gratitude to the informal mentors of DIRCO, as well as to their formal mentors.

To our 60 interns' parents and guardians, I salute you. Each and every parent or guardian of our 60 interns helped mould them into fantastic future civil servants as well as great organisers.

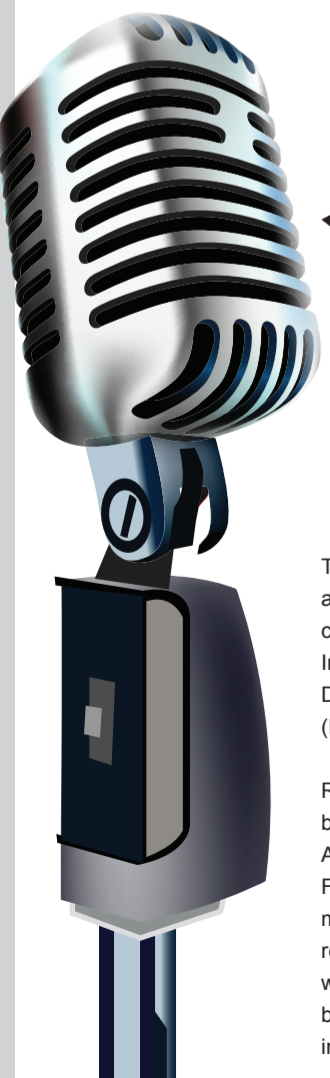
The organisational skills of our interns came into play with the unfortunate passing of their fellow intern, our beloved Ms Nqobile Thobela. Our DIRCO interns formed an organising committee and arranged a very respectful memorial ceremony for our late colleague and friend. Our interns may be young but they possess our

proudly South African traits of Ubuntu and practise our Batho Pele principles.

Yes, 60 young minds came into DIRCO as the 2016 DIRCO interns and as they leave, they leave as mature and responsible adults, ready to take on the challenges of the world.

As a mentor, I prefer to be a giver of energy and not be a taker of it, so I utilise a simple rule or approach that I read about in the *Harvard Business Review* by Anthony K Tijan, which is known as the 24x3 rule for optimism. It is basically an approach where a mentor hears a new idea and tries to spend 24 seconds, 24 minutes or even a day thinking about the reasons why the idea is good before they criticise it.

I would like to think that I am the modern mentor working in a millennial workplace. 🌐



VOICES FROM DIRCO

A lifetime experience at DIRCO

BY KEDIBONE MOKGOKO



I graduated in 2010 from the Tshwane University of Technology and completed a National Diploma in Human Resources Management. That was followed by several years of unemployment and a bit of contract work in the financial sector. A new chapter of my life turned when I was accepted into the Internship Programme by my employer of choice, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in August 2016.

I was initially placed in the Directorate: Locally Recruited Personnel Administration, which gave me a broad understanding of the dynamics of serving South Africa abroad. I was further trained by attending the Foreign Service Conditions Course, which provided me with knowledge of local laws in employment relations. Through interaction and communicating with South African officials placed abroad, I gained a better understanding of intercultural communication at international level.

Midway through the Internship Programme, I was moved to the Directorate: Recruitment and Selection. This area of work follows many policy directives to enhance the department's compliance with Public Service Administration prescripts in recruitment, and also assist DIRCO in selecting the right candidate suitable to carry out the massive work of diplomacy.

Late in 2017, I moved to the Directorate: Organisational Development (OD), which exposed me to the following organisational functions: job evaluation, work study investigations and organisational design. I realised a close interaction with Head Office officials who raised a number of OD issues, which needed to be resolved on a case by case basis. One of the important attributes is to be able to understand and consult other departments on similar issues in order to benchmark best practices.

The many months of experience gave me the opportunity to observe the splendour of diplomacy,

communicate at international level, interpersonal skills and other soft skills like listening to complaints attentively, attend timeously to enquiries and coming up with innovative ways to support and advance the department through happy human resources. Away from my day-to-day responsibilities, I also provided support service during events organised at DIRCO (e.g. Gertrude Shope Annual Forum, Southern African Development Community and 16 Days of Activism), which gave me a picture of the scope of work the department is undertaking. This year, I also took an opportunity to develop skills in Project Management, provided internally by DIRCO.

Ultimately, DIRCO is one of the most dynamic line-function departments that encapsulates domestic and international outlook to the letter. Being part of this department is an experience that cannot be bought or sold. 🌐



Globe at a glimpse



African Continental Free Trade Area

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA
CREATING ONE AFRICAN MARKET

#AfCFTA2018 | 17-21 March 2018 | Kigali, Rwanda

A Flagship Project of
Agenda 2063
The Africa we Want

www.au.africa

The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement: Implications For Intra-African Trade from a South African Perspective

The origins of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) date back to the 1991 Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, also known as the Abuja Treaty. One of the modalities for the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC) is the negotiation of a Free Trade Area. The decision to fast-track the establishment of the AfCFTA was re-iterated in the AU's 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration in May 2013. When the African Union (AU) member States adopted Agenda 2063 at the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) in January 2015, it included seven aspirations. Of particular interest in this case is Aspiration 2 of Agenda 2063 which strives towards "An Integrated Continent, Politically united and based on the Ideals of Pan Africanism and Vision of African Renaissance."

Under this aspiration, African States committed to start negotiations on the AfCFTA in 2015 and concluding them by an indicative date of December 2017.

The AU Assembly launched the AfCFTA negotiations during the 25th Ordinary Summit of Head of States and Governments in June 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Negotiations were to be completed in two phases: Phase I of the AfCFTA negotiations includes the Agreement on the Establishment of the African Continental

Free Trade Area or the "framework agreement", the Protocol on Trade in Goods and the Protocol on Trade in Services; while Phase II will include negotiations on Competition, Intellectual Property and Investment. Though negotiations are making good progress, Phase I has not yet been fully completed. It is therefore likely that Phase II negotiations will continue into 2019.

Once the comprehensive agreement is concluded and enters into force, it is expected to offer African States an opportunity to create larger economies of scale, a bigger market and thereby improve their prospects of attracting investment. South Africa supports this opportunity to develop a co-ordinated strategy to boost intra-Africa trade and to build an integrated economy in Africa that will create a market of over 1 billion people with a gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately US\$2.6 trillion. The AfCFTA will also provide new export opportunities for South African products and services in West and North Africa.

Once negotiations on the AfCFTA have been completed by African States, it will offer the Continent a chance to diversify its export base and move away from the dependence on raw materials to value-added products, as well as alleviate the chronic infrastructure deficit in Africa. The AfCFTA is also expected to

facilitate the movement of goods and services among African countries. African States are aiming at a level of liberalisation of tariffs of 90%. The service sectors that are expected to be liberalised include Transport Services, Business Services, Financial Services, ICT/Communication Services, Energy services, Health and social services, Education services, Distribution service, Travel and Tourism services.

The legal instruments establishing AfCFTA include the framework agreement, the Protocol on Trade in Goods, the Protocol on Trade in Services and the Protocol on Rules and Procedures for Settlement of Disputes. Unprecedented progress has been made in the negotiations for the AfCFTA and South Africa was pleased that the framework agreement and the Protocols on Trade in Goods and Trade in Services had been completed in the negotiations leading to the AU Summit in Kigali, Rwanda. The various annexes to these Protocols, and the Protocol on Rules and Procedures for Settlement of Disputes however, remain to be finalised.

The Tenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government in Kigali, Rwanda on 21 March 2018, followed two years of negotiations, led

by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The main focus of the Summit was to submit the Agreement on the AfCFTA for signature by those countries who were ready and willing to sign the Agreement. South Africa, like a number of other African countries, was not able to sign the completed legal instruments, the framework agreement and the Protocol on Trade in Services because constitutionally South Africa cannot sign onto parts of an agreement, while its other constituent parts are still incomplete. South Africa's domestic legal processes also require that Government embarks on a national consultation process together with the Offices of the Chief State Law Advisers at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD) and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). Provision was however made for those countries unable to sign the Agreement, to commit themselves to the AfCFTA process by signing the Kigali Declaration. President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the Kigali Declaration on 21 March 2018, reaffirming South Africa's commitment to the AfCFTA and to the signing of the Agreement once South Africa's legal and constitutional processes have been completed.





WHO WAS AT THE UBUNTU AWARDS



Members of the Diplomatic Corps and DIRCO representatives in attendance at the Ubuntu Awards 2018



**international relations
& cooperation**

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

