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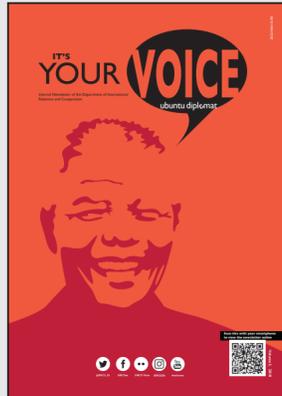
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EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-In-Chief Zengeziwe Msimang
Managing Editor Mathapelo Monaisa
Editor Khensani Myambo
Copy Editor Delien Burger
Designer Thonkha Ithuteng
Photographers Jacoline Schoonees
Editorial Committee Khensani Myambo, Tseliso Matlakeng, Mathapelo Monaisa
 The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) ©2017
 Tel: +27 12 351 1000, www.dirco.gov.za
 Private Bag X152, PRETORIA, 0001 Republic of South Africa

460 Soutpansberg Road, Rietondale, Pretoria, 0084, Republic of South Africa

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Editor's Letter

Dear Diplomats,

2018 has been declared by the fifth President of democratic South Africa as the year of the late former President Nelson Mandela, who was the first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. In his maiden State of the Nation Address in February 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "... the peoples of the world will unite in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

It is a day on which we, as South Africans, will remember the life of one of the most remarkable leaders this country and this continent – and indeed, the world – has known.

We will recount Madiba's long walk to freedom, his wisdom, his unfailing humility, his abiding compassion and his essential integrity.

We have dedicated this year to his memory and we will devote our every action, every effort, and every utterance to the realisation of his vision of a democratic, just and equitable society."

With these words in mind, during Freedom Month we remember the vigour and spirit with which Madiba persevered, so that along with his fellow brothers and sisters in arms, freedom for all is realised in our time.

Our missions hosted various events to commemorate Freedom Day in line with Madiba's centenary. Read about the Fun Run in Rome and the celebrations hosted by the South African Embassy in Rabat in this edition.

Sadly, the country also recently mourned the passing of Mama Winnie Mandela who passed away after a long illness at the age of 81. Mourners from across the world paid tribute to Mama Winnie. Further to the tributes, there was a call for South Africans to wear black with a doek as a sign of support for Mama Winnie's family and friends during the bereavement period. DIRCO staff heeded the call as can be seen on page 7.



In March, President Ramaphosa attended the 10th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union in Kigali, Rwanda, where the Agreement on the Establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) was signed by participating African countries. President Ramaphosa indicated that South Africa would sign when legal and other instruments associated with the AfCTA were processed and ratified by

South African stakeholders and Parliament. Mr Kenneth Pedro unpacks the AfCTA in this edition.

As we head into a new dawn, let us continue to Be the Legacy.

MM
Mathapelo Monaisa



What is BRICS ?



BY PATIENCE MTSHALI
DIRECTORATE: BRICS

BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The BRICS Leaders' Summit is convened annually with discussions representing spheres of political and socio-economic coordination, in which member countries have identified several business opportunities, economic complementarities and areas of cooperation. The Chairship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S. Over and above the summit, BRICS cooperation in the past decade has expanded to include an annual programme of over 100 sectoral meetings. Cooperation among members is predicated on three levels or "tracks" of interaction, namely:

Track I: Formal diplomatic engagement between

the national governments

Track II: Engagement through government-affiliated institutions, e.g. state-owned enterprises and business councils

Track III: Civil society and "people-to-people" engagement.

The first BRIC Summit took place in 2009 in the Russian Federation and focused on issues such as reform of the global financial architecture. South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS. Former South African President Jacob Zuma subsequently attended the Third BRICS Summit in Sanya, China, in March 2011.

The BRICS approach is informed by the need to deepen, broaden and intensify relations within the grouping and among the individual countries for more sustainable, equitable and

mutually beneficial development. This approach takes into consideration each member's growth, development and poverty objectives to ensure relations are built on the respective country's economic strengths and to avoid competition where possible.

The bloc offers a unique opportunity for BRICS countries to extend and advance their cooperation in ways that meaningfully promote their economic development agendas as well as that of other developing countries. South Africa assumed the rotational Chairship of BRICS from 1 January to 31 December 2018.

The 2018 Summit will be a seminal milestone for BRICS cooperation, as it represents a decade of BRICS cooperation at the highest diplomatic level. South Africa has committed to using its Chairship of the BRICS in 2018 to strategically plan towards

the goals of the next decade of BRICS cooperation and has further committed to aligning its Chairship in 2018 with that of China's in 2017 in an effort to ensure maximum synergy and continuity for BRICS over the two years.

South Africa has identified the following as its priorities for 2018:

1. Establishment of a Virtual Vaccine Research Platform for Collaboration with BRICS vaccine innovation and development partners
2. Establishment of a BRICS Gender and Women's Forum
3. Establishment of a Working Group on Peacekeeping and
4. Leveraging the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership as linked to the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)

Chief Directorate: Consular Services

Tel: +27 12 351-1000 (Switchboard) – (24-hours)

Fax: +27 12 329-1752

E-mail: consular@dirco.gov.za

For more information, consult our website at www.dirco.gov.za – Consular Services

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Council of the Ministers meeting

BY KHENSANI MYAMBO

Addressing a media conference following the meeting, Minister Sisulu said that during the two days, the SADC Council of Ministers successfully deliberated on several issues of importance to the region in relation to their priority programmes contained in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015 – 2020 (RISDP); the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO II); and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015 – 2063.

"The Council received progress reports on the implementation of decisions it had taken in August 2017 as well as progress on the implementation of the 2017/18 Corporate Plan of the SADC Secretariat, and approved the Operational Plan and Budget for 2018/19.

"The Council noted the achievements recorded across the SADC priority areas of Industrial Development and Market Integration; Infrastructure Support for Regional Integration; Peace and Security; Special Programmes of Regional Dimension; Cross-Cutting Issues; as well as Corporate Services and Institutional Reforms and commended the SADC Secretariat

for the significant improvement in both output implementation rate and budget utilisation rates.

"The Council noted progress made on the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap for 2017/18, which includes the identification, profiling and commencement of the development of value chains in the pharmaceutical, minerals and agro-processing sectors; and directed the Secretariat to convene meetings to assist member states with negotiating and developing value chains in leather, soya, aquaculture, iron and steel, copper, cement and manufacturing of ARVs, malaria medicines and mosquito bed nets.

"The Council noted the progress on the development of the SADC Regional Resource Mobilisation Framework and directed the Secretariat to finalise the framework and other viable and alternative options of financing regional projects.

Also approved was the establishment of the Regional Financing Facility for SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas to be supported by International Cooperating Partners resources and the Council directed the SADC Secretariat to

finalise modalities to operationalise the facility.

The Council noted the process that had unfolded from the time a decision to reform the African Union (AU) was made by the AU Assembly. While acknowledging that the reform is an absolute necessity, SADC contends that the decisions on the reform should have followed the appropriate procedure, and their implementation should not violate the AU Constitutive Act, Rules of Procedure, national frameworks and other international treaties.

Moreover, SADC should be represented by the Chairperson of SADC, Incoming Chairperson of SADC and Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in the Committee of 15 Ministers of Foreign Affairs; and that the SADC representatives in the Committees of 15 Ministers of Foreign Affairs and 15 Ministers of Finance should regularly report to the SADC Council of Ministers on the specific issues relating to the AU reform process.

The Council further mandated the SADC Ambassadors accredited to the AU to constantly engage with the AU Commission Chairperson and the Head of the Reform Implementation Unit; and

directed the Secretariat in consultation with SADC Ambassadors accredited to the AU, to submit regular reports highlighting areas that require further engagements and follow-up to the SADC Council of Ministers.

In response to the outbreak of listeriosis in the SADC region, the Council urged member states

- to harmonise Prevention, Detection and Response procedures;
- strengthen the control of food industries in terms of compliance to food safety standards
- and to enforce policies that are aligned to international codes.

The Council further urged member states to strengthen cross-border collaboration in the importation of processed foods; and to establish mechanisms for intersectoral and multisectoral coordination and effective communication to facilitate the implementation of core public health capacities and all hazards risk assessment approach, including addressing risk management for the Listeriosis outbreak."





looks at year ahead

The South African Council on International Relations (SACOIR) was launched in July 2015 against the background of the country facing complex domestic challenges that needed multifaceted approaches to generate appropriate policies for sustainable solutions. Thus, from the perspective that foreign policy informs domestic policy, SACOIR provides a platform for public debates on foreign policy and the conduct of international relations inclusive of practical opportunities for cooperation with civil society in tackling the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment as described in Chapter 7 of the National Development Plan (NDP).

The establishment of SACOIR allows the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) to realise the objectives set by government to interact with members of academia, labour, business and civil society on key foreign policy issues and to act as a consultative forum in support of the implementation of South Africa's foreign policy objectives and priorities.

On Friday, 9, and Saturday, 10 March, the council conducted its first Plenary Session for 2018. The council received briefings from DIRCO on critical aspects related to the Southern African Development Community; Indian Ocean Rim Association; African Union; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa; as well as the United Nations Security Council. Council members briefed the Session on South Africa's

Opportunities and Challenges in 2018 and South Africa's Economic Challenges in the Year Ahead. SACOIR is ably chaired by Mr Aziz Pahad, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and supported by Ms Chichi Maponya as Vice Chair. The current members of SACOIR are:

ACADEMIA:

- Professor Maxi Schoeman
- Professor Anthoni Van Nieuwkerk
- Dr Siphamandla Zondi
- Professor Shamil Jeppie
- Professor Sekgothe Mokgoatsana
- Professor Peter Vale.

CIVIL SOCIETY:

- Dr Somadoda Fikeni
- Mr Jimmy Gotyana
- Mr Tshepo Mashiane
- Amb Griffiths Mandlenkosi Memela
- Mr Kenny Morolong
- Mr Aziz Pahad
- General Maomela Motau
- Dr Kuseni Dlamini
- Mr Vasu Gounden.

BUSINESS:

- Ms Nonhlanhla Mjoli-Mncube
- Ms Chichi Maponya
- Dr Danisa Baloyi
- Mr Billy Masetlha Labour:
- Mr Dennis George
- Mr Joel Mfingwana.



Fun Run held in Rome

BY JEANETTE MPHEPHU

On 8 April 2018, the South African Embassy in Rome, in collaboration with MAIS Onlus, participated in the 5-km Fun Run as part of the Nelson Mandela Centenary Commemoration. This year, it was the 24th edition of the Acea Rome Marathon, which covers 42km as well as the 5-km Fun Run "La Stracittadina".

The Acea Rome Marathon is the largest Italian marathon. More than 80 000 people participated in this year's marathon while more than 14 000 participated in the Fun Run. The Mission invited embassies accredited to Rome and other Mission contacts to participate in support of the MAIS projects. Embassies from countries such as Lesotho, Israel, Uganda, Great Britain, Indonesia, Algeria, Ecuador, Congo and the Dominican Republic participated in the Fun Run. Ambassador Shirish M Soni led the Fun Run, accompanied by the band of the African Diaspora Group living in Rome, singing South Africa's liberation struggle

songs until reaching the finishing point. At the end of the Fun Run, participants were offered medals.

Ambassador Soni was requested to deliver remarks and in his short address, he indicated that this year, South Africa was commemorating the centenary of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu who fought tirelessly for the liberation of the people of South Africa.

In addition, Ambassador thanked the organisers of the Fun Run as well as MAIS Onlus for collaborating with the Mission in raising awareness of this important year, which was being celebrated globally. In conclusion, the President of the Yeoville Project, Ms Jackie Stevenson, also thanked the organisers of the Fun Run as well as the Mission for the enormous contribution and support in fundraising for MAIS Onlus projects. MAIS Onlus has opened the school in the St Christopher's Family Home in Yeoville, South Africa, in support of children from the disadvantaged backgrounds.



1 Colleagues from the branch: Public Diplomacy. Ms Thembakazi Zulu, Ms Patience Mthshali, and Ms Bongivele Mtofo
 2 Public Diplomacy staff were beautiful dressed in black and payed tribute to the late mam Winie Madikizela Mandela.
 3 DIRCO staff members payed tribute to Winnie Madikizela Mandela
 4 Ms Puleng Mbinda, assisting a colleague with a head wrap
 5 women united for a good course, and looked stunning while at it.
 6 Ms Thonkha Ithuteng - Intern (Publishing and New Media)
 7 Ms Semakaleng Rachidi and Ms Kgaka Babedi, (Interns from Media Liasion and Radio respectively)
 8 Ms Cecelia Motseatsa from the unit Publishing and New Media in the Directorate: Public Diplomacy
 9 Ms Rachidi alongside her mentor, Patience Mthshali (Director: Media Liasion)



The origins of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) date back to the 1991 Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC), also known as the Abuja Treaty. One of the modalities for the establishment of the AEC is the negotiation of a free trade area.

The decision to fast-track the establishment of the AfCFTA was reiterated in the African Union's (AU) 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration in May 2013. When the AU member states adopted Agenda 2063 at the 24th Ordinary Session of the 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 and a bigger market, thereby improving their prospects of attracting investment. South Africa supports this opportunity to develop a coordinated strategy to boost intra-Africa trade and build an integrated economy in Africa that will create a market of over one billion people with a gross domestic product 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 10th 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. 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 it. 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 and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. 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.

South African Foreign Missions must play a critical role in marketing and country branding, this is vital to reinvigorate the South African brand for investment attraction, export marketing and tourism promotion globally. We at the Diplomatic Academy recognise the importance that equipping our Diplomats to respond effectively to the challenge posed by Economic Diplomacy work in making a difference abroad. We have worked hard at developing a comprehensive training approach to Economic Diplomacy in the Department.

At the Diplomatic Academy, we have creatively used the sparse resources at our disposal and created key partnerships, to deliver training that is responsive to the Department's needs and that is beneficial to all our Diplomats to be economic advocates for our country.

Our Diplomatic Training Programme has been reconfigured with a focus on practical skills development and policy implementation of economic diplomacy when officials are posted abroad. This is the first step towards intensifying economic diplomacy training in the Department.

The Diplomatic Academy offers courses on understanding the basics of economic indicators as an essential part to doing any form of economic work in a world of big data. Our partnership with Statistics South Africa (STATS SA) allows officials to easily grasp complex concepts and confidently work with economic data to identify opportunities for South Africa. We remain cognisant of the fact that "fortune favours the prepared" and that skills around economic intelligence and market analysis are critical competencies for the modern Economic Diplomat, as such we offer training on the International Trade Centre (ITC) Market Analysis



Tools to assist with making an intricate task easier. We also have a partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) to further enhance these capacities through the utilisation of alternate databases to compile market analysis reports. Our partnership with Brand SA ensures that our Diplomats understand the importance of country branding, imaging and marketing. We offer branding

master classes because we recognise that the Country Brand around South Africa is the life blood of investment attraction and market opportunity for us as a country.

Furthermore we empower our Diplomats with an understanding of how the multilateral trading system works by offering online e-learning courses with the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) and

the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Here, at the Diplomatic Academy, we are confident that, if all our Diplomats are skilled with the right competencies, we can make a difference and we can add soul to the call to "Thuma Mina... Send Me" in the service of our people, especially the most vulnerable in our society. We want to see Economic Diplomacy in action!



1. Tell us about yourself?

I am currently serving as a Foreign Service Officer in the Directorate: North Africa. I was born in Umlazi Township, which is located south-west of Durban in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. I am the first child in my family and have four siblings.

I matriculated in 2004 from Alexandra High School in Pietermaritzburg and thereafter enrolled for a Bachelor of Political Science Degree at the University of Pretoria, where I majored in Political Studies, International Relations and Public Administration. Upon completion of my Political Science Degree in 2007, I enrolled for a Bachelor of Administration Honours Degree, where I majored in Public Management and Policy Analysis. I developed a passion for public service through my involvement with Rotary International at High School and the Progressive Youth Alliance at university.

2. What is your daily routine?

I do not keep much of a daily routine. I would say my day is determined by the different demands of a particular day, which keeps things interesting I believe. However, what I strive for on a daily basis is to give my best in whatever I do, whether it is responding to emails, providing inputs, drafting submissions, analysing reports and engaging with people.

3. How long have you been with DIRCO?

I joined DIRCO in March 2009 through the Cadet Programme straight out of university, so it can be argued that DIRCO is the only work environment I know. I was absorbed as a Foreign Service Officer in March 2010 and have served in this capacity for just over eight years now.

4. Have you been posted and if so how did you experience it?

I have been fortunate to serve my country in two missions, Cairo and Washington. The two missions presented me with different experiences.

I was stationed in Cairo, Egypt, from 2011 to 2013, during which I had the opportunity to engage with various political actors who were involved in the transition process that led to democratic elections in 2012. This served as a highlight for me as I was too young when my country went through the same process that led to our first democratic elections in 1994.

However, following the unconstitutional removal of the Egyptian President in 2013 and the instability that followed, we had to be redeployed to other missions and I was sent to Washington DC, United States, where I served from 2014 to 2017 and had the opportunity to pursue one of my passions in the field of diplomacy, which is public diplomacy. Working on this file, afforded me an opportunity to advance our foreign policy directly with the public in America and present the beauty of our country and its people.

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

I think DIRCO is set apart by the ability of attracting some of the brightest minds and I enjoy the fact that through being employed here, I get an opportunity to interact and learn from all these great people located from the basement to the top floor of the OR Tambo Building and in our missions abroad.

6. What do you like about your job?

I like the fact that my job provides me with different challenges that offer me continuous opportunities to learn

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

I have almost entirely shared my journey at DIRCO with my better half, Lungelo Mngadi, who has served as my pillar of strength and counsel throughout the experience.

We have recently been blessed with a daughter, Shelosothondo Mngadi, who has proven to be the greatest responsibility that we honoured to have above all.





Globe at a glimpse



Freedom Day and the centenary of Nelson Mendela in rabat

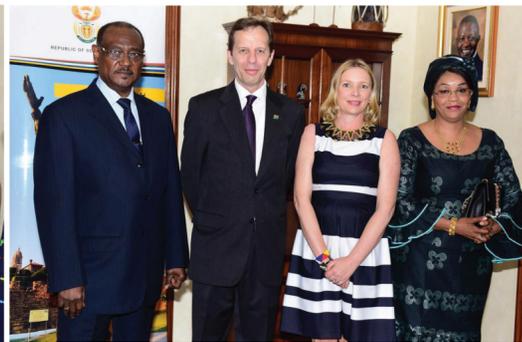
BY MARYSIA DUSINSKI

The Embassy of South Africa in Rabat celebrated Freedom Day on a pleasant evening at the Official Residence on 26 April 2018. The event also marked the celebration of the centenary of South Africa's most well-known and respected icon, President Nelson Mandela, under the theme: "The Year of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela: Towards Full Realisation of our Freedom through Radical Socio-Economic Transformation".

The Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Mr Alwyn Figgins, welcomed more than 200 guests from all spheres of life, including the small South African community in Morocco, some who had travelled from cities such as Fes, the spiritual capital of Morocco, some distance away. The Mayor of Rabat and senior Moroccan Foreign Ministry officials honoured the occasion with their presence. In his speech to mark this special celebration, Mr Figgins highlighted the significance of the day in South Africa's history and South Africa's aspirations for the future, including socio-economic transformation.

At a bilateral level, Mr Figgins made reference to President Cyril Ramaphosa's letter of response to King Mohammed VI's letter of congratulations on his appointment as President and his commitment to working jointly to advance the cause of peace, prosperity and development in both countries and in Africa. Mr Figgins also touched on African and global issues of importance such as South Africa's position on the Western Sahara and Morocco's African Union membership. He recalled that on becoming a member, King Mohammed VI reaffirmed Morocco's commitment to unity, development and progress for Africa, sentiments that South Africa fully echoes.

After the speech, guests were able to visit the book exhibition on Mr Mandela set up at the Official Residence to mark the centenary celebration. A variety of books on Mr Mandela were displayed in languages such as English, French, Arabic and Afrikaans. The books pay tribute to Mr Mandela



and his vision for a united, equal, rainbow nation. A poster with some of Mr Mandela's famous quotes sought to inspire all to "Be the Legacy" and to try and make a positive difference in the world.

While the sounds of Hugh Masekela and other well-known South African artists created a wonderful atmosphere for the celebration, guests mingled in the flowering gardens of the Official Residence. Not only were they able to enjoy the South African

music but also South Africa's fabulous food and wine. This year's cuisine included Nando's-style chicken, boerewors, Cape Malay fish frikkadels, chakalaka and milk tart, thanks to the efforts of the officials and their spouses. In keeping with the Moroccan tradition of tea drinking, the Embassy had a rooibos tea stand to also quench the guests' thirst while promoting the health benefits of rooibos tea. The colourful traditional costumes

and beaded jewellery worn by Embassy staff and family members received the appreciation of many guests. Arrangements of Proteas, South Africa's national flower, posters of Mr Mandela and South African landscapes scenes added to the beauty of the truly South African event and many positive comments and thanks were received from all those who were present. Happy Freedom Day and Be the Legacy!

A Diplomat's Perspective of Diplomacy: "Thuma Mina" to Nigeria

BY BOBBY J MOROE



As we were still recovering from the pomp holiday season, South Africa was joined by millions around the world to witness yet another historic moment in the life of our maturing democracy. 16 February 2018 marked the inauguration of South Africa's fifth President, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa. Having used his maiden State of the Nation Address (SoNA) to make a vow to fight government corruption and build a strong, viable and vibrant economy, what resonated more with me as a diplomat was his venerable and pleasant closing remarks. While deliberately paying tribute to the life and times of Bra Hugh Masekela (*May his soul rest in peace*), he was also reminding us to embrace the values of humanity and dedicate our lives to be of service to our people towards the creation of a prosperous and united nation.

By making use of the lyrics from, *Thuma Mina*, President Ramaphosa took me down memory lane, and inadvertently recapped my obligations as a diplomat, and the responsibilities that lie ahead. There cannot be any more opportune moment to pay such extraordinary tribute to Bra Hugh than a year in which we celebrate the centenary of former President Nelson Mandela. Had he been alive today, I have no grain of doubt that he would have mellowed at the choice of President Ramaphosa's concluding remarks by recalling the words of the late great, Bra Hugh Masekela, in his song, *Thuma Mina*:

*"I wanna be there when the people start to turn it around
When they triumph over poverty
I wanna be there when the people win the battle against AIDS
I wanna lend a hand
I wanna be there for the alcoholic
I wanna be there for the drug addict
I wanna be there for the victims of violence and abuse
I wanna lend a hand
Send me."*

As a diplomat, it is compelling to make use of these lyrics to juxtapose the relevance of my work to the message derived from the song. They send a message that, not only diplomats must cherish and embrace the inspiration, but the entire human race. These lyrics speak to humanity – to all and sundry – at home and abroad. Appealing as they are, they define goodwill, generosity and love, in the midst of the hardships we continue to face. As for me, I am truly inspired, Mr President!

The words, *Thuma Mina* (Zulu), loosely translated as, "Send Me", possess a characterisation of trust, integrity and honour which are akin to being dependable and responsible for your own behaviour. Not betraying a trust that someone has placed in you guarantees one a lever to say, *Thuma Mina*.

The *Thuma Mina* phenomenon is what ought to drive diplomats in their work. Ours is a profession driven by a firm conviction and belief in principles underpinning a much revered and admired profession – that of being a diplomat. As diplomats, we are expected to act and carry ourselves in a manner befitting the profession, the image of our country, the colours of our flag, and all that represents the goodness of our country. Trustworthiness, integrity and honour are key.

History reminds us of the prestige often associated with being a diplomat. Diplomats are given a responsibility by their governments to represent. It means as a diplomat, "uyathunywa", (you are sent). Diplomats travel to places that average travellers cannot travel to. They get access to places where many cannot. They shake hands with great men and women in the highest levels of leadership. They share messages of support and goodwill on behalf of their governments.

Since humanity relies mostly on history, we learn that in the medieval times, diplomats were sent only for specific negotiations and would return home immediately after their mission is concluded. Perhaps this explains why trust, integrity and honour remain important elements in diplomacy. The origins of modern diplomacy are traced to the states of Northern Italy in the early Renaissance,

with the first embassies being established in the 13th century. We learn that Milan played a leading role, especially under Francesco Sforza, who established permanent embassies in the other cities of Northern Italy. It was in Italy that many of the traditions of modern diplomacy began, such as the presentation of an Ambassador's credentials to the Head of State.

Our own country, South Africa, houses approximately 126 foreign missions – arguably, the second-largest host of diplomatic missions after Washington DC. Accordingly, for us as a country, presentation of credentials has become customary, and indeed, an event that attracts a lot of attention from media and South Africans alike.

Being a South African diplomat in Nigeria gives me a lever to contribute to, "being there when the two countries start turning it around, when they both work towards being triumphant over poverty". I am here as a messenger of the people and the Government of South Africa. I am a diplomat. I am here to lend a hand in ensuring that diplomatic relations between South Africa and Nigeria are sound, and mutually beneficial.

I am also here to contribute in making sure that the offshoots of these relations are able to change the lives of our men and women. When our people triumph over poverty, I want to be counted among the patriots who were selfless in their deeds. I want to contribute in creating an environment free of violence, abuse and disease. These I can achieve from afar in Nigeria.

But, for one to succeed in representing our national interests in Nigeria, it is also important to examine diplomatic relations between South Africa and Nigeria. Both countries are former British colonies. Both countries are members of the Commonwealth of Nations and the African Union. During the apartheid era in South Africa, Nigeria was one of the foremost supporters of anti-apartheid movements, including the African National Congress – like many other countries, Nigeria did lend a hand in shaping who we have become today.

Relations between the two countries are among the most significant on the continent because of their intersecting history of colonialism. Consequently, we as diplomats have to observe how South Africa has leveraged the socio-economic and cultural benefits from its intersecting history with Nigeria. A history of warm historical, political and cultural relations between South Africa and Nigeria can herald greater socio-economic value for South Africa in its present-day diplomatic relations with the West African giant.

Moving forward in ensuring that our relations with Nigeria are meaningful and mutually beneficial, the tasks ahead may be to:

- explore the historical evolution, and the genesis of these relations
- improve and maintain the nature of diplomatic relations since 1994

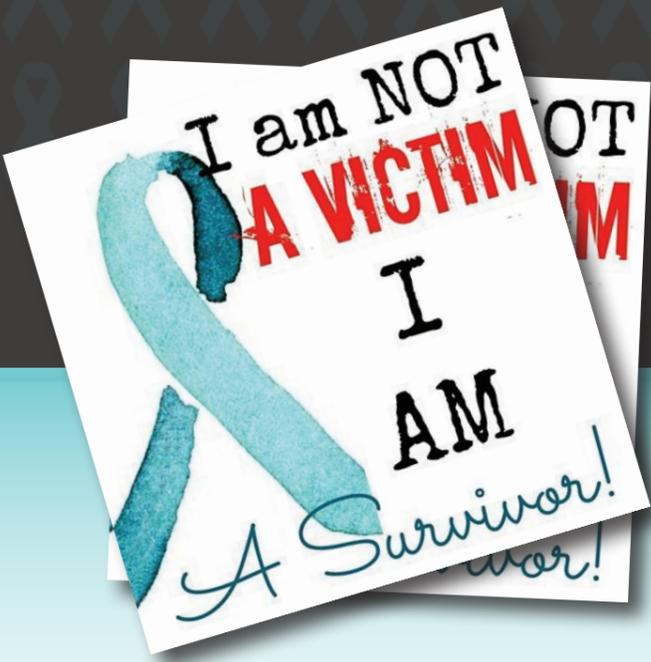
It is important to lend a hand, and stimulate dialogue through seminars and workshops in order to identify knowledge gaps and prevailing relations between the two countries. An effort must be made to ascertain if enough has been written by both diplomats and scholars alike to analyse how relations between South Africa and Nigeria have been of significant benefit to one another.

There is a need to tease out the nuances underlying these relations, in order to spark an honest and frank debate. If need be, the "Thuma Mina" phenomenon could be ideal in repairing that which would have been broken – if any. As they say, everything heals. Your body heals. Your heart heals. Time mends and heals. Wounds heal. Your soul repairs itself. Your happiness is always going to come back. As a diplomat, I am here to do exactly that – to lend a hand, and be here when we start turning it around between Nigeria and South Africa.

Bobby Moroe is South Africa's Acting High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and writes in his personal capacity as a scholar of international relations.

COPING AFTER CANCER

Compiled by Edwina Fradie (Employee Health and Wellness)



NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY 20 18

On Sunday, 3 June 2018, National Cancer Survivors Day, cancer survivors and supporters in communities around the world came together to celebrate life and raise awareness of the challenges facing cancer survivors. In celebrating and contributing to this event as cancer survivors and supporters, Employee Health and Wellness (EHW) wishes to highlight the following psycho-social factors which could contribute to the quality of life.

SYMPTOMS

1. **Fear of recurrence**
2. **Stress**
3. **Depression**
4. **Anxiety**
5. **Self-consciousness**
6. **Loneliness**
7. **Sadness**
8. **Anger**
9. **Poor self-image**

SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

Cope with your fear by being honest with yourself about your feelings. Most cancer survivors report that the fear of recurrence fades with time. However, certain events can trigger your fears. The feelings might be especially strong before follow-up visits to your doctor or the anniversary of your cancer diagnosis.

Don't feel you need to do everything at once. Take time for yourself as you establish a new daily routine. Try exercising, talking with other cancer survivors and taking time for activities you enjoy.

Tell your doctor about your feelings. If needed, you can be referred to someone who can help you through psycho-social therapy, medication or both. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are key to successfully overcoming depression.

Take time to grieve but also learn to focus on the ways cancer has made you a stronger person and realise that you're more than the scars that cancer has left behind. When you're more confident about your appearance, others will feel more comfortable around you.

Don't deal with loneliness on your own. Sometimes, talking with friends or family can help but you might feel like those people can't truly understand what you're going through if they haven't had cancer. You might consider joining support groups, join CANSA's support programmes or EHW practitioners.

In conclusion, the CANSA CEO, Elize Joubert, echoed these words, "We are honoured to wish you a happy International Cancer Survivors' Day. You show us that life after a cancer diagnosis can be meaningful, productive and even inspiring. This is something to celebrate! We also pay tribute to all our healthcare providers, caregivers and researchers who devote their efforts to increase the length and quality of the life of our cancer survivors."



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