

IT'S YOUR

VOICE

ubuntu diplomat

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation



Scan this with your smartphone to view the newsletter online



@DIRCO_ZA



DIRCOza



DIRCO Flickr



DIRCOZA



thedircoza

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
Publisher 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

No portion of this magazine may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publishers. DIRCO is not responsible for unsolicited material and reserves the right to amend and alter copy and visual material as deemed necessary. Copyright is reserved. Views in It's your Voice-Ubuntu Diplomat are not necessary those of DIRCO or the South African Government. They can accept no liability arising out of or in connection with the contents of this publication.



Editor's Letter

Dear Diplomats,

The month of June is celebrated across South Africa as Youth Month. A month where the bold youth of 1976 protested against the decision by the apartheid government to institute Afrikaans as a medium of instruction at schools across the board. Naturally, the youth in the townships were not willing to conform to this law and sadly many were gunned down during the demonstrations on the 16th of June 1976. The Grace Bible Church in Soweto extended an invitation to Minister Lindiwe Sisulu this year and she was there to commemorate the youth of '76 with the youth of the church. South Africa has close historical and political ties with the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic through the liberation movements dedicated to the struggle for freedom of our peoples. Already in 1994, President Nelson Mandela announced South Africa's intention to recognise Western Sahara and furthermore, that the two republics will establish diplomatic relations. On the 4th of June 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted the President of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Brahim Ghali during an official State Visit. In this issue, we take a brief look at the visit. BRICS Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus countries gathered in Pretoria from 25-29 June 2018 to participate in the 4th BRICS Young Diplomats' Forum (YDF), hosted by South Africa under its Chairship of the BRICS Partnership in 2018. The youth also visited the Cradle of Humankind in Maropeng during that week and saw Africa's amazing heritage. The BRICS YDF was held in preparation for the 10th BRICS Summit which will take place from the 25th-27th July in Sandton, Johannesburg. In his centenary year, let us remember Madiba's fondness for the youth and the inspirational and encouraging messages he would often share with them. In closing, there is one in particular that is apt to recall during Youth Month 2018: "To the youth of today, I also have a wish to make: be the scriptwriters of your destiny and feature yourselves as stars that showed the way towards a brighter future." - Nelson Mandela



MM
 Mathapelo Monaisa



Minister Sisulu celebrates Youth Day at Grace Bible Church

By Matheko Badana

Minister Sisulu delivering remarks at Grace Bible Church, Soweto, during Youth Day 2018 celebrations

Youth Day is celebrated every year in South Africa on 16 June to commemorate the students who were gunned down during the 1976 uprisings. The students were protesting against the apartheid government's decision to make Afrikaans a medium of instruction in schools. Each year on this day, the country celebrates the courage of those young people who fought for their rights during that very difficult period.

In response to an invitation from the youth, on Sunday, 17 June 2018, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, commemorated Youth Day at the Grace Bible Church in Soweto.

In true Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) spirit, Minister Sisulu invited the Chinese Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Lin Songtian, to market highlight the opportunities within the BRICS formation. Ambassador Songtian generously offered to the church's youth, five Master's degrees in China in any field of study, this after donating 60 computers to the computer lab of the church.

Minister Sisulu thanked the Ambassador and indicated that this meant that the church could now have an entire computer lab dedicated to the advancement of the youth at the church, to not only learn computer skills, but also to teach. The Minister said that the State Information Technology Agency would be contacted to facilitate training at the lab. During his speech, Grace Bible Church's Bishop Mosa Sono encouraged the youth to develop their gifts and cultivate them, and emphasised that they needed an attitude of power, love and self-discipline. He further gave seven keys to developing grit:

- exercise emotional control over negative emotions
- have a bulldog tenacity
- mental discipline
- adopt the power of optimistic outlook
- be a finisher
- don't complain about your circumstances, instead create the ones you want
- true grit talks while others walk.

Minister Sisulu began her remarks by sharing a story about a young man named Sammy

who during the freedom struggle, was arrested and sentenced to five years on Robben Island, unbeknownst to his parents who searched three years for him before they located him at the prison. During that time, Sammy developed a bond with the late Mr Walter Sisulu who considered Sammy his son. Sammy lived in the Sisulu household for some years, yet until his death, nobody knew his original surname. The most beautiful part of the story is that it was this very Grace Bible Church that assisted Sammy's parents to find him. Minister Sisulu took this opportunity to once again thank the Bishop and the church.

In addition, Minister Sisulu spoke of the challenge of youth unemployment in South Africa, noting that it currently stood at seven million. While encouraging the youth to do their part for economic liberation, she also indicated that government was also working hard to do its part through programmes such as the Young Employment Service (YES), which is a Presidential initiative aiming to create one million opportunities for youth employment.

She also mentioned the paid work experience sponsored by private companies for students at Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges; government initiatives such as the Expanded Public Works Programme to assist with rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure; the Rural Youth Service Programme; and the National Youth Development Agency programme that has an online database and facilitates youth employment across the board.

The Minister further informed students that the international community through the African Union and the United Nations has a large of number of vacancies available for individuals with postgraduate degrees. South African missions abroad need the youth to come and work there, and that with a degree, they can possibly find employment at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. With this parting remark, Minister Sisulu quoted the late Tata Nelson Mandela whose Centenary we are commemorating this year: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."



Minister Sisulu was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to South Africa, HE Mr Lin Songtian



Bishop Mosa Sono of Grace Bible Church, Soweto



INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

DURBAN 31 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2018

18TH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

UNITING THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST
 THROUGH ENHANCED COOPERATION FOR PEACE, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

8 June 2018 will be remembered in history as a day in which the United Nations (UN) General Assembly elected South Africa, along with four other countries, to a two-year term on the Security Council (SC) starting on 1 January 2019. In his statement following the vote, President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed his gratitude and said: "We are humbled and honoured by the confidence the international community has demonstrated in our capability to contribute to the resolution of global challenges".

One may wonder what the significance of the UNSC seat is for South Africa. South Africa received 183 of 190 votes, which is 96% support of the voting UN member states. This means South Africa enjoys a strong sense of legitimacy on the council and broad-based support of the international community. South Africa was endorsed by the African Union (AU) at its Summit in January 2018, and takes up one of the seats afforded to Africa. Therefore, South Africa enjoys the full support of the continent, and is mandated to represent its interest, which is aligned with the interest of South Africa.

This is the third time South Africa has been elected as a rotating member of the UN's top body. During its previous two terms on the council (2007/08 and 2011/12), South Africa played a leading role in deepening and formalising cooperation between the UN and the AU, specifically the UNSC and the AU Peace and Security Council. Therefore, South Africa's terms on the council were instrumental in ensuring the views of the continent were consistently heard by the broader international community, and it will continue to play this role during its current term. Over and above its focus on Africa, South Africa is well placed, based on its previous experiences, to once again make a substantive and positive contribution to the work of the UNSC in the fulfilment of its primary mandate of maintaining and promoting international peace and security. In its third term on the UNSC, guided by its own national experience of peacefully dismantling apartheid and achieving a negotiated settlement, South Africa will pursue a number of priorities, which include utilising its experience in the prioritisation of preventative diplomacy, mediation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict resolution and peacebuilding through inclusive dialogue and negotiations with the ultimate aim of supporting parties to achieve sustainable peace, national unity and reconciliation, among others.

South Africa holds the view that while we must undoubtedly aim to strengthen the tools at our disposal in addressing conflicts as they arise, we must also emphasise the preventive approach in addressing conflict and its root causes in order to prevent conflict and also to assist countries emerging from conflict from relapsing back into conflict. In this regard, South Africa firmly believes that the focus on conflict resolution should include factors such as strengthening political solutions to conflict situation, including through preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and management, mediation and peacebuilding; and above all, strengthening cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organisations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. This year marks the Centenary of the birth of President Nelson Mandela.

His legacy included ushering South Africa out of the insidious and inhumane institutional racism



South Africa's second UN Security Council tenure

BY BUSISIWE KUBHEKA



of apartheid, and strengthening the unity of the country to avoid a civil war and ensure a peaceful transition to democracy. It is in keeping with this legacy that the UN General Assembly decided to formally convene a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, a day before the start of the general debate of the Assembly on 24 September 2018. "In marking his Centenary this year, a Summit on Peace will be held on the eve of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly in September", the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, said in a statement. With regard to Palestine, South Africa has historically supported the self-determination of the Palestinian people, as it derives from our own experience and struggle against oppression.

South Africa reiterates that the only way to bring about genuine and everlasting peace between Israel and Palestine, is through having comprehensive and unconditional negotiations dealing with all final status issues, including the

issue of Jerusalem; the unrelenting expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories of Palestine; the lifting of the illegal Gaza blockade; and the continuing occupation of the Palestinian territory.

South Africa will continue to affirm the responsibility of the UNSC to act on this matter. We reaffirm the central responsibility for attaining peace is primarily in the hands of the Palestinians and Israelis. "We have kept in mind that South Africa voted in favour of Resolution 1970 in 2011 as the Libyan authorities at the time continued to kill and displace thousands of civilians while continuing to violate their human rights. We believed that the UN and the SC could not be silent nor be seen to be doing nothing in the face of such grave acts of violence committed against innocent civilians.

The price of inaction would have been much too grave, especially in light of what had happened in Rwanda in 1994. As we indicated when we voted in favour of the resolution, the resolution did not allow for any foreign occupation

or unilateral military intervention under the pretext of protection of civilians. "As previously stated, South Africa previously served two terms on the UNSC in 2007/08 and 2011/12, respectively and actively participated in the work of the council and its subsidiary bodies.

During both terms, South Africa received noticeable achievements. Building on these experiences, South Africa is well placed to once again make a substantive and positive contribution to the work of the UNSC in the fulfilment of its primary mandate of maintaining and promoting international peace and security.

South Africa strongly advocates for the comprehensive reform of the UNSC based on the Common African Position in order to address the historic injustices of the past and for the council to reflect the current composition of the UN. We wish to reiterate the importance of cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. 🌐



Welcome to the Cradle of Humanity... Welcome home!

BY GEORGINO CAMBINDA

Young diplomats from the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), BRICS Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus countries gathered in Pretoria from 25 to 29 June 2018 to participate in the Fourth BRICS Young Diplomats' Forum (YDF), hosted by South Africa under its Chairship of the BRICS Partnership in 2018. The 38 young diplomats who participated in the YDF represented South Africa, Brazil, Russia, India, China, Jamaica, Indonesia, Argentina, Rwanda, Angola, Senegal, Uganda, Gabon and the United Nations.

The BRICS YDF, an initiative introduced by Russia in 2015, provides a platform for young diplomats from the BRICS member countries (as well as countries invited by the Chair) to identify areas of practical cooperation, offer collective solutions to challenges in the practice of modern diplomacy and share their experiences as young diplomats in a dynamic and fast-changing world. The YDF is an important element of the people-to-people track within the BRICS partnership.

The Fourth BRICS YDF was held under the theme "Harnessing the Youth Demographic Dividend while Prioritising Women Across all Sectors in the 4th Industrial Revolution", which found alignment with the overall theme of South Africa's Chairship in 2018: "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution". The programme was further unpacked into thematic areas, with the centenaries of Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu also providing an opportunity for discussions on the importance of their legacies, as well as the development of common values and principles as future leaders.

Over the three-day programme, the young diplomats were addressed by several political principals, including the Minister of Science and Technology, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane; the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Makgabo Reginah Mhaule; and the Premier of Gauteng, David Makhura. Minister Kubayi-Ngubane and Deputy Minister Mhaule delivered keynote addresses elucidating South Africa's priorities within the BRICS partnership and also outlining the need for policymaking that is human-centred, inclusive and sustainable and which acknowledges that policy development is no longer the sole mandate of governments but is instead a multi-stakeholder effort.

Premier Makhura articulated the vision of Gauteng, the province that would host the 10th BRICS Summit in July, highlighting the province's focus on youth and women empowerment, as well as the creation of economic opportunities

within the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Premier also spoke specifically to issues of ethical leadership and clean governance, which was particularly apt given that the young diplomats were first and foremost public servants. Delegates were introduced to South Africa's rich history and diverse culture through lectures by Limpho Monyamane (Nelson Mandela Foundation) and Sithembile Mbete (Department of Political Science at the University of Pretoria), as well as a visit to the Apartheid Museum.

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the programme was a visit to the Cradle of Humankind, where Professor Lee Berger (Professor in Human Evolution and Public Understanding of Science, University of Witwatersrand) delivered a presentation on the 2015 discovery, by a team of scientists and researchers which he led, of a new species of human relative, named Homo naledi, the largest fossil hominin find ever made on the African continent. As the African proverb goes, "If you want to know the end, look at the beginning", and as we conclude the first decade of BRICS summits at the highest diplomatic level, the visit to the Cradle of Humankind was symbolically an important aspect of the programme, allowing for contemplation on humanity's shared origins, but also an appreciation of our common future. Through the use of advanced technologies, the Cradle of Humankind has helped trace our evolutionary path from a distant past to an undiscovered future.

The session on science, technology and innovation was enriched by presentations by Dr Bernie Fanaroff (Project Director of South Africa's Square Kilometre Array bid and current co-chair of the BRICS Working Group on Big Data), Olatoye Amosun (founder and Head of Innovation Consumatech) and a visit to the Mobile Intelligent Autonomous Systems and Modelling and Digital Science Operating Unit at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. The Development Bank of Southern Africa hosted the delegates for the session on business and the economy, during which young female entrepreneurs and representatives from the Industrial Development Corporation and Small Enterprise Development Agency shared their views on opportunities and challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and their experiences in accessing finance to fund small, medium and micro-enterprises.

There was also an acknowledgement by the young diplomats that while new technologies



would not result in diplomacy becoming obsolete, given the importance of personal interaction and networking, there was an urgent need to use technological advancements more creatively, efficiently and ethically. This would help to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, and usher in a more inclusive and prosperous future for all humankind. Rather than thinking outside the proverbial box, the Fourth Industrial Revolution requires young diplomats to deny the existence

of the box, and instead develop new paradigms for a yet unscripted future. New friendships were made and new experiences were shared, underlining the importance of the YDF and the importance of people-to-people contact. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation was humbled to play a role in supporting the growth and development of these young diplomats and future leaders who we hope will fully embrace the Ubuntu hospitality shown by South Africa. 🌐



Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World

South Africa – Membership of the United Nations Security Council 2019 – 2020





1. Ambassador Bene Mpoko, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps gives tribute to the late Ambassador Modise
2. Former president Thabo Mbeki and the First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki
3. South Africa's former President Thabo Mbeki greets Mrs Yolisa Modise on arrival. He is accompanied by Ambassador Mpoko and Mr David Makhura
4. Premier of Gauteng Province, Mr David Makhura was in attendance
5. Ambassador Lindiwe Mabuza pays tribute to the late Ambassador Billy Modise
6. Ambassador Tebogo Seokolo was in attendance
7. Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and Mrs Yolisa Modise
8. Family, friends and former colleagues gathered at O.R Tambo Building to pay their final respect to the late Ambassador Modise
9. Ambassador Thandi Rankoe
10. Minister Lindiwe Sisulu with Ambassador Modise's family
11. Dr Nkosozana Dlamini-Zuma arriving to the memorial
12. Musical item during Ambassador Modise's memorial
13. Mr Aziz Pahad

Meet the future of African fashion

BY TSELISO MATLAKENG

Every year, Design Indaba selects talented young creatives from across the country to participate in its Emerging Creatives Programme. They range from photographers, graphic designers, fashion designers and more.

Past Design Indaba Emerging Creatives who have gone on to make an impact in fashion include Laduma Ngxokolo and Katherine-Mary Pichulik. Here are more fashion creatives that will follow in their footsteps.

THANDAZANI NOFINGXANA



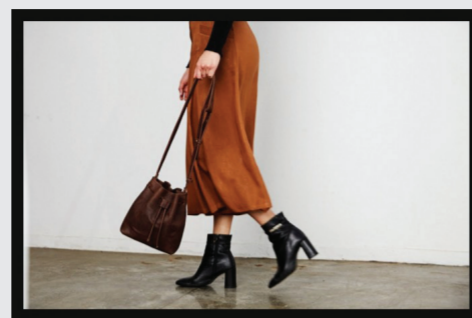
Nelson Mandela University graduate Thandazani Nofingxana has a Bachelor's degree in Fashion Visual Arts and Textile Design. The Pretoria-based designer holds nothing back when it comes to his bold range which features bright patterns. Thandazani's designs are a modern take on traditional African patterns mixed with stripes and other geometric patterns.

RA'EESAH HOOSEN



Ra'eesah studied at the University of Johannesburg, where she obtained her Honours in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture. The 21-year-old, whose line consists of scarves that were designed in hopes of countering the misconceptions that come with Muslim women wearing hijabs.

SHELLEY KLOPPER



Shelley Klopper is Stellenbosch University graduate, who has always had an eye for what's needed in the industry. Through her brand, *Verse*, Shelley produces a range of different accessories that are handmade, with no machinery use at all. Her work represents the minimalistic female who dresses not to please, but to add an extra something to her outfit. A multidisciplinary when it comes to being a designer, photographer and layout designer.

NTOMBEGUGU PETENI



This young designer has focused her entire range on black women in society who are mistreated and underrepresented. At only 22-years old, Ntombegugu has already debuted a popular fashion range, called the *Golden State of Mind*. It featured women in vibrant tones of gold and yellow with the words "stay woke" and "womxn" featuring on some of the pieces.

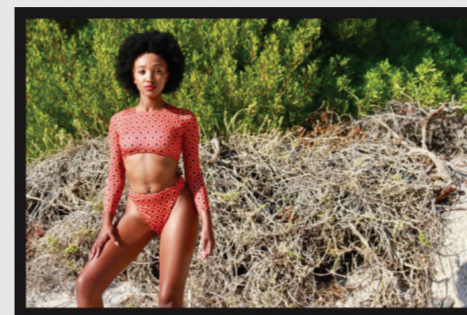
"Being a female in the fashion industry is great, because it means that I have the opportunity to contribute to the positive movement towards inclusivity, positive body image, to inspire young girls and women, to raise the African flag and to tell the African story," she said.

TSHEGOFATSO SITHOLE



This 26-year-old fashion and accessory designer graduated from the University of Johannesburg, where she completed a Fashion Design Course. Her brand, *HerRitual*, is inspired by her culture and heritage. In 2017, she showcased her Autumn/Winter collection at South African Fashion Week.

REFILOE MAPITSO THAISI



She is a University of Cape Town graduate with a Master's of Philosophy in Human Rights Law as well as a budding interest in the fashion scene. Her swimwear and active wear brand is called *Shweshwekini*, and it is all about merging contemporary style with traditional textiles and representing her African culture. She designs her clothes to fit men and women of all sizes and shapes. She says: "The brand is about embracing the rich cultural essence of the Basotho people with men and women everywhere. I use active wear as a medium of telling my cultural story through the eclectic styles and bright colours of the shweshwe prints. In doing so, I am targeting an area of apparel that is usually neglected by most black designers – swimwear".

SAKHILE CEBEKULU



Sakhile Cebekulu is a mixed media artist and fashion designer. His fashion label, *SASH*, was unveiled at AFI, Joburg Fashion Week, recently. He said in a recent *Natala* interview: "Growing up in the city, I didn't feel connected to my culture, so this collection brings urbanism together with Zulu heritage."

SHELLEY MOKOENA



This 24-year-old has already reached heights of success with her clothing line, *Prime Obsession*, which she co-founded with her colleague Kenielwe Mthoa. Shelley is not only into fashion design, but also interior design for which she studied and is pursuing a career in. *Prime Obsession* started as a thrift-wear brand and has come into its own with a recent announcement of collaboration with Country Road.

BALINI NAIDOO



The 26-year-old is a recent fashion graduate from the Durban University of Technology. When her uncle started gradually losing his eyesight, the fashion designer noticed the difficulty he faced when it came to choosing clothing and the lack of options for people like him. It made her start a fashion label with a braille identification system to assist blind people in becoming more self-reliant and independent when choosing clothes.

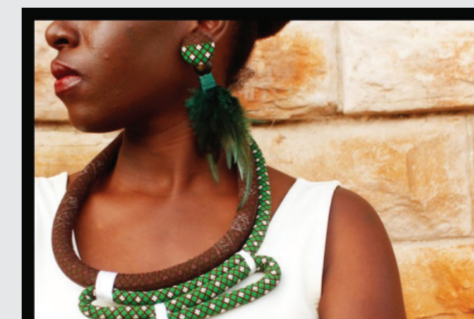
"Honesty, integrity, and charisma are words that best describe me, but strength, determination and diversity are values that are most reflected through my actions. I believe that the road ahead will open many doors of opportunities to serve humanity and impact nations," she says.

AYANDA NKOSI



Ayanda Nkosi is a Visual Arts and Design graduate. The designer's creative journey started when he was just a little boy getting inspired by his surroundings. The Johannesburg-based designer's uses fashion as a way of dealing with the preservation of African culture. For example, his pieces "RetroSleepPiece" and "RetroWalk" are made from Ityali – a traditional Xhosa blanket. Ayanda believes that as a designer, in order to have success, you need to bring originality and have good networks in the industry.

REFENTSE MOKALE



She was chosen as one of 10and5's top influencers to look out for in 2018. This Pretoria-based accessory designer is one who uses bold prints that are woven into her traditional African Aesthetics. Not only does Refentse consider herself a designer but she also sees herself as a visual artist who does incredible installation pieces. Her brand is called *Marabou Essentials* and focuses on producing quality African aesthetics with a modernised feel.

"Honesty, integrity, and charisma are words that best describe me, but strength, determination and diversity are values that are most reflected through my actions. I believe that the road ahead will open many doors of opportunities to serve humanity and impact nations"

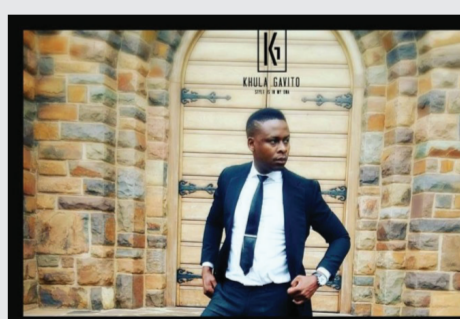
DIDINTLE NTSHUDISANE



Didintle Ntshudisane is a Johannesburg-based creative stylist who is shining light on what it's like to be a stylist in South Africa. The 22-year-old has been a part of several styling projects, but the one that got her noticed was the work she did on *Wonderverse*, which was a fashion film and photo series.

Didintle is also a stylist at popular menswear blog The Threaded Man where her love for fashion is perfectly expressed.

REFENTSE MOKALE



Johannes Sithole is an award-winning designer based in Mamelodi. His company, KhulaGavito, has been featured in men's magazine, *GQ South Africa*. Johannes is a go-getter and believes that having goals and dreams will get you far in the industry.

These are the young creatives in the fashion industry who formed part of the Fashion Indaba Emerging Creatives programme for 2018.



#TravelSmartWithDIRCO

TRAVEL SMART WITH DIRCO



INTRODUCTION

Falling sick, becoming a victim of crime or facing an emergency are traumatic events. When these problems happen abroad, they can make one's situation even more difficult and traumatic. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), through the Chief Directorate: Consular Services in Pretoria and our diplomatic and consular missions abroad, assists South African citizens who find themselves in distress and / or destitute abroad, as set out in this pamphlet.

Most South African citizens travelling for business or pleasure, or living abroad, do so without serious difficulty as they prepare themselves before their trip. This publication provides helpful hints on how to stay safe abroad and ensure that you are covered in case things go wrong. There is a lot that you can do, for example:

- acting responsibly and being aware of the risks
- registering at a South African Embassy / Consulate General abroad after arrival at your destination / or before your departure from South Africa
- taking out full travel insurance
- respecting the culture and customs of the countries you are visiting.

Take time to learn about your destination. By doing your homework before you leave, you minimise the chances of something going wrong.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOURSELF

- Take note of news reports of any problems in the area you will be / are visiting.
- Before your departure, visit our website – www.dirco.gov.za under *Foreign Relations – South African Representatives Abroad* – to ensure that you have the contact details of the (South African) Embassy, High Commission or Consulate in the country you will be visiting.
- Get full travel insurance or an overseas health plan. If you do not take out proper insurance, you will have to pay the costs of any emergency yourself, including expensive medical bills. (Your travel agent will advise you on the options available to suit your budget.)
- At least six weeks before you travel, check with your doctor or travel clinic what vaccinations and other health precautions you may need to take for your trip.
- If you have a medical condition, or are pregnant, you should seek medical advice from your physician prior to travel.
- If you have a pre-existing medical condition that could present a problem while you are travelling, it is advisable to wear a Medic Alert bracelet, containing basic vital medical information, which is essential in the case of emergency medical treatment. For further information, refer to the website of Medic Alert South Africa – www.medicalert.co.za.
- If you require medication for an existing medical condition, take a sufficient supply

of prescribed medicine with you and keep it handy. Find out if your prescription medication is legal in the countries you plan to visit. Check the website of the country you are visiting. In certain countries, over-the-counter medication is prohibited e.g. codeine is a banned substance in certain countries. Keep all medication in its original, labelled containers. Carry a copy of the doctor's prescription with you. If syringes are needed, have a medical certificate stating their use.

- Essential medication should be stored in hand luggage to ensure availability in cases where luggage is delayed, lost or stolen.
- If you have prescription spectacles, carry a copy of the prescription for easy replacement should you lose or break them.
- Make sure your passport is valid for the whole period of the travel and in good condition, and that you have all the necessary visas / permits.
- Fill in the next-of-kin details in your passport.
- Registration of South African Citizens Abroad: By registering your trip, you assist DIRCO to locate you during a declared emergency, thus verifying your status and liaising with your next-of-kin. The registration is a free, voluntary service provided by government, through DIRCO. We encourage you to consider registration as an integral part of your travel planning and security. Please visit our website: www.dirco.gov.za.
- Leave copies of your passport, insurance policy (plus the insurer's 24-hour emergency number), ticket details, your itinerary and contact details with your family and friends.

- Take enough money for your trip and some back-up funds, such as traveller's cheques or credit cards. Before you leave, find out how you can replace your traveller's cheques and credit cards if you lose them, and keep a separate note of their numbers.
- Before you travel, get a good guidebook and get to know your destination. Find out about local laws and customs, and follow them. Be aware of your personal security and take sensible precautions to protect yourself.
- Always lock luggage, not only to discourage theft but also to make sure it does not open during handling. Buy small locks to lock all external zipper pockets of bags. This will also protect you against others slipping illegal substances into your luggage. Little plastic cable ties are invaluable, as they have to be cut to be opened.
- Never carry luggage, a package or letters for someone else, unless you have been able to verify the contents completely. Pack your own baggage, fasten it securely and never leave it unattended. Keep an eye on your children's backpacks, toys and stuffed animals.
- Do not be tempted to use drugs. While illegal drugs are readily available and openly used in many countries, the fact remains that they are dangerous and illegal. When caught, you can face lengthy jail sentences and / or the death penalty.
- For information about what you are allowed to take out of the country or bring home to South Africa, contact the South African Revenue Service (SARS) – www.sars.gov.za. Note: If

you want to take out more than your travel allowance, you will need to get exchange control permission from the South African Reserve Bank.

WHO CAN WE HELP

- South African citizens and permanent residents.
- Dual nationals, provided they have entered the country in question on their South African passport and they are not in the country of the second nationality. If you are a dual national travelling on your South African passport in a third state (that is, a country of which you are not a national), we will offer you our full support. If you are travelling on the passport of your other nationality, we will direct you to that state's local Embassy, High Commission or Consulate.

WHAT CAN WE DO

We offer non-financial assistance, which is appropriate to the individual circumstances of each case, including:

- issuing emergency travel documents against the payment of the prescribed fee after verifying citizenship (in cases of lost South African passports)
- providing appropriate help (non-financial assistance) if you have suffered serious assault, are a victim of other crimes, or are in hospital
- providing details of local law commissions, interpreters, doctors and funeral parlours (without assuming responsibility for their effectiveness or costs thereto)
- contacting you as soon as possible after being informed (dependent on local circumstances) that you have been detained
- non-financial assistance to families of deceased persons
- consular notarial functions (e.g. legalisation of South African public documents for use abroad and providing Commissioner of Oaths services).

WHAT WE CANNOT DO

- Get you out of prison, prevent the local authorities from deporting you after your prison sentence or interfere in criminal or civil court proceedings.
- Help you enter a country, for example, if you do not have a visa or your passport is not valid, as we do not interfere in another

country's immigration policy or procedures.

- Give you legal advice, investigate crimes or carry out searches for missing people.
- Get you better treatment in hospital or prison than is given to local people.
- Pay any bills or give you money.
- Make travel arrangements for you, or find you work or accommodation.
- Make business arrangements on your behalf.
- Assist with transfer of funds to a national who is not in distress.
- Return a child that has been abducted by a parent / family member.

TRAVELLING ABROAD

- Always make sure that you have full travel insurance.
- Make sure your insurance is up to date, valid for the entire trip and covers everyone who is travelling.
- Carry the details of your travel insurance with you.
- It is suggested that you inform your travel agent, a friend or relative how to contact your insurer.
- Make sure that all your vaccinations are up to date and find out about any other suggested medical advice by visiting your healthcare provider. Pack enough supplies of any medication that you are taking in your hand luggage.
- Fill in the next-of-kin details in your passport.
- Register at a South African Embassy / Consulate General abroad / or before your departure from South Africa.
- Make sure you are aware of the immigration and customs controls of the country you are travelling to.
- If you are planning to drive, make sure your South African driving licence is current and valid and make sure you know the local driving laws. Be careful about who and what you carry in your vehicle, if on a driving trip abroad. As the driver, you could be held responsible for the misdeeds of passengers, even if committed without your knowledge or involvement.
- Contact the Automobile Association South Africa (AA) for further information – www.aa.co.za.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Travel can be tiring and difficult, therefore, travellers are encouraged to plan trips with particular care. In addition, travellers may have to take into

account other considerations depending on their circumstances. These travellers might include:

- women travelling alone
- children traveling alone or with only one parent
- religious pilgrims
- young travellers
- backpackers and independent travellers
- travellers with disabilities.

WHEN YOU ARE AT YOUR DESTINATION

- Only carry as much money as you need for the day. Leave the rest (jewellery and valuables), and at least one credit card, in the hotel safe if one is available. Keep copies of your passport, insurance details and other important travel documents separate from the originals.
- Have the contact details of the local South African Embassy, High Commission or Consulate for the country you are visiting.
- When you arrive, find out how to get in touch with the local emergency services in case you need them during your stay.
- Stay in regular touch with your family and friends in South Africa, especially if you are travelling alone or in a remote area.
- You must respect local laws. There are very serious penalties for breaking a law which might seem trivial to you or for doing something which may not be illegal in South Africa.
- Respect the host country's local customs and behave and dress appropriately, particularly when visiting religious sites, markets and rural communities.
- Ensure that what you are bringing back to South Africa is legal.
- Be aware of local attitudes to alcohol and know your own limit.
- Be aware of what may happen if you become involved with drugs abroad. Pack your own baggage, fasten it securely and never leave it unattended. Keep an eye on your children's backpacks, toys and stuffed animals.
- Choose your travel companions wisely. If your fellow travellers happen to be carrying, using or selling illegal drugs, you could be found guilty by association.
- If your luggage appears to have been tampered with, be cautious and rather call a customs official or a security guard and report the matter.

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS

- Treat our staff with respect.
- Follow local (your host country's) laws.
- Be prepared to pay for some types of consular assistance, for example, issuing an emergency travel certificate (we do not make a profit from these charges).

NOTE

- Like any organisation, we have a duty of care to our employees. We will not send staff into a situation where we judge that their safety could be seriously at risk.
- Many people need our support at a time of great personal distress or anxiety and our staff will always try to be sensitive and as helpful as possible.
- Please remember that staff may be dealing with a number of difficult cases at any one time.

GIVE US FEEDBACK

We welcome your views on the support we provide. They will help us to identify what we do well and what we could do better. If you have any comments on the support you received, please write to: consular@dirco.gov.za

While every care has been taken in preparing this publication, neither the South African Government nor its employees, including any member of South Africa's diplomatic and consular staff abroad, can accept liability for any injury, loss or damage arising in respect of any statement contained herein.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

For a list of South African diplomatic, consular and other representatives in foreign countries, visit www.dirco.gov.za



TOGETHER WE HAVE GIVEN 653 000 MORE HOMES WARMTH AND LIGHT

As an Old Mutual customer, you are part of our great story. Together, we are changing South Africa for the better. We invest our customers' funds into renewable energy projects that deliver great returns, while empowering people by creating jobs within their communities and bringing warmth and light to more homes.

Join us today and invest in a greater future for us all. www.oldmutual.co.za

INVESTMENTS | SAVINGS | PROTECTION

DO GREAT THINGS



OLDMUTUAL

Old Mutual is a Licensed Financial Services Provider



international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

