



# IT'S YOUR VOICE



Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat

Issue 3, 30 April 2019



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# Editor's Letter

*Dear Diplomats,*

As South Africa celebrates 25 years of democracy in 2019, we remember the countless leaders who fought tirelessly for many years to realise freedom for all South Africans. It is also important to reflect on the tremendous work that has been put in to build a new society from the ashes of apartheid, with our leaders opting for reconciliation and progress instead of retribution. With the tireless efforts of the country's past heroes in mind, it is incumbent upon all South Africans to look to the future and rise to work towards one that is better. Everyone has a role to play in building a brighter tomorrow because together we must build on our achievements and work even harder to tackle poverty, inequality and unemployment. Over the next 25 years, we must, together, continue to strengthen our democracy and build an inclusive economy.

With April being Freedom Month, DIRCO participated in the commemoration of this significant milestone in South Africa's developing democracy. Our missions abroad hosted events throughout the month to observe this important day in our history. Coincidentally, all South African embassies and consulates were host to the Independent Electoral Commission's (IEC) voting stations abroad. What a fitting decision it was to schedule special elections for South African citizens living and working abroad on 27 April 2019, Freedom Day. It was exactly 25 years since the very first democratic elections in the country, where millions of South Africans, eligible to vote, lined the streets of many a city or town to make their historic mark, and exercise their right to cast their votes. DIRCO colleagues across the globe assisted the IEC as election officials. A big thank you to everyone who worked hard to ensure a successful voting process for South Africans abroad.

DIRCO entered the month to unfortunate reports of violent attacks against foreign nationals in parts of the country. Swift action was required from the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, who engaged her counterparts at the South African Police Service and the Department of Home Affairs, Ministers Bheki Cele and Siyabonga Cwele, respectively. The Heads of African Missions in particular were invited to the OR Tambo Building to collaborate with the South African Government on a coordinated plan of action to resolve these attacks. As one of the outcomes of the meetings between the various stakeholders, a working group will be established to take this matter further. Masotsha Mnguni, from the Africa Desk reflects on these important meetings.



The Media Liaison team hosted a memorable and informative Familiarisation Programme for editors and senior journalists from the Indian Ocean Rim Association, showcasing South Africa's contribution to the Ocean Economy as current Chair of the organisation. Busisiwe Kubheka tells us about the journey throughout the week-long engagement.

April has also been a full month of events for the DIRCO leadership, as they took the department's mandate and work out to the broader South African public this Freedom Month. Most notable being Minister Sisulu's Public Participation Programme (PPP) at the South African Institute of International Affairs, Wits University, where she met the young and intelligent Sibusiso Mazomba, a learner at Athlone Boy's High School who was subsequently invited to the engagement with African Heads of Mission about the attacks on foreign nationals.

Deputy Minister Luwellyn Landers delivered a public lecture on South Africa's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) tenure, which took place in Durban. Deputy Minister Reginah Mhaule hosted a Youth Outreach Programme at Hebron Madibeng Local Municipality, North West. Director-General Kgabo Mahoi hosted a farewell event for the departing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ghormal Malhan, as he concluded his tenure in South Africa.

It has been a month full of activity – from election preparations and voting abroad, PPPs, South Africa's participation at the UNSC, meetings with foreign representatives and interviews on Ubuntu Radio. Thank you to those who have shared their activities in It's Your Voice!

**MM**

**Mathapelo Monaisa**

# SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF FREEDOM

Freedom Day is observed on 27 April each year to mark the date in 1994 of the first election in which all South Africans were able to participate.

This national day is the culmination of Freedom Month which is an opportunity for South Africans to strengthen solidarity, express pride in our national identity and promote social cohesion.

President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the national celebrations at the Miki Yili Stadium in Makhanda in the Eastern Cape.





Many South Africans sacrificed their lives so that we can enjoy a strong and vibrant democracy which allows everyone, irrespective of race, colour, gender or religion to make their voice heard through voting



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# POST OFFICE LAUNCHES 25 YEARS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

1994-2019

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
**25**  
**years**  
democracy



# DEPUTY MINISTERS EMBARK ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAMMES

Public Participation Programmes form part of government's ongoing efforts to connect directly with communities in order to enable and facilitate public participation.



Deputy Minister Reginah Mhaule, on Friday, 26 April 2019 hosted a Youth Outreach Programme at Hebron Madibeng Local Municipality, North West.

The programme aimed to expose the locals to opportunities offered by DIRCO and created a platform for engagement on the work of the department.



Deputy Minister Luwellyn Landers, delivered a public lecture on South Africa's UN Security Council tenure, Friday, 5 April 2019, Durban.

The event was aimed at publicising and enhancing dialogue about the country's foreign policy objectives and priorities.



## **MINISTER SISULU AND CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA HAND OVER RELIEF SUPPLIES TO KZN FLOOD VICTIMS**

Minister Lindiwe Sisulu has conveyed her gratitude to the Chinese Government for the donation of much-needed disaster-relief supplies to the victims of floods in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

The Chinese Embassy in South Africa recently informed the Department of International Relations and Cooperation that it had mobilised the Chinese business community in South Africa to assist South Africans who had been affected by recent floods in the two provinces.

The disaster-relief supplies, estimated at R1 million, were handed over to the KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nomusa Dube-Ncube on 26 April 2019. The supplies included clothes, food and blankets.

“We are grateful to the Chinese community for their positive response to what has been experienced by our people, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal. Losing so many lives in such a short period of time has shocked the entire nation. Donations like these will go a long way in responding to the urgent needs of those who are affected by the floods,” said Minister Sisulu.



#DIRCOMonthlyMediaBriefing  
30 April 2019





# 2019 Dr Phyllis Naidoo Memorial Lecture by Minister Lindiwe Sisulu

**#DIRCOPublicLecture**

*Key International Relations issues facing South Africa*

## **Keynote speaker:**

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu

## **Topic:**

Key International Relations issues facing South Africa

**Date:** Friday, 12 April 2019

**Time:** 18:00

**Venue:** Senate Chamber, Westville Campus,  
University of KwaZulu-Natal

*Brought to you by the University of Kwazulu-Natal and the Gandhi-Luthuli Documentation Centre in partnership with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.*



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL**  
INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

## MINISTER LINDIWE SISULU DELIVERED KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE 2019 DR PHYLLIS NAIDOO MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, on Friday, 12 April 2019, delivered the keynote address at the 2019 Dr Phyllis Naidoo Annual Memorial Lecture at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The Minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister Luwellyn Landers and several senior officials of the department.

The Minister's focused on how South Africa could use its non-permanent seat at the UNSC to highlight the plight of women in Middle East and Western Sahara. Dr Naidoo, a renowned author and recipient of the Order of Luthuli in Silver, was one of the activists who played a critical role towards a democratic and free South Africa. ▶





# PUBLIC LECTURE BY MINISTER LINDIWE SISULU

#DIRCOPublicLecture

*Representing Africa in the World:  
Setting priorities for South Africa's Foreign Policy*



The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) are hosting an address by Minister Lindiwe Sisulu.

**Date:** Wednesday, 3 April 2019  
**Venue:** SAIIA Head Office,  
Wits University, Johannesburg  
**Time:** 17:30 for 18:00

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## MINISTER LINDIWE SISULU ADDRESSES SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS PRIORITIES AT WITS UNIVERSITY LECTURE

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, addressed members of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) on South African foreign priorities and key international events. The event took place at the SAIIA Head Office, Wits University, Johannesburg on 3 April 2019.

These included South Africa's successful chairship of BRICS, the IBSA grouping and FOCAC. In January 2019, South Africa assumed a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the third time. In 2020, South Africa will assume Chairship of the African Union.



### Continuing the Legacy:

### Working for a Just and Peaceful World

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



Friday 05 April 2019, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu and Minister of Police, Mr Bheki Cele will convene a second meeting with the African Diplomatic Community. [#WeAreAfrica](#)



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# MINISTER SISULU BRIEFS HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS REPRESENTING MAINLY AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

*by Masotsha Mnguni*



Following reports of attacks on foreign nationals from the African continent, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, called urgent meetings to brief the Heads of Mission, representing mainly African countries in South Africa. The briefings took place on 1 and 5 April 2019 at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation's Tambo Building in Pretoria.

The purpose of the briefing sessions was to provide the Heads of Mission with the preliminary facts on the unfortunate attacks on foreign nationals from the continent in the week 24 to 30 March 2019, that were dubbed as "xenophobic attacks" in the mainstream and social media.

The meetings also focussed on how the Heads of Mission and the South African Government could work with communities and all stakeholders to foster integration in communities. The briefings further served as an opportunity for the South African Government to reiterate its outright condemnation of any form of xenophobia as well as repeat its commitment to continental unity and solidarity consistent with the ideals of Pan-Africanism and Ubuntu.

Furthermore, the South African Police Service (SAPS) gave a presentation to the Diplomatic Corps on the root causes of perceived anti-foreigner sentiment in South Africa, which also highlighted the steps taken by the South African Government to deal with this matter and the proposed areas of mutual cooperation.

In addition to Minister Sisulu, also present in the meetings were the Minister of Police, Gen. B Cele; the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr S Cwele; the Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr KE Mahoi; the top leadership of the SAPS, led by the National Commissioner of Police, General K Sitole; the Secretary of Defence, Dr S Gulube; Mr T Mavuso, Acting Director-General: Department of Home Affairs (DHA); Mr J Mackay, Deputy Director-General: Immigration, DHA; the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador B M'Poko; as well as representatives of the International Organisation for Migration and senior managers in the department. ►

Following fruitful deliberations by all parties concerned, one of the key outcomes of the discussions was that a task team will be established to manage this matter, with clear Terms of Reference comprising representatives from government and the Diplomatic Corps.

The unfortunate events of 24 to 30 March 2019 have as a consequence led some uninformed observers, who failed to understand the complexities behind the attacks, to portray the South African society as xenophobic and secondly that question South Africa's Pan-African credentials. This exposes the ignorance that the naysayers have of South Africa's constitutional obligations and rich Pan-African traditions!

This seeks to present arguments to demonstrate that South Africa cannot be described as xenophobic. To prove this, the article will single out two distinct factors that negate this fallacious assumption, namely South Africa's constitutional obligations and its Pan-African heritage buttressed on the Ubuntu moral value system.

## **A Categorical Imperative: Our Constitutional Obligations**

In his seminal work, "The Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals", the renowned German philosopher Immanuel Kant spoke of the Categorical Imperative as the fundamental law of morality/ethics. In terms of the Categorical Imperative, only actions motivated by a sense of duty count as morally worthy. Our duty therefore according to Kant is to follow the moral law, and we act out of respect for duty when we do so. The year 2019 marks 25 years since the birth of democracy in South Africa following more than 350 years of relentless struggle by the indigenous oppressed people of South Africa against foreign conquest expressed in the form of colonialism and its sibling, apartheid.

These more than three centuries of struggle saw our people being dispossessed of the land of their ancestors, enslaved, economically exploited, brutally murdered, imprisoned and legally humiliated by the segregationist laws of apartheid. This for daring to stand up to injustices meted out by those who believed that might gave them the right of conquest over fellow human beings.

While mindful of the reality that much still needs to be done to rid our country of the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, only a very short-sighted person will argue against the fact that South Africa today is a much more better place to live in than it was 25 years ago. ....

The embodiment of this remarkably transformed South Africa is our lodestar document, the South African Constitution, the result of detailed and inclusive negotiations that were carried out with an acute awareness of the injustices of the country's non-democratic past. ►





The South African Constitution highlights that the post-apartheid South African State is founded on the following values, among others: “Human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms”.

Crucially, the South African Constitution emphasises in its Founding Provisions that, “This Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic; law or conduct inconsistent with it is invalid, and the obligations imposed by it must be fulfilled”.

As can be deduced from the above, South Africa’s supreme law also places certain obligations or duties on the country to champion certain values and principles.

It can thus be argued that South Africa’s long painful struggle against injustice and many forms of discrimination brought about by colonialism and its by product, apartheid, set up a democratic South Africa as an ideal candidate to champion emancipatory global causes. Indeed, the internationally revered South African Constitution, by no means a perfect document, places obligations on South Africa to fulfil this “destiny”. With the foregoing in mind, the South African Constitution highlights that the post-apartheid South African State is founded on the following values:

- i. Human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms;
- ii. Non-racialism and non-sexism;
- iii. Supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law; and
- iv. Universal adult suffrage, a national common voters roll, regular elections and a multi-party system of democratic government, to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness” (Constitution of RSA 1996, Chapter 1 Founding Provisions, 1 (a-d): p.3)

Crucially, the South African Constitution emphasises in its Founding Provisions that, “This Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic; law or conduct inconsistent with it is invalid, and the obligations imposed by it must be fulfilled” (Constitution of RSA 1996, Chapter 1, Founding Provisions, 2: 3)

As can be deduced from the above, South Africa’s supreme law also places certain obligations on the country to champion certain values, which at times may not be consistent with what South Africa’s important political and economic partners believe in, for example respect for: human rights, media freedom, gender equality, freedom of worship and the rights of the LGBTI + community, among others.

### **An Unwavering Commitment to Pan Africanism and Ubuntu**

On 5 April 1906, Pixley ka Isaka Seme, one of the South Africa’s greatest intellectuals and founder member of Africa’s oldest surviving liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC), delivered a memorable speech at the University of Columbia in New York in the United States of America. So profound was this speech that it won Seme the university’s highest award, the George William Curtis Medal for oration, after he spoke on the subject of “The Regeneration of Africa”.

On this day, Seme had occasion to underscore, among others, that:

*“The African people, although not a strictly homogenous race, possess a common fundamental sentiment which is everywhere manifest, crystallising itself into one common controlling idea” (Seme, 1906) ►*

The seminal speech by Seme confirmed that those freedom-loving South Africans who took up the cause to engage in the national liberation struggle against imperialism, colonialism and its latter-day ugly sibling apartheid, recognised that their struggle was both internationalist and most importantly Pan-African in inspiration.

It was perhaps such principles that inspired another great South African, Enoch Sontonga, to compose the hymn “Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika” (God Bless Africa).

Before being incorporated into South Africa’s National Anthem post-1994, the song became the official anthem for the ANC during the apartheid era and was a symbol of the anti-apartheid movement. In other African countries throughout southern Africa such as Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the song was sung as part of the anti-colonial movements and for periods of time adopted as the National Anthem by these countries after they gained their independence.

These rich traditions of Pan-Africanism continued after the dawn of democracy in South Africa in 1994, following the defeat of apartheid. One such consequence would be the declaration by the South African Government that the African continent would be the centre of her foreign policy.

This important pronouncement signalled that South Africa saw her destiny as inextricably linked to that of the continent. In this regard, post-1994 South Africa has worked tirelessly to champion the African Agenda through the promotion of peace and security, deepening of democracy and good governance, promoting socio-economic development and advancing regional and continental integration, among others.

It is also not surprising that South Africa has opted for a more ethical and Ubuntu-based diplomacy, prioritising human rights and premising its Africa foreign policy outlook on the Ubuntu-influenced dictum that it would not be in its long-term interest to be an “island of prosperity surrounded by a sea of poverty”. Munyaka and Mothlabi support this stance by arguing that, “the value and dignity of persons is best realised in relationships with others. One cannot be a human being alone, only in community” (Munyaka and Mothlabi, 2009: 68).

Munyaka and Mothlabi further emphasise that: “The sense of belonging is necessary, important and central in Ubuntu. One belongs or finds community through being a neighbour, friend, relative, clansman, a member of a tribe etc.” (Ibid. 68).

By way of conclusion, it is perhaps owing to this outlook that South Africa has invested her scarce resources in pursuit of her vision of an African continent which is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united and which contributes to a world that is just and equitable.

**Masotsha Mnguni is attached to the Branch: Africa in the Department. The views expressed in this article are his and not of the Branch: Africa.**



**Embassy and Media Briefing convened by Ministers Sisulu, Cele and Cwele, 05 April 2019**



At the DIRCO Public Lecture held at SAIIA on 03 April, Sibusiso Mazomba, a learner from Athlone Boys High School posed a poignant question to Minister Lindiwe Sisulu regarding violent incidents involving foreign nationals in SA. Minister invited him to the #WeAreAfrica briefing. After the briefing, collectively, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, Home Affairs Minister Siyabonga Cwele, & SA Police Service Minister Gen. Bheki Cele held a media briefing where they assured Embassies that SA wants to work together with her African community to begin the process of addressing the violence.



## DEPUTY MINISTER LANDERS HOSTS GRULAC LUNCHEON

On 2 April 2019, Deputy Minister Luwellyn Landers delivered remarks on the occasion of the GRULAC luncheon hosted at DIRCO. GRULAC stands for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The relations between South Africa and the GRULAC Group, are etched in historical friendship, solidarity and struggle and informed by the common belief in human rights and justice, have increased since the establishment of our formal diplomatic relations with the respective GRULAC member countries.

Speaking at the event Deputy Minister Landers said: “We must now boldly re-double our efforts in increasing trade between South Africa and Latin America and South Africa and the Caribbean to realise the potential of our respective countries. Our efforts should better the lives of our people through bilateral co-operation in mutually beneficial fields.

The Deputy Minister expressed South Africa’s sincere gratitude to the GRULAC member countries for their contribution to building South Africa’s democracy. He paid tribute to the role that Cuba played in both the fight against apartheid and in helping to build our democracy since 1994, despite their own challenges.



## **DG MAHOAI HOSTS FAREWELL FUNCTION FOR DEPARTING AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

On 27 April 2018, International Relations and Cooperation Director-General, Kgabo Mahoai, hosted an official farewell for the departing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ghorm al Malhan, after the conclusion of his successful tour of duty.

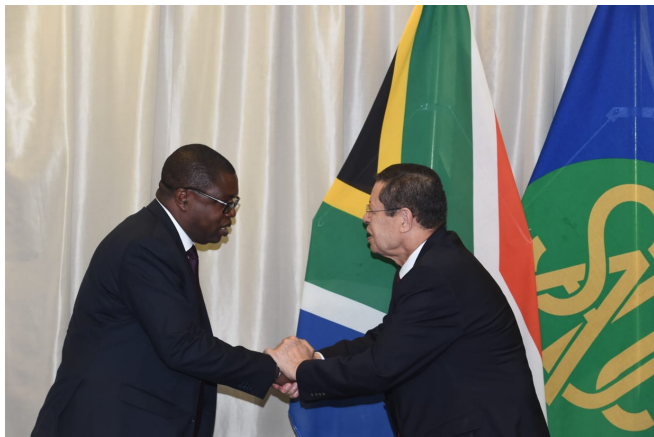


# #SAElections2019

## DEPUTY MINISTER LANDERS MEETS SADC ELECTION OBSERVERS

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Luwellyn Landers, received the delegation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) on 30 April 2019. The SEOM was in South Africa to observe the South African general elections scheduled for 8 May 2019.

The delegation was led by Joseph Malanji, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia and Head of the SADC SEOM to the Republic of South Africa.



# VOTING AT SA MISSIONS AND HIGH COMMISSIONS, 27 APRIL 2019



**Singapore**



**Russia**



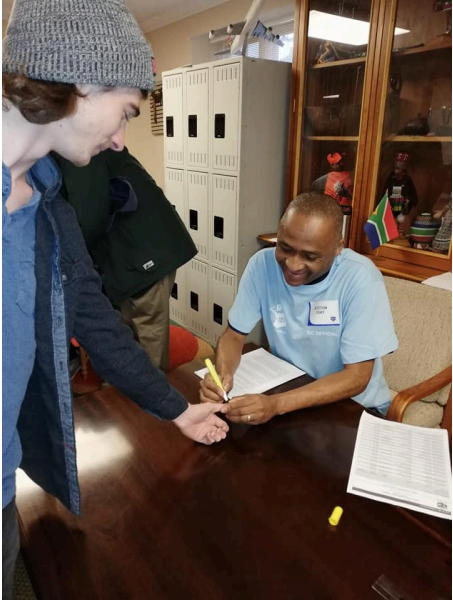
**Nigeria**



**Portugal**



**Algeria**



**Ottawa**

# BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI) A WIN-WIN FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

While China's President Xi Jinping is showcasing its Belt and Road Initiative to world leaders in Beijing, a seminar was held at the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria on 25 April 2019 to launch two books on the subject and debate South Africa's involvement in the project.

The BRI has received the support of many countries across the world. China has signed 174 cooperation documents on the initiative with 126 countries to date and invested more than US\$90 billion (R1.3 trillion) in related projects.

In his address to the local seminar, China's Ambassador to South Africa, Lin Songtian, reiterated President Xi's statements that the goal of the initiative was to achieve win-win cooperation for common development globally, through the building of connectivity in policy, infrastructure, trade, finance and people-to-people exchange.

The Chinese Embassy event was supported by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, and Deputy Director-General responsible for Asia and the Middle East, Ambassador Anil Sooklal, who was also on the panel of speakers, along with several South African think-tanks and academics.





# **SOUTH AFRICA CALLS FOR A UNITED UN SECURITY COUNCIL IN DEALING WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

South Africa has called on members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to work in concert to comprehensively deal with violence against women, which is one of the most pervasive human rights violations during times of conflict. South Africa has emphasised the country's belief that violence against women is a serious crime that warrants more urgent and decisive action by the international community.

The country statement was delivered on 23 April 2019 during the open debate on Women, Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, by the Deputy Director-General for Global Governance Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi.

“The debate on Women, Peace and Security is also expected to be a topical subject during South Africa's Presidency of the UNSC in October 2019 in line with South Africa's priorities during its term as an elected member of the Council.





UN Security Council chamber

# MINISTER SISULU RECEIVES FOREIGN POLICY REVIEW REPORT



MINISTRY  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Media briefing on the  
Ministerial Panel Report

**PRESENTED BY MR AZIZ PAHAD  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE REVIEW PANEL**

**17 APRIL 2019**

**FOREIGN POLICY REVIEW:**

*a strategic reflection and critical appraisal of the  
orientation and implementation of South Africa's  
foreign policy*

**A BETTER SOUTH AFRICA, A BETTER AFRICA AND A BETTER WORLD**

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, on 17 April 2019 received the final report from the Ministerial Review Panel on its review of South Africa's foreign policy.

Minister Sisulu appointed the Review Panel in 2018 to make an in-depth evaluation of the country's foreign policies, including reviewing the strengths, weaknesses and possible gaps of the existing policies as well as their implementation.



## INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR MXOLISI NKOSI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND CONTINENTAL AGENDA

**Tali Munzhedzi:** How will the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) benefit South Africa and the continent?

**Ambassador Nkosi:** Once implemented, the AfCFTA will be a game changer in terms of changing the colonial and post-colonial political economy. From one where the continent was a mere supplier of raw materials and commodities to an economy that produces finished products. It will boost industrialisation and also contribute to the diversification of many of our economies linking Africa to global value chains, thereby ensuring a meaningful integration of Africa into the global economy. It will attract investment into the continent as we embark on an ambitious programme of infrastructure development.

**Tali Munzhedzi:** Why is the Chairship of the African Union (AU) in 2020 pivotal for South Africa's multilateral agenda?

**Ambassador Nkosi:** The Chairship of the AU is central to South Africa's foreign policy objectives. It comes at an opportune time; it gives us much stronger clout and much more visibility than ever before. In the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) when we speak, we will also speak on behalf of Africa. We are the only African country in the G20 Group, when we speak, we speak with a much stronger voice than ever before as a representative, as a spokesperson and champion of Africa's interest. South Africa is the only African country in BRICS. This position has enhanced in a way our positions and our standing in global politics and we use it to the advantage of Africa.

**Tali Munzhedzi:** Does South Africa have the resources to achieve its objective given the multitude of responsibilities of leading the continent on that level?

**Ambassador Nkosi:** Yes, I think we have the resources of fulfil this mandate of leading the continent. It is not the first time that we are being accorded the responsibility of chairing the AU at a critical stage. South Africa was also Chair when the organisation was transitioning from the former Organisation of African Unity to the AU. That was a seminal moment because we had to preside over the development of new norms, values, standards and a vision. That was when we chaired the AU for the first time in 2002. That was followed by our responsibility in the UNSC from 2007 to 2008 and the second stint from 2011 to 2012. So, we have experience of occupying these important positions.



**Tali Munzhedzi:** How will South Africa position itself to ensure a stronger AU, where the organisation actually enhances the domestic affairs of fellow African countries?

**Ambassador Nkosi:** The Constitutive Act of the African Union guides the relationship between the continental body and its member states. Non-interference into the domestic affairs of AU members was part of an OAU principle contained in its charter. If you look fast-forward to the AU Constitutive Act, in as much as it recognises the fundamental importance of the principle of non-interference, it also introduces the principle of non-indifference. In other words, the AU as a continental body, cannot simply be indifferent when it realises that there are major problems taking place in a particular member state; whether there is genocide, serious crimes against humanity and violation of human rights. The AU now is empowered by the Constitutive Act to intervene in a member state if it deems that there are serious crimes unfolding in that particular member state. The AU is the only continental original body that has inscribed such a progressive principle in its Constitutive Act

# SOUTH AFRICA HOSTS THE SECOND IORA FAMILIARISATION VISIT

*by Busisiwe Kubheka*

**Day 1 – 08 APRIL 2019**



South Africa assumed the Chairship of IORA in October 2017 and will continue in the position until the 19th Council of Minister's meeting in 2019 when the United Arab Emirates will take over as chair. IORA is a dynamic inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 21 Member States and 7 Dialogue partners.

IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually. A committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meets twice a year to progress IORA's agenda and consider recommendations by Working Groups and forums of officials, business and academics to implement policies and projects to improve the lives of people within the Indian Ocean Member States.

In October 2018, South Africa hosted a successful 18th IORA Council of Minister's meeting chaired by Minister of DIRCO, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and the 20th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Official chaired by Ambassador Sooklal in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province whose shores are washed by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean.

As current Chair of IORA, South Africa has this year hosted the second Familiarisation visit for Media Practitioners and Journalists from IORA Member States, in Durban. Amongst the 11 Journalists that came to tour this beautiful country is Mr Shahidul Islamm Chowdhury from Bangladesh, Mr Al-Hamdi Abdillah Hamdi from Comoros, Mr Siddhant Sibbal from India, Ms Riva Dessthanian Suastha from Indonesia, Mr Azim Omidikhoolaki from Iran, Ms Regina Manyara from Kenya, Mr Miuvaan Mohamed from Maldives, Ms Joena Meme from Seychelles, Mr Ruksith Sitthitool from Thailand, Ms Anurangi Singh from Sri Lanka and Mr Samer Abdullah Mohammed Al-Salahi from Yemen.

Envious to know what the programme was like? In what follows, are the day to day proceedings of the Familiarisation programme. Make coffee, sit back and relax as you indulge.

Facilitated by Mr Nelson Kgwete, Director: Media Liaison at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), the Familiarisation visit for Media Practitioners and Journalists from IORA Member States was a five day tour that highlighted the country's strengths, performance and competitiveness as an investment destination of choice. The senior Journalists and Media Practitioners from the IORA States were welcomed to South Africa with a cocktail reception hosted by the Director-General of DIRCO, Mr Kgabo Mahoi, at DIRCO's OR Tambo Building in Pretoria. The Director-General officially delivered his welcome remarks to make the Journalists feel at home. "I hope that your visit to places that have great historical significance to South Africans, will provide you with a sense of who we are and what our aspirations as a country are", said DG Mahoi.



**DAY 2 – 09 APRIL 2019**

The Journalists took a 55 minutes drive from Pretoria to Brand South Africa in the "City of Gold" – Johannesburg. The many different messages being sent out by various sources do very little to build the country's brand, and at times the world is unsure about what to think of South Africa. Brand South Africa was established in August 2002 to help create a positive and compelling brand image for South Africa. Brand South Africa's main objective is the marketing of South Africa through the Brand South Africa campaign. The delegation of Senior Journalists and Media Personnel were warmly welcomed by the General Manager for Global Markets at Brand SA who explained the mandate of Brand SA. Amongst other Brand SA officials, Mr Tshepiso Malele, Marketing Manager for Brand SA took the team through the Nation Brand Masterclass, noting that a brand is a set of expectations, memories, stories and relationships that, taken together, account for consumer's decision to choose one service over another. Dr Petrus de Kock, GM for Research for SA took the team through the Nation Brand performance indicators, stating that a brand should be built from inside out



### The Nelson Mandela Foundation Centre of Memory

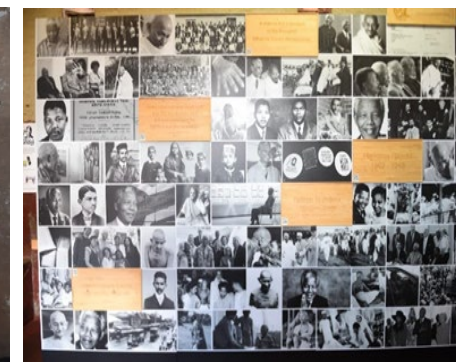
After the very informative & interesting presentations at Brand SA, the team proceeded to the Nelson Mandela Foundation Centre of memory, a non-profit organisation established in 1999 to support Nelson Mandela's ongoing engagement in worthy causes on his retirement as President of South Africa. The Nelson Mandela Foundation is a committed facilitator of his living legacy; and is mandated to promote his lifelong vision of freedom and equality for all. Situated at the Nelson Mandela Foundation Centre of memory is Nelson Mandela's office which he used at the Nelson Mandela Foundation Centre of memory. Mr Nelson Mandela donated everything in his office to the foundation when he left

### The Constitutional Hill

The IORA Familiarisation visit allowed the journalists to not only tour our beautiful land, but to also learn more about our history and where we come from. The delegation visited the Constitutional Hill, a living museum that tells the story of South Africa's journey to democracy. The site is a former prison and military fort that bears testament to South Africa's turbulent past and, today, is home to the country's Constitutional Court, which endorses the rights of all citizens. There is no other site of incarceration in South Africa that imprisoned the sheer number of world-renowned men and women as those held within the walls of Constitution Hill's Old Fort, Women's Jail and Number Four. Nelson Mandela. Mahatma Gandhi, Joe Slovo, Albertina Sisulu, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Fatima Meer all served time here. But the precinct also confined tens of thousands of ordinary people during its 100-year history: men and women of all races, creeds, ages and political agendas; children too; the everyman and the elite. In this way, the history of every South African lives here.



The first maximum prison in SA: the Constitutional Hill. This is a former prison & military fort that bears testament to SA's turbulent past &, today, is home to SA's Constitutional Court, which endorses the rights of all citizens.



### DAY 3: DUBE TRADE PORT

On day 3 of the IORA Familiarisation programme, the team visited the Dube Trade Port, a business entity of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government charged with the responsibility to develop the province's biggest infrastructural project.

The Dube Trade Port is a world-class development offering globally integrated logistics & manufacturing infrastructure, & support for a range of airport-related activities. The Trade Port has a mini-greenhouse displaying different phases of cucumber, which demonstrates the growing process inside the AgriZone's state-of-the-art greenhouse system.

The Dube Trade Port produces 40 tons of quality cucumbers per week, and also has a program called Water Demand Management and Conservation Plan (WDM & CP), where the Trade Port collects rainwater, purifies dirty water & uses it to infiltrate gardens, toilets, & to meet other industry requirements available at Dube Trade Port.



### DAY 4: DURBAN EXHIBITION CENTER

Durban Exhibition Centre is an extremely popular, multi-purpose venue offering a range of venue options at excellent value-for-money.



### DAY 5: RICHARDS BAY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone is an industrial business & trade hub that attracts export-orientated investment in what is one of the leading Special Economic Zones. Linked to the international deep-water port of Richard's Bay and with prime rail and road access, the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone is indeed the portal to the world. Upon arrival, the delegates were welcomed by Ms Simangele Ngcobo, Acting CEO of the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone.

The Delegation then moved to the Sizabantu pipe system where they learnt how water pipes are made. The Sizabantu pipe system makes pipe that is immune to corrosion & to natural chemical substances, as well as to aggression from micro and macro organisms.



# RADIO FREEDOM EQUIPMENT REPATRIATED FROM MADAGASCAR

*by Sindiswa Magagula*

The South African Embassy in Madagascar hosted the Repatriation Ceremony of Radio Freedom Equipment on 17 April 2019. This historic event headlined legendary musicians such as the South African, Blondie Makhene, and the Malagasy Rossy's Band to celebrate the rich historical ties between South Africa and Madagascar.

A South African delegation from the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), headed by the Director-General, Vusi Mkhize, and consisting of Radio Freedom stalwarts, CEOs from the South African Heritage Agency, National Film and Video Foundation, Freedom Park, media officials from GCIS and the SABC attended. The Malagasy people, led by the Minister of Communication and Culture, came in numbers to commemorate this historical moment in the 25 years of our democracy.

The evening was full of festivities, reminiscing by the stalwarts who were stationed in Madagascar during the days of Radio Freedom, reflecting on the cordial relations between the two countries while highlighting the opportunities that exist to address socio-economic challenges faced by the two nations.



*South African Ambassador in Madagascar, Ambassador Dlomo with the Radio Freedom staff members*

Radio Freedom operated in Madagascar from 1979 to 1993 and was established to mobilise the support for the liberation of South Africa. Former President Didier Ratsiraka authorised the establishment of Radio Freedom in Madagascar to support the African National Congress in the fight against the apartheid government.

The project of repatriating the Radio Freedom equipment commenced four years ago when the revered Malagasy musician, Rossy, approached the Embassy and wanted to donate the equipment that were left to him by the South African journalists in 1993. He believed it was part of the South African heritage that needed to be kept in the museum for generations to come. The project was a collaboration between the Embassy, DAC and its institutions and the Ministry of Communication and Culture.

The Repatriation Ceremony was followed by the Handover Ceremony, held at Freedom Park on 24 April 2019. These two events coincided with the bestowing of the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo by President Cyril Ramaphosa to former President Ratsiraka for his contribution to the liberation of South Africa.





# AMBASSADOR ZINDZISWA MANDELA ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CROSSING BORDERS, IN HONOUR OF MAMA WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA

On 8 March 2019 at Ubuntu House in Copenhagen, Ambassador Zindziswa Mandela addressed an International Women's Day event in partnership with Crossing Borders, in honor of her mother, Mama Winnie Mdikizela-Mandela.

"I am humbled by this gesture to so boldly honour my mother whose role is often overlooked when my father is revered and celebrated the world over.

"My mother's love for her people was deep and unconditional: always the first to arrive in a crisis situation on the ground without media or police protection. Her love knew no borders and extended from Cape to Cairo, even embracing the Diaspora. "During the violent clashes that occurred between foreign nationals and South Africans, she would often be the first to arrive, standing between the warring factions, determined not to leave until she had brought about calm and only leave when she had ensured that people under attack left peacefully, under the protection of the authorities. It became my way of life when I would be at work or at home and out of the blue get a call with a greeting like this: "Where are you darling, we need to go to Meadowlands. Our people need us." This would be followed by a list of instructions about which Minister, MEC or medic to call.



"We all remember how Mama stood between protesting students and the heavily armed riot police during what has become known as June 16. We remember how she would haul and free protestors out of police vans, fearless and determined. As children, my sister and I saw most of her behind bars than at home; we were at boarding school in Swaziland at ages 5 and 6 years. On the day that we returned home for the holidays, the security branch would ensure that they locked her up that same morning and we would return to an empty home.

"Our kitchen was not only where we would cook and share meals, it became a war room, a strategic space where plots to overthrow the apartheid government were made; where Mbongeni Ngema discussed the making of Sarafina; where I first laid eyes on the young revolutionaries Tsietsi Mashinini and Khotso Seathlolo ; where we would tune into Radio Freedom with a hunger to hear the voices of Duma Nokwe and the leadership in exile. ▶

“Mama as a Freedom Fighter was incarcerated in apartheid prisons for many years on and off. She was tortured, kept in solitary confinement, banned, kept under house arrest and continuously harassed and monitored by the Security Police. They tried to weaken her strength and spirit and if her perpetrators had succeeded, we would not have remembered the imprisoned Nelson Mandela.

“The apartheid government confined her to a refugee camp of oppression with all freedoms denied and she resisted. Mama Winnie's legacy is one of crossing many borders : the borders of imprisonment and oppression, the borders of injustice, the borders of hatred and the violation of Human Rights.

“As a woman, in the manner that her legacy is overlooked, questioned and tarnished: we all need to help her cross that border of patriarchy. It is ironic when I am referred to as Madiba's daughter with no mention of my mother. It is ironic that in women's dialogues and conferences, where we fight fiercely for our recognition as equals, we elevate Madiba and bury her legacy.

“Why are we so afraid of celebrating one of our own? Are we stuck in a patriarchal refugee camp and ready to settle there? Why do we feed into the Madiba Saint and Winnie Sinner narrative when she has been vindicated off so many allegations?

“I would like to thank Crossing Borders for drying our tears for we cannot carry the burden of this loss alone. People say that time heals but that is not so; one simply learns to live with the pain for there are daily reminders in things that we see, sounds that we hear and in haunting fragrances. “For a long time, after my mother's passing, it was very difficult to watch the news for I see her everywhere in the suffering

of my people and I know that where there is tragedy, grief, violence, hunger – she would have been there.

I therefore urge you, in the spirit of Ubuntu which means “I am because we are” and in keeping with Mama Winnie's legacy of unconditional love and unwavering service to others, be the change that you want to see in this world, as The Mahatma says.

“Let us all cross our borders of ignorance and create constructive spaces within which to elevate one another in a sisterhood that will be an agency for real change.



# FREEDOM DAY & THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S DEMOCRACY CELEBRATED IN RABAT

*by Marysia Dusinski*

The Embassy of South Africa celebrated Freedom Day on a lovely spring evening at its Official Residence in Rabat on 24 April 2018. The event marked 25 years of democracy in South Africa, a significant milestone.



*The Charge d'Affaires a.i, Mr Alwyn Figgins, cuts the celebratory cake with the help of the Mayor of Rabat, Mr Mohamed Sadiki.*

The Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Mr Alwyn Figgins welcomed more than 160 guests from all spheres of life, including the Mayor of Rabat, MPs, well-known academics and the small South African... community in Morocco - whose presence was reinforced by members of Mamelodi Sundowns Management as the South African team is in the CAF Championship League and is currently battling in the semi-final against fierce rivals Wydad Casablanca.

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 to ensure that all South Africans can enjoy the gains of our liberation. He emphasized that the transformation drive is backed by our Constitution and an independent judiciary, the foundation of our democracy which all South Africans vibrantly express. Mr Figgins also announced that on 8 May South Africans would be voting in the upcoming elections.

At a bilateral level, Mr Figgins mentioned that President Ramaphosa had recently granted Agreement to Morocco's Ambassador designate who is expected to commence his duties in South Africa in the near future. He also noted the potential for cooperation between South Africa and Morocco.

After the speech, guests were able to enjoy South Africa's well-known food and wine. This year's food dishes included braai chicken and boerewors, as well as chakalaka. The Mission had a rooibos tea stand to promote South Africa's famous tea and its significant health benefits.

As the sounds of well-known South African artists created a wonderful ambiance during the celebration, guests mingled in the flowering gardens of the Official Residence.

The backdrop of South African scenes coupled with the colours of the Strelitzia arrangements, bright traditional costumes and beaded jewellery further added to the charm of the evening and made the South African 25th anniversary of freedom celebration most memorable. Many positive comments and words of appreciation were received from all those who were present.



*Mr Abdelati Habek of the Diplomatic Foundation and Mrs Nabila Mounib, the Secretary General of the United Socialist Party (UPS) smile and pose for the camera after greeting the Charge d'Affaires a.i, Mr Alwyn Figgins*

# HOSTING OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN DOHA, STATE OF QATAR, 25 APRIL 2019

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Freedom Day celebration was held on 25 April 2019 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Doha, State of Qatar. This year's Freedom Day was celebrated under the approved theme of "Celebrating 25 Years of Democracy".

The theme focused on sharing memories, experiences, hopes and aspirations for the country with an emphasis on democracy, peace, reconciliation, compassion, human rights, co-existence and development, as the core values of our late struggle icon and first democratically elected President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela reaffirming that South Africans remain a peace-loving nation.

The event was sponsored by SASOL (main sponsor), Oryx, Dallah Holdings, Lulu Supermarket and Data Centrix.

The event was graced by the participation of the Minister of Justice, His Excellency Dr Issa Bin Saad Al Nuaimi and the Minister of Municipality and Environment, His Excellency Mr Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Subaei. ►



We were also delighted to be joined by His Excellency, Ambassador Ibrahim Fakhroo, the Director of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Ibrahim and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps (Ambassador of Eritrea). Other participants included dignitaries, members of the Diplomatic Corps, South African community, Business and Private Sector partners, representatives from Academia and think-tanks.

Ambassador Moosa delivered the keynote address which highlighted that this year's celebrations also marked a seminal moment in the history of the country as it also coincide with the National Elections wherein South Africans abroad and at home would have an opportunity to cast their vote to usher in the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration during 27 April and 08 May respectively.

The Ambassador further noted that there was still more to be done to achieve economic liberation especially, economic, social and cultural rights for its people and that the South African Government has prioritised the promotion of trade, investments and tourism. The address also outlined key areas of cooperation between South Africa and the State of Qatar and the fundamental principles that underlie South Africa's foreign policy.



# TIME FOR ...

**DISCLOSURE**



All SMS members are reminded that the **eDisclosure system is open from 1 – 30 April 2019**, where you will be able to capture your financial interests for the 2018/19 disclosure period.

In terms of the Public Service Regulations, 2016, an SMS member will be found guilty of misconduct and must be disciplined if they:

- fail to disclose
- fail to disclose on time (by 30 April)
- submit an incomplete disclosure
- submit false and inaccurate information.

**Go to: <https://edisclosure.gov.za> to disclose.**

**Don't delay to submit your financial disclosure!**

For assistance contact:

Ms SP Mahlaela      X11531 or 073 001 2922  
Mr ME Mabitsela    X10213 or 079 964 7461



**international relations  
& cooperation**

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# EMPLOYEE HEALTH & WELLNESS (EHW)

**Vision:** A healthy, motivated and productive workforce

**Mission:** Committed to rendering professional and confidential psychosocial support to DIRCO employees and their families and empowering them to take charge of their health and wellbeing.

## WHILE NOT EXCLUSIVE, THE DIRECTORATE: EHW ASSISTS EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH:

- Personal, family and work-related problems
- Health-related issues such as HIV and AIDS, incapacity due to ill health and other chronic illnesses.

## EHW SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Confidential face-to-face and telephonic counselling/psychotherapy
- Psycho-educational workshops e.g. financial management, stress management, etc.
- Trauma debriefing and crisis intervention
- Consultation and training for managers and supervisors
- Mission support
- Health screening through the GEMS
- Promoting physical activity through different sports and recreational activities.

## ON-SITE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CLINIC

The on-site clinic is fully operational, weekdays from 8h30 to 16h00. The clinic provides the following health services:

- primary health assessments/screenings e.g. blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and HIV testing and basic medication such as Panado
- follow-up and monitor employees with chronic illnesses
- on-duty injuries
- pre-travel vaccines and prophylaxis to employees and family members before transfer or visits abroad.

## CONTACT DETAILS:

Telephone: 012 351 1400  
Cell phones: 073 612 9623 / 066 473 8810 /083 468 5630 / 060 560 3380 / 071 680 6697  
On-site clinic 012 351 1909

**EHW SERVICES ARE RENDERED BY PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED AND REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS/PSYCHOLOGISTS/NURSES**

**NB:** Confidentiality is our number one guiding ethical principle. Information obtained during consultations will be treated as confidential and will not be transferred to personnel files or discussed with anyone without written consent.

## MISSION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

### Pre-posting

- Training for officials and families on culture shock, coping with change, etc.
- Pre-posting individual and/or family counselling.

### During posting

- Follow-up calls
- Telephone counselling and psychosocial support
- Support during medical evacuations.

### After posting

- Participate in the reorientation process
- Debriefing and counselling for employees and family.

## SPOUSAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

- Pre-posting preparation and counselling
- Psychosocial support during posting
- After-posting debriefing and counselling.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

### • Self-referral:

An employee may voluntarily contact EHW practitioners for help.

### • Informal referral:

Based on concerns, a supervisor, colleague, friend, family member or shop steward may encourage or advise an employee to consult EHW. An employee may accept or reject the referral proposal.

### • Formal referral:

The supervisor can make a formal referral when an employee's work performance shows a pattern of declining due to behavioural, emotional and/or psychosocial problems.



# ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE



DIRCO employees are encouraged to conduct themselves ethically in line with the Constitution of Republic of South Africa, Chapter 10; Public Service Act, 1994; Public Service Regulations, 2016 (Chapter 2); and in particular the Code of Conduct.

Being ethical allows you to distinguish between right and wrong. Ethics is generally defined as moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of any activity.

The Public Service Code of Conduct (Chapter 2, Part 1 of the Public Service Regulation, 2016) provides guiding principles and direction for appropriate workplace behaviour. Employees are expected to conduct themselves ethically in their individual conduct and their relationship with fellow employees and the general public.

## What are good workplace ethics?

- ❖ Stay positive and professional
- ❖ Be accountable for own actions
- ❖ Take initiative
- ❖ Stay productive
- ❖ Be punctual.

## What are poor workplace ethics?

- ❖ Ignoring procedures and policies
- ❖ Illegal practices
- ❖ Abusing government resources and other privileges
- ❖ Always arriving late at work and poor attendance
- ❖ Unauthorised removal of state assets.

## What are the benefits of good ethical behaviour in the workplace?

- ❖ A desirable work environment
- ❖ Loyalty
- ❖ High office morale
- ❖ Good work performance
- ❖ Recognition.

## Integrity Management Unit:

Ms Selaki Mahlaela | 1531

Mr Mothapo Mabitsela | 0213



Contributions can be sent to:  
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