

IT'S

YOUR VOICE



Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat

Issue 5, 30 June 2019



25 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

YOUTH
MONTH

2019 

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH ACTIVISM

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Editor's Letter

Dear Diplomats,

As the New Dawn begins, we welcome the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini and Deputy Minister Alvin Botes as our new principals. In her remarks to the DIRCO staff, the Minister encouraged Team DIRCO to work hard and aim for excellence, not only that but to also have ambitions as our national and continent aspirations. "We have a role to play in making the African Union the best regional organisation in the world. It is our ambition, it's our aspiration. We must seek, in harmony with all the countries on the continent, to make this a reality. We cannot have a mediocre African Union, we must have a quality African Union, able to act on its mandate, able to execute our aspiration, our ambition." said Minister.

The entire month of June was dedicated to the youth and government agencies such as the National Youth Development Agency hosted a number of engagements, including youth expos, dialogues and youth entrepreneur hubs to showcase opportunities available to young people.

The commemoration of 16 June serves as a reminder that young people in the country were at the forefront of our struggle for liberation. It also provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the strides we have made in addressing issues facing the youth.

The Office of the Chief Operations Officer hosted a youth dialogue event in celebration of Youth Month. The programme included panel discussions with DIRCO youth, which aimed at addressing the challenges that our youth are facing.



Minister Pandor attended the G20 Summit that took place in Osaka, Japan, from 27–30 June 2019. The summit was attended by heads of state and government of the G20 member countries, which collectively account for 85% of global economic activity and two-thirds of the world's population. The summit presented a platform for critical engagement and high-level cooperation on efforts to address major global economic challenges and promote and strengthen the interests of Africa.

As the guest editor of this month, it gives me great pleasure to share with you the articles that we have received for this edition of *Its Your Voice*.

Thank you.

MS

Magdeliine Setumo

Welcome to Team DIRCO



The Office of the Director-General
on behalf of DIRCO staff welcomes the
new ministry, Dr Naledi Pandor and Deputy
Ministers Ms Candith Mashego-Dlamini
and Mr Alvin Botes



international relations
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Department:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





#YOUTHMONTH

**We must be proud of our past and confident about the future
by Mr Alvin Botes – Deputy Minister, DIRCO**

The youth of '76, like the generations before them, fully understood their generational mission, that "out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it". They developed the skills and expertise to fight the apartheid government and acted upon it with a clarity of purpose. The generations of Solomon Mahlangu, Peter Mokaba, Ronnie Mamoepa, Colleen Williams and Dipuo Peters continued with the struggle to end apartheid and to build a developmental democracy that is united, non-racial and non-sexist. As we begin the journey of the next 25 years of our struggle, the youth of today must ask the question: What is there generational mission? To answer this question, we first need to understand the challenges and opportunities that we have been confronted with over the past decade. Today, our world is changing at a pace faster than ever before, the geopolitical, economic, environmental and technological space have undergone tectonic shifts. We began the decade with the so-called "Arab Spring" that shook parts of North Africa and the Middle East. Democratic euphoria swept across much of the developing South with peaceful transitions to democracy in countries such as the Comoros and Madagascar, among others. We have had numerous examples of peaceful resolution to conflicts both on the continent and beyond. Equally, as we near the end of this decade, we are witnessing revolutions and counter-revolutions. Globally, there has been an increase in extremism terrorism, religious fundamentalism, populist right-wing nationalism, neo-fascism, xenophobia and racism in both the developed and developing world

"As we begin the journey of the next 25 years of our struggle, the youth of today must ask the question: What is their generational mission?"

On 16 June 2019, South Africa commemorated our 43rd anniversary of the 1976 Youth Uprising. After the banning of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1960 and our leadership exiled and imprisoned, the anti-apartheid movement was on the back foot after a decade of mass defiance. Some historians argue that for the next decade an "interregnum of contest and paralysis" existed in the anti-apartheid movement while it was left to president O.R Tambo to pedantically rebuild the ANC. Thus, the impact of 16 June 1976 was the culmination of more than a decade of frustration that exploded. Since that fateful day, the defiance of apartheid was re-awoken and our fight became continuous, persistent and unbroken for the next 22 years with new generations joining the struggle, until the dawn of democracy on 27 April 1994. Youth participated in all four pillars of struggle namely mass mobilisation, armed struggle, the underground and international solidarity.

The era of coups, wars and super-power interference in the sovereignty of nations as well as the rise of strong men and women has reared its ugly head again. As I write, there are several high- and low-intensity wars taking place across several continents, including in the Middle East in Yemen, Syria and Iraq as well as in Africa. Wars are being fought both along traditional lines as well as the newer asymmetrical tactics of war by proxy (such as in Syria), cyber wars and robust trade wars between the traditional superpowers such as the United States of America and Russia (multi polarity) as well the newer emerging super power China (multipolarity). As we near the end of this decade our triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment are increasing globally, continentally and within South Africa. The historical multilateral international rules-based order is under threat. Unemployment is at 27.6% in South Africa of which jobless youth accounts for 63.4% thereof (StatsSA, 2019). Ordinarily, South Africa was supposed to harvest the benefits from the continental youth bulge, in the context of a thriving African economy. ▶

However, the World Bank (2011) indicated that intra-continental trade in Africa remained uninspiring at 11%, while between South Africa and the rest of the continent it was at 22%, with the balance of trade being mainly with the rest of the developed world. This is a complete antithesis of a development trajectory, which should underpin the economic outlook of Africa's 54 states.

What is to be done?

The best way to preserve the legacy of the class of '76 is for our youth of today to fully understand their generational mission of how to address all these aforementioned challenges in our country, region, continent and globally. Our youth need the skills to become "glocal" (global and local) citizens i.e. the ability to work both locally and abroad while remaining committed to our national democratic agenda. Equally, the youth require not only the hard technical skills to make our country and continent a success but they must develop an understanding of and a commitment to becoming patriots, international solidarity activists, cadres and ambassadors for the developing world. South Africa remains a shining example of peaceful transitions of divided nations and our youth must continue with this legacy. As a country, our youth must grasp the opportunities of continuous further education and training made available through our policies such as the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to attend tertiary institutions.

To undermine joblessness, implies that learning should become a lifelong experience. Youth must also grasp the opportunities made available through the work of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, to further their studies by obtaining scholarships to study abroad, and participate in international internships and exchange programmes. This is a decisive intervention and we must toil tirelessly to ensure that we expose 20 000 South African young people to the international arena of solidarity, in which the acquisition of high skills will be possible, and a heightened consciousness, as a product of development. President Cyril Ramaphosa has been instructive that "too many of our people do not work, especially the youth"; and that we must maximise the value of the new, heightened technological innovations.



From Vision to Action: A message from the Minister to staff by Bobby J Moroe

It is appropriate to prefix this piece by conveying hearty felicitations to Minister Naledi Grace Mandisa Pandor on her appointment by President Cyril Ramaphosa as the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). She served as Minister in four different departments, and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience into a department that sets to guide and advance South Africa's foreign policy. Since her appointment in this portfolio, she has hit the ground running, engaging with various stakeholders in and outside of DIRCO.

On the morning of 4 June 2019, the Minister took time out of her hectic schedule to meet with staff and management of the department to share her vision. She also held interviews on both the SABC and Ubuntu Radio, DIRCO's own radio station, under the adept guidance of DDG Clayson Monyela. In all these platforms, the Minister effectively shared her vision and thoughts on the path the department should take in advancing the country's foreign policy. Her desire is for all DIRCO officials to work together, collectively and individually, and give stimulus to the exceptional work of the past 25 years. It, therefore, becomes apparent that the Minister is keen to take up her new role with dynamism, and provide guidance in driving our foreign policy vision into action.

With this piece, I intend to provoke thoughts and invite a festival of ideas on the role DIRCO officials are expected to play in contributing towards attaining the department's vision. I will do so, aided by intermittent reference to the engagements of the Minister, and consistent messages she has shared with us as DIRCO officials and /or diplomats.

What are the key drivers of our foreign policy? In her address to DIRCO staff, the Minister highlighted the key drivers of South Africa's foreign policy in order to guide in what officials should consider in the country's international engagements with partners of the world. She made reference to history and lived experiences of the past as one of the key drivers of South Africa's foreign policy. That this history and lived experience of our struggle for freedom and liberation must be at the heart of our aspirations for the continent and the world. That our international engagements must be driven by our sharp memory of what we have been through as the people of South Africa. But not only that. As agents of change and transformation, we should also make use this memory as an instrument to influence decisions, change lives and make a positive impact on the lives of those who are less privileged. If we do so, we will be contributing in the furtherance of humanity's desires for a better life. Without an in-depth and exhaustive understanding, knowledge and appreciation of our history, it will be a forlorn to believe that we are capable of contributing towards the creation of a better South Africa, Africa and the world.

Why international solidarity? In an article titled, "New Pillars for a New World", former President Nelson Mandela had this to say about solidarity: "As the 1980s drew to a close, I could not see much of the world from my prison cell, but I knew it was changing. There was little doubt in my mind that this would have a profound impact on my country, on the southern African region and the continent of which I am proud to be a citizen".

"Our aspiration is not just for ourselves as South Africans but also for those oppressed in Myanmar, for those who suffer untold atrocities in Palestine and those around the world who are still in the quest for democracy. That we will, as people who come from a community of the oppressed, use our numbers, our strength and our character to rise".



"Although this process of global change is far from complete, it is clear that all nations will have boldly to recast their nets if they are to reap any benefit from international affairs in the post-Cold War era". This was a very sentimental testimonial stimulating the oppressed nations of the world to unite, and to support each other's cause for a common good. As far back as the 1980s, Madiba could appreciate that his own country was on the path to profit from the solidarity project which formed the basis for our struggle for freedom and liberation. The Minister's account on international solidarity is, therefore, not at variance with our history, and what South Africa stands for.

In her well-articulated address to DIRCO staff, she impelled officials to the cognisance that "our aspiration is not just for ourselves as South Africans but also for those oppressed in Myanmar, for those who suffer untold atrocities in Palestine and those around the world who are still in the quest for democracy. That we will, as people who come from a community of the oppressed, use our numbers, our strength and our character to rise". As with the sentiments by former President Mandela, the Minister challenged us to craft our art of diplomacy, mindful of the contributions of other countries in shaping who we have become. It is the spirit of solidarity that has brought us as a people to where we are today. The joint input of international solidarity towards the democratic project of 1994 was occasioned by many nations that sacrificed their own freedom in exchange for our liberation and freedom.

In her statement, the Minister also urged and encouraged us to continue to cast our eyes in supporting and empathising with those countries that continue to suffer the same fate we suffered under apartheid. We are, therefore, compelled by our history to be prudent and devote our global influence, networks and all alliances at our disposal to rally behind the emancipation of the oppressed to secure self-determination. ▶

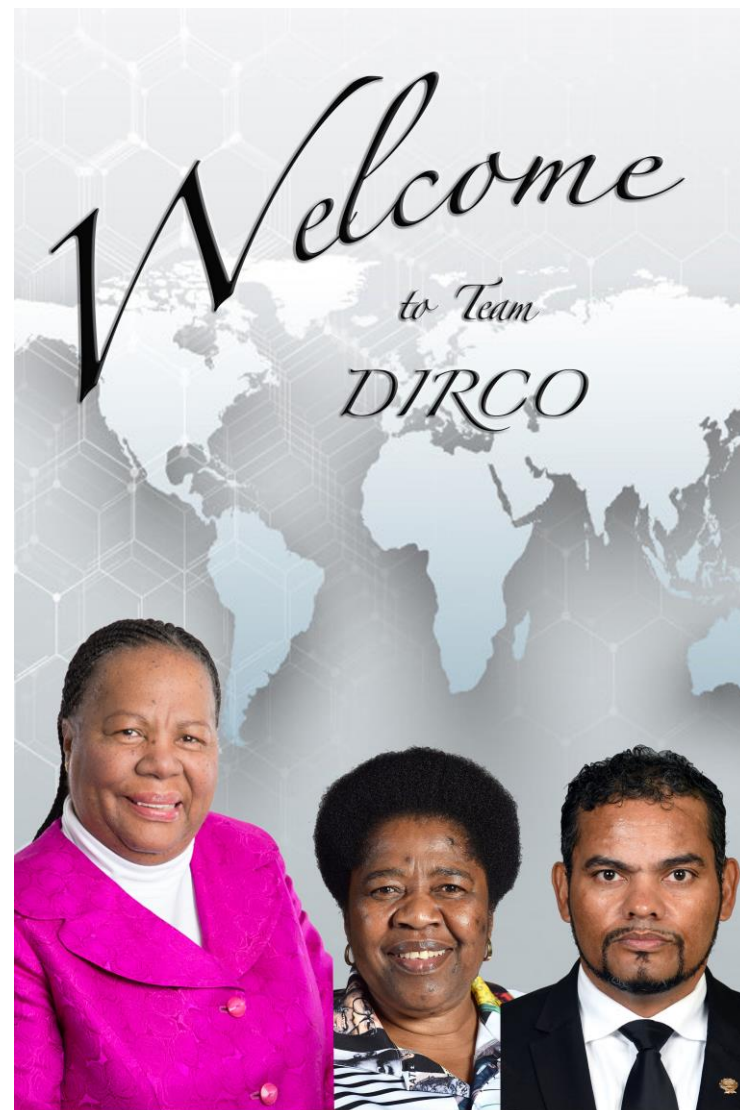
It is indeed a great honour and privilege to be alive at a time when our country renews its commitment and support for those who are yet to attain their self-determination, freedom and liberties. Surely, ours is a country whose memory is alive to our bitter realities of the past. The subject of international solidarity brings back affectionate recollections of my earlier days as a speech writer to the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation. It was mandatory for us as a team to infuse uncompromising, yet tactful and tacit formulations on solidarity in all Budget Vote speeches of DIRCO. The most prominent formulations were messages of solidarity with the people of Palestine and Western Sahara because of our shared common history of a struggle for freedom and self-determination. I share this to simply support the Minister's assertion on the critical importance of strengthening international solidarity, and keeping messages of support alive for prosperity.

When the Minister stated that: "Deriving the best for our country out of our international cooperation and not necessarily relations, is critical", I felt a sigh of relief. I thought she gave an exceptional account in the pragmatic differentiation of the two inextricably linked words in our craft, "cooperation" and "relations". These often create a conundrum with great potential to impact negatively on our work if not succinctly defined. The co-existence of both terms must be understood in the context of their respective utility in the enhancement of our diplomatic engagements. The Minister sought to emphasise the inherent differences embedded in the approach to world engagements, that of "international cooperation" and not only "international relations". In brief, what she sought to bring to the fore was that there are more dividends to derive from "cooperation" in world engagements as opposed to "relations", without undermining the latter. Although international relations is a broad field that helps create bonds between nations through economic, social and political relationships, the element of actualising cooperation becomes central to how socio-economic and political relations can be achieved. This is a key aspect I believe our missions abroad should internalise in order to actualise an action-based vision.

As a key strategic driver in all matters related to international relations and cooperation, DIRCO should direct its focus on how to make sure that both our influence and international engagements respond to our domestic priorities. A foreign policy which does not respond to critical domestic imperatives would be a foreign policy in futility. I submit, therefore, in support of the Minister that, "our foreign policy must be result oriented". We should strive towards achieving our obligations to "translate our vision into action". An action-based vision will give rise to creating tangible results, ensuring a better South Africa, Africa and the World as a whole and inculcating an environment of peaceful co-existence we all aspire for. An action-based vision will also provide a deeper meaning and understanding of what we ought to do in order to influence decisions and change lives. For us to succeed in translating our vision into action, our diplomats must internalise their understanding of the same vision – "championing an African continent, which is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united and which aspires to a world that is just and equitable".

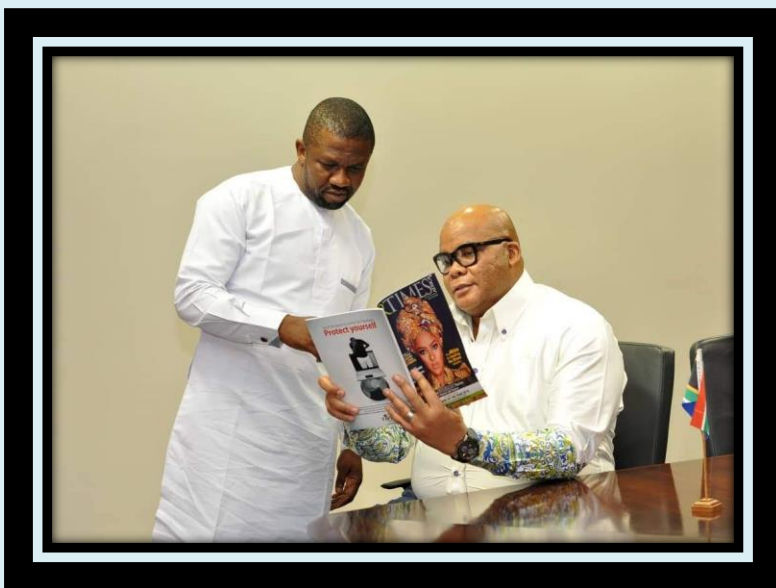
Youth empowerment and education role for DIRCO, why?

As stated before, the Minister brings a very strong background from her previous Ministerial positions: Home Affairs, Science and Technology, Higher Education, and Education. She has also recently been conferred with a doctoral qualification in Education at the University of Pretoria. ▶



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Mr Bobby Moroe at work, South African High Commission, Abuja Nigeria

Dr Pandor's research topic was, "The Contested Meaning of Transformation in Higher Education in Post- Apartheid South Africa". The topic reflects her on going interest in education and transformation in the local context as she executes her new role as a Chief Diplomat.

With this tapestry of accomplishments, Dr Pandor is poised to influence how we should achieve our vision. She will spearhead the engineering of multi-faceted strategies prodigious enough to reset our foreign policy engagements with more vigour and splendour. She will make use of her background to create what I think could be coined, "hybrid diplomacy". This will be a medley of an education element and a diplomatic landscape.

At the centre of this hybrid diplomacy will be the empowerment of youth, making use of our missions abroad to secure support for training programmes and job opportunities. These are some of the developmental opportunities our missions are geared to achieve. They ought to create a connection between our domestic priorities and our foreign policy by directly impacting the lives of our people through their work abroad. Our missions must serve as barometers through which we can measure our successes through these linkages. This barometer is critical in assessing our international "cooperation", and how the latter is of benefit to our people. In brief, our foreign policy must profoundly touch the lives of the ordinary men and women of our country. It must be impactful, and life-changing in its architecture.

I take this opportunity to express the utmost gratitude to the Minister for sharing her thoughts with us as DIRCO staff. Her knowledge, ideas and wisdom will go a long way in motivating those within the confines of head-office premises and those in missions the world over, to recognise our crucial role and recommit ourselves to be of service to our people. The department boasts a cadre of dedicated, loyal and dependable men and women under the capable leadership of the Director-General, Mr Kgabo Mahoi. They do not falter in their work, they hardly ever disappoint. But they are equally conscious that a lot still needs to be done in order to realise the objectives we set ourselves to achieve in our international engagements. In an open letter addressed to all ambassadors and high commissioners, the Minister stated that: "failure is not an option".

We dare not fail, lest we betray our struggle, our history, our aspirations and the rich tapestry of history that continues to propel our foreign policy – "failure is not an option".

Bobby Moroe is a South African diplomat attached to the South African High Commission in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and a PhD scholar at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He writes in his personal capacity as a scholar and a researcher.



#MoreThanADay

Take A Child To Work Day: 14 June 2019

A Day in a World of Diplomacy and International Relations





Take a Girl / Boy Child to Work: 14 June 2019 A Day in a World of Diplomacy and International Relations



#MoreThanADay



South Africa has recorded major strides across the political, economic, and social dimensions of its international relations

by Mr Clayson Monyela, Deputy Director General: Public Diplomacy



Since the advent of democracy in 1994, South Africa has had to contend with domestic, regional as well as global expectations to be seen to be playing a key role in championing values of human rights, democracy, reconciliation and the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment. Even the harshest critics cannot deny that South Africa has acquitted herself well, often under trying circumstances, to meet these expectations. Our country's leadership footprint is visible in the region, the continent and globally. It is worth noting that from the very onset, post-apartheid South Africa had placed Africa at the centre of the country's foreign policy. South Africa continues to support continental initiatives and efforts whose quest is to forge continental integration.

The country has also been unrelenting in relation to fostering peace as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and South Sudan. In essence, whether involved within the United Nations (UN) and/or its specialised agencies or, in bodies like the G20, G77, IBSA or BRICS, South Africa steadfastly advances the African Agenda. Likewise, the current administration under President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa continues to display an unwavering commitment to the advancement of the African Agenda. President Ramaphosa underscored the centrality of Africa to the country's foreign relations trajectory when he addressed the South African Heads of Mission Conference in Tshwane on 23 October 2018. In this regard, the President stressed: "We wholly identify with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and its vision of 'an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena'. South Africa and its fortunes are inextricably linked to those of the continent. When Africa falters, South Africa falters. And when Africa prospers, South Africa prospers ...

"Accordingly, South Africa is fully behind the African Agenda 2063 and its Action Plan, the recent signing of the Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) in Kigali, Rwanda, and many other efforts that constitute seminal developments in the journey towards an integrated, united, peaceful and prosperous continent.

In the words of Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, from a recent interview with Ubuntu Radio: We would like to see all 54 African countries working for development, focused on our people's condition and ensuring we end war and insecurity." Involvement in the UN and its specialised agencies has afforded South Africa an opportunity as well as a platform to actualise its professed commitment to multilateralism and a rules-based international order. The country has been forthright in opposing any steps which, in its view, pose a threat to the rules-based system.

In January 2019, South Africa started serving its third term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The UNSC is the premier global body for maintaining international peace and security. And South Africa is sitting at that table. South Africa has already signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thereby cementing the country's continued commitment towards the achievement of a world free from the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons and ensuring that nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes only. This is particularly important in respect of the noticeable trend where nuclear arsenals are being modernised in nuclear-weapon states, a process that has ushered in the revision of military doctrines and nuclear postures.

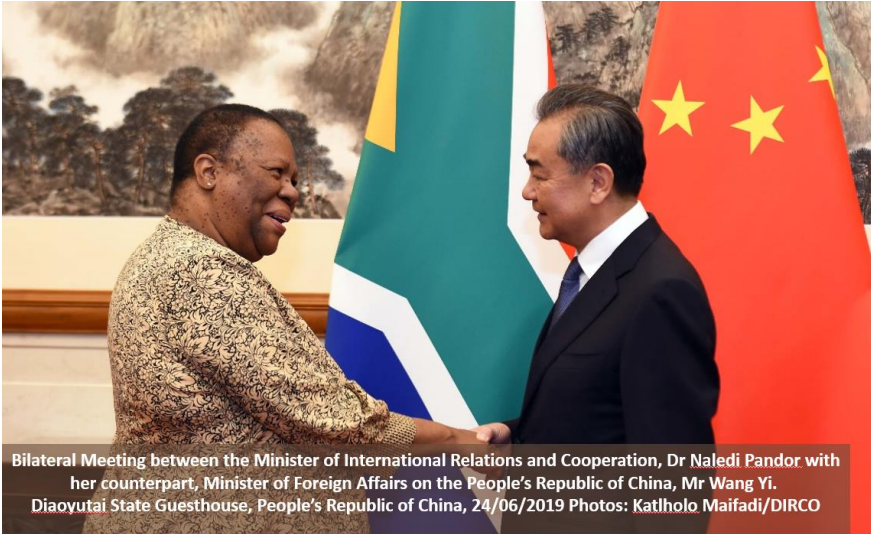
The country has also been responsive and vocal with regard to the current global challenge that pertains to often contentious issues like human rights, food security, sustainable development as well as climate change. As a result of successful deliberations between the World Food Programme and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, an agreement was reached for South Africa to host one of the largest UN humanitarian response depots. Over and above the foregoing, the fact that at the 2019 AU Summit South Africa was elected to chair the AU in 2020 is not just a feather in the country's cap but is, more crucially, a huge responsibility in that it places the country at the coalface of overseeing the implementation of the continent's developmental agenda during its tenure.

Over and above the foregoing, the fact that at the 2019 AU Summit, South Africa was elected to chair the AU in 2020 is not just a feather in the country's cap but is, more crucially, a huge responsibility in that it places the country at the coalface of overseeing the implementation of the continent's developmental agenda during its tenure. The AU has set 2020 as the target year for silencing the guns in Africa. South Africa's foreign policy mandate has been characterised by the umbilical cord that not only drove and energised the struggle against apartheid but has continued to serve as a transcending link from former President Nelson Mandela's first administration to all successive post-apartheid administrations to date. The overarching propeller is still the creation of a better South Africa, a better and safer Africa and a better world for all.

DIRCO @ WORK



DIRCO @ WORK



Bilateral Meeting between the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor with her counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs on the People's Republic of China, Mr Wang Yi. Diaooytai State Guesthouse, People's Republic of China, 24/06/2019 Photos: Kattholo Maifadi/DIRCO



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini, Director-General Kgabo Mahoal and senior staff members host a farewell function for Australian High Commissioner, Mr AJD McCarthy on 24 June 2019, DIRCO, Pretoria. Photo: Yolande Snyman/DIRCO



Advocate Pansy Tlakula has been elected to serve on a UN Human Rights body that tackles racial discrimination



Ambassador Anil Sooklal doing a media interview on the sidelines of the #IORA Committee of Senior Officials in Durban - 19-20 June



METH

COCAINE

CRACK

HEROIN

**DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS USING DRUGS?
IS HOOKAH HARMFUL?
AM I ADDICTED TO OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE?**

Employee Health and Wellness, in conjunction with the South African National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, will be hosting a drug-awareness exhibition to answer these questions and more.

For any enquiries, please contact Ms Edwina Fradie on X11469.

FRIDAY, 28 JUNE 2019 09:00 – 14:00 @DIRCO ENTRANCE



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SANCA
NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence



Intern Corner: My Dreams, My Reality

by Dolly Cossa, Intern: Branch Public Diplomacy



I was born and bred in Tembisa in the marginalised community of Winnie Mandela, I spent most of my childhood there. Growing up, I was an ambitious and focussed child and I still am. After Matric, all I wanted was to find a job, but that changed after receiving my matric statement. I had applied to study Law at the University of Limpopo but due to some circumstances, I had to take a gap year in 2013 and reapply. I then decided to apply at the University of Johannesburg to study Journalism. During my gap year, I would stay at home and get bored because everyone would wake up and either go to work or go to school, and thus my love for scriptwriting started. I would make up any story in my mind and just write. The loneliness and the quiet afternoons made it easy for me to stay focussed, as I would listen to what my mind says.

“... just because you can't find a job does not mean that there is nothing that you cannot do to make you feel fulfilled. Find something that you like to do and do it to the best of your abilities”.

After writing for some time, I saw writing as a way of self-meditation and I enjoyed it immensely, but at some point, I needed some motivation. Watching a lot of reality shows and Nollywood films inspired me a lot as I would relate, and the more I was touched, the more I would have a zest to sit and write. In 2017 after graduating, I never thought that finding a job would be difficult since I was a graduate, until I had to stay at home for almost a year. My mother was always there for me and she used to say “just because you can't find a job does not mean that there is nothing that you cannot do to make you feel fulfilled. Find something that you like to do and do it to the best of your abilities”. That's when I started to go to the production company based at Tswelopele section and that's where my knowledge of films was broadened.

I learnt that there were stages in getting a film from an idea through to watching it on the big screen. All of the stages are very crucial in making a film, The development phase is the development of a script. Preproduction is where you narrow down the options of the production. It also includes working out the shoot location and casting. There is also a production phase, which is the key in keeping planning ahead of the daily shoot. The fourth one is the principal photography, which is where the camera rolls. This is the most expensive phase of film production due to actor, director and set crew salaries, as well as the costs of certain shots, props and onset special effects. There is also the wrap, which is the period immediately after shooting ends. Post production, consists of reviewing the footage and assembling the movie editing. Then the last phase, which is distribution. That is where the film is now complete and is then distributed, for example, the film goes into cinema or is distributed through various platforms, such as Netflix. of films was broadened.

Even though I have a background knowledge about films since I did Film and Television in university as one of my major subjects, I realise, that going to film and television or drama institutions will broaden my knowledge as I will do both theory and practical, and learn a lot about the film industry as a whole. Passionate as I am about writing and the film industry, being an intern at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation has been a dream come true. I believe it has paved a path towards achieving my dreams and maximising my potential.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be in an environment like this. I am not only learning about the world of Diplomacy and being in it, but also about ethics, values, principles and most importantly, about how to carry myself. The experience and the exposure I am getting are certainly preparing me for something greater. All I know is that the best is yet to come. In a nutshell, to the black child out there, never stop believing in your dreams because they are valid, and every step you take is definitely preparing you for something greater than you, so remember that “a winner is a dreamer who never gives up”.

Doing Diplomacy In An Era of Change with The Vienna School of International Studies

by Mr Peace Kennedy, Diplomatic Training (Branch: DTR&D)

The Diplomatic Academy of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) successfully co-hosted a course, entitled: "Doing Diplomacy in an Era of Change", with the Vienna School of International Studies in Pretoria on 3 and 4 June 2019. The Diplomatic Academy of Vienna is a postgraduate professional school based in Vienna, Austria, with focussed training for students and professionals in the areas of international affairs, political science, law, languages, history and economics.

The programme by Prof. Markus Kornprobst from the Vienna School of International Studies was facilitated by the Austrian Embassy. It was the first time that such a course was presented in DIRCO and it was tailored to address the needs of diplomats and civil servants working in the field of international relations.

In an effort to contribute to DIRCO's goal of promoting a better Africa in a better world, the programme also targeted diplomats from the Southern African Development Community member states and Caribbean Community countries stationed in Pretoria, as well as junior and mid-career line-function officials at DIRCO.

The course, among others, focussed on the definition of diplomacy, the international conventions underpinning international relations, how to communicate effectively and how to network. The course balanced theory and practice as much as possible by teaching the theoretical legal framework, offering practical cases and encouraging dialogue.

The main objective of the course was to develop human capacity in the relevant fields by deepening the participants' knowledge and understanding of international relations and its practice and to strengthen the skills of participants to contribute professionally and effectively to their field of expertise, to the benefit of their countries.



The course covered the following topics:

- What is Diplomacy: Historical evolution of rules and practices, the Vienna Convention, and diplomatic law beyond the Vienna Convention
- Tasks of Diplomacy: Effective communication: messaging, negotiating, mediating and persuading
- Making decisions: Substantive and procedural judgments; expected utility maximisation, heuristics, rule-driven reasoning and practices
- Building relations: Balancing, institution-building and integrating
- Making of order: Power, norms, ethics and peaceful change.

The programme aimed to strengthen the development of institutional capacity by promoting good governance and reflecting on international standards and practices. The use of case studies and placing international relations in a constantly-evolving historical context enforced the need for innovation and adaptation with the participants. Prof. Kornprobst illustrated how profound changes were occurring in international relations globally as well as on a national level, while there is a rapid increase in state and non-state actors. This crowded international relations stage diminished the ability of these different actors to reach agreement – a development this programme tried to address.

It's All About Love, Perseverance and Camaraderie

by Mr Mokoka Tlou, #TeamDIRCO Comrade Runner

It has been a dream that started in 2015 to run the Comrades Marathon. I have watched it so many times on TV. I believe that as a true South African, one should run the Comrades Marathon at least once in a lifetime. Like every village boy, I went through many things, but running was never part of my life, until I met Mr Glen Mamabolo in 2012, who introduced me to running. He told me about the simple running methods and techniques. My main aim was to lose weight, however, since then I have never looked back until today as I can proudly say and without doubt: "I am a runner."

A day before the Comrades, I went to the exhibition centre to meet friends and runners from different clubs, That is where you will have the feeling that Comrades is big and is truly the ultimate human race in the world. I saw the Brazilian runners in their country colours coming into expo singing and doing the samba dance, the Zimbabweans, Kenyans etc. all coming to run the Comrades Marathon. I had the privilege to visit the green number area within the expo, and like any other sporting events, Comrades has running coaches, where you sit and listen to people with more experience and who have won Comrades many times. There are coaches like Bruce Fordyce, Coach Parry and others, who will motivate you, especially if you are a novice,

I left the expo at 12h30 to go and watch the Cosafa final game between Zambia and Botswana at Moses Mahbida Stadium. After the game, I went to my room in Gateway hotel in Umhlanga Ridge. On my arrival, I put everything that was required for the actual day ready. I went to bed immediately after dinner. At 2 am I was up, took a shower and at 3 am, breakfast was ready. I made sure that I ate enough, knowing that I need more energy to run the whole day. At 3h30, I called my team mate Vincent Kgoale as we were in the same hotel, I and we went together to the Comrades starting point. I entered seeding G and Vincent went to seeding. The official programme begin with "Shosholosa," our National anthem and "Chariot of Fire" and then off we went to Pietermaritzburg.

I crossed the first cut-off point at 18km, I was comfortable with 20 minutes ahead and I was in my favourite 11hour bus of Madoko. I did not last long in the bus, but my problems started at Nchanga Hill. I walked the whole Nchanga Hill and as I went down recovering from the tough Nchanga, I told myself that I would never run Comrades again. Nchanga and Polly Shorts are the hills that will make you not underestimate the Comrades Marathon. When I cross the cut-off at the top of Polly Shorts, I was 17 minutes ahead and had 8 km to go, which put a smile on my face and gave me courage to carry on. I started to manage myself against the pains that I was feeling, slowly heading to the finish line, thinking of my family, colleagues, team mates and friends who wished me everything of the best. My body responded positively at the last kilometre before the finish line and I finished comfortable in 11 hours 52 minutes.

Comrades taught me many things, among them, the love for one another. At Comrades, we help each other, we share supplements, we share all what is needed for the long journey, we run together and we hug each other at the finish line, to show the true camaraderie. Again the passion people have, to run such a long distance regardless of pain and time that they spent on the road. We spent a lot of money to register, for travelling, accommodation, running shoes, etc. but that does not stop people from coming to Comrades every year. Above all, we celebrate camaraderie, perseverance, passion and achievement. My mind set is: "If I am not out there training; someone is".



Above: Mr Tlou's Comrades' Marathon 2019 gear

Left: Mr Mokoka Tlou



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