

# IT'S YOUR VOICE



Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat

Volume 1, 28 February 2020



# CREDITS

<b>Editor-in-Chief</b>	<b>Nthabiseng Makuwa</b>
<b>Managing Editor</b>	<b>Mathapelo Monaisa</b>
<b>Guest Editor</b>	<b>Magdeline Motswaledi</b>
<b>Copy Editor</b>	<b>Delien Burger</b>
<b>Graphic Designer</b>	<b>Reratilwe Aphane</b>
<b>Photographers</b>	<b>Jacoline Schoonees Yolande Snyman Katholo Maifadi Yandisa Monakali</b>
<b>Content coordination</b>	<b>Mmakgotso Chuene Mathapelo Monaisa</b>
<b>Publisher</b>	<b>The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)</b>

# EDITOR'S

## LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to 2020 during which South Africa will be Chair of the African Union (AU); Chair of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); and in her second and final year of the non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2019-2020. The country's democracy is now well into its mid-20s at 26 with many good stories and experiences to share.

On 9 February 2020, the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa accepted the country's Chairship of the AU for the year 2020 where he laid out the three main priorities for South Africa, namely; economic integration and development, women empowerment and good governance. In outlining these, the President put emphasis on ensuring that opportunities are created to see the economic inclusion of women on the continent.

"The goal is to ensure that women and women-led businesses have access to and are able to use multiple financial services as tools to develop their financial autonomy, allow them to contribute to economic growth and to enhance their capacity to take advantage of the opportunities that the future of work will bring".

The empowerment of women also includes the curbing of gender-based violence, which not only alienates women, but further decreases their ability to participate equally and with the utmost confidence in all spheres of society, politics, and economy.

The African Continental Free Trade Area is poised to begin the eventual implementation of the long-awaited integration of the African economy. This development will see the largest common market in the world, with a population of more than a billion people and a combined GDP of over US\$3 trillion, cultivating a conducive environment for, among many others, trade and entrepreneurship activities that encourage the inclusion especially of women and youth across the continent.

In its second and final year on the UNSC, South Africa will also utilise its platform to promote the interests of the African community to the international leadership, specifically the silencing of the guns on the continent. Efforts in promoting an end to wars and achieving peace and security in Africa, can be a catalyst for the eventual realisation of the Africa we want. An Africa that is developed economically and politically; a thriving Africa that also participates fully in all aspects of multilateral entities, which bodes well for the world's population at large, given the extent of its resources.

The Ubuntu Awards 2020 created yet another platform for South Africans to



represent Africa well on the international stage in their various disciplines. This year's event saw a young Michelle Nkamankeng, recipient of the Ubuntu Youth Award, inspiring captains of industry, diplomats, senior members of government and the South African public with her well-articulated acceptance speech during the annual event.

Michelle was joined by, among other commendable winners, the formidable Dr Brigalia Bam, recipient of the OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award and former Chair of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation also contributed to the development of South Africa's future leaders through its Back To School Outreach Programmes which included the handover of a library to a school in Mpumalanga, thanks to multiple donors, including the Diplomatic Corps.

With such a good start to the year, we can only look forward to growth, development and action.

*MM*

# CONTENTS

- 4 Head of Mission Conference on South Africa's Chairship of the AU
- 7 Coronavirus Outbreak
- 9 Ubuntu Awards 2020
- 11 DIRCO Open Day: Outreach Programme
- 13 Back to School Campaign in Mpumalanga and Limpopo
- 15 Soweto: A Classroom Constructed in Honour of Guyana's 50th republic Anniversary

17

Opinion: African Union: South Africa Determined to Take Continental Unity Integration and Development Further

20

Mission Accomplished United Airline's Inaugural Flight from Newark to Cape Town

21

#About Me  
Letlhogonolo Mashilo

23

Your Health and Wellness

26

Learn a Language



## PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA MEETS WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S HEADS OF MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

As South Africa officially assumes Chairship of the African Union President Ramaphosa addressed South Africa's Heads of mission accredited to African countries for the purposes of briefing them on the vital role that they play in efforts to build a better Africa and better world.

South Africa previously had the honour to hold the AU Chairship in 2002, at the seminal session that officially launched the African Union. It was also there that the New Partnership for Africa's Development – NEPAD was inaugurated as well as the establishment of the Peace and Security Council, and adoption of the declaration on the Common African Defence and Security Policy.

During his address President Ramaphosa said "South Africa hopes that the 2020 Chairship will present opportunities, albeit at a challenging time for both the country and the continent, as in some countries political and civil instability persist and violent conflict continues to hamper with efforts to achieve continental peace development. As a result, certain events on the continent have attracted world attention."

However the President impressed upon the heads of mission that some of these occurrences need the intervention of those who are able to assist African countries to find solutions, "But in some cases these interventions seem to be driven by ulterior motives. This seems to be case at least with Libya and South Sudan." he added.

"Africa's youthful population is impatient for change and the creation of more economic opportunities. At the same time, African countries are presented with unprecedented opportunities for development, most notably the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA)." continued the president highlighting the urgent need for adequate attention to be placed on the inclusion of the youth in the economy, especially with the establishment of the AfCFTA which promises to promote economic development across Africa.

President Ramaphosa went on to discuss the AfCFTA and efforts to integrate Africa's economy: "This is a momentous event in the decades-long effort to integrate the economies of the African continent and it will make Africa the largest common market in the world, with a population of more than a billion people and a combined GDP of over \$3 trillion. The Continental Free Trade Area will boost intra-Africa trade, reignite industrialisation, and pave the way for the meaningful integration of Africa into global value chains and the global economy in general."

Africa is diversifying its international partnerships, broadening the scope of cooperation with various international bodies and countries. As the Chair, South Africa is determined to take the project of continental unity, integration and development further, guided by the country's foreign policy priorities and the Continent's aspirations as espoused in Agenda 2063. South Africa's domestic priorities include economic transformation, job creation and the consolidation of the social wage through reliable and quality basic services to depend on a politically stable and economically growing Africa

The president mentioned the fact that the chairship of the AU will have an impact on all of South Africa's missions especially multilateral missions since our ambassadors will need to promote not only South Africa and its positions, but also the positions of the African Union.

"This year, South Africa will also assume the chairships of the African Peer Review Mechanism,



*President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses the African Heads of Mission Conference*

(APRM) and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change. Both of these areas of responsibility align with our responsibilities and priorities as Chair of the AU to deepen economic integration," he said.

On the implementation of the AfCFTA agreement, President Ramaphosa stressed that it must be implemented with purpose and determination as a collective, together with fellow African countries.

"The time is now to seize the moment to undertake the detailed work, extensive consultation and complex negotiations required to give life to this agreement. In this regard, South Africa will work with President Issoufou of Niger, who is the AU Champion on Continental Economic Integration. This work will be directed towards the social and economic development of the continent, and the realisation of a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development."

Essentially, South Africa will need to be pro-active and assertive in seeking common approaches on issues like tariff lines, rules of origin, custom controls, trade in services and new generation issues like competition and intellectual property.

There is a need to address issues to ease doing business in different African countries. The AfCFTA will only become a reality if the infrastructure between African countries is developed and infrastructure is at the core of Africa's social, economic and political challenges. It is crucial for sustainable development and inclusive growth, and for diversification through industrialisation and value addition.

As the custodian of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) under NEPAD, South Africa has a critical role to play – and must act on the opportunity presented in profiling infrastructure development in support of the AfCFTA. PICI claims to promote priority projects for high impact results.





*Minister Naledi Pandor welcomes President Ramaphosa at the OR Tambo Building during the African Heads of Mission Conference*

The President further explained, "This initiative will work with the Programme for Infrastructure Development for Africa that was adopted during the January 2012 AU Summit. The overall goal of the programme is to promote socio-economic development and poverty reduction in Africa through improved access to integrated regional and continental infrastructure networks and services."

As part of its role as the champion on this initiative, South Africa can also develop linkages between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan and the PICI. On the proposal that South Africa hosts a High Level Forum on Infrastructure during its term as AU chair, this is an event that will certainly be implemented later in the year.

Another pillar of South Africa's agenda as AU Chair is the empowerment of women, with a specific emphasis on promoting financial and economic inclusion and combating gender-based violence. In this regard, President Ramaphosa said, "On women's financial and economic inclusion, South Africa will work with the AU's Women, Gender and Development Directorate, which is responsible for leading, guiding, defending and coordinating the AU's efforts on gender equality and development, working closely together with the AU Leader on Gender and Development, President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana, who has already launched the Gender and Development Initiative for Africa in 2017 as his flagship programme."

The United Nation's (UN) 2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development notes that women's equal access to financial and economic resources is critical for the achievement of gender equality and sustainable economic growth and development, working beyond "micro-finance solutions" to financing that will grow businesses of women.

The goal is to ensure that women and women-led businesses have access to and are able to use multiple financial services as tools to develop their financial autonomy, allow them to contribute to economic growth and to enhance their capacity to take advantage of the opportunities that the future of work will bring. The extent and persistence of violence against women remains a major cause for concern in almost all the countries on the continent.

In 2009, only 28% of sub-Saharan African countries had laws on domestic violence. By 2018, that figure had increased to 55%, which means that half of the countries still do not have laws that specifically address the most prevalent form of violence against women. During this year, we need to mobilise African countries to focus on the prevention of violence against women and girls through, among other things, addressing the harmful social norms that contribute to and perpetuate such violence. Harmful notions of masculinity and social attitudes that accept violence need to be challenged and be replaced by norms that promote gender equality, respect and non-violence. To address discriminatory laws in African countries that disadvantage women and look to international instruments like the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment as means to combat sexual harassment and violence. The promotion of economic integration and respect for human rights depend in large measure on the promotion of good governance.

As the Chair of the APRM in 2020, South Africa will be primarily responsible for driving the APRM's good governance agenda, to deliver good governance through democratic practice and economic growth to reduce political tensions in countries with social divisions. Importantly, the APRM is now an autonomous entity within the AU's structures and has expanded its mandate to cover tracking and monitoring implementation of Agenda 2063 and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It has also developed an early warning system for conflict prevention on the continent, in the context of harmony and synergy between the APRM, the African Peace and Security Architecture and the African Governance Architecture.



*Minister Pandor and Deputy Ministers Candith Mashego-Dlamini and Alvin Botes answer questions during the conference*



The three main priorities for South Africa's Chairship are economic integration, women's empowerment and good governance, which must be underpinned by the promotion of a peaceful and secure Africa. As South Africa's Chairship will coincide with the end of AU's aspiration of "Silencing of the Guns in 2020", it will be important to take stock of the achievements and challenges. This is particularly important for South Africa as the AU-appointed champion on AU-UN cooperation on peace operations, specifically to focus on the need to be given to two intractable conflicts on the continent in Libya and South Sudan, where South Africa is already actively involved in seeking solutions.

South Africa is a member of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya and in South Sudan, engagements have been done both bilaterally and multilaterally, in particular as Chair of the High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on South Sudan, known as the C5.

South Africa's efforts are aimed at affirming commitment to peace, security and stability on the continent and ending humanitarian catastrophe and displacement of people in those countries. Since the Chairship coincides with South Africa's third tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, South Africa should promote cooperation between the three African members of the UNSC and the AU's Peace and Security Council.

In summary, South Africa's strategic objectives during its Chairship of the AU are:

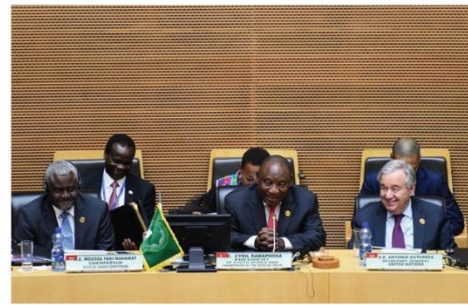
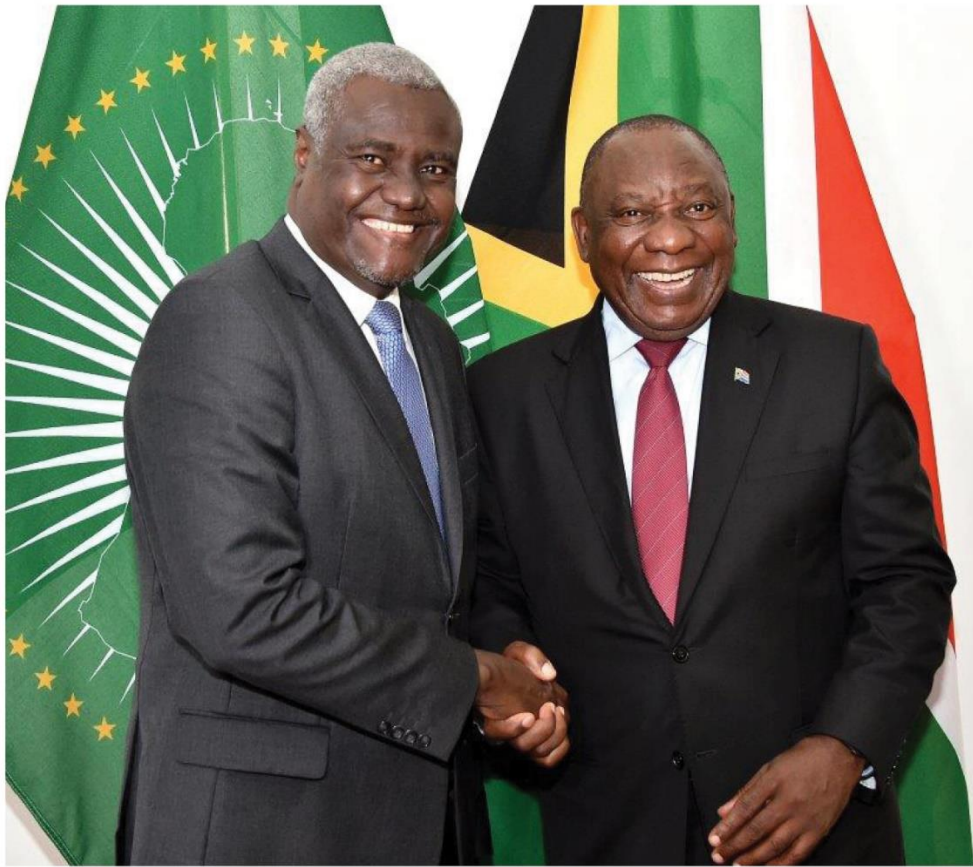
- to promote South Africa's values, interests and continental and domestic objectives;
- supporting integration
- economic development
- trade and investment in the continent
- drive the implementation of the PICI in support of the AfCFTA
- advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and combat violence against women and girls
- strengthen cooperation between the AU and UN
- promote peace and security and advance the effort to silence the guns.



[www.au.int](http://www.au.int)   

*African Union. Silencing the Guns:  
Creating Conducive Conditions for  
Africa's Development*





international relations  
& cooperation

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

African  
Union





# INFORMATION ON THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

World Health Organisation standard recommendations for the general public to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses:  
Website <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

## Protect yourself and others from getting sick

- ✓ Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- ✓ When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands.
- ✓ Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough.
- ✓ If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health-care provider.
- ✓ The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practice.

The following is the link to the DIRCO website:

<http://www.dirco.gov.za/consular/traveladvice.htm>

**CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) 24-HOUR HOTLINE NUMBER:  
0800 029 999**



international relations  
& cooperation

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



@DIRCO\_ZA



DIRCOza



DIRCO Flickr



DIRCOZA



thedircoza





UBUNTU

2020

On Saturday, 15 February 2020, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, hosted the Ubuntu Awards 2020, which took place in Cape Town at the International Convention Centre. The awards brought together captains of industry, leaders from civil society, members of Cabinet and distinguished guests in addition to all Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to South Africa.

The Ubuntu Awards 2020 was held under the theme: "Celebrating Excellence in Diplomacy – Working Together to Build a Better Africa and a Better World". The annual event recognises prominent South African citizens for their distinguished service and contribution to promoting South Africa and her values across the world. These are individuals or organisations that through their work, continue to fly the South African flag high on the international stage.

Nominations for the Ubuntu Awards were opened at the end of 2019 where members of the public were given the opportunity to nominate a South African citizen who they believe that in their daily endeavours, has really represented the country well across the globe. The nominees could be identified from the following categories:

1. Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award

This category is split into two sub-categories:

- (i) A South African business operating beyond African borders
- (ii) A South African business operating primarily within Africa,

2. Ubuntu Social Responsibility Award

3. Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award

4. Ubuntu Youth Diplomacy Award

5. Ubuntu Sports Diplomacy Award.

The OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a South African citizen who has dedicated their life to building a better South Africa over many years. The finalisation of the winners was conducted through deliberations by the DIRCO Ubuntu Awards Adjudication Committee, comprising judges from the Diplomatic Corps, senior government officials, thought leaders and influencers from business, academia and civil society. The panel included:

- Mr Clayson Monyela – Deputy Director General: Public Diplomacy (DIRCO)
- Amb Matu Joyini – Deputy Director General: Diplomatic Training, Research and Development (DIRCO)
- Ms Leanne Manas – TV Presenter (SABC, *Morning Live*)
- Mr Robert Marawa – TV and Radio Sport Presenter (MarawaTV)
- Mr Thebe Ikalafeng – Entrepreneur .

All individual nominees were South African citizens and the organisations of South African origin.



# UBUNTU AWARDS

## SOUTH AFRICA



## The Adjudication Panel

The President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, delivered the keynote address during this prestigious event. President Ramaphosa thanked the winners for their outstanding performance while representing South Africa in various sectors. "It is you who are out there in the capitals of the world, from Helsinki to Washington, from Beijing to Perth, from Ougadougou to Harare, working tirelessly to promote the interests of South Africa and to foster peace and friendship.". The president continued, "You have assumed the task of elevating Brand South Africa in the community of nations. For we know indeed that South Africa's exports go beyond goods and services."

A notable moment was the acceptance speech of the youngest winner for the night, Ms Michelle Nkamankeng, who was presented with the Ubuntu Yourh Award. The young learner from Sacred Heart College in Johannesburg dazzled the crowd with her beautiful smile, speaking with great confidence about the importance of instilling a love for reading in the youth of the world. At the very tender age of nine, Michelle has already authored a few books and has been published. Her vision is to have a reading South Africa.

The winner of the Ubuntu Social Responsibility Award, Dr Hany El-Banna, co-founder of the Islamic Relief Worldwide, touched many a heart in the room when he spoke passionately about the impact that the award will make and the goodness of the South African community, which makes the work of the organisation worth it. It was an inspirational speech that highlighted the effect that international solidarity has on the advancement of people.

The brilliant prowess of Ms Leanne Manas, *Morning Live* Presenter on SABC TV and Mr Bob Mabena, who is the breakfast host of Power FM 98.7, was a special treat as the duo bounced hilarious banter on one another, keeping the audience thoroughly entertained throughout the evening. They were the perfect combination of brains and wit. Another highlight of the event was the outstanding entertainment by the talented and energetic Afropop duo Mafikizolo, who belted out sing-along lyrics from some of their popular international hits such as "Khona". Their music certainly had the guests dancing in celebration of South African excellence. The velvet voice and outstanding performance of Ms Judith Sephuma further proved that South Africa's music industry is top notch.

The most diverse national rugby team that South Africa has ever had, the world champions, Springboks got a well-deserved nod firstly through nomination and finally winning the Ubuntu Sport Award for their spectacular win against the England national rugby squad in the Rugby World Cup 2019 finals in November last year. The Boks brought the Webb Ellis Cup to South African shores for the third time since the country's return to international sport, having previously won it in 1995 and 2007, respectively. It was indeed an evening that celebrated South African excellence.



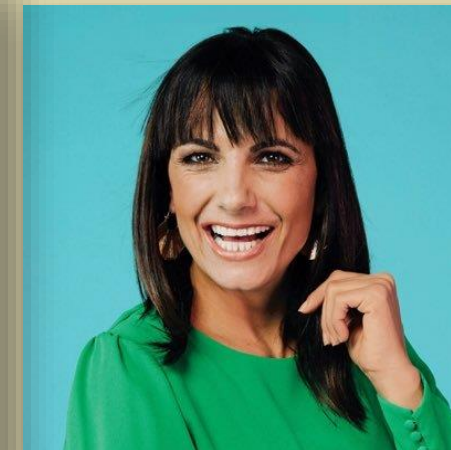
*Mr Clayson Monyela  
Deputy Director General: Public  
Diplomacy*



*Amb Matu Joyini  
Deputy Director General: Diplomatic Training,  
Research and Development*



*Mr Robert Marawa  
TV, Radio and YouTube Sport  
Presenter*



*Ms Leanne Manas  
TV and Radio Presenter*



*Mr Thebe Ikalafeng  
Branding and Reputation Architect,  
Advisor and Author*

*Left: Ms Leanne Manas looked stylish in black and white*



*Right: President Cyril Ramaphosa talks to Programme Directors, Mr Bob Mabena and Ms Leanne Manas after the awards ceremony*



*The Adjudication Panel for the Ubuntu Awards 2020*





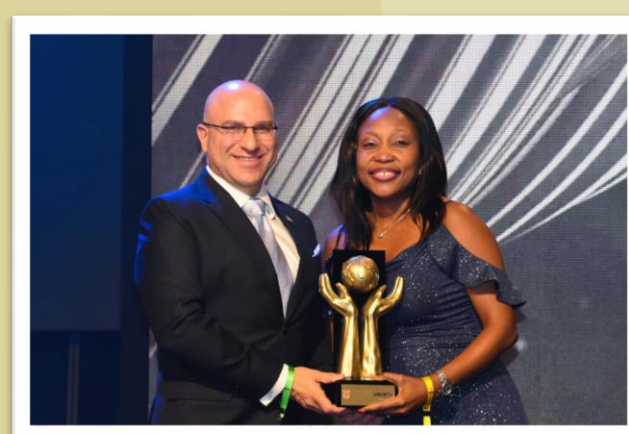
1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

### UBUNTU AWARDS WINNERS FOR 2020

1. **Social Responsibility Award** - Dr Hany El-Banna
2. **Ubuntu Youth Diplomacy Award** – Ms Michelle Nkamankeng
3. **Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Africa)**- ABSA, accepted by CEO, Mr Daniel Mminele
4. **Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Global)** – Bidvest, accepted by CEO, Ms Mpumi Madisa
5. **Ubuntu Sport Diplomacy Award** – The Springboks, (Award received by assistant coach of the Springboks, Mr Mzwandile Stick),
6. **Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Veteran)** – Dr Vusi Mahlasela,
7. **Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Youth)** - Mr Trevor Noah
8. **O.R. Tambo Lifetime Achievement in Diplomacy Award** – Dr Brigalia Bam



## DIRCO OPEN DAY: DEPUTY MINISTER ALVIN BOTES HOSTS STUDENTS FROM WESTBURY SECONDARY SCHOOL



*The Class of 2019 – Westbury Secondary School*



*Deputy Minister Alvin Botes shares words of inspiration and motivation with the learners*

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Alvin Botes, embarked on a "Back To School" campaign aimed at encouraging learners to focus on their education, which has been identified as one government's key priorities.

A graduation ceremony was held for "The Class of 2019 Top Achievers" from Westbury Secondary School with the purpose of broadening the learners' knowledge about South Africa's international relations work and the careers the international relations environment and foreign policy has that learners could explore after completing their Grade 12.

"Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another." – Nelson Mandela.



*A learner addresses the audience, including the Diplomatic Corps, senior managers and parents*



# COVID-19

**Need to wash your hands, but  
there is no soap and water?**



**Use an alcohol-based hand  
sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol**

COVID-19 Hotline: 0800 029 999



**health**

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service





## BACK TO SCHOOL: DEPUTY MINISTER MASHEGO-DLAMINI VISITS TO MPUMALANGA AND LIMPOPO

By Ms Busisiwe Kubheka



*Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini addresses learners of Mokhari Secondary School during the DIRCO Back To School Outreach Programme*

Guided by the words of Marian Wright Edelman, "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it". the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), Ms Candith Mashego-Dlamini, embarked on a "back to school" campaign in Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces, aimed at encouraging learners to stay in school, and to inform and educate students about the mandate of the Department.

As part of this Campaign, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini visited Mokhari Secondary School in Mookgopong, Limpopo, and Manzini Primary School in Chochocho, Mpumalanga, on 3 February and on 7 February 2020 respectively under the theme "Supporting the Change that Education Brings into the Lives of Children".

The campaign was hosted as part of the department's community outreach programmes, which is known as the Public Participation Programme (PPP). This initiative was previously known as Izimbizo programme until May 2013, following Cabinet's approval of the key elements of re-naming and re-branding outreach programmes.



*The learners of Mokhari Secondary School*



Accordingly, every member of the Executive is expected to undertake at least 10 public engagements per annum to interact directly with communities and stakeholders throughout the country. This has afforded the department an opportunity to inform the South African public and various stakeholders about South Africa's foreign policy positions, achievements, objectives and goals.

The objectives of the Back to School Campaign, therefore, were to:

- Ensure support for the learners so they can go back to school
- Strengthen relationships between government and communities
- Inform the learners about career prospects in diplomacy
- Ensure that ordinary South Africans understand the work of the department

During the campaign, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini shared her passion and vision of “No child in South Africa shall be deprived of education because of their background”. This was evidenced by the donations of 50 pairs of school shoes to the underprivileged learners of Mokhari Secondary School.

At Manzini Secondary School, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini, supported by external stakeholder organisations such as Vodacom Smartcall, Chill Pepper Boutique Hotel, Dischem and Ligwalagwala FM, among others, donated sanitary towels, toiletries, school uniforms, dictionaries and a container library filled with primary school books. These donations followed a pledge made by Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini during her first visit to the school in July 2019, to support Manzini Secondary School and assist in making education for the Manzini learners an enjoyable journey.

Following the two successful visits to the schools, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini expressed her gratitude and excitement in being able to contribute in making a change and ensuring support for the learners so they can stay in school.



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini delivers the keynote address



A learner performs a poem for Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini and the audience during the DIRCO Outreach Programme



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini meets the students



# SOWETO: A CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTED IN HONOUR OF GUYANA'S 50TH REPUBLIC ANNIVERSARY

by Francis Cooper

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the Guyana High Commission in South Africa held two events. Firstly, members of the Guyanese Diaspora, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and diplomats from Caribbean countries, including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti attended a reception on 23 February 2020.

Secondly, there was the official opening of a newly constructed classroom for four and five-year old learners at the Elias Motsoaledi Pre-School and Day Care in Devland, Soweto, following the approval by Counselor Grace Badi of Ward 24. The school was named after Mr Elias Motsoaledi (26 July 1924 – 9 May 1994), the anti-apartheid activist sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island, along with Nelson Mandela and many other freedom fighters.

During his address on 26 February 2020, Dr Cyril Kenrick Hunte, the High Commissioner of Guyana accredited to South Africa and other neighbouring countries, noted that the project was aimed at providing the learners with a positive start to their education, for as Nelson Mandela said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Yes, education can change the world, for it supports understanding and transcends generations.



*High Commissioner Dr. Hunte and the Jamaican High Commissioner, Mrs Angela Comfort, standing behind some of the learners and invited guests on 26 February 2020*



*Learners sitting under the extension of the outdoor classroom*

High Commissioner Hunte explained that the delegation was there because of the visit by three Guyanese teachers, Mrs Mildred Lowe, Mrs Wendy Babb and Mrs Alvilda Arokium (recently deceased), who taught in the New York School system. They travelled to South Africa during their summer vacation and visited the Elias Motsoaledi Pre-School and Day Care during one of their tours. These teachers immediately recognised the need for teaching materials and sanitary items.

Dr Hunte stated that when the teachers returned to New York, they raised and sent funds to Mrs Claire Hunte, who is also a teacher and the wife of the High Commissioner. Mrs Hunte purchased and delivered teaching materials and sanitary items to the teachers. However, she observed that the classroom was not conducive for teaching and learning, since there were approximately 70 children, ages one to five, in a crowded room. Consequently, Mrs. Hunte proposed that a classroom be built for four and five-year-old learners.

The High Commissioner explained the upgrades to the parents and visitors. He said that the covered outdoor area would be used as an extension of the newly constructed classroom for teaching and learning.





*Mrs. Claire Hunte teaches the four and five-year-old learners in the new classroom*

High Commissioner Hunte said that more teaching materials and recreational items were distributed to the school to provide for the basic needs of both the learners and teachers, in addition to the previously delivered “no-sew” blankets (without needing a sewing machine) for the upcoming winter season.

Plastic containers for drinking water and washing hands as well as two outdoor toilets were constructed for improved hygiene to compensate for the lack of running water and electricity on the premises. The entrance to the school is now paved with concrete as well as the area from the classroom to the toilets. High Commissioner noted that these upgrades would contribute to the overall cleanliness of the facilities.

In the meantime, Mrs Hunte will continue to assist the teachers with incorporating the newly acquired teaching and learning materials with the Basic Curriculum for Education in South Africa.

High Commissioner Hunte stated that this project is community-based with volunteers from South Africa, Guyana, Burundi, New York and Pennsylvania. Some provided their time and talent, while others made financial contributions, which were used to pay for supplies and for building materials and technical services, signifying the African proverb that: “it takes a village to raise a child”.

In closing, High Commissioner Hunte stated that in celebration of its 50th Anniversary as the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, they dedicate this classroom and facilities for the learners at Elias Motsoaledi Pre-School and Day Care; and he asked that the teachers, parents and guardians worked together and supported each other so that the children would be happy, creative and compassionate.



# AS AFRICAN UNION CHAIR, SOUTH AFRICA IS DETERMINED TO TAKE THE PROJECT OF CONTINENTAL UNITY, INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT FURTHER, GUIDED BY OUR FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES AND THE CONTINENT'S ASPIRATIONS AS ESPOUSED IN AGENDA 2063

By: Mr Clayson Monyela

South Africa is the new Chair of the African Union (AU). Our country has also taken over the chairship of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change. Being at the helm of these strategic continental bodies presents us with opportunities, albeit at a challenging time for both our country and the continent.

Holding these positions means that as a country, South Africa will be compelled to redouble our efforts to build strong, sustainable and resilient regional and continental mechanisms able to support our national efforts to deliver durable and inclusive economic opportunities for our people, in particular women and youth. It also means that we need to serve as a buffer against unrest, instability, terrorism and violent extremism on our continent.

South Africa's revitalised industrial strategy has a focus on expanding our trade and investment links with the rest of our region, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the continent at large.

SADC continues to serve as the primary vehicle for South African foreign policy in order to achieve regional development and integration within southern Africa.

South Africa's future remains inextricably linked to the future of the African continent and that of its neighbours in Southern Africa. It is for this reason that South Africa contributes to a SADC that strives for a balanced and equitable regional integration as a fundamental condition for sustainable development in the region. This seeks to address challenges such as unemployment, poverty and underdevelopment.

Thus, the developmental aspirations of SADC finds resonance in South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP), which provides a link to our economic development and that of SADC.

As the Chair of the APRM in 2020, South Africa will be primarily responsible for driving the APRM's good governance agenda.



Democracy and good governance are critical to laying the foundations for sustainable development to take place in Africa. Accordingly, South Africa has consistently called for full compliance with the norms and instruments of the AU in support of democracy and good governance on the continent as articulated in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and others, towards ensuring the achievement of sustainable and lasting peace in conflict and post-conflict settings in Africa.

Positive progress has been made in the past three years in entrenching democracy through the expansion of electoral democracy throughout the continent. It is significant that in keeping with the spirit and letter of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the continent has witnessed a growing number of countries, including South Africa, holding peaceful, free and credible elections. In this regard, it is instructive to note that in the period 2018 to 2019, 31 African countries held peaceful, free and credible elections, which expressed the will of the people in those countries.

As AU Chair, South Africa is determined to take the project of continental unity, integration and development further, guided by our foreign policy priorities and the continent's aspirations as espoused in African Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want".

We know that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement will only become a reality if the infrastructure between African countries is developed. Infrastructure is at the core of Africa's social, economic and political challenges.



As the supporter of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative under New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), South Africa has a critical role to play – and must act on the opportunity presented – in profiling infrastructure development in support of the AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA agreement will make Africa the largest common market in the world, with a population of more than a billion people and a combined GDP of over US\$3-trillion.

It will give impetus to intra-Africa trade, reignite industrialisation and pave the way for the meaningful integration of Africa into global value chains and the global economy in general. This will have the long-term effects of making the AU financially independent, leading to stronger institutions which are the building blocks of an effective and efficient union.

A strong, united and independent AU, working in partnership with regional organisations and arrangements, is instrumental for the realisation of a continent free of war, conflict and underdevelopment, as encapsulated in the African Agenda 2063. That's what South Africa is aiming at.

With 2020 marking the end of AU's aspiration of "Silencing of the Guns", it will be important to take stock of the achievements and challenges. This is particularly important for us as South Africa is the AU appointed champion on AU-United Nations cooperation on peace operations.

Specific focus will need to be given to two intractable conflicts on the continent – in Libya and South Sudan – where South Africa is already actively involved in seeking solutions.

Since the chairship also coincides with South Africa's third tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, South Africa will promote cooperation between the three African members of the UNSC and the AU's PSC.

In January 2012, the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 2033, which urges for enhanced cooperation between the UNSC and sub-regional organisations, particularly the AU, in peace and security matters

Resolution 2033, initiated by South Africa stresses the importance of establishing a more effective relationship between the UNSC and regional bodies, in particular, the AU PSC, especially in the area of conflict prevention, resolution and management, electoral assistance and regional conflict prevention.

The resolution also encourages the improvement of regular interaction, consultation and coordination between the two bodies on matters of mutual interest. Our duty as AU Chair will be to remind UNSC members of this resolution and monitor its implementation.

It is the intention of South Africa to continue to advocate for multilateralism and reform of global institutions, such as the UNSC, to ensure that they represent the interests of Africa and the developing world. Efforts to undermine a rules-based multilateral approach to international trade should be resisted.





# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED





# United Airline's inaugural flight from Newark to Cape Town



Below: (From left to right): Jill Kaplan, President of NY-NJ United Airlines; Patrick Quayle, VP of International Network United; Yoliswa Muebe, Charge d'Affaires of the South African Embassy Washington DC; and Justin Barnette, South African Tourism



On Sunday, 15 December 2019, United Airlines launched another exciting route; a non-stop Newark to Cape Town. The inaugural flight celebration for this route was attended by South Africa's Chargé d'Affaires to Washington DC, Ms Yoliswa Muebe.

United's new route is truly a cause for celebration as it is the only non-stop flight between the United States and Cape Town; offering a faster option to South Africa-bound travellers.

United will operate the service between Newark and Cape Town three times a week on its 787-9 Dreamliner, which is fitted with 48 seats in business class, 88 seats in economy and 116 seats in coach. The route is said to be 14.5 hours to South Africa and 15 hours on its northbound return

This new option for travellers to South Africa has the potential to generate an additional R153 million in tourism to the Mother City by 2021 and increase the number of tourists to the country, very much in line with President Cyril Ramaphosa's call to double tourist arrivals to 21 million by 2030.

Apart from enhancing the tourism and hospitality industry, this will also strengthen the ever growing business linkages between the two countries.





# #ABOUTME

Lethlogonolo Mashilo

## Briefly take us through your career to date, and how you came to work for the department

I am Lethlogonolo Mashilo from Atteridgeville, Pretoria. I am a Foreign Service Officer working at the Desk responsible for India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum; and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) & Operation Phakisa under the Chief Directorate: Regional Organisations within the department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). I joined the Department in August 2016 through the Johnny Makhathini Ubuntu Diplomatic Corps (JMUDC) Cadet Programme. Prior to joining DIRCO, I worked for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) through one of its subsidiaries, Meraka Institute - Ingwapele Technology & Business Skills South Africa (BSSA). I studied Journalism at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), followed by a post-graduate degree in International Politics at the University of South Africa.

## What is your day in the office like?

My day usually starts with going through my inbox and responding to urgent email enquiries. A quick global media scan ensues followed by a read-out of international reports from Fitch Solutions & Africa Monitor. As a result of the orientation of the directorate, my day-to-day routine requires liaising with stakeholder departments, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the Permanent Mission to the United Nations and the IORA Secretariat. Depending on whether we would be engaging internal or external stakeholders on a particular day, preparations for meetings are undertaken. However, if that is not the case, then the order of the day would be drafting submissions, reports, memorandums and diplomatic notes conveying new developments to our principals and partners.

## You are also a media liaison coordinator for the Junior Diplomats Council (JDC). Please take us through the mandate of the JDC and your role and responsibilities

The mandate of the JDC is to create a platform for junior officials in the Department to serve as a knowledge-based structure and a network through which to engage and develop each other on substance issues. Moreover, it is to provide a channel of communication between management and junior officials in a structured manner.



*Attending the Indian Ocean Rim Association's 19th Council of Ministers and related meetings where South Africa handed over its Chairship of IORA to the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi from 5 - 7 November 2019*

My role is to facilitate interaction between the JDC and the department through Public Diplomacy's communication network. My responsibilities include:

- ensuring that the objectives of the JDC are well-communicated
- organising dialogues and informing DIRCO officials about our events and promotional activities
- ensuring visibility of the JDC on media platforms and its accessibility to officials within the Department.

## What challenges and achievements have you experienced in realising your career goals? And how have they affected your career trajectory?

Coming from the ICT sector into diplomacy was not without its challenges financial-wise. The ICT sector is one of the high-paying industries in the country, even at junior level, therefore, I had to learn to do with less and adjust accordingly. However, I quickly appreciated opportunities presented by the diplomatic environment unattainable anywhere else, professionally.





For instance, one cannot quantify in rand terms the pride and privilege associated with representing one's country in international fora, similar to my experience at the handing-over of the South African Chairship of IORA to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Abu Dhabi, November 2019. I suspect that the lives of many diplomats are littered with such experiences, thus, making the profession fulfilling and invaluable, concurrently offsetting many a challenges inherent within the diplomatic career.

### Do you have a mentor?

Yes, Father William Phahlane. As a community leader and a motivational speaker, he espouses values of diligence, resilience, positivity, leadership and professionalism that undeniably resonate with progressive young professionals.



India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Sherpa Meeting commemorating 15 years of the IBSA Dialogue Forum in India - Cochin, from 3 - 5 May 2019, with Ambassador Anil Sooklal (Left), Mr Magen Govender, and Mr Mandla Rametsi



Brazil · Russia · India · China · South Africa







*Continuing the Legacy:  
Working for a Just and Peaceful World*





## LEARN

## SHONA

USEFUL  
GREETINGS

Shona is a language of the people of Zimbabwe. The Shona people can be found in neighboring countries such as Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and South Africa. Did you know that the name "Zimbabwe" has been derived from "Dzimba dza mabwe"? which means "great houses of stone" in the Shona language. The name is based on the stone structures of Great Zimbabwe or Dzimbahwe, which became a World Heritage Site in 1986.

Planning a holiday for the near future? Zimbabwe is visa-free for South Africans citizens with a valid passport for a stay up to 90 days.

**Here are some basic phrases in Shona**

Good Morning	Mangwanani, marara sei?
Good Afternoon	Masikati, maswera sei?
Good Evening	Maswera sei
Good Night	Urare zvakanaka (sg) Murare Zvakanaka (pl)
Good Bye	Sara Zvakanaka (sg) Sariayi Zvakanaka (pl)

## THE BASICS

Hi there	Mhoroi apo
How are you ?	Makadii
Are you okay?	Hauna kukuvara here?
Please say that again	Ndinokumbirawo kuti muzvitaure futi
Where are you from?	Unobva kupi?
Can I help you?	Ndingakubatsira here?
Where is the airport?	Nhandare yendege iri kupi?
What is that called in Shona?	Icho chinonzii muchishona?
How much is this?	Ichi imarii?
Do you understand?	Munonzvisisa here?
Where is the airport?	Nhandare yendege iri kupi?
It was nice talking to you	Ndafara kutaura newe
Thank you	Waita hako



# COVID-19

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19



COVID-19 Hotline: 0800 029 999