

IT'S YOUR VOICE

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International
Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat



YOUTH MONTH

30 June 2021 • Volume 5



The Year of **Charlotte Mannya Maxeke:**

**Growing youth employment
for an inclusive and
transformed society.**



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This year marks the 45th anniversary of the 16 June 1976 student uprising in Soweto when young people protested against imposition of Afrikaans by the apartheid regime as a medium of instruction.

The National Youth Day will be commemorated under the theme: "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society."

EDITOR'S

LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

In this month's edition, you will find a number of highlighted events that took place in the month of June 2021.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the 16 June 1976 student uprising in Soweto when young people protested against imposition of Afrikaans by the apartheid regime as a medium of instruction. The uprising ended tragically with hundreds of young people being brutally killed. Following the advent of democracy in 1994, the new democratic Government declared 16 June as National Youth Day and June as Youth Month. The declaration honours the contribution of the youth in the struggle for the liberation of South Africa. The national theme for this month's commemoration is: "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing Youth Employment for an Inclusive and Transformed Society".

Voices from DIRCO features an article by Ambassador Anesh Maistry. The piece focusses on the revolution of economic diplomacy. The new economy, comprising the Digital Economy, the Data or Information Economy, the Fourth Industrial Revolution or Innovation Economy, has forced Generation X to meet Generation Z and find a balance between the rapidly evolving economies.

Turn the page, as GEMS starts the roll-out of the vaccination programme at Head Office for those officials 60 years of age and above. To date, over 2.7 million people have received a vaccine and vaccine registration will soon be open to all those aged 50 and above in the month of July.

In *#AboutMe*, we feature a pre-book launch by Ms Madiepetsane Charlotte Lobe, called *My Father: My Hero, My Zero*.

The DIRCO Employee Health and Wellness page offers guidance on mental health, which affects a large number of people and is often misunderstood due to the nature of the disorder and limited awareness campaigns.

In addition, the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over, so continue social distancing, washing hands frequently and wearing a mask.
#VaccinateToSaveSouthAfrica

May you enjoy all that we have to offer in this month's edition. I am grateful for the opportunity to be guest editor of this issue.

Kind regards,

MM



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VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

Theme: "The importance of upholding the principles of self-determination and non-discrimination – justice for the Palestinian people"

TUESDAY, 8 JUNE 2021

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (NY TIME) 16:00 PM – 18:00 PM (SA TIME)

The event can also be followed live on Twitter @DIRCO_ZA or Facebook DIRCOza from 10:00 AM (NY time) and 16:00 PM (SA time).

The Permanent Missions of South Africa and Namibia to the United Nations in New York will jointly host a virtual side event in partnership with the State of Palestine on "the importance of upholding the principles of self-determination and non-discrimination – justice for the Palestinian people".

This side event also serves as an integral component of the Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace and builds on the momentum thereof. In Paragraph 9 of the Declaration, Member States committed to "recognise that the respect for the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights, as well as the fundamental freedoms, of all members of the human family is the foundation of inclusivity justice and peace in the world; declare that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance represent the very opposite of the noble purposes of the United Nations; and recognise that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversities is essential for lasting peace, understanding and friendship among peoples, nations, civilisations, cultures and individuals."

The virtual side event will seek to explore what steps are required by the international community through the UN to uphold international law in respect of eliminating racial discrimination, including full enforcement of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Apartheid Convention, the Rome Statute, and other relevant international covenants and UN resolutions to ensure that the rights of the Palestinian people guaranteed under international law but for too long rendered inaccessible to them, are finally achieved.

MODERATORS



Mr Sello Hatang
Chief Executive Officer
Nelson Mandela Foundation



Ms Sumaya Hendricks
Dialogue Analyst
Nelson Mandela Foundation

PANELISTS



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Israel and Palestine Director
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The Importance of Upholding the Principles of Self-determination and Non-discrimination – Justice for the Palestinian People

- 8 June 2021

It was former President Nelson Mandela who in a 1997 speech on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, reaffirmed his support for Palestinian rights. Madiba emphasised the importance of South Africa standing by the people of Palestine, who lived in a situation where their self-determination was grossly denied. South Africa has continually reiterated its firm support for their plight, which includes statements presented to the various bodies of the United Nations (UN). President Mandela said: "We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinian.", and further announced his support for the two-State solution but affirmed Israel must withdraw from occupied territories.

On 8 June 2021, the Permanent Missions of South Africa and Namibia to the UN in New York jointly hosted a virtual side event in partnership with the State of Palestine on "the importance of upholding the principles of self-determination and non-discrimination – justice for the Palestinian people", led by Minister Naledi Pandor. With Mr Sello Hatang, CEO of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and Ms Sumaya Hendricks, Dialogue Analyst for the foundation, as moderators, Dr Pandor was further joined by a panel of experts, including:

- Ms Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia
- Mr Riyadh al-Maliki: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine
- Professor John Dugard: former UN Special Rapporteur on the Violation of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

- Attorney Michael Sfard Israeli: Human Rights lawyer
- Ms Nada Awad: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
- Ms Rania Muhareb: Al-Haq Organisation, Palestinian Human Rights Organisation
- Mr Omar Shakir: Israel and Palestine Director, Human Rights Watch (HRW).

During her remarks, Minister Pandor reflected on the horrific scenes of brutality and violence exercised against Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, that had ensued over the preceding weeks. "We have witnessed the senseless taking of young, innocent lives, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and livelihoods in an "unbalanced power equation between an Occupying Power and a people, resisting occupation", said Dr Pandor.

The Palestinian narrative evokes experiences of South Africa's own history of racial segregation and oppression. Minister Pandor highlighted the fact that as oppressed South Africans, we experienced first-hand the effects of racial inequality and discrimination and we are well aware of the long-term impact and consequences of racial and other forms of discrimination.

Dr Pandor said: "An unwavering commitment is required to eradicate discrimination and policies of exclusion completely and permanently the world over. It is paramount that the global system deepens its efforts to eradicate the scourge of racism and discrimination and allow those whose basic rights have been violated to enjoy the inherent human rights that others enjoy on a daily basis".

"The fundamental freedoms that many of us take for granted remain absent for Palestinians living in the Occupied Territory", added Minister, and continued

to reflect on a recent report published by the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, B'Tselem, that provided a detailed account of the military occupation imposed on the approximately five million Palestinians living in the Occupied Territory, and the laws and practices engineered to impede them from participating in the political system that governs their lives and determines their future. The HRW Report, "A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution", published on 27 April 2021 draws similar conclusions. The regular land dispossession and illegal seizure of homes evoke apartheid forced removals and intolerable harm to all people.

These actions undermine the Palestinian people and deprive them of their universal and inalienable right to self-determination and equality. It goes against internationally adopted human rights instruments, violates international law, further provoking political tension and endangering international peace and security.

Since its inception in 1945, the UN has championed the principles of equality, non-discrimination and the right to self-determination as an integral element of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. Various international human rights instruments guide us such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (1960). With this in mind, Dr Pandor questioned why was it that, over half a century later, the question of Palestine remained unresolved and why was it that the people of Palestine were denied many of

the rights contained in these seminal documents?

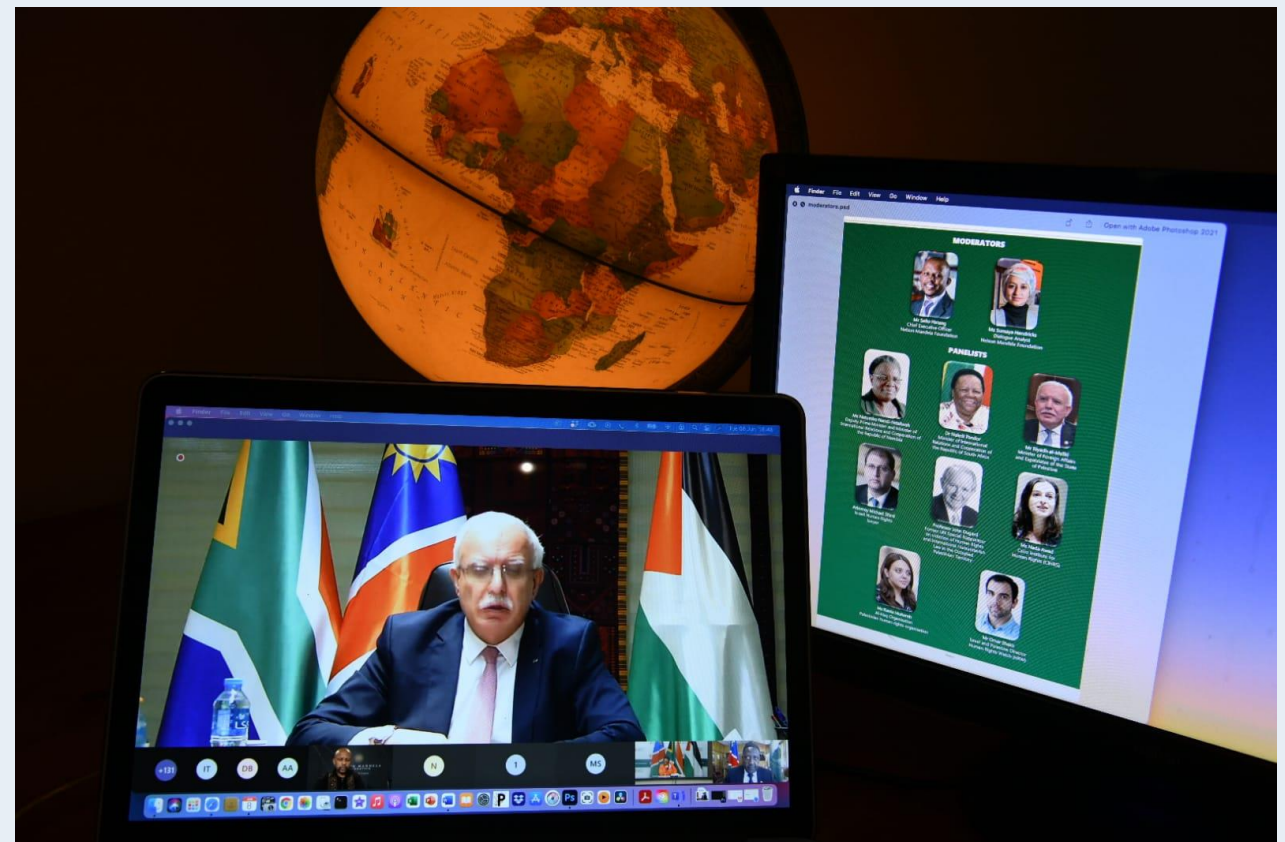
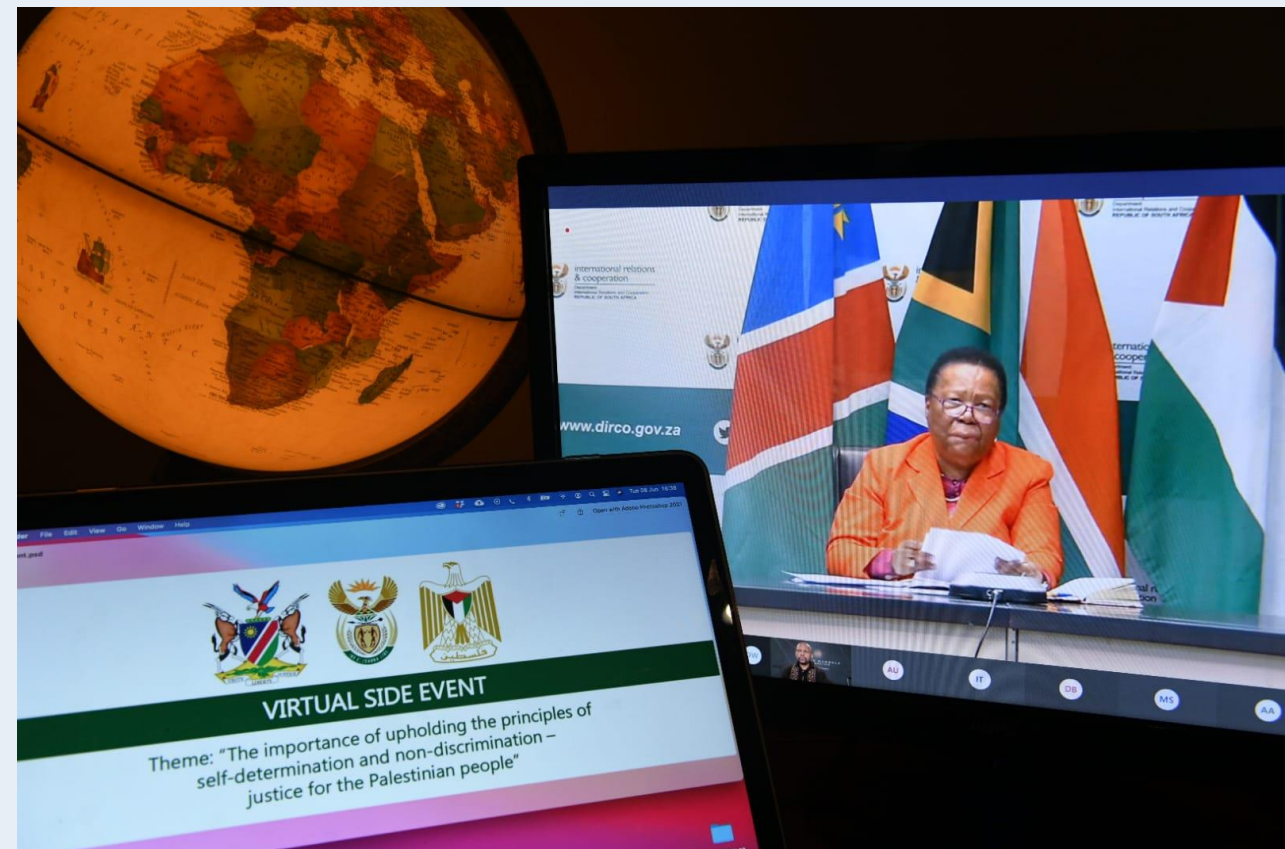
"We, along with many in the UN membership have long accepted and supported a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace. Decades of aggression have made this internationally recognised concept improbable," said Minister Pandor and further added that: "The pivotal role played by the UN and civil society in supporting our respective liberation struggles and the impact this had in us achieving our self-determination must encourage the UN and its member states, the international community and civil society to join efforts to strengthen international action and coordination to uphold international norms and standards as we seek justice for Palestinians."

"Most importantly, with regard to the ongoing human rights violations Palestinians endure, South Africa urges the international community and in particular the UN to ensure the safeguarding of the rights of the Palestinian people. In this regard, we welcome the initiative to convene a Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which was held on 27 May 2021. South Africa supports the recent adoption of the UN Human Rights Council Resolution, which establishes an International Commission of Inquiry to Investigate Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel. However, action in this regard has to be peremptory to avoid reducing these initiatives to "feel good talk shops. It is therefore our sincerest hope that the Independent Commission of Inquiry will be established with all due haste to investigate all violations and abuses and that the necessary action will be taken to follow up on the commission's findings."

"We are currently living in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented enormous social and economic challenges, straining existing systems that are already grappling with numerous difficulties. The pandemic has further exacerbated the challenges faced by civilians and vulnerable groups, especially women, girls, people with disabilities and children, including those in the Occupied Territory. Containment measures have affected access to socio-economic necessities. Women and girls living under occupation and in armed conflicts are often subjected to not only social, economic and political subjugation but are also at particular risk of suffering from lifelong psychological trauma. In this regard, it is paramount that the occupying power fulfil its obligations in terms of international law and together with the international community ensure that all barriers to accessing healthcare are eliminated in order to save lives."

In conclusion, Minister Pandor, on behalf of South Africa, reiterated that illegal settlements leading to dispossession and displacements and human rights abuses were incompatible with international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The policies and practices of Israel, as the occupying power, are in flagrant violation of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and contravene international law. It is therefore imperative that the Security Council, as the body entrusted to maintain international peace and security, take concrete steps against these illegal acts and go beyond mere rhetoric condemnation. The recorded failures of the Security Council in ensuring respect for and the upholding of the rule of law has dented the integrity of this august organ and highlighted the urgent need for Security Council reform.

"We hope that through dialogues of this nature, we will be able to not only highlight the human rights challenges faced by the Palestinian people, but also propose concrete actions that we, as member states and civil society can take, including strengthening existing UN mechanisms to bring greater focus on this matter central to the maintenance of international peace and security," said Minister Pandor.





VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

Theme: "The Importance of Upholding the Principles of
Self-determination and Non-discrimination –
Justice for the Palestinian People"

TUESDAY, 8 JUNE 2021

#PalestineSolidaritySA

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An unwavering
commitment is required to
eradicate discrimination
and policies of exclusion
completely and
permanently the world
over.”



Dr Naledi Pandor
Minister of International Relations
and Cooperation of the Republic of
South Africa



Joint Statement at the Conclusion of the Working Visit to South Africa by Dr Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, 4 June 2021

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, hosted her Rwandan counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr Vincent Biruta, on a Working Visit to South Africa on 4 June 2021.

The two ministers met to assess the current state of bilateral relations as well as to iron out challenges that are affecting the conduct of relations between South Africa and Rwanda.

The ministers recalled the good bilateral relations that existed between the two countries prior to the events that led to the straining of relations in 2013.

In open and frank discussions, both ministers confirmed their determination and commitment to normalise diplomatic relations as expressed by President Cyril Ramaphosa and President Paul Kagame, following bilateral meetings.

The ministers agreed that full cooperation between the two countries in a number of areas and sectors, would support increased socio-economic development.

It was agreed that mutual actions and measures would be taken to direct bilateral relations along a new path for the benefit of the governments and peoples of South Africa and Rwanda.

To this end, the ministers agreed on a road map that will support the normalisation process, predicated on agreed timelines. Both countries must value and respect the international laws and regulations that govern relations between countries, including territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

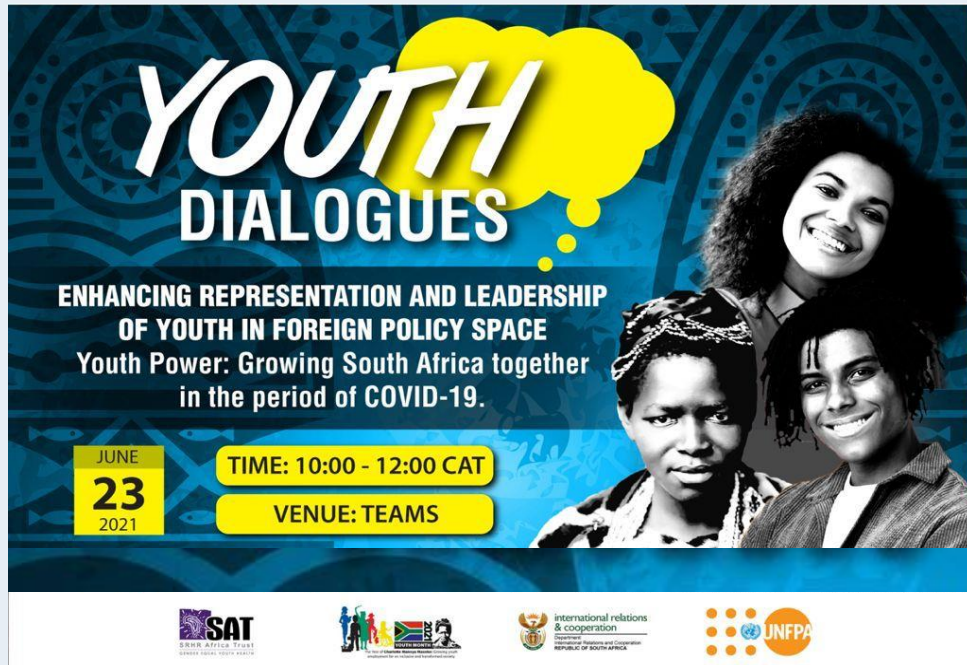
The meeting agreed on the establishment of a Joint Mechanism, led by ministers Pandor and Biruta, to guide and manage the normalisation process. Senior officials of both countries will serve as the Technical Committee of the mechanism. The mechanism will be required to engage the entire spectrum of issues affecting bilateral relations and report to the ministers.

<http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/rwan0604.htm>



Youth in Diplomacy: Enhancing Representation and Leadership of Youth in Foreign Policy Space

- By Zandi Bhengu, Directorate: Gender and Diversity Management



June is Youth Month in South Africa. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the 16 June 1976 student uprising in Soweto when young people protested against imposition of Afrikaans by the apartheid regime as a medium of instruction.

South Africa is fortunate to have a youthful nation. However, the recent unemployment statistics pertaining to young people are cause for concern. The 2020 fourth quarter Labour Force Survey found that about 8,6 million young people aged between 15 and 34 years were not in education and not in employment.

The African Union (AU), during its policy brief on Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship in Africa in October 2020, recognised the importance of investing in and creating space and opportunities for young people. The recognition meant that young people must be seen realising their full potential, including going beyond the limited formal employment opportunities and creating and availing opportunities to make a decent living and contribute to the realisation of Agenda 2063.

The AU, through its African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, places a premium on five key priority areas, among them youth employment and entrepreneurship. The AU Commission (AUC) has rolled out a "1 Million initiative by 2021". The initiative is aimed at reaching millions of youth from across the continent with opportunities and interventions in key areas of employment, entrepreneurship, education and engagement to harness demographic dividend for Africa's population backbone as well as mitigate the economic shock waves on youth empowerment. The AU identified six interventions:

- engaging youth directly in entrepreneurship-related policymaking
- integrating relevant education with entrepreneurship to facilitate entrepreneurship skills development

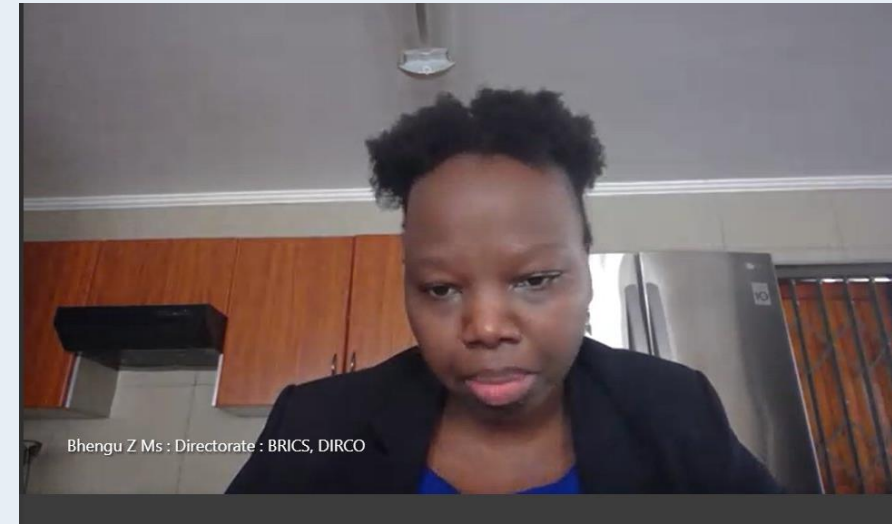
- supporting and enhancing an enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem
- employing and supporting smart and effective financing for start-ups, particularly for social enterprises addressing a specific gap, niche or problem;
- leveraging and strengthening partnerships and collaboration with the private sector and other stakeholders
- promoting gender-responsive programming.

In order to assist South Africa's youth to overcome the inequalities and unemployment issues, government has launched various initiatives ranging from formal education and training, learnerships and internships as well as support for youth entrepreneurship.

With the above in mind, under the theme: "Youth Power: Growing South Africa Together in the period of COVID-19", the Department of International Relations and Cooperation ran a Youth Month Dialogue Series during the month of June to discuss the youth development agenda amid the COVID-19 pandemic, take stock of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on adolescent girls and youth, re-evaluate contextual enablers for demographic dividend that have shifted and to deliberate on challenges faced by young diplomats in the foreign policy space and the potential leadership deficit in the near future.

The curated discussion panels focussed on contemporary issues affecting youth and were also used as a platform for youth mentorship within the field of international relations. The mentorship programme is the cornerstone of our work on youth development. A theoretical connection has always existed between mentoring and what's commonly known as "youth development".

In the context of our work, mentorship has often included basic information about youth development or career opportunities. The curated discussions included conversations on how to improve youth representation in international relations, sexual reproductive health and rights for



young people, enhancing Africa's demographic dividend through youth empowerment and intergenerational discussions on issues of intersectionality.

Young people have a key role to play in the success of their organisation, country, sub-region, and continent. Many programmes for the development of young people already exist in the country and on the continent and some are making a difference, but much more needs to be done. However, in diplomacy, the development is at a snail-pace due to a lack of career-pathing, mentorship and relevant capacity training and skills development programmes targeting youth are some of the threats to the future of South Africa's foreign policy.

Young people should be involved and take full ownership of and responsibility for the future of their country and continent, and build it without delay to the level of their ambitions and expectations, assuming that they are committed to build a better world. It is therefore, in this regard that the dialogue interrogated barriers faced by young people in the foreign policy space with regards to representation and leadership.

The discussion included identifying available measures and investments that are required to promote youth leadership and meaningful participation in diplomacy.

The following panellists participated in the discussion.

1. Mr Ndumiso Mngadi, Junior Diplomats Council
Barriers faced by young diplomats within DIRCO and the implications for the future of South Africa's foreign policy?
2. Ms Phathisiwe Goxo, Youth Diplomacy South Africa (YDSA)
Is DIRCO doing enough to create an enabling environment for the participation of youth in civil society in the foreign policy space?
3. Ms Sthembiso Ndabula, Deputy President of Wits SRC
Making DIRCO accessible and visible to students pursuing employment opportunities in international relations
4. Ms Luanda Mpungose, South African Institute of International Affairs
Youth participation from a policy and operational perspective

5. National Youth Development Agency
The role of the NYDA in facilitating youth participation in foreign policy space

6. Ms Shuvai Nyoni, African Leadership Centre
The future of African foreign relations and the opportunities for diplomacy

7. Ms Precious Magogodi, United Nations (UN) Population Fund
How does the UN promote youth participation, leadership and capacity-building?

DIRCO's Acting COO, Ms Charlotte Lobe, delivered the opening remarks during the webinar. In her address, Ms Lobe highlighted the importance of ensuring active participation of young people right from policy conception, decision-making, to the level of policy implementation.

With regard to youth in Africa, Ms Lobe said: "Young people in Africa constitute about 60% of the population. This means that we will need to use the agency of young people to rebuild the kind of continent that we want." She further added that our youth must own all processes, whether it is in the international relations space or in the domestic space.

One of DIRCO's young diplomats who is incredibly well-versed in international relations and our country's foreign policy, Mr Mngadi, made poignant observations during the panel discussion, highlighting the fact that as young diplomats who had been working in that space for many years, they decided they were not going to wait to be mentored. "We have collected the necessary skills and networks and would like to be engaged with."

Mr Mngadi added: "Young people need to be able to create opportunities to get themselves skilled to participate, however, what we do not have is the opportunity and the space we should be creating for young people to be able to engage in these global issues."

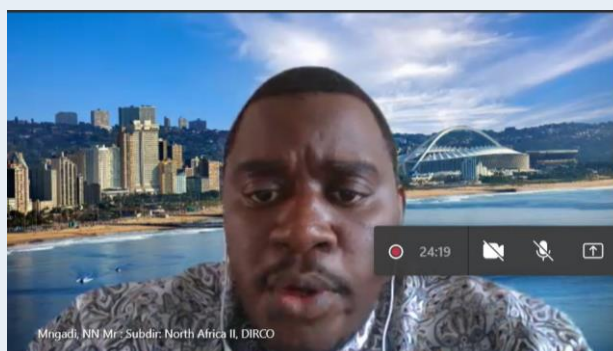
Ms Goxo of the YDSA impressed on the attendees the importance of including youth in foreign policy discussions on the global stage.

She said: "We found that in the global diplomatic forums taking place, they are having conversations about us without us as the youth, and those narratives are pushed up until a certain level where we have limited space to challenge them." She further said that the onus was on the youth to identify the gaps, and collectively make recommendations that could address the issues identified.

Part of the work of the YDSA is to identify spaces where the youth can participate in dialogue and decisions on foreign policy. The organisation is constantly seeking avenues to collaborate with various stakeholders in order to achieve this.

"There's a need for platforms that curate programmes for South African youth that are studying in the international relations field, and programmes within foreign policy that can provide scholars and unemployed graduates platforms for discussion on the world's most pressing issues," she said.

Additionally, Ms Goxo said about working together with government to solve these issues, that: "It is not necessarily a lack of collaborative partnerships with DIRCO, it is the lack of existing platforms that enable an environment that can be supportive."



Mr Ndumiso Mngadi, Junior Diplomats Council, DIRCO



Ms Luanda Mpungose, South African Institute of International Affairs



#YouthMonth2021

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Since the early 1980s the All Africa Students Union has observed June 16th as African Students Day in tribute to the Soweto students. In 1991 the Organisation of African Unity adopted June 16th as the International Day of the African Child.

As such, this historic event that took place 45 years ago continues to be commemorated across our continent and many other parts of the world.”

President Cyril Ramaphosa
14 June 2021



Generation Equality Forum: Intergenerational Dialogue for Accelerated Gender Agenda

- By Directorate: Gender & Diversity Management



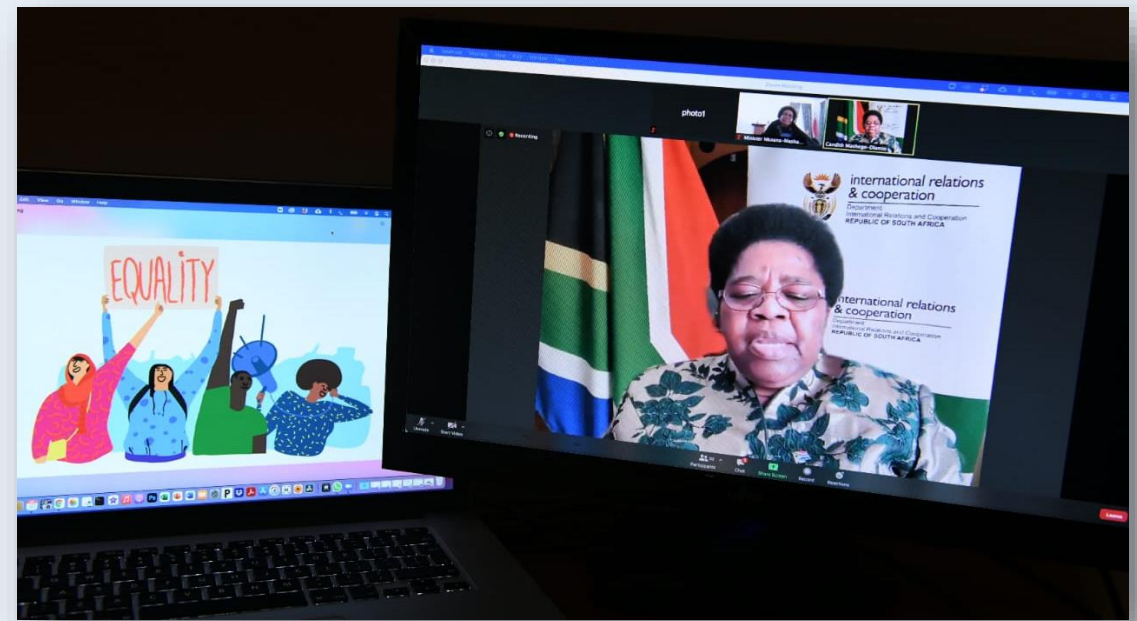
Gender equality is a key priority not only of South Africa, but of the United Nations (UN) too. It remains one of the greatest challenges globally with experts estimating that it could take over 100 years to realise this goal. The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) – a milestone event for global action and investment in gender equality – looks to accelerate change in the structural inequalities that women face on a daily basis. It is convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France, in partnership with co-leaders from the Global South and Global North, civil society and the private sector.

President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the GEF on 1 July 2021, exemplifying the strong political commitment on the part of South Africa. South Africa has always maintained that gender inequality has insidious, extreme, inter-generational and long-lasting effects; not just on victims and survivors but also on society. South Africa is leading the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights (EJR) and has already made

strong commitments in this regard around gender-based violence, feminist movements and leadership, to mention a few.

From 28 June to 31 July 2021, South Africa is hosting several events in this regard. South Africa participated in the hybrid virtual GEF on Intergenerational Dialogue for Accelerated Gender Agenda Forum, which was held from 30 June to 2 July 2021 in Paris. The event was hosted by DIRCO; the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) and UN Women. This was a platform for veterans of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action to share knowledge, experience and lessons learnt in hopes of passing on expertise to today's youth to work towards finding solutions to realising gender equality.

Panelists included DWYPD Minister, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane; the Deputy Minister of DIRCO, Ms Candith Mashego-Dlamini; former Miss Universe, Ms Zozibini Tunzi; and DIRCO Acting COO, Ms Charlotte Lobe.



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini delivers South Africa's GEF commitments



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane – Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities

GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

PARIS - 30 JUNE - 2 JULY 2021



Voices from DIRCO

Economic Diplomacy: Virtually A World Apart in A Pandemic World

By: Ambassador Anesh Maistry,
Moroni, Comoros

The onset of the worst pandemic in a century, which has plagued the world, has brought with it a new abnormal. The structure of a bruised global society has had to adapt to profound change, which has affected social behaviour, the nature of work and the way the world interacts.

The world of diplomacy has seen in a matter of two years a new world of disorder, crying out for some semblance of normality. The effects of the pandemic on global society have seen the rapid development of platform capitalism and the paramount need for innovation, especially in the field of medicine. Vaccine politics have topped the agenda as the inequity of global society has been deeply exposed. The “haves and have-nots” remain, a mirror of inequity, which has doomed the bottom billion(s) to underdevelopment, and extreme global capitalist exploitation masked in the guise of globalisation, has now found expression in the vaccine discrimination during a global pandemic.

In the immediate pre-pandemic period, a strong anti-globalisation push-back from ironically both the ideological left and extreme right was fermenting in many privileged centres of the world. This, however, did not stifle the digital economy, rather as manufacturing and other labour-intensive industries were under the microscope, the virtual economic centre was expanding and the pandemic was in its evolutionary moment.

In terms of this particular economic (r)evolution, some call this Platform Capitalism, a digital interface between two or more entities that create commercial opportunities and transactional relationships. Suddenly, the talk of Blockchain, Bitcoin Mining, the Future of Work, Financial Algorithms and Virtual Transacting is in our face. Technology communications platforms like Zoom, MS Teams, WebEx, GoToMeeting, FaceTime, Slack, ReadyTalk,

among others, have become the new expression of work, corporate connectivity and global diplomacy. It has suddenly exposed the redundancy for actual physical interactivity, as a focus for production in the service industry and corporate interface.

What is more than apparent is that this mass movement that characterises the evolution of capitalism does have its own limits because; not all labour can be rendered immaterial where the production of an actual item for consumption is needed. That said, the mechanisation of manufacturing is becoming an unfortunate reality in the developing world where employment is vital to the upliftment of billions out of poverty.

What does this have to do with economic diplomacy? The structure of the global economy and capital has fundamentally changed; there can be no counterargument in this regard. Some may say the concentration of wealth has remained fairly constant but the structure of production is changing.

The procurement of services has been radically impacted by technology, innovation and access to data. Innovate to Create! This simple motto has inspired a generational revolution. What it also has done is challenge the traditional. It has forced Generation X to meet Generation Z. Business has recognised that and it seeks to find a balance between the old and the rapidly evolving “new economy”.

There are many other names for this new economy; the Digital Economy, the Data or Information Economy, the Fourth Industrial Revolution or Innovation Economy but it all leads to the same place, the power of information,



knowledge and data, the power to process information, and the power to innovate using data that produces a new way of doing things in the economy.

What does this entail for economic diplomacy, for the work of leaders and diplomats to build stronger trade and investment bonds? Well, a great deal, I submit:

1. Diplomats and trade experts need to have a working knowledge about the innovation economy. Foreign ministers need science and innovation advisers and foreign ministries should calibrate their foreign policy strategies to incorporate science, technology and innovation into its strategic objectives. Diplomats need to actively seek technology transfer as part of value-addition in the pursuit for foreign direct investment. Job creation needs to be built around new technologies, while always being mindful of the need for gainful employment.
2. Educational cooperation should be focussed on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as a critical area of capacity-building, especially in the developing world. Youth development and SMME support should have as a key centre the creation of innovators and the viable commercialisation of such innovation.
3. Financing for development needs to encompass these important technology and innovation elements. We need to encourage development-related projects that are anchored around technology and innovation without losing sight of employment creation. Market creating innovation is driving the global economy; from multi-sector service applications to self-driving cars, the evolution is clear. In human history, innovation has always been development.

ALERT
LEVEL

4

KEEPING THE ECONOMY MOVING

Alert Level 4 measures will allow most
economic activity to continue

The need for trade in goods and services will never vanish, it will remain as long as we humans need to consume. That said, the way in which we trade will change fundamentally; the platforms for procurement will structurally evolve, the types of services will be multiplied and at the heart of this will be technology.

Access to data, processed into knowledge through mathematical decision-making is not a fantasy, it is a reality. Thus, many companies are now making investment decisions utilising technology to generate results. How do we assure our countries that our participation in these decisions is secured?

- Cybersecurity and infrastructure safety are quickly becoming national security strategic imperatives for states. Crippling attacks opening up key infrastructure to the mercy of hackers, cyber-criminals and cyber-terrorists are a new reality that business and the nation-states alike have to contend with. Cybersecurity challenges affect all, since nearly the entire world is run on technology, even in some of the poorest communities.
- Intellectual property rights are a key protection of innovation creation and a huge challenge, especially where indigenous knowledge is concerned. The fight to protect such rights against global predators is another vital area that must be engaged with.
- Finally the protection of a country's virtual sovereignty is a debate that is ongoing, as multilateralism grapples with the complex nature of this concept. This dovetails into the use of data, flow of data across borders and at the centre of it all the privacy of individuals. In a highly innovation-driven society this becomes a serious challenge. It renders this data vulnerable to exploitation by both criminals and state entities. The debate rages on but one must be alive to these challenges and societal push-back.

This leads one to believe that the idea of the Innovative State advanced by Mariana Mazzucato is a key element of the innovation chain and not the sole right of individuals or private-sector research and development (R&D). The greatest innovations of the last 100 years have seen their infancy in state-driven projects. The list is long and raises compelling arguments for the Innovative State.

It is clear that diplomacy must support building the Innovative State through a foreign policy focus that embraces and supports science, technology and innovation. Our work in the global system should not only sustain R&D in our countries but look for learning opportunities through technology transfer.

The next generation product or service is being defined by innovation, design and creation: a foundation of this evolving economy. We are either a part of it or we will find ourselves staring in from the outside; left behind.

Let's take economic diplomacy to its next level. The demands of the global system compel this.

STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

**"WHEN IT'S MY TURN,
I'M GETTING VACCINATED."**

LUCAS NDU, BUSINESSMAN

STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS



Deputy Minister Alvin Botes paying a courtesy call on South Africa's Consul General, Mr Remzi Gür, in Istanbul



Minister Naledi Pandor and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Ms Sigrid Kaag



Minister Naledi Pandor and the European Union (EU) Commissioner for International Partnership, Ms Jutta Urpilainen.



South Africa's Ambassador to Cuba, Ms Thaninga Shope, was presented with a Cuban Medal of Friendship on the occasion of the completion of her tour of duty in the country, in June 2021



Minister Pandor and the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar



Deputy Minister Botes receiving a courtesy call by the Izmir Honorary Consul, Mr Tamer Taskin, on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Antalya, Turkey



Deputy Minister Botes hosting a farewell dinner for the Dominican Republic Ambassador, Mr G Galvan Suzana



Bilateral meeting between Minister Pandor, and the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, on the margins of the G20 Ministers' Meeting in Bari, Italy



VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

REGISTER FOR THE VACCINE, TODAY.

Our government has begun its rollout plan for the COVID-19 vaccinations. An electronic system will assist with the rollout across the country. If you are a South African over the age of 60, you can now register via a digital device. Go to <http://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>. All you need is an ID number or Passport number (non-RSA) and your contact information. Once the online form has been completed, a notification will be sent through SMS confirming a successful registration.

#ABOUTME

“My Father: My Hero, My Zero”

By: Ms Charlotte Lobe, Acting Chief Operating Officer,
Chief Director: Transformation and Transversal Programmes

Fatherless households are becoming an increasingly common phenomenon throughout the world today. As a result, more and more children grow up without the support and guidance of their fathers. This memoir focusses on the relationship between a daughter and her present but yet absent father. Throughout this book, I deal with the emotions of growing up without a father. I dig deep into the life of my father that I define as my imperfect Hero who turned into a Zero.

I am writing on a touchy subject that nobody likes. Perhaps for many families with absent fathers or even absent mothers, it is the “elephant in the room” that no one is allowed to talk about or even show their emotions about in public. In any culture or language, talking about family matters is taboo, period! From where I stand, talking about the life and times of a loved one is an unavoidable truth that most people are not comfortable with facing. I have written this memoir conscious of these societal norms.

The Argentinian poet, Juan Gelman, in his poem, “Footnotes to Defeat”, from the book “Unthinkable Tenderness”, eloquently describes and summarises this point very well: “I write on a subject that nobody likes. Including me. There are subjects that nobody likes ... Earth is earth, clay is clay, and the potter works with earth and the clay”. This resonates very well with me because after all, family is family, a father is a father and a father is the head of the family. Present or absent. Writing about the epitome of my existence as my hero and my zero is a subject that ordinarily a daughter should not write about, but it is a necessary inconvenience that will surely help many to “deal and heal”. The word ‘father’ may mean different things to different people. To some, it is synonymous with the word love, laughter, respect, power and authority. To others, it may mean fear, rejection, disappointment and failure.

To me, it means all of these and more; it is a combination of contradictory pairings. It is almost impossible to talk about my father without invoking a series of contradictory and yet complementary pairings: hero and zero, good and bad, transcendence and ordinary, inspiring and discouraging. All of these define my father.

The life of my father was a mixture of everything under the sun; no single word can explain his character. He touched many lives but yet failed to be a responsible father to his children. He was a role model to young men who grew up around him, he took care of everyone and their problems, but in the process, he forgot to take care of his own problems and the most important part of his life, namely his children. I grew up believing that my father was the most loving person under the sun until he left his family. From that point, I kept asking myself many questions without answers. I have now learned to heal from things that nobody apologised for. My father carried many people on his shoulders and assisted them in so many ways but the painful part is that he could not help himself or reach out for help when he lost his way. I recall how I looked at his lifeless body in his casket and said to myself quietly: “My father died a long time ago, he died well before he took his last breath on the 24th of March 2006.” Well, the reality is that he was a good man, he was my hero but my hero forgot to return home and buried himself in the wilderness. What returned home was a zero, a lifeless shell of a man who for many years became a shadow of his former self.

My father was not perfect, I did not expect him to be. I wanted him to be human, to be present and just be my imperfect hero I have known for the first 12 years of my life. Oh my Goodness! My father was such a character, he was easy-going and made it easy for people to relate with him but he was also stubborn and stood for what he believed in.



Ms Charlotte Lobe being interviewed by Khaya Koto on Ubuntu Radio

He was hard-headed and highly opinionated; he was always ready to give unsolicited advice. I think about him too often, I picture him coming back home tired after a long day at work but still interested in little things like how our day was. Despite being exhausted, he still had time to go through our school books and check how we were progressing at school. He was also interested in our extramural activities. There was always a rule at home for each one of us to do one or two activities in addition to our normal school curriculum. I think I was lazier than all my siblings, I only did music and later on I was on the debating team. He used to tease me that the only thing I was good at was talking. This is true I guess, I was born to talk. I was never athletic even if my life depended on it. He had a way of coming down to our level as his children, engaging us in our own world with a heart full of love, care and concern. He exercised patience in times of our rebellion and siblings rivalry. He encouraged us to be who we wanted to be in life. He made us believe in ourselves and our ability to succeed against all odds. This in a way prepared us to survive even when he went AWOL.

My father loved everything in the world of sport. I recall, as though it was yesterday, how he used to watch soccer, boxing, tennis or any sport that was playing on the television. My best memory of him is his nervousness when Orlando Pirates Football Club was playing or when his favourite boxer was not doing well. I fondly remember his stories, he was such a good storyteller, he made you visualise everything he was talking about. He also made funny jokes that would make you laugh in the middle of a sermon at church just thinking about what he said. He had a way with words,

He told simple stories and jokes in a manner that made them interesting or funny. I randomly use his favourite phrases when I talk and sometimes laugh at myself thinking about how I sometimes react to things and situations the same way he used to. That feeling is sometimes a bit scary but I am my father's daughter after all. I even remember how he used to laugh at things that only made sense to him. In every one of these memories, I remember how happy he used to be and his loud laughter that totally vibrated through the walls of our home. You could hear him laughing from the street and you will have this nice feeling that mellowed you inside: "My father remembered to come home." The thought of him to this day lights me up like the little girl who lay awake at night waiting for her father to come home from work or from wherever he used to go. Even when he passed on, I still hoped that he would remember to come back home. I know this sounds crazy.

For the first 12 ears of my life, my father was present and was always available to guide me. When I turned 13, my father left without saying goodbye and he did not come back for three years. Everyday, my siblings and I looked at the sunset hoping that my father would appear on the horizon surrounded by the colourful fading light of the sun as though he was coming directly out of the sundown. We envisioned his coming back as something that would be beautiful and magical. That beauty and magic never materialised. He never came home for three years. Until one day when he came back at night accompanied by one of our relatives. From that day, he visited us from time to time when his busy schedule permitted, sometimes after one or two months and other times after a year or two or even three. The one thing that remains a mystery to me to this day is how he knew about progress in our lives. He always showed up when something good was happening in the life of any of his children.

For example, when I started working, my father showed up just before my payday and disappeared in the middle of the month and only reappeared again just a day before my next payday. He did these appearing and disappearing acts until we accepted it. He usually collected what was due to him and disappeared into thin air. Again, he would show up before big events like Lobola negotiations and weddings. He even walked me down the aisle and held my hand tight in an assuring manner and handed me over to my husband. I was happy he appeared for this very important moment of my life. He did the same with my elder sister, Gertrude. He made it a point that no other person performed this duty but him. I believe that a father is implored to do this kind of thing at least once in the lifetime of his daughter. I also believe that a father is implored to bring his children up in the ways of the Lord, to discipline, encourage, comfort and instruct them. My father, despite his mistakes, grounded us in the word of God. He ensured that we prayed before going to bed, we prayed before we touched any meal and used the word of God to instil the fear and the love of God. I am truly grateful for this because this has been a foundation that has kept me and my siblings grounded through the highs and lows of life!

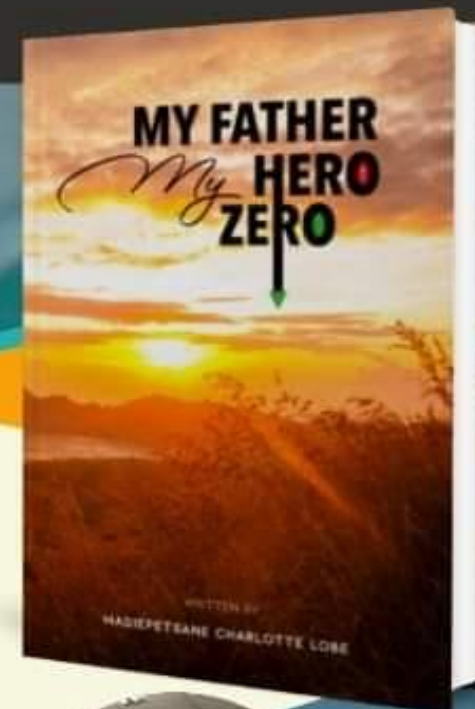
I use this memoir to celebrate my father and celebrate his phenomenon of many contradictions. I notice that because of these contradictions in my father's life I am the person I am today. I thank him for his teachings, for his prayers and guidance, I am still indebted to him, till this day. If anything, I still believe that he is watching over all of us, as we bring up his grandchildren in the ways of the Lord. When my father passed, on I made a promise to one day pen down a befitting tribute in his memory. The reason for this is that I never had an opportunity to express my feelings when my father was alive and even at the time of his death. Culture and tradition never allowed me to do so. "My father: My Hero, My Zero" is not just a story about my father, it is a story about many people whose fathers got lost in the hood and never came back home. It is about children who yearn to hold their fathers' hand and be assured that they are safe, they are loved, they are appreciated. It is also about fathers who are still lost in the hood and are struggling to get their way back home. I just want them to know that their children are waiting in anticipation for the day they will appear magically from the horizon. It is never too late to make amends.

CHARMAZA LITERARY CLUB

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR

BOOK LAUNCH

A CELEBRATION
OF NEW BOOK
PUBLICATION BY
CHARLOTTE LOBE



SATURDAY
JUNE 19

TALENT LAB (BLOEM PLAZA)

First Session 10h00 - 12h00

Second Session 13h00 - 15h00



Charlotte Lobe

**Book Review, Reading
& Signing Event**

**ONLY 30 PEOPLE ALLOWED PER SESSION
NO MASK NO ENTRY**

**FOR MORE INFO
& RSVP TO:**

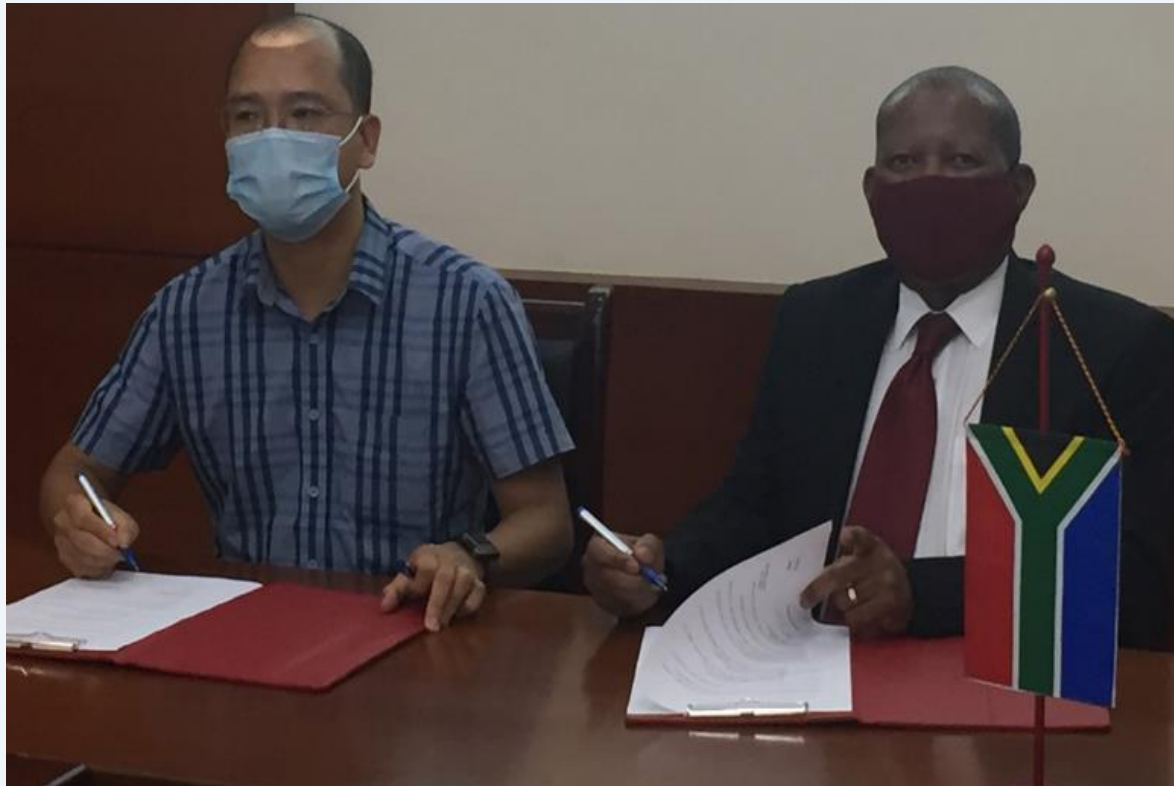
**charmzaliteraryclub@gmail.com
or thembinkosilobe@gmail.com**

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Handover ceremony of rhino horn samples

By: Mr Hector Mphohoni
First Secretary: Political
South African Embassy, Hanoi



H.E. Mr MK Lekgoro, South African Ambassador to Vietnam and Dr. Vuong Tien Manh, Deputy Director of the Vietnam CITES Management Authority at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development sign the handover certificate and Ambassador Lekgoro takes official possession of the samples.

During a handover ceremony on 1 June 2021, the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam received 56 rhino horn samples from the Vietnam CITES Management Authority for onward transmission to the South African CITES Management Authority for DNA testing in order to establish the origin of the rhino horn confiscated by the Vietnamese authorities. The event marked the joint commitment of the two countries to act decisively against illegal trafficking in wildlife products and to protect these magnificent beasts from extinction.



After the signing, they joined the other attendees for a group photo.

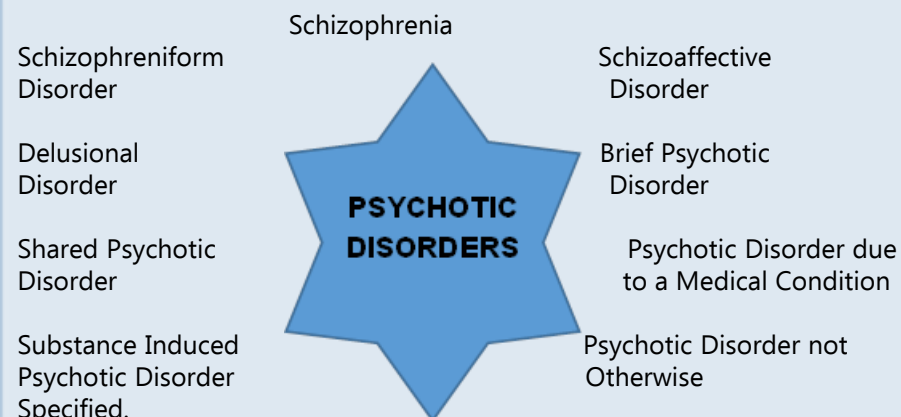
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS

By: Employee Health and Wellness

Psychotic disorders are severe mental illnesses that lead to an impaired relationship with reality.

Types of Psychotic Disorders



Causes of Psychotic Disorders

The Brain.

Dopamine: this refers to the neurotransmitters that transmit information from one brain cell to the other. CT Scans of patients suffering from psychotic disorders show an overactive dopamine system.

Some Medical conditions may trigger psychotic disorders.

- Brain tumours, strokes, syphilis and other conditions that attack the brain.

Substances:

The following drugs may trigger psychotic disorders;

- Cocaine, amphetamine
- methamphetamine
- mephedrone
- ecstasy
- cannabis/dagga
- LSD
- magic mushroom & ketamine.

Some prescription medications can trigger psychotic disorders as a side effect or when taken as an overdose. It is important to always follow the instructions of your Healthcare Practitioner and communicate in the event that you notice any side effect to any medication.

Hormonal Factors (e.g. postpartum psychosis after giving birth)

Indications of Psychotic Disorders. Different psychotic disorders manifest differently. The presence of two or more

- Hallucinations (seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, and having a sense of taste of things that do not exist).
- Delusions ("false beliefs due to incorrect inference about external reality" DSM-5).
- Disorganised thought process(a distortion in thinking that is deduced from an individual's speech impairment)
- Disorganised motor behaviour (impairment in body movement and behaviour)
- Negative symptoms (withdrawal from social activities, difficulty talking, and the inability to show emotions)

Treatment of Psychotic Disorders

Multi-disciplinary approach treatment (Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Nurse, Clinical Psychologist,

Social Worker & Occupational Therapist).

- Pharmacological treatment (medication)
- Psychotherapy
- Family therapy and counselling
- Assessment of level of functioning and referral for employment.
- Disability Grant Application



"Those of us who have not had the disease should ask ourselves, for example, how we would feel if our brain began playing tricks on us, if unseen voices shouted at us, if we lost the capacity to feel emotions, and if we lost the ability to reason logically."

E Fuller Torry, MD.

Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders affect about 200 million people globally (WHO, 2019). The statistics may seem low in proportion to the global population, however, Psychotic Disorders have severe long lasting implications for both the patients, family, society and the government. The disorders normally occur in late adolescence or early adulthood and usually last for a lifetime (Mental Health Information Centre, 2014).

Stigma

In South Africa there has been a number of mental health awareness drives in recent times. This has eased some of the stigma associated with mental illness. However, the focus is often on Mood Disorders (Depression, Bipolar Mood Disorders etc.), Anxiety Disorders (Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, Phobias), and disorders such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders.

Minimal awareness about Psychotic Disorder leads to the mystery around the disorders. Additionally, symptoms of the disorder such as talking to oneself, poor personal hygiene, and roaming around worsen the stigma against the diseases. Mental Health Care Workers need to focus on educating the public about the disorders.

Medication

Psychotic Disorders are typically lifelong in course and are best managed by adherence to medication. Support from family, friends, and community organisations become key in this regard as some individuals who suffer from the disease may not be able to adhere to medication without support.

What to do in cases of a Crisis?

Hospitalisation

Go to your nearest Casualty Room. The patient will be observed and assessed for a period of 72 hours or referred to the nearest Psychiatry Hospital that admits patients with Psychotic Disorders. The assessment will determine whether the patient requires hospitalisation or can be managed in an outpatient facility.

In the event that the patient is a danger to themselves and/or others and refuses to be taken to any hospital please phone South African Police Services (10111).

Mental illness can be managed successfully!

Employee Health and Wellness is available to render counselling, therapy, care and support to employees who need assistance.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- *American Psychiatric Association. 2013. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th ed).*
- *Mental Health information Centre: Southern Africa. 2014. Living with Schizophrenia.*
- *The Mental Health Care Act (2002).*
- *World Health Organisation. 2019. Mental Disorders.*



#YouthMonth2021

This year National Youth Day and Youth Month will be celebrated under the theme:

“The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society.”



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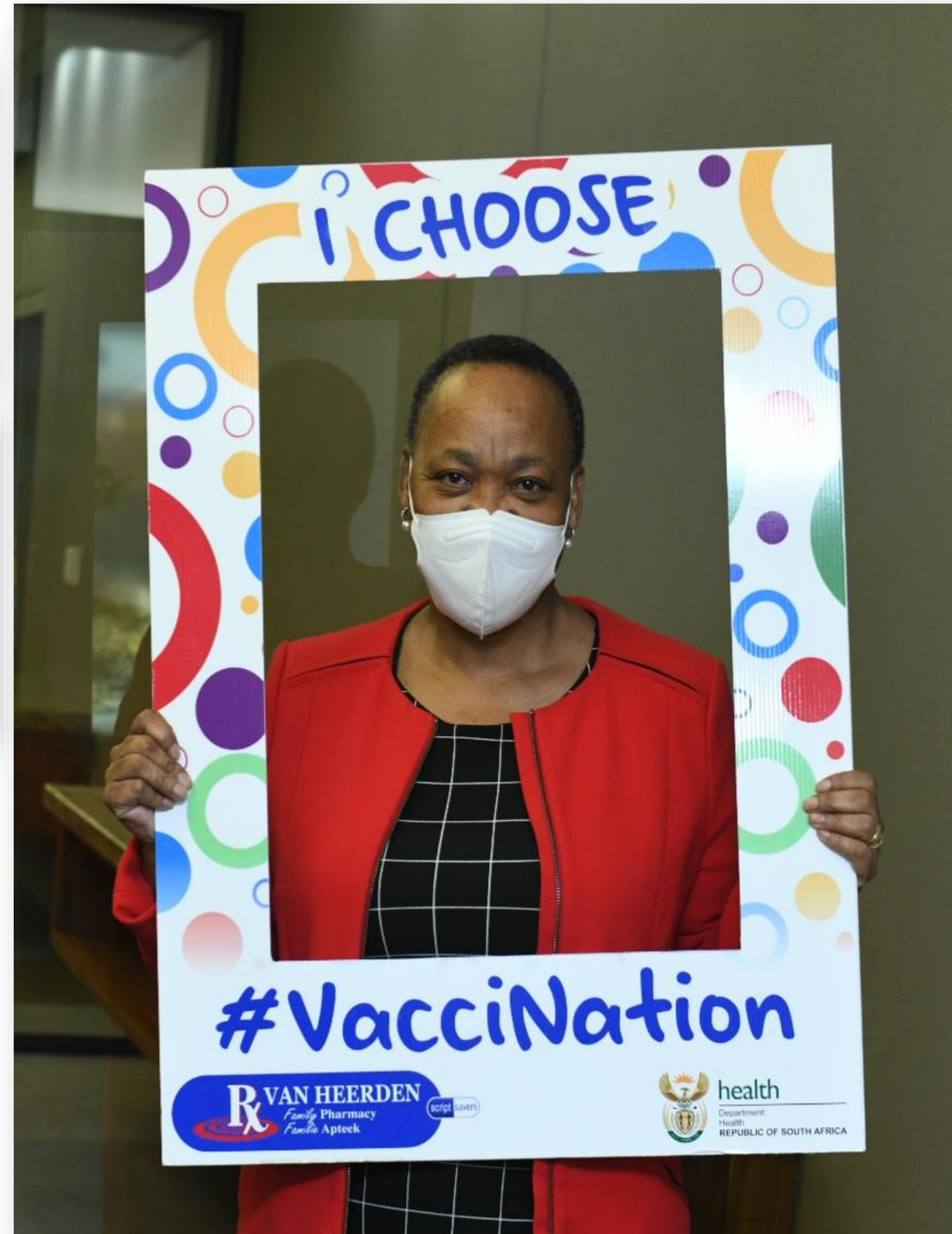
#YOUTHMONTH2021 #LIMITLESSYOUTH



PRESIDENTIAL
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
INTERVENTION



GEMS starts COVID-19 vaccination process for officials 60 years of age and above at DIRCO Headquarters.



IT'S
YOUR VOICE

GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE



On Saturday 19th June 2021 , HC Tulelo joined by Amb Dina El Sahy of Egypt participated in a zoom meeting comprising of different formations representing Africa in NZ . The purpose of the meeting was on establishing a United National Council. This is a result of the work done as a build up to Africa Day. The committee thanked former Race relations commissioner Gregory Fountain and Superintendent Rakesh Naidoo both born in South Africa

GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE



Top: Ambassador Anesh Maistry and SA Embassy staff on an official visit to Moheli for the IBSA Agricultural Enhancement programme.



Left: Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi conveying the condolences of South Africa's Permanent Mission to the Zambia's Permanent Mission in Geneva on the passing on of the Founding President of the Republic of Zambia, H.E. President Kenneth Kaunda, 28 June 2021



Ambassador Tebogo Seokolo and Mrs Seokolo hosted Dr Sindiwe Magona for lunch at the Official Residence on 25 June after the successful tour in France for her book *Mother To Mother*, recently translated into French. The accomplished author is a national treasure & true cultural ambassador.

South Africa's Consul General in New York, USA, Mr. Motumisi Tawana, meeting with Ambassador Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the UN in New York. They discussed cooperation between the African Union Office and the African Consuls-General Forum in New York and issues of mutual concern. 9 June 2021.



South Africa's High Commissioner to Canada, Ms. Sibongiseni Dlamini-Mntambo led the High Commission in participating at the official launch of the Afro World Fest at the Byward Market, Ottawa on 26 June 2021.



South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Ambassador Mathu Joyini engaging with the media following the UN High Level Meeting on Strengthening the Conduct of Peacekeeping Personnel

IT'S YOUR VOICE

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International
Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat



To contribute to the magazine, send your article, no more than 500 words, to internalcomms@dirco.gov.za on or before 26 July 2021



The Year of **Charlotte Manna Maseke**: Growing youth
employment for an inclusive and transformed society

#YOUTHMONTH2021 #LIMITLESSYOUTH



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