

IT'S YOUR VOICE

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International
Relations and Cooperation

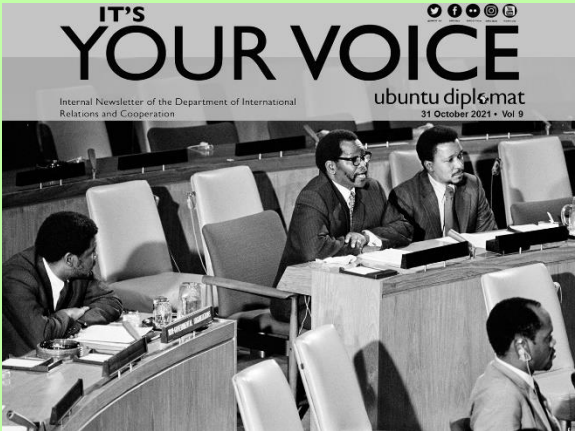
ubuntu diplomat

31 October 2021 • Vol 9



CREDITS

Editor-in-Chief	Nthabiseng Makuwa
Managing Editor	Mathapelo Monaisa
Copy Editor	Delien Burger
Design Concept	Reratilwe Aphane
Photographers	Jacoline Schoonees Yolande Snyman Katlholo Maifadi Yandisa Monakali
Content coordination	Mathapelo Monaisa
Publisher	The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)



Every year in October, South Africa remembers and celebrates the remarkable freedom movement leader, Mr Oliver Reginald Tambo. It's a time for South Africans to reflect on the life and times of the late struggle hero who posthumously continues to command respect the world over.

EDITOR'S

LETTER

Oliver Reginald Tambo, South Africa's foremost diplomat, is celebrated all year round in various spaces, and especially during October, his birthday month. OR Tambo's birthday this year, coincides with the Government theme for 2021 in observance of Mama Charlotte Maxeke's 150th birthday, "The Year of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke". This is the year when the legacy of the indomitable Mme Maxeke is celebrated and honoured for her sterling promotion of women's issues and the gender agenda.

Charlotte Maxeke and OR Tambo shared a particular interest in advancing the rights and emancipation of women. Both leaders were champions for gender equality across all spheres of life. Both advocated for access to proper education for all South Africans as a basic right. Although living in two different eras, both OR Tambo and Charlotte Maxeke fought for the development of others, specifically women and children. It is therefore fitting that OR Tambo's work on gender equality is explored in the October issue of *"It's Your Voice"*.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the team at Employee Health and Wellness explains why it is crucial for both men and women to regularly check their breasts for any changes or signs of the possibility of cancer.

Climate change was top of the agenda at the G20 Leaders' Summit in October where Minister Naledi Pandor led the South African delegation, further pronouncing South Africa's plans for the implementation of a just transition, which secures the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities in the transition to a low-carbon economy. The just transition is based on social dialogue between workers and their unions, employers, government and communities.

Promoting peace and security is at the forefront of South Africa's foreign policy's vision and the Pelindaba Treaty is one such vital instrument that our country continues to elevate and endorse, to realise a better Africa and a better world. Ambassador Nozipho Maxakato-Diseko participated in the Fifth Session of the Conference of State Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, hosted by South Africa in a hybrid format, where she reiterated the importance of much-needed support for the treaty by the global community.



South Africa's relationship with the international community is paramount to achieving a prosperous society through cooperation, a task carried out with pride by our missions abroad as they continue to build strategic bilateral relations. A case in point is the long-standing relationship between two African economic giants, South Africa and Nigeria. In this edition you can read about how the youth of the two countries can, through collaboration, help the work towards a competitive Africa, on myriad spheres.

All of this work once again reminds us of the initial task carried out by OR Tambo to raise awareness for the potential of a democratic South Africa as a peacemaker, and champion of gender equality.

Nthabiseng Makuwa

CONTENTS

5

Minister Pandor attends the G20
Leaders' Summit in Rome, Italy

7

OR Tambo and Gender Equality

11

The Fifth Session of the Conference of State
Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-
Free Zone Treaty (ANFWZ) (Pelindaba
Treaty)

17

Spectacular South Africa Pop-up Store in
High End Shopping District of Hong Kong

19

The youth of continental giants
South Africa and Nigeria must
collaborate in pooling
indigenous knowledge for job
creation

23

Children's General Assembly in Denmark

27

About Me

31

Breast Cancer Awareness

39

Globe at a Glimpse

Minister Naledi Pandor attends the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome, Italy

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, travelled to Rome, Italy, where she led the South African delegation at the G20 Leaders' Summit, which took place from 30 to 31 October 2021.

Italy is the current President of the G20, and convened the summit under the three pillars of People, Planet and Prosperity.

The G20 brings together the world's major economies. Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the planet.

Minister Pandor met her United States (US) counterpart, Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, for a bilateral meeting on the margins of the G20 Leaders' Summit.

While in Rome, Minister Pandor engaged in a number of other bilateral meetings with various leaders, including the French Foreign Affairs Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian; and Mr Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

South Africa's priorities at the G20 Leaders' Summit included access to vaccines, food security, debt and liquidity support, women empowerment and eliminating all forms of gender-based violence.

South Africa also sought reaffirmation of previous commitments by the G20 relating to support for Africa's industrialisation, the G20 Partnership and Compact with Africa as well as the G20's commitment to addressing illicit financial flows.

Furthermore, South Africa advocated for equal treatment of the climate in terms of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, including financing and technology transfer.

Noting the importance of digitisation as an enabler of prosperity, South Africa called for a commitment by the G20 to address the digital divide and the role of data for development.

The G20 Leaders' Summit Declaration states that given the crucial role of multilateralism in finding shared, effective solutions, the leaders have agreed to further strengthen the world's common response to the pandemic, and pave the way for a global recovery, with particular regard to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Among other matters, the declaration further highlighted the following as priority:

- Global economy
- Health
- Sustainable Development
- Support to Vulnerable Countries
- International Financial Architecture
- Food Security, Nutrition, Agriculture and Food Systems
- Environment
- Cities and Circular Economy
- Energy and climate

The G20 Leaders' Summit Declaration:

http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/g-20_1031.pdf



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, meets with Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation



Minister Naledi Pandor meets Italian Prime Minister, Mr Mario Draghi, ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit



Family photo session



Minister Pandor meeting with her US counterpart, Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken

OR Tambo and Gender Equality

By Jaimal Anand

Branch: Asia and Middle East

The month of October is a time to celebrate the birth of OR Tambo and honour both a man and feminist, who took the plight of women in South Africa, Africa and the world as a central objective of liberation from oppression. In celebrating a man that was devoted to the struggle against injustice, this article then hopes to understand what drove his perspective on gender, albeit in a simple and hopefully uncomplicated way.

This piece takes its lead from the very famous quote when OR Tambo addressed the African National Congress' (ANC) Women's Section in Luanda, Angola, on 14 September 1981. This quote breaks the mold of patriarchy by examining how the struggle of women influenced Tambo, and that for him, women were their own liberators and that men needed to be part of that struggle, led by women:

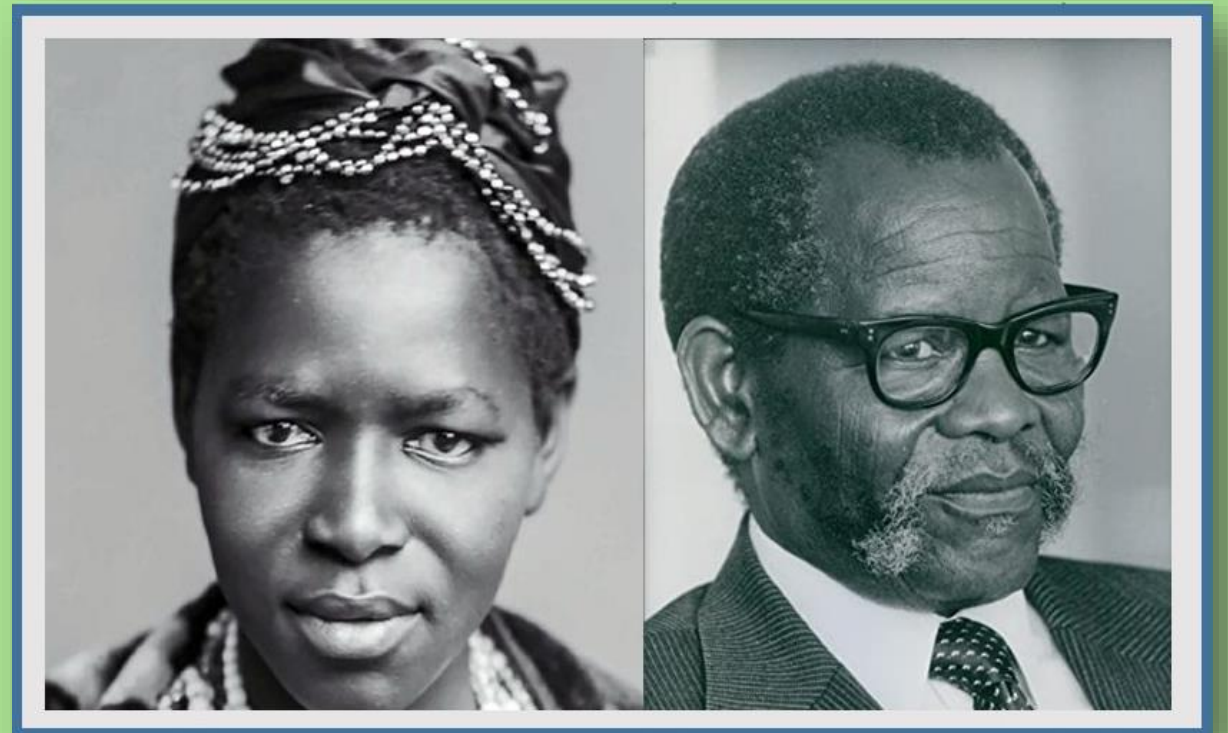
"Women in the ANC ... have a duty to liberate us men from antique concepts and attitudes about the place and role of women in society, and in the development and direction of our revolutionary struggle."

South Africa's struggle for liberation was complex and multifaceted. The nature of the battleground demanded that in every terrain where injustice could be exposed, the injustice had to be taken forward. The struggle against racial oppression and exploitation, the struggle against class oppression and exploitation and the struggle against gender oppression and exploitation became terrains of battle to organise and mobilise society to challenge the status quo and confront the perpetrators of oppression in every area.

The most difficult terrain of struggle, arguably, was the struggle for gender equity and equality. South Africa has a deeply rooted and entrenched patriarchal social structure. The nature of apartheid South Africa drove home the idea that human beings must be classified and stratified according to their birth. Men of colour, especially African men, were forced to know their place; they were cogs in the system and their dignity and sense of self meant nothing.

Women of colour, especially African women, were viewed as the lowest common denominator in this stratification. As much as the system ensured that she knew her place, the man in her life and the men she interacted with would have enforced her acceptance of her status. In society to this day, the man who was subjected to verbal and psychological abuse, would probably turn to alcohol and violence. Often the victims of that violence would have been women and children.

Let us make a few assumptions as we try and understand what made OR Tambo and many other revolutionaries throughout the world, committed feminists. Firstly, he would have observed and understood that South African society was the ultimate victim of a system that enforced a hierarchy based on birth i.e. race and gender. Secondly, if you belonged to a certain race group and if you were a woman, you were not really what they believed a human being worthy of respect and dignity should be. Thirdly, he would have seen women joined the armed struggle and gallantly took on the regime, even with young children.



Fourthly, he would have observed the unyielding courage of the women who participated in the defiance campaign or the 1956 women's march. Fifthly, he would have reflected on the rural, elderly women managing grandchildren and the homestead when their own children were forced to seek work in the cities.

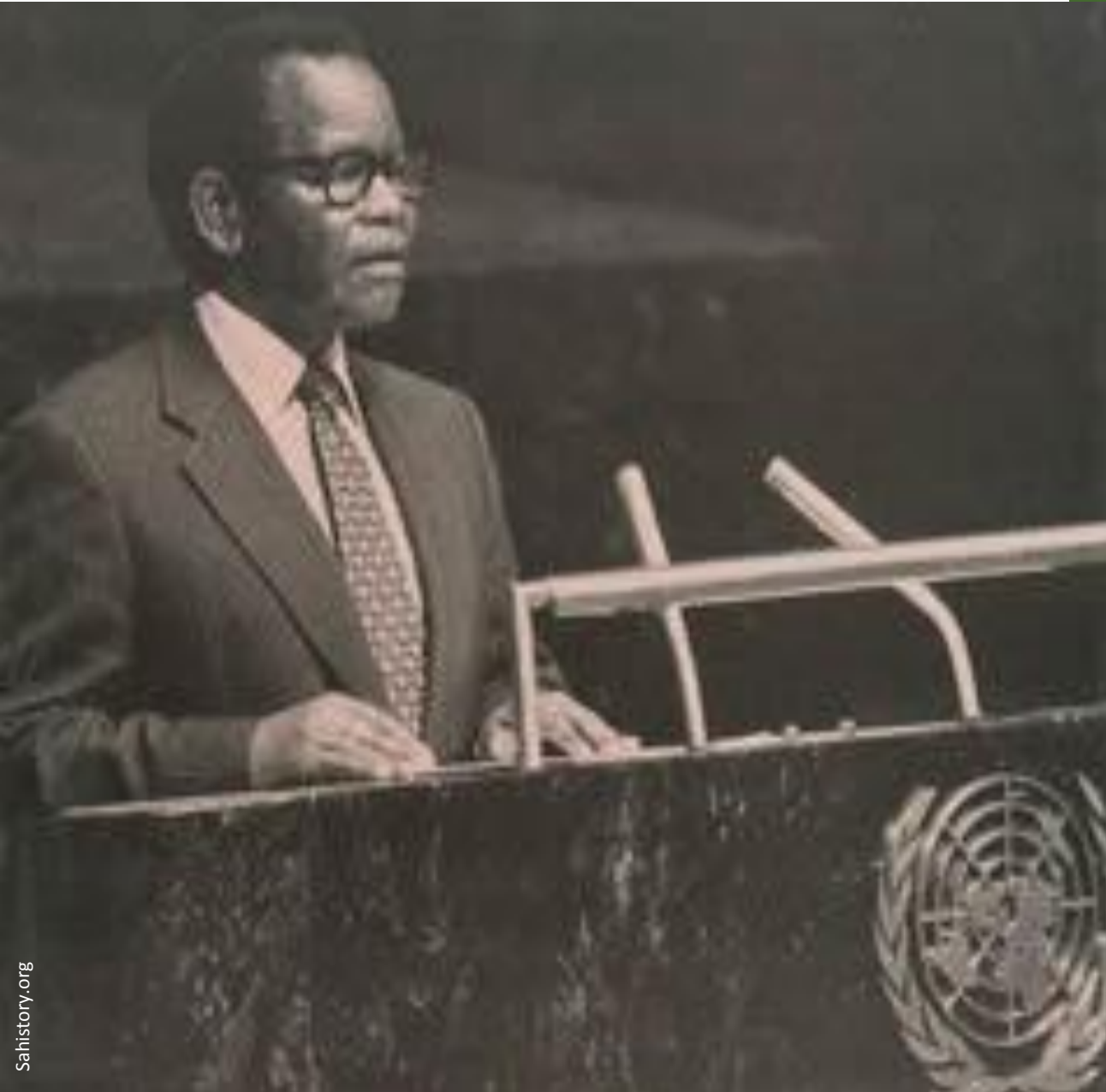
Charlotte Maxeke served as a leader of the Bantu Women's League. She led a delegation of women to Prime Minister Louis Botha to discuss the unjust laws of passes for women and she helped organise the anti-pass movement in 1913 in Bloemfontein. Maxeke was a valiant fighter, who also participated in the organisation of protests in the Witwatersrand about low wages, while participating in the formation of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union in 1920.

She testified before several government commissions in Johannesburg on matters concerning African education, and stood out as the first African, man or woman, to present at such hearings. Maxeke has often been honoured as the "Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa", and an ANC nursery school in Tanzania was named after her.

Oliver Tambo's feminism was most certainly shaped by his reflections on the thousands of woman leaders and heroines like Charlotte Maxeke. As this is the year of this great South African and October the birth month of Tambo, to honour Tambo would be to honour the millions of women who influenced Tambo's thinking, and the few who made the deepest impact such as Maxeke. It would be ideal, if like Tambo, all men took time to reflect on the role of women in our society and allow their views and perspectives to be shaped.

Happy Birthday Oliver Reginald Tambo

27 October 1917 - 24 April 1993



Sahistory.org

OR Tambo

*United Nations General Assembly, New York,
26 October 1976*

We love our country and its peoples - all its peoples.

We will have a South Africa, which will live in peace with its neighbours and with the rest of the world. It will base its foreign relations on the principles of non-interference and mutually advantageous assistance among the peoples as well as the continuation of the struggle against the system of imperialist and neo-colonialist domination.”



**international relations
& cooperation**
Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Fifth Session of the Conference of State Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty)

- Global Governance and Continental Agenda

On 21 October 2021, the Deputy Director-General: Global Governance and Continental Agenda, Ambassador Nozipho Maxakato-Diseko, participated in the opening session of the Fifth Conference of State Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty. Amb Diseko addressed the meeting and welcomed the guests to South Africa, home of the treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free African continent, the Pelindaba Treaty.

The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (ANFWZ), which is also known as the Pelindaba Treaty, opened for signature on 12 April 1996 in Cairo, Egypt. It established the nuclear-weapon-free zone on the African continent. The treaty entered into force on 15 July 2009.

The ANFWZ prohibits the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, testing, possession, control or stationing of nuclear weapons, and the dumping of radioactive waste. Furthermore, the treaty prohibits any attack against nuclear installations in the zone by treaty parties and requires them to maintain the highest standards of physical protection of nuclear material, facilities and equipment, which are to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

In attendance at the conference, among many others, were heads of various international organisations and United Nations (UN) bodies. This was the first time that the conference was being held physically, to some extent, as it was conducted in a hybrid format. In her welcoming remarks, Amb Diseko said that: "The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed significantly changed the way we live our lives and conduct our business."

This was also the first time that the Conference of States Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty was held in South Africa, which coincided with the 30th anniversary of South Africa's ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as well as the signature of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1991.

Amb Diseko said: "We remain convinced that the NPT is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and that the IAEA Safeguards are an indispensable tool for ensuring the non-diversion of nuclear material towards military purposes. It is in this regard that the Pelindaba Treaty and the NPT complement each other."

Over five decades after the adoption of the Declaration on the Denuclearisation of Africa at the 1964 Summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), and 12 years after the entry-into-force of the Pelindaba Treaty, there remain unilateral interpretations or reservations by some nuclear weapon states, who are de facto in control of territory within the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, thus negatively affecting the status of the African denuclearised zone.

With the above in mind, Amb Diseko reiterated South Africa's stance, saying that "we call on these nuclear weapon states to withdraw their unilateral reservations unequivocally. These external constraints on the African continent must come to an end. Africa must be able to take charge and maintain complete control of her territories and their nuclear-weapon-free status," she added.



"South Africa has the distinct honour of being the first country to have voluntarily eliminated our nuclear weapons programme and we are equally proud to also have played a leading role in the finalisation of the Pelindaba Treaty, which established the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. Consequently, we strongly support and encourage the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas where they do not exist, particularly the establishment of a Middle East zone free from all weapons of mass destruction and the implementation of the 1995 NPT resolution on the establishment of such a zone," said Amb Diseko and added that South Africa was also hopeful that the 26th Session of the UN General Assembly would finally take a decision on the convening of the Fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, which has been postponed several times.

"Africa's key objective must be to promote the inalienable right of all state parties to have access to nuclear energy, science and technology for peaceful purposes with the aim of realising Africa's Agenda 2063 and, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Amb Diseko said that it was therefore necessary for the continent to continue to guard against attempts to deny technology to countries, especially developing countries, under the guise of non-proliferation measures, especially measures that fall outside the IAEA verification system.

"The entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on 22 January 2021 is a highlight, which represents the highest non-proliferation commitment any state can make. This new treaty is fully consistent with the NPT, especially Article 6 and the Pelindaba Treaty. As we advocate for general and complete disarmament leading

to the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, the TPNW's strong focus on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, helps to shift disarmament from an international security issue to a human security issue.

"In this regard, we must acknowledge that this was also the objective of the very first UN General Assembly Resolution adopted 75 years ago, in 1946, to ensure 'the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction', added Amb Diseko.

The Ambassador further said that the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty gave participating states an opportunity to continue developing and enhancing the efforts of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) to fully implement the Pelindaba Treaty. "I encourage all participants to fully engage in the discussions that will be held during this gathering and to ensure that the important work of AFCONE continues unabated in this vein".



COMMEMORATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPENING FOR SIGNATURE OF THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE TREATY (PELINDABA TREATY)

“

South Africa's struggle for political freedom was closely linked to nuclear disarmament and as we also mark the 24th Anniversary of the passing of then President of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo on 24th April 1993, I take this opportunity to reiterate his remarks in a statement at the Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on 26 October 1976.

"... And of late this has taken the form of nuclear collaboration intended to help the regime to fulfill its ambition to produce the atomic bomb. We are convinced that this sharply increases the threat to world peace and international security ..."



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Spectacular South Africa Pop-up Store in High End Shopping District of Hong Kong

- By Shari Small

Consul: Political and Economic

In collaboration with Brand South Africa, Wines of South Africa (WOSA) and Wesgro, the South African Consulate-General in Hong Kong launched the first pop-up "experience store" in Hong Kong's top shopping district from 4 to 26 September 2021.



The theme was "*SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA*" and the temporary store was based on a fashion walk in Causeway Bay. The main objectives of the pop-up store included:

- boosting South Africa's nation brand in the Hong Kong market
- promoting South Africa as a reliable trade partner
- providing a South African experience to consumers
- promoting South African wine, tourism, culture and lifestyle
- showcasing South African arts and crafts.

The store gave South Africa a platform to reinforce South African wine as the oldest of the New World wine countries with a history of producing wines over 360 years. The store highlighted the creativity of the new wave winemakers, promoted the three South African wine anchors – Cap Classique, Chenin Blanc and Pinotage – and introduced South Africa's cool wine climate to Hong Kong.

In partnership with Panda Africa (a tour operator specialising in travel to South Africa), the opportunity to promote South Africa as a tourist destination was seized. Customers were inspired to learn more about visiting South Africa. In addition to informing the public about South Africa's sustainable winemaking practices and preservation of old wines, tourism and wildlife conservation efforts were also promoted.

The store hosted numerous activities such as:

- 17 weekend consumer guided tastings with WOSA
- six weekend free tastings with a wine importer
- five weekday consumer guided tastings with importers
- four weekday trade tastings with the importer
- four Wesgro B2B trade tastings
- Cape Winemakers Guild 2021 pre-auction tasting
- two Bonham sessions
- one trade session
- five consumer sessions.

Beyond wines, the store showcased and sold lifestyle products by partnering with local South African suppliers. These products included:

- food and beverages: biltong, snacks, cookies, Rooibos tea, African coffee, braai sauce, gin and aperitifs
- accessories: earrings, hair clips and bags
- aromatherapy.



Some of the key outcomes of this projects were that:

- South Africa's image as a significant emerging economy and premium wine producer was reinforced in the top shopping district of Hong Kong
- total sales in the 12 days experience store amounted to: HKD 487,082 (ZAR 993 004,50)

Voices from DIRCO

The youth of continental giants South Africa and Nigeria must collaborate in pooling indigenous knowledge for job creation

- By Bobby Moroe
Minister Plenipotentiary, Abuja, Nigeria

For the continent to industrialise, South Africa and Nigeria, as two of the two biggest economies in Africa, must lead the charge and put into place mechanisms and interventions to mitigate the current challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. The two continental giants, with their buoyant economies and vibrant youth, are poised to change existing perceptions about the developmental trajectory of the entire continent. They are better placed to deliberately work together to demystify the stigma attached to the notion that Africa is rich with mineral resources, yet remains home to the poorest people in the world.

A great deal has been written about this narrative, but little has been done to change it. In one of his many inspiring quotes, the late former President Nelson Mandela reminded humanity that "like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made, and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice... Sometimes, it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom." It is upon the current

generation of our youth to eradicate the scourge of poverty, but they cannot do it alone. They will need the support of those who did it before, including the support of government, private sector and other key institutions and stakeholders.

The youth of Nigeria and South Africa share similar developmental challenges, and common aspirations. Many of the youth in both countries are armed with a multiplicity of skills, which can be exchanged and shared among themselves through various training programmes.

According to Young Africa Connects, before the end of the 21st century, more than a billion young people will reach working age, making it the largest labour market in the world. As the job market becomes competitive, employers expect African youth to have relevant and employable skills. However, the notion that African youth lack skills is often grossly misplaced, and only linked to skills that are required in the formal workplace.



Today, most African youth possess skills, but they do not match skills required in the workplace – this must not, therefore, suggest that they are unskilled. They are just skilled differently, outside the often Eurocentric definition of what constitutes a skilled person. Individually and collectively, the youth of today are able to make things happen for themselves. What they require is the necessary support from both the private sector and government.

Both South African and Nigerian youth are ambitious, enthusiastic, energetic and promising – they are an asset. Many of them are tech-savvy and involved in online business activities through social media. Today, it is not unusual to buy a variety of products through social media platforms. Those who are not involved in online business platforms are selling products, including food, clothes, accessories and hair and beauty products. They are active and vibrant contributors to the economic growth of their respective countries. However, they are considered vulnerable in society because of the rapid pace of change they experience at this time in their lives.

Bringing the youth of both countries together is essential in mitigating and circumventing the prevalent social immoralities borne by unemployment. There is a lot that can be done to advance the course of the youth. One area that has received little attention among the youth is the appreciation and understanding of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS). IKS

can be used as a tool to enhance and promote the rich diversity and complementarity of their respective cultures, home-grown philosophies and indigenous languages as resources for social cohesion, unity, job and wealth creation.

IKS, therefore, are outcomes of generations of diverse cultural communities' long observation, experimentation and lived experiences in the symbiotic relationship between their cultural and natural environments. These knowledge systems and home-grown philosophies are stored and articulated in a diversity of indigenous languages, art forms, food cultures, textile designs, healthcare and wellness practices. For example, the youth of both countries can host, on a rotational basis, indigenous food and music festivals, indigenous knowledge exchange programmes on herbs, indigenous textile fashion shows, art and film festivals.

These are tangible and pragmatic programmes in which partnerships can be sought with the private and public sectors of both countries. If the youth of both countries can be organised and brought together under one umbrella to engage, much can be achieved between the two countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the cultural and creative industry worldwide, and this is where the majority of the marginalised youth are engaged. In this regard, it is important that the private sector of both countries support these initiatives.

South Africa and Nigeria, as two of the largest economies in Africa, can leverage on their sizeable, diverse and dynamic private sectors to facilitate and support the building of youth-led digital cultural and creative industries for job and wealth creation in times

of the pandemic. To take the first step in realising such a form of social cohesion, there will be a need to develop a database of identified/relevant youth organisations, the private sector and other stakeholders in both countries as champions who could promote and contribute to the effective implementation and impact of the project initiative.

Convening a youth task team and regular meetings will assist in setting the ball rolling towards formal engagement about pragmatic programmes. The task teams may be established according to Communities of Practice (art forms, food cultures, textile designs and so on) to profile the rich knowledge and skills among the youth in both countries, which could contribute to the establishment of digital cultural and creative industry platforms for job and wealth creation.

After all is said and done, the youth of South Africa and Nigeria carry with them great potential to build on what the two groups have achieved in their bilateral relations. They are poised to ensure that they do their bit in building a sustainable future through the indigenous, in transforming the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and linguistic resources of South Africa and Nigeria into goods and services for social cohesion, job and wealth creation.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3jLgPhO>



African Union 



AfCFTA
Secretariat

Children's General Assembly in Denmark

- Tsholofelo Lefifi
First Secretary: Political

Ambassador Magubane accompanied by Ms Lefifi attended the Children's General Assembly (CGA) in Billund, Denmark with children from around the world, the CGA would have been held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York, but was cancelled due to Covid-19.

On 19-22 September 2021, twenty of these 80 children met physically in Billund to hold their General Assembly, wherein they shared their manifesto with the world's leaders and in return would seek a response from the Heads of State. The Children's General Assembly is characterised not only by democracy, open-mindedness and the freedom of speech for all children, it is also an inspiration to the rest of the world and a platform where these devoted children can make their voices heard and listened to.

South Africa was the only country to have two children coming to Billund. The one child, Ms Mankgara Hope Maime, whom the Nelson Mandela Children's fund, supported on this trip, had been chosen to present the actual manifesto and the second was Ms Kgaogelo Molebatsi. Both children were accompanied by their parents to Billund. The other countries were represented by one child and a parent.

A letter of invite was extended to President Cyril Ramaphosa and other Heads of State; Denmark, Holland, Finland

and Canada to attend virtually wherever they would have been, either physically present in New York or in their own country. South Africa's participation was important as at the end, the Children gave out their manifesto, and President Ramaphosa was also listening in and acknowledge the Children's manifesto.

Ambassador Magubane was requested to listen in and acknowledge the manifesto from the Children's General Assembly on behalf of President Cyril Ramaphosa. I must indicate that I was beaming with pride, when I saw our beautiful children, with nothing but confidence and intelligence as we were listening to them.

Group I

Mankgara, 15, South Africa
Daphne Zwicker, 13, United States of America
Nanna Maria Blak Biancardo, 15, Denmark
Abdon, 16, Peru
Emily-Louise Serandour, 13, Chile
Paula Giuliana Chalco Quispe, 16, Peru



Ambassador Fikile Magubane with the South African representatives, Mankgara Maime and Kgaogelo Molebatsi



Mankgara (L) delivering the manifesto on behalf of South Africa



The group of youth representing various nations across the world, at the Children's General Assembly

NEW OPTIONAL BOOKING SERVICE FOR YOUR VACCINATION APPOINTMENT



After registering on the Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS), you can now **also** choose **when and where** to get vaccinated or change your vaccination appointment!

Use any device with internet access and visit:

<https://vaccine.booking.health.gov.za>



Make sure you have:

- ✓ The identification number that you confirmed during EVDS Registration, (ID number, Non-RSA Passport, or Asylum Seeker/Refugee Number)
- ✓ Access to the cellphone number that you registered with (your cellphone number will be used to send you an OTP SMS).
- ✓ Your preferred location of vaccination.

Contact the COVID-19
Hotline: **0800 029 999**
(Monday - Friday: 7am to 8pm,
Saturday, Sunday and public
holidays: 8am to 8pm)



health
Department
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS



#ABOUTME

Melanie Titus at work

Office of the Deputy Minister



I was born on the Cape Flats in a town called Mitchells Plain in Cape Town. I matriculated at Trafalgar Senior Secondary, Cape Town, and later obtained a degree in Public Administration at the University of the Western Cape. I started my working career at Nedbank as a PA to a Financial Manager. During this time, I worked as a volunteer for the African National Congress (ANC). In 1999, the ANC recruited secretaries in Parliament and fortunately, I was considered and started my career within government. I was employed as a secretary to a senior member of the ANC and later applied for vacancies within Parliament. I thereafter served as secretary to Parliamentary chairpersons until being appointed as a PA to a Minister. I have previously served in the Ministries of Science and Technology, Tourism and now DIRCO. In 2017, I decided to leave the PA hot seat and venture into the Parliamentary Liaison space.

I commenced my term as the Parliamentary Liaison Officer and Cabinet Support to Deputy Minister Alvin Botes in July 2019. I was extremely excited but at the same time it was daunting, given the huge department I was stepping into. Despite my institutional knowledge, DIRCO is extremely complex and a massive transition. COVID has also made it quite challenging as the moment I settled, we were all hit with the "new normal". My time at DIRCO thus far has been extremely interesting. I am fortunate to be based at the centre of the department but at the same time, being in the Ministry comes with great responsibility.



I am generally a home body and spend lots of my time at home. I am fortunate to have a tight-knit family and spend most of my time with them. I am a single mom of two sons which alone is a full-time job!

At home with my sons

I was blessed to have travelled quite a bit while in the various ministries. I have travelled to over 20 countries in my time and am extremely grateful for the opportunity. I must, however, stress that for me, South Africa still offers the best sites, food, wine, scenery and hospitality! If I should choose a foreign city that I like and stands out for me, then it must be Argentina! The Argentinians are super friendly and I must confess that it reminded me a bit of home.

I do not have any hobbies other than cooking. I was made to believe that I make the best chicken curry and I was named the "curry girl" by my family. As mentioned above, a lot of my time is spent with family and our favourite past-time is gathering around with good food and lots of laughter.

I mainly read self-help/motivational books and to date "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrnes is still my all-time favourite. The book taught me a lot about being optimistic and positive and this is often my daily reminder to always look on the bright side of life and attract only positive vibes.

As we all ventured through this very challenging period of COVID-19, I think it is safe to say that it taught us what is important. To me, spending time with loved ones and being kind to one another is priceless. Lending a helping hand and supporting one another will go a long way. I am attempting this thing called "French lessons" but goodness me! Male and female words! Eish! All I ask is for prayers for the November exam!

I was asked what is dominating my music playlist at present, but it's such a difficult one. My music is as confusing as I am! Currently, I am switching between Elton John and Dua Lipa (Cold hearts), AmaPiano (Anything by Sir Trill) and my forever favourite, Anita Baker!!!

I look forward to many prosperous years at DIRCO and would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every colleague that has shown me support and kindness.



CHARLOTTE MAXEKE AFRICAN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS INITIATIVE

"The Year of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke: Realising Women's Equality"



“

The Generation Equality Forum is a statement that says we have been struggling long enough. Time has arrived to achieve. No more long campaigns. We want change, we want Generation Equality now”

Dr. Naledi Pandor

Minister: International Relations and Cooperation



Charlotte Maxeke

African Women's
Economic Justice and Rights
Initiative



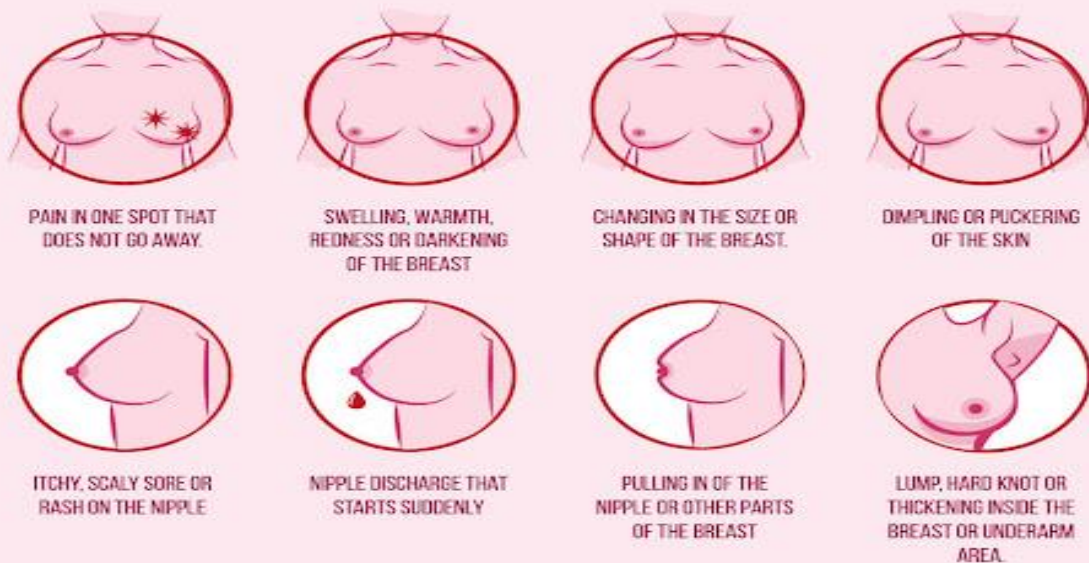
**GENERATION
EQUALITY**

REALIZING
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS FOR AN
EQUAL FUTURE

Breast Cancer Awareness

- By Employee Health and Wellness

BREAST CANCER WARNING SIGNS THE MOST COMMON SIGNS



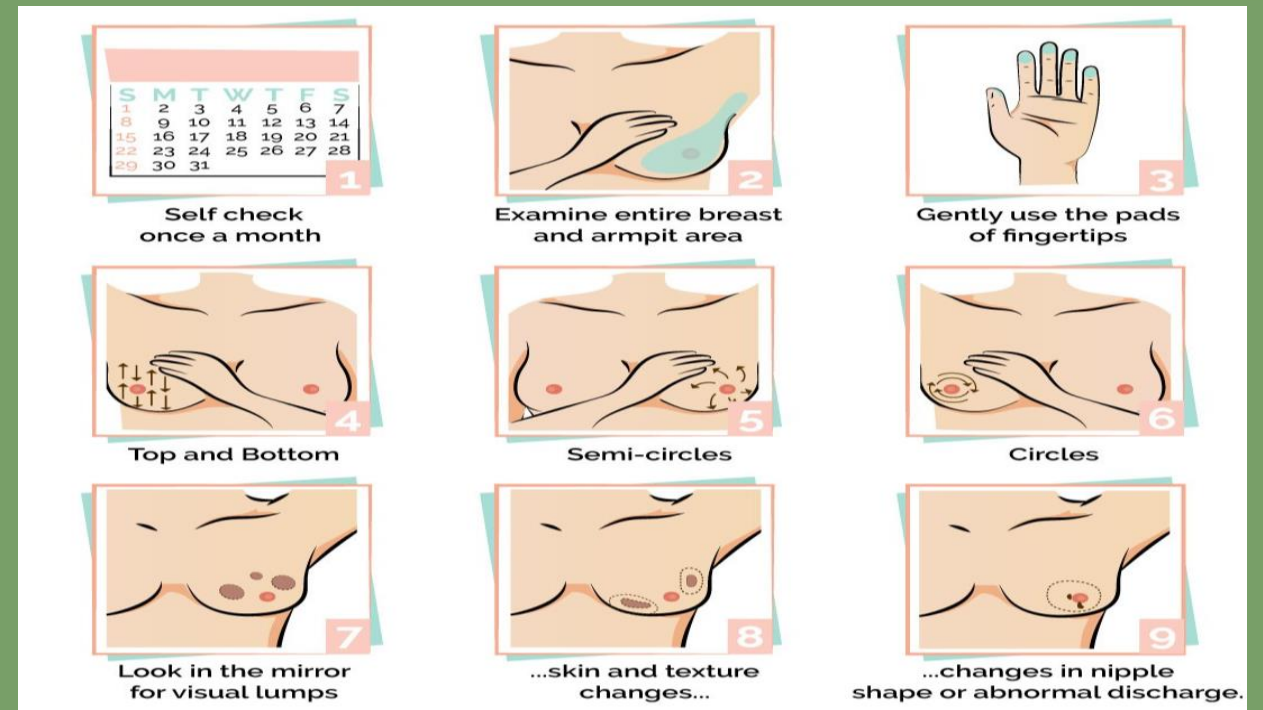
October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, an annual event to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer. Breast cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the breast. Cancer starts when cells begin to grow out of control. Breast cancer cells usually form a tumor that can often be seen on an x-ray or felt as a lump. Breast cancer occurs almost entirely in women, but [men can get breast cancer](#) too.

Female breast cancer

The incidence of breast cancer among South African women is increasing and it is one of the most common cancers among women in South Africa with a lifetime risk of 1 in 25 woman.

Early detection can lead to efficient diagnoses and treatment

Self breast examination and regular mammograms are important to detect early warning signs. When you do detect any of the following signs, contact your medical practitioner to conduct further examinations.



Risk factors: There are risk factors in females that increase your chances of breast cancer. But having a risk factor, or even many, does not mean that you are sure to get the disease:

- increasing age
- genes and family history
- radiation exposure
- dense breast tissue
- being overweight or obese
- alcohol consumption
- not being physically active.

ILLUSTRATION OF SYMPTOMS OF BREAST CANCER



Male breast cancer

1% of all breast cancers is in males and they are mostly in the 60-70 age category. Self-examination is also recommended to look out for any warning signs.

Breast Self-Exam for Him!

Check yourself the same day every month.



1. Check your breasts in front of a mirror for any symptoms or abnormalities.



2. Examine the nipple, most men find their lumps under the nipple.



3. In a sitting or standing position, use the pads of the three middle fingers - examine using light, medium, and deep pressure. (See step 4, for area to be examined)



4. Examining starts at the collarbone and continues down and up the entire breast in a vertical pattern.



5. Position yourself in bed which leads to a more even distribution of your breast tissue. Repeat step 3 and 4.

Signs and Symptoms

- ✓ A painless lump or thickening in your breast tissue.
- ✓ Changes to the skin covering your breast, such as dimpling, wrinkling, redness, or scaling.
- ✓ Changes to your nipple, such as redness or scaling, or a nipple that begins to turn inward.
- ✓ Discharge from your nipple.

Risk factors that may increase male breast cancer:

- age
- heavy alcohol use
- dangerous radiation exposure
- chronic liver disorder
- heredity
- excess body weight

Coping with breast cancer emotionally

A life-changing diagnoses can bring about a lot of emotions such as fear, anxiety, loss of interest, feeling out of sync and feelings of depression. It is therefore important to understand after the diagnoses and to draw up a coping management plan for the journey ahead.

- Join a support group where you can learn from other women and men experiencing the same journey and an opportunity where you can share your feelings with others, who understand your journey.

- Soon after your diagnoses, consider speaking to a professional counsellor to help you through the initial shock and feelings.
- Involve your family so they will also be equipped in knowing what to expect throughout your journey and how to support you.
- This is life changing and it will need you to be patient with yourself and not to rush to this new lifestyle.
- Surround yourself with your supportive family and friends and don't be ashamed to accept care and help when it's offered to you.

Sources used:

<https://www.reach4recovery.org.za/>

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/treatment.html>

BREAST CANCER SCREENING

20 to 39 years old

- 📌 Monthly Breast Self Exam
- 📌 Clinical Breast Exam made by a health professional every 3 years

40 to 49 years old

- 📌 Monthly Breast Self Exam
- 📌 Yearly Clinical Breast Exam made by a health professional
- 📌 First mammography at 40 years old and one every 2 years

50 years old & above

- 📌 Monthly Breast Self Exam
- 📌 Yearly Clinical Breast Exam made by a health professional
- 📌 Yearly mammography

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

#PinkOctober

Myth

vs

Fact

Only women can get breast cancer

Though less likely, men can also get breast cancer

Only older people can get breast cancer

There are plenty of diagnoses made in people below the age of 40

Alcohol has no links with breast cancer

Consumption of alcohol can increase your chances of developing cancer

Only people with a genetic history of breast cancer can develop breast cancer

It is possible to develop cancer even if you family doesn't have a history of developing the disease

You can't get breast cancer if you haven't had a child yet

Women who don't have children or have children after the age of 30 have increased chances of developing breast cancer





DIRCO Outreach Programme

Deputy Minister Alvin Botes and the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to South Africa, H.E. Tumysh Kanat hand over computers to a school in Witsand, Atlantis in the Western Cape.



international relations
& cooperation
Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE



Minister Naledi Pandor holds a breakfast meeting with French Foreign Affairs Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, on the last day of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome, Italy



Minister Pandor speaking to local media, Rwanda Broadcasting Agency and CNBCAfrica following the second AU-EU Ministerial Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.



Ms Nosicelo Mbele, South African Consul-General in Lubumbashi, DRC, and Consulate staff visited coach Benni McCarthy, team management and the AmaZulu Football Club team, to bid them farewell as they returned home to South Africa after qualifying for the CAF. 24 October 2021



Minister Pandor meeting the Minister of Planning and Development of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Ms. Nialé Kaba, on the sidelines of the inaugural session of the Côte d'Ivoire-South Africa Joint Commission for Cooperation, 20 October 2021



Deputy Minister Alvin Botes meeting with Dr Robert Floyd, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation, 22 October 2021

COVID-19 DIGITAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE ON



<https://vaccine.certificate.health.gov.za>



You'll need your **vaccination code** from the sms you received after your vaccination and your **RSA ID Number**, or **Foreign Passport number** or **Asylum** or **Refugee number**.

- This should be the same document number that you presented when you got vaccinated, and the **cell phone number** you included on your registration.



Call our COVID-19 Call Centre on **0800 029 999** to get support.