



IT'S YOUR VOICE

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IT'S YOUR VOICE

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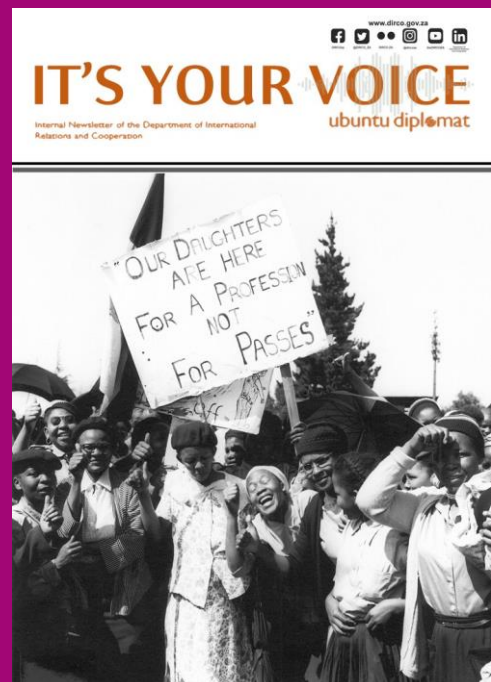
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**international relations
& cooperation**

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ON THE COVER



Every year, in August, our country marks Women's Month, during which we pay tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of the pass laws to women.



IT'S YOUR VOICE

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Editor's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

On 9 August 1956, 20 000 women, led by four extraordinary leaders, Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against legislation aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women in urban areas. This year's Women's Month was celebrated under the theme: "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience".

That march was one of the largest demonstrations staged in South Africa's history and was underpinned by the adoption of the Women's Charter of 1954. The Federation of South African Women challenged the idea that "a woman's place is in the kitchen". Instead, they declared that a woman's place is "everywhere". How wonderful it would have been for all those women to see that their leadership in the fight for women's rights has many years later, resulted in a concerted effort to prioritise the question of women's inclusion in all spheres of society. The brave actions of the women of 1956 inspired many women for decades to come, to take their rightful place in Parliament, government and civil society. Their sacrifices have seen to it that we now live in a country which recognises women as equal citizens, with equal rights and responsibilities.

This year, the United Nations declared 24 June International Day of Women in Diplomacy. This declaration was regarded as a significant milestone by women across the world, celebrating the recognition of women's noteworthy contribution to diplomacy. At DIRCO, strides have been made to include women in top positions as well as to involve them in decision-making fora. Although we have not yet achieved 50% since 1994, 43% of South Africa's Ambassadors are women, High Commissioners and Consuls-General. There is still work to be done and the department continues to work towards identifying a myriad intervention to address this necessity for transformation. Women's Month is about putting a spotlight on the challenges that women still face, as well as celebrating the success of women in all spheres of life. South Africa's new High Commissioner to Singapore and staunch advocate for women's agenda, Ms Charlotte Lobe, explores this issue.

South Africa's Ambassador to Norway, Ms Delores Kotze, hosted a panel discussion in Oslo on women in mediation, joined by a panel of prominent women



from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, the Women, Peace and Security programme and ACCORD. Ambassador Kotze highlighted the work that South Africa was doing in the capacity-building space, also giving a notable mention to the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum hosted by DIRCO.

Minister Naledi Pandor hosted the United States' Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken, at the beginning of August, during which both leaders had fruitful discussions on further strengthening the relations between the two countries. On 9 August, Minister Pandor and Secretary Blinken visited the Medical Research Council in Pretoria, where a "Women in Science" event was being held in commemoration of Women's Day.

As we continue to celebrate women in South Africa and across the world, we must forever applaud the women who marched in 1956 and paved the way for future generations, including women in diplomacy, echoing powerful statements such as "Our daughters are here for a profession, not for passes". It is words like these that inspire and motivate the women of today. Artists like South Africa's Lira inspire modern women to celebrate their power daily by embracing the hard-won freedom emanating from the foundation laid by many women before us, through putting energy into doing what they love. Watch her perform "What You Love": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YagPZPyqFKY>

WOM



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's Candidature for Re-election to the Human Rights Council

South Africa will focus on thematic areas that resonate with government's priorities such as:

- the elimination of gender-based violence
- addressing socio-economic inequalities
- protecting human rights
- fighting racism
- protecting fundamental freedoms of migrants, refugees, children and other persons of concern.



Minister Pandor hosts US Secretary of State Antony Blinken



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, hosted the Secretary of State of the United States of America (USA), Mr Antony Blinken, on Monday, 8 August 2022, in Pretoria, on the occasion of the South Africa-United States Strategic Dialogue.

This was Secretary Blinken's first visit to South Africa since the global Covid-19 lockdown. The Secretary's visit also coincided with the arrival of the United States' new representative to South Africa, Ambassador Reuben Brigety. Minister Naledi Pandor welcomed the new Ambassador to South Africa and said that the timing was opportune as Ambassador Brigety would be able to observe the meeting and visit. "I hope our deliberations today will set the tone for your tenure in South Africa. I wish you a productive and enjoyable term as US Ambassador to South Africa. I hope you will contribute to strengthening the already strong links between South Africa and the USA," said Minister Pandor.

The USA is one of South Africa's most valued partners and the current Administration has shown commitment to expanding bilateral relations between South Africa and the USA. In her remarks, Minister Pandor mentioned that "the bonds that were forged between the United States and South Africa during the struggle for democracy and racial justice in this country, are enduring and created a firm foundation for advancing people-to-people co-

operation between the two countries, including in the spheres of education, cultural and tourism exchanges". The Minister continued to emphasise the significance of the growing relations between the two countries, as she mentioned the establishment of many positive initiatives since 1994. "Our areas of cooperation include trade and investment, technology transfer, education, health, environment, safety and security, institution-building and many other areas," said Minister Pandor. South Africa continues to be confronted by deep challenges linked to our apartheid history. They centre on three elements: inequality, poverty and unemployment.

Through the generous support of the USA Government and people, South Africa has been able to make progress in addressing many of the socio-economic challenges faced by the majority in this country, be it in providing access to equal and quality education, decent housing or basic healthcare services to the most vulnerable in society. "Our bilateral cooperation is broad and deep and aligned to South Africa's national priorities. We are determined and working hard, however, to set our economy on a new trajectory of growth and development to satisfy the yearning of our people for a better life," she added.

Dr Pandor further said that she was pleased with the scientific cooperation at the SKA site in Carnarvon the Northern Cape, where the USA has an important astronomy research initiative.

“What stands out in particular in our journey was the timely and significant support given to South Africa and the region to address the original pandemic of HIV/AIDS through the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). This was indeed a game changer as it set the pace for the way we bilaterally, as government and civil society, came together to turn around the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS scourge, which threatened to derail our progress and set us back. Cooperation in HIV vaccine development stands out as our most significant medical sciences research initiative with Professors Glenda Gray and Olive Shisana achieving outstanding results.”

The US Government makes a significant contribution to South Africa’s own efforts, as outlined in the National Development Plan, to address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. South Africa is the largest US trade partner in Africa. The significant presence of US companies operating within our borders, including historic investors such as General Electric and Ford, among others, in helping to upskill our youth, creating jobs and incomes, has made the US private sector a key partner in supporting South Africa’s socio-economic growth.

More recently, the tremendous support shown by US companies for President Cyril Ramaphosa’s investment drive has demonstrated the belief that the USA still has in the future of our country and the value proposition that we offer as a key investment destination and trade partner, despite the setback of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Pandor went on to reiterate South Africa’s welcoming of the positive growth in two-way trade in goods from US\$13.9 billion in 2010 to US\$21 billion in 2021. In 2021, the USA ranked as the second-largest destination for South Africa’s exports globally. South African firms have also become significant foreign investors. Investments from South Africa into the USAA are on the increase, with the US accounting for 17.4% of total South African outward foreign direct investment to the world (Department of Trade, Industry and Cooperation). The Minister continued to add, “There is, however, much more we can - and should do. As was discussed earlier this year at the meeting of the 12th Annual Bilateral Forum, our objective should be to significantly expand two-way trade and investment that will contribute to the shared growth and prosperity for the people of South Africa and the USA. A good start in this endeavour would be to speedily resolve the longstanding unresolved trade issues around market access, including the removal of Section 232 tariffs on South African steel and aluminium imports into the USA.”



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrives in South Africa

South Africa is proud to count on the US Government and private sector as partners in our efforts directed at post-pandemic economic recovery. “President Cyril Ramaphosa and his economic team, have been hard at work making it easier for foreign investors to invest in our country and to advance our trade and investment relations for mutual benefit. The support we received and continue to receive from the USA to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and your country’s support for the WTO TRIPS Waiver to enable South Africa and Africa to produce vaccines locally, is a tangible demonstration of the international solidarity needed to overcome the global challenges of our time. We thank President Biden for understanding this imperative and for his efforts to make Africa an equal partner in the global community’s plans to address the most pressing challenges of our time.”

The Minister also said that the undertakings made at the United Nations, the G7 and G20 to address food insecurity, global health, peace and security, sustainable and just energy transition and human security should be meaningfully addressed. “We must continuously reinforce our common commitment to multilateralism, democracy and human rights - and use the proven tools of diplomacy, peace-building, dialogue and mediation to resolve conflict and end the intolerable and unnecessary human suffering as a result of wars and other forms of conflict.”

“The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the convening of the AGOA Forum in South Africa next year present both our governments, private sectors and civil society with numerous opportunities to advance our trade and investment relations. South Africa’s diverse industrial and service base, highly developed and well-capitalised banking and financial sector, and modern logistics infrastructure position us ideally as the gateway to Africa.

Continuing to talk about the economy, Minister Pandor referred once again to President Ramaphosa’s plan for sustainable economic recovery, as a significant portion of planned funding will be allocated to infrastructure works that prioritise environmental protection, from rail transport to modern energy production plants. The Minister said, “I would like to emphasise also that in our recovery journey, we should ensure that that we do not leave behind women, youth and the disabled”.

Minister Pandor said that she was encouraged by President Joe Biden’s backing of educational cooperation between South Africa and the USA, which is incredibly important and beneficial. “I am excited by the continued support that President Biden is giving to the Mandela-Washington Fellowship through the

Young African Leaders Initiative and the good work that is being done by the US-SA Higher Education Network, as well as the support for our Technical Vocational Education and Training institutions, which have partnered with the community colleges in the USA- We also acknowledge the support for training and capacity-building for our law enforcement, defence and security agencies, including for the fight against wildlife trafficking,” said Minister Pandor.

The two leaders also visited the “Women in Science” event held on Women’s Day at the Medical Research Council in Pretoria.

Read the US Strategy on Sub-Saharan Africa here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/U.S.-Strategy-Toward-Sub-Saharan-Africa-FINAL.pdf>



Minister Naledi Pandor accompanies Secretary Antony Blinken during his courtesy call on President Cyril Ramaphosa



Minister Naledi Pandor and Secretary Antony Blinken deliver their remarks during the South Africa-United States Strategic Dialogue

South Africa and the Republic of Lithuania signs Visa Waiver Agreement

Busi Mangoegape

Deputy Director: Nordic and Baltic Countries



Ms Phumzile Mazibuko receiving the signed Visa Waiver Agreement from Mr Dainius Junevičius, Lithuania's Ambassador to South Africa

The signing of a Visa Waiver Agreement between South Africa and the Republic of Lithuania has been finalised. The agreement covers diplomatic and official passport holders of both countries. The agreement was signed by Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Home Affairs, on 17 June 2022 and on Friday, 19 August 2022, DIRCO, led by Ms Phumzile Mazibuko, Chief Director: Americas and Europe, hosted a signing ceremony for HE Mr Dainius Junevičius, Lithuania's Ambassador to South Africa.

South Africa and Lithuania celebrated 30 years of bilateral relations in 2021. Both parties have worked towards enhancing relations, increasing trade and investments and growing the areas of cooperation on regional and global issues. Lithuania and South Africa cooperate closely in the search for new export markets and to attract new and safe investments, especially in the areas of innovations and high-tech. Lithuania is a rapidly growing leader in biotechnologies and financial technologies and is one of the largest global exporters of scientific lasers.

The signing of the bilateral agreement is therefore an important milestone in our relations with Lithuania as it will encourage greater government contact and ease requirements for visits and attendance at conferences and business-related events.

Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini embarks on a Working Visit to the Levant region

Patience Mtshali

Deputy Director, Media Liaison, Public Diplomacy



The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Candith Mashego-Dlamini, went on a Working Visit to the Levant region from 21 to 26 August 2022. While in the region, the Deputy Minister visited Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The intention of the Working Visit was to enhance and strengthen bilateral relations between South Africa and the Levant countries, which included the formation of a Strategic Dialogue between Palestine and South Africa aimed at advancing the Palestinians' desire to establish an independent, sovereign state.

During the visit, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini had the opportunity to exchange views, with various stakeholders, on the most recent developments in South Africa, the Southern African Development Community region and the African continent.

The Deputy Minister held meetings with her counterparts, with the aim of deepening relations between South Africa and those countries.

Palestine

Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini's visit kicked off in the State of Palestine where she attended the second Session of the Palestine-South Africa Strategic Dialogue. The purpose of the Strategic Dialogue was to deepen relations between Palestine and South Africa, be it political, economic, cultural or social.

The dialogue also provided a platform for government representatives of Palestine and South Africa to exchange information on developments globally and within the region. During the meeting, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini reiterated South Africa's continued support and solidarity with the Government and people of Palestine at the pursuit and eventual realisation of self-determination as a nation.

While in Ramallah, Palestine, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini visited the Yasser Arafat Museum. The museum serves as an ongoing repository of national knowledge and culture, where information on the history and culture of Palestine is displayed. The museum also encourages effective



Deputy Minister with South African Ambassador to Palestine, Mr Shaun Byneveldt



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini and the South African delegation visiting the Al Jazeera offices

dialogue with the public. It is a resource centre established as a vital educational research facility for the local community and those interested in the Palestinian cause and the life and legacy of Yasser Arafat.

Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini further toured the Al Jazeera offices, where she took the time to, on behalf of South Africa, express her condolences on the loss of slain Al Jazeera journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh.



The Yasser Arafat Museum

Jordan

After Palestine, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini headed to Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Deputy Minister paid a special tribute to the Government and people of Jordan on celebrating their Centenary in 2021. "The celebration bears testament to the visionary leadership of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and indeed King Abdullah II. It is laudable that the Kingdom has remained the beacon of stability, security, development and a place of refuge in a region otherwise fraught with many upheavals," said Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini.

This visit to Jordan had originally been scheduled for March 2020, but had to be postponed, due to unforeseen circumstances brought about by the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic. During the meeting, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini told Acting Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Amb. Hazem Al-Khatib, that it is incumbent upon both leaders and their teams, to take this relationship forward for the benefit of the people of South Africa and Jordan: "Our excellent relationship should always be a platform for meaningful cooperation between our two countries both at bilateral and multilateral levels. It is in this spirit that we look forward to growing the relationship between our countries," added the Deputy Minister.

The political consultations provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress of South Africa-Jordan cooperation, scrutinise the prevailing status quo and generate a future path to further strengthen the partnership. This will provide impetus to meaningful economic cooperation between the two countries. South Africa's political guidance will also assist in unblocking bottle necks and usher in the untapped potential across a wide spectrum of sectors and human endeavour.

South Africa and Jordan share similar positions on many regional and international issues and have cooperated in various multilateral fora. In closing, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini said: "It is our opinion that we can further the cause of the Palestinian people in multilateral fora. Together, we can consolidate support for the ambitions of a future Palestinian state and support solidarity links with other likeminded countries."



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini meets with Amb Ebrahim Saley, South Africa's Ambassador to Jordan



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini receives a gift from her Jordan counterpart, Amb. Hazem Al-Khatib

Lebanon

In Lebanon, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini conveyed to Dr Abdullah Bou Habib South Africa's message of congratulations to the government of Lebanon for holding a peaceful Parliamentary election held on 15 May 2022. She said, "South Africa also wishes Lebanon a peaceful free and fair Presidential election scheduled to take place towards the end of 2022".

The two leaders signed several Memoranda of Understanding, thus ensuring continued work to deepen bilateral relations between the two countries. The Deputy Minister said that the outcomes of her meeting with Dr Habib must be vigorously pursued and implemented as both countries work towards the amplification of areas of cooperation, both in the bilateral and multilateral spheres.

South Africa is always ready to share its expertise with fellow developing countries, and Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini discussed with Dr Abdullah Bou Habib, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, that South Africa was open to partnership in the development of the Lebanese oil industry.

In closing, the Deputy Minister said that she was looking forward to hosting Dr Habib in future for the inaugural session of the Joint Commission for Cooperation.



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini meeting with South Africa's Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr Barry Gilder



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini paid a Courtesy Visit to the Lebanese Prime Minister, HE Mr Najib Mikati in Beirut, Lebanon

Syria

In Damascus, Syria, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini met with her counterpart, Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Deputy Minister congratulated the Government and the people of Syria on holding a peaceful presidential election on 20 May 2021 and for the outcome that was achieved. She further said that South

Africa was willing to provide any assistance that the Syrian Government might require in support of efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Middle-East region. "South Africa condemns the acts of terrorism being conducted against the Syrian people and supports the efforts of the Syrian Government and its allies in its efforts to counter the scourge of terrorism. South Africa also condemns the unilateral economic sanctions against Syria, which are in violation of international law and which have a devastating humanitarian impact on the people of Syria."

The relations between South Africa and the Syrian Arab Republic go back many years to Syria's strong and principled support for the struggle against apartheid. Nelson Mandela is a revered figure among all Syrian people. South Africa and Syria have enjoyed amicable diplomatic relations since its establishment on 1 June 1994. Both countries maintain resident diplomatic missions, with the Syrian Government having opened its Embassy in Pretoria in 1998. South Africa is, in the current period, particularly respected by the Syrian Government for its support during the past decade of war and for the fact that it was one of a few countries that retained its full diplomatic presence in Damascus during the crisis. Syria has also expressed its appreciation for the principled stand that South Africa took during its tenure on the United Nations Security Council from in 2019 to 2020 on issues related to Syria.



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini arrives in Syria and is welcomed by Vice Minister, Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari. She is accompanied by Amb Barry Gilder who is also accredited to Syria



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini in a meeting with her Syrian counterpart, Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic

WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT:

BUILDING BACK BETTER FOR WOMEN'S RESILIENCE!



Happy Women's Day



As we commemorate Women's Day today, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation continues to honour all its women, and celebrates the many ways in which South African women continue to cement our freedom and dignity through collective efforts across the racial, ethnic and religious divide.

Let us be proud of what we have achieved. Let the achievements of those who went before us inspire us to continue unlocking our own strength and motivate us to make a difference in our work, our families, our community, our country, our continent and the world.

#WomensMonth2022 #WomensEmpowermentAgenda



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Celebrating Women in Diplomacy

Charlotte Lobe

High Commissioner, Singapore



In August every year, South Africa celebrates the iconic 1956 march where 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the discriminatory pass laws. The Women's March is one of the most heralded historic event in the struggle for freedom and women's rights in South Africa. As a result, 9 August, has been declared National Women's Day in recognition of political activism by women in the liberation struggle. This historic march was a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for freedom and the society at large. Since this period, great strides have been made in improving the status of women and creating a conducive environment for them to thrive. However, women have not advanced as rapidly as government would have wished. This is compounded by the reality that the field of International Relations is traditionally dominated by men. As a traditional male domain, existing power structures within the diplomatic infrastructure reinforces blatant discriminatory practices, making it difficult for women to enter diplomacy,, particularly at the highest echelons. According to a British politician and diplomat, Sir Harold George Nicholson who served in the Diplomatic Corps between 1901 and 1929: "Women are prone to qualities of zeal, sympathy and intuition which, unless kept under the

firmest control, are dangerous qualities in international affairs."

This opinion implies that women should continue to be subsidiary to international politics and diplomacy. Signs of change appeared in the 1930s when 13 countries, which included Nicaragua and Turkey, appointed women diplomats. A few decades later in 1996, Madeleine Albright declared: "Today, women are engaged in every facet of global affairs, from policymaking to deal-making, from arms control to trade, from the courtroom of the War Crimes Tribunal to the far-flung operations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". As a woman diplomat, I know that women are prolific negotiators; they are good communicators; strategic thinkers; and are good in public relations. There can never be an excuse to continue exclude women from this sphere. The small number of women in diplomatic positions globally reflects the same challenges faced by women in the political, civil, private or judicial sectors. The main challenge for women in diplomacy is often associated with making "tough choices between family life and their careers". Like many career women, women diplomats face similar challenges in balancing family and work.

For women diplomats, however, the obstacles they face are often greater, given the nature of their work.

South Africa has made significant progress in narrowing the gender gap in decision-making structures; this includes strides made in increasing the number of women in its envoys abroad. We have gradually moved from only three female heads of mission (HoM) which was equivalent to 1% of the overall number of HoM before the dawn of democracy to 43% women as Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consuls-General. We are not yet at 50% but we celebrate this achievement because our efforts of mainstreaming gender are yielding positive results. Despite our progressive gender equality normative framework in South Africa, women diplomats face a layer of challenges to survive and rise to the top. On the one hand, married women must bear the burden of the traditional expectation of being responsible for nurturing their families, while on the other hand, those who are single must break conservative presumptions about a woman's limits. Either way, women are confined to gender stereotypical roles defined by narrow cultural and religious traditions.

As the tide of democracy, equality and justice sweeps the globe, women are becoming a growing force to be reckoned with. Globally, we are seeing a new voice of activism emerging, which is speaking out to defend freedom and advance civil liberties and human rights. The notion of women in diplomacy and political leadership are not a new phenomenon, particularly in Africa. As African women diplomats we stand on the shoulders of giants. We stand on the shoulders of phenomenal women who created streams in the dessert. There are African women from the pre-Colonial era who have played major roles in diplomacy and in nation-building. The following are just a few examples and the reason why we celebrate the achievements of women before us in addition to the women of 1956:

- In Angola, we celebrate Queen Ann Nzinga who, in the 17th century, formed alliances with other kingdoms to fend off the Portuguese. She declared the lands she ruled over "free country" and promised all slaves who reached her lands freedom. She was not one to ignore responsibility. She oversaw mighty armies that strategically kept her lands free throughout her four-decade rule.
- The Egyptian Queen, Hatshepsut, is renowned for expanding foreign trade and improving diplomatic relations. She also initiated the development of construction programmes and a naval fleet.
- Queen Amina Sukhera, a Hausa Muslim Warrior Queen of the Zazzau, now city of Zaria, Kaduna State in Nigeria, fought heroic battles using her military skills to expand the Zazzau territory. Amina is also credited with the introduction of the cultivation of the kola nuts in her region. This went a long way in developing farming and agriculture in her region.
- Ghana's Ashanti Empire gave us Yaa Asantewaa, the brave Queen Mother of Ejisu. Nana was a leader and Commander-in Chief of the Fifth and final Anglo-Ashanti War of 1900 – 1901. No woman in history is known to have achieved what she achieved as the leader of what is now known as the "Yaa Asantewaa War" between the Asante and the British during which she became known as the Jean D'Arc of Africa. She inspired the fight against colonial invaders by declaring: "Is it true that the bravery of the Ashanti is no more? I cannot believe it. It cannot be! I must say this, if you the men of Ashanti will not go forward, then we will. We the women will, I shall call upon my fellow women. We will fight the white men. We will fight till the last of us falls in the battlefields".
- Nehanda Chware Nyakasikana, the Zimbabwean warrior, joined her compatriots in fending off the English invasion of Zimbabwe prior to the 1890s. She declared, as she faced death by hanging, that, "my bones will rise again", a prophecy evidenced by the mass exodus of the population who voluntarily left the country for the east and returned on the attainment of independence in 1979 following decades of Chimurenga (war of liberation).
- Manthatisi, the warrior queen of Batlokwa, came to power as the regent for her son, Sekonyela, following the death of her husband Kgosi Mokotjo. She reigned in the 1820s, during the time of King Shaka. As a warrior, she commanded troops of over 40 000 warriors during the Difaqane wars. Queen Manthatisi was one of the best known, and most feared, women military and political leaders of the early 19th century. Her troops seized the crops and cattle of the people they attacked, leaving a trail of destruction and devastation. Queen Manthatisi was strong in times of war and in peace. She used her diplomatic skills to negotiate land for her people when she lost war.

The lives of these women remind me of the words of Maya Angelou: "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it".

Women in Mediation Seminar in Norway

Tarryn Warries

Third Secretary, Political, Oslo, Norway

In commemoration of Women's Month, the South African Embassy in Oslo, Norway, and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) co-hosted a seminar under the title: "Women Mediators Capacity-Building Programmes: An Effective Tool in Grassroots Mediation". The programme included a keynote address by Ambassador Delores Kotzé and a panel discussion, comprised of Signe Gilen, Special Representative, Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA); Karishma Rajoo, General Manager: Programmes, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD); Sylvia Rognvik Thompson, Nordic Women Mediators Network and CMI-Martii Ahtisaari Peace Foundation; and Ghita El Khyari, Head of the Secretariat, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

As two like-minded countries, South Africa and Norway have collaborated extensively within the United Nations WPS Agenda and continue to promote capacity-building on the African continent. Norway is a key partner in Africa, specifically with the Women Mediators Capacity Training, which culminates annually in the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum. After five years of training, the partnership is once again being reviewed to ensure that the training remains responsive and relevant for the current conflict trends on the continent. To explore how the programme can be expanded, the Embassy drew inspiration from the efforts of the 20 000 women who protested against the pass laws in 1956. These were women at grassroots level, who decided to speak out and caused a ripple effect that would inevitably lead to change. The training programme has specifically focussed on Track 1 and 2 of the peace process by capacitating women to participate at the high-level process. As tensions on the continent are increasingly being ignited by tensions at community level, it is important that women are capacitated at grassroots - Track 3 - level. Leaning on the expertise and lessons learned by the panellists, discussions explored how this capacity-building programme would look.

The panel discussion highlighted that the needs of women at grassroots level were different. Through the panellists' experience, it was evident that women at grassroots level had mediation capacity, as they often relied on traditional mediation practices.



Ambassador Dolores Kotze with Embassy staff ahead of the seminar

Therefore, capacity-building programmes targeted at grassroots level need to go beyond focussing on mediation skills, to include training on how to build alliances, develop effective advocacy campaigns, developing effective communication strategies and the role of technology/social media platforms in creating awareness and fostering peace. The panellists emphasised peer-to-peer learning and knowledge-sharing, and creating a network which the women would be able to access long after the training has concluded. Karisma Rajoo, from ACCORD, highlighted that training will never be enough - if we would like to see success at every level of the peace process, we will need to ensure that women are supported, not only with knowledge-sharing, but also financially.

As the review process continues, the Embassy hopes that it will draw from the observations asserted in the seminar, to ensure that the programme remains responsive and relevant. As Ambassador Kotzé concluded: "Local ownership of the peace process, at every level, is imperative, it cannot be imported".



Ambassador Kotze delivers the opening remarks



Panel members in discussion

WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT:

BUILDING BACK BETTER FOR
WOMEN'S RESILIENCE!



“

Let us be brave: we have heard of
men shaking in their trousers, but
who ever heard of a woman
shaking in her skirt?”

– Lillian Ngoyi,
Inaugural Conference of the Federation of South African Women, 1954

#WomensMonth2022 #WomensEmpowermentAgenda



international relations
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International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Second Round of the Election Campaign by Adv Thembile Joyini, South Africa's Candidate to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (2023-2032)

Masotsha Mnguni

Counsellor Political, Permanent Mission UN, New York

The second round of the election campaign of Adv Thembile Joyini, South Africa's candidate to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) took place from 15 to 26 August 2022. Adv Joyini has been nominated by Cabinet as South Africa's candidate for election to ITLOS for the term 2023-2032. He has also been subsequently endorsed by the African Union during its summit in February 2022, Addis Ababa. The elections are scheduled for June 2023 at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York.



From left to right: South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN, New York, Amb Mathu Joyini; Amb Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko, Ambassador at Large, Peace and Security; Adv Thembile Joyini, the candidate

From 15 to 26 August 2022, Adv Joyini, South Africa's candidate to ITLOS for the term 2023-2032, utilised his Working Visit to New York to further intensify his election campaign at the UN Headquarters, the site where the election will take place in June 2023. This visit marked the second round of campaigning in New York following the campaign launch in June 2022. The second round of campaigning took place on the margins of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Adv Joyini held bilateral meetings with election officers and legal experts from various countries, thereby enabling him to further consolidate his rapport with the election officers and legal experts in New York; inform the stakeholders of his personal background, professional experience and knowledge of international law, especially as it pertains to oceans and law of the sea matters; demonstrate his readiness to assume the post of ITLOS Judge; and respond to any comments and questions the stakeholders raised during the interaction.

A short survey of these dynamic deliberations exposed the stakeholders to Adv Joyini's unique skill set that he will bring to ITLOS when elected. These include his strong academic qualifications in the legal field; his firm grasp of international law in general and its application to oceans and the law of the sea in particular; his expertise as a lead negotiator for South Africa, the Africa Group and the G77 and China in UN multilateral negotiations; and his exposure to domestic law as an Arbitrator and Acting High Court Judge presiding over both criminal and civil matters, including penning numerous judgments.

It is for this reason that an overwhelming number of stakeholders, from all regions, that the candidate met during his visit were already familiar with the excellent contributions of Adv Joyini in the oceans and law of the sea domain, particularly in the BBNJ process where he was leading and facilitating key agenda items. It is for this reason that as a result of his vast expertise in the subject matter, Adv Joyini is regularly invited to important conferences in South Africa and international capitals as guest speaker. The third round of campaigning will take place in October 2022, New York.

Ambassador Muofhe hands Over Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of South Sudan

Mahlodl Muofhe
Ambassador, Juba, South Sudan



Amb Mahlodl Muofhe arrives at the ceremony to hand over his letters of credence

On 24 August 2022, the Republic of South Africa's new Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, Adv Mahlodl Muofhe presented his credentials to President Salva Kiir Mayardit in Juba, South Sudan.

Upon the handover, Amb Muofhe said to President Mayardit: "The political parties in the Republic of South Sudan signed the Revitalised Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and agreed to a '24 months interim period' as per the address to the people of the Republic of South Sudan by Your Excellency on 4 August 2022; we welcome and support the unison of the political parties of the Republic of South Sudan". He also said that South Africa would continue with the well-running capacity-building exercises for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and that South Africa would continually share information on socio-economic matters for the benefit of both countries.

He further conveyed South Africa's continued support for the Republic of South Sudan, and referred to the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged global economics without exception. "It is our firm belief that countries of the world must work together to revitalise the global economies."

Amb Muofhe added that the African Continental Free Trade Agreement as one of the African Union's Agenda 2063 flagships, was a critical vehicle that we should use to transform not only our economies in the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of South Sudan but also the African continent in totality.

South Africa Consulate-General in São Paulo hosts the Nelson Mandela Legacy Cultural Diplomacy Project

Anri Swart

Consul: Political, São Paulo, Brazil



Consul-General Tinyiko Kumalo with (left to right) the School Director, Ms Roseli da Silva; the School Supervisor, Ms Mariana Panizza; Municipal Secretary of International Relations, Ms Marta Suplicy; Municipal Secretary of Education, Mr Fernando Padula; and the Regional Director, Ms Jussara Cardoso

In April 2022, Ambassador Vusi Mavimbela and Consul-General Tinyiko Kumalo visited the EMEI Nelson Mandela School on the margins of the Freedom Day celebration.

The school was established in 1950, and then called the Municipal School of Early Childhood Education (EMEI) Guia Lopes (leader of the Brazilian troops in the Paraguayan War). The name was changed to EMEI Nelson Mandela in 2016 after becoming the victim of racist graffiti.

In 2001, the school started a pedagogical project to comply with Law 10.639/03, which compels the teaching of Afro-Brazilian history and culture in the school curriculum and, thereafter, it became the target of racist graffiti, ("let's take care of the future of our white children" and "preserve the white race", accompanied by swastikas). Two weeks later, a group of children covered the hate messages with peace paintings. The then Director of the school, Cibeley Racy, started a petition to change the school's name in honour of the former President and as a symbolic fight against racism and all forms of discrimination and prejudice.

During the visit, the Consul-General expressed her wish for closer ties between the school and to adopt the school for 2022 Nelson Mandela International Day, which was received with great excitement. However, because all Brazilian schools are closed during July it was not possible to celebrate International Mandela Day on 18 July 2022. The Mission then decided to have a Cultural Diplomacy project with the Nelson Mandela School on 20 August 2022.

The event was attended by the Municipal Secretary of International Relations, Ms Marta Suplicy; Municipal Secretary of Education, Mr Fernando Padula; the Regional Director, Ms Jussara Cardoso; the School Supervisor, Ms Mariana Panizza; the School Director, Ms Roseli da Silva, WYDA represented by Ms Juliana

Mottathe that supported the initiative as a Brazilian business and South African investor; as well as members of the community, school children, families and the Mission.

The event was widely advertised in social media and in front of the school. The event started with a parade in the street next to the school joined by Roda de Jongo with the Filhos da São Miguel group.

This was followed by remarks from the Consul-General on the life of Nelson Mandela, the reason for celebrating his life, what Ubuntu means, and that August was also a month that South Africa celebrated women and their contribution to society. Ms Kumalo then handed over a picture of Nelson Mandela and a book on Ubuntu translated for the school. The Consul-General proceeded to plant a Jakaranda tree with the school to symbolise the growing relationship with the school.

The Municipal Secretary of International Relations, Ms Marta Suplicy, and the Municipal Secretary of Education, Mr Fernando Padula, also made remarks that reflected the legacy of Mandela and supported the school's contribution to fighting racism.

After several festivities, dances and performances by EMIA Brasilândia (Municipal School of Artistic Initiation) and the Bebendo da Fonte group, the school performed a Nelson Mandela song written by the singer Eristhal, highlighting and teaching children some of Madiba's principles and legacies.

Thirty graffiti artists also volunteered their time to paint the outside wall of the school with various images of Mandela, Africa, animals and representations of Africa. The Mission was able, through this event, to promote the legacy of Mr Nelson Mandela, Ubuntu, tourism, art, music and dance.
<https://www.instagram.com/tv/Ch9q3YhjGHn/?igshid=MDJmNzVkMjY%3D>

Mandela **Composer - Eristhal**

Mandela, Mandela, Mandela

Your feelings echo until today in the voice of the favela, Your feelings echo until today in the voice of the favela. A school was born in the Limão (Lemon) neighbourhood, which proudly carries in its memory Its story Grandpa Madiba taught us, Right, respect and diversity Abayomi family has brought the magic of ancestry Azizi, Sofia, Dayó and Henrique Azizi, Sofia, Dayó and Henrique

Mandela there, Mandela here

Quelé, Dandara, Marielle, Lia and Leci

Mandela there, Mandela here

Africa Brazil linked by a Jakaranda

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seNCp_kPFVI



Consul-General Kumalo handing over a photograph of Nelson Mandela to the school



Graffiti artists busy with the school's wall

Nelson Mandela Day Activities at the Mission in Beijing

Mahdi Basadien

Minister Plenipotentiary: Beijing, China



Ambassador Siyabonga Cwele addresses the Nelson Mandela cocktail function

On 18 July 2022, the Embassy of South Africa in Beijing hosted an event to commemorate Mandela Day under the theme "Do what you can, with what you have, wherever you are". The pandemic situation in Beijing allowed for the hosting of an event of this nature under current health prevention and control measures. The event included a cocktail dinner at the Embassy of South Africa, a flower laying ceremony at the Mandela Bust, an "Adopt A Tree" at the Jintai Museum in Beijing, and a lucky draw sponsored by South African Tourism.

On 15 July, the Embassy staff, as part of the Mandela Day Programme, assisted the Jintai Museum in cleaning the area where a Hawthorn Tree would be adopted in preparation for Mandela Day (67 minutes). On 18 July 2022, the flower laying took place at the bronze bust of Nelson Mandela, designed, and created by Mr Yuan Xikun, the artist and Head of Jintai Museum. This was followed by the adoption of the Hawthorn Tree through the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate Mandela Day. This event was attended by Southern African Development Community Heads of Mission and other guests. The Hawthorn fruit bearing tree symbolises a message of hope and healing on both the physical and emotional level. It encourages one to feel renewed and refreshed as we venture forward on our journey through life. This very much symbolises what Nelson Mandela stood for: hope and healing.

Later, the Mission hosted a cocktail event at the Mission. The Director-General for Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr WU Peng, was the guest of honour and the guest speaker. The Director-General of the International Department of



Ambassador Cwele with the Diplomatic Corps during the cocktail

the CPC, African Affairs, Mr Wang Heming, also attended. Approximately 170 guests participated, including, among others, government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps and business persons from various sectors.

These events were covered widely by mainstream media in China such as, among others, China Media Group and *People's Daily*. Both functions were reported on through print media, websites and radio in both Chinese and English. Articles were widely reposted by other media and social networks in China.

Media coverage emphasised that by adopting the Hawthorn Tree, the Mandela Day theme was well illustrated.

A lucky draw, sponsored by South African Tourism, was also held on Monday, 1 August 2022, for the Diplomatic Corps and business persons who attended the cocktail. The prizes were as follows:

- First prize - three nights at Table Bay Hotel in Cape Town and an airline ticket
- Second prize - 500 Yuan coupon with a bottle of wine at the restaurant, Pinotage
- Third prize - a South African Tourism gift package.

The Mandela Day functions held at the Jintai Museum and at the Embassy, highlighted Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity. The remarks delivered by both Ambassador Cwele and Director-General WU Peng, acknowledged Mandela's contribution to the struggle for social upliftment internationally, and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

The Mandela Day celebrations and related media interviews highlighted several challenges faced by the global community such as the worsening of poverty due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the disasters associated with climate change and the ongoing conflicts around the world resulting in the current global economic downturn.

The Cocktail function also allowed colleagues to network with various business persons and government officials.

The South African and Chinese sponsors displayed a fraternity with the Embassy in celebrating this day.



Tree adoption at the Jintai Museum



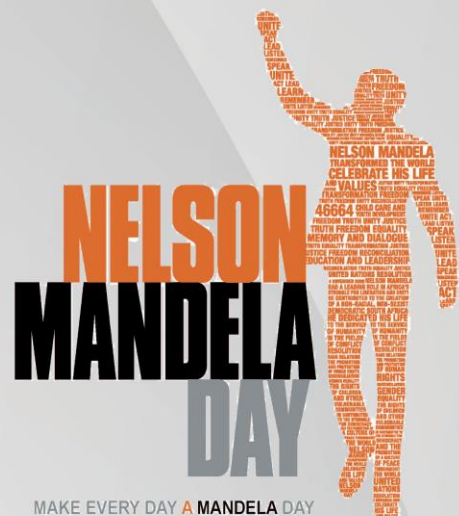
Flower laying at the Jintai Museum



The Nelson Mandela bust at the Jintai Museum

2022 MANDELA DAY
THIS YEAR WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO
DO WHAT YOU CAN
WITH WHAT YOU HAVE
WHERE YOU ARE.

#MANDELADAY2022



The honour of representing DIRCO at the 2022 Comrades Marathon

Kosakwethu (aka Nkosi) Mahlangu
Director: Enterprise Architecture, ICT

"No human is limited" - Eliud Kipchoge

There are very few extreme sports that really put to the test the adage adumbrated by the Kenyan marathoner, Eliud Kipchoge, that humans, once they have committed to something, their resolve and dedication break down any barriers. The Comrades Marathon is certainly one of those sports. This is so due to the strength coupled with higher levels of dedication that are demanded of one during the preparations for the race, not to mention the angsts in between. Anyone who is enamoured of running understands the dichotomy between a normal race and the ultra-marathon.

In spite of it being my sixth, the 2022 Comrades Marathon was one of those that found me least prepared. Tacitly, this was due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which made training nearly impossible in the first year of its advent, owing to severe restrictions. So, I went to Durban with a wiggling thought that I was under-prepared. From the word go, my foci were on the management of my pace and the avoidance of muscles pain during the race. At the end of the race, it turned out that my unpreparedness became my strength because it is better in the running world to be under-trained than to be over-trained.

My legs were able to endure the battery of tests visited on them by the arduous journey from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. Consequently, I achieved my personal best (PB) of 9h54 minutes.

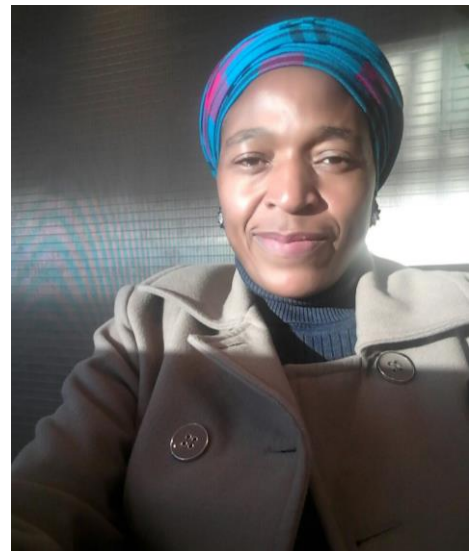
During the course of the race, one thing stood out for me. As I was running, breaking through scores of supporters who lined-up the streets, who momentarily would scream "DIRCO! DIRCO!" Others would (believe it or not) shout "Naledi Pandor! Naledi Pandor!" This made me realise that the work the department has invested in popularising our foreign policy and public diplomacy is actually bearing fruit and is being recognised.

I am grateful to the department, which through our club, DIRCO Athletics, supported us and facilitated our participation in The Ultimate Human Race.

Ngiyathokoza



Mr Kosakwethu Mahlangu - race no 47691



Ms Randima Martha – Security, race no 31300



Mr Siyothula Phakamisa – SADC, race no 22897



Minister Naledi Pandor visits Khayamandi community for a Women's Month Community Outreach on gender-based violence



Minister Pandor attends the #SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ Troika, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini attends the FOCAC



Deputy Minister Alvin Botes and school pupils at the event held in commemoration of International Youth Day at the University of the Free State



Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi in substantive consultations with Ambassador Ian Biggs, Head of the Australian Delegation to the 10th NPT Review Conference, focussing on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy



High Commissioner Thaninga Shope and Amb Nonceba Losi attend the Tirisanyo Mmogo Fashion Show in Botswana on the sidelines of the commemoration of 28 years of relations between South Africa and Botswana

WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT:

BUILDING BACK BETTER FOR
WOMEN'S RESILIENCE!



Women's Month

“

We are women of every race, we come from the cities and the towns, from the reserves and the villages. We come as women united in our purpose to save the African women from the degradation of passes.”

- The Women who marched in 1956

#WomensMonth2022 #WomensEmpowermentAgenda



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