



# IT'S YOUR VOICE

ubuntu diplomat

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Department: International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# IT'S YOUR VOICE

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The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) takes place annually in September. This year's UNGA was held, as always, at the United Nations headquarters from 20-27 September 2022 under the theme: "A watershed moment: Unlocking transformative solutions to interlocking challenges."



# IT'S YOUR VOICE

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# Editor's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

Every year in September, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation joins the President's delegation to the United States of America (USA) to participate in a host of gatherings. This visit is a highlight on the foreign policy calendar of multiple countries across the world. Naturally, for South Africa, whose foreign policy prioritises multilateralism, this tour is always an opportune occasion for our leaders to reiterate the importance of multinationalism and mutual cooperation. It is an opportunity for our ministers to build on the existing strong bilateral ties South Africa holds with other countries. President Cyril Ramaphosa's meeting with President Joseph Biden came on the heels of Minister Naledi Pandor's hosting of US Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken, who delivered President Biden's invitation to President Ramaphosa, in the middle of this year. The two leaders met to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest, including trade and investment, climate change, food security, energy, and peace and security. President Ramaphosa further reaffirmed the importance of the strategic and mutually beneficial relations between South Africa and the USA.

A central point of the visit to the USA is the annual Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which marked its 77th year in 2022 and took place at the UN Headquarters in New York, from 20 to 27 September 2022 under the theme: "A Watershed Moment: Unlocking Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges". Minister Pandor led the South African delegation to UNGA this year where she continued to reiterate South Africa's support for the reform of the UN, to reflect the multinational composition of the organisation. The major focus of the high-level and side-meetings held at UNGA77 were matters of development, specifically health, education and the broader implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

September is also Heritage Month in South Africa. It's a time when our nation celebrates its beautiful diversity in our unity, and when we celebrate our interconnectedness as a people through our languages, cultures and histories. This further echoes the spirit of Ubuntu whose culture is deeply woven into the fabric of many of South Africa's multiple cultures. In 2022, government placed the spotlight on music, which made a sizeable contribution to our country's struggle for liberation.



Sports, arts and culture are great unifiers and it is thus no coincidence that South Africa birthed a mix of legendary sounds that coalesced into a melody that will forever be uniquely South African.

Government commemorated the 60th anniversary of the passing of singer and song writer Solomon Popoli Linda. He was famed for his composition of the iconic song "Mbube", which later became the popular music success "The Lion Sleeps Tonight". Linda's creations put the South African musical genre of "isicathamiya" firmly on the world map as his music entertained masses abroad. It was voices and creations such as his and many others of the day that gave continued inspiration for arts and culture today.

It is also the merging of our colourful and diverse cultures that make our beautiful South Africa increasingly attractive to domestic and foreign investors. It is that melting pot of our varied people and the accompanying embracing of those differences that make our extraordinarily beautiful country a destination that tourists continue to return to time and time again.

*! Ke e: /xarra //ke  
Diverse People Unite!*

DIPLOMATIC  
**FUN FAIR**  
2022

**22 OCTOBER**  
**UNION BUILDINGS**  
**FREE ENTRANCE**

**LIVE  
PERFORMANCES**

**CULTURE**

**MUSIC**

**FOOD**

**AND MUCH  
MORE**

*ARTS*

**#DIPLOMATICFAIR2022**



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## Minister Pandor Visits the United States



Pandor attended a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken to continue their discussions on the strengthening of relations between our two countries. South African firms have become significant foreign investors in the USA. Investments from South Africa into the USA are on the increase, with the USA accounting for 17.4% of total South African outward foreign direct investment to the world, according to the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic).

Ahead of his meeting with US President Biden, President Ramaphosa attended a breakfast meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris. President Ramaphosa conveyed South Africa's gratitude to the USA for the support they gave to South Africa during the Covid-19 pandemic. The President

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, visited the United States of America (USA) from 15 to 30 September 2022 to participate in various events, including the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77).

Minister Pandor's first engagement was at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) on 14 September 2022 where she addressed the delegates and further participated in a Q&A session moderated by the Former Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs at the US Department of State, Ambassador Jendayi E Frazer in Washington DC. The CFR is a think-tank, non-partisan organisation, which serves government officials, business executives, journalists, educators, students, civil and religious leaders and other interested parties to better understand the world and foreign policy choices faced by the USA and other countries.

In her remarks to the CFR, Minister Pandor said, "We are hoping for a refreshed partnership between the USA and South Africa – at the centre should be the promotion of multilateralism and support for Agenda 2063 and the AfCFTA."

Minister Pandor was also in Washington DC in preparation for President Cyril Ramaphosa's meeting with President Joseph Biden, which took place on 16 September 2022 at the White House. Dr

further discussed with Vice President Harris issues such as the empowerment of women, their health, security and rights. During his meeting with President Biden, the two leaders engaged on trade relations between South Africa and the USA. President Biden highlighted the fact that there were 600 American companies currently operating in South Africa, which also assists in creating employment and investment and acknowledged President Ramaphosa's leadership in the continent's promotion of the TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 vaccines.

Minister Pandor's led the South African delegation at the UNGA77 where she delivered South Africa's Statement during the General Debate, which took place on 21 September 2022 at the UN in New York. The Minister reiterated South Africa's support for multilateralism and said that "the UN family is facing its greatest test. Member states have to work with the United Nations to develop effective responses to the current challenges." Minister Pandor continued to add that the theme of the general assembly indicated that these were diverse, immense, yet interconnected challenges and no country could respond alone. "Some have referred to this moment as a key turning point in history," added Dr Pandor.

On COVID-19 and the war in the Ukraine, Minister Pandor said, "the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Eastern Europe shape our attitudes today; however, for South Africa, the real inflection point will be the

world attending fully to the needs of the marginalised and forgotten.”

“Our greatest global challenges are poverty, inequality, joblessness and feeling excluded. Acting on the Common Agenda vision 2021 of the UN Secretary General should become the major objective of this time because addressing poverty and underdevelopment will be the beginnings of the real inflection point in human history,” continued the Minister.

Minister Pandor cited the importance of world leaders adhering to the Charter of the UN, the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and its human rights protocols, which all commit various nations to protecting all people without distinction of any kind. Dr Pandor said, “We must acknowledge that we face these crises today because we have not always upheld these foundational principles consistently and fairly.”

The Minister spoke about the need for global solidarity and pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic had provided us with a roadmap on what should be done and not done to address global challenges. “We should use the lessons learnt effectively. There were some noble initiatives such as the Access to COVID-19 tools Accelerator (ACT-A) that was co-chaired by President Ramaphosa, the African Union Champion for the COVID response, and the Prime Minister of Norway. This initiative laid the basis for a fairer distribution of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics”.

Global solidarity was also on Minister Pandor’s agenda. She said that it was required to meet other pressing challenges such as energy and food insecurity, climate change and the devastation caused by conflicts, including the existential threat of nuclear weapons. Minister Pandor impressed on the assembly the necessity to work collectively to address these myriad challenges that the world is facing. One of the tasks we must successfully implement to ensure developing countries are not left behind when treatments are available is to create and support research and innovation capacity in Africa for vaccine production, invest in strengthened public health systems and produce thousands more professional health workers. Minister said that this required sustainable investment in higher education, research institutions and in global research cooperation.

South Africa also put Zimbabwe and Cuba on the agenda. “We call for an end to the embargo against Cuba, which continues to impede the right to development of her people. In the same vein, we call for an end to unilateral coercive measures against Zimbabwe, which have compounded the problems experienced by the people of Zimbabwe and have a detrimental effect on the broader southern African region.”

On women’s equality, Minister Pandor said that, “Our quest to build a better world will remain unfulfilled as long as people are still discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, sex, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture or language. We have a responsibility to make sure that every girl child receives an education and that every woman has an opportunity to work, to study, to start a business and to have a choice and control over her life and body.

Watch “The Minister’s address here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t\\_U4ceYNfCU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_U4ceYNfCU)

On the margins of the UNGA77, the Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations also took place on 22 September 2022. The meeting was chaired by South Africa in its capacity

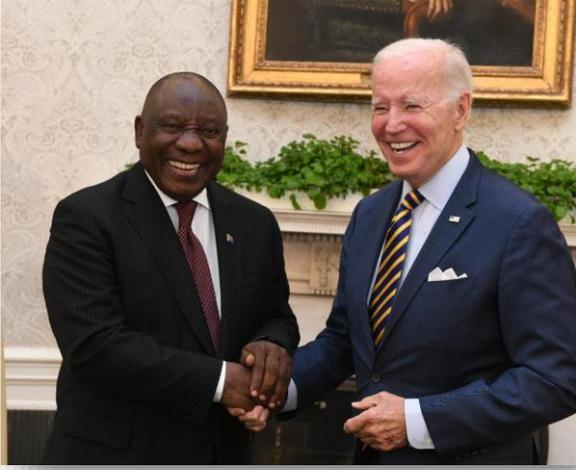


*Minister Pandor in conversation with Ambassador Jendayi E Frazer at the Council for Foreign Relations*



*Dr Pandor arriving for the second day of the UN General Assembly Meeting*

as the incoming BRICS Chair for 2023. During this meeting, Minister Pandor outlined South Africa's priorities for its upcoming Chairship. Minister Pandor also led a series of engagements with several stakeholders in the State of California, where South Africa maintains a Consulate General, to explore opportunities for greater collaboration between the USA and South Africa. She also participated in meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Union Peace and Security Council and held consultations and bilateral talks with her counterparts from various countries.



*The President of the Republic of South Africa, HE Cyril Ramaphosa meets with the President of the United States of America, HE Joseph Biden*



*President Ramaphosa in a breakfast meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris*



*Minister Pandor holds a bilateral meeting with the President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, HE Csaba Kőrösi at the UN headquarters*



*Minister Pandor and South Africa's Deputy Permanent Representative at the African Union, Ethiopia, Ms Matheko Letsie, attending the meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council*



*Amb Mathu Joyini in conversation with Ubuntu Radio ahead of Minister Pandor's visit to the USA*



*Minister Pandor meets with the US Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken*

## Valuable lessons learned by Minister Pandor Address to the Council for Foreign Relations



1. Learning is vital
2. Public service means you must serve the public
3. One must work with integrity and honesty
4. Insulation is dangerous

## The 10th International Women Capacity-building Programme on Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Negotiation

Magdeline Motswaledi  
Communications Officer, Public Diplomacy



The 10th International Women Capacity-building Programme on Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Negotiation was held on 26 September to 07 October 2022, the first of its kind since the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme was hosted by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, with the aim of providing tools to international women mediators on how to deal with antagonists effectively, understanding conflict in Africa and proactively resolving conflict in a peaceful and inclusive manner without resorting to the use of violence. The two week-long course included a panel of experts and consultants from South Africa and the Kingdom of Norway who have the experience and knowledge in peace and reconciliation, and the promotion of women leaders in these processes.

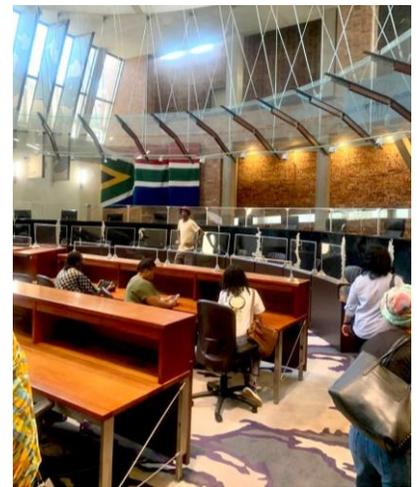
This year's course included 19 participants, 12 from Southern African Development Community governments: Angola, Ms Benilde BTK Pailo; Botswana, Ms Mabedi T Ngweny; Eswatini, Nolwazi T Dlamini; Lesotho, Ms Matshepo PJ Mokhakala; Madagascar, Verite N Ramasimpanaja; Malawi, Ms Faith CK Mwalubunju; Mauritius, Ms Brinda Trilok; Mozambique, Ms Vanessa T Mavimbe; Namibia, Loide NS Paulus; Seychelles, Ms Nisha NT Serret; Zambia, Ms Jacqueline C Malunga; Zimbabwe, Ms Barbra Kunaka; and three from the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic: Ms Jadiya AM Sleima, Ms Nadjet Hamdi, Ms Soukina L Djoumani; and four from the Republic of South Africa: Ms Tsholofelo S Lefifi, Ms Amanda Mkhwanazi, Ms Phumeza Mfeke and Ms Magdeline M Motswaledi.



On Tuesday, 27 September 2022, the participants attended a cocktail reception hosted by Ambassador-Designate for the Kingdom of Norway, HE Mr Gjermund Saether. On Saturday, 1 October 2022, the women visited Constitution Hill, a living museum that tells the story of South Africa's journey to democracy.



*Participants in discussion during one of the sessions .*



*The delegates visit to Constitution Hill*

On Monday, 3 October 2022, the participants attended the Second Charlotte Maxeke Minister's Breakfast with Women Heads of Missions of countries accredited to South Africa. The purpose of the breakfast, hosted by Minister Naledi Pandor under the theme "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment", was to further elaborate on the Charlotte Maxeke African Women Economic Justice and Rights Implementation and engage women ambassadors on gender equality, and women's empowerment initiatives. It also served as an opportunity for the delegates to interact with fellow women who are in the same field, some of whom have extensive experience in mediation and negotiation. In the true spirit of the late Mme Charlotte Maxeke, women engaged in conversation about the importance of the inclusion of women in all sectors of society, specifically in the economy and the resolution of conflicts. Women's participation in mediation is essential for achieving lasting, positive peace, which goes well beyond just the silencing of guns. UN Women further puts this succinctly: "Women are crucial partners in economic recovery, social cohesion, and political legitimacy, and women's participation in a mediation process can help ensure that more and diverse members of the community become engaged in peacemaking".

On Thursday, 6 October 2022, the programme concluded with the graduation ceremony hosted by the Acting Chief Director: Foreign Service Training and International Relations, Ms Cecilia Colarossi, attended by Ms Salome Baloi, Acting COO, and Dr Stian Christiansen, Royal Norwegian Embassy.

# The 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 77)

“

Acting on the Common Agenda vision 2021 of the UN Secretary General should become the major objective of this time because addressing poverty and underdevelopment will be the beginnings of the real inflection point in human history.”

- Dr GNM Pandor  
*Minister: International Relations and Cooperation*



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## Dr Pandor attends the 55th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Day Commemoration



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, attended the 55th ASEAN Day Commemoration, at the invitation of the Singaporean High Commissioner and current Chairperson of the ASEAN Pretoria Committee (APC), His Excellency Zainal Arif Mantaha. The event was held at the Singaporean High Commission to commemorate the signing of the ASEAN Declaration, which took place on 8 August 1967.

Minister Naledi Pandor addressed guests during the event where she conveyed South Africa's congratulations to the APC for this excellent initiative, perfectly timed to flag the continuation of building South Africa-ASEAN cooperation. Minister further said that, "Guided by the theme of ASEAN Day 2022, 'Stronger Together', which resonates with the face of challenges spawned by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and growing threats to security and stability, this day reflects the spirit of cooperation that, if achieved together in a structured and collaborative manner, could improve the lives for our citizenry."

Dr Pandor said that the commemoration of the anniversary underscored the need to start looking at how best governments navigate collaboration to efficiently and effectively serve their citizens who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic, climate change and growing threats to security and stability. "The challenges we are having to deal with today

emphasise the importance of coming together and being flexible, responsive and ready to activate at any moment", added the Minister.

Since its beginning in 1967, ASEAN has cultivated a culture of cooperation, bringing together different countries and building regional trust, stability and development. The shared weight of ASEAN's now 10 members has allowed its influence to be felt across the region and beyond and has cemented its members' growing importance in evolving regional architecture, contributing to the security and economic development of the ASEAN region. With an estimated population of about 660 million, ASEAN is a potential market for South Africa in particular, and the African continent at large.

ASEAN is now a dynamic regional organisation and Southeast Asia is a region looking outwards to the world. Minister Pandor highlighted this by adding that, "To South Africa, the ASEAN countries provide potential for the execution of our economic recovery initiatives, specifically in advancing cooperation in trade and investment, cooperation in manufacturing, cooperation in food production, agriculture and forestry, cooperation in tourism, cooperation in the defence industry and skills training opportunities, to name but a few." Dr Pandor added that: "These opportunities are in line with our strategic objectives as outlined in our Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP), which is focussed on the South African Government's priority interventions for

re-building a sustainable, resilient and inclusive South African economy”.

South Africa has a deep and long-term interest in ASEAN; a strong and cohesive ASEAN creates new opportunities for cooperation on regional and global challenges. Given the current global conditions, where some countries are on the verge of prolonged conflict and trade wars, ASEAN countries have become attractive alternative destinations for foreign investors. “South Africa’s interest in becoming a part of this global network of alliances and partners, provides an opportunity to further advance our foreign policy objectives and provides a platform to engage on emerging political, economic and security issues impacting the evolving geopolitical environment”, added Dr Pandor.

The BRICS partners also form a part of the ASEAN network as dialogue partners. On this, Minister Pandor said, “We are looking forward to the initiation and completion of our Sectoral Dialogue Partner application with ASEAN in order to create strategic synergies between the two organisations. These synergies would provide, among others, opportunities to accelerate the integration of South Africa and the African continent with the global economy through the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which has been prioritised by South Africa as a focal area, and where the role of BRICS is vital.”

A successful cooperation strategy requires inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, and a shared vision and goals placing our peoples at the centre. “I commend the APC for all the effort initiated to profile the ASEAN region throughout South Africa’s provinces together with my Deputy Ministers, the Director-General and officials from the Southeast Asia Desk; the last being your recent visit to the province of KwaZulu-Natal”. The province has shared the undertakings made both from the side of the South African Government and the APC. These provincial outreaches augment the work being done in Pretoria in a practical way.”

“As you would recall, on the day we signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in 2020, I urged you (and the Desk officials) to come up with practical initiatives that will raise the profile of the South Africa-ASEAN collaboration, and you have been doing just that. I still remember your kind donation to an orphanage in Gqeberha within the spirit of South Africa-ASEAN collaboration. All these acts of generosity do not go unnoticed by the Government and the people of South Africa,” said the Minister.



*Minister Naledi Pandor and delegation welcomed to the commemoration event by High Commissioner Zainal Arif Mantaha.*



*Minister Pandor meets the ASEAN delegation at the Sheraton Hotel, where the commemoration event took place.*



*Cultural performance during the event*



Heritage

**MONTH 2022**

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LEGACY OF SOLOMON  
LINDA AND SOUTH  
AFRICA'S INDIGENOUS  
MUSIC**

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## Resolutions on ReNuAL and Zodiac in the Committee of the Whole

Metsi Letlala, First Secretary Political, Vienna, Austria

Decades after its creation, nuclear energy remains one of the most controversial forms of energy due to its devastating impact, as seen during World War II. The use of nuclear energy for military purposes brought about immense change politically and scientifically, threatening international peace and security, changing, and shaping diplomacy forever.

When South Africa became a founding member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1957, it would not have been conceivable that an African and founding country that subscribed to the mission and values of the IAEA would acquire the skills and technology to build nuclear weapons. While our nuclear history is shrouded in darkness and secrecy – South Africa has since emerged as a strong and influential champion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as enshrined in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is in this context, that South Africa found its niche in its approach to nuclear diplomacy.

Recalling that South Africa's foreign policy is based on two tenets: Pan-Africanism and South-South solidarity, nuclear diplomacy has been a useful tool to further developmental objectives and active participation in the Vienna-based Group of 77 and China (G77 and China), which has allowed South Africa to lead, on behalf of the G77 and China, on two important resolutions that are tabled at the IAEA General Conference annually, namely: The Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf (ReNuAL) and the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC).

On ReNuAL: Developing countries are the main beneficiaries of the research and capacity-building activities undertaken at the laboratories at Seibersdorf on a number of thematic areas related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, including on water and the environment, health and nutrition, animal health, food and agriculture and industrial applications.

The laboratories, which turned 60 this year, required renovation to make them fit for purpose well into the future and South Africa, alongside its co-chair, Germany, has been leading the informal resource mobilisation grouping, Friends of ReNuAL, since 2014. It is through the Friends of ReNuAL that South Africa has been at the forefront of the IAEA's most successful project to date, mobilising over €60



Ms Metsi Letlala introducing resolutions on ReNuAL and Zodiac in the Committee of the Whole of the IAEAGC66 on behalf of the G77 & China.

million in extra-budgetary contributions from traditional and non-traditional donors; thus, making it the most appropriate penholder of the ReNuAL resolution.

On ZODIAC: South Africa's world-class expertise in using nuclear and nuclear-derived techniques for the rapid diagnosis, characterisation and control of transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases resulted in South Africa, in partnership the United States and Japan, establishing the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VETLAB) Network in 2012. The VETLAB Network comprises over 70 laboratories in Africa and Asia and is currently expanding to Latin America and Eastern and Central Europe and as become the delivery mechanism for ZODIAC. The ZODIAC initiative was created by the IAEA Director-General at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and aims to assist countries to prevent future pandemics caused by bacteria, parasites, fungi and viruses.

In this regard, the VETLAB Network was integral in distributing COVID-19-related assistance to countries through ZODIAC. Recently, the network provided support on Monkeypox and was integral

in characterising and controlling the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus outbreaks in Lesotho and other African countries in 2021 and 2022. The interventions made in Africa serve to protect human health, food security and rural communities' economic development – making the VETLAB Network central to the IAEA's work on animal production and health and South Africa a worthy penholder of the resolution.

Both the ReNuAL and ZODIAC draft resolutions received substantial and technical updates to reflect the latest developments in the projects, and both resolutions enjoyed broad support from the member states of the IAEA before being recommended by the Committee of the Whole, which was chaired by South Africa, for adoption by the 66th IAEA General Conference Plenary.

The successful adoption of these resolutions is a reminder of South Africa's foreign policy commitment and support of "the inalienable right of nations to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes". South Africa, as a designated member of the IAEA Board of Governors, through its Mission in Vienna, will continue to shine the light on the benefits of using nuclear energy for socio-economic development in alignment with the SDGs and Agenda 2063.



Amb Rapulane Molekane delivering SA's Statement on Nuclear Security



Minister Plenipotentiary in the South African Embassy, Austria, Mr Lunga Bengu leads the Committee of the Whole of the IAEACG66.



The Committee of the Whole of the #IAEAGC66



Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy, delivering South Africa's National Statement

## Seminar: The Role of Traditional Leadership in Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts in Africa

Mr Avumile Dlakavu

Counsellor (Political), Bamako, Mali



Mr Avumile Dlakavu delivers his remarks during the seminar

Participants to the second edition came from the research community, civil-society organisations, government and the Diplomatic Community. As a sign of extreme respect and conveying a message of reverence, the seminar was consecrated by the presence of the founding families of Bamako, whose traditional leadership have transcended beyond empires into a present and modern traditional leadership system in Mali. The panel of experts comprised Ambassador Welile Nhlapo (ACCORD) and His Royal Highness, Zolani Mkiva (CONTRALESA) from South Africa and Professor Ibahima Ndiaye and Dr Bréma Ely Dicko from Mali. The event was opened by the Director of the Institute, Dr Mohamed Diagayeté; Charge d' Affairs of the SA Embassy in Mali, Mr Avumile Dlakavu; and the Adviser to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mr Mamadu Kumare.

The establishing of strategic platforms to exchange views and ideas for peace and sustainable development remains a key priority for the South African Embassy in Mali. South Africa's foreign policy attaches great importance to interaction with non-state actors to deepen people-to-people interaction and cooperation. On 28 September 2022, the SA Embassy in Mali collaborated with the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Education and Islamic Research in Timbuktu to host the second edition of the SA-Mali Dialogue Series.

In keeping with the vision of former Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Amadou Toumani Toure to reclaim and reassert the identity, replete history and place Africa's numerous centres of civilisation as harbingers for Africa's future, the SA Embassy launched a yearly dialogue series with the institute to establish a platform for conversation to exchange and share views and ideas between the civil-society institutions from South Africa and Mali on issues related to peacebuilding, conflict resolution and building democracy.

The institute boasts ancient manuscripts, which are among the most important cultural treasures of Africa that can play a central role in building the Africa we want. A critical view is that these "liberating secrets of our pre-colonial history", as President Mbeki referred to them, could be a catalyst in establishing links between Africa's past and offer infinite value for Africa's future.

Flowing from the fact that South Africa and Mali have strong and vibrant institutions of traditional leadership that have transcended into current statehood, the seminar drew inspiration and narratives from the indigenous knowledge systems that had sustained African societies for many centuries, before and through the colonial conquest, until and after independence and freedom.

The panel of experts raised the point that traditional authorities were always in the centre of conflict management. Their role includes providing leadership at political, spiritual and cultural level and supporting community members at economic level. They insisted that values had helped to define the African traditional leadership in the prevention of conflict. They listed the following values: Ubuntu, tolerance, respect and acceptance of the other person as embodiments of African traditional ethos. They also asserted that traditional authorities had played an important role in conflict prevention through facilitating inter-marriages and alliances in and between communities.

With regard to conflict resolution, the panel stressed that expulsion, reparation, discussion and mediation had always formed part of the African culture in resolving conflict when it had started. They pointed out that community discussions were conducted in order to reach an agreement, through an open and inclusive manner. For instance, in the Dogon culture, the Toguna system requires that everybody should sit down during discussion, and nobody is allowed to stand up, no matter how angry the person is.

The panel's contention was that conflict prevention, resolution and peacemaking should not be abstract as people expect more from them than mere resolution of conflict. They also pointed out that traditional authority should ensure that people participate in the economic activities in their communities, and take into account rural landscape. Traditional authorities are responsible for daily maintenance and consolidation of peace and harmony, while helping to administer community activities. The panel asserted that traditional leadership needed to be institutionalised in Africa.

The participants' views also converged on the fact that traditional conflict resolution and conflict management practices had always evolved from the past, even before colonisation and embodied mediation, arbitration and negotiation. They emphasised that the success of traditional leaders in solving conflicts stemmed from the fact that they formed the core of the socialisation process in communities and they lived within communities. The traditional elders and chiefs have been mediating in violent conflict where they give penalties, which focus on compensation and restitution to restore the status quo in many communities. In many cases, traditional leaders have acted as facilitators in conflict resolution through reconciling the fighting parties, and helping them to negotiate in a peaceful manner so as to live harmoniously in the community.

Also, participants underscored that traditional and customary leaders in Africa had been playing a central role in solving intractable conflicts in their communities and contributed immensely in international conflict resolution mechanism. The seminar, however, highlighted that inputs and contributions by traditional leaders in conflict management had tended to be ignored and instead replaced by modern conflict resolution mechanisms techniques.

The seminar called for the restoration and consideration of indigenous systems and practices as basis for complementary and not competitive to modern conflict resolution; and most importantly, stressed that traditional

leaders and customary authorities had a potential and capacity to bridge tradition with modernity and had a role to play in contemporary challenges.

The participants also stressed that the role of African traditional leaders in conflict management should be restored since the basic objective of the traditional elders was to maintain peace in their clans and communities. It is an undisputable fact that in African societies, given the singular role that is played by traditional leaders, preference is sometimes expressed for them to play a leading role as traditional institutions, which is well embedded in the African culture.

In conclusion, the seminar found that a new peace-building architecture, which integrates community institutions and indigenous knowledge systems and processes, was needed. The new architecture should create unlimited space for the full participation of communities and weave the web of community resilience as a critical resource for a lasting and durable peace.



*Mr Mamoudou, Kumare, Adviser to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research*



*Delegates in attendance at the seminar*



*Mr Mohamed Diagayeté, Director-General at the Ahmed Baba Institute*

## Seminar: The Role of Traditional Leadership in Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts in Africa

Mr Avumile Dlakavu

Counsellor (Political), Bamako, Mali



*Mr Avumile Dlakavu delivers his remarks during the seminar*

Participants to the second edition came from the research community, civil-society organisations, government and the Diplomatic Community. As a sign of extreme respect and conveying a message of reverence, the seminar was consecrated by the presence of the founding families of Bamako, whose traditional leadership have transcended beyond empires into a present and modern traditional leadership system in Mali. The panel of experts comprised Ambassador Welile Nhlapo (ACCORD) and His Royal Highness, Zolani Mkiva (CONTRALESAs) from South Africa and Professor Ibahima Ndiaye and Dr Bréma Ely Dicko from Mali. The event was opened by the Director of the Institute, Dr Mohamed Diagayeté; Charge d' Affairs of the SA Embassy in Mali, Mr Avumile Dlakavu; and the Adviser to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mr Mamadu Kumare.

The establishing of strategic platforms to exchange views and ideas for peace and sustainable development remains a key priority for the South African Embassy in Mali. South Africa's foreign policy attaches great importance to interaction with non-state actors to deepen people-to-people interaction and cooperation. On 28 September 2022, the SA Embassy in Mali collaborated with the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Education and Islamic Research in Timbuktu to host the second edition of the SA-Mali Dialogue Series.

In keeping with the vision of former Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Amadou Toumani Toure to reclaim and reassert the identity, replete history and place Africa's numerous centres of civilisation as harbingers for Africa's future, the SA Embassy launched a yearly dialogue series with the institute to establish a platform for conversation to exchange and share views and ideas between the civil-society institutions from South Africa and Mali on issues related to peacebuilding, conflict resolution and building democracy.

The institute boasts ancient manuscripts, which are among the most important cultural treasures of Africa that can play a central role in building the Africa we want. A critical view is that these "liberating secrets of our pre-colonial history", as President Mbeki referred to them, could be a catalyst in establishing links between Africa's past and offer infinite value for Africa's future.

Flowing from the fact that South Africa and Mali have strong and vibrant institutions of traditional leadership that have transcended into current statehood, the seminar drew inspiration and narratives from the indigenous knowledge systems that had sustained African societies for many centuries, before and through the colonial conquest, until and after independence and freedom.

The panel of experts raised the point that traditional authorities were always in the centre of conflict management. Their role includes providing leadership at political, spiritual and cultural level and supporting community members at economic level. They insisted that values had helped to define the African traditional leadership in the prevention of conflict. They listed the following values: Ubuntu, tolerance, respect and acceptance of the other person as embodiments of African traditional ethos. They also asserted that traditional authorities had played an important role in conflict prevention through facilitating inter-marriages and alliances in and between communities.

As with regards to conflict resolution, the Panel stressed that expulsion, reparation, discussion and mediation has always formed part of the African culture in resolving conflict when it had started. The panel also emphasised that the traditional amicable settlement of conflict or problem has always been privileged than the punishment. They pointed out that community discussions were conducted in order to reach an agreement, through an open and inclusive manner. For instance in the Dogon culture,

the Toguna system requires that everybody should sit down during discussion, and nobody is allowed to stand up, no matter how angry the person is.

The Panel's contention was that conflict prevention, resolution and peacemaking should not be abstract as people expect more from them than mere resolution of conflict. They also pointed out that traditional authority should ensure that people participate in the economic activities in their communities, and take into account rural landscape. Traditional authorities are responsible for daily maintenance and consolidation of peace and harmony, whilst helping to administer community activities. The Panel asserted that traditional leadership need to be institutionalised in Africa.

The participant's views also converged on the fact that the traditional conflict resolution and conflict management practices has always evolved from the past even before colonisation and embodies mediation, arbitration and negotiation. They emphasised that the success of traditional leaders in solving conflicts stems from the fact that they form the core the socialisation process in communities and they live within communities. The traditional elders and chiefs have been mediating in violent conflicts where they give penalties which focus on compensation and restitution in order to restore status quo in many communities. In many cases, traditional leaders have acted as facilitators in conflict resolution through reconciling the fighting parties, helping them to negotiate in a peaceful manner so as to live harmoniously in the community.

Also, participants underscored that traditional and customary leaders in Africa have been playing a central role in solving intractable conflicts in their communities and contributed immensely in international conflict resolution mechanism. The seminar, however, highlighted that inputs and contributions by traditional leaders in conflict management have tended to be ignored and instead replaced by modern conflict resolution mechanisms techniques.

The seminar called for the restoration and consideration of indigenous systems and practices as basis for complementary and not competitive to the modern conflict resolution; and most importantly, stressed that traditional leaders and customary authorities have a potential and capacity to bridge tradition with modernity and have a role to play in contemporary challenges. The participants also stressed that the role of African traditional leaders in conflict management should be restored since the basic objective of the traditional elders is to maintain peace in their clans, communities. It is an undisputable fact that in African societies given the singular role that is played by traditional leaders, preference is sometimes expressed for them to play a leading role as traditional institutions are well embedded in the African culture.

In conclusion, the seminar found that a new peace-building architecture, that integrates community institutions and indigenous knowledge systems and processes, is needed. The new architecture should create unlimited space for the pull participation of communities and weave the web of community resilience as a critical resource for a lasting and durable peace.



*Mr Mamoudou, Kumare, Adviser to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research*



*Delegates in attendance at the seminar*



*Mr Mohamed Diagayeté, Director-General at the Ahmed Baba Institute*

## HERITAGE MONTH

Every year in September, South Africa observes Heritage Month. Commemorated under the theme: “Celebrating the Legacy of Solomon Linda and South Africa’s Indigenous Music”, it marks our nation’s diverse culture and heritage. This year’s theme pays tribute to the 60th anniversary of the passing of singer and songwriter Solomon Popoli Linda, best known as the composer of the song “Mbube”, which later became the popular music success “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and gave its name to the Mbube style of isicathamiya a Capella music.

Heritage Month 2022 will focus on South Africa’s indigenous music with a spotlight on isicathamiya music and its immense contribution to our sport, arts, culture and heritage, especially for emigrant communities in hostels, townships and peri urban areas. He and other selfless musicians used music to protest against apartheid and highlighted the lived experiences of black people.

Heritage Month is also an opportunity to commemorate the centenaries of our late resistance and liberation struggle icons, and honour their contributions towards a free and democratic South Africa. Government calls on all South Africans to use Heritage Month to foster greater social cohesion, nation-building and a shared national identity.

South Africa’s missions abroad joined in the celebration of Heritage Month through various activities and statements. Here are some of them.



The SA Embassy in Brussels celebrating Heritage Month with Air Belgium



Members of Embassy staff and guests at the Heritage Day event hosted at the South African Embassy in Norway



Celebration of Heritage Day and launch of the Global South African Network in France at the Official Residence, Paris, 24 September 2022



South African Ambassador and Mrs RS Molekane and staff attending the South African Heritage Day festivities in Vienna



*Ambassador and Mrs LS Ngonyama introducing South Africa's Heritage and Tourism Month, in an interview with Japan News..*



*The South African High Commission in Malaysia observes Heritage Month*



*Heritage Day celebrations at the South African Embassy in Ankara, Turkey*



*Turkish Minister of Education, Mr Mahmut Ozer, attended the National Heritage Day Reception of the South African Embassy in Ankara*



*The "South African Night" in celebration of Heritage Month, hosted by the Bangkok Club in collaboration with the South African Embassy and SA-Thai Chamber of Commerce*



*Amb Anesh Maistry attends the tourism event hosted by the Governor of Ngazidja with officials from Tanzania and Saudi Arabia*

# The 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 77)

“We must successfully implement solutions to ensure that developing countries are not left behind when treatments are available by creating and supporting research and innovation capacity in Africa for vaccine production, investing in strengthened public health systems and producing thousands more professional health workers.”

~ Dr GNM Pandor

Minister: International Relations and Cooperation



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## The Nelson Mandela “Be the Legacy Programme”

Letlhogonolo Mashilo

Directorate: Economic Affairs and Regional Organisations, Middle-East & Asia

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat in Mauritius is hosting four junior diplomats from IORA member states (Bangladesh, Madagascar, South Africa and Sri Lanka) under the inaugural IORA-Nelson Mandela “Be the Legacy” Internship Programme (NMIP) from 1 September – 30 November 2022. The interns were nominated for secondment to the programme through their respective IORA member state capitals.

The NMIP was launched in 2018 during South Africa’s Chair of IORA (2017-2019) and the commemoration of the centenary of the birth of the former late South African President, Nelson Mandela. The programme is a befitting tribute to the legacy of former President Mandela, whose vision led to IORA’s establishment in 1997.

As one of the flagship projects of IORA, the NMIP solidifies IORA’s link with the global icon by contributing to one of his many visions of changing the world for the better through continuous learning, capacity-building and raising of individual’s awareness, development and understanding. As Madiba stated; “The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success.”

The long-term objective of the NMIP is to create a strong and growing base of young people in the Indian Ocean region that understand and support the need to create an Indian Ocean region that is safe, secure and develops sustainably. To this end, the interns will gain valuable exposure to the inner workings of IORA and the rich diversity of work experience at the Secretariat.

The commencement of the programme in 2020 was delayed owing to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The NMIP also coincides with IORA’s 25th anniversary celebration.

Further information can be found on the IORA website at <https://www.iora.int>



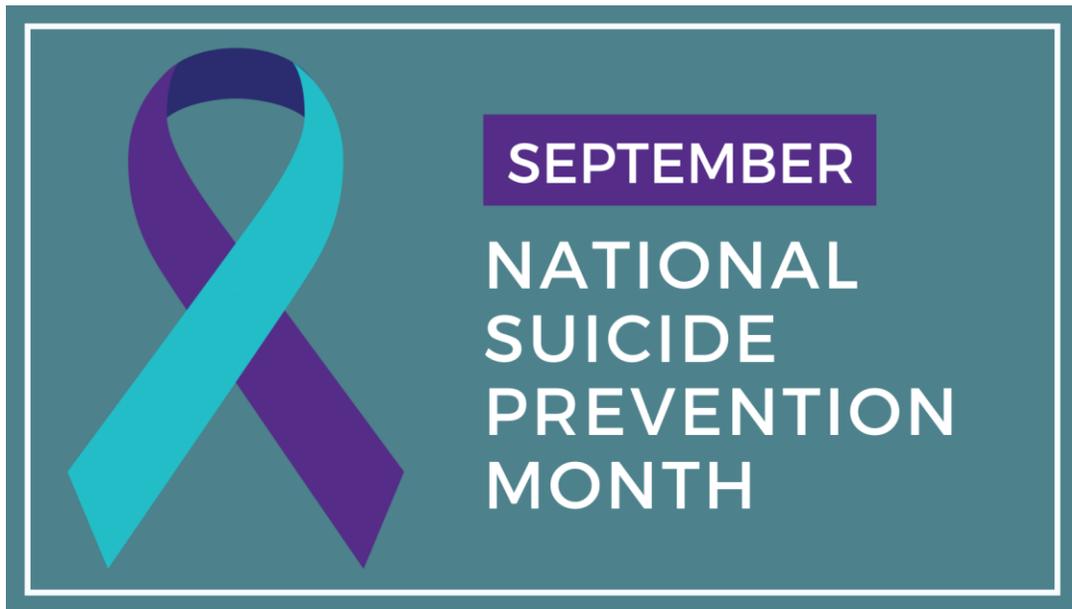
*Letlhogonolo Mashilo with delegates from Madagascar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka*



## Suicide Prevention

Ncedisa Mayeko

Clinical Psychologist, Employee Health and Wellness

**SUICIDE**

An act of killing oneself intentionally.

*"In most cases, suicide is a solitary event and yet it has often far-reaching repercussions for many others. It is rather like throwing a stone into a pond; the ripples spread and spread."*

~ Alison Wertheimer, *A Special Scar*

No matter how much pain you're experiencing right now, you're not alone. Many of us have had suicidal thoughts at some point in our lives. Feeling suicidal is not a character defect, and it doesn't mean that you are crazy, weak or flawed. It only means that you have more pain than you can cope with right now. But with time and support, you can overcome your problems and the pain and suicidal feelings will pass.

Some of the finest, most admired, needed and talented people have been where you are now. Many of us have thought about taking our own lives when we've felt overwhelmed by depression and devoid of all hope.

**Reasons people attempt suicide**

- Mental health diagnoses
- Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
- Borderline Personality Disorder
- Eating disorders
- Schizophrenia
- Acute trauma
- Substance abuse and impulsivity
- Hopelessness
- Fatal illness and chronic pain
- Feelings of burdensomeness
- Isolation
- Cry for help
- Accidental suicide (sexual games, social media games, etc)
- Major disappointment
- Suicide of a family member or prominent public figure
- Financial and legal problems

- Recent loss or change in circumstances.

## Methods of suicide

It is estimated that around 20% of global suicides are due to pesticide self-poisoning, most of which occur in rural agricultural areas in low- and middle-income countries. Other common methods of suicide are hanging and firearms.

Knowledge of the most commonly used suicide methods is important to devise prevention strategies, which have shown to be effective, such as restriction of access to means of suicide.

## Suicide facts (World Health Organisation, 2021)

- Every three seconds, a person attempts to die
- Every 40 seconds, someone commits suicide
- For every successful suicide, there are more than 20 suicide attempts
- More than 700 000 people commit suicide globally per annum
- Medical conditions associated with suicide include epilepsy, spinal cord injuries, stroke, HIV/AIDS, cancer, chronic conditions
- In South Africa, 23 suicides are completed daily
- 230 serious attempts are made daily
- Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among 15-19 year olds around the world
- 75% of suicides occur in low-income countries.

## How to help a suicidal person

- Believe them (suicide talk)
- Don't be scared to talk about their suicide thoughts
- Never challenge them to kill themselves
- Avoid telling them reasons suicide is wrong
- Do not promise to keep the secret (suicide ideation), seek help.
- Act. Remove guns, ropes, medication etc.
- Never leave them alone
- Get help
- Take them to the nearest casualty
- When all else fails, phone the police.

## Suicide Risk Assessment

		Results and Implications
<b>S</b>	<b>Sex/Gender</b>	0-2 Follow up
<b>A</b>	<b>Age &lt;20 &gt;40</b>	
<b>D</b>	<b>Depressed</b>	3-4 Medium risk (follow-up closely)
<b>P</b>	<b>Previous attempt</b>	
<b>E</b>	<b>Ethanol/substance abuse</b>	5-6 Protective measures and consider hospitalisation
<b>R</b>	<b>Rationality</b>	
<b>S</b>	<b>Social support loss</b>	7-10 Hospitalise
<b>O</b>	<b>Organised plan</b>	
<b>N</b>	<b>No spouse</b>	
<b>S</b>	<b>Serious illness</b>	

## Points to ponder

- We need each and every person to be able to see when their loved ones are undergoing extreme difficulty.
- 90% of people who attempt suicide never attempt suicide again.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Durkheim, E. (1952). *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. (Spaulding A. & Simpson). London and New York: Routledge Publishers. (Original work published in 1897)
- Mental Health Care Act 2002 (*Government Gazette*) 2002, 2 (No) 20424. Act 17 of 2002
- Wertheimer, A. (2014). *A Special Scar: The Experiences of People Bereaved by Suicide*. USA & Canada: Taylor & Francis Group.
- WHO. (2022). *Suicide Key Facts*. <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/suicide>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/suicide/symptoms-causes/syc-20378048>



## How to identify the Warning Signs

### TALK

- talking, writing, drawing or posting online about death/dying/hurting themselves.
- Saying things like "I wish I wasn't here anymore" "Everyone would be better off if I was dead"

### BEHAVIOUR

- withdrawing, drastic change in eating or sleeping habits, no energy,
- agitated, saying goodbye or giving away prized possessions

### MOOD

- loss of interest, isolating from family and friends, rage, irritability,
- depression or anxiety symptoms

**EVEN IF YOU SEE 1 WARNING SIGN – DON'T WAIT, DON'T LEAVE IT  
TALK, LISTEN & CONNECT TO HELP**

#### HOW TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO MAY BE FEELING OR THINKING ABOUT SUICIDE:

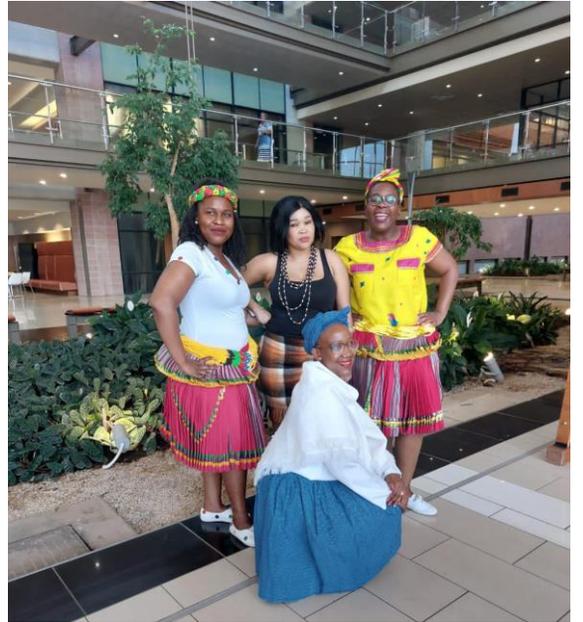
- It is safer to ask than not asking at all
- "I'm really worried about you and I want to help you"
- "I've noticed you have been very down lately, is now a good time to chat more please?"
- "I've noticed you haven't been yourself lately, are you okay? Let's talk about it?"
- "Please talk to me, I want to help."
- Remember, their feelings matter – and they feel very real and scary
- Listen, ask question and try to understand what they are dealing with
- Ask them directly if they have any thoughts or plans of suicide

#### HOW TO GET HELP FOR SOMEONE WHO IS SUICIDAL:

- Don't leave the person alone – offer to get help together
- Thank them for opening up and telling you how they are really feeling, and that you need to get more help
- Speak to an adult, parent or teacher that you trust to get help asap
- Get help from a mental health professional as soon as possible (GP, psychiatrist, psychologist, school counsellor, HOD, Social Worker, nurse, etc)
- Call the Suicide Helpline (0800 567 567) for help, suggestions and resources
- Remember, you are not alone in this, you don't have to fix the problem – there is help and support!
- If the person has tried to hurt themselves or take their own life, get them to the nearest hospital urgently

### IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS:

SADAG Suicide Helpline	0800 567 567	Website	<a href="http://www.sadag.org">www.sadag.org</a>
Cipla Mental Health Helpline	0800 456 789	Whatsapp (9am – 4pm)	076 882 2775
SMS	31393		



Colleagues celebrating Heritage Fridays in full colour



The International Committee of the Red Cross developed a African Values in War: A Tool on Traditional Customs and IHL. The tool currently consists of 11 customs collected from across the continent but aims to be a "living document" – as further research is conducted, additional examples will be added to the project to strengthen its credibility and applicability to the continent. The exhibition was displayed at DIRCO from 26 September – 30 September 2022.

# The 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 77)

“ South Africa is proud to contribute to strengthening the global health architecture through the establishment of the first mRNA global technology transfer hubs that will contribute to the security of supply of life-saving medication for African countries and other developing countries.”

~ Dr GNM Pandor  
*Minister: International Relations and Cooperation*



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# SEPTEMBER 2022: Statement by the Director-General, Public Service Month and Heritage Day

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the *Batho Pele White Paper* as a framework for the transformation of public service delivery. Correctly, the theme of this year celebrations of Public Service Month is: “Batho Pele Revitalisation – Walking the Talk”. It is important to link our activities for September to some of the eight Batho Pele principles, as the “People First” approach is what the public deserves. During this month, we will also celebrate Heritage Day on 24 September to mark our nation’s diverse culture and heritage. The 2022 theme for Heritage Month is “Celebrating the Legacy of Solomon Linda and South Africa’s Indigenous Music”.

I’m proud as the Director-General to count you, my colleagues, as part of the collective that continues to play a critical role in serving the people of South Africa. We are in this together.

More work still lies ahead, working together with other departments, we are now called upon to implement government’s priorities, and accelerate economic recovery. We also need to work vigorously to attract foreign direct investment and declare the country ready to do business with the world.

On behalf of management, I am encouraging you to continue dedicating yourselves in carrying out your duties. You are urged to continue ensuring that your professional ethics are beyond reproach. We are confident that colleagues will continue to serve the millions of South Africans with dedication and pride.

I thank you colleagues.



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Deputy Minister Alvin Botes welcomed by South Africa's Ambassador to Chile, HE George Monyemangene



Deputy Minister Botes with his Chilean counterpart, the Under-Secretary for International Relations, Ms Ximena Fuentes.



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini paid a courtesy call on the Vice President of Liberia, Ms Jewel Howard Taylor



(Right) Amb Tebogo Seokolo accepting on behalf of South Africa, the Grand Pavois International Organisation announcement of South Africa as its guest country of Honour for the 2023 International Boat Show.

## PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH AT DIRCO



The Office of the Chief Operations Officer hosted a Public Service Month activation at Head Office this morning, Wednesday, 21 September 2022.

*Happy Public Service Month!*



Public Service Month at DIRCO



# Heritage

## DAY 2022

**CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF SOLOMON LINDA**  
**And South Africa's Indigenous Music**

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