



April 2007

Now

Your voice to be heard



Minister Dlamini Zuma with Ambassador Jessie Duarte at the National Consultative Conference on the Diaspora, April 2007

DEAR COLLEAGUES

Welcome to the DFA Now.

AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE that there is a lot of interesting read to keep you informed on the developments in the Department and within the international relations arena during the month of April. These include coverage of the National Consultative Conference on the Diaspora, DFA Workshop on the work in the United Nations Security Council, April international relations highlights, DFA's participation at the GIBS Career EXPO, launch of South African National Aids Council, ABET Learners' Educational Trip to Cape Town, information on importation of mortal remains to South Africa, and Tripoli International Faire 2007.

In order to meet the deadline in the future and release the *DFA Now* on good time please assist us by meeting the deadline for the submission of articles. This will ensure that your information is received and read by DFA Staff while it is still relevant.

The *DFA Now* needs and value your views, opinions and inputs. Please forward your letters and articles to the Editor before the deadline.

Enjoy!

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the DFA or the editors. The deadline for contributions is 21 May 2007. Contributions may be sent to cbe000 or mokhetheap@foreign.gov.za

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Creative Corner

The Beast

By: Tirelo Makgaledisa

How do I tell HER story?

Without fear of judgment by the self-righteous

A position that has been propagated by my religion

How do I tell our story without belittling and bedeviling my religion?

How, how, how do I tell our story?

How do I tell the story of...

A dissection of integrity

Outrageous incarceration

How do I tell the story of self-hatred without judgment?

HER story, my story, our story ... our sordid past has done enough

How do I tell the story of...

Despicable perversion

Entangling beauty that captures the mind but caught in the labyrinth,

The inability to resolve conflict embedded within by the beast

How do I tell the story of another beast that destroyed her through perversion

That stole her womanhood and went unreported b'cause she was the girl

How does she tell the story of...

Confusion of her sexuality

Without judgment because of her religion, culture and stereotypes

Internal conflict, as she screams in search of restoration

As she screams in a dead voice

How does she resolve the pain caused by the beast?

Who turned her into an alcoholic?

Who abused her, ostracized her, belittled her

Raped her

Helped her learn to maim herself and to love beasts like him

In the midst how... does she celebrate her appetite for life?

Did you know?

THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION HOTLINE for the Public Service [0800 701 701] is a government initiative to ensure that all cases of corruption are reported centrally and directed to relevant departments/provincial administrations.

This new co-ordinated approach to reporting corruption and related acts is intended to assist government in creating a database of all corruption cases reported.

Please note the following when calling 0800 701 701:

- callers reporting any form of corruption will be treated with confidentiality
- callers have the option of providing their personal details when reporting cases
- callers will receive a unique reference number that would enable them to later get feedback from the call centre in a confidential manner.

For more information about the Anti-Corruption Hotline, please visit www.psc.gov.za ■

The National Consultative Conference on the Diaspora: 17 April 2007



Delegates at the National Consultative Conference on the Diaspora, 17 April 2007

THESE WERE THE WORDS spoken by Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma in her keynote address at the National Consultative Conference on the Diaspora held in Muldersdrift on 17 April 2007. The Conference was well attended by representatives from civil society organisations, the diplomatic community, MP's and political parties, who later also participated in the breakaway sessions where the various sub-themes were explored in greater detail.

The National Consultative Conference was held in preparation for the Africa- African Diaspora Summit scheduled to take place in South Africa, in 2008. The Conference provided an opportunity to engage with civil society organisations in South Africa on how, together with the Diaspora, we can help to shape and strengthen the future of Africa and Africans. Similar consultative processes are taking place throughout

Conscious of the task that confront us today as Africans, we meet with the same, if not more passionate understanding and resolve than those of the generations that preceded us – and with the same firm conviction that the future of Africa and of Africans depends upon us forging a common unity with our brothers and sisters in the African Diaspora”

the globe: in Latin America, the Caribbean, the UK, North America, Africa and Europe, in the lead to the Summit. The outcomes of the various consultative conferences will contribute to the Summit Declaration and its Programme of Action.

The Africa-African Diaspora Summit is a continuation, on a much larger scale, of the ethos of the South Africa, African Union, Caribbean Diaspora Conference held in Jamaica on 16-18 March 2005. It is also a continuation of the dialogue to strengthen African

unity and solidarity; and it compliments other processes in this regard, such as the World Conference against Racism (WCAR), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and the International Conferences of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora held in Brazil in 2006 and in Senegal in 2004.

The call for unity, solidarity and purposeful action reverberated throughout these processes of dialogue and consultation. Indeed, the proposed theme of the 2008 Summit is: “Towards the re-

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Dean of the Diplomatic Corps: Ambassador A. Alzubedi



Delegates at the National Consultative Conference on the Diaspora, 17 April 2007

- Build capacity to beneficiate the resources and commodities that Africa provides to the rest of the global economy;
- To realise investments from knowledge production, sharing and dissemination;
- To address the patriarchal system within society and the family;
- Address cultural and traditional practices that contribute to the disempowering of women;
- Focus on skills programmes to prepare the youth for occupational life;
- Help to stop the trafficking of women and children;
- To reverse negative perceptions about the quality of products from Africa;
- Address safety and security issues to boost investment and help business to thrive;
- Address issues of poverty within the framework of the Millenium Development Goals (MDG's).

The outcomes from the regional conferences in Brasilia, London, Belgium, The Bahamas, New York and Africa will be reviewed and consolidated by the respective Working Group experts from the various regions where the Diaspora is located. A Ministerial and Civil Society Forum, to be held in early October 2007, will consider the Draft Summit Declaration and the Plan of Action in preparation for the Summit in 2008.

The dialogue to implement the common vision and utilise the collective strengths, ideas, experiences and resources of Africa and its Diaspora to our mutual benefit, is one that is ongoing and must find practical expression in concrete plans at national level. It is hoped that countries, organisations and individuals will take ownership of these plans which will contain very tangible ideas and programmes for implementation.

Our ultimate aim is indeed to question and reposition the position of the African in the global family of nations and for the African people to reclaim their pride and dignity, and share in the fruits of globalisation and economic prosperity which have eluded them for so long ■

alisation of a United and Integrated Africa and its Diaspora: A Shared Vision to Address Common Challenges”,

At stake here is the future of Africans and the kind of Africa that future generations of Africans will inherit. The Africa that was bequeathed to us in the 20th century was defined by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, underdevelopment, ignorance, disease and poverty. To a large extent, these features still characterise our continent. What has changed however is our resolve to carve out a new identity for Africa and to indeed make the 21st century an African century. We are determined to step up our efforts for the renewal and restoration of the pride, dignity and prosperity of Africans throughout the globe. The AU and NEPAD is testimony to that resolve.

The sceptics may call it an ambitious and unachievable project; we consider it a duty and an imperative. We owe it to the pioneers of African liberty and solidarity, such as Toussaint

L'Ouverture, Marcus Garvey, Julius Nyerere, Kwama Nkrumah, Nanny of the Maroons, WEB Du Bois, Sylvester Williams, Nelson Mandela and countless other heroes and heroines who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom, equality and prosperity. We also owe it to the millions of young men and woman who look up to the leaders of Africa to make the continent a better, safer and prosperous place to live in.

It is in this spirit that the National Consultative Conference looked at the themes of Global Dialogue, Peace and Stability, Economic Cooperation,

Regional Development and Integration, Historical, Socio-cultural Religious Commonalities, Knowledge Sharing and Women, Youth, Children and Vulnerable Groups.

Some of the outcomes from the discussions include:

- A need to diversify Africa's economic base away from mineral resources to human capital, technology and innovation;

Africa Malaria Expedition



Hugo Lambrechts (left) and Stella Dhlomo - Imieka (3rd from left) from the Directorate: Strategy Co-ordination and Operations Center pictured during one of the launch functions of the "Africa Outside Edge" expedition, that kicked off on Africa Malaria Day on 25 April 2007.

AFRICA MALARIA DAY on 25 April 2007 brought home the message that while Malaria is a preventable disease, it continues to kill more than 1 million people a year - 90 percent of them in Africa and mostly children. To coincide with this day, the "Africa Outside Edge Expedition" by South African adventurers kicked off their campaign to circumnavigate the Continent distributing hundreds of thousands mosquito nets in 33 countries, in co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO). As a recent scientific study has shown, the distribution of such treated mosquito nets, can reduce the the risk of miscarriages or still births by one third.

In a letter by the Director-General, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba to the expedition, the Department of Foreign Affairs ex-

pressed its support and encouragement for the concept and objectives of the "Africa Outside Edge and Goodwill Expedition" - namely to continue the One - Net - One Life Campaign against Malaria by distributing hundreds of thousands of malaria netting, while also assisting the poor sighted with spectacles and delivering educational aids to remote schools along the way. The year-long expedition kicked off on "African Malaria Day" on 25 April 2007 in Cape Town. Two days later the expedition of 3 Land Rovers, carrying the flag decals of all the countries to be travelled through and including six members, was escorted out of Cape Town heading for Namibia in a convoy of hundreds of South African Land Rovers. Foreign Affairs' Directorate: Strategy Co-or-

dination and Operations Center has been liaising closely with Branch Africa and the relevant SA missions to Africa in offering relevant support by informing our missions in the respective countries to be travelled through. Missions will also be encouraged in its communication efforts to work with the expedition in securing positive media coverage for South Africa.

The focus would be on two messages: The first is - to reaffirm that the future of South Africa is inextricably linked to the future of the African Continent and that of our regional neighbours, tying in with one of South Africa's central values of Ubuntu and expanding on the IRPS cluster's Theme: "Renewing our pledge - a better Africa and a better world". The second is that South Africa specifically recognises malaria as one of the three biggest killers (HIV/Aids and Tuberculosis) on the continent and also how critical specific actions and preventive measures are. This One - Life - One Net malaria campaign provides South Africans with the opportunity to actively promote this and reaffirm our role as a reliable partner in addressing these medical challenges on the continent with inter alia the support of the World Health Organisation ■

By Hugo Lambrechts

DFA Workshop on the work in the UNSC



Delegates at the DFA Workshop on the work in the UNSC

ON 11 APRIL 2007 the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the Canadian High Com-

mission hosted a workshop to explore the relationship between the United Nations and regional organisations, in particular the African Union (AU) in the maintenance of international peace and security. The workshop was held at the Hilton Hotel in Durban.

The Department was represented by the Chief Directorate United Nations Political, and the Policy Research and Analysis Unit (PRAU).

The workshop brought together academics from South African universities and research institutions who are specialists on UN peacekeeping matters. The purpose of the workshop was to identify potential areas in which this partnership could be further explored - from the perspective of the researchers and academics. It aimed to provide a platform for

discussion and information sharing among South African stakeholders with a view to creating opportunities for collaborative efforts in tackling the many complex and challenging issues facing regional organisations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The topic was generally welcomed by the participants as being of relevance and South Africa was commended for making use of its membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to put this important topic on the agenda.

Recognising the influential role played by the South African institutions and academics in our community, the workshop was also seen as part of an outreach on UNSC matters and as an opportunity to make our community aware of South Africa's role in the Security Council ■

By Mpho Baleni

1 The month of April was a very busy month for South Africa in the field of international relations. Minister Dlamini Zuma, kick – started the month with meeting her Burkina Faso counterpart, Mr Youssouf Ouedrago for bilateral political and economic discussions at the Union Buildings, on Monday, 2 April 2007. An Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Commission of Co-operation between South Africa and Burkina Faso was signed on conclusion of their discussion. On the economic front, opportunities exist for South African mining companies in Burkina Faso to mine deposits of gold, zinc and manganese and for trade of various agricultural produce as agriculture is the dominant industry in the country.

2 A few days later, President Mbeki upon invitation by his counterpart, President Jakaya Kikwete co- chaired the South Africa – Tanzania Heads of State Economic Commission meeting in Dar- es – Salaam. The Presidential Economic Commission allows the Presidents of both countries to preside over the review of progress made with regard to strategic projects between the two countries. South Africa ranks as one of the top 10 countries investing in Tanzania and accounts for 10% of total investments in Tanzania. According to the Tanzanian Investment Centre, as of December 2006, there were 111 South African companies investing in Tanzania since 1990. These include ILLOVO / Kilombero Sugar Co., Vodacom, Unitrans Tanzania Ltd, Nampak Tanzania Ltd and others.

3 Back home, following the Tanzanian visit, Deputy President Mlambo – Ngcuka hosted her Bolivian counterpart Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera for bilateral, political and economic discussions on Wednesday 11 April 2007. Co-operation between South Africa and Bolivia in the field of constitutional reform received high prominence with the sharing of experiences between the two countries.

4 As part of South Africa's efforts towards the Consolidation of the African Agenda, President Thabo Mbeki supported by Foreign Minister, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma paid a working visit to Khartoum and Juba in Sudan, where discussions were held with President Omar – el – Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiriir. These discussions took place within the context of South Africa's priority to encourage the Sudanese government to implement fully the AU – UN Agreement on the hybrid force for Darfur and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the North and the South. Issues of post – conflict reconstruction and development of Sudan were also discussed as South Africa is the Chairperson of the AU Committee on Post – Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Sudan. On the economic front, Sudanese authorities expressed a keen interest in the involvement of South African parastatals and private companies in areas of infrastructure development. Sudan is expected to double its oil production in the next two to three years. In turn, this would lead to the demand for more infrastructure related to the oil and petroleum industry, as well as transportation needs.

5 Departing Sudan for France, President Thabo Mbeki upon invitation by President Jacques Chirac visited Paris on the 12th April 2007 accompanied by Deputy Minister, Aziz Pahad to bid President Chirac farewell on the eve of his departure from political office. This event took place 10 days before the Presidential elections on the 22 April 2007. France is a member of the European Union, the Group of Eight (G – 8) and one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Economic relations are continuously expanding between the two countries. France ranks among South Africa's 10 most significant economic partners. Bilateral trade grew from R9 billion in 1998 to R25 billion in 2006. It is obvious that the balance of trade between South Africa and France remains heavily in France's favour and renewed efforts are needed to promote South African exports, inter- alia through the trade provisions of the SA – EU Trade and Development Co-operation Agreement. According to Business Map, France is the 9th largest foreign direct investor in South Africa.

6



Upon Minister Dlamini Zuma's return from Sudan, a meeting between her and Portuguese counterpart, Dr. Luis Amado took place at the Union Buildings on the 13 April 2007. A whole range of issues pertaining to politics, the economy and other issues of global importance such as South Africa's occupation of the non – permanent seat of the UN Security Council and preparations for the Africa – European Summit to be held in December in Lisbon were discussed. Portugal will take over the Presidency of the European Union from the 1st July 2007 and are currently in the EU Troika. Both countries re-iterated their commitment to working together in the global arena and Dr. Amado emphasised the importance of South Africa's importance as a player in the international system.

7



Five days after consolidating ties with the Portuguese, Minister Dlamini Zuma met her counterpart from Niger, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and African Integration, Mrs. Aichatou Mindaoudou at the Union Buildings on the 18 April 2007. Minister Dlamini Zuma was very happy to receive Minister Mindaoudou and emphasised the importance of strengthening the close political ties that exist between South Africa and Niger. At the end of their engagement, projects in the field of animal husbandry and establishment of an abattoir were prioritized. The IDC, will be the lead agency responsible for working with government on these projects and will bring in other players where necessary. South Africa also committed to open its Mission in Niger by the end of the year, whilst Niger was aiming to have one in South Africa by 2008. Niger has a lot of mineral riches including uranium. Other natural resources are coal, gold and oil. South Africa also has a lot of experience in the exploration and extraction of minerals and both countries committed to co-operate in this area.

8



Lastly, President Thabo Mbeki hosted the Singaporean President Sellapan Ramanathan for a State visit in Pretoria on Thursday, 19 April 2007 supported by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. This was Singapore's first State Visit to South Africa by a Singaporean Head of State. President Mbeki hosted his counterpart within the context of South Africa's commitment to consolidating and strengthening political, economic and trade relations with Singapore. More trade and investment projects was encouraged such as the Coega Straits Chemicals investment worth about R5.8 billion. Development in Africa – Asia relations since the adoption of the New Africa – Asia Strategic Partnership (NAASP) with a view to a Ministerial Meeting later in 2007 and the Summit of the Afro – Asian Heads of State and Government was also discussed. Singapore is an important country in South East Asia for South Africa and the visit by President Nathan to South Africa, marks a clear resurgence of interest in our bilateral relations.

9

Apart from these high profile events, there were quite a number of activities that kept our diplomats busy both nationally and internationally including hoisting the flag high in New York at the United Nations Security Council as well as the Nuclear Suppliers Group Meeting in Cape Town. The National Consultative Conference on the Diaspora was held in Muldersdrift, Johannesburg followed by the first in a series of Regional Consultative Conferences to be held globally in London where Minister Dlamini Zuma gave a powerful keynote address. These Conferences will culminate in a Caribbean – African Diaspora Summit to be hosted by South Africa in 2008.

As we celebrated Freedom Day on the 27th April 2007, we did so fully aware of the challenges that still lie ahead for weeks, months and years to come in attaining the objective of a better life for all our people.

*Prepared by Directorate – Media Liaison
Source – Statements issued out for the month of April 2007*

The importation of mortal remains to South Africa

[A] PURPOSE

To inform missions of the documentary requirements stipulated by the National Department of Health concerning the importation of mortal remains to South Africa.

[B] IMPORTATION OF MORTAL REMAINS

Prior to mortal remains being imported into the Republic the National Department of Health must issue an import permit.

In order for the National Department of Health to consider the issuance of such a permit the following documents must be submitted:

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR IMPORTATION OF NON-INFECTIOUS MORTAL REMAINS

- [a] Death certificate;
- [b] Identity document or passport of the deceased
- [c] Embalming certificate
- [d] Letter from the deceased's family requesting the importation;
- [e] A covering letter from either the embassy or the undertaker that includes:
 - (i) The Name of the deceased;
 - (ii) Date of death;
 - (iii) Cause of death
 - (iv) Country of death
 - (v) Place of burial or cremation (in South Africa)
 - (vi) Full contact numbers including dialling codes
- [f] If the documents are not in English a certified translation must be attached.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR IMPORTATION OF INFECTIOUS MORTAL REMAINS

- [a] Death certificate;
- [b] Identity document or passport of the deceased
- [c] Embalming certificate

- [d] Autopsy report
- [e] Letter from the deceased's family requesting the importation;
- [f] A covering letter from either the embassy or the undertaker that includes:
 - (i) The Name of the deceased;
 - (ii) Date of death;
 - (iii) Cause of death
 - (iv) Country of death
 - (v) Place of burial or cremation (in South Africa)
 - (vi) Full contact numbers including dialling codes
- [g] If the documents are not in English a certified translation must be attached.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO PERMITS ARE REQUIRED TO IMPORT ASHES FOR A BODY THAT HAS BEEN CREMATED.

[C] CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

National Department of Health
Directorate: Environmental Health

Telephone: 012 312 3261
Fax: 012 312 3181
e-mail: helmc@health.gov.za

After Hours Contact Numbers:
084 460 6000
082 303 8466

[D] CONCLUSION

Kindly also refer to the Department's website for further information on documentary requirements.

Go to www.dfa.gov.za then Consular Information and to Deaths Abroad. It is trusted that this information will be of assistance to your Office/s ■

DFA's participation at the GIBS Career EXPO: St Davids's Marist, Inanda, on 21st April 2007

MS MATHU NOMPOZOLO, Chief Director: HR has initiated DFA's participation in the annual GIBS CareerXpo which was attended by 1200 learners.

GIBS hosted its 2nd annual CareerXpo on Saturday, 21st April 2007. The GIBS CareerXpo is an initiative to introduce high-achieving grade 12 learners from a large range of public and independent schools in Gauteng to a wide variety of possible careers.

Some of the exhibitors include SASOL, KPMG, DELOITTE, Investec, Goldfield, Ernst & Young, Grinaker LTA, Liberty, SAB, Allan Gray and the Departments of Health and Public Works.

DFA also participated as a plenary a speaker. The plenary sessions were facilitated by Mr. Lunga Bengu, Sub-directorate: African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund and Mr. Viresh Vallabhai, Sub-directorate: Programme and information management.

HR was represented by Mr Ernest Mahalefa and Mrs Valerie Theunissen.

The DFA was also represented at the SABC Careers Fair in Nelspruit from 23 - 26 April 2007. The SABC Career Fair was attended by approximately 10 000 learners ■

*By Valerie Theunissen PMDS
(Policy and Development)*

The Tripoli International Faire

IT WAS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR when the Libyan people got to interact with other peoples of the world through a trade exhibition which took place during two weeks, from the 2 to 12 April 2007 under the banner of the Tripoli International Faire. The Faire is one of the biggest trade exhibitions on the Tripoli events calendar where the Libyans introduce their national products to other countries and get acquainted with products of other participating countries. It is meant to encourage commercial exchange between Libya and other foreign countries.

The one objective of the Faire was to bring the visitors up to speed with the scientific advancements in production and services through showcasing these to participating countries and particularly the developed countries. There were 37 countries, and 1 438 companies exhibiting at this show. The South African Embassy in Libya successfully presented South Africa as tourist destination even though the exhibition was primarily for trade. The Marketing Cluster officials from the Chief Directorate Public Diplomacy assisted the Mission with arranging the exhibition stand and also with providing visitors with information about South Africa for the whole duration of the event.

It was observed during the event that most people in Libya are not aware of South Africa and what it has to offer. But one can say thanks to our former president Mr Nelson Mandela and the 2010 World Cup that led the Libyans to show more interest in South Africa. Most people who visited the stand wanted information about education, health services and trade focussing on import and export business opportunities. In conclusion, The 36th Tripoli International Faire was a successful, *mia mia* in Arabic. It will be more success in the future because the South African Embassy plans to be showcasing more of the proudly South African products there ■

By Tercia Malepane

DFA IS BEST OF THE BEST!



AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE in Sun City last month, Networkers South Africa brought thousands of technical customers, Cisco engineers and Cisco partners together for a week of intensive training and industry networking.

Networkers South Africa is an agency that offers technical professionals of every level a unique opportunity to choose from hundreds of technical sessions, hear from industry leaders and collaborate with people at the forefront of technology innovation.

As part of the worldwide leaders, Networkers South Africa transforms how people connect, communicate and collaborate. This year, they introduced a new competitive category called the Innovation Awards.

The Department of Foreign Affairs entered the competition of best categories awards. In the final, competing against Alexander Forbes, Anglo Gold and Telkom (SA) among others, won the category of Best Unified Communications Project of the Year.

According to Ms Lillian Phahla, the ICT Acting Chief Information Officer, "the adjudicators were looking for innovative projects that highlight the importance of advanced technology initiatives and clearly demonstrate the benefits of well managed deployments for changing and improving business."

The Department of Foreign Affairs won because it has delivered a good, exemplary and demonstrable return on investment and made significant organisational improvements and changes that involve the use of technology to deliver innovative new services.

Therefore, this hard-won achievement

"the adjudicators were looking for innovative projects that highlight the importance of advanced technology initiatives and clearly demonstrate the benefits of well managed deployments for changing and improving business."

shows that our department continues to show us how life on the network is changing our real human life as we know it. As ICT funds put it, "when we are all connected, great things happen."

By winning this prestigious award, our department demonstrated to all that it is keeping abreast with technology changes and challenges on a daily basis. More than ever before, it values the importance of technology changes.

While return on investment is a key financial metric of the value of business investments and expenditures, the department will continue to keep a realistic, pragmatic and balanced approach in determining the return on investment.

It is therefore fundamentally important for the department to know that, no matter how promising a new technology is, promoting and encouraging its usage is not justified until there is a solid business case for its adoption. Then only do we have something to communicate about.

Recent studies have shown that there are only three computers for every 1000 people in Africa whilst increasingly employers are demanding computer skills as a condition for employment.

The poorest of the poor, earning a dollar a day, are at a terrible disadvantage. Our department has shown a need to bridge the digital divide within our country and Africa as a whole.

As Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States and the 2002 Nobel Peace laureate succinctly put it, "...a world where the chasm between rich and poor grows wider will be neither stable nor secure" ■

By Mthembeni Khumalo

DFA's ABET Learners' Educational Trip to Cape Town

THE CHIEF DIRECTORATE: FSI organised an educational trip for all its Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) learners to Cape Town from 15 to 20 January 2007. Learners agreed that this was an educational fun and enjoyable experience. Half of them admitted that it was the first time for them to travel by bus and stay at a hotel.

The learners received knowledge about new places. Furthermore as DFA officials they were able to bond and work as a united team.

During the trip the learners had the opportunity to visit the Parliament in order to learn and understand how it works. They were shown the different seats in Parliament and got the understanding that it belongs to everybody, including themselves. The learners expressed that next time they would love to see the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and learn to know how it works.

The following places were visited: the Sea, Signal Hill, Cape Point, Table Mountain and Sea Island (boat trip).

The learners also visited Langa location where they met Mama Sheila, motivational speaker, who motivated them by telling them that as adults they need to work hard so that they can go far. Based on her motivation the ABET learners saw themselves as being privileged to have ABET at DFA. They felt grateful to the Department because unlike them Mama Sheila could not attend ABET due to work pressures. They also thanked their DFA Supervisors

"I love ABET, no one can take the knowledge I acquired from me"

who supported them all the way.

One of the learners, Ms Maggie Majiza's dream is to work in an office one day. She hopes to be someone's secretary in the near future due to the skills she is gaining from her education. She said "I love ABET, no one can take the knowledge I acquired from me".

Most of the learners expressed the fact that the knowledge they have acquired, will be imparted to their children and grandchildren. Mr Melaphi thanked ABET that now he can write. Furthermore, the learners felt that through ABET they will turn DFA into a learning and development institution.

Mr Ntantiso said "ABET made us

"ABET made us proud, we don't need an interpreter anymore in our lives, and this trip restored our dignity. Thanks to DFA."

proud, we don't need an interpreter anymore in our lives, and this trip restored our dignity. Thanks to DFA."

Mr Shangase reiterated by saying "it is through ABET that they were able to read signs, listen to speakers and ask questions." He further said that the "knowledge

from ABET help us to enter with pride through the doors that we would never enter before." In this regard, he mentioned the bank as an example.

During the trip there was also a certificate handing ceremony. It was attended by Ambassador January-Bardill, Ms Maud Dlomo: Chief Director FSI, Ms Mathu Nompozolo: Chief Director HR, Ms Sajeeda Sheik: Director: HRD and the team.

Ambassador January-Bardill motivated ABET learners to work hard.

At the event, Ms Sophie Malatjie, the ABET learner of the year for 2005-2006, highlighted in her speech that "during the duration of the course we learned a lot, we had a wonderful experience and also gained skills. We also learned how to read and write. Therefore, that proved that you are never too old to learn. In Zulu they say *imfundo ayikhulelwa*".

Ms Dibodu said it was the first time in her life to get an educational certificate; she also thanked the Ambassador for making her lifetime dream come true.

Ms Shabangu said if I can retire tomorrow, I will never forget the opportunities created by DFA. Other learners said they will motivate their children to go to school, make use of the opportunities created by Government so as to have a better understanding about their country and a guaranteed future.

The learners conveyed their gratitude to the DG for approving the trip. At the end of the trip the learners spoke fondly of Ambassador January-Bardill, whom

Pictures of the DFA officials during the ABET Educational trip to Cape Town



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they referred to as their mother, who cares about everybody in the Department, and who was such an eye-opener in their lives. The learners also thanked the FSI team for making their trip a success ■



THE LAUNCH OF THE- SOUTH AFRICAN NATION- AL AIDS COUNCIL AND THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE NATIONAL STRA- TEGIC PLAN FOR HIV & AIDS & STI 2007-2011

THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) was launched at Emperor's Palace officially bringing together government and civil society in a renewed partnership against HIV and AIDS.

SANAC is chaired by Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and includes government representation at a ministerial level and highest leadership of the business, labour and other sectors of civil society.

The meeting was attended by leaders from various sectors, Acting Health Minister Jeff Radebe, Free State Premier Beatrix Marshof, Correctional Services Deputy Minister Laureta Jacobus and Health MECs.

The new SANAC considered and endorsed the new comprehensive National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS and STI for 2007-2011. The primary goal of the Plan is to reduce the rate of new HIV infections and mitigate the impact of AIDS on individuals, families and communities.

The Plan aims to achieve 50% reduction rate of new infections by 2011 and provide an appropriate package of treatment, care and support services. The package of care includes:

- Counselling and testing services as an entry point
- Healthy lifestyle interventions including nutritional support
- Treatment of opportunistic infections
- And antiretroviral therapy

The plan also includes a monitoring and evaluation component critical in assessing progress and sharing research on the pandemic.

Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka thanked all stakeholders in the response to HIV and AIDS for ensuring that the proc-

ess of developing the Strategic Plan and restructuring of SANAC is brought to successful conclusion.

She paid tribute to Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang and thanked Department of Health for coordinating these two processes. "I urge provinces to run with implementation of programmes. There should be no roll-over of budgets allocated for HIV and AIDS. We should also address the challenge of opportunistic infections such as TB," said Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, Hendrieta Bogopane-Zulu said civil society is endorsing the Plan and is ready to work on the implementation. "We are excited with the extent to which we have been consulted in the development of the Plan," said Bogopane-Zulu.

In his keynote address, Acting Health Minister Jeff Radebe said: "We have set up the necessary coordinating structure and we have all agreed on the five-year Strategic Plan to address HIV and AIDS. It is now time to get down to the real business of implementation.

"The National Strategic Plan includes ambitious targets to reverse the course of HIV and AIDS over the next five years. These bold targets reflect our commitment to combat HIV, AIDS and STIs and achieving them will require intense collective effort by every one. Most importantly, reaching these targets requires individual behavioural change and responsibility from all of us as the people of South Africa" ■

*Issued by
Ministry of Health on behalf of the
South African National AIDS Council*



Where were you..?

