



April 2008

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Your voice to be heard



**President Thabo Mbeki welcoming DRC  
President Joseph Kabila for the  
SA-DRC Joint Commission**

*For more turn to page 3, 4 and 5*

## DEAR COLLEAGUES

**A**PRIL WAS A BUSY MONTH FOR THE DFA. Not only was South Africa President of the United Nations Security Council, but we also took part in various incoming and outgoing visits. Inside this issue Deputy Minister Pahad's briefing continues to give us our political input for the month. We also cover the following: the South Africa/Democratic Republic of the Congo Bi-National Commission, introduction of the new Consular Handbook, the Heads of Mission conference held in Vienna, news from the Language Unit at the Diplomatic Academy as well as Mission activities around Freedom Day Celebrations.

As a token of our appreciation we want to make use of this opportunity to thank our missions for their response to our request for inputs of their Freedom Day Celebrations. Because of the good response we could not manage to accommodate all the inputs in this issue, therefore we will have a second report in the next edition.

We trust that you enjoy this issue. As it is the norm please don't forget that we rely on your assistance in meeting the printing deadline. Therefore, in future to ensure the DFA Now is released on time please assist us by meeting the submission deadline for articles. Please forward your comments and articles to the Editor before the deadline.

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## News From The Language Unit



Members of the Language Unit and other departments attending the interpreting course

### JOHAN BLAAUW FROM THE NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY (NWU)

offered a course on Interpreting to officials of the Language Unit (LU) and partner departments. The NWU started offering a simultaneous interpreting service in selected university classes in 2004 as part of its language plan, which was founded on the principle of a functional approach to multilingualism. The primary need was to interpret classes on the Afrikaans-medium campus of Potchefstroom into English, in order to ensure that Afrikaans would not act as a barrier to access or success of students who prefer English. The interpreting method used in this course was whis-

pered simultaneous and continuous interpreting with high-quality portable equipment. Interpreting is considered a rare skill and efforts have been made by the LU to promote and augment the need for more professionals to acquire these sought-after skills. With 2010 around the corner, the demand for foreign language practitioners is on the rise! Finally, the LU's interpreters and translators (French, Arabic and Spanish) are now members of the South African Translators and Interpreters Institute (SATI) and we encourage all DFA branches to contact the LU @ x 1011/x 1218 should they need interpreting assistance in conferences and/or with document translations ■



# IS THE DRC A QUICKSAND? - REFLECTIONS ON THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE RSA/DRC BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION

## THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE SOUTH AFRICA/DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

of the Congo Bi-National Commission, hence forth referred to as the RSA/DRC BNC, took place in Tshwane on 03 April 2008. From within the Department and the public at large, South Africa's engagement in the DRC including the BNC has generated questions that vary across the range, such as: Why is South Africa so much involved in the DRC? What are the tangible benefits to the country? What is the current BNC about? What are the time frames? Exit strategy? So on and so forth. In an attempt to reflect on some of these questions, this brief will make an overview of the previous session of the BNC, by reviewing what we already know about South Africa's Foreign Policy, especially how it relates to the RSA/DRC BNC concept. It will be concluded that our involvement in the DRC is not informed by a drive to make tangible gains for South Africa. Rather, by our broad Foreign Policy Objective of bringing about a better world, with a better life for all. The BNC, therefore, provides a legal framework within which this process can be driven forward in the case of the DRC.

## THE GENESIS OF THE RSA/DRC BNC

The RSA/DRC BNC, as we have it today, is a product of the General Cooperation Agreement in January 2004, which laid firm foundation for the RSA/DRC BNC that was subsequently launched in August 2004. The first session of the BNC was held in Kinshasa on 31 August 2004. Four Sectoral Commissions were established for the purpose of implementing commitments made between the Presidents of South Africa and the DRC in areas of Politics and Governance, Defence and Security, Economy, Finance and Infrastructure, and Social and Humanitarian Affairs. The second session of the BNC was held in Pretoria on 29 April 2005. The BNC's activities



*President Thabo Mbeki with DRC President Joseph Kabila for the 5th Session of the South Africa – Democratic Republic of Congo Binational Commission (SA-DRC BNC), at the Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria*

at the time encompassed critical areas of election support, security sector reform (SSR) covering integration of the armed forces and reform of the Congolese Police (PNC), as well as the post conflict reconstruction and development process (PCRD). The BNC has since grown from strength, from being an annual event to a bi-annual event with quarterly review meetings per annum, as agreed upon in 2007. In accordance with this momentum, at the invitation of H.E. Mr Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, visited South Africa from 02-03 April 2008 to attend the Fifth Session of the RSA/DRC BNC. In this regard, H.E. Mr. Joseph Kabila led a delegation consisting of 8 Ministers, two Deputy Ministers and senior officials from various Ministries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki led the South African delegation, consisting of 7 Ministers, and various senior officials representing Government Departments involved in projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## CRITICAL MILESTONES ACHIEVED

Critical milestones, reported in the Fourth Session of the BNC, have been covered in respect of election support and SSR. Beyond the 2006 historic Presidential and Parliamentary elections, focus is increasingly on the PCRD process. It is within this context that key priority sectors were identified by the DRC Government and subsequently adopted by our Presidents as critical areas of cooperation on which the BNC henceforth needed to focus on. These are: infrastructure, employment, education, water, electricity and health.

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It is on these critical sectors that successes achieved were reported and further commitments were made in the August 2007 BNC. It is also on these sectors that we have witnessed phenomenal growth of participating departments in the four sub-commissions of the BNC, to include more departments who were initially not part of this process. To date, there are about 30 Agreements and MOUs signed which cover critical areas such as:

- Foreign Affairs: capacity building for the DRC Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation; Congolese Diplomatic Academy, and training of Congolese Diplomats by the DFA Foreign Service Institute (FSI);
- Public Service and Administration: public service census, anti-corruption, consecutively meant to root-out ghosts and corruption from the DRC public service, and develop a Legal Framework for a decentralised public service;
- Department of Provincial and Local Government: establishment of The Law on Decentralisation, for intra and inter sub-commission coordination in support of decentralisation.
- South African Management Development Institute; the establishment of a National School of Public Administration (ENA) in the DRC.
- Home Affairs: population and immigration matters, to help on areas of population registration and the ultimate establishment of a voters roll;
- Defence: disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) processes;
- Police: capacity building for the Congolese National Police (PNC) focusing inter alia on VIP protection training as well as crowd control;
- Transport: refurbishment of airports as well as the railway lines;
- Trade and Industry: implementation of the Development of an Industrial Zone in Maluku; establishment of

Export Credit Insurance Corporation and convene a Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Forum on Responsible Business Investment in the DRC, and development of the DRC/Zambia Copper belt.

- Department of Justice and Constitutional Development: assistance on the area of the administration of justice;
- Department of Health: Cooperation on Health matters;
- Department of Education: Cooperation in the field of Education;
- Department of Housing: Cooperation in the Field of Human Settlements; and
- Department of Social Development: Cooperation in the field of Social Development, to among others identify vulnerable groups in the DRC; facilitate exchanges in policies as they relate to social assistance and social security; and Social security reform.

During the April BNC, no new agreements were signed, even though three more additional ones are in the offing. Rather, the two delegations reviewed the implementation of the commitments and recommendations made during the 4th session of the BNC which was held on 21 August 2007 in Kinshasa in accordance with the four sectoral commissions of the BNC, as mentioned above. The two delegations expressed their satisfaction with the progress made since 2007. However, they also agreed to accelerate the effective implementation of bilateral commitments, especially effective resource mobilisation to enable the completion of key projects, and the possibility of concluding trilateral arrangements to realize these objectives. The Fifth Session of the BNC was also an occasion for the two delegations to assess efforts made by the DRC Government in the context of the implementation of its development programme summarised in the five priority areas; basic health services, education, employment, electricity, water and infrastructure to all Congolese citizens. In this regard, the South African Government congratulated

and encouraged the Congolese Government on the efforts being made in implementing this programme. Henceforth, it will continue to be 'business unusual' in the DRC.

## PERORATION: IS THE EAGLE LANDING?

As intimated above, for the foreseeable future, South Africa in conjunction with the international community will stay the course in the DRC. South Africa's engagement in the DRC is part of her broader foreign policy objective of the Consolidation of the African Agenda. The South African Government is of the view that the development of the DRC will also have a positive effect on the overall development of the continent of Africa, which occupies its rightful place in a better world that is "non-racist, non-sexist, just and equitable". In other words, a just world in which "right is might, not might is right".

Beyond Government to Government interaction, the BNC is also a framework for enhancing the current links between the peoples of the two countries and promoting more economic activity between peoples of both countries, for the mutual benefit of both countries and indeed for the rest of the continent. The BNC further provides a critical framework of effective implementation of massive projects, whose benefits will benefit the Continent at large. One of them is the rollout of the 4,3 gigawatt Inga III hydro-electric project, itself a multi-billion dollar and multiple-investor project whose projected completion is around 2016. The latter is very critical as it will go a long way towards addressing mutual energy needs of both countries, and beyond. For example, South Africa is currently facing a spate of power cuts, Nigeria and Egypt have all expressed interest in Grand Inga and Inga III, and there has been talk of exporting what would be the world's cheapest electricity to Europe and Israel as well. Whether in quantitative or qualitative terms, benefits of South Africa's continued engagement in the DRC are too numerous and significant to have enumerated and expounded on them at length here.

To conclude, perhaps, the follow-

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ing extract by Denis Waitley will be salutary here. He exhorted his contemporaries by saying: "We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore".

Conversely, South Africa can not discover and celebrate successes in her engagement with the DRC, the African Continent, or wider international community, for that matter, unless fellow

South Africans at large are prepared to make some sacrifices and commitments in the short term. In this endeavour, they might face defeats, but will not be defeated ■

Contributed by: Sandile Gwexe

## 2008: A NEW CONSULAR HANDBOOK

### CONSULAR SERVICES MAY BE DESCRIBED UNDER THREE BROAD

headings. In the first place, it is the support a country renders to its citizens who are in some form of distress or destitution outside its national borders and unable to reasonably obtain relief provide their own resources. Secondly, it is the provision of a notary service for specific inter-country requirements and the proper conveyance of judicial requests between States. Thirdly, it is the provision of a visa service for foreigners and civic services to own nationals abroad. The definitions and mandate for consular services are found in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, with specific reference to Article 5 of that Convention. In the South African context consular services are rendered by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), with the exclusion of immigration and civic services, which are within the mandate of the Department of Home Affairs.

The denial of basic civil rights to the majority of its citizens prior to 1994 had the result that South Africa's Consular Service was historically limited and under-developed, serving a relatively small segment of the population who held the advantage of unconstrained travel. For such the universal support structures available under Colonialism and its legacy made a concerted effort to develop consular services unnecessary for much of the 20th Century. This is not to say that consular theory was not developed and recorded; indeed it was, even to the extent that South Africa was represented at the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations in 1963. However, it is only by the latter part of the 1990's that real steps were taken on the road to establish a pro-

fessional Consular Service for South Africa. These steps coincided with the reality of a rapidly mobile population in an increasingly congested world with all the old and many new hazards, in particular global terror.

As a modern and liberal state South Africa is fully committed to the protection of its citizens' interests around the world within the limits defined by International Law and the principle of sovereignty of States. No less significant are the tenets of domestic policy, which indeed informs South Africa's foreign policy. The commitment is amply illustrated in that the unit responsible for consular services in the DFA evolved from a severely understaffed support sub-directorate in 1996, often engaged in ordering flowers for missions' functions, to a dynamic Chief Directorate by 2006.

The turbulent international environment poses challenges for South Africa to provide protection and assistance to its citizens abroad. New and emerging threats have led to a more security-conscious world. The increasing number South Africans traveling and living abroad, the increasing diversity of destinations and growing expectations of the State's duty and ability to intervene on behalf of citizens have an impact on Government's ability to properly and diligently deliver consular services.

The DFA must therefore ensure, through well defined procedures, that the global consular network represented by South Africa's diplomatic and consular missions continue to deliver in a clear and consistent manner with uniform standards, delivering consular services by highly professional staff with a common sense of purpose.

These demands gave rise to a complete revision of existing pre-

scripts and the compilation of clear, unambiguous procedures contained in a new Consular Handbook. The document shall provide the basis on which consular services will be rendered in future. The implementation date is 1 May 2008.

The Consular Handbook consists of thirty-seven chapters. A few chapters are of necessity still under construction pending technical assessment but shall be available shortly. The Handbook is accessible to all DFA personnel on the intranet at the portal of the Chief Directorate: Consular Services. It can also be directly accessed from the index of the Foreign Service Code by selecting 'Consular Handbook' in the Index. Arrangements shall be made to provide missions with limited or no communication with the Handbook on CD-ROM. For the time being publishing of the Handbook in hardcopy is not contemplated and users are discouraged from printing own copies. The reason is simply to avoid sundry hefty volumes (1 000 + pages) being printed and available all over the Department without a monitored system for updating, thus risking rapidly obsolete copies as development and advancement take place.

The Consular Handbook has an influence on missions' Consular Service Delivery Charters and thus the public at large. Although the Handbook shall not initially be placed in the public domain the Chief Directorate: Consular Services, in cooperation with Government Communications (GCIS), has updated its webpage to reflect changes to the critical areas of consular assistance ■

Contributed by: A.J. Laubscher:  
Director: Consular Development,  
Strategy, Legalisation & Training

## **C** O-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE AFRICAN UNION, IN THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

On 16 April 2008, under the Presidency of South Africa, the Security Council held a Summit focusing on practical ways of enhancing the relationship between the UN and regional organisations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Summit adopted resolution 1809. Through resolution 1809 the Security Council welcomed the role of the African Union in bringing peace and stability to the African Continent and therefore expressed its support for the work of the AU. Through the resolution the Council also expressed its determination to take effective steps to further enhance the relationship between the UN and regional organisations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. It also made the point that common and coordinated efforts undertaken by the UN and regional organisations, in particular the AU, should be based on complimentary capacities and make full use of their experiences. The resolution adopted by the Security Council also recognised the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organisations when they undertake peacekeeping under a UN mandate. In this regard the Security Council welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to set-up, within three months, an African Union-United Nations panel consisting of distinguished persons to consider in-depth the modalities of how to support such peacekeeping operations, in particular start-up funding, equipment and logistics. We believe that this panel should make an important contribution in articulating concrete proposals on how this support to regional organisations with funding, equipment and logistics can be done. The Summit was in follow-up to discussions on the same theme that were held during South Africa's first Presidency of the UNSC in March 2007. In September 2007 a UNSC Summit was also held under the Presidency of France focus-

## **MEDIA BRIEFING BY DEPUTY MINISTER AZIZ PAHAD**



*Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad briefing the media on international issues.*

ing broadly on the topic of Peace and Security in Africa. South Africa is very pleased with the high-level participation in the Summit. Heads of State and Government of Tanzania, United Kingdom, Italy, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Ethiopia took part in the Summit. Botswana was represented by the Vice President and the Chairperson of the African Union Professor Alpha Oumar Konare also participated. Other members of the UNSC, AU Peace and Security Council and those African countries that are on the agenda of the UNSC were also represented by high-level representatives and Ministers of Foreign Affairs. In their statements the participants spoke highly of the role that regional organisations play in the maintenance of international peace and security, as recognised in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. There was a specific appreciation of the work done by the AU as well as some of the African sub-regional organisations in this area. It was noted by most of the African States participating that the African Union has peacemaking as one of its primary mandates and is actively engaged in various activities in this regard including mediation, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace building. The Af-

rican Union also mandated its own peacekeeping operations to address complex challenges in countries such as Burundi, Somalia and Sudan (Darfur), where the UN was unable to intervene or not ready. The Summit recognised that these efforts of the African Union were directly complimentary to the overall objective of the UN Security Council of bringing peace and stability to the world. The African Union has, however, also faced a challenge when it comes to resources to sustain some of its peace missions. In this regard all participants made a strong call for support to be provided to the African Union with resources. In this context most of the high-level dignitaries looked forward to the work that will be done by the AU – UN panel. Some States referred to the AU Summit decision of January 2007 which had urged that the financing of AU peacekeeping missions from the UN regular budget (assessed contributions) be considered. Through this work in the UNSC, South Africa is also contributing to the advancement of the Consolidation of the African Agenda, a key foreign policy priority.

### **ZIMBABWE**

Some countries raised the issue of Zimbabwe during the discussions. This was highlighted by the UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the UN Secretary-General as well as the representative of the United States, among others. The UN Secretary-General said that if there is a second round of elections they must be conducted in a fair and transparent manner, with international observers. The Secretary-General also urged the leaders of SADC to continue with their efforts. The United States Ambassador called for the release of the results and also commended the efforts of SADC.

### **BILATERALS OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President held bilateral meetings with the President of Cote d'Ivoire, the Prime Minister of Italy, and the UN

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Secretary-General.

### MEETING OF THE UNSC AND AUPSC

During this Presidency of the UNSC South Africa has also initiated the holding, on 17 April 2008, of a second joint meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the UN Security Council. This meeting follows an agreement held in Addis Ababa during June 2007 that the two Councils should meet at least once a year in Addis Ababa and New York. South Africa attaches great importance to the building of synergies between the two Councils especially because their agendas, to a large degree, address similar concerns and both pursue broadly the aim of bringing peace and stability. The meeting of the two Councils will allow them to discuss ways of enhancing these synergies. It is expected that the meeting will also focus, amongst others, on developments in the Sudan, DRC, Somalia and Cote d'Ivoire. It is expected that the outcome of the meeting of the two Councils will be a Joint Communiqué through which they will expressed satisfaction at ongoing efforts to strengthen their relationship. Furthermore they are likely to undertake to assess regularly developments in the African Continent, support African regional and sub-regional capacities for early warning as well as African Union capacities for mediation.

### PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI TO ATTEND SADC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POVERTY & DEVELOPMENT, MAURITIUS, 20 APRIL 2008

South African President Thabo Mbeki, supported by the Deputy Minister of Social development, Jean Swanson-Jacobs, will on Sunday 20 April 2008 attend the SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development that will be held under the theme, "Regional Economic Integration: A Strategy for Poverty Eradication Towards Sustainable Development," in Pailles, Mauritius. Coming against the background of the global food crisis, President Thabo Mbeki will join fellow Heads of State and Governments in reviewing poverty and devel-

*Zimbabwe have significant mineral-resource based manufacturing industries also. But vertical integration in the different structures of production are lacking*

opment in SADC and ways in which to address this with a view to achieving the African Developmental Agenda. To enhance the deliberations, President Mbeki will chair a panel discussion on "Tackling The Skills, Innovation And Technological Gaps Required For Economic Growth And Poverty Reduction In The SADC Region." SADC is made up of fourteen Member States undergoing different stages of development but predominately underdeveloped economies. As a result, social and economic growth and development across the region is heterogeneous with some countries are well endowed with natural resources and generating considerable levels of wealth and others with relatively low levels of natural resources. Economic performance also varies across the different countries reflecting both the level of resources available to the countries, quality of governance and management of macroeconomic policies and environment. The structure of production of SADC countries is characteristic of a developing region where large shares of GDP originate in primary sectors of production viz. agriculture and mining industry, whose total contribution is, on average over 50% of total GDP. Statistics on SADC show that only Mauritius and South Africa have sizeable manufacturing sectors, at 23% and 24% of GDP respectively. The formerly sizeable manufacturing sectors of Zambia and Zimbabwe were not sustained due to several factors, including the influx of cheaper foreign goods, higher input costs and shortages of foreign exchange for importing inputs. Both countries have gradually become more reliant on services than before. The rest of the Member States have relatively small manufacturing sectors. They depend on services, agriculture or mining. In addition to having



*President Thabo Mbeki with the former chairperson of the African Union Professor Alpha Oumar Konare at the UNSC Summit*

a small manufacturing sector, SADC economies do not produce a diversified range of manufactured products. They produce a similar range of products such as foodstuffs, beverages, tobacco, textiles, clothing and footwear, which are agricultural-resource based. South Africa and Zimbabwe have significant mineral-resource based manufacturing industries also. But vertical integration in the different structures of production are lacking. There are many shared factors that exacerbate poverty within the region. These include disease, the movement of people, the status of women, access to resources such as land and credit facilities, policy shortcomings and the movement of people across porous borders. The Summit will examine these issues in more detail. Gender and HIV and AIDS have been identified as cross-cutting sectors that affect every facet of life in the region. HIV and AIDS is examined separately because it is a significant contributor to poverty in the region, but simultaneously one need to take account of the gender inequalities in SADC member states. Gender should be an overarching framework through which poverty reduction strategies are evaluated. Without gender equality, SADC poverty strategies will not succeed sufficiently to improve the lives of women, men, boys and girls.

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Gender should be mainstreamed in all government policies that address social, political and economic needs within the region and at national levels.

## THE VISIT OF MINISTER DLAMINI ZUMA AND DEPUTY MINISTER AZIZ PAHAD TO CHINA

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and I will be paying an official visit to the People's Republic of China from , Friday 18 April-27 April 2008.

Minister Dlamini Zuma was in New York as part of President Thabo Mbeki's delegation to the UN Security Council Summit to debate the relationship between the UNSC and regional organisations and the AU in particular in maintenance of global peace and security. The visit to China comes within the context of the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of Diplomatic relations between South Africa and the People's Republic of China. In this regard, Minister Dlamini Zuma will firstly hold annual consultations with South Africa's Ambassadors and High Commission based in the Asia and Middle East region in Beijing to brief them about national, regional and international developments. Secondly Minister Dlamini Zuma will hold bilateral discussions with her Chinese counterpart, she will furthermore address the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and officially open the new South African Consulate-General in Hong Kong led by our Consul-General Thembi Tambo. South Africa will also be participating in the Shanghai Expo. President Thabo Mbeki in 2006 said: "Our strategic partnership should strive for a fair and equitable global trading system that is characterised by transparency, good corporate governance, predictability and poverty alleviation and eradication. As we redefine our relationship and seek trade and investment opportunities of mutual benefit, we must adopt a dynamic approach to our strategic partnership so that we all win in Africa, with Africa and similarly win in China, with China. A winning partnership is surely one in which we encourage sustainable trade and investment while promoting a bet-

ter life for all within sustainable human settlements. Peace and friendship will surely flourish when we empower and uplift the poorest of the poor from hunger and unemployment, disease, homelessness, illiteracy and environmental degradation" concluded President Mbeki.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1998, trade between China and South Africa has grown significantly, with China becoming South Africa's 2nd largest import trading partner in 2005, comprising 9% of total imports and 8th largest export partner, comprising 3% of total exports from South Africa. In fact both imports and exports grew 30% in 2005 compared to 2004. China still enjoys a massive trade surplus with SA - in 2005 imports from China totalled R 31,476 million, while exports came to R 8,763 million. China represents an enormous opportunity for South Africa and Africa, but at the same time poses certain challenges. The sheer size of the Chinese market, its untapped potential, its population size, its explosive growth, its membership of the UN Security Council and its emergence as a major global power all present opportunities. China is also a key player in the expansion of South-South cooperation as we seek to maximize the opportunities presented by globalisation and reduce the negative effects. China can be a key ally in the fight to reform the international political, financial and trade architecture (in the UN, IMF, and WTO).

## CHINA – AFRICA RELATIONS

On the other hand, China-Africa trade has tripled in just five years. Beyond commercial ties, Beijing has cultivated "soft power" in African capitals by training over 6000 African civil servants and are sending over 15 000 Chinese doctors to 34 African countries. There are approximately 800 firms that are operating in 49 African countries. China has traditionally played a role in Africa of supporting liberation movements. They have also supported African efforts to safeguard peace and stability by sending peacekeepers to Africa in the past, e.g. Liberia and the DRC. They have reduced the debt owed to China by African LDCs by

\$1.27 billion. They have set up an African Human Resources Development Fund, sponsored vocational courses for African trainees and contributed to the African Capacity Building Foundation. China's accelerated engagement with Africa over the past few years has culminated in the adoption of "China's African Policy" in January 2006.

## FOCAC, NAASP AND NEPAD

In the course of developing the FOCAC, China has expressed support for the AU's socio-economic development programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). There is definite scope for using FOCAC to support the priority sectors identified under NEPAD and for cooperation on concrete, identified projects that promote our regional integration agenda. As far back as November 2002 in Addis Ababa, there has been a recognition and acceptance of the importance of harmonizing, synchronizing and aligning FOCAC and NEPAD. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the NEPAD Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Chinese Follow-Up Committee of FOCAC in July 2006. China has also contributed US\$500 000 to the NEPAD Secretariat for use in certain projects. An interesting point to note is that China's support for NEPAD has also been reflected in the Joint Statement of the 9th EU-China Summit held in Helsinki on 9 September 2006. The Statement includes the following - "The leaders agreed to pursue a structured dialogue on Africa and explore avenues for practical cooperation on the ground in partnership with the African side, including with the support of NEPAD initiatives and with the aim of attaining the MDGs. The leaders welcome China's structured cooperation with Africa through the FOCAC". In the context of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) launched in Jakarta, Indonesia in April 2005. In this context, the NAASP Declaration adopted by our Heads of State and Government at the Asia Africa Summit specifically aligned the China-Africa Cooperation Forum to the NAASP and acknowledged NEPAD as the framework for engagement with Africa ■



# THE REGIONAL HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE: EUROPE AND AFRICA, VIENNA, AUSTRIA



Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Director-General Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba with the DFA Ambassadors and High Commissioners, from Africa and Europe, and other DFA officials attending the conference

**T**HE REGIONAL HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE for Europe and Africa took place in Vienna, Austria, from 11 to 13 April 2008. This event brought together approximately 70 South African Heads of Mission from these two important continents, as well as Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Director-General Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba, the DDGs and the respective Chief Directors from Head Office. The Conference venue was the Palais Niederoesterreich

which, with its frescos, gold and marble interior served as a constant reminder of the splendour of Vienna as the cultural capital of Europe. The official dinner took place on the boat, the MS Vindobona and included a relaxing cruise on the Danube which allowed delegates to view the city lights of Vienna from a different angle. The Heads of Mission Conference venue enabled the Embassy to not only ensure a conducive environment for the deliberations, but also to showcase the Austrian capital's

beauty. The Minister also had the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on her Austrian counterpart, Minister Ursula Plassnik, where a wide range of political issues were discussed. The format of the meeting was a "one-on-one" between the two ministers with a parallel meeting between the two delegations and was concluded with a working lunch where the two principals and their delegations elaborated on international developments. It was the general feeling that it was a successful conference in all aspects ■



1. Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma greeting her Austrian counterpart Minister Dr Ursula Plassnik. 2. Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with Dr Walter Sauer, Head of SADOCC (former anti-apartheid movement) and Ambassador Leslie Gumbi. 3. Plenary meeting held at Palais Niederoesterreich. 4. Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma pictured with all the female ambassadors. 5. Delegates pictured during the conference

# FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATIONS

**S**OUTH AFRICA CELEBRATED FREEDOM DAY ON 27 APRIL, and complimenting celebrations at home, our missions also had their share of celebrations. Here are some inputs received from some missions and photographs from others.

## BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG

The South African Embassy celebrated Freedom Day by hosting receptions in Brussels and Luxembourg respectively on the 25th and 28th of April 2008. The two events celebrating 14 years of freedom and democracy in South Africa were well attended by Ambassadors, officials of the European Commission, ACP, Belgium, Flanders and Luxembourg, members of the Diplomatic Corps, friends of South Africa as well as South African nationals residing and working in Belgium and Luxembourg. The programme at both events started with the singing of the National Anthem followed by a speech from Ambassador Anil Sooklal. In his speech the Ambassador touched on the strong and cordial relations South Africa shares with Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union. He mentioned that as we continue to take our relations forward we do so with renewed vigour and a deep sense of understanding of the consequences of our endeavours. He reminded everybody to heed the words of President Mbeki in his state of the nation address to the Joint sitting of Parliament, where he spoke of the concept of Business Unusual as a new way of making sure we deliver on the commitment we made to our people to give them a better life. The event also saw the launch of the Embassy's Annual Report entitled 'The MOGOBAGOBA Dialogue'. The joyous occasion was also utilised to announce the celebration of the 90th birthday of one of the freedom fighters and founding fathers of a free and democratic South Africa, Dr. Nelson Mandela. The ambience



*Jamaica: High Commissioner Radebe delivering the Freedom Day message (left), Guests browsing through South African promotional material distributed at the reception (right)*



*Riyadh: Ambassador John Davies enjoying the ceremonial cake with the Assistant Deputy Governor of Riyadh (left), Ambassador with local representatives of Dimension Data (top right), South African expatriates (bottom right)*

created by South African music, exhibits, decorations and soft lighting in the venue gave guests an opportunity to network and enjoy South African cuisine consisting of crocodile and ostrich meat as well as South African fine wine. The event concluded with guests dancing the night away: South African style.

## RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA)

The South African Embassy in Riyadh celebrated National Day on Sunday, 27 April 2008 in the gardens of the Residence. The Embassy also commemorated the 14th anniversary of the SA National Defence Force. The guests of honour were the Assistant Deputy Governor of Riyadh, HE Dr Nasser Al-Dawood, and Jana a 6-month old white lioness. The function was attended by about 350 dignitaries from the diplomatic corps, the

Saudi government, business people and South African expatriates. SA fare such as chakalaka, boerewors and mieliepap was served.

## MOZAMBIQUE

The South Africa High Commission, Maputo, held its annual Freedom Day celebrations on 24 April 2008 at the Kaya Kwanga resort. The formal dinner was attended by the Mozambican Minister of Women and Social Affairs Co-ordination, Mrs Virgilia Matabele, along with various Mozambican Government officials. Numerous members of the Diplomatic Corps, friends and partners of the High Commission and representatives from the South African and Mozambican business communities, interacted and had a truly remarkable evening. High Commissioner Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe, during her official message, highlighted the

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important challenges that face us today. She emphasised how President Mbeki has stressed the need for "Business Unusual" as a means to reach our objectives. South Africans, and indeed the entire African continent, will have to make every effort to address our common challenges and keep alive the dreams that have sustained all of us. In this regard the High Commissioner reaffirmed that South Africa and Mozambique forms a strong partnership in our strife for a better Africa and a better world. Throughout the event guests enjoyed the wonderful performances by the musician Phinda, and Matsamo, the well known and internationally acclaimed cultural group from Mpumalanga.

## JAMAICA

"Freedom Day was celebrated on 24 April 2008 at a local hotel (The Jamaica Pegasus). The day was celebrated in the form of a reception to which members of the diplomatic corps, Government Ministers and officials, businesspeople, the media, academics as well as the general mission's contacts were invited.

The celebration also marked the launch of a mobile Exhibition on South Africa under the theme "Building Bridges...Forging Friendships". The Exhibition is a joint project by the High Commission, the Jamaica-South Africa Friendship Association (JASAFSA) and the Jamaica Library Services. The target audience for the exhibition is the youth while even adults may learn a thing or two about South Africa. With the assistance of the Jamaica Library Services, the Exhibition will be moved around all the fourteen parish libraries, thus covering as wide a readership as possible on the entire island. The exhibition will run for six months" ■



*Maputo: High Commissioner Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe delivering her official message (left), The High Commissioner with various Mozambican Government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, friends and partners of the High Commission and representatives from the South African and Mozambican business communities having dinner (bottom)*



*Belgium: Ambassador Anil Sooklal welcoming guests (top left), L-R- Mr. I Basson, Minister Plenipotentiary, Colonel Hadebe, Defence Attache, Dr. Singh-Sooklal, wife to the Ambassador and Ambassador Sooklal (top right), Guests dancing (centre), Ms. Lesedi (Administration) Ms. Mpho Boshego (2nd Secretary) and Ms. Mantsaye Ngwaila (2nd Secretary) had a fabulous time at the event (bottom)*

# Where were you...?

