

the dirco 

INTEGRITY

PATRIOTISM

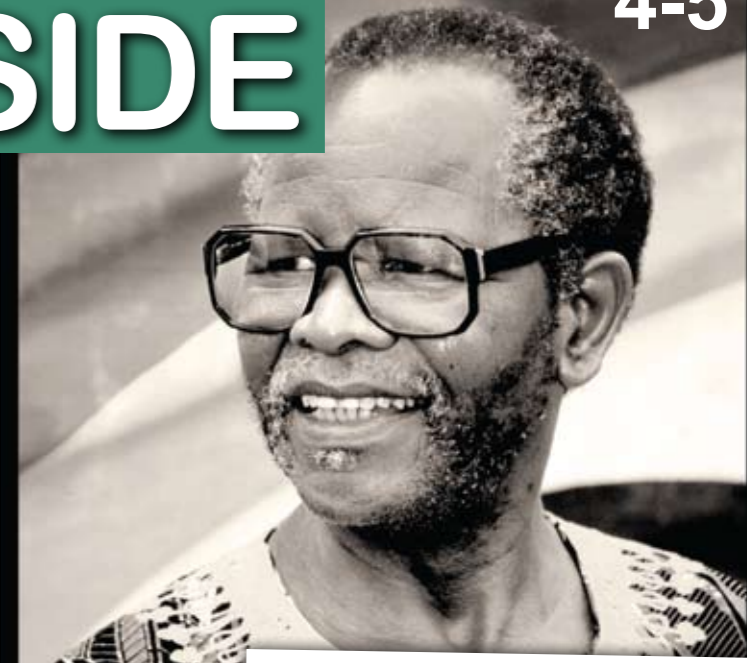
HUMILITY

PASSION



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

INSIDE



Editor's note

The year 2010 was a year full of memorable and fruitful events in South Africa's international arena which amongst others included South Africa's efforts in helping to rebuild Haiti after the devastating earthquake, the hosting of the FIFA 2010 World Cup for the first time on the African continent; President Jacob Zuma's state visits to Brazil, India, Russian Federation and China (BRIC) United Kingdom, Uganda and Lesotho. We concluded the year on a high note as South Africa with our country resuming its two-year term (2011-12) in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member.

In this edition, we bring you the following: President Jacob Zuma's state visit to Cuba, Launch of the OR Tambo Campaign by Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Africa-EU Summit, official opening of the SADC Headquarters in Botswana, Africa Regional Heads of Missions Conference in Nairobi and many more.

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of *the diplomat* or the editors.

The deadline for the next diplomat contributions is 14 January 2011. Contributions may be sent to thediplomat@dirco.gov.za

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- 18-21 Paris, Singapore, Manila and Montevideo



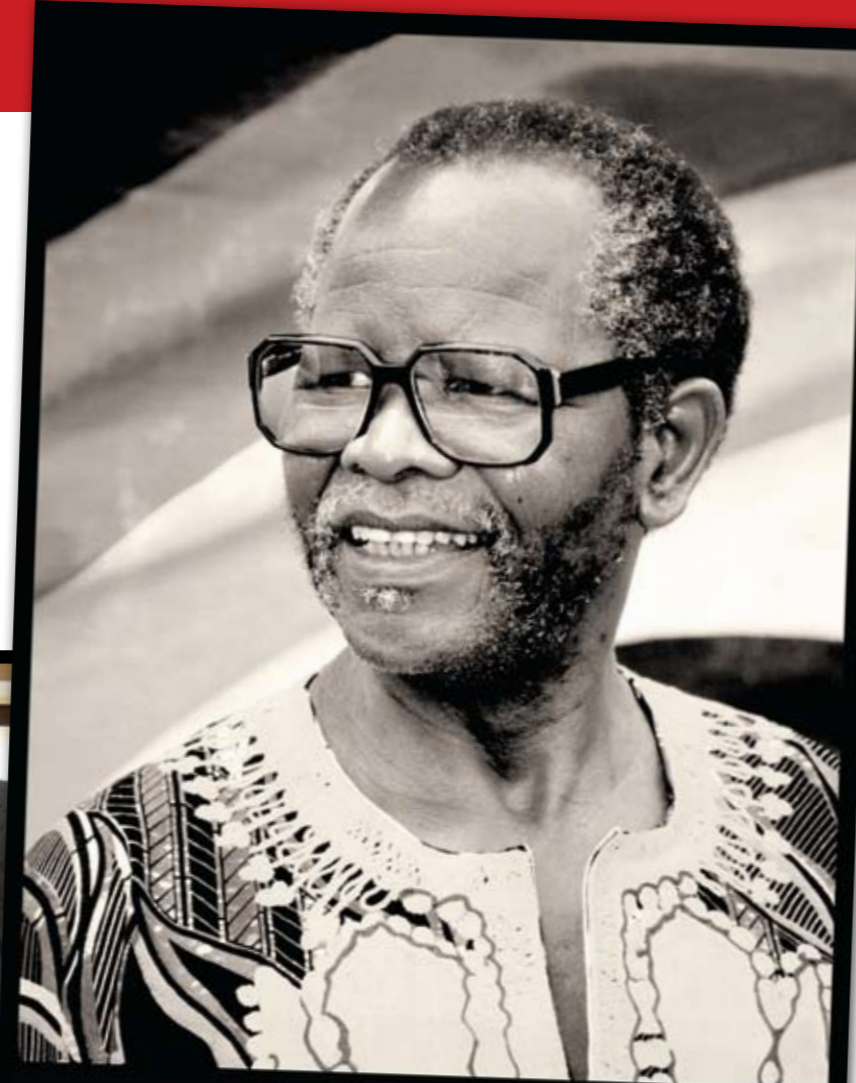
LAUNCH OF THE "I AM A DIPLOMAT CAMPAIGN"

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane launched the "I am a diplomat" campaign which honoured the legacy of the Honourable OR Tambo on 03 December 2010 at the DIRCO Headquarters.



By Siphokazi Mgudlwa
Pictures: Rupert de Beer

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with the members of the Executive Management Committee (EMC)



" We will have a South Africa which will live in peace with its neighbours and with the rest of the world. It will base its foreign relations on mutually advantageous assistance among the peoples of the world..."

Oliver Reginald Tambo, UN General Assembly, 26 October 1976



Left: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane addressing the DIRCO officials during the launch of the "I am a diplomat campaign"

Right: Director General, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba and the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Asogan Moodley listening to the Minister's address



Above: DDGs Mxolisi Nkosi and George Nene listening to the Minister's speech.

Below: The DIRCO officials listening attentively to the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane during the launch of the "I am a diplomat" campaign on 03 December 2010



The launch of the "I am a diplomat campaign" seeks to engage all staff at DIRCO in a brand employee campaign in honour of the contributions that Honourable OR Tambo made to the fight for freedom and placing South Africa as a valued actor in the global community of nations.

It is through this campaign that we pay tribute to the sterling and selfless work that Honourable OR Tambo did for this country.

"I AM A DIPLOMAT" CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES ARE:

- To, first: create awareness of OR Tambo the man and why we earned the rare honour of having our building named after him;
- Encourage all DIRCO employees to embrace the work ethics of OR, amongst which were being humble, passionate in his work, selflessness and being meticulous to details;

To bring home the message that all employees of DIRCO are diplomats, who should be ambassadors of the values and principles we hold dear – the values of integrity, patriotism, passion and humility.

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane emphasised integrity, patriotism, passion and humility as four values that she wants all the DIRCO officials to always remember.

• **Integrity** speaks to our morality and the quality of our wholeness as individual beings. It calls on demonstrate morals of honesty and truthfulness when we undertake the various assignments of our work.

• **Patriotism** calls on each one of us to be devoted and dedicated to the success of our country and be ready to do everything humanly possible to defend it. As caretakers of all these good things that our liberation has brought us, we need to jealously guard against all the gains of our revolution - in order to deliver them to our children and grand-children.

• **Passion**, this can only be demonstrated by the love, enthusiasm and intense desire that we demonstrate in our work. When you are passionate about your work, it will show.

• **Humility** demands of us to be humble and possess the ability to acknowledge our own failings and limitations – for one can only grow into a better person when she or he acknowledges their own shortcomings and

works on them. What does it cost us to be humble?

The launch coincided with the Minister's year end speech. The Dirco headquarters was named after the late OR Tambo in recognition of his impressive work in diplomacy.

" It is through this campaign that we pay tribute to the sterling and selfless work that Honourable OR Tambo did for this country. It is important to note that the fountain from which we draw and drink our diplomacy was founded by this extra-ordinary South African", said Minister Nkoana-Mashabane during the launch of the campaign.

The launch of this campaign is a celebration of the achievements of DIRCO in carrying out its mandate. "It is a celebration of our hard work, our dedication and our successes. A lot is expected of South Africa on this continent and all over the world. DIRCO has been successful in rising up to this challenge.

When we began this journey in 1994, our country was isolated, living in the shadows of the international community. However, today we are a full and active member of



President Jacob Zuma accompanied by Minister Pravin Gordhan and Ambassador George Nene attended the G20 Seoul Business Summit in the Republic of Korea

Leaders of the world's major developed and developing economies left the G20 Summit venue in southern Seoul, South Korea, with a joint communique featuring compromises on contentious issues. The two-day Seoul Summit was held amid tensions among G20 countries over several issues, including trade imbalances and currency policies. There had even been talks of a so-called currency war. It was further complicated by the United States Federal Reserve's move, called "quantitative easing", to inject US\$600 billion into the US economy to spur growth.

The move had caused uproar among G20 countries such as Germany, South Africa, China and Brazil. Attending the Seoul Summit were leaders from the G20 member countries, the European Union, the IMF, the World Bank, the UN, the World Trade Organisation, the OECD, the African Union, and the International Labour Organisation, as well as from five non-G20 countries - Ethiopia, Malawi, Singapore, Spain and Vietnam.



Above right: South African President Jacob Zuma and his spouse Ms Bongekile Ngema arrive at the Incheon International Airport in the Republic of Korea

Right: President Jacob Zuma greeting India Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh

G20 Summit in Seoul



President Jacob Zuma addressing the Republic of Korea National Assembly on UN MDGs



President Jacob Zuma and his spouse Ms Bongekile Ngema walking past the flags of participating countries

According to the communiqué issued at the end of the summit, the G20 members said they would move toward more market-determined exchange rate systems and enhance exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying economic fundamentals and refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies. Over the trade imbalances, the G20 members said they would enhance cooperation to reduce trade imbalances and maintain imbalances at a sustainable level. They would also develop indicative guidelines composed of a range of indicators, which will serve as a mechanism to facilitate identification of large imbalances that required preventive and corrective actions. At the same time, the G20 members said they would refrain from introducing, and oppose protectionist trade actions in all forms, and recognise the importance of a prompt conclusion of the Doha negotiations. Prior to the Seoul Summit, the US had pressed the G20 to address the trade imbalances by setting limits on trade surpluses and deficits at about 4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. The US demand was refused by

several G20 members, including Germany. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that it was necessary to reduce excessive trade imbalances, but it was unnecessary to set a numerical target for them. As to concerns among emerging economies over the flooding of liquidity following US monetary easing, the G20 said current volatility of capital flows was reflecting the differing speed of recovery between advanced and emerging markets. The communiqué further said that national, regional and multilateral responses are required and better global financial safety nets can help.

Source: BuaNews

President Jacob Zuma and his spouse Ms Bongekile Ngema are welcomed officially by Republic of Korea President Lee Myung-bak and his wife Mrs Kim Yoon-ok to a dinner function held at the National Museum



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Mr. Jean Ping of Gabon Chairman of the Commission of the African Union addressing the media

AFRICA-EU SUMMIT

President Jacob Zuma and a high-level South African delegation participated in the 3rd Africa-European summit in Tripoli, Libya. Issues discussed included intra-African trade, peace and security, governance and human rights, as well as climate change.



President Jacob Zuma coming out of the 3rd Africa-European Summit to break for lunch. In the background is the flags of all the countries participating at the summit

Attending Heads of State and Government also considered the progress made in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the Action Plan and the Lisbon Declaration, which were adopted at the 2007 Lisbon summit. South Africa further defined priorities for their continued cooperation in the years to come and these were outlined in the Second Action Plan, which was adopted during the summit. President Zuma's participation in the 3rd Summit was indicative of the high regard South Africa places in fostering relations with the countries



President Jacob Zuma standing outside the venue of the Africa-EU summit. With him is Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Ambassador Mohamed Dangor, South African Ambassador based in Tripoli, Libya



President Jacob G. Zuma and Delegation arrives in Tripoli, Libya to participate in the 3rd Africa-EU Summit



Above left: President Jacob Zuma received by Minister of International Relations and Cooperation South Africa, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Libya's Minister of Utilities Mr Matog Mohamed Matog (blue suit)



President Jacob Zuma departing Tripoli, Libya after concluding the 3rd Africa-EU Summit. Left to right: Minister of Culture Abdul Kabier Elfakhri, Minister Mokhtar Elganas and President Jacob Zuma

of the North; enhancing priorities of the people of South Africa and the continent as a whole. Guided by the South Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, our Republic's relations with the EU and its member states seeks to identify, build and reinforce mutually beneficial relations that assist in defeating the ills of poverty, while

supporting the global development agenda, particularly Africa's developmental priorities. Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Rob Davies accompanied the President, along with other senior government officials. □

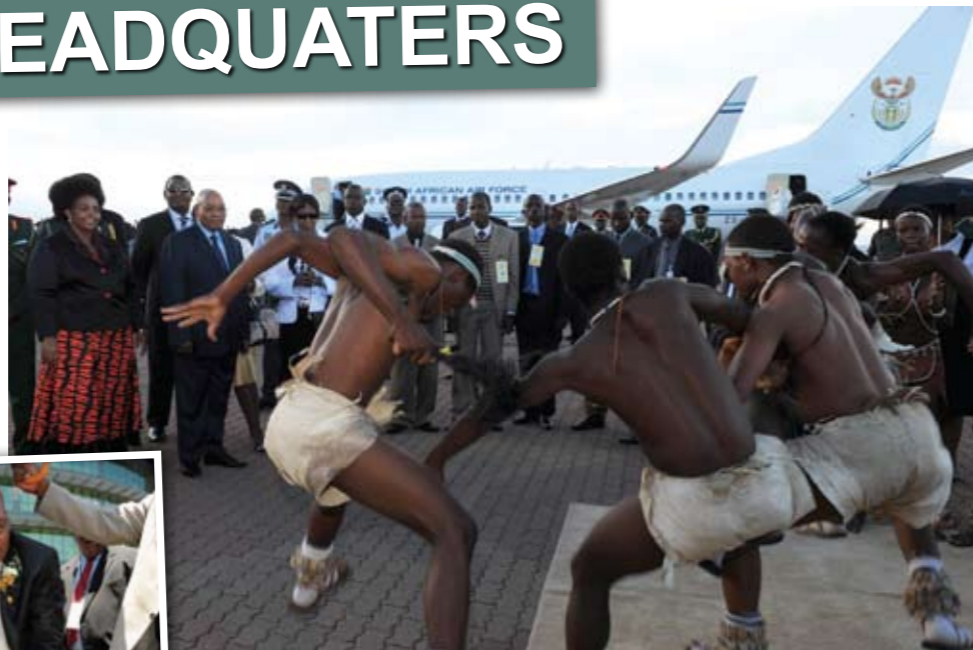
Source - BuaNews



President Jacob Zuma in an interview with SABC after the Africa-EU Summit held in Tripoli, Libya

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SADC HEADQUARTERS

Pictures: Jacoline Schoonees



Above: President Jacob Zuma arrives at Sir Seretse Khama International (SSKI) Airport, Botswana, Gaborone. He is received by Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Ms Lesego Matsumi (Botswana) and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane



Left: President Jacob Zuma planting a tree during the opening event of the new SADC building

President Jacob Zuma led a government delegation to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads-of-State and Government Summit held in Gaborone from 19-20 November 2010. South Africa's participation in the SADC Heads-of-State meeting came within the context of South Africa's commitment to consolidate the African Agenda through our commitment to strengthening and consolidating SADC as a sub-regional economic bloc and a vehicle for the attainment of sustainable regional political and economic intergration and development.

During the Summit, the SADC Headquarters in Gaborone were officially inaugurated by the Heads-of-State and Government as decided upon by the SADC Summit held in Namibia earlier in 2010.

Dignitaries converged at Plot 54385, home to the SADC Headquarters in the new Central Business District of Gaborone. Representatives of regional development partners and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), from both government and non-state actors, including business sector and nongovernmental organisation umbrella bodies had been invited to witness this historic event in the life of SADC.

The SADC Headquarters was constructed under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between SADC and Bongwe Investments



Left to right: SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomao, President Jacob Zuma and President Joseph Kabila (DRC)

(Pty) Ltd. The SADC Secretariat staff relocated into the building towards the end of 2009. The Summit agreed on the developmental agenda of the continent, as well as looking at strengthening the various SADC efforts that seek to entrench the consolidation of democracy within the region. President Zuma was supported by the Minister of International

Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, and other Senior Government officials. ■

Below left: President Jacob Zuma arrives at Sir Seretse Khama International (SSKI) Airport, Botswana, Gaborone. He is received by Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Ms Lesego Matsumi (Botswana) and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane



President Jacob Zuma during the official opening of the SADC building



Below right: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane arrives at Gaborone Airport, Botswana ahead of the SADC meeting and opening of the new building for SADC



International Relations the diplomat

President Jacob Zuma accompanied by his spouse Ms Thobeka Zuma arrives in Cancun, United States of Mexico to attend the COP 16 Summit



President Zuma addressing the COP 16 Plenary chaired by Mexican President Felipe Calderon

SA SETS TARGETS FOR 2011 CLIMATE TALKS

With the recent United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference in Mexico not having addressed a number of key issues, months of hard work lie ahead for South Africa - the host of the 2011 conference. Outlining the outcomes of the recent climate change conference in Cancun, Mexico, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa said despite an agreement being reached on certain issues, the conference was unable to answer many "difficult political questions."

These have now been forwarded to the next UN Climate Change Conference, which will be held in Durban in December 2011. South Africa is the incoming president of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). "South Africa has an immense amount of work to do in order to move forward from Cancun to Durban. Our challenge is to address the unresolved issues while at the same time ensuring that the agreements made in Cancun are further developed and elaborated," she said. In January 2011, government will launch a comprehensive consultation programme that will include all stakeholders and develop a shared vision for the Durban conference, Minister Molewa added.

At the talks in Mexico, South Africa, along with developing countries in Africa, called for a two-track legally binding outcome with regards to the Kyoto Protocol. The UNFCCC is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, under which industrialised countries committed themselves to a reduction of greenhouse gases. The Protocol expires in 2012. The minister explained that the first track called



President Jacob Zuma started his working visit to Mexico by holding several bilateral relations with his counterparts from various countries

for developed countries, who had joined the Protocol, to agree to a second commitment period under the Protocol. The second track, called for developed countries that did not join the Protocol to "take comparable commitments under the Convention with the collective effort of all developed countries adding up to a level of ambition required by science (a 25-40% aggregate reduction from 1990 levels by 2020)". Under this track, developing countries were also expected to contribute to the global solution to the climate crisis. "While some progress was achieved in relation to how the developed country mitigation targets are reflected, in Cancun there was no agreement on a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol," she said.

Further negotiations on this matter would be forwarded for decision to the Durban conference. Despite this, Minister Molewa said the adoption of the Cancun Agreements was an extraordinary achievement, which preserved the possibility for a two-track legally binding outcome.

Elements of the Cancun Agreements include:

- Industrialised countries are to develop low-carbon development plans and strategies;
- Parties meeting under the Protocol agreed



President Zuma addressing the COP 16 Plenary chaired by Mexican President Felipe Calderon



President Jacob Zuma holds bilateral discussions with Mexican Calderon ahead of the COP 16 held in Cancun

to continue negotiations with aim of completing their work and ensuring there was no gap between the first and second commitment periods;

- Parties launched initiatives and institutions to protect the vulnerable from climate change;
- A total of \$30 billion in fast start finance will come from industrialised countries to support climate action in the developing world; and,
- Governments agreed to boost action to curb emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries with technological and financial support.

Source- BuaNews ■



President Jacob Zuma started his working visit to Mexico by holding several bilateral relations with his counterparts from various countries

GOVERNMENT RECOMMITS TO WORKING WITH CHINA



Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim and Ambassador Sisa Ngombane receiving H.E. Mr Xi Jinping, Vice President of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of South Africa



A toast by Deputy President Motlanthe during the official dinner, Tuynhuys



Main picture: Minister in the Presidency Mr Collins Chabane, Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping and Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ebrahim Ebrahim at the Opening Ceremony of the Seminar Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria



Minister in the Presidency Mr Collins Chabane, Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping and Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ebrahim Ebrahim at the Opening Ceremony of the Seminar Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria

Pictures courtesy of GCS

Government has reiterated its commitment to working together with the People's Republic of China to increase the volumes of trade and narrow the trade imbalance, which is currently in favour of China. Extending a warm welcome to Chinese Vice President, Xi Jinping and members of his delegation, South African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe said relations between South Africa and China had been growing stronger and stronger since 1998, when the two countries formally established diplomatic ties. "The strength of this relationship is demonstrated by frequent exchange between our people as well as high volumes of trade and investment between South Africa and China," Deputy President Motlanthe said.

South African ministers, officials and a delegation from China held a meeting to discuss how the two countries could exploit new opportunities in the areas of value added manufacturing, technology, energy and information, and communication technology. Deputy President Motlanthe said both countries are in agreement that this was a long term commitment to co-operation between their people. He also expressed South Africa's satisfaction with the progress that has already been achieved since the first meeting of the Bi-

National Commission (BNC) in China in 2001. Deputy President Motlanthe also congratulated China on the successful hosting of the Shanghai 2010 World Expo and expressed appreciation for the assistance given to the South African Pavilion. "We participated at the Expo knowing full well that its fruits will be harvested in the long term. We are confident that the 4.5 million visitors to our pavilion, together with millions others who watched the spectacular 2010 FIFA World Cup will remain friends of South Africa and translate into a viable market," said Deputy President Motlanthe.

He further noted that China's involvement through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Africa's economic development was growing rapidly and trade was now over US\$ 100 billion. "In this connection, we also look forward to a sustained friendship at multilateral level in pursuit of a more peaceful, equitable and prosperous global community," he said. He also restated that South Africa's deepening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with China will definitely accelerate the two countries common journey towards a better life for its people. The BNC followed in the wake of the successful State Visit undertaken by President Zuma to the People's Republic of China, during which the

Beijing Declaration on the Establishment of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between our two nations was signed.

The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership takes relations between South Africa and China to a higher and special level focusing on sustained economic growth, human resources development and co-operation on multilateral issues. A number of agreements which will propel further South Africa's economic relations were signed. China is already South Africa's largest trading partner and a growing investor in our country.

THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED INCLUDE

- A letter of intent between the Department of Energy of the Republic of South Africa and the Chinese National Energy Administration.
- Terms of Reference on establishing a Joint Working Group on Trade Statistics Analysis between the Department of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Commerce of the People Republic of China.
- Cooperation in the Energy Sector
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the South African Reserve Bank and the China Banking Regulatory Commission. Source: Buaneys

President Jacob Zuma received the highest honour Cuba bestows on a foreign Head of State in honour of his struggles and activities carried out in liberating the people of South Africa. The award, bearing the name of Cuba's national hero Jose Marti, was presented to him by Cuban President Raul Castro Ruz. "I am humbled to accept this award on behalf of the people of South Africa whose ties to Cuba remain unbreakable, because they were forged in the long and bitter struggle against apartheid," President Zuma said in his acceptance speech. Mr. Jose Marti devoted his entire life to ending colonial rule in Cuba and preventing it from falling under the control of any country whose political ideologies were inimical to the principles he held.



President Jacob Zuma is officially welcomed to Cuba by Army General Rau'l Castro Ruz, President of the councils of State and ministers of the Republic of Cuba

President Zuma said Mr. Marti's life and writing inspired the African National Congress. This took place during the recent state visit to Cuba from 6 - 7 December 2010. The state visit was within the context of strengthening South-South relations and exploring possible new areas of cooperation between the two countries. Formal diplomatic relations were established in 1994 with Cuba. The 8th South Africa-Cuba Joint Consultative Mechanism was held in South Africa in July 2010 and the next will be hosted by Cuba in 2011.

The Joint Bilateral Commission was established in 2001 and is one of the most significant agreements signed to date which provides the countries with a constructive forum through which bilateral cooperation can be conducted and enhanced.

Through its bilateral relations with Cuba, South Africa has benefited significantly in the area of health, where Cuba seconded medical doctors to South Africa's rural hospitals and trains South African medical doctors in Cuba. Other areas of benefit include cultural and academic exchange programmes, technology transfer and capacity building in the areas of energy generation. Although bilateral trade remains low, there has been a steady increase in trade over the past few years.



President Jacob Zuma accompanied by his spouse Ms Thobeka Zuma are welcomed by Mr Marcos Rodrigues Costa, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs at Jose Marti International Airport, Havana Cuba. President Zuma is on a state visit to Cuba to strengthen bilateral relations. He addressed media on his arrival

PRESIDENT HONoured DURING HIS STATE VISIT TO CUBA

The two countries are working at a strategy to address the trade gaps. South Africa and Cuba, as members of the developing world, are committed to advancing the Agenda of the South on the global stage.



President Jacob Zuma laid a wreath at the Pantheon of Cuban Internationals who died in Africa

As a long-time friend and supporter of anti-colonial liberation struggles in Africa, Cuba shares with South Africa an interest in the African Union (AU) and African initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). South Africa and Cuba are active members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and G77 plus China. Both countries view NAM as a vehicle that developing member countries could use to establish critical consensus around fundamental issues such as poverty alleviation, debt reduction and sustainable development.

Both countries have similar approaches to the various issues collectively embodied in the South Agenda, which include increased cooperation between countries of the South and a redefinition of relations between North and South. They are committed to the reform of institutions of global governance, including the comprehensive reform of the United Nations (UN) which includes the expansion of the UN Security Council, to better represent the interest of developing countries. Cuba supported South Africa's bid for the membership (on non-permanent basis) of the UN Security Council for the period 2011 - 2012. During the visit Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies announced the cancellation of a R1 billion debt owed by Cuba to South Africa, as part of a new trade agreement signed between the two countries.

This will come as a relief with Cuba considering the negative effects the loan was having on its ability to get credit in South Africa.

Apart from cancelling the debt, South Africa has also offered Cuba credit lines package guarantees to the value of R70 million rand and a further R40 million rand to support Cuba with seeds and fertilizers following the devastating 2008 hurricane which destroyed agriculture. About R100 million from the African Renaissance Fund will be made available for purchases from South Africa. It is envisaged that this package will help to boost trade and investments between the two countries which had stagnated.



President Jacob Zuma laid a wreath at the Pantheon of Cuban Internationals who died in Africa

Pictures courtesy of GCS

Photo opportunity between Minister, Excellencies, DIRCO Senior Managers and Charge D'affaires



Above left: Mr Anthony Miyeni, Director-West Africa II, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Mr Andrew Maswanganye, Director-West Africa



Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba and Ambassador Makina, Chief Director, North Africa

AFRICA REGIONAL HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

The Africa Regional Heads of Mission Conference was held from 21-23 October 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya. It was the first time that this kind of conference was held on Africa soil. It was hosted by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and attended by the Department's senior managers, all Heads of Mission (HOM) and Charge d'Affaires accredited to the African continent. Newly appointed High Commissioner to Kenya, Ndumiso Ntshinga, welcomed all Heads of Mission to Nairobi.



Left: South African Ambassador to Ethiopia HE Pepani, South African Ambassador to Zimbabwe HE Makalima and SA High Commissioner to Nigeria HE K Mamabolo in discussions after HR presentation by Mr Tsengiwe Ganga

Dr. Ayanda Ntsaluba, the Director-General (DG) in his address reminded the conference about the financial crises which has a negative impact on the Department due to financial constraints. Despite this, he emphasised that the HOM must deliver notwithstanding the difficult conditions.

The recurring conference theme for deliberation as highlighted by the Director General and Deputy Director-General (DDG) Mr Mxolisi Nkosi were as follows:

- The implementation of South Africa's Foreign Policy, particularly the African Agenda;
- The South Africa's election to the UNSC, implications for South Africa's Foreign policy; Africa's integration process as articulated by the African Union (AU);
- Political development in Sudan, Somalia and the Great Lakes;
- Upcoming general election within the African continent;
- Updates on SADPA, Anchor states and the White Paper and,
- Capacity issues within the Department

particularly within the context of global financial crisis.

In his concluding remarks, the DG encouraged robust and fruitful interactions among the Heads of Mission, whilst highlighting the greater need for them to deliberate on the critical issues that impact on South Africa's advancement of her foreign policy objectives.

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane gave a keynote address by painting a picture of how African leaders can drive a people-centred

development agenda for the benefit of the citizens of Africa as the continent is now free of colonial domination. The Minister cited Patrice Lumumba's vision when he remarked that the independence of Democratic Republic of Congo, then Zaire, should be accompanied by economic development and that this vision should become a reality in Africa, wherein Africans will determine their destiny in a manner that will produce tangible economic developments.

The Minister stressed the importance of South Africa's re-election to the UNSC non-permanent seat as a clear sign of confidence by the international community. She emphasised that serious work lies ahead for South Africa because the election to the UNSC places a huge responsibility on the country as there will be expectations from the continent and elsewhere in the world. Thus South Africa will pursue a co-ordinated approach at the UNSC for the next two years between the AU and UN particularly when dealing with issues of peace and security in Africa.

The Minister went on to inform the Heads of Mission of the establishment of the proposed South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA) that will place South Africa at the core of International efforts in providing developmental assistance to countries that are in need, particularly those that are emerging from conflict.

The Minister briefed the meeting on the latest development regarding the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The SACU partners resolved to adopt a common position when engaging with the European Union (EU).

The Minister impressed upon the Heads of Mission that South African Missions abroad should capitalise on the legacy of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which has been successfully hosted. The event presented Missions with an opportunity to showcase the capacity and

opportunities that South Africa and Africa has to offer.

Invited guests made presentations on issues around Somalia, Sudan and the Great Lakes. Ambassador Oyugi, Head of Africa and AU section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya and Mr. Rashid Abdi, Sudan and Somali Specialist, presented on the Somali issues from the political and academic perspective, respectively. Whereas Mr. Ndung'u Wainaina, Executive Director: International Center For Policy and Conflict presented on the Great Lakes and lastly, Dr. Katumanga, Political Scientist, Senior lecturer in the Department of Political Science & Public Administration at the University of Nairobi presented on Sudan. High Commissioner Mamabolo and Ambassador Monaisa briefed the conference on the current situation in Nigeria and Madagascar, respectively. High Commissioner Mamabolo spoke about the preparations of the upcoming general elections in Nigeria and Ambassador Monaisa spoke about the ongoing efforts to return Madagascar to democracy.

In closing, the Minister began by thanking High Commissioner Ntshinga and his team

at the Mission for an excellent work they put in making sure that the Conference was a success. Furthermore, she thanked the experts (in their absence) for their informative and excellent presentations. She noted that the Conference had lived up to her expectations.

She highlighted that the continent will benefit a lot on the calibre of Heads of Mission South Africa has. She also noted that the discussions had demonstrated passion for work and the depth of knowledge in areas of deployment. Finally, the Minister re-iterated that 'working together we can do more' for a better Africa. □

Contributed by the mission in Nairobi



Left: South African High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. JNK Mamabolo and Deputy High Commissioner Ms T. Mgxwati



Right: Ms N. Mbele - Director, East Africa, DDG Mxolisi Nkosi and Mr Mahlatse Mminele, Director, Speech writing, and media research during a lunch break on the second day of HOM conference in Nairobi

SOUTH AFRICA'S FULL MEMBERSHIP OF BRICS



As of December 2010, South Africa is now a full member of the BRIC countries. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane was informed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Yang Jiechi in December that BRIC (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China) invites South Africa into BRICS (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) as a full member. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Yang Jiechi informed Minister Nkoana-Mashabane that China, in its capacity as the rotating Chairperson of the BRIC (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China) formation, based on agreement reached between the BRIC Member States, invites South Africa as a full member into BRICS. He further indicated that President Hu Jintao also issued a letter of invitation to President Jacob Zuma to attend the 3rd BRICS Leaders' Summit to be held in China in 2011.

Minister Yang conveyed that China believed that South Africa's accession would promote the development of BRICS and enhance cooperation among emerging market economies. On behalf of President Zuma and the South African Government, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane expressed South Africa's sincere appreciation for the invitation to join BRICS, as well as the invitation from President Hu to attend the Summit. The Minister emphasised that South Africa



Left: Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane addressing the media about South Africa's acceptance to be a full member of BRICS

was ready to step up communication and coordination with China and other BRICS Member States for mutually beneficial cooperation. "The rationale for South Africa's approach was in consideration of a matter of crucial importance to BRICS Member States, namely the role of emerging economies in advancing the restructuring of the global political, economic and financial architecture into one that is more equitable, balanced and rests on the important pillar of multilateralism," said Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

"Our approach to intensifying our relations with emerging powers and other countries of the South is, of course, through active and strong bilateral engagement. In addition, however, we also see the NAM and the G77 as important for South-South interaction, especially within the framework of the United Nations. "At another level, we see the formation of the IBSA and our membership of that body as a mechanism not only for enhancing our trilateral partnership with India and Brazil, but also as an important

pillar for strengthening the muscle of the South in global affairs. "We believe that the IBSA will get a better balance, and become even stronger, with South Africa now as a member of the BRICS. We remain convinced that South Africa's diversified foreign policy objectives and interests allow for both groupings (IBSA and BRICS) to co-exist. It is our belief that the mandates of BRICS and IBSA are highly complementary," concluded Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

South Africa and BRIC Member States already collaborated and will continue to collaborate closely in various international organisations and formations such as the United Nations, the G-20 and the IBSA Dialogue Forum. All BRICS countries will serve on the UNSC in 2011 as permanent (China, Russian Federation) or non-permanent members (Brazil, India and South Africa), which augurs positively for enhanced cooperation efforts in terms of the salient issues of common interest as quoted above. □

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to South Africa, His Excellency Mr MM Al-Ali, welcoming Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim as he arrives in Riyadh



Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim participated in the Gulf-Africa Investment Forum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim participated in a bilateral discussion with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) at the Gulf-Africa Investment Forum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Deputy Minister Ebrahim's official visit to the KSA occurred within the parameters of the Republic's national and foreign policy objectives particularly to ensure the encouragement of mutually beneficial political and economic relations, through fostering both bilateral and multilateral relationships.

The Republic of South Africa (RSA) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have maintained an established formal diplomatic relationship, which includes the identification and development of mutually beneficial political and economic relations since. Furthermore, the RSA and the KSA continues to pursue joint cooperation in diverse fields; most notably, in the fields of higher education, economics, trade and investment, technical cooperation, defence, and science and technology.

The 2010 Gulf-Africa Investment Forum convened under the theme: Fostering Economic Relations, and was hosted by the Gulf Research Centre and the Council of Saudi Chambers. The Forum focused exclusively on the economic relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Sub-Saharan Africa.

It also addressed issues pertaining to investment environment; bilateral trade and trade financing; agriculture; minerals and natural resources; telecommunication; and infrastructure. Deputy Minister Ebrahim



Minister of Education, Mr Patel takes a seat on the panel at the start of the Gulf-Africa Investment Forum

DEPUTY MINISTER'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA



addressed to the Gulf-Africa Investment Forum is entitled: "The Gulf and Africa - The Role of Regional Organisations".

Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel, also participated in the Gulf-Africa Investment Forum and addressed the delegates on the Republic of South Africa's ties on Gulf-Africa relations.

Deputy Minister Ebrahim was supported by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation's Deputy Director-General: Branch Asia and Middle East; Ambassador Sisa Ngombane, the South African Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Ambassador J Davies, the Director: Gulf States; Ambassador M Slabber and other senior government officials. □



Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim visited the library of natural history in Riyadh



DIRCO 2010 Diplomatic Tennis Tournament

Ambassador Delarey and Ambassador Alzubedi, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in South Africa



Contestants who participated in the Diplomatic Tennis Tournament at the University of Pretoria

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) hosted a successful Diplomatic Tennis Tournament at the University of Pretoria (UP) Sports Complex on 30 and 31 October 2010. Diplomatic Missions and regional and international organisations were well represented and the 2010 Diplomatic Championship took place with good competitive spirit and international camaraderie. The 2010 DIRCO Diplomatic Tennis Tournament produced high level tennis under very hot and windy climatic conditions. In this regard, the Men's final delivered an epic two hour battle with Noël Raharijaona from Madagascar emerging victorious as the 2010 Champion.

The Women's singles title was claimed by the Deputy British High Commissioner, Judith Slater. Ambassador Ladislav Straka (Slovak Republic) and Mr John Brock (Australia) were crowned as the 2010 Men's Doubles Champions. Officials from DIRCO proudly carried the South African flag by winning the Women's Doubles title (Wendy Rauch and

Sebel Van Tonder) as well as the mixed doubles title (Ambassador Delarey Van Tonder and Mrs Sebel Van Tonder). Trophies and prizes were presented to the winners of the respective categories by the Patron of the 2010 DIRCO Diplomatic Tennis Tournament, his Excellency Ambassador Alzubedi, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in South Africa at a reception after the event. In this respect the following sponsors contributed greatly to the success of the tournament:

Ambassador Duty Free, Legacy Hotels and Resorts, CEO Communications, Southern Sun Pretoria, Radisson Blu Hotel, Sandton, Garden Court, Hatfield, MTN, Woolworths Waterkloof Heights, Urban Square Apartments. The DIRCO Organising Committee wishes to thank the Director General, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba for his active support for the event as well as the DIRCO Sports Council for their support. □

Contributed by: Ambassador D Van Tonder



Above: Some of the children who participated in the tournament



By Siphokazi Mgudlwa
Pictures: Courtesy of Switchboard Section

AU REVOIR MME



After serving the Department for 27 years Mmme Saphira Mathlake will now dedicate her retirement in serving her church. Mme Mathlake said she has done her part as public servant and still remembers her first day as an employee of the Department.

appointed in the Department's switchboard section as a switchboard operator.

She said her success in her duties was not only through her hard work but was due to the

support and guidance that she got from her colleagues. Apart from dedicating her retirement to her church activities, Mme Mathlake will also devote more time to her three children and 4 grandchildren. □

Below: Mme Mathlake (centre seated) with her gifts and some members of her prayer group



"I'm leaving the Department with only good memories which I will cherish for the rest of my life," said Mme Mathlake. She started working in the Department as a tea lady in 1983, where she decided that she wants to upgrade herself and enrolled for an ABET (Adult Based Education and Training) which was offered by the Department.

"I pushed myself so hard during my training and I ended up getting 100% in my exams in mathematics and I was nominated as the student of the year," said Mme Mathlake.

Following her achievements with her studies she decided to assist other women in her community in Klipgat near Mabopane by teaching them how to sew. In 2003, Mme Mathlake was then

FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR MABETA

The South African Ambassador to the Union of Comoros, H.E. Mr. Masilo E. Mabeta, following the completion of a six-year term of duty in the Union of Comoros, was bestowed with the Order Commander of the Green Crescent of Comoros by the Comoran Head of State, H.E. President Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi during a ceremony that took place on the 9th of December 2010 at Beit Salam, site of the Presidential Palace.



Ambassador Masilo Mabeta receiving the Order Commander of the Green Crescent of Comoros

President Sambi in his congratulatory remarks indicated that this honour was bestowed on H.E. Ambassador Mabeta

"in recognition of the services he rendered to the Comoran nation, especially with respect to the consolidation of the ties

of bilateral cooperation and relations between the Union of Comoros and South Africa". □



South African products at embassy pavillion a hit

South African Embassy pavillion abuzz with Proteas for Charity at the Philippines 44th International Bazaar (IB): 21 November 2010.

The Protea, South Africa's National Flower was a hit at the Embassy's pavillion at the recent International Bazaar and 1500 of the imported flowers sold out in the first two hours, raising nearly double the amount raised in previous years for charity. The Bazaar is organised jointly by the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs and some 50 diplomatic missions in Manila as a major fundraising project for the various charities in underserved communities, victims of natural disasters and needy medical institutions.



Above: Photo of Embassy Staff at the South African Booth displaying arts & crafts and Proteas for sale in aid of charities in Manila

Left: Ambassador Agnes Nyamande-Pitso being interviewed by IBC-13 crew

Below right: Photo South African staff selling Proteas at the booth

Far left: Photo of Ambassador Nyamande-Pitso together with Dr. Elenita Binay (wife of Philippine Vice President Jojomar Binay)

Bottom left: Ambassador Nyamande-Pitso giving bouquet of Proteas to Mrs. Pinky Aquino Abellada (sister of Philippine President Benigno Aquino)



The event was attended by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs (equivalent of Minister) , Hon. Alberto Romulo and his wife, Mrs Rosie Romulo who is also the Chairperson of the IB. Ambassador Agnes Nyamande - Pitso also handed over Protea bouquets to Mrs Pinky Abellada, the sister of Philippines President Benigno Aquino III; Dr Elenita Binay, the wife of Vice President Binay and Mrs Romulo, during their visit to the South African pavillion.

Apart from the top-selling Proteas, other South African products showcased and sold by the Embassy were our popular wines and juice, beaded crafts and accessories, African drums, Umu scarves commemorating the Football World Cup, and Rooibos Tea. ☐



A 'South African Heritage Showcase 2010' exhibition

The South African High Commission in Singapore hosted a 'South African Heritage Showcase 2010' exhibition from 28-31 October 2010 at the 'Arts House', Singapore. The mission facilitated this heritage exhibition event to promote awareness of the uniqueness and diversity of SA culture, heritage, culinary, business and tourism. Guests invited to the launch of the event included senior Singapore Government officials and representatives of arts institutes, hospitality and tourism organisations and business associations as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps. The exhibition focused on a display of traditional South African arts and crafts, indigenous costumes, contemporary South African interior accessories and contemporary fine art by both established and emerging South African artists. The Arts and Crafts and Zulu traditional attire were exhibited by the invited South African Company "Gone Rural". The interior accessories and contemporary fine art was exhibited by a local company "Source 53" who represents the South African artists and products in Singapore. A company called "Your Piece of Africa" exhibited South African ostrich products including bags and accessories. All of the above mentioned products were also on sale during the exhibition.

The exhibition also featured a range of "FIFA 2010 World Cup" items like the "Jabulani" official match ball, makarapas, vuvuzelas, and traditional TshiVenda and Xhosa attires. The Mission invited the local representative of SAA and local travel companies promoting South Africa as a favourable tourist destination. Nandos Singapore served traditional dishes and also utilised the event to promote and sell their products. South African tourism information was provided to visitors to the exhibition.

Mission staff and SAA representative, Mr Martin Suresh



Guests admiring contemporary wire-bowls and SA fine art

The opening of the exhibition was hosted on 28 October 2010 by the High Commissioner, Dr SS Ripinga. The senior Singapore government representative who attended the opening as the guest of honour was Mr. Sam Tan Chin Siong, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts. Other guests included Heads of Mission from the Diplomatic Corps in Singapore, African Missions represented in Singapore, Singapore opinion makers, journalists and influential members of the South African business community in Singapore. The opening event included live entertainment by an African band contracted by the mission and a sponsored wine-tasting by the South African wine company "Cape Dreams".

The guests at the opening cocktail and visitors to the exhibition remarked on the mission's efforts to showcase traditional and contemporary South African arts and culture. The items on display also sold well

Nandos Singapore staff and display



Mission Guests at the official opening buying beadwork

and Singaporeans were keen in obtaining more information on where they could purchase more of the same. The event also served the purpose of promoting South Africa as a favourable tourist, trade and investment destination.

The Mission hosted this exhibition as part of the South African Government priorities to promote trade, investment, tourism and social partnerships and to empower South African's to earn a decent living, and hence contribute to alleviating poverty and unemployment - and a better life for all. ☐

High Commissioner Dr SS and Mrs J Ripinga



Uruguay flower show: voyage around the world



Left: Ms Kaya Mbusi (SA Embassy), Ms Digna Donado (Ambassador of Panama), Ambassador Dawie Jacobs (Charge D'Affaires) and Dr María Merchan (Ambassador of Colombia). Right: Ms Kaya Mbusi (SA Embassy), Ms Gabriela Mazzara (President of the Garden Clubs of Uruguay) and Ambassador Dawie Jacobs (Charge D'Affaires)

The Embassy participated in the Flower Show: Voyage Around the World in Montevideo organised by the Garden Clubs of Uruguay on 27 and 28 October 2010. As the name indicates the additional theme of this annual spring flower show was flowers from around the world and this theme was incorporated in the arrangements of all the exhibitors. In view of this, Embassies were also invited to participate. Of the six Embassies that participated, only South Africa and Japan, was from outside Latin America.

The Garden Clubs consist of 52 Garden Clubs all over Uruguay with a membership of more than 1,500 people. The two-day show was attended by more than 2,000 people and enjoyed substantial media coverage.

The South African stand was decorated with colourful posters of South African flowers, also reflecting our bio-diversity. DVD's/CD's were screened on a large screen throughout the flower show at our stand and proved to be a popular attraction. Of special interest to the members of the

Garden Clubs and other visitors from all over Uruguay, were the DVD's/CD's from Ludwig's Rose Gardens near Pretoria, since many ladies from Uruguay are planning to attend the International Rose Convention in South Africa in 2012. These images stimulated huge interest and may no doubt attract more participants from among the influential members of these Clubs.

Broschures on South African flowers and botanical gardens were also displayed at the stand and were very popular among the members of the clubs and visitors.

The Embassy's participation at this prestigious event attracted special attention and was in a sense a continuation of the very positive images of South Africa and its natural beauty conveyed in Uruguay before, during and after the much publicised FIFA 2010 World Cup. Furthermore, South Africa's fauna and flora is well known and appreciated among the members of the Garden Clubs in Uruguay, many of them avid gardeners themselves, as also reflected by the wide interest of the members to attend the International Rose Convention in South Africa in 2012. ■

Founding of Uruguay-Africa Chamber of Commerce

A group of Uruguayan businessmen, with the support of the two Resident African Embassies of South Africa and Egypt in Montevideo, have initiated the establishment of an Uruguay-African Chamber of Commerce. The draft statutes and a vision and mission have been approved and adopted during a meeting co-hosted by Ambassador Jacobs (Charge D'Affaires), and the Egyptian Ambassador on 28 October 2010.

Consuls of African countries in Montevideo to get involved and utilise the services of the Chamber.

The Board Members are active over a broad spectrum of economic activities and are all involved in business between Uruguay and African countries, predominantly focusing on SA and Egypt at this stage. They are now actively lobbying members and are also planning a formal launching ceremony that will also serve as a marketing exercise and drive to sign on more members.

The aims of the Chamber, are clearly stated in its Vision: "To promote mutually beneficial commercial relations between Uruguay and African countries in a fair, non-discriminatory and ethical manner". In its Mission, that sets out the scope of its envisaged activities, it is mentioned that activities would specifically also include promotion of small and medium sized enterprises. The establishment of the Chamber has met with positive response and during a function on board the visiting naval vessel SAS Drakensberg in Montevideo, the Foreign Minister invited the Board to have a meeting with him.

The board has also informed and invited Non-Resident African Missions in Buenos Aires and Brasilia, as well as the Honorary

The establishment of the Uruguayan-African Chamber of Commerce, the first of



From left to Right: Mr Sergio Banales (First Vice President); Mr Alvaro Lecueder (Treasurer); Ambassador Jacobs (Charge D'Affaires); Ms Mechtild Stahr (Secretary); Ambassador Mohamed Amin Abou El Dahab (Egypt); Mr Luis Taboada (President); Mr Xavier Artgaveytia (member of Fiscal Committee); and Mr Marcelo Doldan (Member of Fiscal Committee). Absent: Mr Johannes van Eeden (Second Vice President) and Advocate John Leaman (Chair of Fiscal Committee)

its kind in Latin America, comes at a very opportune time, since the President and Foreign Minister of the new Uruguayan Government have expressed intentions to expand relations with South Africa and the continent. There is also a very positive sentiment towards South Africa and Africa following the successful World Cup, leading to increased interest to do business with SA and Africa as a whole. The Chamber is not only an effective vehicle/platform for promoting trade and investment related interaction between Uruguay and African countries, but it also strengthens the African presence/profile in Uruguay, while at the same time sending a positive message of African unity and cooperation. ■

Visit of SA navy ships to Montevideo



From left to right: The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay Dr Luis Almagro, his wife Marianne, Captain Andre de Wet (overall commander of the visiting SA navy vessels) and Ambassador Dawie Jacobs (Charge D'Affaires) on board the SAS Drakensberg

The SA Navy vessels SAS Drakensberg and submarine SAS Charlotte Maxeka visited Montevideo from 12 to 15 November 2010 following their participation in the ATLASUR naval exercise together with the navies of Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil. They also participated in the fleet review marking the 193 year existence of the Uruguayan Navy. The visit provided an opportunity to further strengthen the cordial ties between SA and Uruguay and to obtain positive media coverage on SA.

Captain Andre de Wet, who had overall command of the two naval vessels laid a wreath at Independence Square and

hosted a media conference on board the SAS Drakensberg regarding the visit. Captain De Wet, hosted a cocktail on board the SAS Drakensberg. Among the 100 guests were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, senior officers of the Uruguayan Navy, senior government officials, a large number of Ambassadors, businessmen (including board members of the newly established Uruguay-Africa Chamber of Commerce) and some South Africans living in Uruguay. South African wines were served and the guests commented positively on the buffet prepared by the ship. Scenes from SA naval operations were shown on a big screen during the event. Captain De Wet and Ambassador

Dawie Jacobs (Charge D'Affaires) made brief welcoming statements, also referring to the meaning and importance of the ATLASUR exercise and the visit to Montevideo.

The vessels were open for visits by the public for two days and attracted many visitors.

The Embassy arranged for the Captains and senior officers and some crew members to attend the Rugby World Cup qualifying international match between Uruguay and Rumania as VIP guests of the Uruguayan Rugby Union. A Uruguayan TV Channel interviewed Ambassador Jacobs before the match on the attendance of the officers and crew at the match and journalists also interviewed some of the South African officers who were enthusiastically supporting the Uruguayan team.

The navy vessels participated with navy vessels of Argentine, Brazil and Uruguay in a fleet review marking the 193 year existence of the Uruguayan Navy. The Deputy President of Uruguay, the Minister of Defence, the chief of the Navy and a large number of dignitaries attended a ceremony on Marine Square on the shore from where the navy vessels could be observed. Ambassador Jacobs and Captain Johnson, Military Attache, participated in this event from the South African side. ■

Art exhibition in historic national museum of football



Above: The cover page of the invitation to the opening event of the art exhibition
Left: The Artist Gabriela Acevedo in front of the huge collage/painting at the art exhibition

very good at using opportunities like this to brand their country, at the same time assuring "collateral-benefits" to South Africa.

Within the broader framework of the current 100 year celebrations of the Uruguayan National Sport colours (light blue shirts/jerseys of their national sport teams) in the historic National Museum of Football in the Centenary Stadium in Montevideo, an Art Exhibition "Sudafrica Celeste" ("Light blue South Africa") is on display from 24 November to 22 December 2010.

More than 200 people attended the opening event and during a widely televised statement the artist Gabriele Acevedo, who travelled with the team in South Africa, especially welcomed the South African Head of Mission as representative of South Africa and explained that her artwork was inspired by her very

positive experiences in South Africa and that she found inspiration in the colourful scenes and warmth of the people in South Africa. The large number of paintings, some of an abstract/impressionistic nature, indeed provide a warm and colourful impression and the South African angle clearly comes forward through the colours and images. The exhibition also included some stunning abstract works on some of the soccer stadiums. One painting is four meters by three meters and is a collage of smaller paintings depicting scenes from the World Cup and of outstanding South African features such as the Union Buildings, the Waterfront in Cape Town and the Apartheid Museum.

This event enjoyed prominent media coverage and once again conveyed the positive images of South Africa and the warm relations between the two countries to a broad audience. ■

South Africa's biodiversity on display at one of France's most celebrated ski resorts!



Ambassador Dolana Msimang and Ms Linda Sangaret (SA Tourism Country Manager for France)

South African Tourism in France together with Les Sommets de l'images decided to showcase South Africa's rich and diverse natural heritage in Courchevel, a well known ski resort in the south east of France. It is located in the Tarentaise Valley of Savoy in the Rhône-Alpes region, which is one of the largest ski areas in the world. It spreads over 5 altitudes and offers different levels in terms of aspects and views of approaching the mountains - an attribute, which is most enjoyed by ski professionals.

A photographic exhibition of South African images on landscape, animals, fauna and flora will be on display in and around the ski slopes of Courchevel during the ski season, from December to April 2010. Ambassador Dolana Msimang, gave a key note address at the Gala event to launch the exhibition. Guests included the Mayor of Courchevel, the Founder of Les Sommets de l'Images, Mr Eric Bazin; the photographer Mr Christophe Le Petit, representatives from the Les Atelier des terres, as well as South African trade and tourism contacts in France.



The Mayor of Courchevel, Mr Gilber BLAN-TAILLEUR; Ambassador Dolana Msimang; Representative from the Courchevel Tourism Office, Mrs Adeline ROUX and the Founder of Les Sommets de l'Image, Mr Eric Bazin

The photographic exhibition will be displayed to over a million international visitors who visit Courchevel each year. Ambassador Msimang commended both SA Tourism and Les Sommets de l'Images for highlighting the environmental dynamism that exists in our country, she indicated that the biodiversity theme of the photographic exhibition reiterated South Africa's national pride in our national heritage, and the growing importance we are placing on preserving our plant and animal species.

The Gala launch proved to be a great success, it included a prize draw where artwork could be won. The photographic exhibition in Courchevel will be on display from 10 December 2010-25 April 2011.

The exhibition was prepared by renowned photographers Christophe Lepetit and Heinrich Van Den Berg, it is exhibited over four levels at the Courchevel station. ■



Ambassador Dolana Msimang addressing guests at the Gala event



Pictures courtesy of Christophe Lepetit & Heinrich Van Den Berg

South African Festival in Argentina

During November 2010, the South African flag flew high in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, and the venue for an array of events organised by the South African Embassy in collaboration with its sponsor-partners. The "South African Festival in Celebration of the Argentine Bicentenary" marked a high-profile end of the year, during which South Africa's successful hosting of the FIFA 2010 World Cup had thrust our country front and centre in the Argentine public consciousness.

The Festival, conceived by Ambassador Tony Leon and staff of the South African Embassy in Argentina, comprised a diverse and excellent offering of South African politics, sports, culture and naval power. Each event attracted capacity audiences of Argentine notables and members of the general public, thirsty for more knowledge and exposure to South Africa.

The festival kicked off with a week-long South African Film Festival (on 10-17 November), screened at two Buenos Aires cinemas, featuring such South African movies and documentaries as "Themba: a Boy Called Hope"; "Jerusalem", "White Wedding", "A Lion's Trial" and "The 16th Man" (the powerful documentary on Nelson Mandela's role in the Springboks' victory in the 1995 Rugby World Cup, and a follow-up to the movie "Invictus" which was a huge hit earlier in the year in Argentina. Two South African producers and directors Mr Kevin Fleischer and Mr Francois Verster were present in Buenos Aires to accompany the festival and forge links with the Argentine movie industry.

The next event was the opening and hosting of the Apartheid Museum Photo exhibition (on 17-28 November) of the life and times of Former President Nelson Mandela at the prestigious Museum of Fine Arts of Buenos Aires (Museo de Bellas Artes). The opening cocktail function was attended by notable Porteños (as inhabitants of Buenos Aires are called) and the exhibition was opened by Curator and Director of the Apartheid Museum, Christopher Till and Ambassador Leon. It drew large crowds during its two week exhibition.

The arrival of the South African Navy supply-ship SAS Drakensberg, fresh from the completion of its participation in the ATLASUR 8 exercises off the waters of Argentina, alongside the navies of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, provided a powerful projection of South African hard and soft power in the port of Buenos Aires. The Embassy was pleased to host



High Jump: Springbok Legends leap, but narrowly lost 20-19 to Argentina

an array of top SA National Defence Force brass, particularly Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Dr Lindiwe Sisulu, and Chief of the SA Navy, Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu. The ship excelled in its role as a "grey diplomat" for South Africa, and its flight deck was used for the signing of an historic Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Co-operation, inked by Minister Sisulu and her Argentine counterpart, Defence Minister Nilda Garre on 20 November 2010. The night before, the Embassy hosted a large function aboard, and the large audience of invitees were enthralled by the magnificent singing of two of South Africa's greatest young operatic talents Pretty Yende and Given Nkosi.

Given Nkosi and Pretty Yende were the Embassy's star attractions, as well, at a night of South African opera at the Teatro Nacional, which also attracted an audience of opera-loving Argentines.

On Sunday 21 November, rugby was the order of the day, when the Embassy in collaboration with Standard Bank of Argentina and Personal held an exhibition match "Spirit of Invictus", between the SA Springbok Legends -comprising former Springbok greats-including two players from the 1995 Springbok World Cup team Joost van der Westhuizen and Marius Hurter- and former Argentine Pumas. The Legends Cup was, very narrowly won by Argentina by 20-19, was presented by Former South African President FW De Klerk.

Former President De Klerk, President Jacob Zuma's Special Envoy, Mr Mac Maharaj, and Ambassador Leon, representing three elements of South Africa's transition to democracy and reconciliation presented a public seminar to a standing-room only audience in Buenos Aires on 23 November. This proved to be a highlight of the Festival, and underlined Argentine interest in the "miracle of South Africa's

democratic journey toward constitutional democracy." Former President de Klerk, accompanied by Ambassador, also held talks with Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, before returning to South Africa.

The grand finale of the Festival was the presence in Argentina at the end of November of 30 members of Parliament of South Africa, and support staff, on a rugby tour to play members of the Argentine Congress. The Embassy used their presence to host a dialogue between Argentine and South African politicians and, of course, the obligatory "asado" or braai which Mrs Michal Leon hosted at the official residence.

The festival is the highest profile series of events yet hosted by the Embassy in Buenos Aires, and will likely further cement ties between two vital countries of the South Atlantic. ■



Legends Classics Trophy: Former South African President FW De Klerk presided over the trophy handover, accompanied by Ambassador Leon and the event sponsors, Mr Guillermo Rivaben of Telecom (left) and Mr Johan Roets, Standard Bank Argentina (right)



Captain (SA Navy) Andre De Wet, Ambassador Leon and Captain (SA Navy) Coetzee, Officer Commanding SAS Drakensberg, take the salute at a function at Argentine Naval Headquarters



South African Operatic stars, Given Nkosi and Pretty Yende were flown to Argentina for a series of concerts as part of the South African Festival in Buenos Aires

W Where were you ?



LAUNCH OF THE "I AM A DIPLOMAT" CAMPAIGN

