



March 2009

# dfa **Now**

Your voice to be heard



## Minister's Dinner in Honour of the Diplomatic Corps (page 3)



**the dfa**  
Department:  
Foreign Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

*'Siya-vaya' we are moving...*



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## Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the March Edition of the *dfa Now*. In this edition we report back on the past four weeks that saw many events taking place at the DFA. We lead our edition with a report on the Minister's Dinner in Honour of the Diplomatic Corps once again held at Vergelegen Wine Estate. We also report on the breakfast and live broadcast held by the Minister to discuss South Africa's term as member of the United Nation's Security Council.

Our 'View on the World' reports on life in Germany and the Liaison Office in Taiwan tells us about their promotional activities in the last few months, while Munich (Germany) reports on their cultural evening and tribute to the late Miriam Makeba.

As customary we have our media briefing by Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba and on the Human Resources side we report on the recognition of the DFA as the best employer amongst Humanities and Law students of about 23 universities in South Africa. The DFA was chosen amongst 130 organisations that participated in the Magnet Communication Graduate Survey.

Magnet Communication also introduced the Sector Awards in 2008 and we were voted number 1 in the Government / Public Sector Industry followed by DTI, SARS and the SA Reserve Bank.

Happy Reading! ■

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*Under the theme of "Celebrating South Africa's Diplomatic Achievements", guests were treated to the best of South African hospitality*







*(Main Picture) Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma welcoming guests on the lawns of Vergelegen Wine Estate (Left) Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, together with her daughters, being presented with her surprise birthday cake*

## THE MINISTER'S DINNER - 'CELEBRATING SOUTH AFRICA'S DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS'

**O**n the 7th February 2009, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs, hosted the annual Opening of Parliament Dinner at Vergelegen Wine Estate in Somerset West, Cape Town. This dinner is hosted in Honour of the Diplomatic Corps, and gives the Minister an opportunity to thank and acknowledge the Diplomatic Corps for their diplomatic partnership and work within South Africa. It also affords the guests an opportunity to get together following the

Opening of Parliament, and have healthy discussions around the State of the Nation Address given the previous day.

The theme of this year's dinner was "Celebrating South Africa's Diplomatic Achievements" since the onset of Democracy in 1994. The dinner was therefore a celebration of South Africa's role within diplomacy, be it on the African continent or the international world arena, through the Consolidation of the African Agenda, the strengthening of South-South Co-operation, as well as the strengthening of

North-South Co-operation. One such momentous achievement is South Africa's membership in the United Nations Security Council. This achievement has increased South Africa's influence as a member within the global community, and has gained South Africa more respect as a country with great potential.

The theme was visually translated into a beautiful banquet under a white marquee on the well-groomed lawns at Vergelegen Wine Estate. The guests

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enjoyed welcome drinks and hors' d'oeuvres on arrival under the sunset, and were treated to a three course meal with live musical entertainment in-between. Speakers included the Minister, Ambassador Makhubela (programme director) and Ambassador Alzubedi (on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps).

This prestigious event was attended by guests from various sectors in society, ranging from the Diplomatic Corps, Members of Parliament, Members of Cabinet, academia, civil society organisations and captains of industry. These invited guests reflected the long-standing relations the Department has created, developed and

continues to nurture through the various platforms that are created through formal engagements such as conferences and summits.

The Minister's Dinner also gave the guests an opportunity to celebrate the Minister's birthday which was on the 27th January. A surprise birthday cake was organised in honour of the Minister, and the guests sang "Happy Birthday" to the sounds of the instruments of the band. While the Minister was pleasantly surprised, she was however happy to be in the presence of her colleagues and friends, and more importantly her four daughters, whom she praised for all their love and support.

The success of this event was a direct result of the hard work put in by colleagues in Public Diplomacy, assisted by colleagues in Protocol. A big thank you needs to also go to our three key sponsors for the great support towards this dinner. The sponsors included Anglo American, BMW and Burgers Park Hotel, whose value-added support ensured that an event of this calibre was well implemented and enjoyed by all who were present. It is this relationship with the sponsors that has allowed the Department to ensure that the Minister's Dinner is an event that always stands the test of time.

*Contributed by: Karabo Metsileng*



## UNSC ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

From 01 January 2007 to 31 December 2008 South Africa had the honour of serving as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). South Africa, together with Italy, secured the highest number of recorded votes (186) in the elections for the Security Council seat and its candidature was endorsed by the African Union. South Africa's main objective in the Security Council was to contribute to the resolution of lingering conflicts and stabilisation of post-conflict situations on the African continent. South Africa further engaged on all issues on the Security Council's agenda in accordance with the Council's mandate to maintain international peace and security.

As a result the Department of Foreign Affairs hosted a workshop on 09 February 2009 at the Cape Town

*(Main Picture) Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and SABC presenter Kim Cloete during the live broadcast of the UNSC Roundtable Discussions at the ICC in Cape Town  
(Top Pictures) Guests participating in the discussions about South Africa's two year term on the UNSC*





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**'Siya-vaya' we are moving...**



## Dear Colleagues

It is my privilege and honour to announce that the Department has concluded the signing of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement between the Department and the Private Party on Friday 13 March 2009. The conclusion of the signing of the PPP Agreement has been both a challenging and learning experience. The Head Office project team together with the PPP Unit at National Treasury faced various challenges, however, their continuous commitment and dedication over the past four years was rewarded by the signing of the PPP Agreement. This milestone now paves the way to complete construction of and relocation to the new Head Office building.

In terms of the PPP Agreement the Scheduled Service Commencement Date is 26 June 2009 for the Soutpansberg site and 27 July 2009 for the Waterkloof site, respectively. Scheduled Service Commencement is the date on which the Department would have completed relocation to the new Head Office building.

Relocation to the new Head Office building will commence with the issuance of a completion certificate by an Independent Certifier, jointly appointed by the Department and the Private Party that will certify that all the output specifications for the building have been met. Relocation will commence the first business day after the completion certificate has been issued and completed within 10 business days. Relocation to the new Head Office building is therefore envisaged to take place between 15 to 26 June 2009.

A relocation team has been appointed to ensure a smooth relocation to the new Head Office Building. Each member of the relocation team has specific roles and responsibilities and they have already commenced with the planning for the relocation to the new building. As information sharing is critical to prepare staff members for relocation to the new Head Office building, a Change Management Committee, represented by all Branches, has been established that will communicate on a regular basis more information about the building, services to be rendered and more importantly staff members involvement and participation to ensure a smooth relocation to the new Head Office building.

I appeal to all staff members to give their full support and participation to the relocation team for this mammoth task.

**Dr A Ntsaluba**  
**Director-General**

## dfa MAKES THE GRADE!



The DFA came second in the Humanities category of the Magnet Communications Graduate Survey. In the picture Ms Mathu Joyini (middle) received the certificate with representatives from Media 24 (3rd) and the SABC (1st)

Over the years, the Talent Management Unit has been working on positioning DFA in the minds and eyes of the youth in South Africa. The target has been high school learners (Grade 10-12), university students and young professionals. The aim is to inform them about different career opportunities in DFA and assist in their career decision-making.

As we profile the Department, we ensure that we cover the breadth and depth of the country with particular interest on rural areas. Our approach covers two aspects:

### Universities

- The DFA has partnered with Magnet Communications which allows us to reach students in 23 universities through various media, viz:-  
Graduate Survey, Young Professional Survey, Destination the Future and Companies of the Future (Published with Sunday Times News Paper).
- We visited a number of Universities for presentations and exhibitions.

### Learners

- The Department has also partnered with SABC which

focuses on grade 10-12 high school learners across all provinces. The activity with this market is attending exhibitions and showcasing careers at the DFA.

The impact of this work has been the recognition of the DFA as the best employer amongst Humanities and Law students of about 23 universities in South Africa. We were chosen amongst 130 organisations that participated in the Graduate survey.

The following results have been obtained since we started participating in the Magnet Communication Graduate Surveys:-  
2006 - DFA was voted **number 5**;  
2007 - DFA was voted **number 4**;  
2008 - DFA was voted **number 2**

Magnet Communication also introduced the Sector Awards in 2008 and we were voted number 1 in the Government / Public Sector Industry followed by DTI, SARS and the SA Reserve Bank.

The DFA can be proud of this achievement and we will continue to profile the Department as a best employer.

**T**his month the dfa Now brings you a view on life in Berlin, Germany as part of the feature to share with you how our colleagues live at our missions abroad.

**You are stationed at the South African Mission in Berlin. Tell us more about life in the city, its people, the food and the culture.**

Berlin, the capital of Germany, is a vivid and exciting city with a good public transport system and good signage. In the restaurants you are offered German and international dishes. Quite a large number of foreigners reside in Berlin, giving the city an international flair. There is a lot of cultural diversity with many museums, three opera houses, the Philharmonic Hall, the International Film Festival, numerous "in" discos, etc. Typical Berliners are known for their ready wit. Generally, people here are not as friendly as we are used to in South Africa, they smile less, but they are honest and outspoken, you know where you stand.

**Describe a few of the major tourist attractions in and around the city and their significance, e.g. historical, architectural, etc.**

Remnants of the wall that divided Berlin before the German unification are of great interest to the visitors, as is the Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg gate), built in 1791. When the Berlin Wall collapsed in 1989, the Gate symbolised freedom and the desire to unify the city of Berlin. The Deutsche Dom (German Cathedral), the Reichstag (Parliament), the Memorial for the Jews murdered in Europe, but also the numerous lakes and channels as well as the large parks are well-liked tourist attractions. Berlin claims to have more channels than Venice.

**What were the biggest adjustments you had to overcome to live in Berlin?**

We miss our beautiful South African weather and the outdoor living. Although the Berlin climate is good, many days are gray, cool and rainy. No wonder the Germans are always looking so earnest. When you are shopping, there is no friendly lady packing your bags, nor is there a helping hand

## A VIEW ON THE WORLD – Living in Germany



Staff Members from the Berlin Embassy with the 2010 South African mascot Zakumi

www.facebook.com and we watch TV (you have to subscribe to special English channels), videos and listen to music; we look at photos, we have crying sessions, we try to organise our schedules to allow for additional time with our kids. Sometimes you get very near a real depression. Family members are a great support when you phone. The lack of spiritual leaders is very depressing. We are not certain if colleagues at Head Office are always aware of the problems one has when staying abroad for four to five years.

at the petrol station, you do everything yourself here. You have to adapt your cooking recipes to the ingredients you can get easily here, although there are South African goods in some large department stores. In the beginning of your stay it is difficult to find the right size when buying clothes, also finding colourful dresses as many Germans prefer dark plain clothes.

### What are the barriers/hurdles that make day to day living as a foreigner in Berlin difficult?

The main obstacle is the difficult language. Also there are many rules and regulations, perhaps too many, and the Germans sometimes unnecessarily keep to them. You might see a pedestrian at night observing a red robot although there is no car on the street. You learn to communicate differently. One has to understand that Germans are more direct than we are used to. If you have to refuse a request, you should state this clearly; if you don't say it directly for politeness sake, your contact will not get the message and bring up the matter again at a later stage. Don't make polite promises, they keep you to it. You even have to get used

to the separation of waste – a yellow bag for this, a green bag for that and a blue bag for ...whatever!!! This alone is a culture shock in it self.

### What do you miss most of South Africa?

Our banking system is more modern, we miss the natural friendliness, the humour and the optimism of our people, the easy shopping also on Sundays and of course biltong, droëwors, pap, even our chocolates, but most of all our family and friends. The easy-going lifestyle and tolerance is such a wonderful asset SA has. For example, in Germany your neighbours will not hesitate to come and teach you how to separate your waste. On the other hand, maybe South Africa could do with a bit more of Germany's environmental consciousness.

### What do you do when you get homesick?

HOME! We phone home frequently, write e-mails and some of us eat too much, and then we blame the washing powder!! We work even harder or follow a study course in order not to think. We discover the

### How many people work at the South African mission?

At present, 33 locally recruited staff members and 14 transferred officials work at the Berlin Embassy. Our workforce is quite big because Germany is one of South Africa's major partners.

### What characteristic or attribute of the Germans do you think we as South Africans can learn from?

Germans are very good at time management, always honouring appointments and being on time!!! You will hardly find a German cancelling a meeting a day before or the same morning of the meeting like we often do. They are reliable and following up on agreements. They do not let things flow, they plan ahead. The customer care in the service industry is always good. The educational system, especially the professional training, is excellent compared to South Africa. Germans are generally quite hard-working and performance-minded, with a high regard for educational and professional achievements. The fact that there is a general culture of being efficiency-oriented is certainly a great asset to the German society.





# MEDIA BRIEFING BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL DR AYANDA NTSALUBA



*(Main Picture) President Kgalema Motlanthe welcoming UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon to Pretoria (Picture 1) President Motlanthe and Mr Ban Ki-moon in conversation at the Presidential Guesthouse, Pretoria. (Picture 2) Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Mr Ban Ki-moon during his visit to SA. (Picture 3) President Motlanthe and Minister Manuel onlooking as Mr Ban Ki-moon greets Minister van Schalkwyk. (Picture 4) Minister Buyelwa Sonjica greeting UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon*

## President Kgalema Motlanthe to Hold Discussions with UN Secretary - General Ban Ki-moon

Firstly the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon will be visiting South Africa from the 24-26 February. This is a follow up to a brief discussion/brief encounter that the Secretary-General had with President Motlanthe during the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa in which he then expressed the wish to visit South Africa to have further discussion on a wide range of issues. Of course the President agreed and these are the dates that have been suggested by them.

The discussions will involve largely issues around hot spots on the continent in particular Zimbabwe, the DRC, Sudan, Somalia and the issues in Madagascar. We also have indications that the Secretary-General would like to exchange some ideas with respect to the financial crisis as part of his gathering some thoughts in preparation for the April 2nd meeting that will be held in London that is a follow-up to the Washington meeting.

He will also discuss issues related to climate change. Obviously the focus will be on how to ensure that the Copenhagen meeting in December this year delivers something that is concrete.

He will also want to exchange ideas on – as you know there will be the Durban review conference which is the follow up to the World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Other Related Intolerances that South Africa hosted in Durban – this meeting will be held in Geneva from the 20-24 April. South Africa is a country that is seen to have a major role to play in that meeting.

There will also be some exchange of ideas on how to give momentum to the process of the UN reform and in particular the reform of the UN Security Council.



As you can pick up from that agenda the President will be assisted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs; Finance and Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

### Minister Dlamini Zuma holds Discussions with Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs Patricia Espinosa

Today, you might have picked up already that the Minister hosted her counterpart from Mexico Patricia Espinosa. This is a follow up meeting aimed largely at strengthening our relations with Mexico. We have taken a conscious decision on both sides to strengthen the levels of engagement as a result of the growing importance of South America generally to our foreign policy. Mexico is a key party to that. As you would recall the Minister recently hosted her counterpart from Argentina – this is part of that effort.

Also important now is that Mexico and South Africa interacted within the context of the +5 countries that are regularly invited to the G-8. So our leaders, when they met in Tokyo last year, indicated that we needed to firm up and structure a significant bilateral interaction. Mexico is also a member of the UN Security Council now so there will be an exchange of ideas related to that.

During this visit there was also a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding Establishing a Bi-National Commission (BNC) and an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. That is what the meeting was about.

### Minister Dlamini Zuma holds Discussions with Sudanese Counterpart

We also have a meeting that is taking place tomorrow. Minister Dlamini Zuma is hosting her counterpart from Sudan Dr Deng Alor Kuol. As you know the Foreign Minister of Sudan is more from the SPLM party and he is the Foreign Minister of the Unity Government in Khartoum.

South Africa has a Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC) with Sudan which operates both at Ministerial and Senior Officials' level. The last session of the JBC took place on the 7th-9th of June last year in Khartoum. Also last year, as



*Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with her Mexican counterpart Secretary of Foreign Affairs Patricia Espinosa after bilateral discussions in Cape Town*

part of our engagement with Sudan, we did respond to the humanitarian situation in Abyei there. We also have a huge programme that we are having with the government of Southern Sudan which is around capacity building and a number of activities have taken place.

In the past we have spoken about that cooperation largely with respect to the government of the South but there is also structured cooperation with the Unity Government particularly in the area of police services and on legal and Parliamentary affairs.

We are engaging Sudan both within the context of strengthening bilateral relations but bear in mind that we are also the lead country for the AU on the issues of post-conflict reconstruction in the Sudan. So the Minister will also try to assess the reading from the Sudanese government as to where they think we are with respect to some of these challenges.

Obviously on our side we will be holding these discussions against the

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## MUNICH HOSTS CULTURAL EVENING IN HONOUR OF “MAMA AFRIKA”

The South African Consulate-General in Munich arranged a cultural evening on 17 December 2008, the day after South Africa celebrated the annual Day of Reconciliation. It was decided to dedicate the event, attended by members of the Consular Corps, officials from the Bavarian administration, business partners, and fellow South Africans, to the memory of the late Ambassador Miriam Makeba. In her address that evening, Con-



*Celebrating their Cultural Evening, the Consulate in Munich hosted African artists doing a live performance*

sul-General Tselane Mokuena spoke of the importance of the many sides to Miriam “Mama Afrika” Makeba: the songstress, the struggle icon, the mother, the inspiration, and the unifier. It placed emphasis on the importance

of arts to transcend boundaries in uniting peoples across the world.

Five musicians hailing from across the African continent volunteered their talents to pay tribute to Mama Afrika.

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International Convention Centre that was aimed at reflecting on South Africa’s participation and achievements in the Security Council. The workshop was further aimed at reviewing, reflecting and sharing South Africa’s experience during its term as a non permanent member of the UNSC while also launching a public report on South Africa’s term in the UNSC. The workshop was in the form of breakfast roundtable discussions where the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma informed and engaged the public, members of the diplomatic corps, the media, civil society, students, academics and the private sector on the conclusion of South Africa’s term as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council. The breakfast was also partly broadcasted live on SABC television and radio.

The theme for the roundtable discussions was “Reflections on South Africa’s membership as a non-permanent member of the United Nations

Security Council during 2007-2008 and the conclusion of term”.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma highlighted on significant aspects of South Africa’s participation at the UNSC during the roundtable discussions and alluded to the fact that membership of the Security Council was a special opportunity for South Africa to promote stability and security, particularly on the African continent. South Africa advanced African common positions and sought to secure international support for the African Union’s peace and security architecture and its peacekeeping missions. Some of South Africa’s achievements in the Security Council included facilitation and mediation initiatives in Cote d’Ivoire, Burundi, DRC, Sudan and Zimbabwe, and the promotion and full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security which was welcomed by the international community. This was aimed at addressing

the role of women in armed conflict in a more comprehensive manner.

Pertaining to proliferation of small arms and light weapons, South Africa engaged in debates at the Security Council that focused on the importance of finding multilateral solutions to the problem. The roundtable discussions on the 9th of February also reflected on South Africa’s stance in stressing the need for States to fully respect human rights while condemning terrorist attacks.

In all the breakfast roundtable discussion on South Africa’s participation in the UNSC served its purpose to project an informed view to interested parties on South Africa’s role while a member of the UNSC. A booklet reviewing South Africa’s tenure on the UNSC was also handed out at the event and contained an informative view on some of the major issues covered in the two year tenure.

*Contribute by: Somkgele Mnguni*



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backdrop of the anxiety we have that 2011 is coming pretty soon around the referendum and therefore just to get full appreciation from the Sudanese about how far they think the process is and whether we have got realistic prospects of making sure that that process hopefully leads to a united Sudan. That is our position although we have always said that in line with the agreement that was reached we would respect whatever the outcomes of that process.

### Zimbabwe

With respect to Zimbabwe I think the important thing is that there will be a meeting in Cape Town tomorrow; there will be a Zimbabwean delegation led by the new Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai who will be accompanied by the Foreign Minister Simbarashe S Mumbengegwi and the Finance Minister Tendai Biti. The corresponding counterparts from South African side will also be attending the meeting.

We will be approaching this meeting against the backdrop of the successful achievement to a large extent of the implementation of the Road Map that was agreed upon by the Extra-Ordinary Summit that was held here on the 26th of January. Our sense is that there is good progress – I myself have returned yesterday; I was in Zimbabwe Tuesday and Wednesday and as I said in the past; we will continue to keep an eye with a view of lending whatever support as South Africa. One of the areas that we are beginning to discuss with our Zimbabwean colleagues is to implement the decision of our Cabinet Lekgotla of July last year which said the Department of Foreign Affairs, leading the International Relations cluster must make sure that within a relatively short space of time after the formation of the Unity Government we should be able to facilitate the meeting of the Joint Cooperation Commission between South Africa and Zimbabwe. We are working out the mechanics of that. Ideally we would have wanted to do that within a period of a month to six weeks but we know that will be the electoral calendar in South Africa. So we are discussing with the Zimbabwean colleagues and I am sure the meeting tomorrow will help give structure and content to what will have to be pursued in the framework of the JCC.

*Note: The briefing by the Director-General has been edited for length and layout purposes.*

## FLYING THE FLAG IN TAIWAN!

Our Liaison Office in Taiwan took to task to promote Mzansi in their country of accreditation, herewith their report.



### Taipei International Travel Fair (ITF)

The Taipei International Travel Fair (ITF) takes place every October/November and is the biggest tourism event in Taiwan. The ITF is seen as the ideal platform to promote the 2010 Soccer World Cup and for the past three years the Liaison Office used it as the theme for their stand. In 2008 there were 781 exhibitors, including 62 countries, with the four day event attracting some 215 000 visitors.

In 2008 the South African Liaison Office partnered with four travel companies and the SAA office in Taiwan to promote our country and sell travel packages to South Africa.

In addition, the Office worked closely with the Africa Taiwan Economic Forum (ATEF) that occupied the space adjacent to our stand and featured the "African Plaza" where Drum Café hosted very popular drumming sessions with visitors. The Liaison Office of South Africa again will participate in the ITF in 2009, since this fair proved to be a perfect platform to market South Africa as a desired tourist destination.

### South African Wine Tasting

On 28 November 2008 the Liaison Office (LOSA) hosted a South African Wine Tasting event at the Sherwood Hotel in Taipei. More than 200 potential buyers from restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, media, wine importers, and consumers attended the event.

According to the Wine & Spirits Digest in Taiwan, South Africa has been ranked as the number eight wine importing country into Taiwan. South African wine accounts for only 1.3% (193 969 litre of 14 915 139 litre) in the Taiwan market in 2008. There is much room for improvement for high quality South African wine in the Taiwanese market.



LOSA worked closely with seven wine importers that participated at the Wine Tasting event in Taipei. In total they provided guests with 48 varieties of SA wine and also donated a variety for the lucky draws that took place. The SAA Agent in Taiwan, and the Federal Transportation Company sponsored a round trip air ticket to South Africa for the lucky draw. Feedback from the participating wine importers was very positive. All reported a noticeable increase in their sales as well as in the number of enquiries they receive.



# Where were you..?

