



August 2006

dfa **Now**

Your voice to be heard



Commemorating the Women's March of 1956:

President Thabo Mbeki, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and members of the ANC Women's League at the Union Buildings, Tshwane, 9 August 2006

Welcome to another informative issue.

August is women's month and in joining the million echoes saluting all the great women of the world, the *DFA Now* has included the following extract from a poem written & composed by: Mvuyo Mhangwane entitled 'To our liberation's heroines' in recognition of the unselfish contribution that women has and continue to make in working for a better world - *Amandla* "the mighty *Mbokodo!*"

... *Transport your memory to August 9th, 1956*
Visualise the determined face of Lilian Masediba Ngoyi
Acknowledge the gallant gait of Helen Joseph
Applaud the resolve in Radima Moosa's voice

What a formidable convoy of untouchable rocks?
That sent shivers down apartheid's evil heart
Rendering Strijdom and his brutal accomplices panic-stricken

Laying a solid foundation for April 27th, 1994
You set a trend for nations to emulate
Banished fallacies and myths about female powerlessness to the grave

Mountains of accolades are due to you ...

A NOTE OF THANKS:

The Department's Change Management Committee (CMC) would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation of the support and commitment shown by all Department's staff here at Head Office and at our Missions abroad during the implementation of the change projects up to now. Please be informed that the success of projects like the new security system and the new telephone system came about because of your valuable co-operation. The Committee hereby calls for your continued support for other future projects of the Department. Because without you there would not be any measure of whether the project have brought about the relevant positive change or not. Again, a big thank you to all the staff of the Department.

From the DG's desk

Colleagues will recall that the Department closed its accounts for the financial year 2005/06 on 31 March 2006. Since that time, Finance and Human Resources have been hard at work compiling and reconciling, totalling and balancing, which for an organisation as large as DFA, with 113 or so branch offices abroad and numerous foreign currencies to work with, is no mean feat. The Department's Annual Financial Statements were duly submitted to the Accountant-General and the Auditor-General by the deadline of 31 May 2006.

The Auditor-General has spent the past two months auditing the financial statements of the Department for 2005/06. A great deal of pressure was placed on officials of Finance and Human Resources and indeed of the whole Department to satisfy the many questions of the Auditor-General and his staff. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to inform all our members

of staff that the Department has once again achieved an unqualified Audit Report, for 2005/06. This means that, in the opinion of the Auditor-General, "the financial statements [of DFA] fairly present, in all material respects, the financial position of the Department of Foreign Affairs at 31 March 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting determined by the National Treasury of South Africa, as described in note 1.1 to the financial statements, and in the manner required by the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999)."

Without qualifying his opinion, the Auditor-General has nevertheless drawn attention to four matters, reduced from the six matters emphasised in the previous financial year. These concern, broadly, the management of debt by the Department (both internal and as owed by other departments and

institutions; the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of performance; certain technical matters relating to the African Renaissance Fund; and certain procedures within the ICT environment that are indeed being addressed within the current upgrade of systems and processes. However, the Auditor-General noted that, in the ICT area, the Department has made notable progress in addressing some of the risk exposures.

The Department will certainly be addressing these matters vigorously in the current financial year in order to fulfil its obligations. It only remains for me as the Director-General to thank each and every personnel member of the Department and the Department's Internal Audit team for the effort, diligence and dedication displayed daily while working to achieve DFA's objectives in this scrupulous manner that eventually earned the Department an excellent 'unqualified' audit opinion and the respect of the taxpayers.

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President Thabo Mbeki with DRC President Joseph Kabila

RSA/DRC Relations beyond the July 2006 Elections: Quo Vadis?

The historic Presidential and General elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were held on 30 July 2006. These were historic elections in the sense that they were the first democratic elections in the history of that country in over forty years, since that country got independence on 30 June 1960. South Africa, in support of these elections, sent a 108-member National Observer Mission, to observe these historic elections. South African IEC also sent 128 Information Technology (IT) experts and logisticians, to support the DRC IEC in the 62 designated centres. This was over and above the comprehensive support the South African Government has offered to the DRC Transitional government since August 2004.

CRITICAL CROSSROADS: SOUTH AFRICA AND THE DRC

THERE ARE MORE parallels between South Africa and the DRC. Both are societies in transition from turbulent histories. The DRC is at critical crossroads, South Africa was caught up in way back in March 1994, before the historic democratic elections that marked the ultimate demise of apartheid and paved way for the advent of our nascent democracy. South Africa, after more than a decade of Democracy is still very much a society in transition, and dealing with daunting challenges, albeit of a different magnitude compared to those of the DRC. South Africa's traverse thus far remains impressive and can be salutary to the Congolese people.

The DRC has also not been spared from turbulent history. Since 1960, the DRC or Zaire as it was known then, has been subjected to decades of misrule, tyranny and rampant corruption under former President Mobutu Sese Seko, who was overthrown by Laurent Kabila in 1997. Upon seizing power, Kabila renamed Zaire the DRC. Kabila remained in power until January 2001, when he was assassinated. He then was replaced by his son Joseph who is still the current President pending the outcome of the elections. Since 1997, the country has been involved in the civil war that at some point pitted Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe against the neighbouring states of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Over 300 000 people were killed in com-

bat whereas close to four million others have died as result of indirect consequences of the war. More have been displaced internally and externally as refugees in the neighbouring states. The DRC is, therefore, a real and devastating tragedy to face the continent and the international community at large at the beginning of this millennium.

Despite this troubled history, the DRC is potentially the strongest economy in the region. The DRC is a vast country almost the size of Western Europe. The DRC has a huge resource endowment including oil, diamond, gold, copper and almost 80% reserves of the world's coltan – contained in cell phones and laptops.

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BACKGROUND: WHY SOUTH AFRICA'S PROLONGED ENGAGEMENT IN THE DRC?

Part of explanation to this question lies in the principles and goals of South Africa's Foreign Policy since 1994. These can be collapsed mainly into three. These are:

- Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy;
- Economic Development;
- The Promotion of Peace and Stability.

As explicated elsewhere in the DFA documents, South Africa's engagement with the African continent including the DRC is guided by the broader foreign policy objective of consolidating the African Agenda. It is within that broad context that South Africa, as is the case with Burundi, Ivory Coast, Sudan, got involved in the DRC as well.

In the case of the DRC, South Africa has always been unrelenting in its constructive engagement. RSA's efforts culminated in the signing of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement in 2002. This then paved a way for the installation of the Transitional Government in May 2003. The Transitional Government is led by President Joseph Kabila together with four vice-presidents, from previously warring factions. It is as a result of the installation of the Transitional Government that South Africa has been in a good stead to help the Congolese prepare for the elections. As of August 2004, the South African Government launched a Bi-National Commission (BNC) as an annual forum for the exchange of ideas between the presidents of both countries, on areas of mutual interest and further co-operation. The BNC paved the way for engagement in the DRC by the South African Government through its Departments of Foreign Affairs,



Public Service and Administration, Defence, the South African Police Service, Home Affairs, Provincial and Local Government, Transport, Trade and Industry, as well as the Independent Electoral Commission. Priority was given to critical areas of supporting governance structures, electoral support, security sector reform, and electoral support. Close to thirty agreements, covering various critical sectors, have been signed since the last BNC in March 2006.

To highlight the nature and extent of RSA involvement in the DRC, these are some of the projects various South African Government Departments have embarked on in the DRC. These are as follows:

- Foreign Affairs: capacity building for the DRC Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation;
- Public Service and Administration: public service census and anti-corruption, respectively, to root-out ghosts and corruption from the public service;
- Home Affairs: population and immigration matters, to help in matters of population registration and the ultimate establishment of a voter roll;
- Defence: disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration

(DDR) processes;

- Police: capacity building for the Congolese National Police (PNC) focusing inter alia on VIP protection training as well as crowd control
- Transport: refurbishment of airports as well as the railway lines;
- Trade and Industry: implementation of the INGA Electrification projects as well as the Bas Congo Spatial Development Initiative; and
- The independent Electoral Commission: one electoral support including voter education, printing of ballot papers and as well as their distribution to the DRC, as entered into an Agreement with the UNDP in May 2006.

The South African Government, since 1994, has always been in the forefront of the renewal of the African continent. The DRC, with vast size and huge resource endowment, has been identified by South Africa as a strategic partner in the consolidation of the African Agenda. Stability in the DRC will have a trickle down effect to the troubled Great Lakes region. Also long-lasting stability in the DRC will benefit the continent as a whole. The mighty Congo River, for example, has a potential to illuminate the rest of the Sub-Saharan Africa.

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THE 2006 ELECTIONS: AN OVERVIEW

South Africa is proud to have played a significant role in organising the successful 30 July 2006 elections. These were indeed landmark elections. They were the first democratic elections in that country in over forty years. Close to 25 million out of the targeted 28 million eligible voters, registered for these elections. In total, close to 270 parties registered for the elections. There were 32 presidential candidates. There were 9 632 candidates for the 500-seat national assembly. There were 49 600 voting stations.

In May 2006 South Africa signed an Agreement with UNDP, which paved way for South Africa to print and deliver ballot papers to the DRC. A total of about 2000 tons of ballot papers was delivered to the DRC in 78 flights undertaken by the RSA Air Force. The Observer Mission, led by Deputy Minister of Defence Mluleki George and

South Africa's largest Observer mission ever dispatched, was deployed to the DRC from 19 July to 04 August 2006. The Mission observed the three phases of the election including pre-election campaigns, the election day, as well as the counting process. The main contingent of the Observer Mission safely returned to South Africa on 04 August 2006, while a skeleton staff of 14 remained in Kinshasa to observe the counting process.

The DRC election with a six-page ballot paper for the national assembly elections, was the most complex and most challenging in the history of the UN. The UN Mission in the DRC, MONUC, is the organisation's largest mission with over 17000 personnel deployed to secure these elections. The EU also deployed 15 00 force, to support the UN. South Africa, as a preeminent member of the interna-

tional community also played a critical role in preparation for these elections. The South African Government in this cause has been supported by its citizens, who took part in the observer mission when the call was made, as well as by the Private sector. In this regard, three companies - Netcare, Anglogold Ashanti and RandWater - made generous donations to the RSA Observer Mission in the DRC elections.

Should no presidential candidate obtain more than 50% in the first round, there will be a Presidential second round possibly by the end of October between the top two presidential candidates. In terms of the UNDP agreement South Africa will also assist in preparations for presidential second round, expected to coincide with the Provincial elections. In this context, the South African Government, through IEC and Department of Defence, will assist in the printing and delivery of ballot papers to the DRC.

CONCLUSIONS: WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Despite a relatively peaceful election, as there were a little over twenty reported election-related deaths, the country is still vulnerable to security challenges posed mainly by renegade militia groups. Stability in the DRC is very crucial as its melt down might have ramifications to the Great Lakes and the Central Africa Regions, as witnessed in the civil war that at some point in time pitted Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe against the neighbouring states of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. The country, though, seems to be poised for a new beginning likely to be ushered by the advent of a democratically elected government of the first time in the history of that country. Perdurable peace and security in that country therefore warrants post conflict reconstruction of the DRC beyond the elections, of which South Africa remains a prime champion. This is per-

continent in view of the poor infrastructure in the DRC. Transport remains the key challenge: there are only 2500 km of tarred roads; airports are in a bad state of disrepair; and its rivers, key for trade, are not navigable, as they are filled with hyacinth.

The Beyond the elections, South Africa is prepared to work with the democratically elected new government that will emerge in the DRC and will stay the course in that country, embarking on post-conflict reconstruction. Focus will be on critical support areas like Security Sector Reform, in the form of integration of the DRC armed forces by DOD and capacity building by SAPS for the Congolese National Police; public service census and anti-corruption (Department of Public Service and Administration); and capacity building for the DRC 25

new provinces (Department of Provincial and Local Government); infrastructure development (Department of Transport and Department of Public Works); electrification and mining (Department of Minerals and Energy), as well as increased South African investments in the DRC (Department of Trade and Industry). Already there is noticeable involvement by the South African Companies in the DRC, especially in telecommunications and mining sectors. It is anticipated that there will increase exponentially after the installation of a democratically elected government.

The South African Government is proud of having been part of history making in the DRC and will continue to wakeup this sleeping giant.

FIFTY YEARS AGO this month, 20 000 women or more from all walks of life gathered at the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the Pass Laws. Led by Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophie de Bruyn and Rahima Moosa, they presented thousands of petitions to the office of then Prime Minister J.G. Strydom.

It was not easy in those days to organize a march of such great magnitude and significance. Bertha Gxowa, a member of the ANC Women's League and later to become a Member of Parliament, was on this march and years later in an interview she recalled the difficulties involved in its preparation. She explains that:

"We should have used PUTCO buses to Pretoria but the government stopped and banned all the Putco buses, which were driving to Pretoria. We then met the evening before with the National Executive and decided that we are going to use trains. We arranged that at each station like Princess, Germiston, Park Station, all stations that go to Pretoria, we put women on the first train from three o'clock in the morning. We put ten women in each train and buy tickets for everyone. But the police stopped the trains and took the women out of trains. But the women still found a way to Pretoria."

(This interview with Bertha Gxowa, is captured in a new book called *The Women's Freedom March of 1956* published by the Mutloatse Arts Heritage Trust 2006)

It is these heroic women whose actions we celebrate in this Women's Month. For against all odds and with great determination, they found a way to Pretoria. And, in so doing, they succeeded in protesting against apartheid.

They presented a petition to the Office of Prime Minister Strydom; and in unprecedented solidarity, they declared:

"We represent and speak on behalf of hundreds of thousands of women who could not be with us. But all over the country, at this moment, women are watching and thinking of us. Their hearts are with us...."

"We are women of every race, we come from the cities and the towns, from the reserves and the villages. We



National Women's Day

come as women united in our purpose to save the African women from the degradation of passes.

"We African women know too well the effect of this [pass] law upon our homes, our children. We, who are not African women, know how our sisters suffer...."

"We shall not rest until all pass laws and all forms of permits restricting our freedom have been abolished.

We shall not rest until we have won for our children their fundamental rights of freedom, justice, and security."

With these statements, they knocked on the door of the Prime Minister, but they were then told to leave the petitions behind, before they were ushered out. They did not get to meet the Prime Minister, but the women had succeeded, against all odds, in demonstrating that they were a force to be reckoned with. Fifty years later the South African struggle for women's emancipation still takes its inspiration from this long women's march to freedom.

Their struggles for freedom in turn

had also been shaped in the years preceding this historic march and inspired by decades of women's participation in the struggle for liberation.

In 1954 South African women had come together at the Founding Conference of the Federation of South African Women, where they adopted the Women's Charter.

The Women's Charter committed itself to "striving for the removal of all laws, regulations, conventions and customs that discriminate against us as women, and that deprive us in any way of our inherent rights to the advantages, responsibilities and opportunities that society offers to any one section of our population."

Among the women present at this founding event were Dora Tamana and Ray Alexander, Lillian Ngoyi and Ida Mtwana; Fatima Meer, Bertha Mkhize and Henrietta Ostrich. It is important for us to remember all these women for they occupy an important place in our history. Let the history books of this period show their contribution to liberation and not only the efforts of



LEFT
Veteran ANC Women's League activist, Mrs Albertina Sisulu

RIGHT
50 years ago South African women marched onto the Union Buildings in Pretoria led by Ms Lillian Ngoyi, Ms Sophie de Bruyn, (here posing in front of an artist impression of herself during the activities of 50 years ago), Ms Helen Joseph and Ms Amina Cachalia

The Women's March of 1956

men.

Speaking at the launch of the Federation of South African Women, Ida Mtwana, who represented the ANC Women's Section in the then Transvaal, called women to action with her words:

"Today women are marching side by side with the men on the road to freedom. They are beginning to break the chains which have been created by the oppressors to retard the progress of women. Today we have come together to build up one big family...."

"We cannot sit down and fold our arms when attempts are being made to hold our progress and that of our children. We have to sacrifice all we have for our freedom. If we do not fight now, it will be too late and our children will curse us for our callousness."

"We know that as women we have many problems which hold us back from taking part fully in the struggle and it is precisely for that purpose that we have come to break down these problems. Let us come out as a united force. Let us take our place in the

struggle for freedom. The success of this Conference will depend on what we are prepared to do outside this hall. If we all put our shoulders to the wheel, the time will come when we will be proud of the acts of women. Let us unite, let us go forward with courage and determination."

(This speech is also captured in *The Women's Freedom March of 1956* published by the Mutlootse Arts Heritage Trust.)

A year later, in 1955, in preparation for the Congress of the People in Klipfontein, which later adopted the Freedom Charter, the women had also made their voices heard. Their demands included paid maternity leave, proper and well-resourced clinics, maternity homes, child welfare centres, crèches and health clinics, proper houses and sanitation, electrification, better land for farming, sufficient food, free compulsory universal education, national medical services, equal rights, among other important demands – and they did this "for people of all races", for all people in the rural areas, for all children, for all

mothers – "for all people in all places."

The women in the 1950s were also inspired by the struggles of previous generations of women who had taken the lead in the fight against gender oppression. The foundations had already been laid early in the last century with the formation of the Bantu Women's League in 1918 and the ground-breaking work done by Charlotte Maxeke and others in 1931 with the official recognition of this organisation as a branch of the ANC.

The League, which was the front-runner of the ANC Women's League, vigorously represented and promoted the interests of many women irrespective of class and education as they fought for their rights and the rights of all oppressed people.

Through the Federation of South African Women, later through the National Women's Coalition, through the ANC Women's League, through the various roles played by women in politics, in youth organizations, in civic structures, in the churches, in the trade union movement, in small businesses, women around South Africa have managed to forge unity and to make strides towards women's equality.

Through the efforts of these women and of others in our country, today we can be proud that we have a Constitution, which enshrines women's equality. We have a Commission on Gender Equality, an Office on the Status of Women located in the Presidency as well as a National Machinery within government for advancing gender equality which aims to integrate gender into all government policy, planning and activities. Women are a sizeable number in our National Parliament and at other levels of government.

The South African Women in Dialogue Initiative has assisted women in working towards a national unity and has also worked with women in other African countries so that we can learn from each other and ensure that women's voices are heard in national and international discussions on the future of our countries, our regions and our continent as a whole.

South Africa has recognised that part of this homegrown initiative

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must also be to strengthen the cause of women on the African continent through working towards the renewal of the Pan African Women's Organisation so that it becomes a continental force to harness the efforts of African women. For the fight for women's rights will only be fully won if these are recognized as part of a struggle that goes beyond national and continent borders.

Recently in Bloemfontein we have witnessed the establishment of the Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa. This organisation recog-

nizes that women's struggles for women's rights are also local struggles, that there must be a minimum platform for action, that the fight against patriarchy is part and parcel of the overall struggle, that women should be fully involved in peace and security processes and that the fight against poverty is paramount as is our commitment to a better quality of life for all.

Writing about the importance of this Movement in Umrabulo (August 2006), Ambassador Thenjiwe Mtintso has pointed out that:

"The story of 'forming' a Women's



As we gather at this historic launch conference of the Progressive Women's Movement, and on behalf of the Steering Committee, may I begin by welcoming all delegates to this event here in Bloemfontein and give our special and heartfelt greetings to those who have traveled far to be here. A special welcome to the women who have come from our neighbouring countries and those who have come across oceans in the spirit of sisterhood and solidarity.

It is in the spirit of selflessness and sacrifice that you have traveled here to strengthen our cause, to work towards unity and to make your voices heard as part of this national effort to intensify the struggle for women's equality.

The journey that has brought us here today in defence of the rights of women, is a journey on which women have traveled from the earliest of times and in all parts of the world.

It is a journey full of milestones and little victories that together add to the whole battle for women's emancipation and for gender equality. It is a fight that we are still waging every day, but we do so strengthened by those who centuries ago began this march for freedom.

As we welcome you to this historic conference let us pause and look back where women have come from. Almost 160 years ago women launched the 1st Women's Rights Convention in New York.

Across the Atlantic Ocean almost 160 years ago women launched the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca

Falls, New York, in 1848. It was here that 300 women and men signed a declaration called the "Declaration of Rights asserted a belief in equality, the right of women to education and freedom to enter all jobs and professions.

This meeting was a landmark in the fight for Women's Rights partly because in coming together, women had reacted to an earlier gathering in 1840 where women delegates were refused the right to be delegates at the Antislavery Convention held in London in 1840 because they were women.

Thereafter women in many other countries started the struggle for women's rights in general, and in particular the right to vote for women was granted in 1893 in New Zealand.

Even in New Zealand women enfranchisement took many decades to achieve because women had to persuade a male electorate to grant them the vote. Many men and some women believed that women were not suited by circumstance or temperament for the vote. It was also believed that the women's place was in the home, caring for her husband and children. Entry of women into political life, it was feared, challenged the assignment of women to the home and might lead to disruption of the family.

In Germany public attitude towards woman suffrage were hostile. A Prussian law of 1851 forbade women, along with

the mentally ill, school children and apprentices, from joining political parties or attending meeting at which political subjects were discussed.

After the Allied Nations defeated Japan in 1945, Japanese feminists and female staff officers of the Allied Occupation co-operated in proposing that the new Japanese constitution should enfranchise women. Interestingly they hoped women would make the Japanese nation less war-like and that women would raise their children to believe in peace and democracy.

In some countries women were still discriminated on the grounds of race. Like in South Africa, only white women were allowed to vote around 1935, black people only got their vote in 1994.

Since 1994 we have done well in advancing policies, legislation that contributes towards women's emancipation and access to services, e.g. water, electrification, health, labour laws, maintenance laws, reproductive rights.

Women have also done well in the issue of representation in decision making i.e. in parliament, in the cabinet, in provinces we have women premiers, MECs and councillors. In business women are just beginning to feature. With all these achievements, there is still a lot more to be done.

One young woman asked me, if we are doing well, why do we need a women's movement and what is a women's movement?

According to Peggy Antrobus in her book *The Global Women's Movement*, she defines the women's movement as a "political movement – part of the broad array of social movements con-

An edited version of the address by the Minister of Launching Conference of the Progressive Women's



Marching to Union Buildings in Pretoria to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Woman's March



Movement in the current period dates back to the Malibongwe Conference in Amsterdam in 1989. In the glorious, long and arduous road to freedom, there have always been women's movements. If by a 'women's movement' we mean all women who recognise the need to mobilise and organise themselves at any level and engage in any form of struggle to better their lot, or fight against any form of discrimination against women, or engage in any form of struggle for the achievement of women's emancipation and gender equality, then there has been not one

women's movement, but many."

She has also emphasised that: "The launch of the South African Women's Movement should be used to dialogue and strategise for further onslaughts against patriarchy, that abominable system, ideology and practice of domination of women by men that permeates all spheres of our lives.... We still have to do much more for the complete eradication and transformation of all power relations in society, across which runs the gender inequality thread. The whole society has to be mobilised into a strong and vibrant

Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, at the Women's Movement, Bloemfontein, 5 August 2006

cerned with changing social conditions, rather than part of a network of women's organizations (although many women's organizations may be part of a women's movement)."

- A women's movement is grounded in an understanding of women's relations to social conditions – an understanding of gender as an important relationship within the broad structure of social relationships of class, race and ethnicity, age and location.
- A women's movement is a process, it is flexible, responding to specific conditions of perceived gender inequality etc. An awareness and rejection of patriarchal privilege and control are central to the politics of women's movements.
- Finally, a definition of a Women's Movement must include those individual women who would never join an organization, nor define themselves as feminists, but whose lives and actions nevertheless serve to advance the liberation of women in their community and beyond.
- In most instances the "movement" is born at the moments in which individual women become aware of their separateness as women, their alienation, marginalization, isolation or even abandonment within a broader movement for social justice or social change. In other words, women's struggle for agency within the broader struggle is the catalyst for women's movements.

Programme Director,
So, what are the challenges?

- Women still struggle to acquire land and property
- Access to capital for starting small and medium business enterprises and micro credit still hinders women's full economic participation
- Access to information to enable women to make the right choices
- Sharing or distribution of wealth.
- Unequal gender relations still persist.
- There is still the subordination of women.
- A challenge remains how to involve young women in the movement.
- Racism
- Poverty.
- Violence against women and militarism
- Violation of human rights.
- Protection of the environment
- Some of the counter terrorism, wars and conflict seen today are both racist and patriarchal in nature.

What strategies should we employ?

It is important to make alliances with men if we are to build a strong progressive women's movement for social transformation. We have to make strategic alliances with those who understand that there is no justice for anyone if there is no justice for women or those who believe no country can boast of being free until its women are free.

Author Antrobus further states that "An increasing number of men are recognizing the ways in which patriarchy limits our understanding of human possibilities, and the contribution of feminism to project that seek social justice and a better life for all"

- The relationship with the state, judiciary, family, religion and corporate world should be nurtured.
- We must have a constructive engagement with all these patriarchal institutions in order to reform them.
- We need to ask how do we socialize our children on values of respect and diversity instead of those of domination and violence.
- What interventions should we employ against the trafficking of women and children?
- How do we deal with the backlash against women's rights?

This launch of the progressive women's movement could not have come at a better time when the country is observing and celebrating the Women's month. If it were not for the sacrifices and gallant acts of those women, there would have been no Women's day nor Women's month. They bequeathed to our generation a better life and better environment for Women's emancipation.

The question we must ask ourselves is: what are we going to bequeath to future generations, when we hand over the baton - will they be proud of us?

I welcome you and wish you successful deliberations!

Igama lamakhosikazi malibongwe!

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movement for transformation, at the centre of which should be a women's movement driven by women, particularly the most marginalised poor, black, rural and working class women."

The theme of this year's Women Month celebrations has been "women marching for equality, peace and development." Clearly, much still needs to be done to ensure that women's emancipation permeates all spheres of our lives and that the battle for full equality is won in the streets, in the households, in the boardrooms and through the transformation of all structures that have sought in the past to perpetuate gender oppression.

Let the South African women's rights movement for progressive change also take its inspiration from the words of lifelong activist, Dora Tamana, who at the launch of a united women's congress in the early 80s, made the following call to action:

"You who have no work, speak.
You who have no homes, speak.

You who have to run like chickens from the vulture, speak.

Let us share our problems so that we can solve them together.

We must free ourselves.

Men and women must share housework.

Men and women must work together in the home and out in the world. There are no creches and nursery schools for our children.

There are no homes for the aged.

There is no-one to care for the sick.

Women must unite to fight for these rights.

We opened the road for you.

You must go forward."

"NO DEAL is better than a BAD Deal !"

WTO Doha Development Round Update: August 2006



South Africa is calling for the reduction in agricultural tariffs

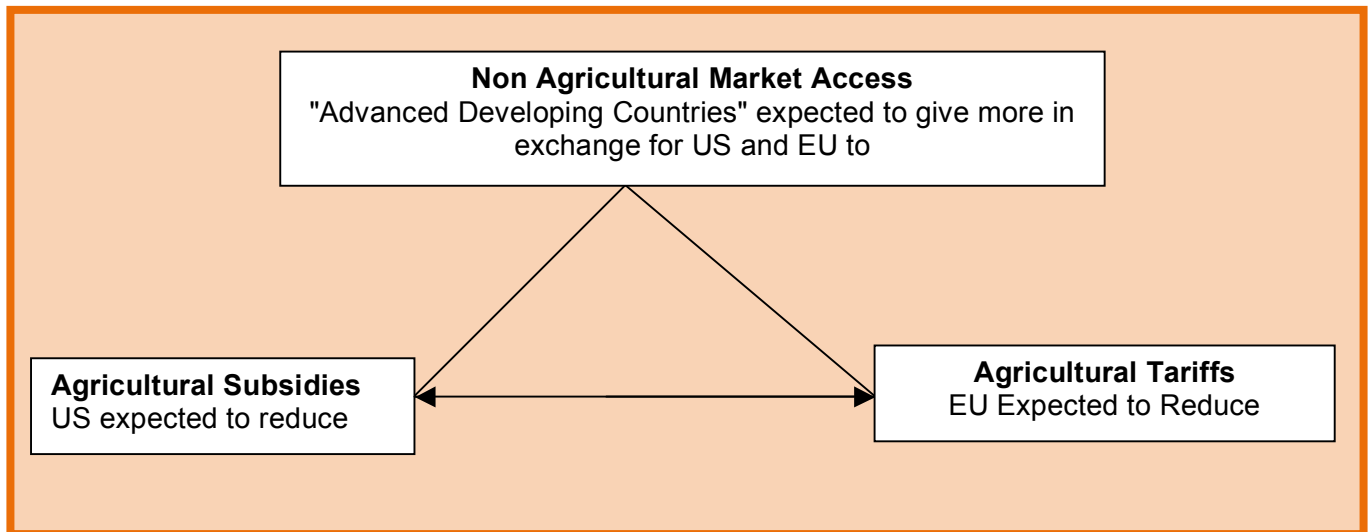
BACKGROUND

THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION that launched the Doha Development Round placed the needs and interests of developing countries, which make up the majority of World Trade Organisation (WTO) members, at the center of the negotiations. Consistent with the original objectives of the Round, Developing Countries have been insisting, throughout the 5 years of this Round, that the outcomes need to be developmental, considering that this would be the First Development Round after 8 General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT= predecessor of WTO) Rounds wherein the dominant interests were those of developed countries and developing countries played a subordinate role. Simulations and analyses have shown that these developmental

gains will be optimised in the liberalisation of the Agricultural Sector, which constitutes the biggest employer and biggest contributor to economic output in the poorest economies.

STATE OF PLAY AND IMPASSE JULY 2006

The Triangular figure above has often been used to describe the stakes of these negotiations, with the key issues being the need for increased agricultural market access for developing countries through subsidy cutting by the US and reducing tariffs by the EU. In return, the developed countries had upped the stakes by separating a group of "advanced developing countries" and demanding more of them in terms of the manufacturing sector market access for developed world output.



The final negotiations failed to reach consensus on the EU's offer on tariff cuts subject to a special dispensation for "sensitive products", the "Advanced Developing Countries" tariff cut for non-agricultural market access was deemed insufficient by the US, and the US offer was never revised since October 10, 2005 due to the above demands by the US as a pre-requisite for it to move on its offer. As a result, the negotiations were suspended until new positions emerge from the key players.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE DOHA ROUND

According to the Geneva based South African Trade Negotiators, the following possibilities exist:

- Ultimately, the Doha Round cannot and will not be left to die, the political and developmental costs of failure are too great. In addition, it has to be resuscitated as it holds the only hope for a viable and legitimate multilateral trading system.
- The fundamental issues of Agricultural Reform in the major developed countries, and disciplines in the WTO that lock these reforms, and make developed countries accountable for any violation of these rules, can only be obtained in a successful Doha Round. More balanced and fair global trade rules in anti-dumping and countervailing actions and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) can also only be ne-

gotiated in the WTO.

- The alternative to a successful Doha Round will be an intensification of bilateral and regional trade agreements by the developed countries with their major trading partners. This will create greater trade and investment diversion towards the dominant players and a complex trading regime. On the other hand, this is an opportunity for strengthening of regional trading arrangements and South South Co-operation to optimise gains from trade.
- There is no doubt that if the Doha Round is suspended for a long period there will be a spurt of disputes filed on a range of issues, especially on agricultural commodities like rice, fruit and vegetable, butter, and corn, after the successful actions already taken against the US and the EU in cotton and sugar respectively.
- The acrimony between the EU and the US could unleash the forces of protectionism that we began to witness early this year in the US (Dubai Ports case) and the EU (Cases against Chinese Footwear, Mittal Steel). This could become a dangerous trend feeding on the current US unilateralist approach to other areas of multilateralism.

SOUTH AFRICA'S ROLE & WAY FORWARD

South Africa's broad objectives

aim to: enhance market access for products of export interest to developing countries; eliminate industrial country subsidies and support (export and domestic support in agriculture); re-negotiate rules that perpetuate imbalances in global trade; ensure policy space (flexibility) for developing countries to pursue development; technical and financial support to the least developed and most vulnerable members need to be provided.

South Africa contributed to the launch of the Doha Round and the centrality of the development dimensions of the Doha mandate. It has continued since then to play a significant role in the process, helping to solve major negotiations such as the TRIPS and Public Health Agreement in 2002. South Africa was a central player in the creation of the G20 with Brazil and India and continues to be a core player in the G20 with Brazil, India and China.

Regarding the suspended negotiations, South Africa's approach is to strengthen its preparatory work and technical expertise and to consult more broadly with SACU and SADC. Politically, South Africa, while not a member of the G6, the group that was engaged in last minute attempts to salvage the negotiations, it will be expected to play its role in renewing the political will of the majors to re-engage and break the current impasse in the Doha Round.

Over the last few weeks, headlines around the world have proclaimed that “The Middle East Burns.” While some stare with sympathy at the horrific pictures emerging from the conflict in the Gaza Strip, Israel, and Lebanon, most turn the page and shake their heads at the seemingly impossible task of long lasting peace in the region.

“We should never allow ourselves the dangerous luxury of complacency,” President Thabo Mbeki said recently, “believing that we are immune to the conflicts that we see and have seen in so many parts of the world.” But why should we, at the southern tip of Africa be concerned about our neighbours in the Middle East? Why should South Africans stop thinking “Agh, it’s just more of the same up there.”

The conflict in the Middle East is different this time. Syria and Iran could, for the first time, be directly drawn into the Israeli/Palestinian issue.

In many ways the Middle East is also at a tipping point. The region can either become more open towards democratic ideals (it was hoped that a democratic Iraq would spur change in its neighbours). Alternatively, the region could shift in the other direction: opposing Western political frameworks and rejecting leaders sanctioned by the West (as witnessed with the democratic ascension of Hamas in Palestine). This conflict could tip the scales in favour of the latter. Some argue that the manner in which Israel has responded to Hizbollah attacks has created a much more fertile ground for people committing themselves to terrorism.

South Africans could also be affected more directly – their wallets will feel the difference. Continued fears of escalation of the conflict reflect itself in higher oil prices. As South Africa sources 70% of its crude oil from the Middle East, ongoing conflict will see continued hikes in the price of petrol. Higher petrol prices may push up inflation. Inflationary pressures may lead to further interest rate hikes. The result of all of this? A car that is too expensive to fuel, and a bond that is too costly to service.



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Aziz Pahad during a press briefing on the Middle East

Peace in the Middle East

Threats to petrochemical plants and telecommunication infrastructure in the Middle East could also endanger the huge investments by South African firms (such as SASOL and MTN) in the region.

Furthermore, other South African international priorities are also under threat. NEPAD, the scourge of HIV and Aids, UN Reform and the reform of the imbalanced global trading system all take a back seat as the world’s attention shifts to the Middle East.

The South African response:

On a less selfish note, the concept of ubuntu – a core value of our foreign policy – should also teach us that not only is a person a person through other people, but no country should sleep soundly while others are in conflict. South Africa’s relatively peaceful transition provides experiences to of-

fer. The lessons of reconciliation are also ones that could prove useful to our neighbours in the Middle East.

In this vein, the South African government has called on the United Nations Security Council to accept its responsibilities and to condemn Israel’s collective punishment, which is contrary to international law and the Geneva Convention and has called for an immediate cessation of hostilities. It has also condemned all cross-border attacks, including rocket attacks, in the region which contributes to a further escalation of the conflict.

The South African government remains convinced that the only way for a comprehensive solution is a cessation of hostilities without delay and followed by negotiations that will ensure lasting peace in the region. Such a peaceful settlement must be a viable Palestinian State based on the 1967 borders

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and the acceptance by all countries in the region of internationally recognised borders for every neighbouring country, including Israel.

Humanitarian relief efforts for those thousands displaced or injured in Lebanon have also been coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Government, together with Gift of the Givers and the Maronite Church, has co-sponsored a flight carrying relief supplies to Lebanon. R1,2million has also been offered to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The South African Government also appeals to the people of South Africa to continue to mobilise support for the people of Palestine and Gaza at this time of human catastrophe.

Youth Life Skills Camp



Participants at the Youth Life Skills Camp for the youth of DFA employees

The EWC in collaboration with the UN organisations recently conducted a 3-day Youth Life Skills Camp for the youth of DFA employees. A total of 63 youths, with ages ranging from 12-18 years (33 from DFA and 30 from the UN organisation) attended the camp. The youth were educated on various topics affecting the youth of today. These included the children's rights, substance abuse, emotional intelligence, positive self talk, sex and sexuality, peer pressure and relationships, dealing with diversity, etc.

The Youth were inspired and felt honoured to be addressed by high-calibre people such as Mr. Mike Muendane (Director of Soul Talk), Dr. Famba Mboup (Ambassador of Senegal to SA), Ms. Makini Tchameni from the US (CEO of the ACE Foundation) and our own Dr. Walters and Ms. Hanlie van der Vyver (both from HR). The camp was rounded off with a game drive which the youth found enjoyable but very short.

The EWC is happy to report that the youth were well behaved, thoroughly engaged and challenged the speakers and made friends. The only criticism received from the outspoken youth is that the camp was too short. A point taken in a positive light.

The EWC intends to run these camps on an annual basis during the Youth Month and hopes to accommodate more youths representing the demographics of DFA.

The EWC wish to thank all the parents who supported this initiative and also apologises to those who's children could not be accommodated because of the age or number. We also appreciate the positive messages received from the parents after the camp.

Last but not least, the EWC team also deserve a "round of applause" for the hard work, dedication, sleepless nights and giving up their weekend to ensure smooth running of the camp.

Your wellbeing is our priority, but your concern

Organisational Development

Top Achiever



The DFA Now congratulates the top achiever for the recently concluded Diplomatic Training, Ms Colleen Chidley

The Director-General's Forum (DGF)

The DGF is one of the Department's senior decision-making bodies. It is headed the Director-General, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba. The Forum meets every Tuesday to discuss and make decisions on the Department's administration, policy and operational requirements and issues.



Director-General:
Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba



Deputy Director-General: Multilateral
(Special Projects), Mr Abdul Minty



Deputy Director-General: Special Envoy
Amb. Ambrose Mamabolo



Deputy Director-General:
Corporate Services, Mr Mkhusele Apleni



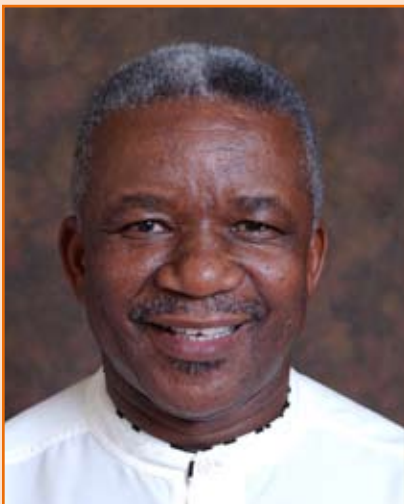
Deputy Director-General: Multilateral,
Amb. George Nene



Deputy Director-General:
Africa Multilateral, Amb. Jessie Duarte



Deputy Director-General: FSI and HRD,
Amb. Nozipho January-Bardill



Deputy Director-General: Asia & Middle
East, Amb. Jerry Matjila



Acting Deputy Director-General: Americas
& Europe, Amb. Gert Grobler

DGF feedback



Alternate Chief of State Protocol: Amb. Rantobeng Mokou



Alternate Chief of State Protocol: Mr Tebog Seokolo



*Chief Director:
Public Diplomacy, Mr Ronnie Mamoepa*

At a recent Director-General's Forum (DGF), it was agreed that officials should be kept informed of important decisions taken at the DGF, which could impact on the work of officials at Missions and at Head Office.

The DGF of 18 July 2006 agreed on the following:

It has come to the attention of Head Office that a few of the South Africans currently employed as Locally Recruited staff members (LRPs) in Missions abroad, have expressed an interest to be absorbed into the Department. The DGF therefore wishes to inform Missions that the only way for LRP's to be absorbed into the DFA, is by having them apply for vacant posts within the Department through the normal channels. However, to assist LRP's in this regard, it was agreed at the DGF that the CVs of LRP's interested in applying for posts within the DFA could be forwarded to the Deputy Director-General: Foreign Service Institute and Human Resource Development, Ambassador January-Bardill, who would assess their relevant skills and make a recommendation as to possible placement at Head Office. LRP's need to understand, however, that their appointment is not automatic, by virtue of the fact that they had been employed at a South African Mission abroad, but that their applications would need to be evaluated in the same manner as that of any other South African applying for a post within the Department.

LRP's who express an interest in a permanent appointment in the DFA, should, however, be informed that such an appointment would be at Head Office in Pretoria and not at the relevant Mission.

When advertisements are placed by Missions for LRP vacancies, South Africans could be considered for appointment, provided that the relevant applicant has been resident in the country long enough to be able to add value to the Mission and its activities and provided that he or she complies with the requirements of the relevant post advertised.

The Department will forward clear guidelines regarding the employment of South Africans as LRP's, once these have been finalised and approved by the DGF. Until such guidelines have been released, any appointment of South Africans as LRP's should be cleared first with the DDG in charge of the Branch: FSI & HRD at Head Office.

Senior Management in the Department has also been sensitised to a trend within the Department, whereby as soon as the successful candidates for placement abroad are announced, nominated officials are often told by their supervisors to immediately report to the relevant Desk for orientation. Sometimes this happens months before the official's proposed date of departure and often without prior consultation with the relevant Branch.

DGF has, therefore, agreed that officials on transfer to Missions will only transfer to the relevant Desk six weeks prior to departure. This period of time, if utilised efficiently, should prove to be adequate in assisting officials to prepare themselves for their posting. Where specific circumstances necessitate a deviation from this rule, this must be agreed upon by the relevant Deputy Directors-General.

Officials on transfer to Head Office are expected to submit a detailed hand-over report to their respective Desk at Head Office, two months prior to their departure from the Mission. This report must be signed by both the official and the Head of Mission. Such a report would be provided to the new transferee upon arrival at the relevant Desk, to assist with his/her orientation. Where deemed necessary, an overlap between officials could be considered.

Picture this: FSI team-building

