



October 2007

dfa **Now**

Your voice to be heard



President Thabo Mbeki hosted Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh and President of Brazil Lula da Silva for the IBSA Summit in Pretoria

DEAR COLLEAGUES

The October issue has a lot of interesting articles to offer. Our lead story is on the 2nd IBSA Summit. We also bring you the regular Q&A that brings us closer to departmental branches and this time it takes us to Branch; State Protocol. There is also a report on Trade and Investment promotion course and a summary of Ministry's political briefing.

Please don't forget that we rely on your assistance in meeting the printing deadline. Therefore, in the future to ensure that the (DFA Now) is released on good time, assist us by meeting the submission deadline for the articles. Forward your letters and articles to the Editor before the deadline.

Enjoy!

Q&A with

AMBASSADOR OR MOKOU: ACTING DDG, STATE PROTOCOL

1. What is State Protocol?

State Protocol is a Branch within the Department of Foreign Affairs tasked with the responsibility of facilitating on a wider scale visits (Official and State Events) for our Political Principals (President, Deputy President, Minister of foreign Affairs and the two Deputy Ministers), their counterparts including former heads of States and Governments.

2. What is the role of State Protocol and what are your core objectives?

The main role of State Protocol is to see to the organisation of State Events from a logistical perspective, be it a State Visit, Official Visit, State reception-Dinner, Lunch or any other State event for that matter. State Protocol provides world class uniquely South African Protocol.

3. What type of personality can join your branch?

The Branch State Protocol is a dynamic working environment and situations arise and change at any time. State Protocol needs the type of people who can handle stress, work under pressure and attend to detail. Any mistake might lead to severe embarrassment not only to our Principals but the country as a whole.

4. How does the Branch State Protocol contribute to the process of implementing Foreign Policy?

The Branch State Protocol plays a complimentary role which is meant to enhance Foreign Policy especially the image of the Republic of South Africa.

5. Your job entails interacting with the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Diplomats, what are the best and challenging experiences?

When crises arise in any event, I am the first port of call to unravel what ever might have gone wrong because with State Protocol, never given a second chance. As the saying goes: There's never a second chance for a first impression.

The *dfa Now* is an internal newsletter of Department of Foreign Affairs published by the Directorate: Content Development.

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the DFA or the editors. The deadline for contributions is 30 November 2007. Contributions may be sent to cbe300 or mokhetheap@foreign.gov.za

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MS MOSALA: Diplomatic Immunities, Accreditation and Privileges (DIAP)

1. What is the most exciting aspect about state protocol, with reference to your line duty and what are your core functions

Interacting with clients from foreign missions accredited to the Republic and exchanging knowledge on how protocol functions in their country of origin. Our core function is accreditation, i.e. the issuance of a diplomatic identity document which is a document identifying the status of the diplomat in the Republic and the type of immunities and privileges they enjoy.

2. What are the challenges of being in a demanding workplace that requires an ability to pay attention to detail and work under pressure and how do you deal with it?

The challenge that we face on a daily basis is everyone wanting to be served before the next person. The increase in the number of missions in South Africa meant more work for the officials who are operating with an archaic system which was developed a decade ago. The workload has increased but the resources remain the same. We deal with the pressure by prioritising our work on a daily basis. The Heads of Mission's applications are a priority at all times.

3. What is required to be an effective official in your Directorate?

Client focus and the principle of Batho Pele is central to our work and we deal with diplomats daily. An ability to work under pressure, absorb blame even when not in the wrong because the diplomats are our guests. Communication skill is essential and a familiarity with the Acts that govern our daily operations.

THE 2nd INDIA-BRAZIL-SOUTH AFRICA (IBSA) SUMMIT HELD IN TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA, 17 OCTOBER 2007



President Thabo Mbeki, Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh (left) and President of Brazil Mr Lula da Silva (right) during the IBSA Summit, Presidential Guesthouse, Pretoria

President Thabo Mbeki, the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr Manmohan Singh, and the President of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, met in Tshwane, South Africa, on 17 October 2007, for the 2nd Summit of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum.

President Mbeki was supported at the Summit on 17 October 2007 by Ministers from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Public Works, Social Development, Public Service and Administration, Trade and Industry and Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

In terms of the government-to-government co-operation within the IBSA Forum, 16 Sectoral Working Groups have been established up to date, two

of which were formally established during the 2nd IBSA Summit in the fields of Climate Change and Environment, and Human Settlement Development. The Working Groups foster closer cooperation between the IBSA partners in a variety of fields which range from Transport, Trade and Industry, Health, Education and Social Development. These Working Groups are geared towards achieving tangible outcomes from opportunities which the IBSA Forum presents, such as the establishment of a post-graduate exchange programme between IBSA countries, and the negotiations of an IBSA Trilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which will create a trading block between a third of the world's population, with a combined GDP of close to US \$2 trillion.

During the deliberations at the 2nd IBSA Summit the leaders reflected upon the progress made within the Forum since the 1st Summit held in 2006, especially with regards to the implementation of previously signed agreements and concrete deliverables of the Forum. The Heads of State /Government agreed that the IBSA Forum needs to be used more effectively as a platform for the IBSA partner countries to further consolidate their positions on global issues and to further strengthen the voice of the South and developing countries in international fora.

At the 2nd Summit a new dimension of cooperation was added to the IBSA Forum which facilitates closer

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people-to-people cooperation between the IBSA partners and is represented by the Women's Forum, the Parliamentary Forum, the Journalist Programme and the Civil Society Seminar which were held along with an Academic Seminar and Business Seminar prior to the Summit from 15-16 October 2007.

Representatives of civil society, academia and public services of the IBSA countries met from 12-14 October 2007 during the above-mentioned Civil Society Seminar, to explore their contributions towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The IBSA Women's Forum, which consists of representatives from each of the IBSA countries, met from 15-16 October 2007 to facilitate joint efforts and areas of collaboration between the IBSA partners regarding gender issues.

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) in conjunction with the DTI arranged the 2nd annual meeting of the IBSA Business Council which took place on 16 October 2007 in Johannesburg. The business communities of the IBSA Partners were well represented, with top CEOs from large companies, as well as participation of other business representatives in the meetings. The Academic Seminar, which was arranged by Higher Education South Africa (HESA) in partnership with the Department of Education, was well attended by representatives from the academia, representatives from non-governmental "think-tanks" and tertiary academic institutions from India, Brazil and South Africa which took part in fruitful discussions on 15-16 October 2007.

Parliamentarians from each of the IBSA countries met on 16 October to discuss a variety of pertinent issues and areas of cooperation between the Parliaments on their respective countries.

During the course of the 2nd Summit, on 17 October 2007, rapporteurs from the Academic Seminar, Parliamentary Forum, Civil Society Seminar and the Women's Forum were invited to report to the Summit on the progress which had been made within the respective side events, as well as,



Minister, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and her counterparts Mr Anand Sharma (right) and Dr Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim (left) signing a Trilateral Agreement, Pretoria

the recommendations made by the participants of these events on how the IBSA process should advance.

The Heads of State/Government met with the IBSA Business Council, where the report of the 2nd annual meeting of the IBSA Business Council was presented to the leaders. Representatives from each of the IBSA countries were afforded the opportunity to address the meeting regarding matters pertaining to the facilitation of business between the IBSA partners. To further deepen the cooperation between IBSA countries, the leaders encouraged trilateral cooperation including the formation of an IBSA business entity.

The leaders assessed the progress which had been made in the various Sectoral Working Groups and agreed that the main focus of these groups in preparation for the 3rd IBSA Summit, should be the implementation of agreements which had been signed in order to ensure tangible deliverables.

Seven Trilateral Agreements/MOUs were signed at the Summit in the areas of Higher Education, Public Administration, Culture, Wind Resources, Customs Tax and Administration, Health and Medicines, and Social Development.

Discussions took place between the leaders around issues regarding the Doha Round of the World Trade Organisation Negotiations and it was agreed that this round is critical for the developing world and that agriculture remains the key to the conclusion of the round. They also agreed that developing countries should continue to strengthen their engagement and cooperation to ensure that the outcomes of the negotiations are fair and equitable to all. In addition the leaders recognised that the IBSA countries share many similarities and challenges in the area of social development, and discussed the creation of an Integrated IBSA Social Development Strategy that would be developed around a framework which includes points such as "The need for rapid economic growth", "Inclusivity" and "Equitable infrastructure". It was agreed that the Strategy would be finalized prior to the 3rd IBSA Summit.

In preparation for the 3rd IBSA Summit to be held in New Delhi, India, South Africa will host its IBSA counterparts for the 11th Focal Points Meeting and the 5th Trilateral Ministerial Commission in 2008. Due to the importance of social development in each of the IBSA countries, the leaders agreed that the 3rd IBSA Summit would focus on these issues.



Course participants - Trade and Investment Promotion Course at Diep In Die Berg : 25-28 September 2007.
(Front row, from left to right) Mr Ram Chandra – Deputy High Commissioner from the Singapore High Commission in Pretoria; Ms NM Lallie – Chief Director : South Asia, South East Asia and Australasia; Mr Leon Khor – Lecturer from the Civil Service College of Singapore and Mr A Groenewald – Deputy Director from the Foreign Service Institute.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION COURSE

The Branch: Asia and The Middle East in collaboration with the **Foreign Service Institute**, recently coordinated a successful Trade and Investment Promotion Course sponsored by the Singaporean Government as one of the deliverables of the commitments made by the President of Singapore, Mr SR Nathan during his successful State Visit to South Africa in April 2007. The State visit was a reciprocal visit after President Mbeki's successful State Visit to Singapore in 2005 in the context of the two countries' Bilateral Co-operation.

As a response to SA's request for more support in the area of targeted skills development, President Nathan announced during his visit that Singapore would in addition to the existing Singapore Co-operation Programme, offer a special technical assistance package in the areas of Health Management; Trade and Investment Promotion; Scholarships at Post Graduate level in International Relations and Strategic Studies; and Technical and Vocational Education Training.

The Trade and Investment Promotion course was organised by the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore in collaboration with the Singapore Civil Service College and took place in Pretoria from 25-28 September 2007. The course had 20 participants from the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Minerals and Energy and the South African Revenue Services. The attendance level ranged from Assistant Director to the Chief Director level. A number of Ambassadors – elect also attended the course to enhance their Economic Diplomacy skills.

The official opening was attended by the Chief Director for South Asia, South East Asia and Australasia, Ms Zodwa Lallie, the Singaporean Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Ram Chandra, and Ms D Kotze from the Foreign Service Institute.

In her opening remarks, Ms Lallie applauded the Singaporean Government for making good on its promises so expeditiously. She said that it was a confirmation of the good and warm relations that the two countries enjoyed. She highlighted that this training could not have been more timely for our Dip-

lomats judging by the pace of the global shift with more focus and emphasis being on Economic Diplomacy.

Mr Ram Chandra shared the same sentiments regarding the state of bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed Singapore's willingness in supporting SA on its ASGISA and JIPSA objectives.

The course was conducted by Mr Leon Khor who is an Associate Trainer at the Civil Service College of Singapore. The course content and his delivery style were highly appreciated by the participants who found the insights shared extremely valuable.

During the closing ceremony, the course participants received certificates from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore which were handed over by the Singaporean Acting High Commissioner Mr Ram Chandra, the Chief Director, Ms Lallie and Mr Groenewald from the FSI.

Thandi Mgxwati – Deputy Director: South East Asia

IRPS Cluster Briefing by Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad, Cape Town, 14 November 2007

CONSOLIDATION OF THE AFRICAN AGENDA

STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN UNION

We have been working consistently to strengthen the African Union.

Following the decision of the July AU Summit to conduct an institutional audit of the AU Commission, a high-level Panel was constituted to conduct the audit. The 13-member panel includes Dr Frene Ginwala, former Speaker of the South African National Assembly. The Panel held its first meeting from 10-15 September 2007 in Addis Ababa and discussed the broad scope of the audit. The Panel is expected to complete its work within four months and to submit its report and recommendations to the January 2008 Summit.

PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE SADC REGIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

The SADC Summit, which was held from 16-17 August 2007 in Lusaka, amongst others considered the Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration on the review of the implementation of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA). It was noted that there is considerable basis for declaring the SADC FTA by the time of the 2008 SADC Summit, which will be hosted by South Africa.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

South Africa, with the AU, has played a leading role in organising Regional Consultative Conferences (RCCs).

Since the last reporting cycle Regional Consultative Conferences



Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad at the weekly media briefing

(RCC) were held in Barbados (27-28 August 2007) Paris (11-12 September 2007) and Ethiopia (15-16 October 2007). Many of the RCCs held thus far have highlighted the issue of reparations for slavery and the transatlantic trade. The overall view expressed was that the AU and CARICOM governments need to develop mechanisms to ensure that primarily Europe, Canada and the US address the issue of reparations appropriately. It was also recommended that an AU-CARICOM International Reparation Commission comprising both government and civil society representatives be established in order to produce scientifically researched and credible options for reparations.

THE NEPAD PROJECT CONFERENCE

The Department of Trade and Industry, DFA and the NEPAD Business Forum hosted the Nepad Projects Conference at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, from 8-9 October 2007. The Conference's objective was to strengthen the partnership between business, government and civil society in the implementation of NEPAD projects. Significant

progress was made in addressing a number of NEPAD priority areas, in particular governance, socio-economic development and trade and economic growth.

AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

South Africa has been peer reviewed.

Following the endorsement of the South African Programme of Action (POA) at the AU Heads of State in July 2007, a national workshop was convened in Pretoria on 10 September 2007, which involved South African Government Departments, Civil Society and the business community. The workshop sought to map out ways to implement the Programme of Action and to identify the key stakeholders in each of the implementation phases.

9th AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The 9th African Partnership Forum (APF) took place in Algiers, Algeria from 12-13 November 2007 under the theme "Governance and Development". The 31st NEPAD

Steering Committee meeting emphasised the need to utilise the APF Forum to push developed partners to undertake a comprehensive review of the fulfilment of the commitments and pledges made to Africa under the auspices of the Gleneagles and Kananaskis Summits.

Government and opposition parties, including representatives from civil society in order to resolve the remaining challenges facing Zimbabwe leading up to the 2008 general elections. Our primary focus remains ensuring an outcome that expresses the free will of the people of Zimbabwe as a critical

Mlambo-Ngcuka led the South African delegation.

This has opened up possibilities through which to intensify South Africa – China relations and through this Africa – China relations. There have been many reports in the media of China's interests in Africa. We have no such concerns of any re-colonisation of Africa by China and we are beginning to increase our overall interaction with China on a developmental paradigm. We are confident that the Chinese commitment to a developmental agenda is secure.

South Africa and China agreed to co-operate in the commemoration of the 10 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2008. This will be a major occasion that will see the consolidation of China-South Africa and therefore China-Africa relations.

NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION

EUROPEAN UNION

Following the adoption of the SA-EU Joint Action Plan (JAP) for the implementation of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership, the first full meeting of the Ministerial Troika since the establishment of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership was held in South Africa on 10 October 2007. The Meeting focused on the review of the SA-EU Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA), as well as its implementation.

G8

The G8 Summit held in Heiligendamm, Germany on 6 -8 June 2007 agreed to establish a follow-up mechanism, the Heiligendamm Dialogue Process, which involves the +5 Outreach Partners (South Africa, India, Brazil, China and Mexico). This Process will constitute a high-level dialogue lasting two years and dealing with four themes agreed to by the G8 and the +5 Outreach Partners.

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Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel and European Union Development Commission, Mr Louis Michel signing an agreement during the 5th SA-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting, Pretoria

AFRICA-EU RELATIONS

The 9th Africa-Europe Ministerial Troika Meeting was held in Accra, Ghana on 31 October 2007. The draft Joint Africa-Europe Strategy was considered at this meeting with the aim of having the strategy adopted at the 2nd Africa-Europe Summit to be held in Lisbon during December 2007.

ZIMBABWE

We believe we have been consistently working to meet the mandate handed out to South Africa at the Extraordinary SADC Summit earlier this year. This mandated President Mbeki to facilitate talks between all roleplayers. South Africa is happy with the progress that has been made.

This is reflected by the unanimous acceptance by all relevant stakeholders in Zimbabwe, of the Constitutional Amendment Bill No 18, which seeks to harmonise presidential, parliamentary and local government elections as from 2008. South Africa will continue to facilitate dialogue between the

element of opening avenues to tackle the serious socio-economic crisis.

SOUTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION

2nd IBSA SUMMIT

South Africa hosted the 2nd IBSA Summit on 15-17 October 2007. The IBSA Forum is gaining a lot of momentum. We will intensify our co-operation through a number of trilateral MoUs/Agreements that were signed in the following areas: Public Administration, Higher Education, Health and Medicines, Social Development, Cultural Co-operation, Wind Energy and Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement on customs Matters.

3rd SOUTH AFRICA- CHINA BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION

The 3rd Session of the South Africa-China Bi-National Commission was held in Beijing on 24 September 2007. Deputy President

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President Thabo Mbeki with Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, Ambassador Rantobeng Mokou and Advocate Mojanku Gumbi at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

PARTICIPATION IN THE 62nd SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

President Mbeki led a high-level South African delegation to the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 24 September 2007. The theme for the 62nd Session was "Responding to Climate Change". We think it was very successful.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Our interaction with the world, is to deal with this "emergency situation", which demands "collective and emergency actions" and demands that the developed countries meet their commitments.

Today it is increasingly accepted that Climate Change is intrinsically linked to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. AU studies indicate that Africa will suffer the greatest negative consequences of climate change.

Important negotiations on Climate Change which will take place in Bali, Indonesia, early in December 2007.

SUDAN

The South African government remains concerned about the situation in Darfur. There are some 16 rebel groups that have splintered from the groups that existed a year and a half ago.

The Darfur Peace Process consists of three phases. Phase I encompassed the opening, the plenary sessions and the statements of position that led directly into the current Phase

II, made up of consultations and workshops in preparation for direct negotiations. Those would occur in Phase III, which has been planned for about 4 weeks from now.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL, BAN KI-MOON WARNS AGAINST DELAYS IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF A HYBRID FORCE

The hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission to the war-torn Darfur region (UNAMID) still lacks critical transport and aviation units and the Sudanese Government has not responded yet to the UN-AU submission on the force's composition, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, warning that delays to deployment will only exacerbate the humanitarian situation.

We must therefore increase our interaction with all sides to ensure that

the hybrid force can be operationalised as previously agreed by the end of December 2007.

SOMALIA

Somalia continues to represent a challenge with which we are involved.

On 27 October 2007, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) Prime Minister, Ali Mohamed Gedi, resigned his post. This followed period of struggle between the Somali Prime Minister and its President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed. Former Prime Minister Gedi, a Hawiye and President Yusuf from the Darod clan, clashed over the balance of powers between the Presidency and the office of the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Gedi believed the Presidency was a figurehead position, while President Yusuf said that he was the Head of State with full powers. They come from rival clans, which in turn brought Somalia's long clan struggles and suspicions into the heart of the Federal Government.

The resignation threw the TFG into further disarray, in particular with regard to its struggles against the Islamic insurgency, which has now intensified. Former Prime Minister Gedi maintained that he was stepping down for the good of the country as continued bickering does not augur well for reconciliation.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The governments of South Africa and the DRC have an agreement to utilise trilateral co-operation mechanisms to address the financial and technical challenges affecting the implementation of identified bilateral projects; and to co-operate on the critical issues of the security sector reform and on gender equality. In the context of the significant requests for assistance in human resource capacity building, it was agreed that the refurbishment of the DRC National School of Public Administration be prioritised as to allow this institution to serve as the central point for capacity building and the training of

civil servants in the DRC. Agreement was also reached on the hosting of a Congolese Diaspora conference in South Africa to encourage the return of skilled people to the DRC. An agreement on the establishment of a Reporting Matrix in order to facilitate the tracking of progress on the implementation of projects was also finalised.

BURUNDI

South Africa has been dealing with this matter since the Presidency of Mr Nelson Mandela.

The South African Government remains very concerned that the intransigent position of the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People- Forces for the National Liberation (Palipehutu-FNL) remains the main, and last, obstacle to peace in Burundi, and continues to prevent the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) from implementing the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement (CFA).

MIDDLE EAST

The 11th November 2007 saw the third anniversary of the death of former PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

The South African Government condemns the violence that resulted in the deaths of at least 7 people. More than 100 others were reportedly wounded on Monday after gunfire erupted at a rally where hundreds of thousands of people were commemorating the death of Mr Yasser Arafat.

Three days of mourning have now begun across the Palestinian territories.

Those responsible for the violence are working against the interests of the Palestinian people and should be brought to justice.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON SITUATION OF PALESTINE RELIEF AGENCY

Without significantly more resources, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) would not

be able to continue its work and deliver the quality of basic services that refugees were entitled to, said UNRWA Commissioner-General Karen Koning AbuZayd at a Headquarters press conference last week.

Ms. AbuZayd expressed the hope that, this year, Member States would back a three-year extension of the UNRWA mandate, increased funding for the agency, and the creation of 10 new posts for the current biennium.

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

IRAN AND THE IAEA

The IAEA released its latest report on the "Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran" on 30 August 2007. Although the Agency was able to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran, it remained unable to verify certain aspects on the scope and nature of Iran's nuclear programme. To work on the remaining issues, Iran and the IAEA agreed on 21 August 2007 to a "Work Plan" that includes timelines for resolving the outstanding matters. No resolution was tabled for consideration by the September 2007 IAEA Board of Governors meeting and a Chair's Summary was adopted that noted the Director-General's Report and the Work Plan. Significantly, the Director-General reiterated his call for a "double time-out" of all enrichment related activities and of UNSC sanctions that could provide a breathing space for negotiations to resume.

IRAN – EU NEGOTIATIONS

Iran's new top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili will meet with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana later this month to discuss Tehran's nuclear program. This follows talks held in Rome in October 2007.

Both sides described the meeting in October as constructive, but no breakthroughs were made.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS DAYS



A DFA employee having her blood pressure checked

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND THE DFA EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The EWC would like to take this opportunity to introduce the newly appointed Assistant Directors, Mrs Mphenilitendo Mubva and Ms Nompucuko Ndamase. They both joined the EWC on the 1st of October 2007. Mrs Mphenilitendo Mubva is a qualified Industrial Psychologist and

THE ANNUAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS DAYS EVENT TOOK PLACE FROM 11-13 OCTOBER 2007.

The main objective of this annual event is to promote individual wellbeing and afford colleagues and their family members an opportunity to "take stock" of their health, so that they can make informed decisions about their wellbeing. This is part of the EWC Health Promotion Programme aimed at contributing towards a healthy DFA workforce.

It was really wonderful and encouraging to see colleagues in numbers coming to participate in the various wellness activities. The EWC would like them to know that the time they took from their obviously busy schedules is a time well spent. The queues for the health assessments were long and resulted in longer waiting period however, colleagues were determined to continue with the process. This clearly demonstrated how serious people are with their wellbeing.

During the three days, colleagues had an opportunity to check their cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose, body mass index (BMI), and fitness level. They also had the opportunity to know their HIV status and also get their eyes tested. Each employee who participated in these activities walked away with a booklet indicating their health profile, areas of concern as well as health tips. Other activities included educational talks on stress management and meditation, breast cancer awareness and hijack prevention. Colleagues also learned about essential food supplements and how to



EWC staff (front row) Ms Mphenilitendo Mubva, Ms Halie Van der Vyver, Ms Given Mashigo (back row) Ms Thobile Nhlapo, Ms Nompucuko Ndamase and Mr Thozamile Sandi

take care of their skins. Some were pampered with facials, and neck and shoulder massages. Yoga was also enjoyed by those who participated.

Many resolutions were taken by colleagues about their health during the wellness days, these ranged from losing weight, exercise or joining the gym, skin care, stress management, having monthly massages, etc. A number of colleagues also boasted "a clean bill of health". Keep it up!!

The EWC also launched/introduced the recently established Wellness Committee members. Look out for the next issue of DFA Now for more information on this Committee.

The Wellness Days will be followed by a comprehensive programme that will take the health promotion programme forward. The programme will be communicated in due course.

Ms Nompucuko Ndamase is a qualified Social Worker. Both professionals bring knowledge and wealth of experience due to their previous involvement in both the Employee Wellness sector and Occupational Social Work. We would like to welcome them to the DFA family and wish them a long and fruitful stay.

The EWC wish to congratulate our male colleagues who braved the stereotype and underwent facial treatments. That's the way to go guys!

Visit us at Post Park North Room PPN 12, or drop us an email at EWC@foreign.gov.za alternatively you can call us at 351-1400 for your inputs and comments on how we can improve our service to you.

*YOUR WELLBEING IS OUR PRIORITY
BUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO
TAKE CHARGE*

THE GREEN AND GOLD IN THE LAND OF LES BLUES

*Contribution from Nomasonto Sibanda-Thusi,
South Africa's Ambassador to the French Republic*



President Thabo Mbeki departing for Paris, France to support our Rugby National Team during the World Cup Finals against England

It is an image that is fast becoming iconic: Our President being lifted high by the rainbow warriors as he brandishes the Webb Ellis Trophy. The men in green and gold have snatched the highest prize in world rugby and one of the most prestigious sporting awards on offer. Again.

A nation that stood as one in support of its team was fused into a joyous mass of pride and celebration.

These are good times for us.

It is the nature of modern media to tend to reduce the actualities of the day to a single image, a sound bite, a one-dimensional emotion or experience. This often carries the risk of important elements fading into the background. We do not want that to happen, especially to our friends from the French Department of Seine-Saint-Denis and the towns of Noisy-le-Grand and Bobigny.

Seine-Saint-Denis would be a familiar name to the thousands of South African rugby fans who made the long journey to the French Republic – it is the administrative region where South Africa's field of dreams, the im-

posing Stade de France, is situated. Even they may not know of the town of Noisy-le-Grand where the Springboks had their official practice field, a source of great pride and joy to the local inhabitants. The town's authorities and ordinary people have contributed in a real and meaningful way to creating a home away from home for the team allowing them to dedicate themselves to the great challenge that confronted them.

With the support of SA Tourism,

artists were brought from South Africa to paint the Alain-Mimoun Stadium in Noisy-le-Grand in colourful Ndebele motifs, a lasting monument to the ties that have been woven with this town on the outskirts of Paris thanks to the World Cup. Some locals have suggested that they should from now on refer to their town as the "Home of Champions"...

Parts of the town were turned into little bits of South Africa with flags, posters and a giant rugby ball proclaiming the people's pleasure at hosting the mighty Boks. Johnny Clegg came to sing, as did the Soweto Gospel Choir. A wine tasting event dedicated to the art of the South Africa winemaker was presented before the France-Ireland match was shown on a giant screen to hundreds of supporters, a few of whom wore green.

On match day, 20 October, one of the most prestigious sites in the town, the esplanade opposite the City Hall, was officially named after Former President Mandela, in the much commented presence of Ms Tskwini Mandela. The match was then shown on a giant screen to even more supporters and all of Noisy-le-Grand was green.



A DFA employee, Ms Juliah Kutama (Ministry) with Pierre Spies, Springbok loose forward during the Springbok Victory Parade

Where were you...?

