





PRESIDENT-ELECT MR JACOB ZUMA ON THE OCCASION OF THE ELECTION VICTORY BY THE ANC

Dear Colleagues

April is the month we say goodbye to summer and can see the signs of winter creeping up on us, but it is also the month that we as South Africans once again have the opportunity to celebrate our human rights and democracy by partaking in the National Elections held on 22 April. We trust that we all acknowledge the fact that to vote is not just a right but an obligation for all to cherish our democracy.

In this edition of the dfa Now we report on the successful G20 Summit held in London. We have an article on Human Rights Day and complimenting that an article on mainstreaming gender in the public service.

We report on Africa Day celebrations held in Thailand as well as activities from our mission in Zambia. We also report on the South African Consulate-General that was officially opened in Juba, Southern Sudan.

At Head Office, the Branch: Diplomatic Training and Research Development (DTRD) held its open day for all employees and they send us a report on the activities of that day.

Happy reading! ■

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Each year, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) commemorates national Human Rights Day (on 21 March) by dedicating the entire month of March as 'Human Rights Month'. Commemorative activities includes a series of provincial human rights campaigns, starting on 1 March and culminating into a

Human Rights Day

national conference to reflect on and deliberate on progress and current challenges in the quest to protect and promote human rights as well as entrenching a culture of human rights in South Africa.

Human Rights Day is a small measure taken to ensure that the people of South Africa are aware of their human rights and to ensure that abuse of human rights, as occurred at Sharpeville, never again occur. This day was set aside to celebrate and remind all South Africans of their human rights. Everyone has human rights - simply because they are human beings.

The Constitution provides for the establishment of the SAHRC which aims to promote respect for human rights, promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights, and to monitor and assess the

observance of human rights in South

A two-day national conference (3rd Annual Human Rights Conference), on 18 and 19 March 2009, was held at the Freedom Park Trust with the theme: 'Unity in Diversity: Promoting and Advancing Constitutional Value in South Africa'. The conference drew stakeholders from different sectors to discuss different thematic human rights issues.

A number of prominent commentators, speakers and experts on the subject of human rights were invited. This included the welcoming addresses by the Chairperson of the Commission (Mr J Kollapen) and the CEO of Freedom Park (Dr Wally Serote).

Article adapted from: www.sahrc.org.za.



... "The new President of the Republic will be a President for all, and he will work to unite the country around a programme of action that will see an improvement in the delivery of services. He will strive to turn the climate in the country into a positive and relaxed one, that makes people free to be creative and work hard to improve their lives and the economy of the country.

Now that the election is over, we must enter a new era of hope and progress. We must enter a period where we bury mistrust, uncertainty, pain and tension, and begin a new chapter of harmony and collaboration. We cannot afford to dwell on the negatives.

We have gone through a difficult period over a few years; it is now time to put it all behind us. We must enter a period in which South Africa reclaims its position and image as a thriving nation, which can overcome all its difficulties, and which is able to put the country first above sectional and party political interests."

..."There will be no surprises in the next administration's programme of action. The electorate has endorsed our call for an equitable, sustainable and inclusive growth path that will bring decent work and sustainable livelihoods. We have scored a victory for a better education system, better health care, safer and secure communities, and rural development. We will make our country one

that creates an enabling environment for women to develop, thrive and be successful.

Let me emphasise that we remain committed to every word we uttered during the election campaign. We were serious when we said we would improve the pace and quality of service delivery, that we will appoint competent people to government, and that we will be tough on non-performance".

..."We will work with all parties in Parliament to deepen the oversight role of Parliament. Together we must promote and defend the integrity of our State Institutions, including the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, and the Chapter 9 institutions".

ANC President Jacob Zuma on the occasion of a victory by the African National Congress in the 2009 Elections



PRESIDENT KGALEMA MOTLANTHE REPRESENTS SOUTH AFRICA AT THE G20 SUMMIT

resident Kgalema Motlanthe joined world leaders at the G20 Summit on 2 April in London. This G20 Summit was held against the backdrop of the raging global financial crisis and set to agree on a plan to restore global growth development based on four pillars.

- Stabilise global finance by unblocking credit and taking decisive, co-ordinated and temporary national action to restore confidence in the financial system.
- Counter the global recession by boosting domestic demand through co-ordinated fiscal and monetary policy actions that take account of medium-term sustainability and ensuring that the global economy remains open for trade and capital flows.
- Deploy resources to support demand and sustain investment in developing countries in order to prevent a further deepening of the global recession and provide a more effective boost to counter-cyclical efforts on a global scale. Resources must also be mobilised to respond to the incipient development emergency including, the growing crisis of unemployment and poverty, particularly in Africa.
- Lay the foundation for a sustainable recovery on the basis

of a more balanced and inclusive world economy premised on a stronger and more equitable system of global economic multilateralism. This will require consideration of the social and economic architecture of a sustainable recovery by rebalancing global demand, strengthening social safety nets and protecting employment.

South Africa's participation at the London G20 Summit took place within the context of its continued commitment to the reformation of the global financial architecture. As the only African country in the G20, South Africa has consistently stressed that a global response is required to mitigate the impact of the crisis and prevent its contagion to emerging markets and developing countries, in particular Africa

At the Summit, President Kgalema Motlanthe was supported by Finance Minister, Trevor Manuel; National Treasury Director-General, Lesetja Kganyago; and Senior Government officials

Outcomes

The G20 Summit reached an agreement which, in principle, provides US\$1.1 trillion to stimulate economic

growth, to be distributed in the following ways:

- US\$500 billion for the IMF to aid struggling economies
- US\$250 billion to boost world trade
- US\$250 billion for a new IMF overdraft facility
- US\$100 billion to assist international development banks in lending to poor countries.

An agreement was reached in an attempt to bring wider global regulation of hedge funds and credit-rating agencies, a common approach to cleaning up bank toxic assets. The G20 leaders also agreed to establish a financial stability forum working with the IMF to ensure wider global co-operation and to provide an early-warning system for future financial crises.

Despite calls for a green new deal and political hype regarding environmental concerns, none of the US\$1,1 trillion stimulus package was allocated for environmental investment, and no other environmental agreements were made.

One of the general conclusions at the London Summit was the fact that there needs to be more government regulations over businesses to prevent such a crisis in future.



Zambian President Rupiah Banda greeting members of the local community while SA High Commissioner Mr Moses Chikane looks on

News from Zambia

The South African Mission in Zambia facilitated the visit of Mr Jacob Zuma to one of Zambia's provinces. The president of the African National Congress (ANC) was invited by President Rupiah Banda of Zambia to be the guest of honour at the Easter Province (Chipata area) N'cwala Ceremony on Saturday 28 February 2009; it was a special event for the local population and Paramount Chief Mpenzeni of the Eastern Province. A group of Zulu dancers was flown in from South Africa to demonstrate the closeness of cultural history between the Nguni and Ngoni peoples of South Africa and Zambia.

Contributed by Ambassador Douglas Gibson, Bangkok

Africa Day 2009: Destination for more Opportunities



Ambassador Douglas Gibson receiving a gift at the Africa Day Seminar held in Bangkok

Ambassador Douglas Gibson delivered a speech on the promotion of business and investment opportunities in South Africa during a seminar titled Africa Day 2009: Destination for More Opportunities, on 20 February at Bangkok Convention. This article contains extracts of his speech.

Africa is a continent of opportunity and the countries of Africa collectively have much to offer the world generally and South East Asia and Thailand specifically.

Opportunities include trade, investment, tourism, and infrastructural development as the country's market potential is vast. As our continent and its people advance, they will have all the middle class aspirations that people everywhere in the world have. In this time and age the whole of the developed world will be suffering the problem of falling populations and insufficient young working people. As a solution, many Africans and Asians will find employment in the rich countries. It is the task of current leaders and educators to ensure that those workers are skilled for jobs with a future. We also need to ensure that the skilled people of our own continent do not leave to work in other continents, leaving too few to do the skilled work in their own countries.

There are some appalling situations on our continent, with wars and human rights

violations in some countries, but Africa is doing better when it comes to governance. Prof. Robert Rotberg of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard said (in the Herald Tribune) that everywhere in Africa today there is a new recognition that governments are responsible for uplifting, not repressing, their people. He said that everyone wants what Botswana, Mauritius, Ghana and Senegal have achieved – good governance.

In the current global economic crisis, it is wise for governments to spend money, especially on infrastructure, to revive their economies. South Africa is in the fortunate position that for the past three years it had budget surpluses and is now able to find money to pay for all these ambitious projects.

South Africa is an important gateway to Africa. The African Agenda is one of the main priorities of its foreign policy and is based on a sincere desire to see that while we develop, our brothers and sisters everywhere in Africa develop too.

It is this spirit that we are hosting the 2010 World Cup because we say that this first World Cup in Africa belongs not only to us but to the whole of Africa. We have promised the best World Cup yet and we are expecting 400 000 additional tourists next year. This is in addition to the 10 million who will come as tourists if this year is anything to go by, as we can offer an unparalleled tourist experience of vast variety in culture, people, climate, terrain, interests, plant life, bird life, animal life, as well as world class cities, beaches and game parks.





MEET OUR RELOCATION CHANGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

As part of efforts to ensure a smooth relocation process to our new Head Office, a Relocation Change Management Committee (RCMC) was established. The purpose of this committee is so assist the New Building Project Team with communicating the relocation process to staff members at all levels. These team members will be your first port of call should you have any enquiries about our relocation in June. The members are:

NAME	BRANCH/BUSINESS UNIT
Mr Arnold Shkaidy	HUMAN RESOURCES
Mr Johann Hendrikse	HUMAN RESOURCES
Ms Amandla Joyini	HUMAN RESOURCES
Mr Franklin Fortune	CORPORATE SERVICES
Mr Patrick Jacobs	MULTILATERAL
Mr Pieter Pretorius	DDG:DISARMAMENT & NEPAD
Mr Martin Slabber	ASIA & MIDDLE EAST
Mr Paseka Mokhethea	PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
Mr Zimele Ngxongo	PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
Mr Elion von Wielligh	PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
Ms Naomi Cornet	CORPORATE SERVICES
Ms Serialong Chauke	HUMAN RESOURCES





DG'S OFFICE
MULTILATERAL
DIPLOMATIC TRAINING RESEARCH AND DEVELOP- MENT
DIPLOMATIC TRAINING RESEARCH AND DEVELOP- MENT
AFRICA BILATERAL
PROTOCOL – DIAP
PROTOCOL – INTERNA- TIONAL CONFERENCES
EUROPE
AMERICAS

We also thought it befitting to introduce you to the Project Team that has worked endless hours to make this whole new Head Office project a reality. It is with this team that the Relocation Change Management Committee works closely to keep you informed. The members are:

NAME	BRANCH/BUSINESS UNIT
Mr Mthimunye	Security
Ms L Phahla	ICT
Mr Shkaidy	Change Management
Mr S Mhlekwa	Supply Chain Management
Ms Africa	Valuable Assets
Ms Khoza	Valuable Assets
Mr J Zeelie	Facilities Management
Ms M Joyini	Facilities Management





Do not forget to monitor the New Building Progress intranet link for more info.

Mainstreaming Gender in the Public Service

A group of DFA officials attended a pilot training course on gender mainstreaming in the public service; it was offered by the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA), from 24-27 February 2009. The course aimed to provide and improve the knowledge, skills, values and attributes of officials to analyse, develop and implement policies, projects and programmes that foster the achievement of gender equality and non-discrimination.

In addition to equipping public officials with the required competence to integrate gender considerations into their work and service delivery, the course also aimed to develop other outcomes such as problem identification and problem solving, communication, interpersonal skills, organising and managing oneself, responsible citizenship and collecting, organising and evaluating information, etc.

All departmental participants are of the view that the course content itself was well-researched, had a logical flow to it, relevant and very well structured. In addition, the course was well organised, delivered and allowed for both personal and group participation. It is also the opinion of the group that this course is useful and relevant for both personal and professional development. It is, therefore, within this context that the DFA participants would like to emphasise that consideration should be given to making participation in and completion of this course mandatory for all employees of the department.

One of the general observations of the course was: Gender mainstreaming is not only about women, but a "synthesising and inclusive" concept that covers men, women, girls, boys and people with disabilities as it was indicated in one of the case studies during the course. It was about a deaf girl who struggled to get help because she was unable to communicate with people due of her condition. A number of other case studies proved the point that people with disabilities are faced with a number of challenges when it comes to the community and at work. It is in this regard that gender mainstreaming should be seen a strategy to address the needs and interests of the whole community and brings the experience, knowledge and interests of all employees to bear on the execution of the departmental mandate.

The participation in the first departmental gender mainstreaming course will hopefully lead to more officials taking part in future courses in order for the department to create a critical mass of officials driving the gender mainstreaming agenda. The development of the Gender Policy indicates buy-in and ownership of gender mainstreaming by employees in the department. The challenge now is to translate this policy into implementable and substantive actions which includes the holistic and comprehensive integration into all aspects of the department's work.

Contributed by the Chief Directorate: Gender



MEDIA BRIEFING BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL DR AYANDA NTSALUBA



World leaders at the G20 Summit, London

Condolences from South African Government following the earthquake in Italy

The South African Government reiterates its condolences following the devastating earthquake that hit Central Italy on Monday 6 April 2009. We convey the sorrow that we share, as South Africa and the South African government, with the government and people of Italy.

Outcomes of the G20 Summit

I know that Treasury has provided a detailed briefing of this matter. But I wish to reiterate that the Government is indeed happy with the broad outline of the outcomes of the G20 meeting because quite a number of them did accord with the beliefs and views we held particularly the effect that growth to be sustained needs to be shared and that the plan for

recovery that was discussed in London should not only be focusing on the restoration of jobs and the livelihoods of people particularly in the developed countries but that is was important to really address the challenges and the impact on the developing countries.

We are happy with the general commitment that has been expressed relating to the reform of the mandate, scope and governance of the global financial institutions to be more reflective of the changes in the global economy and in particular, the issue of the greater enhancement of the voice of the developing nations.

We are also particularly happy with the commitment expressed on the need to ensure as a global community and as individual nations of the world that as we respond to these challenges we avoid, nonetheless, repeating mistakes that have been made in the past, particularly mistakes made towards moving towards greater protectionist interventions and therefore the need to refrain from adding new barriers to trade and investment by doing things that countries were beginning to entertain.

We are also happy about the commitments made with respect to the reaffirmation of the confirmation of the international community to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

SADC

SADC has been busy of late dealing with two specific issues – the situation in Zimbabwe and the situation in Madagascar.

Zimbabwe

With respect to Zimbabwe, you will recall that we had the JCC in the middle of March and the Extraordinary Summit last week in Swaziland. We continue to be encouraged by the progress the inclusive government is making. I think certainly, at the time when we met for the JCC at the Victoria Falls and also in all subsequent encounters with the representatives of the government, we get a sense of greater coherence and a strong commitment of the different parties to work together and we think that augurs well for Zimbabwe. That does not mean there will be no challenges or immediate difficulties but I must say we are encouraged by the fact that at least, up to now, whatever challenges do exist, the inclusive government has felt it is within the capacity of the inclusive government and the structures that have been formed, in terms of the Global Political Agreement to deal with those issues so SADC has not been called specifically by Zimbabwe to intervene on any specific issue. But of course. we know that there is also the major challenge related to the reconstruction of the economy and we believe this is a task, that with all the goodwill in the world, it is not possible for the parties in Zimbabwe to do this without a lot of support. So, from them we expect they must send the correct signals to the investor community and particularly, the biggest signal they can send is to convey a sense of coherence and greater sense of a commitment by all to rebuild Zimbabwe. I think this is the biggest signal that we all want from them. I think it will then be incumbent on the international community and the region to help them with those things that they themselves cannot do alone, particularly with respect to the economic reconstruction.

As South Africa, we have stated in the past, both for reasons of good neighbourliness and also for reasons linked to our own national interest,



Zimbabwean delegates at the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Swaziland

that we would do everything possible to ensure we speed up the process of the Zimbabwean economy regaining its place because Zimbabwe is an important trading partner for South Africa and an economically viable and vibrant Zimbabwe is in the best interests of South Africa so, the support that we give now, we give fully knowing it is support, as I say, in the short term it will help the people of Zimbabwe but in the longer term will help the people of South Africa. That is why we are also encouraged by the interaction and the moves by the South African business community particularly, and of course, we have had discussions with BUSA, we are aware of their trip to Zimbabwe and we look forward to working with the South African business community in partnership with our government to work with the government and people of Zimbabwe.

We are continuing the process of negotiations and I think we are very close to finalising the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) which is very important and will assist in sending the right signals to the South African investor community in Zimbabwe.

With respect to their immediate needs, South Africa has made an undertaking and we are just finalising the details - we will provide support to Zimbabwe in two forms - one form would be through helping in some of the targeted sectors which we are currently discussing with Zimbabwe in line with our commitment to move speedily to alleviate the plight, particularly of the most vulnerable in Zimbabwe. The second ongoing discussion is that of our Treasury and Reserve Bank with Zimbabwe with a view to what we can do regarding a credit line for Zimbabwe. Let me stress, the second area of the credit line, will be a commercial agreement. It will not be a grant; it will be, as the name implies, a credit line to be used by the Zimbabwean private sector. As to the details of that, I know there is a lot of speculation as to the amounts involved but we would prefer to not get into that because the discussions are ongoing and will be finalised pretty soon.

In conclusion on the Zimbabwean situation, as you know, our Minister of Finance is part of the task team that

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has been established after the Extraordinary Summit to ensure they make representation to the international community. We also are aware that the Cabinet of Zimbabwe met recently for their strategic planning session and that they have devised a very clear programme and have also assembled a team that will be approaching some of the countries particularly the major donors. We believe these two endeavours will be complementary.

Madagascar

With respect to Madagascar, we obviously continue to be concerned with what is going on. We have heard some of the reports around decisions taken by the new administration in Madagascar, the current administration particularly with respect to their continued membership of SADC. We of course stand by the positions expressed of non-recognition of unconstitutional passage of power in Madagascar and we will continue, as South Africa, to work within the framework of the agreement that was reached in Swaziland to look at how speedily democratic governance can be restored to Madagascar.

We continue to follow some of the developments, we continue to be concerned about the loss of life and the ongoing persecution, particularly of those seen to be supportive of the ousted President Ravalomanana.

With respect to issues related to continued membership of SADC by Madagascar as a country, the Executive Secretary of SADC will in due course be leading a delegation to Madagascar and I think out of that interaction, it will be clearer. In the discussions with Mr Rajoelina the former Mayor of Antananarivo, we will hear then in that point in time what this is all about.

AU Executive Council Meeting, Sirte, Libya, 15-16 April 2009

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, will be attending a meeting of the Executive Council of the African Union 15-16 April 2009 in Sirte, Libya. This is a special meeting called to discuss the establishment of the African Union Authority or the transformation of the African Union Commission to the African Union Authority. You will recall this was a decision of the January Summit, but the issue could not be concluded because of differences on the content and of this Authority and what it will in reality do. A decision was taken to look at the implications the Authority could have on the constitutive act, as the understanding was that whatever changes are to take place to the Commission the decision of heads of state was that it should be done within the context and framework of the current constitutive act. And off course, this authority was seen as another step towards the ideal in the medium to longer term of the establishment of the Union Government.

This meeting will be looking at such things as the function of the Authority; the size of the Authority; whether new commissioners would be established within the context of ongoing discussions that some of the commissioners have very wide mandates. An example of this is the commissioner for the Social Sector which covers about eight sectors which would be ministries in various member states. So, that discussion will also deal with that while looking at the financial implications of these decisions. This is likely to be a very robust meeting for the simple reason that as you would understand the formation of an Authority was decided as a compromise between the points of view that wanted consolidation of the existing commission and those that wanted to move forward with the establishment of an African Union government immediately. It is obvious that in discussions regarding the Authority, these streams of thought continue to come up because those who wanted to establish the Union Government want to pretend that the Authority is that African Union government and want to load what is envisaged for the African Union government on that authority. I think it is going to be a very robust discussion but that is what will take place.



Deputy Minister Fatima Hajaig with her Iraqi counterpart Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr Labeed Abbawi

Deputy Minister Hajaig to host Iraqi counterpart

Deputy Foreign Minister Fatima Hajaig will on Tuesday 14 April 2009 hold bilateral political, economic and trade discussions with her Iraqi counterpart, Iraqi Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Labeed Abbawi, in Pretoria

This is really to begin to reconnect with Iraq with respect to our bilateral relations. You will recall that at some point we had significant trade volumes between South Africa and Iraq and those have over the years decreased significantly and with the progressive restoration of some semblance of stability in Baghdad and throughout the territory of Iraq, we are then looking at how this can be stepped up.

The Iraqis are also interested on how to share ideas and probably get some views from South Africans that they will meet on how to sustain the nation building process in Iraq.



Officials at the Branch: DTRD Open Day

Branch: DTRD open day

The Branch: Diplomatic Training and Research Development (DTRD) is entrusted with the responsibility of training and developing South Africa's diplomats and with providing quality policy research and analysis in an effort to promote an informed understanding of South Africa's Foreign Policy.

The Diplomatic Academy was formerly a Chief Directorate within Human Resources, which recently merged with the Chief Directorate: Policy Research and Analysis Unit (PRAU) to form a new Branch, with a new mandate.

The nature of this mandate reaches out to all DFA officials as it relates to specific areas of training and development.

Given the developments of the past four years and the improvements that emerged from these developments, various new programmes and courses have been introduced. The Branch held an open day on 26 March 2009 in the parking area between Post Park North and Post Park South at Tulbagh Park. The aim of the day was to reach all officials within the Department; it was an effort to generate awareness of what the Branch has to offer; and to inform officials of the role that the Branch plays in skills development and career progression.

More than 200 officials attended the event and displayed great interest in attending the numerous courses on offer, ranging from ABET training to the acquisition of language skills. The Branch produced a calendar of events indicating all the programmes and courses that are planned for 2009. Copies of this calendar were distributed to all DDGs with the request to further distribute it to all senior managers within the DFA. A smaller version of this calendar will be distributed to all officials in due course in an effort to inform those officials who were unable to attend the event of what the Branch has to offer.

A General Knowledge Quiz was one of the highlights of the day; Andrew Rae from PRAU acted as the presenter. The atmosphere was tense as officials battled it out for the first place, but Andrew did his best to make them feel at ease. Mr Peace Kennedy from the Directorate: Generic Skills Development walked off with the first prize; Lerato Mofyoa from the Directorate: Eastern Europe and Phila Radebe from the Directorate: Security was not far behind in the second and third places respectively.

The day ended with a finger lunch that offered food from the various countries where Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish are spoken - the foreign in-house languages taught at the Directorate: Language Training.

The day was a huge success and the Branch invites all officials who want to attend courses or programmes to contact them.

Contributed by the Branch: Diplomatic Training and Research Development

Opening of the ConsulateGeneral in Juba

South African Ambassador to the Republic of the Sudan, Dr Manelisi Genge, officially opened the South African Consulate-General in Juba, Southern Sudan on 1 April 2009.

The Consulate in Juba will consolidate South Africa's presence in the Sudan and strengthen the support for peace efforts and the implementation of the post-conflict reconstruction and development related projects in Southern Sudan, including the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which was signed in 2005 marking an end to the civil war in the Sudan.

South Africa's involvement in the Sudan, regarding the post-conflict reconstruction and development, is led by the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with UNISA and the Government of Southern Sudan in respect of Capacity and Institution Building Project for Southern Sudan which has, to date, trained over 1000 Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) officials.

The new Consulate will also be to the benefit of the two countries' economic relationship. South African exports to Sudan include base metals, machinery, wood pulp, plastics and chemicals while imports from Sudan include vegetables, animal fats, plastics and machinery.

The Consulate-General in Southern Sudan will contribute to facilitating the movement of business people between the two countries thus ensuring the flow of investment to both countries, as well as paving the way for people to people contact between South Africans and the Sudanese from Southern Sudan.

Where were you..?















