



international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“This year, we dedicate the dinner to the legacy of Liberation Movements in Africa, and the contribution of diplomacy to the attainment of our freedom as African people. We chose this theme, on the one hand, to recognise the centenary of the African National Congress (ANC) and, on the other, to join many countries on our continent who have been celebrating 50 years of their independence from colonial rule.

Today, we pay tribute to the sons and daughters of this great continent who, when faced with two choices either to submit or fight, they chose to fight for the freedom, democracy and development we now enjoy.

Today, we rededicate ourselves to the ideals of justice and a better life for all, in a better South Africa, Africa and the world.”

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane


A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF INDEPENDENCE DATES FOR AFRICA

COUNTRY	INDEPENDENCE DATE	PRIOR RULING COUNTRY
Liberia, Republic of	26 July 1847	-
South Africa, Republic of	31 May 1910	Britain
Egypt, Arab Republic of	28 February 1922	Britain
Ethiopia ¹ , People's Democratic Republic of	5 May 1941	Italy
Libya (Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)	24 December 1951	Britain
Sudan, Democratic Republic of	1 January 1956	Britain/Egypt
Morocco ² , Kingdom of	2 March 1956	France ²
Tunisia, Republic of	20 March 1956	France
Ghana, Republic of	6 March 1957	Britain
Guinea, Republic of	2 October 1958	France
Cameroon ³ , Republic of	1 January 1960	France
Senegal, Republic of	4 April 1960	France
Togo, Republic of	27 April 1960	France
Mali, Republic of	22 September 1960	France
Madagascar, Democratic Republic of	26 June 1960	France
Congo (Kinshasa), Democratic Republic of the	30 June 1960	Belgium
Somalia, Democratic Republic of	1 July 1960	Britain
Benin, Republic of	1 August 1960	France
Niger, Republic of	3 August 1960	France
Burkina Faso, Popular Democratic Republic of	5 August 1960	France
Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of (Ivory Coast)	7 August 1960	France
Chad, Republic of	11 August 1960	France
Central African Republic	13 August 1960	France
Congo (Brazzaville), Republic of the	15 August 1960	France
Gabon, Republic of	17 August 1960	France
Nigeria ⁴ , Federal Republic of	1 October 1960	Britain
Mauritania, Islamic Republic of	28 November 1960	France
Sierra Leone, Republic of	27 April 1961	Britain
Tanzania, United Republic of	9 December 1961	Britain
Burundi, Republic of	1 July 1962	Belgium
Rwanda, Republic of	1 July 1962	Belgium
Algeria, Democratic and Popular Republic of	3 July 1962	France
Uganda, Republic of	9 October 1962	Britain
Kenya, Republic of	12 December 1963	Britain
Malawi, Republic of	6 July 1964	Britain
Zambia, Republic of	24 October 1964	Britain
Gambia, Republic of The	18 February 1965	Britain
Botswana, Republic of	30 September 1966	Britain
Lesotho, Kingdom of	4 October 1966	Britain
Mauritius, State of	12 March 1968	Britain
Swaziland, Kingdom of	6 September 1968	Britain
Equatorial Guinea, Republic of	12 October 1968	Spain
Guinea-Bissau, Republic of	10 September 1974	Portugal
Mozambique, Republic of	25 June 1975	Portugal
Cape Verde, Republic of	5 July 1975	Portugal
Comoros, Federal Islamic Republic of the	6 July 1975	France
São Tomé and Príncipe, Democratic Republic of	12 July 1975	Portugal
Angola, People's Republic of	11 November 1975	Portugal
Western Sahara ⁵	28 February 1976	Spain
Seychelles, Republic of	29 June 1976	Britain
Djibouti, Republic of	27 June 1977	France
Zimbabwe, Republic of	18 April 1980	Britain
Namibia, Republic of	21 March 1990	South Africa
Eritrea, State of	24 May 1993	Ethiopia



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the diplomat vol.2

"Celebrating the Legacy of Liberation Movements in Africa-Freedom through Diplomacy"

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Ed's letter

Dear Diplomats,

On 9 February 2012, the President of the Republic of South Africa, HE Mr Jacob Zuma addressed a joint seating of Parliament to deliver the State of the Nation Address (SONA) under the theme: *“Working together we can do more”*. The speech set the National Agenda, tone and line of march for the year.

Following the SONA, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosted the Diplomatic Corps at a glittering event in Vergelegen Wine Estate on 11 February 2012. This annual event serves as a platform for the Minister to interact with the Diplomatic Corps and other stakeholders and exchange notes on the latest developments in the international relations arena. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the President's 'State of the Nation Address'. This year's dinner was held under the theme: *“Celebrating the Legacy of the Liberation Movements in Africa – Freedom through Diplomacy”*.

This year started on a high note for DIRCO and South Africa. One of the highlights of the month of January was South Africa's Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). We participate in the Security Council conscious at all times of our rights and obligations both as a sovereign state and as a member of the international community.

The occasion of South Africa's presidency of the UN Security Council, however brief, provides us with an opportunity to further advance our foreign policy objectives, which are an extension of our domestic policy, our value system, based on our commitment to:

- The promotion of Human Rights;
- A commitment to Democracy;
- The pursuance of the African Agenda;
- Accord priority to SADC and Africa as a whole;
- Work with countries of the developing South to address shared challenges of underdevelopment;
- Promote global equity and social justice;
- Work with countries of the developed North to develop a true and effective partnership for a better world; and
- Play our part to strengthen and transform the multilateral system, to reflect the diversity of our nations, and ensure its centrality in global governance.

South Africa, led by our President was able to bring to a sharp focus the need for, strategic coherence on strategies and policies and in particular greater coordination of efforts and approaches when dealing with conflicts on the African Continent. We also invited to the debate the Chair of the AUPSC, the Foreign Minister of Kenya, who on behalf of the AU organ emphasised the very important point that, South Africa through our President had raised the need for greater coordination if we are to succeed in our efforts to address the conflicts that continue

to bedevil our Continent. The President also as a matter of principle brought to the attention of the Council how the situation in Libya was a glaring example of the consequences of poor or lack of coordination between the two organisations. After the debate, South Africa sponsored a Resolution that was unanimously adopted by all Fifteen Members of the UNSC as Resolution 2033 of 2012.

UNSC Resolution 2033 presented by South Africa, focuses on the Strategic Relationship between the AU and the UN in the maintenance of International Peace and Security within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. We were at last vindicated as a country that has a mandate from both SADC and the AU to promote the African Agenda during our tenure in the Security Council as a non-permanent member, the lack of coordination between the AU and UN led to the abuse of Resolution 1973. Resolution 2033 calls for coordination of strategies, policies and approaches between the AUPSC and UNSC. It further calls strategic coherence in decision making by the two institutions when addressing conflicts in Africa. This Resolution is groundbreaking and it is a tribute to the consistency, forthrightness and vision of our Foreign Policy that locates the African Agenda in all our endeavors. Through Resolution 2033 we have sought to send a clear message to the World that gone are the days when the powers that be will do whatever they please in Africa without the involvement of Africans and their institutions.

In regards to this issue, we have received a lot of informative pieces based on the theme; we have added a chronological list of independence dates for Africa, which translates into the thinking behind the cover, where we envisage an Africa without borders which is alive with opportunities and networks, which in turn creates unity in diversity.

The diplomat team would like to encourage Team DIRCO to continue writing articles, the following theme will be *“Celebrating our Human Rights”*.

SM

Salome Baloi - Editor

[Diplomatic mail]



DIRCO CAREER FAIR

“What is the recipe for successful achievement? To my mind there are just four essential ingredients: Choose a career you love, give it the best there is in you, seize your opportunities, and be a member of the team.”

Benjamin F. Fairless

“There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there.”

Indira Gandhi

*Have you registered? If not please avail yourself for **19 March 2012 (10:00 am -12:30 pm)** and **20 March 2012 (14:00 pm)** if you have not yet registered your child/student for 20 March for the 2pm slot, then please RSVP ASAP to JoyiniA@dirco.gov.za.*

The **Kindle** competition closes by Wednesday **14 March**. Complete the **MyCareer@DIRCO** template and email it to neluheniC@dirco.gov.za or HAB113 and you could win a brand new Kindle.

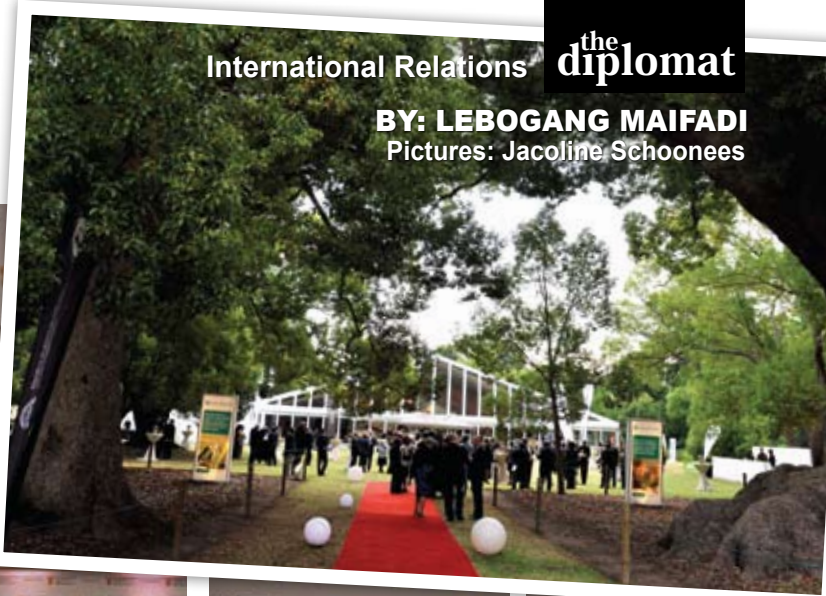
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STYLE, FLAIR AND ALL THINGS GRAND AT THIS YEAR'S MINISTER'S ANNUAL DINNER

"It can be affirmed that through the dinner an opportunity was created and received to cement these relations between the business and the diplomatic world."



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's (DIRCO) Annual Dinner was held on 11 February 2012 under the theme "Celebrating the Legacy of Liberation Movements in Africa-Freedom through Diplomacy". Invited guests included Ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and DIRCO stakeholders. The occasion is held annually, consequent to the State of the Nation address by the President of the Republic of South Africa. The enchanting Vergelegen Wine Estate in Cape Town was the venue hosting the event, the marquee in the middle of the majestic garden was decorated in cream white and gold table settings, which had beautiful centre pieces of candles with white and yellow flowers, while images of liberation movements throughout the African continent beamed across the big projectors inside the venue.



African Development Community (SADC) will be supporting the re-nomination of the African Union (AU) candidature for Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma for the position of AU Commissioner. He reiterated that, SADC will stand together and support the minister

in the nomination process which will be held later this year. "This will be pivotal as the AU needs to be strengthened as an organisation which will be seen as a force to be reckoned with in the African continent and throughout the entire world. The strengthening of the

AU will guarantee that the past struggles underwent in many regions of the African continent will not be repeated, thus the celebration for liberation movements in the African continent will grow to be more meaningful even to generations to come." ☐

As the world of diplomacy and that of business are closely intertwined through the relations which a country possesses with its neighbouring states, it is thus pivotal to keep healthy relations amongst the two worlds in order to determine strong trade relations, and increase business opportunities, to in return result in a stronger and competitive economy. The work performed by members of the diplomatic corps assists in making these relations possible, as it helps in the mushrooming of South African businesses internationally, and also opens avenues of trade and investment; for the ordinary South African citizen; and for corporate organisations such as Old Mutual, Sasol, Vodacom, and Dimension Data who generously sponsored the occasion.



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane on relations, milestones, and challenges which they encounter in their organisations while dealing with international markets. It can be affirmed that through the dinner, an opportunity was created and received to cement these relations between the business and the diplomatic world, making the dinner a success as the main objective was reached in that regard.

In her address, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane mentioned that, 11 February 2012 marked the 22nd anniversary since the father of the nation, Nelson Mandela was released from prison to his long

walk to freedom. She went on to quote Madiba's words when he said, "I dream of a realisation of the unity of Africa, whereby its leaders combine efforts to solve the problems of this continent. I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of our entire great wilderness. I dream of Africa which is in peace with itself." Minister concluded by thanking the sponsors and stakeholders for keeping good relations with government, and urged them to continue in so doing, in order to build a better South Africa, with opportunities for all.

Finally the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps-Mr Bono Pheko affirmed that the Southern



The Director-General of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Ambassador Jerry Matjila, hosted his French counterpart, the Secretary-General of Foreign and European Affairs, Ambassador Pierre Sellal, on 2 and 3 February 2012 for the annual session of the South Africa-France Forum for Political Dialogue at the Johnny Makatini Diplomatic Guesthouse in Pretoria.

The South Africa-France Forum for Political Dialogue (FPD) is the primary formal mechanism for the coordination of relations between the two countries. Its annual meeting is presided over jointly by the Director-General and the French Secretary-General, and also consists of senior officials responsible for the main areas of discussion.

It is *inter alia* underpinned by the two countries sharing a fundamental commitment to promoting peace, security, stability, prosperity and democracy on the continent of Africa, in the realisation that

the success or failure of Africa cannot be divorced from the success or failure of Europe, or indeed the world.

The two day meeting was preceded by preparatory meetings between expert officials on UN issues, human rights and development cooperation. The two Directors-General discussed in plenary among other issues the following: The further strengthening and deepening of bilateral political and economic relations; increased development cooperation; developments on the continent of Africa; and issues of global governance such as the reform of the UN Security Council and international financial institutions. Views were also exchanged on other matters of mutual concern, including developments in the Middle East.

France is a major trading and development cooperation partner and source of tourism for South Africa. Total trade increased consistently from R11, 4 billion in 2000 to R31, 2 billion in 2008

before it suffered a significant decline in 2009 due to the global economic downturn. Total trade between the two countries improved slightly to about R27, 5 billion in 2010 with a significant surplus in France's favour. One of the objectives of the Forum for Political Dialogue is to consider ways and means of not only strengthening bilateral trade but ensuring that it is more balanced. There are more than 170 French-owned companies or subsidiaries of French companies operating in South Africa accounting for 25 000 employment opportunities. In strengthening South Africa-France relations the two Directors-General further discussed the cultural seasons that the two countries will present: France in South Africa in 2012, and then South Africa in France in 2013. While centred on cultural exchanges, the seasons will also include elements of promoting trade and investment, tourism, and cooperation in science and technology. □

South Africa hosts SADC meetings



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with from (left to right) Phandu T.C. Skelemani, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Botswana, Zimbabwe Foreign Affairs Minister Simbarashe Mbenegwi, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Mr Marius Fransman and SADC Executive Secretary DR Tomaz Augusto Salomao

The Extra-ordinary Inter State Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) met at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, on 12 February 2012 and considered, among other things, the outcome of the African Union (AU) Commission elections and the political developments in Madagascar.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) meetings took place within the context of contributing to regional efforts in addressing current politico-economic situations in the region. On the issue of SADC candidature for the African Union Commission, the Extra-ordinary ISPDC decided as follows:

- SADC remains committed and united to its candidate for the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Hon. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma-Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of South Africa;
- That the Ad-hoc Committee of Eight Head of States and Government, meet urgently to address the issues relating to the next elections of the members of the AU Commission as mandated by the AU Summit on 30 January 2012;
- The Republic of Angola as the Chairperson of SADC will represent the region in the Committee of Eight;
- SADC remains committed to the threshold of two thirds (2/3) majority for

the election of the Members of the AU Commission in accordance with Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union;

- SADC urges the AU Assembly to conclude the electoral process for the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson as a matter of urgency; and
- On Madagascar, the Extra-ordinary ISPDC reaffirmed the significance of the Roadmap as the only mechanism for resolving the current political crisis in Madagascar.
- The Extra-ordinary ISPDC urged all Malagasy stakeholders to adhere to the letter and spirit of the signed Roadmap and its full implementation.
- The Extra-ordinary ISPDC urged the Malagasy Stakeholders to expedite the process of implementing the Roadmap in order for SADC to consider lifting of sanctions on Madagascar.

The Extra-ordinary ISPDC expressed gratitude to the people and the Government of the Republic South Africa for hosting the meeting. □

SA, UK continue focus on doubling trade



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr William Hague

Briefing the media at the Taj Hotel in Cape Town, following a bi-lateral meeting with UK Foreign Secretary, William Hague, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane said that trade had improved between the two countries last year after declining 37% from 2008 to 2009, amid the global financial crisis.

In the first 10 months of last year, South African exports to the UK had increased by 10.7% while UK imports were up by 30.6%. Last year, the two countries agreed at a bi-lateral forum to double trade by 2015.

While the UK remains South Africa's top source of overseas tourist arrivals, with 453 000 arrivals in 2010, the country is also providing support to set up a Free Trade Area (FTA) in Africa and to provide development assistance through the Department for International Development. Trade between the two countries increased 77% between 2001 and 2008, growing from R42 billion to R74.5 billion.

Ms Nkoana-Mashabane said, "there were more than 300 UK companies operating in South Africa and several SA ones in the UK, pointing out that the South

African government wanted to encourage UK companies to invest in beneficiation and the agro-processing sector in South Africa." Hague, who was to meet with businesses in the food sector later that day, congratulated South Africa for successfully hosting COP17 in Durban in December and said the UK would continue to work with South Africa. "We will continue to work with South Africa in the coming year, as our countries have worked very well together," said Hague. He said South Africa was a "truly global player" across a range of issues, including non-proliferation, climate change and conflict resolution.

Mr Hague and Ms Nkoana-Mashabane also discussed several African and Middle East issues, including the conference on Somalia which was held in London. He said South Africa had a key role to play in tackling piracy in the Mozambican channel. Hague said Britain was in favour of permanent representation for Africa at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Mr Hague added that the UK would do everything to ensure peaceful elections in Zimbabwe and to support SADC and President Jacob Zuma's efforts to bring about reforms in South Africa's northern neighbour. While Ms Nkoana-Mashabane urged the EU to relook at trade sanctions on Zimbabwe, Hague said an outcome on

EU's targeted sanctions on Zimbabwe was imminent.

He said while there had been some progress on the ground in Zimbabwe, it had not been "as much as we would have liked". Turning to Syria, Hague welcomed the latest proposal by the Arab League on Syria to isolate the regime, including the endorsement of the Group of friends.

He also welcomed the Arab League's financial and political support for the opposition in Syria and its efforts to foster a more united opposition in Syria. He said the UK would discuss urgently with the Arab League the setting up of a joint Arab League and UN peacekeeping force, but was quick to add that a peacekeeping force could only be deployed once Syria had withdrawn its troops from cities, stopped killing civilians and setting up a credible ceasefire.

Asked whether the UK and South Africa would contribute peacekeepers, Hague said it was important that President Bashar Assad follow through with an agreement to pull back troops from cities. He said any peacekeeping force should not be made up of Western countries. "I don't see the way forward in Syria as Western-boots on the ground, I think it should come from outside the West," he said. In conclusion Ms Nkoana-Mashabane said South Africa would soon need to formulate a strategy from the unintended impact of EU sanctions on Iran. □

Tough questions in wake of contest

By Eddy Maloka

The chairpersonship of the African Union (AU) Commission has been contested before without fanfare, so why such a hullabaloo now? The answer lies between the lines of what happened in Africa last year, especially in Côte d'Ivoire and Libya. An increasing number of countries are beginning to ask four key questions about the AU, particularly its Commission:

- How relevant and effective is the Commission as the engine room of the AU?
- How should the Commission account to AU member states, especially at moments of crisis when Africa's interests are at stake?
- How should Africa respond to the regime-change agenda of some external, non-African actors, including the increasing

abuse of the principle of "responsibility to protect" in the international peace and security architecture?

- How do we get Africa to focus on its priorities and challenges, not on what is externally determined?

Many speakers at the Addis Ababa summit expressed concern about the increasing incidents of "foreign interference" in Africa.

The question is how the Commission has represented the AU in responding to this changing geopolitical reality. The countries that wanted change at the helm of the Commission are clearly not happy with how it has played its role in this regard. The outcome of this electoral contest is definitely set to transform the AU. Some aspects of the AU's jurisprudence are likely

to change as the committee established by the summit revisits the AU rules of procedure relating to the functioning and election of the Commission, among others. Performance and accountability for Commission members is likely to come up, as well as how member states ensure that those they elect live up to their expectations. How we strengthen the Commission and the entire AU is another important question. And how we relate to the external world as a continent will continue to dominate our debates, with a view to achieving our goal of a truly independent Africa. This electoral contest has awakened a continent which nearly lost itself in the divisive debate regarding the "United States of Africa". We are now more united on the big question: Africa, what now and beyond to claim the 21st century? □

By: Edward Lebeko
West Africa II

On 25 January 2012, a group of 29 Cuban health professionals arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone to help boost the health sector in that country. The arrival of the Cuban health professionals would complement President Koroma's Free Health Care initiative and provide the much needed health services in the countryside. The Governments of South Africa and Sierra Leone concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April 2010, in terms of which, the Cuban Government would second health professionals to the health service of Sierra Leone, while the Government of Sierra Leone would facilitate their deployment to areas of critical need, arrange their up-keeping and lodge through funding from the South African government to the tune of US\$3 million over a period of three years.



In the group picture with the Cubans, High Commissioner Ndhlovu (in red) is flanked by Minister Zainab Bangura (left) and South Africa's Honorary Consul General in Freetown Ms Aminata Kallay (right). Ambassador Ncoholas is third from the left

The funds have been availed through South Africa's African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund.

The Cuban doctors and nurses were warmly received by the Sierra Leonean Minister of Health and Sanitation Ms Zainab Bangura in the presence of High Commissioner Jeanette Ndhlovu (South

Africa's High Commissioner to the Republic of Ghana, and South Africa's High Commissioner designated to the Republic of Sierra Leone), Ambassador Jarge F. Lefebre Ncoholas, and Ambassador of Cuba to the Republic of Ghana who is also Cuba's Ambassador designated to the Republic of Sierra Leone. ☐

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

PMDS POLICY REVIEW BACKGROUND

PMDS conducted an in-house audit of the current PMDS Policy and had consultations with other government departments and government agencies to ascertain whether the Policy is still relevant and in line with the latest developments. The exercise proved that a need exists for the Policy to be reviewed as minor gaps were identified.

PMDS POLICY REVIEW WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS/ INCLUSIONS

TEMPLATE

The Department shall use the MS Word template with effect from 1 April 2012 with the introduction of the following:-

Description	Proposed/ amendment
KRA	Strategic objective
Objective/Output	Performance Indicator
Performance Indicator/Measure	Target
Rating/ Scoring	<p>The allocation of a score to a performance indicator/target and, a CMC/GAF in accordance with the prescribed rating scale.</p> <p>Self assessment: an opportunity for the employee to allocate scores to a performance indicator/target, a CMC/GAF in line with the rating scale.</p> <p>Supervisor/Manager's score: an opportunity for the supervisor/manager to allocate scores to a performance indicator/target, a CMC/GAF in line with the rating scale.</p> <p>Consensus score: A score agreed upon by the employee and the supervisor/manager.</p> <p>Moderated score: A score that has been moderated and confirmed by the moderating committee.</p>

PROPOSED POLICY AMENDMENTS AND INCLUSIONS

Planning and Contracting	People management and empowerment shall be a compulsory/ mandatory CMC/ GAF to all supervisory positions.
Amendment of Performance Agreement during the performance cycle	Where changes pertaining to an employee's working environment/operational requirements take place, a new performance agreement shall be entered into, to accommodate the changes and this shall be done when the employee assumes the new responsibility.
Acting in a higher post	Acting in a higher post shall not solely be used as a motivation for a performance Significantly Above Expectation or Outstanding.
Overtime	Remunerated overtime shall not be used solely as a motivation for a Performance Significantly Above Expectation or Outstanding.
Upgrading without change in Performance Agreement within a Performance cycle	Employees whose levels changed during the performance cycle shall not qualify for pay progression for that performance cycle; however, it is required of them to submit performance appraisals. Appraisals for employees that have been confirmed at Performance Significantly Above Expectation or Outstanding, pro-rata performance based bonus shall be implemented.
Promotion	Employees promoted during the performance cycle, shall not qualify for pay progression, however, pro-rata performance based bonus shall be implemented if the employees have been confirmed at Performance Significantly Above Expectations or Outstanding.
Moderation process	Directors shall present the appraisals of Deputy Directors only. Deputy Directors shall present the appraisals of all employees on Levels 2-10.
Management of poor performance	Managers/ supervisors shall timeously establish the root cause(s) of under-performance and address them immediately.
Grievance Procedure	Grievances shall be lodged within 60 days after the implementation of incentives. Grievances registered after 60 days of implementation shall not be considered.

By: Zoleka Lamati

DIRCO CAREER FAIR

INVITATION

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FROM BANDUNG TO OUJDA: THE FOUNDATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA-ALGERIA HISTORICAL RELATIONS

“The time comes in the life of any nation when there remains only two choices: submit or fight”



Nelson Mandela and Robert Resha with members of the Algerian Liberation Army. Also in the picture are members from the liberation movements from the then African Portuguese colonies. This picture was taken in Oujda, a border-town along the Algeria-Morocco border in March 1962

The documentation of the important historic relations between South Africa and Algeria that was forged during the fight against colonialism and imperialism in Africa has always been seen as a priority by the South African Embassy in Algeria. Indeed, when the Embassy embarked on this project, it was mindful of the fact that it will not be a once-off exercise. Rather, we were aware that this task will be a continuous one that will develop with time, more especially when we continue to meet and interview key figures from both sides that were at the forefront of the establishment of this historic relationship. Most importantly though, we are cognisant of the fact that the custodians of the information about the early contacts are at an advanced age. As such, the need to document the stories of those veterans that are still with us is urgent.

As a necessary caveat, it should be highlighted that this contribution is not an attempt to provide a narrative of the history of South Africa-Algeria relations. Such an important subject would require months of research given the fact that bits and pieces of information (some in French and Arabic) on this matter that are scattered all over the archives still need to be assembled and translated. Accordingly, this input serves as an appreciation of these two giants of the African continent situated at both tips of the continent.

Ever since we started documenting the historic relations between the two countries, we have been fortunate to have an audience with the Algerian veterans who were there from the beginning. This includes their

interaction with Nelson Mandela and Robert Resha when the two representatives of the South African liberation movement visited the Algerian national liberation movement in March 1962. Amongst these, we count Cherefi Djamel Belkacem, Nouredinne Djoudi and Djelloul Malaika.

To digress from the main issue a bit, it is important to note that post-colonial Algeria and its liberation movement prior to liberation, the National Liberation Front (FLN), mostly interacted with the African National Congress (ANC). However, it should be emphasised that the ANC was not the sole liberation movement in South Africa at the time. In addition to the ANC, there was the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) which had broken away from the ANC on

6 April 1959. Following the banning of the ANC and the PAC, the latter sent Patrick Duncan as its representative in Algiers, 1964-at the time Algeria was the hotbed of liberation movements from the African continent and beyond. This reality prompted the revolutionary from Guinea-Bissau, Amilcar Cabral to refer to Algeria as the “Mecca of revolutionaries”. Fluent in French, Duncan succeeded in obtaining Algerian training facilities for 100 aspirant PAC guerrillas¹. Moreover, Duncan produced a PAC Newsletter in French². Patrick Duncan only held his post (as PAC representative) in Algiers for a year³.

The revolutionary intellectual-activist Jabulani ‘Mzala’ Nxumalo once noted that “blank pages should not be allowed in history”, against this backdrop, the documentation of South Africa-Algeria historic relations will not be complete without the examination of the PAC’s own contribution in these ties that we celebrate today. It is not the task of this contribution to view this important aspect in great detail. However, in order to do justice to this important subject, we will plough deeper into the archives so as to comprehend the full complexities on the foundations of the South Africa-Algeria relationship.

Of recent late we have been fortunate to interview other key figures such as the first President of an independent Algeria, Ahmed Ben Bella and Dr Chaouki Mostefai. It will be recalled that it was Dr Mostefai who gave Mandela and Resha a comprehensive briefing on the Algerian liberation struggle and the fundamentals of waging an armed struggle from a strategic and tactical vantage point. At the time, the South African people’s liberation army, uMkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) or MK for short, had just been formed on 16 December 1961 with Mandela as its first Chief of Staff. Given the similarities between the South African and Algerian liberation struggles, Mandela was tasked by his organisation the ANC to go to Algeria amongst other countries to organise military training for MK recruits as well as organise material assistance. It is important to highlight that Mandela himself was given

rudimentary military training during his visit to Algeria. This was on top of the theoretical training on guerrilla warfare he was given by Dr Mostefai.

In his autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*⁵, Mandela recounts his encounter with Dr Mostefai. Mandela mentions that Dr Mostefai related how the FLN had initially believed they could defeat the French colonial army, but later realised that a pure military victory was impossible. Dr Mostefai further explained to Mandela that guerrilla warfare was not designed to win military victory but the intention was to unleash political and economic forces that would bring down the enemy. Dr Mostefai advised Mandela not to neglect the political side of war while advancing the military option.

In his recently published memoirs *Conversations with Myself, Mandela gives his impression on Algerian freedom fighters in general and Dr Mostefai in particular, as depicted in this conversation with Richard Stengel:*

“Mandela: Mostefai? Yes, yes, he was the head of the Algerian delegation in Morocco.

Stengel: Right. Now he talked to you quite extensively, didn’t he?

Mandela: Oh, yes, for several days.

Stengel: Right.

Mandela: Reviewing the Algerian revolution. Oh, that was a masterpiece, man, I can tell you. Very few things inspired me as the briefing from Dr Mostefai.

Stengel: Really, how come? Why?

Mandela: ...He was reviewing to us, you know, the history of the Algerian revolution, the problems which they had, and how they started. They started thinking that they would be able to defeat the French in the battlefield, inspired by what happened in Vietnam.

Dien Bien Phu... [That] was interesting, absolutely interesting.

Stengel: And were you thinking this might be a model for how MK would be in South Africa?

Mandela: Well, it was information on which we could work out our own tactics”.

It is apparent from the above dialogue that the launch of the South African armed struggle benefitted immensely from the lessons learnt from the Algerian revolution as recounted to Mandela by Dr Mostefai. Further, the theoretical contribution of the Algerian liberation movement to South Africa’s own national liberation struggle was substantial during this period. This

contribution by Algeria is succinctly captured by Tom Lodge in his analysis of Mandela’s interaction with the FLN and its military wing the National Liberation Army (ALN):

“In Morocco, [Oujda] Mandela also met a number of leaders from the Algerian FLN. Houari Boumedienne gave Mandela advice that he recollected in prison much later—that the objective of most armed liberation movements was rarely the overthrow of regimes but rather to force opponents to the negotiating table”.⁶

It is beyond doubt that this contribution acknowledged by Mandela was to play a decisive role in South African politics. It will be recalled that the armed struggle was one of the pillars utilised by the South African national liberation movement that brought the apartheid regime to the negotiating table. This is in addition to mass mobilisation of the South African oppressed and progressive forces; international sanctions as well as the underground campaign that conducted propaganda campaigns inside South Africa to galvanise the oppressed majority of South Africans. In view of the foregoing, when the apartheid regime did finally relent and reluctantly opted to go to the negotiating table, it was not surprising that the ANC, led by Mandela, suspended the armed struggle. It can be boldly asserted that the inputs of the Algerian liberation movement played a crucial role in informing this wisdom.

The undying support of Algeria to the South African struggle against apartheid was again demonstrated by the role Algeria played in the expulsion of apartheid South Africa from the United Nations in 1974. This turning point in the South African struggle occurred during Algeria’s tenure as President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) under the leadership of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was Algeria’s Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time. This decision was important in that it intensified the fight against the apartheid regime and ensured its isolation from the rest of the world.

It was in this regard, the Embassy led by Ambassador Joseph Kotane visited Dr Mostefai to thank him for his contribution to the South African liberation struggle albeit at its most difficult phase. This meeting was also an opportunity for the Embassy to get further insight of that period from this African revolutionary intellectual! Similarly, the Embassy again led by Ambassador Kotane visited the legendary President Ahmed Ben Bella at his home (just next to

¹Lodge, T. *Sharpsville: An Apartheid Massacre and its Consequences*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2011, p.206

²Lodge, T. *Black Politics in South Africa since 1945*, Longman, London, 1983

³Duncan remained an active member of the PAC in Algeria, working in Constantine for an American relief organization. Duncan was felled in 1967 by aplastic anaemia in a London hospital

⁴Nxumalo, J. *The National Question in the Writing of South African History: A Critical Survey of Some Major Tendencies*, Published by Development Policy and Practice Research Group, Faculty of Technology, Open University, London, 1992

⁵Mandela, N. *Long Walk to Freedom*, Little, Brown Company, London, 1994

⁶Lodge, T. *Mandela a Critical Life*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2006, p.98

(from page 15)

our official residence!) to thank him once again for his contribution in the liberation of South Africa. At this meeting, President Ben Bella gave vivid recollections of his meetings with Mandela and Resha in 1962. He noted that he first met them at a military parade arranged in his honour just after his release from prison at the Ben Mihdi Base. On a lighter note, Ben Bella recounted how Mandela visited his home in Algiers where they had the traditional Algerian cuisine which Mandela enjoyed so much, particularly cous cous!

Raison d'être of South Africa-Algeria relations: Context

It has been common for commentators of South Africa-Algeria relations to make the incorrect assertion that these relations were established during the visit by Mandela and Resha to Algeria in 1962. As such, it is imperative that some light on the origins of these historic ties be provided. Surely, as we shall shortly discover, there must have been some earlier interaction between the two parties that made the visit by Mandela and Resha possible!

⁸The Bandung Conference of 1955:

A thorough search into the archives actually reveals that the first substantial interaction between the representatives of the South African and Algerian liberation movements namely the ANC and FLN, was made in Bandung, Indonesia at the Asia-Africa Conference in February 1957. Accordingly, at this important gathering, the South African liberation movement/ Congress Alliance was represented by Moses Kotane, then Secretary General of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and Maulvi Cachalia, leader in the South African Indian Congress. In actual fact, prior to arriving in Bandung, both Kotane and Cachalia visited Gamal Abdel Nasser's Egypt who was then the Premier. It was in Egypt that they first made contact with the North African Committee of political exiles from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia who were representing their country's independence cause abroad.⁸

Later after his return from Bandung, Moses Kotane noted, amongst others, in an article he wrote for the New Age newspaper

⁷The Bandung Conference brought together delegates from 29 Asian and African countries to devise ways and means of securing and maintaining peace by eliminating all causes and sources of war, and devising ways in which Asian and African countries could cooperate. Moses Kotane and Maulvi Cachalia attended as observers. But the conference provided the ANC with the opportunity to connect with the leaders of these countries.

⁸ Bunting, B. Moses Kotane, South African Revolutionary, A Political Biography, Inkululeko Publications, 39 Goodge Street, London W1, 1975.

on this important visit that:

"...There are unofficial delegations from the French colonies [of] Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, and from South Africa. To my mind, only the last two—the North Africans and the South Africans are important. They have a legitimate case, and everybody concerned here recognises and acknowledges this fact. They enjoy the sympathy and support of all the delegates."⁹

It can be deduced from the above that following the Bandung Conference there were intentions from the leadership to solidify bonds forged with the North African liberation movements in general and Algeria in particular. To give justification to this assertion, it is worth reproducing the long but necessary quote by Joe Matthews on his recollection of the foundations of South Africa-Algeria relations in the aftermath of the formation of MK:

"...We said Africa can be our base. They are willing to be our base, and we need training facilities they are ready to provide. But the equipment and so on will have to come from somewhere else. Then we also had to look at who our strategic partners in the struggle were. The Algerian struggle had just been won; they had gained their independence in 1962. We thought, because of their experiences and because of the relations we had with them since the period of Bandung in 1955, Algeria would be our main base in the Arab world. And because of their struggle, they would have a particular attitude to a movement which was fighting an armed struggle."¹⁰

As can be distilled from the insight given by Matthews, the South African National Liberation Movement viewed post-independence Algeria as a strategic partner in the liberation struggle as early as 1962, mainly due to similar experiences in the quest to eliminate national oppression.

Subsequently, these early interactions provided for the arrival of MK combatants who came to Algeria for military training. Amongst the first MK recruits to come were prominent cadres such as Joe Modise who later became Commander of MK and the first post-apartheid South Africa's Minister of Defence and Raymond Mhlaba himself a former MK Commander who was later imprisoned on Robben Island for 'treason'. These cadres were to later pave the way for a number of MK recruits such as Peter

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Interview with Joe Gaobakwe Matthews, Edited by Mbulelo Vizikhungo Mzamane from the interview by Dr Sifiso Ndlovu and Professor Bernard Makhosazwe Magubane, 18 July 2001, Pretoria, South African Democratic Education Trust (SADET) Oral History Project.

Mfene (Teddy Ncapayi); Amos Motaung (Phillip Habanyane); James Radebe (James Thabethe); Sly Plate (Sly Pilane); Paul Majoe (Dan Mokhatle); Thami Sindelo (Thami John); Barney Pitso (Leonard Pitso); William Ntuli (Willy Williams); Peter Ngezi (Ngizi Peyise); Reddy Mampane (Reddy Mazimba); Sydney Soate (Sydney Molefi); James Mokheti (James Nato); John Zulu (Droom Zulu); Alfred Willie Mafamane; Fish Mekgwe; Zoni Selwane; Wellington Nziba; Mark Jones and Martin Skhosana.

Moreover, shortly after Algeria achieved independence in July 1962, the ANC Mission was promptly opened in Algiers, headed by Robert Resha who was soon joined by Johnston Mfanafuthi 'Johnny' Makhathini. In 1966, when Robert Resha left Algeria, he was succeeded by Makhathini. Godfrey Josiah Madileng Motsepe came thereafter followed by Thamsanqa John aka 'Thami Sindelo'. Mr Victor Moche was the last Chief Representative before the establishment of formal bilateral relations with a democratic South Africa and Algeria.

A Strategic Partnership:

As Algeria gears itself to celebrate 50 years of independence (5 July 2012) and the ANC its 100 years of existence (8 January 2012), this partnership is at its strongest as the two countries continue to work closely in building an Africa that is peaceful, democratic, non-sexist, non-racist and prosperous thereby contributing to a better life for all. This interaction is exemplified by the close bilateral cooperation by the two countries through the framework of the South Africa-Algeria Bi-National Commission of Cooperation (BNC) whose work is centred on the following areas of interaction:

- Quality of Life and Human Resources;**
- People to People Relations;**
- Energy and Infrastructure;**
- Natural Resources;**
- Defence, Safety and Security, and Trade**

Moreover, South Africa and Algeria work hand in hand in building a stronger African Union and its structures. This interaction is also extended to the international fold whereby the two countries informed by their common history and destiny as well as the principles of internationalism tirelessly champion development centred just causes geared towards eradicating armed conflict; economic inequality; global warming; unfair trade; disease; imperialism; racism; sexism and exploitation.

May this fraternal strategic partnership last for many years to come! ☐

MY DRC EXPERIENCE, RECOUNTED

"They neither ran with them, nor burnt them to the ground. The simple act of taking them was more to get a new bit of fabric or a house rag."

I travelled to the Democratic Republic Congo (DRC) as part of a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Electoral Observer Mission during the country's November Presidential and Parliamentary elections. In hindsight I would have loved to have written of my experience whilst I was there when everything was fresh in my mind.

However, recounting my experience was very easy as moments like these will never be forgotten. For a background, the Congo is situated along Africa's west coast and bordered by Angola, Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Gabon. The Congo is a fusion of grassland, inland highlands and equatorial rainforest which account for its fascinating selection of wild animals and colourful birdlife.

I slept peacefully just after boarding the plane to Kinshasa in between reading in-flight magazines and being woken up by flight attendants for this and that. After about three and a half hours, I held my breath as the plane took off, turned and descended again and then repeated the whole maneuver. I pretended to be sleeping in my nervousness. We finally landed and discovered that the airport was almost full with people from other SADC countries who were also coming to observe the elections.

As I landed at Kinshasa's Ndjili International Airport, I was immediately struck by a series of neat election billboards displaying huge portraits of the broadly smiling President Joseph Kabila. Banners bearing the names of the various candidates in the elections were fluttering all the way along the road. Vehicles of all sizes and in all stages of dilapidation twisted and turned and inched forwards in an attempt to negotiate the obstacles on the road and find the least damaged part of the highway.

As we arrived at the Grand Hotel, which was quite a glamorous facility — by Central African standards — it came complete



Mr Tshisevhe as part of SADC Electoral Observer Mission

with conference rooms, a shopping mall and the ever-popular L'Atmosphere nightclub. The hotel, close to President Joseph Kabila's official residence, had stunning views of the mighty Congo River. It also had restaurants. Most interestingly, the Grand Hotel lies on the southern bank of the mighty Congo River, across from Brazzaville. This is the only place in the world where two national capital cities are situated on opposite banks of a river, within sight of each other.

Most astounding was also the opportunity to fly over most of the DRC provinces before we were finally deployed at Buji-Mayi. Some of the provinces we visited include Lubumbashi, Katanga, Kananga, Kolwezi, Goma and Bukavu.

I received an opportunity to attend a rally when President Kabila visited Buji-Mayi. At the rally he spoke of the Cinq Chantiers, of asphalt and electricity. He said Number 3 is the only candidate, and asked Buji-Mayi people to give his



mandate an endorsement of 100 per cent. People gathered and cheered, but without too much enthusiasm. The crowd disbanded fairly quickly following the speech. The flags for Kabila were quickly stolen as people scaled the poles to retrieve them.

They neither ran with them, cheering, nor burnt them to the ground. The simple act of taking them was more akin to getting a new bit of fabric or a house rag—same as the t-shirts. People attended the rally because it was an interesting spectacle, of dancing, music and loudspeakers. Something to see, rather than to show their political support.

At the end Kabila was declared to have won the election on 9 December with 48.95% of the vote. Due to a change in the law, Kabila did not have to contest a run-off against Tshisekedi who received 32.33% of the poll — according to official results. Kamerhe received just 7.74%, and this was how the whole episode ended. ☐

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SKA PRESENTATION IN ROME



Minister Grace Naledi Pandor meeting the staff of the SA Embassy in Rome

On 25 January 2012, on the occasion of the visit to Italy by the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms. Grace Naledi Pandor, Ambassador Thenjiwe Mtintso hosted a presentation in Rome on South Africa's bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). In November 2011 Italy became a member of the SKA Organisation, an independent, non-profit company established to formalise relationships with international partners and centralise the leadership of the (SKA) telescope project.

South Africa is leading an African bid to host the SKA, with the core site in South Africa's Northern Cape region and with outstations in Namibia, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique and Zambia.

The presentation was attended by a large cross-section of African ambassadors accredited to Italy and Permanent Representatives to the Rome-based UN-food agencies, as well as key Italian academics, business people, journalists



Minister Grace Naledi Pandor with Ambassador Thenjiwe Mtintso, Ms. Mariagrazia Biancospino and Dr. Bernie Fanaroff at the SKA presentation in Rome

and practitioners in the field of astrophysics. Minister Pandor was also joined at the presentation by Dr. Bernie Fanaroff, the Director of the South African SKA bid, who gave an in-depth presentation of the technical and scientific aspects of the bid proposal, as well as by Ms. Mariagrazia Biancospino, the Secretary-General of the Italian-South African Chamber of Trade and Industries, who provided a business perspective of trade and investment opportunities in South Africa and Africa, especially also as they

relate to a potential African SKA. The very successful SKA presentation followed the previous day's interactions on the SKA bid by Minister Pandor with her Italian counterpart, as well as representatives from the Italian business and astronomy community.

Minister Pandor also found some time to visit the Chancery and to engage with all transferred staff and LRP's on developments in South Africa and Italy. @



Percy Makholwa
Desk:
Civil and Political Rights

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FROM THE PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS: 1900- TO ANC CENTENARY CELEBRATION: 2012

The years 1900, and 1912 are significant in the historic recount of the liberation movement in African. The year 1900 was the Pan African Conference and the year 2012 is the year of the centenary celebration of the oldest liberation movement the African National Congress (ANC). Sufficient elaboration has gone into explaining the significance of the ANC centenary celebrations elsewhere by others, we shall therefore not go into details about the ANC herein save to introduce theoretic discussions about the ANC and elaborate on discussions about liberation movements in total.

It was Immanuel Wallerstein who praised the (ANC) for being both the oldest and the last liberation movement to exist in the 20th century (followed by no other). The comments by Wallerstein were inspired by the success of the ANC to claim democratic victory in 1994, in the first instance. Secondly they were inspired by Wallerstein's calculation that there would be no new liberation movement that would arise after the ANC. Instead of liberation movements there would rather be contesting political parties, which would be represented in a parliamentary system. The other obvious calculation that could be offered is that the colonial project was essentially over and thus liberation movements were not required.

There has been some vindication for Wallerstein's calculations in there not being any new political movement with the qualities of liberation movements after the ANC. The case of Sudan's People Liberation Movement (SPLM) is one counter argument to Wallerstein. The recent emergence of the SPLM as ruling party would actually place the SPLM as the last liberation movement and the ANC would remain the oldest. Certainly the proposition by Wallerstein has become contested on technicality but not entirely on content. Wallerstein goes on to highlight the challenges of modernizing the liberation movement in to a political party

and ruling party. Since independence, liberation movements have transformed either as democratic ruling parties or as single parties that have been listed as the culprits for suppression, totalitarianism and kleptocracy in Africa. The Single parties have had devastating effects in Africa. The abuse of human rights, the stalled development of countries and the looting of revenues intended for development are some of expressions of this devastation. With regards to the abuse of human rights, Africa is listed as having a bad record in human rights. The reasons were threefold, firstly the post independence liberation movement was not prepared to carry the reforms required to transform an inherited colonial government into a post colonial, democratic and predevelopment government. The reckoning of former liberation movement activists was that an unchanged state would ensure their political stability and secure sustained access to resources. The second reason is that to install a human rights culture, uncomfortable truths would have to be adhered to. The example of these relates to accepting that colonialism under its divide and rule strategy preferred the rights of one group at the expense of another. Thus, either one ethnic group, one class, religious community would have to admit benefit at the expense of another. The third issue is that there were delays in recognizing and acting on human rights. The later speaks both to the sequencing and the procrastination over human rights.

Sequencing speaks to the fact that out of the three variables (development, political stability and democracy), the post independence state considered political stability to have been more important. Historical record vindicates this consideration; indeed Africa became even a rougher neighbourhood post independence owing to external interests at continued control and access, and internal volitions intending to gain control of the state.

Alas also the sequencing discarded democracy and development. What started as a project of ensuring political stability also became a programme hindering development and democracy. There was a miscalculation on the part of

Africans because the requisite conditions political stability require the inverse of sequence, namely democracy-first, development-second, and then sustained political stability. The rationale for the sequence contrary to the latter has already been highlighted above in the external interference and internal volitions. It is noteworthy to state that Human Rights, which thrive under development and democracy, would have been easily achieved in the later sequence.

We conclude, therefore that miscalculation of sequence; the development towards a single party; the political volatility of the post independence world (neo-imperialism and eternal interference and internal volitions disguised as proxy war in a bipolar world system) created the downward spiral of liberation movements on the continent. This downward spiral worked against the establishment of human rights institutions.

There have been alternative theories to the above analysis, these have suggested that that Africans were not aware of what human rights were due to their communitarian life and Mahmood Mamdani did justice in rebuttal to these. Mamdani highlighted how ethnocentric the argument of communitarian life being used as reason for non-compliance to human rights. Instead, Mamdani highlights that Africans used the communitarian world view to argue for the right to community development, and this was not exclusive of, nor in denial of individual rights. The citizen-subject creation of colonialism was the reason why the denials of individual rights become advanced by Africans. If the citizen is a superior race or group, then the subject becomes relegated to an eternal 'subject' disposition because they belong to an inferior race or group.

Unfortunately, some liberation fighters also created a citizen subject scenario when they created a single party state, thus reinventing the colonial suppression model.

Another contrary analysis to what we have expounded above speaks to stalled development and the looting of Africa, as is seen in the latest package in the book "Architect of Poverty". The Moeletsisi Mbeki "Architects of Poverty" theory explains part of the problem but just like many who

have written this theory, lacks significant points. The lack of these points in this theory is what allows for Afro-pessimism. These points also speak to miscalculated sequence, the single party and disguised ambitions (external and internal).

The above leads us to Walter Rodney's "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa." From this book we learn that Africans were simply compensated middle men, who were ruthless in their service to the original looter. Markets were sustained and middle men protected even to the extent of being provided with arms and intelligence to wipe out opponents (disguised internal and external interests).

Indeed the liberation movement activists were then downgraded into a band of thieves or complaint stooges at the expense of the majority of Africans

(consolidation of the single party and miscalculated sequencing).

The above is rebuttal to misconceptions about liberation movement; we now have the space to recount what the liberation was motivated by and what challenges await the liberation movement.

The 1900 pan African conference was to a large extent the ignition of the liberation movement in Africa. That conference gave a call to the metro poles of the colonising nations that a congress of men and women of African blood sought to beckon the world that...the nations of the world respect the integrity and independence of the free Negro states of Abyssinia, Liberia, Haiti, and the rest.

Secondly, the 1900 conference called on the colonised Africans to take courage, strive ceaselessly, and fight bravely,

that they may prove to the world their incontestable right to be counted among the great brotherhood of mankind. From the above, it is clear that the significance of the 1900 conference was that it created the international political posture of African states of the respect of sovereignty.

This was the position of the members of the OAU after the 1950s. These members were largely former liberation movement activists who had turned into governing authorities. In addition, the 1900 call, motivated the stance of liberation movements advocating human rights against colonial regimes. Alas, due to the reasons explained above, many of the former liberation movements contradicted their pre-independence virtues and were complicit in committing horrendous abuses to the human rights of Africans.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA – FREEDOM THROUGH DIPLOMACY



Pela Selomo
Directorate:
West Africa II

Is there a good reason for us to celebrate the legacy of the liberation movements in Africa? What legacy did these liberation movements leave which requires special recognition and ululations? It is extremely pivotal for one to punch these critical questions, which seem to be controversial in their nature and character.

The African liberation movements' contribution in the broader liberation struggle is immeasurable and its legacy deserves serious acknowledgement and recognition. As the African National Congress (ANC) celebrates its centenary, it is important to recognise and acknowledge the contributions made by MPLA in Angola, FRELIMO in Mozambique, SWAPO in Namibia, ZAPU and ZANU-PF in Zimbabwe; and PAIGC in Guinea and Cape Verde; and many other movements and organisations that contributed to our struggle for freedom

and self determination.

The South African citizens are enjoying the fruits of freedom today because of the sterling leadership of the Mass Democratic Movement led by the ANC and others whose role has been engraved in gold in the history of our continent's liberation struggle. It is through their exerted efforts and pressure that the Apartheid regime succumbed to democratic forces which paved the road to the 1994 democratic breakthrough. The democratic dispensation in South Africa is a result of a protracted struggle waged by men and women in the continent under the leadership of our celebrated liberation movements.

The trophy should not only be awarded to the South African liberation movements alone.

We need to recognise the contributions of the liberation movements in Africa as a whole, for instance Ghana's independence through Kwame Nkrumah's political party (Convention People's Party) in 1957 remained a cornerstone for the tremendous momentum that triggered and fast-tracked the rest of Africa's political liberation.

The liberation movements in Southern Africa received strong support from independent African nations. In 1963 at the meeting of the African leaders that formed the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Kwame Nkrumah, declared that

"No African will be free unless all Africans are free."

While the OAU and most African nations supported the struggle in Southern Africa, the most direct support came from the Front Line States, the independent African countries bordering South Africa, and these efforts were accelerated following the independence of Angola and Mozambique. These front line states provided logistical support and asylum to the liberation cadres, but most importantly, they provided military bases for training liberation soldiers in preparation for the insurrection in South Africa.

Africa is free today because of the efforts and leadership of the African Liberation Movements. The struggle against imperialism and colonial rule would have permanently imputed itself if it was not for the dedication and determination of cadres of the liberation movements in Africa.

The leaders of the liberation movements were using petitions and international platforms to mobilise the world to support their efforts to fight against oppressive systems in their respective countries. On 10 February 1927 in Brussels, the former President of the ANC, Josiah Gumede, at the International Congress Against Imperialism, had this to say "South Africa is my country in which I was born, the country of my forefathers. I regret to tell you this evening that we have no place to

(Continues on page 22)



(from page 21)

lay our heads. All the land was taken from us in the name of the Crown of Great Britain and the people were driven away from their ancestral homes which were turned into farms”. After realising that the petition strategy is not fast-tracking change, the African people under the leadership of the liberation movements resorted to peaceful mass resistance strategies which ultimately resulted in the armed liberation struggle.

The newly independent African countries realised that there was also a need to build a regional block which would effectively engage and lobby the international community to support the struggle for freedom in the continent. In May 1963 in Addis Ababa the OAU was established with the aim to free Africans from the bondage

of colonialism and oppression. The organisation aimed to promote unity and cohesion among the newly independent African states, to advance their economic development, and to accelerate the liberation of those African nations still under Colonial or White rule. The African liberation movements used the OAU to champion their fundamental interests internationally and mobilised friendly nations and progressive international organisations such as the Non-Aligned Movement, Anti-Apartheid Movement in the UK and others to intensify the fight against colonialism and oppression. The African liberation movements’ revolutionaries ensured that political and socio-economic sanctions were implemented against the colonial and

oppressive regimes in the continent. They used economic diplomacy as a tool to apply pressure on the oppressors.

As part of preserving and celebrating the legacy of the liberation movements, the new South Africa should mobilise the continent in a view to safeguard and strengthen the African Union as it derived its existence from the OAU. That in context forms part and parcel of celebrating the legacy of the liberation movements in the continent because the AU is a brain child of these liberation movements. There is a need to critically transform the AU to ensure that Africa does not become a victim in the global political scheme of things. We must actually be the masters of our own destiny without any fear of contradiction or prejudice.



Surprise Malehase
Branch: **Public Diplomacy**

Greece. The crisis in our continent might jeopardise our commitment of creating 5 million jobs in 2014 as it was the South African Government’s commitment when the new administration led by President Jacob Zuma took over in the year 2009.

The Minister of Finance Pravin Gordhan in his meeting with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said our economic policy towards job creation or the New Growth Path is in the correct position; these might give us confidence in terms of Job creation. The year 2011 was described

by many as the “year of action,” but we have lost many jobs during that period, so the expectation is very high this year. I believe that South Africa is starting to get its position well in the educational sector especially in the Basic Education sector. 70.2 % pass rate at a national level was confirmed by the Department of Basic Education.

This year our Government should find a way to close this gap between the rich and the poor, statistics tells us that at least 4 Million people in our country are unemployed.

The year 2012 is described by economists as a dark year especially in Europe because countries might face recession, which has already affected other countries in Europe such as Italy and



Lusanda Dube
Branch: **Asia and Middle East**

It is with great valour and reminisce that one dares to look back at our history, and realise how far we have come as a Country. It’s with pride amidst feelings of sadness and anger that so many people had to lose their lives for us to be where we are as a Nation. Hence we should not only celebrate and value our freedom on special days, let’s instill a sense of honour, humility, pride and purpose to our very own children by re-living and reviving the spirit of self worth.

Let us go to other African Countries and show them how it is like to have true leaders whose purpose is to serve the people, in so doing this will secure a brighter future for the nation-ALUTA CONTINUA!



Creative Corner

Carol Rath with Thando Dalamba, and Professor Urio - at that time Director of The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College” (SOMAFCCO) at the Sokoine University campus.

Rest peacefully

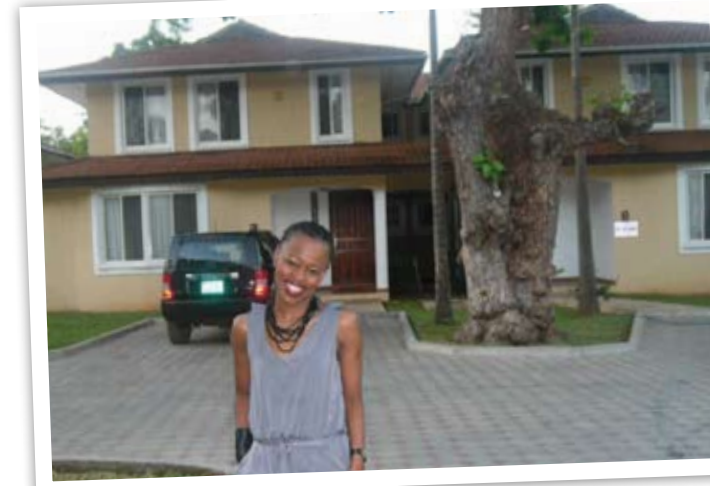
Rest peacefully, quietly under the trees,
Rest peacefully, in the beautiful, still, warm air of a foreign land,
Rest peacefully, under the blanket of a breathless, starry night,
Rest peacefully, your vision has been realized,
Rest peacefully, your sacrifice is acknowledged,
Rest peacefully, we remember you,
Rest peacefully; we will carry onward, as a great nation!

In honour of all South Africans buried in the United Republic of Tanzania – in Bagamoyo, Dakawa, Kinondoni, Mazimbu, Namanga and elsewhere, in marked and unmarked graves – from World War I and World War II, from the struggle, in exile and on duty and those who ventured north, merely looking for adventure.

Carol A Rath
West Africa

« LIVING IN »

TANZANIA WITH NOKWAZI MTSHALI



Nokwazi Mtshali in Tanzania

1 You are based in the Mission in Tanzania, tell us what are your favourite things about living in that country?

One thing that I appreciate most about Tanzania is the year round summer that we get to experience here in Dar es Salaam. The place is laid back and as the people here would rightly say everything is done pole pole (meaning slowly slowly). There is absolutely no rush and the rat race that characterises South African life is but a distant dream when I am here.

On the work side of things I could not have asked for a better posting, the amount of exposure that I have gained in this country is amazing. As a developing country there are a lot of things happening as South Africa is a key player in the development of Tanzania. I found myself thrust into the management of trade relations between the two countries, at the beginning this seemed like a huge task but I have come to understand the crucial role that South Africa plays in the development of Tanzania and

therefore the importance of trade relations between the two countries. Everyday there are new challenges that I have to deal with and with the help of my colleagues both here and at Head Office, as well as the DTI, I have managed very well.

2 Describe a few of your major tourist attractions in and around the city and their significance.

I am so lucky to be in Tanzania as this is tourist paradise, from the numerous islands just within reach from Dar es Salaam to the ever so famous Serengeti up country. Work has taken me to Serengeti where I got to experience part of the migration and the beautiful scenery of Tanzania. It was when we were flying above the vast land of the Serengeti that I got to understand the power of the Almighty and nothing will ever compare to the feeling I had overlooking the beautiful crater below. As if that was not enough I have had the pleasure to go to Zanzibar, as it is only a 15 minutes flight away, it has become a most welcome get

away from the hassle of the city and of course every now and then I have to accompany friends or family.

3 What adjustments did you have to overcome to live in Tanzania? And what are the day to day barriers that make day to day living as a foreigner difficult there?

Living here I have had to deal with the unavailability of the foods that we take for granted back home, especially fast food. To add on to that things are very expensive, life in general is expensive in Tanzania and this usually calls for serious budgeting. I have developed a budgeting culture which I believe is a plus for me and will help me when I get back home.

The language issue was a problem at the beginning, as a black person people are quick to conclude that you are Tanzanian and therefore will start speaking in Kiswahili. Unlike home where switching to English can actually save you, in this country where Kiswahili is the official language one finds that some people do not have a good command of the English language and communication becomes a problem and this you find everywhere you go to from restaurants to the lady at the till; but I have survived two and a half years and my Kiswahili is improving.

4 What do you miss most about South Africa?

Oh how I miss South African food and South African life!!!!!! Nothing compares to what we have back home. Our life back home is that of choices

where everything is a stone throw away and believe me when I say things are not as expensive as some of us may think.

Life is just not the same. I promise you, the care-free let loose spirit of South Africans cannot be matched by anyone. We are a people that get up and dance, even though familiar music was playing here it was sad for me as there was no one to dance with and when I got caught up in a moment I would always receive strange looks here.....I love my South African people and miss them a lot!!!

5 What do you do when you are homesick?

Unfortunately, there is not much to do other than call home. Thank God for technology, even though one is miles away, the likes of facebook, skype keeps us connected with the people back home and colleagues from around the world.

6 How many people work at the South African Embassy?

This is a relatively small Mission with 10 transferred officials and 13 LRP’s.

7 What is the one characteristic or attribute about the Tanzanians that you think we as South Africans can learn from?

They are very patient people and peaceful too and this is something that South Africans could learn from Tanzanians, violence is just not heard of in this place and there are very low levels of violent crime, there is only petty crime. ☑

« MISSION MEMOIRS »

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND THE HEROES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION

An added privilege for officials who serve at the High Commission in Dar es Salaam is the opportunity to honour those who died in exile in the United Republic of Tanzania and to interact with cadres, colleagues and comrades who spent some days, years or months in the ANC camps of Mazimbu and Dakawa, in the Morogoro Region.

The founding father of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, played an important role in the liberation of our country by agreeing to harbour exiles from South Africa in the early years of the struggle, and when Tanzania was still newly independent.

Many of the illustrious names in the story of our freedom refer with pride and gratitude to their association with Baba wa Taifa (the Father of the Nation) and Tanzania in its early years, and amongst them former Minister Ronnie Kasrils and former Speaker of Parliament Frene Ginwala as well as the late Minister Manto Tshabalala -Msimang.

The steady trickle of exiles arriving in



Monument at SOMAFCO cemetery

Tanzania became a veritable river after the Soweto uprising in 1976, when scores of young people fled South Africa, determined to go into exile and fight for the liberation of our country. After considering some options for the future of the youth, the ANC decided that they should remain

in Southern Africa and complete their secondary education before venturing further afield to accept the bursaries and scholarships offered to them.

As a result, and with the assistance of the supporters of the liberation movements, a first-class educational institution was established at Mazimbu, just outside the agricultural town of Morogoro in the United Republic of Tanzania. The school consisted of well-constructed lecture halls, dormitories, recreational facilities and laboratories and provided hundreds of South African exiles with a first-class education.

The administration block of the facility hosted meetings of the ANC leadership in exile and the young people chose the name of "The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College"(SOMAFCO) for the school. Today, many of those who were educated at SOMAFCO, as it became known, have formed the SOMAFCO Trust and work towards instilling the values and ethics of SOMAFCO in the young people of both South Africa and Tanzania.

The facilities at SOMAFCO were so well planned and constructed, that in the early 1990's, the ANC was in a position to hand them over to the Tanzanian authorities and today the lecture halls, dormitories, administration block, laboratories and Nelson Mandela Freedom Square form the Solomon Mahlangu Campus of the Sokoine University of Agriculture and are in constant use. The hospital on the property, built with funds from the Dutch Anti-Apartheid movement, is also in daily use as a clinic for the people of Mazimu village.

Many South African visitors to Dar es Salaam make the 3 hour pilgrimage by road to SOMAFCO and its sister vocational training institution at Dakawa, also in the Morogoro Region. In both Mazimbu and Dakawa, there are graveyards, where those who passed away during their exile are buried. Both the graveyards are simple, dignified resting places for those who died in pursuit of their dream of freedom, most of them long before that freedom appeared to be within reach. They died for their ideals, because they wished for a better life for all – true patriots, true liberators, true heroes!

The High Commission regularly hosts moving memorial services at the two sites either for Heritage Day or for Reconciliation Day. These are impressive ceremonies with a strong military theme and fitting occasions to recall the sacrifices made and hardships endured by so many young people, and to honour those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom, far away from their families and friends, and with no thought of praise or reward, fueled only by their passion for democracy and justice. In 2006 the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) began to compile lists of the names of the fallen to upgrade the gravesites. The Mazimbu graves are already clearly marked, but in Dakawa, the new granite markers sent by SAHRA will be the first definitive markers for the young heroes who lie peacefully amongst the trees in foreign ground. In 2009, President Zuma honoured Mama Anna Abdullah, who was the Regional Commissioner of Morogoro at the time the young people arrived, with the Order of OR Tambo in recognition of the role



Graves at the SOMAFCO cemetery, Mazimbu



Memorial at the SOMAFCO cemetery, Mazimbu, Morogoro Region

she played in our liberation. The Memorial Ceremonies in Morogoro Region are an opportunity for South Africans not only to honour the memories of all who fled into exile but also to thank the communities of Mazimbu and Dakawa who received the youth in their midst. The drums and the bugles of the Tanzanian People's Defence Force float on the country air at the gravesites not only to do homage to the fallen but also to convene the surrounding villagers to a great occasion

of entertainment and feasting for those who welcomed the young patriots and helped them in their individual journeys to become leading members of our Rainbow Nation today.

The High Commission in Dar es Salaam ensures that the days of exile, hardship, idealism and sacrifice are not forgotten! Clear demonstrations that our actions in foreign lands are rooted in the events at home! ☺



The TPDF Band at the Dakawa Settlement cemetery, Morogoro Region



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE ANC - INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Amongst a whole host of nations that supported the liberation struggle of the people of South Africa, the US was one of the most significant. The founding of TransAfrica, in the seventies in Washington DC, was more than a historic event given the solidarity action that resulted. Ultimately, the Free South Africa Movement evolved. There are many examples of connectedness and unity between the Civil Rights Movement and the South African struggle for freedom and human dignity.

The people of Chicago and the Midwest demonstrated remarkable solidarity with the people of South Africa by mobilising through academic institutions, legal bodies, civic organisations and particularly through faith-based communities in the Midwest. The senior ANC leaders that came to the Midwest on various occasions included our cherished former President, comrade Nelson Mandela and the late comrades Chris Hani and Alfred Nzo. Key among the participants in the Anti-apartheid Movement, were the likes of Professor Harold Rogers, who played a major role as the spokesperson for the African National Congress in Chicago from 1972-1993.

He is currently the chairperson of the Chicago Midwest Centenary Coordinating Committee.

The activation of the Chicago Midwest Centenary Coordinating Committee is significant and points to the continuing solidarity that South Africa enjoys with the people of this region. Complimenting the ANC Centenary celebration programme, as espoused by the ANC in South Africa, the Committee has lined up a number of events in Chicago, some of which have already taken place:

The January 8 event at Trinity United Church of Christ

The Roosevelt University presentations on the history of the ANC and the struggling masses of South Africa

The United African Organisation film screening of "Have you heard from Johannesburg?" and panel discussion and the The Hugh Masekela Concert

The month of March will highlight the ANC archives existing in institutions of learning here in the Midwest, culminating in an archives function in Chicago, to be hosted by Michigan State University. During the month of May a significant



Ambassador NP Magaqa with Ms. Vickie Casanova, Attorney Stan Willis, Honorary Consul Alderman Joe Davis, Mrs. Magugu Davis, Ambassador Magaqa, Consul General, Professor Harold Rogers, Ms. Nicole Lee, Executive Director of TransAfrica and Dr. Rachel Rubin, of the University of Illinois at Chicago

celebration of solidarity with the workers of South Africa will take place in Chicago. A range of local celebratory activities will cover the remainder of the year 2012.

As a lasting tribute to the deceased activists and members of the liberation struggle, a plaque is being negotiated with the City of Chicago, to be placed at an appropriate location in the city.

For the Mission's Freedom Day series, the theme of International Solidarity has been adopted.

BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL



South Africa has a long history of film production and is among the oldest film industries in the world. In celebration of the South African participation in the 62nd Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin, the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa hosted a reception in cooperation with Talent Campus Berlin and the South African Department of Trade and Industry.

The short film, "Five ways to kill a man" which is one of the five finalists for the Today Award by South African filmmaker Christopher Bisset was shown to around 180 guests.

Peter Rorvik, Director of the Durban International Film Festival, introduced the 5th Talent Campus Durban to be held in cooperation with the Berlinale Talent Campus from 20 – 24 July 2012 during the 33rd Durban International Film Festival. Under this year's theme of "Africa Superimposed," the festival

aims to facilitate meaningful exchange between African filmmaking talents, generating experience and opportunities for participants and also empower new film makers in Africa.

Amongst the guests at the reception were filmmakers from the African continent like Akin Omotoso, whose film "Man on Ground" is shown at the Berlinale as well as representatives of the South African film industry.

South Africa has a vibrant and growing film industry that is increasingly competitive internationally. The South African Government has identified the film industry as a sector with excellent potential for growth. The benefits of the burgeoning film industry to South Africa are clear, it currently employs around 30 000 people. It further generates foreign exchange as co-



Ambassador H.E. Makhenkesi Stofile, with filmmaker Christopher Bisset, Daniel Franz from youmeokay and Producer Manuel Kinzer from Filmgestalten

productions with international companies result in the direct investment of millions of Rands into the economy.

South Africa has signed co-production treaties with four countries including Germany and the event hosted at the Embassy also aims to further strengthen the cooperation between Germany and South Africa in this field.

The moderator for the evening was Ms Bärbel Mauch, producer and founder of Bärbel Mauch Films.



MINISTER SEXWALE'S VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES



Minister Tokyo Sexwale meets DIRCO officials in Buenos Aires: From Left to Right: Mr M Pather (CSM); Mr MAB Mtilwa (Counsellor: Political); Ms L Legotlo (Third Secretary: Administration); Ambassador AJ Leon

On the occasion of a visit to Argentina by the Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale, Ambassador Tony Leon hosted a mini reception at the official residence on 6 February 2012. Minister Sexwale and his family were in Buenos Aires en route to South Africa following their participation in a climate change expedition to the Antarctica on 29 January to 05 February. Minister Sexwale had a stopover

in Buenos Aires on his way to the Antarctica on the week end of 27 to 29 January 2012. The Minister and delegation was met upon arrival on 27 January by Ambassador who provided a briefing on the current political economy of Argentina and accompanied the Minister to a reception hosted in honour of former US Vice President Al Gore by Ms Vilma Martinez, US Ambassador to Argentina. Vice President Gore expressed

to Ambassador "high appreciation" for South Africa and its leadership role in the recent COP 17 Climate Change talks on Durban.

On 28 January, Ambassador and Mrs Leon led the group on a tour of Buenos Aires, where after a luncheon was hosted by Minister Sexwale on behalf of the diplomatic couple. The Minister later joined the expedition, called Destination: Reality 2012, as a guest of the Climate Reality project founder and chairperson, former US Vice President Al Gore. The expedition was aimed at resolving doubts about the seriousness of climate change and the crisis facing the world. The climate change expedition team consisted of global scientists, business people, philanthropists, artists and global decision makers to the Antarctic. The 116-strong group departed for the Antarctica from Ushuaia in Chile aboard the National Geographic Explorer on January 29 and returned on February 5 where consequent to this a reception was hosted by Ambassador and Mrs Michal Leon.

Issued by the South African Embassy in Buenos Aires

TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN BULGARIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ARE DEVELOPING RAPIDLY



The Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa H.E. Sheila Camerer visited the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) to introduce the newly appointed Consul Political and Economic Advisor Boiki Motloutung to the management of the Chamber.

During the meeting, the significant growth of trade turnover between Bulgaria and the Republic of South Africa was noted.

In the first ten months of 2011 it amounted to 109.2 million USD.

Bulgarian exports also increased significantly in comparison to previous periods. Last year Bulgaria exported mainly petroleum oils, copper rods, electric batteries, metal articles, and fruit, etc.a

The interest of South Africa to the possibilities and conditions provided by the Bulgarian tourist market has increased, especially due to the fact that our country



The Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa H.E. Sheila Camerer visited BCCI to introduce the newly appointed Consul Political and Economic Advisor Boiki Motloutung to the management of the Chamber

has four seasons, good resorts with excellent medical and sanitary base, and affordable prices. Ambassador Camerer said that in 2012 the two countries will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations. On this occasion many events will be organised in Bulgaria.

One of them will be an economic event aiming to present the progress of South African economy and the business opportunities the country provides. BCCI will assist the Embassy in organising the event. Mr. Motloutung presented the latest data of the South African Trade and Investment Agency.

