



January 2009

Now

Your voice to be heard



PAGE 2 SPECIAL TRIBUTE



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA PAYS TRIBUTE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR, MIRIAM MAKEBA

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Welcome to the first edition of the *dfa Now* for 2009. We hope you had a good rest and wish you a fruitful 2009. In this edition we report back on things that took place in the last segment of the year 2008. We pay special tribute to 'Mama Afrika' Miriam Makeba our Goodwill Ambassador that passed away in November. May her legacy and voice keep inspiring us to realise the importance of art transcending boundaries and uniting people.

We also report on the 16 Days of Activism Against No Violence Against Women and Children and the message delivered by Deputy Minister Fatima Hajaig at the day of commemoration that was held in Tulbagh Park. We report on Zakumi's debut at our German Embassy and the tour of the Imilonji Kantu Choir in Switzerland. A view on the world, this month, is from the beautiful city of Amman, Jordan and our mission in Beijing reports on the historic visit of the SAS Spioenkop to China. In conclusion we have the farewell speech of former Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad delivered at his Farewell Dinner held in Midrand.

Happy reading!

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Government Activities



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's

Tribute to South Africa's Goodwill Ambassador, Miriam Makeba

ONE OF THE GREATEST songstresses of our time, Miriam Makeba, has ceased to sing. The South African Goodwill Ambassador collapsed and passed away at the Veneto Verde hospital near Naples on Sunday 9 November after performing at the Castel Volturno.

In a tribute to Makeba, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said "Throughout her life, Mama Makeba communicated a positive message to the world about the struggle of the people of South Africa and the certainty of victory over the dark forces of apartheid (and) colonialism through the art of song"

"It was accordingly befitting that with the dawn of peace, democracy and justice in South Africa, our Government saw it fit to appoint her Goodwill Ambassador

of our country through which she continued to communicate a positive message to the world about developments in South Africa," continued Minister Dr Dlamini Zuma.

Makeba's remains were brought back to South Africa and President Kgalema Motlanthe declared national days of mourning from Thursday 13 November until the day of the funeral, which took place on 15 November. During this time, all national flags at provincial and national levels, including Diplomatic Missions abroad, were flown at half-mast in her remembrance.

Makeba will be remembered for her voice and how she used it in being a Goodwill Ambassador for South Africa in every sense of the word. ▸

By Annelie Kirstein



“16 Days of Activism Campaign translates into sustainable 365 days of action to end violence against women and children within a co-ordinated system of Government and through partnership with all spheres of Government”.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Fatima Hajaig

16 Days of Activism Against No Violence Against Women and Children

THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM against No Violence against Women and Children is a United Nations campaign. It takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). Since 1999 the South African Government has run a parallel campaign that includes issues relating to violence against children. This campaign focuses primarily on generating an increased awareness of the negative impact of violence on women and children as well as society as a whole.

The Chief Directorate: Gender organised two events for the Department in support of the campaign. The first event was a workshop on men and masculinity for 30 male participants, which took place at 110 Hamilton Street, on 27 November 2008.

The workshop was an integral part of the Chief Directorate's mandate to

empower and train employees around gender aspects. Participants for the workshop were male employees nominated from different Branches of the Department to learn more on how men can be partners at home and in the workplace.

Participants were empowered with the following knowledge:

- Men and Masculinities (the role of culture, religion, economic factor, etc in shaping Masculinity Identity, focusing on:
 - Socialisation
 - Identity
 - Stereotyping
 - Sex and Sexuality
 - Culture and Religion
 - Ideology
- Gender, race, class and poverty in a specific gender context
- Masculinity in the workplace and institutions
- The Social Maintenance of gender in organisations

- Men as Partners (household and workplace).
- The vision of change for men in the workplace and institution
- Managing Gender Transformation in the workplace.

Men who participated in the workshop were taken through the role on how culture, religion and their socialisation in society has influenced their gender roles in society (family and at work). For them, training on masculinity was an eye opener on how they could be partners in the fight against gender-based violence in society.

The annual Departmental 16 Days of Activism took place on 28 November 2008 with a keynote address by Deputy Minister Fatima Hajaig at Tullbagh Park, under the theme of “Don't look away – Act Against Abuse”

In her keynote address, the Deputy Minister welcomed everybody and set the tone of the day that “16 Days

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of Activism Campaign translates into sustainable 365 days of action to end violence against women and children within a co-ordinated system of Government and through partnership with all spheres of Government". She emphasised that the objective of the campaign is to increase the level of awareness amongst South Africans pertaining to the incidence of violence perpetuated against women and children.

Among the speakers on the day was Adv. Joyce Maluleke, Head of the Gender Desk in the Department of Justice, who talked about the service charter for victims of crime in South Africa. The Commission on Gender Equality was represented by Rev. Bafana Khumalo who challenged men to be partners in fighting gender-based violence in society. He asserted that men should

refrain from cultural practice that treat women as second-class citizens in society and be partners.

A summary of the event was done by the Chief Director: Gender Ms Ruby Marks, who request employees of the Department to donate used items to two shelters that provides refuge to victims of domestic violence in Marabastad and Mamelodi.

The campaign continued for the rest of the 16 days in the Department. Staff members are welcome to email their suggestions and ideas for strategies to build and strengthen the campaign at DFA. In addition to this, daily information bulletins was sent out to discuss aspects of gender-based violence, including institutional forms of violence such as sexual harassment.▶

Contributed by Chief Directorate: Gender

Imilonji Kantu Tour to Switzerland

One of South Africa's most celebrated and world-renowned choirs, the Imilonji Kantu Choral Society, toured Switzerland from 16 to 20 October 2008, at the invitation of the South African Embassy in Switzerland.

Imilonji Choral Society was founded in 1983 at the height of the struggle for national liberation in the country under the directorship and founder Mr Thangana Krila Gobingca George KaMxadana. The group has performed at music festivals around the world, as well as at the inauguration ceremonies of former Presidents Nelson Mandela in 1994 and Thabo Mbeki in 1999.

The visit of Imilonji Choir to Switzerland was part of the mission's strategy to advance the objectives of the mission's key priority area in the Business Plan, namely Promotion of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. The objective was also to have the choir's performance as a complimentary event to the mission's flagship project – Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday celebratory multimedia exhibition, showing in Kae-



(Top) Rev. Bafana Khumalo and (right) Adv. Joyce Maluleke speaking to staff.



(Bottom) Deputy Minister, Ms Fatima Hajaig and Ms Ruby Marks during proceedings



Football in Berlin

The South African Embassy in Berlin held a press conference with Danny Jordaan (CEO of the 2010 World Cup Local Organising Committee) and Hans Klaus from FIFA and Horst Schmidt. Zakumi also made his international debut at the Embassy. Zakumi is the official mascot for the 2010 World Cup. The event was covered by the local press and in South Africa by the SABC.



figturm, Bern, from 15 October 2008 to 31 January 2009, following its highly successful showing at the Geneva UN Head Quarters in September 2008.

In a marathon-like performance schedule, the Choral Society appeared in three major Swiss cities entertaining scores of Swiss and South African revellers alike. The choir also had a bonus performance at the English church in Bern on Sunday, 19 October during the morning mass. The 57-member choir sprung into action soon after their arrival in Bern where they performed before a multitude of Swiss and South African audiences alike during their premier night at the Kozert Halle on 16 October.

During the tour to Switzerland, the choir traversed the length and breadth of the country, showcasing the splendour of South African culture, talent and heritage.

True to their endearment name, "The Peoples Choir", earned during the struggle days and their sterling contribution to free the people of the yoke of apartheid, Imilonji had

the audience on their feet when they opened their show with the South African National Anthem and closed with the Swiss National Anthem. The highlight of the show was when the invited guests began dancing to "Shosholozza" and took to the stage joining in the snake dance.

The choir then also performed in Zurich in front of a packed audience at a local venue, Thornhalle. The performance in Zurich was even better than that in Bern mainly due to the vibrancy of the crowd in Banking City. They then set off to Geneva for an exciting performance with a responsive audience.

The internationally acclaimed Imilonji Kantu Choral Society has raised musical awareness in Switzerland as they combined their excellent voices in union with a kudu horn, the marimba, the tshikona reed pipe, the ixilongwe, a drum, shakers and clappers, and the uhadi bow harp. This is yet more evidence of the choir's ability to fully exhibit the diversity of culture and how such diversity can be used as a vehicle for reconciliation amongst people

of different backgrounds. What a real African melodic experience that was!

Following Imiloji Choral Society's tour, there is no doubt that their performance has left an indelible mark in the minds of many here in Switzerland. The Mission is proud to have managed to host the group and indeed contributing in raising the cultural and heritage profile of South Africa in Switzerland.

During the concert in Geneva, the choir participated in Goodwill activities organised by the Church that graciously offered its hall for the performance. The activity helped to raise funds for Hearts of Hope, a South African charity organisation. The success of the tour will be remembered long into the future specifically because it took place alongside the Nelson Mandela celebratory exhibition and when the country's heritage was also celebrated in different parts of the world.

If there is one thing that the choir did, was to export cultural diversity and the beauty of the South African society- a true and indeed, "the rainbow nation mosaic" at display. ▀



Zakumi – the official mascot for the 2010 World Cup.

The Embassy together with FIFA and Streetfootballworld hosted a roundtable discussion regarding a joint

project "20 Centres for 2010" which will involve the building of 20 football centres in Africa. The objective of the

project is "not only to meet for football matches but also to play a part in the development and change of society," said Streetfootballworld founder Juergen Griesbeck.

The project will take place around the 2010 World Cup in South Africa with each centre having a football pitch and rooms for education and dissemination of health information. The first centre is due for completion near Cape Town in mid-2009. A total of five centres are planned for South Africa with the remainder spread throughout the continent in Kenya, Ruanda, Ghana, Mali and Namibia. ▀

A VIEW ON THE WORLD – living in Amman

This month the dfa Now brings you a view on life in Amman, Jordan as part of the feature to share with you how colleagues live at missions abroad. The transferred staff at the Embassy all contributed to a combined effort to answer the set questions.

You are stationed at the SA Embassy in Amman, Jordan. Tell us more about life in the City its people, the food and culture.

Amman, also known in biblical times (2000BC) as Rabbath Ammon, famous capital of the Edomites, is a picturesque city situated on 19 hilltops of which some are more than 800 metre above sea level. Amman is a city of contrasts. Western Amman has leafy residential districts with impressive modern villas, trendy cafes and unique art galleries. Eastern, or downtown Amman, centres around the Al Hussein Mosque, which is for all practical reasons a huge eastern bazaar where one can buy anything at cheap prices. Ancient Arab and Muslim customs and culture dominates this historical area.

Traditional food includes Mansaf, Flafel and Kenafeh. Mansaf consists of rice, lamb and yogurt and is usually eaten by hand. Falafel is made of chick-peas, dried bread, parsley and spices and is served in the form of small balls. Kenafeh is a typical Jordanian/Palestinian desert and is made of layered of cheese covered with fried noodles and sugar syrup. Jordan also produces some of the world's best olive oil.

The most outstanding characteristic of the Jordanian people is their unbelievable hospitality and the way they make foreigners feel at home.

What are the major tourist attractions in Jordan?

The most famous tourist attraction in Jordan (2 - hours' drive from Amman) is the rose city of Petra, which is carved out of solid rock by the Nabateans about 2 000 years ago. It is now of the new Seven Wonders of the World.

At 409 metre below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth. Due to the incredible high salt concentration one can float on one's back reading a newspaper without a chance of sinking at all.

The ruins of Jerash, about 40 minutes' drive from Amman, is one of the best preserved Roman cities in the Mid-



dle East. The Roman Theatre, an impressive remnant of Roman times, has a seating capacity of 6 000 people and is still frequently used for music concerts and performances. Mount Nebo is where the prophet Moses is said to have seen the Promised Land, which he was forbidden to enter. Mount Nebo overlooks the Jordan River and on a clear day one can see Jericho and Jerusalem in the distance.

A popular tourist attraction, especially for Christians all over the world, is the site where Jesus was baptised on the eastern side of the River Jordan. Machaerus, the mountain top on which the castle of Herod the Great was built and where John the Baptist was beheaded, offers breathtaking views over the steep surroundings and the Dead Sea.

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

Driving is a real nightmare and the high cost of living is a challenge. Allergies emanating from the changing of seasons are also difficult to cope with.

What are the barriers or hurdles that make day to day living as a foreigner in Amman difficult?

There is a disguised form of racial

prejudice in the country and to be mistaken for a rich black American can immediately leads to exploitation.

What do you miss most about South Africa?

- Going to church on a Sunday morning
- A proper golf course
- SA's rich cultural diversity and interaction in places like St George's Maul and Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town.
- Unbelievable good weather.

What do you do when you get homesick?

I pick up the phone and talk to my family and friends, write e-mails. Visiting friends, going shopping and watching movies also help.

How many people work at the South African Embassy?

19

What attributes or characteristics of the Jordanian people, do you think we as South Africans can learn from?

Jordanians regard family values highly, they are devoted to their religion and are very friendly and hospitable. Crime in everyday life is virtually non-existent.

Farewell speech by former Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad at his farewell function



WISH TO EXPRESS MY PROFOUND THANKS to the Minister and the Department for having organised this farewell dinner. A special thanks to Grace and her colleagues in the protocol and marketing divisions.

This farewell has come six months earlier than expected. As I said the other night, I hope that this will not impact on my listing in the Guinness Book of records as one of the longest serving deputy ministers in history.

The last 15 years has been a period of learning in a fundamentally transformed international environment. More specifically, the last decade has been very difficult, challenging and dangerous because of the rise of the neo-conservatives in the USA. The terrorist attacks against the USA on 9/11/2001 further strengthened the neo-cons.

Concepts such as ‘clash of civilisations’, ‘religious crusades’, ‘Islamic-fascism’, ‘for or against us’, ‘axis of evil’, ‘rogue state’ determined the foreign policy of the USA.

President Mubarak, reflecting the views of the vast majority of governments in the world, shortly after 9/11 warned President Bush that “any attack involving a middle east country would produce grave results, that will seriously complicate the situation throughout the Middle East”. And he went on to warn that the “Israeli-Palestinian conflict is causing 80% of terrorism in the world today”

This warning, like many other similar warnings, were either ignored or rejected.

We experienced pre-emptive strikes, disregard of international law and unprecedented unilateralism. The tragedy of such policies led to the catastrophic situation in IRAQ, Afghanistan and the unprecedented wave of anti-Americanism, which provided fertile ground for terrorism.

Given this reality, former Secretary-General of the UN, Mr Kofi Annan, said in September 2006: “we face a world whose divisions threaten the very notion of an international community upon which the UN stands for. The events of the last 10 years have not resolved, but sharpened the challenges of our unjust world economy, world disorder and contempt for human rights and the rule of law.”

In 2004, President Elect, Barak Obama said: “The American dream is measured in ‘faith’, in simple dreams, and insistence on small miracles”. On November 4th the ‘simple dreams’ and ‘small miracles’ became a reality when he was elected as the President of the USA. This historic and memorable day was not only celebrated in the USA, but throughout the world. The outpouring of joy and relief was unprecedented. Clearly, people wanted change in the directions of policies of the most powerful country in the world.”

In his acceptance speech, President-elect Obama said “although our stories may be singular, our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand”.

Failure to deal successfully with these fundamental challenges will result in proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, increasing terrorism, increasing conflicts, and greater poverty and underdevelopment – ending all hopes of a new dawn.

In an era of unprecedented globalisation, we have indeed become a global village. This reality dictates that the rich and the poor, the weak and the powerful, people of all religious faiths are an integral part of humanity bound by a common destiny.

Given this reality since 1994, South Africa’s foreign policy has been based on a vision of a ‘better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world’. We identified some fundamental values that were essential to international relations in the 21st Century, inter-alia:

- Freedom
- Equality
- Solidarity
- Tolerance
- Awareness of the dangers of climate change
- Shared responsibility

It is this context that we identified some major challenges:

- Achieving sustainable development universally and the elimination of poverty in all its forms;
- Ending war and violent conflict through dialogue and multilateral institutions;
- Abolishing weapons of mass destructions
- In a holistic way fight terrorism;
- Ensuring that every nation has the possibility to be heard and their views taken into account; and
- Ensuring genuine respect both for the strengthening of nations and the reality of the growth of a common neighbourhood.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The first democratic government under President Mandela, driven by the values of freedom, democracy, human

dignity, peace, stability, poverty eradication and improving the quality of life of our people embarked on the difficult path of creating a new South African Patriotism, which would enable us as a nation united in diversity to tackle the major challenges of poverty, deprivation, degradation, unemployment, gender inequality, lack of basic amenities, such as education, health, housing, electricity, safe drinking water, and social problems, such as moral degeneration, crime and drugs.

The last 15 years has been a period of learning on the job on how to govern. Inevitably, mistakes were made. But it cannot be denied that we achieved some impressive successes.

The prudent macro-economic policy resulted in an unprecedented and sustained economic growth that gave Government the capacity to try to fulfil the mandate of our election manifesto to improve the quality of the people’s lives.

Millions have received housing, education, healthcare, safe drinking water, and electricity and welfare payments.

Despite weaknesses in the BBE and affirmative action programmes, millions of the previously disadvantaged have now joined the ranks of the middle classes.

There has been no racial or ethnic war.

We have become important players in Africa and the world and have made an important contribution to world peace and stability as a non-permanent member of the Security Council during the past two years.

We will host the 2010 World Soccer Cup.

It would have been utopian and populist to believe that we could have successfully dealt with all the legacies of over 400 years of colonialism and apartheid.

Therefore many challenges remain:

- Poverty and unemployment
- Millions are still without basic amenities
- HIV and AIDS and other infectious diseases continue to ravage our communities
- Crime and security impacts on all our lives
- The capacity of government insti-

tutions at every level has to continue to be improved

If we are to overcome these, the people must become active agents of change.

ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR

In a few months time millions of South Africans will participate in our fourth democratic elections, an achievement all South Africans can be proud of.

- Political landscape has changed with formation of the Congress of the People.
- Not a crisis but a sign of the continuing maturity of our democracy.
- Surge in voter registration.
- At the IEC meeting held in Durban, all political parties committed themselves to ensuring that the elections are peaceful, free and fair.
- The central challenge will still be the forging of a new South African Patriotism tackling the common agenda I mentioned earlier.

Our domestic challenges are inextricably linked to our African challenges. Since the formation of the ANC in 1912, we proceeded from the strong conviction that we Africans share a common destiny and therefore we must deal with our challenges as a committed and united force. Also given the reality that South Africa’s democracy would not have been born without the immense sacrifice made by the people of our continent. Africa, therefore, stands at the centre of our foreign policy and it is the foundation on which we seek to contribute to the creations of a new world order of democracy, peace and prosperity.

As we seek to achieve our objectives, we are conscious of the impact of globalisation and the African reality

The 2000 historic UN Millennium Summit declaration proclaimed: “we believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalisation becomes a positive force for the world’s people. For while globalisation offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed



Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma hands over a gift voucher to former Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad

– thus only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based on our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable”.

- The Summit, inter alia, decided that by 2015 the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, and who are unable to reach and afford safe drinking water should be halved.
- By 2015 education should be improved, maternal mortality should be reduced by three-quarters, and under five child mortality by two-thirds
- To halt and reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS and other infectious diseases

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED SINCE THIS DECLARATION?

The reality is reflected by a Commission on Africa Report which stated that: “growth and globalisation have brought higher standards to billions.

Yet it is not a wealth that everyone enjoys. In Africa, millions of people live each day in abject poverty and squalor. In years to come future generations will look back, and wonder how could our world known and failed to act”.

As we seek to answer this question we realise that the unprecedented present international economic crisis will undoubtedly have a major negative effect on the capacity of Africa and other developing countries to meet the MDGs

We also realise that there can be no development without peace, and no peace without development. Therefore we are very concerned about the situation in:

- DRC
- Burundi
- Somalia
- Darfur
- Welcome President Bashir’s announcement of a ceasefire and urge all rebels groups to respond positively
- Zimbabwe

CONCLUSION

After nearly 52 years of political activism, a long but very enriching and fulfilling chapter in my life is closing.

It has been a chapter in which I joined the Transvaal Indian Congress at a very early age. I was tempered in struggle in the period of the coming into power of the Nationalist Government, which gave birth to the infamous apartheid system and the ruthless enforcement of the apartheid laws, including the Group Areas Act and the Pass Laws.

This was also the period of mass political mobilization which, inter-alia, included the Passive Resistance Campaign, the Defiance Campaign, the Potato and Alexander Bus Boycotts, massive worker strikes. It was also a period of the Congress of the People, which adopted the Freedom Charter, the Treason Trial, state of emergencies, the banning of the ANC and the

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decision to form Umkonto we Sizwe and to embark on the armed struggle, and the Rivonia Trial.

I was banned under the suppression of the Communism Act in 1964 – one of the first 30 to be so banned, and went into exile in the United Kingdom that year. After completing my MA degree at Sussex I started working full time for the ANC in 1969. I became involved with the work of the revolutionary council and was appointed as a member of the leadership of the Political Military Committee and the ANC Intelligence Department. I was elected to the NEC of the ANC in 1985 and remained a member of the NEC until the Polokwane Conference. I was also elected as a member of the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party in this period.

I was privileged to have participated in the process of the establishment of the UDF and COSATU.

I participated in the open and secret talks with the White establishment and representatives of the then Apartheid-Government.

On my return to South Africa I served as secretary to the Political Committee of the ANC and later as deputy head of the ANC International Department under Thabo Mbeki.

I then represented the ANC in the international committee of the Transitional Executive Council.

President Mandela appointed me as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in the first democratic government of South Africa in 1994 and President Mbeki re-appointed me in 1999 and in 2004. After resigning, President Motlante re-appointed me as Deputy Minister in September 2008.

Because I strongly believe that the early recall of President Mbeki was a decision that was apolitical, irrational and inexplicable my principles, values and conscience demanded that I don't accept the honour of being re-appointed.

As I open another chapter, I will always be motivated by the words of Nelson Mandela:

"I have walked the long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made mistakes along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only



Former Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad handing out autographs at his farewell function

finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibility. I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended"

As I continue on my long walk, I will also reflect on the exceptional legacy left to us by former President Mbeki and will always be guided by his speech in 1996 on the occasion of the adoption of the South African constitution: "The constitutionis a firm assertion that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. It gives concrete meaning to the sentiments we share....and will defend to the death, that the people shall govern. It seeks to create the situation in which all our people shall be free from fear, including the fear of the oppression of one national group by another, the fear of the disempowerment of one social echelon by another, the fear of the use of state power to deny anybody their fundamental human rights and the fear of tyranny.

It aims to open the doors so that those who were disadvantaged can assume their place in society as equals....without regard to colour, race, gender, age or geographic dispersal.

.....It creates a law-based society which will be inimical to arbitrary rule.

It enables the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means rather than resort to force.

It rejoices the diversity of our people and creates the space for all of us voluntarily to define ourselves as one people"

He continued "I was born of the peoples of the continent of Africa.

The pain of the violent conflict that the peoples of Liberia, Somalia, the Sudan, Burundi and Algeria experienced is a pain I also bear.

The dismal shame of poverty, suffering and human degradation of my continent is a blight that we share.

.....Whatever the setbacks....nothing can stop us now. Whatever the difficulties Africa shall be at peace.

However, improbable it may sound to the skeptics, Africa will prosper"

Inspired by this vision, and as I begin another long journey, I look forward to a new and challenging future and I remain confident that I will continue to interact with many of you, albeit, under very different circumstances.

Former Deputy Minister Pahad's farewell speech was edited for length and layout purposes.

SAS SPIOENKOP in Shanghai

The South African Naval Frigate Ship "SAS SPIOENKOP" visited Shanghai. This was the first ever port call by a South African and African Naval Vessel in China. It was also one of the few foreign combat ships to visit China, the Chinese hosts said. It is usually only the support and training ships that visit Chinese shores.

It is further one of the newest frigates in the world. The result was unparalleled media and public attention, with 3 000 people (the largest number of visitors to any foreign ship, according to People's Liberation Army-Navy) visiting it on the day it was open to the public. Activities included a media event and reception that were held onboard and both were well attended.

Apparently it is very rare that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence send representatives from Beijing to attend activities that are associated with any port call by a foreign naval ship.

A soccer match between SAS SPIOENKOP and PLA-Navy was organised and the South African sailors came out victorious (1-0).



Ambassador Ndimiso Ntshinga welcoming South African Naval Frigate Ship "SAS SPIOENKOP" to Chinese shores



Prof. Andre P Brink with colleagues from our Berlin Embassy as well as publishers and translators

Book launch in Berlin

The South African Embassy in Berlin brought South African literature to the German people. The young publishing house Osburg Verlag, only founded in 2006, took on the task of translating selected works by André P Brink into German.

On 3 November Prof Brink launched the German translation of his book *The Other Side of Silence* at the Embassy, the first of a series of readings in Germany.

Where were you... (Christmas Party 2008)?

