



international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"The African continent is not represented on a permanent basis in the Security Council despite African states forming a significant percentage of the overall membership of the United Nations (UN).

For the duration of our presidency of the Council, our focus will be on forging closer cooperation between the UN and regional organisations such as the African Union (AU), and ensuring general administrative efficiency of the council. However, beyond our temporary presidency of the Council, we will continue to campaign for reform of not only the UN Security Council, but also other global governance institutions.

Our presidency of the Council gives us an opportunity to also advocate South Africa's objective of enhancing respect for international law and promoting multilateralism so as to secure a rules-based international system."

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

Your Language - Our Service

“Window to the world”

The Directorate Language Training offers English and foreign language for diplomatic purposes in accordance with CEFR (The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) standard system. The six levels (see below) are widely accepted as the standard for grading an individual's language proficiency.

Beginner	A1	120hrs
Elementary	A2	120hrs
Pre-Intermediate	B1	120hrs
Intermediate	B2	120hrs
Upper-Intermediate	C1	120hrs
Advanced	C2	120hrs

In addition the Sub-directorate English for Diplomatic Purposes offers intervention programmes to officials who wish to develop their skills prior to taking pre-course assessment for admission into resident programmes such as Diplomatic training,

Mission Administration training and Foreign Affairs Attache training. The Directorate also offers translation, editing and liaison interpreting services for the office of the Minister and the Presidency from Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish into English.

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the diplomat vol.1

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Ed's letter



From left to Right: Pumeza Albert, Lebogang Maifadi, Salome Baloi, Thembakazi Zulu and Mongezi Zithutha

Dear Diplomats,

As a Department, we have a lot of reason to look back and smile especially with the strides made so far. We have successfully hosted the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17/CMP7) in Durban. 2012 will see more activities taking place to build on what we are best known for.

This year, the African National Congress (ANC) celebrated its centenary on 8 January 2012. Since 1912, it has transformed into an icon of liberation. Many countries, organisations and individuals made significant contributions especially through diplomacy to this liberation movement which saw South Africa becoming the last country on the African continent to receive its independence. In acknowledging these contributions, our theme for this year is "Celebrating the legacy of the Liberation Movements in Africa- Freedom Through Diplomacy". January saw South Africa assume the role of presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The focus of the presidency was to promote greater coordination and strategic coherence between African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). Consistent with the practice of the UNSC, the Office of the President of the Security Council rotates monthly among its members on the basis of the English alphabetical order, and the Council is organised to be able to function continuously. The Permanent Representative of the relevant member state assumes the role of the President of the UNSC and his/her staff form the Presidency for a particular month.

South Africa utilised this moment in the Security Council to explore concrete measures for strengthening the relationship between the UN and regional organisations, in particular the AU, in the maintenance of international peace and security in terms of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Our President, Mr Jacob Zuma also led the South African government delegation to the 18th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, which took place from the 29 to 30 January 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme: "Boosting Intra-African Trade".

The Summit reflected on the recommendations of the 7th Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Trade which was charged with the task of preparing the ground work for discussions around the theme, "Boosting Intra-African Trade".

The South African Government, through various fora, has championed continental integration and urged developmental partners to support Africa's efforts.

This is done to create an environment that is conducive to economic growth and development, especially in Africa and other developing countries

On a lighter note, in our current issue we also bring you a feature about the dress code which was approved by the Department at the beginning of this year.

SM

Salome Baloi - Editor

[Diplomatic mail]



Dear Team,

FAREWELL LETTER TO AN AMAZING AMBASSADOR: H.E DOUGLAS GIBSON

DEAR AMBASSADOR

I remember the first day I met you it felt like it was only yesterday. We met in the corridors of the Language Unit back home. You had just finished your Thai lessons and I was just going in for mine. I introduced myself and informed you that I will be joining you in Bangkok soon. Your first words were: "Do you know what they called me?" When I responded in a negative way you went on to say "they called me the Chief Whip, "I whip when people don't do their jobs". You laughed and left after a few more words.

I held on to those words, and yes in so many ways you whipped me into the diplomat that I am today. Some of the best times of my working life have been spent under your leadership and guidance. You trusted me and encouraged me, you gave me special tasks and sometimes (this is just my sense of pride talking) you made me feel like if I was not around things would not work out. Of course I know it is not true because in all your time here, you ensured that everyone felt like an important member of Team Gibson.

You led us with great warmth, you disciplined us where necessary but never in public to shame us, instead you complimented us more often than we deserved. You pushed for success in every aspect but never at the cost of anyone's soul.

As you leave for new and exciting adventures I can only say, my Ambassador, my guide, my mentor, my friend, I wish you all the best.

I will remember how you used to come in the morning to the office and say "I am strong", when asked how you feel, and how you would say " hhhmmm", with a unique facial expression which only you could master when something weird or funny happened, and also how you would tell one of our colleagues how a green tie matches his eyes and laugh afterwards because you were being sarcastic and because it was impossible for him to ever

have green eyes. How you would roll your eyes in amazement when someone sang off tune in church. How you were so eager to learn to do the TSIPA dance.... I will miss how you danced a once off special edition Knee dance, only you could have mastered, during the 2010 FIFA World Cup Opening Match. I will miss how you were so laid back yet still able to command respect and loyalty from your Team members.

Your unwavering commitment to raising the profile of South Africa has ensured that the Mission is among one of the best in terms of performance and delivery. The standard is set and I am sure we will continue to keep it that way. You are only leaving physically but in our hearts you shall remain.

So long!! Till we meet again.

Lerato Mashile
South African Embassy
Bangkok

FAREWELL LETTER

The 31st of January 2012 was my last day in DIRCO.

I leave with fond memories of a rewarding time here in the DIRCO.

It was indeed an honour starting in the Union Building, progressing through ranks, notches and buildings to the "new" Main Library in OR Tambo building.

My appreciation goes out to all the colleagues who made this such a pleasant experience, especially the colleagues who worked closely with me. Without you I would not have been able to fulfill my goals.

People do not own TIME, but we are always pressed for TIME. So, I think it is now the right time to bow out gracefully and retire.

Thank you.

Bettie (EJ) Smith
United Nations Library

Best Letter For This Issue

The South African High Commission in Ottawa would like to extend a congratulatory message to the diplomat team. Certainly, *the diplomat* continues to inspire many colleagues at home and abroad. It just doesn't have a "put me down effect", instead it says "read me more, and don't put me down".

The Diplomat has been able to afford its readers the privilege of witnessing all the ground-breaking work that DIRCO undertakes both at home and abroad. It helps officials maintain a connection with friends, and colleagues who have been offered an opportunity to serve at Mission abroad.

The meticulous design, style and packaging of substantive contributions continue to reflect a growing professionalism in our department and on the talent that DIRCO possesses.

It is in this regard that the South African High Commission in Canada wishes that your unremitting endeavors of creativity and style continue to inspire us while in the service of our country. Warm regards

South African High Commission
Ottawa, Canada



WELCOMING MESSAGE FROM MINISTER MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE

"For the year 2012, we have set ourselves to attaining the highest standards in contributing towards building a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better World, these highest standards shall forever inspire us to continue-strengthening the work we do with our partners"

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane addressing delegates at the COP 17 opening ceremony

continue to support African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) initiatives to find just and lasting solutions to outstanding issues of self-determination and decolonisation on the African continent. To achieve this, we should learn lessons and draw inspiration from the principles upheld by the African liberation movements – they advocated for a strong and unified Africa. In order to unify the African continent, it is imperative that the strengthening of the AU and its structures receives priority. The move will be key in strategically deepening the continental integration process.

As a matter of principle, our country is committed to efforts aimed at revitalising the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a key strategy for economic development of the African continent. South Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission is currently implementing the AU mandated African Diaspora Roadmap towards our hosting of the African Diaspora Summit.

As we prepare for the hosting of yet another event of an international magnitude, the African Diaspora Summit, we do so with a view to reconnecting with those who selflessly sacrificed their national interests for the benefit of the people of South Africa. In essence, the purpose of the Summit is to consider the New York Ministerial outcomes

document and its recommendations with a view to endorse the revised Summit Declaration and the African Diaspora Programme of Action, among others. But at the same time we will also use this Summit to celebrate the Centenary celebrations with Heads of State and Governments, African liberation movements, the Diaspora, eminent political figures, world leaders, former Anti-Apartheid movements and the friends of South Africa. This Summit will take place on 25 May 2012, and we are ready to host this event!

Our government is committed to strengthening and consolidating the African Agenda as a priority within its foreign policy trajectory. We commit ourselves to utilising all available avenues and possible opportunities at our disposal by utilising the legacies of African liberation movements to promote multilateralism and a rules-based international order. Our primary interest in Africa is to promote global security, sustainable development, human rights and international law. All these we do inspired by what the liberation movements espoused. If we fail in our duties and responsibilities to protect and promote the principles of Ubuntu, we would have done an injustice to humanity, and by extension, betrayal to our forebearers.

As stated in one of my publications on the



President Jacob Zuma welcoming Ms Christiana Figures

legacy of OR Tambo and other struggle heroes and heroines, please allow to emphasise, once more, that we will jealously guard and carry the torch of freedom that our forebearers handed to us, after such immeasurable sacrifices, and ensure that we dare not rest until we have worked to create a better South Africa in a better world.

We look forward into the future with greater optimism, knowing that we can rely on the many mutually beneficial relations we have build upon trust over the many years of our struggle for liberation. ☐

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane at COP 17 closing ceremony in Durban

Please, allow me to wish you a successful year ahead. The year 2011 closed on a high and exciting note with a thunderous success when we hosted COP 17/ CMP7. This event build on to the success of 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup which we also hosted. For the year 2012, we have set ourselves to attaining the highest standards in contributing towards building a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better World, these highest standards shall forever inspire us to continue strengthening the work we do with our partners.

In celebrating our own history, heritage and successes we have attained over the years, we are excited that the year 2012 marks the 100 year anniversary of the oldest liberation movement in Africa, the African National Congress (ANC). Accordingly, the South African government has since issued a statement noting that these Centenary Celebrations are National celebrations, and

therefore not exclusive to the ANC. These celebrations should give us an opportunity to reflect on the legacies of liberation movements in the entire African continent over the past 100 years. As we reflect on these legacies, our focus should be on the journey we have travelled, and indeed the work we have done in further strengthening and giving impetus to the foundation set by these formidable liberation movements, especially the contributions they have made in Africa and South Africa in particular. In this regard, our Department of International Relations and Cooperation has always made an effort to use Diplomacy in order to promote relations and preserve the legacies of these liberation movements. Our foreign policy posture has always slanted more on the diplomatic approach adopted by liberation movements across Africa to fight against colonialism, apartheid and indeed to secure freedom for the citizens of the continent.

Our struggle for a better life in South Africa is intertwined with our pursuit of a better Africa in a better world. Its destiny is inextricably linked to that of the Southern African region. Regional and continental integration which is the foundation for Africa's socio-economic development and political unity, and essential for our own prosperity and security. Consequently, Africa is at the centre of South Africa's foreign policy. We must therefore continue to support regional and continental processes to respond to and resolve crises, strengthen regional integration, significantly increase intra-African trade, and champion sustainable development and opportunities in Africa. Socio-economic development cannot take place in the absence of peace and stability.

In this regard, South Africa will always contribute towards conflict resolution and prevention, peacekeeping, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction. It will also

THE AFRICAN UNION 18TH ORDINARY ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT



The Embassy Building in Addis Ababa- Ethiopia



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma at the AU Summit

The African Union 18th Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government, held on 29-30 January 2012, convened within the context of a decade since its formation in Durban 2002 and also on the eve of the 50th anniversary since the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, Addis Ababa. This Ordinary seating was preceded by the 23rd Session of the Executive Council of Ministers which took place on the 26-27 January and the meetings of the Permanent Representative on the 23-24 January.

Pursuant to the Continents developmental and integration agenda, the Heads of State and Government Summit was convened under the theme "Boosting Intra-African Trade". The theme emanate from one of the pillars of the AU Strategic Plan, which enjoins the African Union (AU) to execute amongst others, the promotion of sustainable economic development through the enhancement of intra-African trade

Consensus among Member States has emerged that intra-African trade and deepened market integration could effectively contribute towards socio-economic development. As a consequence, Heads of State and Government have adopted a Decision and a Declaration on the Boosting of Intra-African Trade, with the eventual goal of achieving a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).



Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma with other delegates celebrating the outcomes at the AU Summit

The Summit also deliberated on issues of peace and security on the continent and highlighted the importance of promoting peace and stability on the African continent and to this effect high level meetings took place to make an assessment of the security architecture in the continent.

With regard to the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development, Infrastructure development maintained a centre stage, and in this regard the Assembly expressed itself unequivocally that the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) is a subject that member states needs to address with the necessary urgency in order to embrace it and for its momentum to be carried through the work of the Presidential Infrastructure Champions Initiative led by President Jacob Zuma, which includes the active involvement of selected African Heads of State and Government. The Summit further reaffirmed the decision wherein the South African Government, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, will host the Global African Diaspora Summit to be held on 25 May 2012 in South Africa. For its part, South Africa appraised the meeting on progress regarding the South African Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Bid whose outcome the continent awaits

with great expectation. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the outcomes of COP17 Climate Change Conference, held in Durban at the end of 2011 and the continent was urged to support the "Durban Outcomes". The Assembly lauded the successful outcomes, which was also due to the unified continental position. Appreciation was also expressed to the Government of South Africa for the quality of leadership demonstrated as well as the successful hosting of the event.

Consistent with good governance, the Continent continued with its assessment efforts a Summit of the African Peer Review Forum wherein Zambia and Sierra Leone country Review Reports were discussed and in addition, the Progress Reports on the Implementation of the National Programmes of Action of Algeria and Nigeria were reviewed.

Pursuant to its Foreign Policy and the determination to strengthen the capacity and repositioning of Africa's Premier Organisation, Southern African Development Community (SADC) fielded Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Home Affairs of the South Africa, for the post of Chairpersonship of the AU Commission. Her candidature was endorsed, by the SADC Summit in August 2011. The contest between Dr Nkosazana

Dlamini Zuma with incumbent, Mr Jean Ping was unable to produce an outright winner after three rounds of secret ballot vote by Heads of State and Government. The elections will again be taking place at the AU Summit to be held in Lilongwe, Malawi, in June/July 2012.

One of the highlights of the Summit was the Co-Hosting of the Banquet dinner by President Zuma and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia in honour of AU heads of State and Government. The thematic underpinning of the evening was the celebration of the Legacy of Liberation Movements in Africa, particularly in light of the historic celebration of the Centenary Year of the African National Congress (ANC).

In recognising and acknowledging the legacy and the role that Kwame Nkrumah played in Africa's International Relations, a stature in his honour was unveiled on the occasion of the Inauguration of the New AU Head Quarters. This was followed by a series of events including the laying of a foundation stone and the awarding of the 2012 Kwame Nkrumah Continental Scientific awards which were awarded to Professor Maryke Tina Labuschagne from the University of Free State and Professor Oluwole Daniel Makinde. ☐

« NEWS FLASH »

HARD-WORK REWARDED AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR DIRCO TRAINEES

The Branch Diplomatic Training and Research Academy (DTRD) hosted an inspiring graduation ceremony, on 26 January 2012. The ceremony was in honour of the Mission Administrative Course (MAC) learners, Foreign Affairs Administration Course (FAAC) learners, Public Administration and Business, and the Marketing learners who all embarked on programmes in the department in order to advance their prospective careers.

At the ceremony the Deputy Director-General of the Diplomatic Training, Research and Development, Ms M Dloomo congratulated the graduates for their hard work and success. She also extended her appreciation to the Minister, Deputy Ministers and the Director-General for their continuous support particularly to the Diplomatic Academy.

In her speech she pointed out how important it is for employers, in particular DIRCO, to commit themselves to skills and youth development in the country. She said, *"In a country where we are told almost on a daily basis that existing job vacancies do not match available skills; development in DIRCO, shows DIRCO's contribution towards relevant skills which are available in our labour market. We are particularly proud that we have young people who took up our learnership after completing their Grade 12. We always wish we could have taken more but with the least we can do, we try our best"*.

Amongst the graduates, there were general workers already employed in the Department who had to work hard to rise above their job.

The great success of this group was captured by a representative of the group, Mr V Silobo, who mentioned among other things how the learnership programme helped them to deal with their fear of the unknown,

"we were excited to move to this new building and anxious about what will happen to us as general workers. We had



National Diploma : Diplomacy NQF Level 7 (Diplomatic Training)



Mission Corporate Services Management NQF Level 6 (Mac- Mission Administration Training)

many questions in our minds, such as, Are we going to lose our jobs? Are we still going to continue to clean the offices or wash the cups? Then what? Every time we reported for work, we thought that we were going to be retrenched. One day we were called to a meeting by a team from the DTRD and Talent Management. That was the day that changed our lives".

The group fulfilled the requirements of

the Certificates in Public Administration and Business Administration. As a result of this, some of them have been promoted to do the administrative work at Supply Chain Management, the Registry and Archive.

Over and above that, 19 unemployed youth were awarded the Certificate in Further Education and Training in Marketing. These young men and women

were in the thick of things assisting DIRCO to prepare for the COP17 conference and during the Durban Tourism Indaba. In addition to being top performers, they formed a choir and every day after working hours they came together and sang. These are young South Africans which everyone should be proud of.

It was also interesting to see the Mission Administration and Diplomatic trainees ascending the stage to receive their Certificates of Competence which are nationally recognised and internationally comparable. These groups comprises of our future diplomats and politicians. The Deputy Director-General highlighted that the Diplomatic Academy grooms diplomats that make a difference in the world. She said *"they don't make a difference only because they went through the programme but because they are South Africans."* The Diplomatic Academy would like to thank the managers, facilitators, coordinators and colleagues at all levels of government who provided the support and mentoring particularly to the groups who were in learnerships. They served as role models to these trainees and helped them through this journey. ☐

For detailed graduation speeches by Deputy Director-General and representatives of various groups, go to <http://ubxiis/kmis/Graduations/default.aspx>



Marketing NQF Level 4-Learnership (Generic Skills Development)



Business Administration NQF Level 2- Learnership (Generic Skills Development)



Mission Administration NQF Level 5 (FAAC- Foreign Affairs Administration Course)



Public Administration NQF Level 3-Learnership (Generic Skills Development)



ANGOLA, A BITTER HISTORY, YET WITH HOPE FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE

"This country has in the past received a lot of negative media publicity."

It was two days before my actual departure to Angola when I received an email advising me of an urgent assignment that I had to take up. I was to provide support to Deputy Minister Marius Fransman, who was attending the Extra-Ordinary Council of Ministers Meeting. This was also a few days before I celebrated my birthday – I was desponded that I will not be with my family and friends on this day, but also excited at the prospects of celebrating my birthday possibly on an island as this was my first visit to Luanda. Once I was certain that I was leaving, I made sure to mention this to family and friends. Very few of them had an idea of the geographical location of that country, but surprisingly, most of them knew more about the history of the war-torn country.

The history of the erstwhile war-torn country and bad media publicity by the West is what perpetuated the stigma about Angola, and Africa in general. This country has in the past received a lot of negative publicity, and this negative publicity created perceptions which still remain in the minds of many, even those amongst our ranks. Angola gained its Independence in 1975, after a protracted liberation war. Consequent to its independence, Angola was the scene of an intense civil war which lasted for several decades and claimed millions of lives and produced many refugees. Following negotiations held in Portugal, under severe social and



political turmoil and uncertainty due to the April 1974 revolution, Angola's three main guerrilla groups agreed to establish a transitional government in January 1975.

Within two months, however, the FNLA, MPLA and UNITA were fighting each other and the country was well on its way to being divided into zones controlled by rival armed political groups. The superpowers were quickly drawn into the conflict, which became a flash point for the Cold War. The United States, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Africa supported the FNLA and UNITA. The Soviet Union and Cuba supported the MPLA. In the beginning of the Civil War, most of the half million Portuguese that lived in Angola and accounted for the majority of the skilled work in the public administration, agriculture, industries and trade fled the country leaving its once prosperous and growing economy to a state of bankruptcy. During most of this period from 1975–1990, the MPLA organised and maintained a socialist regime. Despite the ongoing civil war, the model functioned to a certain degree, although it was foreseeable that it would eventually fail in face of UNITA opposition.

Despite this history, the country has vast

mineral and petroleum reserves, and its economy has grown on average at a two-digit pace since the 1990s, and especially since the end of the civil war. However, its level of human development is rather low, and its life expectancy and infant mortality rates are both among the worst-ranked in the world. Just like the erstwhile repressive government of South Africa, Angola had its fair share of challenges in the past. The legacy of violent wars, segregation and atrocities has left some scars on the image of Angola. The clashes amongst rebels, tribal and ethnic conflicts, dilapidated and collapsed infrastructure are the real challenges that faced Angola. All these are the realities Angolans have to live with – but Africa is no stranger to such challenges. In the midst of these visible challenges, Angola remains one of the most developing, interesting and fascinating African countries to date. Despite this bitter history, people are very friendly and optimistic about the future and direction their country, and indeed government of President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos is taking. The country has begun to open its doors to foreign investment, tackling its internal problems and developing key industries like manufacturing, oil, tourism etc.

I touched the Angolan shores on a very hot and humid afternoon. Fortunately, my colleagues and I never had to navigate our way to the city of Luanda, as the South African Mission had made all the necessary arrangements for our transfers to the hotel – however, our transfer did not come easy as the language factor remained a thorny issue. Angola is a Portuguese speaking country, and none of us could speak the language – so, you can imagine! As we left the airport in a fairly comfortable Toyota Corolla, with our luggage squashed in the trunk, I was suddenly overcome by memories of India where I was posted between 2005–2010. I suddenly realised that driving in Luanda is no different from driving in New

Delhi and Mumbai respectively. I was fortunate to be posted in India for a period of five years, and what I experienced in the streets of Luanda was very much similar to what I endured in India. As we navigated our way to the hotel, one could see the visibly dilapidated buildings, but what was also visibly outstanding was the massive infrastructure development drive the country has embarked on. Many of the old buildings were being restored, some were completely demolished to make way for new investment opportunities. The road infrastructure was fairly impressive, and fit to carry the heavy SUV's which seemed to be their preferred mode of transport, despite the visible levels of subtle underdevelopment, the oil rich country showed some signs of potential development.

Due to congestion on the roads, it took us almost an hour to reach the newly opened hotel called the Epic Sana – Luanda. Nevertheless, we arrived at the hotel, and what a majestic building it was! This was definitely contrary to our expectations which were influenced by what we had seen on our way to the hotel – and off course, perceptions painted by Western media. As I stepped out of the car, heading to the trunk of the car to get my luggage, I realised that I was late, as one of the helpful butlers had already embraced our luggage from the trunk right into the hotel. To yet another surprise, we were ushered into the reception hall so that we can check in.

Even though the hotel was beautiful with superb butler services, the reception area seemed to have visible teething problems – this was to the irritation of one of my colleagues who made beef about the delays we experienced while checking us in. We got to know that delays were attributed to the fact that the hotel was new, and only opened its doors to the public less than a month ago. But being African ourselves, it was not in our interest to use this isolated event to make judgement – we did understand that it was all work in progress, and besides, we are guests -we had to behave ourselves. It was hot outside, and the air was extremely humid. We were hungry, and very hesitant to purchase food from either the hotel or outside, not because of hygienic reasons but because we were told that Angola was expensive. Nevertheless, we went on and checked in our rooms

– the comfort of the rooms are in sharp contrast of what we experienced outside. A few minutes later, as we were about to walk out of the hotel, to find something to eat, we were approached by a gentleman with a strong Portuguese accent – he was what they called a "Consolation Manager" at the hotel. He apologised for the delay in checking us in and wished us well with our stay there. What fascinated us most about this man were two things, firstly, the title of his designation, and secondly, his strong Portuguese accent which we struggled to comprehend.

My colleagues and I quickly left his sight and stepped out of the hotel. We took a walk looking for familiar food brands but the exercise was in vain as there were none in sight. As we took a walk down the streets of Luanda, the air was humid, the heat was completely unbearable and my shirt started soaking in sweat. We could see congestion on the streets as cars navigated their way out of the city centre. We strolled for less than an hour before we returned back to the hotel – the heat was just unbearable to a point where we forgot about our empty stomachs. Our return to the hotel was met with an invitation to a lunch hosted by the SADC secretariat in honour of the guests in attendance – we were immediately sorted out! Being hungry as we were and knowing how costly the food was, we took advantage and filled up our tanks before we could start working on our different briefs and assignments.

"In Exactly two days after our arrival in Luanda it was my day of birth. I did not have much to write home about on this day since the schedule was hectic with lots of meetings on the sidelines of the SADC meeting. Nevertheless, I continued enjoying the messages of love and wisdom from family and friends as the day got older. I received calls and birthday wishes from family and friends. Later in the day, some of my colleagues who had arrived in Luanda earlier suggested that we should later go out to a popular spot known as the "Jango Vileira". Little did I know that this is the spot where my birthday will be celebrated in style. This place is in fact a man made mini island, it boasts of natural features such as pine trees and fertile sands – it was serene and peaceful, and it is very close to the sea with all the amenities which one may need

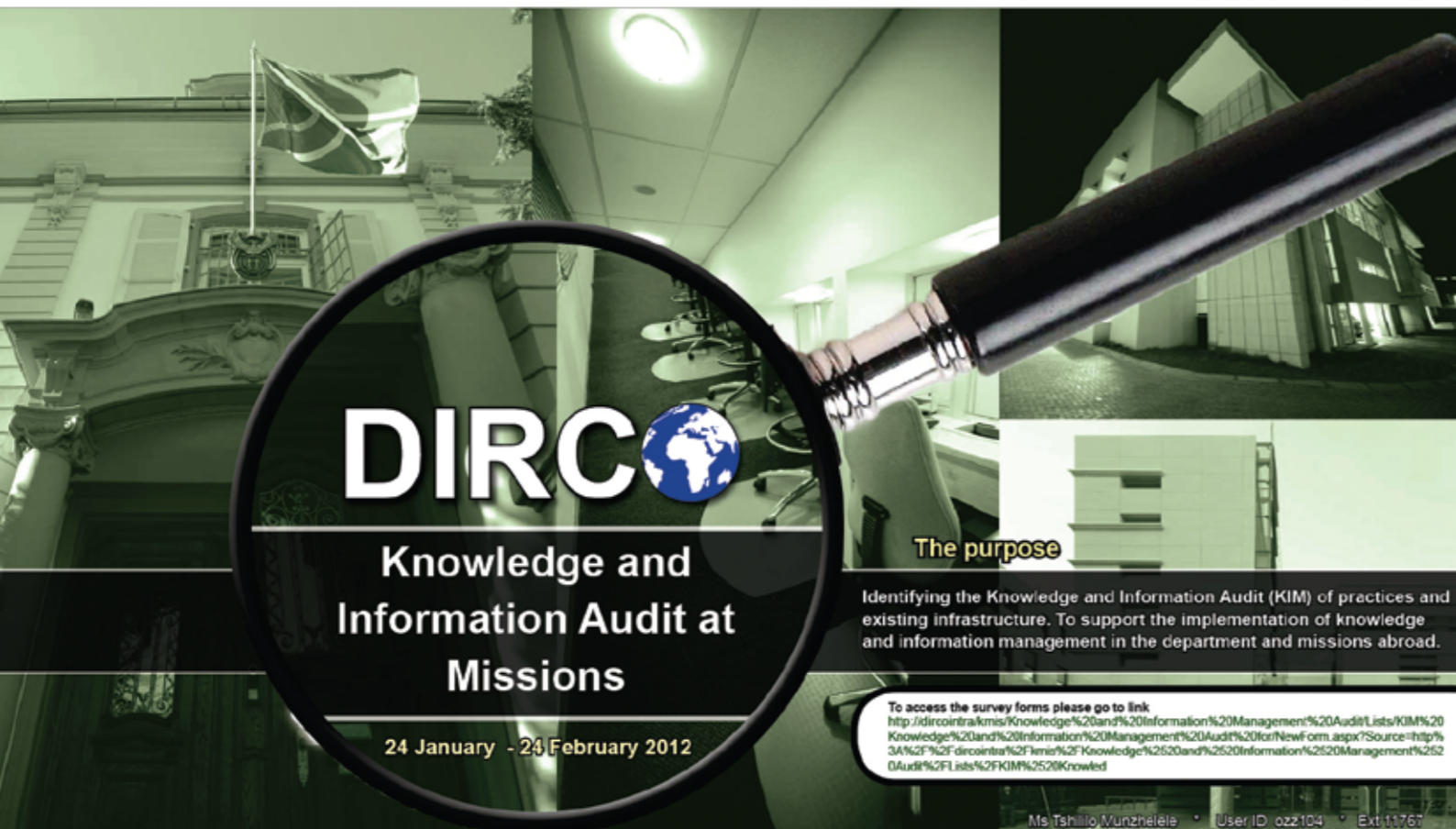
for an event.

It was two hours before midnight on 24 November 2011 when we entered this grand venue. To our surprise, we were immediately met by the popular sounds of the late diva Brenda Fassie with one of the most known song called "weekend special". Being South Africans, we were indeed humbled that there is a sense of appreciation in Angola for our musical tastes. The smell of grilled fish and prawns filled the air, and drinks were visibly chilled from their transparent make-shift fridges. This place felt like home away from home! We were all fascinated by the various sounds of South African music, as it was not only Brenda Fassie being played. The long list featured the legends of South African music fraternity such as Lucky Dube, Mphahanyana, Black Coffee, Tira – the list is endless. By this time, we needed cold beverages to cool our hot warm bodies, and some seafood to excite our palates.

We later got to understand that one cannot afford to come to Angola and never visit the joint. The place is not really the largest entertainment spot in Luanda, but the most popular for both locals and tourists. This is a place where you can listen to plenty of African music. The dance floor was filled with dancers from different countries, as everyone was sampling their dance of the day. Tables were filled with food and drinks, while Waiters kept on coming for more orders to relieve us of money.

It was at 5am when we left the place, and this was also our day of our departure. We headed straight to the hotel to freshen up so that we are ready for transfer to the airport on time. When the flight took off at 14h00, I felt a real sense of emptiness.

This was so because Angola brought me so much peace and serenity. Little did I think that life can be blissful in a country with such negative media publicity such as Angola. Now I know that, despite our circumstances in life, we can still make do with what we have to be absolutely happy and content. Again, I never thought Angola had an ability to bring me the feeling I had on the day of my departure. As I turned may back on Angola for South Africa, I was sure to tell a story about this country with so much potential to become Africa's hope for the future. ☐



DIRCO

Knowledge and Information Audit at Missions

24 January - 24 February 2012

The purpose

Identifying the Knowledge and Information Audit (KIM) of practices and existing infrastructure. To support the implementation of knowledge and information management in the department and missions abroad.

To access the survey forms please go to link
<http://dircointra/kmis/Knowledge%20and%20Information%20Management%20Audit/Lists/KIM%20Knowledge%20and%20Information%20Management%20Audit/NewForm.aspx?Source=http%3A%2F%2Fdircointra%2FItems%2FKnowledge%2520and%2520Information%2520Management%2520Audit%2FLists%2FKIM%2520Knowled>

Ms Tshililo Munzhelele User ID: ozz104 Ext:11767

Knowledge and Information Management Audit at Missions

The Directorate Quality Assurance, Knowledge and Innovation Management of the Branch Diplomatic Training, Research and Development is currently conducting a Knowledge and Information audit at Missions (Phase 2) on 24 January to 24 February 2012. The purpose of this audit is to identify the following:

- Knowledge and Information practices in the department in a bid to work out how knowledge can be shared for the benefit of the entire department.
- Existing infrastructure that will be used to support the implementation of Knowledge and Information Management initiatives in the department e.g. **Records Management, Information and Communications Technology infrastructure, Library and Public Diplomacy.**

Phase 1 of the audit was conducted at DIRCO's Head Office in the financial year 2010/2011. The responses of the audit were summarised as findings and were utilised to develop the Knowledge and Information Management strategy as well as to inform the implementation of knowledge management initiatives at Head Office. These included Library Book clubs, nomination of Knowledge Management Officers, Knowledge Management Training, Knowledge Management Portal and DIRCO Communities of Practice.

Similarly, the Knowledge and Information audit for Missions will also focus on the same objectives of the Head Office audit. The audit will be conducted through the completion of a survey that is available on the intranet on the link:

<http://dircointra/kmis/Knowledge%20and%20Information%20Management%20Audit/Lists/KIM%20Knowledge%20and%20Information%20Management%20Audit/NewForm.aspx?Source=http%3A%2F%2Fdircointra%2FItems%2FKnowledge%2520and%2520Information%2520Management%2520Audit%2FLists%2FKIM%2520Knowled>

Missions that cannot access the departmental intranet will be forwarded survey forms through the departmental e-mail system and diplomatic bags. Where necessary, follow-up semi structured interviews will be conducted telephonically by officials from the Quality Assurance, Knowledge and Innovation Management Directorate. Findings and recommendations from the audit for missions will be utilised to enhance the Departmental Knowledge and Information Management Strategy as well as the implementation plan at missions.

It is recommended that all Heads of Missions and Corporate Service Managers complete the audit, other officials of the department are also encouraged to participate.

For more information contact:
Ms Tshililo Munzhelele
Deputy Director: Knowledge and Information Management

Extension 11767
E-mail: munzhelelet@dirco.gov.za

« CONVERSATIONS WITH »

THULI MASUKU



Thuli Masuku at her work station

The diplomat team had a one on one conversation with the inspiring Thuli Masuku on her journey in DIRCO, her career and her personal milestones and achievements:

What are your personal achievements or milestones?

It has been a challenging journey to be where I am in the department as a Business Analyst in Information Technology (IT) a field that is mainly dominated by men in both private and the public sector. I joined DIRCO as a secretary in January 2005, at the Directorate Media Research and Speech Writing. It was a very challenging job with lots of undocumented responsibilities that I had to perform. Fortunately, I had a supportive supervisor, Ms Lisa Combrinck, who encouraged me to study, but then my question, was, which field should I pursue, because I had just started a new career/ Job as a secretary in the department and registered for a qualification in IT with the University of South Africa (UNISA).

When I was still thinking about what has been said to me, an opportunity rose in the Sub-Directorate: Web Development, then I applied and got that opportunity. This was the beginning of a completely new direction in my professional development because it was aligned to my studies in IT. With the assistance of my colleagues Kabelo Selesho and Rene Marneweck I acquired

and developed the requisite skills for this field and realised that I have to pursue my IT studies majoring in Business Analysis.

In 2009, I obtained my IT qualification through UNISA. Today, I am grateful that what I am doing in the department as a Business Analyst is what I have studied. Through perseverance I have overcome personal, academic and work related challenges that made me to appreciate my life much more.

I'm also a member of DIRCO's netball team and have received a number of awards with the team including winning the SACU Sports Tournament which is for Foreign Affairs Departments of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. My team has also won the NCSSCE Tournament which is meant for national civil servants only.

How many years of working experience do you have and how many of those years have you spent at DIRCO

I have 8 years working experience, one year at Stats SA and 7 years in DIRCO: two years as a secretary, three years as a web designer and two years as a Business Analyst where my current responsibilities are.

What is your typical day at the office like?

In the IT section our work is informed by the needs of our clients, mainly employees and different business units within the

department, which implies that our work fluctuates depending on number of clients who need our assistance. In the Application and Development Sub Directorate our roles differ when it comes to application and development of IT projects.

As business analysts we are responsible for communication and collaboration between the business needs of client requirements and IT. The most important responsibility is to act as a communication conduit between what the client needs and translate their needs into a system that is ready for use as a database system. Our work is mainly project-based in which we assist clients with business requirements, data process and mapping information reporting into a design solution. In simple terms, we work as translators of information provided by clients into systems software. If clients are unable to translate their requirements, it becomes difficult for us to develop a system.

How does your work impact on your family?

The impact of my work in my family is very challenging one in the sense that if one does not balance the interface it can put strain on either one. Failure to maintain a balance between work and personal needs can lead to a neglect of one's family – especially my son. I therefore try to maintain a healthy balance between investing time on my family and work responsibilities.

My growth here at work has been positively influenced mainly by the manner in which I am able to handle my responsibilities at home – towards my son, my mother and my siblings. I am currently enhancing my education through distance learning. It has an impact in terms of additional family time being used for my studies, but the reward at the end of it all will be worthwhile.

What are your future plans at DIRCO and how would you like to pursue them?

To have an improved knowledge and understanding of the department which will enable me to think critically and positively on how to impart my knowledge on ICT to business units and sections in order to reduce a lot of paper trail and to make e-communication effective, and hope that my work will add value to the database system. ☺



Diplomatic Attire

On 30 June 2010 the Director - General approved the dress code policy for the department. The policy was implemented on 01 July 2010. DIRCO delivers various services to different customers. In line with this, DIRCO, through its employees, wishes to present a professional image at all times. A professional appearance (in the context of the promotion of the Department's core business) is expected of all employees in the Department. Whilst performing official duties, employees shall dress (and behave) in a manner that enhances the reputation of DIRCO. Included in the Policy is a list of attire that guides employees on what will and will not be accepted as appropriate dress/attire for different occasions involving DIRCO staff members. In addition, the policy includes the principles for uniforms and protective clothing for all employees who are required to wear such clothing.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THE POLICY.

Attire	Clothes or garments
Business	'A trade or profession', therefore, business attire or uniforms worn for the trade or profession
Business Attire (Day-to-Day)	Business attire is day- to - day attire worn during official working hours when an employee performs his/her normal duties
Business Traditional Attire (Day-to-Day)	A mix of traditional and formal business attire to achieve a contemporary feel, yet still project a professional image
Business Unit Manager	Chief Director
Casual Attire	Attire to wear during business casual days acknowledged by the Department
Corporate uniforms	Attire aimed at distinguishing a certain occupational group from the remainder of the workforce
Day suit (Diplomatic Attire)	A lighter (than black) colour suit worn during day events but regarded as appropriate for diplomatic requirements
Diplomatic Attire	Attire to wear during any event and/or interaction with Political Office Bearers, Diplomatic/ Consular corps and/or Corporate associates to represent the DIRCO/Government/South Africa
Dress Code	Type of attire considered appropriate in the business environment of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation including uniforms and protective clothing
Employee	An employee of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, as defined in section 1 of the Public Service Act, Act No. 103 of 1994 as amended as well as Chapter 5 of the Intelligence Service Act, no 65 of 2002
Lounge Shirt	A shirt with a collar which could be worn with a tie
LRP	Locally Recruited Personnel
Official duties	Carrying out the employer's business at any time
Protective clothing	Attire which is issued to employees whose duties are of such a nature that protective clothing is required in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 as amended

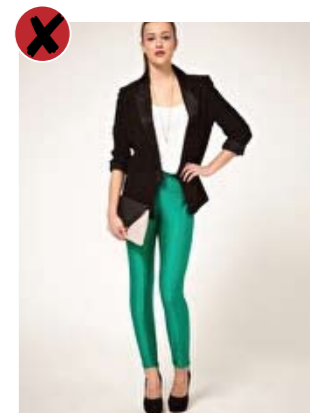
Traditional Attire	Traditional attire according to South African population groups and worn to special functions
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Formal diplomatic attire should be worn when accompanying the Political Office Bearers and during interaction with Diplomatic corps and/or Corporate associates to represent the DIRCO/Government/South Africa.

For formal State, Presidential and Ministerial functions, formal diplomatic attire should be worn.

Dress codes differ from country to country and due cognizance should be taken of the dress code applicable to the event.

ACCEPTABLE	
MALE	FEMALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day suit with lounge shirt and socks and shoes (tie optional) Blazer/jacket/sports jacket with lounge shirt and chinos/trousers (tie optional) Lounge shirt/turtlenecks (long/short sleeve) with trousers – (shirt tucked into trouser) Appropriate footwear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business suit (skirt/pants) with matching accessories Skirt/pants with matching top/blouse/turtleneck Dress Appropriate footwear



NOT ACCEPTABLE	
MALE	FEMALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose hanging shirt Jeans of any kind and colour Windbreakers/Drimacs T-shirts and golf shirts of any kind Tracksuit/sweatpants Sport shoes, thongs, secret socks, Crocs™, sneakers See through clothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweatpants/leggings or form-fitting pants/shorts/dungarees Jeans/hipsters of any kind and colour Windbreakers/Drimacs Bare shoulders See through clothing Tracksuits/sweatpants Sport shoes, thongs, secret socks, Crocs™, sneakers

Casual attire may only be worn during casual days as designated by the Director-General.

During participation in Departmental Sport events, the day-to-day attire remains a requirement to fulfill normal official duties until the employee leaves his/her office for the sport event.

MALE/FEMALE	
ACCEPTABLE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf shirt tucked into trousers Departmental shirt or T-shirt with trousers/pants provided by the Department for the specific event Appropriate attire with applicable accessories Head covers as determined by the occasion 	
NOT ACCEPTABLE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No jeans of any kind unless approved for that specific event T-shirts of any kind Golf shirts and shirts with casual sports or business logo's/wording/pictures/slogans Any revealing clothes 	
Traditional Attire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional attire should be worn to special occasions when circumstances permit.

(From page 19)

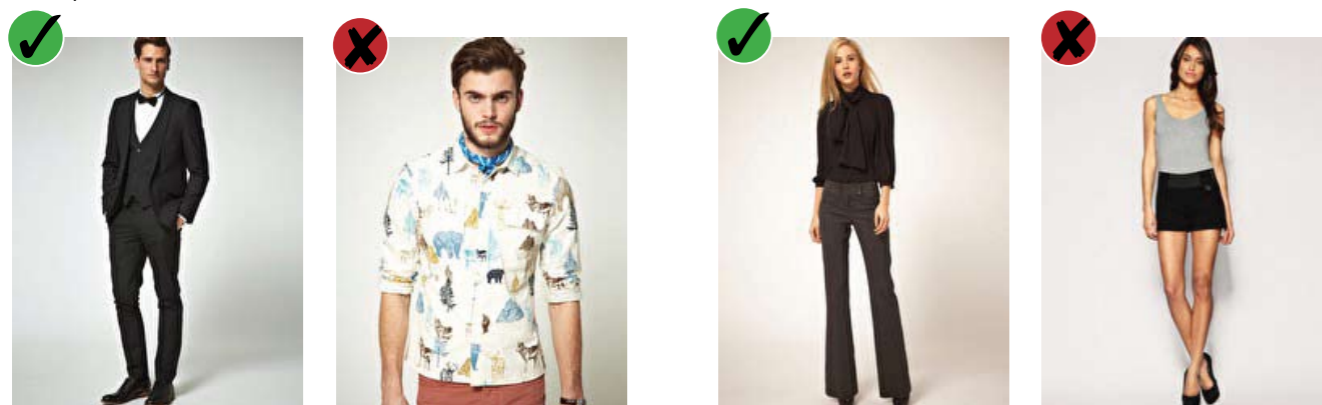
Business Traditional Attire (Day -to-Day)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mix of traditional with a contemporary feel describes this attire. Caution should be exercised when choosing this type of attire for an ordinary day at the office. Business traditional attire should be worn with circumspect.
ACCEPTABLE		
MALE		FEMALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional suit with socks and appropriate shoes Traditional shirt with trousers and socks and appropriate shoes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnic traditional dress with head cover and appropriate shoes
NOT ACCEPTABLE		
MALE		FEMALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barefoot Bare midriff 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barefoot Bare midriff Bare shoulders



The following is regarded as not acceptable attire for any occasion:

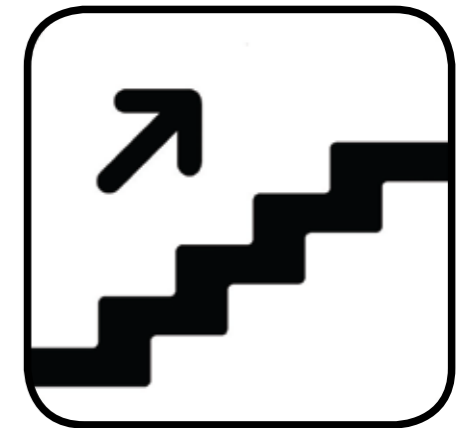
Description	Not appropriate/ acceptable
Trousers/ pants	No jeans (irrespective of the colour, brand name or kind)
Dresses, skirts, skirts with jackets, dressy two-piece suits or sets	Skirts not more than 3cm above the knee or skirts with long slits that show thighs or is too revealing when one is in a sitting position, sun dresses, beach dresses and spaghetti-straps dresses and see through clothing
Shirts, tops, blouses/shirts and jackets	Tank tops; midriff tops; t-shirts with any words; terms; logos; pictures; or slogans; halter-tops; tops with bare shoulders or plunging necklines; see through or too revealing clothing
Shoes and footwear	Sport shoes; sneakers; thongs; flip-flops; slippers; Crocs™ (and similar footwear) and bare feet
Accessories and jewellery	Bandanas and overpowering visible body piercing and bulky long hanging chest chains
Hats and head covering	Sports caps and sunhats

NB. For the original dress code policy, please refer to the intranet under Human Resources. This is an edited version for the purposes of internal publication.



MOVING UP

BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY OF YOUR DREAMS



LAOURA LAZOURAS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR:
MEDIA LIAISON
BRANCH: PUBLIC
DIPLOMACY

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of United States (US) President Franklin D Roosevelt and Chair of the United Nations (UN) Committee that drafted the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights once said that "the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams".

Each of us has a dream or a specific plan for the future. Our achievements in life will depend on how we approached our dream and how we work towards the realisation of that dream. In our quest to achieve our dream, we often meet obstacles along the way. We could get discouraged and concede defeat or we could become more determined to work harder and even make certain sacrifices in order to achieve our dream.

I was fortunate that, during my 12-year career in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), I had great mentors and supervisors who shaped me into the person I am today. Their encouragement, trust and support has inspired and motivated me to achieve my goals and to take on leadership roles. Of course, this meant commitment,

dedication and hard work on my part. I am living my dream each day because I love and believe in what I do.

Looking back at my career both at Head Office and at the Mission in New York where I served, I appreciate the fact that I was entrusted with responsibilities way above my rank. I had the privilege of working with high-level delegations and coordinating programmes of several Ministers. When South Africa chaired the Group of 77 and China (G77) in 2006, I served as coordinator for gender issues.

In 2007, when South Africa became a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the first time, I was selected to be part of the Security Council team and was responsible for thematic issues such as women, peace and security, as well as civilians in armed conflict. I also served as the African Group Representative on the Bureau of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from 2005 to 2008. These experiences were, without doubt, some of the highlights of my career. I have

come to realise that when you love what you do and when you succeed in something, it is not work: It is a way of life because you are making a contribution to the world.

I was recently promoted to Deputy Director: Media Liaison and I thoroughly enjoy the multi-stakeholder interactions and dynamic nature of the work. I am acquiring new skills and invaluable experience and I try to seize each day with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. There is a popular statement which says that life is about the journey not the destination. I enjoyed the long and sometimes bumpy road on my personal journey of constant growth and development. On this road, I learned important life lessons such as patience, forgiveness, humility, perseverance and above all, belief in oneself. These are all qualities that I hope to bring to my new role as Deputy Director. I look forward to the journey my new position will take me, and the contribution that I will make along the way.

As Eleanor Roosevelt said, the future belongs to those who really believe in their dreams. ☐



GET TO KNOW CAFÉ VIBE



LYNETTE / MRS FORD

FRONT SHOP – 1 Staff
SCULLERY – 3 STAFF

CHEF D

KITCHEN – 10 STAFF
CALL ORDER – 6 STAFF
COLD KITCHEN – 3 STAFF
STORES – 3 STAFF

TWOBOYS

FUNCTIONS – 6 STAFF

The diplomat team chats to Chef D, on how the cafeteria functions, and on how DIRCO officials can make use of the services which they offer:-

Q: Diplomat team

How does the cafeteria come up with the day to day menus?

A: Chef D

The Lunch time Menu that we offer in the cafeteria is taken from a six week menu cycle, the reason that we have a six week cycle, is to offer a wider variety and to keep the menu interesting. We have different tastes and cultures to cater for @ Café Vibe, so we try to offer something for everybody! From traditional African to Modern western dishes, we also like to make sure we have a healthy option available.

Q: Diplomat team

Take us through the day to day routine

A: Chef D

It is very difficult to explain the day to day routine, because it varies so much. Yes you do have the normal breakfast and lunch and also the daily Functions, but other things can come up in the blink of an eye! E.g. responding to quotation requests, Meetings and special menu planning, it is amazing that on a Monday



morning you think you have a quite week ahead, by Wednesday you are so busy you don't know which way to turn!

Q: Diplomat team

Take us through the cafeteria's staff component

A: Chef D

There are seven different departments in operation at Café Vibe. Here is the Breakdown.

Trevor is the manager with Me (Chef D) as his right hand Man. Lynette and Mrs. Ford Manage the Front of Shop. Two Boys is in Charge of the Functions.

Q: Diplomat team

Give us the procedure for ordering food for meetings

A: Chef D

To book the catering for your meeting one needs to follow these easy steps; Open the Café Vibe Booking form, that is on the DIRCO Intranet Choose the items that you require for your meeting, remember to enter the times which the items are to be delivered. If you are choosing a hot lunch option then you can choose your menu selection on another Tab on the bottom of the booking form.

Make sure all of the responsibility codes are entered onto the form. The form must be signed by the Client making the booking, and also the unit manager.

Submit the completed form by hand or by E-Mail to chefd@cafevibe.co.za, trevor@cafevibe.co.za or twoboys@cafevibe.co.za

If you are looking for something different then feel free to come down to Café Vibe to have a Chat with Trevor, Chef D or Two Boys.

And we end it off with Chef D'S Favourite recipe which he prepares for VIP guests:-

MUSTARD ROASTED SIRLOIN OF BEEF SERVED WITH POTATO ROSTI, BALSAMIC ONIONS, CARROT PUREE, THYME ROASTED VEGETABLES AND RED WINE JUS.

SIRLOIN OF BEEF

Marinate a Whole Sirloin with English Mustard, Soy Sauce, Rosemary, Thyme, Garlic and Black Pepper then Roast in the oven @180°C until Medium Rare (about 1 ½ Hours), leave to Rest.

RED WINE JUS.

In a Pan, Reduce some Good Red Wine with Rosemary, when Reduced by about half add the same amount of Beef Stock, Reduce again by half. To finish add some sugar to the wine reduction and cook to a syrup consistency.

BALSAMIC ONIONS

Thinly Slice Some Onions and Slowly Cook with Balsamic Vinegar, Brown Sugar and Some Thyme. Cook until soft, Sweet and Sticky.

CARROT PUREE.

Boil Some Diced Carrots in Salted Water until soft. Boil together some cream and butter then puree the carrots with the hot cream mixture, until it's a smooth silky texture. Season with Orange zest, Salt and Pepper.

POTATO ROSTI

Finely Grate a Potato then squeeze the water out of it, add some chopped spring Onion, salt and pepper. Shape into a flat disk and fry on both sides until golden brown.

ROASTED VEGETABLES

Cut your Vegetables of Choice into Neat, Even Pieces. Roast with Olive oil, Thyme and Seasoning until Tender.

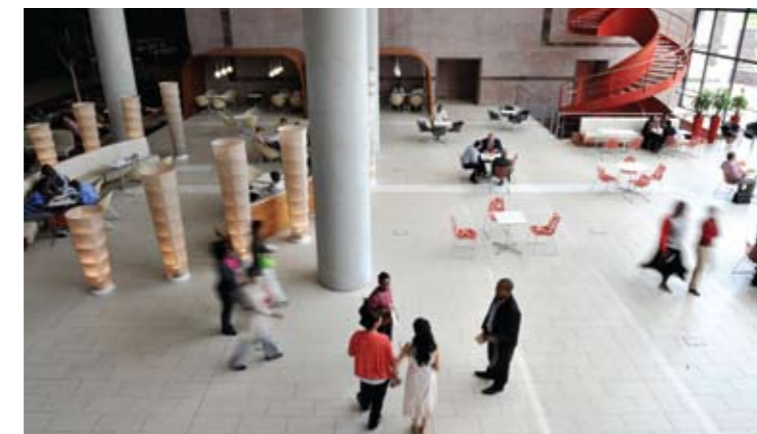
PLATING UP.

Thinly Slice 4 Pieces of the Sirloin and Carefully place onto the Plate, then Decorate with the Vegetables, puree and Caramelized Onions. Sauce the plate and Serve



Above: Chef D with the prepared recipe for VIPs

Left: DIRCO officials enjoying lunch break



MISSION MEMOIRS

AFRICA'S PROMISE, CANADA'S OPPORTUNITY



South African High Commissioner Mohau Pheko with the CEO of the Aga Khan Foundation in Canada, Mr Khalil Sharif and other Representatives from the business community.

Affirming Africa's increasing economic potential, the South African High Commission in Canada hosted for the first time, in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada, a Seminar and Public Lecture on 28 November 2011 to profile the vast, untapped economic and investment potential of the African Continent. Themed: *Africa's Promise, Canada's Opportunity*, the two events were held to restate Africa's ever growing contribution to world affairs as a capable and respectable partner.

These two seamless events presented an opportunity for Diplomats, Academics and Business community to engage one another by reflecting on Africa's socio-economic progress in the past decade; whilst also highlighting the Continent's commitment to a collaborative global relationship with developed nations based on a mutually beneficial model of partnership.

Structured to provide a maximum exchange of ideas through combining academic perspective and practical Canadian

Business experiences in Africa, the panel of discussants composed of Professor Pius Adesanmi from the Carleton University, and Mr David Creighton, President of Cordiant Capital the largest Canadian investment fund on the African Continent. These stakeholders debated the ease of doing business in Africa emphasising progress on issues such as expansion of a democratic space in the Continent, technological advancement, growing middle class and the fact that Africa's population is increasingly dynamic and young. In presenting her remarks, Her Excellency, Mohau Pheko emphasised that Africa has her own unique way of doing business and as part of engaging the countries from the north, African countries should leverage on their uniqueness and advocate for cooperation and partnership based on African value systems. She encouraged African diplomats to continue forging ahead with the African Agenda and export Africa's values as that define Africa's people and its culture of doing business.

In highlighting Africa's resurgence, the participants noted that many of African

countries' economies have progressed significantly this past decade and even surpassed many countries from other continents of the world. From the Economist's 2001 Continental basket case headline to the 2010 McKinsey Report's roaring "Lions of Africa"; African countries have made a profound leap to a path of economic prosperity and socio-economic development. Professor Pius Adesanmi further remarked that even though stereotypes and ignorance against Africa still remained, attitudes are changing.

The momentum was with the Continent. On the other side, from business point of view, Mr David Creighton gave an on-the-ground assessment of the great potential for business in diverse parts of Africa. He emphasised the fact that the return-on-investment in African countries is a major attraction for business. He further pointed that local buy-in is critical to managing risk and that their participation is an essential ingredient to a successful business venture.

In a forward looking approach, the participants congregated their collective views about Africa's momentum in global trade and emphasised that indigenous knowledge was the key element to foster business partnership on the Continent. The Speakers reflected that through the New Partnership for Africa's Development Africa's leaders have over the past decade been steadfast in clearly articulating the collective vision of driving the Continent's Developmental Agenda and building on positive trends such as good governance, political stability and planning, amongst others.

As these events were taking place for the first time in Canada, the South African High Commission undertook to consider looking at this platform to ensure that the conversation about Africa's growing economic and political potential is entrenched in the coming years. ☐

LIVING IN

SINGAPORE WITH REDDY POOVESHNEE



Second from the left in the back row : Ms Reddy Pooveshnee and Embassy Personnel

You are stationed at the South African Embassy in Singapore tell us what are your favourite things about living in that country?

Singapore is an island city-state of approximately 700km² and is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Its public transport system is efficient and affordable and the Economist Intelligence Unit has ranked it 4th on the "World's Most Livable Cities survey 2011". It is easy to get around, it's clean, safe and there are parks, cultural attractions and entertainment to keep you busy all the time. It's also a very child-friendly country.

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

A: Sentosa Island is one of the major attractions with a Universal Studios Theme Park and many outdoor activities for the whole family. The latest attraction is the Marina Sands development that includes Michelin-Star restaurants, Theatres (a season of the Lion King has just finished

there), boutique brand shops and one of the largest conference centres in South East Asia. There are also the heritage areas of "Little India", "Chinatown" and "Arab Street", where you can experience the Indian, Chinese and Malay cultures and sample their cuisines. There are also numerous parks and natural areas like the Singapore Botanic Gardens and the Bukit Timah Nature reserve.

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

A: The striking aspect of Singapore is the lack of space that we South Africans take for granted. It's a small island which is becoming increasingly more crowded with the influx of foreign workers and expats. Local Singaporeans also tend to stick to their own communities and families, so making friends with them is difficult. Most expats tend to befriend one another, especially as we live in different areas from the locals and our children attend private schools. Singaporeans are very

materialistic – the elite display their wealth openly (luxury cars, designer clothes etc.) and others are always striving to emulate these lifestyles.

Q: What do you miss most about South Africa?

A: The friendly South African people, vastness of our country, the weather and the different seasons, our natural beautiful beaches, mountains, forests, and the good South African - biltong and braais.

Q: What do you do when you are homesick?

A: I use Skype to communicate with family and friends, and visit the South African shops to buy maize meal, fruit chutney and other South African products.

Q: How many people work at the South African Embassy?

A: There are 6 Transferred Officials and 10 local staff.

A: What is the one characteristic or attribute about the Singaporeans that you think we as South Africans can learn from?

A: Singaporeans are generally very assertive and persistent. ☐



GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE

THE LAUNCH REACT TO THE AFRICAN FILM SERIES

On 28 November 2011 the South African High Commission in Ottawa, in collaboration with the Ottawa Public Library launched the "React to African Film" series featuring the outstanding movie "Bang Bang Club". The "React to African Film" series intends to profile and expose African art, culture, and history in Canada.

It is against this background that the High Commission hosted a screening of the "Bang Bang Club", a captivating drama based on the true-life experience of four South African combat-zone photographers who captured and documented the tumultuous events unfolding during the final days of apartheid in South Africa.

Mr Daniel Iron; the movie's executive producer was a guest of the High Commission at the screening and he conducted an intense interactive session with the audience after the screening of the movie. High Commissioner Mohau Pheko put into perspective the nature of the change that was unfolding in South Africa at that time. It also allowed the South Africans



South African High Commissioner Mohau Pheko with Mr Daniel Iron, the Producer of Bang Bang Club movie and Ms Tamara Ndaba, First Secretary Political during the Launch of "React to the African Film" series in Ottawa, Canada

in the audience to reflect on this phase of our brutal history, and reminded all South Africans that they should work tirelessly to protect our hard earned democracy and never again allow a repeat of this violent and bleak history.

This milestone event was well attended and it attracted a diverse audience from Canadian society. There were numerous senior government officials, anti-apartheid

activists, journalists, students, members of the diplomatic corps and the African Diaspora community.

The High Commission will continue the "React to African Film" series during the Black History Month in Canada in partnership with the Ottawa Public Library.

Compiled by Tamara Ndaba : SA High Commission in Ottawa, Canada

THE HOSTING OF THE PUNTA SEVENS ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RUGBY TOURNAMENT



Ambassador Dawie Jacobs at the Embassy stand with Vuyo Zangqa-coach of the South African Sevens Team

South Africa was represented by the SA Sevens Academy team at the 23rd Annual "Punta Sevens" International Sevens Tournament in Punta del Este, Uruguay on the weekend of 7 and 8 January 2012. The SA team had a good blend of youth and experienced players which included four players that have participated in the IRB international circuit, namely Neil Powell, Dirk Dippenaar, Stephan Dippenaar and MJ Mentz (Captain). Marius Schoeman, former Sevens Springbok was the manager of the team and the coach was Vuyolweto Zangqa.

The Argentinean team known as the UAR 7, surprised all by beating the SA Academy Sevens 25 - 7 in the final. The South Africans were unbeaten until then and won their first match against the Argentineans by 17 - 10. Uruguay ended third in the tournament by beating Chile convincingly by 34 - 0. Uruguay only lost their two matches against South Africa and. Brazil is the host of the 2016 Olympic Games, where Sevens Rugby will be introduced as Olympic discipline, fielded a good side and is clearly improving on their standard in the built up to 2016. Cheslyn Kolbe of the SA Sevens Academy team was awarded Best Player of the tournament.

The Punta Sevens was hosted by the Old Boys Club in Montevideo with the full support of the Uruguayan Rugby Union. Various international sides, including the Springboks and the All Blacks, have participated in the Punta Sevens in the 1990's, but due to economic setbacks in this part of the world around 2002 less teams have been participating over the past few years. The presence of South Africa and Argentina in this prestigious tournament was a strong drawing card this year. Other national South American teams were Uruguay, Chile and Brazil. Brazil's participation was of special interest since they will be hosting the 2016 Olympics where Sevens Rugby will be an Olympic discipline for the first time. There were 16 teams participating in the two competitions :one for the national sides and one for leading provinces and clubs, mainly from Argentina and Uruguay.

Springboks played in Montevideo against the Old Boys.

Ambassador Dawie Jacobs, Head of Mission/Charge DAffaires of the South African Embassy in Uruguay, who played with Old Boys in 1980 and arranged the tour to South Africa, facilitated a meeting between SA Rugby and the Uruguayan Rugby Union (URU) in Montevideo last year with the aim of renewing and strengthening the rugby ties. SA rugby's inclusion of a strong SA team in the Punta Sevens is the first concrete outcome of the meetings that Mervin Green had with URU. SA Rugby is envisaging further assistance and cooperation with URU. In prominent media coverage on the event SA Rugby's constructive engagement in Uruguayan rugby over the years was mentioned and the hope expressed that the "return of South Africa" to the Punta Sevens will introduce a new chapter of cooperation between SARU and URU. There was special appreciation that SA Rugby was prepared to send such a strong team, despite the absence of huge sponsors, as is the case with the IRB sevens – this is seen the true spirit of rugby.

The Embassy had a display South Africa and SA sports in the VIP lounge of the stadium that attracted much interest.

All participants expressed their appreciation for a well-organised event and there was consensus that the players gained valuable experience in the built up to the next IRB circuit and in the longer term, the 2016 Olympic Games. For Uruguay it was a welcomed opportunity to sharpen their skills since they have been invited by the International Rugby Board (IRB), together with 11 other international teams, to play in March this year in a tournament, taking place parallel with the IRB Hong Kong Sevens, to determine which three teams will join the IRB circuit.

The South Africans made many friends during their week-long stay in Uruguay and all rugby enthusiasts hope to see them again at the 24th edition of the Punta Sevens next year.

The event enjoyed prominent media coverage, written and electronic, especially around the presence of the South Africans, and had been televised by ESPN.

POSITIVE ARTICLE ON SA BEING AMONG FIVE FAVOURITE EMERGING MARKETS GLOBALLY



The leading national daily newspaper called El Pais, published a full page article on 20 January 2012 dealing with South Africa as one of the five favourite medium to long term investment destinations globally among emerging markets.

The opinion is expressed that something changed in South Africa (SA) after the FIFA World Cup in 2010, also with reference to the statement of President Zuma after the successful hosting of the World Cup when he said that, SA will never be the same after the World Cup.

The article provided a positive

overview of the South African economy and also reflected the positive growth prospects of the economy based on the predictions of major international financial institutions. The Embassy distributed this article widely with a short covering message to contacts and received very positive responses, especially from the business sector.

The fact that El Pais placed such a prominent and positive article on SA, that has not been sponsored, of course increased its credibility and positive impact and provided the Embassy with a useful tool in our ongoing efforts to promote SA as a favourable investment destination.

SA Embassy, Montevideo



