

# the diplomat

it's your voice

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

March 2010



Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe co-chairs Sa-Sweden Binational Commission

**INSIDE**



## ***PRESIDENT ZUMA'S State visit to the UK***



international relations  
& cooperation

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# 22 April 2010 Budget Vote

# 2010

MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION,  
MS MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE  
PARLIAMENT, CAPE TOWN



## international relations & cooperation

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to another edition of *the diplomat*. The month of March is full of various political engagements which includes the President's State visit to the UK, Namibia and UK and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe leading the SA-Sweden Binational Commission.

March is also a month where we commemorate our fallen heroes and heroines during the Sharpsville massacre in 1960, Commonwealth and Human Rights Days.

In this edition we bring you the following: President Jacob Zuma's State visit to the UK, SA-Sweden Binational Commission, International Women's Day, Mangaung as the 2010 host city, we are also introducing a new section called "know your heads of missions" and many more...

*Till next months.....*

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# PRESIDENT ZUMA'S STATE VISIT TO THE UK

Joint declaration by President Jacob Zuma and Prime Minister Gordon Brown

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oint Declaration by Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and President Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, 4 March 2010.

As part of his State Visit to the UK, President Zuma and Prime Minister Gordon Brown discussed a wide range of bilateral issues and shared international priorities. Talks between UK Ministers and their South African counterparts accompanying President Zuma also took forward joint work on a number of issues.

## BILATERAL RELATIONS/ INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The UK and South Africa are determined to build on strong bilateral relations to advance a number of international and regional issues by working together bilaterally and across a range of international fora, including the G20, the UN and the Commonwealth. The UK and South Africa will continue to work together to reform global institutions tackling some of the world's problems to make them more representative and more effective. In particular, the UK supports permanent African representation on the UN Security Council which will enable it to better address issues of peace and security across the globe.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The UK and South Africa co-operated

closely in the run up to Copenhagen and have agreed that urgent action is necessary to take forward action toward a legally binding global agreement to limit temperature rises to 2 degrees. An important part of this work will be agreement on the financing of action to combat climate change. Both the UK and South Africa welcome the new High Level Advisory Group on Climate Finance and call for developed countries to provide finance from 2013. The two countries will also redouble their efforts on related technology, including the development of South Africa's low-carbon growth and carbon capture and storage, both of which the UK will support.

## NUCLEAR/ARMS CONTROL

The ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons requires cooperation on a number of important international initiatives. The UK and South Africa therefore look forward to President Obama's Nuclear Security Summit next month and progress in the international treaty framework to stop nuclear proliferation, control the number of nuclear weapons and approve a new international conventional arms trade treaty through the UN. There was recognition that Iran remained in breach

of five UN Security Council Resolutions on its nuclear programme and, that in order to pursue a legitimate nuclear energy policy, it should engage positively with the international community and the IAEA.

## G20/GLOBAL RECOVERY

As founder members of the G20, the UK and South Africa recognise the success of decisive G20 action in preventing a total breakdown of the world's financial system and putting in place the building blocks for global recovery. Both countries agree that further policy action is necessary to make the transition from crisis response to strong and sustainable growth. It is particularly important to ensure that this framework supports poverty reduction, particularly in low income countries. At the same time the UK and South Africa will work together towards reform of the International Financial Institutions to make them more effective, accountable and legitimate.

## ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)

Concerted action is needed to accelerate progress toward achieving the MDGs. The global economic downturn, climate change and the effects of HIV/AIDS have



all affected the speed of progress. The UK and South Africa agree to work together through the G20 and UN to make 2010 the year of action on combating poverty, including by agreeing a global action plan on the MDGs at the UN Summit in September 2010. The UK also reaffirmed its commitment to support the fight against HIV/AIDS in South Africa and is supporting the public health system in a new £25m programme.

We recognise the central importance of gender equality to achieving the MDGs. The establishment of the new UN women's agency will have a crucial role to play in focussing international efforts and increasing the UN's impact on the lives of women and girls worldwide. We both support early progress in ongoing negotiations at the UN during 2010. We would like to see the new entity up and running as soon as possible. We want the Secretary General now to press forward with the announcement of the new Under Secretary General of the new UN women's agency.

## REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

The UK and South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing the UK to provide £67 million to help the regional economic communities to improve transport infrastructure in eight countries. This will support Africa's efforts to increase trade and develop economically in order to grow out of poverty. As part of this drive, South Africa agreed to prioritise the establishment of a One Stop Border Post between South Africa and Zimbabwe to reduce costs and bureaucracy associated with cross-border trade.

## ZIMBABWE

The UK and South Africa called on the Inclusive Government of Zimbabwe to complete as soon as possible the

implementation of the Global Political Agreement. They also noted the importance of further economic progress and normalisation. Both countries called for an immediate end to the harassment, the repeal of repressive legislation and the establishment of the principles of free speech and free association. The Inclusive Government must also put in place the conditions for free and fair elections, which are essential if Zimbabwe is to have the future its people deserve. In this regard our countries will support the recently established State Commissions. South Africa is playing a leading role in encouraging positive developments in Zimbabwe, bilaterally and through SADC. The UK will continue to explore with South Africa possibilities for initiatives to encourage positive change and benefit ordinary Zimbabweans.

## EDUCATION

The UK and South Africa agreed to work with FIFA and the Global Campaign for Education in their 1 Goal campaign, aimed at harnessing the power of the 2010 FIFA World Cup for the benefit of education for all. The two countries hope this drive

will ensure that other global leaders and institutions will back the commitment to ensure that the 72 million primary-aged children not currently receiving school education receive their basic human right to education.

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

Both the UK and South Africa welcomed the many existing initiatives to bring people in the two countries together and to work for mutual benefit. We welcomed the flourishing links, such as those between educational institutions, local government structures and NGOs.

The UK and South Africa also agreed to work together to develop links between Further Education and Training colleges in order to help South Africa develop its skills base to help tackle unemployment with decent skilled work for all its people. The UK will also continue to support scholarships and visit programmes such as the Chevening Scholarships and British Leadership Visits, as well as work towards the establishment of a UK-South Africa Next Generation Forum to deepen the links between young people who will be our next generation of leaders. ■



# SA-Sweden Binational Commission

Pictures: Jacoline Schoonees

**D**eputy President Kgalema Motlanthe co-chaired sixth session of SA-Sweden Bi-National Commission His Excellency Deputy President Kgalema

Motlantle co-chaired the Sixth Session of the South Africa-Sweden Bi-National Commission (BNC) with his counterpart from Sweden Deputy Prime Minister Ms Maud Olofsson on the 17th of March 2010 in Cape Town.

The Sixth Session the SA-Sweden BNC took place within the context of solid structured bilateral relations between the two countries and the commitment to enhance the North-South dialogue. The BNC consisted of three committees i.e. Political (co-chaired by International Relations and Cooperation), Economic (co-chaired by Trade and Industry) and Social (co-chaired by National Treasury), all chaired at senior officials' level. Accordingly the 2010 BNC, proceeded by senior officials meeting on 16 March 2010 focused on the following priority areas:

- Greater coordination of efforts to promote peace and stability in Africa through conflict resolution, post-conflict reconstruction with emphasis beyond SSR and DDR broader economic relations, especially investment
- Alignment of the new Swedish Country Strategy for South Africa with South Africa's national priorities;
- Discussion on development cooperation relations taking into account the increasing emphasis on future trilateral cooperation and partner driven cooperation; Highlight of the importance of climate change as an overarching issue. During his toast remarks at the dinner hosted Deputy Prime Minister Maud Olofsson, Deputy President Motlanthe said "Our national priorities are central to the attainment of our country's goals of uplifting all the people of South Africa. For South Africa, this Binational Commission forms part of our determined efforts in our young democracy to take charge of our own destiny. As South Africans, and Africans, we seek to integrate ourselves ever more fully within the rapidly globalising world economy and



we need strategic partners such as Sweden, to achieve higher levels of growth and employment and increase the international competitiveness of our economy."

It was agreed during the last session of the BNC in 2007 that the traditional grants-based aid between South Africa and Sweden would be transformed into partner-driven cooperation between two equals, where the cooperation is driven mainly by the cooperating partners themselves both from public and private sectors. Both countries will continue to develop institutional collaborations in areas that are jointly defined.

The new collaboration will incorporate institutional partnerships and tripartite cooperation. New forms of collaboration based on long-term commitment in a wide range of sectors have been established. These are closely linked to the dialogue taking place within the political and economic spheres. Several interesting models have been put into place, including for the

cooperation between municipalities, cultural institutions, universities and research institutions as well as for stakeholders within the broader economic cooperation.

The decision to establish the BNC was made during the visit to South Africa by former Prime Minister Persson as a mechanism to coordinate relations between South Africa in Sweden. The BNC was established in 2000 and has since met in 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007. The Sixth Session has been postponed to March 2010 due to Sweden's Presidency of the EU in the latter half of 2009.

During the 1990's the development cooperation between Sweden and South Africa evolved in stages, from humanitarian support via regular development assistance to supporting transformation towards what was called broader cooperation. In addition, Sweden provided support to peace and security related work on Africa through university and non-government institutions in South Africa.

South Africa and Sweden have extensive trade and economic relations. The trade balance between South Africa and Sweden continues to be in Sweden's favour. The main trade sectors, both in imports and exports, include manufactured goods, machinery, automotive and transport goods, mining equipment, and chemicals and fuel products.

South African exports to Sweden have increased from R1.046 billion in 2000 to R2.109 billion in 2009 while imports from Sweden increased from R2.902 billion in 2000 to R9.395 billion in 2009. The trade balance between South Africa and Sweden in 2009 was -R7.286 billion.

During her visit to South Africa Deputy Prime Minister Maud Olofsson payed a visit to the Green Point stadium and delivered a Lecture at the University of Cape Town. ■

Below: Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and his Swedish counterpart Deputy Prime Minister Maud Olofsson

## Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane's speech on the occasion of the exhumation and repatriation of the mortal remains of Mr. Johnny Mfanafuthi Makhathini –



Left : President Zuma , Dr. Zweli Mkhize and the Makhathini family

Below: Minister Maite Nkoana Mashabane wduring the exhumation and repatriation of the mortal remains of Mr. Johnny Mfanafuthi

Members of the Makhathini family, Representatives of the Zambian Government, The First President of the Republic of Zambia – Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda, Premier of the Province of Kwa-Zulu Natal – Dr. Zweli Mkhize and Honourable MECs, High Commissioner of the Republic of SA in Zambia – Mr. M Chikane, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen

**O**n behalf of the entire South African delegation, including the Makhathini family, I would like to express our collective sense of gratitude to the Government and people of Zambia for the hospitality extended to us since our arrival. President Jacob Zuma and the people of South Africa also extend their words of gratitude to the Government and the people of Zambia for having been there – in their time of need.

Our working visit to Zambia to exhume and repatriate to South Africa the mortal remains of the late Mr Johnstone Mfanafuthi Makhathini is indeed a solemn occasion. It is occasions like this that continue to remind us of the bonds of solidarity that exist between Zambia and South Africa. The spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood that was built during the times of the Anti-Apartheid struggle should be consolidated via mutually beneficial bilateral relations that exist between the two countries.

Honourable Guests, Ladies and gentlemen, South African-Zambian relations until 1990 were shaped by Zambia's support for the liberation movements. Zambia provided safe haven for the ANC, prompting military reprisals by South Africa in the late 1980s. One would rightly ask, how



does the "birth of a democratic South Africa" then relate to the life and times of Comrade Johnny Makhathini? President Zuma described him as someone "who made an enormous contribution in the ANC's Department of International Affairs and led it effectively and with courage".

Makhathini was born in Durban on February 8th. He was a gifted, bright and talented debater with an aptitude for languages. He became politically active when Bantu Education was imposed in African schools and subsequently resigned from the teaching profession and pursued part time studies at the University of Natal.

He was one of the key organisers of the historic Pietermaritzburg Conference of March 1961 which was addressed by Nelson Mandela among others. In 1962 Johnny was among the first group of volunteers from Natal to be sent out of the country for military training. Makhathini died on 3 December 1988 at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka - with complications arising from a diabetic condition. To the Makhathini family, we cannot find appropriate words to thank you for allowing him to dedicate his life to the liberation of the people of SA.

I thank you! ■

Department of International Relations and Cooperation (the dirco), in conjunction with the Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa, PWMSA, hosted a Seminar on Women, Peace and Security: Learning Lessons, Sharing Experiences and Building Sisterhood, with a Special Focus on the Role of the Lumumba Family in the Struggle for the Independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Pictures: Jacoline Schoonees

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**I**nternational Women's Day (8 March) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men. In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for "liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialized world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population growth and radical ideologies. Following is a brief chronology of the most important events:

## 1909

In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States on 28 February. Women continued to celebrate it on the last Sunday of that month through 1913.

## 1910

The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, international in character, to honour the movement for women's rights and to

assist in achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.

## 1911

As a result of the decision taken at Copenhagen the previous year, International Women's Day was marked for the first time (19 March) in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded the right to work, to vocational training and to an end to discrimination on the job.

Less than a week later, on 25 March, the tragic Triangle Fire in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working girls, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This event had a significant impact on labour legislation in the United States, and the working conditions leading up to the disaster were invoked during subsequent observances of International Women's Day.

## 1913-1914

As part of the peace movement brewing on the eve of World War I, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with their sisters.

## 1917

With 2 million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women again chose the last Sunday in February to strike for "bread and peace". Political leaders opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went on anyway. The rest is history: Four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote. That historic Sunday fell on 23 February on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia, but on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process. Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

## THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Few causes promoted by the United Nations have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women. The Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco in 1945, was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right. Since then, the Organization has helped create a historic legacy of internationally agreed strategies, standards, programmes and goals to advance the status of women worldwide.

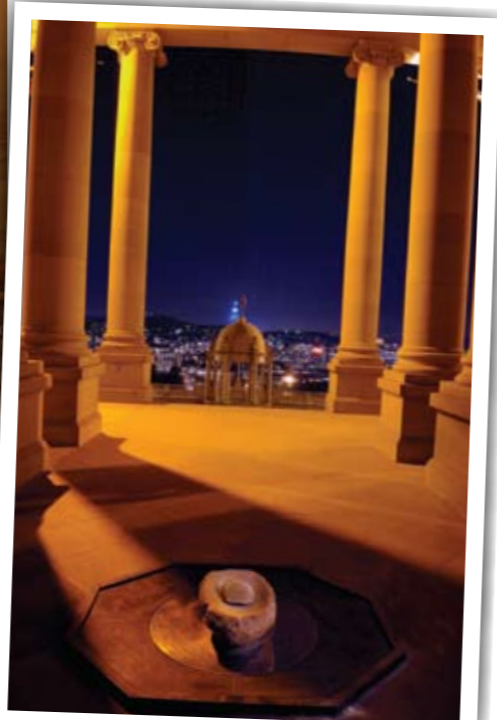
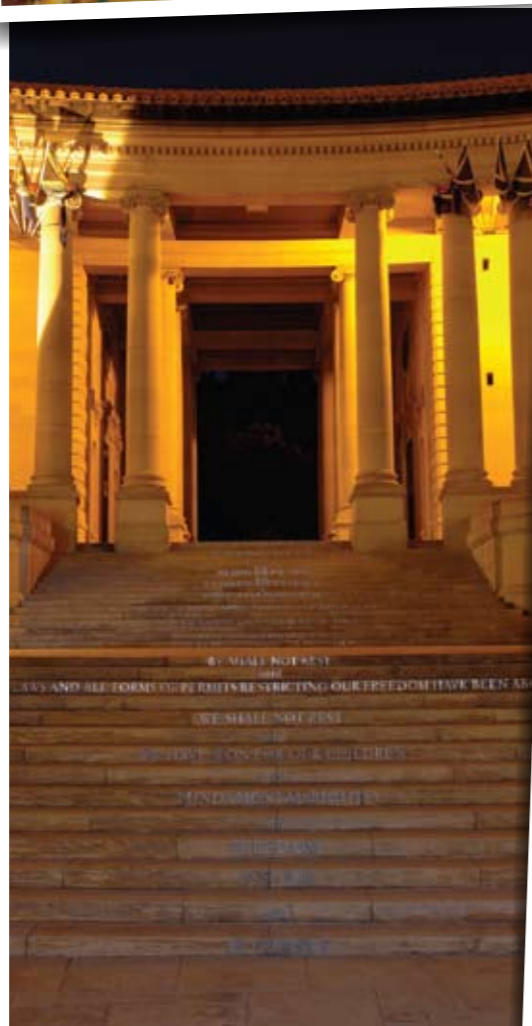
Over the years, United Nations action for the advancement of women has taken four clear directions: promotion of legal measures; mobilization of public opinion and international action; training and research, including the compilation of gender desegregated statistics; and direct assistance to disadvantaged groups.

Today a central organizing principle of the work of the United Nations is that no enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world's women. ■



Far left to right: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with Julian Lumumba and the Foreign minister of Sierra Leone, Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura

Top right and right: delegates who attended the Seminar on Women, Peace and Security at the dirco conference centre





By: Sonwabise Mzinyathi, Directorate: Media Research, Analysis and Speechwriting  
Pictures: Jacoline Schoonees

# UBUNTU

*I am being because you are!*

## THE STORY OF OUR UNSUNG HEROINES

**T**he Department of International Relations and Cooperation (the dirco), in conjunction with the Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa, PWMSA, hosted a Seminar on Women, Peace and Security: Learning Lessons, Sharing Experiences and Building Sisterhood, with a Special Focus on the Role of the Lumumba Family in the Struggle for the Independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Seminar took place from the 7th to the 8th of March 2010 in the form of a Gala Dinner on the 7th and a Seminar on the 8th. It was hosted under the auspice of International Women's Day to answer to the call of the AU Heads of States that 2010 is the Year of Peace and Security and that 2010-2020 is the Africa Decade of Women in Africa. When my Director tasked me to attend the first meeting of the preparatory team in preparation for the Seminar, little did I know that I would see my role in that task team right through the end; in fact little did I know that the impact of participating in that significant and challenging task would change my perspective of "Unsung Heroes" forever.

We often get so caught up with meeting deadlines and ensuring that the end result of any task is a success that we forget that every task at hand is a reality that comes with valuable lessons. Let me paint a scenario:

The weekend has arrived and unlike shouting "it's the weekend bay-bay" like I normally do when the dawn of Friday mornings break I sigh in anxiety of the work ahead, the last lap of the race. It is Friday, 5 March 2010 and I am dragging myself albeit at such a high pace using the term dragging would be sinful to any English teacher. Time flies and the routine of early mornings and late nights becomes a norm

and before I know it, it is the evening of the 7th of March and I am standing at the Media Interview of the DIRCO/PWMSA Gala Dinner. The Minister is sitting upright in her chair and breathing with ease and I wonder how she manages to do so much and yet manage to ooze a patina of ease. I blame it on the make-up, her salary perhaps and I manage to convince myself that I too would be able to play that role given the chance; it cannot possibly be that difficult I say to myself in consolation.

The interview begins and I have memorized the questions each interviewee sent to me, I have even taken the time to understand each of the background points supplied to me by the Political Desks to include in the Minister's Media Briefing Background Notes for her answers. The Minister answers the first question on why we are hosting the seminar with the view that the Seminar is answering to the call by the AU that 2010 is the Year of Peace and Security in Africa. She further expresses that women want to make sense of what the lack of peace means for women and children. She elaborates that it is the commemoration of the history of women painting a vivid picture of war tone area, which I have only seen on my television set, where men are running to set themselves free while as in most cases the women are carrying babies on their backs, plastic bags filled with the little supply of food that they have left.

Then the Minister indulges the interviewees into her own experiences. She begins to tell the real stories and what made it more significant was that she was telling us real life stories that she experienced personally, some that were told by people she knew personally and the reality of the pains of women all across Africa began to find vested pain in my heart. I felt a pain in my heart as she expressed story after story after story beginning with how International Women's Day came about because 100s of women were burnt in a textile factory at a time when they were supposed to be taking lunch like everybody else in the factory,

everybody else being the men who were allowed to have lunch. She explained the excruciating pain of how this incident opened up a space for the International Community to see the tragedy of closing off all power from within the reach of women. This occasion set the foundation for women to build the plight for International Solidarity. The Minister continued to take us through journeys of how she once met a woman who was standing under a tree at the dawn of morning with a plastic bag in her hand, when the Minister returned later towards the night, the woman's expression had turned to a glazy gloom of which she explained as follows: "When I get home every night, little boys rape me and because I am pregnant they know that I cannot run so they rape me repeatedly. The only thing I look forward to is the morning light." I have heard similar stories of tragedy and I have received some with more heart-ache than others to the point that I try to avoid them but never have I looked at them the same way as I did as the Minister narrated her tales of unsung heroes.

The Minister went on to raise something I have never heard before from the stories of apartheid, from the stories of the liberation of women, she said; "we are still getting over the shock of being able to walk down the street and to walk at night." I have never looked at it that way-the endless stories are an altercation to shock-the shock of being a free Nation, the shock of being able to vote, the shock of women having a platform in politics. The truth is that many women have never had the platforms to tell their stories-these are stories of our unsung heroes.

The story of how SAWID came about. SAWID's formation as narrated by the Minister....Former President Mbeki's wife, Mrs Zanele Mbeki accompanied her husband, then President of the Republic of South Africa, to the first Sun City meeting between the DRC and South Africa where to her shock she found a lacking of the presence of women in the meeting and those that were there were brought along to agree with everything that was put on

the table, the typical "trophy" story. To her dismay Mrs Mbeki went back to Pretoria to mobilise the women she knew to join in that meeting and what is known as the South Africa-DRC Women in Dialogue forum was established. The Minister went on. After one of their meetings, the women of South Africa were driving back in a bus when they started tearing as they shared each other's tales brining about the realisation that South African women too needed to form their own South African Women in Dialogue and thus the birth of SAWID. Later they realised that there was a need to bring about the Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa where women would bring in their element of humanness without the political, religious, and cultural affiliations but to bring in their personas, for this is what really makes up Learning Lessons, Sharing Experiences and this is what really makes up Building Solidarity. The children of the Lumumba family, during the conflict in the DRC were put in a removal box and transported with a removal truck to escape death. This is not a strange phenomena to South Africans because many in my country too have untold stories of how they escaped the brutality of apartheid and this goes for both white and black South Africans. These experiences are what bring the African Continent together; our experiences are what bring the human race together, for what is common to me may not be identical to yours but it not alien either.

I saw a human element to the Minister during that interview. She no longer was alien to me or a far-fetched vision of what entails a real human. She was a human being, a woman with many shared joys and pains. I began to see that it is not the money or the make-up or her assistants that brings about her bravado, her calmness and soothing presence. It is her humanness, her experiences in which no one may ever be able to take away from her or from any other women and men in this planet. It is these elements that bring commonality in all of us that make us "un-alien" to each other. Why then do we, when we work from project to project, why do we forget the humane nature of service delivery? The UBUNTU factor! I started thinking that perhaps this is why there is such a gap in our service delivery in Government that perhaps if we stopped for a minute to put aside all the flowery language that we put in our policies, in our speeches, that we put in the very same brief that we gave to the Minister whilst we were preparing for the Seminar, service delivery would no longer be a fairytale to

most South Africans. Allow me to even contest the flowery language to say it is the very reason that we are unable, even as practitioners of foreign policy, to internalise what each agreement, each declaration, each policy really means. And how do you implement anything you have never internalised, how do you convince the next person to believe in our foreign policy if we ourselves do not really understand it?

I watched as the different women who attended the Gala Dinner, each from their own spheres of life, as they danced to the rhythm of Thandiswa Mazwai whom I must add is an unsung heroin herself. I watched with awe wondering what each of their tales was, as unsung heroines in their right. My unsung heroin is my grandmother who is a hardworking Xhosa woman from Idutywa, my unsung heroin is uMama Johanna who is a helper at the dirco, my unsung heroin is the mother of 10 as well as the mother 2. I could go on. I read a (soon to be published) book by a colleague where he put out his emotions and explained exactly the type of emotions he felt as his formidable mother raised him, for him his mother is his unsung heroin. I was drawn deeper into the picture painted by the Minister when she stated words so true to her soul they reached out to mine. Her final words to the interviewees still ring in my ears:

"To Sisters, Mothers, and Grandmothers, I am referring to African Women! It takes a village to raise a child. This Continent is yearning for our Unity, for our Tenacity. No educated women must go to sleep happy if women still die because of lack of health care, because of lack of food. No women should go to sleep happy if there is a girl child whose private parts get mutilated in the name of culture. No girl child should be sold to an old man because she happened to be born to a poorer family. No girl child should become a second choice in the decisions of who should go to school. We

owe it to our forebearers! We owe it to our children! We owe it to ourselves! We owe it to generations to come!

Everywhere in the world we are told Africa's time has come but it must be Africans themselves who lead. African women, as you celebrate the 8th of March, International Women's Day, as a means of International Solidarity remember that charity starts at home. It must begin in this small country South Africa and it must begin on the Continent. In this country there is a word called: Ubuntu-I am because you are! No African country should be considered free until children and especially women of those countries are free. True freedom in Africa will come with political, economic, and cultural emancipation of the African women. African Women Arise!"

Voilà there you have it. I know many are disappointed because they were hoping to get an article rehashing the Outcomes Document of the Seminar. I hope Part 2 of The Story of our Unsung Heroines/Heroes will explain what the many resolutions, declarations, and agreements we have consented to really mean in human terms and in human deliverables because that way the officials of this Department, the foreign policy practitioners will be able to sell our foreign policy convincingly. Perhaps then we will no longer be referred to as "Orphilles" by the likes of Peter Fabricius or Élites by the South African Public because they too will now finally understand and be able to quantify what we are really doing in real life tangibles. That when a Red Cross ambulance enters a village, it does so because of an agreement initiated, facilitated and coordinated by this Department, that when a country from the shores of Europe builds a school and/or sports facilities in our townships, it does so because of this Department's service delivery outputs. ■

*P.S Personally, this Department is my Unsung Hero!*



Far left to right: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane networking with guest during the gala dinner

# Human Rights day

**O**n 21 March 1960, events were planned for many parts of the country, for people to protest against the Pass Laws. These laws required all Africans living or working in and around towns to carry a document (known as a pass) with them at all times. Failure to carry this document would lead to arrest by the police and to people being sent away from the towns in which they lived. On this day people decided to go to police stations without their passes and to demand that the police arrest them.

The idea was that so many people would be arrested and the jails would become so full that the country would not be able to function properly. It was hoped that this would lead to the Pass Laws being scrapped.

At Sharpeville in Gauteng, thousands of people gathered at the police station demanding to be arrested. They were met by 300 police officers. After a scuffle broke out, the police opened fire on the crowd. At least sixty-seven people were killed and 180 injured by the shooting. These people were protesting against unfair laws and were really demanding their human rights. Many of these rights are now included in our Bill of Rights, and include the rights to:

- Equality (Section 9)
- Human dignity (Section 10)



- Freedom of expression (Section 16)
- Assembly, demonstration, picket and petition (Section 17)
- Freedom of association (Section 18)
- Freedom of movement and residence (Section 21).

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Sharpeville (and Langa) massacres as the most important events of the liberation struggle. These events signified the first mass protest action by the people of South Africa against the pass laws, which resulted in the banning of liberation movements. Through this day, we celebrate victory over the apartheid system and reinforce our commitment to human rights.

Our Constitution guarantees the rights of every South African

The Bill of Rights is instrumental in realising the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

The South African Human Rights Commission was set up by our Constitution to promote respect for human rights and to monitor and assess the observance of human rights in the country.

We are aware of the challenges that we still face to ensure that all have shelter and feel safe in their homes.

Since 1994, basic service-delivery programmes have been pursued to restore the lives and dignity of South Africans

By March 2009, 2,8 million houses have been completed, including those under the housing subsidy programme. The Government is pursuing a more comprehensive service-delivery model within the context of sustainable human settlements.

The percentage of households with access to water infrastructure for potable water above or equal to Reconstruction and Development Programme standards increased from 61,7% in 1994 to 91,8% in March 2009.

More than 10 million households (77%) had access to sanitation as at March 2009 as compared to five million (50%) in 1994.

The estimate number of households with access to electricity increased from 4,5 million (50,9%) in 1994 to 9,1 million (73%) in 2008.

“Working together we can do more to protect human rights” ■

even recommend to Heads of Government that a member country be expelled. When member countries have been suspended the Commonwealth continues to do everything possible to bring them back into the fold. While CMAG represents one aspect of the Commonwealth's commitment to democratic principles, many more discreet interventions are made through 'good offices' work, where specially appointed representatives conduct quiet diplomacy as part of efforts to prevent or resolve conflicts and build dialogue and democratic structures.

As well as Heads of Government, ministers responsible for education, environment, civil society, finance, foreign affairs, gender affairs, health law, tourism and youth also meet regularly. This ensures that Commonwealth policies and programmes represent views of the members and gives governments a better understanding of each other's goals in an increasingly globalised world.

There are three intergovernmental organisations in the association: the Commonwealth Secretariat (which executes plans agreed by Commonwealth Heads of Government through technical assistance, advice and policy development); the Commonwealth Foundation (which helps civil society organisations promote democracy, development and cultural understanding) and the Commonwealth of Learning (which encourages the development and sharing of open learning and distance education). Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is Head of the Commonwealth and Kamlesh Sharma, current Secretary-General of the

Commonwealth, is the principal global advocate for the Commonwealth and Chief Executive of the Secretariat.

Citizen-to-citizen links are as important to the Commonwealth as the contacts between member governments. The Commonwealth's worldwide network of around 90 professional and advocacy organisations, most of which bear its name, continues to grow with a third of these based outside the UK. They work at local, national, regional or international levels and play crucial roles in policy, political or social aspects of Commonwealth life. One such organisation is the Commonwealth Games Federation, which manages the four-yearly multi-sport event.

Commonwealth countries work together in a spirit of co-operation, partnership and understanding. This openness and flexibility are integral to the Commonwealth's effectiveness. Emphasis on equality has helped it play leading roles in decolonisation, combating racism and advancing sustainable development in poor countries.

This support network of countries and organisations is involved in a diverse range of work, from helping trade negotiations, building the small business sector and encouraging women entrepreneurs to supporting the quality and quantity of teachers, and increasing understanding of HIV/AIDS.

As well as working with each other, member countries and organisations have also built alliances outside the Commonwealth. Commonwealth ideas have been taken up by the World Bank on Small States, by the

World Health Organization on the migration of doctors and nurses, by the International Labour Organization on the migration of teachers. Its support and expertise have been enlisted by the European Union (EU) and the African Union on building governance in Africa, and by the EU and the Pacific Islands Forum on building governance in the Pacific. The Commonwealth is part of the world that it serves, sharing the same interests as those of its citizens: democratic freedom and economic and social development.

Theme for 2010: Science, Technology and Society

Scientific and technological research continues to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the world. It has brought about not just efficiency, but profound political, economic and social transformation.

From health to education, agriculture to energy, enterprise to infrastructure, even to democracy and administration: science and technology have transformed and bettered almost every aspect of the lives of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the world.

Many of these great discoveries have been produced by the best minds from all over the Commonwealth from the development of web-based communications to the introduction of multimedia telecommunications in the palms of our hands; from the use of stem cells to rejuvenate tissue growth in human bodies, to organ transplants and the replacement of limbs with technologically advanced prosthetics. ■

## Commonwealth Day

Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday in March every year. The aim of commemorating Commonwealth Day is to promote understanding on global issues, international co-operation and the work of the Commonwealth to improve the lives of its 1.8 billion citizens.

The modern Commonwealth, which has its origins in the former British Empire, today comprises 53 independent member states. Thirty-two members are republics, 16 have constitutional monarchies which recognise HM Queen Elizabeth II as their Head of State, and five have national monarchies (Brunei Darussalam, Lesotho, Malaysia, Swaziland and Tonga). The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 countries that support each other and work together towards shared goals in democracy and development.

The world's largest and smallest,

richest and poorest countries make up the Commonwealth and are home to two billion citizens of all faiths and ethnicities – over half of whom are 25 or under. Member countries span six continents and oceans from Africa (19) to Asia (8), the Americas (2), the Caribbean (12), Europe (3) and the South Pacific (10).

The Commonwealth, with roots as far back as the 1870s, believes that the best democracies are achieved through partnerships of governments, business, and civil society. This unique association was reconstituted in 1949 when Commonwealth Prime Ministers met and adopted what has become known as the 'London Declaration' where it was agreed all member countries would be "freely and equally associated."

Since then membership has continued to grow. The most recent members are Rwanda - which was admitted at the 2009

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Cameroon and Mozambique, which was the first country to join with no historical or administrative association with another Commonwealth country.

Beyond the ties of history, language and institutions, it is the association's values which unite its members: democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all. These values were agreed and set down by all Commonwealth Heads of Government at two of their biennial meetings (known as CHOGMs) in Singapore in 1971 and reaffirmed twenty years later in Harare.

At government level, the values are protected by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), a rotating group of nine Foreign Ministers, which assesses the nature of any infringement and recommends measures for collective action from member countries. It has the authority to suspend or

## A Special Gift for a Special Building

By Siphokazi Mgdulwa

**T**he dirco building could not have asked for any other special than a hand made beaded portrait of the world icon OR Tambo. The National Arts Council surprised the Director General, Dr. Ayanda Ntsaluba and Ms Bernice Africa with a donation of artwork for the dirco building hand beaded portrait of the late icon, which was especially made by about 20 women from Zululand. The artwork with clear special attention to detail only took the women two day working around the clock singing to complete it.

"Resources were availed to the 20 women crafters from Zululand and what was most fulfilling about this artwork are the stories that were told by the women

after completing the artwork, how much fulfilment meant to them to have done the artwork of such a special person and how the payment for the artwork improved their lives," said Advocate Brenda Madumise, Chairperson of the National Arts Council. The NAC is the statutory body under the Department of Arts and Culture whose mandate includes amongst other things the promotion and funding of arts. Advocate Madumise said that the NAC felt that the artwork would be placed correctly in the dirco building as it is named after



OR Tambo.

"This artwork tells a story of the kind of a person he was, hence the beautiful and special attention to detail that has been depicted by the crafters," said the DG. He further added that the artwork would be displayed in a visible spot in one of the building's entrances. ■

# PROFILE: Consular Services



Contributed by: the staff at the Consular Services

**C**onsular services are provided by the Department through the Chief Directorate: Consular Services to South African citizens, both individuals and bodies corporate, abroad to protect their interests in accordance with customary international law and practice.

Consular diplomacy refers to consular services provided by a country to its citizens abroad; typically it is the rendering of qualified support to South African citizens who travel, work, study and live abroad, sometimes in stressful and difficult situations. There are two areas of particular emphasis, namely: (a) intervening in the situations of citizens who are distressed or destitute and (b) consular notarial services commonly referred to as legalisation services.

Consular services are described by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 with specific reference to Articles 5, 36 and 37. Legalisation services are principally mandated by the Rules of the High Court and the terms of The Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents (Apostille Convention). The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations is the first and to date the most important document in the consular field and provides the judicial basis and general framework for consular services.

## In brief the Chief Directorate provides the following services:

Protection and assistance to distressed and destitute South African citizens abroad (including assistance following deaths, missing persons, child custody, abductions and kidnappings, etc.).

Assistance to South African citizens in detention or imprisoned abroad.

Service of Process (facilitate the process via



From left to right: Consular Services Chief Director, Mr. Dayanad Naidoo, officials for the Consular Services and a consular services official assisting a member of the public.

diplomatic channels to have documents in civil law served on respondents abroad).

Other legal processes: These processes include, but are not limited to, transmitting requests for extradition, mutual legal assistance, evidence on commission, rogatory letters and maintenance orders.

Consular notarial services commonly referred to as legalisation services.

Information (local): Requests for information and advice (relating to matters such as entry requirements to foreign countries, customs regulations, civil aviation, taxation, pensions, social services, legal services, travel, banking, education etc.).

Immigration and civic services: At missions where the Department of Home Affairs is not represented.

Consular Officers at Head Office, as well as at our missions abroad fulfil this important function that is so multi-faceted, with a variety of challenges and problems, rewards and frustrations, and often not fully appreciated by the public and government entities.

The historical background and evolution of the Chief Directorate: Consular Services in recent times:

The denial of basic civil rights to the majority of South African citizens prior to 1994 had the result that consular services was historically limited and under-developed, serving a relatively small segment of the population, who

Pictures: Jacoline Schoonees

held the advantage of unconstrained travel. With the advent of democracy, post 1994 the number of citizens travelling increased and placed a challenge on the Department, resulting in the first real steps on the road of establishing a professional consular service for South Africa.

The commitment to a professional consular service is illustrated in that the unit evolved from a severely understaffed support sub-directorate to a dynamic Chief Directorate:

## The achievements and initiatives undertaken by the Chief Directorate: Consular Services:

The main goal of modernisation is to optimise effective and high quality consular assistance to South African citizens and to create more favourable conditions for development of consular services in accordance with South Africa's international and domestic commitments. To this end there have been numerous innovations, both technological and procedural initiatives, undertaken by the Chief Directorate to enhance the delivery of consular services.

In what immediately follows selected aspects of our consular services are discussed, which may be helpful in elucidating broader patterns of change in the multifaceted nature of consular practice today:

Developed and published the Consular Handbook on 1 May 2008. (The Consular Handbook is accessible to all DIRCO personnel on the intranet at the consular services portal.)

**Consular Management System (CMS);**, which is a computer software programme, consists of the following applications: case management; detainees and prisoners; deaths; determination of citizenship; process work; ROSA (Registration of South Africans Abroad); legalisation; and consular incident management. The advantages of the CMS include e.g. immediate case data availability at work stations; preparation of documents more quickly by avoiding the need for either the duplication or editing of data; availability of data to consular officers at Head Office at all hours; access by missions to all relevant information entered by the Chief Directorate; and automatic generation of consular statistics, including work-load figures etc.

**ROSA:** The Chief Directorate introduced a unique web-enabled electronic registration process, called ROSA, which is the acronym for the 'Registration of South Africans Abroad' and which makes it possible for South African travellers to submit registrations electronically,

wherever internet access is available. ROSA is located on a web server at the Department and linked to the Departmental website, hosted by SITA. ROSA is available to South African citizens who are travelling, living, studying or working abroad. Compulsory registration by all officials and dependents travelling abroad at state expense as well as officials at the level of deputy director and above utilising their diplomatic passports for private travel has been introduced since 2009. The information travellers register on ROSA allows the Chief Directorate to assist South African citizens in the event of a declared consular emergency. The ROSA software allows travellers to register as individual travellers or as a group; register multiple destinations; update their profiles (individual or group); and de-register their profile from the system. The system generates a unique reference number that the traveller retains to update his/her travel or to de-register.....

**Vision:**  
Our vision is a professional consular service conforming to universal best practice measured against South Africa's national interests.

**Mission:**  
We are committed to render a professional, technologically advanced and people friendly consular service for all South Africans who travel, work, study and live abroad.

**Strategic Objective:**  
To provide efficient and effective consular services.

**Consular Incident Command Centre (CICC):** In order to respond effectively to the challenges facing consular services there has, as we have seen above, been a significant investment in new technologies, allowing the Chief Directorate to embark upon an ambitious modernisation process. The CICC was conceptualised and is operational within the Chief Directorate. It is activated during consular emergencies to coordinate and transmit strategic direction in the event of e.g. a plane crash; a train that derailed; a bomb that exploded; a hurricane; a hotel that burned down, etc. CICC is responsible for both preventative measures and crisis management, and works in close collaboration with the consular sections at our missions. The CICC enhances the delivery of consular services, as it provides a nodal point for consular assistance for both South African citizens in difficulty abroad and support to the missions that may be required to render assistance at the domestic level. CICC procedures are being developed in preparation for consular

interventions during the 2010 World Cup, and will be complemented by the contingency plans developed for assisting South African citizens during emergency situations abroad.

The Consular Emergency Response Policy was adopted in May 2008 and provides a framework for departmental or inter-departmental emergency consular assistance to South Africans abroad. The Consular Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is a team of trained volunteers who are available at short notice to deploy to the scene of a mass casualty, natural or man-made disaster, to render consular assistance to South African citizens, has also been conceptualised by the Chief Directorate.

In seeking ISO 9001 certification, the Chief Directorate is in the process of developing, documenting, implementing and maintaining a Quality Management System to enhance customer satisfaction, including processes for continual improvement of business operations and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable regulatory requirements.

## What are the challenges of the Chief Directorate: Consular Services?

A growing number of South African citizens abroad have become victims of crime, accidents, illness, death, natural or man-made disasters, civil unrest etc. Of particular significance were, for example, the 9/11 attacks in New York in 2001, the 2002 and 2005 Bali Bombings, the 2004 South Asia tsunami, the military conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006 and a recent spate of air crashes and earthquakes, which all accounted for a surge in consular challenges and placed emphasis on consular services. Citizens have also become more assertive in articulating their demands for assistance to government and increasingly behave like commercial customers and demand a quality product from government, which on its part seeks inventively to improve its services. Consular Services therefore operates in an environment where public expectations are not only increasing but are often becoming unrealistic, creating further challenges in the operating environment.

It is, of course recognised that there will always be certain expectations from the public when a service is rendered. Taking into consideration that unrealistic expectations are fuelled by an uninformed public, the Chief Directorate has to start to think outside of the box. It is becoming imperative to educate the general public on do's and don'ts, including their own roles and responsibilities, as well as the limitations pertaining to the word "assistance" that is usually referring to non-financial assistance or limited by the sovereignty of another state, etc. The Chief Directorate is to embark on education

initiatives through outreach programmes e.g. to engage with the travel industry and especially travel agents to educate the South African traveller to consider the purchasing of full travel insurance or an overseas health plan; to act responsibly and be aware of the risks when travelling abroad; to respect the culture and customs of the countries visited etc. and the marketing of consular services in the form of the production and distribution of pamphlets including a dynamic website.

Consular matters are generally always about problems of one kind or another, and high-profile cases tend to result in a great deal of attention by politicians and the media, as the media tend to give a great deal of attention to human interest issues. As per the article "Foreign Ministries and the Rising Challenge of Consular Affairs: Cinderella in the Limelight", 2006 by Maaik Heijmans and Jan Melissen of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, studies undertaken in various countries reveal that "consular officers often see themselves as victims of success, as satisfied customers go unnoticed whereas those who have complaints tend to generate disproportionate amount of negative publicity".

The consular environment therefore has a clear element of risk, because if we fail to live up to the expectations of citizens in distress or destitution we tend to be criticised in the press and the honourable Minister has to field a barrage of questions in Parliament. The challenge lies within the fact that whilst the drive is towards professionalism in consular services, and to meet the growing public expectations, this pressure is accompanied by the challenge of how to manage expectations and where to "draw the line".

The Chief Directorate therefore continues to ensure that consular services are provided through well defined procedures, in a clear and consistent manner with uniform standards that are delivered by highly professional staff with a common sense of purpose. Consular services will continue to be a growth business in the years ahead, and that the challenges and problems associated with consular work will not go away. ■

## WORLD HOLIDAY & TRAVEL FAIR (WHTF)

Come and visit / support the Chief Directorate: Consular Services at the WHTF which will be held at the Coca-Cola Dome in Johannesburg from 16 to 18 April 2010 (10:00 to 18:00 daily). The Chief Directorate will be participating in order to promote and market ROSA. For further information regarding the WHTF, please visit the website: [www.travelfair.co.za](http://www.travelfair.co.za).



# MANGAUNG a proud Host City



## Mangaung state of readiness for the 2010 FIFA world cup™

As highlighted previously, the FCC 2009 provided the host city with an opportunity to test the effective of the FIFA Event Operational plan, including the assessment of the capacity of Mangaung to host the prestigious FIFA event. The local hospitality industry was well prepared to receive national and international visitors. The local tourism product owners ensured that their staff received a brush up on customer service and hospitality.

Through a Cultural Day workshop arranged by Mangaung host city prior to the FCC 2009, the local tourism product owners were exposed to the cultural nuances of the different visiting nations. This assisted them in better understanding and preparing for hosting some of the nations that would participate in the FCC 2009. The host city also prepared a Mangaung Talker- which is a key-ring format with various basic phrases in some of the languages of the expected teams and visitors. This was well received by the tourism sector and visitors alike as it assisted with basic language translation and conversation. Notwithstanding the success accomplished during the FCC 2009, there were several areas which needed to be enhanced in preparation for the big event, namely the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

### Infrastructural Development

The upgrading of some of the major roads

within the host city is nearing completion to complete the implementation of the infrastructure development plan. These include the interchange along the N8 near the Bloemfontein airport, and some of the roads that are being widened around the stadium. The airport interchange will be completed by the end of May 2010. Construction work at Parfitt avenue and Nelson Mandela drive will be completed by April 2010, ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. In addition to this, the infrastructure maintenance teams are implementing their maintenance programmes to guarantee reliable and uninterrupted supply of key services such as water and electricity. The team is working around the clock to address all the roads requiring attention to address potholes, blocked stormwater drains, etc.

### Stadium development

The main stadium, namely the Free State stadium, is complete and was used successfully to host the FCC 2009. What remains now is the rehabilitation of the pitch to ensure readiness by June 2010, since its continued use by rugby is causing pitch quality related challenges.

The three training venues prepared for the 2010 FIFA World Cup by the host city are also compliant.

### Transport projects

Having an appropriate and efficient transport system for the Mangaung area is one of the city's key priorities but it has also proved to be one of the more complex

projects to implement. The city is currently implementing several transport projects to increase the capacity of the public transport infrastructure as well as enhance the use of non-motorised transport mode by pedestrianising some of the roads.

A total amount of R600 million has been set aside for the upgrading of the transport infrastructure.

### Safety and Security

The safety and security agencies under the leadership of our South African Police Service have proved many times in the past that they are more than capable to guarantee the safety and security of our citizens and visitors during the tournament. The team is conducting regular simulations to mitigate the risks identified. The work done under this cluster covers other areas such as health, disaster and emergency services.

### Accommodation

The other important area of preparation is the accommodation capacity. Although the initial assessment done highlighted accommodation as one of the key challenges faced by the host city, however recent development in terms of low numbers projected for overseas visitors have reduced the pressure on this area of preparation. The city together with neighbouring towns has ensured that there will be adequate accommodation to welcome our visitors. Notwithstanding this, recently there is a disturbing trend in the number of complaints received from international

visitors relating to inflated prices being charged by B&B's, Guest Houses, etc. We have received evidence of product owners inflating their prices from daily rates of R600 to R3000. Although such actions may lead to richness in the short term, however this is an exploitation of the consumers which will have a detrimental effect on the perception of our hospitality industry towards outside visitors. This is a situation we need to avoid due to long term negative implications. Product owners are encouraged to take cognisance of the medium to long term negative implications of inflating prices during an event such as the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

### Mangaung FIFA Fan Park

The Fan Park, or Fan Fest as it is known internationally, will be set up at the Mangaung Outdoor Sports Centre, which is about 12 km south of the city and situated in the township. This location was specifically chosen to allow the locals to provide their warm hospitality from their own homes to our visitors. Work is underway to prepare for the Fan Fest, which will be operational daily during the world cup. A programme outlining the Fan Park activities during the world cup will be made available to the public before the end of April 2010.

In accordance with the agreement reached with FIFA, the Fan Park will be established and operated by the host city. FIFA will only provide the basic infrastructure for the Fan Park (e.g. screen, stage, branding, etc).

There are several opportunities for the local SMME's and individuals to benefit from the Fan Park project. The following products and services will be provided by local individuals:

- Safety & Security (including Fencing)
- Disaster Management, Emergency and Medical Services

- Cleaning and Waste management
- Mobile toilets
- Additional Branding
- Shuttle service between the CBD and the Fan Park site
- Food & beverages
- Arts and craft
- Entertainment

### Ticket sales

Based on the outcome of the Final Draw which took place on the 4th of December 2009, the first world cup match in Mangaung on the 14th of June 2010 will witness a meeting between Japan and Cameroon. The Mangaung match schedule is indicated below:

Based on the outcome of the draw, Mangaung can proudly say that this is not only going to be a world event, but also one with strong African presence. The match on 22 June 2010, where Bafana plays France, is expected to be a very crucial one for the host nation in the calendar of the 2010 world cup. The energy and passion of our supporters will be pivotal to provide inspiration to Bafana Bafana to make it to the next round of 16 and beyond.

### Fan experience

For those who witnessed the hosting of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009, there should be no doubt in anybody's mind that the local fans, comprising mostly of

Siwelele supporters, created the most electric atmosphere you can ever find at a stadium, with their own unique style of singing and dancing throughout the entire match. The FIFA President and the Samba boys of the Brazilian team never forget to make reference about how they were pleasantly surprised and entertained by the local passionate supporters. They confirmed to the international world that Mangaung has 'Passion for the Game'.

Through the roll-out of the mass mobilisation programme, the Executive Mayor has been encouraging the local football supporters to make sure that book their space by buying tickets for this world event. He urged them to take advantage of the re-categorisation of the ticket prices done by FIFA with the increased allocation of cheaper tickets (i.e. Category 4) to South Africans. As part of its social responsibility plan, the city will build on the successes of the FIFA Confederations Cup by purchasing bulk tickets and making them available to a selection of the community that cannot afford.

In closing, the remaining 90 days before 11 June 2010 will be used by Mangaung host city to once again confirm its capacity, tenacity and hospitality towards the successful hosting of the best ever 2010 FIFA World Cup™. ■

*Hela Yalo Sani!*

Date	Time	
14 June	16h00	Japan v/s Cameroon
17 June	16h00	Greece v/s Nigeria
20 June	13h30	Slovakia v/s Paraguay
22 June	16h00	France v/s South Africa
25 June	20h30	Switzerland v/s Honduras
27 June	16h00	1D v/s 2C

If you are looking for a middle-of-the-range medical scheme option that offers you comprehensive cover while introducing you to the benefits of preventative care, then the Ruby option from the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) is just what the doctor ordered.

Ruby is a savings option, which offers you comprehensive medical cover with out-of-hospital benefits paid from a Personal Medical Savings Account (PMSA). It further affords you limited access to a "Block benefit", which is invaluable to both you and your beneficiaries.

Some exciting increases have been made to the Ruby option this year. These include an increase on the "Block benefit" for each family as well as enhancement of dental benefits. The in-hospital non-PMB day admissions will no longer be pro rated and better still, the limit on this has also increased.

By choosing Ruby and registering your loved ones as beneficiaries on your medical scheme, you can ensure that their healthcare needs are fully taken care of – especially during times of serious illness. This option gives you foundational healthcare cover but it also provides you with excellent preventative care. So, if you are in danger of becoming seriously ill or are in the early stages of a chronic illness, the Ruby option will serve you well. As the

old saying goes, prevention is better than cure. Ruby entitles you and each of your beneficiaries to one risk assessment test per year over a three calendar year period as well as one pap smear every two years.

This means that if you or any of your loved ones may be suffering from, for example, high glucose levels a glucose test will determine whether you are at risk of type 2 diabetes. If need be, you can take the necessary dietary measures to prevent yourself from falling ill with this incurable and lifelong disease. Likewise, a cholesterol test can lead you to taking the necessary dietary measures that can guard against heart attack or stroke.

Preventative care can literally save your life, as is often the case with risk assessment tests for certain cancers. Ruby can provide mammograms for women and prostate screenings for men. The earlier on you detect cancer, the greater your chances of survival as cancer spreads through your body very fast – even a week's difference in diagnosis can be life-saving. Other preventative tests available on the Ruby option include glaucoma screening and a bone densitometry scan.

GEMS also offers its members specific care programmes that are aimed at supporting the management of various chronic diseases and conditions. If you suffer from asthma, bipolar mood disorder, car-

diovascular disease and diabetes type 1 and type 2, for instance you will benefit from joining the disease management programme for your specific condition. The benefits associated with these programmes are many – they include education, advice and support by trained nurses, review of the medicine currently being used and support of the doctor/patient relationship. If you or a family member have a severe chronic condition or have been hospitalised as a result of chronic illness joining a relevant disease management programme can be of tremendous benefit to you.

Speech and Occupational Therapy are on offer through the option as well and are often important in the development of children's speech and motor-coordination abilities. Both of these therapies have also proven highly beneficial in the development or rehabilitation of mentally and physically disabled people.

Most importantly, Ruby offers you and your loved-ones life-enhancing benefits that provide you with peace of mind in terms of your more serious healthcare needs. The Ruby option provides you with unlimited private hospital cover and ample choice when it comes to selecting your healthcare service provider.

It really is comforting to know that you and your loved ones can count on the Ruby option in GEMS in times of need. ■

gastrointestinal problems and blockages. Down's syndrome also affects the physical appearance resulting in flatter facial features and eyes that slant upwards and are rounded rather than pointed at the inner corner.

While some birth defects such as heart and gastrointestinal problems can be resolved with surgery, there is no cure for Down's syndrome. However, early intervention can be highly beneficial to children with Down's syndrome. This typically includes therapeutic exercises and activities that are specially designed to improve and assist with the child's developmental delays. Most often intervention involves a combination of physical therapy, speech and language therapy as well as occupational therapy.

Although women of all ages can develop a Down's syndrome baby, the risk has

been shown to increase as women get older. The risk for a woman of 40 years of age is around 16 times greater than that of a 25 year old. This is not to say that older women should not have children; many thousands have babies without the slightest complication, but they should be aware of their much higher risk of having a Down's syndrome baby.

During pregnancy all women have to undergo routine screening tests that indicate how high the risk of delivering a Down's syndrome baby is. If necessary these are followed by diagnostic tests, which determine whether or not the foetus has developed the condition. Many women opt for an abortion on discovering that their foetus has Down's syndrome, often because they fear possible financial and emotional pressure that can accompany the condi-

tion and many feel that the child will not have a good quality of life.

Down's syndrome South Africa, a non-profit organisation working to improve the quality of life of people with the condition, says that it does not consider Down's syndrome a reason for terminating a pregnancy. "People with Down's syndrome do lead full and rewarding lives and make a valuable contribution to our society," points out the organisation. "However we realise that parents need to make the right decision for themselves."

World Down's syndrome Awareness Day is held on 21 March every year, which also happens to be Human Rights Day in South Africa.

If you have any more questions regarding Down's Syndrome you can phone the GEMS call centre on 0860 00 4367 or send a SMS to 083 450 4367. GEMS will assist you in every way possible to ensure your family's health and wellbeing.

## BATHO PELE 2010 STYLE

As a way of raising awareness of 2010 and the importance of making foreign visitors feel at home when they come to visit South Africa, the diplomat will run a series of phrases in different international languages for us to charm those visitors in returning to one of the friendliest countries on the globe. Our focus this month is on **German**.

Hi

*Hallo!*

Good morning

*Guten Morgen*

Good afternoon

*Guten Tag*

Good evening

*Guten Abend*

Good night

*Gute Nacht*

Good bye

*Auf Wiedersehen  
Tschüß  
Tschau  
Zum Wohl!*

cheers

Welcome to South Africa

*Herzlich Willkommen in Südafrika*

Enjoy your stay in South Africa

*Ich wünsche Ihnen einen schönen Aufenthalt.*

May your team win

*Hoffentlich gewinnt Ihr Team.*

Good luck

*Viel Glück!*

What was the score?

*Wie ging das Spiel aus?*

How are you?

*Wie geht es Ihnen?*

My name is .....

*Ich heiße .....*

I am South African

*Ich bin Südafrikaner*

I am a diplomat

*Ich bin Diplomat*

Would you like to taste a South African wine?

*Haben Sie Lust, einen südafrikanischen Wein zu probieren?*

You must visit one of our game reserves before you go back 'home'

*Versäumen Sie nicht, eins unserer Wildreservate zu besuchen, bevor Sie wieder "nach Hause" fahren*

Please

*Bitte*

Thank you

*vielen Dank*

Zero

*Null*

One

*Eins*

Two

*Zwei*

Three

*Drei*

Four

*Vier*

Five

*Fünf*

Six

*Sechs*

Seven

*Sieben*

Sight

*Acht*

Nine

*Neun*

Ten

*Zehn*



## THE TRUTH ABOUT DOWN'S SYNDROME

bies is born with this condition.

Down's syndrome expresses itself in many diverse ways and each individual is affected differently. On the whole people with Down's syndrome do not live as long, although today's medical interventions are changing this, leading to increased life expectancy as well as better quality of life.

Children with Down's syndrome often have developmental difficulties that affect their physical and mental abilities, and some suffer from birth defects. They tend to have a higher risk of heart defects (about 50% will have heart problems) and respiratory illnesses. Some suffer

As part of the Government Employees Medical Scheme's (GEMS) ongoing effort to educate our members and future members on a range of healthcare topics, we would like to provide you with some valuable information on Down's syndrome.

Down's syndrome, or Down syndrome, as it is also widely known is a common chromosomal disorder that causes mental and physical disabilities. It occurs when extra genetic material forms on the 21st chromosome during the foetal stages of development. According to the World Health Organisation, one in every thousand ba-



with the mission staff in Bulgaria



## Living in Bulgaria

**Q** You are stationed at the South African Embassy in Bulgaria. Tell us more about life in the city, its people, the food and the culture.

**A** By comparison with South Africa, Bulgaria is a small-ish country of 111 000 sq.km. and ± 8m people. (South Africa is 1.2m sq.km in size with ± 48m people; in other words Bulgaria is roughly a tenth of the size of South Africa and twice as densely populated). Sofia (population 1.4m) has a charming old-style center (think Vienna) surrounded by ugly soviet style "workers" flats and concrete block-type official and office buildings. Beyond that and the circular road around the city one finds leafy wealthier suburbs at the foot of the Vitoshka mountain.

In the past 3-4 years the increase in luxury accommodation in such areas has been phenomenal. This has gone hand-in-hand with an explosion of sophisticated shopping malls, super- and hypermarkets all around the city. Most of the top high fashion names can be seen in shops around Sofia – more evidence of the 6% year-on-year economic growth over the past 6 years. Most things we are used to buying in the RSA can be obtained here. Sofia has a number of 5-star hotels, including Radisson, Kempinsky, Sheraton and Hilton. It has many great restaurants and over 300 clubs, piano bars and casinos. A typical Bulgarian menu includes stuffed peppers, "Shopska" salad (chopped tomato, cucumber and peppers topped with grated white cheese), pork kebabs, banitsa – a cake made of pastry and goats cheese which may be sweet (with honey and chopped walnuts) or not (with spinach). International cuisine is freely available.

The people are friendly and kind to foreigners. Most young people (below 30) as well as many other more sophisticated people speak English. One of the things South Africa and Bulgaria have in com-

mon is a wine culture – the Bulgarians have been making wine for well over 3000 years, the South Africans for just under 300. The wine and vineyards are everywhere and mostly good and fairly reasonable. They also make a wine spirit called rakia and like to start a meal with a salad and small glass of rakia. Bulgarians are also music mad. Sofia has 4 symphony orchestras, several concert halls and an Opera house and many theatres. Every evening there are several performances. Culturally the Bulgarians love festivals and ceremonies. For instance when the pruning season starts there are ceremonies in vineyards around the country involving the local priests, who bless and spray the vines with holy water, processions, traditional music and dancing. The same happens at the beginning of the harvest season. Then there are many rose festivals as the rose is the national flower and is planted commercial for rose oil.

**Q** Describe a few of the major tourist attractions in and around the city and their significance, e.g. historical, architectural, etc.

**A** The major tourist attractions in the city are the huge Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in the heart of the city and a well known landmark of Eastern Europe often used in film shoots and the monasteries and medieval churches. The most famous of the ±180 monasteries around the country is Rila Monastery about 70km from Sofia. Bulgaria is famous for its icons and the best collection is in the crypt of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. The whole of Bulgaria can be regarded as an architectural site! – of Thracian (from 5000BC), Greek (from 2000BC and Roman (from 200BC) remains. The most beautiful discoveries are the Thracian gold artefacts, masks and jewellery displayed in the museums in Sofia and other big cities and still being discovered as EU funding allows for further "digs" in Thracian tombs.

**Q** What were the biggest adjustments you had to overcome to live in Bulgaria?

**A** The Bulgarian language with its Cyrillic script and coping with heavy snow in the winter. Bulgaria is in the same time zone as South Africa and it has a warm to hot spring, summer and autumn (like Greece) but its winters are cold!

**Q** What are the barriers/hurdles that make day to day living as a foreigner in Bulgaria difficult?

**A** The culture is very user-friendly - the food and wine is good. The Bulgarian traditional dancers and music are attractive. The language is a problem (see above) and many of the roads and pavements are in a bad state of repair. The Bulgarian young male driver is as reckless as his South African counterpart.

**Q** What do you miss most of South Africa?

**A** In winter the sun and the sounds and sights of South Africa – hearing our indigenous languages in the street, and that South African accent, our birdcalls and vegetation.

**Q** What do you do when you get homesick?

**A** Prevention is better than cure! To alleviate homesickness I listen to Radio 702 or Cape Talk every morning on my computer when I'm getting up and I look forward to reading the Sunday Times online on a Sunday evening.

**Q** How many people work at the South African embassy?

**A** Four "transferred staff" (ie. South Africans – see website: [www.saembassybulgaria.com](http://www.saembassybulgaria.com)) and 8 Bulgarians, some of whom have been with the Embassy for over 16 years.

**Q** What characteristic or attribute of the Bulgarians do you think we as South African can learn from?

**A** They are very friendly and kind to foreigners and enthusiastic about foreign visitors. They are very committed to tertiary education – over 90% literacy and the highest proportion of women with tertiary education in the EU.

Contributed by the staff at the Mission in Bulgaria



## MISSION ACTIVITIES NAMIBIA

The President and the Minister was in Windhoek on 20 and 21 March 2010 to attend Namibia's 20 years of Independence celebrations as well as the inauguration of the President of Namibia, HE Hifikepunye Pohamba for his second term as President. Before the President's departure, he agreed to a photo with the transferred staff at the High Commission. On the photo with the President and Minister Nkoana-Mashabane appears from left to right Ms Koni, Ms Matshikwe, Col Mama, Mr Coetzee, Capt Indhur, High Commissioner Komane, Ms Dibe and Mr Netshivhambe. ■

## FIFA WORLD CUP 2010 'KE NAKO' ROAD SHOW



## MISSION ACTIVITIES CAMEROON



**T**he South African High Commission in Yaounde, Cameroon in partnership with MTN and the 2010 FIFA World Cup International Coordinating Committee (ICC) hosted a successful 'Ke Nako' Road Show in Yaounde on Saturday, 20th February 2010.

The activities kicked off with a Football Clinic at Palais des Sports from 11h00 – 13h40. Among the dignitaries were the Cameroon Minister of Sports and Physical Education, His Excellency (HE) Mr. Michel Zoah; the High Commissioner of South Africa to Cameroon, H.E. Ms. Ntshadi Tsheole; and the President of the Cameroon Football Federation (FECA-FOOT), Mr. Iya Mohammed.

The Clinic brought together six teams playing against each other for a trophy. Amongst the players, were Cameroon former national team players such as Isaac Sinkot, Thomas Libi and Dang Dagobert as well as schoolchildren.

### I-VUVUZELA IYATSHISA EYAOUNDE!

Following the Football Clinic, the ICC delegation was harried to a Media Conference. The

conference was well attended by the Cameroonian media. At the podium, the panel led by the H.E. Ms. Ntshadi Tsheole, included Ms. Grace Khoza, Ms. Duduzile Mazibuko and Ms. Lungi Morrison.

The panel faced question related to South Africa's state of readiness to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup; VISA requirements; and Safety Issues.

The media conference was an excellent platform to address concerns related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup and relay information about South Africa's readiness to host the event including information on tourism and cultural aspects of the world cup.

The activities ended with a welcome cocktail hosted by the High Commissioner. The cocktail was hosted to welcome Cameroon to the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualified countries.

The cocktail was well attended by over 200 guests. Amongst the dignitaries were the Minister of Sports and Physical Education, H.E. Mr. Michel Zoah; Minister of Culture, H.E. Ms.

Ama Tutu Muna; Minister of Youth, H.E. Mr. Adoum Garoua; Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Relations with the National Assembly, H.E. Mr. Gregoire Owona; several Heads of Diplomatic Mission and the President of the Cameroonian Football Association (FECAFOOT), Mr. Iya Mohammed.

The Ballet National of Cameroon and a traditional dance group entertained guests during the evening. Guests were also thought the Diski dance by Mr. Loyiso Stofile of the International Marketing Council.

*C'était une fête réussie.*

(Contributed by the Mission in Yaounde)



MTN 081 Cameroon National Ballet dancers



**COUNTRY:** Turkey also accredited to Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan

**NAME:** Tebogo Seokolo

**TERM ALREADY SERVED:** Two years four months

**PREVIOUS POSTINGS:** The Netherlands

**CAREER INFORMATION/QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Served the in the following positions:**

Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs  
Member of the Interim Management Committee with a responsibility to oversee the development and finalisation of the organogram of the Office of the Premier  
Director Intergovernmental and International Relations in the Office of the Premier of the Northwest Province  
Chief Director: Governance & Special Programmes, Office of the Premier of the Northwest Province  
Deputy Chief of State Protocol, Foreign Affairs  
Acting Chief of State Protocol, Foreign Affairs

Obtained BA majoring in English Literature and History. Currently working towards completing LLB. Completed Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Training and was awarded the Top Achiever Award as the overall best student. Also attended a diplomatic training programme in Zimbabwe (1993).

**COUNTRY:** Ukraine, Kyiv

**NAME:** Dries Venter

**TERM ALREADY SERVED:** Two years

**PREVIOUS POSTINGS:** Nairobi (Kenya) & Budapest (Hungary)

**CAREER INFORMATION/QUALIFICATIONS:**

Served the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1984 and served at Head Office until December 1991 when appointed Head of mission to the new representation in Nairobi which briefly became an Embassy in 1994 before changing to a High Commission. Returned to South Africa at the end 1995 and appointed Chief Director of North Africa.

Appointed as Ambassador to Hungary, Romania and Croatia based in Budapest in 2000 and returned to Head Office in 2004 to take up appointment as Chief Director for Central and Eastern Europe. Appointed as Ambassador to Ukraine, Armenia Georgia and Moldova since the end of 2007.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

M Com (Economics), University of Pretoria

**GENERAL INTERESTS E.G. HOBBIES:**

Interest in politics, economics and history, music, reading and DIY (when in SA)

**GENERAL INTERESTS E.G. HOBBIES:** Music, football, reading and travelling

**COMMENTS FROM THE HoM ABOUT THE COUNTRY OF ACCREDITATION:**

Turkey, a bridge between Europe and Asia is endowed with an extremely rich cultural heritage. It has witnessed so many diverse civilisations over the last nine thousand years. It has traversed a long, exciting and challenging path. Today it boasts a vibrant society, dynamic economy and active political life.

Relations with South Africa are growing steadily, with a potential for significant growth in trade and investments given the size of our two countries' respective economies.

Although South Africa does not have a physical presence in Azerbaijan in the caucasus and Uzbekistan in central Asia- the appetite for SA investments in these regions is high. Some of the notable companies from South Africa are beginning to settle in these markets. I have confidence that as we increase the intensity of our relations, more opportunities will become apparent.

**ANY COMMENTS:**

Serving our country as a diplomat is a rewarding and humbling experience. However, it requires tenacity, tact and patience.



**COMMENTS FROM THE HoM ABOUT THE COUNTRY OF ACCREDITATION:**

I experienced a very exciting period opening a new mission in Nairobi during the period 1992-1995 which included the first multiparty elections in Kenya, the changes in South Africa and the new relations with the surrounding countries in East Africa.

A very interesting time was spent in Budapest which joined the EU during my term and observing the developments in Romania and Croatia.

Ukraine means "borderland". The country is surrounded by Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and Poland. Ukraine has a very interesting history albeit sometimes very confusing! Independence was gained in 1991 with the break up of the former Soviet Union. It is geographically one of the largest in Europe with a population of almost 50 million.

First impressions upon arriving in the country are that it is very much East European due to inter alia the many domed Orthodox churches. The country's history, architecture, languages (Ukrainian and Russian) very much underpin the "borderland" description. Whilst the major of the country was part of Russia for the past centuries, the

from page 22

Western part fell under the Austro Hungarian Empire very much evidenced by the architecture of the buildings in a city such as Lviv. It is also interesting to learn that this Western Region was governed by the Austro Hungarian Empire, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Soviet Union and lately Ukraine during the past 100 years.

Economically speaking Ukraine has many heavy industries as is well known for its metallurgical sector. It is also one of the largest agricultural procedures (Mainly grain) in the world. Furthermore Odessa, the "Pearl of the Black Sea" and its ports act as gateway to not only the Ukrainian market, but to other countries to the north,

east and west. In general the Ukrainians do not have much knowledge about South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa and the same can be said about South African about Ukraine!

Through people to people contact, however we are observing increased levels of activity covering many more commercials than the previously commodity dominated trade figures. This is very encouraging as it will no doubt lead to a further discovery of the potential that each country holds for the other. South Africans, transferred officials and visitors, however find it difficult to contend with the severe winter. ■

Profiles of new officials



**NAME & SURNAME:**  
Motshidisi Motjela

**BRANCH, DIRECTORATE & POSITION:** Treasurership, corporate service, ASD: financial management (budgets)

**CAREER INFORMATION/QUALIFICATIONS:** NATIONAL DIPLOMA: Cost & management accounting, certificate in municipal finance programme

**WHERE WERE YOU WORKING PRIOR JOINING THE DIRCO?** Madibeng local municipality

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO WORK FOR DIRCO?** Different

*environment & challenges to add value to the department*

**NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE, WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE THEY IN LINE WITH WHAT YOU ENVISAGED WHEN YOU JOINED?** Building's a beauty, challenge a reality but possible to resolve, did not know what to expect.

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?** Furthering my studies, looking for more opportunities here at the dirco that will enhance me.

**DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE CORRECTLY PLACED? IF YES, WHY AND IF NOT, WHY NOT?** Yes. because financial management involves applied accounting in general

**NAME & SURNAME:**  
Janine Duminy

**BRANCH, DIRECTORATE & POSITION:**  
branch: State Protocol

directorate: Protocol - ceremonial, guesthouses & 2010 position: deputy director: guesthouses

**CAREER INFORMATION/QUALIFICATIONS:**  
BA: languages & literature- University of Cape Town majoring in Afrikaans & Neerlandistiek and German

**WHERE WERE YOU WORKING PRIOR JOINING THE DIRCO?**

Celebrity cruises for 7 years

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO WORK FOR DIRCO?**

*I feel that dirco is a very progressive, rich & diverse environment and that I can benefit greatly from the experience I will gain by working here. this is an excellent opportunity & honour for me.*

**NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE, WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE THEY IN LINE WITH WHAT YOU ENVIS-**

**AGED WHEN YOU JOINED?**

*My first impressions have left me in awe! it has definitely been in line with my expectations and so much more.*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

*I wish to learn and grow within my work, to accept any new & exciting challenges & more importantly to enjoy it. ultimately, I would like to be recognized as an individual who has really added value and has made a difference.*

**DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE CORRECTLY PLACED? IF YES, WHY AND IF NOT, WHY NOT?**

*I definitely feel that I have been placed correctly - the position is tailored to my skills and previous experience within the service industry.*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- Good Friday - 02 April
- World Autism awareness Day - 02 April
- Family Day - 05 April
- National Polio Eradication Awareness Week - 05-11 April
- World Health Day - 07 April
- World Haemophilia Day - 17 April
- Africa Malaria Day - 23 April
- World Malaria Day - 25 April
- Freedom - 27 April

W Where were you ?

