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Editor's note

Continuing to add our 2010 FIFA euphoria, the Republic of South Africa was further honoured by the international community, specifically the member states of the United Nations, on October 12th, by being elected to serve for a second term as a Non-Permanent member of the UNSC (see pg. 4), a great honour indeed.

In this edition of the diplomat, we also highlight the visit of the Head-of-State of Botswana (pg. 6) and President Zuma's official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt (pg. 10). President Zuma also visited the European Union in Brussels for engagement with the 3rd EU-RSA Summit (pg. 8) which offered a platform for high-level political engagements; the next summit is scheduled to be hosted in the RSA next year. Also in this edition, we highlight Minister Nkoana-Mashabane participation in the meeting of the AU Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Committee, in the Republic of Sudan (pg. 12). The DIRCO continues with the rollout of the Public Participation Programme; this time it was the University of Pretoria (pg. 14).

We also look at the activities of the DIRCO's National Women's Month (pg. 16) and some of the capacity building programmes in the DRC (pg. 18). Wow, it's been a busy two months, and we hope you enjoy catching up on the activities for October/November 2010 as much as we did.

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of **the dirco** or the editors.

The deadline for the next diplomat contributions is 17 December 2010. Contributions may be sent to thediplomat@dirco.gov.za

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Singapore, Japan, Montevideo and Korea



Pictures: Unati Ngamntwini

SOUTH AFRICA'S RE-ELECTION TO THE UNSC - 'A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE'

South Africa received 182 votes in the 192 member United Nations General Assembly

South Africa has thanked the international community for having confidence in our country after being re-elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2011-2012. For the second time, South Africa won a non-permanent seat on the council.

South Africa received 182 votes in the 192-member UN General Assembly in New York. Cabinet welcomed this move, saying it proves that South Africa is a global player.

"This election indicates the UN's confidence in South Africa as a global player and is the outcome of many years of hard work by this government to ensure that the developing world has a strong voice in the UNSC," said government spokesperson Themba Maseko. For her part, International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane thanked SADC, the African Union and United Nations' member states, saying this proved the country's ability to advance the African Agenda of achieving peace, security and development, including respect for human rights.



Minister Nkoana-Mashabane welcomes the permanent representative of Equatorial Guinea to the cocktail reception hosted by Ambassador Sangqu and Mrs Sangqu



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane is congratulated by the Permanent Representatives of Japan to the UN after South Africa was voted back into a non-permanent seat at the UNSC

"South Africa is humbled, and at the same time delighted by the overwhelming support it received from the member states of the United Nations during these elections," Minister Nkoana-Mashabane said. She committed to South Africa maintaining international peace and security during its term, saying it will be a responsible partner that gives effect to the purpose and principles of the UN Charter.

"We pledge our commitment to promoting effective partnership between the UN and

regional and sub-regional organisations, in particular the African Union Peace and Security Council, in the maintenance of international peace and security."

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane said the country will continue to work tirelessly toward improving the working methods of the UNSC to make it more legitimate, representative and more effective. "We would be among those who promote greater consultation with member

states in the conduct of the work of the council. "South Africa will continue to place emphasis on the promotion of issues affecting women and children, who are the affected victims in conflict areas."

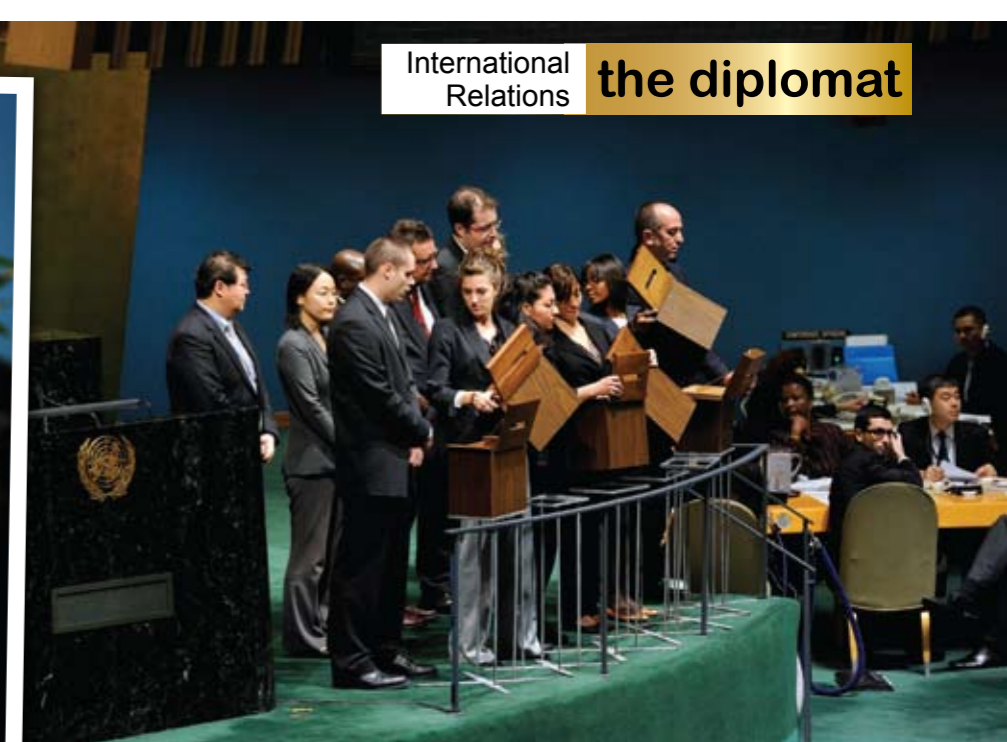
South Africa, which first served in the council during the 2007/2008 term, was elected alongside Germany, India, Colombia and Portugal.

Each non-permanent country stays on the council for two years, alongside the permanent powers - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, who have the right to veto any council resolution. ■

Source - BuaNews



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane briefs the media after South Africa was voted back into the non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council



Above: Electoral Staff of the United Nations display ballot boxes to the assembly before the commencement of the voting process



Above and below: Minister Nkoana-Mashabane welcomes the permanent representatives to the cocktail reception hosted by Ambassador Sangqu and Mrs Sangqu



Above and below: Minister Nkoana-Mashabane welcomes permanent representatives to the cocktail reception hosted by Ambassador Sangqu and Mrs Sangqu

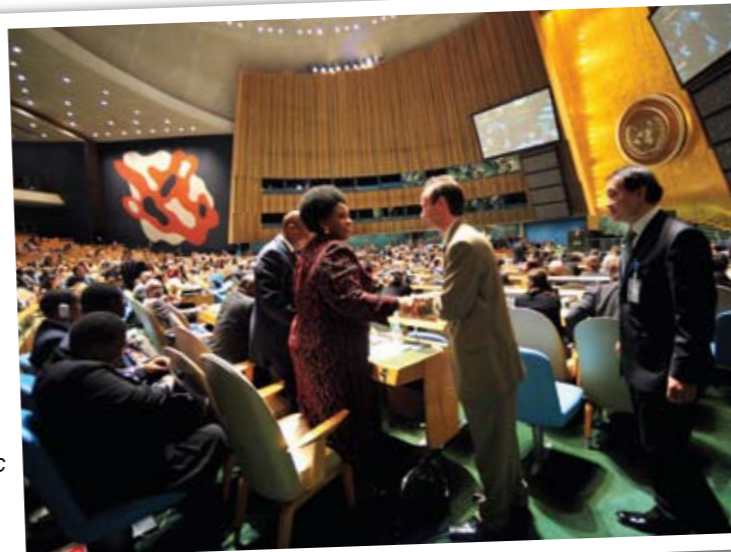


Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane is hosted by German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle at a Working Lunch in New York



Left: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Ambassador Sangqu seated awaiting the results from the voting process

Right: Permanent Representatives to the UN congratulate Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane after South Africa was voted back into a non-permanent seat at the UNSC

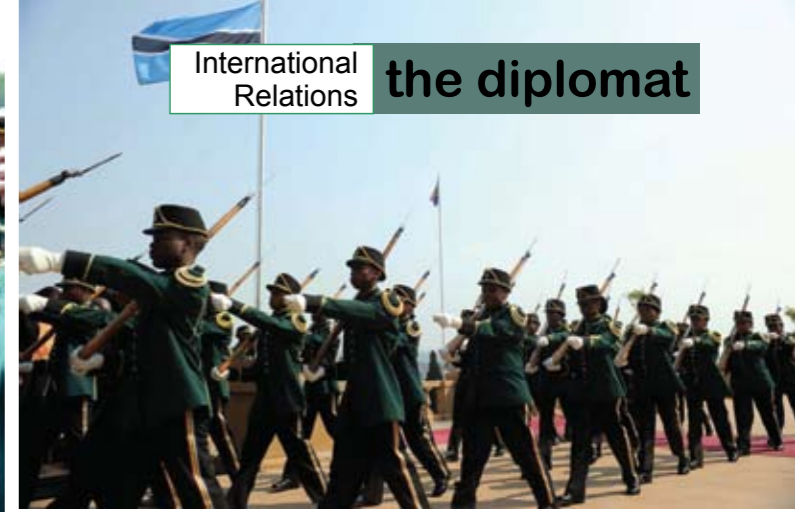


BOTSWANA'S STATE VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

Pictures: Jacoline Schoonees



Left: President Ian Khama inspects the guard during the Welcoming Ceremony



Above: The Presidential Guard marching into the Union Buildings ahead of the Welcoming Ceremony

Botswana President Ian Khama's recent State Visit to South Africa opened a number of opportunities on how the two countries can support each other.

The two leaders acknowledged the closeness of the peoples of the two countries in terms of cultural, linguistic and family ties, as well as geographical proximity.

They reiterated the need for the two countries to mutually support each other in their endeavours to build a better future for all of their people, and to create opportunities which will ensure economic and industrial development leading to job creation and alleviation of poverty.

Their excellencies also recognised the social challenges the two countries face in relation to communicable diseases. The Heads of State recognised the role of the Joint Permanent

Commission for Co-operation (JPCC) and the Joint Permanent Commission for Co-operation on Defence and Security (JPCSD) as providing a strategic platform for focusing efforts to bring about closer collaboration on issues of mutual concern.

The two Heads of State took note of the progress reported on by the relevant Ministers following the recent JPCC. Under the auspices of the JPCC a wide range of agreements are in operation, including Agriculture; Water; Transport; Environmental Affairs; Tourism; Trade; Aviation; Search and Rescue; Science and Technology; Health; Justice; Sport and Arts and Culture. Bilateral talks covered all of these

topics and were aimed at policy development and charting a course for the future, while taking into consideration the unique needs of each country. In view of increased co-operation, and desiring to deepen the relationship between South Africa and Botswana, the Heads of State agreed to elevate the current status of the JPCC and the JPCSDS to that of an annual Bi-National Commission at Heads of State level.

to Southern Africa. On regional and international issues, the two leaders re-affirmed their commitment to the goals and aspirations of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to bring about development, enhance trade and improve infrastructure in Southern Africa. The two countries recommitted to finalise all outstanding issues relating to the

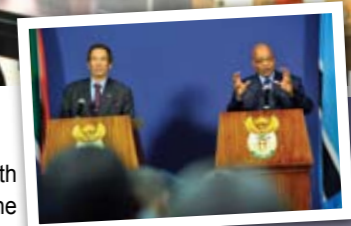
gratitude to President Khama, for the support of the Republic of Botswana to South Africa before and during the hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. President Khama extended an invitation to President Zuma to visit the Republic of Botswana. President Zuma accepted the invitation, of which the exact dates are to be communicated through normal diplomatic channels. ■



Senior member of the delegation observe a moment of silence after President Khama laid a wreath



Senior members of the delegation are narrated through the story of Freedom Park



President Jacob Zuma is seen through the lens of a camera during the press briefing at the conclusion of the State Visit

At the invitation of President Jacob Zuma, the President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, paid a State Visit to the Republic of South Africa from 5 – 6 October 2010.

His Excellency, President Khama, was accompanied by seven Ministers, senior government officials and a business delegation. During the State Visit President Khama held official talks with President Zuma.

The energy and water needs of South Africa and Botswana were discussed, as well as how the two countries can support each other in their requirements and the development of potential that exists. The Presidents also made special mention of the excellent co-operation between the two countries on the establishment of three Transfrontier Parks, namely the Kgalagadi Park between South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, the Limpopo/Shashe between Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe and the Mapungubwe Park between South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. The Transfrontier Parks represents an investment in the natural heritage for generations to come, and will contribute to attracting tourists

SADC Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union in order to conclude the EPA.

Following an official lunch, hosted by President Zuma, President Khama joined President Zuma at Freedom Park in order to lay a wreath commemorating those who have dedicated and given their lives for the freedom of South Africa. It also gave President Zuma an opportunity to thank Botswana for its support during the liberation struggle, even at great cost to itself, as the Apartheid regime retaliated with bombings and attacks on the citizens of Botswana.

President Khama addressed a Business Forum which brought together the business communities of the two countries in order to facilitate opportunities for investment and trade. He also paid a courtesy call on former President Mandela. President Zuma expressed South Africa's



President Jacob Zuma and President Ian Khama arrive at Freedom Park for a tour of the park



DIRCO Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane arrives at Freedom Park. She is escorted by Mr Hoyana, Head of Protocol at the Presidency





Presidents J Zuma, H Van Rompuy and J Barroso conduct a press briefing at the conclusion of their engagement

President Zuma attended the 3rd South Africa-European Union Summit held in Brussels, on 29 September 2010. This was followed by an official visit to the Kingdom of Belgium.

President Zuma, supported by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and a number of other Ministers, co-chaired the Summit with President Herman van Rompuy of the European Council and President Manuel Barroso of the European Commission. The Summit was preceded by a number of bilateral engagements throughout 2010, including the Ministerial Political Dialogue meeting held in May, the Political and Security Dialogue meetings of Senior Officials held in June, and the Joint Cooperation Council.

South Africa's primary objectives for the Summit were threefold; firstly, to further discussions on the future of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership, taking into consideration the internal developments in both South Africa and the EU. The second objective was to engage on key regional and continental issues, in particular the ongoing SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations and the 3rd Africa-EU Summit; and thirdly, to engage on global issues such as climate change, the millennium development goals and global governance.

THE 3rd SOUTH AFRICA -EUROPEAN UNION SUMMIT & OFFICIAL VISIT TO BELGIUM

Amongst the outcomes, the meeting expressed joint commitment towards a strengthened bilateral relationship, a successful 3rd Africa-EU Summit to be held from the 29th to the 30th of November 2010, and to the valued strategic partnership between Africa and Europe, highlighting the need for tangible outcomes from the partnership. On global issues, South Africa and the EU emphasised the importance of an effective multilateral system, centred on a strong United Nations, as a key factor to tackle global challenges. This includes the urgent need for the reform of

the main UN bodies including secretariat and management reform. In addition, the meeting welcomed the progress that has been achieved during the last decade on certain MDG targets, and highlighted that more concerted effort still needs to be applied collectively to ensure the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. Climate change was one of the key issues under discussion. Both parties undertook to strive for an ambitious and comprehensive outcome for the negotiations resulting from the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC and the Ad-hoc



President Zuma is greeted by EU President of the Parliament as he arrives at the EU Parliament



President Zuma and Prime Minister Leterme inspect the guard at the welcoming ceremony hosted at Val Duchesse in Brussels

Working Group for further commitments by Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. In view of the upcoming Climate change meeting in Cancun later this year, both parties committed to strive for a balanced and ambitious outcome in Cancun under both negotiating tracks, preparing the ground for a successful 17th Conference of the Parties in South Africa in 2011. In addition to the meeting, an SA-EU Primary Education Sector Policy Support Programme, to the value of €123 million, was signed by Minister Motshekga and Ms Vassiliou, EU Commissioner for Education and Culture. In the way forward, discussions are ongoing for the establishment of a policy dialogue on higher education and training before the end of 2010, and the implementation of a programme of academic exchange between South "African and European Universities – Erasmus Mundus"- to the mutual benefit of a large and increasing number of post-graduate students and academics. The TDCA Facility has been established to support the functioning of the Strategic Partnership's Dialogue Forums, and cooperation.

The Summit offered a platform for high-level political engagement between South Africa and the EU, and reinforced the progress made in the consolidation of the bilateral relations, highlighting the strategic issues to be taken forward. The next Summit will be held in 2011 in South Africa. As part of his engagement with the EU, President Zuma also visited the European Parliament (EP) on 29 September 2010. The President was received by the President of the European Parliament (EP), Mr Jerzy Buzek and thereafter addressed the Foreign Affairs Committee, in association with the Development Committee, the Delegations for Relations with South Africa and the Pan-African African Parliament. The meeting was also in the presence of the EP's Delegation to the Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly. The EP has a long history with South Africa and supported the liberation struggle. Amongst other forms of support, the EP awarded former President Mandela, its highest prize, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1988. The President's central theme in his address was on the need for strengthened global cooperation through sustainable partnerships that can steer sustainable

development, especially in developing regions. In this regard, his address focused on the gains from the SA-EU relations since 1994; the European Investment Bank's engagement in South Africa; the EU's engagement with developing regions, in particular the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP); and the upcoming 3rd Africa-EU Summit.

On the EU's relations with the ACP, President Zuma reinforced South Africa's position on the ongoing EPA negotiations, and informed the Members of Parliament that, "The difficulties being experienced in the current Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations highlight a need for a paradigm shift on the negotiations. The 2nd Africa – European Union Summit held in 2007 in Lisbon discussed this issue at length and yet we find ourselves in the same position once again. As a member of the SADC EPA Group, we remain committed to the finalisation of the negotiations. However, we must reiterate that the focus must be on a developmental, mutually beneficial final agreement, which supports regional integration efforts in Southern Africa. In this regard, the key outstanding issues, which include the Rules of Origin must be resolved in order for a final agreement to be reached."

The President stated that the EU can play an important developmental role in the developing world, but has to strengthen its engagement with the developing regions in order to complement their developmental agendas. In this context, the EP has a critical role to play in the implementation and oversight of the EU's relations with the developing world and can also be the engine that drives deeper understanding between the EU and the rest of the world. President Zuma encouraged the continued engagement with South African parliamentarians through the SA-EU Inter-Parliamentary Meetings and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. The Summit also provided an opportunity for Minister Nkoane-Mashabane to sign the Second Revised Cotonou Agreement with the European Union, demonstrating the commitment South Africa has for the ACP Group of States and the importance South Africa attaches to the ACP as a formidable force globally. President Zuma also received Dr Mohamed Chambas, the Secretary- General of the ACP Group. The President reaffirmed the common ground

between South Africa and the ACP Group. Later in the evening, the President attended a dinner by the diamond industry executives and hosted in his honour by the Antwerp World Diamond Centre at the Stuurbord in Antwerp.

The Kingdom of Belgium ports, mainly Antwerp, remain an important entry point through which South African exports find their way to countries, both within and outside of the EU. Belgium has remained among South Africa's top ten trading partners and the eighth fastest growing export destination. Main export products from South Africa to Belgium include rough diamonds, iron, fresh fruit, bituminous coal, other ores; and manganese dioxide. Value-added exports primarily include automotive components, catalytic converters, as well as transport containers, road wheels and parts and accessories thereof.

The following day, the President paid a courtesy call on HE King Albert II, the King of Belgians at Laeken Royal Palace. The main objective of the courtesy call was to strengthen and enhance the bilateral relations between South Africa and Belgium. After an audience with the King, President Zuma proceeded to Val Duchesse Castle for a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Yves Leterme for discussions on various issues of common interest. Amongst others, the two principals reaffirmed their commitment to support initiatives geared towards promoting peace and stability on the African continent, especially in the Great Lakes Region. The interaction was also used to strengthen development cooperation and partnership, in support of South Africa's national priorities, especially, education and skills development. The day's proceedings were closed by a meeting with Mr Rudy Demotte, Minister-president of the Wallonia Region. This afforded an opportunity to the President and Mr Demotte to seek areas of common interest. ■ Contributed by the Mission in Brussels



Above: South African Education Minister A Motshekga and EU Commissioner for Education and Culture Ms Vassiliou sign an agreement on education support at the signing ceremony. Presidents J Zuma, H Van Rompuy and J Barroso witnessed the signing



President Zuma and Prime Minister Leterme conduct a press briefing at the conclusion of their bilateral engagement





SOUTH AFRICA'S first state visit to EGYPT

His Excellency President Jacob Zuma concluded a highly successful State Visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Hosted by his counterpart His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak, President Zuma led a delegation of six ministers, three deputy ministers, senior government officials and a business entourage of more than a hundred business people.

During the State Visit, President Zuma held talks with President Mubarak where they expressed satisfaction at the progress that had been made to strengthen these relations over the past few years. Both presidents recognised the role of the Joint Bilateral Commission in providing a strategic platform for focusing efforts to bring about closer collaboration on issues of mutual interest, including expanding trade and investments in Africa, reform of the multilateral institutions and peaceful resolution of all conflict, and the Middle East in particular.

Below: President Jacob Zuma and President Hosni Mubarak



Above: President Jacob Zuma and President Hosni Mubarak with their spouses



Above and below: President Zuma inspecting the guard of honour

South Africa also shares with Egypt the desire to see the eradication of poverty, promotion of sustainable development as well as the attainment of peace and stability within the African continent. Presidents Zuma and Mubarak took special note of the progress reported by their Foreign Ministers following the 8th Session of the Joint Bilateral Commission, held in South Africa in March 2010.

President Zuma and his counterpart further discussed issues affecting the African continent such as development, conflict, disease as well as issues of global concern such as climate change and international trade.



President Jacob Zuma and his delegation sightseeing in Cairo

A successful South Africa/Egypt Business Forum was held on the margins of the visit, where Egypt has asked support from the South African government to help in their efforts to form a proposed African free trade area, in terms of which they would combine the regional trading markets of all five African regions to form a common market from Cape to Cairo.

Similarly, President Zuma imparted the message to businesspeople to increase investments in each other's economies so that there would be greater volumes of trade and growing levels of investments. ■



Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe has reiterated South Africa's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Vietnam, on his two-day visit where he had bilateral talks with different Vietnamese stakeholders including the Vice President.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT MOTLANTHE REITERATED SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE COOPERATION WITH VIETNAM ON SPECIFIC SA-VIETNAM BILATERAL ISSUES, NAMELY: Bilateral Trade, Partnership Forum, Defence Cooperation, Cooperation in nature conservation, UN Security Council and Climate Change Negotiations.

South Africa and Vietnam have fast growing economies and there is vast potential to expand

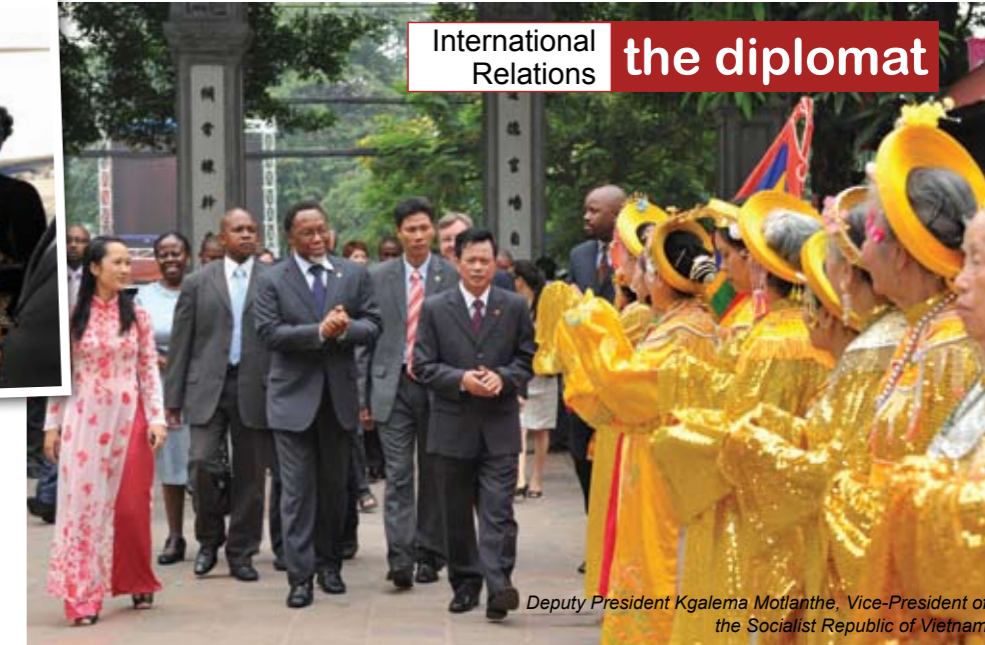


Above: Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe receiving a gift

bilateral trade and investment in many areas. During the talks both countries committed that the two countries will in future increase the volumes of trade to reach a target of one billion US Dollars in the next few years.

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe confirmed the importance of the second meeting of the Partnership Forum that would be held in South Africa in the course of 2011, at a mutually convenient date. Deputy President Motlanthe highlighted the need to create awareness among the respective business communities regarding business opportunities existing in both countries.

The two countries signed an agreement in the field of Tourism and a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Water Resources. ■



Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

DEPUTY PRESIDENT VISITS VIETNAM

Above: President Kgalema Motlanthe, South African Honorary Consul, Ms Do Thi Kim Lien and Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Amb Ratubatsi Moloi

Below: Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and delegation on a guided tour of the Temple of Literature



Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Ms Nguyen Thi Doan and delegations during the signing of Agreements Ceremony



Above: Official talks between Vietnam and South Africa

Left: Deputy President of South Africa, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe at the Official Welcoming Ceremony at Presidential Palace during his official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam



Above: Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and delegation at the House on stilts of President Ho Chi Minh



Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and delegation on a guided tour of the Temple of Literature



President Kgalema Motlanthe signing a register during a visit to the House on Stilts of President Ho Chi Minh

A VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, attended the AU Post Conflict, Reconstruction and Development Committee.

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane undertook a visit to the Republic of Sudan during 23-26 October 2010, in her capacity as Chairperson of the African Union Post Conflict, Reconstruction and Development Committee on Sudan.

Participating Ministers of Foreign Affairs included: H.E. Mr. Tlemcent Messahel Abdelkader of Algeria, H.E. Odein Henry Ajumogobia of Nigeria, and H.E. Ambassador Richard Momoin Onyonka, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kenya.

The AU was represented by Commissioner of Peace and Security H.E. Ramtan Lamamra and Head of the AU Liaison Office in the Sudan. Egypt and Ethiopia were also represented while Gabon and Senegal sent apologies. The visit came at



Above: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane is welcomed by Sudan Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Karti upon arrival in Khartoum

Right: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane briefing the media in Sudan

Below: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane arriving at Khartoum International Airport for the AU Post Conflict, Reconstruction and Development Committee Meeting



Pictures: Unati Ngamntwini



Left and centre: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane chairing discussions during the AU Post Conflict, Reconstruction and Development Committee Meeting

International Relations **the diplomat**

Ambassador Graham Maitland and Special Envoy to Sudan, Mr Charles Nqakula



Above: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane in a meeting with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and other stakeholders

Below: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane in Sudan accompanied by Ambassador Graham Maitland and Special Envoy to Sudan, Mr Charles Nqakula

a crucial time in the history of Sudan as the country is preparing for the January 2011 South and Abyei Referenda. The results of the referenda would determine whether the Sudan remains a united country or the South gains the right to independence. The visit gave the Committee an opportunity to gain more insight into preparations for the referendum and the status of PCRDR in Sudan.

It also affirmed to the Sudanese Africa's commitment and that of the AU to support them during this critical moment in their country's history. During the Committee's visit in both Khartoum and Juba, they met with leaders of both the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan. The Committee also met other important stakeholders, including the AU High-level Panel headed by former President Thabo Mbeki, the Referendum Commission, and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

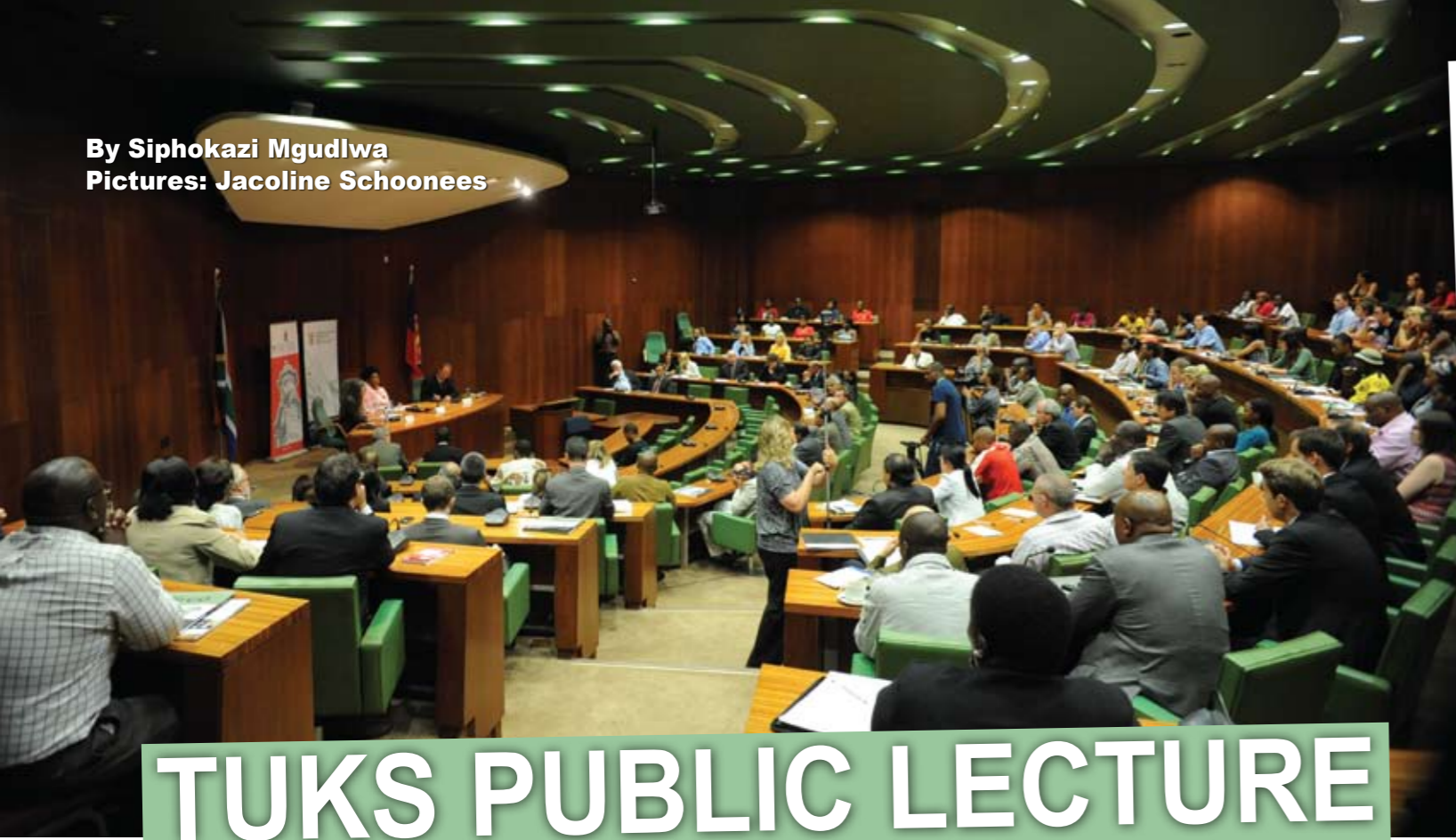
The Committee has agreed as per the discussions with stakeholders, to send a follow-up technical team of the Committee whose main focus would be to develop a concrete plan based on the mandate of

the AU PCRDR Committee and the terms of reference. In her concluding remarks of the visit, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane expressed that this follow-up team should be assembled as soon as possible. In terms of its composition, it should mirror the membership of the Committee. The technical team would prepare a document with a clear road-map for consideration at the next meeting of the Ministerial Committee on the sidelines of the January 2011 Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Ministerial Committee also hopes that in considering the plan, the technical team will propose the holding of an African solidarity PCRDR conference for the Sudan. The chairperson also encouraged members of the PCRDR Committee to consider, as part of the plan, sending missions from their capitals to mobilise African support for the PCRDR effort in the Sudan. The Committee will further count on the support of the Chair of the AU Commission and the Commission for Peace and Security in the advocacy campaign. President Jacob Zuma has appointed his Political Adviser, Mr Charles Nqakula, as his special envoy to the Sudan. ■ Contributed by Ambassador Graham Maitland in Sudan



By Siphokazi Mgudlwa
Pictures: Jacoline Schoonees



TUKS PUBLIC LECTURE

University of Pretoria honoured to host the first public lecture by Minister Maite-Nkoana Mashabane after SA's nomination in the UNSC.

The University of Pretoria was honoured to be the first institution to host Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane just two days after South Africa was elected to a non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The Public Lecture focused on South Africa's election into the UNSC for the period 2011 to 2012 what the country will try to achieve in the UNSC, and its contribution to the United Nations system in general. Members of the diplomatic corps, students, academics, media and others were amongst the guest that attended the public lecture hosted by the University of Pretoria's Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs (ISPA), the Department of Political Sciences together with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

"I preferred to come and share with the



Guests listening to Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

University first prior addressing a press conference," said Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane during her introductory remarks. South Africa got 182 votes in the 192-member UN General Assembly, the 182 votes are four votes less than what South Africa got in the 2007/2008 period. The UN General Assembly also elected Germany, India, and Colombia to two-year seats on the council, while Canada and Portugal went to a second round of voting.

Each non-permanent country stays on the council for two years, alongside the permanent powers; Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, who have the right to veto any council resolution. South Africa's candidature for a non-permanent seat at the UNSC was already endorsed by the African Union during its Summit in February 2010.



BELOW ARE SOME EXTRACTS FROM THE MINISTER'S SPEECH:

UNSC and Africa's representation

"Today, the number of African countries who are members of the United Nations has more than doubled from the twenty-two in September 1960 as Nkrumah had predicted. But one fact that remains unchanged is that as Africans we look upon the United Nations, as Nkrumah did, as the central pillar of our international system – as a multilateral organisation that holds out any hope for the future of humanity and our planet. It is for this reason that we are members of the United Nations. It is this faith that we have in this organisation that gives us every reason to support and promote its work, including serving in its key organs such as the Security Council. Our election to this Council on Tuesday as a non-permanent member is therefore



consistent with our national interests and our vision for a better Africa and a better world".

WHAT THE VOTING PROCESS MEANS TO SOUTH AFRICA

"South Africa is honoured to have been once again elected by the United Nations General Assembly to serve on the Organisation's Security Council. We would like to express our utmost thanks to the international community for the 182 votes we received. By electing us, the international community has once again acknowledged our ability, capacity and commitment to contribute to the advancement of the cause of international peace and security. As a country, South Africa is humbled, and at the same time delighted by the overwhelming support it received from the Member States of the United Nations during these elections. We cannot afford to betray the confidence of the UN Member States and the international community at large in our ability to contribute and further advance the cause of international peace and security and international law during our tenure on the Security Council."

SOUTH AFRICA'S 2011/12 TENURE

"We come back into the UNSC emboldened, and sincerely hope we will be able to contribute to peace, security and development. In making our contribution as UNSC member for 2011/2012, we will build on our achievements and the lessons learnt during our previous tenure in the Security Council in 2007/08. There must be continuity to consolidate our gains, but also change to improve on our work and respond effectively to emerging global issues and challenges. South Africa is cognizant of the enormous challenges associated with serving on the Council. You will recall that the UNSC bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. It is the only



Above: UPs Head of Department of Political Sciences, Professor Maxi Schoeman, and UPs Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Christof Heyns, listens as Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane (centre) delivers a lecture during the seminar



The University of Pretoria's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Cheryl de la Rey, and the Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

international body entitled to authorise the use of force in situations not involving individual or collective self-defence, as defined in Article 51 of the Charter. Accordingly, the Council is designed to address threats to international peace and security exclusively and to function continuously."

THE LECTURE WAS CONCLUDED WITH A BRIEF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION.

Below are the two questions that were asked during the lecture:

Q: How will South Africa address the situation in Zimbabwe?

A: We will move faster, quicker and more democratic the day we hold Zimbabweans responsible for their own decisions. We are going to continue insisting that Zimbabweans continues to implement their own global international agreement and put the interests of their own people first.

Q: Minister, do you mean that some of

the decisions that were taken by South Africa in the previous tenure in the UNSC were wrong?

A: The decisions that were taken by South Africa in the previous tenure were not wrong; the only problem is that at that time we were not pro-active in communicating our messages. This time we will do things differently so that we are not misinterpreted. ■



Above: Guests posing for a photo with Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: GENDER - NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH ACTIVITIES



Pictures: Jacoline Schoonees

The month of August continued to be celebrated throughout South Africa, as National Women's Month, a historic month symbolising South African women's contributions and continued fight against apartheid.

As part of these celebrations it is important to recall August the 9th, the day in 1956 when women from all races and walks of life marched to the Union Buildings in protest against oppressive apartheid laws. This historic march was a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for freedom and society at large. Since that eventful day, women from all walks of life became equal partners in the struggle for a non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

As commemoration events took full swing throughout the country, the Chief Directorate Gender, at the dirco, hosted a number of events aimed at celebrating and empowering women, and celebrated with a number of activities.

PAN AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY, 30 JULY 2010

With 2010 as the year that marks the commencement of the Decade of African Women (2010-2020) as declared by the Heads of State of the African Union, the Chief Directorate: Gender opened the month long celebrations with the Pan African Women's Day Seminar. The birth of the Pan African Women's Organisation



(PAWO) took place on the 31st of July 1962 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, making PAWO the oldest continental organisation in Africa. The Seminar took place under the theme "Working Together for Equal Opportunities and progress for Women: Forward to the Decade of African Women", and was attended by over 270 guests.

It was a joint collaboration between the dirco, through the CD: Gender, the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, the Progressive Women's Movement, and South African Women in Dialogue. The event was opened by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, HE Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, who spoke of the importance of celebrating the role that women had played in the struggle for the freedom of Africa and its people. The Minister reminded the audience that all African women should be proud of the reputation that they hold worldwide, that of being committed to justice, freedom



Ms Ruby Marks, Chief Director - Gender presenting during the Young Women in Diplomacy Seminar



and peace. She said "We are known for our sheer self determination, hard work and above all, our readiness to improving the living standards of our families, our children and our grandchildren."

These values of self-sacrifice underpin the very fundamental objectives of our mother organisation, the Pan-African Women Organisation. Important issues pertaining to remaining challenges surrounding women were also deliberated upon. These included issues of conflict and its impact on women, the recent economic crises, food security, the increasing maternal mortality rate, women's representation in decision making roles and structures, and a host of other issues that proved key to the overall discussion of the day. Other speakers included, Ms Mavivi Myakayaka- Manzini: High Commissioner to Namibia, Ms Ruby Marks: Chief Director: Gender. Ms Litha Musyimi-Ogana: Head of Women, Gender and Development at the African Union and Dr Mohau Pheko: Ambassador Designate.

BRANDING FOR PERSONAL AND CAREER SUCCESS SEMINAR,

This seminar took place, on 12 August 2010. It took the form of a mid-morning



workshop and was convened only for female officials in the department. The seminar was designed to assist women to brand themselves for personal and career success, in other words, how their personal brand was being perceived and if it does justice to who they really are, and lastly if it assisted them in receiving the recognition they deserved in the workplace.

The workshop intended to help female participants to identify their valuable traits and implement a strategy to enhance their personal brand. Thirty-nine (39) members of the staff from different branches took part in the workshop, and among them were senior managers in attendance.

The workshop was facilitated by Ms Nomfanelo Kota, a Director in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Branch: Public Diplomacy. She reflected on some very important lessons that spoke to the fact that, the same steps used in developing a strong brand for a product or service can be applied to develop your own value proposition, and present 'the self' in a way that differentiates a person from others and creates a strong and vibrant impression. The branding for personal and career success seminar is a type

of behavior therapy in which people are taught the skills to build a strong and authentic personal brand and market for career success. It further assists participants to create an action plan to strengthen their personal brand and get a head start with the tools that best suit their purpose. Branding is essential to career advancement because it helps to define who people are, how great they are and why they should be sought out. Branding is about building a name for them, showcasing what sets them apart from others, and describing the added value they bring to a situation.

THE FOLLOWING FUNDAMENTALS OF PERSONAL BRANDING WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE SEMINAR:

- Crafting a personal brand
- Mapping a Plan
- Build Relationships
- Become an Expert
- Check Yourself
- Climbing the Career Ladder: Pitfalls and Strategies.

The mid-lunch seminar was convened for women only, and the seminar was designed to empower women, enabling them to develop strong leadership skills for career planning in or into leadership positions. It was in line with the DPSA, HOD 8-Principle plan for promoting women empowerment and gender equality in the public service workplace. The workshop intended to capacitate female participants in attaining the confidence and recognition to participate in a way that reflect their ambitions into leadership positions.

Climbing the career ladder for success is very critical for gender mainstreaming in the department where women are under-represented in senior management position. The seminar provided a safe, open learning environment for women to fully explore their potential and advance their career planning with courage and confidence. The session was highly interactive, and designed to stimulate not just their thinking, but their deeper senses of intuition and knowing. The Workshop explored the female leadership needs, leadership roles, interfacing formal and

Left: Talent management explaining career opportunities to guests



Above: Ms. Tshepi Dlamini presenting during the Young Women in Diplomacy Seminar

informal networks, workplace Intelligence and problem scenarios.

YOUNG WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY SEMINAR

This seminar was held with the aim of inspiring and uplifting young women from all walks of life, to consider diplomacy as a career field to venture in. The hosting of this seminar contributed to the creation of a value pipeline from schools and universities, by encouraging more female students to study in the field of international relations, and subsequently apply to the department's cadet, learner ship and internship programmes, thus also contributing to the promotion of DIRCO as an employee of choice.

Speakers for the event were former Ambassador to Poland: Amb Febe Gqubule- Potgieter, Ambassador Designate: Dr Mohau Pheko, Ms Mantsaye Ngwaila Branch Americas, Sub directorate: Mexico, Central America & Caribbean, Ms Matshepiso Dlamini from Branch: Diplomatic Training, Research and Development Directorate: Quality Assurance and Ms Thandi Mkhwanazi, Representative from the National Youth Development Agency. All the speakers presented their experience of being diplomats to the audience. The presentations revolved around the impact of their service to the country on their personal lives, the value added by their exposure on their professional lives, challenges and successes encountered during their tenure and the lessons for aspiring diplomats in the department. The event was attended by 298 people drawn from female officials in the department, unemployed graduates, students and learners from Clapham and Hendrik Verwoed Schools as well as civil society organisations for young women. ■

Contributed by the Chief Directorate: Gender

South Africa was given a platform by the International Forum on Diplomatic Training held on 27-29th September in Malta, for the first time, to share its experience and achievements in using training as a diplomatic tool to contribute towards post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) programmes on the African Continent. South Africa chose to share the diplomatic training in the DRC as a model to train in PCRD.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE DRC FOREIGN MINISTRY

SA has been training Congolese diplomats for the past five years. The project started by renovating a dilapidated section of the Foreign Ministry of the DRC into a modern block of offices which includes the Diplomatic Academy, canteen and library. Artistically drawn office doors, made by local vendors, leads to classes where robust discussions on the state of

the DRC, the interest of the international community is questioned and the ability of the DRC and its people to effectively defend its borders, nationality and values are laid bare and scrutinised by those participating in the diplomatic training programmes. Modules, on diplomacy and international relations, are presented by Congolese trainers and South African Lecturers and practising diplomats. The content mirrors South Africa's programme but the Congolese are free to modify the content as they deem fit. The basic diplomatic programme takes three and a half months, one month for Counsellors (or those who have been posted before in the previous government) and a two week programme as a refresher for Ambassadors.

A South African company also donated 40 computers and equipment for setting up internet connections and regular computer courses are delivered to augment a two weeks mission administration course for administrators. English course programmes are also being delivered. The project can be regarded as a success. For the first time the new Minister of Foreign Affairs in the DRC recently recalled all his diplomats to allow him to assess their skills systematically and retrain them where necessary. He announced during the first biggest graduation ceremony held in August 2010 that he has come to realise that the South African project is the best compared to others he had come across. He then invited the DTRD



DDG for DTRD, Ms Maud Dlomo with proud graduates from the DRC Diplomatic Academy after the graduation ceremony

SOUTH AFRICA GOES WHERE MANY FEAR TO TREAD – CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE DRC

managers, to the DRC's Ambassadors' conference which is being planned for the end of 2010, to highlight the importance of training diplomats for capacity building purposes and as a tool of foreign policy.

SUCCESSES

The programme is relatively small (in terms of cost) compared to the training of all civil servants which was done by the DPSA, it is focussed and systematic (because it is only for those who are in the Foreign Ministry or involved in International Relations) and it has been deliberately inclusive and has made political and senior management's commitment to and support for the programme as a precondition for continuing with the programme.

The DIRCO insisted that it is mandatory that the Ministry be involved in the approval of expenditure, attends all review meetings and clearly state in writing what its needs are in order to ensure that the training programmes are relevant. Furthermore, the DIRCO clearly indicated from the onset what it was prepared to undertake in the project and what was not negotiable in terms of revising the programme. The programme was also used for public diplomacy purposes in which South Africa informed the Congolese participants and the employees of the Academy about South Africa's efforts and contributions towards peace in the DRC. Through their presentations they explained what policing services entail, what an Economic Attache` does in his/her job in the host

country and the difference for using the defence force solely for national security (which is a militaristic approach) and using it to defend the company's sovereignty within a broader value based system and also be utilised to keep peace in conflict areas and defend citizens.

THE BROADER POLITICAL CHALLENGES ARE NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS ARTICLE BUT THESE RELATE TO THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES:

1. There was no government pension fund facility to allow government officials to retire and as a result the majority of participants were people who were beyond retirement age while government was desperate to find ways of recruiting young Congolese to ensure that they are economically active in order to achieve broader political objectives. This problem has since been addressed when the government pension fund was introduced and many retired.

2. Political reshuffling which took place every six months created instability and uncertainty about the sustainability of the training programmes. Directors of the Academy were also rotated between different departments on a regular basis and that made it difficult to retain institutional memory. Fortunately a younger Director, who started as a junior official in the DRC Academy in 2005, has now been appointed. He has a PhD

from abroad and possesses visionary leadership skills.

3. Lack of infrastructure and social capital proved to be an indication that the country has been ravaged by war for the past decades and this affected mostly those who trained (such as SAPS and SAMDI) in provinces where there were no roads, conference or teaching halls, chairs etc, and no trained Trainers. DPSA assisted the DRC to successfully establish the Public Service Training Institute, similar to the one the DIRCO established and SAPS assisted to establish training halls where training took place for the police. Without these, training would not have taken place.

4. Other countries and international organisations fought for space to influence the DRC for their own interests and that created a lot of duplication of processes particularly in the area of creating public service governance systems delivered by the DPSA.

5. Coordination of all South African projects in the DRC, where teams supporting various departments came in for a period ranging from three days to four years posed a challenge for our mission. Some teams did not believe that they were accountable to the DIRCO while in the DRC. Various mechanisms, weekly meetings and standing committees have been put in place to coordinate the myriad of South African activities in the DRC but it is still work in progress.

LESSON LEARNT

The first lesson might seem obvious but it is worth repeating. Reconstruction and development of a country is a long term process not an event. Literature points out that it takes 10 years for a country which is emerging from long term war to begin absorbing any attempts which are in place towards stability and development.

Training is not only about developing skills but also contributes towards nation building, as participants spend substantial time in class debating global issues, they also realise the importance of an effective nation state which they are being called to represent when they are appointed as diplomats and the importance of representing it with pride. Learning from South Africa's experience and treating it as a model for good governance and democracy enhances the participants' determination to contribute towards the

achievement of their nation's aspirations. Proper planning before engaging in a post-conflict area is fundamental and goes a long way in creating a positive environment for teams implementing foreign policy projects during the PCRD phase. Preparatory courses including understanding of the political history, culture and dynamics of the country are important before teams (from all Depts.) are sent off to implement projects in a foreign country. Inability to speak the official language of the country being supported is a barrier and increases costs during interpretation and translation of documents, lessons etc. More importantly, the nuances at a local level, which impact on the response to the projects which are being implemented, are usually missed when the language is not understood. Financial management standards and procedures should be integrated into the planning process and the various roles between the implementing branch in Head Office, the political desk, the mission and the Ministry which is being supported in the receiving country, should be clarified from the onset to avoid unnecessary frustration and panic.

An efficient recording system is important to keep files which indicate when decisions were taken, commitments made and principle undertakings made so that when claims or accusations are made about what is construed as a commitment can be checked from the records and be used as a reference for future decisions. The role of diplomats in post-conflict areas is different. They become programme and project managers, coordinators and trainers in addition to all other diplomatic duties because mission support is paramount in ensuring that the projects are monitored closely. The mission therefore needs to establish its authority over other South African government projects immediately but will also need sufficient capacity to oversee not only the Dirco projects but all.

The attitude of various DRC foreign affairs ministers has varied towards South Africa and the project over the past five years. The process of ensuring buy-in through concerted efforts and by indicating the possible negative impact on the relations between the countries is important. Where the attitude was initially biased towards European countries, it was rewarding to witness the positive change. The success and the impact of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, on others' attitude cannot be under-estimated. It was important to engage the DRC counterparts on the



DDG Maud Dlomo with SA Mission staff and staff from the DRC Academy

strategic and business plan processes in order to inculcate a mindset of planning, establishing controls and practising fiscal restraint. While South Africa can only share its experiences and therefore allow the receiving state to modify the content of the programme, the presentation of South Africa's foreign policy, for instance, should not be negotiable. The fact that training is a powerful (yet soft) tool for foreign policy should not be forgotten. The DRC training project therefore can be used as a model for future capacity building projects for post-conflict reconstruction and development strategies. While individual environments may require peculiar interventions, there are generic characteristics which should apply anywhere. It should however augment training which, in some cases take place, before conflict is resolved as various countries or groupings prepare for democracy such as for the Palestinian Authority and the government of Southern Sudan.

Through its role in the DRC, South Africa has shown that diplomacy has changed and is no longer about negotiations and mediation activities in an air-conditioned conference room. It now also involves getting your hands dirty in pulling together a collapsed state into a set of institutions which can support an effective state and contribute to human security. This is therefore about transformation towards good governance, democratic peace and sustainable stability. The DRC is work in progress. Substantive progress has been made relative peace and stability has been experienced after decades of conflict. Regarding training, institutions and systems for building the capacity of general public service, the police, and the diplomats and in professionalising the defence force have been both achieved and the latter is in progress. Other challenges on the East and North of the DRC are well documented and are a matter to be discussed in another article by the political desk. ■

Grand Imperial Charity Gala

Baby M and Drum Café

The Japanese Embassy, in line with its Business Plan, is committed to continue its efforts to expand people-to-people contact to sectors such as cultural and academic exchanges, sport and tourism through the active arrangement of or participation in related events. One such event was the Annual Grand Imperial Charity Gala on 09 October 2010.

The Earth Aid Society, a NPO, organised the event and the proceeds of the Charity Gala were donated to, among others, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Red Cross Society in Japan. An estimated 450 guests from business, government, civil society and the entertainment industry attended the event, which last year had Egypt as the focus country. This year the Embassy was approached to participate as focus country in this well respected and established event. In view of the above and in being able to utilise the event as part of the Embassy's Centennial Celebrations projects marking 100 years of official relations between South Africa and Japan, the Embassy agreed and showcased SA wine (KVV), fashion (established designer Lindiwe Kuzwayo and emerging designer Jane Wolff), music (Baby M in her capacity as music Ambassador for the SA-Japan Centennial Celebration) and dance (Drumbeat). Japanese fashion designers, Ms Junko Koshino and Mr Ogawa also showcased their "South Africa" ranges, incorporating diamonds, gold, beads and Ndebele design. SATourism provided the necessary promotional material, such as banners. King Proteas were provided by the Embassy and placed on the tables and used for on-stage decoration. As part of creating awareness about South Africa and in providing a "Special SA Prize", the Embassy managed to secure accommodation sponsorships (for 12 days) from the travel industry in South



Ambassador G Grobler and Madame Ratna Sari Dewi Sukarno showing the ceremonial donation to the Nelson Mandela Foundation

Africa, namely Sun International, Southern Sun, InterContinental Hotels and the City Lodge Group, as well as from the Blue Train.

South African Airways sponsored two Business Class tickets to South Africa. The total value of the prize was Yen 1,6 million. The Embassy ensured that maximum exposure was given to the sponsors and the Nelson Mandela Foundation through the playing of promotional videos during the event, and having the Corporate Logos of the sponsor companies printed and displayed on the stage panels at the event and in a glossy brochure distributed to all guests.

It has to be pointed out though that since the event was not organised by the Embassy, and therefore not our "own", we did not have any control over the guest list, format of the event etc, but as this is a well-established annual event that is well known in Japanese society, the Mission was certain that its participation was with an influential target audience.

As a result of the World Cup, South Africa's tourism industry recorded a growth of 21% from January to March and the Embassy believes these figures will continue to rise. In addition to South Africa's status as a world-class leisure tourism destination, it is also emerging as one of the best sport,



SA Fashion showcased



SA Fashion showcased

mega event and conferencing destinations in the world. South Africa expects to welcome more than 10 million visitors in 2010 and remains the number one return-holiday destination in the world.

The tourism awareness about South Africa created by the World Cup and the economic possibilities highlighted by acquisitions and increased investments such as that of the recent NTT/Dimension Data transaction, have dramatically enhanced social and economic relations between Japan and South Africa. The Embassy is of the opinion that this trend will continue and Japanese tourism to South Africa is expected to show an increase.

An amount of US\$10,000 was donated to the Nelson Mandela Foundation by the organisers of the event. ■

Right to left: Ambassador G. Grobler, Madame Sukurno, Mr Onada (SAA representative in Tokyo) and Mr Tadaharu Nishimura (SA Prize Winner)



Bangkok Sevens International Tournament

Douglas Gibson, Ambassador of South Africa to Thailand, with a group of rugby players from Macassar in the Western Cape who participated in the Bangkok Sevens International Tournament. The team played last year and made it to the semi-finals. This year, this Team of about 30 players, including the organisers, from the largely disadvantaged Cape Flats, won the Plate. The Team was hosted for lunch by Ambassador Gibson at the Embassy on 28 October 2010 and enthusiastically supported on the Rugby field.

The Team encountered a major problem the day before flying to Bangkok. A significant sponsor advised that he was unable to honour his financial commitment to the team, resulting in a shortfall of R30, 000.00 (about THB120, 000.00) to pay the hotel bill.

The Team then telephoned Ambassador Gibson asking if he could help. He made a personal donation and set about raising



Ambassador Douglas Gibson with a group of rugby players from Macassar in the Western Cape

the balance. Jabulani, the South African friendship group in Thailand, donated THB30, 000.00. Others who donated were HSBC with an amount of THB 20,000, 00 and Thai Gem and Jewelry Traders Association with an amount of THB 30, 000.00. In total Ambassador Gibson

managed to raise THB 100, 000.00 for the Team. The Team was overwhelmed by the generosity of the donors and the concern displayed by the Mission, which they would not forget and which affected them so positively. The team then presented a rugby jersey as a token of their thanks.

World Golfers Championship



Mr Michael Mabuyakhulu MEC and Ambassador Douglas Gibson

Mr Michael Mabuyakhulu MEC, on 04 – 05 November 2010 led a delegation to Hua Hin, Thailand, to visit the World Golfers Championship (WGC) which South Africa is to host next year. The visit was also to seek business opportunities for KZN.

The MEC was accompanied by Mr Zamo Gwala, CEO of Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal together with Kanyi Gasa, CEO of enterprise Ilembe Economic Development Agency.

The delegation held meetings in Bangkok

with several key business people and agencies where business opportunities were discussed. The Mission in collaboration with the MEC and the South African Thai Chamber of Commerce organised a business dinner inviting key business people who were informed about KZN business opportunities.

During the WGC Gala Dinner Awards, Mr Mabuyakhulu, the guest of honour, in his key note address said that he looked forward to welcoming the WGC 2011 to South Africa and to the province of KwaZulu-Natal. The country and the province was ready to host the event. He thanked the government of Thailand who have opened their hearts to the world and all participants of WGC 2010 event in their beautiful country.

The World Golfers Championship event is an occasion which is created to unite amateur golf enthusiasts from around the world with a common goal of developing the sport, forging global relationships and helping those less fortunate.

South Africa honoured at top soccer museum in Uruguay - SA now part of soccer history



South Africa took centre stage at a high profile event at the world class Uruguayan National Soccer Museum on the evening of 14 October 2010. The Embassy, the Uruguayan Soccer Association and the Museum co-hosted an event at the museum where the Embassy donated Zakumi to the museum as a token of friendship from the people and Government of South Africa.

The Uruguayan National Museum of Soccer is situated in the historical Centenary Stadium in Montevideo where Uruguay hosted and won the first ever FIFA World Cup in 1930 and is one of the tourist attractions in Uruguay. Guests included the Minister of Sport and Tourism, the Deputy Minister of Sport and Tourism, the President and other senior members of the Uruguayan Soccer Association, the Vice President of the South American Soccer Confederation, senior government officials and various Ambassadors from countries who participated in the World Cup. In addition to historic and 2010 World Cup photographs and soccer memorabilia, the venue was decorated with artwork of a Uruguayan artist that travelled with the team in South Africa. Images of the World Cup, including scenes of the people, wildlife and natural beauty of South Africa was shown on a large screen.

The Minister once again congratulated the government and the people of South Africa on the very successful World Cup. He indicated that they want to reciprocate in some manner for the hospitality of the people and government of the Northern Cape Province where the Uruguayan team had its base. The Minister also announced that Uruguay is already beginning the planning for their bid, together with Argentina, to host the FIFA World Cup in 2030, 100 years after they hosted the first ever FIFA World Cup in Montevideo.

Above: From left to right: Minister of Sport and Tourism, Vice President of South American Soccer Confederation, Deputy Minister of Sport, President of Uruguayan Soccer Association, Ambassador Dawie Jacobs (Charge D'Affaires) and members of the management of the national soccer team

Right: Dr Mario Romano (Director of the Uruguayan National Soccer Museum), Mr Eugene Figueredo (Vice President of South American Soccer Confederation), Dr Sebastian Bauza, (President of the Uruguayan Soccer Association), Ambassador Dawie Jacobs (Charge D'Affaires) and Dr Hector Lescano (Minister of Sport and Tourism)



Ambassador Jacobs stated that although the World Cup is now behind us, the message and images of this first World Cup on African soil, characterised by the spirit of Ubuntu, will be with us for a long time and must be kept alive.

He also referred to Mr. Nelson Mandela, his international status, vision and belief in the ability of all South Africans and his country to successfully host an event of this magnitude, played a huge role in bringing the first World Cup to Africa.

He expressed the belief that the presence of Zakumi in this world class soccer museum will help reminding future generations of the spirit and success of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The President of the Uruguayan Soccer Association echoed the Minister's sentiments on the very successful World Cup and emphasized the exceptional hospitality of the people of Kimberley and

the Government of the Northern Cape Province.

He expressed his appreciation for the donation of the colourful Zakumi who brings forward fond memories of this very special World Cup. The Director of the museum Dr Romano, announced that they are planning a special section in the museum just on the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and that Zakumi will be a special feature there. Given Uruguay's amazing successes in the history of the World Cup, despite the size of its population, the donation of Zakumi to this world class museum is of great importance here and the positive spin-offs, also in the long term, will be significant and out of proportion to the size of the donation. The event enjoyed wide media coverage. Schools visit the museum on a regular basis and already on the first day, Zakumi proved to be the main and most popular attraction. ■

Wine promotion in Luang, Laos

From 11 – 13 October Ambassador Gibson visited Luang Prabang and Vientiane, Laos to strengthen bi-lateral relations and to promote South African trade, with the emphasis on wine. Rather than only on the normal VIPs, both wine promotions focused on key people like the managers of hotels and hospitality facility owners, These are the people who make decisions as to which wines go onto the wine lists at the many tourist destinations, particularly at World Heritage site, Luang Prabang. The feedback was satisfying, with many potential sales being a distinct possibility. The Ambassador also paid courtesy calls on senior government Officials and Chambers of Commerce.

Right: Ambassador Douglas Gibson enjoying South African wine with Mr Khamphieng MANICHIT and Mr Adrien Dore, Interpreter to Mr Khamphieng in Luang, Laos



Japan mission's Centennial Celebration



Ms Chrissi Theodorakakos of "Dancing4kids(D4K)" charity, Mr Clinton Gass, Chairperson of the South African Chamber of Commerce in Japan (SACCJ), SA singer Baby M ("SA-Japan Centennial Celebrations Ambassador") and her mother Ms Monica Hlu (South African) pose with Mr Abdullah Ibrahim

As part of the missions' Centennial Celebrations on cultural and people-to-people co-operation, the mission utilised the opportunity of Mr Abdullah Ibrahim's visit and performances in Japan to highlight the Centennial Celebrations and South Africa's remarkable cultural heritage and importantly, to promote South Africa as a tourist destination.

Mr Abdullah Ibrahim has a very long history with Japan and as such provides an excellent link between the two countries. A reception hosted by Ambassador Grobler was held at the Japan National Press Centre's (JNPC's) restaurant Alaska which was attended by over 120 contacts from Government, the arts and culture field, the tourism sector, academia as well as the media.

The reception, at which Mr Abdullah Ibrahim also played, and Mr Abdullah Ibrahim's concert in Tokyo, has helped expand cultural ties and have focused

attention on South Africa, especially as a tourist destination, through the media coverage Mr Ibrahim's visit has attracted. A recent NHK documentary on Mr Ibrahim which was broadcast in June 2010, which came about with the Embassy's assistance due to the excellent ties it has with NHK, has helped contribute to the focus on South Africa.

The documentary not only highlighted Mr Ibrahim's creativity and inspiration but it showed South Africa's history, people and its many scenic splendors. After the successful Tokyo concert, Mr Ibrahim also performed twice more at a shrine in Kyoto and tickets were sold out to these performances.

The Ambassador accompanied Minister Pandor who was in Japan/Kyoto for the Science and Technology meetings to the first concert at the Kyoto shrine where Mr Ibrahim received a standing ovation after his performance. The Mission also utilised the 28 September 2010 reception



Ms Nthabiseng Malefane (Minister Counsellor at the South African Embassy) and Mr Mansell Upham (South African) share a moment with Mr Abdullah Ibrahim



Ambassador Grobler introduces Japanese pianist, Ms Reiko Awazu to Mr Abdullah Ibrahim

to highlight the importance of Heritage Day and Heritage Month in South Africa. In conclusion, the reception and concerts have contributed to the positive image of South Africa, also as a tourism destination for its talented and warm people, its scenic beauty, and its rich cultural heritage and have helped achieve the objectives of tourism promotion as a post 2010 legacy. ■



Mr Abdullah Ibrahim plays for invited guests

W Where were you ?

DIRCO's picnic day

