



October 2008

Now

Your voice to be heard



3RD IBSA FORUM SUMMIT

From left to right: Brazilian President, Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, and South African President, Kgalema Motlanthe.

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DEAR COLLEAGUES,

IN THIS EDITION of the *dfa Now* we lead with an article about the 3rd IBSA Summit that successfully took place in New Delhi, India and was attended by President Kgalema Motlanthe, supported by Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and other Government Ministers. We also have the media briefing by our Director-General Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba and the Ministerial Imbizo in Kwazulu-Natal lead by our Minister.

In addition we included an insert that was taken from the publication *Destination the Future* featuring career opportunities within the Department and highlighting the positives of pursuing a career within the Foreign Service.

Furthermore, we report back on the DFA Family and Sports Day, hosted by the EWC, and the International Fair that was held in Bulgaria and our Mission's participation therein.

In our View of the World series this month we have a glimpse of life from our mission in Hanoi, Vietnam.

We hope that you will find this an interesting read. Please note that we rely on your contributions to enhance the reading experience of this publication. Thus please continue to send your inputs to the editor before the deadline each month.

Happy reading!

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3rd IBSA Forum Summit

From left to right: Indian Minister of External Affairs, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Brazilian Minister of External Relations, Mr Celso Amorim together with the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma in a traditional trio handshake pose, at the 3rd IBSA Forum Summit held in New Delhi, India, 15 October 2008.



THE 3RD IBSA FORUM SUMMIT, a one-day Summit of three of the world's developing countries, took place in New Delhi, India on 15 October 2008. The South African President, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, supported by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma attended the Summit. This was the President's first official visit abroad in his capacity as Head of State. The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Manmohan Singh, and President Lula da Silva of Brazil also attended the occasion.

Besides the support of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, President Motlanthe's delegation included the following Ministers: Ms Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Mr Mandisi Mpahlwa, Mr Mosibudi Mangena, Ms Bulelwa Sonjica and Ms Lindiwe Sisulu from the Presidency and Departments of Trade and Industry, Science and Technology, Minerals and Energy and Housing respectively.

During the month of September 2008, 12 meetings of Sectoral Working Groups took place in New Delhi with the view of working towards the implementation of joint action plans, agreements, and other trilateral initiatives as agreed during the 2nd Summit held in South Africa in October 2007. IBSA thus far

has 16 Sectoral Working Groups.

The Summit was preceded by several people-to-people fora meetings in the areas of business, editors and women affairs. A large part of the South African business delegation comprising of leading South African companies, attended the fora meetings. The Parliamentary Forum could not meet due to technical problems.

During the first Session, people-to-people fora were given an opportunity to report to the Heads of State/Government on progress achieved thus far. This Session was open to all delegates. However, the second Session was for Government business only.

The three leaders addressed the Summit on three different topics. President Motlanthe addressed the Summit on Connectivity through Transport; President Lula da Silva on Energy Security; and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressed the Summit on Food Security.

At the end of the Summit, the Delhi Declaration was adopted. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the trilateral co-operation and reaffirmed that the Forum is an important mechanism for closer co-ordination on global issues, for promoting

the interests of developing countries, enhancing cooperation in sectoral areas and improving their economic ties.

The Summit Declaration covered a range of areas including global issues; regional issues; IBSA sectoral cooperation; and the IBSA Facility Fund for Poverty Alleviation and Hunger.

During the Summit, the following Agreements/MOUs were signed:

- Tripartite Agreement on Tourism;
- MoU on Trade Facilitation for Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment;
- MoU on Environment;
- MoU on Human Settlements Development;
- Five-Year Action Plan for Maritime Transport;
- Five-Year Action Plan for Civil Aviation; and
- MoU on Women's Development and Gender Equality Programmes.

In its five years of existence, IBSA has not only led to closer trilateral co-operation between the three involved countries it has also made the three a driving force in championing the agenda of the developing countries, especially on World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations. At the sectoral

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Government Activities

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS Dr Dlamini Zuma hosted a government Imbizo at the Nkumba Primary School grounds in Bulwer, KwaZulu-Natal on 28 October 2008.

The Imbizo in Bulwer was part of a week-long initiative by the South African Government to report back to communities across the country about efforts aimed at improving the lives of ordinary South Africans for the better. In this regard, the Imbizo in Bulwer was reporting back on a wide range of service delivery oriented issues that had been raised with Minister Dlamini Zuma by the community on 11 August 2008.

In attendance at the Imbizo with the Minister were the Chinese Ambassador to South Africa, Ambassador Zhong Jianhua, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture Mtholephi Mthimkhulu, Local Traditional Authority, the Mayor and representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry.

As a response to the need for agricultural development, Ambassador Zhong Jianhua donated to the Bulwer

Minister Dr Dlamini Zuma hosts a Government Imbizo Bulwer – KwaZulu-Natal



ENGAGING WITH THE PEOPLE: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma introduced to one of the community members from Bulwer, KwaZulu-Natal during an Imbizo held here, 28 October 2008.

community a cheque of R120 000 to assist in buying a water pump for irrigation. The community has been without a water pump for a number of years which impacted negatively on the ability of the community to access sufficient water supplies in the area.

While the initiative was to report back to the community about govern-

ment work, the Imbizo also provided a platform for further issues around service delivery to be raised with the government delegation. The various Government representatives formed part of the delegation addressed a variety of issues that were raised and undertook to follow-up on the new ones that came up. ▶

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co-operation level, progress has been registered with the exception of the Health and Defence Working Group.

Another important instrument to advance the agenda of the developing countries is the IBSA Facility Fund for Poverty Alleviation and Hunger. This Facility Fund provides practical support to developing countries. Thus far, two projects have already been implemented in Haiti and Guinea Bissau. The Haiti project, which relates to the solid waste management project, was completed and the project in Guinea Bissau relates to capacity building in the field of agricultural. Other projects that are in a process of being implemented are in Timor-Leste;

Laos; Burundi; Cape Verde; and Palestine.

The signing of the Five-Year Action Plan for Maritime Transport and Civil Aviation might bare some significant results in future. These action plans would definitely bring the people from the three countries closer and, by implication, increase business activism and tourism. To this end, the trilateral trade target of US\$25 billion set by the three leaders to be achieved by 2015 would be realised.

The Summit was a resounding success and the objectives of the IBSA Summit were met. Brazil offered to host the 4th IBSA Summit on 8 October 2009. Brazil immediately assumed leadership in preparations for the Summit.▶



IN CONFERENCE: South African President Kgalema Motlanthe supported by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (right) and Minister in the Office of the Presidency, Dr Mantombazana Tshabalala-Msimang (left).



IN AGREEMENT: (Seated from right to left) Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Indian Minister of External Affairs, Mr Pranab Mukherjee and Brazilian Minister of External Relations, Mr Celso Amorim.



This event was part of EWC's annual Wellness Days programme. Annually and as part of its health promotion programme, EWC holds wellness days to promote individual wellbeing and afford DFA employees and their families an opportunity to "take stock" of their health to make informed decisions about their wellbeing.

EWC has in the past few years co-ordinated the Wellness Days to run over three consecutive days at Tulbagh Park. This year the Wellness Days ran over seven days at the six DFA buildings, from 16 October 2008 and culminated into a Family and Sport Day event. Things were done differently this year out of concern about the amount of time that people spent in queues last year waiting for various tests and results.

It was wonderful to see DFA officials and their families attending in numbers. This year's turn out was more than 550 people compared to 158 from last year's event.

During the Family and Sport Day, more than 270 people actively participated in activities which ranged from: health screening (blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose, Body Mass Index (BMI), height and weight), voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and eye testing. Over and above these there was demonstration by a nutritionist on how to prepare quick healthy meals; sport and physical activities e.g. (netball, tennis, soccer); fun activities such as face painting, jumping castles, massages, exhibition stalls and interactive drumming.

This year's wellness programme (at all six buildings and the family & sport day) came with a lucky draw that was done at the end of the programme

DFA Family and Sport Day 25 October 2008

The Employee Wellness Centre (EWC) in conjunction with the DFA Sport Council hosted a successful Family and Sport Day on Saturday 25 October 2008 at the Pretoria Municipal Recreation Club in Riviera.



at the Family Day. The lucky draw was done by Health Insight, a wellness company appointed by the EWC to manage the Wellness Days.

Attendees' enthusiastic participation was quite pleasing and they gained more insight into their health status. Many resolutions were taken by colleagues about their health, and these ranged from taking glasses to improve their vision, joining the gym, developing a healthy eating plan with the nutritionist, to having monthly massages. A number of colleagues also boasted "a clean bill of health". Keep it up!

EWC appreciates the time and effort taken by colleagues and their

families to participate in the wellness programme and in particular the SMS members. Appreciation is also extended to the DFA Sport Council for their positive contributions and organising sport activities for the day, which certainly added fun and some form of exercise to the event. We also thank those members of the wellness committee who assisted and colleagues from the Decentralised Units for ensuring that venues were available in all DFA building for this exercise.

To keep yourself abreast with health and wellness issues and continue to ensure you wellness, log on to the Departmental e-Care system (<http://dfa.healthinsite.net>). ▶

Congratulations to the following people who won themselves beautiful prizes:

- 1 Julia Sambo - Beauty and relaxation treats for women
- 2 Johannes Nkuna - Woolworths gift vouchers of R200
- 3 Nkele Rauleka - Designer sunglasses by Soviet
- 4 Dumisani Rasheleng - Beauty and relaxation hamper for men
- 5 Donald Mathavha - Beauty and relaxation hamper for men
- 6 Siphokazi Hermans - Beauty and relaxation treats for women
- 7 Amanda Kruger - Beauty and relaxation treats for women
- 8 Sindiswa Mazwanyana - Woolworth's gift vouchers of R200
- 9 Thabo Ngoasheng - Beauty and relaxation hamper for men
- 10 David Nkosi - Beauty and relaxation hamper for men
- 11 Yatasha Naidoo - Beauty and relaxation treats for women
- 12 Marina Mhlanga - Beauty and relaxation treats for women

A VIEW ON THE WORLD – living in Hanoi



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

Hanoi is a charming and fascinating city; a capital hurtling from third world status to modernisation. It is very safe, accessible and easy to move around in. You will find rural Vietnamese women in their famous conical hats toting double baskets laden with flowers, fruit and vegetables; boys selling shoe shines; and sidewalk stalls with grilled meats. Around these, increasingly modern stores and conveniences are sprouting.

Vietnam's history is one of invasion and rebellion; struggles and suffering. The Hanoi region has been inhabited since the Stone Age and its colourful history is rich with legends of dragons, battles and famous heroes and heroines repelling foreign invaders, which in their recent history includes the Chinese, French and Americans.

The Vietnamese people are friendly and hardworking. Most shops are open from 08:00 – 22:00, seven days a week. Generally the Vietnamese are characterised by their great zeal and hospitality toward foreigners. They have great community spirit and partly because of their small clustered homes, spend a great deal of their day outside congregating in groups on pavements, sitting on little plastic chairs to talk, play cards, chess and to indulge in their favourite pastime – eating noodles and drinking green tea. Extended families remain close and their elders are well looked after within the family and highly respected by all.

Vietnamese food can only be described as exotic as you feast with your eyes and your taste buds. Food

This month the dfa Now brings you a view on life in Hanoi, Vietnam as part of the feature to share with you how our colleagues live at our missions abroad. The questions were answered by Ms Sue Singh, Political Counsellor at the Embassy in Hanoi.

is simple, healthy and nutritious, consisting mainly of vegetables, noodles, beef, pork and seafood. However, despite the literally thousands of food stalls that abound, eating in pavement cafes is not recommended for expat stomachs due to hygienic standards.

It is easy to get caught up in the hectic pace of Hanoi with its young population and millions of motorbikes transporting entire families and the heaviest of burdens. But the slow, gentle ways of Southeast Asia are present everywhere, down alleys and behind doors, and visitors who take the time to seek out cultural experiences are always greatly rewarded.

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

Hanoi has a very interesting "old town" or "old quarter" where thousands of little shops sell handicrafts such as embroidered clothes, shawls and bags, carvings, lacquered items, silver, silk, art and pottery; and bargaining is the order of the day there. There are 18 lakes dotted all over Hanoi where the Vietnamese meet and do their exercises on the surrounding paths and gardens.

Historical sights include Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, built by the Soviet Union in 1975 as a gift to the Viet-

namese people. Here, one can view the perfectly preserved body of Ho Chi Minh (a greatly loved leader who led the rebellions against the French and American invasions) and his simple and beautiful stilt house and gardens at the back of the Mausoleum based on a Gandian lifestyle.

The Presidential Palace, constructed in 1906, is used exclusively to receive foreign dignitaries. Pagodas (dedicated to the worship of Buddhism), temples (dedicated to the spirit of a revered person) and communal houses will keep you enthralled as you will stumble across one at every corner. The Temple of Literature, established in 1070 as a centre dedicated to Confucius and to honour Vietnamese scholars, later become the first University of Vietnam in 1076. The Temple of the Jade Mountain can be reached by a decorative red bridge, constructed in the 19th century over Hoan Kiem Lake (the symbolic centre of Hanoi). Truc Bac Lake is the site of Lord Trinh's summer palace, where he kept some of his unruly or unwanted concubines to weave fine white silk. There are also many museums devoted to the revolution, history of Vietnam, fine arts, geology, women, ethnology, etc. will keep the visitor enthralled.

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

The city is home to approximately four million people, which results in traf-

fic where you put your life on the line every time you cross a street or ride a taxi; where traffic lights and pedestrian crossings are completely ignored; where it is completely normal to see a car coming straight at you before swerving at the very last minute; where the smells of some Asian seafood dishes abound; and where snake and dog meat are regarded as delicacies. It is difficult, if not impossible, for many of us to drive. Medical facilities are limited and while there is good basic, but very expensive, healthcare at international clinics and hospitals, treatment of certain medical conditions, especially those requiring blood transfusions, require emergency evacuation to Singapore or Bangkok.

There are no clothes for ladies in size 36 and above, who are regarded as obese, considering that sizes 30-34 of the local females dominate, and size 5 shoes are near impossible to find. Unfortunately, the same applies for expat men. Vietnam is a developing and thus poor country, and you live in constant amazement as to how this poverty is handled by the Vietnamese with such integrity and pride on a daily basis. This excludes the local shopkeepers and their double economy, they charge the expats anything from 50% to 300% profit, even on basics like fruit and vegetables.

Living in a communist country where very little English is spoken also takes some getting used and the bureaucratic red-tape can be overwhelming at times.

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

Language must be mentioned first, as one lives outside the Embassy mainly in a world of sign language and your limited vocabulary, and this affects every aspect

of your personal life. The Vietnamese language is tonal and monosyllabic, which means that every syllable represents an independent word and is inflected by a tone, which determines the meaning of the word. Thus the word "ba" can have different meanings, namely "three", "madame", "waste", "embrace", "bait" and "any" – all depending on the tone and accent of the speaker.

Culture is also something to be learnt and taken heed of. Never beckon any with a curled finger as is done in the West – instead extend your arm, palm down and move your fingers in a scratching motion. It is better to snort than to use a handkerchief to blow your nose and than place the cloth in your pocket is considered uncivilised. Hold your rice bowl in your hand when invited out to eat (it is considered lazy to eat from a rice bowl on the table); and there are a host of other interesting customs.

The fact that very few expats drive and have to rely on taxis is not only attributable to the non-existence of rules of the road. If you make an accident you will be surrounded by a crowd that you are unable to communicate with, and even if the fault is not yours, if you are deemed to be better-off than the other person concerned (which is most likely the case), you are liable for all damage and medical costs incurred. The very hot and humid climate for most part of the year also tends to leave one gasping.

What do you miss most of South Africa?

Family and friends that you have known for years; food like pap; be-

ing able to easily communicate with people around you; huge shopping centres; a variety of movies and theatres; jubilant soccer matches of your favourite teams; barbeques; and the list goes on.

What do you do when you get homesick?

You e-mail and spend a small fortune on phone calls to South Africa. You start nagging your children to write more often about the activities of family and friends.

How many people work at the South African Embassy?

The South African Embassy in Hanoi has a staff compliment of 17. We have six transferred officials, including a Defence Attaché.

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

The Vietnamese are generally very industrious, diligent, kind, humble, responsible and respectful people. They are closely-knit communities and have great respect for their families and elders. The young people thirst after education. Despite their poverty, the average person lives with minimal luxuries and a basic diet of chicken noodle soup rather than revert to crime. However, with the opening of its economy and the increase of tourists, petty theft is on the increase in certain areas. South Africans can emulate the industriousness of the Vietnamese and their simple way of living to improve their personal circumstances and achieve a sense of peace, security and harmony in their lives. ■

It's all part of the job

The DFA provides a window on the world for those whose duties include visiting the offices of diplomatic missions across the globe.

TRAVELLING TO EXOTIC PLACES can provide a welcome contrast for young professionals locked into the everyday responsibilities of government service.

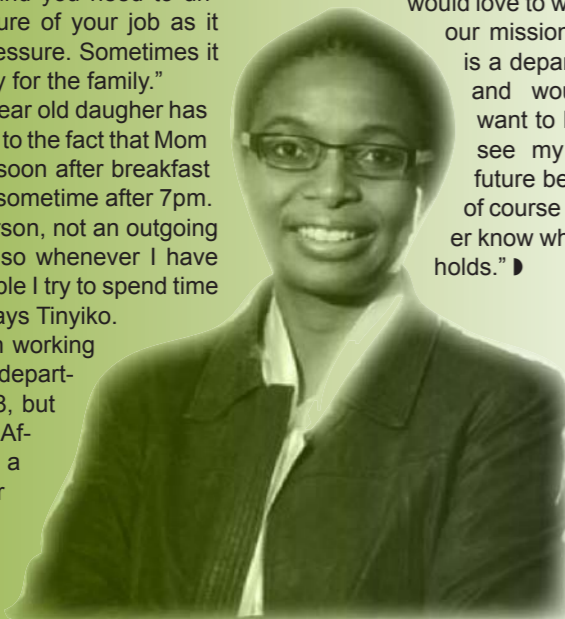
South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), provides such a window on the world for those whose duties include visiting the offices of the country's diplomatic missions across the globe. It's all part of the job – but it's also a chance to broaden personal horizons, enjoy the stimulation of foreign travel, and strike a balance between the daily work routine and something completely out of the ordinary.

Tinyiko Gazide, Director in Financial Accounting at the DFA in Pretoria, says visiting missions overseas is one of the most interesting aspects of her job. "As Finance we normally travel once a year to do budget reviews and training on all financial matters. I have already been to Cairo, London, Argentina, Dubai and Mexico. This is something that comes along once in a lifetime, so it is nice to have such an opportunity."

Although these visits abroad are very much working trips, they go some way to create the essential work-life balance that today's young professionals view as an essential ingredient in their lifestyle mix. "It is difficult to strike that balance," reflects Tinyiko. "The people around you need to understand the nature of your job as it entails a lot of pressure. Sometimes it is hard, especially for the family."

Tinyiko's 12-year old daughter has become resigned to the fact that Mom goes off to work soon after breakfast and comes back sometime after 7pm. "I am a family person, not an outgoing person as such, so whenever I have spare time available I try to spend time with my family" says Tinyiko.

She has been working for government departments since 1998, but joined Foreign Affairs in 2004 as a Deputy Director and was promoted to her current position in 2006. Her current ca-



Tinyiko Gazide
 Director in Financial Accounting.
 Educational: B Comm degree, Vista University. MA in Business Leadership, Unisa.
 Worked at the Department of Justice, the Department of Agriculture, before joining the DFA

reer role sees her immersed in the world of finance. "One of the things I like about Foreign Affairs is that one is given an opportunity to grow. There are a lot of development and learning opportunities that are available for growth, and good performance is recognised and rewarded. Foreign Affairs is very different from other government departments because of the way we operate, with offices around the world and the way we manage our financial records. With a staff complement of 91 to oversee, Tinyiko's tasks range from the administration of salaries, processing of expenditure incurred at missions abroad, management of departmental debts, providing agency services for other departments, as well as preparing Annual Financial Statements. "The working environment is welcoming and relaxed, so one does not mind going the extra mile." Her ultimate career goal?: "At some point I would love to work in one of our missions abroad. It is a department I love and wouldn't really want to leave - I can see my long-term future being here but of course one will never know what the future holds." ▶

Contribution by Destination the Future

Media Briefing by Director-General Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba



Department of Foreign Affairs, Director-General, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba and Deputy Director-General Mxolisi Nkosi at a media briefing.

Condolences to the government of Pakistan

BEFORE WE DEAL WITH THE DRC, I would like to express the condolences of the Government to the people of Pakistan. As you know, there was an earthquake in the south-western Pakistani province of Baluchistan on Wednesday 29 October 2008. There has been a loss of life and of course, this is a very tragic event.

Explosions in India

YOU WOULD HAVE HEARD of the explosions that hit three districts in Guwahati city in the north-eastern Indian state of Assam. There has been a significant loss of life and we are not sure who has been responsible for these acts, but we know that there have been terrorist activities within the territory of India during the recent past. We extend our condolences to those who have lost loved ones. We also pledge continued solidarity with the government and people of India.

Update regarding Zimbabwe

AS WE INDICATED THE LAST TIME we spoke, we were awaiting the meeting of the SADC Organ that was going to be held in Zimbabwe on the situation in Zimbabwe. We know that the meeting took place, but did not conclude because there were some sticky points that still require resolution. In the final communiqué there was a decision that perhaps there should be a Summit involving all the Heads of State and Governments of SADC. Our leaders are currently in consultation about suitable dates, but we do know that on 4-5 November, as part of preparations for the Summit, there will be a Ministerial meeting of the Committee of the Organ in Maputo. We still await the dates for the actual summit.

To emphasise what we have already said, South Africa's view is to try and press for the speediest possible solution to the problem. It is important that the government and people of Zimbabwe begin to be in a space where they can focus on the reconstruction and our appeal goes to the leaders

of Zimbabwe to try and demonstrate leadership, statesmanship and rise to the challenge essentially that they are faced with. Most of us can only play a supportive role to this, but South Africa is committed to try to do whatever is possible to assist them to arrive at that outcome will continue.

South Africa-European Union Joint Committee

NEXT WEEK WE WILL BE HOSTING a meeting of the Joint Co-operating Council of the European Union. This will be 9th meeting of the South Africa-European Union Joint Co-operating Council. The partnership between South Africa and the European Union has different levels of interaction. We previously reported on the Summit that was held in Bordeaux in July 2008; this was preceded by a Ministerial meeting.

The meeting in Cape Town on 3-4 November 2008 is essentially a meeting of the negotiators. The agreement we have with the European Union, has many identified areas of co-operation. We are still negotiating

agreements on exactly what needs to be done especially with regard to the coming into effect of the TDCA. We will be looking at other areas – Revenue Services, Science and Technology, Trade, all the other areas that have to be operationalised as a result of the full implementation of the TDCA.

COMMENTS BY DDG: AFRICA BILATERAL, MXOLISI NKOSI

South Africa – DRC Binational Commission

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT KGALEMA MOTLANTHE will on Thursday 30 October 2008 depart from South Africa for Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he is expected to lead a senior South African Government delegation on a Working Visit to the country during which co-operation between the two countries will be reviewed.

President Motlanthe will be supported by Ministers Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Mandisi Mphahla, Charles Nqakula, Barbara Hogan and Masenyani Richard Baloyi.

This visit should be viewed within the context of ongoing attempts by South Africa to strengthen and consolidate bilateral political, economic, social and technical relations with African countries. The visit will indeed go a long way in reinforcing ongoing efforts aimed at assisting the DRC in its effort towards post-conflict reconstruction and development.

Presidents Motlanthe and Kabila will use the occasion to review progress with regards to the implementation of bilateral projects within the framework of the existing binational commission between South Africa and the DRC.

In this regard, they are going to review progress in a number of areas, mainly within the framework of the commission on politics and governance; the commission on defence and security; the commission on economics, finance and infrastructure; as well as the commission on social and humanitarian affairs.

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Politics and Governance

SOUTH AFRICA IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED with the training of civil servants in the DRC and specifically the Department of Foreign Affairs is going to embark on the second phase of the training of Congolese diplomats. We think this is an important area because it will enable the government of the DRC to deploy envoys in various parts of the world who will be able to promote the interests of the DRC and who will also be able to promote a positive image of their country which will contribute to the ongoing efforts of assisting the Congo to emerge from the cycle of violence, underdevelopment and poverty.

We are also involved in the restructuring of the Department of Public Service and Administration of the Congo. We are involved with the Civil Service Census to assist the authorities in Kinshasa to know how many officials they have in their employ and also to know where they are located and their responsibilities.

We are involved with an Anti-Corruption project within the public service and also in a project involving the decentralisation of the services of government because, as you know, the Congo is a vast country and it will be impossible to run the operations of the country from the capital of Kinshasa; it was felt that the authority and administration of government services should be decentralised and should be spread along the length and breadth of the country. The South African Department of Public Service and Administration is the principle organ of our Government that is entrusted with the responsibility of implementing this project.

We are also involved with the whole issue of developing a national population register for the Congo. There are a number of figures that are being bandied about regarding the total population of the Congo and as part of efforts to reconstitute that country, and indeed reconstitute the state we are assisting them with the whole issue of developing a national population register.

We are also assisting them with the production of identity cards.

With respect to the Defence and Security Commission, you are aware that Minister Nqakula undertook a visit in his capacity as Minister of Defence to the DRC a month ago where he reiterated South Africa's ongoing commitment to assist with the integration of the armed forces of the Congo and assisting the development of the Congolese Armed Forces, so that indeed they have the capacity to defend and protect the territory of the DRC. In this respect, we are engaged in an ongoing programme of training and assisting with the integration of the armed forces in the Congo. We are also supporting the institutionalisation of the framework of policy in the DRC.

With respect to the Economy, Finance and Infrastructure Commission, we are involved with the rehabilitation of INGA I and II. You know that these are hydropower plants with the capacity to provide electricity and energy generally, not just to Southern Africa but to Europe and the whole of the Middle East if they can operate to their full potential.

We are also involved with the regulation, marketing and evaluation of the diamond sector in the DRC. You know that the DRC has got massive diamond deposits amongst other natural resources that are found in abundance in that country. So we are assisting them to regulate this industry so that the country can benefit from the revenues that flow from the mining and the sale of diamonds and this we believe will go a long way in ensuring that the country has the capacity to deal with the twin challenges of poverty and underdevelopment.

We are involved in efforts to build the capacity to collect revenue. As you are aware, we have signed two agreements with them in this respect – the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement and the other is a Customs Agreement. We believe these agreements will go a long way in assisting them to collect the necessary revenue that will be used as part of the national pool to deal with a number of challenges that they face. Currently our South African Revenue Services have indicated their readiness to assist with building the capacity with their Congolese counterparts so that they

can have indeed the requisite capacity to contribute towards the collection of revenue.

The Bas-Congo Spatial Development Initiative is an initiative in which we are involved. It has a huge capacity to attract investment and has a huge potential to contribute towards the industrialisation of the Congo .

On the Social and Humanitarian Affairs Commission, there is ongoing collaboration and co-operation between our departments of education and social development with a view to ensuring that we also build the requisite capacity in the Congo.

Finally, as the DG has mentioned, the two Presidents will not only discuss the bilateral issues but they will also take advantage of the opportunity provided by their meeting to discuss the situation in the eastern part of the DRC.

These will be the main issues on the agenda of President Motlanthe's Working Visit to President Joseph Kabila of the DRC.

Events unfolding in the east of the DRC

WHEN WE LAST HAD A BRIEFING we indicated that following the conclusion of the Goma Agreement, we were hopeful that we would get into a process that would usher in a stable peace in the eastern part of the DRC. We reported at that point in time that we were getting concerned because what had begun as occasional skirmishes seemed to be coalescing into something far more significant and the worst of our fears has been borne by the events of the last few days. We know that what we would regard as full scale engagement, took place starting last Saturday or Sunday, 25 or 26 October 2008 on a large scale. We know there have been threats to the town of Goma and a number of villages have been taken by CNDP. We have also seen significant movements of people; even reports indicate that there has already been a dislodging of people in refugee camps which obviously precipitates a huge humanitarian problem. The numbers of displaced people are huge and they

are obviously feeling extremely insecure now. We believe that there is a humanitarian crisis that is beginning to unfold in the eastern DRC.

We are also worried, as we indicated the last time, that to the extent this situation is not being arrested, it opens up old wounds around particularly the relationships between the two respective states – Rwanda and the DRC. You would also know that as a consequence, there has been a lot of international attention paid to what is happening in the eastern DRC.

The UN Security Council has had a discussion and there is a statement that has been released by the Security Council. South Africa is a full party to the essence of that statement. We participated in what is called the P3 +2 meeting in New York, which obviously was in a sense paving the way for the discussions at the Security Council and there is again a convergence of views in terms of what is evolving. The first, and most urgent thing, is to appeal to all states, as the Presidential statement indicates that all the parties to the conflict should try to abide by their obligations in terms of international law, particularly humanitarian international law and that it is very important for us to minimise the unfortunate humanitarian incidents. The safety and security of the civilian population has to be guaranteed by the belligerents.

Secondly, we believe that it is very important to continue, as difficult as it is, to search for a political solution to the problem. All attempts at a military solution have eluded us in terms of arriving at a viable solution. This emphasises that we should try, as



South African President, Kgalema Motlanthe and the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Joseph Kabila, during a Working Visit to the DRC, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (pictured below).

much as we can, to search for a political solution.

The heart of that political solution is the framework that was agreed upon in Goma as well as contained in the Nairobi Communiqué. The essence is that some degree of security and confidence on the side of the DRC government that Rwanda is not supporting General Nkunda. On the other side, there is a commitment by the government of the DRC to act against the negative forces, particularly those around the FDLR who might be within the sovereign territory of the DRC. So, I think that still remains the framework.

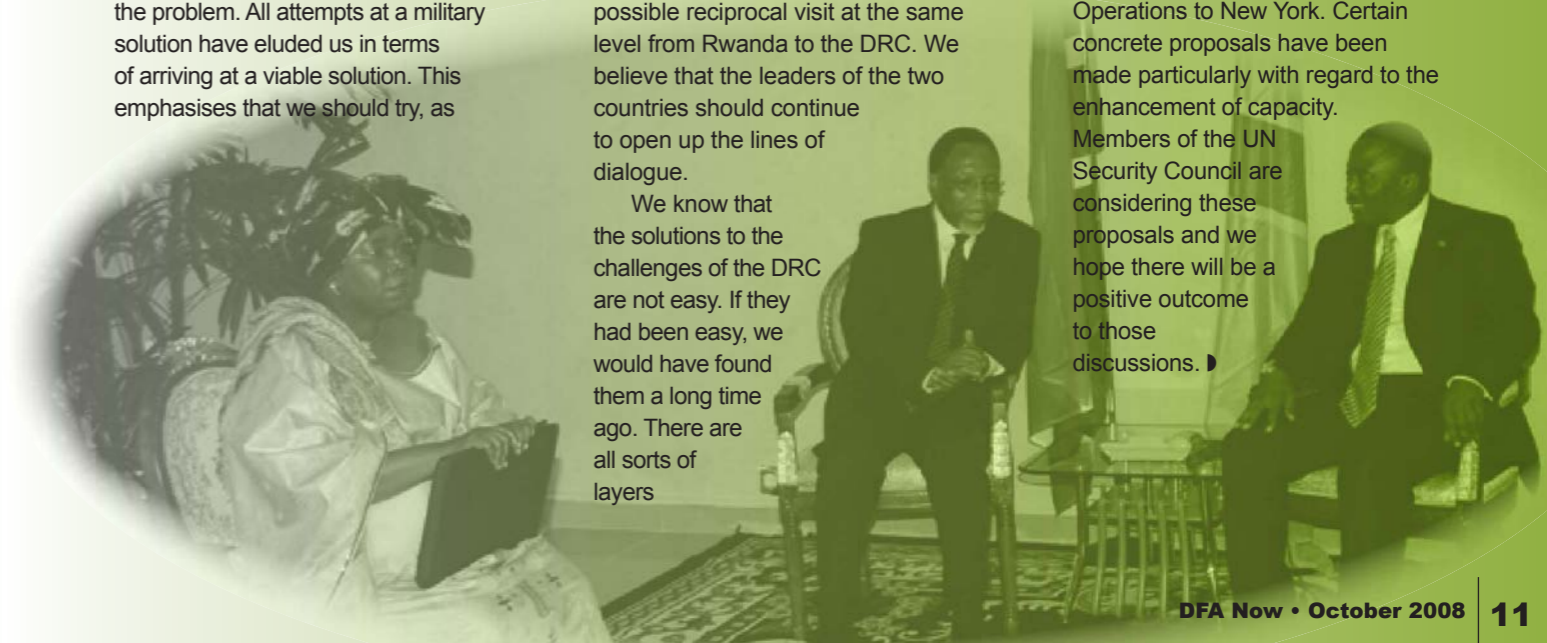
We share the view that the sooner we have high level re-engagement between the leaders of Rwanda and the DRC, the better the prospects will be to arrive at a solution. We have been encouraged in the past few days by the actions, namely the sending of the Foreign Minister of the DRC to Rwanda, and there are reports of a possible reciprocal visit at the same level from Rwanda to the DRC. We believe that the leaders of the two countries should continue to open up the lines of dialogue.

We know that the solutions to the challenges of the DRC are not easy. If they had been easy, we would have found them a long time ago. There are all sorts of layers

and overlays of complexities and precisely because of the relationship of some of the forces occupying the DRC and the tragic events in Rwanda. This tends to raise all sorts of sensitivities but at the same time, we believe that for as long as the eastern situation is not resolved, it detracts from what is essentially good progress is being registered in the DRC with respect to

the processes of reconstruction. The challenges are huge and there is still a lot of work to be done, but in our view, there is a lot of progress.

There are currently attempts underway to see what can be done. An unfortunate consequence in the eastern part of the DRC has been the response of the civilian population to MONUC which adds another complexity. Our view has been that MONUC needs to be strengthened. You know that we are a troop contributing country, so we really would join those who are appealing for the reinforcement of MONUC and some of the dilemmas facing MONUC to be appreciated. However, there is a need to move with some degree of urgency because quite clearly, the reaction of people, in the face of what they see as the incapacity to deal with the advance of General Nkunda, is likely to escalate if nothing else is done. A report was given by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to New York. Certain concrete proposals have been made particularly with regard to the enhancement of capacity. Members of the UN Security Council are considering these proposals and we hope there will be a positive outcome to those discussions. ▶



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