



September 2008

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Your voice to be heard

Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's address to the UN General Assembly



Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

DEAR COLLEAGUES

September was one of the most important months on the international diplomatic calendar with the customary United Nations General Assembly Session taking place. Every year world leaders gather at the UN Headquarters to debate and contemplate over the state of world affairs. This year specific focus was placed on climate change and development, both issues that are close to South Africa's heart. South Africa's delegation was led by Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and we include her Address to the 63rd Session as our lead story for this month.

In this edition we also cover the Minister's visit to Cuba to attend the Regional Heads of Mission Conference and her meeting with her Cuban counterpart as well as the media briefing by former Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad.

September saw South Africans celebrate Heritage Day and this year the focus was on South Africa's dance heritage. We bring you an overview of the essence of Heritage Day celebrations and why it is important for us to celebrate and preserve our diverse cultures. Since the DFA is represented throughout the world by our various missions, the *dfa Now* launched a feature article where we conduct interviews with various employees at missions to give us some insight into life in a foreign country. This month we focus on Belgium.

With summer all around we report back on the Winter Games and hope it will serve as motivation for more employees to get out there and participate in the various sporting activities within the Department.

Complimentary to an active body is an active mind, and the Directorate: Generic Skills Development has a report from the Literacy Week that was held in September in the Department.

Happy reading! ■

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South African Ambassador presents his credentials

The South African Ambassador to Germany, Mr SE Funde, presented his credentials to President Koehler on 27 August in Schloss Bellevue. He was accredited along with the ambassadors from Bahrain, Libia and Estonia.

During his welcoming speech in the Embassy in Berlin, Mr Funde emphasised the importance of NEPAD, South Africa's mission to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment, as well as the strengthening of South African-German partnerships. ■



Ambassador Funde and German President Koehler.

Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's address to the UN General Assembly

My delegation and I join in expressing our congratulations to Your Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann on your election as the President of the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly, and hope you have a very successful and rewarding term at the helm of this body. We express our gratitude to His Excellency Dr Srgjan Kerim for the excellent work done during his tenure as the President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly.

Your Excellencies and Distinguished Guests

Once again Mr President, we have come to this august body to reiterate what we have always called for – “the need to implement all the promises and all the pledges we have made before”. The focus of this the 63rd Session of the General Assembly is on the global food crisis, climate change as well as the reform of the UN.

The confluence of the food, fuel and financial crisis as well as the effects of climate change pose a real threat of undermining the progress made by developing countries in the struggle against poverty and underdevelopment.

During the Millennium Summit Declaration held in 2000, our Heads of State and Government adopted a declaration that communicated a message of hope and vision of a better world, among which is an important section on the Special Needs of Africa in which leaders declared that they “will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all the internationally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right of development”

Africa and many other developing countries have indeed taken responsibility in promoting democracy, good governance, peace and stability and human rights. They are also hard at work in rolling back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment.

Despite the great strides it is clear that many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa will not meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Part of the reason is that the global partnership for development, on which the achievement of the MDGs was also predicated, has not been fully implemented. That despite the various and lofty ideals we made at previous assemblies, we still fall short in meeting the commitments we made in implementing this partnership – in particular, trade, aid and debt relief.

We express the fervent hope that the High-Level meetings organised by yourself, Mr President and the Secretary-General on Africa's development needs, as well as on the MDGs, have served not only as important reminders of the challenges that we face, but as a catalyst to spur the world into a greater sense of urgency.

The necessary resources exist in the world to achieve the MDGs. We need to summon the necessary political will and compassion. We join the sister countries of our continent in calling for massive resource transfers through development assistance, investment, trade, technology transfers and human resource development. These will ensure that Africa achieves the development goals and successfully adapts to the devastating impact of climate change.

In order to accelerate the achievement of all the MDGs, a lot more attention needs to be focused on MDG 3 on



Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma addressing the United Nations General Assembly, Monday 29 September 2008, New York.

the empowerment of women. Women need to be at the centre of development as agents of change both socially, economically and politically.

Mr President, billions of the peoples of the world, that we are privileged to represent in this Assembly, have cast their eyes on this gathering of leaders. They do so because they have hope in this leadership to take the required measures in order to address poverty and underdevelopment. We dare not fail them.

The food crisis has to be addressed in the short and medium term. The Green Revolution that has been launched by the AU needs partnerships in order to succeed. Support for

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NEPAD will be a major contributor to the struggle against poverty and underdevelopment.

In this context, allow me Mr President, to quote from your statement to the General Assembly with regard to this socio-economic programme as well as the role of our immediate former President, Thabo Mbeki. "During his presidency of the rainbow nation, spanning nearly a decade, he, along other African leaders, championed the vision of NEPAD we still pursue today. When the affluent listen to Africa and partner with it, that vision is within reach". To quote NEPAD's founding document: "In fulfilling its promise, this agenda must give hope to the emaciated African child that the 21st century is indeed Africa's century".

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Doha development round has stalled despite seven years of negotiations. We are convinced that trade and increased market access will make a major contribution to the achievement of the MDGs. In this regard it is our submission that the Doha round of trade negotiations should not be allowed to die, but must remain focused on "development" as it was originally envisaged. We must rededicate our efforts to ensure the successful completion of the Doha Development Round.

Mr President, in recent years we have all witnessed the devastating effects of climate change especially on the Island States. The hurricanes have become more frequent and more vicious, so are droughts, floods or unpredictable extreme weather patterns in the rest of the world.

Climate change needs an urgent response. Having agreed in Bali last year on a roadmap for negotiations, it is our hope that the negotiations to be completed in Copenhagen in 2009, will necessarily set the stage for more concerted actions by all countries to address climate change and all its manifestations, with the developed countries taking the lead.

South Africa commits itself to approach the preparations for Copenhagen constructively and with a view to reaching an agreement that is ambitious, balanced and inclusive.

Mr President, we join the many leaders of the world who have expressed their support for the fundamental reform to the system of global governance including the United Nations as well as the Bretton Woods Institutions.

It is important to understand that the critical issues facing the world today – the current financial, food and energy crises – cannot be addressed effectively when so many other countries and regions of the world are left out of the key decision making processes of important institutions of global governance. South Africa stands ready to work with other members of the United Nations to advance the goal of reform.

Equally, the reform of the UN Security Council need not be re-emphasised. We reiterate our view that a reformed Security Council would have more legitimacy and its decisions would have more credibility. We welcome the recent decision to launch in the General Assembly the inter-governmental negotiations on Security Council reform, to discuss plans for expanding the Security Council on both the non-permanent and permanent categories.

It remains a travesty of justice that Africa, which constitutes a large portion of the work of the Council, is not represented in the permanent category. Unless the ideals of freedom, justice and equality become the character of the UN, the dominant will continue to dictate to the dominated while the dream of the dominated will forever be deferred.

Mr President, my country will, in December this year, complete its tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. We are indeed privileged to serve the peoples of Africa and the world in this capacity. This was indeed a historic first for us

as a young democracy. In this capacity we were indeed honoured to contribute meaningfully to global efforts to create peace and stability in all regions of the world. Accordingly, we express the humble gratitude of the people of our country to the general membership of the UN for the trust placed on us in helping the world discharge this mandate.

During our tenure, the Security Council also focused on the important question of the enhancement of the relationship between the UN and regional organisations, in particular the African Union. We were honoured to be able to contribute to this work. We congratulate the Secretary-General for appointing the AU/UN panel of distinguished personalities whose mandate is to explore financing modalities for AU-led peacekeeping missions.

Mr President, peace continues to elude the Middle East. As South Africa, we participated in the Annapolis Conference in 2007 with great expectation and hope that progress would indeed be made to advance the goal of peace in that region. We will continue to support all international efforts to help the people of Palestine and Israel in their endeavour to find a lasting peace to their challenges, leading to the establishment of a viable Palestinian state, co-existing side by side with the state of Israel existing within secure borders. We understand fully well the pain, suffering and agony that conflict brings to bear on the lives of ordinary people: particularly women and children. These ordinary souls continue to cry out to this assembly of the world as they have done in the past, to help bring about an end to the conflict.

Mr President, South Africa will continue to work with the sister peoples of DRC, Burundi and Cote D'Ivoire in efforts to consolidate peace and democracy in their respective countries. With regard to Zimbabwe, you most certainly are aware of the recent developments, led by our former President Thabo Mbeki in his capacity as the SADC-Facilitator, which culminated in the signing of an agreement between

the main political protagonists in the country.

We hope that the leadership of Zimbabwe will soon finalise aspects of this agreement to enable the formation of a new government that will help lay the basis to address the political and economic challenges facing their country. SADC, the African Union and the Facilitator stand as guarantors of this agreement. We call on the international community to spare neither strength nor effort in lending a hand to the people of Zimbabwe as they embark on the difficult path of reconciliation and reconstruction.

The situation in Sudan, especially Darfur, remains a matter of great concern. South Africa will continue to do whatever it can both bilaterally and in the context of the African Union and the United Nations, to help the people of Sudan find peace among themselves.

We remain concerned about the impasse on the question of Western Sahara. South Africa is committed to seeking a just, mutually acceptable and lasting solution to the problem.

Mr President, this year also marks the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human

Rights. During the past six decades the Declaration has remained the key standard for human rights, justice and dignity.

We should therefore use the period of this anniversary to strengthen our resolve to defend human rights. South Africa has also had the honour to be reviewed under the Universal Peer Review Mechanism of the new Human Rights Council. We were also honoured with the appointment of our own Justice Navi Pillai to lead this very important international institution.

In conclusion, Mr President:

We wish to reiterate our belief in the centrality of the United Nations. In the Millennium Declaration we reaffirmed that the United Nations "is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realise our universal aspirations for peace, co-operation and development". Leading South Africa's delegation to the Millennium Summit was our former President, Thabo Mbeki, who reminded this very assembly that "billions among the living, struggle to survive in conditions of poverty, deprivation and underdevelopment, as offensive to everything human as anything we decry about the second millennium".

It is this understanding that has correctly informed the engagement of successive leaders of our democratic state with this august body over the years. In this regard, we are touched and humbled by the kind comments made in this Assembly by the various Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations, directed at our immediate former President Thabo Mbeki. We most certainly shall through our government, convey these sentiments to that noble son of our people, continent and citizen of the world.

Accordingly, from this podium may I also express our sincere gratitude to the general membership of the UN for the support former President Mbeki and our country received over the past nine and half years of his stewardship of our country. As the leadership of our country passes on, we reaffirm that South Africa, under the leadership of President Kgalema Motlanthe, shall indeed continue to be a trusted and dependable partner in the common endeavour to strengthen our institutions of multilateralism, moving from the correct premise that multilateralism remains the only hope in addressing challenges facing humanity today, at the centre of which is the struggle against poverty and underdevelopment.

I thank you. ■

within the broad framework of advancing South-South relations.

The discussions with both these Cuban Ministers reaffirmed the need to strengthen the existing relations and further expand the co-operation on all fronts and expressed satisfaction with the current relations between the two countries.

Key highlights in the official visit included a wreath-laying ceremony by Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and delegation at the Jose Marti Memorial in honour of all those who sacrificed their lives for freedom. As part of consolidating the African Agenda, Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma also briefed the African Diplomats based in Cuba on the political situation on the continent. ■

Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma visits Cuba



Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with her Cuban counterpart Felipe Perez Roque during a meeting at Cuba's Foreign Ministry in Havana 25 August 2008.

Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on Wednesday, 27 August 2008 concluded her official visit to Cuba. During her visit, she presided over the Regional Heads of Mission Conference for the Latin American and Car-

ibbean Heads of Mission. The Conference took stock of developments in the region and received a political input on Cuba's regional perspective on the economic, social and political situation in the region.

Upon conclusion of the successful Regional Heads of Mission Conference, Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma met both the Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque and the Cuban Minister of Foreign Investments and Economic Co-operation, Ms Marta Lomas Morales, within the context of South Africa's priority to consolidate and strengthen existing bilateral political and economic relations between South Africa and Cuba

Heritage Month



September marked the annual Heritage Month in South Africa. Heritage Month recognises aspects of South African culture which are both tangible and intangible: creative expression such as music and performances; our historical inheritance; language; the food we eat; and the popular memory.

The theme for Heritage Month 2008 and Heritage Day, celebrated on 24 September, was: "Celebrating our Dance, our Heritage". Dance is a major means of artistic expression, and expanding and exploring new territory. Heritage Day celebrations was an expression of pride in multinational dance; it promoted indigenous dance and encouraged new dancers, especially among the youth. This year's Heritage Day enhanced the values that define our humanity and mobilise communities to act together in building a country united in diversity.

South Africans around the country celebrated Heritage Day in many different ways, with the main event taking place at Maropeng in the Cradle of Humankind. Here, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Pallo Jordan, said that "Heritage Day is an important day on our calendar because it is not only the day on which all South Africans are given an opportunity to pause, reflect and look back at all the good things that have been passed onto us by those who came before us; but it is also a day to celebrate and relive the heritage that was bequeathed to us by our ancestors.

It is a day on which we recommit ourselves to nurturing the progress that humanity has made over time."

He further stated that we should ask ourselves some pertinent questions, including:

- Are we doing enough to protect and preserve the heritage bequeathed to us by our forebears?
- Are we ourselves producing the kind of legacy that will be treasured and cherished by future generations?
- Will future generations pay homage to our contributions and look back at us with a smile?
- Or will they blame us for not putting enough effort not only into preserving and protecting it, but also in disseminating and popularising it?
- Should we transmit all elements of our Intangible Cultural Heritage to our future generations?

He continued to talk about the heritage of the South African culture and the opportunity offered by Heritage Month to showcase our diverse and unique dance heritage; as well as our unique designs and costumes, our regalia and other artefacts associated with our dance heritages.

South Africans also celebrated their common national heritage actively by braaiing on Heritage Day. The founders of Braai4Heritage started this initiative as they believe braaiing is a deep-rooted tradition in South Africa that cuts across all demographic groups and will bring people together.

By Annelie Kirstein ■

A glimpse on THE WORLD



From September onwards, *the dfa* Now will be publishing features on our different missions. These features will give us an insight of how our colleagues live abroad and what their experiences are. We start this new feature with an article about our mission in Brussels, Belgium; the set Q+A was answered by Mr Mfenyana, Second Secretary Political at the Embassy.

Living in Brussels

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

The city is beautiful and well preserved. The buildings are mostly very old, especially in the city centre, surrounded by small cobble-stoned streets.

The people keep to themselves a lot and don't go out of their way to help people that they don't know. Brussels is not the kind of place where people greet or make small talk with strangers; but this is more because the people concentrate a lot on their family life and personal matters rather than anything else.

Brussels is well known for its frites (hot chips/french fries), its chocolate and its beer; the evil pleasures of the mouth and waistline. I am yet to meet anyone here who doesn't dabble in at least two of the above, but most Belgians happily immerse themselves into all of the above. As an open-minded South African keen on understanding the local culture, I unashamedly explore the foods and beverages of the country; in moderation of course. Belgium is also well known for its seafood, and as the city has become more cosmopolitan over the years, significantly due to the growth of the European Union, there are restaurants and shops that have food from all over the world, including South Africa.

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

One of the most famous statues of Brussels is the Manniken Piss, which

is a petite statue/fountain of a little boy urinating. There are several explanations on the importance of the statue, but the popular one is that it represents the cheekiness or boldness of Belgium. The statue is situated in an area called the Grand Placé and is always surrounded by tourists fascinated by the statue's fame and its extensive wardrobe, which includes a Madiba outfit.

Belgium is the country that colonised the now Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), under King Leopold. As a result of King Leopold's activities, Brussels houses an African Museum with a number of precious and rare artefacts from the DRC which are well worth seeing. It is apparent that the DRC government is content with the artefacts being kept in Belgium, as the DRC currently does not have an adequate place to keep and display them.

➤ *What were the biggest adjustments you had to overcome to live in Brussels*

The weather; in South Africa the weather is usually a topic for small talk but not something to worry about. In Brussels, the weather is not just small talk. Even in summer, sun is a rarity that is not taken for granted. When the sun does come out, it also comes out on the peoples faces, where they smile and look brighter, going on walks and to the beach and almost talk to strangers. The winter is a constant draining grey for weeks at a time. It is cold every day with no relief, even on the one or two days of sunny surprise in the month, it stays cold. In trying to find "silver lining" the Belgians take advantage of the cold by leaving their sealed beverages outside, reducing the congestion in their fridges and keeping their drinks cold. To add to Brussels's terrible weather is the

overly generous rain. It rains a lot the whole year round, where when it rains for less than 150 days in the year, it is considered a dry year.

➤ *What are the barriers/hurdles that make day to day living as a foreigner in Brussels difficult, e.g. language, culture?*

Living in Brussels is not particularly difficult, once one learns to tolerate the weather – my supervisor advised taking vitamin D tablets. Flemish and French are the two official languages of Brussels, but a large number of people can also speak English, making communication less difficult.

It is worth noting that Flemish is very similar to the language Afrikaans, making it easy for Afrikaans speaking South Africans and Flemish speaking Belgians to understand each other.

The public transport system in Belgium is also very convenient, making it possible for one to travel most of Brussels without having to use a car. Trams and the metro (subway) travel most of Brussels and there are also buses as options.

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

Many things, one of which has to be the weather.

Chisa nyama has to be another one – few things beat the smell of braaivleis on a Saturday afternoon.

Petrol attendants is also something I miss, not just because I am lazy to pour my own fuel, but because of their friendly conversation and willingness to assist in anything from directions to updates on how many goals Kaizer Chiefs is beating Orlando Pirates by.

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In all, I think I just miss the South African vibe! The *spity-spity* on a Friday afternoon, the *eitha bra* from a zealous car guard, the friendly neighbour that gets worried if you get home late, the aunt the reminds you to go to church and the dependable friend that knows when you get paid.

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

Listen to my favourite South African music and dance with my wife and son. The walls of all the houses here are pretty thick and the windows are double glazed to keep the heat in, they also work well in limiting the noise that goes out of the house, so DJ Fresh, Glenzito, Bongz and Mafikizolo are played at high volume with no complaints from our elderly neighbours.

➤ *How many people work at the South African consulate?*

The Mission has about fifty people, of which thirty are locally recruited personnel and the rest are transferred staff. This number includes colleagues from the Departments of Agriculture, Defence, Science and Technology, South African Revenue Services (Customs) and Trade and Industry.

➤ *What characteristic or attribute of the Belgium people do you think we as South African can learn from?*

Belgians are community-orientated people, where people get involved in community projects. South Africans could learn from that and get involved in drives to improve their local communities.

Belgians also value their own products, such as their chocolate, chips, beer and bicycles, with no need for the government to convince Belgians to support or buy local products; that culture and spirit could help South Africa grow financially and also improve community. ■



Winter Games 2008

The DFA Sports Council takes pride in congratulating departmental sportsmen and -women on their sterling performance during the 2008 Winter Games held on Friday 29 August at the Rhulani Sport Grounds. Participants included South African Police Service, South African National Defence Force, NIA/SASS, Independent Complaints Directorate, National Prosecuting Authority, Financial Intelligence Centre, Special Investigation Unit and the DFA.

This year, a record number of DFA employees registered to participate in sports like aerobics, angling, chess, fun walk, athletics, snooker, pool, tennis, netball, volleyball, golf, motorcycling, soccer and squash.

DFA teams were crowned the 2008 Winter Games champions in the netball and volleyball events. The two teams performed outstandingly against very tough competition.

The Department also enrolled an angling team who competed at Baja Dam in Bronkhorstspuit. The team consisted of four DFA officials; some family members and friends also joined the event, bringing the DFA team to a total of nine anglers. Although some were more experienced than others, all were more than willing to learn.

The dam was a bit selfish, but like a voice from the grave a reel started screaming at 3:00 in the morning, bringing in a mirror carp of 2,25 kg which made the owner, Mr van Straten, proud. This was unfortunately also the only fish caught by the DFA team. Nevertheless, DFA came third in the event with this carp. The competition was won by the SAPS followed by the SANDF.

During this event it was also decided that an official DFA anglers' club should be established as soon as possible to have events like this more often. It would serve as preparation for the annual Winter Games, and perhaps also foreign diplomats in South Africa could be invited to compete in events.

The DFA Sports Council in collaboration with the Employee Wellbeing Centre (EWC) wishes to call on employees to become actively involved in the sport and recreation activities of the Department. Employees are reminded that the objectives of the Sports Council are to:

- bring about unity and solidarity among DFA employees through participation in sport and recreation;
- create healthy relations between the Department and other national



government departments through sport and recreation; and

- promote, through sport and recreation, bonds of friendship and co-operation between the DFA and the international diplomatic community in SA.

Employees are encouraged to contact the Sports Council if they are interested in taking up the challenge and becoming involved in sport. ■

Contributed by DFA Sports Council and Chris van Straten (Angling Team)



Literacy is the best remedy

Literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to four billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all – children, youth and adults – is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever moving target. One in five adults is still not literate (two-thirds of them women) while 72 million children are out-of-school.

The DFA, being a knowledge-based organisation, is largely dependent on its employees' ability to read widely, analyse, interpret information and write meaningful reports on issues in Diplomacy and International Relations. At the other end of the spectrum is the challenge of providing education, training and life skills at ABET level for employees who did not receive any education or received very little education.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed a ten-year period, starting 1 January 2003, namely the United Nations Literacy Decade. Annually, 1-7 September is declared Literacy Week and 8 September International Literacy Day. The Diplomatic Academy introduced the local celebrations thereof, during the mentioned week, halfway through the UN Literacy Decade.

The week was filled with learning, reading, seminars, educational visuals,

book and artefact displays, poetry, street theatre, cultural dancing and music.

Dr John Tibane, a leadership consultant and professional speaker, held a motivational talk which was the highlight for many. Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) learners' highlight was an enriching and fun day at the Apartheid Museum and Constitution Hill in Johannesburg, ending with a scrumptious lunch at Moyos.

Hundreds of books have been donated by generous colleagues, who are saluted in appreciation of their caring and sharing. The books will be donated to a primary school in Klipgat and a high school in Winterveld at a date to be decided by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs.

Cherish the Turbo Think book that was given to you, read the words of wisdom of Dr Tibane, absorb it and live it. He said "Enrich your thinking; enlarge your territory; and improve the quality of your life."

These celebrations mark the beginning of a journey towards building DFA as a learning organisation. ■

Contributed by Directorate Generic Skills Development



Former Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad's Briefing on International Developments, 18 September 2008



Former President Thabo Mbeki meets his Sudanese counterpart, President Omar Hassan al-Bashir at Khartoum airport, 15 September 2008.

November 2008. During the third phase of the Project, some of the training will be undertaken in Southern Sudan in order to train large numbers and to assist with institution building.

Zimbabwe: Latest Political Developments



Former President Thabo Mbeki with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai after signing the power-sharing accord on 15 September 2008.

On Monday, 15 September, ZANU-PF and the two MDC formations signed in Harare the historic Agreement ending a long process of negotiations facilitated by South Africa on behalf SADC and AU. In the Agreement, the Parties declare their commitment to agree to work together to create a genuine, viable, permanent, sustainable and nationally acceptable solution to the Zimbabwe situation, and in particular, to implement the Agreement with the aims of resolving once and for all the current political and economic

Sudan

Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

From 15-16 September 2008, President TM Mbeki undertook a working visit to the Sudan. During the visit, President Mbeki held discussions with President Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir and Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit on the latest developments in the Sudan, particularly the: i) indictment of President El Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC), ii) implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA); iii) Darfur conflict with special emphasis on the operationalisation of UNIMED; and iv) South Africa-Sudan Bilateral relations. Let me say that from this visit we are quite convinced that some good progress is being made, for instance the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Interim Evaluation Report indicates that quite substantial progress has been made to implement the CPA.

The International Criminal Court

On 14 July 2008, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo made an

application to the Pre-trial Chamber of the ICC for an arrest warrant against President El Bashir. President El Bashir's indictment is related to the ongoing crisis in Darfur, which has resulted in the death of over 300 000 people and the displacement of over 2,5 million Darfurians. The AU has urged the UNSC to invoke article 16 of the ICC Statute and defer the process initiated by the ICC in order to avoid jeopardising peace efforts in the Sudan. The AU has also called for the establishment of an independent High-Level Panel to investigate and recommend on how to address the issues of accountability and combating impunity, on the one hand, and reconciliation and healing, on the other hand.

South Africa-Sudan Bilateral Relations

The implementation of the DFA-GOSS-UNISA Capacity and Institution Building Project for Southern Sudan is running optimally. To date, fifteen training programmes have been implemented and over 800 GOSS officials have been trained. The Project will be entering the third phase in

situations and charting a new political direction for the country. Let me once again take this opportunity to say that this Agreement is indeed a historic agreement, indeed it is a milestone in the context of Africa taking the initiative, with the support of the international community, to find African solutions. We have consistently said that given the specific environment create which would enable the Zimbabweans to get together to solve their problems in a way that looks at national interests. It is our view that this has laid a solid foundation to dealing with other



African problems, not in isolation, in order to ensure that we get an African solution supported by the international community.

The Burundi Peace Process

The Government of Burundi and the PALIPEHUTU-FNL have agreed to continue to hold regular meetings aimed at addressing issues related to the implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement (CCA), following a series of meetings on 19, 21 and 26 August 2008.



Angolans queue outside electoral tents on 5 September 2008 in Luanda.

5-6 September 2008: Legislative Elections in Angola

Political events in Angola over the past period took a positive turn when legislative elections were held on 5-6 September 2008. A contingent of 10 South Africans, including members of Parliament and representatives of civil society, formed part of 80 SADC Observers of the legislative elections. The SADC Observers, led by Mr John Kunene of Swaziland, formed part of a bigger group of election observers, which included the AU and EU, ECOWAS and the USA. The final election results still have to be published. The preliminary results indicate that the ruling MPLA has won a landslide victory obtaining 81,76% of the votes. UNITA, which has, together with the other parties, accepted the results, was second with 10,36 % of the votes. The Social Renewal Party (PRS) was third with 3,14 % and the other eleven parties obtained 1% and less of the votes. It is not foreseen that the final election results will differ much from these. ■



An Angolan woman casts her ballot on 5 September 2008 in the popular neighborhood of Samba.

Where were you..?

