

the diplomat

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Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

July 2009



MANDELA DAY – 18 JULY 2009

Former President, Nelson Mandela celebrates his 91st birthday. DICO officials do their bit on Mandela Day – Page 6



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international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EDITORIAL NOTE:

Dear Colleagues

WELCOME to the July edition of the diplomat. This month is very significant, it carries the birthday of our elder statesman former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela who is an inspiration for both South Africa and the world. In celebration of the life of this great icon we were all requested to spend 67 minutes of our time on his birthday doing something good for the less fortunate. In this regard, we have the pleasure to bring you the activities undertaken by Head Office and our Missions.

Furthermore, we bring you the following: FIFA 2010 Promoted around the Globe, the African Youth Charter, and Mission issues. ■

Warm regards

ERRATUM – COVERAGE OF FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATIONS IN SOUTH KOREA

The Editorial team of 'the diplomat' would like to sincerely apologise for erroneously reporting that the Mission's article on Freedom Day celebrations was in North Korea (where South Africa does not have representation) instead of South Korea. Our Mission in South Korea has been one of our 'star' contributors and we thank them for the continuous support.

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WESTERN SAHARA:

The Diplomatic Dimension, paper delivered by Ambassador Mzuvukile Maqetuka at the 3rd Summer University in Algeria for the youth of Western Sahara, Algiers, 15 July 2009

INTRODUCTION

FOR SOUTH AFRICA, the struggle for the people of Western Sahara is a struggle for self-determination and is based on the principles of decolonisation, promotion of human rights, international legality, stability and security of the African continent. Above all, the situation of Western Sahara is similar to the struggle the majority of South Africans waged against the apartheid regime.

It is indeed regrettable and a matter of great shame that some fifty odd years since the liberation of the first African state from the yolk of colonialism that Western Sahara an entity officially recognised by the African Union (AU) is still denied its right to self-determination. This presents a challenge to the African continent in particular and the international community in general to ensure that the Saharawi people also enjoy this fundamental and inalienable right whose defence by the African continent ushered our own freedom on 27 April 1994.

Our aim therefore, is to share with this gathering, South Africa's positions and intentions on the question of Western Sahara.

RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND DECOLONISATION

There is a general consensus amongst scholars that the right to self-determination means that all peoples have the ultimate authority without adjourning their self-determination and without any other intervention in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. This right is considered as an important principle of

international contemporary positive law stipulated in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 which contained the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. According to this resolution, self-determination is a right rather than a simple principle of the UN Charter. According to Sidi Omar, the political imperative of decolonisation also served as the driving force behind that shift and consolidated the right of colonial peoples to self-determination as expressed later in the international human rights covenants.

By virtue of resolution 1514 (XV) and other legal instruments, the colonial peoples were given an inalienable right to self-determination to be exercised by the establishment of an independent state, integration or association with another state. According to Omar, in later cases, the outcome should be the result of the free choice by the people of the territory concerned and expressed through democratic processes.

In sum, the legal basis for the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination lies in the UN doctrine relating to decolonisation and the continuing status of Western Sahara as a Non-Self Governing Territory. This entails that the Saharawi people have an inalienable right to self-determination and independence to be expressed in a free, fair and democratic manner in line with the UN resolutions.

It is thus important to note that Western Sahara remains the last remaining colony on the African continent and it has been on



Ambassador Mzuvukile Maqetuka (South African Ambassador to Algeria also accredited to the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic)

the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories since 1963 when it was under Spanish colonial rule. As stated earlier, resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly recognised the inalienable right of the Saharawi people to self-determination and independence. Therefore, the continuous colonial occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco constitutes a challenge to the principles of the UN Charter.

It should also be mentioned that the United Nations or any other international and regional organisation have never recognised Morocco's territorial claims of sovereignty over Western Sahara. The Moroccan claims to Western Sahara have been rejected by the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on 16 October 1975. It will be recalled that the International Court of Justice stated that there were no links of territorial sovereignty between Morocco and Western Sahara prior to Spanish colonisation of the territory. It is therefore incumbent upon the United Nations to assume its responsibilities to redress this injustice and ensure a speedy completion of the decolonisation process in Western Sahara.

The right to self-determination was the basis upon which our own nation, South Africa was formed. Self-determination is enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the African Union Constitutive Act and is regarded as a basic human right. The United Nations in its numerous resolutions reaffirming the right to self-determination of the Saharawis, establishing the Mission for the Referendum in the Western Sahara (MINURSO) in 1991. The United Nations has been unequivocal in its support of this

"We will continue to support your struggle by all means necessary, in order for both our causes to triumph".

right and has indicated that when territories such as the Western Sahara are transitioning out of colonialism, the people of those territories should have the option of freely choosing between independence, association with an independent state, or integration with an independent state.

SOUTH AFRICA AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE SAHARAWI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

In his State of the Nation Address, in June 2009, the President of the Republic of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma remarked that, "We will support the peace efforts of the African Union and the United Nations on the African continent, including in the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic..." President Zuma's statement is consistent with the rich tradition bequeathed to us by that great son of Africa, Oliver Reginald Tambo who expressed in his speeches without fail the constant support of the people of South Africa for the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination. To this end Tambo remarked, "We will continue to support your struggle by all means necessary, in order for both our causes to triumph".

All present here today will recall that South Africa was also at one stage seized for



many years with the struggle for self-determination and against apartheid colonialism. It was in this context that the bonds between the people of South Africa and Western Sahara were forged that endures till this day. This was particularly exemplified by the spirit of solidarity that the primary liberation movements of South Africa and Western Sahara, namely the POLISARIO Front and the African National Congress (ANC) displayed towards each other even whilst intensely engaged in the revolutionary duty of liberating their people.

Shortly after the inauguration of South Africa's first post-apartheid government in 1994, the former South African President, Mr Nelson Mandela, announced a decision by the South African government of its intention to recognise and establish diplomatic relations with the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) consistent with the earlier decisions of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) which South Africa formally joined in 1994. This intention was translated into action when South Africa formally recognised SADR on 15 September 2004.

We remain firm in the belief that our non-recognition of SADR would constitute a betrayal of our own struggle and commitment to the

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respect of the UN Charter and the Constitutive Act of the African Union. Against this background, our government holds the view that the recognition of SADR is not an end in itself, but, a means to an end, which is the attainment of self-determination and decolonisation of Western Sahara, at present South Africa is engaged in regular diplomatic consultations with the SADR government in a bid to strengthen and consolidate bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the spirit of African solidarity.

WESTERN SAHARA: A FOREIGN POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Through our various bilateral and multilateral relations, the South African government is committed to promoting the African Renaissance and the creation of a better world for all in pursuit of the vision of an African continent that is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united and which contributes to a world that is just and equitable. This means contributing to the formulation of international law and enhancing respect for its provisions thereof, as well as, promoting multilateralism to secure a rule-based international system.

In an increasingly conflict ridden world, the role of international law and the continued affirmation of the legal rights of the people and nations through the promotion of multilateralism, human rights and democracy are the central pillars of a policy of securing peace and prosperity at home, on the African continent and the world at large.

South Africa foreign policy on Western Sahara remains anchored on the following priorities :

- Right to self-determination;
- Decolonisation and the sanctity of colonial borders;
- Respect for human right and humanitarian support;
- International legality and the centrality of the United Nations;
- Non-exploitation of natural resources of the illegally occupied territory, and
- Peace, security and stability of the Maghreb region

It is in this context that South Africa supports the inalienable right of the Saharawi people to self-determination and finds utterly regrettable the countless violations of United Nations Security Council and International Court of Justice resolutions

by Morocco.

During its tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from January 2007 to December 2008, South Africa joined other Council members in regularly renewing the mandate of the UN Mission for a Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and encouraged both parties to the dispute to participate in negotiations in pursuit of a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. We remain confident that in the spirit of African solidarity that Uganda which took over the seat from us as a Non-Permanent Member of the Security Council in January 2009 will continue to champion the cause of the Saharawi people and the African continent at large. South Africa envisages that the current Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General to Western Sahara, Mr Christopher Ross, will take heed of previous United Nations and International Court of Justice resolutions which reaffirm the international recognition of the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination through the organisation of a referendum. We are therefore encouraged by Ross' stance that a final solution to Western Sahara needs to take into account the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination in line with the previous UN resolutions on Western Sahara.

WHAT WE BELIEVE IS TO BE DONE?

At this juncture, I would like to share with you the most critical issues surrounding the question of Western Sahara as we see it:

- We support the participation of both parties (POLISARIO Front and Morocco) in negotiations and in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions on Western Sahara which reaffirm its

commitment to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

- We condemn profusely the human rights violations inflicted on the Saharawi people in the occupied territories. It is in this context that we support the proposal that the monitoring of human rights be included within the broader mandate of MINURSO. On the same wavelength, we are aware that an information embargo is currently in place in the Western Sahara occupied territories meaning that the people are denied access to basic information to what is happening outside the territories and the international community unaware of what is happening in the occupied zones. This hides the sustained human rights abuses such as the right to freedom of association, assembly, movement and expression being constantly inflicted on the Saharawi people by the occupying forces.

It is indeed a travesty that as a result of this engineered media blackout, the international community is deprived of seeing an injustice being committed right before it. In this context, we call for the lifting of the information blockade imposed on the occupied territories and allow for the free movement of

people and information in the occupied territories. We also call for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience and that the 'disappeared' Saharawis be accounted for.

- We are alarmed by the harsh conditions which the Saharawis have been confined to in the refugee camps for more than 30 years mainly due to the non-resolution of this urgent matter by the international community. We as South Africa thus support the provision of humanitarian aid to the Saharawi refugees in a way that is predictable, sustained and timely. To this end, we applaud initiatives recently taken by the United Nations High Commission of Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) who coordinated a donors Mission composed of Donor Embassies accredited to Algeria to the Saharawi Refugee Camps in Tindouf in March 2009. Similarly, we find very important the recent fact-finding mission by the African Union Committee on Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons to the Saharawi

This Day newspaper and Nigerian National Television which recently visited the Saharawi Refugee camps and liberated territories in a bid to sensitise the Nigerian populace about this urgent matter. Prior to the visit of the

Nigerian media contingent, a survey had been conducted amongst the youth of the most populous country on the continent on their knowledge of the issue of Western Sahara which came out negative. The visit by the Nigerian media contingent was therefore an attempt to address the apparent lack of knowledge of the youth on Western Sahara. A precedent for all to follow has been set!

- We discourage the illegal exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara and the involvement of foreign companies in such activities.
- In the era of globalisation, the youth of our continent must utilise the internet to popularise and educate their peers about the challenges that the Saharawi people are faced with. This action must begin with the youth of Western



Mr Kaya Somgqeza, Counsellor: Political and Mr Masotsha Mnguni, Second Secretary: Political, handing over a humanitarian donation of computers on behalf of the Embassy to the Olof Palme Centre in the Saharawi Refugee Camps, in Tindouf, South West Algeria.

Refugee Camps in June 2009, the first visit by an AU delegation since 2006.

Sahara that is currently attending this Summer University. The internet has proven to be a powerful mode of communication on various occasions.

It is in this context that we encourage the progressive forces of this world to garner their resources together and mobilise in a similar manner they did in the struggle against apartheid in our country. Our internationalist and solidarity obligations dictate to us that the struggle of the Saharawi people is a struggle for the decolonisation of Africa!

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) is a fully fledged member of the African Union. The pending resolution of the Saharawi question, the remaining decolonisation issue on the agenda of the African Union thus presents the continent with its biggest moral dilemma. The non-resolution of the Western Sahara dispute is detrimental to the development and reconstruction of the whole continent and ultimate integration. Any solution would thus need to take into account the principle of the right of the peoples of former colonial territories to self-determination.

South Africa remains fully committed to the resolutions of conflicts in the African continent in particular and the world at large. The case of Western Sahara thus places the inevitable mandate on us to work together to seek a just and mutually acceptable political solution to the current impasse. A just and lasting solution for the people of Africa's last remaining colony is imperative for the peace and prosperity of the continent as a whole.

The international community and South Africa cannot afford to be silent when international law principles are violated. South Africa's commitment to the struggle of Saharawi people for self-determination was succinctly captured by our Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane when she remarked, "There can be no lasting peace on the African continent as long as the people of Western Sahara continue to suffer and to live in conditions of occupation. We are convinced that urgent steps are needed to resolve this last case of decolonisation on our continent in line with UN processes". ■

HEAD OFFICE

MANDELA DAY was designed to harness the hope and inspiration that Mr Mandela has brought to the world by galvanising a global movement for good. This day was to be characterised by local initiatives, with people taking action to assist those in their communities who need a helping hand in that way honouring Nelson Mandela by doing good for others. Any activities in this regard should promote dialogue and a sense of community and should last for at least 67 minutes, to correspond with the 67 years that Mr Mandela has spent in public life giving service to others. The 2009 DICO celebration of Mandela Day took place on Friday, 17 July for reasons of practicality.

Ambassador Jerry Matjila, Acting Deputy Director-General for Branches Europe and the Americas, convened an SMC meeting to discuss ways in which Mandela Day could be celebrated by officials in the two branches at Hatfield Court.

The SMC decided on the themes of the Youth, (including both children and university students), Women (especially in abusive situations) and the Elderly. The theme for this year was; "Care for the Most Vulnerable in your Community".

Officials of both Branches were requested to provide the names of organisations or causes that could be considered as beneficiaries for Mandela Day.

Despite the relatively short notice, the response by officials of Hatfield Court was overwhelming and most heart-warming.

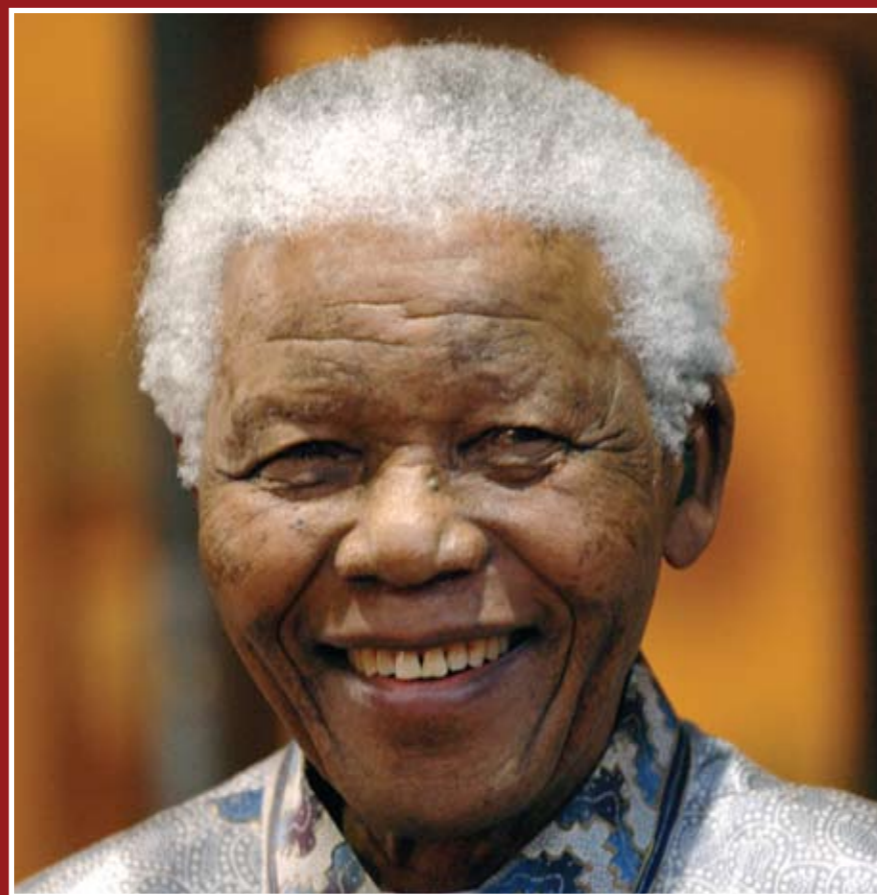
Ms Nontatu Skolo, Ms Hanna de Beer and Ms Sisanda Lisa assisted in the sorting of donations into different types of clothing and different types of food. Ten boxes including blankets, sleeping bags, duvets and clothing were donated and eight to ten boxes of food were received. These officials were assisted by Ms Ngwenya and Ms Mantyi.

Food donations included tinned food, tinned fruit, soup, rice, mealie meal, powdered milk, tea, sugar and cooking oil. Donations of toilet paper, toiletries and washing powder were also received.

Extra donations were received from Mr

Commemorating Mandela Day

The Nelson Mandela Foundation and 46664, the campaign vehicle of the Mandela organisations, called for a Mandela Day on 18 July, to be recognised as an annual international 'day of humanitarian action' in celebration of Nelson Mandela's life and legacy.



Brian Ritter on behalf of Branch: Multilateral and also from Ms Sonja Schenk.

The Public Diplomacy section kindly made available two photographers that accompanied all three delegations during the handing over of donations.

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

The first beneficiary to be visited on 17 July was the University of Pretoria Student Centre. Mr Fadl Nacerodien, Chief Director: Canada and the Americas, acted as

The theme for this year was; "Care for the Most Vulnerable in your Community".

speaker at this occasion and was accompanied by Mr Ponco and Ms Skolo. The students were overwhelmed at receiving files free of charge and scooped the files up for use. The visit was very successful and 12 boxes of files were donated. The remaining files could not be transported



due to limited transport space, and will be delivered to the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in due course.

CITY METHODIST CHURCH

The second beneficiary, the City Methodist Church was attended by a larger delegation, including Ambassador Ngwevela, Ms Lisa, Ms Ogaufi Masibi, Mr Nkateko Manganye, Ms Phumeza Lamani of Tulbagh Park, Mr Ponco, Ms Nonhlanhla Ngwenya, Ms Nolubala Mantyi and Ms Harington.

The Project Manager of the Church explained several of the projects sponsored by the organisation, including child-headed households, a pre-school facility, sewing groups that enable seamstresses to earn a living from the creation of church robes and school uniforms and a project for the manufacture of communion wafers and non-alcoholic communion wine. The Project Manager undertook to provide the delegation with further information on its projects.

ZUID AFRIKAANSE VROUE FEDERASIE

The third beneficiary was the Zuid Afrikaanse Vroue Federasie that is an umbrella organisation in Pretoria for a number of different welfare organisations.

The delegation met with a number of social workers and administrative staff who expressed great gratitude for the donations and undertook to include the donation into its monthly newsletter.

Mandela Day at our Missions

PARAGUAY

THE EMBASSY attempted to celebrate Mandela Day by identifying a project which would have an optimal ratio between impact on society and the cost of participation in the same. The meeting with all staff of the Embassy to discuss possible scenarios led to enthusiastic discussion, but concurred that current budgetary realities limited the Embassy's options to projects that would hopefully have a significant impact whilst demanding modest inputs such as minimal personal financial contributions, manual labour, goodwill and good humour.

With this scenario in mind, the Embassy identified a project at one of the Uruguayan government's properties that are focussed on providing support to families. These properties are called CAIFs (Centre for Attention to Infants and Families) and are scattered around the neediest areas of urban Montevideo. The CAIFs provide basic educational - and dietary support to families and infants (0 to 4 years of age) in the very lower income groups of Uruguayan society. With much attention and entire budgets spent on the fulfilment of basic needs such as educational material to improve social behaviour as well as food for families, these centres are poorly maintained and in need of much attention when it comes to their physical ap-

pearance and general level of sanitation. However, these issues of appearance and proper maintenance remain important as there is agreement that " a dignified environment creates dignified behaviour ..."

The Embassy therefore focussed its attention on working for 4 hours at an identified CAIF. This CAIF was in urgent need of maintenance such as painting and general clean up of the surrounding areas (garden) of the property. A classical trilateral approach to assistance was followed by engaging a local NGO, Serve the City. This NGO provided the Embassy with basic materials such as paint and brushes. Hence, the Embassy's contribution focussed on minimal contributions for food, labour from the two transferred officials and five local Embassy staff members, as well as transport to the venue.

The Embassy's assistance was well received and a short explanation on the motivation for our efforts was given to the CAIF management. This explanation focussed on the work and life of our Former President, Mr Nelson Mandela, and the goodwill in serving communities that was - and still remains the centre of his life.

Embassy staff unanimously agreed that the project was a success and an inspirational experience. The possibility of combining

such a project with the elements of a future team-building exercise will be explored.

INDONESIA

The Mission in Jakarta commemorated Mandela Day on 17 July 2009 by collaborating with the Governor of Jakarta's Office, on the "One Million Tree Planting Project" which entailed the planting of 91 trees, signifying former president of South Africa Mr Nelson Mandela's 91st birthday.

Two types of Protective trees were be planted i.e. Bismarkia nobilis and Jakaranda. Bismarckia nobilis was recommended due to its silver -green, long and strong leaves that are comparable to Mandela's strength, and endurance.

The 91 trees were planted across five locations in Jakarta. Three trees were planted at Ayodia Park, which was the ceremonial site by Ambassador Lehoko, the Deputy Governor of Environmental Affairs of Jakarta, Mr Achmad Haryadi and the Deputy Mayor of South Jakarta, Mr Mangara Pardede. The rest of the trees were planted on the same day at four other locations.

Amongst other notable attendees were the Deputy Governor of Environmental Affairs Mr Achmad Haryadi, the deputy Mayor of South Jakarta, Mr Mangara Pardede, Ambassadors from the Africa group and South Africans.

A musical group called Sanggar Merah Putih gave a resounding performance to everyone's delight. They are a community of musically talented youth who come from challenging circumstances with age range from 12 to 18. They play violin and perform music from different genre and era. Coca-Cola in Jakarta has been providing them with support in the form of musical instruments, a place to practice and musical tuition.

Ambassador Lehoko made remarks on the significance of the Mandela Day on 18 July, which hence forth is to be recognised as an International annual celebration for his lifetime of commitment. He further stated that "the day will represent an ongoing call to action for all to make an imprint and to celebrate the occasion by volunteering 67 minutes of their time on the day in the service of their community, or of others less able or fortunate than themselves.

In his remarks the Deputy Governor on Environmental Affairs expressed his appreciation on behalf, the city of Jakarta and the government of Indonesia to the Embassy and the Government of South Africa for the tree planting initiative and cooperation undertaken in assisting to re-green the city of Jakarta while at the same time strengthening the bilateral ties between South Africa and Indonesia, and maintenance of people to people contact.

INDIA – MUMBAI

On the occasion of Mandela Day, staff and families of the South African Consulate General in Mumbai, India together with the South Africa Business Forum spent the afternoon at Asha Daan, Missionaries of Charity founded by the late Mother Teresa. These under-privileged children and adults

are abandoned, and often picked up from the streets by the city's policemen. Often un-wed mothers dropped their new born babies to be cared by the Sisters. Most of these under-privileged are not accepted at other destitute homes.

"We are humbled by the call for an annual Mandela Day in our honour. Our struggle for freedom and justice was a collective effort. Mandela Day is no different. It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."

Asha Daan accommodates 350 beds. At present, there are 50 disabled children below eight years. 25 children attending school of which some of them are mentally challenged. 50 mentally challenged teens, 25 HIV/Aids women patients; and 208 mentally challenged and aged men and women.

Part of the outreach was to do the following at the Missionaries:

- Organised games and a juggler and clown to entertainment the children
- A performance by Drum Café (traditional African dance and singing)
- Organised a cake with the Mandela Day logo that was cut by the children.
- Unveiled a plaque with the 90th Anniversary Nelson Mandela commemorative Five Rand Coin, recognising the self-less commitment of the Missionaries of Charity.
- Hand prints of these under-privileged persons were imprinted on a canvass.
- A supper off Chicken Biryani Rice was given.
- Bed-sheets, school bags and basic healthcare products (soaps, detergents etc) were handed out.

KUWAIT

Former President Nelson Mandela turned 91 years old on Saturday 18 July 2009. In this regard, South African President, Mr. Jacob Zuma outlined plans to commemorate the political life of the Nobel Prize laureate when he called on the nation to dedicate 67 minutes of their time in the service of others on Dr. Mandela's birth-

day. Each minute represents a year of Dr. Mandela's life spent fighting for freedom and justice in South Africa.

President Zuma in his State of the Nation earlier this year stated:

"We can best honour our icon, Madiba, through attempting, in our small ways to do what he would be proud of. Nothing would please him more than to see all South Africans, black and white, active in the service of humanity. Mandela contributed his entire adult life to this country and its people. This is the least we can do to honour him and take forward his legacy."

Mandela Day was initiated by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to celebrate his 67 years in active public life, from his pivotal role in the anti apartheid struggle, to his presidency and finally to his work as mediator in peace talks and as an Aids Activist. Mandela Day is not a holiday but a day devoted to service.

In this regard Former President Mandela in a video recording stated: "We are humbled by the call for an annual Mandela Day in our honour. Our struggle for freedom and justice was a collective effort. Mandela Day is no different. It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."

The South African Embassy in Kuwait joins the collective effort of the international community to dedicate 67 minutes of our time in the service of others on Mandela's birthday.

Transferred Officials spent the day with the Kuwaiti Society for the Disabled to contribute in the effort of highlighting the concerns of disabled people and their needs. The Head of Administration, Ms Yoliswa Boniwe and the Administration Attaché spent the better part of Monday, 20 July 2009 spending the day with disabled children and their families. ■

FIFA 2010

Promoted around the Globe



Panel discussion at the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Berlin

GERMANY

ONE DAY AHEAD of Nelson Mandela's 91st birthday, representatives of numerous organisations met at the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Berlin in order to get information about the state of the preparations for the FIFA Soccer World Cup next year and also to participate in discussions with the former Archbishop and Nobel Peace Laureate Desmond Tutu, the FIFA Communications Head Hans Klaus and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Maennig of Hamburg University. The host and Minister of the Republic of South Africa, Cassandra Mbuyane-Mokone, also joined the group.

Desmond Tutu said, "The FIFA Soccer World Cup is really our World Cup; it will help us very much to unite our country further. We will prove that a multi-cultural society is possible. We are a token of hope for the entire world."

Since the bid for the 2010 FIFA World Cup on 15 May 2004, South Africa has been preparing for its role as host country in many ways. The dress rehearsal, the FIFA Confederations Cup, was successfully staged a few weeks ago. Ms Mbuyane-Mokone said, "The organisation of this global sports event is a big challenge for many fields of our economy, society and politics," and added, "During the Confederations Cup we saw that the South African fans did their bit to make sure that this world cup event, which we host for the entire African continent, will be a success."

Hans Klaus also talked about the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009, saying "during the tournament we could see that we are well on the way to achieve our joint goals. Currently we are working on some chal-

lenges such as the transport sector. A perfect organisation of the tournament next year is important but a great experience and a good and authentic atmosphere are at least as important."

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Maennig commented on the economic effects of such a mega sporting event, "Benefits in the short run are not to be expected and are not aspired. South Africa will in the long run see positive economic effects of the FIFA World Cup that will result from the improved infrastructure and the high attention worldwide."

INFORMATION SERIES CONTINUED

Four events with 400 media representatives took place in the past at the Berlin Embassy. At the initial event on 27 May 2008 the focus was on the bilateral cooperation between South Africa and Germany as well as security. An important element was the presentation of the projects of the German partners that use the world cup event as a catalyst for sustainable development in South Africa and other African states. Represented were the Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, InWEnt (International Education and Development) gGmbH, and streetfootballworld gGmbH. The Deputy Police Head of South Africa, André Prius, provided information about the security measures for the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup.

HIGH-RANKING EXPERTS

The second information event dealt with

the topics of transport and infrastructure as well as the current state of the preparations for the FIFA World Cup 2010 in general. With Dr. Danny Jordaan, Head of the

South African Organising Committee, the DFB Treasurer Horst R. Schmidt in his capacity as advisor for the FIFA World Cup 2010, high-ranking spokesmen could be won for the event. The official mascot Zakumi had his first appearance outside of South Africa on this occasion.

The third event dealt with the topics "Football for Hope" and "20 Centres for 2010", on which the Head of the FIFA Section for Corporate Social Responsibility, Federico Addiechi,

reported together with Jürgen Griesbeck, Managing Director of streetfootballworld gGmbH.

In the fourth information event Willy Lemke, UN Special Envoy for Sports, participated as well as Erich Stather, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Together with other experts they discussed the chances and challenges of sustainable development within the context of the FIFA WC 2010.

NOTE: It came to the attention of the diplomat that the ZDF (Zweite Deutsche Fernsehen – 2nd German TV channel) has broadcasted this event on the 17th on the 15h00, 17h00 and 19h00 news. According to the internet it has a viewer number of 2.61 million and we could be sure that the event made a huge impact – Well done from the Editorial Team! ■



The African Youth Charter:

The implications of the African Youth Charter on stakeholders

BACKGROUND

THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER (AYC) was adopted by the Seventh Session of the Assembly, held in Banjul, The Gambia on 02 July 2006. The adoption of the AYC is not just a mere cosmetic change, but rather a paradigm shift with profound implications. This article is simply intended to provide an epigrammatic overview of the AYC and as well of snippets of information as regards its implications on stakeholders.

The Republic of South Africa signed (by the former Minister in the Presidency, Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang) the AYC on 07 May 2009, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Republic of South Africa ratified the AYC on 28 May 2009 and deposited the

instrument of ratification with the Commission on 08 July 2009. South Africa is the fourteenth country to ratify the AYC, which required the deposit of fifteen instruments of ratification to come into force. The Republic of The Gambia was the fifteen African Union (AU) Member State to ratify the AYC. As a result the AYC will enter into force on 08 August 2009 (Article 30(2) of the AYC provides that "the AYC shall enter into force 30 days after the deposit of the fifteenth instrument of ratification").

The countries that have signed and ratified the AYC include: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, and Uganda.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE AYC ON STAKEHOLDERS

The Member States of the AU (in the 'Preamble' of the AYC) "NOTED with concern the situation of African youth, many of whom are marginalised from mainstream society through inequalities in income, wealth and power, unemployment and underemployment, infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, living in situations of poverty and hunger, experiencing illiteracy and poor quality educational systems, restricted access to health services and to information, exposure to violence including gender violence, engaging in armed conflicts and experiencing various forms of discrimination". Consequently, the AYC is envisaged to address the concerns noted

by the Member States of the AU.

The AYC defines the term "Youth" as "for the purposes of this Charter, youth or young people shall refer to every person between the ages 15 and 35 years". The term Minors is defined in terms of the Charter to refer to "young people aged 15 to 17 years subject to each country's laws".

The AYC has policy implications on State Parties of the AYC. Articles 1-28 (except Article 26) of the AYC deal with the responsibilities of the State Parties to the AYC. These articles of the AYC respectively highlight areas upon which youth participation is vital: education and skills development, employment, national youth policies, national youth administration, real help for capacity-building, health issues, basic rights for young people, the right to participate in policy-making processes to mention but a few.

Article 1 (2) of the AYC, for example, provides that "State Parties shall undertake the necessary steps, in accordance with their Constitutional processes and with the provisions of the present Charter, to adopt such legislative or other measures that may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the Charter".

Furthermore, the AYC makes it obligatory for State Parties to popularise the AYC and also prescribes methods to be employed for the popularisation of the AYC. Article

27 of the AYC states that:

"States Parties shall have the duty to promote and ensure through teaching, education and publication, the respect of rights, responsibilities and freedoms contained in the present Charter and to see to it that these freedoms, rights and responsibilities as well as corresponding obligations and duties are understood".

The AYC also has implications on the Commission of the African Union. The Commission of the African Union has certain duties to discharge. Those duties include ensuring that State Parties respect the commitment made and fulfil the duties outlined in the AYC by, for example: (1) collaborating with governmental, non-governmental institutions and developmental partners to identify best practices on youth policy formulation and implementation and encouraging the adaptation of principles and experiences among State Parties; (2) inviting State parties to include youth representatives as part of their delegations to the ordinary sessions of the AU and other relevant meetings of the policy organs to broaden the channels of communication and enhance the discussion of youth-related issues; (3) instituting measures to create awareness of its activities and make information on its activities more readily available and accessible to youth; and (4) facilitating exchange and co-operation between youth organisations across national borders in order to develop regional youth solidarity, political con-

sciousness and democratic participation in collaboration with development partners.

The young people of the continent are beneficiaries of the AYC. In addition to these benefits afforded to the African youth, Article 26 specifically, outlines the responsibilities of young people by stating that young people on the continent have responsibilities towards their families, the society the State, and the international community. Their duties include (Article 26 of the AYC): becoming custodians of their own development, protect and work for family life and cohesion, have full respect for parents and elders and assist them anytime in cases of need in the context of positive African values, partake fully in citizenship duties including voting, decision making and governance, engage in peer-to-peer education to promote youth development in areas such as literacy, use of information and communication technology, HIV/AIDS prevention, violence prevention and peace building, and protect the environment and conserve nature, etc.

CONCLUSION

The AYC is indubitably a distinctive instrument for the protection and promotion of rights of young people on the continent. This milestone further signifies the importance of young people in the development of the continent. Their participation in the affairs of the continent could revolutionise the way the young people and the continent is perceived. The AYC creates

a legally binding framework for governments to build up supportive policies and programmes for the youth, and serves to accelerate the implementation of such policies and programmes. It also provides a platform for youth to assert their rights and fulfil their responsibility of contributing to the continent's development.

It's worth noting that the AU Heads of State and Government at their 12th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa declared the years 2009-2018 as the decade on youth development in Africa and also endorsed at their last Summit held in Sirte, Libya, a proposal to declare the year 2010 as the International Year of Youth. This is another step towards the right direction.

Finally, the former Minister in The Presidency, Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, pointed out that the AYC will be implemented within the context of the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2009-2014 which was recently approved by Government. The NYP is a national policy framework whose development was largely driven by the country's youth sector. She further pointed out that it contains the principles and processes that will guide the implementation of interventions to address issues of education, health, economic participation, and social cohesion. South Africa has already discharged most the obligations in the AYC. ■

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Batho Pele 2010 Style

AS A WAY OF RAISING awareness of 2010 and the importance of making foreign visitors feel at home when they come to visit South Africa, *the diplomat* will run a series of phrases in different international languages for us to charm those visitors in returning to one of the friendliest countries on the globe. We start with German, since Germany was the last host nation, and Germans are sure to attend the FIFA 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Hi
Hallo!

Good morning
Guten Morgen

Good afternoon
Guten Tag

Good evening
Guten Abend

Good night
Gute Nacht

Good bye
Auf Wiedersehen/Tschau

Cheers
Zum Wohl!

Welcome to South Africa
Herzlich Willkommen in Südafrika

Enjoy your stay in South Africa
Ich wünsche Ihnen einen schönen Aufenthalt.

May your team win
Hoffentlich gewinnt Ihr Team.

Good luck
Viel Glück!

What was the score?
Wie ging das Spiel aus?

How are you?
Wie geht es Ihnen?

My name is
ich heiße

I am South African
ich bin Südafrikaner

I am a diplomat
ich bin Diplomat

Would you like to taste a South African wine?
Haben Sie Lust, einen südafrikanischen Wein zu probieren?

You must visit one of our game reserves before you go back 'home'
Versäumen Sie nicht, eins unserer Wildreservate zu

besuchen, bevor Sie wieder "nach Hause" fahren

Four
vier

Please
bitte

Five
fünf

Thank you
vielen Dank

Six
sechs

Zero
null

Seven
sieben

One
eins

Eight
acht

Two
zwei

Nine
neun

Three
drei

Ten
zehn

Not too small to matter! SA Embassy in Sweden sends us the following:



"A proud father looks on as little Kian Schalk van der Merwe from Vasterös becomes the 1st recipient of the new security endorsed South African passport from Ambassador Zeph Makgetla in Stockholm. This was the first new-look SA passport issued to a South African child in Sweden. Judging from the looks, it was received with great interest!"

Where were you...?

