

# the diplomat

it's your voice

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

September 2009



President Jacob Zuma meeting United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon



inside:



international relations  
& cooperation

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DEAR COLLEAGUES

**W**elcome to another edition of the Diplomat. It will be unwise not to appreciate the positive comments we have received from colleagues here at Head Office and at Missions for the special photographic insert of the new Head Office building included in last month's edition.

Your comments are highly appreciated and motivate us to continue working harder to improve this newsletter to keep you well informed at all times.

*In this edition we bring you the following:*

President Jacob Zuma at the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; President Jacob Zuma at the 2nd Africa-South America Summit; Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane's Imbizo outreach programme; celebrating and remembering the life of Zakes Mokae; our embassy in Thailand participates in expo, courtesy call by Ambassador Anil Sooklal to Minister-President Kris Peeters; Batho Pele - 2010 style; our embassy in Bulgaria's credentials ceremony; our Philippines embassy's calabash of cape wine, cuisine and culture in Cebu.

Happy reading! ■

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▲ President Jacob Zuma, addresses the general debate of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

◀ President Jacob Zuma (R) and his wife Nompumelelo Ntuli (2<sup>nd</sup>L) and US President Barack Obama (2<sup>nd</sup>R) and his wife Michelle Obama (L) at the G-20 dinner, Phipps Conservatory, 24 September 2009 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



▲ World Leaders at the G-20 summit held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, aimed at promoting economic growth

# PRESIDENT ZUMA LED SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION TO THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

President Jacob Zuma, supported by International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana Mashabane, Water and Environmental Affairs Minister, Buyelwa Sonjica, Health Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi and Home Affairs Minister, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Senior Government officials represented South Africa at the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly ( UNGA) scheduled in New York from 21 - 25 September 2009.

**T**his year's UNGA 64 Session was held under the Theme " Effective responses to global crises; strengthening multilateralism and dialogue among civilisations for international peace; security and development".

President Jacob Zuma addressed the General Assembly on the 23 September 2009 during the afternoon session.

The General Debate of the 64th session presented an opportunity for Heads of States and Governments to interact on global issues that confront the international community.

**The South African delegation, in all its interactions during the 64th UNGA Session , contributed to the following debates:**

- Poverty eradication and the Millenium Development Goals

- Global financial and economic crises
- Climate Change
- Reform of international institutions, including the United Nations
- Promotion of the African Agenda including NEPAD
- Promotion of disarmament and nuclear non - proliferation

Both Ministers Sonjica and Nkoana Mashabane also participated in the Summit on Climate Change on the 22 September 2009.

On the margins of the 64TH UNGA session, President Zuma held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts in an endeavour to garner support on South Africa's positions on a range of issues of international importance and to consolidate cooperation on the multi-lateral level with other countries.

From New York, President Zuma

proceeded to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, for the G20 Summit. ■



▲ President Jacob Zuma speaking at the 64th General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters in New York



Far left:  
The Opening  
of ASA Summit  
in Venezuela

President  
Jacob Zuma  
and his wife  
Nompumelelo  
Ntuli arriving in  
Venezuela

## PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA AT THE 2ND AFRICA – SOUTH AMERICA SUMMIT



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1. President Jacob Zuma and Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane at ASA Summit in Venezuela 2. President Jacob Zuma with his counterpart, Venezuela President Hugo Chavez 3. President Hugo Chavez making remarks as he opens the ASA Summit in Margarita Island in Venezuela

**P**resident Jacob Zuma, supported by International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana Mashabane, Minister in the Presidency, Collins Chabane, Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe, International Relations Advisor, Ambassador Lindiwe Zulu; Economic Advisor, Mr Mandisi Mpahlwa, as well as South African Ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bhekisizwe Gila and Lungile Pepani, South African Ambassador to the African Union visited Isla Margarita, Venezuela for the 2nd Africa – South America Summit (ASA) scheduled for the 26-27 September 2009.

Whilst in Venezuela, President Zuma also used the opportunity to hold bilateral

meetings with his Latin American counterparts, Venezuela President Hugo Chavez, Chilean President, Dr. Michele Bachelet as well as Uruguay President Tabare Vazquez. These engagements were aimed at strengthening South – South cooperation as well as bilateral relations between South Africa and her Latin American counterparts.

### BACKGROUND TO THE AFRICA – SOUTH AMERICA SUMMIT INITIATIVE

The 1st ASA Summit- Space of Heads of State and Government (HoSG) held in Abuja, Nigeria on 30 November 2006, adopted the Abuja Declaration and the Plan of Action. Key to this Declaration was the establishment of the Africa-South America Cooperative Forum of

**Heads of State and Government (ASA); that should meet every two years, alternatively in the two regions.**

The 2nd Summit between Africa and Latin American countries was preceded by the Ministerial and Senior Officials Meetings.

The ASA Summit principally seeks to deepen and intensify South-South Cooperation. In addition the 2nd Summit aimed to:

- Adopt strategies and measures that will translate the vision of the Africa-South America Cooperative Forum into concrete economic, political and social benefits;
- Intensify cooperation and consultation

at all levels to exploit the immense opportunities which bound the two continents;

- Explore and exploit opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in the areas of Agriculture, Trade, and Investment, Energy, Technology, Water Resources and Tourism;
- Promote South-South Cooperation and the Consolidation of the African Agenda in the betterment of the African continent and the Countries of the South.
- Develop appropriate common positions in multilateral negotiations such as the reform of the Global Multilateral System of Governance and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Both Africa and Latin America seek congruency on several issues affecting the two regions such as: Reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in line with the Common African Position on the UN Reform as stipulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of July 2005 and; the resumption and successful conclusion of the Doha Round.

Furthermore the two regions have much in common in areas such as capacity building and cooperation in the areas of social upliftment, rural development, tourism, renewable energy, policies on climate change, science and technology, sport, education and cultural exchange, as well as advancement of the interests of the developing world at a multilateral level. ■

## CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ZAKES MOKAE

**O**n Friday, 18 September 2009 in a hot sunny day in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Consul-General Ms. Jeanette Ndhlovu accompanied by Vice Consul Mrs. Kgopotso John represented the Government and people of South Africa and joined scores of people who came from other parts of the United States and UK to pay their last respect to one of Africa's sons, Zakes Mokae and to comfort his widow Mandy Mokae.

country of his birth. He won many awards and accolades yet remained humble and committed to the freedom of his country.

He was particularly remembered for his infectious laughter by those who knew him.

World renowned writer Athol Fugard, remembered him as a selfless and caring individual who made a contribution in the lives of many young and aspiring actors.

The event was a solemn yet lively celebration of Zakes' life that included music and poetry. Mokae was a gifted artist who used his talents to fight for the freedom of all in the

The South African Consulate in Los Angeles was indeed honoured that the Consul General was able to pay tribute to this international campaigner for freedom and human rights. ■



Consul-General Jeanette Ndhlovu at Zakes Mokae's memorial



Consul-General with Dr Moloi



Consul-General with Athol Fugard

## SA EMBASSY IN THAILAND PARTICIPATES IN EXPO

**C**humpol Silapa-Archa, Thailand's Minister of Tourism and Sports, opened Food and Hotel Thailand 2009 – the number one event in Asia for the hospitality industry's premium market supply of international food, beverage, equipment and technology which was held at the Royal Paragon Hall, Bangkok from 2 – 5 September 2009.



▲ The opening of the Food and Hotel 2009 Expo

## BELGIUM: COURTESY CALL BY AMBASSADOR ANIL SOOKLAL TO MINISTER-PRESIDENT KRIS PEETERS

**H**E, Dr Anil Sooklal, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the Kingdom of Belgium, The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Mission to the European Union paid a courtesy call to Minister-President of the Flemish Government, Mr Kris Peeters on the 25 September 2009. Ambassador Dr Anil Sooklal was accompanied by Mr Thivhilaeli Makatu, Counsellor, Bilateral and Zakumi, the Official Mascot for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

The Minister-President appended his signature on the football that was autographed in April 2009 by the Heads of the European Commission for Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the African Union, the African Caribbean Pacific Group of States and the Belgian Football Federation, amongst others. The media was given the opportunity to ask a few 2010 Soccer World Cup related questions including developments in South Africa and South Africa's relations with Flanders.

## BULGARIA: CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

**Ambassador Sheila Camerer presented her credential to the Bulgarian President. Herewith a report:**

**I** was the first out of the starting blocks at 9:30 on 24th September. Four other ambassadors followed me I believe.

I was accompanied by Mr Thabiso Motau (Second Secretary – Political), Mr Rudi Conley (Corporate Services Manager) as well as my husband (as prescribed by the instruction booklet).

In the course of the discussion the President made it clear that he would welcome an invitation to visit South Africa. In his opening remarks (which included a "tour" horizon" of Bulgarian-SA relations) he emphasised that he would have loved to have responded positively to the original invitation which was for last year but a myriad of reasons – and he went into some detail – he was unable to come. He stressed that reciprocal Presidential visits would kick-start the new status of bilateral relations between our two countries, i.e. at full Ambassadorial level. He stated that Bulgaria was very pleased that after all this time this had happened.

He stated that he had enjoyed visiting South Africa when he led the Bulgarian delegation to the WSSD in 2002.

In response I referred to President Jacob Zuma's visit to Bulgaria as Deputy President in 2000 and expressed the hope that he would be able to come for a repeat visit as President during President Parvanov's term of office. ■



▲ Ambassador Sheila Camerer with Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov during her credentials ceremony, Bulgaria

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

Hi	Mi nombre es...
Hola	I am South African
Good morning	Male
Buen día	Soy sudafricano
Buenos días	Female
Good afternoon	Soy sudafricana
Buenas tardes	I am a diplomat Male
Good evening	Soy diplomático
Buenas noches	Female
Good night	Soy diplomática
Buenas noches	Would you like to taste a South African wine?
Good bye	When addressing one person
Hasta luego	Desea degustar un vino sudafricano?
Adiós	When addressing more than one person
cheers	Desean degustar un vino sudafricano?
Chau	You must visit one of our game reserves before you go back 'home' When addressing one person
Welcome to South Africa	Tiene que visitar una de nuestras reservas de animales salvajes, antes de retornar a su país.
Welcoming a man	When addressing more than one person
Bienvenido a Súdfrica	Tienen que visitar una de las reservas de animales salvajes, antes de retornar a su país.
Welcoming a lady	When addressing more than one person
Bienvenido a Súdfrica	Disfruten de su estada en Súdfrica
Welcoming a group	Disfruten de su estada en Súdfrica
Bienvenidos a Súdfrica	May your team win
Enjoy your stay in South Africa	Ojala que su equipo gane
When addressing one person:	Good luck
Disfrute de su estada en Súdfrica	Suerte
When addressing more than one person:	What was the score?
Disfruten de su estada en Súdfrica	Cuál fue el resultado?
May your team win	How are you?
Ojala que su equipo gane	When addressing one person
Good luck	Como esta?
Suerte	When addressing more than one person
What was the score?	Como estan?
Cuál fue el resultado?	My name is .....
How are you?	Me llamo...
When addressing one person	zero
Como esta?	one
When addressing more than one person	two
Como estan?	three
My name is .....	four
Me llamo...	five
	six
	seven
	eight
	nine
	ten
	Cero
	uno
	dos
	tres
	cuatro
	cinco
	seis
	siete
	ocho
	nueve
	diez

# PHILIPPINES: EMBASSY PRESENTS A CALABASH OF CAPE WINE, CUISINE AND CULTURE IN CEBU

**The South African Embassy in Manila from 23 – 27 September 2009 brought the country's heritage to Cebu, the second biggest city and business hub in the Philippines, by hosting a successful, well-supported and high-profile cultural festival. Events were arranged by the Embassy to coincide with Heritage Day on 24 September with the theme: "Come Celebrate South Africa's Cultural Heritage in Cebu - A Calabash of Cape Wine, Cuisine and Culture".**



**T**he festival was held in partnership and cooperation with the Mactan Shangri-La Resort Hotel, the Cebu Arts Council, the Cebu Chambers of Commerce – SA Business Council and wine importers of South African wines. The various events were well attended by around 1000 people, and prominent media coverage ensured that the festival and its theme of the richness, diversity and vibrancy of South Africa's cultural heritage was widely publicised.

## CALABASH OF HERITAGE

The concept and theme chosen by the mission was done with the overriding message of Heritage Month: "Celebrating South African Craft, Our Heritage" in mind. Our specific theme "Come Celebrate South Africa's Heritage in Cebu - A Calabash of Cape Wine, Cuisine and Culture", was built around and using the Calabash – a well-known utility African craft – as symbol. Three areas were high-

lighted namely: wines; cuisine and culture (performers and crafts).

## WINES

Wine importers provided about 40 wines, showcasing wines from all the 15 South African wine routes at an event focused on the celebration of 350 years of wine-making. The wine event in Cebu will continue to bring the South African wine Experience to one of the important wine loving provinces of the Philippines! Classic red wine varieties including Pinotage, Shiraz, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon as well as classic white wine styles ranging from Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay to Riesling was enjoyed.

## CUISINE

South African Chef, Nicholas Van Rensburg worked with the Hotel chefs to prepare a number of South African dishes for a finger food reception, a gala "braai" buffet dinner, and two meals at the hotel restaurant. From grilled Karoo lamb to traditional boerewors (sausage); from smoked snoek fish to Cape oysters; from

putu-pap with chakalaka to bobotie; from ostrich to biltong; from vegetable breyani to corn cakes; from koeksisters to meringue – guests were enthralled by the myriad of tastes.

## CULTURE

The members of performing group UMZANSI GUMBA, Cathrine Nhlapo, Dumisani Hlela, Aveline Twala brought the vibe of traditional African song, dance and drumming to Cebu, one of the highlights was the jamming sessions arranged with local musicians linked to the Arts Council of Cebu. A selection of local South African crafts – mostly beadwork – were also given as gifts to all attendees of events highlighting the crafts; focus of Heritage Month.

During a business lunch hosted by Ambassador Vermeulen, the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), announced their forthcoming trade mission to South Africa tentatively scheduled for May 2010. Last year, twenty five delegates participated in a 10-day trade mission to South Africa which was considered a resounding success. Member companies, sectoral associations and affiliate Chambers are expected to join CCCI's Trade Mission to South Africa next year to explore possible business opportunities on the African Continent.

◀ Ambassador Pieter Vermeulen and his wife flanking members of the UMZANSI Gumba group

▼ (Left to Right) Organisers of the wine promotion: Mr. Hugo Lambrechts (South African Embassy), Mr. Dondi Joseph (Darras+Bowler Wines), Mrs. Corinne Joseph (Darras+Bowler Wines), Ambassador Pieter Vermeulen (South African Embassy), Mrs. Chrisna Vermeulen and Mr. Mr. Joachim Schutte (Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa) toast the success of the event



Ambassador Pieter Vermeulen highlighted the event as follows: "In the short few years since the establishment of the South African Embassy in the Philippines, we have already developed warm friendships and solid relations with the people of Cebu. We are proud of the diverse origins and cross cultural influences that shaped the heritage of our rainbow nation

and we are excited to bring it to life here in Cebu. In addition to our cuisine and wines, one of the highlights will be the performance of UMZANSI GUMBA - it is the first time ever that our Embassy brings music and dance groups from South Africa to Philippine shores. To hear the sound of Africa fill the air in Cebu is going to be quite a special experience". ■

▼ (Left to Right) – Ms. Sylvia Matona (South African Embassy), Ms. Aveline Phillistus Twala (Member of the Umzansi Gumba), Mrs. Corinne Joseph (Darras+Bowler Wines) and Ms. Zoleka Mankahla (South African Embassy)



▲ Local Cebu Artists performing on stage together with the UMZANSI Gumba and other local musicians from Cebu

**“When we go out and interact with the world, we do it in your name”**

**T**his was the central message that resonated throughout Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane’s public lectures and Imbizo in the Provinces of Limpopo and the Eastern Cape. It therefore goes without saying that this central message has to inform our consciences and commitment to the various tasks we have been given, in the full knowledge that we do all we are supposed to do, for the betterment of the lives of our ordinary folks.

Driven by the wish to see ordinary South Africans being able to link the country’s domestic priorities and the Department’s international engagements and cooperation, the Department has now embarked on an Outreach Programme. Subsequently, the Minister held a Public lecture at the University of Limpopo and an Imbizo at the Mankweng Community Hall on 16th October 2009, and presented another public lecture at the Rhodes University Campus in Grahamstown on 20th October 2009.

The Outreach Programme seeks to popularise South Africa’s Foreign Policy and the mandate of the Department. It also seeks to establish engagement with researchers, students, the general public and academia across the length and breadth of our country, so that we are able to solicit their views as non-state actors. It is the intention of the Department to domesticate the foreign policy of South Africa by, amongst others, bringing on-board the South African public on issues of national concern. Ideally, the South Africa public should be able to influence and own up to the programmes within all the three tiers of government, with DIRCO not being an exception to the rule.

In the course of rolling-out her inaugural Outreach Programme, the Minister stressed that currently, South Africans are

“taking their democracy for granted and in the process forgetting to protect the gains of their own revolution”. She made the point that while our democracy is the envy of the entire world, “most South Africans are not making full sense of all the opportunities that this accessible, understanding and considerate government is offering to its people”. She emphasised that the South African public has “a role to play in shaping South Africa’s foreign policy direction”, including participating in our “shared vision of a South Africa characterised by peace, friendship, democracy, economic prosperity, continuous development, absence of disease and alleviated poverty”.

One of the many highlights was the very significant and relevant questions raised at the Imbizo, a community member wanted to know “how other countries deal with social ills such as alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, the high number of shebeens and school drop outs – as they impact negatively on society?”.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane shared some statistics that indicated that lately, 1.8% of people who pass on are those over the age of 68, whilst 800 000 annual deaths are of people who are under 35 years and, there is a 35% mortality rate at birth due to HiV/Aids related causes.

The attendance of hundreds of members of the public at both the Public Lectures in Limpopo and at Rhodes University and at the Imbizo in Mankweng, the level of participation and the questions raised by the respective community members revealed that the South African public is indeed thirsty for information and engagement with its Government representatives.

The Minister was impressed at the depth of interaction by and enthusiasm



of the students on issues relating to international relations and South Africa’s participation in IR forums.

At the end of our Outreach Programmes, it became clear that the Department will be strengthening its Public Diplomacy efforts, to ensure that the public understand the country’s Foreign policy preoccupations and what they seek to achieve.

Going forward, the Minister has committed to rolling-out the Outreach Programme to the rest of the remaining provinces of South Africa. It also became clear that the Minister walked out of this outreach programme convinced that non-state actors are equally important actors in the realm of domesticating our practice of foreign policy as a country. As such, interaction between the Department and non-state actors i.e. business, community organizations, academia, students, religious formations, etc, would have to be a mutually reinforcing and beneficial partnership.

The Minister reassured and encouraged members of the public that despite their humble backgrounds, “any person who has the passion and willingness to become an International Relations scholar could become a practitioner in the foreign service terrain of our country”, just as the children who were raised in the Favellas in Brazil could escape the life of poverty and despair to become Engineers, Doctors and Geologists (etc) so can South Africans who find themselves raised from Mkhukhus could also become professionals in their respected terrains.

In all her closing remarks, the Minister revisited the quote from former President of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, in December 1987 in his address to the ANC Conference in Arusha, when he said:

*“Throughout these long years the struggle has been waged inside South Africa, by the people of South Africa. It has waxed and waned. There have*

*many setbacks, until sometimes the bee faint-hearted despaired and occasionally even the courageous retreated for a time into sullen resignation. But never was the flame of resistance extinguished. Always new people came to pick up the torch of freedom from those whose strength had been exhausted, and to carry it forward.”*

In the letter and spirit of the words of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the Minister made a call that South Africa needs people to “help us carry this torch of freedom and hope” for a better South Africa, in a better Africa and a better world! ■

Above left to right, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane lectures students at the University of the Limpopo and the University of Rhodes

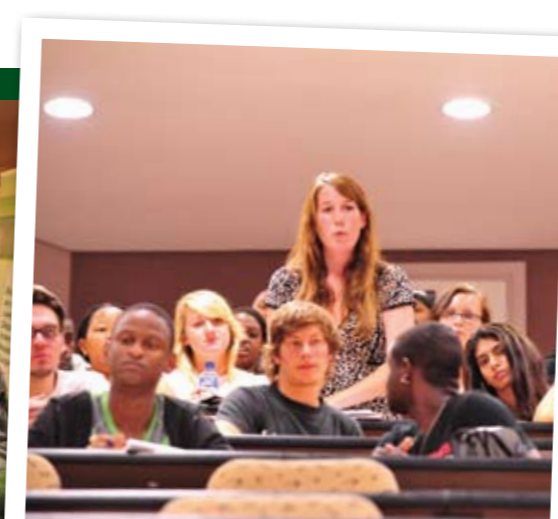
Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane during an interview



▲ Dep Minister Ebrahim at Imbizo



▲ Director - General Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba at Imbizo



Left: Students at the lecture

Below: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane taking part in a radio interview



Where were you?

