

DIPLOMATIC SCENE

The Pretoria News welcomes any diplomatic news. Send details of your events and diplomatic postings to the Editor, Pretoria News; val.boje@inl.co.za or dianne.low@inl.co.za. For more information, call 012 300 2111

LETTERS OF CREDENCE



President Jacob Zuma received the Letters of Credence from Tajikistan Ambassador (Amb) Khusrav Noziri; Independent State of Papua New Guinea High Commissioner (HC) Winnie Anna Kiapã; Republic of Montenegro Amb Milorad Sepanovic; Negara Brunei Darussalam HC Saifulbahri Mansor; Republic of Sierra Leone HC Osman Keh Kamara; Republic of Iceland Amb Thorir Ibsen; The Commonwealth of The Bahamas HC Eldred Edison Bethel; Gabonese Republic Amb Andre William Anguile; Republic of Italy Amb Pietro Giovanni Donnici; Republic of Namibia HC Veiccoh Kahwadi Nghiwete; Republic of Iraq Amb Dr Saad A W Jawad Kindeel; Republic of Haiti Amb Jacques Junior Baril; Kingdom of Thailand Amb Dr Pornchai Danvivathana; Republic of Chad Amb Ahmat Awad Sakine; Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See, Amb Archbishop Peter Bryan Wells; Slovak Republic, Amb Ms Monika Tomasovicova.

Array of events to spotlight plight of LGBTI community

TODAY, is International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia.

It was created in 2004 to draw the attention of policymakers, opinion leaders, social movements, the public and media to the violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTI people internationally.

The theme of today is Mental Health and Wellbeing – and a special event has been arranged in Pretoria.

The Embassy of France, the High Commission of Canada, the Alliance Française of Pretoria, OUT Wellbeing and the University of Pretoria's Centre for Sexualities, Aids and Gender have joined forces to organise a two-day event to be hosted at the Alliance Française of Pretoria, 99 Rivier Street, Sunnyside.

The event will be opened by French ambassador to South Africa Elisabeth

Barbier and Canadian High Commissioner Sandra McCardell at 6pm, followed by a conversation with Dr Zamo Mbele on mental health with a focus on the LGBTI community. There will be a performance by Drama for Life. On Saturday from 2pm, there will be the screening of *Laurence Anyways*, a film about impossible love.

For details visit the Alliance website or e-mail PRETRSV@international.gc.ca.



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Gabonese Republic, Calixte Isidore Nsie Edang met South Africa's Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Luwellyn Landers in, Libreville, Gabon, on May 12.

The visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral political and economic relations.

Bilateral economic relations between South Africa and Gabon are steadily growing, with total trade last year totalling just over R630 million. South African exports to Gabon totalled about R520m. The visit also provided an opportunity to exchange views on regional, continental and international issues of mutual concern.

PICTURE: YOLANDE SNYMAN