



**EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA  
RUSKA 65, 100 00 PRAGUE 10  
NEWSLETTER - May 2018 (No. 5)**

**WORD BY THE AMBASSADOR**



Dear friends of the Embassy,  
Welcome to the May 2018 edition of our Embassy Newsletter. May is also known as “AFRICA MONTH.” The annual commemoration of

Africa Day on 25 May marks the founding of the Organisation of African Union (OAU) in 1963. Today, known as the Africa Union (AU), the organization promotes unity and solidarity between African countries. The AU is at the forefront of peace, security and stability on the continent. In Prague, the resident and non-resident African Embassies in cooperation with the Czech Foreign Ministry also joined in the celebrations this year to mark Africa Day. Our joint events included the screening of a documentary film called “*Ark of Lights and Shadows*” while the Czech Ministry of Foreign Ministry and the “Czech Republic Presidency of ECOSOC” hosted an international conference called “Africa as a Partner”. The main aim of the conference was to discuss further opportunities for partnerships between the Czech Republic and countries from the African continent while the Honourable Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Martin Tlapa also hosted a Reception in the beautiful gardens of the Czernin Palace to mark the day. Honourable Deputy Minister Tlapa and the Ambassador of Sudan, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdelrahman M. H. SWAR ELDAHAB, the current Dean of the African Group, spoke of the importance of a balanced approach in forming partnerships between the Czech Republic and countries from Africa. For us as South Africans the

Africa Month Celebrations this year coincided with the centenary of the birth of our first democratically elected President, Nelson Mandela. This year we will all celebrate the life and legacy of Madiba and work to build greater social cohesion and nation building.

I trust you will find our newsletter of interest.

Ambassador NR Mosholi.



**EMBASSY NEWS**

**STAFF NEWS/SA CITIZENS**

**May 2** – Ambassador Mosholi, Mr. Oberholzer and Mr. Ncongwane met with Mr. Michael Specking (Hilton Hotel General manager) and Mrs. Nikola Fasungova (Sales manager) from the Hilton Hotel in Prague to celebrate and receive the cake baked by the Hilton Hotel for the South African Freedom day.



**May 2** - Ambassador Mosholi, Mr. Oberholzer and Mr. Ncongwane and Ms. Madiba as well as the South African Embassy Staff met to try a piece of the delicious cake baked by the Hilton Hotel in celebration of Freedom day.



**May 18** – Ambassador Mosholi attended the Celebration of 20 years of the University of New York in Prague.

**May 19** – Ambassador Mosholi visited the Festival of Creative Africa.

**May 24** – Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer attended Africa as a Partner conference.

**May 24** – Mr. Oberholzer attended Africa Day reception.

## DIPLOMATIC NEWS

**May 3** – Ambassador Mosholi met with the Ambassador of Luxembourg Mr. Gerard Philipps to discuss cultural cooperation.



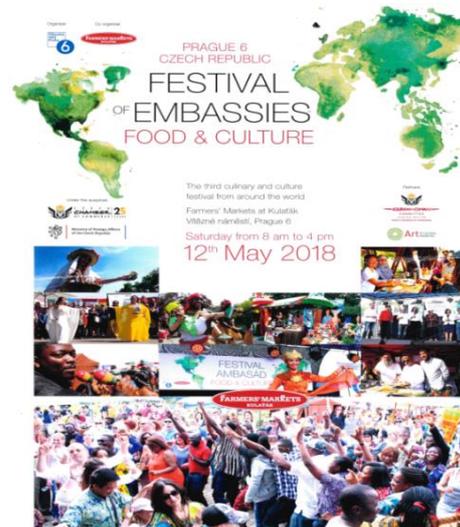
**May 9** – Ambassador Mosholi attended the Victory day reception at the Russian Embassy.

**May 15** – Ambassador Mosholi attended the Conference of Czech and Export leader 2018.

**May 16** – Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer met with Mr. Albert Oesterreicher and Mr. Gloser from the Smart Biotic Pump Project.



## FARMERS MARKET



The South African Embassy took part in the Festival of Embassies Food and Culture (FARMERS MARKET) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2018.



It was a beautiful sunny day filled with a variety of scrumptious foods and different cultures from all over the world.



*Miss. Conny Rapolai a South African residing in Prague at the Farmers market.*

Many of the Embassies that are based in Prague, Czech Republic were present at the event.

## VISIT TO NEPOMUK

Ambassador NR Mosholi participated on 4 May 2018 in a Reconciliation Seminar in the town of Nepomuk.



*Ambassador Mosholi, Mr. Oberholzer and Dr. Petr Petr and representatives from Nempomuk.*



## AFRICA DAY



*Mr. Ncongwane, Mri. Oberholzer, Miss Madiba and Mr. Mahlangu.*

The Africa Day celebration was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2018 and was a, wonderfully colorful day in celebration of the magnificent countries of Africa and was held at the CzerninPalace of the Czech Froeign Ministry.



Many of the African Embassies that are based in Prague, Czech Republic were present and took part in the celebrations.



## AFRICA'S TRAVEL INDABA

Mr. Johan Oberholzer represented the South African Embassy in Prague at the Africa's Travel Indaba held in Durban, South Africa from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2018.



*Embassy representatives at the Travel Indaba.*

## SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS

### BUDGET VOTE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION.



“It is an especially important year for us as we invite the world to focus on the example we have set for the rest of mankind. We need to drive this celebration of the man who not only led us into this

democracy, but one who captured the world’s imagination on what is possible. We had the most fertile ground on which to build further on the immense work done by Oliver Tambo in our international relations. Mandela picked up the baton and charted our foreign policy in the new dispensation and we remember him for what he bequeathed to us: freedom, peace and forgiveness. And the world opened its arms to us.

“We once were a giant in the world and our



reputation was well known, because of what we represented. The world was richer

for having given us support and for us having given them the miracle of 1994. In Mandela’s memory, in his honour, we have a responsibility to regain that stature that he left for us. That stature that allowed us to punch above our weight and succeed. We’ll regain that stature and put all our efforts in making sure that we make the world a better place for all. We should not be in a world where our children will inherit the ruins of Syria. Our children should not live in fear of extremist militants. Our children should not

die at the hands of heavy-handed soldiers. Our children should not die of poverty.”

Referring to the new dispensation of the Fifth Administration, Minister Sisulu said this new era, colloquially known as the New Dawn, was a period of renewal, of change, of adherence to good governance and responsiveness to our people.

“It is a time for re-energising our foreign policy, which is anchored in our Constitution and driven by our domestic policy, the two as you know having a symbiotic relationship.

“We want South Africa to be once again a moral compass and a voice of reason in a world increasingly overcome with selfish, narrow interests. We want to be the hope for all in times of despair.

“Our foreign policy has evolved over many years, crafted by Oliver Tambo as he sensitised the world about the struggle of South Africa; crystallised and given expression by Nelson Mandela as he put South Africa firmly on the international stage.”

### **Major principles of South Africa’s foreign policy**

“Our Constitution determines that our foreign policy must be driven by seven major principles:

1. fundamentally transform and achieve sustainable growth of the economy to empower the people and create a better life for all
2. deal with the legacies of apartheid colonialism
3. maintain the stability and security of South Africa, including its constitutional order and institutions
4. develop a peaceful and prosperous integrated southern Africa
5. develop a stable and prosperous African continent, which is not marginalised in world affairs
6. resolve conflicts by negotiations

7. develop a multipolar just and equitable world order.

“South Africa’s approach to and implementation of our foreign policy must be based on an understanding of the current regional and global political and economic realities.

“This defines our response to the United States of America (US) when it took a unilateral decision to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) between Iran and the P5+1. The JCPoA is of great significance in that it upholds the integrity of the international non-proliferation regime and eliminates the prospects of a nuclear attack across the Middle East.

“Essentially, this plan limits Iran’s nuclear capability by restricting uranium enrichment, the stockpiling of enriched uranium and the technology that may be used in its facilities and imposes strict international monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency in exchange for lifting multilateral and unilateral economic sanctions. We have been an active part of creating this environment and have expressed our deep displeasure at the possible erosion of the work done.

“We believe in a global system that has been developed and structured to ensure that never again will we experience a war. This system is established to ensure that we never again slide to the levels of destruction we have had over so many years.”

**The African continent**

Minister Sisulu said that the fundamentals of South Africa’s foreign policy were based on human rights, peace, equality, freedom from oppression and racism and freedom from poverty.

“This is our focus; first and foremost on the African continent. We remain an important player on the African continent and our role has been aptly described as pivotal, and we

intend to keep it that way.

“The renaissance that we dreamed of is still possible in our lifetime. In fact, the African Renaissance remains a key objective of the African National Congress (ANC), confirmed at its 54th National Conference. However, our importance as a role player depends on getting ourselves out of the problems that surround us right now. A country mired in its own problems can hardly expect to make any impact on the world stage.

“Our potential to influence for good is enormous, based on our history. We can continue to be the moral compass of the world and we need to. We continue to fight against injustice, because we have to. We who have suffered so much, can ill afford suffering in any part of the world.

“Our global reality presents an unpredictable, dangerous environment. An eminent US opinion-shaper, the Atlantic Council, predicted in 2016 that between 2020 and 2030, the world would be characterised by spiraling inequality and perpetual war and insecurity. This world will be ‘marked by breakdown of order, widespread violent extremism and aggressive larger states. The world situation will be driven by unpredicted and unpredictable events, including the possibility of a nuclear exchange.’ This lays the foundation of what we should avoid. “Today, we are witnessing manifestations of such predictions. The growing tensions between the US and China, the growing tensions between NATO and Russia, the escalating war in Syria, the growing tensions with Iran, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; all could lead to a nuclear confrontation between major powers, which threatens the very essence and existence of humanity as we know it.

“It is within this unpredictable, highly volatile environment that we have to constantly recalibrate our foreign policy, but

never lose the central thrust of peace, human rights and equality. Driven by this desire to moderate extremes, we have opted to stand for the non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council, through which we hope to collaborate with all countries committed to the objective of peace and security. We do not do this out of vanity, but pure rugged, brutal necessity and the willingness to lend a hand to keep peace. Our track record when we held this position previously speaks for itself."

### **Review panel**

The Minister said that she had established a Review Panel, consisting of very experienced former members of the department and other experts.

"The basic premise of our foreign policies remains as is articulated above, endorsed in the National Development Plan, and confirmed by the ANC. But it needs intermittent review because the world is not static. It is ever-changing, characterised by periods of potential crisis and power dynamics. In this turbulent world, we need to sharpen our tools to ensure that we respond to this from the basis of our own conviction to ensure a better world to live in. In short, we will review our policies as and when the world changes.

"The Review Panel has already started working on the review of our policies and will be assisting me in various forms. They have the requisite experience and it will be our loss not to use what we have invested in them.

"The President has chosen as a focal point for both our domestic and foreign policy the issue of economic revival. South Africa has one of the highest unemployment figures in the world. The number of unemployed is estimated at just less than six million, even though over the past decade, the public sector has invested R2,2 trillion in economic and social infrastructure. Government's consolidated spending in 2018/19 for social development alone is R259 billion, up from

R234 billion in the previous year.

"Yet our unemployment figures remain stubbornly high and have the potential to derail socio-economic stability, making it non-negotiable that South Africa needs to create jobs to fight high unemployment. To stimulate skills development and entrepreneurship requires us to simultaneously ensure that people outside the economy are brought back into productive activity, and empower people to help themselves.

"Out of this realisation, the President has decided to host an Investment Summit, to which he will invite major trade partners, key investors and heads of state. We intend to make this the defining feature of this administration.

"The trust that South Africa has enjoyed as an investment destination has been eroded over time. This has been seen in the decline in ratings by two prominent ratings agencies to sub-investment grade, or "junk" status. However, over the past few months, we have made great strides to create an environment in which our investment partners feel we are a dependable partner. Ratings agency Moody's in March 2018 revised upwards South Africa's credit outlook to stable from negative, and affirmed the country's credit rating as investment grade. This is a sign that we are once more returning to the right path. We have to work harder to support our economic recovery.

"The President's target is to raise R1 trillion in investment over five years, which we will not only use for South Africa, but also on the African continent. We believe that if we can create a stable Africa, we can unleash its potential. The resources of this continent are enormous and properly tapped will change the fortunes of the whole continent for generations to come.

Minister Sisulu emphasised that South Africa continued to be committed to keeping

peace.

“We stand for peaceful solutions whenever there is conflict. Our track record of keeping peace on the African continent is unchallenged by any one country. Our efforts in creating dialogue are a hallmark of our foreign policy. We have had great successes in the past on the continent and we will continue to put this at the apex of our interventions.

“South Africa adheres to the general principles of international law, including among other things, respect for territorial integrity of other states, especially in resolving interstate challenges. We take a cautious approach on country-specific issues, in respect of matters of human rights, preferring rather to promote dialogue in resolving disputes, including in situations of human rights violations.

“The President will be co-chairing a meeting of the High-level Global Commission on the Future of Work of the International Labour Organisation with the Prime Minister of Sweden this week. They want to send a specific message to the world that we should endeavour at all costs to keep peace in our lifetime. Destruction of life and property that has been the hallmark of human interaction at odds with each other does not define us. For, against all provocation at the height of our struggle, we chose peace and we’ll use every resource and space available to us to preach peace.”

### **Departmental matters**

The Minister said that DIRCO operated within an ever-changing environment that compelled us to be responsive in order to deliver on our strategic objectives and plans.

“Because of the cost-containment measures, the organisational structure is one of the key mechanisms that we have to concentrate on. It is thus imperative that the departmental organisational structure be designed to put the department in a better position to achieve

its foreign policy objectives within the economic climate we operate in. Therefore, the department will be reviewing its organisational structure to align to current developments, challenges and changes in order to deliver on South Africa’s foreign policy and government priorities.”

“I have called a Heads of Mission Conference from 2 to 5 June 2018 and will inform them how we are restructuring the department to be responsive to their needs, understand the peculiarities of every situation they face, and make them feel that their problems are being dealt with immediately and within set time frames so that no Head of Mission should complain about non-responsiveness to their problems.

“Our diplomats need to feel that this transformation that they are yearning for happens in their lifetime. They complained that they are not being served properly and I believe that the resources and intellectual capacity in the department is sufficient to do just that. Every diplomat wants to know that their position is important for the department.

“I have also had complaints from the career diplomats in the department who feel that they are stifled and that they are not getting appointed to serve abroad. I have therefore decided that it will be my goodwill that the June 2018 appointments will only consist of career diplomats.’

Minister Sisulu said that matters had been raised by the Auditor-General and there would therefore be drastic changes to the administration of the department.

“It is necessary and it is our responsibility to make sure that we respond to that which is highlighted as a weakness. We adhere to the prescripts of the laws that bind us and we follow through on any irregularities. There has to be consequences for wrongdoing.

“I shall report back to the Portfolio Committee in three months’ time on how we

are dealing with all matters brought to us as being of concern and that could be cause for a qualified audit report. This would require forensic investigations. "The centre must hold and a strong administration must be in place. Non-compliance must not be tolerated and we envisage an anti-corruption unit to track investigations. We'll also track satisfaction levels in the department and under our diplomats and ensure that good work is rewarded as opposed to favouritism, which is another regular complaint."

### **Africa Month**

"In conclusion, we meet in the month of May that has been designated as Africa Month. It was in this month in 1963 when the Organisation of African Unity was born on 25 May. On that occasion, African countries came together to craft a strategy for the liberation of Africa. This month resonates with the deep-seated quest to bring to the fore issues that still plague Africa. I wish to remind you of the advice that Haile Selassie gave in his address to the inaugural conference of the OAU in 1963: 'If we permit ourselves to be tempted by narrow self-interest and vain ambition, if we barter our beliefs for short-term advantage, who will listen when we claim to speak for conscience!'" "That is what we stand for."

### **PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA BESTOWS NATIONAL ORDERS AWARDS.**



*President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as the Grand Patron of the National Orders, on Saturday, 28 April 2018, bestowed awards on a long list of South African and foreign recipients at a prestigious*

*event held at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guesthouse in Tshwane.*

"I am honoured to preside over this National Orders ceremony to honour those among us who have made outstanding contributions to our country and to the broader global community:, the President said at the ceremony attended by various dignitaries across the South African society.

The National Orders ceremony, which is held annually, followed the celebration of the national Freedom Day on Friday, 27 April.

"These national orders are a recognition of the many outstanding individuals who defied great odds to make an immense contribution to various spheres of life.

"Our freedom opened windows of opportunity for many to chase their dreams, to excel, to succeed, and in so doing, to inspire others to reach beyond what they imagined possible," President Ramaphosa said.

The President conferred the Order of Ikhamanga, the Order of the Baobab, the Order of Luthuli, and the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo to the deserving recipients.

The list of 40 individuals honoured also included former Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who received the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo in Gold.

Also on the list of those awarded were veteran actor Lillian Dube, soccer legend Neil Tovey and former Deputy Chief Justice Digkang Moseneke.

The National Orders are the highest awards that South Africa bestows on citizens and members of the international community who have contributed meaningfully towards making the country a free democratic and successful nation, united in its diversity.

Neil Tovey, who led Bafana Bafana to the

African Cup of Nations victory in 1996, received the Order of Ikamanga in Silver.

Former Springbok captain, John Smit, who led the national side to victory and lifted the Webb Ellis trophy at the 2007 Rugby World Cup, described his award as an incredible occasion in his successful career.

“Today is an unbelievable occasion to be bestowed with an honour like this by the President himself, among these incredible recipients from far and wide. It’s quite humbling and a special moment,” he said. Smit was awarded the Order of Ikamanga in Silver for his contribution and leadership in the sport of rugby.

The Order of Baobab recognises South African citizens who have contributed to community service, business and medicine, among others, while the Order of Luthuli recognises citizens who have contributed to the struggle for democracy and nation-building, among others.

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo recognises eminent foreign nationals for friendship shown to the country.

This award was given to former Mozambican President Joaquim Chisano, and former Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who received their awards in absentia. Former President of Botswana, Quett Ketumile Joni Masire, was honoured posthumously while former President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, received a standing ovation.

President Ramaphosa said, for its freedom, South Africa owed a great deal to the devout support of the international community.

“Many countries offered solidarity and opened their arms to our activists. Many people in our neighbouring countries lost life and limb for our cause. We express our sincere and eternal gratitude to them for joining a struggle that was not theirs, in a

land far from their own,” said President Ramaphosa.

## **MANDELA PORTRAIT: ART THAT WILL WARM YOUR HEART.**



*The largest Madiba portrait has been unveiled at Zonderwater Correctional Centre in Cullinan, east of Pretoria.*

The *Massive Mandela Masterpiece*, made in collaboration with inmates and the 67 Blankets movement, is the world’s largest portrait of the late former statesman – and it’s all made from knitted blankets.

The colossal portrait is made from 3 000 blankets, which were knitted by inmates from different correctional centres. The 7 000-m<sup>2</sup> portrait is big enough to be seen from outer space and is a fitting tribute in honour of Madiba.

The portrait is not just for the sake of art or breaking the Guinness Record: all the blankets that make up the portrait will be distributed to communities in need throughout South Africa.

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Michael Masutha, said at the portrait unveiling that his department’s participation in the project was a great source of pride for the inmates.

“Undoubtedly, we take pride in this crocheting project as it presents an

opportunity where inmates across the country are giving back to society,” Minister Masutha said.

The Department of Correctional Services has hailed the blanket-knitting project as “therapeutic value for offenders, with significantly large psychological and social benefits which can improve their well-being and quality of life”.

The project is part of a nationwide programme of events to mark Madiba’s centenary.

The partnership between the Department of Correctional Services and 67 Blankets has registered a number of accolades, which include the world’s biggest blanket (made in 2016), as certified by Guinness World Records.

