



**EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA
RUSKA 65, 100 00 PRAGUE 10
NEWSLETTER – January-February-March 2021 (No. 01)**

WORD BY THE AMBASSADOR



**Dear friends of the South African Embassy in
the Czech Republic,**

I am delighted to greet you and introduce to you our latest newsletter. With the arrival of the first sunrays introducing spring weather believe that the difficult times will soon be over and we will be able to enjoy our activities to the fullest once again. I observe with great pleasure the slow, but gradual picking up of events.

In the following pages you will find many interesting topics about the latest developments at our Embassy. 21 March marked the remembrance of Human Rights Day, which reminds us as South Africans not only about the tragic events that took place in Sharpeville in 1960 and sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa, but also about the hardship in the past and that we were able to overcome. Therefore, I am confident that our resilience will be rewarded as “normal” life comes back to us once again, because we have to always keep in mind that even during a time of tremendous struggle, fear and hardship, the human spirit triumphs.

Enjoy your reading!

HE Ms Naomi Ribbon Mosholi
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa to the Czech
Republic*

DIPLOMATIC NEWS

EVENTS

Meeting with Mr. Vilém Růžička

On 23 March, Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer welcomed Mr. Vilém Růžička, President of the South African-Czech Chamber of Commerce to the South African Residence for a quarterly meeting to follow up the latest developments and to monitor bilateral trade in order to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. The parties held discussion about investments and business developments in South Africa and the Czech Republic. Despite the current challenges experienced



Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer meeting with Mr. Vilém Růžička



worldwide due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Embassy is still encouraged by the ongoing flow of trade and the establishment

of new businesses, which are creating a significant number of employment opportunities. In Africa, South Africa is still the Czech Republic's largest trading partner, while in Central Europe the Czech Republic remains South Africa's largest trading partner. Regular interaction and sharing of ideas with the South African-Czech Chamber enables the Mission to remain informed and well positioned in the promotion of economic ties between South Africa and the Czech Republic.

Courtesy call - Ambassador of Lithuania

Ambassador Mosholi had the pleasure to welcome H.E. Mr. Laimonas Talat-Kelpša, Ambassador of Lithuania, who paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Mosholi.



Ambassador Mosholi and H.E. Mr. Talat-Kelpša

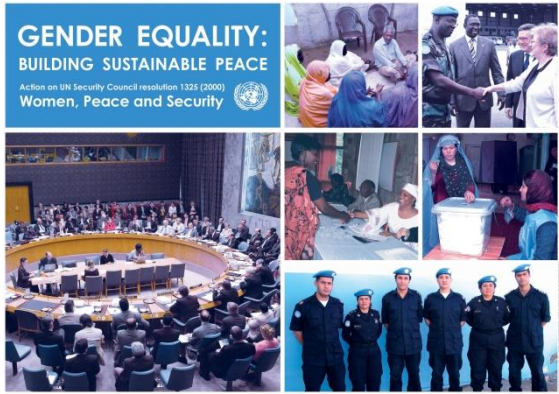
His Excellency Mr. Talat-Kelpša, the newly appointed Head of Mission of the Lithuanian Embassy, held pleasant talks with Ambassador Mosholi on 24 March at the Official Residence.

Luncheon with the Italian Ambassador

At the end of March, Ambassador Mosholi along with several other Heads of Mission attended a luncheon hosted by the Italian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Francesco Saverio Nisio at the Italian Residence. Maintaining strict safety measures, the attendees discussed possible ways of mutual cooperation during the ongoing pandemic caused by COVID-19.

ONLINE MEETINGS

Discussion with Minister Petříček to mark International Women's Day 2021



United Nations poster on Women, Peace and Security – 20th anniversary of UN SC Resolution 1325

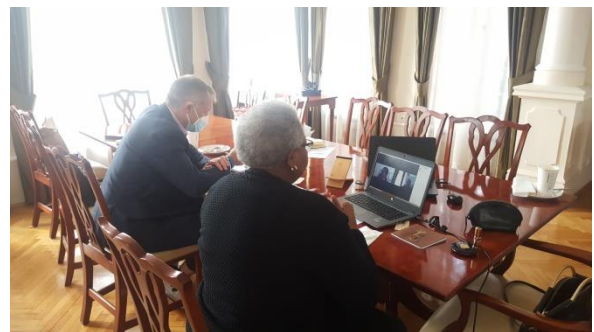
As a member of the Group of Women Ambassadors in Prague, Ambassador Mosholi participated in a virtual discussion organized on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021. The memorable discussion hosted by the Canadian Ambassador H.E. Ms. Aeysha Rekhi, which took place on 5th on a virtual platform, focused on the topic of "Women, Peace and Security," which also referred to the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. The discussion was held under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Tomáš Petříček, who delivered a valuable speech and discussed the importance of feminism and its implementation to the foreign policies of each country with the Women Ambassadors.

Virtual meeting with South African Tourism

Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer hosted a virtual meeting with a representative of South African Tourism, Ms. Ntokozo Langa on 15 March 2021. The Head of Mission discussed with Ms. Langa, whose responsibility is Central Europe, the possibilities of reactivation of the Czech tourism market's focus towards South Africa once the COVID-19 pandemic allows for international travel to commence again. Ms. Langa used the opportunity to share with the Mission the latest tourism statistics between South Africa and the Czech Republic. The parties also discussed the possibilities of organizing online tourism-orientated events during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer having a virtual meeting with Ms. Ntokozo Langa



Calendar of Webinars

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a number of seminars, roundtables and events were implemented into virtual platforms and transformed into webinars. Ambassador Mosholi participated in the following:

14.01. Update on COVID-19

In cooperation with the local office of the World Health Organization and on behalf of the Canadian and US embassies, a briefing on COVID-19 took place on 14 January. Ambassador Mosholi had an opportunity to participate in a briefing regarding the latest updates about the pandemic within the Czech Republic and also worldwide. The briefing was conducted by Dr. Srdan Matić, World Health Organization Representative and Head of Country Office to the Czech Republic along with a global and regional perspective on the pandemic evaluated by Dr. Dorit Nitzan, Regional Emergency Director at the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

18.03. Launch of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

The topic of the discussion and the webinar launched South Africa's First Generation National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and was broadcast from Johannesburg.

23.03. Human rights in a Time of Crisis

Every year since 1994, South Africa commemorates the nation's struggle for human rights on Human Rights Day, which takes place on March 21. To mark such an important date, a webinar was held to put the spotlight on the issue of how COVID-19 is affecting the state of human rights. During the virtual event broadcasted from South Africa and Spain the economic and social impact of COVID-19 on human rights, especially gender rights, were discussed in order to find solutions for socio-economic recovery.

29.03. International Solidarity and the Struggle for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy

In order to commemorate the life of Ms. Dulcie September, a freedom fighter and human rights activist assassinated in 1988 in Paris, a webinar was organized



The late Ms. Dulcie September

by the South African Embassy in Paris in cooperation with the "Dullah Omar Institute" of the University of

the Western Cape. It

focused on International Solidarity and the Struggle for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy in South Africa.

EMBASSY NEWS

At the end of February, our dear colleague Mrs. Alenka Růžicková's long service in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation was recognized. Mrs. Růžicková has been a loyal and dedicated official attached to the South African Embassy in Prague for the past 20 years. On this occasion, Ambassador Mosholi, Mr. Oberholzer and Mr. Wagner congratulated Mrs. Růžicková and Ambassador handed over a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Hon. Naledi Pandor. Congratulations Alenka!



Ambassador Mosholi, Mr. Oberholzer and Mr. Wagner congratulating Mrs. Růžicková on her anniversary



SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS



DEPUTY PRESIDENT, CHINA'S AMBASSADOR DISCUSS STRENGTHENED TIES"

Deputy President David Mabuza received a courtesy call on Wednesday, 10 March 2021, from China's sixth Ambassador to South Africa, Chen Xiaodong. According to the Deputy President's Office, the purpose of the call was for the Ambassador to convey his greetings from China's Vice President, Wang Qishan, and share his views and proposals regarding the South Africa-China Strategic Partnership. "The Deputy President welcomed the Ambassador and wished him well in his tour of duty to South Africa," the statement read. Meanwhile, Deputy President Mabuza told the Ambassador that progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the Seventh Session of the South Africa-China Bi-National Commission (BNC), held in Beijing in October 2019, was welcomed." "In his capacity as the Co-Chair of the South Africa-China BNC, Deputy President Mabuza expressed his anticipation to co-chair the Eighth Session of the South Africa-China BNC with his counterpart, Vice President Wang, here in South Africa later in the year." The BNC aims to work towards forging closer relations in the areas of business, people-to-people exchange, education, tourism, science and technology and the health sector. Also, the Deputy

President welcomed the scholarships offered by China to South Africans. He commended China in its successful handling of the COVID-19 outbreak and welcomed continuous interaction with the country regarding vaccines in fighting the pandemic. In his message last year, Ambassador Xiaodong, who arrived in the country in September, said since the outbreak of COVID-19, China and South Africa had been uniting and fighting as one. “We believe that with the concerted efforts of China and South Africa, we will prevail over the epidemic and restore economic and social development as soon as possible.” According to the Ambassador, the Chinese Embassy in South Africa is committed to promoting friendly exchange and cooperation between the two countries to elevate the China-South Africa Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to a new high.

ALL FEMALE CREW FLYING HIGH IN AFRICA’S SKY

An all-female crew took to the African skies on 11 March 2021, and celebrated by posting a couple of photos to the Facebook page, “Women in Aviation”. Captain Denise Semedo – who spent six years based at Lanseria Airport outside Joburg, South Africa – said: “All-female crew today on the Phenom 300. Praise the Lord!” Captain Semedo told SApeople it was the first time that she and fellow female pilot, Captain Funmilayo, were flying together. The two female captains work for Anap Jets, the private jet operator that specialises in fractional ownership and charter services. On this particular flight, they flew from Lagos to Abuja in Nigeria. Captain Semedo says that when she was growing up, her

“inspiration was my uncle who was a B757 captain. I didn’t know I could do it. I guess the Lord gives each one a talent, we just have to find it.” Now it’s her turn inspiring young women all over Africa and the world – the sky’s the limit! Captain Semedo was based at Lanseria Airport between 2010 and 2016, working for a different company at the time.



All-female cabin crew in South Africa

CZECH NEWS

International Women’s Day

International Women's Day is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. It is also a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence against women. IWD originated from labour movements in North America and Europe during the early 20th century. The earliest version was purportedly a "Women's Day" organized by the Socialist Party of America in New York City February 28, 1909. This inspired German delegates at the 1910 International Socialist Woman's Conference to propose "a special Women's Day" be organized annually, albeit with no set date. The following year saw the first demonstrations and commemorations of

International Women's Day across Europe. After women gained suffrage in Soviet Russia in 1917 (the beginning of the February Revolution), IWD was made a national holiday on March 8. It was subsequently celebrated on that date by the socialist movement and communist countries. The holiday was associated with far-left movements and governments until its adoption by the global feminist movement in the late 1960s. IWD became a mainstream global holiday following its adoption by the United Nations in 1977. International Women's Day is commemorated in a variety of ways worldwide; it is a public holiday in several countries, and observed socially or locally in others. The UN observes the holiday in connection with a particular issue, campaign, or theme in women's rights. In some parts of the world, IWD still reflects its political origins, being marked by protests and calls for radical change; in other areas, particularly in the West, it is largely sociocultural and centered on a celebration of womanhood.



Despite pandemic number of foreign students studying full-time in Czechia grew in 2020

New data from the Ministry of Education shows that while there were fewer Erasmus students in the Czech Republic last year, the number of foreign students studying full-time degrees grew by more than 8 percent. These numbers have been growing for a period of 10 years. Last year it was probably influenced by universities being able to adjust their admission processes. It may have been easier to pass through admission exams and the whole surrounding procedure. A particularly important factor was that they were able to start online, did not have to deal with so much paperwork regarding the visas in the initial stage and then started arriving later on during the year. This might be a reason for why the numbers went up even during the pandemic. The largest growth and the largest changes in numbers came among students from Slavic speaking countries, such as Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and some Central Asian states. This is again a long-term trend. And what is the current ratio between foreign and native students in the Czech Republic? Currently, 17 percent of all students are international students. Diversity is beneficial for domestic students, because they can encounter colleagues from different cultural and educational backgrounds. It certainly enhances communication and it is also very well known that diverse teams, not just in schools but in businesses too, deliver better results.