



South Africa @work

Newsletter of the South African Consulate General in New York City

Volume 4 Issue 3

July—September 2003

In this issue:

Message from Ambassador Masekela	1
Statement by President Thabo Mbeki at the 58th UN General Assembly	2-3
Meet the Ambassador to the Independent Black Homeland Republic of Bapetikosweti	4
Networking and Information Sharing	5
South Africa in brief	6
VIP&S	5
World riding champ Bongani Mvumvu	7
Calendar of South African Events	8

Current Exchange Rate:
US\$1.00 = ZAR 6.95
September 2003

Produced by the

**South African
Consulate General**

333 East 38th Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Tel: (212) 213-4880
Fax: (212) 213-0102

Email:

sacg@southafrica-newyork.net

Website:

www.southafrica-newyork.net

Partnership of Hope

Dear Friends

In the short amount of time since I took up my post as Ambassador to the United States of America, I have been struck by the high level of interest and debate that exists about South Africa's evolving position and policies on health care and services, particularly on HIV and AIDS.

Five years ago our Government launched the South African Partnership against AIDS in the firm belief that only the widest mobilization and sustained co-operation of all sections of society can reverse the HIV and AIDS epidemic. Indeed we are presently in the process of rolling out a far reaching program to combat HIV and AIDS.



"..with your support and cooperation, we can make greater progress faster."

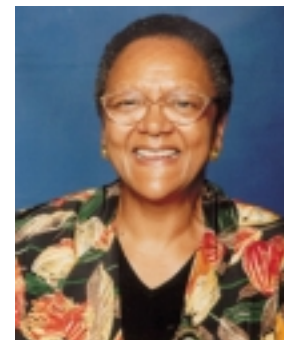
Barbara Masekela received her education in South Africa and Zambia, graduating with a BA (Cum Laude) from the University of Ohio in 1971. After an academic career in which she was Assistant Professor of English Literature at Staten Island Community College, NY, and at Rutgers University, NJ, she founded the African National Congress Office of Arts and Culture and served as its secretary for seven years. After the release of Nelson Mandela, she joined his office as Chief of Staff, a position she held until 1994. During that

Our national Constitution enshrines the right of access to social services including health care. In this context, South Africa has effective legislation in place to ensure that, subject to available resources, these rights are realized.

South Africa has a comprehensive strategy to deal with HIV and AIDS. It is a holistic plan that takes into account the social, economic and cultural values of our society. In villages, townships and cities, our people are seized with the realities of HIV and AIDS. We are confronted with the painful challenges of caring and coping with this scourge. There is not a single South African who has not been touched by this epidemic. We realize that our plight touches every one of our friends in the international community.

Furthermore, with your support and cooperation, we can make

greater progress faster. We must work together to strengthen and extend this partnership with the friends of South Africa in the United States.



I invite you to join us in this active Partnership of Hope.

Warmest regards,

**Barbara Masekela
AMBASSADOR**

Ambassador Barbara Masekela

time she was elected to the National Executive Committee of the ANC and to as its National Working Committee, as well.

President Mandela appointed Ms Masekela Ambassador to the Republic of France as well as Ambassador to UNESCO, in 1995. In 1999 when she returned to South Africa she joined the corporate world where she held a number of executive and non-executive Directorships. She was a Director of the Standard Bank of South Africa, the South African Broadcasting Corporation and the International Marketing

Council, among others. At this time she also became a trustee of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and the Nelson Mandela Foundation. She retired in March 2003 as Executive Director for Public and Corporate Affairs for De Beers Consolidated Mines. President Mbeki appointed Ms Masekela Ambassador to the United States of America in June 2003.

A frustrated writer and a lover of fine art, Ms Masekela enjoys gardening and reading. She has two sons, Mabusha and Selema.

Statement by his Excellency Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa on the Occasion of the Debate of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

May I congratulate you, Mr. President for assuming the mantle of the Presidency of this Session of the General Assembly and also thank the out-going President, Mr. Jan Kavan.

I would also like to echo what other speakers have said about the deaths of the dedicated UN workers who died in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad last month, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, an outstanding international civil servant.

When we met here last year, we were all concerned about what would happen to Iraq. At the same time, we were concerned about what role this organization, the United Nations, would play in the resolution of the Iraq affair. Dramatic events since then have provided answers to these questions.

However, these dramatic events have raised important and disturbing questions about the very future of the United Nations. Central among these is the question – does the United Nations have a future as a strong and effective multi-lateral organization, enjoying the confidence of the peoples of the world, and capable of addressing the matters that are of concern to all humanity!

Quite correctly, as we meet here, this time, we are still preoccupied with the issue of the future of Iraq. I am certain that, in this regard, none of us wants to rehash the debate that took place on this matter in the period after the last General Assembly.

If for some time after that General Assembly we were concerned to provide answers to questions about the role of the United Nations on Iraq, today we have to answer questions about the impact of the Iraq affair on the future of the United Nations.

Matters have evolved in such a manner that, to our limited understanding, it seems extremely difficult to resolve the issue of the role of the United Nations in Iraq, unless we answer the question about the future of the UN as the legitimate expression of the collective will of the peoples of the world, the principal guarantor of international peace and security, among other global issues.

Put differently, we could say that what is decided about the role of the UN in Iraq will, at the same time, decide what will become of the UN in the context of its Charter, and the important global objectives that have been taken since the Charter was adopted.

This is not a case of the tail wagging the dog. Rather, history has placed at our feet an urgent and practical test case that obliges us to answer the question – what do we, collectively, want

the United Nations to be! What do we do to distinguish the trees from the woods!

In this regard, we must make the point directly that, as South Africans, we are partisan activists who campaign in favor of such a strong and effective United Nations. We do so because of the place our country and people occupy in the contemporary world.

That place is defined by the fact that we are a developing country, whose central challenge is the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment, a challenge we share with the rest of the African continent of which we are an integral part.

Mr. President, we believe that everything that has happened places an obligation on the United Nations to reflect on a number of fundamental issues that are of critical importance to the evolution of human society. We are convinced that this General Assembly would disappoint the expectations of the peoples of the world, and put itself in jeopardy if, for any reason whatsoever, it does not address these issues.

Accordingly what I might say, Mr. President and Your Excellencies, might not constitute what is considered normal discourse in terms of the work that the General Assembly has to do, consistent with its rights and duties as defined by the UN Charter, and the conventions that have emerged since the Charter was adopted.

However, I trust that what I will say will not fall on deaf ears. But I must also make the point that everything I will say is not intended to attack or praise any particular country or group of countries.

We speak as we do because we represent a people who are most sensitive to the imperatives of what the world decides, given our experience during a period when apartheid South Africa was, correctly, a matter of focused and sustained interest by the United Nations and the peoples of the world, including ordinary folk even in the most marginalized areas of our globe.

This organization, and all of us, singly and collectively, has spoken and speaks frequently about the phenomenon of globalization. Correctly, we talk of a global village, driven by recognition of the fact of the integration of all peoples within a common and interdependent global society.

Certainly, humanity is more integrated today than it was when the United Nations was established more than fifty years ago.

I believe that there is no need for me to present

any information to substantiate this commonly accepted and obvious conclusion.

However, many have drawn attention to the fact that whereas objective social processes have led to the emergence of the global village, all our political collectives have not yet succeeded to design the institutions of governance made necessary by the reality of the birth of this global village.

Correct observations have also been made that the use of the image and concept of a village does not imply that the residents of this village are equal.

The reality is that the same processes that bring all us closer together in a global village, are simultaneously placing the residents of the global village in different positions. Some have emerged as the dominant, and the rest as the dominated, with the dominant being the decision makers, and the dominated being the recipients and implementers of these decisions.

To the same extent that our political collectives have not designed the institutions responsive to the evolution of the global village, so have they failed to respond to the imbalance in the distribution of power inherent in contemporary global human society.

We speak here of power in all fields of human activity, including the political, economic, military, technological, social, intellectual, and so on.

Left to its internal and autonomous impulses, the process of globalization will inevitably result in the further enhancement of the domination of the dominant and the entrenchment of the subservience of the dominated, however much the latter might resent such domination.

Among other things, this paradigm means that, naturally, the powerful will set the agenda for all residents of the global village. Again naturally, they will do this to advance their own interests.

This will include the perpetuation of their dominant positions, to ensure the sustenance of their capacity to set the agenda of the global village, in the interest of their own neighborhoods within this global village.

Inherent within this is, necessarily, reliance on the use of the superior power of which the dominant dispose, to achieve the objective of the perpetuation of the situation of the unequal distribution of power.

In this situation, it is inevitable that the pursuit

(Continued on page 3)

President Thabo Mbeki's Speech at the 58th United Nations General Assembly

(Continued from page 2)

of power in itself, will assert itself as a unique legitimate objective, apparently detached from any need to define the uses of such power. This also signifies the deification of force in all its forms, as the final arbiter in the ordering of human affairs.

However, from the point of view of the disempowered, the struggle to ensure the use of such power to address their own interests becomes a strategic objective they cannot avoid. Necessarily this means that power would have to be redistributed. This would be done to empower the disempowered, and to regulate the use of power by those who are powerful.

And yet, by definition, the disempowered should not reasonably expect that their disempowerment gives them any possibility to have a decisive influence over the powerful. Logically, they should not entertain any dreams that they have the means to oblige the powerful to regulate the use of their power to achieve results that benefit all humanity, regardless of the impact of this on what the powerful might define as their national interest.

Thus we come back to what I said earlier. Because we are poor, we are partisan activists for a strong, effective and popularly accepted United Nations.

We take these positions because there is no way in which we could advance the interests of our people, the majority of whom are poor, outside the context of a strong, effective and popularly accepted United Nations.

An autonomous process of globalization, driven by its own internal regularities, can only result in the determination of our future within the parameters set by those who enjoy the superiority of power. The powerful will do this in their interest, which might not coincide with ours.

When this organization was established fifty-eight years ago, necessarily, its objectives and institutions reflected both the collective global concerns as then perceived, and the then balance of power.

Among other things, our esteemed Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, has drawn attention to the fact that the UN started off as an organization of 51 states and is now composed of 191 states. Undoubtedly, the perceived and real collective global concerns of our day are, to some extent at least, different from those that prevailed more than fifty years ago, when this organization was about a quarter of its present size.

For more than a decade, this organization has been involved in discussions about its transformation. Once more, the Secretary General has reflected on this challenge. The truth is that our discussion has gone nowhere. Earlier this morning the Secretary General announced steps he

will take to facilitate the adoption of decisions that will help all of us to effect the necessary and inevitable transformation of the United Nations. We support the decisions he announced.

One of the matters that must be addressed is the issue of the accepted national right to self-defense, and the implications of the exercise of this right in the light of the historic responsibilities of the United Nations to guarantee international peace and security.

In this regard, all of us face a challenge specific to our times. It arises out of the process of globalization and the emergence of a global village. These phenomena have, among other things, resulted in the globalization of the threat to the peace and security of all our states, not necessarily emanating from states that are bound by the rules we must all observe as members of the United Nations.

The global resolve to defeat such organizations as Al Qaeda has emerged out of our understanding that international aggression should not necessarily be expected to emanate from formal and recognized state institutions.

We have all come to understand that, emanating from non-state institutions, such threat, as was most painfully demonstrated on September 11, 2001, would express itself as the most inhumane and despicable terrorism.

Our collective experience, stretching from New York and elsewhere in the United States on September 11, 2001, reaching back to Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam in Africa earlier still and more recently to Bali in Indonesia, to Morocco, to the conflict between Israel and Palestine, to Algeria, India, Russia and elsewhere, and even our own country, this experience tells us that this organization, the UN, working in defense of the collective interest of the people peoples of the world, must ensure that we act together to defeat the threat of terrorism, collectively defined.

At the same time, we have to take on board the conviction among some of our member states that they constitute special and particular targets of this global terrorism. Understandably, the argument is advanced that it would be unreasonable and irrational to expect such states not to act to deter such terrorist actions against themselves.

None of us can defend international rules that prescribe that anyone of us should wait to be attacked, knowing, in specific ways, that we were going to be attacked by identified terrorists, and then act against those who had attacked us, with such horrendous cost as was experienced by the United States during the September 11 attacks.

I do not imagine that anyone of us would seek to impose such a costly and unsustainable burden on any our member states, which

would also violate the self-defense provisions of Article 51 of the UN Charter, to which our Secretary General has correctly drawn our attention.

We also have no choice but to deal with the brute reality that the reform process of the UN and all its organs, and other multi-lateral organizations, has to recognize the reality of the imbalance of power as represented by different countries and regions.

At the same time, we must proceed from the position that such distribution of power is not necessarily in the interest of the peoples of the world, or even in the interest of those who, today, have the power to determine what happens to our common world.

This includes acceptance of the fact that, depending on the place we occupy in the global community, we have different priorities. Among other things, the rich are concerned about ways and means to maintain the status quo from which they benefit. Practically, this means that all matters that threaten to destabilize this status quo must, necessarily, be anathema to such people.

Such matters will therefore be an issue of principal concern to them. Necessarily and understandably, they will then seek to get the rest of the world to accept their assertion that the maintenance of the status quo must be a universal human preoccupation, precisely the kind of issue that the United Nations must take a united position.

On the other hand, the poor are interested to change their condition for the better. Accordingly, they will not accept the maintenance of the status quo, which perpetuates their poverty. Accordingly, among other things, the poor billions of the world will argue for action by the UN to ensure the transfer of resources to themselves, which will enable them to extricate themselves from their condition of poverty and underdevelopment, consistent with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the objectives of the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development, and other international agreements.

Inevitably, this will run counter to the propositions of those who are more powerful than themselves, the governments, peoples and countries that keep them afloat with development assistance. These will require, whether this is stated or not, that the recipients of this assistance should understand that such assistance can dry up.

This could happen if the impoverished recipients do not accept the outcomes prescribed by those who provide the means for poor governments to discharge their responsibility to provide the barest of normal services and goods expected of any government everywhere in the world, provided that they use the resources they have received to confirm the priorities set by the donors.

(Continued on page 5)

Pieter-Dirk Uys



Pieter-Dirk Uys was born in Cape Town in 1945 and has outlived official apartheid, which ended in 1994. He started irritating South African politicians and censors with his plays from 1973. When most of them were banned, he launched his one-man total onslaught in 1981 against the Pretoria regime of the narrow-minded, the bigoted, the amateur and the fool. Most of his earlier targets are now either dead, in retirement, in disgrace, insane, incontinent, forgotten or recycled as avid supporters of the black majority rule.

Pieter-Dirk Uys had a Jewish Berlin-born mother and an Afrikaner Calvinist father and so belongs to both chosen (white) people. It is reputed that he is related to a 17th century black Cape courtesan, thus making him a true local native! He has performed his one-man shows all over the world: South Africa, Australia, Canada, the USA, the UK, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Slovenia. Most of his South African revues are available on video and have been seen by the majority of the people of his land. They were also seen in prison by the present South African government!



His most visible creation, Mrs Evita Bezuidenhout, is known and accepted as the "most famous white woman in South Africa".

Here he has workshoped and performs his new shows: **Tannie Evita praat Kaktus** - Mrs Bezuidenhout's revisionist History of the old SA - and **Ouma Ossewania talks dirty**. Ouma is Evita's 100 year old mother and in her monologue lets rip against everything sacred and political. His present repertoire of one-man shows include **You ANC nothing yet!** - a constantly updated look at the last seven years of democracy; **Truth Omissions**, in which the apartheid past is made compatible with those who were responsible for it, many still living and working in South Africa; **Live from Boerassic Park** - in which South African history repeats itself by turning tragedy into farce; **For Facts Sake** - the fictions of sex and the facts of HIV / AIDS; **Dekaffirnated** (or calling a spade a spade) - about racism and political correctness; **Going Down Gorgeous** - seven episodes 1981 - 2004 in the life of his white liberal Ms Nowell Fine, Jewish African Princess supreme and **Concentration Camp** in which Evita's sister Bambi Kellermann presents her cabaret of Kurt Weill, camps vile and just pure camp.

Pieter Dirk-Uys will be in New York City, From October 23 - November 2, 2003 performing at the La Mama Theater.

Who is Evita Bezuidenhout?

She is the most famous white woman in South Africa!

Born: Evita Bezuidenhout was born in Bethlehem in the Orange Free State on 28 September 1935 as Evangelie Poggenpoel. She became Kil-larney Film Actress in the mid 50's in films like "Boggel en die Akkedis", "Meisie van my drome" and "Duiwelsvallei".



Married: She married Dr JJ de V Bezuidenhout (Oom Hasie) in 1958. Their children are De Kock, Izan and Billie-Jeanne.

Political Career: Associated with Parliamentary life as the wife of MP for Laagerfontein in the 60's and 70's, she became an intimate friend to HF Verwoerd, Tini Vorster and Eliza Botha.

Present at the momentous happenings such as: Macmillan's speech, Verwoerd's assassination, Vorster's rise to power and PW Botha's coup.

She became SA Ambassador to the Independent Black homeland Republic of Bapetikosweti in 1983.

Evita assisted Pik Botha in the Total Diplomatic Onslaught on the world during the 80's.

Family: Evita is the grandmother to three black children from Billie-Jeanne who married Leroy Makoeloei. Her son Izan is an active member of the AWB and her other son De Kock is a with the Gay Liberation movement. Her husband is writing his memoirs and her sister, Bambi Kellermann is shocking the nation with her frank cabarets and confessions.

Today: At present, Evita is and Ambassador without Portfolio, chief liason person with President Mandela's office with regard to Afrikaans Cultural Affairs. She is on the committee looking into what to do with the old Symbols of State.

She is the best babotie maker in South Africa.

President Thabo Mbeki's Speech at the 58th United Nations General Assembly

(Continued from page 3)

Important shifts in the global balance of power and global objectives have taken place since the United Nations was established forty-eight years ago. This organization has not substantially changed in terms of its structures and mode of functioning to reflect these changes. This has served as a recipe for an inevitable crisis, a disaster waiting to occur.

And so as we meet today, we are confronted by global challenges that this global organization cannot solve. Impelled by the urgent issues of the day, some of the powerful will not wait for all of us to respond to the problems we have raised, and which they face.

They will act to solve these problems. Their actions will make the statement that that they do not need the United Nations to find solutions to these problems.

Simultaneously, this will make the practical statement that the United Nations is irrelevant to the solution of the most burning problems of our day.

The disempowered will continue to look to this organization, understanding, correctly, that they are too weak to advance their interests singly, outside of the collective voice of the United Nations.

In this regard, they expect that the UN will be informed by its founding documents and other solemn decisions it has taken since it was established, all of which have been approved by successive sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, at least.

Global poverty and underdevelopment are the principal problems that face the United Nations. Billions across the globe expect that this General Assembly will address this challenge in a meaningful manner. The masses of people of our world expect that the statements we will make at this Assembly, as representatives of various governments, will indicate a serious commitment to implement what we say.

The poor of the world expect an end to violence and war everywhere. They want an end to the killing that is taking too many Israeli and Palestinian lives. They want the Africans to stop killing one another, continuing to convey the message that we are incapable of living at peace among ourselves. They desire the realization of the democratic objective, universally, that the people shall govern. They believe that we are seriously committed to the objective of the eradication of poverty and the provision of a better life for all. They think that we mean it when we say that we will not allow that the process of globalization results in the further enrichment of the rich, and the impoverishment of the poor, within and between countries.

They believe us when we say that our collective future is one of hope, and not despair. They are keenly interested to know whether our gathering, the UN General Assembly, will produce these results.

For us, collectively, to meet these expectations, will require that each and everyone of us, both rich and poor, both the powerful and the disempowered, commit ourselves practically to act, in all circumstances, in a manner that recognizes and respects the fact none of us is an island, sufficient unto ourselves. This includes the most powerful.

The latter face the interesting challenge, important to themselves in their national interest, that the poverty and disempowerment of the billions will no longer serve as a condition for their success and their possibility to prosper in conditions of peace.

What we have said today, may not be heard because we do not have the strength to have our voice heard. Tomorrow, we may be obliged to say – no more water, the fire next time! As the fires burn, the United Nations will die, consumed by the flames. So will the hopes of the poor of the world die, as they did at Cancun, Mexico, not so long ago.

We must act together to say in our words and in our actions, as countries and as the United Nations, there will be water next time, and not fire!

Home Affairs sets up board to help counter brain drain

The newly formed Immigration Advisory Board (IAB) would hold a workshop at parliament to explore ways of getting more skilled emigrants to either return to SA or network more widely with companies and institutions to share their expertise, it said. Established in May by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the board particularly wanted to sound out ideas about the effectiveness of several "brain circulation" programs to counter the growing brain drain in recent years, a spokesperson said. Key among these was the SA Network of Skills Abroad (Sansa), which was started at the University of Cape Town in 1998 and last year was shifted to the National Re-

"it had become increasingly important to co-ordinate the activities of the various groups trying to get networking and information sharing going between professionals in and out of South Africa"

search Foundation as an independent program. Sansa aims to track the emigration of skilled professionals in a wide range of fields and put them into contact with local bodies, firms and institutions that desperately need skilled people. The need to attract skilled people was highlighted at last week's cabinet lekgotla as one issue requiring urgent attention to help South Africa meet its growth and development challenges. Many companies have complained that the immigration laws made it difficult to recruit foreign professionals but the government has indicated that the new Immigration Act would be used to cut back on the red tape involved. In his statement on the outcome of the lekgotla, President Thabo Mbeki said "urgent interventions" were required to alleviate the country's scarcity of skills in positions ranging from scientists and researchers to managers, artisans and professionals, and in fields ranging from finance to information technology and engineering. "These interventions will include recruitment from outside of SA, setting aside a portion of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and National Skills Fund to pursue training in these areas, firm measures to ensure efficiency in the sector education and training authority system and possibly extending financial benefits accruing to learnerships into the internship program." Sansa program leader Madimetja Mamashela yesterday welcomed the IAB initia-



tive, saying it had become increasingly important to co-ordinate the activities of the various groups trying to get networking and information sharing going between professionals in and out of South Africa. "Brain drain has been described as the developing nations' curse," said the IAB spokesperson. "According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, it is one of the 'greatest obstacles to Africa's development'." Details can be gleaned from Lyndith van der Westhuizen at (021) 467 5209 or by e-mailing the IAB at iab@hsrc.ac.za.

Message from President Thabo Mbeki on the 20th anniversary of the founding of the UDF

Twenty years ago today saw the launch in Rocklands, Mitchell's Plain, in Cape Town, of an organization, which led one of the most intense mobilization campaigns against oppression in our history. The clarion call of the United Democratic Front, "UDF Unites, Apartheid Divides", represented the essence of the objective of South Africa's struggle against colonialism and apartheid. That objective, to create a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society, remains our lodestar to this day.

The UDF was founded by the liberation movement at a critical juncture in our struggle, when many people's organizations inside South Africa had been banned, and when the experiences of the people signaled the need for a broad front of anti-apartheid organizations, to challenge the regime in all spheres of life.

The desire of our people to give the enemy no quarter was given impetus by attempts on the part of the apartheid regime to introduce meaningless "reforms" in the form of dummy institutions, with the aim of winning over sections of the oppressed to support apartheid. The people saw through these machinations, and a far-sighted leadership was at hand to mobilize and organize them in a new mass offensive.

Thus was born a people's front, bringing together organizations of women, youth, communities, workers, professionals, religious communities, anti-conscription campaigners and others - across class, color, regional and other divides which apartheid sought to exploit to its advantage.

Thus was forged a people's mass uprising, which gained from experiences of the past as it blazed a new trail to the future. Thus emerged a people in political motion, benefiting from, and reinforcing the work of, underground structures, armed combatants and the global anti-apartheid movement. Thus the apartheid regime's illegality and illegitimacy stood out for all to see.

The message of the masses, led by the liberation movement, was clear: nothing could stop a determined people from attaining freedom - not death or detention, not mass arrests or poisoning, not torture or assassination, not massacres or Third Force violence, not letter-bombs or intimidation.

And so, in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the UDF today, we are paying tribute to the mass of South Africans for a defining moment in the history of our struggle, and for living in struggle the totality of ideals that inform freedom. Indeed, the very values and principles that the UDF represented remain

the unshakeable beliefs of our people, the principles underpinning our system of governance, and the spur towards the society we seek to build.

As we celebrate our people's achievements, we also dip our banners in memory of those cadres and activists who paid the supreme sacrifice for the conditions we are privileged to enjoy today. Our solace in invoking their memory is that freedom has been attained. Though the path ahead remains steep and the terrain treacherous, the conditions are much more favorable. The tide has turned; and steadily but surely, a better life is becoming a reality.

The battle cry that issued from the lips of combatants even in the face of death is truer today: Nothing can stop us now!

US starts human tests for South African AIDS vaccine

Human trials of an AIDS vaccine based on southern Africa's predominant HIV strain have started with the first person being injected with the vaccine in the United States. The trial was to have started simultaneously in South Africa and the US but concern about perceptions that the industrialized world was abusing Third World people for human testing led to a suggestion that Americans should receive the first shots. The South African side of the study will probably start in the next two months if the joint South African-US study goes well. It will be the country's first human Aids vaccine trial and will test a product widely regarded as one of the most promising. AlphaVax is particularly promising because it targets dendritic cells, which are central to the body's immune response.

UN warns of Africa food crisis

Armed conflicts and adverse weather conditions are causing food emergencies in 23 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This was the warning issued by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). According to a new report by the Rome-based agency, civil strife, drought, the internal displacement of people and economic disruption are responsible for the crises. (The Star, 24 July 2003)

Interpol to boost Africa on crime front

African police agencies have committed themselves to connecting to Interpol's new I-24/7 global communication system. I-24/7, launched in October last year, is a state-of-the-art Internet-based system that operates over an encrypted, virtual private network. "This system will permit police to communicate critical information - including photographs, fingerprints and even video - around the world to law enforcement agencies in 181 member nations over

a sophisticated, heavily encrypted network," Interpol said yesterday. Sixty-nine countries around the world have already joined the system, including three in Africa. "Interpol's priority is to move speedily to ensure that all of Interpol's 53 member countries in Africa are connected to I-24/7," the agency said in a statement at the 17th Interpol African regional conference in Lusaka. The conference chairperson, Interpol vice-president and South African national police commissioner Jackie Selebi, said: "The I-24/7 system presents a significant opportunity to connect African police to law enforcement agencies around the world, creating a system of communication that will make it more difficult for criminals and terrorists to evade arrest as well as helping us prevent crime. (THE STAR, 20030725)

Golfers and presidents to mix it up in style

Heads of government and the world's top golfers will be treated to a R60-million welcome at the President's Cup in November. Pitting the best 12 US golfers against a team of the best non-European international players, the cup - which has been held three times in the US and once in Australia - is expected to draw dignitaries including former US President George Bush Sr., President Thabo Mbeki and Australian Prime Minister John Howard - and be beamed into 350 million households worldwide. The South African National Intelligence Agency would work with resort security staff and guests' bodyguards in a "comprehensive" security program.

South Africa: Africa's largest investor

The largest amount of foreign direct investment into Africa comes from South Africa, with an annual average of \$1.4 billion invested, Business Day reported on Thursday, July 3. According to research analysts Liquid Africa, the continent offers South African companies high growth opportunities and impressive profit margins. The amount invested in Africa by the country far outstrips investment from the US, Britain and France. Investment by South African companies is seen increasing as they gain a better grasp of the risks and rewards of investing in Africa. These investments are accounting for a growing share of assets, profit and revenue, according to the daily. The relaxing exchange control regulations for local companies to invest in Africa is one of the reasons for this investment, according to Liquid Africa, while the appetite for African risk is increasing. Exports to the African region have risen 59% in the last three years. These include machinery, chemicals, mineral products, base metals, transport equipment and foodstuffs, Business Day reported. Imports meanwhile have risen 133% in the last three years. (iAfrica.com)

VI&Ps Visas, Immigration and Passports



A few months ago the issue of dual citizenship was raised, specifically around the possibility of children (who are born in a foreign country) being allowed to travel on two passports without having a letter of permission as their parents would have to possess. In addition to that, a message was also posted on our website (www.southafrica-newyork.net) indicating that the current letters allowing adults to travel on two passport were valid until further notice.

A constant concern that we have is that parents do not always encourage their children to apply for two passports as dual citizens in terms of the citizenship law of 1995.

The problem is further compounded by the same children – who have turned 18 and who do not enquire as to whether they should possess a South African passport as a citizen of South Africa. We find that one realizes the importance of doing things properly when they are in difficulty. A number of trends have been noted in this regard, the first one is that South African nationals who grow up traveling on a foreign passport don't own a South African passport. In most cases they have identity documents or old SA green identity card but have never cared to apply for South African passport or new ID book. There have been cases where individuals are incarcerated in a foreign country and deported to the country that they hold passport of.

Without even generalizing the problem, imagine a person born in A who immigrated with his/her parents and other family members to South Africa when he/she was three months old. He/she is arrested and jailed in C for whatever offence he/she may have committed. After few years he is deported to A. That person has never been to A and his/her next of kin are no longer there. In a nutshell, he/she does not have roots at all in that country. Experience has shown that those countries are always gracious enough to issue their citizens with travel certificates for deportation purposes. But imagine the quandary that the person will have in a 'foreign' country with no means of support. It is under this circumstance cases where our office is expected to perform miracles to ensure that such a person is deported to South Africa. Most of these people always tell us that they did not think that it was necessary to leave and enter SA on its passport and also to enter and leave that country on its passport.

The other trend experienced is that South Africans have children in the US and then wait from 3 months to 18 years to register a child. Most of these people contact the office when they have to return permanently to SA and do not have return tickets for their children. To register a child takes 2 months, and to issue a temporary passport takes one-two weeks. Simply put, that person will not be able to leave within a month. It is noteworthy that in the rendering of our services abroad, our section is not always in a position to issue certain documents speedily, as it hinges solely on its headquarters to perform its part of work. Despite daunting circumstances, we are managed to turn the tide and we ask your assistance in doing your side of work on time.

Until next time!

From street kid to world riding champ



From foraging for food at a Philippi pig farm two years ago to being one of South Africa's youngest world champions. This is the unlikely rags-to-riches story of Bongani Mvumvu, 14, of Cape Town, who on Sunday swept all before him to win the Children's World Challenge Championship in Hagen am Totenburger Wald in Germany.

The event is the ultimate dressage competition for children around the world and may be entered by invitation only from the world ruling body Federation Equestre Internationale, or FEI). Bongani was the first black South African to be invited to participate. Winning the world crown was an incredible achievement for someone who just over two years ago was an abandoned street child foraging for food on a Philippi pig farm and who had never ridden a horse. Today he has the equestrian world at his feet. Bongani beat 17 other riders from 15 countries in the 12 to 14 age group. It was the first time he had competed internationally and the first time he had traveled outside South Africa. Bongani's fortunes took an incredible turn in 2000, when he was 11 years old.

He was left in his father's care when his mother left home in search of work. Bongani was far from happy and decided to go looking for his mother. His search took him to a pig farm in Philippi where he remembered her looking for food or work on occasion. His father had died earlier that year. At the farm, Bongani met Grant Mohr, the four-year-old son of resident farmer Geoff Mohr. The two boys hit it off instantly, marking the start of an awe-inspiring, true life fairy tale for Bongani. Thoroughly taken with his new playmate, Grant convinced his parents to allow Bongani to visit the Mohr family home for the Easter weekend.

Linda Mohr enrolled Bongani in school and included him in all the family activities, including horse riding. A year later, Bongani had not only mastered riding skills, but had scooped trophies at virtually every event he entered - eventually winning the Western Province Supreme Showing Champion trophy. This victory was particularly sweet since some of Bongani's fellow competitors were adults. Then came the award of South African Show Pony Champion followed by an even more exceptional list of achievements in 2002, including a place in the team going to Germany. He was also selected to play rugby for Western Province and played at the Craven Week, where his performance earned him a scholarship to Rondebosch Boys' High.

Earlier this year, Bongani won the Junior Supreme Showing Championship at the Agri Expo and the Western Province Winelands Elementary Dressage Championship. What earned him the invitation to Germany was his winning score at the South African leg of the FEI/PSI Children's World Dressage Challenge in Franschoek last October.

Calendar of South African Events

Concert for University of Natal

Celebrate the Jubilant Young Voices of South Africa in an evening of song from Africa to opera to benefit The Opera School and Choral Academy of the University of Natal featuring challenging and melodious solos and ensembles from the great classical and romantic operas, traditional and contemporary African songs and a touch of "Americana" on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 from 8:00 pm at the Tishman Auditorium of the New School University, 66 West 12th Street, New York City

Please order your tickets by mail. Tickets will not be sold at the door or by credit card.

Please make your check payable to the "Friends of the University of Natal, Inc." and mail it with this form to:

Patricia Weiner
150 Brushy Hill Road
Danbury, CT 06810

Reserved seating and post concert reception in:

Orozco Room \$150
Reserved seating \$75
General admission \$50

Your contribution less \$25 is tax deductible.

Fourth Annual Comparative Human Rights Conference

The UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights—University of Connecticut will be hosting the 4th annual Comparative Human Rights Conference.

Theme: Artists in the Cause of Human Rights

Tuesday, 21 October 2003
9:00 am—1:00 p.m.
South Campus Rome Ballroom
University of Connecticut

Concert:

Hugh Masekela and the Theolonious Monk
Institute of Jazz
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts
University of Connecticut

Conference admission is free, but seating is limited. Please RSVP to (860) 486-0647.

For more information, please contact the UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights at (860) 486-0647.

Foreign Aids

October 23 - November 2, 2003
La Mama Theater
74A East 4th Street, New York City
Thursday - Saturday 10:00pm Sunday
5:30pm
Admission: \$15.00

FOREIGN AIDS is a one-man performance by Pieter-Dirk Uys, the South African satirist and "actor-vist" whom TimeOut (London) deemed "the court jester of South Africa." The piece is a personal comment on the state of a special nation--South Africa.

The birth of the new Rainbow Nation under Nelson Mandela gave great hopes, but now, in 2003, AIDS is the greatest threat to the continuation of life in South Africa. So it is the ultimate target for this satirist, who is passionate about the survival of his democratic society.

"Foreign Aids" reflects hope, and the truth about fear: laughing at fear makes fear less fearful. Uys brings his performance to New York to reflect the shared fear of the U.S. and South Africa--that of the unknown.

For more information, please visit
www.lamama.org
or call Box Office at (212) 475-7710.

Johannesburg unveils Gandhi statue

Johannesburg mayor Amos Masondo unveiled a 2.5m-high bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Square in the city centre on Thursday.

The unveiling coincided with the 134th anniversary of Gandhi's birthday, which was also celebrated in India as a public holiday.

The statue depicts Gandhi as a young lawyer, who practiced in Johannesburg and subsequently defended many of his clients who were charged with failing to register for passes, picketing and other political offences.

Speaking to the crowd at the unveiling on Thursday, Masondo said Gandhi was one of the pre-eminent leaders of the 20th century.

He said the statue is South Africa's contribution in joining the world in acknowledging Gandhi as an icon of peace.

Former president Nelson Mandela also had a message for the unveiling, which was read on his behalf.

In his statement, Mandela said it was appropriate that the statue should depict Gandhi as a lawyer because he became the first person of color to practice law in Johannesburg, and he had paved the way for others.

He said Gandhi and he experienced both sides of the dock, appearing as attorneys and then as the accused in political trials.

He said the statement he made from the dock in 1964 was also appropriate for Gandhi's life: "I was made, by law, a criminal, not because of what I had done, but because of what I stood for, because of what I thought and of my conscience."

Indian high commissioner SS Mukkherjee said India's stock exchanges were closed on Thursday to celebrate Gandhi's birthday, which is celebrated every year.

He said people in Indian were also proud to learn about the unveiling.

Mukkherjee said India had given South Africa a

lawyer and in return South African given India "Mahatma", which means a "a great soul".

Deputy director of arts, culture and heritage services Eric Itzkin said as part of the inner-city development, it was important to look back at history, which often boosts tourism.

He said the statue would be a national and an international attraction.

The statue of Gandhi has alarms, sensors and beepers to protect it from vandalism.

Itzkin said there would be 24-hour security around the statue.

Gandhi's birth name is Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He later became known as Mahatma Gandhi.

Among the leaders influenced by Gandhi's philosophies was the American civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King. (Sapa)