



South Africa @work

Newsletter of the South African Consulate General in New York City

Volume 3 Issue 1

January—March 2002

From the Desk of the Consul General

In this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| From the Desk of the Consul General | 1 |
| South Africa's Budget 2002 in a nutshell | 2 |
| African Union and NEPAD | 3 |
| Visas, Immigration and Passports | |
| President Mbeki's State of the Nation Address | 5 |
| South Africa's Cabinet Minister | 7 |
| Upcoming Events | 8 |

Current Exchange Rate:
 US\$1.00 = R11.97
 18 Mach 2002
 Source: Wall Street Journal

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

Dear Readers,

It is that time of the year in South Africa when we “close the books” for the current fiscal year and get clarity from our leaders about new priorities for the short and long term. Starting with President Mbeki’s State of the Nation Address, the Finance Minister’s report to Parliament in February and the debate that ensued were moments to behold. South Africa is proud of its unprecedented achievements in the short life of our eight-year old democracy.

The first Parliamentary session for 2002 illustrated the resolve not only for fiscal discipline but our exceptional ability to live within our means and create the expanse of wealth we have to deliver a better life for all South Africans. I will not do justice by giving a summary or extracts of government’s policy direction with regard to its socio-economic agenda. I invite you to visit our website www.southafrica-newyork.net and the government website www.gov.za for a very interesting read. The speeches are as colorful as the reality of our nation’s optimism and growing faith in the future of our country.

May I also remind you that this newsletter is really meant to capture the highlights of the last three months in South Africa, and our role as a country in our region and international affair. The New Partnership for African

Development Program (NEPAD) will soon be in full swing, with the transition of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU) that will be launched in July in South Africa with President Mbeki at the helm of this historic moment.

South Africa is participating in numerous regional initiatives; in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Zimbabwe and beyond. We have the fortune of a country that is transparent in the true sense of the word. To illustrate this point you do not have to wait for your local news or business magazines to know what is happening in our part of the world—all South African institutions are online; big and small. This is something the American public is not aware of. You get the very latest, “fresh from the oven”. It is taken for granted that because we are in Africa, information technology has not stretched far. I challenge you to prove my point. Key in any keyword in the world wide web about South Africa or your area of interest (Investment & Trade Opportunities, Business, Economics, NGO’s, Newspapers, African News, International Events, Sport, Personal Interests) and see what you come up with. You can also go through the South African Consulate’s website to find a link to many other institution’s websites in South Africa. Its marvel and we are proud to present that free visit to South Africa.

Our interaction with the US public and institutions already a trend re-



newal of interest in doing business, visiting or just getting to know more about South Africa. As we do so, remember there are critical tenets to our relations; (a) to get to understand more about the new way of doing business with Africa by getting to know about the US government policy expanded on the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and our “Marshall Plan”, the NEPAD. Once you begin to understand these you will certainly understand that there is a whole new ballgame going on down there.

Please joint in and be part of our partnership. We always appreciate your feedback if anything is missing in our services.

Thami Ngwevela
 Consul General

Protea: South Africa’s National Flower



The Giant or King Protea is widely distributed in the south-western and southern areas of the Western Cape, from the Cedarberg up to just east of Grahamstown. The artichoke-like appearance of the flower-heads of the King Protea lead to the specific name ‘cynaroides’, which means ‘like cynara’ (the artichoke). The name does not do justice to the beautiful flower-heads of this protea, which is the largest in the genus. A number of varieties in color and leaf shapes are found, but the most beautiful is the pink colored flower.

Letter to the New York Times from Ambassador S. Sisulu

Response to New York Times' December 13 Editorial "The Global Fund Confronts AIDS" by the South African Ambassador to the United States



I was disappointed to read your editorial in the December 13, 2001 issue of the New York Times entitled "...The Global Fund Confronts AIDS," which contained an irresponsible reference to South Africa as being the "most notorious example" of countries that deny they have an HIV/AIDS problem.

This statement has no factual basis and is inherently incorrect. It is unbecoming a newspaper of your standing to publish editorials containing unsubstantiated statements. The facts speak for themselves.

The South African Government has never denied that it has an HIV/AIDS problem. On the contrary, the comprehensive range of cross-cutting activities that the government is involved in, bears testimony to a government that is deeply seized with addressing not just the HIV/AIDS epidemic but also the factors that fuel its spread, such as social deprivation, unemployment and widespread poverty

The South African HIV/AIDS Program has been designed, funded and implemented under government leadership with funding increasing more than ten times since 1994 when the current administration took over. In 1998, the

government established the South African Partnership Against AIDS with leaders of all sectors of civil society. In fact, UNAIDS has been reported as regarding South Africa's HIV/AIDS Program as one of the best in Africa.

Our Treasury Department has identified the strengthening of programs to address the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic as one of the priorities of the 2002 budget and has increased the allocation for provincial programs five-fold from R110 million in 2000 to a total of R513 million over the next two financial years.

The Department of Health's allocation for HIV/AIDS was approximately R20 million in 1994 and has increased more than ten-fold to R212 million in 2001.

The South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative, established in 1999 and heavily funded by government, will embark on the first clinical trial during 2002 using a vaccine candidate that targets the specific viral strain prevalent in Southern Africa.

South Africa played a critical role in focusing attention on the need for developing countries to access affordable drugs for the public health crises we face, which resulted in the pharmaceutical companies' settlement of its lawsuit against the government. The World Trade Organization's recent declaration that the TRIPS Agreement should not be a barrier to governments in dealing with public health needs, is an indirect tribute to South Africa's challenge of an accepted

"principle" that the protection of intellectual property rights outweighs the needs of the public. We will soon publish regulations that will enable us to procure cheaper drugs to treat among others the complications of HIV/AIDS.

At this point in time, however, the government cannot afford the cost of providing the "cocktail" anti-retroviral therapies commonly used in the developed world to treat HIV-positive persons. Nonetheless, we are putting in place the supportive infrastructure that will be required when we can afford to provide such drugs.

As you can see, there are many readily available examples that can be cited to underscore the government's acknowledgement of and commitment to addressing the HIV/AIDS had your researcher taken the trouble.

The challenge presented by the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic requires that we all work together in a constructive manner if we are to be successful in our efforts.

Your recent series of articles on HIV/AIDS in Hlabisa, South Africa (11/25/2001 to 12/01/2001) reflected an appreciation of the complex context in which HIV/AIDS thrives. Before singling out South Africa in the way that you have done in your editorial, I encourage you to similarly acknowledge the efforts of my government to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in a sustainable matter.

South Africa's Budget 2002 in a Nutshell

Economy: Economy growth slowed to 2.2% in 2001 and is expected to be 2.3% in 2002 rising to 3.3% in 2003 as the global economy recovers.

Inflation: CPIX inflation will average 6.9% this year – outside the 3% to 6% target – mainly due to the depreciation of the rand, but it is expected to fall back to 5.8% in 2003.

Rand: Without giving exact estimates the Department of Finance expects a recovery in the rand for the next 2 years "partially restoring the real value of the currency lost in 2001".

Reduction in NOFP: The net open forward position (NOFP) book will be phased out over the coming year, after it declined from \$9.5 billion at the beginning of 2002 to just under \$3 billion at present.

Budget 2001/02: In the current fiscal year to end-March 2002 revenue is set to be R15 billion more than budgeted at R248.4 billion with

spending set for R262.6 billion. This leaves the deficit between revenue and expenditure at R14.1 billion or 1.4% of GDP – a record low for the new South Africa and compares with 10% in 1994.

Budget 2002/03: The main budget provides for spending of \$287.9 billion in 2002/03 (up 9.6% on this year) and revenue of R265.2 billion (up 6.7%). This gives a budgeted deficit of 2.1% of GDP.

Medium Term Expenditure: The three year projections show spending rising from R268 billion in 2002/03 and R316 billion in 2004/05 and revenue from R265 billion to R313 billion over the same period. The deficit will rise slightly to 2.1% in 2002/03 before falling back to 1.7% of GDP in 2004/05.

Debt: Total government debt at the end of March this year is expected at R425 billion the equivalent of 42.9% of GDP – this is budgeted to rise to R437 billion by the end of 2002/03

(40.3% of GDP). Cost of servicing this debt are expected to fall from 4.8% of GDP in 2002/03 to 4.1% in 2004/05, releasing an additional R10 billion.

Privatization: In the current year only the sale of government's stake in M-Cell went through, raising R5.3 billion. In the 2001/02 fiscal year government is budgeting for R12.3 billion from privatization proceeds, with the bulk coming from the listing of Telkom.

Law Enforcement: The South African Police Services receives an extra R1.6 billion to R20.6 billion in 2002/03 and announces plans to deploy an extra 16,000 police men and women over the next three years at a cost of over R5 billion.

Defense: The Defense Budget rises from R18.1 billion to R20.6 billion in 2002/03, of which R6.3 billion will go to the arms procurement package. The Budget estimates the total cost of

(Continued on page 4)

Birth of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The birth of the African Union (AU) goes hand-in-hand with the launch of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, popularly known as NEPAD, and the implementation of the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA) initiative.

Although these three processes represent different Continental initiatives, success in one area will influence success in the others, and all of them are meant to fast-track African Renaissance and make an African century a reality.

The Formation of the African Union

The African Union will replace the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The African Heads of State confirmed the establishment of the African Union on March 2001, during the Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Sirte, Libya.

South Africa signed-in on 23 April 2001, agreeing to the formation and the law establishing the African Union called the Constitutive Act of the African Union. By doing so, South Africa joined other 35 African countries that are the founding members of the African Union. This is South Africa's proud achievement, as it did not have the opportunity to be part of the founding members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) because apartheid had left it out of international affairs. Now, South Africa can rightfully take part in the fight to build a better life for all in Africa.

The Constitutive Act of the African Union replaces the Charter of the OAU, however, the Charter will remain operative from 11 July 2001 to 10 July 2002, until the African Union is in operation. The African Union will not be the continuation of the Organization of African Unity under a different name, but it will have the capacities built into it to improve the economic, political and social development of the African people. It will also help ensure that the Continent is more prepared to deal with the challenges of the 21st Century and to achieve the ultimate goal of a complete African Unity.

On July 2002, South Africa will host the first Summit of the African Union.

What is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)?

The New Partnership for Africa's Development is an African program for African devel-

opment. The Partnership is the result of the joining together of the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Program (MAP) and the OMEGA Plan at the request of the Organization of African Unity. The New African Initiative (MAP), which is now officially referred to as NEPAD, was approved by the Lusaka Summit on 11 July 2001.

The Partnership is a commitment by African leaders to get rid of poverty and to place the African continent on a path of lasting growth and development. It is founded on African States practicing good governance, democracy and human rights, while working to prevent and resolve situations of conflict and instability on the continent. The founding document of NEPAD contains both a strategic policy framework and a detailed Program of Action. The Partnership will deal with the following:

Requirements for Development

- ? Peace, security, democracy and political governance
- ? Economic and corporate governance, with a focus on public finance management
- ? Regional co-operation and integration

Priority Sectors

- ? Infrastructure
- ? Information and communications technology (ICT)
- ? Human development, with a focus on health, education and skills development
- ? Agriculture
- ? Promoting diversification of production and exports, with a focus on market access for African exports to industrialized countries

Mobilizing Resources

- ? Increasing savings and capital inflows *via* further debt relief, increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows and private capital, as well as better management of public revenue and expenditure.

South Africa and other role-player African States have been undertaking a broad program to build international support for NEPAD.

They have already succeeded in their efforts by gaining support for the Partnership from the major international and multinational

bodies and conferences – such as the UN Economic and Social Council, the G8 Summit, as well as at the UN World Conference Against Racism that was held in Durban. In 2002, they will take the Partnership to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Financing for Development Conference to be held in Mexico.

Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA)

The CSSDCA process is another important initiative in the plans to develop the ideal African Continent because it will build an important link between the various activities currently carried out by the Organization of African Unity/African Economic Community (OAU/AEC).

The Report of the First Ministerial Meeting of the CSSDCA that was held in Abuja from 8 to 9 May 2000, was approved by the OAU/AEC Summit in Lomé during the same year (2000). The CSSDCA will help to bring about a much-needed link to the work of the OAU/AEC in the areas of peace, security, stability, development and co-operation. The four Calabashes (Security, Stability, Development, and Co-operation) will carry out discussions during the various Calabashes meetings around the implementation of the CSSDCA process. At the end of all these meetings, a ministerial meeting will be held to examine what the Calabashes meetings recommend. This will be followed by the bi-annual standing Summit that will happen around the same time with the first Summit of the African Union to be held on July 2002, in South Africa.

The CSSDCA will provide a policy development forum for discussions and the advancement of common values within the main policy groups of the OAU/AEC. To ensure that the CSSDCA continues to exist productively and that it is implemented within the set standards of the OAU/AEC, it has been agreed that a Standing CSSDCA Conference would be established, to meet and assess the CSSDCA every two years during the Summit.

A unit will also be established within the OAU/AEC Secretariat to look after CSSDCA activities.

For more information about NEPAD, please visit www.mapstrategy.com

VI&Ps

Visas, Immigration and Passports

APPLICATION FOR PASSPORT: CHILDREN WITH DIVORCED PARENTS



The New Year has finally come and its first quarter is limping towards its end. With it comes a lot of challenges to surmount, as well as problems to face and solve. It is interesting to note that some of the common inquiries we receive center on one or more of the following services provided by the Home Affairs Section:

- Issuance of new passport;
- Issuance of birth certificate;
- Issuance of letters of no objection;
- Confirmation of citizenship;
- Confirmation of permanent residence;
- Application for identity documents etc.

It is against this background that there is a need for us to be in constant contact with the public and to reassure you that we will assist whenever we can. I shall tackle the problems we come across, brief you about service delivery changes that have been made and some legislative changes that may or can have an impact on you.

Let me quickly tackle one problem that seems not to go away.

We are experiencing a situation where children share parents who live between countries; South Africa is no exception to this phenomenon. In the case of the majority of these children custody resides with the mother with visitation rights for fathers. It is for this reason that when passport and visa applications are lodged we are required by law to have the signatures and consent of both parents. Quite often one of the parents will approach us for services without the requisite information. The rule of thumb is: Please follow the law.

To solve this problem, passport regulations prescribe that a Commissioner of Welfare can provide the necessary authorisation for the parent who has custody of the child to be the only one who gives consent. For persons living abroad an order from a competent court will suffice.

Johannes Tiba
Consul, Home Affairs

Budget 2002 in a Nutshell (continued from page 2)

the package to be R52.7 billion with yearly payments reaching a peak of R7.7 billion in 2005/06.

Education: Almost a quarter of the non-interest expenditure of the Budget is dedicated to education: national and provincial education departments will receive almost 7% more at R59.8 billion in 2002/03.

Health/AIDS: The health budget rises sharply from R31.7 billion to R34.4 billion. Total funding for AIDS will rise from R343 million this year to R1 billion in 2002/03.

The provinces: The allocation to provincial governments will rise from R121 billion this year to R132.4 billion in 2001/02 while local governments will receive R6.6 billion (2000/01: R8.6 billion).

Welfare: Social grants for the elderly, disabled and veterans will rise by R50 to R620 /month, while child support grants increase by R20 to R130.

Personal Tax: Tax cuts totaling R15 billion are announced mainly benefiting low and middle income workers. Individuals earnings R27,000 a year (previously R23,000) will pay no income tax – the threshold rises to R42,640 for taxpayers over 65. The top marginal tax rate is reduced from 42% to 40%.

Savings: The interest income exemption is raised to R6,000 and to R10,000 for taxpayers over 65.

VAT: Despite the increased calls for the extension of zero-rating on food items and other basic services the VAT system is left untouched.

Investment incentives: Accelerated depreciation allowances are introduced – asset depreciation can now take place over 4 years in contrast to the existing 5-year period. Tax allowances are also launched to encourage spending on training while tax relief to small business is extended mainly by raising the threshold at which a small business is defined from turnover of R1 million to R3 million a year.

Excise/Fuel duties: The tax on tobacco products goes up by an average 12% raising the cost of a packet of cigarettes by 34c. Alcohol taxes are lifted by between 8% and 10%, pushing up the cost of a can of beer by 3.2c and bottle of wine by 4.5c. All duties on soft drinks are abolished. No changes in the fuel levy but the Road Accident Fund levy is increased by 2c a liter.

And now for some myth and legend ...



The Tale of the Mighty Baobab Tree

The Baobab tree is a magical tree with a strange history.

A long time ago, before the first human beings, in the time of the creation, the Gods decided that the earth was bare and needed something besides the animals. They decided to cover the earth with plants. They spent many hours pondering how to distribute the plants and make the animals respect them. The God of water suggested that if they give the plants to the animals, each animal would have their own type of plant. The decision was unanimous and they set out giving the plants to the animals.

The animals were very happy and they all took good care of their plants. All except the Hyenas, which were upset because they were given their plant, the Baobab tree, last and so they plotted against the Gods.

They planted their tree upside down! They thought it was very funny, but the other animals did not, so they were banished to the bottom of the food chain. The Hyenas didn't understand what had happened to them and they thought the whole situation was very funny.

That my friend, is the reason the Baobab tree looks like its roots are above the ground and why the Hyenas are always laughing...

Acknowledgement: Sandi Guthrie

President Mbeki's State of the Nation Address

Address to the Parliament on 8 February 2002

"The Government is firmly of the view that, substantially, we have elaborated the policy, legislative and constitutional base that will enable us to achieve the transformation of our country...Of course, there are a number of areas that continue to receive attention as we seek to finalise our policy and other positions...Work on these and other issues will proceed apace...

"Accordingly, the central challenge we face as government is the task of implementation. The order of the day is that we take all necessary measures to ensure that the policy and legislative measures for the reconstruction and development of our country that have already been adopted, are further translated into an actual process of the transformation of our society...

"To summarise the message we seek to communicate to this House and to the country today, it is simply this - let us get down to the serious business of work - working together to create a new South Africa; working together to build a country free of racism and sexism; working together to end poverty, unemployment and the social marginalisation of any of our people; working together to give an example to the whole world, that, as a people, we have the capacity to succeed, however difficult the challenges we face. The order of the day is to get down to the serious business of working together for change."

"Of decisive importance to the millions of our people and the future of our country, as we meet here today, the central question we will have to answer at the end of the day is whether what we are doing as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, as well as the fourth estate and civil society, is helping to lift from the shoulders of our people, the intolerable burden of poverty and underdevelopment.

The second is that the central question we have to answer is whether what we are doing is helping to lift from the shoulders of our

people, the intolerable burden of poverty and underdevelopment.

The Hon Minister Buthelezi called on all of us to be really united to address our common challenges, while recognising and respecting our diverse voices. Others, like the Hon Marthinus van Schalkwyk spoke correctly about the need for us to provide hope rather than promote hopelessness. This challenge faces all of us. I trust that all of us will respond positively to this constructive leadership directed at building a better South Africa.

Urging us to start anew as one people, "to shiver in the colour of human", the poet and writer Antjie Krog has written:

*"Hoe word jy heel
Hoe word jy vrygemaak in begrip
Hoe maak jy goed
Hoe sny jy skoon
Hoe na kan die tong tilt aan teerheid
Of die wang aan versoening
'n Punt
'n lyn wat se: van hier af
van die moment af
gaan dit anders klink
want al ons woorde le naas mekaar op die
tafel
bibberend van die kleur van mens
ons weet nou mekaar
mekaar se kopvel en reuk, mekaar se bloed
ons weet die diepste geluide wat mekaar
se niere maak in die nag
ons is stadig mekaar
opnuut
nuut
en hier begin dit"*

Or as the Hon Sunklavathy Rajbally said -
Siyaya!

The full State of the Nation Address is available at the Consulate's website.

South African Car Exports Soar, and Set to Keep Rising

South African vehicle exports soared almost 60% last year—and the upward trend is expected to continue—albeit at a slightly slower growth rate, according to figures released last night by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA (NAAMSA). In its latest quarterly report, the trade body said that total vehicle exports shot up from 68,031 units in 2000 to 108,293 in 2001 a 59.2% jump. The growth for cars was even more spectacular, with a 67.7% rise from 58,204 cars to 97,599 units. While the export picture was impressive, so was the production record, with a 13.9% jump in new vehicles—with the figure rising from 357,364 units in 2000 to 407,036 in 2001.

First Secretariat Meeting of the South African-U.S. Bilateral Cooperation Forum (BCF)

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aziz Pahad will lead the South African delegation to the first Secretariat Meeting of the South African - U.S. Bilateral Cooperation Forum (BCF) in Cape Town on Wednesday, 13 February 2002. The U.S. delegation will be led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr. Walter Kansteiner and will include U.S. National Security Council Presidential Special Advisor on Africa, Dr. Jendayi Frazer.

The meeting is a significant milestone in the South African-U.S. relationship as it testifies to the mutual commitment of both Governments to working together in cooperative and mutually supportive spirit. This high level interactions also creates a framework for the pursuit of mutual regional and international priorities.

Further, the Secretariat Meeting will review Committee progress, discuss and define future parameters for interaction and cooperation under the BCF umbrella. The focus will be on streamlining the functioning and increasing the efficacy of the existing committees, currently in number.

Since the establishment of the bilateral forum, much progress has been reported by the committees in promoting US investment in South Africa rapidly expanding bilateral trade to now more than \$7 billion per annum, greater access for South African products to the U.S. market, reducing pollution, protecting the environment, managing waste, improving agricultural practices, empowering and educating young people, enhancing the skills of young professionals, combating crime and terrorism and building military capacity. Bilateral Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties aimed inter alia at combating crime, money laundering and drug trafficking, were negotiated within this framework and ratified in 2001.

More South Africanisms

Oom—uncle
Tannie—aunt
(In South Africa, respect is shown through the use of oom and tannie)
Vasbyt—hang in there
Sterkte—good luck
Pop—doll
Tulawena—be quiet
Skell—shout

Hou jou mond—be quiet
Smaak—to like
Swaar—brother in law
Mampara—a fool
Ndiyakuthanda—I love you
Skiet, skop, donner—shoot, kick, hit
Stukend—broken
Ek smaak jou stukend—I like you a lot
(direct translation: I like you broken)

Towards A Continental Action Plan To Help Deliver On The Promise Of Education For All In Africa

Extracts from the address by Mr. SME Bengu, South African Ambassador to Germany on 13 February 2002

Knowledge is the key to sustainable development, and education is the key to knowledge. When I served as Minister for Education in the first democratically elected Government of South Africa, I introduced a new Curriculum, called Curriculum 2005. At its inception in 1997, I declared that this new Curriculum was “just the medicine to cure the ills of apartheid education, and the tonic needed to boost education in preparation for a 21st Century economy”. Today, as I share some thoughts with you on a Continental Action Plan for Education in Africa, I declare once again that this pan-African education initiative is “just the medicine to cure the ills of colonial education in preparation for the African Century economy”.

By the way the curriculum we introduced was the “Outcomes Based on Education” (OBE). The Apartheid system had compelled students to memorize facts, even those they did not understand. OBE focuses on outcomes – what learners are able to do when they complete each grade. It focuses on competitiveness. OBE teaches learners to think.

The demands on our system are formidable. We are required to support and sustain education performance for increasing numbers at the highest national and international levels. Simultaneously, we are required to make up learning deficits of staggering magnitudes in our child, youth and adult populations, and attend seriously to the special learning needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities. In the face of these adversities we must still strive to ensure a decent and continuously improving standard of living for all people. The enormity of the task at hand is magnified when we consider the legacy of colonial education, the long-term effects of the domination of the African peoples through brute and force and through control, through divorcing the African child from his or her own experiences and environment, through systematic processes of alienation and also assimilation, in this way bringing about what Ngungi wa Thiongo, the contemporary African writer, aptly describes as “the domination of the mental universe of the colonized”.

Numerous observations indicate that a global revolution is taking place in education. This is driven by the changing nature of work, our immersion in the information age, new global partnerships and an awareness of the need for an equal distribution of educational opportunities. The framework for a continental action plan for Education in Africa, as set out in the New Partnership for Africa’s document, more commonly known as the NEPAD document, identifies the absolutely essential inclu-

sion of information, communication, science and technology within a new curriculum for education in Africa.

Science and technology is the broad strategy to address the persistent challenge of underdevelopment of our continent. The first way to engender the change required is through transformation of education to include science, mathematics, computing and technology into the curriculum. Scientifically literate communities have historically demonstrated the highest rate of economic development, the highest commitment to democratic values and have created enduring and sustainable quality of life in the communities they serve.

As Africans, our common concerns in African agenda for education should include:

? The sharing of ideas and expertise so as to advance in practical ways, the objective of African development

? We must proceed with ongoing, intra-African studies and research into our rich creative and cultural past and rekindle interests into African knowledge systems so as to make younger generations aware of the achievements emanating from our continent and to impress upon them their inherent creativity, thus setting the stage for new developments and discoveries.

? We must encourage the use of information technology in education so as to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas.

? We must ascertain that measures are put in place to ensure that women, especially those in rural areas have access to education, including fields from which they may have been traditionally excluded.

? At all times we must seek to build a better life for all so that the poorest of the poor have access to education and the benefits thereof.

The “benefits thereof”, for instance, are jobs. The education that delivers jobs is the education that does not dichotomize education and training – the head from the hands, theory and practice. We have come to reject the theory that holds that when you educate the hands the head is not educated at the same time and that is why we believe in integrating education and training. Countries who have understood this have one Ministry of Education and Labor combined because they have realized the benefits of an integrated approach.

Following on these common ideals we share as Africans, NEPAD encompasses our united ambitions for a new relevant education system across the African continent. Allow me then to set out the concrete steps as systematically

outlined in the NEPAD document. The action plan sets out four main goals and the actions required for their realization: The main objectives are:

? To work with donors and multilateral institutions to ensure that the International Development Goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015 is realized.

? To work for improvements in curriculum development, quality improvements and access to information and communication technology.

? To expand access to secondary education and improve its relevance to the world of work.

? To promote networks of specialized research and higher education institutions.

Now that I have touched on the subject of Higher Education may I say that Higher Education cannot be free. Most of the countries of Africa cannot afford free higher education. We cannot afford it in South Africa. When I was Minister of Education I faced angry students who were demanding free higher education. I know of countries in Africa whose higher education infrastructure and programs were destroyed by them offering free higher education. They then secured loans from the World Bank and the debts became a burden that destroyed higher education. The call for governments to make education accessible to all must first be implemented at primary and then secondary schools levels.

The subsequent actions required are:

? To review current initiatives jointly with UNESCO and other major international donors.

? To review levels of expenditure on education by African countries, and to undertake the process of developing norms and standards for government expenditure on education.

? To establish a task team to accelerate the introduction of information and communication technology in primary schools.

? To establish a task team to review and put forward proposals for the research capacity needed in each region of the continent.

HIV/AIDS should remain a number one priority so as to ensure that we contribute to the reduction of HIV infections through timely and appropriate education. In South Africa we have adopted an action plan consisting of three parts. The first is to improve awareness, information and advocacy. The

(Continued on page 7)

South Africa's Cabinet Ministers



AT Didiza
Agriculture & Land Affairs



BS Ngubane
Arts, Culture, Science & Technology



I Matsepe-Casaburri
Communications



BM Skosana
Correctional Services



MGP Lekota
Defense



AK Asmal
Education



MV Moosa
Environmental Affairs & Tourism



T Manuel
Finance



NC Dlamini-Zuma
Foreign Affairs



ME Tshabalala-Msimang
Health



MG Buthelezi
Home Affairs



SD Thembi-Mahanyele
Housing



LN Sisulu
Intelligence



PM Maduna
Justice & Constitutional Development



MMS Mdladlana
Labor



P Mlambo-Ngcuka
Minerals & Energy



FS Mufamadi
Provincial & Local



JT Radebe
Public Enterprises



G Fraser-Moleketi
Public Service & Administration



SN Sigcau
Public Works



SV Tshwete
Safety & Security



ZST Skweyiya
Social Development



BMN Balfour
Sport & Recreation



A Erwin
Trade & Industry



AM Omar
Transportation



R Kasriis
Water Affairs & Forestry



E Pahad
Office of the Presidency

(Continued from page 6)

Towards A Continental Action Plan

second is to ensure that life skills and HIV/AIDS education are integrated into the education curriculum at all levels of the system. The third is to develop planning models for understanding the impact of HIV/AIDS on the education and training system. The outcome of these studies will be to ensure that we respond adequately to the impact of the epidemic on the sustainability of the education and training system, and act to establish care and support systems for learners and educators who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Such a plan could be adapted for the continent as a whole.

The leaders of Africa have demonstrated on a number of occasions that the political will exists to ensure that education is indeed for all on our continent. The Cairo Declaration of April 2000 states that the African and European leaders "agree to work for the achievement of education for all" and more concretely call on African countries to "contribute at least 1% of their GDP" towards the achievement of this goal. The Durban Statement of Commitment of 1998 affirms that: "We, the Ministers of Education of Africa are resolved to work together and give priority support to our capacity-building and reform efforts, so that together we can shape Education as the lead instrument for the fashioning of the African Renaissance."

In an address to the biennial meeting of ADEA, South African President Thabo Mbeki, conveyed the message that the development of Africa depends today on education and that we must not falter to provide an education appropriate to the long-term needs of our continent in order to equip us fully to meet the challenges of the 21st century. For the next century to be characterized as a truly African century, for the social and economic progress of the African people, for it to be the century of durable peace and sustained development in Africa, we have to implement a successful education system.

Therefore, if we are to move towards a continental action plan for education for all, intra-African educational institutions and agencies need to strongly recognize that we must collectively effect change. Through the strengthening of relations between different countries of our continent in the area of education, we can cement African unity and become actively engaged as educators in a continental offensive for African social, economic and cultural development. It is imperative that we develop a continental consciousness of development. Education must give us the strength to rise up as Africans to the challenges thrown at us by globalization.

One good example of African countries cooperating in education is that of the former Minister of Education in Rwanda who came to ask that his country which has its University infrastructure destroyed in the war to bring its students to study in South Africa before they had their insti-

tutions rebuilt. This proposal was ingenious and the human resource investment that followed was beneficial to his country.

NEPAD requires that Africa should overcome centuries of poverty, hunger, disease and underdevelopment. It demands that Africa should catch up with the rest of humanity in terms of social, economic, technological and scientific development. The African child must no longer be subjected to the mental domination that Ngungi w Thiongo has spoken about. We are liberating ourselves. Since our common concern is to complete this process of liberation by building a caring, humane African society, by bringing about sustained economic development, our contribution in ensuring our self-development is crucial if we are to succeed in our endeavor.



QUOTABLE QUOTE

"We gave new life to the world's hope that peace and unity will everywhere prevail over division and conflict, and that justice, freedom and dignity will everywhere prevail over oppression, poverty and discrimination"

*- Nelson Mandela
Freedom Day, August 27, 1999*

Calendar of South African Events

Exhibition: Shooting Resistance: South African Photography

1 February to 16 March 2002
Axis Gallery
453 West 17th Street
New York City

The exhibition includes Sam Nzima's famous 1976 photograph of the corpse of Hector Petersen carried in the arms of a friend, after being shot by police. This image became an international icon for the injustices of Apartheid.

The show highlights the intensified repression and resistance of the mid-1980s. Despite virtual military rule, the shooting of demonstrators, and the arrest, torture, and murder of leading activists, resolute resistance made the country ungovernable. The alliance of democratic organizations, labor, students, and the church brought South Africa to a standstill. As the government's international support waned, it realized that a negotiated settlement was its final strategic move, and Mandela was released in 1990. *For more information about the exhibition, please call Axis Gallery at (212) 741-2582 or visit their website www.axisgallery.com*

AfricaManagers Recruitment Forum

12 - 13 April 2002
London, United Kingdom

This two-day event gives invited candidates the opportunity to interview and network with some of the most significant corporations powering the new economy. Positions are available for internationally orientated graduates and early career professionals with 0 - 10 years experience, across all disciplines, for positions throughout South Africa.

Deadline for online application is 04 March 2002. This ensures inclusion for any relevant search projects in addition to this event that will necessarily require you to travel to the

United Kingdom. *For more information, please visit their website www.emdsnet.com/africanmanagers*

Zwelethu Mthethwa Photography

Through 04 May 2002
Forum for Contemporary Art
St. Louis

South African photographer Zwelethu Mthethwa, known world wide for his powerful images of residents living in informal squatter camps in Western Cape, South Africa, will present a series of photographs presenting women posed in their modest but colorful homes. Mthethwa depicts his subjects in the context of their own home--their temporary, highly individualized, self-made domiciles, among personal objects that serve as character signifiers. Made in response to media depictions about the conditions in South Africa, Mthethwa photographs a view of individuals not often presented, a result of the collaborative efforts in the staging of his subjects. His portraits present a counter image that while still addressing the reality of living conditions for many in post-apartheid South Africa, presents individuals teeming with personality, dignity and grace. *For more information, please visit their website at www.Forumart.org.*

The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994

Through 05 May 2002
Contemporary Art Center in Queens
Long Island

A landmark exhibition exploring African culture through art, film, photography, graphics, architecture, music, literature, and theater. Featuring works by the pioneering South African painter Ernest Mancoba, born in 1904, had his initial training in missionary schools and later relocated to Paris, where he developed a pattern-rich abstract style and became associated with the Cobra group. Also Wilem

Boshoff, William Kentridge, Sydney Kumalo, Santu Mofokeng, Zwelethu Mthethwa. For more information please visit www.ps1.org/cut/main.html

"Stair Procession" by William Kentridge

21 May 2002
12:00—6:00 p.m.
Contemporary Art Center
Queens

Created for P.S.1's Contemporary Art Center, Stair Procession is a white-on-black drawing akin to white chalk graffiti. Kentridge literally draws from the former school building for his subject matter and methods. He negotiates the constricted spaces of the stairs using "anamorphic distortions." Kentridge asserts, "I am interested in the steel mesh that encloses the stairway. The stairway seems redolent of control and incarceration, as schooling always entails. *For more information, please visit www.ps1.org/cut/main.html*

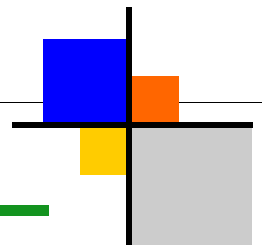
The Syringa Tree

30 May
Playhouse 91
316 East 91st Street
New York City

Ubuntu Education Fund hosts the one-woman show **The Syringa Tree**. John Simon chose the show as one of his "5 Best Plays of 2001". To reserve tickets contact Jordan Levy, Operations Manager, at (201) 656-3600 or by email: jordan@ubuntufund.org. *For more information please visit www.syringatree.com*

Postscript:

Madiba Restaurant has launched Shebeen Newsletter where many of the above events are flagged. For more information see www.madibaweb.com.



Birmingham Salutes South Africa

Every year the people of Birmingham look forward to experiencing the flavors, sights and sounds of a new and completely different culture through the **Birmingham International Festival (BIF)**. The 2002 Salute to the Republic of South Africa promises to be unique and unforgettable. BIF's goal is to present the new South Africa. For decades isolated from the world by apartheid, the new South Africa is a country that celebrates its democracy and freedom.

Highlights of the 52nd Birmingham International Festival include "Celebrate Freedom", an art exhibit depicting the new South African Constitution, the Crystal Crown Awards Luncheon, and "Transformative Justice: From Conflict to Resolution and Healing," a two-day international conference presented by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the Birmingham Pledge, the Birmingham International Festival, and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in South Africa. Whether it is savoring the South African foods and wines at the Street Festival or attending the conference to learn methods for improving community relations, there is something for everyone at the 2002 Salute to South Africa. The BIF runs from April 16 to 21, 2002.