



## **DAY OF RECONCILIATION - 16 DECEMBER 2009**

### **AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE**

Since my arrival in February 2009, the Embassy staff and I have experienced many developments, viz. the credentials ceremony, the relocation from the Dizengof Center to Ramat Gan, the courtesy visits to Diplomatic colleagues, Ministers, MKs, speaker of the Knesset, visits to several councils and meetings with Mayors, etc. My wife and I wish to thank all those who received us warmly and wish you a happy festive season.

This edition of Mzansi is dedicated to Reconciliation Day on 16 December. It is therefore important to reflect on what South Africans mean by the term “reconciliation”, and why 16 December was the chosen date.

During the earlier part of the 19th century, many Afrikaner (Voortrekkers) farmers left the Cape and moved inland, protesting British colonialism and seeking independent republics on what was reputedly empty land. But the land was not empty and clashes between these Afrikaners and indigenous peoples were inevitable.

Late in 1837, one of the Voortrekker leaders, Piet Retief, entered into negotiations for land with Dingane, the Zulu king. In terms of the negotiations, Dingane promised the Voortrekkers land on condition they returned cattle to him stolen by Sekonyela (the Tlokwa chief). This Retief did, and apparently he and Dingane signed a treaty on 6 February 1838. However, during the ceremony, for reasons unknown, Retief and his entourage killed.

In ensuing battles between Zulus and Voortrekkers over the next few months numerous lives were lost on both sides. On 16 December 1838, Zulu troops attacked the Voortrekkers who, with the advantage of gunpowder, warded them off.

In apartheid South Africa, 16 December was known as Day of the Vow (Day of the Covenant and Dingane's Day). In preparation, for battle, the Voortrekkers took a Vow before God that they would build a church and that they and their descendants would observe the day as a day of thanksgiving should they be granted victory. In time, this event became the key to the interpretation of Afrikaner history and the cornerstone of the ideology of apartheid. The Afrikaners came to regard themselves as a chosen nation.

With the advent of democracy in South Africa, 16 December retained its status as a public holiday, but this time with the purpose of fostering reconciliation and national unity. After a war, it is often necessary for the protagonists to reconcile with each other and also within themselves after what has taken place - the taking of human lives, the destruction, horror and tragedy which they helped to cause. By jointly participating in erecting a monument that would ennoble the loss of Zulu life and extol Zulu bravery as the present monuments at the site of the battle do for the Voortrekkers; by moving beyond the mere valorisation of war; and by creating a spirit of reconciliation, South Africans believe that the descendants of the original protagonists can play an immense part in the building of a united South Africa.

It is my sincere hope that the significance of this day will resonate across national boundaries.

ISMAIL COOVADIA  
AMBASSADOR

### **South Africa's Deputy Director General for Asia and Middle East Visits Israel**

Ambassador J Matjila, the Deputy Director General (DDG), Asia and Middle East, accompanied by Mr Rapulane Molekane, Director (Levant), and officials of the department, Mr Machiel Van Niekerk and Mr Richard Baloyi, paid an official visit to Israel to hold consultations with their counterparts and to appraise themselves with developments on the ground.

Among other discussions held the delegation had meetings with Mr Danny Ayalon, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jaques Revach, the DDG for Africa, Mr Ramiz Jaraizy, Mayor of Nazareth, Sheikh Khaled Hamdan, Mayor of Uhm al-Fahm, and visited the Municipality of Akko and Yad Vashem.

### **President JG Zuma to attend Climate Change talks in Copenhagen**

President Jacob Zuma has been invited to attend the Heads of State and Government Segment of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change, (UNFCCC), and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP-5) to the Kyoto Protocol, from 17 to 18 December 2009.

South Africa enters this phase of negotiations advocating a successful outcome that will be inclusive, fair, and effective and that balances *adaptation* and *mitigation* and *development* and *climate* imperatives. Success in Copenhagen should strengthen climate resilient development and must urgently assist the world's *poorest* and *most vulnerable* to adapt to the inevitable impact of a rapidly changing climate.

South Africa has modelled mitigation potential and potential low carbon solutions in the Long-Term Mitigation Scenario (LTMS) study. This work is being used to inform the policy choices that will allow South Africa to aggressively address climate change in a way that unleashes the job creation and developmental opportunities of a 21st Century "Green Economy".

As such, South Africa, being a responsible global citizen and in line with its obligations under article 4.1 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, acknowledges its responsibility to undertake national action that will contribute to the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In accordance with this, South Africa will undertake mitigation actions which will result in a deviation below the current emissions baseline of around 34% by 2020 and by around 42% by 2025. This level of effort enables South Africa's emissions to peak between 2020 and 2025, plateau for approximately a decade and decline in absolute terms thereafter. This undertaking is conditional on firstly, a fair, ambitious and effective agreement in the international climate change negotiations under the Climate Change convention and its' Kyoto Protocol and secondly, the provision of support, from the international community, and in particular finance, technology and support for capacity building from developed countries, in line with their commitments under both the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Bali Action Plan.

South Africa emphasizes that an ambitious and long term financing package for both adaptation and mitigation is a central element of the Copenhagen negotiations and one that will have significant impact on the extent to which developing countries can take mitigation action.

**Mr Ebrahim I. Ebrahim, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation of the Republic of South Africa Attends the Al Quds International Forum, Rabat, Morocco, 28 October 2009**

The following is an excerpt from the deputy Minister's speech:

Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, the South African Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, attended the Al Quds International Forum, Rabat, Morocco, 28 October 2009. Speaking at the conference, Mr Ebrahim said that for many years since the creation of the State of Israel, a lot of disturbing developments have taken place in and around Jerusalem some of which have managed to escape the public eye. These have now culminated into a situation that threatens the very existence of the future Palestinian State as envisioned in the two-state solution.

“South Africa's position on the question of Jerusalem is unambiguous; the latter remains part of the agenda of the struggle for self-determination of the people of Palestine and the establishment of the Palestinian State based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

**SA Moves Out of Recession: Stats SA**

South Africa's economy has moved out of recession, recording slight positive growth for the third quarter of 2009, Statistics SA has said.

The seasonally adjusted real gross domestic product (GDP) at market prices for the third quarter of 2009 increased by an annualised rate of 0.9 percent compared with the second quarter of 2009, the Pretoria-based agency said.

This followed decreases of real annualised economic growth rates of a revised 7.4 percent and a revised 2.8 percent in the first and second quarters of 2009 compared with the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 respectively.

The main contributors to the growth in economic activity for the third quarter of this year were the manufacturing industry, general government services, construction industry and personal services.

Negative contributions by other industries included the finance, real estate and business services and mining and quarrying industry, agriculture, forestry and fishing and wholesale and retail trade sales and restaurants industry.

### **SA Response to Crisis 'Kept Recession at Bay'**

South Africa outclassed many countries in its response to the global economic crisis, despite pending threats of more job losses in the near future, President Jacob Zuma has said. Zuma said the government and its social partners responded with a range of "separate and joint" measures to deal with the effect of the recession on sectors, workers, companies, and communities. Similarly, Professor Raymond Parsons, Business Unity SA deputy chief executive said South Africa "stood out" in the way it mobilised social partners in response to the economic crisis.

### **Wines and Spirits / South Africa's Best**

Since the mid-17th century, South Africa has enjoyed a large wine industry. With the end of the Apartheid era and the reconciliation that followed, the country has undergone not only a social but also a wine revolution - the best of South African wines are now fresh and well balanced and, no less important, many are showing up in the northern hemisphere at quite reasonable prices. A generous handful of South African wines recently appeared on the shelves of local wine stores in Israel, many of which make for very pleasant drinking at very reasonable prices.

Their Red wines such as Oude Kaap, Klassiek Rood, Western Cape, 2007 have been praised for light- to medium-bodied, soft, round and berry-cherry notes. Oude Kaap, Shiraz Reserve Western Cape, 2008 Ruby is a medium-bodied wine with plum, cassis and blackberry notes supported nicely by light hints of vanilla-rich wood. A visit or two to your local wine store is highly recommended (Haaretz).

### **Final Draw a "Great Celebration of Africa" says OC CEO Dr Danny Jordaan**

The CEO of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee South Africa, Dr Danny Jordaan, said the Final Draw held in Cape Town on Friday, 04 December 2009, lives up to the promise of a world-class event.

“We promised the country a spectacular and world-class event and we delivered on that promise. It was a great celebration of Africa which triggered a wave of passion and support on the streets of Cape Town, across South Africa and around the world,” said Jordaan.

He was speaking after a night that sparkled with all the glamour of Hollywood, but came alive with the rhythm and soul of Africa as the eight groups for the 2010 FIFA World Cup were decided.

“What we have to do now is to keep that passion and support for the World Cup alive, not just in terms of what happens on the field but also in terms of selling tickets.”

The other phase of ticket sales opened worldwide 05 December 2009 on **FIFA.com**. To date, 674,403 tickets have been sold for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, with 361,582 of those going to South Africans.

Jordaan noted that the African hopefuls would face strong competition in the group stages of the FIFA World Cup, which features one of the strongest line-ups in the tournament’s history.

“Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana are both in strong groups. We hope that they will be able to challenge in those groups, but all the African teams have steep mountains to climb. But it is a World Cup and that is what you have to expect.”

Commenting on the opening match of the tournament between South Africa and Mexico at Soccer City on 11 June 2010 Jordaan said: “The Mexican fans are passionate about their team and play attacking and attractive football, so we will have to be at our best when we play them. If we perform well against them and make it past the first round, I think all of us will be very happy”.

The energetic 90-minute show kicked off with, “Scatterlings of Africa” from one of South Africa’s greatest music exports, Johnny Clegg, and also featured performances by the West African singer-songwriter Angelique Kidjo and the Grammy award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir’s rendition of the popular South African song, *Pata Pata*.

## **2010 World Cup Accommodation**

FIFA has said that accommodation during next year's World Cup finals is no longer an issue, with enough rooms now available for visiting supporters. FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke, said: "We have got the bed nights we feel we need to accommodate the people, based on the estimated numbers that we are expecting”.



### **2010 World Cup Safety and Security**

The millions of fans who will be in South Africa to enjoy the 2010 FIFA World Cup can be assured of their safety. South Africa's safety and security plan includes, among other things:

- Route security, specifically from airports into the cities and border security at ports of entry, including South Africa's land, sea, and air borders.
  - State-of-the-art information and communications military technology will be used, as well as a fleet of nearly 40 helicopters.
  - Courts will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to ensure access to justice during the event.
  - Plans are in place to address terror threats, hooliganism, and crime.
  - The South African Police Service (SAPS) is spending R640 million on the deployment of 41,000 officers specifically for the event. These include 31 000 permanent members and 10,000 police reservists. The majority of the police deployed for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ will be trained officers with experience in major events.
  - Each of the 32 qualifying countries competing in the event will be invited to send their own specially trained police officers to assist with language and cultural differences and to support the SAPS.
- Interpol will be setting up an office in South Africa for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

### **CNN Wins Gold for Campaign Promoting South Africa**

The 'My South Africa' advertising campaign on CNN International has won gold in the first annual Internationalist Awards for Innovative Digital Marketing Solutions. The advertising campaign for South African Tourism was one of two global campaigns to win gold in a competition which the entries represented 24 countries.

The campaign started in June 2008 and was CNN's first-ever user-generated content-which aimed driven advertising campaign, to raise the profile of the South African brand to CNN's audience of business and leisure travellers. The campaign is centred on a website,

[www.mysouthafrica.tv](http://www.mysouthafrica.tv), where users can upload and share their videos, stories, and experiences of South Africa.

“We congratulate CNN International on this award, which re-affirms that South Africa’s current global campaign is not only connecting with consumers, but also showcases our ability to leverage online platforms with tailor-made campaigns that bring our diverse travel experience to life,” said SA Tourism’s Oshene Singh.

The website was updated this year with new elements and features to complement three new television commercials. The new site includes a weather section tracking the weather in 50 South African cities and towns and RSS feed of news stories that link back to the SA Tourism website

The 'My South Africa' commercials created by CNN are streamed on SA Tourism’s YouTube channel and are running on the Virgin Atlantic Airways in-flight entertainment centre. These commercials direct the audience to the website where they can participate in the campaign. According to CNN the partnership significantly expands the reach of the campaign and message to a global traveller audience.

### **Expatriates rank South Africa in Top 10 for Quality of Life**

South Africa has been ranked the sixth best place for people working overseas in the largest ever global survey of expatriates. South Africa was ranked as the country where expatriates found the biggest improvement in pursuing their hobbies, and was also the top country for settling down. Fifty-five percent of the expatriates surveyed in South Africa have been living there for more than five years.

### **Morgan Freeman to Visit SA**

Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman will visit South Africa to attend the local premiere for the film "Invictus," in which he stars as Nelson Mandela, and which is directed by Clint Eastwood. As part of the trip, Freeman will also support various charity initiatives around the film’s 11 December release.

Shot entirely on location in South Africa, “Invictus” tells the inspiring and true story of how the newly elected South African president joined forces with the captain of South Africa’s rugby team, Francois Pienaar - played by Matt Damon - to help unite their country.

### **AU REVOIR!**

Within the next few weeks, the Embassy will be saying *au revoir* to three colleagues. Mardi Pather (Counsellor: Corporate Management), Tsholofelo Tsheole (First Secretary: Political) and Melbah Matimbi (First Secretary: Consular and Administration) who have completed their tours and will be returning to South Africa. All three colleagues have been with us for four and a half years.

Mardi was an absolute pillar of strength, especially in contributing to the planning and management of the move of the Chancery from the Dizengoff Centre to Ramat Gan. His

patience is legendary and we thank him for his remarkable dedication and self-sacrifice during a very difficult time of adjustment for the Embassy. Managing an Embassy's administration is a complicated business but his reassuring and accommodating approach makes it a pleasure to work with him.

Tsholo's contribution towards enhancing relations between Israel and South Africa has been significant. Her invaluable contribution to broadening the Mission's scope of interaction with Israelis and Palestinians and her commitment to promoting issues relating to human rights will be a lasting legacy. She has contributed significantly to sharing with Israelis of all ages, genders, interest groups and minorities her knowledge of South Africa's process of conflict resolution and reconciliation. She has also been the key person in getting the Embassy's new website and this Mzansi News off the ground. We will sorely miss her keen interest in people and her humour.

Melba has had to wear two hats: consular and administration. She recalls all the challenges and achievements with her distinctive humour and wisdom. She has many stories to tell about South Africans in distress who needed all kinds of assistance, getting things going after the move to the new Chancery, juggling family and professional responsibilities, and adjusting to Tel Aviv traffic.

We wish Mardi, Tsholo and Melbah a smooth transfer back to South Africa and a well-deserved respite from the unusual demands and hours that come with serving your country abroad. Congratulations on a job well done!



Members of Staff of the South African Embassy: December 2009

**We wish our friends a festive season**

**Even though we have lost our dear colleague David Mendel we remember him with fondness**