

**PARLIAMENTARY PRESS
BRIEFING
BY THE
MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DR N C DLAMINI ZUMA**

16 February 2001

KEY PRIORITIES

- Millennium Africa Programme (MAP)
- Peace and Security
- Promoting Stability
- Positive Projection of South Africa
- Positioning Ourselves for Key Initiatives
- Major Regional and Continental Initiatives (SADC and OAU)
- Multilateral Engagement
- Improving Bilateral Relations

The year 2000 witnessed significant progress in the realisation of some of the objectives adopted by government as part of its programme in the arena of international relations. This progress offers opportunities for consolidation and in some instances, the pursuit of new strategic initiatives.

The programme of the cluster in 2001 / 2002 will focus on the following key strategic objectives :

- advance the initiative to reposition the continent in the global economic relations (MAP);
- promote and advance the goal of ensuring peace and security in Africa;
- promote stability and thereby prevent conflict;
- cultivate and promote a favourable and positive image for South Africa; and
- ensure South Africa's preparedness for the major international events it is hosting.

Millennium Africa Programme (MAP)

In the recent period Presidents T M Mbeki, A Bouteflika of Algeria and O Obasanjo of Nigeria have been championing the cause for the socio-economic renewal of the African continent by engaging key players in the North.

The programme includes the following elements among others :

- Debt cancellation for HIPC, improvement of market access for goods and services produced in the South (trade), increase Foreign Direct Investment flows into the continent, increase foreign aid, narrowing the digital divide, enhance human resources base, protection of environment etc.

This programme has been widely conversed and well received by various governments and multilateral institutions. This has resulted in a number of statements of intent / declarations adopted which offer tremendous opportunities to advance this important initiative. These include the Cairo Declaration of the EU / Africa Summit, Skagen Declaration of the NORDIC Countries, the G8 with its specific programme on the DOT Force, Health infrastructure development programme and other related elements, the Millennium Summit and its declaration was an important culmination point.

Peace and Security

The continent continues to be afflicted by various conflicts, which divert resources from the development challenges and undermine investor confidence in the economy of the region. While great progress was made in 2000 on these issues, the challenges remain. One of the key priorities of 2001 will be to ensure that we have peace in both Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo by the end of the year.

Angola

The 26 year old conflict in Angola remains yet another difficult challenge. The recent visit by senior government representatives together with a range of other interventions have played an important role in improving relations between Angola and South Africa. However, a programme of action must be instituted to ensure a peaceful resolution to the conflict by the end of 2001.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The resolution of the conflict in the DRC remains a critical challenge. However, the initiatives of the African leaders including the Maputo process, have given a new and important impetus to the negotiations and has raised expectations of both the regional players as well as those from outside the continent.

Burundi

- Provide continued support to former President N R Mandela for the peace initiative.
- Ensure the implementation of the Arusha Agreement.
- Participate in the post-conflict economic development of Burundi.

Promoting Stability

Comoros

The following are some of the measures that will be undertaken :

- work towards the return to constitutional democracy in the Comoros;
- continue to provide leadership to the OAU process; and
- ensure the implementation of the Fomboni Agreement and any other subsequent agreements for the reintegration of Anjuan into the Comoros.

Côte d'Ivoire

The following are some of the initiatives that will be undertaken this year :

- encourage the establishment of a legitimate government;
- assist with the return to political and economic normality;
- promote respect for human rights; and
- assist with the OAU interactions in this regard.

Positive Projection of South Africa

A comprehensive strategy has been developed to enhance South Africa's image with a view to exploiting possible opportunities that are critical to our development imperatives. The strategy will focus on four critical areas :

- Investment Promotion
- Trade Promotion
- Tourism Promotion
- Improving general understanding of the South Africa society

Positioning Ourselves for Key Initiatives

South Africa will be hosting three important international events in 2001 / 2002. These are the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) 2001, World Conference on Sustainable Development 2002 and the OAU Summit 2002. It would be important to ensure that South Africa is capable of influencing the programme of these conferences. Detailed strategy proposals will be presented to Cabinet later in the year regarding these initiatives. Cabinet Committee has already deliberated on the WCAR.

Major Regional and Continental Initiatives (SADC, OAU)

One of the key initiatives for 2001 is to ensure progress in the restructuring of SADC. This would entail the following :

Implementation of Review of SADC Institutions

- Implement Review of SADC Institutions by clustering sectors into Directorates within SADC Secretariat.
- Strengthening of Sector Coordinating Units in the transition period before the clustering of the sectors.
- Encourage early establishment Department for Planning, Harmonisation and Gender Development within the SADC Secretariat.
- Encourage early resolution of impasse within the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.
- Improve mandates of the clusters, Executive Secretary of SADC and the SADC Secretariat.

Implementation of SADC Protocols

- Encourage the active participation of all SADC member States to expedite the establishment of the SADC Free Trade Area.
- Encourage the active participation of all SADC member States regarding the implementation of SADC Protocols.

OAU / African Union

Some of the key initiatives in the continent that stand to enhance the African Renaissance include the establishment of the African Union and its related organs and the consequent reform of the OAU. This initiative includes the signing and ratification of the Constitutive Act by member states and the establishment of associated institutions, including among others, the Pan African Parliament, the consolidation of the regional economic blocks and the establishment of the African Commission to support the secretariat for the AU. In this regard preparations for the special OAU Summit of March that will be deliberating on the progress made to realise the establishment of the African Union will be important.

Multilateral Engagement

European Union (EU)

Given Sweden's particularly good disposition towards South Africa, their Presidency of the EU during the first half of 2001 provides a strategic opportunity for SA to push for :

- obtaining EU support for the African Renaissance and the Millennium African Programme;
- commencing consultation among African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) members in preparation for negotiations with the EU on implementation of the Cotonou Agreement;
- engaging the EU to derive maximum benefit from the Cotonou Agreement;

- lobbying in EU capitals for the speedy ratification of the Trade and Development Co-operation Agreement (TDCA) by their national parliaments;
- completing negotiations for the Fisheries Agreement;
- completing negotiations for the Wines and Spirits Agreement; and
- eliciting support among EU members for the World Conference on Racism.

New Round of WTO Negotiations

- Work towards the launch of a new round of WTO negotiations by liaising with key partners from the developing world (Brazil, Nigeria, Egypt, India).
- Advance the developmental agenda of the continent.
- Ensure that the WTO conducts its activities in a more transparent manner.
- Ensure that the new round of negotiations focus on development issues especially as it affects the South and Africa in particular.

International Investment Council

- Heads of Mission in the home countries of the IIC members to engage with the IIC members and fully utilise their expertise.
- Increase interaction with the IIC through the Presidency.
- Implement the decisions taken at the IIC meetings via the Missions in attracting investment to South Africa.
- Use the existence of the IIC (including the high calibre of membership) to market South Africa positively in the international community.

Improving Bilateral Relations

A key challenge in the new year will be building and consolidating relations between South Africa and key countries of the North and the South. This would include the USA, Canada, Brazil, UK, France, Germany, and Russia, China, India, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

USA

The new US Administration presents a significant opportunity to forge a pivotal partnership in attaining South Africa's national, regional and international aspirations by influencing future US Africa policy in support of the African agenda.

To maximise this opportunity, it will become necessary to engage the new US Administration and Congress, as well as the US business and investor communities at the presidential and ministerial level as soon as possible.

Brazil

To solidify South Africa's strategic partnership with Brazil and extract the maximum benefits from it, the following will be pursued :

- increased cooperation and shared strategies in areas of common concern such as health and transnational crime, through the implementation the newly signed Joint Bilateral Commission;

- commence negotiations on the conclusion of a Free Trade Area with Mercosur, following signature of the Framework Agreement; and
- maintain consistent consultations with Brazil related to - and ahead of - multilateral fora, in pursuance of a realignment of North-South relations and increased South-South cooperation.

UK

The State Visit to the UK and the SA / UK Bilateral Forum in June 2001 will provide an opportunity to seek close coordination on African matters including MAP and to seek congruity of approach on matters such as conflict resolution, global economic and social issues, development cooperation, debt relief and domestic issues.

France

The official visit of French Prime Minister, Mr Lionel Jospin, could take place from 31 May to 2 June 2001. Strategic considerations pertaining to this visit would be :

- to discuss African security, notably crises such as the Great Lakes, Angola and the Comoros in order to obtain tacit French support for African driven initiatives;
- to obtain French support for the Millennium Africa Programme (MAP);
- France should be lobbied to pressurise other G8 countries to fast track the implementation of the HIPC initiative;
- to cooperate with France in the DOT Force initiative in order to bridge the digital divide; and
- to develop a partnership on the restructuring of the international financial architecture.

Germany

- To utilise the BNC to ensure congruity in German foreign policy with the objectives of the Millennium Africa Programme.
- To encourage Germany to maintain and increase its levels of Trade and Investment, especially new investment by small and medium enterprises.

The Russian Federation

Actively promote bilateral trade by urgently convening the 2nd Meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Trade and Economic Committee (ITEC) Co-Chaired by the Minister of Trade and Industry.

The People's Republic of China

Promote a coordinated regional approach in engaging China in the implementation of the Programme for China-Africa Cooperation.

India

- High level interaction to influence the focus and agenda of the WTO with the aim of, **inter alia**, achieving a fair dispensation for market access for the developing world.
- Cooperation with other G7 of the South in the reform of Global Financial Institutions and practices.

Saudi Arabia

- Assist with debt relief and poverty alleviation in Africa.
- Provide guidance and assistance in addressing the economic problems created by the high price of oil, which drains most African economies of vital foreign exchange reserves and development capital.

Japan

South Africa should continue to interact with Japan at all levels to ensure, in particular the success of the initiatives resulting from the G8 Summit and broached again during the visit of the Prime Minister of Japan.