

AFRICA WEEK CELEBRATIONS IN BRASILIA, BRAZIL FROM 20-25 MAY 2015

by South African Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil

The celebration of the 25th May as Africa Day has since become part of the African Group of Ambassadors' premier annual event in Brazil, which is an occasion during which the African continent commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity and now the African Union. The birth of the African Union (AU) epitomised the total emancipation of the child from slavery and subjugation and thereby affirming African countries of their sovereignty. This year was no exception in Brasilia, Brazil.

From 20 to 25 May 2015, the African Group of Ambassadors under the auspices of Sub-Committee on Media and Culture organised Africa Week activities in Brasilia, Brazil.

However, unlike in previous years an elaborate week long programme was developed which featured screening of films, gastronomy night, soccer matches and cocktail events.



Figure 1. Ambassadors of Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe

South Africa was among ten countries that contributed films for the five day film festival which became the highlight of the Africa week. The mission contributed Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom movie, a 2013 British-South African biographical film directed by Justin Chadwick from a script written by William Nicholson and stars Idris Elba and Naomie Harris.

The other highlight of the celebrations was the hosting of a Gala Night which was held on 22 May 2015 at Aeronautic Club in Brasilia. The event was attended by the Secretary General of the Ministry of External Relations, Ambassador Sergio France Denese. South Africa was among 26 African countries that hosted national stalls

servicing their traditional cuisine. South Africa presented its signature potjiekos, African shrimps (mashonzha), dumpling bread and umngqushu (samp and bean) as well as magwinya (vetkokies). The South African Embassy also contributed drinks for the Gastronomy Night.



Figure 2. Diplomats from South Africa, Senegal, and Namibia marvelling the trophy the won against Brazil, 23 May 2015

On 23 May two soccer matches were played pitting African Ambassadors and their Foreign Ministry counterparts. These matches ended in 1-0 in favour of the Brazilians. The second match featured the young African diplomats and their Brazilian counterparts. At least during the second match Africans managed to wrestle the continental glory by beating their opponents three to two goals, snatching the 2015 diplomatic floating trophy.