

Ambassador Mashimbye during the ceremony of credentials in Brasilia, Brazil



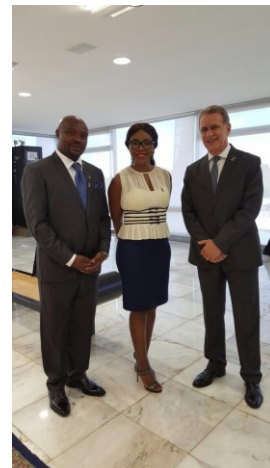
(Left to right) Mr Jose Serra, Minister of External Relations; H.E. Mr Michel Miguel Elias Temer Lulia, Vice President of the Federative Republic of Brazil; and H.E. Mr Joseph Ntshikiwane Mashimbye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa



Thursday, 23 June 2016 was a remarkable day at the *Palacio do Planalto (Presidential Palace)* in Brasilia, Brazil. H.E. Mr Joseph Ntshikiwane Mashimbye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa was amongst the eleven Ambassadors of Diplomatic Missions accredited to Brazil, who presented the Letters of Credence to the H.E. Mr Michel Miguel Elias Temer Lulia, Vice President of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the exercise of the post of President of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

In attendance was Minister of External Relations, Mr Jose Serra, the Director-General of Ministry of External Relations, Ambassador Marcos Galvão, International Affairs Advisor to the Presidency, Ambassador Claudio Frederico de Matos Arruda.

Ambassador Mashimbye was supported by his spouse; Ambassador Abreu: Under Secretary General responsible for Africa and the Middle East and the Embassy staff – Ms Ramaboea, Minister Plenipotentiary, Brigadier General Madumane, Defence Attache. The official ceremony started with the signing of the “Message Book”.



In his brief auspicious discussion with Mr Temer, Ambassador Mashimbye emphasized the need for South Africa and Brazil to strengthen the bilateral relations with emphasis to address the trade imbalances between the two countries.

In his response to the remarks on the strong relations that the two countries enjoy in the multilateral platforms of IBSA and BRICS made by the Ambassador, Mr Temer underscored the significance of re-launching the IBSA



On the political situation in Brazil, Ambassador Mashimbye assured Acting President Temer that the Government of the Republic of South Africa respects and recognizes his government as it was established through a constitutional process. He shared the same sentiments that South Africa has gone through during the change of administration in the past.

On a jovial mood in his commanding voice, the Ambassador Mashimbye also made a comment to Mr Temer that during the Soccer World Cup in 2010 in South Africa, he was fascinated and thrilled by the joyful and noisy behavior displayed by the Brazilian soccer fans. In a quick response, Mr Temer with an infectious smile said, “*Africa do Sul também (South Africa too...)*, that is why we are friends”.

The day was concluded in SA/Brazil style celebration, Ambassador Mashimbye and his spouse hosted a “Braai/Churrasco” attended by prominent business leaders of Brazil.

