

The Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Indonesia have launched a joint stamp issue to mark 300 years of links between the two countries.

The prestigious two-hour official launch was held in the luxury Africa Pride Crystal Towers Hotel and Spa in Century City, in Cape Town on Saturday 15 October 2011, during the successful National Stamp Exhibition, Cape Town 2011.



A member of the South African traditional group performing during the stamp launch

## South Africa and Indonesia Launch Joint Stamp Issue

A special report from Peter Jennings FRPSL, FRGS, in Cape Town, South Africa

South Africa and Indonesia have only enjoyed formal diplomatic ties since August 1994, but the link between the two countries stretches back close to 300 years.

The colonisation of Africa and Asia by European powers from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries led to the enslavement of millions of Afro-Asian peoples, and an international slave trade. This slave trade led to the migration of large numbers of Asian and African people to different parts of the world, including the Cape of Good Hope.

Mr Twiggs Xiphu, Group Executive, Public Affairs Department, South African Post Office, introduced the programme and Adv LP Noband, Chairperson of the South African Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee warmly welcomed the distinguished guests from Indonesia, South Africa and overseas.

### Important milestone

It was a privilege for me as a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town, to attend this important stamp launch, another milestone in the relationship between South Africa and Indonesia.

I was present with Alan Rogers, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town, and Chairman of the Organising Committee

Mr Twiggs Xiphu, Group Executive, Public Affairs Department, South African Post Office, gave the opening remarks



The author pictured with (left) Ms Vuyo Mahlati, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, South African Post Office, and Adv L. P. Noband, Chairperson, South African Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee, after the joint stamp launch

of Cape Town 2011, and his wife Mary, Hon Secretary of the Society.

### Engaging and informative

Sitting near to me was Patrick Flanagan, FRPSL, RDPSA, the well-known South

Ms Vuyo Mahlati, Chairperson, Board of Directors, South African Post Office, pictured during the joint stamp launch



Patrick Flanagan, FRPSL, RDPSA

African philatelist, who gave an engaging and informative talk, aimed at the non-stamp collector, on the subject of 'Stamp Collecting in South Africa'.

Mr Johan van Wyk, the dynamic Senior Manager, Philatelic Services, South African Post Office, gave a fascinating address: 'Our Stamps tell a story', during which he explained that the South African Post Office issues between 12 and 15 special commemoratives issues a year. He added: 'The stamp programme is prepared about two years in advance.'

Mr Johan van Wyk, Senior Manager, Philatelic Services, South African Post Office





H.E. Mr Sjahril Sabaruddin, Hon Ambassador, Republic of Indonesia, pictured with the author in Cape Town.

### Ideas positively welcomed

Johan van Wyk emphasised that the South African Post Office positively welcomed ideas from the general public about the subjects that they would like to see depicted on new stamp issues. More about this matter a little later.

He explained that the Stamp Advisory Committee helps the South African Post Office to select the subjects depicted on new stamp issues. This selection is sent to the Board of Directors of the Post Office and then to the Cabinet of the South African Government for their approval.

Johan van Wyk concluded: 'Postage stamps are the smallest ambassadors of our country. For this reason and because every stamp is also a miniature work of art in its own right, great care is taken in the design and production of each stamp issue.'

Several lively and vibrant musical items were provided between the various talks and speeches by South African and Indonesian traditional groups.

HE Mr Sjahril Sabaruddin, Hon Ambassador, Republic of Indonesia, spoke about 'Indonesia and South Africa: A cultural link spanning three-centuries.'

### Joint stamp issue unveiled

Mr Kopeng Obed Bapela, Hon Deputy Minister of Communications, Republic of South Africa, delivered the keynote

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address before the he and HE Mr Sjahril Sabaruddin unveiled the joint stamp issue – the highlight of the event.

### Outstanding

After a buffet lunch the guests departed by car to the Goodwood Civic Centre, where they were given a tour of the outstanding National Stamp Show, Cape Town 2011. By early afternoon the exhibition centre was full of stamp collectors and non-collectors of all ages, who enjoyed looking at the wide range of exhibits.

Extracts from the address by Johan van Wyk have already been quoted. Wearing another hat, Mr van Wyk is also Managing Editor of *Setempe*, the South African Post Office philatelic magazine.

This well-produced, easy-to-read publication with excellent colour illustrations, is read in more than 110 countries throughout the world – and deservedly so.

The September-December 2011 issue contained an article that particularly caught my eye: 'Commemorative stamps: What would you like to see on stamps in 2014?'

### How to submit proposals for a new stamp issue

Philatelists and the general public were requested by the South African Post Office to submit their proposals for topics that they would like to be covered in the 2014 stamp calendar.

It read: 'Proposals should provide as much information as possible, including pictures or photos, and meet the following criteria: Topics must be related directly to South Africa.'



The Indonesian stamps pictured shortly after the joint unveiling in Cape Town

'Events must depict outstanding national and international interests or significance such as the: culture and achievements of the South African people; contribution to international affairs; contribution of South Africans to the scientific, cultural and economic development of a broader world society; varied aspects of local life and values; flora and fauna of the country; economic activities of its people, and any other topic which reflects positively upon our values, culture, aspirations and achievements.'

The request from the South African Post Office concluded: 'Please keep in mind that the stamp size is approximately 38x28 mm, and the theme should therefore not be too complicated.'

### Opportunity

Now there is a challenge and a wonderful opportunity! I look forward to the same request being extended in future years by a privatised Royal Mail as it strives to attract and engage with stamp collectors of all ages.

### International in Indonesia 2012

Meanwhile, 'Indonesia 2012, World Stamp Championship and Exhibition', is being held in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, from 18 to 24 June next year. This is an important date in the philatelic calendar and will undoubtedly attract some of the very best exhibits from philatelists in countries throughout the world.

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The issue released by the Republic of South Africa and Indonesia