Ms. Phumzile Mlambo, the former South African Deputy President, who is remiss that she couldn’t be here today,

Representatives of Link Community Development-USA,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honour to be here this evening for the benefit of Link Community Development. Over the past few years, Link Community Development and the South African Consulate General in Chicago have enjoyed a close relationship with each other that has been developed through such events as the Linking Dreams Project and many other benefits and fundraisers in the Chicagoland area.

In addition, I have had the extreme pleasure of visiting those schools in Limpopo province which are a part of the Link Community Development initiatives in South Africa, and I continue to reiterate the fact that, as South Africans, the best investment we can make is in our young people. Link Community Development is truly one of the best organizations for accomplishing this.

It is with this in mind that I express my excitement and congratulations at the merger of the Umlambo Foundation and Link South Africa. This merger, I am positive, will prove even more effective in contributing to educational attainment in South Africa.

I thank all of you in attendance here for your support of Link, and I hope that together we can continue to contribute to mitigating the challenges faced by education in South Africa.

Thank you.