

**Speech by Mme Smangele Nkosi, President of the ACP Spouses Association, and Spouse of the Ambassador of a South Africa to Belgium and Head of Mission to the European Union, Brussels, 17 July 2014**

Your Excellency, Chairman of the committee of Ambassadors, Dr Diodorus Kamala  
Your Excellency Secretary General of the ACP, Alhaji Muhammad MUMUNI,  
Honourable Assistant Secretary General, Madam Michèle Dominique RAYMOND,  
Executive Members of the ACP Spouses Association,  
Your Excellencies Ambassadors,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the ACP Spouses Association and on my behalf, I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude for once more allowing us to take up some of your valuable time. We are extremely humbled and indeed feel honoured that you afforded us an opportunity to share with you the outcomes of our Gala evening. Today we have pleasure to present the cheques to the beneficiaries of the 2014 ACP Ambassadors' Spouses Fundraising Initiative.

I would like to sincerely thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and generosity in supporting our Charity Gala Dinner which was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May at the Sheraton Hotel Brussels. Your unwavering support assured the success of this event, which was attended by more than 320 people. We exceeded our fundraising target and we are proud to announce that we have raised €11 000. This amount will be distributed between L'Organisation Panafricaine des Femmes of Burkina Faso and Réseau Culturel Sangwa in Rwanda, they are awarded € 5 000 and € 6 000 respectively. We congratulate both organisations and wish them well in the successful execution of these projects.

The funds raised will make a difference in providing support for vulnerable women in the rural areas of Burkina Faso, where the programme provides support to abused women, while initiating projects to generate revenue for the betterment of their quality of life. They will also support single women-headed homes in Rwanda to promote peace, equality while also improving the quality of lives to such families.

Of course our achievement would not have been possible without the generous support of the ACP Secretariat and the ACP member states, to you we shall forever be grateful. Allow me therefore to take this opportunity to thank all ACP member states, the ACP Committee of Ambassadors, the Secretary General of the ACP and the entire ACP Secretariat for your unstinting support.

We have a mammoth task, but what we accomplished together every year has made a difference in hundreds of people's lives. We will roll up our sleeves and continue this journey with more dedication than ever. If we make such impact in just one event, think what we can do in three.

It is our sincere hope that you will join us again in 2015 when we create another bigger and better event in support for the vulnerable communities in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

I thank you very much for your attention.  
To pictures of the gala can be viewed on [acpasa.org](http://acpasa.org)