

## **Peruvians based in South Africa commemorate the National Day of Peru in Pretoria**

International Relations Chief Director Mr Percy Molefe says although trade is still low between South Africa and Peru, the two countries have seen a substantial growth in trade figures in a short time. He was speaking at an event aimed at celebrating the 193<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of Peru, held in Pretoria in July 2014. Mr Molefe represented the government of South Africa at the celebrations.

His sentiments were echoed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Peru in South Africa Ambassador Daul Matute-Mejia, who said bilateral trade between the two countries has grown steadily in the past year. “Peru brought from South Africa goods for one-hundred-and-twenty-two million dollars in 2013, showing a growth two times bigger than in 2012,” said the Ambassador. He said Peru was looking forward to doing more business with South Africa.

Mr Molefe sighted the visit of former Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman to Peru in September 2013, as having played a significant role in deepening relations between South Africa and Peru. He said the successful Outward Selling Mission undertaken by the Trade and Industry Department as well as the twenty-two companies from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2014, was an indication of a possibility for further economic development.

He revealed that South Africa was looking forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Political Consultations between the two countries’ Foreign Ministries. He expressed gratitude in the manner that Ambassador Matute-Mejia and his team, in the five years they’ve spent in South Africa, have worked with the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation in strengthening relations between South Africa and Peru.

Mr Molefe concluded his speech by wishing Peru all the best in the hosting of the COP20/CMP10 meeting of the United Nations Climate Change negotiations in December 2014 and said South Africa stands ready to provide support whenever needed.