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\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

**S. African Leaders Kick off Political Exchange in the District  
U.S. Visit is the 7th by an ACYPL Delegation since Apartheid's End**

WASHINGTON – On Saturday, October 6, 2007, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) will welcome a delegation of four young, prominent South African political leaders to Washington, D.C. as they kick off a two week political exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State and El Pomar Foundation which will also take them to Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina and Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado. They arrive as South Africa's governing African National Congress Party prepares to elect its new leadership. ACYPL began exchanging delegations with South Africa in 1993 as the country was preparing for its first multi-racial elections.

**Who:** Members of this ACYPL delegation – the 7<sup>th</sup> to visit from South Africa since the end of Apartheid - include:

- **Ms. Tsakane Mahlaule** (African National Congress Party) - Deputy Director, Change Management, Gauteng Provincial Government
- **Mr. A.M. Shimi Phate** (African National Congress Party) - Member, West Rand District Municipal Council, and Chief Party Whip
- **Ms. Jacqueline Reilly** (Democratic Alliance) - Member, Ekurhuleni District Council, and Chief Party Whip
- **Mr. John H. Steenhuisen** (Democratic Alliance) - Member, eThekweni Council Executive Committee, and Caucus Leader

**What:** Program highlights will include:

- Meetings and discussions with members of the U.S. Congress and officials from the U.S. Department of State, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Democratic National Committee, Black America's Political Action Committee, the City of Chicago's Washington Office, Dutko Worldwide, the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the American Council of Life Insurers.

**When:** October 6-10, 2007

**Why:** The purpose of this exchange program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels;
- Give them a new perspective on American culture; and
- Allow them to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships with their American counterparts.

***About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)***

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELEGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-349-4060 x1201 OR [mgarretson@acypl.org](mailto:mgarretson@acypl.org).