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WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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30 Years of Democracy: Partnership and Growth

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MAY 2024 WORKERS MONTH

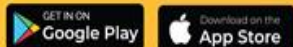
Celebrating an Iconic South African Hero
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PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA DELIVERS INAUGURAL ELIJAH BARAYI MEMORIAL LECTURE

President Cyril Ramaphosa said the legacy of unionists and anti-apartheid struggle heroes like Elijah Barayi can be found in the labour-related laws enshrined in South Africa's Constitution.

The President was delivering the inaugural memorial lecture for Barayi held at the University of Johannesburg's Soweto Campus on Wednesday, 15 May 2024.

Barayi was a revered trade union leader and freedom fighter during the apartheid era and was one of the founding leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

He became the first President of the Congress of South African Trade Union (Cosatu) at its launch in 1985 and was an activist in the Mass Democratic Movement since the 1950s.

His life was lived fighting for the freedom of South Africans and fair labour practises until his passing months before South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994.

"Thirty years into democracy, we have several progressive labour and social protection laws, including the right to strike. And it was the labour movement, led by Barayi, which insisted that the most fundamental rights that workers should have been collective bargaining, the right to strike and the right to have a safe working place.

"So for them to be enshrined in the Constitution is something that we need to pay tribute to Elijah Barayi and the leadership of Cosatu and various other worker organisations at the time. And it is in honour of Elijah Barayi that today we have these rights enshrined in our Constitution.

"We have the Labour Relations Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to protect and advance workers' rights. We have laws to safeguard the health and safety of workers and a Compensation Fund to support workers who are injured or sick. These achievements form part of the legacy of Elijah Barayi. They need to be protected and advanced," President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa emphasised that these "hard-won rights" and many others must not be rolled back.

"There are some in our country who are calling for hard-won rights, like collective bargaining, to be curtailed and for the minimum wage to be scrapped. Trade unions need to be stronger to make sure that that never happens in South Africa because it will be a total reversal of what workers have achieved and what Elijah Barayi struggled for," he said.

The future of work

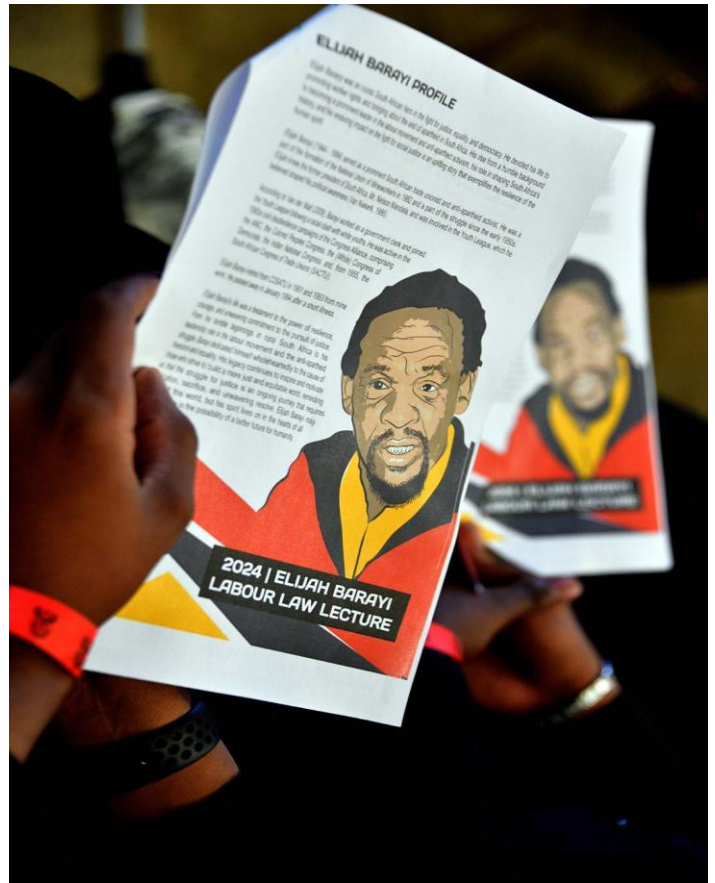
President Ramaphosa reflected that "technological advances and globalisation" are changing the labour landscape and added that in order to keep up, innovation and entrepreneurship will be crucial and this "while safeguarding workers' rights and promoting social dialogue".

"We need to invest in technology, infrastructure and education to enable sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job creation. At the same time, we must strive to democratise the governance of work.

"In South Africa, this means strengthening and adapting labour laws, institutions and regulatory frameworks to protect workers' rights, promote fair competition and ensure social justice.

"We need to build a more inclusive and resilient labour market that will support a just transition, greater digitalisation and other drivers of change," he said.

The President acknowledged that although policies implemented since the dawn of democracy have "lifted millions out of poverty and despair and improved their material condition", many other South Africans are still living difficult and challenging lives.



“As long as the divisions in our society persist, as long as some people lead lives of quality and dignity while others suffer at the margins of the economy, our mission remains unfulfilled. We owe it to the memory of Elijah Barayi, to the South African people and to the generations to follow that we continue to work to overcome this inequality.

“Let us honour the memory of giants like Elijah Barayi by renewing our commitment to building a better, stronger South Africa.

“As we draw inspiration from the life and times of the man we honour here today, let us deepen our resolve to advance freedom and social justice everywhere – leaving no one behind,” President Ramaphosa concluded. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES OF COLLAPSED GEORGE BUILDING

President Cyril Ramaphosa has assured the families of the deceased and injured workers who were trapped inside the collapsed building in George that government will do everything possible to assist.



“We do not want to increase the burden, the suffering and the grief that you are going through. We want to be there as government at all levels to demonstrate our compassion,” President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa visited the George disaster site on Thursday, 16 May 2024, following the fatal collapse of the partially built building, where a total of 81 people were reported to be onsite when the incident happened.

According to an update report issued by George Municipality in the Western Cape, at 12pm on Thursday, of the 81 people who were inside the building during the incident, 62 have been recovered. Thirty-two people have passed away, while 12 have been admitted to hospital. Nineteen are still unaccounted for.

During the site visit, President Ramaphosa held a briefing with various people involved in the rescue and dealing with all aspects of the disaster, including a number of ministers and Western Cape Premier, Allan Winde, where he received an update on the extent of the work done and support that has been provided for the families since the disaster struck.

President Ramaphosa commended the effort that was going into dealing with the incident, including the professionalism, capability and knowledge displayed by those involved.

The President said he was satisfied that South Africa is able to deal with disasters, particularly this one until it reaches finality.

He assured the bereaved families that government will leave no stone unturned and will ensure accountability.

“It will take some time for all aspects of this disaster to be properly tied together. I can assure you that the seriousness in which this matter is being [dealt with] will lead to the truth coming out,” the President said, urging for patience while the investigation continues.

While acknowledging that the families are grieving and need immediate solutions and answers to their questions, the President assured that all officials dealing with the matter were going to remain transparent.

“We are a transparent government. We are able to reveal everything as it should be revealed. Let us have a level of patience. I know it is very difficult for those who have lost their loved ones to have that level of patience,” the President said.

The President also offered his condolences to the bereaved families and wished those who are in hospital a speedy recovery.

“We are currently focusing on saving lives, caring for the injured and making sure that the remains of those who have lost their lives are well put together so that those who need to be repatriated can be repatriated, and those who need to be buried here can also be buried,” President Ramaphosa said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES SPRINGBOK WOMEN TEAM

President Cyril Ramaphosa has congratulated the Springbok Women national rugby team on winning the Rugby Africa Women’s Cup and advancing to the 2025 Rugby World Cup in England.

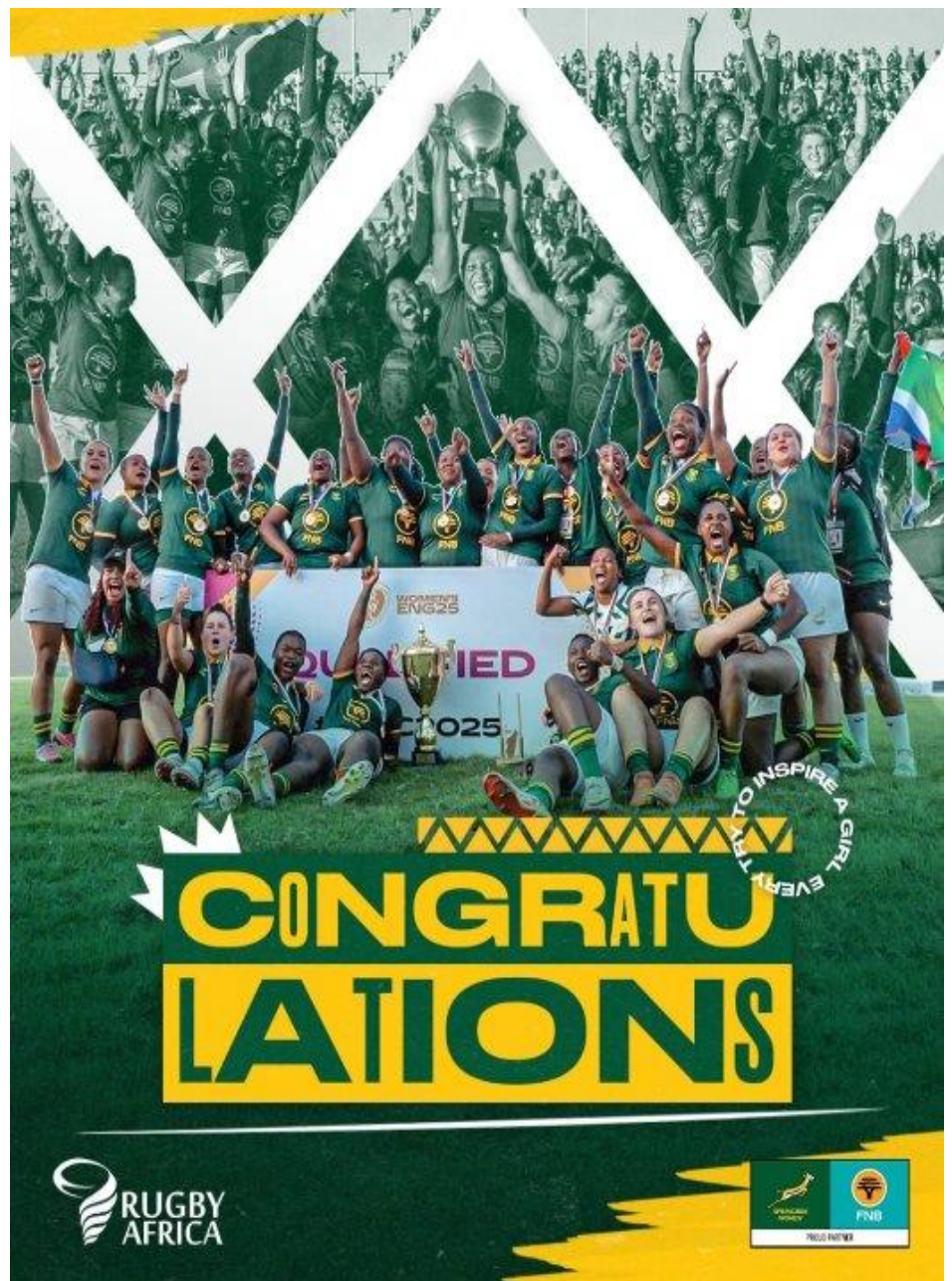
“Well done to our Springbok Women for adding another trophy to our national trophy cabinet,” the President said on Tuesday, 14 May 2024.

The Springbok Women beat Madagascar 46-17 in Antananarivo to retain their African championship.

This victory qualified Africa’s top team for next year’s Rugby World Cup and the WXV2 tournament, which South Africa will host in September 2024.

Organised by World Rugby, this tournament will see South Africa compete against the national teams of Scotland, Italy, the United States, Japan and Samoa in the second tier of this three-tier international competition.

“Alongside the Springboks and Banyana Banyana, our Springbok Women make us proud on the field of play and showcase the strides we have made in the development of the women of our nation during our 30 years of freedom. Congratulations once more to the team on the field, the technical staff and SA Rugby,” President Ramaphosa said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



CONDOLENCES TO THE MOTSUENYANE FAMILY

President Cyril Ramaphosa has expressed his condolences to the Motsuenyane family following the death of Nomgcibelo Jocelyn Motsuenyane.

She died a day following the funeral of her husband, Dr Sam Motsuenyane.

“As South Africans, we stand by the Motsuenyanes in your moment of compounded loss.

“Sam and Jocelyn Motsuenyane are icons of their generation, whose belief in education and entrepreneurship as keys to self-realisation and reliance sustained communities and contributed to the inclusive economy we continue to build today. “May they rest together in peace at the end of a life of service and upliftment and a union they shared for 70 years,” President Ramaphosa said on Tuesday, 14 May 2024.

Ma Motsuenyane was an anti-apartheid activist listed in the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as someone who suffered a gross violation of human rights under that regime.



Her home was petrol bombed — and subsequently lost — in March 1986 by members of the Bophuthatswana Police at Winterveld in the Bophuthatswana homeland.

She was part of a group attempting to organise a meeting between the community and the Winterveld Community Council to address grievances relating to police harassment.

Her husband, Dr Sam Motsuenyane, was a revered black business pioneer.

He was the co-founder of the pivotal National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and played a leading role in the establishment of African Bank, both at the height of apartheid.

Ma Motsuenyane is expected to be buried later this week. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT MOURNS PASSING OF RETIRED CONCOURT JUSTICE YVONNE MOKGORO

President Cyril Ramaphosa has expressed sadness at the passing of retired Constitutional Court Justice Yvonne Mokgoro, who was also an esteemed member of the Order of the Baobab.

Mokgoro, 73, passed away on Thursday, 9 May 2024, following an extended illness after a car accident.

“On behalf of government, President Ramaphosa offers his deep condolences to Prof. Job Mokgoro and the late Justice’s immediate and extended family, as well as her many associates in the legal fraternity in South Africa and abroad,” a statement from The Presidency read.

Mokgoro was a judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa from its inception in 1994 until the end of her 15-year term in 2009.



She was South Africa's first black woman judge to sit on the Constitutional Court's bench.

Mokgoro obtained a Bachelor of Jurisprudence (B Juris) degree at the then University of Bophuthatswana (now North West University) in 1982, a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) two years later, and a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in 1987.

She also studied at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States (US), where she obtained a second LLM degree in 1990.

Throughout her legal career, she taught several courses, including Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law Jurisprudence, History of Law, Comparative Law, Criminal Law, Private Law and Customary Law at a number of universities in South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Netherlands.

"She wrote and presented papers and participated in a myriad of national and international conferences, seminars and workshops in South Africa and internationally, mainly in sociological jurisprudence and particularly on human rights and customary law, focussing on the impact of law on society generally, and women and children specifically," said The Presidency.

In 2015, she was inducted as a member of the Order of the Baobab in Bronze for her excellent contribution to the field of law and administration of justice in a democratic South Africa.

President Ramaphosa said: "Justice Mokgoro's passing deprives our nation of a formidable intellect and impeccable jurist who served our democracy at its very inception and through the years that followed.

"As we recall the inauguration of our founding President Nelson Mandela 30 years ago on this day, 10 May, we count his appointment of Justice Mokgoro to the Constitutional Court as one of the critical, transformative decisions he exercised in those early days of our liberation."

As a black woman judge, President Ramaphosa said Mokgoro was a pioneering embodiment of and contributor to the transformation of the country and the legal system, and the new jurisprudence that enabled transformation.

"Justice Mokgoro distinguished herself as an academic, a justice of our apex court, Chairperson of the South African Law Commission and as a strategic advisor to a diversity of boards in different sectors.

"Her insightful and principled counsel lives on in the thousands of legal careers she shaped in the course of her academic endeavours.

"She has left us under very tragic circumstances, and we, therefore, join the family in their sadness and their prayers that this beloved mother, patriot, leader and citizen of the globe will rest in peace," the President said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA SEEKS ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL MEASURES IN GAZA

South Africa has returned to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to seek an urgent order from the court for the protection of Palestinian people in Gaza amid Israel's ongoing military assault on Rafah.

The urgent application filed on Friday, 10 May 2024, follows the escalation of Israel's assault on Rafah, which poses an extreme risk to humanitarian supplies, basic services into Gaza, the survival of the Palestinian medical system and the survival of Palestinians in Gaza as a group.

In a statement issued by The Presidency on Saturday, 11 May 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa said South Africa contends that the attack on Rafah further worsens the prevailing situation and causes irreparable harm to the rights of Palestinians in Gaza, and that the situation has changed significantly since the Court's order of 28 March 2024.



Rafah is home to 1.5 million Palestinians and it is the last refuge in Gaza for those displaced by Israeli action. It is the last viable centre for public administration and the provision of basic public services, including medical care.

“Since the start of the military action in Rafah, Israel has seized control of both the Rafah and Kerem Shalom (Karem Abu Salem) crossings, effectively controlling all movement in and out of Gaza and cutting off all critical humanitarian and medical supplies, goods and fuel.

“Israel has further prevented medical evacuations and has treated evacuation zones as extermination zones, as evidenced by the destruction of hospitals in Gaza and discovery of mass graves in other major health care facilities in the Strip,” President Ramaphosa said.

South Africa has called for urgent interventions and investigations of all actions that continue to cause irreparable prejudice to the rights of Palestinians, including the use of Artificial Intelligence for targeted killings.

South Africa called on the State of Israel to immediately withdraw and cease its military offensive in the Rafah Governorate and take all effective measures to ensure and facilitate the unimpeded access to Gaza of United Nations (UN) and other officials engaged in the provision of humanitarian aid and assistance to the population of Gaza.

South Africa also called for fact-finding missions by internationally mandated bodies or officials, investigators and journalists in order to assess and record conditions on the ground in Gaza and enable the effective preservation and retention of evidence and shall ensure that its military does not act to prevent such access, provision, preservation or retention.

“The State of Israel shall submit an open report to the court on all measures taken to give effect to these provisional measures within one week as from the date of this order; and on all measures taken to give effect to all previous provisional measures indicated by the court within one month as from the date of this order,” the President said.

South Africa also requested that the court reaffirm and seek urgent compliance by Israel with the provisional measures ordered by the court on 26 January and 28 March 2024.

“South Africa remains firmly of the view that the necessary condition for the effective implementation of the Court’s provisional measures is a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. We call on the international community, including the allies of the State of Israel, not to turn a blind eye to the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

“The gross human rights violations perpetuated by Israel have scaled to incomprehensible levels of cruelty, hate and extreme violent oppression. The world must do more to end the persecution of Palestinians, including that of many innocent women and children,” President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa said South Africa is deeply heartened by the protest actions of university students in the United States and other parts of the world.

“We are also greatly encouraged by the adoption of the UN General Assembly draft resolution that recommends to the Security Council to reconsider favourably the application by the State of Palestine for full membership of the UN.

“The support of this resolution shown by 143 countries is a further demonstration that the world is listening to the cries of the Palestinians,” Ramaphosa said. – SAnews.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN

Government has extended its condolences to the people of Afghanistan following flash floods that claimed the lives of more than 300 people.

The floods have also destroyed homes and killed livestock.“ South Africa extends heartfelt condolences to the people of Afghanistan following these flash floods and offers our deepest sympathy to those families who lost their loved ones as well as their homes.



“The thoughts of the South African people are with the people of Afghanistan,” The Presidency said in a statement. The statement expressed solidarity with the people of the Central Asian country.

“The Government and the people of South Africa stand in solidarity with those affected by this tragedy and laud the emergency rescue and medical personnel in their tireless rescue efforts,” the Presidency said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

IEC READY FOR VOTING OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

The Electoral Commission (IEC) has outlined the process for voting outside the country, allaying the fears of those who are unfamiliar with the procedures for voting in an overseas setting.



Chief Electoral Officer Sy Mamabolo said Friday, 17 May 2024, will mark yet another milestone in the elections timetable —the first day of voting in the National and Provincial Elections 2024— when citizens abroad can vote.

“South African citizens living in other countries will cast the first ballots on 17 May 2024. Nine countries will cast ballots on Friday while the rest of the 102 will cast ballots on Saturday, 18 May 2024,” Electoral Commission Chief Electoral Officer Sy Mamabolo said at a media briefing held in Pretoria.

“Given the high numbers of expected voters in London at 24 194, this station will operate on both 18 and 19 May 2024,” he said. Mamabolo said the international segment of the voter roll for out-of-country voters has 56 698 voters, but the total number of people expected to vote is 76 580.

“This comes after the approval of 20 886 VEC10 notifications from voters who informed the Chief Electoral Officer of their intention to vote outside of the country

due to temporary absence,” he said.

The commissioner said the IEC was ready to ensure that voting goes smoothly in 111 foreign missions around the world.

“All missions have already received the election materials, which include ballot papers, voting booths, ballot boxes, envelopes and a voter list.”

Voting stations will be open from 07:00 to 19:00, allowing 76 580 voters to exercise their right to vote in South Africa’s 2024 National Elections.

“On both voting days abroad, the Electoral Commission will keep extended hours to assist voters with any enquiries,” he said. South African citizens voting out-of-country in the 2024 National Election can only vote on one day at their mission:

- Missions with a work week from Sunday–Thursday vote on Friday, 17 May, from 7:00 to 19:00. The following countries are determined to vote on this Friday: Algiers, Amman, Cairo, Damascus, Jeddah, Kuwait City, Ramallah, Riyadh and Teheran.
- Missions with a work week from Monday–Friday vote on Saturday, 18 May, from 7:00 to 19:00. Two days of special votes have been determined for the United Kingdom based on the number of voters who will vote at that mission. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

MINISTER SINDISIWE CHIKUNGA WELCOMES UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR ROAD SAFETY

The Minister of Transport, Sindisiwe Chikunga and the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety, Jean Todt will undertake various road safety activations during the official three-day visit to South Africa by the Special Envoy from 13 to 15 May 2024.

The visit will culminate in the principals hosting a media dialogue on the *State of Road Safety* in South Africa.

The dialogue will be attended by CEOs of the Road Traffic Management Corporation, the Road Traffic Infringement Agency, the Road Accident Fund, South African National Roads Agency Limited and the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency, among other transport sector CEOs.

Special Envoy Todt will host the media dialogue in support of the national and local authority's road safety initiatives in the country.

During his visit, the Special Envoy will also launch the UN's Global Campaign for Road Safety, in partnership with the leading advertising agency JCDecaux, under the motto #MakeASafetyStatement.

One of the main goals of this campaign is to raise awareness of life-saving actions among young generations as it is known that road crashes are among the leading killers of young people aged between five to 29 years of age worldwide. Supporting the efforts of South Africa in addressing this issue is key in a country where more than 60% of the population is under the age of 35.



The Special Envoy will also meet members of various government departments and representatives of the private and public sectors as well as NGOs to advocate the effective implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, which aims to halve the number of road fatalities by 2030. – Source: www.gov.za

HEALTH DEPT COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY IN WESTERN CAPE



The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, led International Nurses Day on Monday, 13 May 2024, to recognise the tireless efforts of nurses in providing compassionate care and promoting health and wellness worldwide.

“Nurses are usually the first primary care contact for the patients and are also responsible for recognising patients’ symptoms, taking measures within their scope of practice to administer medications, providing other measures for symptom alleviation and collaborating with other health professionals to optimise patients’ comfort and families’ understanding and adaptation,” said the department.

International Nurses Day is celebrated annually on 12 May in memory of the birth of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale, who was regarded as the foundational philosopher of modern nursing.

This year’s International Nurses Day was celebrated under the theme *Our Nurses, Our Future*.

It focussed on the economic power of care, which served as a

clarion call by the International Council of Nurses to countries to address global health challenges and improve global health for all.

The Western Cape event was part of countrywide activities to honour nurses for the important role they play in saving millions of lives and raise awareness of the challenges they face.

Deputy Minister Dhlomo was joined by Western Cape MEC for Health and Wellness, Dr Nomafrench Mbombo; United States Consular General for Cape Town Consulate, Todd Haskell; Acting United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Pepfar) Country Coordinator, Saira Johnson-Qureshi; leaders of nursing trade unions and representatives of key stakeholders.

The event culminated with the launch of the Nursing Leadership Initiative aimed at building leadership capacity among current and emerging nurse leaders through practice, education and training to empower them with leadership skills.

The event, the department said, was a collaboration between the Department of Health and Pefpar.

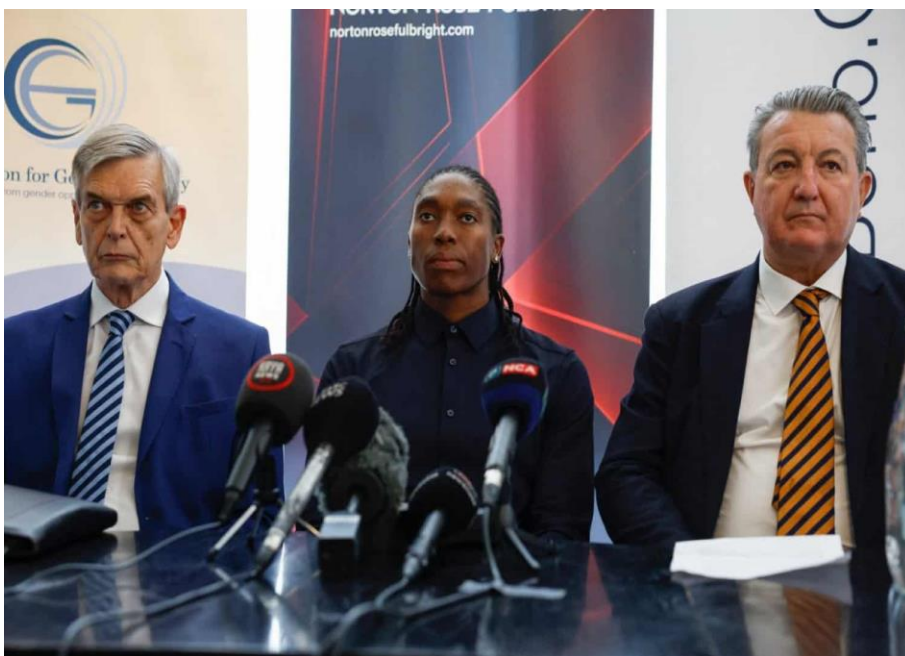
The initiative formed part of a plan to elevate the nursing profession within Pefpar-supported countries as part of a larger effort to strengthen the healthcare workforce globally and ensure HIV response gains are sustained. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS CASTER SEMENYA IN LEGAL BATTLE

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) has expressed that it stands in solidarity, with unwavering commitment, to seek justice for Caster Mokgadi Semanya as she is back in the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in France.

The court will reportedly consider whether the double Olympic champion must lower her testosterone levels in order to participate in competitions.

“The department is committed to advocating for fairness and equality in sport. As the country celebrates 30 Years of Democracy, every athlete, regardless of their gender or physical attributes, should have the right to compete without facing unjust obstacles.



“We trust that the Grand Chamber’s judgment will uphold these principles and deliver a positive outcome for Caster and all athletes affected by similar challenges,” DSAC Acting Director-General, Dr Cynthia Khumalo, said on Wednesday, 15 May 2024.

Government is working in collaboration with the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), Norton Rose Fulbright (NRF), Probono.org, and various other stakeholders to support Semanya on the matter.

“The DSAC notes the hearing scheduled for Wednesday, 15 May 2024, where the Grand Chamber will evaluate the matter presented by the Swiss government in relation to the European Court of Human Rights’ July 2023 decision. Caster Semanya has endured years of unfair discrimination based on her gender.

“The 2019 regulations imposed by the World Athletics Body created significant challenges for athletes with differences in sex development (DSD) who wish to compete in their chosen sport. This ruling reaffirmed the international legal requirement for World Athletics to refrain from engaging in discriminatory practices, barring exceptional circumstances,” the DSAC said.

The CGE has called on all to rally behind Semanya’s endeavour to seek justice not only for herself, but for other affected athletes.

“A finding by the Grand Chamber that issues between international athletics bodies, such as World Athletics and individual athletes, are not a matter of private law but of public human rights law are transformative and progressive.

“A favourable outcome will be of massive importance to athletes with differences in sexual development worldwide,” Chairperson of the CGE, Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale said.

DSAC said the referral to the Grand Chamber is in accordance with the violations identified by the Court in Switzerland vs Caster Mokgadi Semanya.

“These violations encompassed a breach of the prohibition on discrimination, a denial of the right to an effective remedy, and a failure to respect private life.

“Government, through the department, has consistently advocated and supported initiatives aimed at resolving this matter equitably. The DSAC remains optimistic that the Grand Chamber's decision will reflect the values of justice, inclusivity and diversity that underpin the South African sporting sector,” DSAC said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN OFFLINE CODING PROJECT GOES TO INDONESIA

With the goal of bridging the digital divide by introducing coding to learners in a fun and inclusive manner, Tangible Africa has set its sights on Asia where the team is currently busy conducting workshops on tactile coding with teachers from Indonesia.



No stranger to introducing the concept of tactile coding to teachers and learners across the globe, the proudly South African and Gqeberha-headquartered Tangible Africa uses offline tools and online mobile gaming components in a fun and easy-to-understand manner to introduce coding concepts to youth. Tangible Africa is an engagement project of the Nelson Mandela University Computing Sciences Department and the Leva Foundation.

Indonesia, through the Sukma Foundation, is the first country in Asia to collaborate with the Leva Foundation and one of the Tangible Africa coding games, known as Rangers, has been translated into Bahasa, a language spoken by nearly 180 million people.

In a national television interview, Executive Director of the Sukma Foundation, Ahmad Baidhowi said the collaboration with Tangible Africa was a very valuable partnership for his foundation: “This collaboration will have implications for improving the quality of teachers and students”.

Leva Foundation CEO Ryan le Roux agreed that teachers were instrumental in closing the digital divide.

“The Sukma Foundation has a great network of schools and a history of making a difference over the past 18 years. They also have a huge focus on teacher training. We believe the teacher is the heartbeat of the classroom. If you have strong teachers, they will influence the children and this will have an exponential effect,” said Le Roux.

Following training in Jakarta and Aceh this week, a further three workshops will be conducted in other regions in Indonesia namely, Yogyakarta, Surakarta and Semarang as per Tangible Africa Engagement Manager, Jackson Tshabalala.

“These teachers will in turn then roll out the programme in their regions. Our project's adaptability across cultures is truly inspiring. From Africa to Europe to Asia, the power of hands-on, playful coding transcends borders. The excitement from teachers is contagious – they are demystifying coding concepts and eager to bring this transformative experience to their learners.”

“This project is the ideal stepping stone before formal coding instruction. We have got three more workshops to go, and the momentum keeps building!” said Tshabalala.

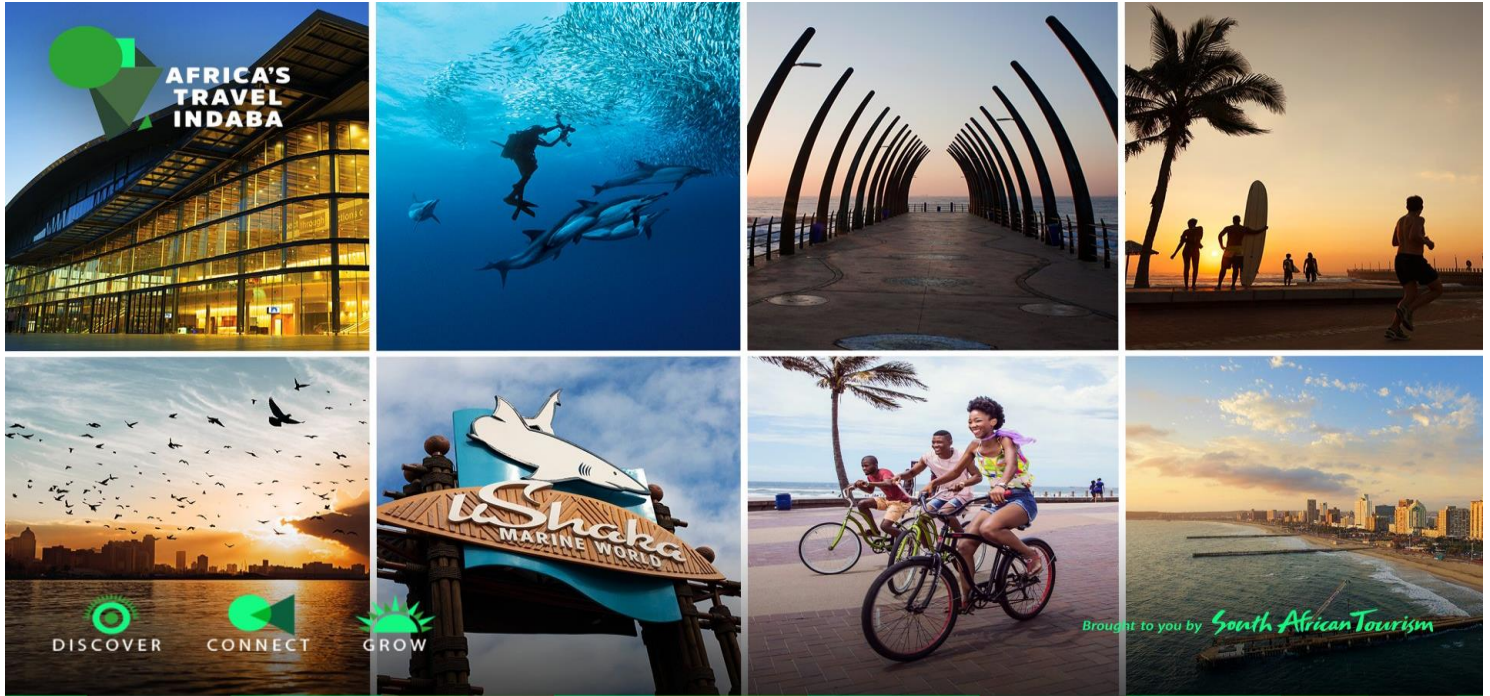
Sukma Foundation Director for Institutional Partnership Satia Zen attended the training session in Aceh this week and said the trainers experienced some apprehension before they started the workshops.

“When we started the training initially, we had a lot of fear and anxiety because we don't know what it is and it scares us. As we got to know what coding is, I think we realised it is very easy, accessible and possible. I am looking forward to using the games and fun to teach tangible coding to our students in Indonesia,” said Zen.

To date, Tangible Africa has trained teachers in 13 countries across Europe and Africa. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SMMEs SHINE AT AFRICA'S TRAVEL INDABA 2024

As Africa's Travel Indaba (ATI) 2024 kicks off, more than 120 enthusiastic small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) will eagerly showcase their service highlights, marking it as the pinnacle of their marketing endeavours.



Themed, *Unlocking Opportunities*, the renowned Africa Travel Indaba, which takes place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, from Monday, 13 May to Friday, 16 May 2024, is expected to connect the tourism industry with unlimited opportunities.

The event is expected to be attended by 9 000 delegates from more than 25 countries.

Acting Chief Executive Officer for Tourism KwaZulu-Natal (TKZN), Sibusiso Gumbi, said of the 120 SMMEs, 15 are KwaZulu-Natal-based SMMEs, which are part of TKZN's Tourism Enterprise Development Programme.

Gumbi said the SMMEs will be using every opportunity to showcase and sell their products and services to the thousands of domestic and international travel buyers attending the indaba.

"These fledgling businesses exhibiting on the TKZN stand have an integral part to play in the growth and development of the tourism sector.

SMMEs not only contribute to job creation but are important for bringing new products to market and creating jobs," Gumbi said.

While most outbound travel is dominated by corporates, Gumbi noted that 80% of those serving the inbound market are small owner-managed operations.

"In fact, small businesses account for more than 80% of the tourism industry as a whole.

SMME growth initiatives implemented

"We want SMMEs to grow into substantial players in this critical sector of our economy. However, we know transformation will not occur spontaneously but requires deliberate and sustained effort from all stakeholders.

"For this reason, we have implemented various programmes to ensure that our SMMEs get the much deserved and needed support. Enabling SMMEs to attend ATI is one of the ways in which we assist emerging tourism businesses," Gumbi said.

EThekweni Municipality's Economic Development and Planning Committee chairperson, Thembo Ntuli said the city's economy will benefit immensely from hosting this four-day event.

“Hotel occupancy is expected to be between 85% and 95%. The total expected spending is estimated at R177 million, contributing R439 million to eThekweni’s GDP with 796 jobs to be created,” Ntuli said. – Source: www.bizcommunity.com

SOUTH AFRICAN GEM AMONG TRIPADVISOR’S ELITE FOR NATURE DESTINATIONS IN 2024

Tripadvisor, the leading platform for travel reviews and recommendations, has unveiled its highly anticipated list of the top nature destinations for 2024. Among these global gems, South Africa’s Kruger National Park takes pride of place.



The Travellers’ Choice Awards Best of the Best title is bestowed upon destinations that excel in providing unparalleled experiences, as evidenced by glowing reviews and accolades from the Tripadvisor community. The Travellers’ Choice Awards Best of the Best title celebrates the highest level of excellence in travel. It’s awarded to those who receive a high volume of above-and-beyond reviews and opinions from the Tripadvisor community over a 12-month period. Out of their eight million listings, fewer than 1% achieved this milestone.

Standing tall amidst stiff competition, Kruger National Park’s recognition highlights its unwavering commitment to preserving biodiversity and offering unparalleled wildlife encounters.

Spanning a vast expanse, Kruger National Park boasts an impressive array of flora and fauna, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts and wildlife aficionados alike. With over 500 bird species, 100 reptiles and nearly 150 mammal species calling the park home, every corner of Kruger teems with life and vitality. Visitors to Kruger are spoiled for choice when it comes to immersive experiences. Whether embarking on a thrilling 4x4 safari, venturing out on a captivating sightseeing tour, or soaring above the bush in a hot-air balloon, the park offers a plethora of activities to suit every adventurer’s taste.

Beyond its breathtaking landscapes and diverse wildlife, Kruger National Park is steeped in history and culture. Numerous archaeological sites are scattered throughout its vast terrain. From ancient rock paintings to poignant reminders of bygone eras, each discovery provides a window into the park’s rich heritage.

As South Africa’s flagship national park, Kruger holds a special place in the hearts of both locals and visitors.

Below is the Top 10 list:

- Kathmandu, Nepal
- Halong Bay, Vietnam
- Hurghada, Egypt
- Mauritius
- Lombok, Indonesia
- Kauai, US
- Zanzibar Island
- Grand Cayman
- Guadeloupe
- Kruger National Park, South Africa

Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

KHOEKHOEN ARTEFACTS FOUND IN THE CEDERBERG FROM THE STONE AGE

A remarkable discovery was made at Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve, one of the Western Cape's leading conservation destinations. Nestled upon the edge of the dramatic Cederberg range, the reserve straddles a transition zone where the Cape Fynbos region abuts the Tankwa Karoo and Renosterveld ecosystems.



Heritage Western Cape (HWC) was contacted by Kagga Kamma management following the find, and upon studying the pot, they confirmed the discovery as a Khoekhoen ceramic pot, thought to be anything from 500 to 2000yrs old. The remarkably intact earthenware vessel is a potentially significant artefact, especially as it is so well preserved.

Dr Vuyiswa Lupuwana, a Professor at the University of Cape Town (UCT), agrees: “The pot exhibits a classic stylistic affiliation with lugged pots and the body tapers towards the bottom, indicating that the pot was very likely a Khoekhoen lugged pot that had rope or string fed through the lugs to facilitate easy transportation”.

Initial inspection indicates the pot is amphora-shaped, with a wide mouth that narrows towards its neck, before transitioning into an outwardly sloping shoulder swelling into a rotund body. The profile curves gently downwards and inwards, then tapers to a round, softly pointed base. Two intact, horizontally pierced “ears” or “lugs” suggest that cords attached to these may have been used to carry it with ease. The pot is intact with a minor hole and some cracks, and as such, it requires delicate handling and storage.

The red ochre clay – with patches of scorching – suggests the pot was likely used for cooking over an open flame. The base shape and burn marks are consistent with traditional cooking where the pot was placed directly into the coals of a fire. Size may have limited its use in transporting water or produce for long distances, though its shape may have allowed for carrying it on one’s shoulders.

The remarkable preservation of the pot, despite exposure to the elements, is a testament to its quality. While carbon dating could determine an exact age, this procedure may risk damaging the artefact. Given past archaeological studies in the Cederberg region, artefacts range from 500 to 8000 years old, placing them within the Later Stone Age (LSA) period. In this instance, the pot is likely no older than 2000 years, considering studies indicate the first Khoekhoe herders arrived in the Cape, introducing both livestock and pottery, around 2000 years ago.

The pot was found metres from a canyon formation near an inconsistent water source, and the undisturbed site suggests it was occupied for short periods by LSA groups, most likely the indigenous Khoekhoe people.

The fortunate discovery was made by adventurous visitors overnighting at one of Kagga Kamma's off-grid camp sites.

“We went for an afternoon walk towards the arid canyon and while scrambling amidst the rocky outcrops, first glimpsed the pot hidden under a craggy overhang”, explain Ivan and Elizma van Niekerk.

With great foresight, the Van Niekerks left the pot in situ and instantly informed reserve management of their find. This meant that further damage to the artefact and contamination of the site was avoided until an expert team could later travel to the site to facilitate its retrieval. “Given the vast expanse of our reserve, it would not surprise us if we discovered similar sites where heritage artefacts may lie hidden”, says Tanya Steenkamp, General Manager at Kagga Kamma.

“We are thrilled to be working with UCT Town and HWC and hope further research will shed light on the life of early hunter-gatherers and pastoralists who once roamed these dramatic plains”.

Discovery and Significance

Waseefa Dhansay and Nuraan Vallie of HWC joined the Kagga Kamma team to perform an “extremely delicate retrieval”.

“I was very excited to observe the pot inside a small overhang, approximately 800m from a gravel jeep track and situated along a rugged ridgeline scramble”, explains Dhansay.

Expert corroboration by Dr. Lupuwana from UCT supports the opinions expressed by HWC representatives: “The artefact seems to be a classic Khoekhoen pot, possibly used for transporting liquids or food, with stylistic features consistent with similar findings from the region”. (Sadr & Sampson: 1999)”.

Numerous scatters of stone tools, ostrich eggshell fragments, and collapsed roof spore surrounded the pot, pointing to overlapping between the hunter-gatherer and pastoralist people who coexisted here towards the end of the Late Stone Age. Further excavation of the site may reveal more artefacts and historic evidence (a small selection of stone tools was retrieved for further research and the presence of faunal remains was also noted).

Intriguingly, faded rock art galleries showing handprints were found metres away in an overhang, further highlighting the site's importance to early indigenous groups. Examples of additional rock paintings likely created using traditional ochre-based pigments, have also since been found on subsequent visits.

“We are absolutely thrilled to be part of this exciting find”, says Waseefa Dhansay of HWC. “Radio-carbon dating could provide a more precise age, while advanced scientific techniques, such as, lipid extraction or paleoproteomics may reveal exactly what the pot was used for and what it may have contained”.

Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve hopes to attempt further research and has committed to the careful preservation of this valuable historic artefact. One potential way forward would be to create a 3D model of the pot by using photogrammetry for educational and public outreach purposes. – www.goodthingsguy.com

LUKE AND MIKE BELL EARN GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR FASTEST DRONE

Father-son duo, Mike and Luke Bell, have earned the Guinness World Record for the fastest drone at a record-breaking 480.23km/h

According to the Guinness World Records this record is set as the fastest ground speed by a battery-powered remote-controlled (RC) quadcopter with a speed of 480.23 km/h (298.47 mph).

“Luke has been flying drones for years and has an obsession with going fast.

The pair attempted the record by doing speed runs in opposite directions to negate the wind, going full throttle to reach the maximum propellor RPM.” – Guinness World Record



Luke shared how they built their special drone in an extensive video below, from the original concepts to the trial and error of finding the perfect balance to build a drone that could take on the task of being the world's fastest.

“Last year I created the fastest drone in the world, but I always felt like it was a kind of prototype and not quite fast enough. This year, my dad and I decided to improve every aspect of the original Peregreen drone to create an epic successor. By the end of this video, we hope that this drone will take the Guinness World Record title as the fastest drone in the world. And yes, this drone is even faster than the Red Bull Formula One drone!” – Luke Bell

The drone can go from 0 to 300 kmh in 2s, has a top speed capacity of 510 kmh, and broke the previous record by over 120kmh (funnily, that is the fastest one is allowed to drive in South Africa). The previous record was 360.503 kmh. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

NINETEEN SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETES SECURE SPOTS FOR PARIS OLYMPICS AS QUALIFYING RACE HEATS UP

Less than three months to the Paris Olympic Games, a total of 19 South African athletes have already secured their places at the multi-sport showpiece, while others still have nearly two months to add their names to the list of automatic qualifiers.

With the qualifying window having closed for the marathon, four individuals have cemented their spots, including a full line-up of three women. Gerda Steyn (2:24:03), Cian Oldknow (2:25:08) and Irvette van Zyl (2:26:11) all dipped under the automatic qualifying standard (2:26:50) in the women's 42.4km event.

In the men's marathon, only Stephen Mokoka has qualified automatically so far, having clocked 2:06:42 in Osaka, Japan last year, going under the required time of 2:08:10.

From the track, nine men have automatically qualified for the Games by running fast times. Sprinter Akani Simbine, who clocked 9.97 in Poland last season, has guaranteed his place in the 100m after running under the standard of 10.00. In the 200m event Shaun Maswanganyi (20.10), Luxolo Adams (20.15) and national champion Benjamin Richardson (20.16) have all achieved the required time (20.16).

And there will be a full South African line-up in the 400m event, with world record holder Wayde van Niekerk (44.08), South African champion Lythe Pillay (44.31) and Zakithi Nene (44.74) all going under the standard of 45.00.

Middle-distance runner Tshepo Tshite (3:32.98) has booked his spot in the men's 1 500m event, after dipping under 3:33.50, while long-distance specialist Adrian Wildschutt has qualified in both the 5 000m (12:56.76) and 10 000m (26:55.54) events, running under the respective marks of 13:05.00 and 27:00.00.

The South African men's 4x100m and 4x00m relay teams have also secured qualification for the Games.

In men's field events, Jovan van Vuuren leaped 8.30m in Tshwane in March, sailing three centimetres beyond the qualifying standard of 8.27m in the long jump. Francois Prinsloo, based in the United States, also cemented his place in the French capital by launching a 67.26m heave in the men's discus throw in Mississippi last month, adding six centimetres to the required mark of 67.20m.

Aside from the three marathon runners – Steyn, Oldknow and Van Zyl – four other women have qualified on the track. Zeney Geldenhuys (54.72) and Rogail Joseph (54.84) both ran under the standard of 54.85 in the 400m hurdles final at the ASA Senior Championships in Pietermaritzburg last month. Hurdler Marione Fourie (12.55) has gone well under the required time of 12.77 in the 100m hurdles, and middle-distance runner Prudence Sekgodiso (1:58.05) has achieved the mark of 1:59.30 in the 800m event.

Male athletes who are currently in qualifying positions on the rankings (which is expected to change for better or worse) include Shaun Maswanganyi (100m), Sinesipho Dambile (200m), Kabelo Mohlosi (800m), Edmund du Plessis (800m), Ryan Mphahlele (1 500m), Brian Raats (high jump), Kyle Blignaut (shot put) and Victor Hogan (discus throw).

Women who are currently high enough up the ranking lists to qualify for the Games are Geldenhuys (400m), Miranda Coetzee (400m), Charne Swart (800m), Mine de Klerk (shot put) and Jo-Anne van Dyk (javelin throw).

"The window has not yet closed," said James Moloi, the President of Athletics South Africa. "The road to the Olympics is still wide open for any athlete still seeking a seat on the flight. We wish every athlete well and trust that in the next few weeks, athletes will do everything to substantially improve their rankings as they measure against other athletes around the world. But they must also go for the qualifying times."

Women	Men	
Prudence Sekgodiso 800m	Akani Simbine 100m	Adrian Wildschutt 5 000m, 10 000m
Marione Fourie 100m Hurdles	Luxolo Adams, Benjamin Richardson, Shaun Maswanganyi 200m	Jovan van Vuuren Long Jump
Zeney Geldenhuys, Rogail Joseph 400m Hurdles	Wayde van Niekerk, Lythe Pillay, Zakithi Nene 400m	Francois Prinsloo Discus Throw
Gerda Steyn, Cian Oldknow, Irvette van Zyl Marathon	Tshepo Tshite 1 500m	Stephen Mokoka Marathon
		4x100m Relay 4x400m Relay

ROAD TO OLYMPICS

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Except in the marathon, athletes who don't meet the automatic qualifying standards by the time the window closes at the end of June will need to finish high enough up the rankings to qualify on quota in all events.

The athletics competition at the Paris Olympics will be held at the Stade de France from 1 to 11 August 2024. – Source: www.thenewspaper.co.za

BOK WOMEN WIN AFRICA CUP AND SECURE RWC QUALIFICATION

Springbok Women head coach Louis Koen applauded his troops for their structured approach in their final match of the Rugby Africa Women's Cup on Sunday, with the victory over Madagascar not only confirming Rugby World Cup 2025 qualification but also sealed entry to the second tier of the Women's Rugby World Cup (WXV2) entry.



The South Africans beat Madagascar by 46-17 to defend their title as African champions and kept their undefeated record at Stade Makis in Antananarivo, which now stands at six consecutive tests.

“I am very proud of their effort today, but also in the first two matches of the tournament,” said Koen.

“It is tough playing three matches in 10 days and credit goes to the players who came out today and executed well. We really played well in the first half to lay the foundation for the win.

“We did concede tries that we would not normally do, but credit goes to Madagascar, who never stopped trying and pushing hard with the huge crowd behind them. We can certainly learn from these spectators how to support

women's rugby; they were really good today.”

Koen said their opponents' unconventional approach could easily have worked, but the Bok Women stuck to their patterns and plays and did not allow the home side into the game at all.

“They really play a different style of rugby, but we shut them out in that first half and laid a proper foundation for the win,” said Koen, who took charge of the team just over a year ago and believes the future of the Springbok Women is bright.

“We have a big number of regulars not here at this tournament and it is credit to those less experienced players who stepped up here in Madagascar and made sure we are going to England next year.

“Qualifying for the Rugby World Cup is a massive boost to all involved and I can only thank the stakeholders, players and management who walked this journey together. The game can only grow and improve from here.”

South Africa's captain, Nolusindiso Boo, agreed with Koen: “We play to inspire the next girl or woman to pick up a rugby ball and I think this win and qualifying for the Rugby World Cup will mean so much to those who want to see the game grow.

“We are on the big stage and belong there, so the next steps are important. We laid the foundation for the next phase and it is so exciting to be part of it. Credit goes to the players, but so much praise must go to the coaches who prepared us so well for this.”

The Bok Women will arrive in South Africa on Monday and the players will return to their provinces for the Women's Premier Division. – Source: www.supersport.com

SOUTH AFRICAN GYMNASTS BASK IN MEDAL MOMENTS AT AFRICAN CHAMPS IN MOROCCO

South Africa's artistic gymnasts have relished in many a medal-proud moment recently, thanks to an epic display of teamwork, talent and individual excellence at the 18th Artistic African Championships in Morocco.

Here are some of the podium moments our gymnasts claimed:

Gold:

- Caleigh Anders became the Senior African Champ for her vault skills
- Kadin Chester claimed gold for floor and won his crown as the junior African Champ
- Syan Du Preez became the Junior African Champ for floor after she earned gold

Silver:

- The SA Junior Women's Artistic Gymnasts team (Syan du Preez, Lily Hayes, Keira Sawry, Jessica Rautenbach and Karmia van Jaarsveldt) took home silver for their dream teamwork
- South Africa's Senior Women Artistic Gymnasts team (Zelme Daries, Caleigh Anders, Karma Visagie, Shante Koti and Naveen Daries) also claimed silver for their squad skills
- Syan Du Preez shone with silver for her bar and vault finals in the Junior events
- Naveen Davies scored silver for the Senior balance beam final

Bronze:

- Syan Du Preez basked in bronze for her all-around junior competition as well as for her balance beam final
- Zelme Daries claimed bronze for her senior bar display
- Lily Hayes won bronze for her junior vault event
- Kadin Chester came third for pommel and rings

Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



SOUTH AFRICA'S OLYMPIC CANOEISTS IN ACTION AT WORLD CUP

South Africa's Olympic canoeists get a taste of what's to come as they continue their road to Paris 2024 in Szeged, Hungary

Although there are seven paddlers from South Africa competing in the race, all eyes will be on the men's crew of Andrew Birkett and Hamish Lovemore, and the women's crew of Esti Olivier and Tiffany Koch.

After earning spots on the South African Olympic squad in the national championships last month, both combinations will compete in the 500m K2 events.

Olivier and Koch will be the first South Africans in action this weekend when they take to the water in their heats early on Friday afternoon, with Birkett and Lovemore facing their first test as an international sprint crew about an hour later.



For both crews, this is the start of their intensive build-up to the highlight of the 2024 racing season, when they will line up to represent South Africa at the Olympic regatta in August.

Birkett is well-known on the international long-distance racing circuit. The 500 metre distance will test his explosive speed.

Lovemore may not be as well known. Still, those in the know regard him as a great talent with a bright future.

For Olivier and Koch, the 2024 Olympics is a story of unfinished business. Koch (née Kruger) paddled in the 2012 Olympics in London, but then the duo missed out on qualifying for Rio 2016 and Koch retired from international competition.

Olivier doggedly struggled on and just failed to earn selection for Tokyo. However, she persuaded Koch out of retirement for the selection event earlier this year and their resurrection as a crew and subsequent qualification is something of a fairytale.

All four will be hoping to qualify for semi-finals and finals on Sunday morning. Koch and Olivier are also scheduled to paddle in the 5000 m K1 race, while Butcher and Friedenstein will be in the corresponding men's event to wrap up the regatta. – Source: www.sapeople.com



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