

# UBUNTU NEWSFLASH



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WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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## **SOUTH AFRICA'S DEMOCRACY IS "STRONG, ROBUST" – PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA**

***President Cyril Ramaphosa says the 16 million citizens who cast their vote in the National and Provincial Elections, were proof that South Africa's democracy is "strong and robust".***

The President was addressing the nation through his weekly newsletter on Monday, 3 June 2024.

South Africans headed to the polls last week to elect new government leadership for the seventh administration in the country's most competitive elections since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

"This election has been declared free and fair. It took place peacefully and without serious incidents of intimidation or violence. This is a credit to the Electoral Commission, to the political parties and their leadership and above all, to the South African people.

"By discharging this important civic duty, South Africans have done more than exercise their right to vote. They have shown that they continue to hold our democratic order and our Constitution in high regard. This successful poll shows that our democracy is strong, that it is robust and that it endures," President Ramaphosa said.

### **Constitutional order**

In this year's vote, no party won an outright majority in the National Assembly.

This, President Ramaphosa said, presented a "new phase in our democratic journey" in which "political parties will have to strive in earnest to find common ground as we work to rebuild our country".

"Although every political party carries a mandate based on the commitments they made to the electorate, all parties share an overarching mandate to build a country that is inclusive, united and prosperous.

"This moment in our country calls for responsible leadership and constructive engagement. There can be no place for threats of violence or instability," he said.

The President called on South Africans to fight for and protect the country's constitutional order – South Africa's supreme law.

"This constitutional order is anchored in the rule of law, supported by institutions for advancing democracy, such as the Independent Electoral Commission and upheld by an independent judiciary.

"South Africans must stand firm against any attempts to undermine the constitutional order we have worked so hard to build and for which so many struggled and sacrificed.

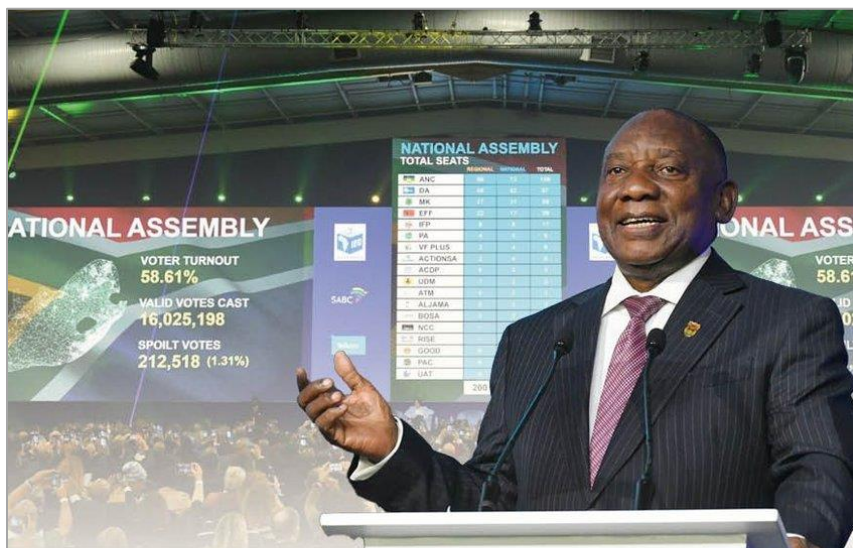
"Whatever challenges we may face as political events unfold, they should be dealt with in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with the prescripts of our Constitution and the rule of law," he said.

The President added that all South Africans should take pride in "our own contribution towards giving meaning to the values and principles of our constitutional democracy".

"As we work as political parties to find each other across the divide in the coming weeks and months, let us demonstrate both in our actions and our utterances that we hold the Constitution and the rule of law to be paramount. Let us remember that whatever authority or whatever power we are entrusted with, must be exercised to advance the interests of the South African people.

"Now more than ever, we need to put our differences aside and work together for the common good," President Ramaphosa concluded.

– Source: SAnews.gov.za



***"By going to vote, the people of South Africa have taken responsibility not only for the future of themselves and their families, but for the future of their country. Through their votes they have demonstrated, clearly and plainly, that our democracy is strong, it is robust and it endures"***  
***— President Cyril Ramaphosa***



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## CONDOLENCES FOR EASTERN CAPE FLOOD VICTIMS

***President Cyril Ramaphosa has extended his condolences to the families who have lost loved ones due to severe flooding in the Eastern Cape.***



By Monday morning, 3 June 2024, at least seven people had lost their lives in the floods with reports of some 1200 people displaced.

Areas most hit by the inclement weather were Nelson Mandela Bay, Buffalo City and Kariega.

“The loss of life, the destruction of public infrastructure and the loss of personal property brought about by the forces of nature saddens all of us as South Africans.

“The aftermath of these occurrences is best overcome when we work together in the way we are seeing in the Eastern Cape,” President Ramaphosa said.

In a statement, The Presidency said the President urged South Africans to heed weather warnings.

“President Ramaphosa commends the way in which authorities, communities, non-governmental organisations and individuals are dealing with rescue and recovery efforts, including the rehousing of a significant number of families who have been displaced.

“Given the potential impacts of the winter season on various parts of the country, President Ramaphosa urges the public to keep safe by heeding weather alerts and exercising greater care and restraint on our roads in poor weather conditions.

“The President also calls on citizens to reach out to vulnerable members of their families and communities, to make this season as comfortable and safe as possible for people who have limited resources or live on their own,” the statement read. – Source: [SANews.gov.za](https://www.sanews.gov.za)

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## DEFENCE FORCE SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF SADC MEMBER

**The South African National Defence Force saddened by the death of one member in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).**

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) was saddened to announce the death of one member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SAMIDRC) on Thursday, 30 May 2024 at Sake following the encounter with M23 rebels in the Eastern DRC.

The name of the deceased will be mentioned once the family members have been informed. The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Thandi Modise; the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Thabang Makwetla; the Acting Secretary for Defence, Dr Thobekile Gamede; and the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanya, expressed their deepest and heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues for this unfortunate passing. – Source: [www.gov.za](https://www.gov.za)



## **SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS WERE HELD UNDER “PEACEFUL” CONDITIONS – AFRICAN UNION MISSION**

***Head of the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM), former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, has declared that South Africa’s 2024 National and Provincial Elections were held under peaceful conditions.***



The observer mission was deployed to South Africa from 21 May at the invitation of the South African Government and the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC).

This was as South Africans went to the polls on Wednesday, 29 May.

“Overall, the mission notes that the 2024 South African National and Provincial Elections were pivotal for the country’s democratic future and had implications for political stability within South Africa and the sub-region.

“South Africans freely exercised their constitutional right to vote and voted peacefully. The participation of youth and women offers hope for the future of democracy in Africa and indicates an increased trust in the electoral process.

“While the electoral process is still ongoing, we implore all aggrieved parties to use the existing election dispute resolution mechanisms to address their grievances, if any,” Kenyatta said in a preliminary statement.

AUEOM staff were deployed to several parts of the country to observe aspects of the elections.

“Since arriving in South Africa, the AUEOM engaged with key stakeholders, including the IEC, the media, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, representatives of the international community, citizens’ observer groups and heads of other election observer missions, the African Diplomatic Corps and the international community, and academia.

“The Mission deployed 21 teams of 65 observers across nine provinces to observe the special voting on 28 May and polling on 29 May 2024, focusing on various aspects of the electoral process. A final report with comprehensive findings and recommendations will be issued two months after the elections,” Kenyatta stated.

He observed that the National and Provincial Elections (NPE2024) were held with “a renewed enthusiasm among South Africans to strengthen their democratic gains”.

“This election was notably competitive due to the emergence of several new political parties. Despite the peaceful and credible nature of the previous six elections, the 2024 elections were marked by a tense political environment, intensified by several litigations.

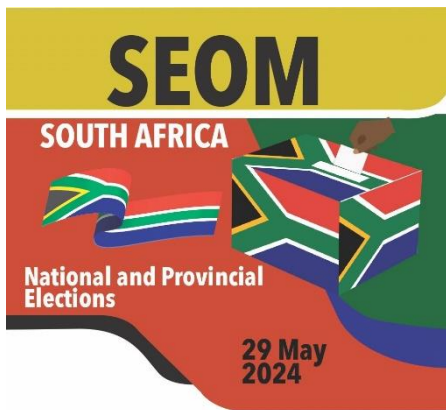
“The pre-election period saw heightened tensions and concerns over the potential misuse of social media for spreading fake news, disinformation, and misinformation, which could incite violence.

“Nevertheless, the elections proceeded without major incidents, maintaining a pattern of peaceful conduct. Despite the challenges and tensions, the 2024 elections were conducted peacefully, demonstrating the resilience of South Africa’s democratic processes,” Kenyatta said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## **SADC ELECTORAL MISSION GIVES ELECTIONS 2024 SEAL OF APPROVAL**

***The Southern African Development Community Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) has described the pre-election and voting phases of South Africa’s National and Provincial Elections as having been held in an “orderly, peaceful and free atmosphere”.***

South Africa’s elections were held by the Electoral Commission (IEC) on Wednesday, 29 May.



In a preliminary statement, former Zambian Vice President and SEOM Head, Enock Kavindele, said some 84 observers were deployed to all nine provinces and they engaged with stakeholders from all parts of society on the elections.

“The mission observed that the country was calm and peaceful in the pre-election, election day, and the immediate post-election period. I must emphasise that this was a very conducive environment for the elections, where only a few isolated incidences of political violence were reported.

“It was the concern of stakeholders that the incidences prevented special voting and final election campaign events in the areas. Apart from these isolated incidences, our observers deployed across the country witnessed numerous peaceful, well-planned and highly attended political rallies,” he said.

He noted that the South African Police Service (SAPS) “maintained its vigilance and preserved peace” during the election period, with “more resources to high-risk areas to address eventualities”.

### Best practice and recommendations

The mission praised the IEC for its best practices on the following:

- Online voter registration for citizens, including in the diaspora, which encouraged young and first-time voters to register.
- With the support of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, for facilitating voting by South African residents abroad
- Implementation of special voting, particularly to include voters who for reasons of infirmity or other challenges, would not have been able to cast their votes at the polling stations
- Swift responsiveness to false, misleading information, particularly online and social media.
- Openness to the public and close liaison with political parties and independent candidates.

Kavindele said that while the mission to the South African elections has not expired yet, it has made some recommendations which include:

- Government and the National Assembly are urged to ensure that substantive electoral law reforms are debated and adopted early in the next electoral cycle in order to avoid the introduction of electoral reforms close to the election periods.
- The IEC is urged to assess options on how best to ensure that the voter management devices do not present challenges encountered on Election Day. The IEC could consider a manual voter’s roll to be displayed at polling stations so that voters can verify where they are registered.
- The IEC is encouraged to review its civic and voter education programmes, learning from the challenges experienced in 2024 and design new programmes that comprehensively address the new electoral processes.
- The SAPS should consider recruiting adequate police officers to be permanently stationed all polling stations.
- “In conclusion, the SEOM observed that the pre-election and voting phases of the 2024 National and Provincial Assembly Elections were professionally organised and conducted in an orderly, peaceful and free atmosphere, which enabled the voters to express their democratic will and those who sought office to campaign freely.

“The mission commends the people of South Africa for the political maturity, spirit of tolerance and calm that generally prevailed during this electoral period. In the event of any electoral disputes, the mission appeals to all contestants to channel their concerns through established legal procedures and processes,” Kavindele said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## RESEARCH INTO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION RECEIVES US\$92 MILLION

*The National Research Foundation (NRF) has welcomed the announcement of a US\$92 million investment into the International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.*

### Research into Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

RECEIVES A MULTIMILLION BOOST





The Canada Research Coordinating Committee, which leads this global joint initiative that funds interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral research on key risks of climate change, announced this in Ottawa, Canada, on Monday, 3 June 2024.

The Canada Research Coordinating Committee is part of a consortium of research funders with which the NRF is working under the International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

The other research funders are from Brazil, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

“In its role as a participating research funder in the initiative, the NRF funds four South African research projects,” the NRF explained.

Two other local projects under the initiative are funded by the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF), which supports world-leading interdisciplinary, international, high-risk/high-reward, transformative and rapid-response Canadian-led research.

The local research projects are part of the international joint initiative's 32 international interdisciplinary research projects, involving 424 researchers from 45 countries.

These three-year projects focus on the design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation strategies for vulnerable groups.

These groups are currently the most impacted by climate change effects due to their physical and socio-economic vulnerability.

The research funders contributed a total of more than US\$30 million in additional funds to the research projects. NRF CEO, Dr Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, said the financial boost to the International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation comes at an opportune time.

“Research projects under the initiative are starting to take shape. These include those that are funded by the NRF, which has made significant investments in the initiative. The funding will propel these research projects to greater heights.”

In addition to the investment, the Canada Research Coordinating Committee also announced the NFRF Exploration Competition grantees.

Each year, the NFRF Exploration Competition supports research that brings various disciplines together in new ways and from bold, innovative perspectives.

Exploration grants support research with a range of impacts —economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, social, technological, environmental or health-related.

This year, US\$33 million was awarded to 133 research projects that focus on topics such as the exploration of the outer reaches of Earth’s atmosphere and the cosmos from a high-arctic perspective, transforming artificial intelligence software concepts into smart mechanical systems, and using liquid biopsies to better detect breast cancer.

The International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation requires that projects address at least two of the eight representative key risks identified in the sixth assessment report of the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The report highlights the unprecedented changes in the climate that are being observed in every region, affecting all ecosystems and societies, and that will continue to intensify with further warming. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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CELEBRATING WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

***The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has called on all South Africans to join the international community in celebrating World Environment Day.***

World Environment Day was celebrated under the theme *Accelerating Land Restoration, Drought Resilience and Desertification Progress*.

The theme highlights the importance of accelerating the implementation of interventions aimed at addressing land degradation, desertification and minimising the impacts of drought at all levels.

"As South Africans, we should combine local actions and land restoration techniques in the fight against land degradation, desertification and drought impacts. This includes planting trees, rotating crops, using water retention techniques, such as building retention ditches and cut-off drains, and applying organic manures and mineral fertilisers, among other methods," Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, said on Wednesday, 5 June 2024.



Desertification is caused by multiple forces, including extreme weather conditions, particularly drought. It is also caused by human activities that pollute or degrade the quality of soil, negatively affecting land utility.

These include poor land use management and depletion of soil nutrients due to unsustainable agricultural practices; deforestation; pollution (including waste); wind and soil erosion; expansion of agricultural land; overgrazing by livestock; overextraction of natural resources; as well as mining activities that result in salination.

“Both desertification and land degradation are intricately linked to food and water security, poverty, urbanisation, climate change and biodiversity, and are therefore among the most critical environmental challenges,” the department said.

The international community has pledged to restore one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Land restoration is about creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for people, including small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities, businesses and entrepreneurs, women and youth, to boost incomes, secure food and water supplies, and make individuals and communities less vulnerable.

“Land restoration is a shared responsibility and everyone has a role to play. Let us strive to restore ecosystems, mitigate desertification and combat drought, thereby forging a path towards a greener, healthier and more prosperous planet for all,” Minister Creecy said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## SOUTH AFRICANS VOTED AS THE FRIENDLIEST NATION IN THE WORLD

***According to Remitly, it's a combination of factors that make the Rainbow Nation shine. Nestled on the southernmost tip of Africa, South Africa is blessed with breathtaking natural beauty, from its diverse landscapes to its rich wildlife. But it's not just the scenery that captivates; it's also the people.***

“South Africans are renowned for their warmth and welcoming nature. Whether you're a local or a visitor, expect to be greeted with genuine kindness wherever you go. It's not uncommon to strike up a conversation with a stranger on the street or share a laugh over a joke. With eleven official languages spoken in the country, including English, IsiZulu and Afrikaans, communication is never a barrier, fostering a sense of inclusivity and camaraderie.”

“One of the standout features of South African life is its affordability. The South African rand stretches further, offering a higher standard of living without breaking the bank. From housing to everyday expenses, residents enjoy a comfortable lifestyle that allows them to embrace the joys of community and connection.”





“In addition to its welcoming spirit, South Africa boasts a diverse cultural tapestry that enriches its social landscape. Whether you’re savouring traditional cuisine, immersing yourself in vibrant festivals, or exploring the arts and crafts of local artisans, there’s always something new to discover and celebrate.”

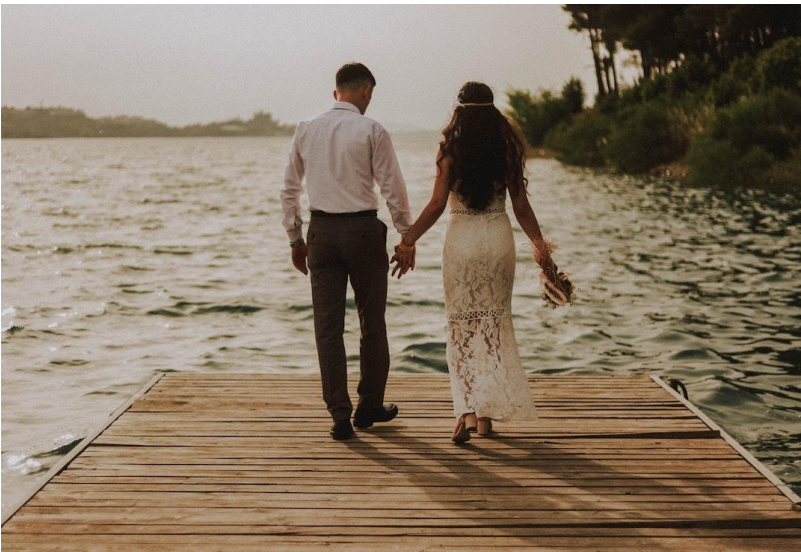
As the top-ranking nation in Remitly’s survey, South Africa exemplifies the power of friendship and hospitality to transcend borders and unite hearts. And in a world where kindness is more precious than ever, let our “World’s Friendliest Nation” title serve as an inspiration to spread warmth and goodwill wherever we go.

After all, in the words of Nelson Mandela, “The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” And South Africa, with its unwavering spirit of friendship, continues to rise, illuminating the path for a brighter, more compassionate world. – Source: [goodthingsguy.com](http://goodthingsguy.com)

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## SOUTH AFRICA VOTED SIXTH BEST HONEYMOON DESTINATION IN THE WORLD

***South Africa is for the love birds. Our beautiful country has once again graced the Top 10 of the World’s Best Honeymoon Destinations according to Big 7 Travel.***



South Africa earned sixth place on the list of 20, rubbing shoulders with some of the world’s most romantic destinations.

South Africa is home to white-sanded beaches and so much more. You can explore the Karoo and the desert, climb mountains, walk through forests, watch bush sunsets, drink cocktails in hot air balloons, go on drives with elephants, and see seals frolic in the waves. If you can dream it, you can definitely do it in South Africa with your partner.

Some of the winning factors included the amount of “adult-only” hotels, the amount of 5-star hotels, the cost of wine or a three-course meal, the types of activities and sightseeing available and the availability of honeymoon packages.



“From the sweeping vineyards to the safaris, South Africa is spectacularly romantic. The country caters well to newlyweds with adults-only hotels and honeymoon packages, helping lovebirds to have an extra-special trip. Whether you’re looking out for the Big 5 in Kruger National Park or sipping crisp wine on the Cape Town waterfront, you’ll be well looked after. South Africa can bend to your price range too, with a wide range of budget-friendly and luxurious experiences. Those on a budget won’t feel left out either – bottles of local wine are around GBP£4, while a three-course meal for two is GBP£30 on average.”

For international honeymooners, travelling to South Africa has proven to be a very affordable option, giving access to more luxurious options.

#### The Top 10 Best Honeymoon Destinations

- Koh Chang, Thailand
- Patagonia, Chile
- Rajasthan, India
- Zanzibar
- Sri Lanka
- South Africa
- Kenya
- Pangkor Island, Malaysia
- Sumba, Indonesia
- Curaçao

- Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## SOUTH AFRICAN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION INDUCTED INTO PRESTIGIOUS GOLDEN KEY SOCIETY

***South Africa’s leading private higher education provider, The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE), has been inducted into the prestigious Golden Key International Honour Society, a recognition usually reserved for public universities.***

The Golden Key International Honour Society is the world’s largest collegiate honour society for graduate and undergraduate students and has strong relationships with over 400 universities around the world, including in Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, The Bahamas and the United States. Membership into Golden Key is offered to undergraduate and graduate students recognised to be among the top 15% of their class.

The induction of The IIE as a chapter of society means that their highest performing students will now be able to access the benefits of Golden Key membership, including bursaries, international professional development opportunities and its global student networks. – Source: [www.sagoodnews.co.za](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za)



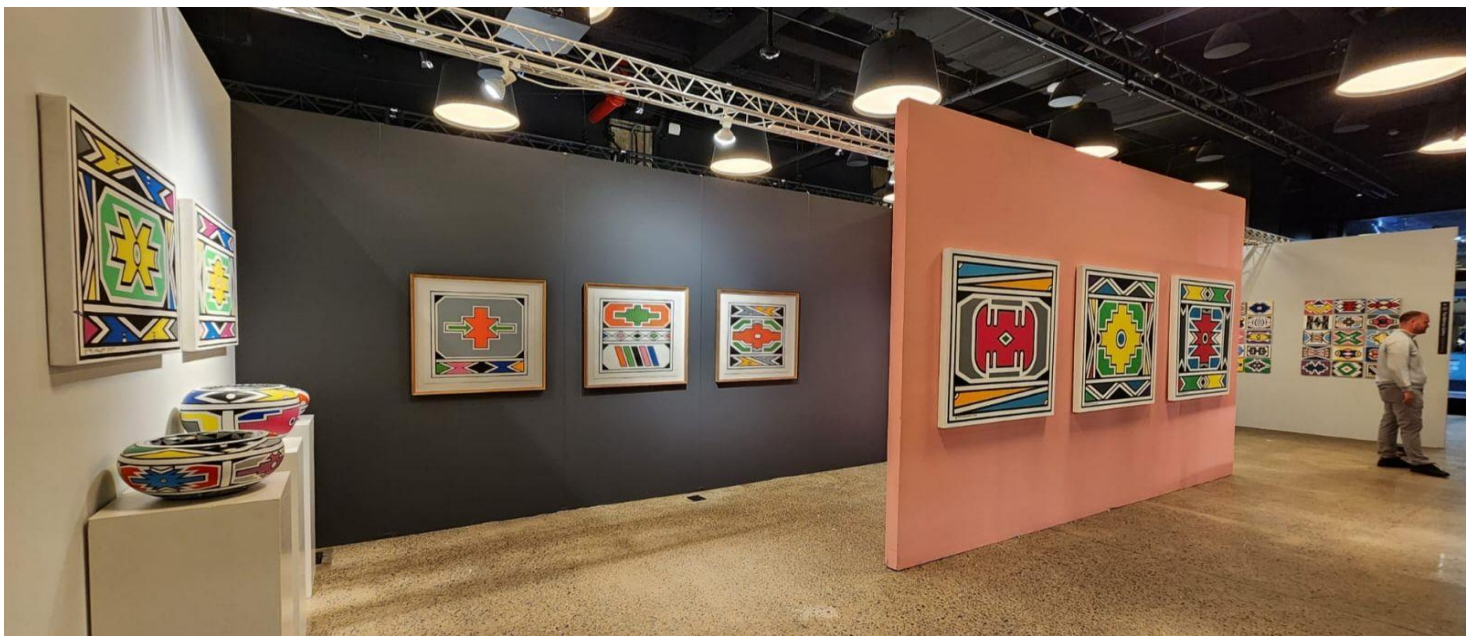
## DR ESTHER MAHLANGU’S SOLO AT 1-54 NEW YORK A HUGE SUCCESS

***The Melrose Gallery is celebrating the success of Dr Esther Mahlangu and her latest solo exhibition in New York.***

Dr Mahlangu was invited to participate in the 10th anniversary of the 1-54 New York Art Fair, which took place from 1 to 4 May 2024 in Chelsea, New York. Her works were also placed on display for her very own solo exhibition at the international gallery. The solo exhibition has been a marvellous success so far and Dr Mahlangu’s works were viewed by many people.

The Melrose Gallery shared the happy news of the success in their monthly newsletter, highlighting that the exhibition will run until August before heading back home to South Africa.

“Dr Esther Mahlangu’s solo at 1-54 New York was very well received. New York is the epicentre of the arts in May and there was such a wonderful, positive energy in the city. The Iziko South African National Gallery has reported that *Then I Knew I Was Good at Painting: Esther Mahlangu, A Retrospective* has been attracting large audiences. The exhibition ends in August 2024 before it travels to Wits Art Museum.



We are getting ready for the launch of Dr Mahlangu's book of interviews by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Dr Thomas Girst and Azu Nwagbogu and various other activations in London in October." – The Melrose Gallery.

Adding to her international successes, the famous BMW art was recreated on a newer model and that exhibition has also been a hit in the United States of America.

"Esther Mahlangu's second BMW art car world premier was the hottest ticket at Frieze, Los Angeles" – Delaina Dixon, *Ebony Entertainment*.

The exhibition was hosted during Women's History Month (a United States-based observation) in Frieze, Los Angeles. The new art car is called BMW i5 Flow "Nostokana", named after her first son. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## SOUTH AFRICAN CREATIVE WINS PRESTIGIOUS PRIZE FOR VIVID VISUAL STORYTELLING

***Lebohang Kganye has wowed the world with her visual storytelling talents, so much so that she won the 2024 Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize as announced at London's Photographer's Gallery.***

The prestigious award of GBP£30 000 commends her exhibition *Haufi nyana?* (I've come to take you home) as showcased at Amsterdam's Foam Museum.

*Haufi nyana*, which translates to "too close" from Sesotho, reflects on the concept of home, how far, close, or too close it may seem, "perhaps even simultaneously," says Kganye.

A collection of projects spanning years, the mixed means used in her visual storytelling include animations, photography, patchwork and local literature to help the onlooker think about the many factors that created their own micro-histories.



"The influential prize, which we present annually together with the Photographer's Gallery, rewards artists and their projects recognised as having made the most significant contribution to international contemporary photography over the past 12 months," shares the Foundation.

Kganye was shortlisted alongside other artists from around the world, each of whom took on visual storytelling projects that engaged with concerns ranging from heritage to equality and gender.



“Together, these artists demonstrate photography’s unique capacity to reveal what is invisible, forgotten or marginalised and imagine a path to redress,” the Foundation adds.

Kganye shares that *Haufi nyana? I’ve come to take you home* is largely for, and in a sense, from, her mother, Dimakatso.

“In 2010, her death prompted me to travel across South Africa to trace my maternal ancestry. The stories that I collected in conversations with my extended family became the source material for my work, an archive that I continue to draw upon today,” she says, sharing that being raised by women like her mother, grandmother and aunts allowed her to see life through their eyes while being fuelled to see other ways of life and hear other stories.”

“As an artist, I want my work to be a mirror for others, for them to see themselves reflected,” she adds.

About her win, Kganye says:

“This yes counters all the no’s, the maybe’s, the unresolved projects that just needed more hands, patience and time to stop and start again, allowing for the magic to come through.”

– Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG’S ART GALLERY TO SPOTLIGHT AFRICAN SUPERHEROES

***An exciting exhibition in Johannesburg is gearing up to reconnect young South Africans with our rainbow nation legacy as African superheroes are showcased and new possibilities are imagined.***



Mainstream superheroes might have different backgrounds, varying superpowers and distinct personalities. But most tend to have one thing in common (that is, beyond being superheroes)—they rarely represent Africa or African stories. Where are the African superheroes beyond fictional places like Wakanda?

Challenging the Westernised idea of the superhero, the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Art Gallery is set to host *African Hero*—a creative effort to “Africanise the superhero aesthetic for local audiences”, as UJ shares, all while spotlighting African-value-centric storytelling.

Not only is it a challenge for authentic representation, but it’s also a pushback on

stereotypes that African characters get lumped with across genres. This matters as much as self-representation does.

Thanks to Rainbow Nation comics’ Phemelo Dibodu and Omphile Dibodu (both of whom are UJ alumni), *African Hero* is coming to life. Through their work, the idea to change the narrative and ignite South African patriotism is underway, thanks to their protagonist, Young Nelson.

Using art and technology, a one-minute comic book trailer showcases Young Nelson—a way to reconnect, especially for the younger generation of South Africa, with our Rainbow Nation legacy.

“Young Nelson symbolises the youth of the South grappling with the modern-day challenges confronting the nation. He is a reminder that they are ambitious, resilient, tenacious, fearless and embody a spirit of unwavering determination,” says UJ.

With efforts from Afro Geek (a community focused on empowerment through and for diversity led by Tapelo Zama and Neo Mothoagae), the spotlight also extends to African creators like award-winning comic book artist Bill Masuku and artist Trevor Ngwenya (Kubo Art).

The exhibition will showcase everything from digital art prints to T-shirt art and physical comic books, as we are all invited to explore African Superheroes, imagined and real.

Visitors are encouraged to cosplay their favourite characters, get creative and enjoy the experience set to open on 8 June and run until 12 July at the UJ art Gallery – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## INSIDE DAVID TLALE'S NYC SHOWROOM

***The award-winning South African designer, David Tlale, who has a long history with New York City, opens his first United States (US) outpost in the heart of the city's Garment District.***

Renowned designer David Tlale has recently unveiled his new showroom in the heart of New York City (NYC). The proudly South African designer, who made his debut at New York Fashion Week in 2012, now boasts a permanent presence in the fashion capital.

"This journey started out actually in 2023. We were looking for space in the city. New Jersey, Queens and everything else. And for me, it was like, you've got to be in the heart of the fashion industry. You've got to be in the Garment District," Tlale said while speaking to *Okayafrica* at the unveiling.

When David Tlale walked into the building that would house his future showroom, he knew that it was where he was supposed to be.



On 28 December 2023, while visiting friends in New York, Tlale unexpectedly stumbled upon the building that would become his future showroom. "I walked in and I was like, 'This is it.' And now we're here in this proud moment. We're here and we are doing it. It's mind-blowing," he said.

Over the past two decades, Tlale has established himself as a prominent figure on the local and international stage, winning prestigious awards and showcasing exquisite collections on prestigious runways around the world. While his head office remains in South Africa, he views his New York showroom as an extension of his operations. "I commute between New York and South Africa and many other parts of the world where we're doing business. For me, this is the first step. We are now here, we have an address in New York, and let's see what God unveils," he says.

Tlale says that "his biggest dream [for the brand] in the next eighteen months," is to have a store in New York. "We just have to trust God and the process," he added.

Toasting to his latest achievement, Tlale says, "I could've been a fabulous auditor, but I bless the day I said I'm not going to be [one]."

We bless that day too. – Source: [www.okayafrica.com](http://www.okayafrica.com)

## CLEVER LOCAL LITERACY PROJECT SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

***A literacy project and education start-up led by students and the University of the Western Cape's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation is making big strides in the world.***



"It all started with solving a social problem of illiteracy in South Africa and then later we found that it's a global challenge. We challenged ourselves to come up with an innovative solution to address this issue," says Computer Science Master's student and LenoKids Co-Founder Sange Mafinyongwana.

The result? An artificial intelligence (AI)-driven learning platform and WhatsApp application designed with children in mind. There, they can learn the skills necessary for literacy through curated games and activities that range from storytelling skills to vocabulary and comprehension. With a helpful robot pal to make the journey all the more interactive. It's a tool that's as fun as it is necessary, especially in countries with under-resourced education facilities.



The project has progressed wonderfully, with February earning LenoKids the opportunity to take part in the Switzerland-Africa AIT Annual Conference and stand tall as an international finalist, with Mafinyongwana representing them well.

Now, LenoKids is back at it again for another international opportunity and will be participating in the Hult Prize Bangkok 2024 Summit this month.

Only 360 startups were chosen out of a whopping 10 000 and the sky could soon be the limit should they win and advance to the Global Accelerator where a million dollars are up for grabs. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## MADIBA HONoured WITH FRESCO IN FRANCE, LARGEST MANDELA MURAL EVER

***A gorgeous fresco of Nelson Mandela has gone up in France. The work of Artiste RAST who captured Madiba in brilliant detail and vibrance is not only beautiful to look at, but it is also said to be the largest mural of former President Nelson Mandela.***



In *Ville de Créteil*, Nelson Mandela beams in epic proportion at a height of 44metres. Not only is the fresco the sum of talent and breathtaking detail, but it is also reportedly the largest mural of Madiba in the world, as the Embassy of France in South Africa shared.

The Mandela fresco was created by French street artist *Artiste RAST*, who is no stranger to larger-than-life works of art. Underpinned by a unique style that amplifies textures alongside bold colour play, *Artiste RAST* has a knack for capturing the beauty of mature faces, celebrating cultures from around the world.

“This monumental fresco not only adds beauty to our surroundings but also serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring impact of Mandela’s message of unity and equality,” remarked the Embassy of France in South Africa.

This sentiment is on the minds of many in our country, more so than ever, given the historic 30 years of democracy South Africa is celebrating. Seeing our icon continue taking up important spaces in other parts of the world reminds us all that his messages are both as relevant as ever and just as powerful – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## SOUTH AFRICAN FILM STUDENT WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR RIVETING ZOMBIE DRAMA

***Promising South African filmmaker Raheem Razak is one of six winners of the 2024 Sony Future Filmmaker Awards which were hosted in Los Angeles on 30 May 2024.***



In a glittering event that celebrated some of the best and brightest talent in the world, Razak's *Anguish*; a piece about a son taking care of his zombie mother during a zombie apocalypse was chosen as one of the most outstanding submissions.

"I cannot begin to express how honoured I am to win this award. This film was a labour of love and it is truly special to be recognised by Sony and Creo for my work. It feels amazing to represent my country, South Africa and I hope my career will go from strength-to-strength from here," says Razak, who is currently a student at the South African film school, IAFDA.

Established by Creo, an organisation that helps amplify the voices of young creatives across the globe, the awards provide a gateway for the

development of exceptional cinematic talent and champion filmmakers with an original perspective on storytelling.

Chosen by a panel of expert judges led by chair Justin Chadwick, the full list of winners for the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards 2024 include: Raheem Razak (South Africa, Student), Katie Blair (United States, Fiction), Olawunmi Hassan and Adaobi Samson (Nigeria, Non-Fiction), Solmund MacPherson (Canada, Environment), Kyle Novak (Czech Republic, Animation) and Cristian Daniel (Uruguay, Future Format).

As part of their prize, this year's winners and the wider shortlist took part in a week-long industry immersion programme, culminating in the awards ceremony.

This one-of-a-kind prize provides filmmakers with an invaluable opportunity to connect with their peers and leaders in the field and to gain exclusive behind-the-scenes access.

The programme comprises workshops led by Sony Pictures executives, covering a range of topics including keynotes by major cinematographers, screenings and Q&A sessions, insights into working with talent agencies and using cutting-edge technologies, animation and film scoring, and music rights.

In addition to this, the six winners each received a range of cash prizes and Sony camera equipment.

This year's winners were selected from over 8 400 films by more than 5 000 filmmakers across 148 countries and territories submitted across six categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Environment, Animation, Student and Future Format.

The winners were chosen by Michael Barker and Tom Bernard, Co-Founders and Co-Presidents of Sony Pictures Classics (*Call Me By Your Name*, *The Father*, *Whiplash*); Rob Hardy ASC, BSC, BAFTA award-winning cinematographer (*Civil War*, *Mission: Impossible – Fallout*, *Ex-Machina*); and Kate Reid BSC, acclaimed British cinematographer (*Game of Thrones*, *Great Expectations*, *Silo*), awarding creative excellence and original approaches to narrative.

The winners were drawn from 30 shortlisted filmmakers selected from a long list by celebrated Australian filmmaker Unjoo Moon and Emmy-award-winning cinematographer Robert Primes ASC. Both stages of the judging process were chaired by award-winning director Justin Chadwick (*Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Tulip Fever*, *Shardlake*). – Source: [www.bizcommunity.com](http://www.bizcommunity.com)

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## INNOCENT MASUKU'S FINAL PERFORMANCE ON *BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT* LEAVES JUDGES IN TEARS

***Innocent Masuku's final performance on Britain's Got Talent (BGT) moved the audience and judges to tears, showcasing his exceptional talent and emotional depth.***



His final rendition of *Nessun Dorma* encapsulated the essence of love, mystery and the indomitable human spirit—qualities that define Masuku himself.

Born in Secunda, Mpumalanga, Masuku's journey to this shining moment began long before he graced the *Britain's Got Talent* stage. He first captivated audiences as Crabman in a unique production of *Porgy and Bess* set in Argentina. Since these early days, his career trajectory has been nothing short of spectacular. He boasts a string of accolades including a Merit Award in the

2019 SAMRO competition, the Drake Calleja Trust Award, The Oppenheimer International Scholarship and The Countess of Munster Musical Trust Study Award.

Currently, Masuku mesmerises audiences as Count Almaviva in the English National Opera's *Barber of Seville*.

His debut on *Britain's Got Talent* earned him unanimous approval from the judges with four “yes” votes, setting the stage for his remarkable journey on the show. One of his standout moments came with an emotional rendition of Hans Zimmer's *Now We Are Free* from the 1998 film *Gladiator*. This performance was met with a standing ovation, moving both the audience and the judges deeply.

But it was his final performance of *Nessun Dorma* that truly left a lasting impact. This iconic piece, which speaks of love, mystery and triumph, resonated deeply with everyone who watched it. The judges were visibly moved, some even brought to tears by the raw emotion and undeniable talent on display. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## GROUP OF SOUTH AFRICAN DANCERS FLY THE FLAG HIGH IN CROATIA

***The Michelle Leibrandt School of Dance took part in the DanceStar World Dance Masters 2024 and earned third place overall.***

The Michelle Leibrandt School of Dance, located in Wonderboom, Pretoria, recently earned third place at the 2024 DanceStar World Dance Masters in Poreč, Croatia after winning 13 medals.

The school, founded by professional dancer Michelle Pieterse in 2013, caters to children from ages five to 19. Dancers are trained in lyrical, contemporary/modern and jazz.

The school's dancers took part in two leagues, with 13 medal wins and many other opportunities to work towards personal best. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)



## SIYA KOLISI MAKES WAVES AT MONACO GRAND PRIX

***Siya Kolisi, the revered South African rugby captain, brought his infectious energy to the Monaco Grand Prix as a guest of Red Bull Racing.***

South African rugby hero Siya Kolisi made waves at the Monaco Grand Prix. He swapped scrums for screeching tyres as he graced the prestigious event as a guest of Red Bull Racing.

Amid the glamour and adrenaline of Formula 1's crown jewel, Kolisi rubbed shoulders with motorsport royalty. He injected his trademark charisma into the proceedings.

During the grid walk, Formula 1-pundit Martin Brundle seized the chance to chat with Kolisi, according to *Car Mag*. It highlighted the union of two powerhouse sports. Brundle remarked, "It's fantastic to see Siya Kolisi here at Monaco, bridging the gap between rugby and Formula 1. His presence adds an exciting dimension to the paddock."

But the real magic unfolded away from the spotlight, as Kolisi stumbled upon an old comrade amid the grid chaos. Tendai Mtawarira, another Springbok luminary, greeted Kolisi with a bear hug. This evoked memories of their triumphs on the rugby field, according to *Planet Rugby*.

In a heartfelt moment, Kolisi remarked, "Meeting Beast here at Monaco feels like a try scored in extra time. Our bond transcends the pitch, showing the world the power of sportsmanship."

Their reunion showcased the enduring camaraderie between athletes, irrespective of their chosen arena. It was a poignant reminder that sport unites beyond boundaries. It spoke of a language understood by all.

Siya Kolisi's presence injected fresh energy into the Grand Prix. It captivated fans and drivers alike with his infectious enthusiasm. Red Bull Racing team principal Christian Horner praised Kolisi's impact, according to Bok squad. He stated, "Having Siya with us at Monaco was a real privilege. His passion for competition resonates with our team spirit, and his interaction with the drivers was fantastic."

Reflecting on his Monaco adventure, Kolisi quipped, "From scrums to spins, it's been an incredible ride. Thanks to Red Bull Racing for the hospitality and the fans for the warm welcome."

With his Monaco escapade, Siya Kolisi etched his name into the annals of motorsport history.

It proves that true champions transcend the boundaries of their sport.

In the cacophony of engines and cheers, his presence was a beacon of unity. It reminds us all that in the world of sports, there are no strangers, only teammates waiting to be discovered. – Source: [www.sapeople.com](http://www.sapeople.com)

## SOUTH AFRICANS SHINE BRIGHT AT OSLO DIAMOND LEAGUE

***South African athletes Akani Simbine and Prudence Sekgodiso triumphed at the Oslo Diamond League, showcasing exceptional speed and skill to win the 100m and 800m events, respectively.***

In a dazzling display of speed and stamina, South African athletes soared to victory at the prestigious Oslo Diamond League, showcasing their prowess on the international stage.

Akani Simbine, hailed as the "king of consistency," blazed through the 100m event with lightning speed, crossing the finish line in a stellar time of 9.94 seconds. His breathtaking performance at the Bislett Games left spectators in awe and reaffirmed his status as one of the world's top sprinters. Celebrated by World Athletics, Simbine's victory resonated across social media platforms, with fans expressing admiration for his unwavering determination and remarkable talent.

Following in Simbine's footsteps, Sekgodiso showcased her exceptional skill and endurance in the women's 800m race. With unwavering determination, Sekgodiso surged ahead, maintaining a blistering pace to clinch victory in a time of 1:58.66. Her impressive triumph marked her second Diamond League victory, earning her widespread acclaim and admiration from fans and fellow athletes alike.







The Oslo Diamond League serves as the pinnacle of excellence in the world of track and field athletics, attracting elite competitors from around the globe. As part of the esteemed World Athletics series, this prestigious event showcases the very best in the sport, providing a platform for athletes to shine and inspire audiences worldwide.

As the cheers echoed from the stands of the Bislett Stadium and reverberated across the world, South Africans everywhere united in celebration of these extraordinary victories. With their sights set on even greater heights, Simbine, Sekgodiso and their fellow South African athletes continue to inspire a nation and prove that with talent, determination and perseverance, anything is possible on the track of dreams. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## CHARLTON THE CHESS PRODIGY HAS A CHANCE TO REPRESENT SOUTH AFRICA

***Chess prodigy, 18-year-old Charlton Mnyasta has proven himself to be a fierce opponent, so much so that he has been selected to compete in multiple international competitions.***

Despite a background from Elsie's River, where opportunities are often far and few between disciplines, Mnyasta found his way into the world of chess years ago and became determined to master his skills no matter what challenges came his way.

His hard work has certainly paid off, considering that he won the 2024 u20 Junior Title at the South African Closed Chess Championships, one of many wins for Mnyasta. Now, he has the chance to show the world what he can do.



Mnyasta has been chosen to represent South Africa in multiple international competitions, including the World Junior Chess Championships from 1 June to 14 June, the Africa Junior Chess Championships in Egypt (17 to 25 November) and the opportunity to join the South Africa Men's Chess Team for the Chess Olympiad in Hungary (September), per *Daily Voice*.

It's an unparalleled opportunity for the chess prodigy, but one that isn't as simple as being good at your game. – Source: [goodthingsguy.com](http://goodthingsguy.com)

## ERNIE ELS WINS PRINCIPAL CHARITY CLASSIC ON CHAMPIONS TOUR

***South Africa's Ernie Els claimed a two-stroke victory in the Principal Charity Classic on the PGA Champions Tour on Sunday, 2 June 2024.***



It was the fourth Champions Tour victory for Els, who closed with a seven-under 65 to finish on 21-under for the week. Canada's Stephen Ames was second on 19-under, with the trio of David Duval, Rod Pamplung and Bernhard Langer tied for third on 17-under.

Els and Ames were tied for the lead after the second round, but as the Big Easy compiled five birdies and an eagle in a bogey-free final day, he was able to edge out his opponent.

It was Els' first win on the Champions Tour since March last year.

"It's very special," Els said. "You know, I haven't won for a while. I've had quite a few chances, but it gets tougher when you don't get it over the line. So today was very, very competitive. A lot of players, a lot of great players. I just took my chance when it came."

The 54-year-old Els remains the last South African player to have won a major when he claimed a shock win at The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes in 2012.

At the age of 42, it was Els' first major victory in 10 years. Between 1994 and 2002, Els won two US Open titles (1994, 1997) and The Open Championship (2002).

Els also reached world number one in 1998 and later finished second in The Masters in 2000 to Vijay Singh and again was runner-up at Augusta National in 2004 to Phil Mickelson. – Source: [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)

## IMPRESSIVE PROTEAS SEAL COMFORTABLE WIN OVER SRI LANKA IN T20 WORLD CUP OPENER

***Sri Lanka's total was their lowest in all T20 cricket, with fast bowler Nortje's figures the best by a South African at a T20 World Cup, surpassing his own 4-10 against Bangladesh in Sydney two years ago.***



Opener Kusal Mendis (19) and veteran all-rounder Angelo Mathews (16) were the only Sri Lanka batsmen to pass 15 after their Captain, Wanindu Hasaranga, seemingly misread conditions by opting to bat first after winning the toss in what was the first match at a Long Island ground, built specially for this tournament.

But South Africa too lost early wickets in their chase as their top order also struggled to time the ball on a difficult pitch for batting. Klaasen was 19 not out as South Africa finished on 80-4 with 26 balls to spare.

South African fast bowler Ottneil Baartman, making his World Cup debut, sparked Sri

Lanka's collapse when, with his first ball, he had Pathum Nissanka caught in the deep before Nortje dismissed Kamindu Mendis in a similar fashion.

Maharaj then struck twice in the ninth over as both the advancing Hasaranga, stumped by De Kock and Sadeera Samarawickrama, clean bowled by a quicker delivery, fell for nought to leave Sri Lanka 32-4 before Charith Asalanka survived the hat-trick ball. Nortje returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Sri Lanka were bowled out with five balls left when last man Nuwan Thushara was run out for one of four ducks in the innings. – Source: [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)





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