

# UBUNTU

## NEWSFLASH

Issue 623 | 13 June 2024

WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

IT'S  
**YOUR VOICE**  
Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation  
ubuntu diplom@t

**UBUNTU**  
MAGAZINE 

**UBUNTU**  
RADIO 

If this newsletter doesn't load or images don't display, go to [www.dirco.gov.za/ubuntu-newsflash](http://www.dirco.gov.za/ubuntu-newsflash).



### 30 Years of Democracy: Partnership and Growth

   #Freedom30

### 30th month 2024

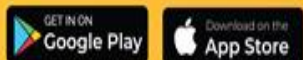
Actively embracing the socioeconomic gains of our Democracy

1976 - 2024  
**16 JUNE COMMEMORATION**  
#48THCOMMEMORATION #YOUTHMONTH2024

 @GovernmentZA  GovernmentZA  @GovernmentZA

Tel: +27 12 351-1000 (24-hours)  
[www.dirco.gov.za](http://www.dirco.gov.za)

Download the Travel Smart App now from the Apple App Store and Google Play.



## Travel Smart with DIRCO

#TravelSmartWithDIRCO



## PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA MOURNS PASSING OF VICE PRESIDENT DR SAULOS CHILIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

*On behalf of the government and people of South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa offered his deep condolences to the government and people of the Republic of Malawi on the passing of Vice President Dr Saulos Chilima and nine passengers in an aircraft crash.*



Vice President Chilima passed away after an aircraft in which he and nine personnel were travelling disappeared on Monday, 10 June 2024, during a domestic flight.

President Ramaphosa offered his deep condolences to Vice President Chilima's family.

President Ramaphosa's thoughts are also with His Excellency President Lazarus Chakwera and the Cabinet of the Republic of Malawi.

President Ramaphosa said: "This is a moment of tragedy in which we are united with the people of Malawi as you mourn the passing of a youthful leader who advanced the aspirations of his country and of our youthful continent from his position in Malawi's Presidency.

"This is a loss felt across our country and region and we pray that the people of Malawi will be blessed with the fortitude and peace required in this moment of deep sadness and national mourning." – Source: [www.thepresidency.gov.za](http://www.thepresidency.gov.za)

---

## PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA TELLS FLOOD-HIT COMMUNITIES THAT GOVERNMENT IS READY TO ASSIST

*President Cyril Ramaphosa has assured the people of Kariega in the Eastern Cape that government will step in to help them following devastating floods which have hit the region.*



At least nine people have lost their lives in the Eastern Cape due to the floods. Thousands have been displaced, with infrastructure and housing damage estimated to have reached billions of rands.

Speaking in Kariega on Friday, 7 June 2024, President Ramaphosa told the community that they are not alone during this difficult time.

"The storm has caused great damage in this place. Government must come and help and it will help. Government will come to help all of you. Within 30 days, we will have provided temporary housing for those who have lost their houses. In the meantime, we will have accommodation for those who have been displaced.

“This is very painful and I am very sorry that we have this situation. But I want to [assure] that government will walk this road with you,” he said.

Those who have lost loved ones will also receive help from government.

“The local government is here. The provincial government is here and all its departments as well as the national departments. The extent of the damage is huge.

“It’s a disaster and we are going to deal with it as a disaster. The sad part is that there are people who have died. We, as government, are going to help those families where people have died and our social welfare department is going to support those families as much as we can and make sure that burials do happen.

“There are people who are injured, who have had to go to hospital and we are going to make sure that they get good healthcare once they are in hospital.

“Those people who have become displaced, we are going to make sure that they are put in a same place and moved from that safe place and put in temporary accommodation, which we are in the process of preparing and building,” he said.

President Ramaphosa thanked churches and the Gift of the Givers who have stepped in to also lend a hand to those in need.

“We are grateful that we have our churches that have come through and helped the people. We say thank you very much.

“We also want to say thank you to other people, like the Gift of the Givers. They are very good and they move very quickly when they are disasters. We thank you them for that. We are thankful to have an organisation like the Gift of the Givers,” he said. – SAnews.gov.za

---

## WELL WISHES FOR INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MODI ON HIS RE-ELECTION



***President Cyril Ramaphosa has offered his congratulations to Narendra Modi on his re-election as the Prime Minister of India.***

Prime Minister Modi’s re-election will usher in his third term as leader of the Asian country.

“President Cyril Ramaphosa has offered his congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, commending him for his dedication and commitment to the people of India.

“President Ramaphosa has also congratulated the people of India on exercising their democratic right and participating in the electoral process, which took place in seven phases from 19 April to 1 June 2024,” The Presidency said in a statement.

The Presidency highlighted that South Africa and India “share a strategic partnership”.

“President Ramaphosa affirms that South Africa looks forward to continuing working with India on matters of importance to the people of both countries.

“President Ramaphosa has emphasised the importance of the two countries’ continued cooperation to promote the agenda of the global South, notably the reform of the global system of governance, and to align positions in global fora in the interest of strengthening multilateral organisations.

“South Africa continues to work well with India in the G20 and BRICS,” The Presidency said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

---

## MINISTER PANDOR BELIEVES BRICS HAS OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE A “REFRESHED” GLOBAL ORDER

***The world is at a crucial turning point, requiring decisive leadership and innovative ideas, and the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa group (BRICS) has a unique opportunity to influence a refreshed global order.***



This is according to International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Dr Naledi Pandor, who spoke in Russia on Tuesday, 11 June 2024.

“The BRICS bloc is a legitimate voice of the global South regarding global governance reform. We also remain a critical player in global agenda setting for economic, political and social cooperation,” Minister Pandor said. The foreign ministers from the expanded BRICS group of nations met for a two-day meeting, that focussed on current international relations, global governance reform and conflict resolution.

The meeting, chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, is the first since the bloc expanded in 2023 to include Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Ethiopia.

Minister Pandor believes that the expansion of BRICS is evidence of the bloc’s growing importance and the critical role of cooperation in collectively promoting the shared interests and values of emerging and developing countries.

“It also signals our hunger for a body in the globe that embraces progressive ideals and seeks to alter the current nature of international relations to a more inclusive, equitable and development-oriented world.”

She told her colleagues that the “current complex divided global environment” demands that BRICS continue to advocate for multilateralism to play a critical role in fostering stability and cooperation in times of significant geopolitical uncertainty.

“Therefore, for our collective, multilateralism remains the only solution to successfully address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, underdevelopment, climate change, migration, disease, human trafficking, terrorism, and hunger, and to ensure an environment of sustainable peace and continuous development.

“I am convinced that our mutually beneficial cooperation through BRICS uplifts communities instead of increasing their vulnerability,” she added.

The Minister said it is evident that the world is currently falling short of achieving the development goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This, she said, was due to increased economic risk for the most vulnerable and persistent low growth for those with the greatest need. “We have to urgently accelerate our collective action to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

South Africa, Minister Pandor stressed, is committed to a successful Summit of the Future.

“We are convinced that it could support efforts that bridge the development divide and provide new solutions to tomorrow’s challenges. “We believe the summit presents an opportunity to revitalise the multilateral system and fulfil our promises to reform the current system of global governance to make it more representative and inclusive for everyone,” Minister Pandor said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



## **SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS THE UNLAWFUL AND CALLOUS TARGETING OF THE NUSEIRAT REFUGEE CAMP BY THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION FORCES**

***The South African Government condemns Israel’s raid on the Nuseirat refugee camp on 8 June 2024. This attack, consisting of air, land and sea attacks on innocent civilians in a designated safe zone, is one of the single worst massacres committed by the Israeli occupation forces in Gaza.***

We are appalled that these attacks are being praised by some, for saving four Israeli hostages, while killing and severely injuring hundreds of innocent Palestinian civilians. While families mourn the loss of life, Israeli Defence Minister, Yoav Gallant jubilantly termed the operation

“daring in nature, planned brilliantly and executed in an extraordinary fashion.” This once again raises the question of whether some believe that Palestinian lives matter.

This heinous attack by Israel comes at a time when significant progress to reach a negotiated outcome based on a much-needed ceasefire and the release of hostages and prisoners was at a break-through stage. The attacks undermine this political process and raise the fundamental question as to whether Israel, the occupying power, is in any way committed to ongoing mediation efforts and ultimately the Middle East Peace Process.

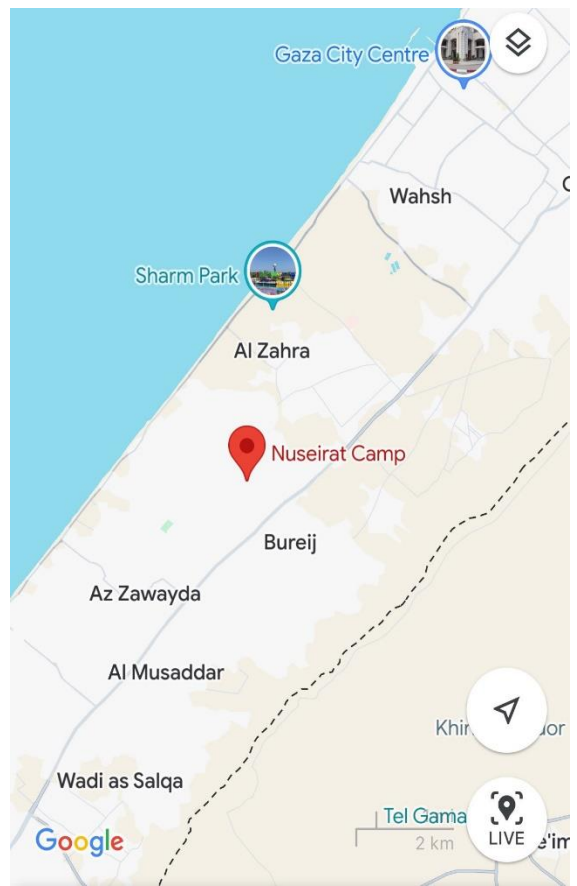
The Government and people of South Africa convey its deepest condolences to the families and the victims of these callous attacks on the Nuseirat refugee camp and decry the rising death toll estimated at 226 Palestinians.

The Government further notes with utmost shock and concern the report from Doctors Without Borders (MSF) that the Al-Aqsa and Nasser hospitals are treating an “overwhelming number of severely injured patients, many of whom are women and children”. These continuous attacks on sources of care, shelter and protection for the civilian population who continues to bear the brunt of these inhumane attacks as part of a systematic annihilation of lifesaving means for innocent Palestinian people.

The indiscriminate targeting of vulnerable groups, notably children, defies the purposes and principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter as well as the applicable international humanitarian and human rights law.

The international community must act immediately to end the aggression meted out against Palestinians. It is our collective human duty to call for a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire. Nothing can justify the deliberate killings and injuring of civilians as an entire population endures destruction at a scale and speed without parallel in recent history. In this regard, we once again call on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibility to halt this ongoing genocide and to prevent a further escalation into a wider regional conflict.

The South African Government concurs with the comment by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese “This is genocidal intent turned into action. Crystal clear”. – Source: [www.dirco.gov.za](http://www.dirco.gov.za)



---

## CALL TO MINIMISE MARINE POLLUTION

***Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment Minister, Barbara Creecy has urged citizens to play their part in minimising marine pollution by adopting sustainable practices, including reducing littering, participating in beach clean-ups, and recycling materials.***

Minister Creecy made the call as South Africa joined the global community in celebrating World Oceans Day (WOD), held under the theme *Awaken New Depths*.

Observed on 8 June 2024, the main objective of this year's WOD celebrations was to highlight the vital role of oceans in shaping socio-economic realities and environmental sustainability.

World Oceans Day also falls in June which is observed as Environment Month in South Africa.

“As a maritime nation bordered by three vast oceans —the Atlantic, Indian and Southern, South Africa recognises the significance of our oceanic territory and the imperative to deepen our understanding and ensure protection of this invaluable ecosystem. Oceans influence weather patterns, support diverse ecosystems and provide livelihoods for millions of people worldwide, including 40% of South Africa's population residing within 100 kilometres of the coastline.

"The theme *Awaken New Depths* encapsulates our commitment to explore and harness the immense potential of our oceans. Through concerted efforts, we aim to enhance our understanding of marine environments and promote sustainable use for the benefit of current and future generations," Minister Creecy said.



With an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending 200 nautical miles into the ocean surrounding the mainland and encompassing territories such as the Prince Edward and Marion Islands, South Africa boasts a vast maritime area of 1.5 million square kilometres.

Despite this expansive territory, much of the world's oceans remain unexplored, emphasising the need for increased awareness and conservation efforts.

Minister Creecy said South Africa has in the past few days experienced adverse weather conditions that have led to the destruction of property and loss of life, noting that the origin of this weather phenomena can be traced back to its source, the ocean.

“The heavy rains in the Eastern and Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal were due to the air-sea interaction processes. South African scientists and international collaborators are working hard to study these extreme events to understand their frequency and magnitude in the future to be able to mitigate against devastating impacts in the future.

“By working together, we can unlock the vast potential of our oceans while preserving their ecological integrity for generations to come. As we commemorate World Oceans Day, let us awaken to the depths of our oceans and embrace our role as custodians of these precious resources. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## SOUTH AFRICA TO ATTEND HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON GAZA

**Justice and Constitutional Development Minister, Ronald Lamola, is expected to lead a South African delegation to the High-Level Conference titled the Call for Action: Urgent Humanitarian Response to Gaza.**

The conference will be held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Middle East on Tuesday, 11 June 2024.

“The High-Level Conference will among others, articulate on how the minimum requirements for ensuring sustained,

Call for Action:  
**URGENT  
HUMANITARIAN  
RESPONSE FOR GAZA**

مؤتمر الاستجابة الإنسانية الطارئة في غزة  
الأردن، 11 حزيران 2024

**JUNE 11, 2024**

predictable and sufficient supplies of humanitarian assistance can reach into and throughout Gaza via land and sea routes in line with Security Council Resolution 2720 (2023).

“[The] High-Level Conference is also expected to outline the minimum requirements for ensuring conducive conditions for the safe and effective distribution of aid inside Gaza, including those related to the protection of civilians and humanitarian staff. This is in line with previous calls for an immediate ceasefire and based on existing constraints to the safe and effective delivery of aid,” the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development said in a statement.

The conference is expected to be co-chaired by His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres.

“South Africa remains committed towards advancing efforts to find a coordinated and sustainable solution to the dire situation in Palestine and addressing and ending the large-scale suffering of the people of Gaza is of utmost importance to the country.

“Minister Lamola says the South African government remains committed to advocate for peace in Gaza expressing the country's determination to seek justice through all available international legal channels. He adds that South Africa is dedicated to upholding universal human rights and supporting the Palestinian people's right to sovereignty, peace and secure life,” the department concluded.  
– Source: SAnews.gov.za

.....

## KWAZULU-NATAL PREMIER CONGRATULATES COMRADES WINNERS

***KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube has congratulated Comrades Marathon champions, Piet Wiersma of the Netherlands and South Africa's Gerda Steyn, for winning the 97th edition of the marathon on Sunday, 9 June 2024.***



Wiersma won the men's race ahead of South Africa's Dan Moselakwe, while Steyn won the women's marathon, clocking a time of 5 hours 49 minutes.

“I am elated to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Comrades Marathon. All who participated in the 97th edition of the Comrades Marathon are champions in their own right and their efforts have made the country and the province proud.

“On behalf of the provincial government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal, we congratulate the over 20 600 runners from different countries of the world who came to KwaZulu-Natal to participate in this gruelling 86-kilometre uprun marathon from Durban to Pietermaritzburg. We also appreciate the spectators who lined up along the route to cheer up the runners and kept them motivated” Dube-Ncube said.

The Premier also acknowledged the 5 000 volunteers, who kept the runners safe and hydrated throughout the marathon and worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event.

She said the race is indeed not just a race, but a celebration of human potential and community made possible by the runners' unwavering commitment and hard work.

“This race continues to be a beacon of hope and a symbol of what is possible when we come together in the spirit of unity and perseverance. The Comrades Marathon is often revered as the ultimate human race and is a unique and historic event that transcends the boundaries of sport.

“It embodies the very essence of human endurance, camaraderie, and the pursuit of excellence. This year’s marathon has once again highlighted the remarkable feats that can be accomplished through perseverance and an unwavering commitment to one’s goals.

Premier Dube-Ncube also noted that this year’s Comrades brought a much-needed economic boost to the economy of the province, with both Pietermaritzburg and Durban reporting high accommodation occupancy rates.

The Premier further acknowledged the sponsors who continue to make the Comrades Marathon a global iconic event. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

---

## PROF. PUMLA GOBODO-MADIKIZELA AWARDED TEMPLETON PRIZE

*The 2024 Templeton Prize has been awarded to Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair for Violent Histories and Historical Trauma and the founding director of the Centre for the study of the Afterlife of Violence and the Reparative Quest (AVReQ).*



Prof. Gobodo-Madikizela was awarded for her exemplary contributions to scholarship and advancing knowledge in the field of forgiveness and processes of repair in the aftermath of trauma violence.

The Templeton Prize is awarded annually and honours individuals whose work draws from scholarly disciplines to explore the deepest questions about humanity and the universe, making it “the world’s most interesting prize”.

In the award press release, the Templeton Prize said about Gobodo-Madikizela: “Her career as a scholar and a public figure is distinguished by her effort to repair ruptures created by past violence and to build a path towards healing and restoration in an ongoing process she calls ‘the reparative quest’.”

The president of the John Templeton Foundation, Heather Dill, added: “Her achievements mark her as a leading figure in understanding and confronting the deeply rooted psychological scars borne by those who experienced unimaginable loss.”

Prof. Gobodo-Madikizela said she felt a deep sense of gratitude to receive the prize. She referred to it as a “rare gift” that offers an opportunity to fund new research projects at AVReQ, especially on violent histories and repair.

“I am interested in how violent histories so often play out transgenerationally in new forms, and on deepening our understanding of complex processes of repair. In my work, I have always pursued new avenues of inquiry, seeking ways of contributing to new frontiers of knowledge.

“I am hoping that as a team of scholars, researchers, and our network of partners affiliated with AVReQ, we will continue to rise to this critical intellectual challenge in these challenging times.

“I am excited that I can use the Templeton Prize to help fund our postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows at a time of reduced funding.”

Gobodo-Madikizela has pledged to donate a total of R8 million to Stellenbosch University (SU), which will be allocated as follows: R5 million towards an endowment scholarship in the name of her parents, Nobantu and Tukela Gobodo; R1 million to the Sunrise (Stellenbosch University Research and Innovation Strategic Excellence programme) to support future professors; and R2 million to AVReQ. She said her hope is that the donation to AVReQ will attract additional co-funding to help post-doctoral fellows advance to leadership in the knowledge economy and to support postgraduate students so they do not have to take on additional work and can graduate within the funding period of their scholarships.

Gobodo-Madikizela explained that at its core, her work is guided by humanist values and aims to address in new ways the fundamental questions about the transgenerational impact of historical trauma and “what are the conditions of psychological and moral imagination



for repair that might open the possibility for social solidarity and building new futures". Her first book, *A Human Being Died that Night*, was recently reprinted as a Mariner Books classic. "This book has played a big part in the trajectory my work has followed," she said.

"It has certainly contributed to my winning this prize. In it, I grapple with the tension between the horror and the humanity and I try to explain what's going on in a way that deepens the complexity." Gobodo-Madikizela works with a global interdisciplinary network of scholars, with some of whom she has collaborated as coauthor, editor, and co-editor of several books on trauma narratives, transgenerational repercussions of historical trauma, and the conditions for interrupting these traumatic repetitions of history.

The Templeton Prize is the second prestigious award Gobodo-Madikizela has won. In 2020, she was awarded the Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship award, which at the time was the most prestigious award of the Oppenheimer Trust.

Prof. Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Study, said about Gobodo-Madikizela's prize: "I am delighted that Prof. Gobodo-Madikizela's contribution has been recognised in this special way. Her plans to donate some of her prize to Stellenbosch University are really humbling and show her passion for the work she does and dedication to support the next generation of scholars.

"I hope her winning the award will inspire the next generation of scholars and set a high bar for excellence in research with the values she espouses – excellence, compassion, accountability, respect and ethics."

Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Wim de Villiers, too, is immensely proud of Gobodo-Madikizela's achievement.

"This award once again shows that SU is an enabling environment and contributes to world-leading knowledge production in multiple fields," he said.

"I am absolutely delighted to personally, and on behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, offer my heartiest congratulations to Prof. Gobodo-Madikizela," adds Prof. Anthony Leysens, Dean of the SU Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

"The Templeton Prize is on the level of the Nobel Prize awards, but in the sphere of significant humanist contributions at the intersection of spirituality, religion and science. The list of recipients is impressive (with Archbishop Desmond Tutu being the only other South African to have received this award).

"Prof Gobodo-Madikizela's work has inspired and continues to inspire those who, through their research, believe in the power of the humanities to bring about change, with an emphasis on mutual understanding, caring, forgiveness and reconciliation.

"This award recognises her achievements and her contribution to the humanist ideal. As South Africans we should all be proud." – Source: [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)

.....

## **KWAZULU-NATAL LEARNERS TO REPRESENT SOUTH AFRICA AT STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE**

***Sanelisiwe and Sandisiwe Nhlozi from Buhlebemfundo Secondary School in Durban will represent South Africa in Stockholm, Sweden at the Annual Stockholm Junior Water Prize in August.***



The 15-year-old twins emerged victorious at the 2024 National South African Youth Water Prize Competition (SAYWP) held at the Xylem Water Solutions Offices in Kempton Park, Gauteng on Friday, 7 June 2024.

The SAYWP competition is a vital component of the Department of Water and Sanitation's Education programme, which aims to educate learners and society on water resource management issues including water use efficiency, water quality monitoring and protection of water resources among others.

The competition, organised in partnership with Xylem Water Solutions, Water Technology, the Water Research Commission and other key stakeholders in the water sector, aimed to identify a project that would best represent South Africa at the 2024 Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Sweden.

The final competition follows a culmination of months of hard work and dedication from young water and sanitation enthusiasts' countrywide.

The two learners were announced as the winners of the competition following their impressive presentation on their innovation awareness project "Drop-Drop", earning them an opportunity to showcase their project on a global platform and compete against other talented learners from around the world.

The duo also walked away with prizes including R15 000 each, tickets to Sweden, laptops, a first-place trophy, R10 000 allowance and bursaries to further their education at the university of their choice.

Sanelisiwe and Sandisiwe expressed their gratitude and excitement for the opportunity to represent South Africa on the global stage.

"We feel super excited; we are so emotional right now. We are so grateful to the teachers, mentors and everybody who has supported us this far and our family," the duo said.

They also pledged to elevate South Africa to new heights and secure the top spot on the global stage of the competition with their awareness approach.

Following closely behind, was Kimberly Technical School, whose impactful awareness project secured them second place. The school received a prize of R14 000, a bursary, laptops and a second-place trophy.

Middleburg Muslim Secondary School in Mpumalanga also made a strong showing, earning third place for their outstanding awareness project plus R12 500, a laptop and a bursary.

The learners from all nine provinces who participated in the national finals were also rewarded with bursaries and laptops to support their academic pursuits.

Pumla Ncumshe from the Department of Water and Sanitation said the event served as a testament to the bright future of the youth in South Africa and their commitment to making a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

"As we look towards the Stockholm Junior Water Prize in August, we cannot help but feel inspired by the dedication and creativity displayed by these young individuals. Their projects serve as a reminder of the importance of water conservation and the role that young people can play in shaping a sustainable future for all.

"Congratulations to all the participants, and best of luck to Sanelisiwe and Sandisiwe as they represent South Africa on the international stage. Also, congratulations to the winners of the 2024 national finals, as well as all the participating schools, regional coordinators, media houses, and stakeholders who contributed to the success of the programme," Ncumshe said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



## **GAUTRAIN MARKS 14 YEARS OF OPERATIONS**

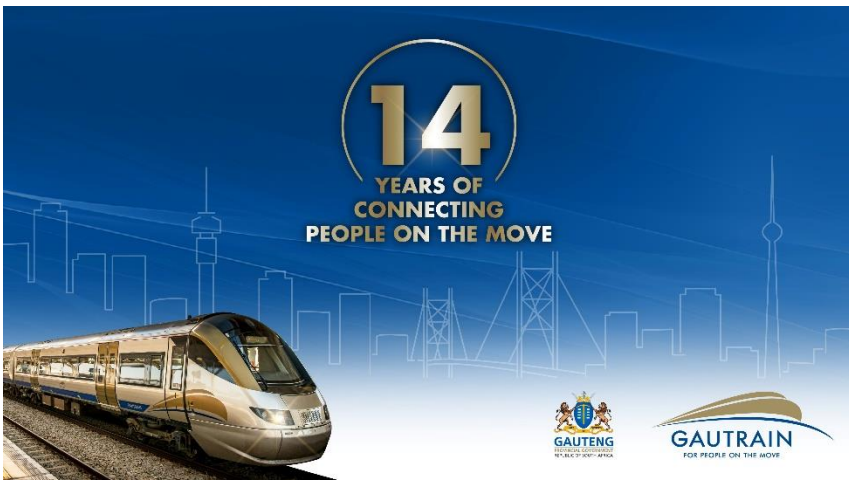
***As Gautrain marks 14 years of operations, Gautrain Management Agency Chief Executive Officer, Tshepo Kgobe has described the high-speed rail network as a trailblazer in the South African rail and public transport sector.***

In June 2010, the Gautrain saw the first commuters leave the Sandton Station for OR Tambo International Airport, just in time for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Highlighting some of the Gautrain project successes, Kgobe said that since it started operating on 8 June 2010, the project has successfully completed approximately 192.8 million passenger trips.

"The idea of a high-speed rail network with an 80-kilometre route between the North, South and East of the Gauteng province sounded like a pipe dream to many when the Gauteng Provincial Government announced it. Fourteen years later, 1 500 staff are employed across operations and administration of the Gautrain project and we have managed to maintain an average of more than 90% availability and punctuality across all Gautrain services.

"The Gautrain's transport network includes 10 stations that connect Johannesburg, Pretoria, Ekurhuleni and OR Tambo International Airport, 96 rail cars (24 x 4 electric multiple units), a fleet of 125 heavy haul buses and 29 midibuses. In many ways, the Gautrain is a trailblazer in the South African rail and public transport sector. It is the first and only rapid rail network in the country and it was the first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) of its scale in South Africa when it was launched," Kgobe said.



On the 14th anniversary of Gautrain's launch, and in a year that South Africa marks 30 years of democracy and freedom, Kgobe maintained the Gautrain has proven to be more than just a transport project, saying "it is playing a bigger role in transforming spaces, people and the economy through mobility."

"The Gautrain has brought jobs, new skills, the easing of mobility for ordinary people, and major economic developments around stations. It is estimated that R46 million total gross domestic product impact has been added to the Gauteng Provincial Government economy and a total of 245 000 jobs have been created due to property development induced by the Gautrain.

"The Gautrain is a strategic national asset valued at R45 billion and once the current concession expires at the end of its 19.5-year term, the costs of establishing this long-term asset will have been paid off, allowing the Post-2026 Gautrain Project to reap the economic benefits. With a shared vision and strong team effort, a dream of a world-class public transport system became a reality," Kgobe said.

Kgobe also announced that the current concession agreement between the Gauteng Provincial Government and the Bombela Concession Company comes to an end in 2026 and the Gautrain Management Agency has already gone to market to invite bids for the next concessionaire.

He added that the new delivery partner will operate, maintain, modernise, innovate and upgrade the current Gautrain system so that it continues to provide a safe and efficient public transport service. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



## KYLIE COSMETICS LAUNCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA

***Kylie Jenner, the mogul behind Kylie Cosmetics, has launched the global beauty brand in South Africa.***



In collaboration with ARC, Kylie Cosmetics debuted online and in stores across South Africa in April 2024 and marks a significant milestone in its global expansion.

This launch gives South African beauty enthusiasts access to the same products that are cherished by millions worldwide.

"I am so excited to launch Kylie Cosmetics in South Africa and share my collection of makeup products that I use and love with all of my fans there," said Kylie Jenner, founder of Kylie Cosmetics.

Global beauty powerhouse Coty has continued to expand her beauty empire around the world in over 50 countries and across eye, complexion, and countless innovations in lip.

The beauty line is crafted with clean formulations and vegan ingredients that deliver products that fans around the world have come to love. – Source: [www.bizcommunity.com](http://www.bizcommunity.com)



## SAVANNA PREMIUM CIDER IS NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD

**Savanna Premium Cider, South Africa's most loved crisp and dry cider, has officially been ranked the number one cider brand in the world by volume in the IWSR (International Wine and Spirits Research) Global Cider Report, according to the latest 2023 data. This historic achievement marks the first time a South African brand has claimed the top spot globally.**



**#NO18** aware.org DRINK RESPONSIBLY. NOT FOR PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

Founded in 1996, Savanna has prided itself on its unique heritage and unwavering commitment to quality. Every crisp and dry drop of Savanna Cider is crafted with meticulous care and attention. The brand's popularity has grown and with momentous consumer demand, Savanna has more than doubled in volume over the past five years. It's no wonder that this premium cider has become a favourite in South Africa and across the globe.

"We are so proud of this achievement," says Kayla Hendricks, Senior Brand Manager at Savanna. "South Africans have a real knack for making number ones, we've enjoyed seeing a trend of this so much lately, and now another local number one to celebrate, and our very own too! So, here's to you, the fans of Savivi. Thanks for making Savanna your number one cider, and the world's too."

Fuelled by its signature wit and dry charm, and a reputation for clever marketing and tongue-in-cheek humour, Savanna has captured the hearts of many. The cider brand has always stood out in a competitive market, with its iconic "It's dry, but you can drink it" pay-off line to the unmistakable imagery of a lemon wedge tucked perfectly into every bottle.

Savanna Cider remains committed to pushing boundaries and creating memorable experiences for cider enthusiasts across the globe.

**About Savanna – "It's dry, but you can drink it."**

Savanna is a premium, crisp apple cider with a distinctive dry taste. It is the largest cider brand in the world by volume in 2023 and is available in over 60 countries. Since its launch in 1996, Savanna Premium Cider has won consumers' hearts and funny bones with its intelligent, dry, and witty sense of humour. – Source: [www.bizcommunity.com](http://www.bizcommunity.com)

.....

## MAXHOSA AFRICA BRINGS PARISIAN FLAIR TO DECOREX CAPE TOWN WITH EXCLUSIVE LIFESTYLE COLLECTION

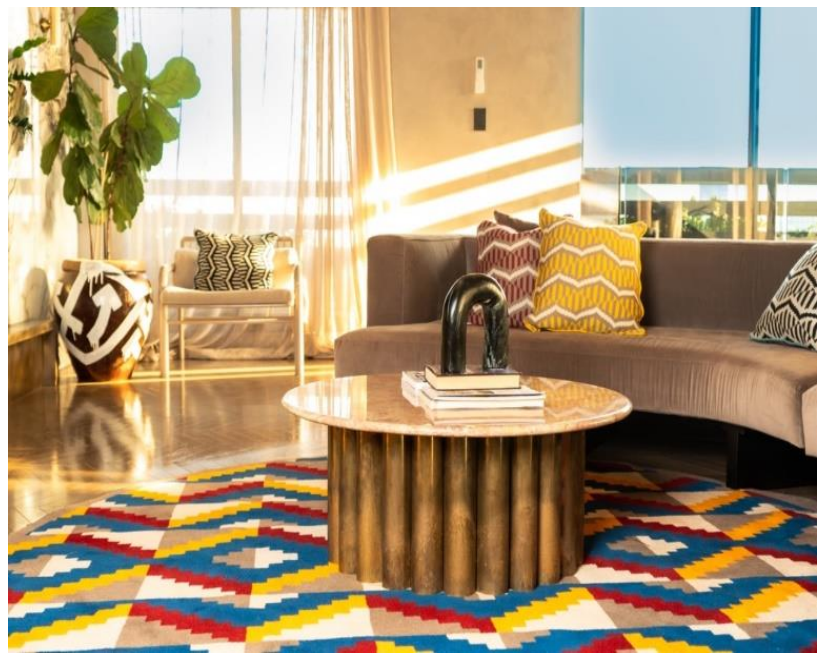
**Legendary South African fashion and lifestyle brand MAXHOSA AFRICA will be at Decorex Cape Town this year, off the back of showing at Paris Fashion Week in March 2024. Known for their incredible use of pattern and bold colour palettes, MAXHOSA AFRICA'S designs translate the beauty, culture, language and aspiration of African people into products that are at the forefront of African luxury as well as heritage fashion, lifestyle and textile design.**

In the past 13 years, the brand has won numerous honorary awards around the world, but "accolades don't mean much to me if I am not truly living and progressing my conviction, it is the greatest source of purpose that makes me feel alive," says the uber-talented "Profunder" and Chief Creative Director, Laduma Ngxokolo.

He and the MAXHOSA AFRICA team will present an exclusive MAXHOSA AFRICA outdoor seating area at Decorex Cape Town. This installation is designed to showcase their astonishing latest collection of umbrellas, cushions and other homeware items with soft furnishings, and will be on show at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) from 6 to 9 June 2024.

The team will also be curating the brand's latest lifestyle range of woven rugs and cushions — all made locally in South Africa —in the exclusive VIP lounge, set to offer trade guests a sanctuary in which to relax during the busy fair. While the VIP lounge is intended for architecture, interior design and decor professionals, it can be viewed by members of the public and is located on the show floor.

MAXHOSA AFRICA is a local success story par excellence. What started off as a fashion label, has since branched out to include stand-out homeware solutions, and the way the brand has flourished on the global stage, is one of the greatest points of pride for South African design as a whole.



MAXHOSA AFRICA was founded in 2010 by Ngxokolo and originated in the desire to explore knitwear design solutions suitable for *amakwala* (Xhosa initiates). The vision began by creating a modern Xhosa beadwork-inspired knitwear collection suitable for this market.

Laduma, having gone through this process, felt compelled to develop premium knitwear in celebration of traditional Xhosa aesthetics. Through accessing and playing with reinterpreting the astonishing power of traditional Xhosa beadwork patterns, symbolism and colours, MAXHOSA AFRICA was born. The designs showcase the beauty, culture, language and aspiration of the Xhosa people. MAXHOSA AFRICA allowed this tradition to evolve into a contemporary form that resonates with fashion markets worldwide.

“Since I started my journey into the fashion industry in 2011, when I established a fashion brand that is known as MAXHOSA, my conviction was quite straightforward. My ultimate objective as a design professional was to establish a luxury institution that aimed to showcase culture, the greatness and beauty of the African continent. While doing so, play a major part in growing the African fashion economy,” Ngxokolo says.

“It gives me a great sense of fulfilment to wake up every day and realise that I am living my conviction, and still be humble enough to know that we are only in the beginning stages of the journey of our conviction. Through a simple yet dynamic concept of initially reinterpreting traditional Xhosa beadwork patterns and motifs into modern fashion premium pieces that we later infuse subtly with other African aesthetics, we have built a cultural luxury institution that is home to 300 professionals that are in permanent job positions, who passionately serve in our production, retail and operations departments and facilities,” he continues. – Source: [www.thenewspaper.co.za](http://www.thenewspaper.co.za)

.....

## DIARY OF AN ELEPHANT ORPHAN TO SCREEN AT ENCOUNTERS FILM FESTIVAL

***Many of us have followed along on elephant orphan, little Khanyisa’s journey from tragedy to happy chapters. As Khanyisa stole the nation’s hearts, the resilient girl is the main character of a real-life, Disney-worthy tale that has seen us through a wave of emotions—from tears of anger to tears of joy. Her story has been told before in a children’s book, and now it will be told again, this time as a documentary, Diary of an Elephant Orphan.***

Filed by Hermien Roelvert-Van Gils, a friend of the Hoedspruit Elephant Rehabilitation and Development (HERD) team—who nurtured Khanyisa and are her family— *Diary of an Elephant Orphan* will screen at the Encounters Film Festival later this month.



There, we will watch her journey unfold from a four-month-old baby elephant caught in a snare trap, to one of South Africa's most beloved elephants, whose fighting spirit has inspired some, and woken others up to the dire need to push for our wildlife's well-being.

Beyond Khanyisa, the other elephants will also get their time on the big screen, as will the animal heroes, whose endless passion for elephants has made happy endings like Khanyisa's possible.

"We see Khanyisa at her best, and we cry with her caretakers at her worst. All of this effort is not in vain, as the ultimate goal—introducing Khanyisa to a new herd—is always on the horizon and something she craves," shares *Diary of an Elephant Orphan's* synopsis.

"Thank you to Hermien Roelvert-Van Gils for telling the story of Khanyisa and HERD in such a beautiful and powerful way. This is a mammoth opportunity to share the story and beauty of the herd with the world. And one we are so grateful for." - HERD. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

---

## SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTRY SINGER TIPS HIS HAT TO US TOUR

***Last year, Gareth James made South Africa proud as our sole nominee for a Country Music Awards event in Texas. Now, the South African Country singer is set to tour the United States (US).***



South African country singer Gareth James has been in the music industry for over a quarter of a century. But it was last year that he got his shining moment in the sun after being recognised as a nominee for the Annual Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards, the only South African nominated at that.

A lot has happened since then, and in incredible news for his career, the South African country singer and raspy songbird is set to spread his wings and embark on a tour to the heart of country music, the US.

Set to perform alongside Creatio (a North Carolina artist) James' sounds will light up the US for a four-month-long stretch beginning in July.

As any South African musician will appreciate, the chance to tour internationally is a fantastic opportunity and experience. For James, it comes after years of honing his crafts from songwriting to performing, along with other success stories for his music, including winning two South African Country Music Awards and releasing a new and well-received song, *Better People*. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

---

## COMPELLING LINE-UP OF FILMS FOR ENCOUNTERS SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

***The 26th Encounters South African International Documentary Festival, which takes place in Cape Town and Johannesburg from 20 to 30 June 2024, features a compelling line-up of films from around the globe that promise to spark debate, stimulate conversations and shed new light on controversial subject matter.***



From the Congo to Kenya, the United States (US) and Europe, Lebanon to Japan, with gripping tales of resilience to thought-provoking explorations of contemporary issues, these films reveal a rich tapestry of global storytelling and celebrate the power of documentary cinema to inspire, inform, and ignite change. Close to 50 films will be screened, including:

The multiple award-winning *Soundtrack to a Coup d'État* is a riveting documentary that delves into the complex relationship between music and political upheaval. Directed by Johan Grimontprez (Belgium/France/The Netherlands) jazz and politics are intertwined in this depiction of murky international interference in decolonisation and the Cold War. It's 1960, and against the background of jazz sounds of Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Nina Simone, a wave of decolonisation movements tear through Africa, and the struggle for civil

rights marches on in the US. Beat by beat, Grimonprez traces Patrice Lumumba's rise to become Congo's first democratically elected prime minister, and the meddling forces that conspired his assassination. Deeply researched, the film interweaves archival records, home movies, unheard speeches by Lumumba and memoirs by Congolese activists and writers with the story of the black jazz legends who defined the era. Pulsating with the energy of the period, this masterpiece of documentary filmmaking is a chilling indictment of the colonial impact on Africa.

Moving to East Africa and keeping with the thread of international interference, the Kenyan film *Our Land, Our Freedom*, directed by Zippy Kimundu, is a highly charged conversation about stolen land that follows a woman's attempt to reclaim ancestral land. What begins as a search for her father's remains soon turns into a tense national issue surrounding British colonialism, freedom fighters, and an unjust reality. It is pure grit, determination, and a genuine love for her people that keep her going, pushing her to provide for those who did so much for her country yet received so little reward for their sacrifice.

Of particular interest are two fascinating films from Japan: In a raw, riveting, and singular work, playing like a procedural thriller for social media, *Black Box Diaries* (Japan/US/United Kingdom) directed by journalist Shiori Itō bravely investigates a case of sexual violence perpetrated against her to bring her powerful, politically connected assailant to justice. As she pieces together evidence, she exposes the paralysing roots of patriarchy in Japan. Her brave story is a reminder of how far the world still has to go in believing women and the trauma of survivors. Her quest results in a landmark case in Japan, exposing the country's outdated judicial and societal systems. The film won the Human Rights Award at CPH:DOX in Denmark.

Then the beautifully photographed film – *Johatsu – Into Thin Air* directed by Andreas Hartmann and Arata Mori explores the phenomenon of people who disappear, known as Johatsu or “the evaporated” in Japan, where around 80 000 people vanish every year. Most are found or return home, but thousands simply disappear. We meet people who have chosen to do this and those looking for them, as well as the people who help them so they can reset their lives in places where no one knows them. *Johatsu* provides an intimate window into the lives of those who have decided, for one desperate reason or another, that they need to start anew.

In true “eyes-on-the-ground” and breathtakingly edgy filmmaking, Egyptian director Ibrahim Nash'at scores a major coup in *Hollywoodgate* (Germany/US) when he is granted permission to document the transition of Afghanistan to Taliban rule after the US withdrawal in 2021. The Taliban took over one of the US's CIA bases with infrastructure of containers bearing the name “Hollywood Gate” filled with weapons enabling them to equip a new combat unit. Over the course of a year, Nash'at follows the development of this unit and provides an authentic inside glimpse into the Taliban's rapid rise to power.

Encounter screens “two must see” films that audiences might have missed:

*Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano*, directed by Cyril Aris (Germany/Lebanon), is a heartwarming and lucid documentary. After a massive explosion devastated the port in Beirut in August 2020, a determined crew of filmmakers continued their project in an effort of resistance. Amid the city's destruction and an economic crisis during COVID-19, this family of artists finds meaning and purpose through the transformative power of cinema.

*The Mother of All Lies* (Morocco/Egypt) is a poetic, captivating and cathartic exploration of the lies and memories of director Asmae El Moudir's family, surrounding the Casablanca Bread Riots of 1981. The period of repression known in Morocco as the “Years of Lead” is hardly discussed. Narratives of trauma, loss and love are recovered here through exquisite re-enactments played by handmade figurines, sculpted by El Moudir's father and dressed by her mother, placed in a scale model of her neighbourhood.

Encounters is supported and funded by:

The City of Cape Town, Bertha Foundation, National Film and Video Foundation of South Africa, the University of Cape Town and the Centre for Film and Media Studies, Mail and Guardian (Media Partner), Al Jazeera Documentary, UWC The Centre for Humanities Research, Known Associates, Refinery, Institute Francais, Goethe-Institut of South Africa, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Heineken Beverages, DOK.fest Munich, German Films, Documentary Filmmakers Association, South African Guild of Editors, anima, Pressure Cooker Studio.

– Source: [www.sagoodnews.co.za](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za)



## TYLA'S ALBUM SOARS WITH OVER ONE BILLION STREAMS ON SPOTIFY

**South Africa's favourite rising star, Tyla Seetha, means business. And with the over one billion streams she reportedly achieved on Spotify for her debut album, this artist is also in the business of making history.**

According to Chart Data, Tyla's self-titled debut album, *Tyla* (which was only released a few months ago), surpassed one billion streams last week. It's an achievement that has South Africans singing her praises.



Her latest feat isn't hard to wrap your head around considering how much her popularity has snowballed since late last year. And for South Africa, it's a win for all the artists who have heard "it's impossible to make it big if you're from our continent" too many times.

Her album's success is definitely a "what the heck?!" moment (to quote the singer)– Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com).

---

## PHENOMENAL GERDA STEYN BAGS THIRD COMRADES MARATHON TITLE IN RECORD TIME

***Gerda Steyn continued her domination of road running in South Africa with another commanding victory in record time at the Comrades Marathon on Sunday, 9 June 2024.***

Steyn led from start to finish and systematically increased her pace throughout the race, until she crossed the line in an unofficial time of five hours, 49 minutes and 46 seconds (5:49:46) to break her own Up Run record.

It was Steyn's third victory in the Comrades Marathon, to go with her triumphs in 2019 and 2023.

In second place was international runner Alexandra Morozova in 6:05:12 and completing the podium was American Courtney Olsen in 6:08:09.

At the halfway mark of the race, Steyn was 117th overall but after 4:45, she had powered through to 46th as her record run gathered steam. At this point, Steyn was on track to better her own Up Run record by seven minutes.



Earlier, in the men's race, Piet Wiersma of the Netherlands exorcised his demons of an agonising second place finish at last year's men's race to take victory.

The 26-year-old crossed the finish line in 5:25:00.

Dan Moselakwe was second in 5:25:45, Ethiopia's Degefa Lafebo was third in 5:27:48.

Wiersma made a decisive move at Polly Shorts as he opened up a gap with around 40 minutes of running left in the race.

In the latter stages of the race after the four hour mark, the main contenders were whittled down to a group of four Nedbank runners. Wiersma, Lafebo, Tete Dijana and Moselakwe.

Dijana of course, took top honours last year, beating Wiersma by three seconds to bag his second win in a row.

At the 4:30 mark, though, defending Up Run champion Edward Mothibi made his move on the lead group. A few minutes later, Joseph Manyedi was the one to join the lead pack as the group grew in numbers to five.

At the halfway mark, Russian Aleksei Beresnev held the lead as he made his way through Drummond in 2:40:51. That put him more than four minutes ahead of the next runner.

Jobo Khatoane of Lesotho was the early leader in the men's race before he started walking as he approached Drummond. – Source: [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)

---

## BAFANA BAFANA CLAIM KEY WIN IN WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

***South Africa secured a key win in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, as they defeated Zimbabwe 3-1 at the Free State Stadium on Tuesday evening, 11 June 2024, to go joint top of Group C.***



Thapelo Morena scored a second-half brace as a substitute to see Bafana Bafana to their second win, which brought them level on seven points with Rwanda and Benin at the top of the standings. The Warriors, meanwhile, remain winless in the six-team group and are placed last on two points.

The match got off to a thrilling start, with a goal at each end inside the opening two minutes. South Africa claimed the lead with about 30 seconds on the clock after Iqraam Rayners capitalised on a poor give-away from Munashe Garananga and calmly finished with his right foot.



Yet Zimbabwe hit back just over a minute later as Tawanda Chirewa sliced through the defence on the right of the penalty area and stabbed a low shot past the left hand of Ronwen Williams for 1-1.

The hosts went on to dominate possession and created several promising openings in the first 20 minutes, including a powerful drive from Oswin Appollis, which forced a fine save from goalkeeper Geoffrey Chitsumba.

Zimbabwe offered only a sporadic threat, though Williams was forced into a sharp save at his near post in the 36th minute when Chirewa again broke free down the right of the penalty area.

Bafana Bafana dialled up the pressure in the final minutes of the first half, with Rayners finding the back of the net—only to have his effort ruled out for an offside in the build-up—while Teboho Mokoena had a shot deflected just wide of the mark.

Rayners also had a curling shot tipped over the bar by Chitsumba in the 42nd minute and forced another save from the keeper with a header from the subsequent corner kick, but the half closed with the score still 1-1.

South Africa made a change at the start of the second half, introducing Morena in place of Elias Mokwana, and they claimed the lead via the substitute in the 55th minute, as he turned home a loose ball at close range after Chitsumba fumbled Appollis' cross from the left.

And just over 20 minutes later, Morena scored a second to stretch the lead to 3-1. Teboho Mokoena played a sublime pass to put Morena through on goal and he rounded Chitsumba before stroking it into an empty net.

The hosts should have added to their lead with another chance created by Mokoena, but Appollis saw his scuffed shot easily saved. Yet Bafana Bafana were able to see out the game comfortably and collect an important three points in their ambitions of reaching the 2026 World Cup. – Source: [www. supersport.com](http://www.supersport.com)



## PROTEAS QUALIFY FOR T20 WORLD CUP SUPER EIGHTS

*The Proteas have qualified for the T20 World Cup Super Eight stage. This comes after a rained-out match between Sri Lanka and Nepal. The South Africans have won all of their three matches so far, ahead of their final group game against Nepal.*

Heavy rain and a waterlogged outfield led to the abandonment of the T20 World Cup match between Sri Lanka and Nepal on Tuesday, 11 June 2024, in Florida.

The result meant that Group D leaders South Africa, who have won all three of their games, became the first team to qualify for the Super Eight stage of the tournament.



Rain had poured down for most of the day, with flood warnings in place around the region, but a break in the weather led ground staff to begin the task of trying to dry the field.

However, to the disappointment of the large and lively contingent of Nepalese fans in the Central Broward Stadium, after an hour of working on removing the standing water, officials called the game off, leaving the teams to share the points.

Sri Lanka, having lost their opening two games against South Africa and Bangladesh, is now on the brink of mathematical elimination from the competition.

Nepal lost their opening game to the Netherlands.

South Africa lead Group D with a perfect six points in three matches, while Bangladesh and the Netherlands have two points each from two games.

The Proteas' final group game is against Nepal in Kingstown on Saturday, 15 June 2024. – Source: [www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com)

---

## MAX SMART EARNS FIRST PODIUM ON INTERNATIONAL STAGE IN ITALY

***South Africa's Max Smart has earned his first podium place at the Junior World Rally Championship Rally Italia Sardegna.***



In August last year, we met up-and-coming rally driver Max Smart, who was taking on the FIA Rally Star driver search in the hope of earning a place in the Junior World Rally Championship. He made that happen and qualified. Now, Smart has earned his first podium place on the international stage.

Smart got into motorsports by riding in motorcross first. It was evident he had a raw talent for racing. From there, he moved into rally racing and has found great success.

Smart was able to complete his 2023 season in Europe and has now set his sights on 2024. His goal has been to earn a podium place, which he has successfully done.

He competed at the Rally Italia Sardegna and finished with a magnificent third place in the third round of the Junior World Rally Championship on 2 June 2024. Not only was it his first podium of the season, but he also became the first South African to earn a podium at this event.

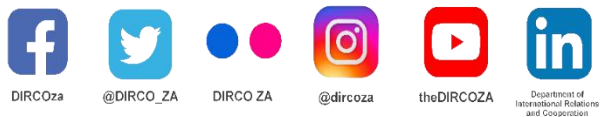
The FIA called it a “fine drive” which led to the podium victory. Smart shared his thoughts about the win.

“It’s incredible to get a podium. This has honestly been a dream for me, and as we crossed the finish line of the final stage and heard Petr Borodin hadn’t made up enough time on us, I started crying. I’m flabbergasted and so happy. At this point last year I’d never done a rally in my life. To come here 12 months later after spectating at this rally last year, standing on the podium in Junior WRC is a dream come true. The support I have received from the FIA Rally Star team and M-Sport Poland has been incredible. My co-driver Cam really

pushes me; we're analysing everything after each stage, trying to work out how we can do better. The teamwork we had throughout the rally was unbreakable; it felt really good and I'm super-happy to be with him. Now I need to keep the momentum and learn from what we did here and keep progressing because there's so much more to gain. I'm still so young in this sport, but at every stage we're learning, getting faster and more consistent."

This victory means that Max Smart's current standing within the championship is now placed at sixth. Considering that a year ago, he had never raced a rally, he is indeed doing a fine job.

Smart's dreams span beyond podium places in 2024, as he hopes to go on to win the Junior World Rally Championship in 2025. - Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)



**For back issues of Ubuntu NewsFlash, visit: [www.dirco.gov.za/ubuntu-newsflash](http://www.dirco.gov.za/ubuntu-newsflash)**