

UBUNTU NEWSFLASH



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EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO ENSURE THE GNU SUCCEEDS

President Cyril Ramaphosa says every effort must be made to ensure that the Government of National Unity (GNU) remains true to its founding spirit of collaboration in good faith to drive a programme that improves the lives of all South Africa’s people.



“South Africans made it clear with their votes in last month’s elections that they want their elected representatives to put aside narrow interests and work together to build the country,” President Ramaphosa said.

In his weekly newsletter, President Ramaphosa said the formation of the second Government of National Unity (GNU) was a momentous development in South Africa’s democracy.

“The success of the GNU will be measured by the extent to which we are prepared to focus not on who will govern but on how we will govern together,” President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa said the first GNU was established in 1994 to promote nation-building and inclusivity from a racially divided past during a period of political transition.

“Giving effect to the principles of that Constitution and the Bill of Rights must be the overriding focus of this GNU. This will be done

by pursuing a common programme to eradicate poverty and build a more equal society, create jobs and make government truly work for the people.

“The GNU Statement of Intent provides a solid base for genuine cooperation between parties across the political spectrum who have signed up of their own accord.

“The Statement of Intent commits the signatories to a set of foundational principles that include respect for constitutionalism, accountability, transparency and community participation in government, evidence-based policy and decision-making, professionalisation of the public service, integrity and good governance,” the President said.

President Ramaphosa said the parties to the GNU have agreed on priorities for the incoming administration and that at the top of the list of priorities is the achievement of rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth to create jobs.

“It will be critical that the GNU stays the course with the structural reform that is underway to improve the business operating environment and establish South Africa as an investment destination of choice.

“These reforms are necessary to resolve longstanding challenges in key industries and create more jobs and opportunities. We will need to build on the progress that has already been made while accelerating the pace of reform,” the President said.

President Ramaphosa said the fact that there is broad consensus among the parties on the priorities of the incoming administration gives encouragement that the GNU will indeed take the country forward.

“Emanating from the priorities outlined in the Statement of Intent, the parties will further refine the GNU’s programme, including through the proposed National Dialogue process.

“We remain committed to consensus-building and to the representation of a broad range of interests and viewpoints within government. At the same time, we are all keenly aware that South Africans expect action, implementation and results,” he said.

The President said the country’s hopes are pinned on the success of the GNU.

“Our stated commitment to work together constructively and for South Africa’s benefit has generated a great deal of goodwill that we should not squander. South Africans are watching.

“We should not waste our energies on those who stand in the way of our country’s progress or lose momentum over differences that can be resolved,” the President said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



NIGERIA-SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS CRITICAL FOR AFRICA'S SUCCESS

President Cyril Ramaphosa has emphasised that understanding and partnership between South Africa and Nigeria are critical for the success of the African continent.

The President was speaking following a bilateral meeting between him and his Nigerian counterpart, President Bola Tinubu in Tshwane, on the back of the Presidential Inauguration held on Wednesday, 19 June 2024.

“[F]or me what matters most is being able to have very good economic links with Nigeria. The two countries—South Africa and Nigeria—are very important on our continent and when the two countries work together, which we are, and we do things together, it benefits Africa.

“It is the two countries that are among the pillars of our continent and I’m particularly pleased that we support each other internationally in various fora, the United Nations [and other] multi-lateral institutions. Nigeria and South Africa are essentially joined at the hip and we want to engender good economic and trade relations between our two countries to address the challenges that our two countries face,” President Ramaphosa said.



On the domestic front, the President said the African continent has received South Africa’s Government of National Unity (GNU) positively.

“We’ve set up a GNU and I’m particularly pleased that the African continent has responded very positively to the news that we will continue stabilising politics of our country. But more importantly, through the GNU, we’re setting a very strong foundation for economic growth and to be able to attract investments,” he said.

President Tinubu, who attended the inauguration held on Wednesday, said discussions between the two heads of government mainly related to the economy.

“I’m here to congratulate my brother for putting together a very impressive outing, particularly for the GNU to stabilise the politics. That is coming at a very challenging time for the rest of us in Africa to really come up with collaborative economics that will help our downtrodden and vulnerable people,” said President Tinubu.

Wednesday’s inauguration, which saw President Ramaphosa inaugurated for a second term in office, followed on the 29 May 2024, National and Provincial Elections. The results of the elections produced no outright majority winner, requiring the leaders of different formations to work together in taking the country forward. – Source: www.SAnews.gov.za

TALENTED YOUNG SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTISTS TO ATTEND PRESTIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE IN GERMANY

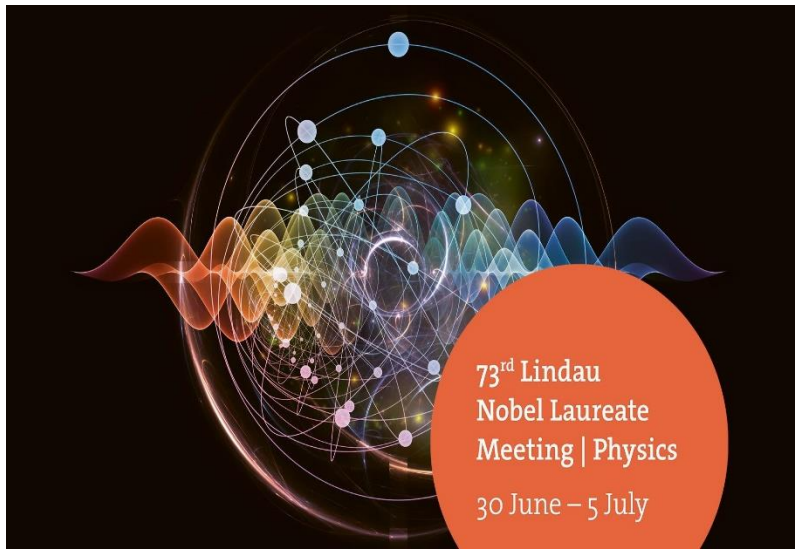
As the country celebrates Youth Month, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) has announced that eight young South African postgraduates will be attending the 73rd Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting dedicated to physics.

Hosted in Lindau, Germany, from 30 June to 5 July 2024, the conference will gather approximately 600 young scientists from across the globe alongside 30 Nobel Laureates.

This year’s scientific programme will focus on three key themes, *Quantum Physics and Quantum Technologies*, *Physics-based Solutions to the Energy Challenge*, and *Artificial Intelligence in Physics*.

The young students come from higher education institutions including the University of Venda, University of Cape Town (UCT), North West University (NWU) and the University of South Africa (Unisa).

Funded by the DSI and implemented by the DSI’s entity, the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) is the official partner of the Lindau Foundation, nominating young scientists to attend the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.



“The meetings are a forum for young scientists to engage substantively with Nobel Laureates on research and overall career management aspects,” the department explained.

ASSAf is hosting a pre-travel event this week where the eight young scientists will engage with alumni from previous meetings to learn from their experiences and the opportunities that arise through participating in these esteemed, life-changing meetings.

“They will also receive training in science communication for effective communication of scientific information to non-specialist audiences.”

DSI Acting Director-General, Daan du Toit, has expressed the department's immense pride in these eight exceptional young locals, saying this was a remarkable achievement and a testament to the calibre of the country's emerging scientific talent.

“The Lindau Meetings provide a unique opportunity for these young researchers to engage with Nobel Laureates and fellow participants from around the world, fostering invaluable connections, exchanging ideas, and gaining insights from some of the brightest scientific minds,” Du Toit said.

He believes that participation in such a globally renowned event highlights South Africa's commitment to nurturing excellence in science and innovation, reinforcing the importance of investing in the next generation of scientists and supporting their endeavours to contribute meaningfully to society.

“Support for young South African scientists to participate in the Lindau Meetings and other international young scientists' fora, forms part of the department's strategic investment in science diplomacy capacities.

“The connections that young South African scientists foster during these meetings will equip them well for future international collaborations and global knowledge networks, reinforcing global solidarity through science,” he added.

Youngsters that will attend the annual conference:

- Dr Bambesiwe Mbesi May, PhD graduate in Chemistry at Unisa
- Mr Tsebesebe Nkgaphe Tebatjo, PhD candidate in biomedical engineering at UCT
- Ms Sarah McKee, PhD candidate at NWU based at the South African National Space Agency
- Dr Bertus Van Heerden, post-doctoral researcher in biophysics at the University of Pretoria
- Ms Modjadji Rebecca Letsoalo, Master's student in physics, focussing on material sciences, at the University of Venda.
- Ms Anna Chrysostomou, PhD candidate in high-energy physics theory at the University of Johannesburg and the Claude Bernard University Lyon 1
- Dr Mosima Bernice Kgomo, post-doctoral research fellow at Unisa.
- Ms Mosidi Mokoena, Master's candidate at UCT and hosted by the biophotonics research group at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

– Source: www.SAnews.gov.za

UCT COUNCIL ADOPTS GAZA RESOLUTIONS

The Council of the University of Cape Town (UCT) has adopted two resolutions of the institution's Senate on the war in Gaza. The resolutions call for an immediate ceasefire and the rebuilding of academic institutions in Gaza.

The resolutions, passed by the Senate in April, were debated at a Council meeting on 22 June 2024 and passed by majority decision, UCT said in a statement.

In the first resolution, the Senate resolved to:

- call, again, for an immediate ceasefire, the passage of humanitarian aid and the return of all captives
- condemn the destruction of the education sector in Gaza and the massive scale of killing of teachers and university staff in the current war



- urge the international community to ensure that the provision of humanitarian aid includes the restoration of the education sector in Gaza
- express concern and opposition to any attempts to curtail academic freedom by labelling criticism of Israel or Zionist policies as antisemitism
- reject the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's conflation of critique of Zionism and Israel's policies as antisemitism
- express support for academic colleagues in Gaza who are surviving under appalling conditions and "our intention to assist in the rebuilding of the academic sector after the war"
- express solidarity with academic colleagues victimised for their willingness to speak out against the destruction of education in Gaza.

The second resolution bars UCT academics from relations with any research group or network affiliated with the Israeli Defence Force or the broader Israeli military establishment.

Last month, *GroundUp* reported on Palestine solidarity encampments at UCT and Wits. The University of the Western Cape also called for a ceasefire in a statement in April.

According to Al Jazeera, all universities in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed as a result of Israel's bombardment of Gaza. More than 90 university professors have been killed. Source: www.groundup.org.za

CITY SHOWCASES WHY TOURISTS "CHOOSE CAPE TOWN"

The Choose Cape Town marketing film won the silver award at the International Tourism Film Festival Africa for demonstrating an inventive marketing strategy to promote Cape Town.

The short film, which was up for consideration in the Tourism Videos category, highlights Cape Town's diverse appeal using six themes: Visit, Live, Work, Study, Play and Invest.

The "Choose Cape Town" initiative goes beyond the film, employing shortened edits to focus on particular interests in important markets.

In Brazil, for instance, the ad highlighted "play and study," whereas in the United States, the primary focus was on "visit and live".

"Visit and work" was the motto in Germany.

Mayoral committee member for economic growth and tourism, Alderman James Vos, received the award on behalf of the city, saying, "We are deeply honoured to have been recognised for this film. Our goal was to capture the essence of Cape Town's variety and inspire travellers worldwide to choose our city."

According to Vos, the Mother City is an endless adventure for nature lovers, foodies, culture enthusiasts, family, friends and solo travellers.

Vos added that the objective of the campaign was to boost the city's economy and create more job opportunities for Capetonians.

He further stressed the importance of the "Choose Cape Town" campaign as a call to action for tourists to discover the distinct charm of the city.

The campaign also adds to Cape Town's immense air connectivity achievements, with the Mother City now connecting to 31 locations worldwide.

– Source: www.capetownetc.com



LATAM AIRLINES INCREASES FLIGHTS TO JOHANNESBURG

LATAM Airlines has said that there will soon be more flight frequency on their São Paulo, Brazil and Johannesburg, South Africa routes.

Latin American carrier, LATAM Airlines, recently revealed that it will increase its Johannesburg-São Paulo frequency from three weekly flights to five flights a week, starting 1 November 2024.

According to *Tourism Update*, the new flight schedule will be as follows:

- Flights from Johannesburg will take off every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday at 15:15, with arrival in São Paulo at 20:00.
- Flights from São Paulo will depart every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 22:45, with arrival in Johannesburg at 12:25.



The route will still be carried out using a Boeing 787-900 aircraft in a three-class configuration.

As previously reported, Aline Mafra, LATAM Brazil's Sales and Marketing Director, said that Johannesburg was another milestone in their international resumption movement.

“This flight will serve a corporate demand that has always been relevant between the countries, in addition to the tourism potential of the destination. A direct operation between the countries will undoubtedly be a differentiated product in the airline market,” Mafra said.

While Tshifhiwa Tshivhengwa, CEO of the Tourism Business Council of South Africa, told *Travel News* that Brazil and Argentina were key source markets for South Africa and this route resumption would indeed go a long way towards boosting tourism recovery in the country.

São Paulo is Brazil's most populated city with around 21 million residents. The city is also Brazil's financial hub and one of the biggest financial districts globally.

LATAM Airlines isn't the only carrier currently servicing the São Paulo-Johannesburg route, as South African Airways also kicked off flights last year in October.

The airline flies out four times a week. These four days are split between Cape Town and Johannesburg, with two flights going out from Cape Town on Tuesdays and Saturdays and two departing Johannesburg on Mondays and Thursdays. – Source: www.sapeople.com

KWAZULU-NATAL SHORT FILMS WIN SIX AWARDS AT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Hosted in Sandton, Johannesburg, five local films won six awards at the International Tourism Film Festival Africa (ITFFA). The festival had 436 films submitted from 61 countries globally, which culminated in a red-carpet event attended by over 140 people from the film, tourism and conservation sectors.

A festival “Pinnacle Award”, a “Directors Choice” award, two golds and three silvers were awarded in various categories across conservation, wildlife and tourism. In partnership with Love Africa Marketing, Babanango Game Reserve, and WILDTRUST, the majority of these stories were filmed in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa. They showcase heartwarming stories of conservation work and highlight our natural heritage on land and in our ocean.



“These films were created as impactful stories in conservation and tourism in South Africa, and we are very excited that they have received the recognition they deserve on an international platform. KwaZulu-Natal, in particular, has much to be proud of in our landscapes, our people and our wildlife. It was a privilege to work with key partners in shaping and filming the work on the ground.” Nicola Gerrard, Love Africa Marketing.

The winners were selected by a panel of 46 jury members, equally representing the film and digital creation industries and the tourism sector. The films were judged on seven key criteria: impact, creativity, sound, style, subject matter, storytelling and goal effectiveness, with scores out of 10 awarded to each entry.

After three rigorous rounds of judging, 272 films advanced to the final round, with 23 finalists, 61 Silver Awards, 41 Gold Awards and 3 prestigious Pinnacle Awards being bestowed upon the most outstanding submissions.

“It is a privilege to capture these stories through the lens and have them recognised amongst other leading filmmakers across the world. Thank you for giving our South African films the platform to shine.” Sven Musica, cinematographer, Love Africa.

Award-winning films:

SEE US, co-produced by WILDTRUST and Love Africa Marketing, took home the prestigious Pinnacle and a Gold Award in the Wildlife and Conservation category. It explores South Africa’s untamed coastline and follows two intrepid underwater explorers who uncover life below the surface, revealing the secret sanctuaries that sharks and rays embrace as their refuge.

“Using film as a visual storytelling support tool for the amazing conservation work of the WILDTRUST team on the ground has been powerful in creating awareness and educating audiences all over the world. We are extremely proud to be recognised in this way and feel privileged to call projects such as this ‘work’.” Lauren van Nijkerk, Director of Campaigns at WILDTRUST.

This is Home, produced by Love Africa Marketing, was awarded Gold in the Sustainable and Responsible Tourism category. The documentary follows efforts to reintroduce the iconic black rhino into Babanango Game Reserve, aligning with the reserve’s rewilding strategy.

The Battlefields is another Babanango Game Reserve and Love Africa collaboration that was awarded a Silver under the “Historical Culture” category at the ITFFA. The game reserve lies between the sacred Valley of Kings and iconic Zulu battlegrounds and is, therefore, more than a safari experience. The short film highlights and commemorates the importance of the area in South African history.

Return of the King took home a Silver in the Wildlife and Conservation category. This film documents the relocation of two male lions from Nambiti Private Game Reserve to Babanango Game Reserve, celebrating the lions’ reintroduction to the area for the first time in 150 years.

Madwaleni River Lodge was awarded a Silver in the “Tourism—Services” category. It is a short video introducing Babanango Game Reserve’s new ultra-luxury lodge, Madwaleni River Lodge. The lodge is set alongside the White Umfolozi River and encompasses the rich local heritage and culture of the region.

“We would like to thank all winners and participants for committing to promote responsible tourism and cultural exchange through powerful storytelling. We are reminded of the importance of recognising and honouring the creativity and talent of filmmakers worldwide, and the impact they have on the tourism and conservation sectors.” Caroline Ungersbock and James Byrne, ITFFA co-founders and directors. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

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LA COLOMBE IN CAPE TOWN VOTED BEST RESTAURANT IN AFRICA



Cape Town’s La Colombe restaurant has been voted in the Top 50 in the world—and the best in Africa—by The World’s 50 Best Restaurants.

The highly anticipated list of The World’s 50 Best Restaurants 2024 was revealed last week during a glitzy and glamorous awards ceremony held at Wynn, Las Vegas.

The event brought together the best chefs, restaurateurs and hospitality industry icons on the planet.

The 22nd edition of the annual ranking features restaurants from 26 territories, five continents and eight exciting new and re-entries.

La Colombe was voted the 49th-best restaurant in the world.

The narration on the website read: “Taking guests on a gastronomic voyage in an atmospheric, treehouse-like setting atop the Silvermist Wine Estate (following a move from Constantia Uitsig in 2014), La Colombe is the *grande dame* of Cape Town dining.”

In a minimalist space decorated in a muted colour palette, chef James Gaag's swoon-inducing dishes feature all manner of culinary theatre.

Think smoking Cape Malay snacks, tuna “La Colombe” – a tinned miniature yellowfin tuna creation featuring micro herbs, avocado puree, an umami-rich broth as well as the complex, perfectly balanced masterpiece of Karoo lamb.

The eight or 10-course tasting menus are executed with impeccable precision, yet the experience remains playful and approachable, with guests selecting their own canapes as they begin their meal.

Meanwhile, Disfrutar in Barcelona, Spain, scooped the number-one spot in this year's list.

Cape Town's FYN restaurant, the upscale dining establishment in the heart of the city, once again secured a prestigious position on The World's 50 Best Restaurants list.

Led by Chef Peter Tempelhoff, FYN (pronounced “fayn”)the restaurant tells African stories with a Japanese accent on the fifth floor of a 19th-century silk factory in Cape Town.

Using fish, poultry and meat from the best local suppliers, chefs Ashley Moss and Peter Tempelhoff serve a tasting menu with dishes such as the signature hazelnut-crusted springbok with salt-baked celeriac, black figs and mountain sage. General manager Jennifer Hugé runs the dining room, underneath which the team also oversees a casual ramen bar called Ramenhead.

This year marks the fourth consecutive appearance for FYN on the list, with the restaurant clinching the 60th spot in the esteemed rankings that include the extended 51-100 list.

FYN had secured the 75th position on the list in 2023.

For Tempelhoff, this accolade underscores the dedication and expertise of his team, which includes co-owners Jennifer Hugé, who oversees front of house and beverages, and culinary director Chef Ashley Moss.

He attributes this achievement to the collective efforts of his kitchen and front-of-house staff, as well as the broader network that contributes to FYN's success.

“I'm immensely proud of our team and our collective achievements. Our success wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our suppliers, artisans, and the network of dedicated farmers, foragers, and fermenters who contribute to FYN,” Tempelhoff expressed. Source: www.sapeople.com

SOUTH AFRICAN ARTIST'S PAINTINGS SOLD ALONGSIDE PICASSO AND RENOIR

Irma Stern, one of South Africa's best-known artists, has three paintings that will be auctioned at Sotheby's alongside Picasso, Degas and Renoir. One will sell for over R4 million.



Stern was a pioneering South African artist whose work was shaped by her upbringing in South Africa and her deep fascination with the continent.

She was born in 1894 to German-Jewish parents in Schweizer-Reneke, a small town in the North West Province of South Africa, but her artistic journey began in Germany during World War I. There, she immersed herself in the burgeoning Expressionist movement.

This artistic style, characterised by intense colours and a focus on emotions, resonated deeply with Stern and became the foundation of her artistic approach. Her first solo exhibition in Berlin in 1919 showcased her newly developed style.

Upon returning to South Africa in 1920, Stern's expressive style clashed with the local conservative art scene.

Her portraits often depict black people in a style reflecting dignity and individuality, which challenged the status quo in South Africa. This saw Stern face intense criticism and even police investigations.

However, her undeniable talent won over audiences over time, and she became a leading figure in the South African art world.

It was only in her late forties that Stern's reputation was firmly established in South Africa. During the 1950s and 1960s, her works entered the major South African public collections.

Today, she is considered one of South Africa's most important artists. Her former Cape Town residence is now the Irma Stern Museum, a treasure trove of her works and a testament to her enduring legacy.

However, Stern's influence is not limited to South Africa, as her art is sold at auctions worldwide.

In 2000, one of her works sold at Sotheby's South Africa in Johannesburg for an all-time record of R1.7 million. This record was soon broken in 2007, when her 1936 *Portrait of an Indian Woman* was sold for R6.6 million.

Stern's *Gladioli* was sold for an all-time high of R13.3 million in 2010 and was followed by the sale of *Bahora Girl* for R26.7 million later that year.

A new South African record was set in March 2011 when a Stern painting sold for R34 million at Bonhams, London.

Last year, Stern broke another record when her painting, *Children Reading the Koran*, sold for R22.3 million and became the most expensive artwork sold at an African auction hosted by Strauss & Co.

Recently, auction house Sotheby's—one of the world's premier destinations for art and luxury—announced that three Stern paintings would be sold at one of its upcoming auctions.

Sotheby's Modern Day Auction features 102 artworks, including pieces from Picasso, Degas and Renoir.

Three of Stern's paintings will be auctioned off on 26 July, with estimates projecting they will rake in millions:

- *Still Life with Watermelons* is estimated at GBP£140,000–GBP£180,000 (R3.17 million – R4.07 million)
- *Seated Figures, Madeira* is estimated at GBP£4,000–GBP£6,000 (R90,534 – R135,801)
- *Nude* is estimated at GBP£1,500–GBP£2,000 (R33,950 – R45,267)

Strauss & Co chairperson Frank Kilbourn said last year that there is a strong demand for South African artist Pierneef's work, which, coupled with the Stern painting's success, made for the most robust bidding the auction house has seen since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It speaks to the inherent strength and quality of the South African art scene. If you put up high-quality work, there is still strong demand in South Africa and internationally," he said. - Source: www.dailyinvestor.com

SOUTH AFRICAN MIXOLOGIST EARNED THE SILVER FOR THE WORLD'S BEST MARGARITA

Patrick "Pat" Rowson's winning margarita, the "Chakalakita", has earned silver at the 2024 Cointreau Margarita Challenge Finals.

Earlier this year, on Margarita Day, a regional competition was hosted at a hotel in Dubai to find the best margarita and its maker. Proudly, South African bartender Patrick "Pat" Rowson took the top prize with his Chakalaka-inspired drink and earned a spot in the global competition, which took place last week in France.

Rowson took his "Chakalakita" along to France for the Cointreau Margarita Challenge 2024 final, where 10 of the world's most talented



bartenders competed for the top prize. Competing bartenders stirred up their unique ingredients from their cities in their margaritas according to this year's challenge theme, *Capture the Flavour of Your City*. They hoped to take home the coveted title; however, only one could be crowned the winner.

Rowson's inspiration for the Chakalakita was based on the homegrown favourite Chakalaka.

Originally from Northern Johannesburg, Rowson has travelled the world and settled at the international restaurant and bar COYA in Dubai. Here, he has worked in prime locations in the United Arab Emirates and Greece, serving delicious drinks to international travellers. Today, he has been promoted to senior bartender and has a passion for making good drinks.

Rowson was over the moon with his placement. While it's not the top spot, it is a major boost to his career and "being a finalist in the Cointreau Margarita Challenge is not just about participating in a competition; it's about joining a family. The 10 finalists each year become members of the Cointreau Collective.

This community aims to unite all its members under common values such as team spirit, putting quality and experience at the heart of every cocktail, and promoting a responsible attitude. Its bartenders are the proud ambassadors of this community and will continue to convey these values of sponsorship, mentorship and mutual support." – The Cointreau Collective – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

PRETTY YENDE SHARES HER “MAMA I MADE IT” MOMENT AS QUEEN MARY

“Mama I made it!” – Pretty Yende gushed about her role as Queen Mary in Donizetti’s Maria Stuarda opera, an incredible achievement for the South African songbird.



Pretty Yende might be no stranger to achievements, but that hardly means she doesn't still beam with joy and appreciation for how far her journey has taken her each time she rises to new heights as a songbird. Her recent feat? Debuting as Queen Mary in Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*.

For Pretty, this was a “Mama I made it” moment and one that made her reflect on her life as a child on the “dusty streets of Driefontein” to the glittering stage in Naples, where she'll perform as Queen Mary.

Opening up about how much reaching her “crazy, impossible dreams and goals” means to her in tandem with a picture of her younger self, Pretty said:

“Those who know how much this means on the [Pretty Journey]. I've probably had the most challenging dream of my life, so to still be able to keep the smile not only on my face but from my heart has not been the easiest, I can't thank enough the tremendous support I've been gifted by those very close to me and not so close, each step of the way. IF [younger me] gave up, today would have been impossible.” - Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SOUTH AFRICA'S BABY QUEEN IS TAKING THE POP ROCK WORLD BY STORM

Durban-born and raised singer Baby Queen is slowly but surely proving herself as a force to be reckoned with in the world of pop rock. With her songs on a Netflix hit and an album that's had people blast the volume on full, this artist is one to watch.

Hailing from Durban, Baby Queen moved to London when she was still a teenager with hopes of giving her music dreams a shot. Years of rejections, highs and lows later, the singer, who is now in her 20s, has made a bold name for herself in the industry, one synonymous with fascination, paradoxes and finding one's way in the messy task that is self-discovery.



If you've watched Netflix's *Heartstopper*, you'd recognise her voice in an instant, and even as the musician herself, who made a cameo in the second season finale, where she played the Prom singer.

But *Heartstopper* wasn't just a great opportunity to share her music with more people. For Baby Queen, it was also a project that very much resonated with her for the way it was able to "represent people that have felt invisible for so long," as she said in a BBC interview, coming from a background where queer stories weren't told.

"What's so beautiful about *Heartstopper* is that it's just a simple, happy normal story," she said.

Unconventional, confrontational, sweet and serious, Baby Queen has become a character that's caught a lot of attention and helped many people feel less alone in their own journeys while she continues to discover her own. In fact, her latest album, *Quarter Life Crisis* gets very real when it comes to discovering herself.

Having a South African come so far and make such big waves in a territory where many of our artists hope to one day break down is something Baby Queen might not give herself enough credit for. And we can't wait to see where her next adventures will take her. – Source: goodthingsguy.com

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FROM HAMMARSDALE TO THE WORLD: THE JOY RELEASE THEIR DEBUT ALBUM

After performing at Coachella and wowing the world, vocal group The Joy have reached another musical milestone and released their debut album.



Fresh off the back of their recent appearance at this year's Coachella Festival, where they joined Grammy winner Doja Cat on the main stage to open her headline performances on both weekends, South African vocal group The Joy have today released their self-titled debut album on Transgressive Records—a massive milestone in the group's musical career.

What's even more incredible when it comes to this five-piece group (beyond how far their music has already taken them) is their commitment to their creative vision. *The Joy* was recorded live during one take, in real time, with no instruments—refreshingly authentic to the Zulu a cappella style the young singers are becoming known for across the world.

The album showcases the astounding natural vocal ability of the five—Pastor (Ntokozo Bright Magcaba), Duzie (Melokuhle Mkhungo), Guduza (Sphelele Hlophe), Sthombe (Phelelani Sithole) and Marcus (Sanele Ngcobo)—who have been together since meeting at school in HammarSDale.

The Joy grew up on music like that of Ladysmith Black Mambazo and a love of rich vocals. As for their own harmonies, they emulate the Mbube vocal tradition, especially apparent in lead vocalist Duzie as Pete Paphides observed.

With a fanbase that includes the likes of Alicia Keys and Jennifer Hudson, The Joy is certainly going places and have already made inspiring headway.

Following the Coachella performance, Doja Cat also released all three tracks that featured them, slowly but surely bringing them into the American market. On top of this, the group is also set to appear at the Eventim Apollo, Hammersmith in London in September with Johnny Flynn and The River Band as part of the Transgressive 20th anniversary run of shows. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

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SPRINGBOKS GET THE BETTER OF PLUCKY WALES TO START TEST SEASON ON SOLID NOTE

The Springboks started the 2024 Test season on a winning note when they beat Wales 41-13 at Twickenham in London on Saturday, 22 June 2024.

The Boks ran in five tries (including a penalty) as they dazzled in front of over 65 000 fans at the "Home of Rugby".

The final scoreline perhaps flattered the Boks a bit, but in the end, they did enough to seal a comfortable win.

The game appeared to be in the balance when the Boks led only 24-13 with 15 minutes remaining.

However, a long-range penalty by replacement flyhalf Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu gave them breathing room with a 14-point lead (27-13).

A try off a driving maul by replacement hooker Bongi Mnbonambi then sealed the contest with 12 minutes remaining.

The Boks led 14-13 at halftime. They started like a house on fire when centre Jesse Kriel scored a stunning try, and then a penalty try, after a dominant driving maul, saw them take a 14-3 lead.

However, Wales hit back in the latter parts of the first half. This came despite them being down to 13 men at one stage.

They scored a try through hooker and captain Dewi Lake and even threatened to take the lead before the break.

The Boks were conceding several penalties and also had fullback Aphelele Fassi in the sin-bin after he struck his boot into a Welsh defender when catching a high ball.

The Boks, though, scored early in the second half through winger Makazole Mapimpi. It was perhaps a lucky try, as a pass from Kriel to Mapimpi appeared forward.

But the Boks did enough for the remainder of the half to close out the contest. Debutant winger Edwill van der Merwe, who scored a stunning individual try late on, was named Man of the Match. - Source: www.news24.com



PROTEAS BEAT WEST INDIES IN THRILLER TO QUALIFY FOR T20 WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALS

South Africa edged the West Indies by three wickets in a rain-affected Super Eights match on Sunday, 23 June 2024 to reach the T20 World Cup semi-finals and eliminate the hosts.

Chasing a revised 123 off 17 overs, South Africa stuttered to 110-7 as spinner Roston Chase took three wickets, but they reached their target when Marco Jansen hit the first ball of the final over for six.

Player of the Match, Tabraiz Shamsi, took 3-27 after South Africa won the toss and restricted the West Indies to 135-8 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

All-rounder Chase top scored with 52, featuring in an 81-run third-wicket partnership with Kyle Mayers (35 off 34 balls) before giving the West Indies hope by taking 3-12 with his off-spin.

Jansen's unbeaten 21 saw the Proteas to victory at 124-7 when he smashed the final six off Obed McCoy.

"The last time I played here, I went for 50 runs and there was a lot of chatter going around," said Shamsi.

"I was happy to come back and perform my role, but credit as well to the guys who bowled before me because they set it up beautifully."

Brought in for seamer Ottneil Baartman, the left-arm wrist spinner got excellent support from fellow slow bowlers Keshav Maharaj (1-24) and captain Aiden Markram (1-28).



Chase was dropped on 11 by Anrich Nortje and made the most of his luck, clearing the ropes twice and hitting three fours. His partnership with Mayers helped rescue the hosts after they fell to 5-2 in the second over.

Once Shamsi removed Mayers to a sliced catch at deep cover, a steady stream of wickets enabled South Africa to restrict the West Indies.

With the score at 117-6, Nortje made amends for his earlier error with a direct hit to run out the dangerous Andre Russell who had hit two sixes in his 15 off nine balls.

"This is one batting performance we will try our best to forget," said West Indies captain Rovman Powell.

"It was a commendable bowling effort by us. We said at the halfway mark that we were going to give it our all and the guys really gave everything to defend that total."

Winning captain Markram admitted to nerves during the tense chase.

"There's a lot of relief in making the semi-finals but we're not going to be brainwashed by that because we would have liked to be a lot more convincing," he said.

"Maybe we tried to kill off the game too early, but that's been the story of the competition so far.

"We get ourselves into tricky positions and then have to battle to get over the line."

South Africa joins England as the semi-final qualifiers from Super Eight Group 2.

Brief scores:

West Indies 135-8 off 20 overs (Roston Chase 52, Kyle Mayers 35; Tabraiz Shamsi 3-27) v South Africa 124-7 off 16.1 overs (target: 123 off 17; Tristan Stubbs 29, Heinrich Klaasen 22, Marco Jansen 21 not out; Roston Chase 3-12, Andre Russell 2-19, Alzarri Joseph 2-25)

Toss: South Africa

Result: South Africa won by three wickets on the Duckworth–Lewis–Stern (DLS) method – Source: www.news24.com

SOUTH AFRICAN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SEVENS TEAMS QUALIFY FOR OLYMPICS

The South African Sevens teams, both men and women, have qualified for the Olympics and will be representing South Africa in Paris from 24 to 30 July 2024.

According to World Rugby, the 12 men's and 12 women's teams were allocated to three pools of four teams based on their rankings due to performances over the last two years of the HSBC SVNS Series, Challenger Series and other World Rugby-sanctioned tournaments.

All six World Rugby regions are represented among the 24 teams who secured their spots in Paris via the HSBC SVNS Series and regional qualification competitions.

South Africa's men's team secured the 12th and final places in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 rugby sevens competitions with victory at the World Rugby Sevens



Repechage in Monaco on Sunday, 16 June 2024, South Africa beat Great Britain 14-5 in a tense men's final to claim the final men's qualification spot at the Paris Olympics. In a game where all the points were scored in the first half, the Blitzboks were resolute in defence, holding out a late Great Britain onslaught to book their place on the plane to Paris.

"It's a pretty special group we have here; just to cherish the moment is what we're living for. There was a lot of external pressure, the people back home get disappointed [when we don't perform], but we kept the group tight and it paid off, we qualified for Paris.

"To the people back home, thank you for supporting us and believing in us, we are going to take this energy to Paris." – Tristan Leyds, Blitzbok

Rugby sevens are expected to be one of the highlights of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, following the resounding success of the Rugby World Cup 2023 in France. All the action will take place at Stade de France, which was the venue for the opening match and final of the Rugby World Cup 2023.

The men's competition will take place from 24 to 27 July, with the women's tournament following from 28 to 30 July. The men's gold medal match on 27 July will award the first team sport gold medal of the Games. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

ANOTHER OFFICIAL LIST OF SOUTH AFRICANS HEADING TO THE OLYMPICS

As the Olympics nears a little over a month away, Team South Africa has announced the second official list of our athletes who will make us proud in Paris.

Barry Hendricks, who made the official list announcement for the second cohort of athletes, said "This is a significant step in acknowledging the remarkable achievements of our athletes. This moment also marks a new milestone for [SASCOC] as we continue our commitment to deliver a strong and competitive Team SA for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games."

Not only does the second official list of athletes confirm how much talent there is to be proud of in our country, but it is also a testament to just how diverse South African talents in sport are.

While the first list looked at fields like aquatics, athletics, gymnastics and surfing among others, the second added more sports codes as well as more names to the aforementioned fields.



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Athletics Olympians

- Elroy Galant (marathon)
- Gardeo Isaacs (4x400m)
- Shaun Maswangani (200m and 4x100m)
- Zakithi Nene (4x400m)
- Bradley Nkoana (4x100m)
- Antonie Nortjie (4x400m)
- Lythe Pillay (4x400m)
- Francois Prinsloo (discus)
- Benjamin Richardson (4x100m)
- Akani Simbine (4x100m)
- Wade van Niekerk (4x400m)
- Bayanda Walaza (4x100m)
- Reserves: Sinesipho Dambile, Adrian Swart
- Archery Olympians
- Wian Roux (recurve)
- Badminton Olympians
- Johanita Scholtz
- Cycling Olympians
- Ryan Gibbons (road)
- Alan Hatherley (MTB)
- Tiffany Keep (road)
- Candice Lil (MTB)
- Miyanda Maseti (BMX)
- Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio (road)
- Jean Spies (track)
- Fencing Olympians
- Harry Saner (epee)

Hockey Olympians

Men's Team:

Daniel Bell, Dayaan Cassiem, Mustapha Cassiem, Calvin Davis, Matthew Guise-Brown, Andrew Hobson, Keenan Horne, Gowan Jones, Ryan Julius, Tevin Kok, Zenani Kraai, Samkelo Mvimbi, Nqobile Ntuli, Bradley Sherwood, Nicholas Spooner, Jacques van Tonder

Women's Team:

Taheera Augousti, Quanita Bobbs, Stephanie Botha, Dirkie Chamberlain, Erin Christie, Kayla de Waal, Paris-Gail Isaacs, Marie Antoinette Louw, Ongeziwe Mali, Ntsopa Mokoena, Edith Molikoe, Kristen Paton, Hannah Pearce, Celia Seerane, Anelle van Deventer, Onthatile Zulu

Rowing Olympians

- Christopher Baxter (pair)
- John Smith (pair)

Rugby women's Sevens Olympians

Liske Lategan, Ayanda Malinga, Shona-Leah Weston, Kermisetso Baloyi, Zintle Mpupha, Sizophila Solontsi, Mathrin Simmers, Nadine Roos, Elizabeth Janse van Rensburg, Veroeshka Grain, Marlize de Bruin, Maria Tshiremba, Byrhabdre Dolf, Shiniqwa Lamprecht, Zandile Masuku, Eloise Web

Triathlon Olympians

Henri Schoeman, Jamie Riddle, Vicky van der Merwe

In more exciting news, there will be more athletes to be announced soon for fields including skateboarding, judo, golf and equestrians. Not to mention, there are South Africans who still have a chance to qualify for codes including athletics, beach volleyball, breaking, cycling and the Rugby Sevens (men). – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

A TRADITIONAL TURKISH SPORT IS TAKING OFF IN SOUTH AFRICA

Traditional Turkish archery, an age-old sport, is gaining popularity in South Africa, and a local instructor explains why.

Türkiye is a country known for its diverse cultures and vibrant sporting scene, which includes traditional archery.

This discipline is now taking root in South African cities, writes Anadolu Agency.

Just south of Johannesburg in Winchester Hills, an archery school dedicated to teaching and promoting traditional Turkish archery is attracting growing interest.

Huthaifa Hassan, the instructor and director of the Home of Archery School in Winchester, has shared insights into the sport.

“In South Africa, archery is starting to attain popularity among all the sports, and Turkish archery is starting to become popular,” he said.

Recognised as part of humanity’s Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2019, traditional Turkish archery is practiced on foot and on horseback, with centuries-old principles, rules, rituals and social practices.

On foot, Turkish archery includes flight shooting, long-distance shooting, darp (pounding) shooting, “puta shooting” and performance shooting.

Hassan attributes his mastery of the sport to a workshop and education programme he attended in Türkiye in 2022, organised by the Yunus Emre Institute in South Africa.

The Yunus Emre Institute is a world-wide non-profit organisation created by the Turkish government in 2007. It aims to promote Türkiye as a country, its language, history, culture and art.

The South African arm of the institute was established in 2017.

In addition to running his own school, Hassan also teaches archery at the International Maarif School in Johannesburg.

While traditional Turkish archery is the highlight, Hassan’s school also offers modern archery courses. “I love archery. It keeps me fit and focussed,” says one of his students.

Abdulaziz Yigit, Director of the Yunus Emre Institute in South Africa, said their organisation also teaches archery and that the archery courses are drawing an increasing amount of people.

“There is growing interest in Turkish culture in South Africa. Turkish series are broadcast on local television, and many Turkish institutions have been established in the country,” he said.

Yigit says many students enrol in language courses for business communication or to pursue higher education in Türkiye. Source: www.thesouthafrican.com



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