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Issue 626 | 4 July 2024

WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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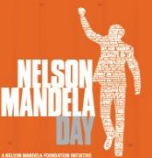
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MEET SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW CABINET

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on Sunday 30 June 2024, the new members of the National Executive for the seventh administration, which is inclusive of all the parties to the Government of National Unity (GNU).



The highly anticipated announcement took place after President Ramaphosa was elected as the President by the National Assembly on Friday, 14 June 2024, after which he was inaugurated on Wednesday, 19 June 2024.

The eleven parties to the GNU include the African National Congress, Democratic Alliance, Patriotic Alliance, Inkatha Freedom Party, Good Party, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Freedom Front Plus, United Democratic Movement, Al Jama-ah, Rise Mzansi and the United Africans Transformation.

Addressing the nation on Sunday evening, the President said that given the challenges the country faces and considering the electoral mandate this government must implement, he had decided to make certain changes to the national government portfolios.

“During the course of the sixth democratic administration, we indicated our intention to reduce the number of portfolios in the National Executive. However, due to the need to ensure that the National Executive is inclusive of all the parties to the GNU, this has not been possible.

“In some instances, we have considered it necessary to separate certain portfolios to ensure that there is sufficient focus on key issues,” President Ramaphosa said.

He said the ministries of Electricity and Energy would be merged.

“There will be a separate Ministry of Mineral and Petroleum Resources. The Ministry of Agriculture will be separated from the Ministry of Land Reform and Rural Development.

“The Ministry of Higher Education will be separated from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development will be separated from the Ministry of Correctional Services.

“There will no longer be a Ministry of Public Enterprises. The coordination of the relevant public enterprises will be located in The Presidency during the process of implementing a new shareholder model,” the President said.

President Ramaphosa has decided to make the following appointments to the National Executive:

- The Deputy President is Paul Mashatile.
- The Minister of Agriculture is John Steenhuisen.
- The Deputy Minister of Agriculture is Rosemary Nokuzola Capa.

- The Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development is Mzwanele Nyhontso.
- The Deputy Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development is Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.
- The Minister of Basic Education is Siviwe Gwarube.
- The Deputy Minister of Basic Education is Reginah Mhaule.
- The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies is Solly Malatsi.
- The Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies is Mondli Gungubele.
- The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is Velinkosi Hlabisa.
- The Deputy Ministers of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs are Dickson Masemola and Zolile Burns-Ncamashe.
- The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans is Angie Motshekga.
- The Deputy Ministers of Defence and Military Veterans are Bantu Holomisa and Richard Mkhungo.
- The Minister of Electricity and Energy is Kgosientsho Ramokgopa.
- The Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy is Samantha Graham.
- The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation is Blade Nzimande.
- The Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation is Nomalungelo Gina.
- The Minister of Employment and Labour is Nomakhosazana Meth.
- The Deputy Ministers of Employment and Labour are Jomo Sibiya and Phumzile Mgcina.
- The Minister of Finance is Enoch Godongwana.
- The Deputy Ministers of Finance are David Masondo and Ashor Sarupen.
- The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is Dion George.
- The Deputy Ministers of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment are Narend Singh and Bernice Swarts.
- The Minister of Health is Aaron Motsoaledi.
- The Deputy Minister of Health is Joe Phaahla.
- The Minister of Higher Education is Nobuhle Nkabane.
- The Deputy Ministers of Higher Education are Buti Manamela and Mimmy Gondwe.
- The Minister of Home Affairs is Leon Schreiber.
- The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs is Njabulo Nzuza.
- The Minister of Human Settlements is Mmamoloko Kubayi.
- The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements is Tandi Mahambehlala.
- The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is Ronald Lamola.
- The Deputy Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation are Alvin Botes and Tandi Moraka.
- The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development is Thembi Nkadimeng.
- The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development is Andries Nel.
- The Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources is Gwede Mantashe.
- The Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources is Judith Nemaizinga-Tshabalala.
- The Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is Maropene Ramokgopa.
- The Deputy Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is Seiso Mohai.
- The Minister of Police is Senzo Mchunu.
- The Deputy Ministers of Police are Polly Boshielo and Cassel Mathale.
- The Minister in The Presidency is Khumbudzo Ntshavheni.
- The Deputy Ministers in The Presidency are Nonceba Mhlauli and Kenneth Morolong.
- The Minister of Public Service and Administration is Mzamo Buthelezi.
- The Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration is Pinky Kekana.
- The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure is Dean Macpherson.
- The Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure is Sihle Zikalala.
- The Minister of Small Business Development is Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.
- The Deputy Minister of Small Business Development is Jane Sithole.
- The Minister of Social Development is Sisisi Tolashe.
- The Deputy Minister of Social Development is Ganief Hendricks.
- The Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture is Gayton McKenzie.
- The Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture is Peace Mabe.
- The Minister of Tourism is Patricia De Lille.
- The Deputy Minister of Tourism is Maggie Soty.
- The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition is Parks Tau.
- The Deputy Ministers of Trade, Industry and Competition are Zuko Godlimpi and Andrew Whitfield.
- The Minister of Transport is Barbara Creecy.
- The Deputy Minister of Transport is Mkhuleko Hlengwa.
- The Minister of Water and Sanitation is Pemmy Majodina.
- The Deputy Ministers of Water and Sanitation are David Mahlobo and Isaac Seithloho.
- The Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is Sindisiwe Chikunga.
- The Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is Mmapaseka Steve Letsike.
- The Minister of Correctional Services is Pieter Groenewald.
- The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services is Lindiwe Ntshalintshali.

PAUL MASHATILE APPOINTED AS DEPUTY PRESIDENT

President Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed Paul Mashatile as Deputy President of South Africa in the seventh administration.



Deputy President Mashatile is reprising his role from the sixth administration.

This was announced by President Ramaphosa in an address to the nation on Sunday night, 30 June 2024 while announcing the country's new cabinet.

Deputy President Mashatile served as deputy president from March 2023, following the resignation of former Deputy President David Mabuza.

In the sixth administration, Deputy President Mashatile was tasked with discharging the following duties:

- Leader of Government Business in Parliament.
- Leading Government's effort to fast-track land reform and the coordination of Government programmes to accelerate land reform and agricultural support.
- Implement Rapid Response interventions on service delivery and troubleshooting in service delivery hotspots.
- Assisting the President in the roll-out of the District Development Model through effective coordination of the different spheres of government which will improve the functioning of municipalities and address community concerns.
- Leading the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) and the country's integrated response to the challenges of HIV and AIDS.
- Special Envoy on South Sudan and leading peace missions on the continent as required.
- Leading the National Human Resource Development Council and fostering collaboration between government and social partners towards addressing the shortage of skills in critical sectors of the economy.
- Promoting social cohesion initiatives with a particular focus on traditional and Khoi-San leaders, as well as military veterans.

In the term of the sixth administration, Deputy President Mashatile also chaired the Governance, State Capacity and Institutional Development and the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cabinet Committees.

Deputy President Mashatile hails from Gauteng and was the Minister of Arts and Culture between 2010 and 2014.

He has also served in various positions in the Gauteng Provincial Government, including as Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Finance and Economic Affairs, MEC for Housing and MEC Transport, Roads and Public Works.

He was an anti-apartheid activist prior to the dawn of South Africa's democracy in 1994, and was arrested and detained for some four years by the brutal Apartheid government. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA CALLS JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT, 18 JULY 2024

President Cyril Ramaphosa has called for a Joint Sitting of the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) for the Opening of Parliament and the President's delivery of the Opening of Parliament Address.

The President has called for the Opening of Parliament to take place on Thursday 18 July 2024, as a platform for the President to outline the priorities of the seventh administration.

The President has asked that Parliament convene in terms of Section 84(2)(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, read with Rule (13)(1)(a) of the Joint Rules of Parliament.

The Opening of Parliament Address will coincide with the United Nations-declared Nelson Mandela International Day. This day, which marks the birthday of the Founding President of a democratic South Africa, is a global celebration and day of personal and collective actions for good that honour the leader's life and legacy.

The Opening of Parliament on this day is a fitting tribute as it calls on individuals and communities to take time to reflect on Mandela's values and principles and to make a positive impact on communities and globally. – Source: www.gov.za



SALUTING FORMER MINISTER NALEDI PANDOR

Praises from around the world are rolling in for Dr Naledi Pandor as she steps down from her government position after serving as a Member of Parliament (MP) since 1994.



Dr Pandor is one of the ministers who is not returning to Parliament to serve in the seventh administration.

In February this year, the outgoing International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Minister alluded to her retirement during an African National Congress (ANC) event in Cape Town.

She stated that she would “in any case not hold public office” after serving in the position since 2019.

On Sunday, 30 June 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced his Government of National Unity (GNU) Cabinet, appointing Minister Ronald Lamola to replace Dr Pandor. Minister Lamola had previously served as the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Since then, warm wishes and tributes commemorating Dr Pandor's work have continued to pour in.

DIRCO Director-General (DG), Zane Dangor, described Dr Pandor as one of the most principled and dynamic ministers he has ever worked with and someone with an “unrivalled” intellect.

Dr Pandor, a former teacher and lecturer, has numerous qualifications under her belt.

In interviews, Dr Pandor credits her love for books and education to her anti-apartheid activist parents, Joe and Fikile Matthews, during the years they spent with her in exile.

Born in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, she grew up in exile. She completed her education in Botswana and London in the United Kingdom, achieving a professional qualification in teaching and a Master's Degree in Education.

She holds a PhD from the University of Pretoria, a Master's Degree in General Linguistics from the University of Stellenbosch and a Diploma in Leadership and Development from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

She received honorary doctorates from Cape Peninsula University of Technology, University of Stellenbosch, the University of Lisbon and the University College Dublin.

DG Dangor said Dr Pandor made her mark in all areas she worked in.

“In the last five years, she emerged as one of the world’s leading and most valued diplomats,” he added.

Adoration of a daughter

Dr Pandor’s daughter, Dr Aisha Pandor, took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to also honour her mother.

She shared that her mom has been a member of the African National Congress (ANC) and an activist for as long as she can remember.

“I share a birthday with the ANC, and for most of my life, I proudly spent January 8th with other family or friends, while my parents served the party,” she said.

After being elected as an MP in 1994, Naledi Pandor quickly rose to the position of Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC caucus in 1995. Subsequently, she was elected Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces in 1998 and then became chairperson in 1999.

“Since I was almost nine years old, she has served as a member of South Africa’s democratic government. During those three decades, she has led with dedication, integrity, intelligence, wisdom, a love for her country, and with a focus on principles, those held high by her religion, upbringing, country and party,” Dr Pandor’s daughter said.

Aisha mentioned that she admired her mother and was excited about the next phase of her life.

“Yesterday, I told her countless times how much I love her; how much she inspires me and how proud I am of her. I’m also hoping that, as by far the most hardworking person I’ve ever met, she finally takes a bit of well-deserved time for rest.”

Gaza

Dr Pandor is celebrated for her fearless advocacy for her country’s stance on Gaza. She has persistently called for increased action against Israel’s invasion of Palestine.

Under her leadership, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to take measures to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza, as well as to provide more assistance to Palestinian civilians. This comes as Israel continues to engage in a conflict with Hamas militants.

The SKA and other ministerial appointments

During her time as Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Pandor and her team successfully secured a competitive bid in 2012 to host part of the future Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope in South Africa.

She has also served as Minister in the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Education.

Serving with integrity

In 2022, she received a Lifetime Achievement award at the Standard Bank Top Women Awards for the role she played in government.

Former Minister and World Bank Group Executive Director, Ayanda Dlodlo, stated that Dr Pandor’s integrity was unparalleled and that her work ethic was exceptional, demonstrating servant leadership.

“What a woman. What a leader. Hope the next chapter of her life is even more fulfilling with more time with her family and many moments of love and laughter.”

The German Ambassador to South Africa, Andreas Peschke, also expressed his thoughts on the matter.

“We would like to thank Dr Naledi Pandor, outgoing Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, for her tireless diplomatic work. For Germany, it was a privilege to work with you. *Re a leboga, Mme* [Thank you, Mother],” the Ambassador said.

Founder of the Kenya Climate Directory, Reuben Wambui, expressed his disappointment at Dr Pandor’s departure from the Cabinet.

“Naledi is the true embodiment of diplomatic genius, and we will really miss seeing her conduct international affairs on the world stage. Thank you, Naledi for your excellent service.” – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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THE PRESIDENCY ON THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AND PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

President Cyril Ramaphosa and President Joe Biden have expressed their shared commitment to advancing the special relationship between the two countries.

The Presidents expressed this commitment in a telephone discussion on Tuesday evening, 2 July 2024.

President Biden called President Ramaphosa to congratulate him on his recent election and the successful formation of the government of national unity. President Biden pledged that the United States would work closely with the seventh administration in South Africa on key areas such as economic growth, job creation, social development and climate change, as well as South Africa's Presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20) in 2025. President Biden confirmed that he will visit South Africa and participate in the G20 meetings.



President Ramaphosa expressed his appreciation for this commitment and, in turn, extended an invitation to President Biden to undertake a State Visit to South Africa. Dates will be confirmed by the respective diplomatic teams. – Source: www.gov.za

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA CONGRATULATES THE PROTEAS



While the Proteas came in second in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20 Final, their defeat showcased the resilience and spirit of national pride, President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Sunday, 30 June 2024.

“Well done to the Proteas for an outstanding performance during the tournament to reach the final. The nation shares your pain in your fall at the last hurdle, but we thank you for hoisting our flag high on the global stage, playing against India.

“You have shown resilience and the true spirit that reflect our nation's pride. We also offer congratulations to Rohit Sharma and the Board of Control for Cricket in India on their unbeaten run on the way to a well-deserved championship,” the President said in a statement.

The President's comments followed Saturday's game, which India won by seven runs in Barbados.

Government has acknowledged the efforts and sportsmanship displayed by the country's national cricket team.

While the outcome did not favour South Africa, government said the team's performance has been commendable and they have exemplified the unifying power of sports in bringing the nation together.

“Today's results may not have been in our favour, but the performance of our cricket team in the finals has made us proud. The team showed immense skill and determination throughout the tournament. We commend them for their efforts and thank them for representing our country with honour,” Government Communication and Information System Acting Director-General, Nomonde Mnuke said on Saturday, 29 June 2024. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA MOURNS THE DEATH OF TWO SANDF MEMBERS

President Cyril Ramaphosa has expressed deep sadness at the deaths of two South African National Defence Force soldiers following a mortar attack at their base in Sake in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



Twenty other soldiers sustained injuries.

As Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), President Ramaphosa has offered his deep condolences to the families of the fallen troops as well as their commanders and colleagues.

The President's thoughts are also with the SANDF members who are recovering from their injuries.

"As we mourn the deaths and casualties inflicted on our soldiers, we value and are humbled by the sacrifices they have made for the cause of peace and stability in our region, and they shall not be forgotten," the President said in a statement on Thursday, 27 June 2024.

The President also assured the bereaved families and the injured troops that the SANDF would take the utmost care to provide the necessary logistical and psychosocial support to all those affected.

South African forces are part of the Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC) which was deployed on 15 December 2023 to support the Government of the DRC in restoring peace and security in the eastern DRC.

This was in response to an increase in conflicts and instability caused by the resurgence of armed groups. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

INVESTMENT IN RAIL CRITICAL FOR AFRICA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH

President of the Southern African Railways Association (SARA), Hishaam Emeran, has called on the African continent to harness the potential of rail as it has a critical role to play in growing the economy and creating jobs.

“We must harness rail’s potential on the continent and in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) by embarking on ambitious programmes that will expand the role of both passenger and freight rail. These systems have the potential to contribute to our continent’s socio-economic prosperity,” Emeran said on Thursday, 27 June 2024.



Addressing the Africa Rail 2024 Conference at the Sandton Convention Centre, he said investment in modern rail infrastructure could radically improve efficiencies in the sphere of moving goods and people.

Emeran, who is also the Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) at the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA), said fixing and upgrading rail is an important goal, given the burden that Africa’s roads carry.

“There is excellent work being done in the logistics space, driven in South Africa by The Presidency. Our transport networks must receive this level of priority because the economic and social costs of a failing rail system, and that of the congested roads we see across the continent far outweigh the costs of improving and modernising our railway network.

“Also, given the high levels of unemployment across much of the continent, affordable, safe and reliable public transport, with rail as the backbone, is critical,” he said.

In 2023, the South African government established the National Logistics Crisis Committee (NLCC), which is chaired by The Presidency and brings together all of the relevant government departments to drive a coordinated response to the logistics challenges.

The committee has achieved steady progress. The Freight Logistics Roadmap was approved by Cabinet, enabling urgent reforms in the freight logistics sector.

A crucial reform is the development of a network statement, which sets out the process for rail operators to access the network. A draft statement was released for public comment.

The Freight Logistics Roadmap outlines a range of actions required to restore the efficiency and competitiveness of key industry supply chains, as well as ports and rail more generally. –Source: SAnews.gov.za

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CAPE TOWN SCHOOL SHORTLISTED FOR WORLD'S BEST SCHOOL PRIZE



The independent school Christel House, which made the top 10 shortlist for the World’s Best School Prize for ‘Overcoming Adversity,’ has received a congratulatory message from the Western Cape Education Department.

The school, situated in Ottery in Cape Town, serves learners from disadvantaged communities.

Christel House’s mission is to help children break the cycle of poverty, realise their hopes and dreams, and become self-sufficient members of society.

Most of the learners at the school must face gang warfare, drugs, alcoholism, hunger and abuse to make it to school every day.

Christel DeHaan, a German American businesswoman and philanthropist, founded the school, which offers Grades R through 12.

Western Cape MEC for Education, David Maynier, congratulated Christel House for being a finalist in the World's Best Schools competition for 2024.

"The school is doing excellent work supporting learners from poor communities to receive a world-class education, and it is fitting that they have been selected as a finalist in the 'Overcoming Adversity' category. We wish them all the best in the next phase of the competition, and we are holding thumbs for the announcement of the top three in September."

Christel House joins the Western Cape's list of previous top 10 and top three finalists in the World Best School Prize. In 2022, Pinelands-North Primary School achieved the top three position in the category "Overcoming Adversity", while West End Primary School featured in the top 10 position in the same category.

Last year, Rustenburg Girls High School scooped the top 10 position in the category for "Supporting Healthy Lives".

The top three finalists for each of the five World's Best School Prizes—for Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Innovation, Overcoming Adversity, and Supporting Healthy Lives—will be announced later this year.

After a public advisory vote, the winner of each prize will be chosen based on rigorous criteria by a judging academy comprising distinguished leaders across the globe including academics, educators, non-government organisations, social entrepreneurs, government, civil society and the private sector.

"We are delighted that Christel House will have the opportunity to showcase their 'best practice' to the world and are rooting for them to make the finals."

The World's Best School Prizes are the world's most prestigious education awards, giving inspirational schools a share of the US\$50 000 award and a global platform so others can replicate their best practices.

This year's list features Afghanistan's only school helping students with all kinds of disabilities to a school in Poland set up for Ukrainian refugees.

On the list, there is also a school from Italy tackling bullying and a school in London confronting knife crime. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

NUCLEAR TECH TURNS RHINO HORNS INTO POACHER'S POISON

South African researchers are using nuclear technology to make rhino horns poisonous to humans, aiming to deter poachers and protect endangered wildlife.

South Africa's rhinos have long been victims of a tragic poaching crisis, with these majestic creatures hunted for their valuable horns. Despite global efforts, the illegal trade has persisted, leaving the world desperate for a solution.

Now, South African researchers may have found an answer that has been hiding in plain sight: making rhino horns poisonous to humans.

In a groundbreaking study, scientists at South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand have successfully inserted low doses of radioisotopes into the horns of 20 live rhinoceros. This six-month study, led by James Larkin from the university's Radiation and Health Physics Unit, aims to utilise nuclear technology to combat poaching.



The initiative, known as the Rhisotope Project, involves inserting small, measured quantities of radioisotopes into rhino horns. These radioisotopes can be detected by radiation monitors at international borders, harbours, airports and land crossings, but most importantly, they will also make the rhino horn incredibly poisonous to humans.

“The radioactive material would render the horn useless, essentially poisonous for human consumption,” explained Nithaya Chetty, Professor and Dean of Science at the same university. Notably, the dose of radioactive material is so low that it does not impact the animal’s health or the environment in any way.

According to Larkin, the method causes no harm to the animals while tackling rhino poaching.

“Each insertion was closely monitored by expert veterinarians and extreme care was taken to prevent any harm to the animals. Over months of research and testing, we have ensured that the inserted radioisotopes hold no health or any other risk for the animals or those who care for them,” he explained.

The potential impact of this project is vast. If successful, it could be expanded to protect elephants, pangolins and other endangered fauna and flora. Over 11 000 radiation detection portal monitors will be installed at airports, harbours and entry points worldwide, bolstering the detection and prevention of smuggled animal parts.

“Every 20 hours in South Africa, a rhino dies for its horn. These poached horns are then trafficked across the world and used for traditional medicines or as status symbols. This has led to their horns currently being the most valuable false commodity in the black-market trade,” Larkin said. “Ultimately, the aim is to try to devalue rhinoceros horn in the eyes of the end users, while at the same time making the horns easier to detect as they are being smuggled across borders.”

The urgency of this project is evident in the recent statistics: despite government’s efforts, 499 rhinos were killed in 2023, an increase of 11% over the previous year.

With initiatives like these, we are protecting wildlife and taking a stand against the illegal trade that threatens our planet’s biodiversity. This pioneering approach could be the key to turning the tide against poaching, offering a new era of conservation where technology and nature work hand in hand for a brighter, safer future. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

WWF SOUTH AFRICA LAUNCHES “BELIEVE IN BETTER” YOUTH CAMPAIGN

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa is hosting a “Believe in Better” youth campaign celebrating the environmental leaders of our future.



WWF South Africa’s new *Believe in Better* youth campaign aims to empower the next generation of environmental leaders. Passionate young people who envision a brighter future, can change the future.

The WWF’s *Believe in Better* campaign highlights four inspiring young leaders’ efforts who are making waves in environmental activism. Dean Carlisle, Esethu Cenga, Didi Mathibe and Jade Bothma are the changemakers, big thinkers, future leaders and action takers. Each with a unique vision and relentless drive, they embody the spirit of hope and action that fuels WWF South Africa.

“Believing in the potential of our youth is not just an investment in their future, but also in the future of our planet. Through this campaign, we aim to inspire and equip young South Africans to become champions for nature and sustainability.” – Dr Morné du Plessis, CEO of WWF South Africa.

At the heart of the *Believe in Better* youth campaign are four remarkable young leaders whose stories exemplify the passion and potential of South Africa’s youth.

Changemaker: Dean Carlisle (Lessons in Conservation)

At just 21 years old, Dean Carlisle founded Lessons in Conservation, an organisation focussed on educating schools in impoverished areas about our relationship with nature. Today, Carlisle and his amazing team have taught over 8 500 children across 110 schools in 11 African countries.

Big Thinker: Esethu Cenga (Rewoven Africa)

Esethu Cenga is the co-founder of Rewoven Africa, a startup focussed on recycling textiles to reduce fashion waste. Cenga believes the key to the future lies in adopting sustainable practices that value people and the planet, not just chasing profits.

Future Leader: Didi Mathibe (WWF South Africa)

Didi Mathibe is tackling the plastic pollution crisis as a Circular Economy Analyst with WWF South Africa. Her job involves finding ways to keep materials like plastics out of nature by promoting circularity through more efficient design and use of materials, sustainable consumption and waste reduction.

Action Taker: Jade Bothma (Oceano Reddents)

At just 15, Jade Bothma has already formed her own impact organisation, Oceano Reddents, a non-profit that turns plastic litter from the ocean into eco-bricks to build houses for homeless people. Raised in Cape Town with the ocean at her doorstep, Bothma’s deep passion and love for the sea drive her ongoing fight for its protection, one piece of plastic at a time. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



WOMAN CARRIES SOUTH AFRICAN FLAG HIGH AND WINS AT A TOP GLOBAL COMPETITION

Kgomotso Molefe, a 28-year-old South African woman has won a global competition in Lisbon, Portugal, thanks to her passion, perseverance and ability to break down barriers.

Molefe has represented South Africa at the Best of Belron Competition (12 to 13 June) and brought home the Award for Best Repair Technician.

Her path began as a participant in a young professional development programme and concluded in her being named the best auto glass repair technician in an international competition.

“I am incredibly honoured and proud to have represented South Africa and most importantly, represented an ordinary township child to show them that everything is possible if you persevere.

“Growing up in the dusty streets of Garankuwa, I never even thought I would be flying to Europe, let alone win a prestigious title. Being in an aeroplane for the first time in my life, it was both scary and intimidating,” she said.

She said that it has been a difficult road to travel, but extremely gratifying. Molefe said she hopes that her experience will inspire other young women to pursue their dreams and overcome whatever obstacles they may face.



“Don’t be afraid to venture into uncharted and unconventional territories. With dedication and the right opportunities, anything is possible.”

Molefe’s job choice is uncommon, particularly among women, making her accomplishments all the more impressive.

She began her career in 2019 as a learner in PG Glass’s youth development programme, which aims to provide young people with the skills and opportunity they need to excel in a variety of trades.

Her perseverance, remarkable talents and unwavering pursuit of perfection landed her a permanent position as a roaming technician for the company.

Steven Lurie, the Commercial Director of PG Glass said: “Kgomotso’s achievement is a proud moment for all of us. It underscores the importance of providing equal opportunities and support for young talent.

“We are committed to nurturing skills and fostering an environment where everyone can excel. Kgomotso has proven that with the right attitude, passion and perseverance, the sky is the limit.” – Source: www.iol.co.za



BET AWARDS 2024: TYLA, MAKHADZI WIN BIG IN INTERNATIONAL CATEGORIES

South Africa won big at the BET Awards 2024, with 22-year-old Afrobeats pop star Tyla and Limpopo-born singer Makhadzi taking home accolades.



At the awards on Sunday night, 30 June 2024, the ceremony at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles, California, Tyla won Best New Artist and Best International Act. Makhadzi won the BET Viewers' Choice: Best International Act.

Tyla slayed the blue carpet, wearing a bespoke black halter neck floor-length Versace gown. She paired the dress with more than US\$230 000 worth of jewellery from Jared Atelier, including diamond-drop earrings of natural morganite and diamonds and an emerald-cut diamond tennis bracelet worth US\$115 000.

The Grammy award-winning beauty beat Sexxy Red, 4Batz, 41, Ayra Starr, Bossman Dlow, Fridayy and October London to win Best New Artist, her second win after bagging Best New International Act.

"This is crazy," she said.

"I love Sexy Red. I love her so much. This is such a gift to be here. I want to dedicate this one to Africa. I want to dedicate this one to all the African superstars before me who didn't get the opportunities I am getting. It's amazing. Africa to the world, guys."

The Johannesburg-born megastar took to the stage in an elaborate safari-themed high energy performance of *Jump* from her self-titled debut album released in March.

Tyla started by descending on to the stage in a rope trapeze swing, entering a giant cage with four women painted as different parts of a tiger laid across the floor and a statue of an elephant off to the side.

She danced underneath men, hoisted high on giraffe-like stilts and accompanied by guest appearances from American rapper Gunna and Jamaican dancehall artist Skillibeng.

Limpopo-born Makhadzi beat Bellah, Cristale, Duquesa, Holly G, Jungeli, Oruam, Seyi VibeZ and South Africa's Tyler ICU, to win her award.

The 28-year-old singer, who performed on Friday at the BET International nominees celebration at the Grammy Museum, wore a South African flag-inspired red silk gown with a large sculptural piece beaded with the colours of the national flag. It took more than 10 days to design and create by Mamello Makha.

When receiving the award at the BET red carpet pre-show outside, Makhadzi fell to the floor of the stage in a moment of shock and happiness when she was announced as the winner, her shoes falling off her feet.

"I'm so happy, I'm someone who started music from the streets, and today I'm here, my dream just came true. I'm speechless, all I'm gonna say is that it's possible for a black child to make it, and this is the best birthday ever.

"Everyone is waiting for me at home to bring home the award and today is my birthday so it brought me good luck," Makhadzi told *TimesLIVE*.

"I'm Makhadzi because of my fans and my followers, who keep on supporting me and I appreciate their love. I'm here today because of them. I love you guys."

Album of the Year went to Killer Mike. Best Female R&B/Pop Artist, a category in which Tyla was nominated, went to Sza. Best Male R&B/Pop Artist and the Lifetime Achievement Award went to Usher. – Source: www.timeslive.co.za

PRETORIA FASHION BRAND STEALS THE SPOTLIGHT IN PARIS

Pretoria fashion brand GUGUBYGUGU stole the spotlight in Paris after being selected as one of only five African countries to participate in an acclaimed display.

GUGUBYGUGU, launched and founded by Gugu Peteni, was selected as one of five winners from the continent to showcase designs at the fourth edition of Africa Fashion UP. Known for statement, genderless creations crafted with sustainable materials like mohair, GUGUBYGUGU channels a strong sense of slow-made impact where comfort is king.

Impressively, South Africa dominated the Africa Fashion UP selections thanks to Gugu and the well-established Rich Mnsisi label, while other winners hailed from Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Senegal.

But for the Pretoria fashion brand, the debut in Paris was an extra-special occasion that marked a milestone of global appreciation.



“Fashion to me means a host of things; it’s about identity, it’s feeling, it’s an expression, and yet at the same time, clothing fulfils a basic need. We make a choice every single day that is so complex, yet so simple. I find beauty in its dual complexity and simplicity,” shared Gugu with *Twy* when asked what fashion means to her. Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SOUTH AFRICAN CRAFTSMANSHIP SHINES AS CHERRY ON TOP OF DIOR RUNWAY IN PARIS



Earth Age, a local brand supporting women through crafts in Cape Town, has made it to Dior’s runway in Paris, alongside giant artworks made in collaboration with legendary South African artist Hylton Nel.

Earth Age, a South African brand supporting local crochet crafters in Cape Town, provided “the finishing touches” to a stunning Dior Men’s Summer 2025 show.

In collaboration with luxury fashion designer Kim Jones Studio and renowned milliner, Stephen Jones, Cape Town-based Earth Age had their proudly South African craftsmanship in the spotlight at the international fashion runway event in the grounds of Paris’ Val-de-Grâce.

The team behind the local brand—Amy Kunz, Ashley Wagner and Elektra Georgiadis—strutted the streets of Paris as their earth-kind bucket hat designs did the talking for Cape Town’s talented crafters at the prestigious show.

In a video uploaded by Dior, the esteemed fashion house shares the inspiration and process behind working with the unique South African brand.

“These hats are the finishing touch to the collection. Combined with beads made from Yann Petillaut in Paris, they’re the perfect marriage between the craft of South Africa and the savour-faire of Paris.”

The hats—a collaborative take on the brand’s Helix beaded brim hats—are crocheted with natural cotton and hemp, made by Cape Town locals with a passion for the craft.

“We worked together on domed bucket hats. They’re crocheted, using natural fibres and natural dyeing. We picked bright colours like green and different kinds of blue.”

Work by renowned South African artist Hylton Nel also made an appearance at the Dior Men’s Summer 2025 show, with large-scale depictions of animals, primarily cats.

“The idea of these ceramic giants that the models walk around with, was wanted as a fun element,” said designer Kim Jones.

“Kim Jones, he took my work as inspiration, as a starting point. For me, it was just marvellous to see what he has made from it,” says Nel. When asked about his choice of subject matter, Nel, now 83, said:

“I like to do people, but people are so ‘in your face’, as it were. So I do to the form of a cat.” – Source: www.capetownetc.com

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NDLOVU YOUTH CHOIR MADE AN APPEARANCE ON THE NASDAQ SCREEN IN NYC

The Ndlovu Youth Choir was featured on the Nasdaq billboard, a moment that brought the whole choir immense pride on 25 June 2024.

The Nasdaq billboard, often called the “Nasdaq Market Site Tower,” is an impressive digital canvas that spans 929 square metres and stands 36.6 metres tall (10 000 square feet and 120 feet tall).

“We are on the Nasdaq board in New York as we join Shared Interest in celebrating their 30th birthday. Together with Mama Felicia Mabuza-Suttle, they do incredible work promoting South Africa in the United States. Happy birthday”.

The Ndlovu Choir was established in January 2009 to afford talented, underprivileged teenagers and young adults (14–24 years) the opportunity to perform locally and abroad. The choir consists of 30 choristers from the beautiful Moutse Valley in rural Limpopo, South Africa.

The Ndlovu choir is part of the Ndlovu Care Group’s globally acclaimed childcare community programme. The choir aims to ensure that a child from a disadvantaged community enjoys the same level of tuition, care and opportunities as a child from a more affluent society.

The Ndlovu Youth Choir has always brought us incredible joy with their covers and renditions of famous songs. We love seeing them show up in great places. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

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ARTIST KARABO POPPY EARNS GOLD FOR HER CREATIVE BRAND

Karabo Poppy Moletsane is known for colourful, contemporary, Africa-proud creations. She’s received numerous awards for her talents, has graced the pages of the Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 List, and has scored career-defining collaborations with some of the biggest names, including Nike.

But Moletsane’s magic doesn’t just lie in her creative talents. She’s not just an illustrator, street artist or graphic designer. She’s a business-savvy creative on a mission to prove to other South African artists that you can turn your passions into a business and that the “starving artist” narrative is not the rule, even if you come from a small town like Vereeniging as she does.

Fittingly, her latest feat has been earning gold in the Creative and Arts category at the Top 16 Youth Owned Brand Awards.

This achievement is not only a testament to the exceptional hard work she's put in to come as far as she has. It also serves as proof that young South Africans can build beautiful worlds for themselves when they adapt to the business side of the craft.

For Moletsane, the spotlight is as much for herself as it is for the young female African artist who was mostly taught Western art scopes, or traditional African art—neither of which necessarily speak to Africa today.

Thanks to her taking the leap towards her dreams, we hope that future generations' art textbooks will be brimming with lessons from the likes of Moletsane, who are not only inspiring the future of African art but writing it too. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

TWO SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOL FRIENDS REUNITE AT TOP HOLLYWOOD FILM FESTIVAL

School friends Jean Barker and Meg Rickards have lived what many would consider the plot to a fabulous feel-good film yet to be made. Despite the different routes they took to their dreams (and to a top Hollywood festival), their story is as much about them as inspiring individuals as it is about the friendship that helped guide them to their moments in the sun.

Barker and Rickard's story began with a friendship between two outsiders at Westerford High decades ago. Barker had transferred to the Cape Town school as a new kid who knew no one, while Rickards was part of a group of proud misfits who'd spend breaks gathered around the old apartheid flagpole to make an ironic statement. After Rickards reached out to the new kid, it was only a matter of time before the two became a dynamic duo.

Bonded by anti-apartheid literature, activism, sandwiches, subculture, the school friends would remain close for decades, long after their school days ended. More impressively, their bond remained strong despite the distance that would come to separate them.



Rickards would go on to leave for a film post-grad scholarship at London Film School, while Barker relocated to KwaZulu-Natal for her own studies in journalism.

At 36, Barker decided to pursue a new dream—filmmaking and spent her life savings to do a Masters in screenwriting in Los Angeles (she graduated with honours in her field as well as in directing).

Rickards on the other hand, has made multiple films and a string of successes in South Africa since 1994, including the *Bloody Miracle*, *Tess*; *Kaalgat Karel* and *Atlantis*. While Barker's journey in film started later, she'd soon catch up to her friend with four feature films, while simultaneously earning a reputation in Los Angeles (LA) as "someone who can do anything" from rewrites to set suggestions and music videos.

But during the pandemic years, in their different parts of the world, both Rickards and Barker would face a new battle in their already-fiercely tough industry. Barker was largely funding one of her movies herself, and when push came to shove, she had to become an Uber Eats driver while doing relief teaching in schools to make ends meet. Needless to say, their long-distance friendship played a hand in helping each other through the hard times throughout their careers.

Despite all the curveballs, the school friends will now shine together at LA's iconic Mann Chinese Theatre, where both of their films have been selected to premiere as part of Dances with Films. Barker's first movie (*Nobody Leaves 'til Jesus Comes*) and Rickards' latest (*Snake*) will both take centre stage.

"You know how Americans have a reputation for assuming everyone from Africa knows everyone else? Well, I don't get to laugh at them for it at Dances with Films," says Barker.

BALLERINA ZEINAB KONE HAS A BEAUTIFULLY BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF HER

From Johannesburg to London and New York, Ballerina Zeinab Kone has paved her path to a bright future in ballet, earning both a bursary to an international competition and a full scholarship to the American Ballet Theatre.



Zeinab stands tall on the cusp of two dream opportunities. The first comes by way of her performance during her Royal Academy of Dance Advanced 2 exam. This earned her a high distinction, a bursary to compete in the Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition in London in September.

The second, is that after London, Zeinab will be heading to New York for her final year of training at the American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School.

The blossoming ballerina has been offered a full scholarship for her New York adventure and the beginning of a beautifully bright future ahead.

This after her competition as a soloist in the 2024 Youth America Grand Prix earlier this year, which Zeinab dubbed as the occasion that “literally changed [her] life”.

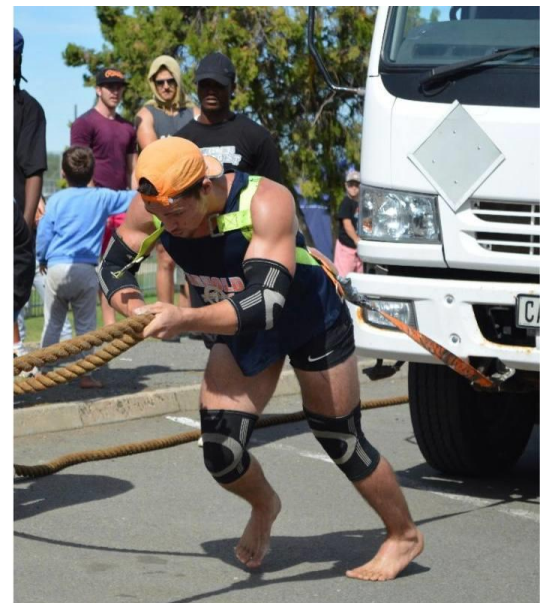
Needless to say, Zeinab is a ballerina to watch. From Johannesburg to London and New York, we can’t wait to see where else her hard work and breathtaking talent will take her. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

STRONGMAN REUBEN JANSEN VAN RENSBURG REPRESENTS SOUTH AFRICA OVERSEAS

Reuben Jansen van Rensburg has qualified to compete in the prestigious Natural Strongman Worlds in Galway, Ireland, from 24 to 25 August 2024. As a South African Strongman athlete, he gets the chance to compete overseas. He aims to show that one can be strong while doing it 100% naturally.

“This remarkable achievement places him on the global stage among the best natural athletes in the world. Over the past 18 months, Reuben has demonstrated extraordinary dedication and perseverance, securing top positions in major Strongman competitions without using anabolic steroids or growth enhancers.” – Sinta Ebersohn

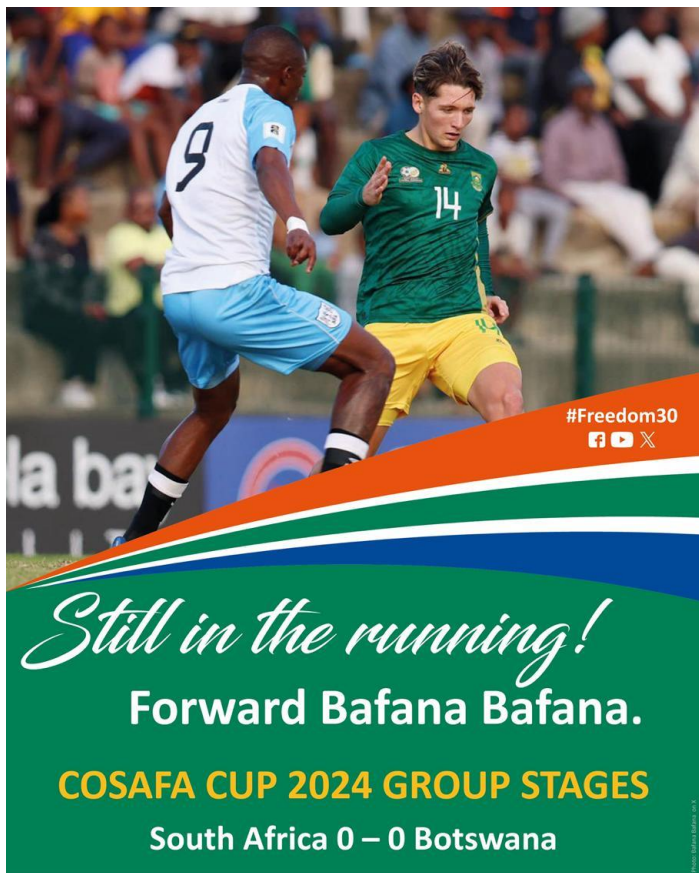
Reuben has been busy, earning several medals in competitions throughout South Africa. But the international stage is now calling.



- Arnold Classic Under 80kg: Third Place/Bronze Medal
- Southern Cape Strongest Man: First Place/Gold Medal
- South Africa Strongest Man: Second Place/Silver Medal
- Western Cape Strongest Man: First Place/Gold Medal
- African Strongman Union Log and Deadlift Championships: Third Place/Bronze Medal

“Competing in the Natural Strongman Worlds is a dream come true,” says Reuben. “I am committed to representing South Africa with pride and demonstrating the power of natural strength and perseverance. With the community’s support, I believe I can achieve great things in Ireland.” – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

BAFANA BAFANA DRAW WITH BOTSWANA IN COSAFA CUP CLASH



Bafana Bafana were held to a goalless draw in the group stages of the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) Cup on Saturday, 29 June 2024.

This, as national football team took on Botswana at the Isaac Wolfson Stadium in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape.

The Group A match ended in a 0-0 stalemate just days after the 1-1 draw against Mozambique in the opening match of the regional tournament.

“Coach Helman Mkhalele’s team had multiple chances to win the match, but just as they did against Mozambique, the home side was unable to make full use of the opportunities and find the breakthrough they needed against a solid Botswana,” said the South African Football Association (SAFA) in a statement.

Mkhalele said his charges should have done better than the final score suggests as they were in control for long periods of Saturday’s encounter.

“We were not in command of the ball, especially in the final third. We looked like we didn’t have the confidence. But again, we were not giving early support or were unable to read the game to support Thabang Sibanyoni, who was dominating the aerial balls.

“We lacked that confidence. Yes, we did get those half chances, but we were not taking them or approaching them with aggression. We were just more comfortable in dominating the possession in our own half. But we lacked the speed and the penetration to the middle,” said the coach.

Botswana coach Didier da Rosa was very proud of his players, even though they could not find the back of the net.

“It was a second draw (of the tournament after the 0-0 outcome against Eswatini), but at least we didn’t concede any goal. I’m proud of my players today because they followed the plan we worked on. It was very interesting for me as a coach to see these young players so disciplined”.

– Source: SAnews.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA READY TO HOST WORLD RUGBY UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP

The City of Cape Town says it is excited to welcome back the 12 participating nations in the World Rugby Under-20 Championship.

The 14th edition of the World Rugby U20 Championship takes place between 29 June and 19 July 2024, with South Africa being back-to-back hosts.

“What better time to have the World Rugby U20 Championship than during the school holidays. The event’s return to Cape Town for the second successive year is a testament to the Mother City’s reputation as a leading events destination.

“We are excited to support this event, bringing together some of the world’s top talent and heart of rugby’s next generation. I encourage all Capetonians to go out and show their support for our Junior Boks as well as welcome the visiting teams with electrifying gees,” City of Cape Town Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security, JP Smith, said on Thursday, 27 June 2024.

The tournament sees the world's 12 best nations compete over five match days across three world-class venues.

Athlone Stadium will stage pool matches, while the iconic DHL Stadium will play host to key fixtures, including the opener, semi-finals and the final.

Selected matches will also be hosted at the Danie Craven Stadium in Stellenbosch.

The Junior Boks go into the tournament having finished with a bronze medal at the 2023 championships held in the Mother City.

"This year's championship sees the host nation in Pool C with England, Argentina and Fiji. France, Wales, New Zealand and Spain are in Pool A and 2023 runners-up Australia, Georgia and Italy are in Pool B.

"During the pool stages, six games will be played on match days, with kick-off times scheduled at 14:00, 16:30, and 19:00. The defending champions, France, open the tournament against debutantes Spain, while the host nation will kick off with a clash against Fiji at the DHL Stadium on 29 June 2024," the city said.

SA Rugby CEO Rian Oberholzer believes the tournament will match the excitement levels from last year's competition.

"The World Rugby U20 Championship plays an important role in the global rugby picture and is key in promoting and growing the game, while we are also excited to unearth the next generation of Springboks," Oberholzer said. - Source: SAnews.gov.za



SOUTH AFRICAN DANCE CREW DOMINATE AT WORLD DANCE MASTERS

South African dance crew Basic Black made the competition shake at the World Dance Masters earlier this month, scooping silver for their skills.



A formidable force in the world of dance hailing from Cape Town, the crew has enjoyed numerous accolades for their collective talents and has added another to their tally recently. Rudi Smith choreographed their performance and Principal Kim Venter coached their path.

After heading to Poreč in Croatia brimming with excitement and nerves after months of preparation work, Basic Black walked away with second place for the Senior Urban Formation leg of the competition after dancing against 53 countries.

Basic Black also happened to be the only South African dance crew who represented our country at the Senior Gala Night, making their time in Poreč that much more special for Mzansi.

It was a huge moment for dancers like Jade Adams, who is also a MOD programme coach (Mass participation, Opportunity and access, Development and growth) for the Western Cape Government's Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport.

As someone who spends a lot of time giving back to her community by teaching others how to hone their passions for movement and music, Adams now stands proudly as someone who danced her way towards her dreams; encouraging young dancers know that achieving one's dreams is as possible as the work you're willing to put in. – Source: www.goodthingsquy.com

TAEKWONDO TEAM SET TO REP SOUTH AFRICA AT WORLD CHAMPS

The days are winding down quickly to the moment that the National ATA Songahm Taekwondo team will represent South Africa at this year's World Championship in Phoenix, Arizona, where over 2000 competitors from all over the world and of all ages will give the floor their all.

For the Taekwondo team representing different parts of South Africa (from Gauteng to Mpumalanga), it's not just a chance to expertly compete on the global stage; it is also an opportunity to showcase South Africa's talent in the world of martial arts.

Captained by Phillip Barwise (senior team) and Christopher Swart (junior team) and led by an all-female coaching team consisting of national coach Anecke Viljoen and assistant coach Leanri Taljaard, the teams have been hard at work and under top guidance in the dojo. Now, they're mere weeks away from taking on the world.

Worlds will run from 23–28 July, and South African martial arts enthusiasts are encouraged to get behind them with all our support. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



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