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30 Years of Democracy: Partnership and Growth

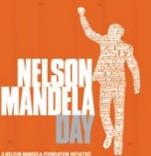
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SOUTH AFRICA WILL DECARBONISE AT A PACE AFFORDABLE TO THE ECONOMY

President Cyril Ramaphosa has reiterated that South Africa will decarbonise at a pace and scale that is affordable to the economy and society.



“If we act too fast, we risk damaging huge sections of our economy before we have built alternative energy and industrial capabilities. At the same time, not acting now risks our economic stability,” President Ramaphosa said on Monday, 15 July 2024.

The President was speaking at the Climate Resilience Symposium, which was held at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) International Convention Centre in Pretoria.

Held under the theme, *Moving the Needle on Climate Change and Just Transition: The Role of the National Treasury*, the three-day symposium, which took place from 15 to 17 July 2024, aimed to integrate climate goals into macro-fiscal and finance policy.

It also aimed to improve government coordination by mainstreaming climate change considerations into the intergovernmental fiscal system, among others.

In his address, President Ramaphosa stressed the importance of strengthening systems for adaptation and mitigation, building resilience in communities, accelerating the decarbonisation efforts, and the pace of the just energy transition.

“The reality we must confront is that the carbon intensity of our economy is unsustainable and for decades our reliance on coal was a competitive advantage because it allowed us to produce electricity cheaply, but the world has changed and this dependency has come to pose significant risks,” President Ramaphosa said.

As the world moves towards greener economies, the country’s trading partners, the President said, will take measures to ensure that their own climate actions do not undermine their economies.

He said that instruments like the European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, which has the potential to cause great damage to developing economies, signal the inevitability of carbon pricing in global trade systems.

He said the country’s emissions-intensive energy system is likely to increasingly undermine its competitiveness in global markets.

Safeguarding the nation

President Ramaphosa called on South Africa to embrace a managed transition to a low-carbon economy, not only to safeguard its people and environment, but to ensure the country’s economic resilience and growth.

He warned that the country is facing a climate emergency and indecision and slow action are not options.

“We must act decisively and swiftly to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure a just transition for all South Africans. We must pursue a green industrial agenda that will create jobs and grow the economy.

“Investments in green infrastructure, renewable energy and climate adaptation measures can be costly, requiring careful financial planning and prioritisation. That is why we have prioritised inclusive growth,” President Ramaphosa said.

The President said government is hard at work implementing the urgent reforms needed to lift growth and pursuing a fiscal strategy that protects the sustainability of public finances.

He noted that Operation Vulindlela has been an extremely successful partnership between National Treasury, The Presidency and a wide range of government departments.

“It has enabled significant reforms in areas like energy, water, telecommunications, and transport, making our economy more competitive and increasing our productive capacity.

“Our strategy involves preparing ourselves to withstand the economic risks posed by climate change while taking full advantage of the opportunities of the energy transition. This is no easy balance,” President Ramaphosa said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA WISHES FORMER US PRESIDENT TRUMP A SPEEDY RECOVERY

President Cyril Ramaphosa has denounced the alleged assassination attempt on former United States (US) President Donald Trump.

Former President Trump, who is running for re-election as President, was injured in the ear while he was delivering a speech during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on Saturday, 13 July 2024.

At least one person has died and two others were injured during the shooting.

The alleged shooter, who fired multiple shots towards the stage, was killed by US Secret Service personnel.

“The attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump is a stark reminder of the dangers of political extremism and intolerance. Political violence is the antithesis of democracy. I wish former President Trump a speedy recovery.



“We unequivocally denounce this political violence and earnestly hope that the citizens and leaders of America will have the fortitude and sagacity to reject violence and seek peaceful solutions,” President Ramaphosa said on social media platform, X. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA CONGRATULATES TENNIS STAR KGOATHATSO MONTJANE

President Cyril Ramaphosa has congratulated wheelchair tennis star Kgothatso Montjane on her win at the Women’s Wheelchair Tennis Doubles at Wimbledon.

Montjane and her Japanese partner, Yui Kamiji, beat Dutch duo Diede de Groot and Jiske Griffioen in straight sets to clinch the title.

Last year, Montjane and Kamiji came in second in the world-renowned grass court competition.

“Proud congratulations to our star from Seshego, Kgothatso Montjane and her Japanese partner, Yui Kamiji, on their straight-sets win over Diede de Groot and Jiske Griffioen to become the 2024 Women’s Wheelchair Tennis Doubles champions at Wimbledon this weekend,” he said on social media X.



The pair have enjoyed success together, reaching at least eight finals and clinching the 2023 US Open and the 2023 French Open titles.

“This victory at the home of the only major tournament played on grass crowns Kgothatso’s outstanding record in tournaments from Belgium and Switzerland to the United States and Australia.

“We salute you, Kgothatso, on your life as a champion on and off the court, and we look forward to your continued success,” President Ramaphosa said.

– Source: SAnews.gov.za

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PRESIDENT SADDENED BY DEATHS OF 12 LEARNERS IN ROAD ACCIDENT

President Cyril Ramaphosa is deeply saddened by the deaths of 12 learners from Rocklands Primary School and Laerskool Blyvooruitsig in Carletonville who were involved in a road incident in the Merafong City municipal area on Gauteng’s West Rand.

President Ramaphosa, has in a statement, sent his condolences to the families, friends, learners and educators of the deceased children.

The President has also wished a speedy and full recovery to the seven learners who suffered injuries in the incident that involved a scholar transport vehicle.

“The loss of such young lives at the start of a new school term touches all of us as a nation,” President Ramaphosa said.

“We wish the affected families and school communities the best as they mourn the passing of children who have been deprived of fulfilling their potential and spending their lives with families and friends.

“This tragedy, which regretfully is not the first of its kind to confront us, demands that we exercise our obligation to protect our children with the utmost care,” the President said.

Transport Minister Barbara Creecy and her Deputy Transport Minister, Mkhuleko Hlengwa, have also extended their deepest condolences to the families.

The Road Traffic Management Corporation is investigating the cause of the fatal accident, which occurred on the D92 at 06:42 on Wednesday morning, 10 July 2024.

The crash involved a minibus carrying schoolchildren and a light delivery van.

Speaking at the South African Transport Conference at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research earlier this week, Minister Creecy said road safety will receive priority attention in the seventh administration. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



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DIRCO TABLES BUDGET VOTE

To boost economic growth, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), says it will intensify its efforts to help South African companies and state-owned enterprises pursue significant opportunities in Africa.

“We are looking to strengthen our partnerships in Africa to address business challenges and create a favourable environment for conducting business,” DIRCO Minister Ronald Lamola said on Thursday, 11 July 2024.



Tabling the Budget Vote for the 2024–25 financial year in Parliament, the Minister announced that the department had been allocated R6.57 billion, reflecting a 5% reduction.

He announced that South Africa has maintained its strong position as an investor in Africa over the past year, with over 450 projects in various countries.

“This achievement results from our coordinated approach and investment initiatives, and we commend the efforts of our development finance institutions, such as the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Industrial Development Corporation,” he explained.

He also pledged to continue collaborating closely with neighbouring countries in the Southern Africa region to enhance cooperation in areas such as oil and gas, green hydrogen, water resources, and the facilitation of goods and services.

The Minister believes that these initiatives are important to bolster the country’s economy and improve the livelihoods of people while contributing towards the full attainment of the regional integration agenda.

In addition, Minister Lamola said that work was underway to hasten the completion of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II to increase energy cooperation with Mozambique and Namibia.

South Africa, he said, is also working to implement the renewed Grand Inga Treaty with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Grand Inga project can generate over 40 000 megawatts (MW) of electricity, sufficient to meet most of the power requirements for the entire Southern African Development Community region.

“We have established the Coordination Mechanism for Economic Diplomacy, consisting of government departments and the private sector. This mechanism aims to facilitate cooperation among relevant public and private sector stakeholders in advancing South Africa’s interests in Africa.”

In addition, the Minister said the Government of National Unity’s statement of intent commits to a foreign policy guided by human rights, constitutional principles, National Interest, as well as solidarity and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

“The aim is to work towards achieving the African Agenda 2063, promoting cooperation between the global South and North, and fostering multilateralism.

“Ultimately, the goal is to contribute to the creation of a just, peaceful and equitable world.”

He said South Africa will continue to deepen and harness its relations with partners on the continent.

According to Minister Lamola, the country has established 46 structured bilateral mechanisms, 12 of which are at presidential level.

“These mechanisms allow our country to exchange views on national, regional and global issues.” – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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DIRCO FACES CRITICAL STAFFING SHORTAGE DUE TO BUDGET CUTS

International Relations and Cooperation Minister Ronald Lamola says his department, which is facing a critical staff shortage, must do more with less due to resource constraints.

A critical challenge faced by the department, Minister Lamola explained, is managing exchange rate volatility, which affects 60% of expenditures allocated to missions abroad.



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The Minister was speaking during his Budget Vote Speech for the 2024–2025 financial year, where he announced that the department had been allocated R6.57 billion, which dropped by 5% compared to the previous year.

“Strategic cost management in this area is essential to safeguarding our financial stability. Equally vital is addressing employee compensation, where the current ceiling set by the National Treasury requires careful consideration to maintain workforce morale and operational efficiency.”

According to the Minister, the department could only fill critical vacancies identified at the head office to remain within the baseline for employee compensation, which resulted in a “very high vacancy rate”.

He said that this hurts the department's operations and service delivery.

“However, several line-function posts were filled at the Assistant Director, Deputy Director and Director levels, mainly through internal promotions to address the lack of upward mobility,” he added.

The Minister also announced that the department cannot fill all the critical vacancies with the available funds and operations continue to be negatively affected.

“The June 2024 mission posts placement process was also deferred due to the shortfall in the compensation of employees’ budget. Additional funding is thus required to cover the shortfall and fill other critical vacancies at the head office and missions abroad.”

This financial year, he stated that the department will improve its information and technology and property infrastructure portfolio to optimise resources.

“This strategic initiative aims to release more lease funds and redirect them towards operational needs. While these budget adjustments pose challenges, they also present opportunities for efficiency gains and prioritisation of essential expenditures.”

He informed Parliament that the department will soon be advertising a cadet programme and a youth development initiative, which he deems crucial to the national youth development imperative and the department’s future capacity requirements.

The department is also finalising its organisational structure review process to streamline the business units and processes and optimise scarce resources to leverage global economic opportunities in advancing the country’s National Interest, he added.

“Our commitment to delivering quality services and fostering economic growth remains unwavering. This budget signifies our determination to balance fiscal prudence with the imperative to support our citizens and invest in our nation’s future.” – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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“THIS MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY IS ONE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS” – MINISTER NTSHAVHENI

Minister in The Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, says the mandate given to political parties by South Africans following the general elections is a mandate that all South Africans must act on to create a better South Africa.

The Minister said this when she was delivering the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Budget Vote in Parliament on Friday morning, 12 July 2024.

This year’s general election results produced no outright majority winner, tasking various political leaders to work together to form a Government of National Unity (GNU), much like what was required at the dawn of democracy in 1994.

Some 11 political parties are part of the GNU with leaders from some of those political formations appointed as ministers and deputy ministers.

“The historic mandate, which we are granted to be the seventh administration and the seventh parliament, is not confined to political parties. But this is a national effort in which all South Africans must participate as each of us acts to create the South Africa in which we wish to live, raise our children and exercise our economic skills following the general elections.



“This mandate must build on the great strides we have made since 1994 as reflected in the Census 2022 results, which paint a picture of a society on the move and which reflects improvements across most indicators despite the challenges confronting us,” she said.

The Minister explained that the GCIS will “dedicate its expertise and resources to supporting the work of the GNU so that we can provide South Africans and our partners with information that can help us to move forward as a country”.

“Our first task, as the country navigates these uncharted waters, is to educate citizens about the establishment of the seventh administration, which in its current form, is unprecedented in the history of our democracy.

“As part of the new administration, and with an equally inclusive cohort of communication professionals, GCIS will spearhead a well-functioning communication system that prioritises informed and empowered citizens,” she said.

Minister Ntshavheni acknowledged that the task before the department is a “mammoth one”.

The budget allocation for the GCIS over the three years of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) amounts to some R2.3 billion.

“In the coming period, the GCIS will have to be at the forefront of engaging citizens in the work of government, with an emphasis on mobilising all of society to be part of the unity, change and progress in our country.

“This moment in our history is one for all South Africans to make their voices heard and their actions seen and felt across society,” she said.

Minister Ntshavheni laid out some of the plans the department will embark on to ensure that every citizen has access to information.

“GCIS has put forward bold and decisive plans to use the strong communications system it has developed over the years to ensure that South Africans remain abreast of key developments that take place within the country.

“The department will use communication to help citizens across the length and breadth of our nation participate in and enjoy the benefits of our hard-won democracy and freedom. It will share critical information on government services and programmes as well as create opportunities to open the economy to more South Africans,” she said.

The Minister revealed that one of the tasks that the government-wide communication system has is to rebuild “trust between citizens and the government the nation has put in place”.

She added that the department will also be tasked with motivating South Africans to “replace cynicism, suspicion, and despondency with active citizenship, social investment and confidence in our future”.

Turning to the gains of the past 30 years of democracy, Minister Ntshavheni emphasised that the developments seen across South Africa since 1994 are “not by chance” but as a result of concerted government programmes and effort.

“Today, millions of households have access to housing, water, sanitation and electricity when compared to 1994.

“Our policies have facilitated greater economic transformation and the empowerment of previously disadvantaged individuals.

“We have introduced laws and policies on worker rights, employment equity and broad-based black empowerment. There has been strong investment in infrastructure, public employment programmes and achieving higher levels of economic growth, but the challenges remain.

“This is a journey that has had and will have many facets in the future,” she said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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JUMP ON THE DEMOCRACY BUS

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the South African National Roads Agency, has launched the Democracy Bus, which will travel the country to drum up citizens' participation in the celebration of 30 years of democracy.



[The] bus will travel to different parts of our amazing country, from the nation's towering cities to deep rural communities. Government calls on all South Africans to get on the bus so that they can see and experience the changes we have gone through as we relive the many pivotal moments in our democratic journey," Minister in The Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, announced during the delivery of the Budget Vote of the GCIS to the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies on Friday, 12 July 2024.

"The bus is also expected to stop at the GCIS Thusong Service Centres, which are earmarked as key activation sites. It will also stop at venues for community meetings, izimbizos and national events, as well as dams, police stations, schools, clinics and hospitals built over the years as we celebrate our 30 years of democracy," she said.

Spot the bus

The Minister said citizens will be able to participate in a "spot the bus" campaign.

"As the bus travels on our roads, across all our provinces, to 30 locations in various parts of our country, citizens will have the opportunity to be part of the spot the bus campaign. Citizens can keep a look out for information on the bus journey through a digital map that will be published on various social media platforms.

"This is the way GCIS is bringing South Africans to acknowledge the work that has been done over the last 30 years while also acknowledging the challenges that still lie ahead, which government, through its new programmes of the seventh administration will address the challenges that remain," Minister Ntshavheni said.

Crime

The Minister also said the GCIS was implementing a campaign that will seek to encourage communities and stakeholders to participate in the fight against crime.

She said the department has set the fight against crime as one of its communication priorities for this financial year.

"GCIS is implementing a crime management campaign, which will target the areas of organised and violent crime, illegal mining, cable theft and vandalism of essential infrastructure along with the scourge of violence against women, children and vulnerable members of society.

"To strengthen stakeholder participation, the GCIS has established a directorate of stakeholder management and special projects to marshal all stakeholders in a common front against social ills. We learned during COVID-19 that the coordination of the work is more impactful in our communication space," she said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

INNOCENT MASUKU PERFORMS AT 30TH DEMOCRACY ANNIVERSARY

South African tenor Innocent Masuku moved the audience during the 30th anniversary of South Africa's democracy at Westminster Abbey.

On Tuesday, 16 July 2024, Westminster Abbey hosted a service of thanksgiving to mark the 30th anniversary of South Africa's democracy.

The historic event commemorated three decades since South Africa's first non-racial, democratic elections in 1994. The Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, led the service, according to the Westminster Abbey website.

In his opening address, he said, “We meet under God and in good company to give thanks for thirty years of democracy in South Africa.

“In 1994, South Africans held their first non-racial, democratic elections. After voting in those elections, Nelson Mandela spoke of ‘a new era of hope, reconciliation and nation-building.’

“Thirty years down the long road to justice and righteousness, we now honour those who have carried that flame and worked so tirelessly in that cause.

“Giving thanks for their courage and their witness, we recommit ourselves to the vision of a nation free from dominion of any kind.

“We pledge ourselves to effort and to hope.



“Here we will pray for ourselves and for South Africa and the welfare of all her people.”

Lord Boateng, a former British High Commissioner to South Africa, gave a powerful address. He emphasised the significance of South Africa’s journey and its impact on the world.

“South Africa’s transformation is a beacon of hope and a testament to the enduring power of justice,” he stated.

The service featured a variety of performances that highlighted South Africa’s rich cultural heritage. South African tenor Innocent Masuku moved the audience with his rendition of Todd Matshikiza’s *Uxolo (Peace)*, according to the *Post Register*.

The composer created this piece to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Johannesburg’s founding. Musical highlights included David Motsamai, a tribute to Nelson Mandela written by Mohau Mogale. The performers also resonated with the spirit of unity and resilience through the traditional song, *Shosholoza*.

Christina McAnea, the fourth General-Secretary of the British Trade Union, UNISON, and the Honourable Ronald Lamola MP, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation for South Africa, offered reflections.

Their words underscored the ongoing commitment to justice and equality during the democracy anniversary. Mr Bassim Haidar, Honorary Consul of South Africa to the United Kingdom, echoed the call for unity made by Nelson Mandela.

“Unity is our strength,” Haidar declared, urging continued solidarity.

Lord Collins, Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, read a poignant passage from Revelation 21: 1–4. The Right Reverend Rosemarie Mallett, Area Bishop of Croydon, led the Penitence.

Among the distinguished guests was HM Queen Nompumelelo Zulu, who attended the service, according to the *Diocese of Gloucester*. The event also saw the participation of faith leaders from the Hindu, Jewish and Muslim communities, who offered blessings for South Africa and its people. The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London, concluded the service with a final blessing. They led the singing of the national anthems of South Africa and the United Kingdom.

The service choir, directed by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers, delivered a stirring performance. The organ was played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist, with pre-service music by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist.

The congregation of 2 000 included notable figures such as the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Robert Rigby, and the High Sheriff of Greater London, Millicent Grant.

The democracy anniversary also honoured Nelson Mandela's legacy. Mandela visited Westminster Abbey in 1996, describing it as an unforgettable experience.

A memorial service was held at the Abbey following his death in 2013, with Archbishop Desmond Tutu delivering the sermon. In 2018, Mandela was further honoured with a black marble ledger stone in the nave. The ledger was inscribed with the words "Forgiveness" and "Reconciliation."

The service at Westminster Abbey was a poignant reminder of South Africa's remarkable journey and the enduring power of hope and unity. – Source: www.thesouthafrican.com

"THE SHAKEDOWN" BECOMES SA'S FIRST-EVER AMAZON-PRODUCED FILM

International streaming services are investing in local productions and content, and its leading to a booming film industry in South Africa. The new, locally produced Amazon film "The Shakedown" has become a first for the international streamer.



The Shakedown follows the story of Justin Diamond, a well-respected medical aid broker who finds himself entangled in the underworld of Cape Town, after his mistress threatens to reveal the secret of their affair. The plot thickens as Justin's desperate attempts to maintain his golden boy reputation lead him down a path filled with dangerous criminals, mistaken identities, and comic mishaps. As Justin teams up with his "black sheep" brother, Dovi, to handle the escalating chaos, viewers are in for a comedy-of-errors crime caper that will keep them on the edge of their seats.

The movie features some popular South African talents, including our favourite Julia Anastasopoulos (Tali Babes, *Suzelle DIY*). The stellar cast includes Los Angeles-based Carl Beukes (*Dominion, Lioness*) and Emmanuel Castis (*Warrior, G20*), along with new local talents, Milton Schorr (*Warrior, One Piece*), James Borthwick (*Hotel*), David Isaacs (*Joe Barber, Spinners*), South African rapper icon Jack Parow and rising star Berenice Barbier join in to make this black comedy a hit not to be missed.

The film was produced by Sketchbook Studios, which is owned by Ari Kruger and actress Julia Anastasopoulos. The production company is popular for its work in film, advertorial and web-based entertainment. The much-loved *Suzelle DIY* being one of them.

The Shakedown was directed and co-written by Ari Kruger; a filmmaker renowned for his work on the multi-award-winning *Tali's Diary* series on Showmax. In his first feature film directorial debut, Kruger showcases his exceptional talent for blending comedy with action while still delivering a story filled with heart.

With his three Best Comedy Director wins at the South African Film and Television Awards, it is safe to say this Amazon-first for South Africa was placed in the right hands. The movie is set for release in August. – Source: www.thegoodthingsguy.com

KEARSNEY COLLEGE CHOIR CROWNED CHAMPS OF GOLDEN VOICES COMPETITION

Kearsney College Choir has made their way through a whirlwind tour across Europe, where they have performed in front of packed audiences on some of Europe's most famous stages. However, their brightest victory goes beyond standing ovations in Hagen or Hanover, thanks to the news that the choir has been crowned the champions of the Golden Voices of Barcelona competition.

As Kearsney College shares, the news came in on day 13 of the busy tour after a day filled with strolls to breakfast in the famous Spanish city and spare time to adventure and refuel before the final show, the grand finale.

There, the boys prepared to perform against other choirs from around the world and did a stunning job, not just for their school but also for South Africa.

Despite the infectious energy in the air, nerves soon took hold as the choir waited to hear the final results of their final performance.

As the school recalls, “The tension was thick as everyone waited for the results with bated breath,” shared the school before adding the moment South Africa had been waiting for: Kearsney College Choir had sung their way to the top of their game.



“The joy was uncontainable when Kearsney College Choir was announced as winning the Youth Choir category. But the night wasn’t over yet. Having scored exceptionally high in the folklore category, it propelled Kearsney to the top, crowning them the Champions of the Golden Voices of Barcelona, winning the Grand Prix.”

Needless to say, this was a European adventure like no other, and we have no doubt that this memory will play on like one’s favourite record long after the voyage home. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON CAPE TOWN CREATIVES

Young creatives from Cape Town have backed the Mother City’s reputation as a hub of the arts after several students went on to bask in the global spotlight, raking in an array of international creative awards.

Graduates from the Red & Yellow Creative School of Business, Philippa Scholtz and Duncan Schröder were among those awarded. This was for their recent submissions to the One Club for Creativity Student Awards, which is important in the world of creative up-and-comers.

One Club for Creativity promotes the global creative community year-round through its initiatives, culminating in notable awards like the Student Awards (considered the most commendable advertising, interactive and design competition for students) and the ADC Awards (which specifically recognise craftsmanship in design, illustration, photography, motion and more worldwide).

Scholtz won in the Young Ones ADC Illustration category for Sweet P Creates, as well as in the Brand/Communication on Design category for her project Boink.

It was a huge honour for the young illustrator, who shared that “[the awards] validate the hard work and creativity we put into our project and motivates us to keep pushing boundaries.”

As for Duncan, he secured an ADC Merit Award for Project Melkert in the Brand/Communication Design/Branding Systems/Identities—Digital category. Both students have completed their Bachelor of Arts in Visual Communication degrees. But if their recent praise is anything to go by, they’ve already put their degrees to fantastic use, forging a promising future for themselves.

But the good news didn’t end with them. For the D&AD awards, five students and four tutors making up a formidable creative force won a Pencil for work they did for a big client.



The D&AD Awards, organised by a registered charity and educational body, gather the world's best creative work in commercial design, advertising, production and craft disciplines. These works are judged by over 300 global creative leaders and innovators who ultimately decide who wins a Pencil, making it quite the feather in anyone's cap.

The South African creatives who won are Allegra Carrara, Ammaarah Ismail, Georgia Wallace, Melandr  Fourie and Nombulelo Mtshakaci, along with their lecturers and mentors, Wilna Combrinck, Liz Pienaar, Stephanie Simpson and Heloise Bottomley.

"Bringing home international awards is a proof point that South African students can produce world-class work for the creative industry," reflected Stephanie Simpson, the Illustration Lecturer who supported Scholtz in the lead-up to the Young Ones Student Awards.

"South Africans' work ethic and creativity are often praised abroad but not as frequently recognised at home. Positive news about local young achievers is rare and people are increasingly eager for uplifting stories, especially when it's about people associated with international success."

As the cherry on top of the cake for their school, Red & Yellow was listed by the One Club for Creativity as the top-ranked regional college in Africa and the Middle East, earmarking it at the 25th spot in the whole world. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

MOSSEL BAY'S RISING STARS SHOOT THE LIGHTS OUT IN LOS ANGELES

Rylan Lemmetuis competed in the World Championships of Performing Arts held in Los Angeles (LA) earlier this month, where the young Mossel Bay local radiated with talent across multiple cultural fronts.

His victories in this year's Worlds stocked enough medals and accolades to make anyone think they were from years of competitions, with Rylan earning a semifinal medal, a finals medal, gold for the open, gold for rock, silver for acting, and bronze for pop—all of which paved the glittering path to his crowning as the divisional champion for the 11- to 15-year-old open.

Not only did Rylan walk away with all these feats, but he also won a three-week workshop scholarship from The New York Film Academy, as his school, Curro Mossel Bay, proudly shared.



Mayor of Mossel Bay Dirk Kotz  extended his congratulations, highlighting another reason the Mossel Bay local's achievements were so special: "We are once again super proud of Mossel Bay's very own Rylan Lemmetuis, who was the only South African vocalist to make it through to the final round of the World Championships of Performing Arts. Keep flying the Mossel Bay flag, your school (Curro Mossel Bay) and your family's flag high!"

But Rylan wasn't the only Mossel Bay local to wow the world. Maja Snyman also competed at Worlds and was awarded gold for almost all of her instruments as well as for Vocals and Dramatic Acting; ultimately claiming the Senior Overall Division titles. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

MINISTER GAYTON MCKENZIE ON PASSING OF STANLEY “SCREAMER” TSHABALALA

The Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Gayton McKenzie, extended his condolences to the family, friends and many fans of football legend Stanley “Screamer” Tshabalala, who died aged 75 on 12 July 2024.



Born in Orlando East, Soweto in 1949, Tshabalala started his sporting life as a boxer but found his true passion in football. He went on to become a founding member of Kaizer Chiefs in 1970. He was always cheerful, outgoing and smiling, and he was called “Screamer” because he always shouted incessantly for the ball on the field.

He also earned other nicknames while with Sundowns in the 1980s, where his style with the team earned him the monikers “Piano” and “Shoe-Shine”.

Tshabalala was Bafana Bafana’s first head coach after the country’s readmission to international football in 1992, and his life was central to the development of football in South Africa.

He was notably a technical director at Orlando Pirates in the 2000s. His fingerprints therefore extend across some of our country’s biggest football brands.

The Minister said, “We remember Stanley ‘Screamer’ Tshabalala on this sad day and pay tribute to his legacy and contribution that fostered many football talents and teams over several decades.”

“*Lala ngoxolo, Bra Stan.*” – Source: www.gov.za

CAPE TOWN BASKETBALL STAR INVITED TO NBA SUMMER LEAGUE

Samkelo Cele, a guard for the Cape Town Tigers basketball team, will spend the next few months playing in the National Basketball Association’s (NBA) Summer League with the New York Knicks.

After impressing with the Cape Town Tigers in the Basketball Africa League (BAL), Cele will get the chance to make his ambitions come true by participating in a try-out with an NBA team.

And when asked about the “unbelievable” moment he received the call, Cele stated it’s what he’s been playing for since joining the Basketball Africa League (BAL).

“I had just got back from a workout. I got the call saying that I had been invited to the Summer League by the Knicks. It was surreal,” the 26-year-old Cele told ESPN on Tuesday, 16 July 2024.

“I couldn’t believe it, even though it was something I had wanted and hoped for because opportunities have been spoken about since last year’s BAL.”

Cele had many admirers at the BAL. One of them was retired NBA legend Dwayne Wade, who routinely watched the team to keep an eye on his son, Zaire.

According to ESPN, Wayde was impressed with Cele and gave him some encouraging words of advice.

Cele began his basketball career at Durban High School and later attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, where he spent two years.

He graduated from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in 2022 and was picked up by the Cape Town Tigers for the 2023 season.



If Cele impresses the Knicks enough during the Summer League to earn a roster slot, he will be the first South African to play in the NBA. – Source: www.capetownetc.com



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