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# NEWSFLASH

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WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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## WELL WISHES FOR TEAM SOUTH AFRICA AT PARIS OLYMPICS

***President Cyril Ramaphosa has wished Team South Africa the best success for the Olympic Games currently underway in Paris.***



This, as the 2024 Olympic Games got underway in France.

“Having our flag held aloft by Team South Africa fills us with great pride and expectation for the team’s success in the Paris Games. Team South Africa also causes us to reflect on how our 30 years of freedom have opened the doors for South Africans from all backgrounds, walks of life and geographic locations to exercise their human potential and talents,” said the President in a statement.

The Opening Ceremony of the Games was held on Friday evening, 26 July 2024, with the President saying that the diversity of the national team reflects the unity, social inclusion and shared vision “we have been able to build as a previously divided nation.”

“Today, we celebrate our participation in global society, including in the sports arenas of the world.

“From rugby sevens, aquatics, fencing and archery to track and field, canoeing, cycling and golf, our flag and our good wishes will accompany our athletes as they realise their dreams, which are our collective dreams.”



President Ramaphosa assured the athletes who will perform at the Games, as well as the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee, of the nation’s full support.

The President similarly wished the host nation, France, and the International Olympic Committee a successful showcase of human ability and social solidarity.

The Paris Olympic Games, which began on 24 July, will conclude on 11 August 2024. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA APPOINTS JUSTICE MAYA AS NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE

***In a significant milestone for the country, President Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed current Deputy Chief Justice Mandisa Maya as Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, with effect from 1 September 2024.***

“The appointment follows the President’s consultation, in accordance with constitutional prescripts, with the Judicial Service Commission and the leaders of political parties represented in the National Assembly,” said The Presidency in a statement on Thursday, 25 July 2024.

In a letter addressed to Chief Justice Raymond Zondo on 22 February 2024, President Ramaphosa informed the Judicial Service Commission of his intention to appoint Deputy Chief Justice Maya as the Chief Justice of the Republic upon the expiry of the term of office of Chief Justice Zondo on 31 August 2024.



The President invited the Judicial Service Commission to provide its views on the suitability of Justice Maya to hold the office of Chief Justice.

Discharging its consultative mandate set out in Section 174(3) of the Constitution, the Commission interviewed Justice Maya on 21 May 2024 to ascertain her suitability to be appointed as Chief Justice of the Republic.

The Commission subsequently assured President Ramaphosa of Justice Maya's suitability to lead the judiciary in the country based on the interview, Justice Maya's qualifications and judicial record, her leadership qualities, her experience as a judge in various courts, her past leadership of the Supreme Court of Appeal, and her role as Deputy Chief Justice in the period leading to her nomination by the President.



The commissioners also advised that Justice Maya's appointment would be a significant milestone for the country, as Justice Maya would be the first woman in South Africa to be appointed as Chief Justice.

"President Ramaphosa appreciates the confidence expressed by the Judicial Service Commission and leaders of political parties in the suitability of the incoming Chief Justice, who can draw inspiration and support from the confidence expressed in her," said The Presidency.

Justice Maya's appointment is in terms of Section 174(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## CONDOLENCES FOR THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA

***President Cyril Ramaphosa has expressed his condolences and sorrow following recent landslides in Ethiopia, which claimed the lives of over 200 people.***



"President Cyril Ramaphosa, on behalf of the Government and the people of South Africa, has expressed deep sorrow and condolences following the recent landslides in Gofa, South Western Ethiopia, which tragically took the lives of at least 250 of people at this stage," said The Presidency on Thursday, 25 July 2024.

President Ramaphosa said the South African people's thoughts are with the people of Ethiopia, particularly the bereaved families, during this period of mourning.

"Our hearts go out to the Government and the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at this difficult time."

According to news reports, the landslides were brought about by heavy rains.

President Ramaphosa recalled the strong and historic relations between South Africa and Ethiopia, dating back to the struggle against apartheid.  
– Source: SAnews.gov.za

## PRESIDENT ASSENTS LAWS ADVANCING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

***President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law amendments to the Companies Act of 2008 that promote the ease of doing business and impose greater corporate transparency on the earnings gap between the highest and lowest paid persons in a company.***

The Companies Amendment Bill and Companies Second Amendment Bill referred to the President for assent jointly constitute initiatives by government to make the conduct of business less burdensome, to tighten the pursuit of delinquent directors or prescribed officers for wrongdoing, including state capture, and to address disparities in earnings.

The Companies Amendment Act as signed by the President, streamlines company law to be clear, user-friendly and less burdensome on the conduct of business. This reform is important for the efficient and effective conduct of the domestic economy as well as the attraction of foreign investment.

The Act is also aimed at achieving equity between directors and senior management on the one hand and shareholders and workers on the other hand.

“In addition, the law addresses public concerns regarding high levels of inequalities in society by introducing better disclosure of senior executive remuneration and the reasonableness of the remuneration. The law requires the preparation of a remuneration report by all public and state-owned companies in respect of the previous financial year,” said The Presidency in a statement.

This remuneration report must be accompanied by the company’s remuneration policy and an implementation report that must set out detail on the total remuneration received by each director and prescribed officer, as well as the total remuneration for the employee with the highest and lowest total remuneration.

Among other indicators, companies must report the average and median total remuneration of all employees and disclose the remuneration gap between the total remuneration of the top 5% highest paid employees and the total remuneration of the bottom 5% lowest paid employees of the company.

Public and state-owned companies are now required to prepare and present a remuneration policy for shareholder approval.

Other provisions include the empowerment of a court to validate the creation, allotment or issue of shares, which would otherwise be invalid, upon application before the court by a company or any person who holds an interest in the company.

The law also requires paid shares to be transferred to a stakeholder and held in terms of a stakeholder agreement until fully paid.

These measures are directed at preventing unethical, reckless and criminal conduct in businesses that will negatively impact on shareholders, workers, clients, customers, and the economy as a whole.

### **Companies Second Amendment Act**

The Companies Second Amendment Act signed by President Ramaphosa contains a response by Government to one of the recommendations of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector, including Organs of State (State Capture Commission).



Friday, 26 July 2024

President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law amendments to the Companies Act of 2008 that promote the ease of doing business and impose greater corporate transparency on the earnings gap between the highest and lowest paid persons in a company.



This law amends the Companies Act to extend the period during which proceedings may be launched to recover any loss, damages or costs for which a person may be held liable under the law.

The State Capture Commission recommended that Section 162 of the Companies Act be amended so as to ensure that an application for a declaration of delinquency may be brought even after two years on good cause shown.

While the recommendations applied to specific cases, the new law extends the time bar for declaring a director of a company a delinquent director from 24 months to 60 months. It also gives the court the power to extend the period on good cause shown.

This provision ensures that directors and prescribed officers in companies can be held accountable for a significant period after they have committed alleged offences. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## SOUTH AFRICA'S 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY PRESENTS OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION

***South Africa's 30 years of democracy presents a chance to reflect on how far the country has come while also providing the opportunity to create a path that promotes economic growth and nation-building.***



“The thirty-year mark of democracy is a crucial turning point for reflection on both how far we have come and, most importantly, where we are going in the immediate future and in the next 30 years as a nation.

“In my considered view, I believe that we can all play a role in creating the country of our dreams. Not only the Government, but all sectors of society, including politicians, the public sector, policy specialists and academia, must collaborate to create a path for our country that promotes economic growth, overall prosperity, and nation-building,” said Deputy President Paul Mashatile.

The Deputy President was speaking at the BBQ Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner in Kempton Park on Friday, 26 July 2024.

With South Africa having held elections on 29 May, the Deputy President said: “Once again, as in 1994, we have the opportunity to build a united and prosperous South Africa under the Government of National Unity (GNU)”.

He added that the nation-building process is extensive with government’s vision being to establish a society that is founded on the most superior aspects of human civilisation, including political and human freedoms, socio-economic rights, value systems and identity.

“Indeed, the 2024 election outcomes present us with an opportunity to return to the task of building a South Africa that will not be defined by race, class, or gender.

“However, we must not ignore the structural and systemic inequality that persists across all sectors of our economy, particularly in business and industry, if we are to build a truly united South Africa. Our dedication to non-racialism and working together does not mean we are unaware that the apartheid legacy still systemically disenfranchises individuals based on race, gender, and class 30 years later. However, we must be positive about our nation’s future”, he explained.

He added that government remains committed to investing in people through education, skills development, and high-quality healthcare.

“We aspire to improve our communities' spatial perspectives by constructing inclusive cities and delivering services. We urge all segments of society to work with us to ensure that our democracy is stable, efficient and effective, bringing all people together.

“The Government remains resolute in its pledge to cultivate an environment conducive to the flourishing of black, youth, and women-led businesses.

### **Altering South Africa's economic growth trajectory**

As the Government, we are leveraging the black-owned business sector to rebuild after the global economic downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic. We are willing to have important conversations about how the informal economy can contribute to building our economy.”

He stressed that the increase in the number of unemployed South Africans is a concern.

“The increase in the number of unemployed South Africans, particularly among the youth, necessitates more immediate steps to assist us in fundamentally altering our economic growth trajectory. We must therefore have an open and inclusive conversation about rebuilding, which will result in increased economic activity.

“We must acknowledge that there is a more pressing need to support aggressive means and forms of economic integration for black-owned firms, particularly in the historically untransformed sectors of the economy. We must pay close attention to how governments at all levels can create supportive policies and regulatory environments that support the informal economy.”

### **Hope and eradicating poverty**

He added that amid the current discourse on the country's economic trajectory, there is room for growth, development, and hope.

“The Government's efforts to restructure the economy through the B-BBEE [Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment] policy, legislative framework, and other interventions have made progress, but further efforts are still required. Despite the obstacles encountered since the passage of the B-BBEE Act two decades ago, our government remains unwavering in its mission to enhance and broaden economic empowerment and inclusion across all sectors.

“This will continue to be the case even under the Government of National Unity.”

The Deputy President also called for collaboration in eradicating poverty.

“If we do not collaborate, the Government alone cannot create stability or fulfil the National Development Plan and Vision 2030 goal of eradicating poverty. We must collaborate to broaden the scope of black-owned businesses beyond the convenience store chain, such as spaza shops.

“Our economy has much to offer, and the informal sector, which is dominated by black-owned businesses, should take advantage of this reality.”  
– Source: SAnews.gov.za



## **MINISTER TAU CONCLUDES UNITED STATES VISIT**

### ***Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) Minister, Parks Tau has concluded a successful visit to the United States (US).***

The Minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising the Deputy Minister of dtic, Andrew Whitfield, government officials, the private sector and organised labour. The delegation was participating in the 21st Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum which ran from 22 to 26 July 2024.

This followed the successful hosting of the 20th AGOA Forum in November 2023 in Johannesburg.

The AGOA is a unilateral trade preference scheme that provides qualifying sub-Saharan African countries with duty-free, quota-free access into the US market. AGOA remains the cornerstone of the US commercial relations with sub-Saharan Africa.

With AGOA expiring in 14 months, the African Ministers of Trade urged the Biden Administration and the Members of US Congress for expeditious renewal of AGOA with non-controversial enhancements and amendments for a minimum of 16 years to provide the required predictability and certainty to buyers, exporters and investors.

The ministers called for the renewal of AGOA to be concluded by the end of 2024. There was an agreement to promote stronger and closer investment relations to complement AGOA and change the structure of Africa's trade towards value-added exports.

"We welcome the support expressed by both the Biden Administration and Members of Congress for the renewal of AGOA," said Minister Tau.

The forum also highlighted the critical role that South Africa plays in the development of regional value chains on the African continent in a number of sectors, including the auto sector.



The delegation held extensive engagements with members of the US Congress and House of Representatives, US Administration, US private sector and think tanks. The engagements focussed on sharing information on the political developments in South Africa, in particular the establishment of the Government of National Unity (GNU).

"We welcome the warm reception as well as the productive and constructive discussions we had with Members of Congress across the aisle and with the US Administration. There was a lot of interest in the GNU and its priorities, including efforts to deepen and enhance bilateral relations with the US," Minister Tau said.

The delegation also used the engagements to advocate for the early reauthorisation of AGOA including exploring enhancements that facilitate greater utilisation and create the necessary policy stability to promote private sector investment and African exports into the US.

There was broad support for strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations between South Africa and the US.

## TIFA

"We welcome the positive discussions with the US Trade Representative, Ambassador [Catherine] Tai and the agreement by both sides to resuscitate the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) at a Ministerial level that last met in 2014.

"We instructed our officials to prepare for our first meeting, which will provide a good platform for constructive discussions and effective resolution of trade-related matters from both sides. The resuscitation of the TIFA provides new impetus to our strategic partnership," Minister Tau said.

The US remains South Africa's strategic trading partner, and South Africa is the largest non-oil sub-Saharan African exporting partner to the US, and through AGOA, has been able to boost both agriculture and value-added exports, thus creating much-needed jobs for South Africans. The AGOA Forum is held on an alternate basis between Africa and the US. The 2025 AGOA Forum will thus be held in the Democratic Republic of Congo. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## MINISTER PATRICIA DE LILLE APPROVES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSES TO EXHIBIT AT INTERNATIONAL TOURISM TRADE SHOWS

***As part of the Department of Tourism's Incentive Programme, Minister Patricia de Lille has approved that the department provides financial support of around R6 Million to 25 South African businesses to travel to and exhibit at international tourism trade shows.***

Through the Market Access Support Programme (MASP), the department provides financial support annually to qualifying small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to cover their costs to exhibit at national and international tourism trade shows.

This programme has been implemented to stimulate growth, development and transformation in the South African tourism sector.

The MASP is geared towards supporting tourism SMEs by removing financial barriers to allow them to access new markets and to network at national and international trade shows.



Each year, hundreds of tourism businesses are supported financially to exhibit at trade shows such as Africa Travel Indaba, World Travel Market Africa, Meetings Africa, World Travel Market in London, and the Internationale Tourismus Börse in Berlin.

## SME's SUPPORTED TO EXHIBIT AT INTERNATIONAL TOURISM TRADE SHOW



“ The Department of Tourism has approved **financial support** of around **R6million** for 25 South African businesses to travel to and exhibit at international tourism trade shows. ”

*Minister Patricia De Lille*

This week, Minister de Lille approved financial support to 15 South African tourism businesses to travel to and exhibit at IMEX, which takes place in Las Vegas, United States of America, in October this year.

Minister de Lille also approved financial support for 10 businesses to attend the World Youth Student Travel Conference taking place in Lisbon, Portugal, in September.

“This support is in line with our goals as articulated in the Tourism Sector Master Plan to reignite demand, as the tourism sector is a key contributor to economic growth and job creation. By enabling SMEs greater access to international markets, we are supporting them to attract more business, expand their businesses and thereby increase tourism’s contribution to economic growth and job creation,” Minister de Lille said.

Through the MASP, the department covers the costs of beneficiary businesses for flights, accommodation, exhibition costs and shipping of materials.



IMEX America is one of the world’s largest tourism trade shows for global meetings, events and incentive travel sectors. Attending the show offers attendees access to buyers and suppliers from all over the world, where more than 3 300 exhibitors meet from more than 180 countries. Attending IMEX America means that the South African businesses have an opportunity to meet over 3 000 global decision-makers with real buying power in one of the biggest meeting markets in the world.

The World Youth Student Travel Conference is taking place in Portugal and is one of the world’s leading trade events for youth, students and educational travel. It brings together leading buyers and sellers of youth travel products, top service providers and industry thought leaders.

The department advertises regular application calls for the MASP programme and once applications are received, an adjudication panel selects qualifying enterprises with compliant applications.

The adjudication committee then makes a recommendation to the Minister on businesses to approve MASP funding.

For the latest round of MASP support, tourism businesses from Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape, Gauteng, the Free State, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape have been approved for financial support to attend the global travel trade shows.

“The MASP programme is one of the most impactful programmes by the Department of Tourism to provide support to tourism businesses to give them exposure to international markets and thousands of potential new clients and partners. By attending these shows, these businesses can market their offerings and secure deals. Many beneficiaries in the past have made significant business deals through attending these shows with the department’s support,” Minister de Lille said.

“As we look to elevate the profile of tourism and grow the number of arrivals to South Africa, it is vital that we support tourism businesses that need help to gain exposure to international and national markets. We wish the businesses well for their travels and hope they secure additional business and contacts that will help grow the South African tourism sector,” Minister de Lille concluded. – Source: [www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)



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## GOVERNMENT CONGRATULATES DR MUGWENA MALULEKE ON ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

***Government congratulates Dr Mugwena Maluleke, the General Secretary of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU), on his election as President of Education International at the 10th World Congress. Dr Maluleke's unanimous election to this position is a testament to his unwavering dedication to the field of education, both in South Africa and on the global stage.***

The Education International 10th World Congress, which is attended by delegates from education unions and stakeholders from across the globe, is currently underway in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr Maluleke's new role will see him leading and guiding a global union federation comprising 383 member organisations across 178 countries and territories. His election is a testament of confidence the international community has in the quality of South African leaders, his ability to advocate for the rights of educators and to promote equitable, inclusive, and quality education for all.

His election and recognition in the global education sector highlights South Africa's commitment to quality education and its role in shaping the future of education worldwide. We have no doubt that under his stewardship, Education International will continue to advance the cause of universal access to education, ensuring that the voices of educators are heard and respected.

Government affirms its support for Dr Maluleke and looks forward to the positive impact his leadership will have on the global education community. – Source: [www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)



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## SOUTH AFRICAN FIREFIGHTERS TO HELP FIGHT CANADIAN FIRES

***The Working on Fire-Kishugu Joint Venture (WOF-Kishugu JV) is deploying a team of more than 200 firefighters and management to the Canadian province of Alberta to assist with firefighting efforts.***



The *Guardian* reported that wildfires near the Canadian town of Jasper have forced more than 25 000 to flee one of the country's largest national parks as multiple blazes and thick smoke descended on the Rocky Mountain community.

The report said the town is home to 5 000 full-time residents, along with 5 000 seasonal workers.

The request for urgent assistance came from the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) in terms of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Canada and South Africa.

The MOU signed in 2019 provides for exchanging wild land fire management resources between the two countries.

The WOF has been on five deployments to Canada between 2015 and 2023 based on the MoU.

The five deployments include the historic deployment of 860 firefighters and management in 2023, one of the largest deployments of international firefighters to Canada.

The organisation said they have since finalised the deployment list of firefighters and management.

The team started off at the Kishugu Training Academy in Mbombela, Mpumalanga, for a training camp for final preparation before departure.

The group departed for Canada via a charter arranged by the CIFFC on Friday, 26 July 2024, from the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport and is expected to be there for 39 days.

### **Flying the South African flag high**

“We extend our best wishes to the team as they embark on their deployment to Canada to help put out the fires raging in Alberta.

“They go to Canada to raise the South African flag and share their expertise and camaraderie with colleagues from other Canadian provinces and countries.”

The team includes pump-trained firefighters with valid yellow cards, with more than three years of firefighting experience and physically fit.

Meanwhile, 30% of the selected firefighters in the first deployment are women, including three members of the management team, which the WOF believes highlights its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

In addition, several of the team members have previous international firefighting experience, which further enhances their expertise in tackling complex fire situations.

“We are proud that South Africa is again able to assist Canadian firefighting teams in their battle to bring the wildfires under control. The extensive experience and training of these firefighters will significantly enhance efforts to effectively suppress and manage the wildfires in Alberta.”

### **Local operations**

The WOF has since reassured all their partners and stakeholders that this deployment will not have any impact on South African firefighting operations.

“Every one of our 200-plus firefighting bases in South Africa will continue to provide firefighting and fire prevention services to our partners and landowners.”

The organisation said they will still have just over 5 000 firefighters available at these bases throughout South Africa.

“Should there be major wildland fire activities in our winter fire season provinces, we will, as we have done in the past, be able to deploy our Western and Eastern Cape firefighters to these hotspots. No partner and landowner will be left without any firefighting operations from Working on Fire, and we urge you to communicate with us directly should you have any enquiries.”

WOF is an expanded public works programme (EPWP) aimed at providing work opportunities to young men and women.

The programme, funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs, recruits participants from marginalised communities and trains them in fire awareness and education, fire prevention and fire suppression skills. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## **NEW CHINESE CAR BRAND JETOUR TO ENTER SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET**

**Jetour, a Chery sub-brand, will be entering the South African market this September, with 40 dealerships across the country.**

Jetour Auto was launched by the Chery Holding Group in 2018 in response to market trends and consumer demand.



Since its inception, Jetour Auto has operated completely independently in the global market, with dedicated R&D, manufacturing facilities, sales and aftersales channels and it will also operate independently in the South African market.

Over the last five years, Jetour has sold over 1 180 000 vehicles globally across its five product lines, with over 1 200 partners in over 60 countries and regions worldwide, achieving number one in several markets.

Johnny Fang, Managing Director of Jetour in South Africa, says that the company will be targeting monthly sales of 800 units within the first year of operation, with their Jetour X70 Plus and Dashing models being the first to hit the local market.

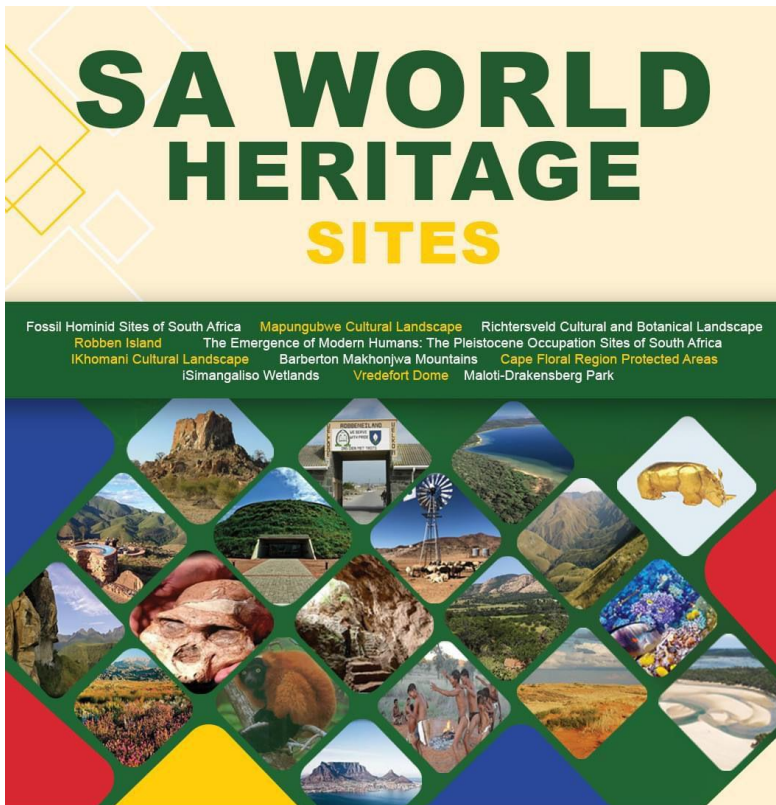
He says local priorities will also include enhanced service quality and the availability of parts.

“Our state-of-the-art parts warehouse in Kyalami, spanning 4 000 square metres and housing up to 82 000 parts, only strengthens our commitment to customer satisfaction, providing customers with the parts needed, when they need them, with the efficiency and reliability that they’d expect.



“We are excited to mirror Jetour’s worldwide success in South Africa and become the top choice for travel vehicles among local customers,” Fangs says. – Source: [www.bizcommunity.com](http://www.bizcommunity.com)

## SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATES NEW UNESCO HERITAGE SITES IN 2024



**The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has proudly named two new South African areas as World Heritage Sites in 2024, adding seven new landmarks to our growing collection.**

This achievement marks a significant milestone in the preservation and recognition of South Africa’s rich cultural and natural heritage.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are landmarks or areas recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation for their cultural, historical, scientific, or other forms of significance. They are legally protected by international treaties and recognised as holding importance for all of humanity.

In 2024, two remarkable sites were added to South Africa’s UNESCO World Heritage List. The inscription follows the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in New Delhi, India held from the 21 to 31 of July 2024.

The inscribed sites termed as *The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites*, which is a serial property comprising 14 components that are located in four provinces and seven municipalities across South Africa and they are the Union Buildings, Constitution Hill, Liliesleaf, Sharpeville (comprising three component parts), Walter Sisulu Square, 16 June 1976: The Streets of Orlando West, University of Fort Hare and ZK Mathews House (Comprising two component parts), Mqhekezweni, Waaihoek and Ohlange.



Collectively, this serial property demonstrates the events and ideas that served as the core of South Africa's liberation struggle, which continue to inspire humanity and the embrace of reconciliation, a quarter century later.

The 14 components exemplify strong memories and beliefs in the triumph of human rights, liberation and reconciliation.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee further inscribed three Middle Stone Age sites as recognition of South Africa's significant contribution to the understanding of the origins of modern human behaviour.

The second South African serial site inscribed is *The Emergence of Modern Human Behaviour: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa*. The sites are located in the Western Cape Province and KwaZulu-Natal. The three sites are:

- Diepkloof Rock Shelter close to Elands Bay, Western Cape
- Pinnacle Point Site Complex in Mossel Bay, Western Cape
- Sibhudu Cave in KwaDukuza, KwaZulu-Natal.

The inscription of these two serial properties, increases South Africa's list of World Heritage Sites to 12.

Notable sites include:

- Blombos Cave: Famous for its ancient artifacts, including tools and artwork, offering a glimpse into the cognitive evolution of early humans.
- Sibudu Cave: Known for its well-preserved archaeological deposits that reveal sophisticated technologies used by early humans.
- Pinnacle Point: A series of caves with evidence of early coastal living and advanced tool use.
- Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa: Known as the Cradle of Humankind, these sites have produced a wealth of information about human evolution.
- Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape: A rich archaeological site that was once the centre of the Kingdom of Mapungubwe.
- Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape: Celebrated for its cultural practices and unique botanical diversity.
- Robben Island: Infamous for its role as a prison, including the incarceration of Nelson Mandela.
- †Khomani Cultural Landscape: Reflecting the rich heritage of the †Khomani San people.
- Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains: Offering a glimpse into some of the oldest geological formations on Earth.
- Cape Floral Region Protected Areas: Boasting incredible biodiversity with thousands of plant species.
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park: A stunning natural wonder with diverse ecosystems.
- Vredefort Dome: The world's largest and oldest meteorite impact site.
- Maloti-Drakensberg Park: A beautiful area featuring both natural beauty and rock art from the San people.

South Africa's addition of new sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List highlights the country's commitment to preserving its invaluable cultural and natural heritage. These sites are not only treasures for South Africans but are also recognised and celebrated globally. As South Africa continues to honour and protect these areas, it strengthens its position as a shining example of heritage and history on the world stage. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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## TWO SOUTH AFRICAN SPOTS LISTED IN *TIME* MAGAZINE'S "WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES"

***"TIME" Magazine has released its annual "World's Greatest Places" list and not one, but two South African places have been featured.***

On 25 July 2024, *TIME* Magazine revealed the sixth instalment of its annual World's Greatest Places List, with this year's selection highlighting 100 extraordinary destinations worldwide, categorised into places to stay and places to visit.

To compile this "great" list, *TIME* asked for nominations of places, including hotels, cruises, restaurants, attractions, museums, parks, and more, from its international network of correspondents and contributors, as well as through an application process, with an eye towards those offering new and exciting experiences.

With last year's list featuring 50 cities, this year *TIME* decided to feature establishments that stand out in their field and the world.

Among these 100 Great Places, two South African spots were named. These were the Grootbos Florilegium in Gansbaai and Magugu House in Johannesburg.



## Grootbos Florilegium in Gansbaai, Western Cape

The Grootbos Florilegium, located in the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve in Gansbaai, is a museum devoted to the small wonders of nature and features a collection of nearly 250 botanical illustrations and portraits of insects, butterflies and other pollinators commissioned by 44 international artists.

“Opened in September 2022 and continually growing, the museum aims to instil in its visitors a love of South African vegetation and the passion to protect it through public tours and by funding local school programmes with the sale of botanical prints.” *TIME* wrote.

## Magugu House in Johannesburg, Gauteng

Opened by fashion designer, Thebe Magugu, who has collaborated with Dior and shown collections at London and Paris Fashion Weeks, Magugu House is a retail space and showroom complete with two micro galleries which hosts fashion events and exhibitions.

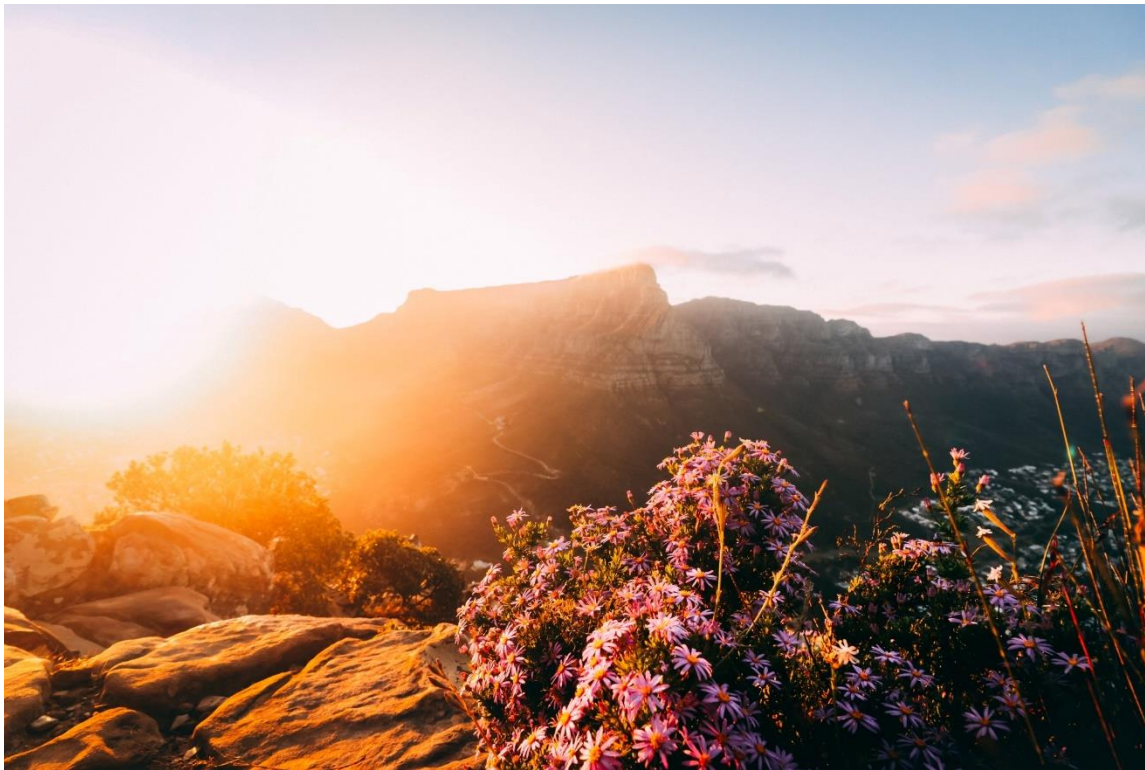
“The new retail space and showroom from a designer known for colourful storytelling is located in a 1930s heritage building in the leafy suburb of Dunkeld; it’s his first brick-and-mortar, complete with two micro galleries.” *TIME* said.

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



## CAPE TOWN PLACED ON MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES IN THE WORLD LIST

*Cape Town is sitting pretty on another “World Best” list, this time for “Architectural Digest’s” Top 20 Most Beautiful Cities in the World ranking.*



*Architectural Digest* writer Amelia Mularz emphasises that different factors of consideration went into constructing the prettiest cities list, including “architecture, cultural treasures, historical relevance, and natural appeal”.

Well-travelled readers will appreciate that the list is diverse in that different cities speak to different combinations of the above factors. In architecture, Barcelona, Singapore and Jaipur (despite all being vastly different in their aesthetics) reflect nodes of design innovation throughout different eras in history. In the case of cultural treasures, Florence, Luxor and Kyoto offer exhilarating heaps of culture. And when it comes to natural offerings, Cape Town and Chiang Mai stand green and proud.

Placed at 14 on the list, Cape Town was praised as follows:

“Brilliant blue waters, buzzing nightlife, an ever-emerging art scene, and the majestic Table Mountain make Cape Town a stunning city, no matter your definition of beauty.”

South Africa's Mother City was further applauded for its natural offerings and thrills, adding to the many World Best/Favourite lists the city has scooped spots on.

The Full World's Most Beautiful Cities list:

1. Adelaide, Australia
2. Tallinn, Estonia
3. Portsmouth, Dominica
4. San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
5. Antigua, Guatemala
6. Singapore
7. Paris, France
8. Chefchaouen, Morocco
9. Chiang Mai, Thailand
10. Luxor, Egypt
11. Istanbul, Turkey
12. Kyoto, Japan
13. Barcelona, Spain
14. Cape Town, South Africa
15. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
16. Florence, Italy
17. Djenné, Mali
18. New York City, United States
19. Amsterdam, the Netherlands
20. Jaipur, India

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

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## SOUTH AFRICAN WORDSMITH WINS LITERARY AWARD FOR DEBUT FICTION

***South Africa's Lindani Mbunyuza-Memani is one of the few wordsmiths who can say they won an award before their work was even published. Thanks to her win of the 2024 Dinaane Debut Fiction Award, her book "Buried in the Chest" will get to be on shelves.***

She and academic Lindani Mbunyuza-Memani who lives and teaches at Jefferson College in the United States, has claimed the 2024 title (previously known as The European Union Literary Award for Debut Fiction) for her book, *Buried in the Chest*. Her win not only meant a cash prize, but also the publication of her book by Jacana Media.

Submissions for the award were as diverse as the authors themselves, with rookie writers across Southern Africa sharing their words, thoughts and perceptions—some for the very first time. For the judges, however, Lindani's *Buried in the Chest* stood out for its "astonishingly fresh and accomplished" approach.



**LINDANI  
MBUNYUZA**

**DINAANE DEBUT  
FICTION AWARD**

**WINNER**

The judging panel included head judge Rehana Roussouw (who boasts a lengthy career in journalism, fiction and non-fiction writing), Jennifer Malec (founding editor of *The Johannesburg Review of Books* and *The Reading List*) and Robert Muponde (critic, editor, writer and English PhD) who together, reviewed 60 manuscript submissions.

They sang the Mbunyuza-Memani's praises, sharing:



“Buried in the Chest deals with familiar themes in South African writing, but with an approach that is astonishingly fresh and accomplished. The author interrogates the painful history of apartheid with a unique literary approach and the book will linger in the heart and mind long after reading. This poetic novel is the kind of inventive truth telling South Africa urgently needs as we continue to grapple with the past and imagine a better future for all.”

For any first time author, publication is an incredible achievement all its own. But for Mbunyuza-Memani, winning the Dinaane Debut Fiction Award sets her a few pages ahead as one of the few authors who can say they won an award before they landed a book deal. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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## JOHANN MEINTJES: FIRST QUADRIPLLEGIC PHOTOGRAPHER AT THE OLYMPICS

***Johann Meintjes, the world’s first quadriplegic photographer to shoot at the Olympic Games, exemplifies South Africa’s spirit of resilience and inspires global audiences with his groundbreaking achievement.***



South Africans are champions in so many fields, and our nation never ceases to inspire with its remarkable stories of triumph. From athletes breaking records to artists pushing creative boundaries, we excel in countless arenas. Among these extraordinary individuals is Johann Meintjes, whose journey has recently captured global attention, thanks to a viral post by Gymnastics South Africa.

Meintjes is not just any photographer; he is the world’s first quadriplegic photographer to shoot at the Olympic Games, and his story is nothing short of awe-inspiring.

Meintjes, a photographer with a unique perspective, both literally and figuratively, has rewritten the narrative of what is possible. Forty-two years ago, Meintjes suffered a spinal cord injury during a gymnastics competition, resulting in the loss of use of all four limbs. However, his indomitable spirit and love for sports propelled him to reconnect with his passion from behind the camera lens.

This year, his dedication and talent earned him a spot at the Paris 2024 Olympics, making history and inspiring millions around the globe.

The viral post from Gymnastics South Africa highlighted Meintjes’ groundbreaking achievement, bringing his remarkable journey to the forefront.

“Big shoutout to Johann Meintjes, the world’s first quadriplegic photographer to shoot at the Olympic Games. Johann is a former National Artistic and Tumbling gymnast and now renowned photographer, often seen taking pictures at Gymnastics South Africa events.”

Celebrating Team South Africa at the Olympics extends beyond the athletes competing for medals. It includes everyone who contributes to the spirit and success of the games, even the photographers who capture these unforgettable moments. Meintjes’ accomplishment shines a light on the diverse and inclusive nature of the Olympics, showcasing that talent knows no bounds.

South Africa is incredibly proud to have such a remarkable individual represent us on the global stage. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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## YOUNG CHEF PREPS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CREATING MENU OF RECLAIMED FOODS

***Aspiring chef Thou Molokomme is ready to test her skills before heading to France for the WorldSkills Competition. She will be using her skills to showcase cooking and as part of her practice, she has teamed up with NOSH Food Rescue NPC to create and cook a three-course menu using reclaimed foods.***

NOSH is an organisation that helps prevent food waste by collecting food that is on the verge of expiring from supermarkets to donate to charities in need. The organisation was started to be the middleman between retail food waste and the people of South Africa in need of food. Currently, the organisation works in the Johannesburg area but hopes to grow and spread across the country, saving food and people in one swoop.

One of the initiatives the charity has done over the last few years has been to host odd-plate dinners. These are run once a month and the funds raised are used to further support charities.

They bring in bright young chefs who work with the rescued food to put on a three-course meal (sometimes more) to show the public that rescued food is just as good as bought food.

The food rescued from landfills is safe to eat and a great eye-opener to how much can be done even if food reaches its expiration date. We love that there are organisations out there working to rescue food and make sure people don't go hungry.

Molokomme is currently studying at the Culinary Passions School of Hospitality which has joined NOSH to make this evening possible.

"Aspiring chef Tlou and the team will be presented with a random selection of produce and foodstuffs that would otherwise have gone to waste but have been rescued by NOSH instead. You will see that even unloved produce, especially but not exclusively, in the hands of skilled and passionate culinary professionals can shine and delight both the eye and the taste buds. The competitors are faced with several such Mystery Basket challenges during the competition as well, and it is always amazing to see their creations."

The Odd Plate Dinner will help raise funds for NOSH and give aspiring Chef Tlou Molokomme the chance to get training with odd ingredients. Since its founding, NOSH has diverted 2989 tonnes of food from landfills, redirecting it towards causes in need. That is a massive amount of food to feed people in need. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

**Chef Tlou Molokomme is preparing for the upcoming International WorldSkills competition, set to take place in Lyon, France, this September.**



**CAPE TOWN COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024: SOUTHERN VIBES IN AFRICA**



***Cape Town's inaugural Country Music Festival in October 2024 will feature a blend of international Country stars and South African talent.***

Prepare to shine your cowboy boots, as Cape Town is set to host an unforgettable boot-stomping event. The inaugural Cape Town Country Music Festival is set to gallop into the DHL Cape Town Stadium this October.

It promises two days packed with the finest tunes from the world of country music. Scheduled for 26 and 27 October 2024, this festival boasts an impressive lineup that blends international stars with homegrown talent.



Leading the charge on Saturday, 26 October 2024 is none other than Kip Moore, according to *Bok Radio*. Moore is returning to South Africa after a series of sold-out performances.

Known for his soulful country sound, Moore promises to captivate the audience with hits that have resonated across continents.

“I’m thrilled to be back in South Africa for this special event,” Moore enthused.

“The energy here is incredible and I can’t wait to share the stage with some amazing artists.”

Joining Moore on Saturday are industry stalwarts like Darius Rucker, co-founder of Hootie & the Blowfish, and rising star CAM.

Each will bring their unique blend of country charm to the stage, according to *Time Out*.

Sunday, 27 October 2024 sees the debut of the Zac Brown Band in South Africa. This marks a milestone for country music enthusiasts across the nation. With a Grammy Award-winning career and chart-topping albums under their belt, the Zac Brown Band promises a night of electrifying performances.

“We’re thrilled to be part of South Africa’s first-ever country music festival,” said Zac Brown, frontman of the band.

“Our fans here have been incredibly supportive, and we’re excited to bring a taste of Nashville to Cape Town.”

Sharing the spotlight with Zac Brown Band on Sunday evening are Brothers Osborne. Their infectious melodies and heartfelt lyrics have earned them acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic.

But it’s not just about the international headliners.

The festival proudly showcases the best of South Africa’s country music scene, according to *Cape Town Today*. From the soulful tunes of Demi Lee Moore to the raw energy of Roan Ash and the infectious melodies of Juan Boucher, local artists will set the stage on fire.

In addition to the stellar lineup, festival-goers can expect a true Nashville-inspired experience. The DHL Cape Town Stadium will be transformed into a country haven, complete with authentic American food and drinks.

Exclusive festival merchandise, including iconic boots and Stetsons, will be available for purchase. This ensures fans can take home a piece of this historic event. With such a diverse lineup and a vibrant atmosphere, this festival promises to be a highlight on Cape Town’s cultural calendar.

So, dust off your cowboy hat, grab your tickets and get ready to two-step the weekend away at the Cape Town Country Music Festival.

A place where the spirit of Nashville meets the heart of Africa in a musical celebration like no other. – Source: [www.sapeople.com](http://www.sapeople.com)

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## SIX STUDENTS FROM STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY SCOOP SPOTS TO PERFORM AT CARNEGIE HALL

***Six Stellenbosch University (SU) students have scooped coveted spots after they beat hundreds of applicants to be selected for the Africa United Youth Orchestra, where they will perform at Carnegie Hall for World Orchestra Week (WOW).***

Six Stellenbosch University students have scooped coveted spots as they join the Africa United Youth Orchestra (AUYO). Stellenbosch University’s Department of Music (SU Konservatorium) has announced that students Gilah Kellner (Concertmaster), Catherine Stiff (Associate Concertmaster), Gretna Heynike (Violin 1), Carina Naudé (Violin 1), Ricardo Hiniker (Violin 2) and Courtney Sampson on the French Horn have all made them very proud with their selection.

The selection saw over 200 applicants apply for the opportunity, with applicants hailing from several African countries, including Nigeria, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique.



“This achievement not only highlights the students’ exceptional skills but also brings significant recognition to the university on an international stage,” praises Dr Suzanne Martens, a Senior Lecturer in violin and chamber music at SU.

American conductor William Eddins will lead the AUYO’s performance as part of Carnegie Hall’s WOW—a prestigious event and summer festival that unites the top calibre of young musicians from all over the world.

The performance will take place on 3 August, where the AUYO is part of a programme including the National Children’s Symphony of Venezuela, the Beijing Youth Symphony Orchestra, the European Union Youth Orchestra and the Afghan Youth Orchestra. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)



## NETFLIX’S LATEST LOVE STORY *FIND ME FALLING* DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY A SOUTH AFRICAN

***If Netflix’s latest love story “Find Me Falling” gave you just the right fix of romance, comedy and dreams of Cyprus, there is one more reason to fall in love with the film: it was directed by a South African-Cypriot Stelana Kliris.***

Writer and director Stelana Kliris just so happens to be a South African-Cypriot. Raised in South Africa and an alumna of Rhodes University, Kliris moved to Cyprus, where she worked in the film industry for several years before *Find Me Falling*—a film she affectionately dubs “a love letter to Cyprus”.

The film climbed to Netflix’s top-watched English-language film in just a few days, priming it to be one of the best rom-coms of the year.

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

## TEAM SOUTH AFRICA BASKS IN VICTORY AT THE 2024 TALENT OLYMPICS

***The 2024 Talent Olympics took place from 28 June to 7 July 2024 in California, the United States, where dancers, actors, models, singers and other talented culture vultures from 70 countries competed for coveted places and opportunities.***

For the 2024 run, Team South Africa didn’t hesitate to show off in the best way and claimed 51 gold medals, 38 silver medals, 30 bronze medals and 19 scholarships in the process.

On top of this, 45 Team South Africa contestants made it to the semi-finals, while 12 made it all the way to the final leg of the competition. All in all, there were 11 Junior Overall Division South African winners and 21 Senior Overall Division winners.

The Junior Dance Group of the World was South Africa’s Pulse Masters (who also won Junior Performer of the World), while the Junior Actor of the World went to Tatum Murray-Smith, and the Senior Actor of the World went to Ronel Basson. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)





## TATJANA SMITH GLITTERS AT PARIS OLYMPICS

**South African swimmer Tatjana Smith has bagged the nation's first gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics, putting on a glittering performance in the women's 100m breaststroke.**



Smith finished the race at 1:05.28 on Monday, 29 July 2024.

“Smith’s own Olympics tally has now grown to three, with two golds and a silver, and one more will see her equal Chad le Clos on four, the most of any South African Olympian. The chances of her adding to that total later in the week are high, given she’s the reigning champion in the 200m,” the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) said.

Nearly 150 athletes are representing Team South Africa at Paris 2024, in the country’s 21st appearance at the Olympic Games, taking place from 26 July to 11 August.

“I had no idea where I was most of the race. I actually didn’t think I medalled because when I turned to my left, the two blocks next to me both had lights on and it felt like someone else on the other side touched first.

“So, I actually didn’t think I was medalling. My main goal was just to not do what I did in Tokyo and look around. So literally the last 15 metres, I was like, ‘No, close your eyes, let’s just go,’” Smith said.

President Cyril Ramaphosa congratulated Smith in a post on social media platform X, adding that he looked forward to more spectacular performances. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## BLITZBOKS BEAT AUSTRALIA TO THE BRONZE AS THEY BAG SOUTH AFRICA’S FIRST MEDAL IN PARIS

**Shaun Williams scored well after the final hooter had gone to give the Blitzboks a 26-19 win to bag the bronze medal on Saturday, 27 July 2024, South Africa’s first medal at the Paris Olympics.**

After South Africa had taken what looked like an unassailable lead, and with Australia a man down after captain Nick Malouf was shown the red card for a high tackle, it looked like the game was all over.

However, two quick tries for the Australians turned the game on its head. Corey Toole and Henry Paterson each crossed the line as they pulled level, having being dead in the water at 19-7 down.

When the clock hit full time, the scores were tied at 19-all, but South Africa, crucially, secured the ball after the restart. After a number of phases, Williams found himself with some space to go through and dot the ball behind the line to give Philip Snyman’s men a famous win.

Earlier in the game, Zain Davids scored two quick tries as South Africa came back into the game, having allowed Australia to open the scoring.



In their first game on Saturday, South Africa were beaten by hosts France, who took on Fiji and won the gold medal after winning the final 28-7.

The Blitzboks began their Olympic Sevens campaign with losses to Ireland and New Zealand and had to dig deep against Japan to secure their place in the knockout stages.

They followed that up with a win over New Zealand to set up their meeting with France. – Source: [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)

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## ALAN HATHERLY WINS OLYMPIC BRONZE IN MOUNTAIN BIKING

***Mountain-biker Alan Hatherly, the first South African to win an Olympic cycling medal since 1956, knew he had one chance to make his long-awaited dream come true. And on Monday, he achieved just that in the men's cross-country event near Paris.***



Hatherly excelled in the gruelling eight-lap endurance race, earning bronze and securing South Africa's third medal at the Games, following the Blitzboks' bronze in rugby sevens and Tatjana Smith's gold in the women's 100m breaststroke final.

The 28-year-old from Hillcrest, KwaZulu-Natal, led from the start but slipped to fifth as Great Britain's Tom Pidcock and France's Victor Koretzky surged ahead to compete for gold. Hatherly stayed close behind Pidcock and Koretzky, moving back into podium contention and holding second place for two laps at the Colline d'Élancourt course.

Ultimately, Hatherly finished third with a time of 1:26:33, just 11 seconds behind gold medallist Pidcock, making history for South Africa in Paris.

Arriving in Paris after winning consecutive World Cup events, including a victory earlier this month in Les Gets, Hatherly, ranked fourth in the world, set a strong pace from the opening lap and knew he had to outsmart his rivals.

Hatherly was overwhelmed with emotion, stating that he "left everything out there."

He said, "It was an unbelievable race— super-fast and tactical. I had an amazing start and managed to clear the chaos and the risk factor of getting caught out in lap one. I started to position and save some energy, and I got a bit caught out and maybe settled a little bit too early. But the race started to happen, and I had to chase quite hard to get back in medal positions. Once Tom had his mechanical issue and I was in second place and just controlling the gap to Victor. I was kind of planning on really emptying the tank in the last two laps and getting back to the front, and in that moment, Tom came back. We went together, back across, and then it was a massive battle on the last lap for the medals. I mean, I have no regrets in the end. I left everything out there that I possibly could and it's every athlete's dream to get an Olympic medal. To have achieved this today is unbelievable and I'm still lost for words. It's going to take some time to settle in."

Hatherly became the first South African cyclist to win an Olympic medal since the country's readmission and the first since 1956. His bronze medal was South Africa's third in Paris and the first on a golden Monday, which concluded with Tatjana Smith winning the 100m breaststroke final.

Reflecting on his achievement, Hatherly said, "It still hasn't really sunk in yet. I still need some time to reflect back. It's been a career goal of mine since I was a child growing up, and to have achieved it today, it's just unbelievable. It's been such a journey to get to this point. The last few weeks are always the most difficult when you've had perfect preparation, to just put the cherry on top, to deliver a performance when you only have one chance to deliver that performance. To have ticked all the boxes and achieve that without getting anything wrong on the way in, and not making mistakes in the race... That's just an achievement in itself – to have the bronze for the team and for South Africa. It's just really a dream come true. I'm super happy." – Source: [www.capetownetc.com](http://www.capetownetc.com)

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## SOUTH AFRICA CROWNED THE 2024 IGNITION GROUP POLOCROSSE WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS



***In a nail-biting 2024 Ignition Group Polocrosse World Cup final on Sunday, 28 July 2024, South Africa narrowly beat reigning champions Australia 29-28, earning them a third World Cup title. Sunday's final concluded a fantastic competition that ran from 17 to 28 July 2024 at the Durban Shongweni Club in the Valley of 1000 Hills.***

Spectators were kept on the edge of their seats during what turned out to be one of the closest finals in the history of the Polocrosse World Cup. South Africa came out of the first Chukka five goals down, with the men coming in to close that gap, building momentum from there. Chukka four to seven, it was one goal in, and in Chukka eight, Australia went up by two, followed by two goals from South Africa to equalise, followed by the winning goal in the final seconds before the bell rang.

Man of the Match, South Africa's Chad von Beneke commented:

"It was a tight game all the way through, but our team pulled through in the end. We started a couple of goals down, and Australia came out firing, but it was an unbelievable performance by the South African team. We can't thank South Africa enough for the support!"



Speaking at the prizegiving, the South African team captain and four-time South Africa World Cup player, Jan-Albert, commented:

"For me, personally, it is the pinnacle of polocrosse to come up against a side as good as [the Australians] are, I feel it brings out the best in players and it was an honour playing against you today. It's been an unbelievable day for me; as I come to the end of my international career, I couldn't have scripted it better."

Dr Manfred Rohwer, President of the Polocrosse Association of South Africa, commented that he was so proud of South Africa for hosting the World Cup and for all the supporters

"Thank you very much to the South African team for pulling it off, to the South African supporters for coming out, and to all of the organisers over the last year, this has been a fantastic achievement. I'm so proud!"

Visitors to the Durban Shongweni Club enjoyed the world-class polocrosse action, which started with a round-robin format and culminated in this home-side win. There was also great action as the South African Development side took on the Rest of the World Barbarian side, featuring players from South America, Canada and Europe, among others. There were also great pop-up stalls selling handcrafted goods, live entertainment and live broadcasts by East Coast Radio.

#### 2024 Ignition Group Polocrosse World Cup Rankings

1. South Africa
2. Australia
3. Zambia
4. New Zealand
5. Ireland
6. Zimbabwe
7. United Kingdom
8. United States of America

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

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**DRUM MAJORETTES MARCH THEIR WAY TO MEDALS GALORE**

**South African drum majorettes have marched their way to medals galore thanks to marvellous efforts at the World Championship of Majorette-Sport and Merry Majorette International Cup held in Agen, France, where 25 teams from around the world competed and 191 displays were underway.**



Team members from all walks of life formed South Africa's all-star team as part of the Federation of Dance, Drill, Cheerleading and Majorette of South Africa (FDDCMSA), where they represented not only the proud flag of the Rainbow Nation but also the unsung flags of their communities.

Proud mom Lauren van Wyk told *Good Things Guy* that many of the participating girls from Cape Town have risen above the challenges of their lives to be crowned champions.

"[These are] girls from all walks of life in and around Cape Town; broken families and very difficult circumstances, but they rise above the challenges they face and they make the most of what they love, and that is being a drum majorette."

While the medals will forever sparkle as recognition of their achievements as a team, they also symbolise many personal achievements of the parents who fundraised against the odds and did their best to get their children to France for the big competition.

The team returned to South Africa as symbols of hope for every youngster from Kuilsriver, Macassar, Atlantis and other areas where dreams hold communities together. The South African drum majorettes bring back with them 11 gold champion cups, 13 silver and 7 bronze medals, with the Western Cape cohort earning three gold, five silver and a bronze.

But what also stood out from this team was their infectious South African spirit, most evident in their determination to see our anthem through.

"When only a part of our anthem was played at the last prizegiving, these girls took it upon themselves to finish our anthem. They did not go to France for themselves; they went and represented their country with pride and honour and as a mother of one of these stars, I could not be any prouder of not only my child but the whole South African team."

Like many parents of children who are in sports that need more national support and play a vital role in the well-being of youngsters, Lauren hopes that the government will recognise this team's achievements as a testament to what can happen when the youth's dreams are supported.

"I sure hope that government will soon recognise the sport so more athletes would be able to travel and see the world, and that our children can see there is more to life than just gangs, drugs and violence." – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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## **SOUTH AFRICA'S ERNESTA STRYDOM TO REFEREE THE PARALYMPIC GAMES**

***South Africa's Ernesta Strydom has been appointed as an International Para Athletics Technical Official yet again, where she will play ref for the world's best para-athletes.***

Strydom has been appointed as an International Para Athletics Technical Official (ITO) for the Paralympics, making it her fifth time at the Paralympics.

Strydom first qualified in 2006 and has gone on to qualify for multiple Games since then.

Speaking to the South African Sports Association for Physically Disabled (SASAPD) where she also serves on the NEC, she shared her highlights from her experience at the games over the years.



From Beijing 2008, big highlights for her were when Nicholas Newman won bronze for the Javelin F36 while Teboho Mokgalagadi scooped gold for the 100-metre T35. She had coached both of the athletes when they were juniors.

From London in 2012, she got to experience the South African 100m relay team T42-47 winning gold and breaking a world record as the umpire who oversaw the second take-over zone.

And from Tokyo in 2020, she shares that robots serving them water and bringing the implements to athletes was one highlight, while Louzanne Coetzee and guide Claus Kempen winning bronze in the T12 women's marathon was the brightest highlight.

As for what she is looking forward to from Paris, Strydom shares:

“Definitely being part of the opening ceremony and officiating at the Stade de France with its purple athletic track where the Springboks won the World Cup in 2023.”

Ernesta adds that she's also looking forward to meeting “all [her] dear athletics friends from all over the world” and “seeing our South African para-athletes competing and defending their medals won in 2021 in Tokyo.” – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)



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