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WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

YOUR VOICE
Internal newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation
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PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA TO EMBARK ON A WORKING VISIT TO ANGOLA

President Cyril Ramaphosa will embark on a Working Visit to the Republic of Angola on Thursday, 8 August 2024, to meet with President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço.



The two Heads of State will use the occasion of the Working Visit to reflect on the bilateral relationship between the two countries, which share very deep historical ties that are rooted in the liberation struggle against colonialism and apartheid.

President Ramaphosa and President Lourenço will also share perspectives on issues of regional mutual interest, including the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on regional and continental efforts aimed at resolving the conflicts that are plaguing the continent.

President Ramaphosa will be supported by Ministers Ronald Lamola of International Relations and Cooperation and Angie Motshekga of Defence.
– Source: www.dirco.co.za

TOGETHER, LET US “TAKE BACK OUR COMMUNITIES” FROM CRIMINALS



President Cyril Ramaphosa, through his weekly newsletter, has urged citizens to work together with law enforcement to fight and combat crime in communities.

“Crime, even if it has not affected us directly, is everybody’s problem. If we continue to work together as government, the business community, labour and civil society, we can restore the safety and security that are critical to economic activity and the creation of jobs,” President Ramaphosa said on Monday, 5 August 2024.

Honing in on Operation Shanela—government’s multi-sectoral crime fighting strategy—the President said the vital initiative continues to gain momentum.

“Through roadblocks, stop and search operations, foot patrols and business compliance inspections, Operation Shanela’s teams have made important progress in dealing with crime hotspots and organised crime syndicates.

“The update delivered by the SAPS [South African Police Service] last week noted that solid police work over the past year had resulted in more than 700 000 arrests for various crimes, including murder, cash-in-transit robberies, vehicle hijacking and sexual offences.

“Over the past two years, more than 20 000 firearms have been seized, including several homemade guns and rifles. More than 3 000 firearms were seized in the Western Cape, where gun violence among warring gangs is particularly rife,” President Ramaphosa said.

He added that not only does crime cause trauma and instability, but it is also an impediment to South Africa’s economic growth and development, an issue which government is transfixed with solving.

“During the sixth administration, we established specialised task teams to deal with economic sabotage such as cable theft, the vandalism of power installations and railway lines, illicit mining and extortion in the construction industry.

“These crimes are highly organised and run by syndicates. As such, we have taken a multi-pronged strategy to combat them. Over the past five years, 722 so-called construction mafia suspects have been arrested for extortion at construction sites. Fifty-two have so far been convicted and sentenced to terms ranging from seven months to 89 years imprisonment.

“Our approach to crime-fighting has had to evolve in response to new types of crime. These include illicit mining and construction site extortion, and, more recently, kidnappings for ransom and more sophisticated drug manufacturing and smuggling operations,” the President said.

He emphasised that through working together, citizens can take back their communities.

“If, as communities, we play an active role in supporting the police through the CPFs [community police forum] and other structures, we can indeed take back our homes, our businesses, our communities and our streets from criminals. If we continue the good work started through Operation Shanela, we can beat crime and build a safe and secure country,” President Ramaphosa said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

DEPUTY MINISTER BOTES MEETS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG (PARLIAMENT)

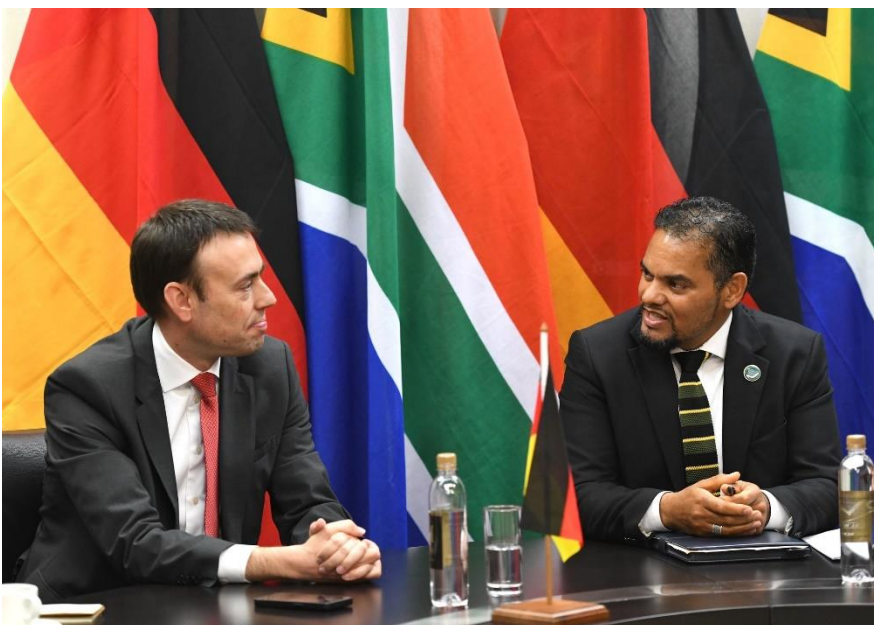
The Deputy Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Alvin Botes, met representatives of the German Bundestag on Wednesday, 7 August 2024, in Pretoria.

The meeting with Nils Schmid, Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs for the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in the Bundestag, and Ms Bettina Lugk, Deputy Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs for the SDP in the Bundestag, took place in the context of the two countries’ endeavour to forge closer political, diplomatic, economic and trade ties.

The SDP is the largest party in Germany’s governing coalition and a member of 11 of the 16 State (Provincial) Governments in Germany.

The meeting presented an opportunity for the two sides to discuss important geopolitical issues.

In addition to meeting the Deputy Minister, Mr Schmid and Ms Lugk will also meet with Members of Parliament, think tanks, trade unions, political parties, German companies, the Goethe Institute, the GIZ (Germany’s development agency) and KfW (Germany’s development bank).



South Africa maintains a substantial and diverse relationship with Germany. Germany is one of South Africa’s most important strategic partners and is the second-largest market for South African exports, the third-largest source of overseas tourists and a major investor and development partner. The German Government views South Africa as a “global development partner”, with which it seeks close coordination in international bodies such as the United Nations and the World Bank. Germany is a leading investor in the South African economy, with approximately 600 German companies represented in South Africa.

Bilateral development cooperation focusses on energy and climate change (green economy), good governance and public administration, HIV/AIDS prevention and vocational training. – Source: www.dirco.co.za

SOUTH AFRICA CONDEMNS ASSASSINATION OF HAMAS LEADER ISMAIL HANIYEH

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) has condemned the “targeted” assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the political leader of Hamas, who was killed by an airstrike in Tehran in the early hours of Wednesday, 31 July 2024.

According to reports, Haniyeh was killed while attending the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Iran’s capital, Tehran.

One of Haniyeh's bodyguards was also killed, according to reports.



“The government expresses its heartfelt condolences to the Haniyeh family as well as to the leadership and people of Palestine,” the department said in a statement.

“South Africa is concerned that the assassination of Haniyeh and the continuous targeting of civilians in Gaza will further spiral the already tense situation in the entire region.”

South Africa has since called for a “thorough” investigation to be conducted and called on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint to avoid any acts that would escalate tensions in the particularly fragile region.

International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Ronald Lamola, stressed that such acts of extrajudicial killings violate international law and the principles of human rights, undermining global efforts to promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

“No country is above the law and all nations must respect international law, particularly the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“Any form of extrajudicial killing is a blatant violation of these principles and extrajudicial killings of this nature have a destabilising effect. It is crucial that the perpetrators of such actions be brought to justice,” Minister Lamola added.

The department said the assassination of Haniyeh occurred in the context of the nine-month onslaught in Gaza, where the ongoing bombardment by Israel has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties, almost half of whom are children, and created an “unspeakable man-made humanitarian catastrophe”.

“Haniyeh was an integral member of the negotiating team, working with other countries to secure a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire and bring the war in Gaza to an end.”

South Africa reiterated its view that the international community must act immediately to end the genocide in Gaza, the impunity, end the aggression meted out against Palestinians, and the illegal occupation by Israel.

“It is our collective human duty to call for a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire. Nothing can justify the deliberate killings and injuring of civilians as an entire population endures destruction at a scale and speed without parallel in recent history.

“Continuing Israeli occupation, destruction of infrastructure, collective punishment, and extrajudicial assassinations would make the realisation of a peaceful solution in the Middle East much more difficult to achieve,” the statement read. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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MINISTER CHIKUNGA REFLECTS ON 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY AS WOMEN'S MONTH GETS UNDERWAY

Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Sindisiwe Chikunga, has delivered a compelling address to mark the launch of National Women’s Month, which is being observed under the theme: “Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy towards women’s development.”

The launch took place at Tshedimotsetso House in Pretoria on Thursday, 1 August 2024.

Minister Chikunga said this year's observance is not only a tribute to the strides made over the past three decades but also a moment for introspection and continued commitment to gender equality.

"August has long been a month of reflection and tribute to the invaluable roles women have played in the fight against discrimination and exploitation."

The commemoration of Women's Month serves as a platform to pay tribute to the role played by women in the decades of struggle against all forms of discrimination, subordination and exploitation.

The 30-Year Review Report underscores the progress achieved in women empowerment. Notably, women's representation in Parliament increased from 28% in 1994 to 45% in 2019.

"Similarly, their presence in senior management roles rose from 20% in 2001 to 36% in 2021. Furthermore, as of 2017, women accounted for approximately 61.5% of university graduates, surpassing their male counterparts," said the Minister.



Despite these advancements, Minister Chikunga emphasised that "while these are significant strides, a lot more still needs to be done".

The year 2024 marks the 101st anniversary of women entering the legal profession in South Africa. Reflecting on this milestone, the International Association of Women Judges noted a dramatic shift from 1994, when the judiciary was overwhelmingly male and predominantly white.

"As of February 2023, 45% of judges are women, and the composition has diversified significantly. This transformation was further celebrated with the appointment of Chief Justice Mandisa Maya, the first South African woman to lead the Constitutional Court. Chief Justice Maya stands tall as an inspiration to all South Africans, especially women from all walks of life," Minister Chikunga remarked.

In addition to these judicial achievements, Minister Chikunga praised Tatjana Smith for winning South Africa's first gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics, showcasing the nation's growing prominence in global sports.

Gender-based violence and femicide

The Minister said the fight against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) remains a critical focus. The National Strategic Plan on GBVF aims to rally societal support and intensify efforts against persistent violence.

Minister Chikunga underlined the importance of a "whole-of-society and whole-of-government response". She used the occasion to raise the alarm about the rising trend of extortion and fraud targeting employed women.

"We alert South African women not to be victims of such extortion and fraud," she advised.

The year 2024 also marks 70 years since the adoption of the Women's Charter, a pivotal document in the struggle for women's rights in South Africa. The Minister invoked the Charter's call for the removal of discriminatory laws.

"We, the women of South Africa, hereby declare our aim of striving for the removal of all laws, regulations, conventions, and customs that discriminate against us as women."

She said the voices of the women who gathered at the First World Conference on Women in 1975 must be echoed throughout the month of August.

"In the world outside, we are ignored. We are invisible, we are not important. We've got to change these attitudes towards us—smilingly, if necessary, angrily, if necessary, and aggressively, if necessary. Otherwise, there will be no such thing as true equality." – Source: Khanyisile Rasmeni, SAnews.gov.za



TATJANA SMITH A "SHINING EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY WITH A KILLER COMPETITIVE SPIRIT"

Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Gayton McKenzie has congratulated South African swimmer Tatjana Smith for scooping the silver medal in the 200m breaststroke at the 2024 Paris Olympics.



Smith was beaten to the wall by 0.36sec by American Kate Douglass at the La Défence Arena on Thursday evening, 1 August 2024.

"It was Smith's second medal of the 2024 Paris Games, after taking the 100m gold, and a flip reversal of what she produced at her first Olympics in Tokyo on that occasion, taking silver in the 100m and gold in the longer, more favoured 200m.

"In elevating herself to greatest-ever South African Olympian status, she joined Chad le Clos on four medals, but outweighs him by virtue of her two golds and two silvers.

"While Penny Heyns, in 1996, remains the last women's breastroker to do the double, Smith tied with Japan's Kosuke Katajima as the only four-time breaststroke medallists in Olympic history, both men and women," the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) said.

The Minister said Smith's achievements stand as an elegant example of the power of women in sport.

"Tatjana, as a nation, we are bursting with pride tonight. You fought to the end and were beaten only in the turns by a classy American competitor, Kate Douglass. I applaud you for your warm smile and your honest congratulations for your gold medal rival in the lane next to you.

"Being able to stay gracious in victory and defeat is what the world will remember most about you, and it is a quality that defines most South Africans. You are a shining example of humility, with a killer competitive spirit and an undying will to win. May all our young people look up to your example and try to equal or surpass you in future," Minister McKenzie said.

The Minister said South Africa must continue to bring more women into all sports and support them to break every record. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

MINISTER BLADE NZIMANDE ADDRESSES 32ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY UNION

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Blade Nzimande, gave the opening address at the world's largest astronomy meeting, the 32nd General Assembly of the International Astronomy Union (IAU), held from 6 to 15 August 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Being hosted for the first time on the continent, this in-person and virtual global gathering of astronomers and other experts in the field will also provide open access for anyone to attend from anywhere in the world.

Among some of the world-renowned astronomers who will address the assembly are Dr Mae Jemison and Dr Sian Proctor. Dr Jemison became the first female African-American commercial astronaut and mission pilot to travel into space when she went into orbit aboard the National Administration and Space Administration's (NASA) Space Shuttle Endeavour on 12 September 1992. Dr Proctor is an astronaut and was the first female pilot of a commercial spaceship.

These two renowned experts will speak to over 2 000 astronomers from around the world at this event, which takes place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The assembly is an opportunity for astronomers to address key topics in contemporary astronomy and assess the latest scientific progress in various specialised areas.

This year's General Assembly represents a significant milestone, highlighting Africa's growing role in the global astronomical community and its potential for major contributions to astronomical research and development.

The Minister's address to the General Assembly underscored the commitment to advance Africa's astronomy and science on the global stage as well as highlight South Africa's massive investments in skills and infrastructure development, the geographical advantages of clear southern skies in the Karoo, its engineering and scientific base, and its growing international ranking and partnerships.



Exhibitors include the South Africa Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), the South African Astronomical Observatory, NASA, the European Space Agency, the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, the United States National Radio Astronomy Observatory, and several South African agencies.

One highlight will be the opportunity for attendees to speak to the astronauts onboard the International Space Station live from the conference venue via ham radio, in partnership with Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

Other invited guests include Dr Bernie Fanaroff, former director of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), who will deliver a talk on *Innovating at the Periphery: The Development of SKA and MeerKAT*.

The IAU General Assembly is held every three years and is led by the African Astronomical Society. Each event advances the astronomical sciences through international collaboration and celebrates Africa's rich astronomical heritage and commitment to advancing the field.

The hybrid event is being hosted by the National Research Foundation, supported by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). The academic programme will include over 2 000 presentations scheduled across more than 300 sessions.

The General Assembly will include six symposia and 12 multi-session focus meetings. There will also be poster sessions and prize lectures given by recipients of prestigious awards in astronomy.

Alongside its significant international scientific impact, this meeting will have a societal impact that goes beyond national barriers in a continent-wide celebration of astronomy: Africa Astro Month. Learners, scientists, students and members of the public will be brought together for knowledge exchange and inspiration.

There will be limited opportunities for media to visit key astronomy sites in the Northern Cape, including the South African Astronomical Observatory, Southern African Large Telescope, SARAO, the MeerKAT Radio Telescope, and SKA-Mid Site. – Source: www.gov.za

MINISTER WELCOMES DECREASE IN RHINO POACHING STATS

South Africa has recorded a downward trend in rhino poaching in the last two months of this year.

“A significant drop was noted during May and June this year with national losses reported at 21 and 22, respectively. May and June of 2023 were recorded at 42 and 34,” Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Dr Dion George, said on Thursday, 1 August 2024.

This reduced loss is thought to be attributable to the dehorning of rhino populations in KwaZulu-Natal and specifically in the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park where over 1 000 rhinos have been dehorned since April 2024.

“During the first six months of 2024, 229 rhinos were poached in South Africa (compared to 231 for the same reporting period in 2023). Of those rhino poached, 191 were killed on state properties and 38 on privately owned parks/reserves/farms.

“The Kruger National Park (KNP) lost 45 rhinos to poaching from January to June 2024 compared to 42 during the same reporting period in 2023.



“KNP continues to implement its Rhino Conservation Plan which among others, focusses on guarding and protecting rhinos in the core rhino areas, the use of appropriate technologies, dehorning of rhino and implementing innovative biological management in these areas,” the Minister said.

The KNP Integrity Management Plan is being implemented to address staff integrity, which also focusses on other initiatives such as field ranger selection and training, polygraph testing, wellness, financial literacy training and skills development programmes.

“With regard to rhino population numbers, at the end of 2023, South Africa reported 16 056 rhinos comprising 2 065 black and 13 991 white rhinos. These figures compare with figures estimated for the end of 2021 when there were 2 056 black and 12 968 white rhinos in the country.

“South Africa had 1 032 more rhinos in 2023 than what there were in 2021 despite the poaching – in 2022 and 2023, 2.9% and 3.2% of South Africa’s rhinos respectively were poached. These were lower than the threshold of 3.5% beyond which rhino numbers will decline,” Minister George said.

Implementation of the Year One targets of the Implementation Plan of the National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking (NISCWT) is well under way and cooperation between all stakeholders including government and the private sector is being promoted. The implementation of Nescot is overseen by the NATJOINTS Priority Committee on Wildlife Trafficking.

“During the reporting period, over 60 suspects have been arrested and 20 heavy calibre firearms recovered in relation to rhino poaching and rhino horn trafficking.

“Successful joint operations and investigations between SAPS Stock Theft & Endangered Species Unit, Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) from national and provincial conservation agencies and departments, the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI) and private security teams are to be commended for their sustained effort,” the Minister said.

The following successful convictions were received in the past six months:

- Two rhino horn traffickers were sentenced to 18 years imprisonment of which six years imprisonment was suspended for five years in the Ermelo regional court on 1 July 2024. This came after the two traffickers were arrested in December 2022 for the possession of four rhino horns.
- On appeal, the conviction and sentence of three Botswana nationals were confirmed. They entered the country illegally and were convicted on one count of murder, after one of their accomplices was killed during a confrontation on the farm, the illegal possession of a prohibited firearm and ammunition, illegally entering the country and hunting a rhino without a permit and sentenced to 36 years imprisonment, effectively to serve 25 years imprisonment.
- In the Skukuza court, an accused was sentenced to 35 years imprisonment on charges of trespassing, hunting of one rhino, possession of a prohibited firearm, possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition, possession of a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit an offence. In another case the accused was sentenced to 26 years imprisonment on similar charges.
- In the Free State, three accused were convicted on conspiracy to hunt a rhino and was sentenced to five years direct imprisonment. In addition, a Silver Audi A4 to the value of R100 000, which was used as an instrument to the offence, was forfeited to the State.
- A courier on her way to Malaysia was arrested at OR Tambo International Airport. After she booked her suitcases in at the airport, an operator at the scanner section identified that the suitcases contained 12 rhino horns. An Environmental Management Inspector testified that the activities of the courier cannot be evaluated in isolation of the fact that the horns were linked through DNA to three poaching

crime scenes, that the consignment was part of the organised crime value chain and that the court needs to take into account the human, conservation and socio-economic impacts of these crimes. The accused was convicted and sentenced to five years direct imprisonment.

– Source: SAnews.gov.za

MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE PAYS TRIBUTE TO CONNIE CHIUME

Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Gayton McKenzie has extended his condolences to the family, friends and fans of legendary actress Connie Chiume.

“Her passing at age 72 marks a profound loss for the South African nation and the world of arts and culture. Chiume’s matchless talents and dedication to her craft have left an indelible mark on the hearts of many,” said the department on Tuesday, 6 August 2024.

Born in Welkom, South Africa, Chiume’s journey was one of resilience and brilliance. Her early years were spent in Welkom before she completed her matric in the Eastern Cape and graduated with a degree in teaching in 1976.

After a few years of teaching, she pursued her passion for travel and moved to Greece. Chiume began her illustrious acting career with roles in *Porgy and Bess*, *Ipi Ntombi* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Upon returning to South Africa, she captivated audiences with her performance as Thembi in the 1989 series *Inkom’ Edla Yodwa* and the 1990 film *Warriors from Hell*.

Her talent was recognised with a Best Actress award at the South African Film and Television Awards (SAFTAs) in 2000.

From 2007 to 2015, Chiume gained prominence through her role as Stella Moloi in the SABC1 drama series *Zone 14*, earning her another SAFTA. She also received the Best Supporting Actress in a Drama award at the third SAFTAs.

In 2015, she charmed viewers in the soap opera *Rhythm City* as Mamokete Khuse.

Chiume’s talent transcended borders when she played the Mining Tribe Elder in *Black Panther* in 2018.

In 2020, she continued to shine in the drama series *Gomora* and appeared in the film *Black Is King*.

She was also a recipient of the Living Legend award at the department’s inaugural Cultural and Creative Industry Awards (CCIAs) that took place on 30 March 2024.

Upon learning of the news of Chiume’s passing, Minister McKenzie said: “Her performances brought joy, inspiration and a sense of pride to countless South Africans. She was more than an actress; she was a beacon of strength, resilience and grace. Mam’ Connie’s contribution to the arts not only entertained. She inspired, educated and uplifted communities throughout our country.

“As we mourn her passing, we also celebrate her life and legacy. May her memory continue to inspire future generations of artists. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time. May they find comfort in the outpouring of love and support from all those who cherished her.” – Source: SAnews.gov.za

GOVERNMENT CONGRATULATES DR JOHN KANI FOR BEING HONOURED WITH THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE



South Africa congratulates Dr John Kani for being honoured with the Order of the British Empire.



Government congratulates Dr John Kani, South Africa's veteran actor, director and playwright, for being honoured with the esteemed Order of the British Empire (OBE) by His Majesty King Charles III. Dr Kani's award for "services to drama" acknowledges his extraordinary contributions to the arts in South Africa and internationally.

The Order of the British Empire is one of the most prestigious honours awarded by the United Kingdom. It recognises individuals for their outstanding achievements and service across various fields, such as the arts, sciences, charitable work, and public service. For Dr Kani, this recognition reflects his lifelong commitment to the arts and his unwavering pursuit of cultural expression through drama.

Dr Kani's recognition with the OBE speaks to his remarkable talent and the outstanding work he has put into drama and theatre. This acknowledgement is also a celebration of South African excellence on the global stage. His career, spanning decades, has not only shaped the landscape of South African theatre but has also brought the richness of our cultural heritage to the world. Dr Kani's honour serves as a reminder of the power of the arts to bridge divides, inspire change, and bring global recognition to the talents and stories of our nation.

Government and the people of South Africa celebrate this achievement with Dr Kani as his contribution has not only enriched the South African culture but has also resonated with audiences worldwide. The nation is proud to see one of its own bestowed with such a respected Order. – Source: www.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS LAUNCHES NEW ROUTE TO DRC

South African Airways (SAA) will launch a new service with five flights per week from OR Tambo International Airport (JNB) to Lubumbashi International Airport (FBM) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), starting 1 November 2024.

The new route will be operated as follows:

Lubumbashi, the second-largest city and the mining capital of the DRC, is a base for many of the country's biggest mining companies. It is the top copper producer in Africa and the fourth-largest globally. It also produces half of the world's cobalt, most of which comes from Katanga Province.

Flight No.	Days	Departure	Time	Arrival	Time
SA 0050	Mondays to Fridays	JNB	10h50	FBM	13h20
SA 0051	Mondays to Fridays	FBM	14h10	JNB	17h15

Lubumbashi is an important link in a chain known as the Lobito Railroad Corridor, which transports mining products from the interior to the Atlantic port of Lobito. With the global surge in the demand for and the production of electric vehicles, the corridor's importance is constantly growing, along with the city's importance as an economic hub for the DRC.

Lubumbashi is in the southeast of the country, next to the border with Zambia.



"Our new route to Lubumbashi opens up exciting opportunities for both business and leisure travellers, strengthening our network in Africa," SAA's GM Sales Marketing Distribution and E-Commerce, Carla da Silva, told Tourism Update.

"Connecting to Lubumbashi supports economic growth and fosters stronger business ties between South Africa and the DRC. With our direct flights to Lubumbashi, passengers can now enjoy more accessible travel options to this vibrant city." –

Source: www.tourismupdate.co.za

FIVE SOUTH AFRICANS ON PROVOKE MEDIA'S 2024 INFLUENCE 100 LIST

Provoke Media's 2024 recently released Influence 100 list is a showcase of the world's best senior communications and marketing executives and includes five South Africans.

"Against the 'permacrisis' backdrop of major geopolitical, economic, societal, cultural and environmental upheaval around the world, corporations and brands continue to face intense consumer, media and stakeholder scrutiny.

"And their senior communications and marketing executives are expected to deliver more than ever, faster than ever.

"Smart CEOs recognise that trusted communications counsel is not only integral to reputation and transformation but is business-critical in such uncertain times—and the 100 names on our 2024 list provide ample evidence of this recognition," says Provoke Media.



Three of the five South Africans featured this year—Jacqui O'Sullivan, Nevashnee Naicker and Nontokoza Madonsela—were also named in last year's list.

Jacqui O'Sullivan, executive, corporate affairs, FNB. After nearly six years with MTN as head of corporate affairs and sustainability, earlier this year, O'Sullivan moved to FNB.

Nevashnee Naicker, head of corporate communications at Anglo American. Naicker is responsible for external communication and reputation, digital and social media, internal communications and employee engagement, and marketing communication, including advertising and sponsorships) for the global mining group.

Nompilo Morafo, group chief sustainability and corporate affairs officer, MTN. Morafo has been in charge of the company's ESG strategy as group chief sustainability and corporate affairs officer since 2022, with a focus on decarbonising; rural connectivity; greater diversity and inclusion; enhanced stakeholder management; and protecting digital human rights. Morafo joined MTN in 2019 from building materials giant LafargeHolcim.

Nontokozo Madonsela, group chief marketing officer at Momentum Metropolitan Holdings. Madonsela has been in this position for six years. She has developed a new marketing strategy, working with new agency partners, to support and reposition the group's brands as they reset themselves for future growth after their 2010 merger.

Stephen Chege, chief of external affairs, Vodacom. In 2021, Chege was named chief external officer overseeing public policy, communications, media relations, social investment and sustainability across all of its operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa and Ghana, along with support for Safaricom. – Source: www.bizcommunity.com

NEW AWARDS HIGHLIGHT SOUTH AFRICANS LIVING IN AUSTRALIA TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Even though they may be far from home, South Africans living in Australia are being given their chance to shine thanks to the inaugural “South African in Australia Awards”.

The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) is launching a series of awards dedicated to the hard-working South Africans living abroad in Australia. The awards are open to all South Africans in Australia and you do not need to be an accountant.

The SAICA is hosting the inaugural South African in Australia Awards to:

- recognise excellence across borders
- showcase South African role models
- foster a sense of community among South Africans living in Australia.



The SAICA South African of the Year in Australia Awards aim to recognise individuals who have made significant contributions to society, whether through their professional achievements, philanthropic endeavours, or community impact.

The entry categories cover a multitude of industries and interests and are not limited to Chartered Accountants (CAs). The aim is to attract a diverse representation of talent and accomplishments across various sectors to the Awards. The Awards will culminate in an exclusive Awards event to be held in September 2024 in Sydney, Australia.

“We call on all the South African Difference Makers living in Australia—whether you’re a chartered accountant, journalist, scientist, entrepreneur, artist, athlete, innovator, social worker, community leader, educator, engineer, IT professional, lawyer, medical professional, environmental activist, musician, or someone excelling in another field entirely, these Awards are your chance to be recognised. We encourage nominations from all sectors to showcase the diverse and remarkable contributions of South Africans in Australia.”

The categories are:

- Entrepreneur
- Community Champion
- Academic Excellence
- Arts and Culture
- Sport Achievement
- Innovation and Technology
- Outstanding Professional
- Social Impact

- Ubuntu
- #DifferenceMaker (this category is only open to CAs(SA))

– Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SPOTLIGHTING SOUTH AFRICAN ARTISTS: LULAMA WOLF

South African artist Lulama Wolf Mlambo has recently become the first South African invited to work on a star-studded project.

Of the many striking, starlit up-and-comers in South Africa's art scene at the moment, Lulama Wolf Mlambo stands out as one not merely contributing to an era of art but leading it.

A visual artist known for contemporary works often underpinned with spiritual notes and nods to vernacular aesthetics, Lulama Wolf has carved out quite the name for herself as one to know in the millennial generation of South African artistry.

Influenced by Johannesburg's culture and her studies (fine art and fashion) and photography, Lulama is a certified South African queen of minimalist expressionism and the point where contemporary African art and modern techniques join forces.



Her achievements as an artist have taken her all over the world—from London's SoShire Gallery for her *I Was Born Wrapped in a White Blanket* exhibition to Galerie Artismagna, Paris, where her *Eclipses* (a duo show with Nene Mahlangu) was held.

In the world of collaborations and creative business, Lulama is no stranger either, with her latest boasting a lot of good news for South African creatives and a first.

Lulama Wolf is the first South African artist who has been invited to create a unique, customised design for the *Art of A9* initiative series that's seen collaborators like John Legend and MonoNeon.

For this project, Lulama's work is deeply rooted in the classical themes of art and music.

"I was looking for the simple things that bring you joy in so many ways. The femininity in jazz and dance, and the improvisation of its heartbeat all come together in this piece." – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

BOEREWORS TAKES THE WORLD BY STORM: SOUTH AFRICAN FLAVOURS GO GLOBAL

Two South African rugby stars are bringing the traditional flavours of a South African braai and boerewors to the United Kingdom (UK) with their business.

South Africa is a land where braai-ing is not just a way to cook food but a deeply embedded cultural practice that brings people together. The sizzle of meat on the grill, the aroma of spices in the air, and the sound of laughter all around—this is the heart of a South African braai.

It's an experience we are immensely proud to share with the world, and it's happening thanks to the efforts of two passionate South Africans.



A braai is incomplete without boerewors, the quintessential coiled sausage that is a staple of every South African barbecue. But boerewors is not just food; it's a tradition, a piece of home. Recognising the universal appeal of this beloved dish, former rugby stars Schalk Van Der Merwe and Louis Ludik have embarked on a mission to bring boerewors to the global stage through their business, Hellbent.

Hellbent was born in March 2018, and since then, the duo has introduced many consumers across the British Isles to the joys of braai. Their product range includes boerewors, Chakalaka spicy beef sausages, burgers, and chargrill burgers, all made with premium ingredients and fully traceable sources. Each product not only delivers high protein content but also embodies the rich, traditional flavours of South Africa.

Ludik emphasises their commitment to quality and exceptional taste: "We believe in quality and exceptional taste with no compromise. This means using the best locally sourced ingredients, along with a tradition of boerewors making (and eating) handed down through generations in South Africa."

The recipe for their signature boerewors comes from Schalk's parents, farmers in Tzaneen, a fertile agricultural region in South Africa.

The distinctive taste of Hellbent's boerewors comes from a carefully guarded blend of spices, including coriander, cloves, and nutmeg. These spices, combined with at least 90% meat content and never more than 30% fat, create a sausage that is not only delicious but also gluten-free and health-conscious.

Hellbent's products have found their way into major food retailers all over the UK, introducing more and more people to the unique flavours of South African cuisine.

"We've tweaked Schalk's family recipe a bit for the Northern Ireland market with the help of Ulster University's Business School and Dr Amy Burns in particular. Dr Burns did a marvellous job and has encouraged us in developing our business," adds Louis.

The simple act of sharing a meal can bring the world closer together, and thanks to Hellbent, the flavours of South Africa are crossing borders and doing just that over a shared love of good food and great company. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SOUTH AFRICAN VOCAL POWERHOUSE THE JOY MAKE TIKTOK'S STAR-STUDED VISIONARY VOICES AFRICA LIST

Africa is bursting with talent and all eyes are on the continent and in celebration, TikTok is shining a spotlight on 15 game changers who are setting the digital world ablaze.

The Visionary Voices List for Africa recognises individuals at the forefront of industry-shifting innovation, viral trends elevating African music, transforming entertainment spaces and cultural representation.

Among the luminaries stands South African vocal powerhouse The Joy, whose electrifying fusion of ancestral Zulu rhythms and contemporary harmonies has become a global sensation.

"We're thrilled to be recognised by TikTok alongside so many inspiring African creators. This platform has been invaluable in sharing our music globally," said a spokesperson for The Joy.

The Joy, through TikTok, has pushed the needle beyond the semantics of being entertaining; they're educating, advocating, and painting a vivid picture of Africa's boundless potential.

Fresh from stealing the show at Coachella alongside pop icon Doja Cat, The Joy continues to ride a tidal wave of success. Their self-titled debut album, released in June, has garnered critical acclaim.

The Visionary Voices Africa List highlights the significant impact these honourees have on media, entertainment, and cultural representation across the continent. They are celebrated in three categories: Creators, Small-Owned Businesses, and Industry Disruptors.



The Creators category has acknowledged Kenyan-born comedian Elsa Majimbo; Banele Ndaba, known as influencer Moghelingz; content creator Chad Jones; Kenyan sports content creator Arap Uria; and Nigerian digital creator Iremide.

The Industry Disruptors category has recognised Nigerian Grammy Award-winning artist Burna Boy; Nigerian TV producer, actress, presenter, and entrepreneur Hilda Effiong Bassey, popularly known as Hilda Baci; South Africa's go-to African travel vlogger Popi Sibiyi; The Joy; and Swazi-born DJ and record producer Uncle Waffles.

The Small-Owned Businesses category has honoured entrepreneurs Mwangi Muthoni from Kenya; the genius behind Dreadlocks Nairobi creator, entrepreneur and influential business leader Kayla Kim Kay from South Africa; TikTok creator, actor and filmmaker Blaqboi Victor from Plateau State, Nigeria; Bolo Bespoke, a fashion designer from Nairobi, Kenya; and Alexa Schempers, the founder and creative director of the Cape Town-based fashion label Rethread. – Source: www.iol.co.za

AFRIKAANS TV SERIES ARE TAKING ASIA BY STORM

Afrikaans TV series are having a big moment in Asia and yet another hit show is up for a Best International Series Award from Seoul.



Yet another show, *Wyfie* is up for a Best International Series Award at the Seoul International Drama Awards.

This comes after *Spinners* beat out Emmy-winning *Succession* in Shanghai for Best Foreign TV Series at the 29th Shanghai TV Festival's Magnolia Awards in June.

Wyfie will now go up against legendary Chinese auteur Wong Kar-Wai (*In the Mood for Love*, *The Grandmaster*) and his multi-award-winning series *Blossoms Shanghai* for the Best International Series accolade. It's a big moment, not just for Afrikaans television but for South Africa as a whole.

Where *Spinners* tells the emotive story of a teenage driver who trades working for a local gang, for spinning, an extreme motorsport, *Wyfie* is all about four mismatched *koshuis* roommates who must learn to navigate everything from power to crushes and res-life.

Directed by SAFTA winner Johan Cronjé, new director Eva du Preez and rising star Emilie Badenhorst, *Wyfie* is said to be captivating and “boundary-pushing” for an Afrikaans TV Series.

The Seoul acknowledgement marks the third nomination for *Wyfie* in a row.

“It fills me with so much pride that *Wyfie* got recognised on an international level,” Du Preez beamed. “It is an honour to be nominated, as it just confirms what we have accomplished. May *Wyfie* live on to become the literature of our time.”

Badenhorst adds: “I’m really grateful for the recognition of the show and especially thankful that the hard work the entire family of creatives have put in is being acknowledged and getting the praise it deserves.” – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SETH SQUIRES MAKES SOUTH AFRICA PROUD WITH FOUR GOLDS AT THE WORLD LYRICAL DANCE FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIPS



Despite his young age, Seth Squires has brought immense pride to South Africa by clinching four gold medals at the prestigious World Lyrical Dance Federation Championships (WLDF).

Seth Squires’ exceptional talent and unwavering dedication have propelled him to the top of the international dance stage.

The talented jazz dancer, Seth Squires, flew the South African flag high at the World Lyrical WLDF, where he not only participated but also won four gold medals. The WLDF, located in Dublin, Ireland, is an international organisation that is committed to the growth and development of Lyrical Dance internationally.

Sharing his achievements was Seth’s father, Geoff Squires, who could not help but get emotional when he reflected on his son’s talent and performance at the international dance competition.

“Seth Squires stood on the top podium for the fourth time as he became the 18-year-old and older World Champion at the WLDF World Championships held in Scotland! He took gold in all four sections,” Geoff shared.

Seth competed in the Jazz Improv, Lyrical Improv, Jazz Solo and Lyrical Solo sections where he excelled remarkably. Gushing at his son’s achievement, Geoff said words couldn’t comprehend just how proud he was of his world champion.

“Seth is the kindest, most loving, and true to himself human being I have ever had the privilege of knowing and I am so proud to call him my son.

“His dancing only started six years ago, and his learning of jazz started a mere 11 months ago! His hard work and determination have been something out of this world,” Geoff shared. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

TEAM SA’S ASHLEIGH BUHAI SITS SECOND AFTER FIRST ROUND OF OLYMPICS WOMEN’S GOLF

Home favourite Celine Boutier delighted the French crowds as she cruised into a three-shot lead after the opening round of the Olympic women’s golf event on Wednesday, 8 August 2024.

South Africa's Ashleigh Buhai sits in second place, while reigning champion Nelly Korda battled back from a poor opening stretch of holes to finish on even par, seven strokes behind Boutier.

Paula Reto, South Africa's other golfer in the field, was further back in 50th after carding a 6 over par 78.

The day belonged to Boutier, who won her maiden major title at last year's Evian Championship, as the Frenchwoman poured in eight birdies in a brilliant seven-under-par round of 65.

The world number seven, who grew up just 20km from Le Golf National, has not posted a top-10 finish in her last 11 tournaments but found her best at the optimal time.



Boutier and playing partner Lilia Vu of the United States both made quick moves up the leaderboard with three birdies each inside the first six holes.

But it was Boutier who continued that form on the back nine, the highlight was a chip-in for birdie on the par-three 16th hole.

Vu finished with a two-under 69 to sit in joint third place, two shots behind former Women's British Open winner Buhai.

The South African made five birdies and one bogey in her 68.

Mexico's Gaby Lopez, Colombian Mariajo Uribe and Swiss player Morgane Metraux are also in a four-way tie for third with Vu, already five strokes adrift of Boutier.

Canadian Brooke Henderson delivered a spectacular moment on the 18th green for the hundreds of fans watching, sinking a 48-foot eagle putt to card a two-over 74.

"Even early this morning teeing off, (number) one was surrounded. It was just an incredible vibe," said the two-time major champion.

"It's so cool that women's golf is so popular in this event here this week. It's pretty exciting for the game." – Source: www.iol.co.za

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“I’M DOING THESE THINGS FOR EVERY SOUTH AFRICAN”, AKANI SIMBINE AFTER HISTORIC 100M FINAL

Despite finishing fourth for a second successive Olympics in the men’s 100m, South Africa’s Akani Simbine was proud of his performance in Paris on Sunday, 3 August 2024.

Although the 30-year-old Team SA star did not manage a podium position at the Paris Olympics, there was no faulting his performance as he improved his own South African record to 9.82 seconds, which he had set three years ago.

In fact, it was the third Olympic final in a row for Simbine.

American Noah Lyles claimed gold in 9.79, Jamaica’s Kishane Thompson took silver as he was credited with the same time but just five thousandths of a second behind. American Fred Kerley was narrowly ahead of Simbine in 9.81.

"It is a moment in history. There is no South African that has been in three Olympic finals and placed higher than me," Simbine told olympics.com after the race.



"I am the one that is doing these things for the first time for every South African. That is a great thing on its own.

"I might not be getting the medal but what I am doing is changing how sprinting is seen in South Africa and motivating a lot of kids."

Before he looks forward to the next Olympics in Los Angeles when he will be 34, Simbine still has the chance of winning a medal in Paris. Simbine will be part of a strong South African relay team alongside Shaun Maswanganyi and Benjamin Richardson. The 4x100m relays start on Thursday, 8 August 2024.

"We've got another shot in the relay and we are going to go for it!" – Source: www.iol.co.za

SOUTH AFRICAN DEAF RUGBY HOSTS ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The South African Deaf Rugby Association (SADRA) made history this past weekend by hosting its first-ever international deaf rugby series.

The sevens rugby tournament, hosted at St Stithians College in Randburg, Johannesburg is seen as a groundbreaking initiative for both the deaf sports community and the country. Last year, the World Deaf Rugby Sevens Championship was hosted in Argentina.

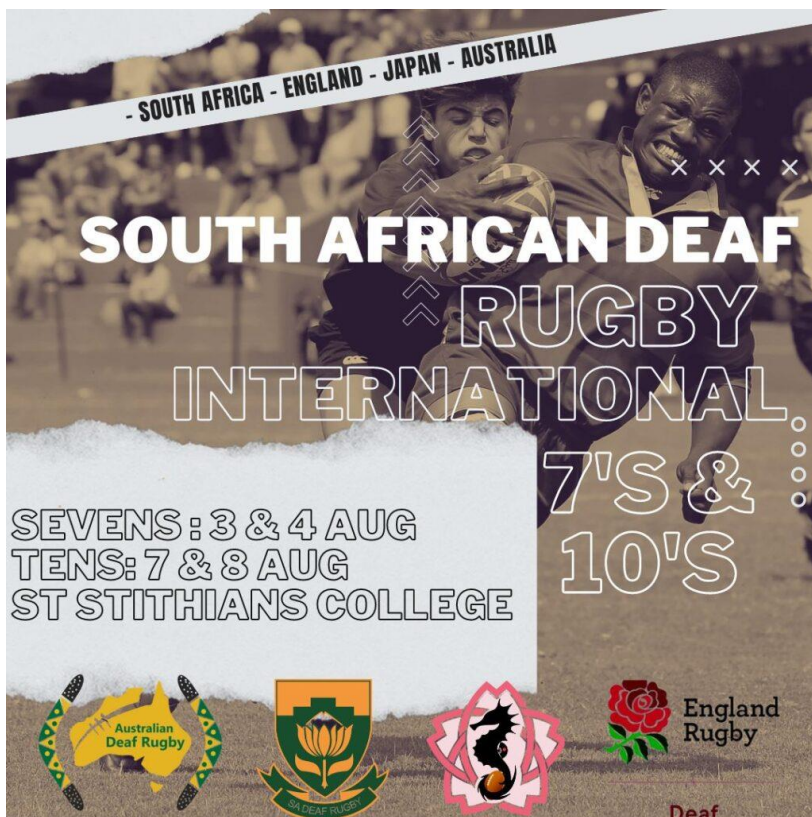
The tournament featured rugby teams representing Australia, England and Japan. The South African team consisted of players from all over the country who were chosen after SADRA conducted trials, which enabled the best players to showcase their skills. The competition had a hearing classification of a 40dB loss in order for players to be eligible.

World Deaf Rugby chairman Michael Oosthuyzen told GroundUp that hosting this tournament brings a new chapter in deaf rugby.

"The coming together of all these rugby nations and communities through deaf rugby is one of the unique developments and showcases the growth in our game," said Oosthuyzen.

The matches were tough but played in a good spirit with players enjoying the interactions with their colleagues from different countries.

England went through the tournament undefeated and clinched the final with a 38-17 victory over Australia. South Africa secured third place with a 43-14 win against Japan.

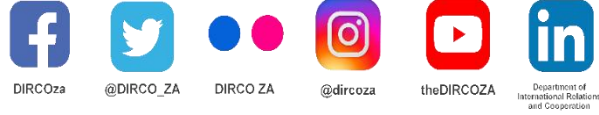


The deaf rugby series continues this week with the Tens Series to be held on 7 and 8 August 2024, and the Women's XV's Series also on 8 August 2024.

A player from team Japan briefly held onto the ball during their match against England. Team England went through the tournament undefeated and won the final 38-17 against Australia.

Entrance to the tournament is free to the public and SADRA is encouraging the public to attend and use the opportunity to see the skill and passion of deaf rugby players.

“Spectators will have the unique opportunity to watch, learn, and engage with the game, witnessing that Deaf rugby is officiated and played no differently from normal rugby,” read a statement from SADRA. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



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