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# NEWSFLASH

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WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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## PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA PAYS TRIBUTE TO WOMEN

***President Cyril Ramaphosa has paid tribute to South Africa's women, saying that they have played their part in building the country.***



“We salute their resilience and their dignity,” he said on Friday, 9 August 2024.

Addressing the Women's Day celebration at the Dennis Nel Stadium in Pofadder, Northern Cape, President Ramaphosa said that each year on Women's Day, government commemorates the historic march of more than 20 000 women to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956. The women were protesting against the pass laws of the apartheid era.

“Today, as we celebrate 30 years of freedom and democracy, we should take stock. We should reflect on how far we have come and we should deliberate on the challenges that stand in the way of the emancipation of South Africa's women.”

President Ramaphosa said that to move forward as a country, the nation must understand its past.

“South Africa remains a highly unequal country. Poverty still has the face of a black woman. Black women are more likely to be unemployed, to be poor and to be unskilled.

“Apartheid broke up families. Men were recruited as migrant labourers, leaving women and children behind to fend for themselves. Young girls were brought up for marriage. They did not go to school. They were confined to the home.

“Over 30 years, through the struggles of women, we have done much to improve the status and circumstances of South African women. We have built on the struggles of many decades.”

### **Rights and freedoms**

The President said that women now have the right to vote.

“They have the right to equal work for equal pay. They have the right to equality before the law. We have made great progress in providing for the protection of mother and child. As the Women's Charter demands, we have worked to provide proper homes for all. But much is still to be done.

“Women in South Africa enjoy rights and freedoms under our Constitution. They benefit from progressive legislation. Women today are significantly represented in Parliament, in government and in the judiciary.

“Women in South Africa enjoy the right to quality healthcare, including reproductive health care. Millions of South African women are supported every month with social grants to enable them to care for their families and support their children,” the President said.

The President also added that South Africa has one of the highest rates of female literacy “in our region.”

“There is parity between girls and boys in primary school enrolment. Female learners achieve more bachelor's passes. Young women make up the majority of students in higher education institutions.”

### **Improving the lives of women**

President Ramaphosa said that government has prioritised women and youth in its public employment programmes. This, as around 66% of participants in the Presidential Employment Stimulus are women.

“Yet, we still have much further to go. As the Government of National Unity, we are united across the political spectrum by our common commitment to improve the lives of South African women.

“To grow our economy and accelerate development, women must take their rightful place as active participants in the economy. Women must be business owners, producers, employers and employees.”

To support this effort, government launched the Women's Economic Assembly in 2021.

The Assembly aims to secure procurement opportunities for women-owned businesses in different industries.

Through the Women's Economic Empowerment Programme approximately 8 000 women have been trained to establish and manage businesses.

“With funding from government and development finance institutions, we are increasing the support provided to women-owned enterprises,” said President Ramaphosa.

Government is also working to ensure that more women can own land, especially in rural areas.

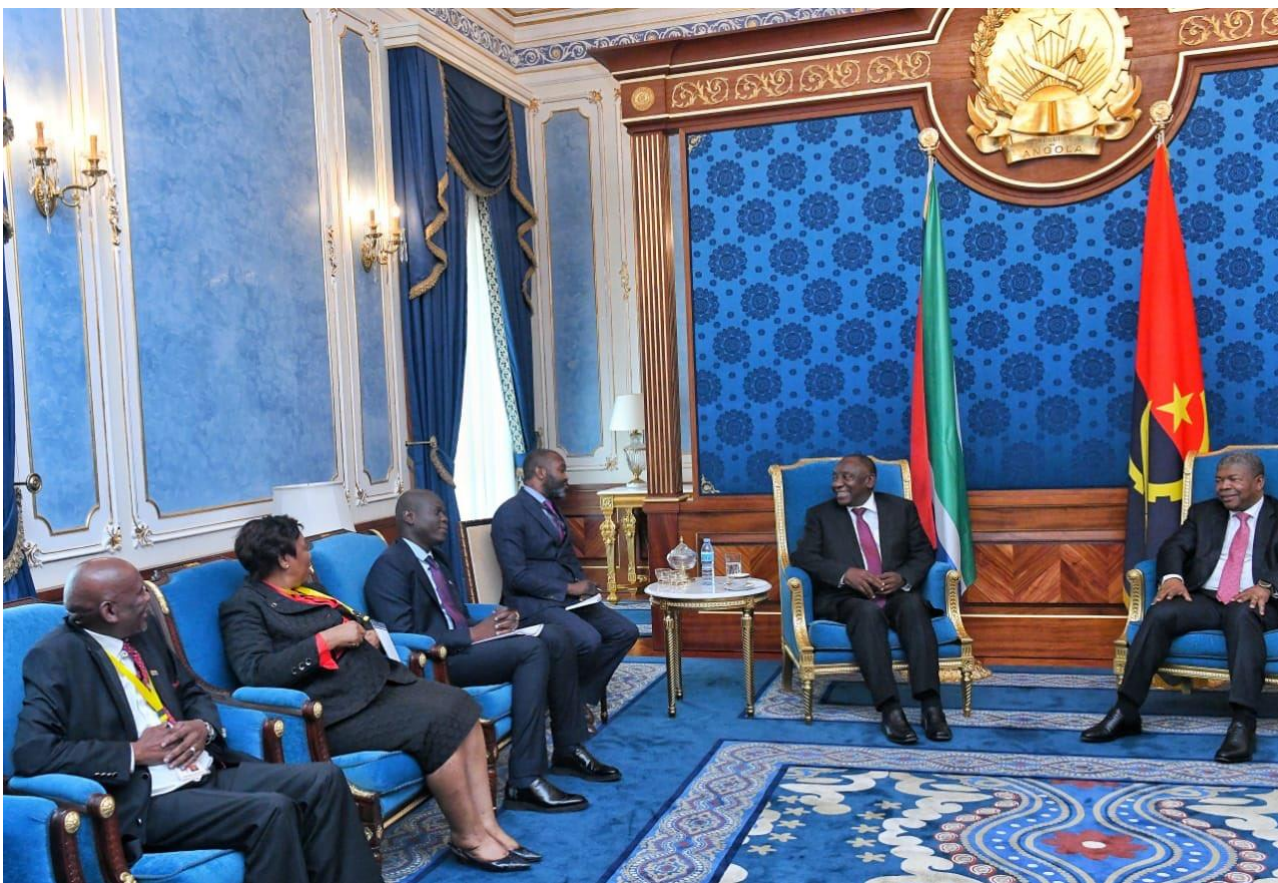
This is so that they can farm and have assets they can use to build and grow businesses. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA CONCLUDES WORKING VISIT TO ANGOLA

***President Cyril Ramaphosa has concluded his working visit to the Republic of Angola.***

In a statement on Thursday, 8 August 2024, The Presidency said that the visit covered three key areas of mutual interest, which are the strengthening of the bilateral relationship between South Africa and Angola, sharing perspectives on recent developments in South Africa's political landscape that led to the successful formation of a Government of National Unity (GNU), and reflecting on the security situation in the Great Lakes Region, particularly the developments in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).



“Angola continues to be interested in South Africa's political developments, just as we are interested in how Angola is progressing because we are two sister countries that continue to share a wonderful relationship,” said President Ramaphosa on South Africa's recent political developments.

President Ramaphosa was in Luanda, Angola, on a one-day working visit as a guest of his counterpart, President João Lourenço.

On the consolidation of the bilateral relationship between the two countries, President Ramaphosa said the discussions focussed on the enhancement of economic and investment ties.

“The two leaders further reflected on the security situation in the Great Lakes Region. President Ramaphosa applauded President Lourenço for his effort in working for peace in the DRC and for achieving a ceasefire between the DRC and the Republic of Rwanda,” said The Presidency.

The ceasefire agreement between the DRC and Rwanda was recently facilitated by Angola. The signing by the respective foreign ministers was facilitated by President Lourenço as the mediator of the Luanda Process. Angola will continue to monitor its implementation.

Both South Africa and Angola are signatories to the 2013 Framework Agreement for Peace, Security, and Cooperation in the DRC and the region, along with several other countries.

The two leaders also committed to continuing to work together and alongside other leaders in the region to ensure that the ceasefire becomes permanent.

President Ramaphosa used the occasion to extend a State Visit invitation to President Lourenço, which President Lourenço accepted. The State Visit will affirm the strong and special bond between the two nations.

President Ramaphosa was supported by Minister Ronald Lamola of International Relations and Cooperation and Minister Angie Motshekga of Defence. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## MINISTER LAMOLA ARRIVES IN HARARE AHEAD OF THE 44TH ORDINARY SADC SUMMIT

***The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, arrived in Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe, on 12 August 2024 to participate in the Meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers taking place ahead of the 44th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government.***



The Summit will take place under the theme, *Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustained Economic Growth and Development towards an Industrialised SADC.*

The meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers took place from 13 to 14 August 2024. A SADC Organ Troika Summit will be held on 16 August 2024.

The summit provided an opportunity for SADC leaders to assess and review progress made in terms of the region's flagship integration agenda, the Regional Strategic Indicative Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030, as well as address matters relating to peace and security in the region.

During the summit, the Republic of Zimbabwe will assume the chairpersonship of SADC, taking over from the Republic of Angola, who chaired SADC since the previous Summit held in Luanda, Republic of Angola, in August 2023. – Source: www.dirco.gov.za

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## MINISTER LAMOLA TO USE ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY TO TACKLE POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

***International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Ronald Lamola, has pledged that his department will use economic diplomacy to tackle the underlying challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment in South Africa.***

“I look forward to working with all of you in the seventh administration to make international relations more accessible to every South African. International relations is not abstract; it affects us in our everyday lives,” he said on Monday, 12 August 2024.

Minister Lamola was speaking during a media briefing where he was updating the public on his programme and topical issues.

He also emphasised the consistent goal of achieving a more just and equitable African continent and world.



“DIRCO’s [Department of International Relations and Cooperation] work is crucial in realising this grand vision every day. We have reassured everyone that there will be continuity in foreign policy, aligned with the Government of National Unity’s (GNU) vision.”

He told journalists that parties in the GNU have agreed to work together to address the nation’s most pressing challenges.

“President Cyril Ramaphosa indicated in his inauguration speech that the parties have committed to pursuing a foreign policy based on human rights, solidarity, and peace.

“They will also promote multilateralism for a fairer, more equal, just, and compassionate world.”

In addition, he said the GNU was committed to the well-being and professional growth of the team, encouraging them to take advantage of learning and development opportunities provided by the department.

### **Other issues**

On Israel, he said South Africa “strongly” condemns the attack on a school turned shelter for displaced Palestinians in Gaza that has killed more than 100 people, including women and children.

This is after the Israeli military claimed its air force struck a “command and control centre” that “served as a hideout for Hamas terrorists and commanders” at Al-Tabaen school.

However, the department said they had not provided evidence to qualify the harming of defenceless civilians in its dangerous escalation.

“South Africa is gravely concerned at the continuous targeting of schools, hospitals, medical infrastructure, and holy sites that are a source of shelter and protection for the civilian population who bear the brunt of the inhumane attacks in the Gaza Strip.”

The Minister said that South Africa continues to maintain that there is no legal, ethical, or moral justification for the bombardment of non-combatants and the destruction of civilian sites.

Minister Lamola called on the international community to act decisively against this deliberate attempt to derail the ceasefire negotiations and the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe due to the ongoing violations of international law.

“South Africa once again calls on the United Nations to deploy a rapid protection force to protect the civilian population from further bombardment.”

He also welcomed the ceasefire agreement between the governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, which Angola facilitated.

In addition, he said South Africa was monitoring developments in Venezuela following the recent elections.

Minister Lamola has welcomed the fact that President Nicolás Maduro was declared the winner and reaffirmed South Africa’s support for the people of Venezuela to self-determination without the interference of external forces. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## MINISTER BLADE NZIMANDE OFFICIALLY OPENS 32ND INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

***The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Blade Nzimande, officially opened the 32nd International Astronomical Union (IAU) General Assembly in Cape Town on Saturday, 10 August 2024. The Minister addressed 2 000 delegates from the global astronomy community.***



The meeting, held every three years, 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, under the theme *It's Time for Africa – Ke Nako*, will highlight the continent's growing role in the global astronomical community and its contributions to global astronomical research and development, as well as its potential for future contributions.

Africa is home to some of the world's oldest astronomical achievements. Astronomy in Africa began at least 7 000 years ago, with a stone circle known as Nabta Playa in Egypt that predates Stonehenge by 2 000 years.

IAU President Prof. Debra Elmegreen, in her address to the gathering, emphasised that astronomy was rooted in all cultures and invited broad thoughts about our place in the universe and on our fragile Earth.

"We celebrate the rich history of astronomy in Africa as we present our research, initiate new collaborations, enjoy networking, share astronomy with the public, and explore the local beauty. August is designated as Africa Astronomy Month, an appropriate cap to the Vision 2024 efforts that have united Africans in their preparations to share astronomy with the world," said Elmegreen.

Over two centuries ago, international observational survey work was led by astronomers in Cape Town and this work continues to the present day under the South African Astronomical Observatory.

Among many other telescopes in Africa, Prof. Elmegreen mentioned the High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS) gamma ray telescope in Namibia, as well as the Southern African Large Telescope (the largest optical telescope in the Southern Hemisphere), the *MeerKAT* radio astronomy array, and the KELT-South and SuperWASP-South telescopes, all of which are located in South Africa.

Minister Nzimande spoke about how Africa's rich astronomy history continues to inspire, as well as about the role of indigenous astronomy in South Africa's astronomy programmes. He praised the conference organisers for *Cosmic Echoes*, a Shared Sky indigenous art exhibition.

The Minister highlighted the trailblazing radio astronomy work that began in South Africa in Hartebeeshoek in 1961, in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"Radio astronomy began in South Africa with a 26-metre dish built by NASA and placed in Hartebeesthoek in 1961 as a deep-space ground station used to get data from and send commands to many unmanned United States space probes going beyond the Earth's orbit. This was later converted into a radio telescope, which led to the establishment of the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomical Observatory, which is now part of the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory.

"During the democratic era, the *MeerKAT* was built in Carnarvon as a precursor to the SKA project. The *MeerKAT* is another amazing achievement on the global science stage, and we wish to thank our international partners, Germany, Italy and China for their contribution to this project.

"We also have a growing gamma-ray astronomy community that actively participates in the HESS initiative," said the Minister.

He added that these strategic interventions had enabled the exponential growth of South African astronomers from 60 (only five of whom were radio astronomers) to about 300 over the last 30 years.

The Minister highlighted that the *MeerKAT*/SKA project, in particular, offered South Africa an opportunity to contribute to the knowledge economy and the big data revolution through international collaborations and the pursuit of world-class research, driving transformation and human capital development.

The Minister thanked the IAU for giving South Africa the opportunity to host the prestigious IAU General Assembly.

"This gathering reflects the global astronomy community's commitment to advancing research, fostering collaboration, and addressing contemporary challenges in astronomy and those faced by humanity," concluded the Minister.

The IAU conference ran until 14 August 2024. – Source: [www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)

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## EXPERTS URGED TO ADD THEIR VOICE ON WATER AND CLIMATE ISSUES

***Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister David Mahlobo has implored academia and global experts in research and science to prioritise major water, environment and climate change issues facing the entire global community.***

Deputy Minister Mahlobo made the call at the International Conference on Water and Environmental Sustainability in Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal.

The two-day conference, which began on Monday, 12 August 2024, was organised by the University of Zululand in collaboration with Chang'an University in China.

The conference presented a distinguished forum for global experts, including researchers, scientists, academics, industry representatives, and students, to engage in scholarly debate and knowledge exchange.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ICWES)

“Climate change has an impact on water supply and delivery, and it can't be ignored. Climate resilience strategies are important.”

HON. DAVID MAHLOBO  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

CHANG'AN UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND  
www.eesic.co.za

It was also used to address the ongoing water issues in South Africa, serving as a global platform for experts to discuss and find solutions for pressing challenges related to water scarcity, quality, and management in South Africa.

Addressing delegates on Monday, Deputy Minister Mahlobo said the issues of the environment and climate change have not been given the priority they deserve.

The Deputy Minister highlighted challenges, including population growth and migration, which have negatively impacted water availability for people around the world and the environment.

He said that many countries have not properly planned for population growth and migration, which have an impact on the sustainability of water and the environment.

“I therefore urge you that, in your discussions, you must come up with resolutions on how we deal with these issues, especially around the finite resource of water. We call on you as the experts in your respective fields to raise your voices with information and knowledge to those in authority,” Deputy Minister Mahlobo said.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zululand, Professor Xoliswa Mtose, noted that the conference was held at a time when the world is grappling with a myriad of interconnected issues elaborated in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She said this has generated a lot of research and debate among academia to galvanise national and global development on issues of water and the environment.

“The collaboration between the University of Zululand and Changán University in China is on knowledge sharing aimed at addressing the challenges of developments in the water and sustainability as depicted in the SDG framework.

“Therefore, the research papers to be delivered here today will reflect on the national, continental and global footprint as far as water and environmental issues are concerned,” Mtose said.

The scholars and academics at the conference indicated that the outcomes of the conference will not only influence the global versatile issues of water and environmental sustainability but also enable them to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



## **CABINET CONGRATULATES JUSTICE MAYA ON HER APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF JUSTICE**

***As the country celebrates Women’s Month, Cabinet has congratulated Justice Mandisa Maya on her trailblazing appointment as South Africa’s first female incoming Chief Justice.***

Maya, the first South African woman to lead the Constitutional Court, was appointed as Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa with effect from 1 September 2024 by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Maya previously served with distinction as the President of the Supreme Court of Appeal since 2017 and was the first woman to hold that position.

Briefing the media on the outcomes of the ordinary Cabinet meeting on Thursday, 8 August 2024, Minister in The Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, said the significance of Maya’s appointment can be best understood in context.

“According to the International Association of Women Judges, in 1994, there were approximately 165 judges, 160 of whom were white men, three were black men, and two were white women; no black women were judges at that time.



“As of February 2023, there are 253 judges, comprising 113 women, broken down to 32% black women plus 13% white women, making up a total of 45% representation by women. Additionally, the remaining 140 male judges comprise 39% black men and 17% white men,” Minister Ntshavheni said.

Meanwhile, Cabinet has invited citizens to take part in events planned to take place in various parts of the country in celebration of the annual Women’s Month.

Minister Ntshavheni said the events also include a trade expo, interactive dialogues, and showcasing opportunities available for women in diverse sectors that are instrumental in narrowing gender disparities.

“This year’s celebration of Women’s Month will take stock of progress made on the socio-economic empowerment of women since the advent of democracy and the achievements of the objectives of the Women’s Charter.

“Our nation pays tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956, in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women,” Minister Ntshavheni said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## **SOUTH AFRICA, EUROPEAN UNION CITRUS DISPUTES RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT COSTS FOR INDUSTRY**

***Cabinet says the measures imposed by the European Union (EU) on the export of South Africa’s citrus products to the EU result in significant costs for the South African citrus industry, which is estimated at R2 billion (US\$110 million) per year.***

The first regular Cabinet meeting of the seventh administration, held at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Wednesday, 7 August 2024, raised the concern following a briefing about a formal dispute initiated by South Africa with the World Trade Organisation against the EU’s stringent and unnecessary plant health requirements regarding Citrus Black Spot (CBS) and False Codling Moth (FMC) regulations on the export of South Africa’s citrus products to the EU.



Briefing the media on the outcomes of the Cabinet meeting on Thursday, 8 August 2024, Minister in The Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, said South Africa is the world’s second-largest exporter of citrus, and 33% of the country’s citrus exports are destined for the EU market.

While not a ban, Minister Ntshavheni said that the measures imposed by the EU result in significant costs for the South African citrus industry.

“South Africa’s industry provides direct employment for over 140 000 people in rural South Africa and thus supporting over 1.5 million people. The EU has decided to impose stringent measures against South Africa while not requiring the same from countries with similar situations such as Israel,” Minister Ntshavheni said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## **STANDARD BANK COMMITS US\$ ONE MILLION TO AFRICAN UNION PEACE FUND**

***Africa’s largest bank by assets and with operations in 20 markets on the continent, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Union Peace Fund to help the African Union (AU) in its resource mobilisation efforts for peace across the continent.***

The agreement will see Standard Bank Group make a total contribution of US\$1 million over the next five years.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that 85% of the 1.3 billion Africans live in countries facing conflict or in neighbouring nations affected by post-conflict situations. As a result, the AU has intensified its efforts to promote peace through preventive actions.



Yinka Sanni, Standard Bank Africa Regions Chief Executive, highlighted the significance of this partnership. He said: “Peace in Africa is paramount; it reduces country risk premiums, facilitates ease of doing business, and lowers the cost of capital. A stable business environment inspires market confidence, safeguards assets and investments from conflict-related risks, and enables businesses to expand their market reach and explore new growth prospects. Anticipated reductions in trade barriers through the AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) will allow companies to access previously untapped markets with a lower likelihood of supply chain disruptions.”

“The Standard Bank Group is committed to promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life throughout Africa. Our purpose, “Africa is our home; we drive her growth,” underscores our commitment to fostering a stable and prosperous continent where economic growth is firmly rooted in peace and security,” he added.

Felicity Sampong, Head of Risk of Stanbic Bank Ghana, who represented Standard Bank at the signing ceremony, stated: “By aligning our goals with the objectives of the AU Peace Fund, we demonstrate our dedication to making a positive impact on the continent. The donation also aligns with our bank’s strategy and our positive impact approach to supporting Africa’s growth. It also reinforces our relationships with relevant intra-African entities, governments, and institutions.”

The African Union Peace Fund (AUPF), established in June 1993, serves as one of the operational tools to finance peace and security activities within the AU. Its primary focus is on conflict prevention through mediation and diplomacy. The AUPF is an integral part of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and underwent revitalisation in 2018 to ensure its positive contribution towards achieving Africa’s Agenda 2063 vision—a vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and united continent.

In its quest to reduce the level of dependency and regain ownership of the peace and security agenda, the African Union has made commendable progress in revitalising the AU Peace Fund, evidenced by the increased member states contribution to the Fund and the enhanced governance and management arrangements for the Fund. The endowment’s overarching goal is to enable the African Union to fully finance mediation and preventive diplomacy activities, support institutional readiness and capacity, maintain a crisis reserve facility, and fulfil its commitment to financing 25% of its peace operations budget. – Source: [www.standardbank.com](http://www.standardbank.com)

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## MISS SOUTH AFRICA REDEFINES WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A QUEEN

***Minister in The Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Sindisiwe Chikunga, has congratulated Mia Le Roux who was recently crowned Miss South Africa 2024.***

The 28-year-old Le Roux, who was born in Sasolburg, Free State, and raised in Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, was crowned Miss South Africa during a glittering ceremony held at the Sun Bet Arena in Menlyn, Pretoria East, on Saturday night, 10 August 2024.

Le Roux, who is deaf, became the first Miss South Africa and differently-abled finalist in the history of the pageant.

Prior to entering the competition, Le Roux worked full-time as a marketing manager for a start-up company. She is also studying a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing part-time at the University of South Africa (UNISA).

In her congratulatory message, Minister Chikunga said that Le Roux's incredible achievement speaks volumes, not just for her beauty and grace but also for her strength, resilience, and determination.

"You have shown the world that true beauty shines from within and that our differences only make us stronger. You have broken barriers and redefined what it means to be a queen.

"May your reign be filled with joy, pride, and the knowledge that you are a beacon of hope and inspiration to countless others. I wish you continued success and happiness in all your future endeavours," Minister Chikunga said.

The Minister also noted that her win will assist to carry the baton of hope and trust among young people.

"We also wish to encourage Le Roux to become an ambassador to address the rights of persons with disabilities while also assisting with dismantling social, psychological, and structural barriers, which remain major challenges for people with disabilities," Minister Chikunga said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



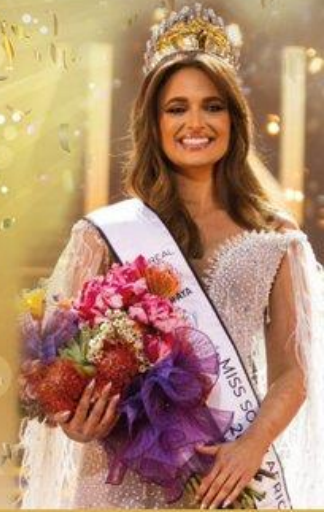
Minister in the Presidency Responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities  
**Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga**

Your incredible achievement speaks volumes, not just for your beauty and grace, but for your strength, resilience, and determination. You have shown the world that true beauty shines from within, and that our differences only make us stronger.

You have broken barriers and redefined what it means to be a queen. May your reign be filled with joy, pride, and the knowledge that you are a beacon of hope and inspiration to countless others.

Wishing you continued success and happiness in all your future endeavors.

*Congratulations*  
**Our New  
Miss South Africa  
Mia Le Roux!**



women, youth & persons with disabilities  
Department  
Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## CAPE TOWN LAUNCHES FIRST AMPHIBIOUS “WATERFRONT DUCK” BUS

**Cape Town introduced its first amphibious “Waterfront Duck” bus, offering a unique blend of land and sea tourism, with its launch on 7 August 2024. The innovative vehicle, envisioned by Keith Lindsay, served as both a bus and a boat, providing tours around the iconic Victoria & Alfred Waterfront.**



### An innovative tourism offering

The “Waterfront Duck” was the brainchild of Keith Lindsay, owner of the Waterfront Duck Company. The bright yellow-and-blue bus became the newest addition to Cape Town’s tourism offerings. This custom-built vehicle, manufactured in Windsor, United Kingdom, was equipped with state-of-the-art safety features suitable for its dual function. It boasted a waterproof hull, sealed hydraulic axles, life jackets, and a VHF radio, ensuring passenger safety on both land and water.

The tours, designed to highlight the history and marine ecology of the area, did not venture beyond the harbour walls. Each one-hour trip comprised a 30-minute sail around the harbour, followed by a 30-minute tour of parts of the Atlantic Seaboard. An on-board tour guide shared interesting stories about the city’s rich history and vibrant culture throughout the journey.

## A long-held dream realised

Keith Lindsay, inspired by a family trip to the United States in 2008, where similar tours are popular in Boston, spent 15 years bringing his vision to life. After overcoming numerous regulatory hurdles to gain approvals from both maritime and road authorities, Lindsay decided to get the project running in 2018. He expressed his excitement about the launch, stating, “They have 36 of these buses in Boston, and we just loved it. I loved the idea and thought, why not in Cape Town? I did some research and looked around the world, and it dawned on me that wherever one has a story-rich and history-filled city combined with an interesting body of water, one has the ideal venue for a duck tour.”

Initially licensed to carry 12 passengers per trip, the bus capacity was set to increase to 36 once it became fully operational. Passengers embarked on the water in front of the Cape Grace Hotel, exploring the harbour and marina area.

Sara Prince, public relations manager of the Waterfront Duck Company, mentioned that a kiosk situated outside the Silo Hotel was available for bookings, alongside the company’s website.

James Vos, Mayco Member for Economic Growth, praised the innovative business, saying, “The Waterfront Duck not only enhances Cape Town’s appeal for both locals and visitors but also aligns perfectly with our goals to drive tourism and economic growth. It’s wonderful to see our tourism sector continually push boundaries and create memorable experiences.”

Lindsay planned to expand his fleet if the initial launch proved successful, aiming to enhance the Cape Town tourism landscape with this novel attraction. The tours promised an educational and entertaining experience, perfect for those looking to explore Cape Town’s scenic waterfront in a unique way. – Source: [www.thenewspaper.co.za](http://www.thenewspaper.co.za)

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## SOUTH AFRICA’S “FLOWER KING” WINS GOLD AT SINGAPORE GARDEN FESTIVAL

***Hot on the heels of South Africa’s success at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, South African landscape designer and local “Flower King” Leon Kluge has won another top prize at Asia’s biggest garden show—the Singapore Garden Festival.***

While many fantasy gardens were created at this year’s Singapore Garden Festival, Kluge’s fantasy garden titled *Between Two Worlds* was the cream of the crop that not only won gold and “Best on Show” but also “Best Lighting” for its clever use of lights to create all the mystical feels.

Inspired by Singapore’s mangrove forests, the fantasy garden brought forth what could’ve easily been a scene straight out of a fairytale. Here, a humble nest cradled by roots rising up from the water created a wonderful wild sanctuary where an anonymous being rested. The sound of water trickling through moss-covered rocks set the scene for the creature, whose breath was mimicked by a subtle up-and-down motion as it drifted off to sleep to enter the ethereal world of dreams.



The festival inspired creators to utilise lighting, sound and theatre to bring their visions to life. As such, Leon’s clever use of lighting and sound transported onlookers with the creature, as if they too were in a slumber bathed in blue and purple lights amid the hums of sounds like frogs chirping.

“I wanted to capture the moment between being awake and the realm of dreams when everything around you starts to change and your imagination takes over. I’ve always thought that mangroves have a mysterious, spiritual quality to them, as if from another world with their roots that walk out of the water,” explains Kluge.

Of the creature that stole the show, Kluge reflects:

“I wanted the being that calls this wonderful tropical nest home to be anonymous; I would like the viewer to see themselves resting in a natural sanctuary like this. Of course the nest reminds us of wild species, perhaps the last of its kind, having to retreat deeper and deeper into the forest to find refuge from the destruction of habitats we see happening all around the world.”

Alongside the King of Flowers, was artist Tristan Wouldberg who worked closely with Kluge to sculpt the mangrove centre pieces.

### **Singapore Garden Festival**

Together, they created a display that largely relied on natural materials (including banana fibre paper used for flower lanterns and wood sourced from the island), making the *Between Two Worlds* showcase more environmentally friendly than most.

The local tropical plant palette was also embraced to bring the fantasy garden to life, including a number of rare palms and orchids. An unusual plant, elephant foot yam (*Amorphophallus Paeoniifolius*) also made its feature, as well as large fig trees with dangling roots to frame the garden.

This marks the second time Kluge has won best on show at the Singapore Garden Festival, and another win for South African creativity and green thumbs. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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## **STEVE HARVEY TO HEADLINE FAME WEEK AFRICA IN CAPE TOWN IN SEPTEMBER**

**Steve Harvey, the Emmy Award-winning television host, comedian and philanthropist, will headline MIP Africa during FAME Week Africa in Cape Town from 1 to 7 September 2024.**



Harvey is one of the most trusted figures in the media, reaching over 178 million viewers in the United States (US) annually. His presence at FAME Week Africa is expected to draw significant attention and participation from industry professionals around the globe. Harvey’s involvement goes beyond celebrity status; it is a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change through the “Botswana Ignite!” initiative.

### **A vision for Africa’s creative future**

Harvey’s visit is part of the “Botswana Ignite!” initiative, a transformative programme developed in partnership with the government of Botswana. This ambitious endeavour aims to nurture local talent and stimulate growth within Botswana’s television and video production industries, positioning the country as a leading hub for film and television production in Africa.

Central to the “Botswana Ignite!” initiative are the Botswana TV Academy and the Botswana Wildlife Film School, offering cutting-edge training in television and film production. These institutions provide masterclasses and mentorship sessions led by international experts, equipping participants with essential creative and business skills to share Botswana’s unique narratives with the world.

In early 2025, the Botswana government will launch the Botswana Film Commission and a significant rebate scheme, providing financial incentives to bolster the production of international films, documentaries, and television series in Botswana. These measures aim to elevate Botswana’s creative landscape and empower local talent to reach global audiences.

## Steve Harvey's role at MIP Africa

On Monday, 2 September, Steve Harvey will take the stage as the keynote speaker at MIP Africa, one of the highlights of FAME Week Africa. In his address, Harvey will share his remarkable journey from a young comedian to a globally recognised television figure. His story, marked by resilience and innovation, offers invaluable insights into the power of perseverance and the importance of staying true to one's vision.

Harvey's commitment to Botswana and the broader African continent will be a focal point of his speech. He will delve into the "Botswana Ignite!" initiative, emphasising its potential benefits for Botswana and Africa. Harvey's keynote promises to be a powerful testament to the impact of strategic investment in local talent and infrastructure, inspiring attendees to envision a future where Africa stands at the forefront of the global creative industry.

In addition to his keynote address, Harvey will participate in a fireside chat with Duncan Irvine, the Botswana Ignite Project Director, and a member of the Botswana government. This discussion will explore the various components of the "Botswana Ignite!" initiative, including the TV Academy, the Wildlife Film School, and the new Film Commission and rebate scheme. Harvey's insights and experiences will provide a roadmap for leveraging these resources to create a thriving creative ecosystem in Botswana and beyond.

Throughout FAME Week Africa, Harvey will engage in numerous networking opportunities, representing Botswana's burgeoning creative industry. His presence underscores his foundation's commitment to expanding the local film and television sector, offering hope and inspiration to aspiring creatives across the continent.

### Join the journey

With a programme designed to educate, inspire, and connect, this event is a must-attend for anyone passionate about the potential of Africa's creative industries.

As Steve Harvey prepares to headline MIP Africa, his message is clear: with vision, commitment, and collaboration, Africa's creative future is not just bright; it's boundless. – Source: [thenewspaper.co.za](http://thenewspaper.co.za)

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## MULTI-TALENTED NAKHANE'S POWERFUL SHORT FILM SELECTED FOR LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL

***Inspired by the Biblical story of Abraham and Isaac, talented South African musician and actor Nakhane has ventured into the film industry with a new project that explores masculinity, patriarchy and power.***

Award-winning South African musician, actor, and novelist Nakhane has made their directorial debut with the highly anticipated short film, *B(l)ind The Sacrifice*.

The film, a collaboration with seasoned producers Cait Pansegrouw and Elias Ribeiro of Urucu Media, premiered at the prestigious Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland last week.

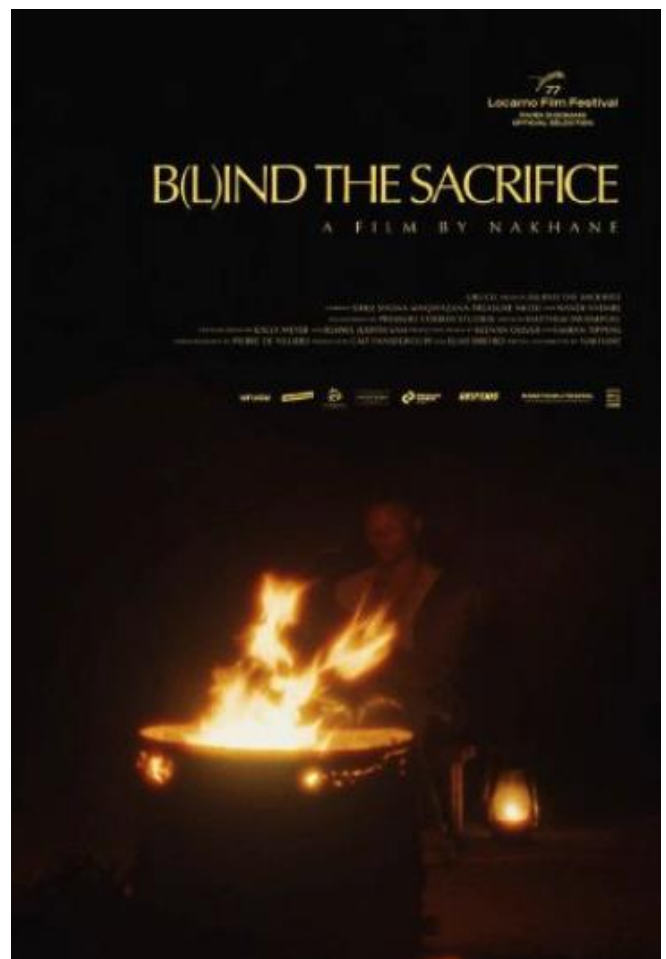
The project was one of twenty short films selected from four thousand submissions to compete in the prestigious Pardi di Domani section at the Locarno Film Festival.

The festival is known for showcasing innovative works from emerging filmmakers, providing them with a platform to create expressive and experimental films that speak to the future of cinema.

Nakhane, globally recognised for their captivating performance in the Oscar-nominated *Inxeba (The Wound)*, brings their unique vision to the director's chair.

Pansegrouw and Ribeiro, renowned for their work on critically acclaimed films such as *Train of Salt and Sugar* and *This Is Not A Burial, It's A Resurrection*, are producing partners on the project.

Promising to be a compelling and thought-provoking watch, the short film explores the complexities of masculinity, patriarchy and power, set against the backdrop of an immutable yet contemporary world.



Nakhane explained that the film was inspired by the Biblical story of Abraham and Isaac, and primarily by how how Isaac must have felt being offered to God as a sacrifice by his father.

“The film looks at masculinity and patriarchy and the power it wields that has gone mad. I had to imagine the Biblical Abraham, the initial patriarch, as a ‘real’ person and in so doing, I was forced to wonder what would happen if he didn’t get away with what he did.

“Imaging that his power, so mad, that he has convinced his family and his three servants to live their lives as nomads with no choice but to obey him. And so, I ask—what would happen if we nipped all of this patriarchal lineage by killing him?” Nakhane shared.

The trio aims to develop the film into a full-length feature to further delve into the complexities of patriarchy and its intersection with queerness.

*B(l)ind The Sacrifice* will also compete in the Concorso Internazionale at the Locarno Film Festival, showcasing world and international premieres of short and medium-length films. This prestigious competition highlights the visionary talent of emerging filmmakers from around the globe and we’re rooting for the creative trio to bring it back home. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## BIKO’S MANNA MAKE IT TO AMERICA’S GOT TALENT’S LIVE SHOW



***Just last month, sibling-singing group Biko’s Manna (Biko, Manna and little Mfundo) wowed the “America’s Got Talent” (AGT) judges with their rendition of Bobby McFerrin’s “Don’t Worry Be Happy”, which earned them a standing ovation. If that wasn’t insight enough as to the talent of these young South Africans then this next part will be—they have made it to the “America’s Got Talent’s” live show.***

Among 43 other talents, including acrobats, bands, “extreme” ballet performances and dance groups, Biko’s Manna will bring their gift of song to the America’s Got Talent stage and edge a little closer to the chance of winning the competition.

“We’re so excited to announce that we made it to the Live Shows on AGT!! This is a dream come true! We have no words to describe how happy and grateful we are that we’ve reached this stage of our lives together,” the sibling group shared in a reaction video to the news.

The group, which began picking up in popularity after they started posting singing videos on social media, has risen to many musical heights in a fairly short amount of time, from viral videos spanning millions of views to touring the United States. For the two teenagers and Mfundo, who is only eight, it’s been a whirlwind experience as each of their dreams slowly starts to come to fruition. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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## WORLD-FAMOUS CELEBRITY CHEF AND RESTAURATEUR SPOTTED IN THE MOTHER CITY

***British TV personality and chef extraordinaire Jamie Oliver is currently travelling in Cape Town.***

A few local restaurants made the 49-year-old cookbook author's holiday eatery list.

The British chef, best-known for his casual approach to cuisine, is also an advocate for healthy eating and proper food education.

His take on nutrition and home cooking has impacted households, cafeterias, and the like, as he encourages fresh, wholesome meals.

Though the exact reasons for Oliver's trip to South Africa are not yet known but *Eat Out* has reported on two spots that have wined and dined the chef.

- **TTK Fledgelings**

This restaurant, located in Woodstock, serves as an upliftment programme that allows aspiring chefs to improve their craft. TTK Fledgelings serves up "wonderful food without too many frills".

Location: The Old Biscuit Mill, 375 Albert Road, Woodstock, Cape Town.

- **PIER**

Serving suave seafood, PIER offers an intimate, multi-course dining experience. Located at the V&A Waterfront, guests are able to enjoy waterside dining and iconic views.

Highlights of the dining experience include oysters poached tableside, Thai-style tuna with furikake, or nitrogen-poached citrus fruits to cleanse the palate.

Location: V&A Waterfront, 9 Breakwater Boulevard, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town.

"A very special team doing very good things," Oliver said as he congratulated the PIER team via Instagram. – Source: [www.capetownetc.com](http://www.capetownetc.com)

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## BAYANDA WALAZA STEALS THE SHOW AS TEAM SA WELCOMED BACK FROM PARIS OLYMPICS

***Olympic silver medallist Bayanda Walaza stole the show on Tuesday, 13 August 2024, when Team SA arrived back to a rapturous welcome at OR Tambo International airport.***

The 18-year-old Walaza was clearly the biggest drawcard returning from the Paris Olympics, as huge numbers of schoolchildren gathered at the airport to catch a glimpse of the sprinter.

The Pretoria schoolboy will soon be turning his attention back to his matric prelims, but first, he was more than happy to soak up the electric atmosphere and give his adoring fans as much attention as he could afford.





Curro School in Pretoria, where Walaza is in grade 12, had learners arrive at the airport wearing their school attire as they cheered wildly to welcome back their now-famous sports star. Walaza was part of the men's 4x100m relay team, which claimed silver at the Paris Olympics. Walaza did his part in the relay team alongside Akani Simbine, Shaun Maswanganyi and Bradley Nkoana.

Earlier, the crowd cheered loudly for Tatjana Smith as she was the first Team SA athlete to walk into the arrival halls.



Smith was first greeted by South African Minister of Sport Gayton McKenzie, before she proudly displayed her gold medal with her signature broad smile to the crowd while wrapping herself in a South Africa flag.

Smith, 27, won gold and silver in the women's 100m and 200m breaststroke, respectively, to become South Africa's most decorated Olympian with four medals.

Minister McKenzie, meanwhile, said he was proud of the accomplishments of Team SA after they doubled their medal tally from the Tokyo Olympics to six in Paris.

He also said that under his watch, he would ensure that no athlete would have to fund themselves in pursuit of their Olympic dream. This comes after Jo-Anne van Dyk confirmed that she had to rely on herself and her parents to fund her Olympic pursuit. Van Dyk was one of the stars of Team SA, with a silver in the women's javelin. – Source: [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)

## JO-ANE VAN DYK EARNS TEAM SA'S SIXTH MEDAL AT OLYMPICS

***South African athlete Jo-Anne van Dyk has earned Team South Africa's sixth medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics Games.***

Van Dyk won a silver medal during the women's javelin on Saturday at the Stade de France, Paris, on Saturday night, 11 August 2024.

“At a packed Stade de France on the final night of track and field action at these Games, she produced a third effort of 63.93m, which highlighted the form she'd shown all week and moved her up into the silver medal, behind Japan's Haruka Kitaguchi, who had opened with a winning 65.80m.

“It was an emotional evening all around because Van Dyk is coached by Terseus Liebenberg, who also guided Viljoen to the silver medal at Rio 2016,” the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) said.



Van Dyk had attended her first Olympics in Tokyo, and there she was eliminated in qualifying with a best of 57.69m.

“Here, she is three years older, three years wiser, and a different athlete entering the prime of her career. The South African’s first throw of 59.72m had been below par by her standards. She upped it by exactly two metres to 61.72m, which still wasn’t enough to get into medal contention on a stacked leaderboard.

“However, her third throw was another two metres further, and that 63.93m was to be 25cm better than bronze medallist Nikola Ogrodnikova, and 53cm better than the fourth-place finisher, Sara Kolak,” SASCOC said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## TEAM SA DISPLAYS FORTITUDE AT PARIS OLYMPICS

***Team South Africa has shown commendable fortitude at the 2024 Paris Olympics Games, having participated in five sporting codes on Saturday, 10 August 2024.***



# TEAM SOUTH AFRICA

The team started with five medals, but javelin thrower Jo-Ane van Dyk upped it to six with a brilliant effort of 63.93m.

“Also in finals action at a packed Stade de France on Saturday night were high jumper Brian Raats, and the men’s 4x400m relay squad.

“The men’s marathon saw Elroy Galant and Stephen Mokoka take to the Paris roads and hills. Galant finished a fine 11th overall in 02:09:07, while Mokoka crossed the line in 27th position, dipping under 2:11 by one second,” the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) said.

Canoeist Hamish Lovemore won his 1000m B-Final, which placed him ninth overall to end his Games on a high.

“Wrestler Nicholas de Lange was always going to be up against it in terms of his draw and lost his match, while golfers Ashleigh Buhai and Paula Reto wrapped up four days at Le National Golf.

“China, with 38 gold medals, the United States (with 37), Australia (18), Japan (17) and France (15) took the lead in the medal standings. Team SA are 40th with one gold (Tatjana Smith), three silvers (Smith, men’s 4x100m and Van Dyk) and two bronzes (men’s Sevens rugby and Alan Hatherly),” SASCOC said.

### Athletics

- Men’s marathon: Elroy Galant finished 11th in 2hr 9min 7sec, some 2min 41sec behind the gold medallist, Tamarat Tola. The Ethiopian set an Olympic record in winning in 2:06:26. Stephen Mokoka was 27th, with a time of 2:10:59
- Men’s high jump, final: Brian Raats finished 12th with an opening height of 2.17m
- Women’s javelin, final: Jo-Ane van Dyk threw a distance of 63.93m to take second position and earn a silver medal
- Men’s 4x400m, final: Team SA finished 5th behind the United States in a national record 2:58.12.

### Canoeing

- Men’s kayak single 1000m semi-finals: Hamish Lovemore finished eighth in 3:38.39 and qualified for the B-final
- Men’s kayak single 1000m B-Final: Lovemore won his race in 3:27.94, which would have placed him fourth in the A-final, and he took ninth place overall.

## Cycling

- Men's keirin, first round heats: Jean Spies finished sixth in his heat and advanced to the repechage
- Men's keirin, repechage: Jean Spies finished fifth in his heat and didn't progress to the quarter-finals.

## Golf women's individual, final round

- T13th 285 Ashleigh Buhai 68, 73, 74, 70 (3-under)
- T44th 299 Paula Reto 78, 73, 76, 72 (11-over).

– Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## AKANI SIMBINE ROARS TO TAKE SOUTH AFRICA TO RELAY SILVER MEDAL AT PARIS OLYMPICS

*Halala, Akani Simbine, halala!*

***The 30-year-old sprint star finally has an Olympic medal after he anchored South Africa's stunning performance in the 4x100m relay final to clinch the silver at the Stade de France in Paris on Friday night, 9 August 2024.***

After years of coming either fourth or fifth in the 100m finals at the world championships and Olympics, Simbine put the disappointment of finishing fourth at the Paris Games once more to roar down the home straight and grab second place in a new African record of 37.57 seconds.

Canada, led by former 200m world champion Andre de Grasse, secured the gold medal in a time of 37.50, while Great Britain took the bronze in 37.61.

The highly fancied United States, who were missing 100m champion Noah Lyles due to Covid, were eventually disqualified.

But it was a night to remember for Team South Africa, who recorded their fifth medal of the Paris Olympics after Tatjana Smith's gold and silver in the swimming pool and the bronze medals by the Blitzboks rugby team and mountain biker Alan Hatherly.

What made SA's performance even more remarkable is the fact that they were missing young star Benjamin Richardson, who ran a personal best 100m time of 9.86 just a few weeks ago, due to a hamstring injury.

That saw Pretoria matric student Bayanda Walaza running the opening leg in lane seven on Friday night, and the 18-year-old responded with a solid 10.41 time to be ranked fourth. He handed the baton over to Shaun Maswanganyi, and the 23-year-old speedster ran 9.06 in his leg to leave South Africa in fifth position.

Another teenager, Bradley Nkoana, was next up, and the 19-year-old maintained South Africa's fifth place with a 9.32 leg. It was then up to South Africa's number one sprinter to take them to the podium, and Simbine motored down the track to run the fastest final leg in the race, 8.78min, to secure the silver medal for South Africa. – Source: www.iol.co.za



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## SPRINGBOKS THRASH WALLABIES IN BRUTAL RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP OPENER

***World champions South Africa scored five tries to one as they crushed Australia 33-7 in the opening match of the Rugby Championship in Brisbane on Saturday, 10 August 2024.***

After leading 21-0 at half-time with three converted tries, they crossed twice more in the second period as the Wallabies ran out of steam in the face of a fierce South African assault.

The only Australia try came late in the match when the Springboks were reduced to 13 men following yellow cards to Malcolm Marx and Marco van Staden.

It was the Springboks' first win at Suncorp Stadium since 2013 and only their fourth ever victory in Brisbane. They went into the match as the firm favourites, ranked number one in the world compared with the Wallabies at nine.

The Wallabies, under new coach Joe Schmidt, started 2024 with two wins over Wales and one over Georgia, but they found the step up in class far too much to handle.

Their scrum was destroyed and their normally reliable line-out also struggled.

Their discipline also deserted them, conceding 14 penalties and one crucial yellow card to Andrew Kellaway in the first half.

South Africa had all the early possession and it was no surprise when they opened the scoring after just 10 minutes when captain Siya Kolisi crashed over after a cleverly worked line-out move.

Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu, who earlier missed an easy penalty, converted from out wide to make it 7-0 to the visitors.

With the Springboks enjoying 75% possession, the Wallabies were struggling to hang on.

When they did get the ball, they failed to make any impression and were reduced to kicking it away, handing the ball straight back to the Springboks.

The hosts went further behind midway through the half when lock Pieter-Steph du Toit crossed after the Wallabies ran out of numbers in defence.

Australia then lost Kellaway to a yellow card after a dangerous lifting tackle 10 minutes before the break.



Springbok wing Kurt-Lee Arendse waltzed his way through the Australian forwards to score under the posts and extend the lead.

Australia improved after the restart and had a number of chances to score, but South Africa put the game out of reach with tries to Kwagga Smith and Arendse in the space of two minutes.

Hunter Paisami scored Australia's consolation try three minutes from the end with Tom Lynagh converting.

The two teams meet again in Perth on Saturday, 17 August 2024. – Source: [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)

## SPRINGBOKS SIYA KOLISI AND EBEN ETZEBETH TO WALK IN WITH DRICUS DU PLESSIS BEFORE ISRAEL ADESANYA FIGHT

***South Africa's Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) middleweight champion Dricus Du Plessis will have Springbok power by his side when he battles bitter rival Israel Adesanya at UFC 305 in Perth on Sunday, 18 August 2024.***

Du Plessis will be accompanied to the octagon by Springboks captain Siya Kolisi and lock Eben Etzebeth ahead of the much-anticipated fight in the western Australian city.

The Springboks take on the Wallabies in a Rugby Championship match the day before the fight on Saturday at the Optus Stadium in Perth. Most of the squad will attend the fight on Sunday.

Kolisi will not be involved in Saturday's Test, as he will be rested for the match, while Etzebeth has been selected on the bench.

“We are trying to get Eben and Siya to walk out with me and it looks like it’s a done deal. They won’t be sitting in my corner, but will walk out with me to the octagon,” Du Plessis revealed on the KFM Mornings Breakfast Show with Darren Simpson.

“I can’t say what song I’m going to walk out to ... that is a surprise!”

The main fight card starts at 04h00 South African time, but Du Plessis said his bout against Adesanya will be after 12h00 on Sunday, 18 August 2024.



It will be Du Plessis’ first UFC title defence after becoming the first South African world champion at UFC 297 when he beat Sean Strickland in Toronto in January.

Strickland and Du Plessis went the full five rounds, and the South African was adjudged the winner by a single point to dethrone the then champion.

“This works out perfectly for me. I’ll be fighting in Perth between 12h00 and 13h00 in the afternoon. So it’s perfect for South Africans,” Du Plessis said.

“Because Perth is so far ahead, I’m fighting on Sunday, and the Springboks are playing on Saturday. All of them are going to be at the fight, and it’s going to be awesome.

“The Boks are playing; they are pride of the South Africa and then I’m fighting, all on the same weekend. Talk about stars aligning.

“Once I put that South African flag around my shoulders, there is nothing in the world that can stop me. He can knock me down, but he won’t knock me out and he won’t keep me down.”

The last time Adesanya stepped into the octagon in the UFC was in September, when he lost the middleweight belt to Strickland at UFC 293.

Adesanya has twice regained the title in the past, and it’s why Du Plessis is expecting a massive challenge from the Nigerian-New Zealander despite his long absence from the sport.

“He has been out for almost a year. It all depends on what he’s been doing this year. Has he been training or was he just taking a break? Sometimes a break is good,” said Du Plessis.

“I’m expecting the best version of him. That is what we are preparing for, even better than the version we have seen before. That’s the one I’m ready for.” – Source: [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)

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## YOUNG KICKBOXING REFEREE CORLEA GROBLER TAKES ON THE WORLD

***At only 18-years old, kickboxing referee Corlea Grobler is taking on the world after being asked to referee at the World Championship in Budapest, Hungary.***

Young South African kickboxing referee and powerhouse Corlea Grobler is preparing to referee her very first international competition after kickboxing president Aslam Mohamed asked her if she would lend her eagle eyes to the WAKO Youth World Championship in Budapest, Hungary.

A talented kickboxer herself, Grobler started training to become a female fighter when she was 15. In a matter of three months, she earned silver in three categories at the South African Championship. A year later, she took no prisoners and a sweeping gold in point fighting.

However, she soon fell in love with another part of the sport, and it wasn’t long until she began studying all there was to know about the integrity, rules and disciplines of kickboxing intently.

With her knack for the art of refereeing evident, she was soon asked to referee at a local competition.

“Thereafter you could not stop her,” her mom Sophia tells Good Things Guy. “She did all the exams and coursed needed and she went on to referee in several competitions.”

Grobler has refereed at competitions like Great North 1, 2 and 3, as well as two South African Champs.

Remarkably, she was the youngest referee present.

All this accumulated in her “I made it moment” as she got the go ahead to head to Worlds in Budapest. Naturally, Grobler couldn’t have been more thrilled for her international debut. After a lot of fundraising, the road to Budapest has winded down swiftly and as of 23 August, she’ll be playing one of the most important roles in any competition.



“Dreams can come true if you believe in yourself and work hard to achieve. I am privileged and honoured to be able to do this. It’s a dream come true,” says Grobler. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)



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