

UBUNTU NEWSFLASH



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STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA ON THE APPOINTMENT OF HIS SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On 14 April 2025, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the appointment of Mcebisi Jonas as Special Envoy to the United States of America (USA), serving as the official representative of the President and the government of the Republic of South Africa.

In this capacity, Mr Jonas is entrusted with the responsibility to advance South Africa's diplomatic, trade, and bilateral priorities. He will lead negotiations, foster strategic partnerships, and engage with US Government officials and private-sector leaders to promote our nation's interests.

An eminent South African leader, Mr Jonas served as one of four Presidential Investment Envoys that the President appointed in 2018 to facilitate investment into South Africa.

As a former Deputy Finance Minister of South Africa, Mr Jonas brings extensive governmental experience to his new diplomatic role. Concurrently, he holds the position of Independent Non-Executive Chairman of the MTN Group, a role he will maintain alongside his responsibilities as Special Envoy.

This appointment underscores his distinguished career and continued commitment to advancing South Africa's national and economic interests.

For decades, South Africa and the USA have maintained a historical and strategic relationship. In the interest of our country, our region, and the rest of our continent, President Ramaphosa stated that he remains committed to rebuilding and maintaining this relationship for more decades on the basis of mutual respect, recognition of each other's sovereignty, and benefit for our respective peoples. – Source: www.thepresidency.gov.za



PRESIDENT CONVEYS WARM WISHES FOR CHAG PESACH SAMEACH



President Cyril Ramaphosa has wished South Africa's Jewish community a happy Chag Pesach Sameach.

"I wish Jewish South Africans a happy and meaningful Passover, with the feast of Seder uniting family and friends.

"This celebration is a widely respected tradition in our nation, where we are blessed with a diversity of faith and culture that reflects our common humanity," the President said in his message on Sunday, 13 April 2025.

He added that "occasions such as these inspire us to keep striving for a country and a world free of division, intolerance, conflict, and inequality." – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA ADDRESSES WTO 30TH ANNIVERSARY

President Cyril Ramaphosa has called on world leaders to ensure that the multilateral trading system is "strengthened" in the face of uncertain economic times.

The President was delivering remarks at the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

World trade has come under uncertainty as the United States of America imposed—and then paused—steep trade tariffs on nearly all the world's countries.

"The 30th anniversary of the establishment of the WTO takes place in challenging and uncertain times. We are seeing unilateral and protectionist measures being implemented by some advanced economies that are outside the agreed-upon multilateral framework.

"It is incumbent on us all to ensure that the multilateral trading system is strengthened, or we risk the encroachment of a global trade regime based on power dynamics," President Ramaphosa said on Thursday, 10 April 2025.

The President noted that although the WTO has worked to ensure a “level playing field in global trade that is free, predictable, and governed by a rules-based system,” more can be done.

“Currently more than 80% of global trade takes place under the WTO rules-based system. However, imbalances persist.

“The inclusivity promised by the multilateral trading system and by the Doha Development Round has not materialised for many. Developing countries that account for most of the WTO’s membership remain locked into the lower end of global value chains.

“Across the globe, the constraints and potential overreach of the rules are limiting access to key policy tools required to promote sustainable development,” he said.

He reiterated South Africa’s support for the WTO’s reform agenda, which is aimed, in part, at advancing development.

“We must redouble our efforts to ensure that trade supports development. WTO rules must facilitate structural transformation that integrates developing countries into global trade.

“Governments must be afforded the requisite policy space to enable them to be more responsive to their domestic challenges, and trade rules must be recalibrated to provide policy space for developing countries to industrialise,” President Ramaphosa said. – Source: www.gov.za

PRESIDENT ENGAGES SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

President Cyril Ramaphosa has hosted the first engagement between government and the leadership of the church since the start of the Seventh Administration.



The President hosted the leadership of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Friday, 11 April 2025, under the banner of the Government of National Unity.

The meeting presented an opportunity for the SACC to introduce its new and recently elected leadership.

“We welcome the opportunity to be introduced to the new leadership of the SACC and to discuss matters that concern the church and the people of South Africa,” the President said.

The meeting discussed a wide range of issues of National Interest ranging from the National Dialogue initiative, government’s ongoing fight against crime and corruption and access to state services.



President Ramaphosa committed that the National Dialogue will bring together all sectors of society and encourage the participation of all South Africans.

“Importantly, the National Dialogue must be informed by extensive public consultation in localities facilitated by various sectors of society. It needs to give a voice to those in society who are not often heard, to people who are marginalised, and to those who are most vulnerable to poverty, violence and exploitation,” the President said.

It is envisaged that the National Dialogue will build on the achievements of 30 years of democracy.

Among other things, it will need to address challenges of low growth and job creation, poverty and hunger, governance, corruption and fiscal constraints. It will also need to address gender-based violence and femicide, social fragmentation, racism and sexism, violence and the potential for instability.

Government also briefed the SACC on South Africa’s Group of Twenty (G20) presidency along with regional and international issues of concern.

“The meeting heard about government’s ongoing work in implementing the recommendations of the State Capture Commission. This includes criminal investigations and prosecutions, the recovery of stolen funds, legislative amendments and strengthening institutions.

“Furthermore, government remains focused on strengthening and resourcing key institutions in the criminal justice system, like the NPA [National Prosecuting Authority], Hawks and SIU [Special Investigating Unit]. This includes the establishment of the NPA’s Investigating Directorate Against Corruption as a permanent entity to prosecute state capture and other significant corruption cases,” The Presidency said.

The President also committed government’s support for greater cooperation between churches and government bodies that are on the frontline of providing services to people—most notably the Departments of Home Affairs and Social Development.

He highlighted South Africa’s drive for an inclusive G20.

The President said dialogue with civil society and other non-government institutions will be conducted through various engagement groups.

“Following the approach of the Brazilian Presidency, a G20 Social Forum will be convened. This will bring together representatives of the existing engagement groups and other segments of civil society, including various faith formations.

“The President assured the church leaders that South Africa will continue to pursue an independent foreign policy and will not align itself with any of the major powers or blocs in the world,” the Presidency said.

Ramaphosa asserted that South Africa remains engaged in efforts to bring about peace and stability in various parts of our region and continent, especially through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and African Union initiatives.

“South Africa continues to use its participation in fora like the G20; Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS); the Non-Aligned Movement; the African Union; and the United Nations to advance a rules-based multilateralism that is fair and inclusive. We are committed to the reform of global institutions to ensure that they represent the needs and interests of all countries,” the President said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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CHRIS HANI REMEMBERED AS A MARTYR WHOSE SACRIFICE SHAPED SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRACY

Deputy President Paul Mashatile has hailed the late Chris Hani as a revolutionary leader and a revered freedom fighter, whose assassination in April 1993 marked a pivotal moment in South Africa’s transition to democracy.

Delivering the keynote address at the 32nd anniversary of Hani’s assassination commemorative event, held in Sabalele Village, Cofimvaba—Hani’s birthplace in the Eastern Cape—Deputy President Mashatile reflected on Hani’s legacy and the sacrifices he made for South Africa’s democracy.

Hani, the former Chief of Staff of Umkhonto weSizwe, was gunned down outside his home in Dawn Park, Boksburg, by radical right-wing Polish immigrant Janusz Waluś, who was released on parole in 2022.

Despite attempts by his killers to incite civil war, the Deputy President said Hani’s death united the nation in its pursuit of freedom, culminating in the country’s first non-racial elections on 27 April 1994.

“Today, the world has come to know Martin Thembisile as Chris Hani, a revolutionary, a commissar, a leader, a parent, a husband, and a martyr, whose blood and sacrifices cleared the way to the 1994 historic political breakthrough,” he said on Thursday, 11 April 2025.

The Deputy President highlighted Hani's contributions to the armed struggle, his leadership in the Umkhonto weSizwe Liberation Movement, and his unwavering commitment to justice and equality.

He praised Hani's bravery, recounting his role in the Luthuli Detachment, where he led soldiers across the crocodile-infested Zambezi River and struck fear into the apartheid regime.

The Deputy President also emphasised Hani's vision for a better South Africa, rooted in principles of social justice.

"We must never allow the rhetoric which suggests that democracy is the worst form of government, and that apartheid was better than a democratic state.

"Nor must we allow some of us as beneficiaries of this huge sacrifice of many fallen martyrs, like Chris Hani, to discredit democracy through shameful deeds like corruption, stealing from the State and the poor, killing for positions, and fighting to access positions for selfish interests."

Deputy President Mashatile said Hani believed that societal progress should focus on providing basic needs, such as shelter, water, healthcare, and education, rather than abstract theories.

"Our reality is that we are not exactly where Chris Hani would have liked us to be as a nation," Deputy President Mashatile admitted, pointing to persistent poverty, underdevelopment, and inequality in former homeland areas.

The Deputy President used his platform to call for urgent action to address issues, such as gender-based violence (GBV), unemployment, and corruption, which he said undermine the sacrifices of struggle heroes like Hani. He urged South Africans to work together to build a more equitable society and economy while also diversifying trade partnerships to reduce dependence on specific markets.

Deputy President Mashatile announced plans to elevate the annual commemoration of Hani to a national event, focusing on development, heritage, and the values Hani stood for. This year's initiatives include the construction of a sports facility at a local school in Sabalele and the repatriation and reburial of liberation combatants.

"Chris Hani did not die in vain. We must honour his name not only with words but also with work, compassion, and bold, urgent action. Let this moment remind us that the struggle is not over," Deputy President Mashatile stressed.

The commemoration served as a call to action for South Africans to continue fighting corruption, underdevelopment, and inequality and to build a nation that reflects the vision of heroes like Chris Hani.

Government of National Unity

The Deputy President also used his platform to touch on the Government of National Unity (GNU) in South Africa, which faces several challenges.

The GNU comprises 10 political parties, each with differing perspectives on various issues, the diversity of which, he said, can lead to disagreements and difficulties in reaching consensus.

"What we need to understand about the GNU is that we may have different views on issues, but once an agreement has been reached, we must all speak with one voice. This was also the case with Chris Hani; he had a strong view about the armed struggle, and when the ANC was prepared to engage in negotiations, the leadership decided to drop it, which he opposed."

The Deputy President said effective governance in the GNU requires balancing individual viewpoints with collective decision-making. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



MINISTER LAMOLA EMBARKS ON WORKING VISIT TO RUSSIA



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, arrived in Moscow, in the Russian Federation, for a two-day Working Visit.

During this visit, Minister Lamola presided over the 18th Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation, a structured bilateral mechanism that coordinates economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Minister Lamola also held political consultations with his counterpart, Minister Sergey Lavrov. Additionally, during his visit, Minister Lamola paid a courtesy visit to the memorial centres dedicated to South Africa's liberation stalwarts, John Beaver (JB) Marks and Moses Kotane. – Source: www.dirco.gov.za

MINISTER RONALD LAMOLA LANDS IN GREECE FOR A WORKING VISIT

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, of the Republic of South Africa has landed in Greece for a high-level Working Visit.



Minister Lamola addressed the prestigious Delphi Economic Forum, where he outlined South Africa's priorities as the incumbent Group of Twenty (G20) presidency, championing Africa's role in shaping a more equitable and sustainable global future.

Minister Lamola's participation underscored South Africa's commitment to multilateral diplomacy, economic justice, and South-South solidarity.

His engagement will focus on leveraging the G20 platform to advance Africa's developmental aspirations, including reforms to global governance systems, climate finance mechanisms, and inclusive digital transformation.

"As South Africa remains unwavering in its pursuit of a world where no nation is left behind," stated Minister Lamola.

"Our presidency prioritises bridging the gap between developed and developing economies, ensuring that Africa's vast potential in green industrialisation, youth innovation, and sustainable trade is unlocked through equitable partnerships."

The Delphi Economic Forum, a global nexus for economic and geopolitical discourse, offers a strategic platform to amplify South Africa's foreign policy objectives, including its advocacy for peace building, continental integration, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This engagement reaffirms South Africa's leadership in advancing Pan-Africanism on the global stage, ensuring Africa's priorities, from debt relief to food security, remain central to international agendas.



With the G20 Presidency, South Africa continues to bridge divides, fostering dialogue that translates into tangible progress for the Global South.
– Source: www.dirco.gov.za

ONE ON ONE WITH SOUTH AFRICA’S DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THANDI MORAKA



South Africa’s Deputy Minister Thandi Moraka joined TRT World at the 2025 Antalya Diplomacy Forum to discuss South Africa’s stance on Palestine, multilateral leadership, and African security.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Deputy Minister Thandi Moraka participated in a Panel Discussion focussing on *What Role can the Global South Play in Effective Multilateralism* on the margins of the Fourth Antalya Diplomacy Forum held under the theme *Reclaiming Diplomacy in a Fragmented World* in Antalya, Türkiye on 12 April 2025.

She defended South Africa’s land reform and diplomatic ties with the United States, while calling for global climate finance and peace across the continent through the Southern African Development Community and the African Union initiatives. – Source: www.dirco.gov.za and www.trtworld.com

SNEAK PEEK: INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA’S FIRST CLUB MED—A COASTAL DREAM IN THE MAKING

South Africa is about to welcome its first-ever Club Med. And it’s not just a holiday destination; it is a bold celebration of culture, community and coastal magic that’s set to transform tourism forever.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Nestled along the unspoilt coastline of KwaZulu-Natal’s North Coast, Club Med Tinley is shaping up to be one of the most exciting hospitality developments our country has seen in decades. Scheduled to open in July 2026, this isn’t just a resort; it’s a bold celebration of South African culture, a game-changer for tourism and a massive boost for the economy.



Club Med Tinley is set to be the largest hospitality development in South Africa in over thirty years and it’s bringing a wave of opportunity with it. The resort is expected to create over 800 direct jobs, 1 500 indirect jobs, and employ 1 200 local construction workers during its build. That’s not just progress; it’s empowerment. Families will be uplifted, local businesses supported, and the tourism sector revitalised.

“Club Med Tinley represents a great step forward in the hospitality industry, serving as one of the larger hospitality projects in South Africa,” the team shared.

More than just a luxury destination, Club Med Tinley is being designed to reflect the soul of South Africa. The collaboration between South African firms Craft of Architecture and Mobius, alongside French design studio, Studio Marc Hertrich & Nicolas Adnet, is producing something truly unique.

Zulu artistry and traditions are seamlessly woven into every corner, from bold beadwork patterns on the façades to colourful, handwoven textiles in the interiors. Even the public spaces have been curated with local art and craftsmanship, offering guests a deep, immersive experience that honours heritage while embracing a global standard.

The 32-hectare site was once a sugarcane plantation, now being thoughtfully transformed into a sanctuary that celebrates nature, not replaces it. Flanked by estuaries, wetlands and dune forests, the entire project is being developed with sustainability front and centre.

Floating roofs for natural airflow, solar panels, water-saving systems, and indigenous landscaping are just a few of the eco-conscious features. In fact, the resort is gunning for a Green Star 4 rating from the Green Building Council of South Africa—a bold move that proves luxury and sustainability can absolutely go hand in hand.

Club Med Tinley is also deeply invested in its people. Through partnerships with the Nukakamma School, over 110 young South Africans from Ballito townships are already being trained in hospitality, with many gaining experience at other Club Med resorts globally before returning home to run their own.

By the time the resort opens, at least 220 locals will be fully trained and employed. This is a real, lasting impact for the community. And the construction phase alone is already changing lives, with over 1 200 workers sourced mostly from within 10km of the site.

Whether you’re a family looking for all-inclusive fun, a couple chasing sunsets and spa days, or a solo traveller wanting beach-to-bush bliss—Club Med Tinley will have it all:

- A vibrant Beach Club for water lovers.
- A buzzing Resort Centre with bars, restaurants and live entertainment.
- Kids Clubs for every age (yes, even toddlers).
- Over 400 rooms, including luxurious Exclusive Collection Suites.
- A 500-person convention centre for events, retreats and conferences.
- A commitment to community tourism and eco-friendly living.

– Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

WTM AFRICA 2025: CAPE TOWN FUELS TOURISM GROWTH

Since launching in 2014, World Travel Market (WTM) Africa has become the continent’s leading tourism platform.

Held from 9 to 11 April 2025, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, this year’s event wrapped up under the theme *Ignite Africa*. It showcased Cape Town’s bold vision, as articulated by Alderman James Vos, Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth, blending global collaboration with local innovation.

Unprecedented global engagement

WTM Africa 2025 drew 742 exhibitors from 96 countries, including newcomers like Zambia, Qatar, and Croatia. A 27% surge in buyers—82% first-timers—fuelled 10 505 pre-scheduled meetings, while 126 conference sessions explored trends from tech to eco-tourism. Vos, speaking at the Tourism Investment Conference, set the tone: “This city captivates travellers and drives opportunity.” Cape Town’s hosting solidified its status as Africa’s tourism hub.



Cape Town's tourism blueprint

Vos outlined a five-point Tourism Development Framework: more flights, cruise liners, conferences, geographic spread, and targeted marketing. Cape Town International Airport, surpassing 2024 passenger targets by 125%, now connects 31 destinations with 217 weekly flights. A recent trade mission to India pitched direct routes, eyeing new markets to boost arrivals and trade.

Open Skies: Unlocking potential

Vos championed an Open Skies policy to ease aviation restrictions, citing a Wesgro report projecting 155 000 jobs and R24 billion in annual gross domestic product gains. Current barriers raise costs and curb visitors, but reforms could transform access. The Air Access initiative has added routes, yet Vos stressed modernising airports, ports, and rail to ensure seamless travel.

Building a sustainable future

WTM Africa emphasised responsible tourism, with awards honouring sustainable practices. Cape Town's record budget supports this, targeting water resilience, energy security, and mobility. An Ease of Doing Business Index streamlines investment. Vos rallied stakeholders: "When we work together, we don't just grow tourism; we grow communities, we grow businesses, and we grow opportunities."

With diverse exhibitors, aviation reforms, and a sustainability focus, WTM Africa 2025 positions Cape Town as a global leader. Vos's strategies promise lasting growth, making the city a beacon for African tourism. – Source: thenewspaper.co.za

HOLLYWOOD STAR GIVES IT ALL UP FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Shannon Elizabeth walked away from Hollywood fame to fight for something far bigger than the big screen: the survival of endangered wildlife in Africa.



WATCH THE VIDEO

Best known for her roles in *American Pie*, as well as in *Scary Movie*, *Love Actually*, and *Jay and Silent Bob*), she stepped away from the glitz and glamour to protect some of the planet's most vulnerable animals. Now, her spotlight shines on rhinos, conservation and a mission rooted in real impact.

But this isn't a new phase or a fleeting passion project. It's been over two decades in the making. Back in 2001, while still living in Los Angeles (LA), Shannon started Animal Avengers, a non-profit focused on dog and cat rescue.

"I started looking at dog and cat rescues in LA because dogs were what I knew," she explained on the Life Outside Poker podcast.

"I realised I want to make my own organisation and, over time, I just wanted to help out more animals on a bigger scale."

And so began her evolution from pet rescue to conservation trailblazer. Over the years, as her awareness of broader conservation challenges deepened, especially the growing poaching crisis in Africa, Shannon began shifting her focus from domestic animals to endangered wildlife. She took the leap, did the research, visited Africa and eventually made the decision that would change everything: she moved to Cape Town in 2016.

By 2018, she officially launched The Shannon Elizabeth Foundation (SEF) in South Africa, carrying forward her mission with renewed purpose. SEF now champions wildlife conservation through a multi-pronged approach that includes education and awareness; youth empowerment; law and legislation; and land and community. And yes, Animal Avengers still exists and is now forming part of the foundation's youth empowerment work.

“We’re building a sanctuary,” Shannon shared at a recent event in Pittsburgh.

“We have a blind black rhino we’ve been taking care of, and we’re going to bring in more rhinos as soon as we can do an expansion.”

That blind black rhino is Munu, and his story is nothing short of extraordinary.

In 2019, Munu was discovered wandering helplessly in Addo Elephant National Park. Completely blind and vulnerable, he was in serious danger. With lions circling, it was only a matter of time. But conservationist Brett Barlow stepped in, refusing to let Munu become another heartbreaking statistic. He got Munu to safety and eventually into the care of Shannon and her team.

Munu isn’t just any rhino. He’s a south-western Black Rhino, one of the rarest subspecies in the world, and he now lives under the careful, loving eye of the SEF team. He’s safe, protected, and loved.

And soon, his story will be shared with the world.

Shannon is currently working on a documentary titled *Munu—A Rhino Love Story*, which explores not only Munu’s journey but also the urgent need for conservation work like hers.

It’s a story of resilience, of humans stepping up and of the deep connections that can form between species, even when the world stops watching.

“It was really fun,” Shannon reflected on her acting career. “I love acting and I love creating... but I’m just really grateful that I had that opportunity and could create some things that people seem to like.”

She hasn’t left creativity behind; she’s simply channelled it into something that might just change the world. Because sometimes, the biggest roles we play aren’t on-screen; they’re the ones that make a difference long after the credits roll. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

GRADE 8 DANCER TO DAZZLE AT DISNEY’S MAGIC KINGDOM FOR DIWALI

Grade 8 Dancer Chandni Kistasamy has been selected to dance at Disney’s Magic Kingdom for its Diwali parade later this year.

Chandni Kistasamy is a learner at Crawford International Lonehill. But, when she’s not hitting the books, she’s nurturing her creative talents—specifically Indian classical dance.

Determination and talent in tandem, Chandni recently received a “fairytale” opportunity—the chance to perform at Disney’s Magic Kingdom as part of the Diwali parade. Chandni beat out numerous other hopeful dancers from around the world to claim her spot at the Kingdom. This is a significant deal for any ambitious dancer and performer, let alone one who has only just begun her high school studies.

Though the event is only on the books for October (Diwali season), the Fourways community are already teeming with excitement and counting down the days until the Grade 8 dancer shares her magic of movement with the world.



Her school got the head start in congratulating her, followed by the I Love Fourways social media group (which bubbled over with congratulatory messages).

What's most beautiful about her opportunity is that it's connected so many different communities—her school, Indian Classical dance lovers, Fourways and, of course, Disney fans. And, considering how early into a dance career she is, it could certainly set the tone for many more moments in which she dazzles crowds and inspires other dreamers. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL 2025 DROPS A GAME-CHANGER NOT TO BE MISSED

It's that time of the year again for Africa's Grandest Gathering, the Cape Town International Jazz Festival (CTIJF), where the mother city is buzzing and people from across the world are preparing for the largest festival on the African continent, from 25 to 26 April 2025 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.



The festival attracts thousands of attendees, local and international, and unlike many other festivals that focus only on international stars or only on local talent, the CTIJF delivers both and treats local and international artists equally. Festinos already know the magic and for newcomers, there's never been a better time to become a festino.

The festival is held in Cape Town, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, where the Indian and Atlantic oceans meet at the Cape Point, which is a significant route globally for vessels and ships. The city has the incredible Table Mountain, which is one of the seven wonders of the world; beautiful beaches; and Robben Island where former President Nelson Mandela was incarcerated from 1964 and who played a significant role in Dr Iqbal Surve, the chairman of the Sekunjalo Group, becoming a businessman. In January this year, Cape Town was also voted the best city in the world by *Time Out*.

The CTIJF has been fully black-owned since the Survé family rescued it from near collapse in 2006, and it has been successful ever since. The Festival is headed by an all-women team, which is a testament to Dr Survé's commitment to women empowerment and transformation.

At last year's festival the Survé Family made an announcement of its further commitment of R100 million to the festival's sustainability and long-term cultural investment.

The festival contributes to the economic landscape, creates jobs, uplifts the youth from high school learners to township-based performers with its training and development programme and workshops.

This year's lineup takes the theme *Legacy Meets Tomorrow* to the next level, honouring the past legends and welcoming the future with artists such as Grammy award winner DJ and producer Black Coffee in collaboration with Nduduzo Makhathini. DJ Black Coffee is a global icon who has electrified audiences across the world, performing in countries like the United States, Spain, Australia, Indonesia, Colombia, Brazil, and Qatar. From the legendary stages of Hi Ibiza to arenas in Miami, Sydney, and São Paulo, his unique Afro-house sound has redefined electronic music on a worldwide scale.

The other amazing artists who will grace the stages are Thandiswa Mazwai, Ari Lennox, Lira, Benjamin Jephtha ft Kujenga, Linda Sikhakhane, Malcolm Jiyane, Bongeziwe Mabandla, iphumho L'ka Biko, Masego, Incongito, Kelvin Momo, Igor Butman, and Kandace Springs, performing on historic stages called *Kippies*, *Manenberg*, *Rosies*, and *Moses Molelekwa*.

This year's CTIJF isn't just a festival; it's a moment. With its bold new energy, unforgettable collabs, and a global-meets-local lineup that's never been done before, it's set to rewrite the story of live music on African soil.

This genre mix attracts all music lovers. Year after year, tickets sell out fast. People come out to see their icons, discover new artists and be part of the world-class experience. – Source: www.iol.co.za

HANS ZIMMER TO SHARE THE STAGE WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S LEBO M AND LOCAL CHOIRS

Music giants Hans Zimmer and Lebo M are set to share the stage in Cape Town alongside the Drakensburg Boys Choir, the Ndlovu Youth Choir and more local favourites this Easter.



Excitingly, this is Grammy-winning Lebo M's first live concert in Africa; a debut he's proud to share alongside the talent who wrote some of the most iconic scores of all time (think *Interstellar*, *Dune*, and *Inception*), the Oscar-winning Hans Zimmer.

"My music is—and always will be—rooted in home soil, and I couldn't be more excited about staging my first live concert season in Cape Town," said Lebo M.

"I am thrilled that we have been partners, brothers, and friends since childhood," added Zimmer. "We began our journey creating films about Africa at a time when few were willing to do so, and now I have the privilege of bringing Lebo back to Africa, the place where it all started."

The music feast will consist not only of gorgeous moments, but also the talents of budding voices and musicians like the Drakensburg Boys Choir and the Ndlovu Youth Choir.

The Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, MiCasa, and the Soweto Spiritual Singers will also get their time to grace the audience on 18 April 2025.
– Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SOUTH AFRICA'S JORDY SMITH BACK TO HIS BEST WITH VICTORY AT SURF CITY EL SALVADOR PRO

Against the breathtaking backdrop of Surf City, El Salvador, South African surfing roared with pride as the legendary Jordy Smith etched his name further into the history books.

Not only did Smith secure his seventh championship tour victory, but it was also his first in eight years as he overcame Matthew McGillivray in a historic all-South African showdown at the Surf City El Salvador Pro.

Even after a brief break, the fire of champions burnt bright as Smith advanced through the men's draw in impressive fashion, excelling as the waves improved in the final days of the competition.

The 37-year-old overcame American Cole Houshmand by a score of 15.67 to 10.00 in the semi-finals to book a final against fellow South African Matthew McGillivray.

The first exchanges came just moments after the horn sounded. Smith wasted no time showcasing his powerful form to post a 7.33 (out of a possible 10) over McGillivray, who fell on his opening manoeuvre.

Smith backed up his strong start and held a commanding lead heading into the back half of the final. McGillivray was able to respond and get in the heat with a 5.00, but as time dwindled, Smith found another Punta Roca wall that allowed him to showcase more of his powerful style and post a 6.93 to take the win.



Victory in the fourth event of the 2025 World Surf League season has moved Smith to fifth in the rankings, a position he'll be hoping to maintain or improve on to ensure a place on finals day in Fiji.

Smith, whose remarkable career spans 18 years among the world's best on the CT, said:

"I think just for South Africa in general, this means a lot. I can't believe it, to be honest. If I could dedicate this to two people, my wife and my father. I wanted to ride my father's board in this final and win on it, and to do it is incredible.

"I just kept telling myself you can do it; you're going to do it. It's just so hard to take it all, it's been so long. I'm just happy to do it with another fellow South African. I can't say enough good words about Matthew. He's a long-time friend, and to share a final with him is really special." – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SOUTH AFRICAN BREAKS INTO WORLD'S TOP FIVE

Competing in the Elite Men's UCI World Cup in Brazil on 13 April 2025, 22-year-old Luke Moir crossed the finish line and secured fifth place, a jaw-dropping result on the world stage. But it wasn't just his ranking that caught the attention of fans around the globe. It was what came after.



In a video posted, an emotional Moir can be seen trying to make sense of what just happened. Struggling to hold back tears, he says, "I've been training for so many years and coming nowhere, and now I've finished in the top five."

His voice cracks. His head drops. And you can feel every bit of what that finish means to him. Years of grit. Sacrifice. Disappointment. Pushing through when the podium felt like a fantasy. All of it—worth it in that one unforgettable moment.

And yes, it's a massive win, not just for Moir, but for South African cycling. Finishing fifth at the UCI World Cup puts him among the best riders on the planet and it's an incredible boost for the sport back home. It proves that our homegrown talent, can go toe-to-toe with the very best in the world.

This is what happens when passion meets perseverance. When an athlete keeps chasing the dream, even when it seems out of reach. When a young South African refuses to give up and finally gets his moment. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



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