

UBUNTU NEWSFLASH



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WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA MOURNS PASSING OF POPE FRANCIS



On behalf of the Government and people of South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa offers his deep condolences to Catholics in South Africa and globally on the passing of the Holy Father Pope Francis.

Aged 88, the Pope passed away early on Monday, 21 April 2025, at his Vatican residence, the Casa Santa Marta.

President Ramaphosa said, "Catholics and people of all faiths are saddened today by the passing of a spiritual leader who sought to unite humanity and wished to see a world governed by fundamental human values."

“As the leader of the Church and a global figurehead, Pope Francis advanced a worldview of inclusion, equality and care for marginalised individuals and groups, as well as responsible and sustainable custody of the natural environment.

“His extraordinary life story and ascendancy to the Holy See unfolded with humility and a profound commitment to making the Church and the world a better place for all of humanity.

“Following so soon after the celebration of Easter, Pope Francis’ passing will extend this traditional period of prayer and reflection, which will unite the Church and the international community in reflecting on the Holy Father’s life and legacy.” – Source: www.thepresidency.gov.za

PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA TO HOST PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY OF UKRAINE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT

President Cyril Ramaphosa will on Thursday, 24 April 2025, host the President of Ukraine, His Excellency President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on an Official Visit to South Africa at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

The Official Visit to South Africa by President Zelenskyy will be the first by a Head of State from Ukraine and follows on the visit to Ukraine by President Ramaphosa, as part of the Africa Peace Initiative to Ukraine on 16 June 2023.

The visits provide South Africa and Ukraine with an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and expand bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, agriculture and education. It will also explore areas of cooperation with the objective to support efforts to bring lasting peace. – Source: thepresidency.co.za



SOUTH AFRICA, LESOTHO DEEPEN BILATERAL COOPERATION AT BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION

President Cyril Ramaphosa says South Africa and Lesotho are making strides in cooperation on water resource management.

The President was delivering opening remarks at the occasion of the second session of the Lesotho-South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC). He highlighted the Lesotho Highlands Water Project as a good example of how two friendly countries can collaborate to the benefit of their peoples.

“As neighbours, we have great scope to deepen bilateral cooperation in many areas while maintaining political and economic engagements with all countries. It is our hope that Phase 2 of this project is completed soon,” the President said.

President Ramaphosa commended Lesotho’s ongoing efforts to advance the political and constitutional reform agenda. He said the relationship between the two countries is characterised by cooperation, good neighbourliness and a mutually beneficial relationship.



“This BNC mechanism needs to ensure that the 45 agreements and legal instruments that have been signed are fully implemented. We assemble in this session at a time of new global challenges and uncertainties.

“These challenges are not insurmountable. Working together, we should identify opportunities for progress in this rapidly changing environment,” President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa called for South Africa and Lesotho to work together in electricity generation and align both countries’ just energy transition agendas and projects.

“Energy security is critical for our two countries. It will play a major role in driving our manufacturing industries, powering our cities, towns and villages and enabling us to adapt to the demands of the new global economy.

“We need to redouble our efforts to establish bilateral and regional value chains that are sustainable and economically viable,” he said.

The President emphasised that both countries are endowed with mineral resources and must and must prioritise local beneficiation to maximise value. He underscored the need to develop strategies within the jurisdictions for critical and rare minerals, which continue to attract global interest. Simultaneously, he highlighted the importance of diversifying both countries’ product offerings and service sectors to drive sustainable economic growth.

In this regard, President Ramaphosa said the establishment of logistics hubs, agro-processing facilities and data centres to support the emerging digital industry are some of the opportunities that South Africa and Lesotho should harness.

“Lesotho hosts many South African companies and we appreciate the conducive environment in which these corporate entities operate. Investments by Basotho companies in the South African economy need to be further promoted.

“We need to work together to harmonise measures for the movement of our respective citizens across our borders,” the President said.

Touching on immigration cooperation, President Ramaphosa said this can be strengthened in a manner that is effective and secure. He called for both countries to address cross-border criminal activities that undermine the harmonious co-existence that both countries and peoples enjoy.

“Our respective authorities should remain seized with the threats posed by global organised crime, which fuels illegal mining, drug and human trafficking, arms smuggling, wildlife destruction, illicit financial flows, and money laundering,” he said.

Moving to education, President Ramaphosa said cooperation in education is fundamental to the two countries’ shared future.

“We should make it easy for young Basotho pupils, who live a stone’s throw away from schools on the South African side, to be able to go to school. While this needs to be properly managed, bureaucratic impediments should not prevent the development of these young minds.

“South African institutions of higher learning host many Basotho students, who provide the skills and capacity needed by the Kingdom of Lesotho,” the President said.

President Ramaphosa recalled that during the days of apartheid, children of exiled activists and young adults attended schools and institutions of learning in Lesotho.

He added that many South African leaders attended the National University of Lesotho, famously known as Roma.

“It is therefore only fitting and proper that we enhance cooperation in the field of education. As South Africa undertook its transition to democracy and was grappling with the process of constitution-making and state-building, Lesotho was there to support us.

“Now, as the Kingdom of Lesotho makes progress in its institutional reforms, we stand ready to share our experiences in areas such as strengthening the constitutional architecture, security sector reform, judicial capacity building, and other areas of institutional development,” the President said.

He added that the two countries’ common heritage and shared destiny require that “we be united in purpose and work towards the upliftment of our peoples.”

“Let us work together as peace-loving nations—within SADC (Southern African Development Community), the African Union and the United Nations—to pursue a just global order founded on multilateralism, human rights and respect for international law.

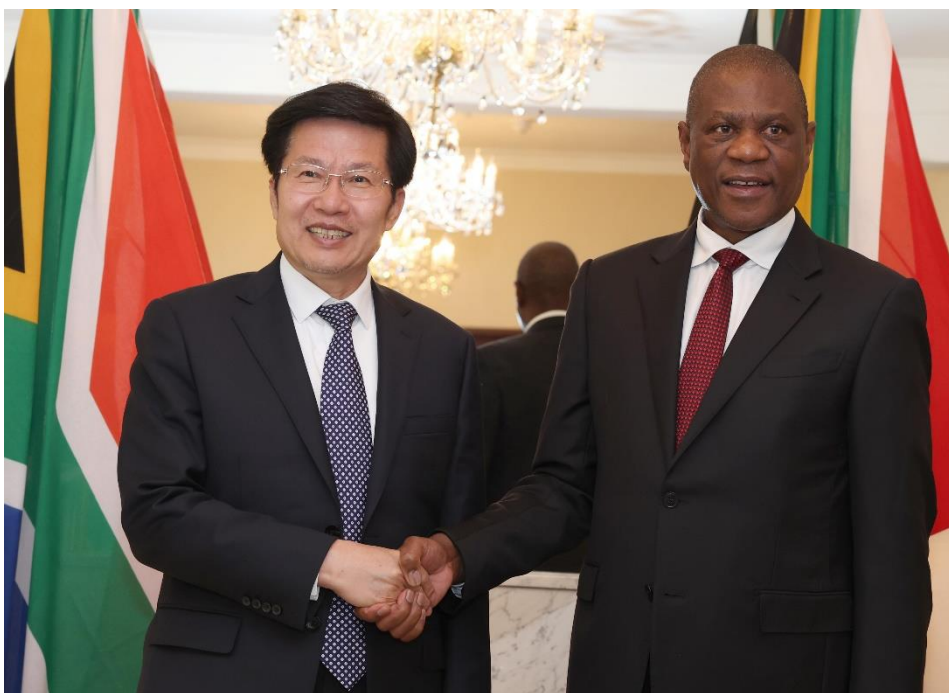
“Let us strive together to reform global institutions so that they are inclusive and advance the interests of the Global South,” he said.

As the two heads of state opened the Session, President Ramaphosa applauded the ministers and senior officials for their hard work, focus and commitment in preparing the report of this Commission. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

DEPUTY PRESIDENT MASHATILE RECEIVES COURTESY VISIT FROM GAO YUNLONG

Deputy President Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile on Thursday, 17 April 2025, received a courtesy visit from His Excellency Gao Yunlong, Vice-Chairman of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the Chairman of the All-China Federation on Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), at the OR Tambo Official Residence in Pretoria, Gauteng Province.

Established in 1953, the ACFIC is a mass organisation and chamber of commerce led by the Communist Party of China with non-public economic activities as the principal composition and with unified, economic and non-governmental characteristics. It is also a bridge linking the party and the government with people in non-public economic activities, an assistant to the government in managing and serving the non-public economy and an important part of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.



The courtesy visit to the Deputy President forms part of the high-level engagements between South Africa and China, which are key to strengthening bilateral relations and advancing political, trade and investment cooperation.

The Deputy President welcomed the recent elevation of diplomatic relations between the Republic of South Africa and the People's Republic of China to an All-Round Strategic Cooperative Partnership in a New Era and expressed South Africa's commitment to continuing exchanges of high-level engagements with China.

"Our economic partnership must reflect this elevation. We continue to call on China to work with South Africa in changing the trade structure and diversifying market access for value-added products to close the concerning trade deficit," said the Deputy President.

Discussions also focused on enhancing cooperation in health, the automotive and energy sectors, which will contribute to local job creation, technology, and skills transfer and transformation, and skills development.

"It is essential to underscore the significant role that China's support plays in advancing health cooperation, an area where both sides have made meaningful progress in fostering collaboration. This partnership continues to be a vital aspect of our growing bilateral relations."

With South Africa preparing to host the G20 Summit in November 2025, the Deputy President emphasised the importance of China's role as a global development partner.

"President Xi Jinping's visit to South Africa for the G20 Summit in November of this year will be a momentous occasion for South Africa's presidency of the G20, under the theme *Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability*, said Deputy President Mashatile.

The Deputy President was supported by the Acting Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, and the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Parks Tau. – Source: www.thepresidency.co.za

MINISTER LAMOLA SADDENED BY THE PASSING OF SOUTH AFRICA'S AMBASSADOR TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, has expressed his sadness at the untimely passing of South Africa's Ambassador to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Zolani Mtshotshisa.

Ambassador Mtshotshisa passed away in a hospital in South Africa.

Minister Lamola said Ambassador Mtshotshisa was devoted to the maintenance of good political, diplomatic, economic and people-to-people ties between South Africa and Côte d'Ivoire.

"Amb Mtshotshisa worked tirelessly to promote South Africa's engagements with Côte d'Ivoire, including facilitating the November 2023 re-launch of SAA's Johannesburg to Abidjan route," said Minister Lamola. – Source: www.dirco.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO INDIA FOLLOWING THE ATTACK ON TOURISTS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR



The South African Government is deeply saddened by the news of the attack on tourists that took place in Pahalgam, India. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives and to all those who have been injured in this horrific incident.

The South African Government believes that acts of violence and extremism have no place in society and constitute a threat to peace, security and development. The South African Government reiterates its condemnation of terrorist attacks in any form and from whichever quarter. The South African Government extends its condolences to the Government and people of India. – Source: www.dirco.gov.za

2025 AFRICA'S TRAVEL INDABA: A ONE-STOP MARKETPLACE

The 2025 Africa's Travel Indaba is not just a trade show. It is a platform to reshape narratives, forge powerful connections and unlock shared value across the continent, says Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille.

The highly anticipated 2025 Africa's Travel Indaba was officially launched on Wednesday, 23 April 2025, at the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, under the theme *Unlimited Africa*.

The event was led by the Minister, senior representatives from the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Provincial Government and Tourism Authority, South African Tourism and the greater tourism sector, underscoring the strategic importance of tourism as a catalyst for inclusive growth.

Africa's Travel Indaba serves as a one-stop marketplace for discovering and sourcing a diverse range of African tourism products and experiences.

With over 297 unique offerings, 1 200 exhibitors from across 26 African countries and 908 vetted international buyers representing 55 global markets, the event provides tailored networking opportunities and pre-scheduled business-to-business meetings, already totalling 7 430 confirmed engagements.

Buyers gain unmatched access to curated, diverse, authentic, and emerging travel products for their customers.

The department said exhibitors benefit from premium exposure to global tourism decision-makers.

With a completely sold-out exhibition floor, the event presents a high Return on Investment (ROI) environment for launching new products, forming strategic partnerships and entering new markets.

In 2024, over 24 000 business meetings took place at Africa's Travel Indaba, helping transform ideas into deals and exposure into revenue. The platform also empowers SMMEs through mentorship, visibility and access to global buyers.

The department unpacked some of the economic impact of the event:

- R226 million in direct economic activity generated in Durban in 2024, with an additional R333 million across the KwaZulu-Natal province.
- More than 1 000 jobs created through the event.
- Empowered 120 tourism SMMEs to engage global buyers and media made possible through funding from the Department of Tourism's Market Access Support Programme.

"We are even more excited about this year's Africa's Travel Indaba as it comes soon after we launched our new Global Campaign 'South Africa Awaits - Come Find Your Joy!' - a celebration of the country's boundless energy, rich culture and extraordinary experiences," said Minister de Lille.

"Our mission is to ensure that all visitors come find their joy across the length and breadth of South Africa and discover all our diverse tourism offerings and our hidden gems in every little town, dorpie and township."

Sibusiso Ndebele, representing KZN Tourism and Film Authority, said this prestigious tourism exhibition is the perfect platform to showcase the destination's offerings to the thousands of tourism buyers coming from all over the world who will be looking for exciting tourism destinations to sell and package to their customers.

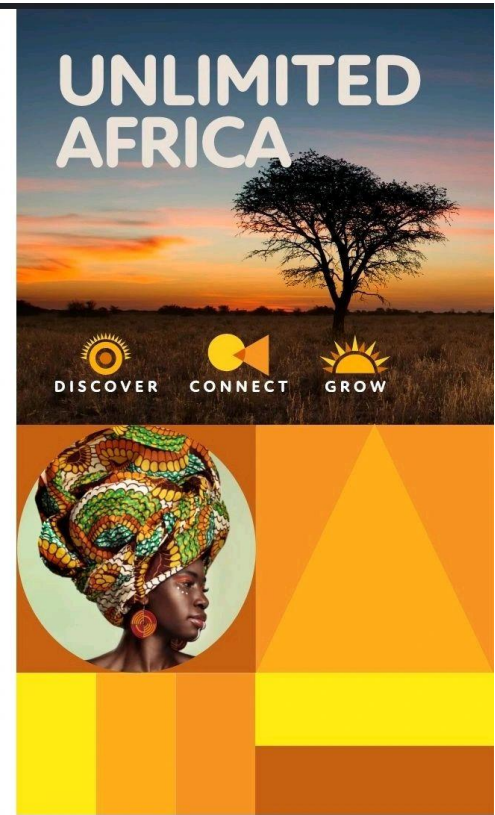
"ATI also benefits our emerging tourism entrepreneurs, who will have an opportunity to make valuable connections with the global trade that can propel their tourism businesses to greater heights.



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“Over the years, we have also spearheaded our Tourism Ambassador programme that gives tourism students opportunities to be on the frontline of tourism and play a pivotal role in welcoming our guests to KZN. We remain hopeful to host the event for the next few decades and make KwaZulu-Natal Africa’s Travel Indaba’s permanent home,” said Ndebele.

Nkosenhle Madlala, Chairperson of Governance and Human Capital in the eThekweni Metro, said: "As we embark on our preparations for Africa’s Travel Indaba, we are not only celebrating our vibrant culture and stunning landscapes but also reaffirming our unwavering spirit and resilience. Durban stands ready to showcase our hospitality and commitment to excellence in the global tourism sector.”

Some of the key highlights to look forward to at this year’s Africa’s Travel Indaba are as follows:

- Business Opportunity Networking Day: Where ideas meet opportunity and emerging trends take shape.
- AI and tech-focused sessions: Exploring how technology can enhance the tourism customer journey.
- Cross-border Tourism Collaboration Forums: Supporting regional growth through collective marketing and shared offerings.
- Twelve Independent Airlines and an Airline Pavilion: Boosting air access and route development across Africa.

With the G20 Summit being hosted in South Africa, on African soil, for the first time this year, Africa’s Travel Indaba also sets the stage for positioning the continent as a leading player in global tourism dialogue and as a leader in hosting major events and conferences.

“Tourism is not a side act in our economic story – it is centre stage. We invite all delegates to come experience the might of the African continent’s tourism sector while enjoying South Africa’s hospitality in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. South Africa awaits - Come find your joy,” said Minister de Lille. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

MINISTER STEENHUISEN TO HOST G20 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY MEETINGS

Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen will this week host the G20 Agriculture Working Group (AWG) and Food Security Task Force meetings in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.



The G20 South Africa 2025 logo is prominently displayed on the left, featuring a stylized lotus flower above the text "G20 SOUTH AFRICA 2025". To the right, a vibrant image of a corn cob is shown, with a small graphic overlay containing the words "Solidarity", "Equality", and "Sustainability".

23–25 April 2025

The G20 Agriculture Working Group (AWG) and Task Force on Food Security meetings in KwaZulu-Natal will focus on **four key priorities**:

- **Inclusive market access and food security:** Empowering smallholder farmers, women, youth and persons with disabilities to access markets and nutritious food;
- **Youth and women empowerment:** Expanding opportunities in agrifood systems to drive innovation and sustainability;
- **Innovation and technology transfer:** Unlocking agricultural innovations for a more resilient and equitable food system; and
- **Climate resilience in agriculture:** Strengthening our food systems to withstand climate change and protect vulnerable farmers.

Guided by the spirit of **Ubuntu**, these priorities will foster global cooperation to create lasting solutions for food security.

At the bottom of the banner, there is a colorful geometric pattern and a row of social media icons (Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, LinkedIn). The hashtag **#G20SouthAfrica** and the website **www.g20.org** are also displayed.

The department said the high-level, three-day meetings, taking place from 23 to 25 April 2025, form part of a series of international meetings leading up to the G20 Summit, scheduled for November 2025.

The meetings aim to advance global collaboration on food security and agricultural development.

Organised by the Department of Agriculture, the sessions will be held under the themes, *Data-Driven Approaches to Addressing Food Security* and *Promoting Inclusive Agricultural Investment and Market Access*.

The meeting will focus on four key priorities, including:

- Promotion of policies and investments that drive inclusive market participation towards improved food and nutrition security;
- Empowering youth and women in agrifood systems;
- Fostering innovation and technology transfer in agriculture and agro-processing; and
- Building climate resilience for sustainable agricultural production.

The meeting follows the first G20 AWG Meeting, which was convened on 3 and 4 March 2025, where Minister Steenhuisen noted the challenges facing farmers worldwide and called for strengthened global cooperation, built on the principles of ubuntu, which emphasise collective action, mutual respect and shared responsibility.

The first AWG meeting also provided an opportunity for G20 members, including invited guest countries and international organisations, to learn more about the priorities South Africa has identified during its presidency, and deliberate on them.

There was overwhelming support for South Africa's priorities, which include:

- Promotion of policies and investments that drive inclusive market participation towards improved food and nutrition security;
- Empowering Youth and Women in Agrifood Systems;
- Fostering Innovation and Technology Transfer in Agriculture and Agro-processing; and
- Building climate resilience for sustainable agricultural production.

“With the endorsement of these priorities, the AWG is now poised to pursue transformative agricultural policies, promoting global cooperation, increasing investment in sustainable farming, and ensuring a more resilient, food-secure future for all.

“The second AWG meeting will provide a further opportunity for G20 members to advance the above-mentioned priorities and to begin discussions on a forward-looking declaration to be adopted by Ministers of Agriculture later this year,” the department said in a statement. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ASTRONAUTICS TO HOST WORKSHOP ON ASTEROIDS

The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), in collaboration with South African scientific institutions, will host a workshop to introduce the Planetary Defense Conference and pioneering research being conducted by the African astronomical community on asteroids and Near-Earth Objects (NEOs).



The workshop will be held on 3 May 2025 at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) in the Western Cape.

According to the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), the workshop aims to introduce local communications professionals and science writers to the Planetary Defence Conference and the pioneering research being conducted by the African astronomical community on asteroids and NEOs.

“Through this engagement, we seek to enhance public awareness and media coverage of Africa’s contributions to planetary defence,” the SAAO said.

In addition, the workshop will serve as a platform to introduce the media to the 2029 International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence.

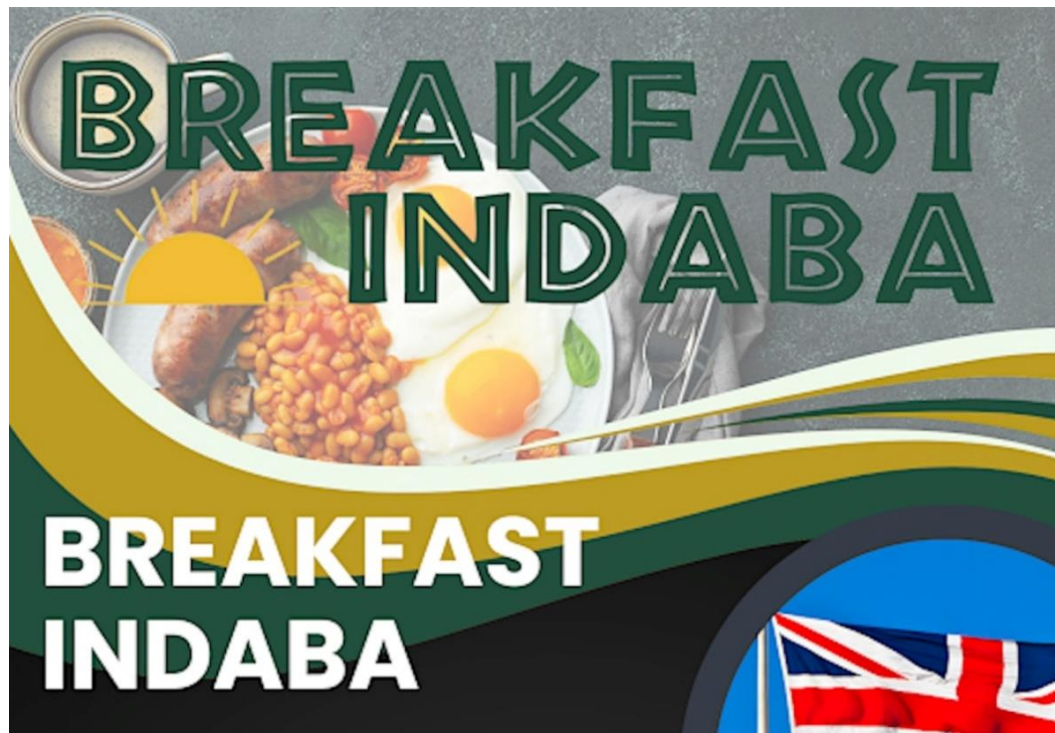
“The public’s curiosity on the topic of NEOs could help drive discussion and collaborative efforts to celebrate and promote this global initiative,” the statement read.

Key speakers at the event will include Alex Karl, the Chair of the IAA organising committee, and Dr Nicolas Erasmus from the SAAO, where one of NASA’s Advanced Topographic Laser Altimeter System (ATLAS) asteroid alert system telescopes is located.

The SAAO serves as the national centre for optical and infrared astronomy. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

LONDON SAFFA NETWORKING BREAKFAST INDABA: NEXT MEETING

The South African Far From Abroad (SAFFA) Networking Breakfast Indaba is a networking event in London that brings together South Africa professionals living in the United Kingdom (UK).



The event is held every second month at the Vivat Bacchus South African restaurant and wine bar, which is situated at 4 Hays Lane, London Bridge, London, SE1 2HB.

The upcoming event will feature a special guest speaker: Honorary Consul for South Africa to the UK and BPO specialist Rob Cannavo on Thursday, 24 April 2025.

As Honorary Consul for South Africa, Cannavo—a trade policy maven—is focused on fostering bilateral and multilateral initiatives and championing a vision of Africa that is open for business.

With a career spanning diplomacy, finance and strategic advisory, Cannavo will provide Breakfast Indaba attendees with valuable insights into Africa’s changing business landscape, stemming from his expertise in unlocking commercial opportunities on the continent.

Certified by South Africa’s Financial Sector Conduct Authority, Cannavo is also well-placed to delve into the regulatory landscapes of Africa’s on-site operations, and cross-border partnerships.

Overview

Join the Breakfast Indaba for three hours of networking and a delicious morning feast at the Vivat Bacchus restaurant in London, UK, starting at 8:00.

The SAFFA Networking Breakfast Indaba is a dynamic and engaging networking event that brings together South African professionals and entrepreneurs for a morning of meaningful connections, insightful discussions, and collaborative opportunities.

Every attendee will be given the opportunity to present their business to the group for 45 seconds.

The event includes interactive sessions, expert speakers, and a delicious breakfast, creating a conducive environment for building valuable relationships within the South African business community.

Whether you’re seeking new business prospects, professional growth, or simply a chance to connect with like-minded individuals, the SAFFA Networking Breakfast Indaba is the ideal forum to kickstart your day and your network.

Agenda highlights

- Forward-Thinking Networking: Forge connections in an environment aligned with tomorrow’s pulse
- Insightful Dialogues: Engage with pioneers and thought leaders shaping the business landscape

- Collaborative Opportunities: Explore synergies within the dynamic SAFFA business community
- Interactive Sessions: Tune in to potential business ventures and opportunities echoing innovation

Why attend

- Warm Atmosphere: Immerse yourself in a blend of warmth and high energy.
- Networking Nexus: Connect with professionals fuelled by a passion for their enterprises.

– Source: www.sapeople.com

CASTER SEMENYA SHARES POWERFUL LESSONS AT HARVARD

Caster Semenya recently sat down for a powerful conversation and the chance to share powerful lessons at Harvard, where she was a keynote speaker for the globally acclaimed Women in Power Conference.

The Olympic gold medallist was a part of the globally acclaimed Harvard Kennedy School's annual Women in Power Conference. Here, the athlete proudly took the stage as a keynote speaker—another feather in her cap that solidifies her as not only a champion, but a leader to look up to and learn from.

Semenya—who is no stranger to reimagining power or building legacies—was more than an apt choice of speaker and lesson sharer under the theme of the Conference, *Reimagining Power: Building a New Legacy*.

There, important conversations were had to do with a more inclusive landscape across different silos of influence, including sport.

Flame Bearers described Semenya's talk alongside fellow Olympian, fencer Lauren Scruggs, beautifully, as follows:

“[It was a] powerful fireside chat on resilience, identity, and what it means to lead with purpose, even when the world tells you to sit down. Caster's story reminded us that breaking records is one thing. Breaking barriers? That's legacy.”

Seeing a South African lead such important conversations in places where the world listens is its own kind of gold medal for all of us back home. As Semenya adds, this experience is a reminder that anything is possible.

In terms of failure, the powerhouse also shared wise words on overcoming them:

“You never let your failures define your destination,” Semenya shared—food for thought we can all take with us on the long road to our own dreams. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



WORLD'S FRIENDLIEST COUNTRY? SOUTH AFRICA LEADS THE WAY

South Africans have proven that unity shines through diversity, earning the country the title of the world's friendliest nation.



In a surprising twist, South Africa, a country often grappling with serious social challenges such as crime and gender-based violence, has been named the world's "friendliest" nation.

This unexpected recognition comes from a scientific study that assessed 27 countries based on five major personality traits.

According to United Kingdom bank Remitly, South Africa earned the top spot for being the "friendliest" country in the world.

In a scientific study, over 3 000 poll participants worldwide answered a series of questions from the "agreeableness" section of the Big 5 Personality Test. The test gauges five key personality traits: openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, extraversion, and neuroticism.

The mission was to discover which country was considered the "friendliest" and most welcoming to tourists and visitors. In the study, South Africa scored an impressive 34.63 out of 40 in the agreeableness trait.

Remitly said in the analysis: "Residents are known for being warm and welcoming, making it easy for travellers and visitors alike to feel at ease around them. It's not uncommon to be greeted by polite strangers while walking down the street, and South Africans are generally happy to socialise by engaging in conversations and showing off their good humour, making plenty of jokes.

"An added plus point is that there are eleven official languages spoken in South Africa (English, Afrikaans, and nine ethnic languages), meaning that there are plentiful ways to communicate with the locals and make new friends".

The results of the study were tweeted from the South African government's official X account, which added: "From ubuntu to everyday kindness, South Africans are just lekker like that."

While South Africa nabs first place, here are the rest of the Top 10 friendliest countries according to the study.

1. South Africa
2. Greece
3. Croatia
4. Mexico
5. Sweden
6. Australia
7. Canada
8. Germany
9. Estonia
10. Belgium

– Source: www.sapeople.com



SOUTH AFRICAN GOLFER GARRICK HIGGO WINS SECOND PGA TOUR TITLE

South Africa's Garrick Higgs held on to win the PGA Tour's Punta Cana Championship on Sunday, 20 April 2025, by a stroke, taking advantage of a dramatic, late meltdown from American Joel Dahmen.

Dahmen, who went into Sunday's final round with a three-stroke lead, bogeyed the last three holes, including missing from 3 feet at the par-3 17th. The 37-year-old, whose solitary PGA Tour win came at Punta Cana in 2021, ended with a 4-over round of 76, the worst of any of the top 37 finishers.

That handed victory to Higo, who played in the group ahead of Dahmen and wobbled when he bogeyed the 17th but then made par on the 18th to finish with an even-par 72 and a 14-under total for the tournament.



Higgs, a 25-year-old from Johannesburg who had previously won on the PGA Tour at the Palmetto Championship in South Carolina in 2021, was delighted with the surprise victory.

"This is unbelievable, and this is why I play the game. You know, the journey, I'm going to go through a down again, everybody does, I'm going to have ups. I just truly enjoy the journey," he said.

For Dahmen, though, his collapse was hard to take.

"I think I'm in a little bit of shock, honestly," he said. "It's not how you win a golf tournament; I'll tell you that. I don't deserve to win it. Bogeying the last three is inexcusable.

"This one could take a while to get over," he admitted. "It's one of those things; you learn more in defeat, unfortunately. This one's going to sting for a while." – Source: www.citizen.co.za

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FEMALE TUG OF WAR CHAMPS PULL AT CHANCE TO COMPETE AT WORLDS

A South African team of tug of war champs from Melkbosstrand High School (Melkies) are pulling at the chance to represent their country at the upcoming World Championships in Nottingham, England.

It's a massive moment for the Melkies girls and a first for their school, which is beaming with pride at the girls' achievement.

The 480kg girls team has worked hard to earn an opportunity like this, including winning gold at the SA Junior Championships in Mossel Bay.

Hosted by the University of Nottingham, the 2025 World Outdoor Tug of War Championships will take place from 4 to 7 September 2025.

South Africa boasts success in the world of tug of war. Last year, a local tug-of-war team was crowned world champions for the third time in a row at the World Championships. An all-male squad from Hoër Landbouskool Oakdale, the 560KG team took home the crown. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



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