

# UBUNTU NEWSFLASH



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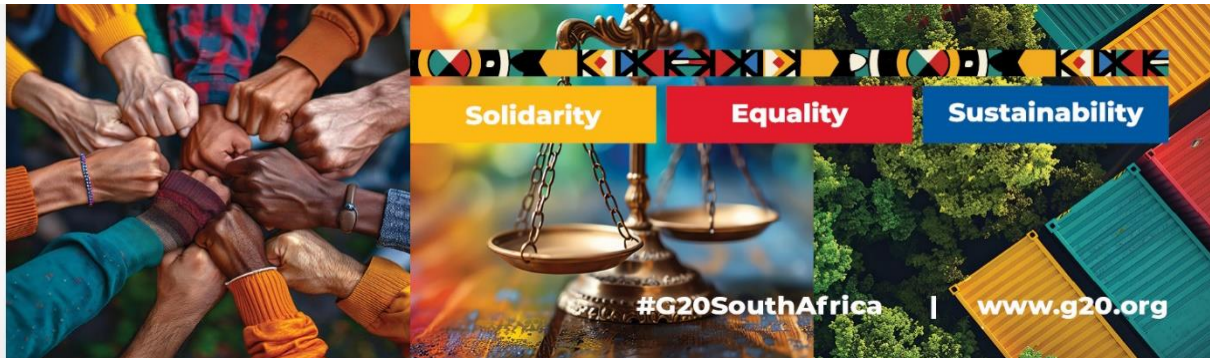
WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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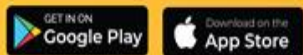
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## PRESIDENT SENDS CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF GERTRUDE SHOPE

***President Cyril Ramaphosa has expressed his condolences to the family of former struggle hero Gertrude Shope, who has died at the age of 99.***

Ma Shope, who was a former Member of Parliament, educator, trade unionist, and freedom fighter, died in her home in Gauteng.

She was also a recipient of the Order for Meritorious Service (Silver), which recognises South Africans who have rendered exceptional public service.

"We have lost an eminent national heroine and mother to our nation. During a lifetime of close on a century, Ma Shope made a monumental contribution to our struggle for a free and inclusive South Africa while inspiring generations of women and men to emulate her commitment.



“Her sacrifice, service and revolutionary bravery played out in formations from the African National Congress—where she was elected President of the Women’s League in 1990—to the Federation of South African Women, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the first Parliament of the democratic South Africa,” President Ramaphosa said in a statement on Friday, 23 May 2025.

Due to her anti-apartheid activism, Shope was forced to live in exile for nearly 25 years with her husband Mark and her children in other countries, including Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and the then Czechoslovakia.

“She organised women and communities in our country as well as international organisations to oppose apartheid and alleviate the plight of oppressed communities while the struggle was underway. She also had the distinction of being listed as a co-conspirator in the Rivonia Trial, alongside Oliver Tambo, Joe Slovo, Ben Turok, Duma Nokwe, Joe Modise, Jack Hodgson and others.

“She was indeed an mbokodo that apartheid failed to erode or fracture, and she entered our first democratic Parliament in 1994 with a vibrancy and vision that made her an exemplary first-generation parliamentarian.

“Gertrude Shope lives on in our national memory, and her life’s work is reflected in the transformation we have attained and continue to effect in our society. May her soul rest in peace,” President Ramaphosa said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## SOUTH AFRICA AND US HAVE “EVERYTHING TO GAIN” FROM CLOSER RELATIONS

***President Cyril Ramaphosa has asserted that South Africa and the United States of America (USA) have much to gain from working together.***

The President was addressing South Africans through his weekly newsletter on Monday, 26 May 2025.

The President, together with a delegation including Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola, visited the US last week.

“South Africa has always regarded the US as a strong investment and trading partner.

“Our countries and our economies are bound together in many ways. We went to Washington to establish a basis for greater economic cooperation and to address some of the challenges that have recently arisen in relations between our two countries,” President Ramaphosa said.





Those challenges stem from a false narrative peddled by some that there is a genocide occurring in South Africa and what the President called an “orchestrated campaign of violence against white farmers”.

“In this context, it was critical for us to engage directly with the US administration to correct misinformation and provide a true account of the progress we have made as a democracy and the many and complex challenges we still face,” the President said.

Last week, police quarterly statistics revealed that over the last quarter of 2024/25, there were six farm attacks—down from 12 in the previous quarter.

The two farm owners killed in the attacks were African. Only one white farm dweller was involved in one of the attacks.

President Ramaphosa revealed that despite these challenges; the two countries also came to an agreement regarding the Group of 20 (G20).

“President Trump agreed that the US should continue playing a key role in the G20, including attending the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Johannesburg later this year, where South Africa will hand over the presidency of the G20 to the US,” he said.

**Trading partners**

President Ramaphosa said that while discussions were held on that misinformation, the “overarching aim of our visit was to deepen our strategic economic partnership with the US as our second-largest trading partner”.

“The US is a key export market for South African goods, products and services, including motor vehicles, agricultural products and, increasingly, critical minerals. At the same time, we buy many goods and services from the US.

“There is potential to increase and diversify trade between our two countries in areas such as gas, mining and critical minerals, agriculture and nuclear products.

“The US is a major source of investment in South Africa. There are over 600 US companies, many with a long-established presence here, who continue to expand their investments,” he noted.

On the economic tariffs that the US has been touting for countries all over the world, President Ramaphosa revealed that the two countries agreed on an “economic cooperation channel” between the two countries in a bid to “engage further on tariffs and a broad range of trade matters”.

“We also discussed exploring new opportunities for companies from South Africa and the US in each other’s markets. We were able to update US officials on the ongoing structural reform process underway to improve the ease of doing business and facilitate a favourable investment climate.

“We are operating from a firm base. Last year’s Country Investment Climate Summit published by the US State Department highlights South Africa being an attractive investment hub, citing key factors such as deep and well-regulated capital markets, strengths in manufacturing stable institutions, an independent judiciary and robust legal sector, respect for the rule of law, a mature financial and services sector, and experienced local partners.

“We have extended an invitation to President Trump to send a government and business delegation to South Africa to explore opportunities for deepening investment and trade,” he said.

The President reaffirmed that cooperation between the two countries “remains firmly in place more than 30 years later”.

“Our successful working visit to the US reaffirmed the importance of keeping the channels of dialogue open. The willingness of the US to engage with South Africa on resetting our relationship is a testament to the strength of the bilateral relationship.

“As South Africans, as a sovereign and independent nation, we are always ready to acknowledge and address our problems, just as we are always ready to engage our critics in meaningful discussion.

“We are pleased that our visit to Washington established a basis for greater engagement and cooperation. Our two countries have everything to gain from working more closely together,” President Ramaphosa concluded. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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**DEPUTY PRESIDENT CHAMPIONS ECONOMIC TIES, UBUNTU SPIRIT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND FRANCE**

*Deputy President Paul Mashatile has emphasised the significance of economic cooperation between South Africa and France while celebrating the spirit of Ubuntu that embodies connection and solidarity among nations.*



The Deputy President was speaking at the France-South Africa Investment Conference gala dinner on Thursday, 22 May 2025, held at the *Route de La Muette* in Paris.

The Deputy President was in Paris on a Working Visit focused on strengthening South Africa's longstanding bilateral relations with France.

This visit aimed to expand existing cooperation projects and identify new areas for collaboration, particularly in trade and investment.

In his speech, Deputy President Mashatile reflected on a successful week spent in France, coinciding with the celebration of Africa Month.

He highlighted the importance of mutual respect and engagement rooted in the philosophy of Ubuntu, saying "Our great humility, the spirit of Ubuntu, and appreciation of the other have assisted us to be heard".

Deputy President Mashatile pushed his vision for a multipolar world, advocating for a global order where power is equitably distributed rather than concentrated in a single entity.

He reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to multilateralism through international institutions, such as the United Nations, and expressed gratitude for the existing strong alliance between France and South Africa.

"This augments France's status as a significant ally to South Africa, emphasising the importance of deepening our partnership and cooperation for the benefit of our nations and the continent as a whole. The reality is that collaboration often leads to better outcomes."

The Deputy President's address came on the heels of the France-South Africa Investment Conference held the day prior, where collaboration between French and South African businesses to enhance skills development, trade, and investment was a focal point.

He also touched on the power of collaboration, noting that better outcomes are often achieved when countries work in partnership.

Appealing for a broader engagement beyond national borders, the country's second-in-command stressed that strengthening relationships starts at home and expressed South Africa's dedication to regional integration through the African Union (AU).

He said the AU's mission is to promote unity and shared prosperity across the continent.

## G20

As the President of the Group of 20 (G20), Deputy President Mashatile outlined South Africa's plans to enhance Africa's development on the global agenda.

He told the attendees that the country's theme of *Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability* will serve as a foundation for advocating the needs of Africa and the developing world.

Citing the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, he reiterated the tenets of Ubuntu: "I am because we are".

This principle, he explained, serves as a guiding light for South Africa's aspirations in the G20, fostering a spirit of interconnectedness among all nations.

Despite progress made under the AU's Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), he underscored the ongoing challenges facing Africa.

"The proportion of its citizens under 30 years is unemployed or underemployed, facing limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. The disproportionate exclusion of this demographic dividend from formal economies underscores the need for more inclusive policies and strategies to fully realise Africa's potential."

The Deputy President called to action for continuous collaboration to combat underdevelopment and foster sustainable growth across the continent.

“As we stand together in unity and purpose, let us remember that we are not just South Africans in France but ambassadors of our nation, carrying the hopes and dreams of our people.

“Despite the geographical distance between South Africa and France, let us keep in mind that together, we have the power to build a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous world for future generations.” – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## MINISTER LAMOLA IN UGANDA TO PARTICIPATE IN A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING FOCUSING ON PEACE IN THE DRC, SUDAN, AND SOUTH SUDAN

***The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, was in Kampala, Uganda, to participate in the 12th High-Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which took place on 28 May 2025.***

The PSC Framework is an initiative aimed at addressing the structural causes of instability and recurring cycles of conflict in the eastern DRC and the Great Lakes region. It outlines a set of commitments divided between the DRC, neighbouring countries, and regional and international actors.

The ROM is the primary decision-making body of the PSC Framework and meets annually to take stock of the implementation of these commitments.

The summit will take place against the backdrop of the deteriorating political, humanitarian and security situation in the eastern DRC. The situation has been compounded by the resurgence and continuing territorial acquisition and expansion by the March 23 Movement (M23)/Congo River Alliance supported by some external actors that has led to many deaths, humanitarian crises and heightened tensions within the region.



The ROM is expected to adopt an action plan that will revitalise the PSC Framework since its formal adoption and signing in February 2013.

The summit also reflected on the current deadly conflict in Sudan and the worrisome political situation in South Sudan.

As a signatory to the PSC Framework, South Africa will continue to support the full implementation of the PSC Framework in addressing the above-mentioned challenges. – Source: [www.dirco.gov.za](http://www.dirco.gov.za)



## MINISTER LAMOLA MOURNS MA SHOPE AND SAYS DIRCO WILL CONTINUE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH HER NAME

***The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, joins the country in mourning the passing of anti-apartheid veteran Gertrude Shope, who passed away on 22 May 2025, aged 99.***

Shope lived an extraordinary life as a teacher, trade unionist, chief representative of the ANC, President of the ANC Women’s League and Member of Parliament. She was exiled in a number of African and European countries during the apartheid period. Shope was honoured with the National Order for Meritorious Service (Silver) in recognition of her exceptional public service.



Minister Lamola said Shope's name will remain engraved in the hearts of South Africans and other freedom-loving people of the world. "Ma Shope selflessly dedicated her life to the cause of freedom and the attainment of equal rights and dignity for all," said Minister Lamola.

In August 2015, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation launched the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum on Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking, aimed at promoting the role of women as peacemakers and mediators.

Minister Lamola said the continuation of the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum will preserve Shope's legacy as a freedom fighter and peacemaker, ensuring that her teachings are not lost to future generations of diplomats. – Source: [www.dirco.gov.za](http://www.dirco.gov.za)

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## DEPUTY MINISTER MORAKA AT THE THIRD EU-AU MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

***International Relations and Cooperation Deputy Minister Thandi Moraka attended the third European Union-African Union (EU-AU) Ministerial Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 21 May 2025.***

Foreign affairs ministers of the EU and the AU met for the third time to take stock of progress made since the sixth EU-AU Summit of February 2022.

The meeting was co-chaired by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, and the Minister of External Relations of Angola, Tete António, Chairperson of the AU Executive Council.

Ministers exchanged views on the EU-AU partnership and how to further strengthen cooperation in this landmark year marking the 25th anniversary of their enduring and unique partnership.

The discussions centred around peace, security and governance, multilateralism, prosperity, people, migration, and mobility.



The EU and its member states remain the first trading partner, first investor, and first Official Development Assistance and humanitarian donor to Africa, with €309 billion in foreign direct investments in Africa in 2022.

The year 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the EU-AU Partnership and is a crucial year for the partnership, as it will feature the third EU-AU Ministerial Meeting and the seventh EU-AU Summit in Africa.

Africa is a geopolitical priority of the EU at a time of increased geopolitical volatility. The EU and Africa can be a powerful force when acting together. – Source: [www.dirco.gov.za](http://www.dirco.gov.za); [www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)

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## SOUTH AFRICA PARTICIPATES IN WATER IMPLEMENTATION AND PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE IN LUSAKA

***Water and Sanitation Minister Pemmy Majodina will lead a high-level delegation to the third Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON-3), scheduled to take place in Lusaka, Zambia, from 27 to 29 May 2025.***

South Africa's participation in the conference is in line with the country's unwavering commitment to African unity, water justice, and sustainable development.

The conference is hosted by the Republic of Zambia's Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW).



It is co-convened by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Development Bank/Africa Water Facility (AfDB/AWF), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Held under the theme *Assuring inclusive and climate-resilient water security and sanitation for the Africa We Want*, PANAFCON-3 is a landmark platform bringing together governments, experts, decision-makers, and sector stakeholders to shape Africa's Post-2025 Vision and Policy on water and sanitation.

The conference responds to the urgent need for coordinated, African-led solutions to challenges of water scarcity, climate change, and sustainable infrastructure. South Africa's participation, led by Minister Majodina, signals the country's commitment to Pan-Africanism and the broader African Union Agenda 2063.

The department highlighted that progress reported by Member States against the targets of the Africa Water Vision 2025 (AWV 2025) and related commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), indicated that the region is off track to actualise the vision.

"In particular, the rate of growth in services provision is outstripped by rapid population growth and urbanisation and exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and climate variability.

"Disproportionate public funding and investments to the sector have been identified as a fundamental factor underlying the fast-fading aspiration of actualising the Africa Water Vision by 2025," the department said in a statement.

The department added that the conference will pave a way for member states and partners to review the initial draft of the vision and policy framework for assuring inclusive and climate-resilient water security on the continent.

Some of the sub-themes identified to be under discussion for three days include:

- Financing, investments and resource mobilisation.
- Water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and wastewater.
- Water infrastructure for economic production, climate resilience, and disaster risk reduction.
- Governance and institutions for managing and protecting water resources.
- Information management and capacity development.
- Gender equality and social inclusion.

As the continent faces mounting pressures from urbanisation, climate-related water stress, and infrastructure backlogs, the Minister said the conference offers a strategic moment for African states to align efforts toward inclusive development.

"As Africans, our liberation is incomplete without sovereignty over our natural resources. Water is not just a basic right; it is a strategic resource essential to the dignity, health, and economic empowerment of our people.

"Through platforms like PANAFCON, we unite to demand justice, equity, and transformation for all Africans," the Minister said.

At the conference, Majodina will engage in high-level dialogues on regional collaboration, transboundary water governance, and accelerating access to water and sanitation infrastructure across the continent.

Minister Majodina's leadership is particularly significant given her portfolio's central role in addressing access to clean water, sanitation equity, and climate resilience in South Africa.

Her presence reinforces South Africa's dedication to advancing a water-secure continent through practical cooperation and transformative partnerships. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



## SOUTH AFRICA'S G20 LEGACY WILL BE MEASURED BY LIVES CHANGED

**Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Sindisiwe Chikunga, says the legacy of South Africa's Group of 20 (G20) presidency will not be defined by the number of meetings held or the elegance of its communiqués but by “lives changed, systems reformed, and the power redistributed.”**

Minister Chikunga made the remarks at the opening plenary of the Women20 (W20) South Africa Inception Meeting, which took place in Cape Town.

The W20 is the official G20 engagement group focused on promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

The 2025 Inception Meeting, hosted under the theme *Women in Solidarity*, marks 10 years of W20. The meeting brought together over 100 global delegates representing government, business, academia, and civil society.

The two-day Inception Meeting convened thought leaders, including policymakers and change-makers from across the globe, to explore high-level interventions and innovative solutions to the challenges facing women today.

In her address, Minister Chikunga said the gathering is not an endpoint but a beginning of a call to mobilise transformative change for women around the world.

She said the region stands at a pivotal moment, where the African continent has the opportunity to shape the course of global recovery and where the Global South can reimagine the social contract.

“We stand at a pivotal moment, where we can prove that leadership from our regions is not only possible—it is indispensable. Let us leave this space with a shared resolve: to structure women's voices into the heart of public policy, budgets, institutions, and outcomes,” the Minister said.

Minister Chikunga invoked the legacy of South African heroines, like Charlotte Maxeke, Ruth Mompati, and Albertina Sisulu, saying their fight for freedom serves as a reminder that “freedom without equality is fiction.”

As part of the Chairship of the G20 Empowerment of Women Working Group, Minister Chikunga said South Africa has conceptualised several empowerment programmes intended to advance through sustained partnerships and beyond the G20 term.

These include the transformative emerging industrialists accelerator, and the Disability Inclusion Initiative (DII).

The transformative emerging industrialists accelerator is designed to support emerging women entrepreneurs in priority sectors such as energy, maritime, defence and aerospace, platform economies, and agriculture.

Participants will receive end-to-end support, from ideation and product development to financing, market access, and commercialisation, in collaboration with state-owned entities, private companies, and industry associations.

The DII is South Africa's flagship programme to embed disability rights and inclusion across policy, institutions, and society.

Anchored by the establishment of a Disability Inclusion Nerve Centre, the DII will drive:

- research on inclusion across the care economy, artificial intelligence, financial access, and climate adaptation;
- the establishment of a National Disability Data Observatory to strengthen decision-making;
- development of early childhood disability screening protocols;
- capacity-building through disability focal points; and
- support for inclusive schooling and access-enhancing technologies.



### INCEPTION MEETING

**THEME** WOMEN IN SOLIDARITY

The **W20** is the official **G20's** engagement group dedicated to gender equality and women's economic empowerment

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**MS SINDISIWE CHIKUNGA**  
Minister in the Presidency: Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities



21 MAY 2025 9AM LAGOON BEACH HOTEL, CAPE TOWN





“These are not once-off initiatives. They are long-term structural interventions designed to outlive the presidency,” Minister Chikunga said.

### Addressing systemic gaps

Highlighting the importance of data in informing inclusive policy, Minister Chikunga said the country is stands ready to engage the private sector, development partners, and multilateral institutions to take them forward.

“Our observatory will not only collect data, but it will also shape decision-making, drive accountability, and support delivery,” the Minister said.

She noted the findings from the Human Sciences Research Council, which showed that women with disabilities remain among the most marginalised and invisible in society, despite facing disproportionate levels of violence and exclusion.

“That is not just a gap. It is a systemic failure.” – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA RESEARCH FUNDERS SIGN LANDMARK MOU TO DEEPEN BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION



***The National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening and expanding their scientific partnership.***

This agreement was signed during the 13th Annual Meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC), which was hosted by Saudi Arabia’s King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in collaboration with the Research, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA) last week.

According to the NRF, this new MoU establishes a strategic framework for enhanced cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, including the social sciences and humanities.

Rooted in principles of equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit, it marks a significant milestone in a long-standing relationship that has fostered impactful collaboration between the two institutions.

This move recognises the importance of science, technology, and innovation (STI) and its strong systems in promoting the growth and competitiveness of national economies and thereby improving the socio-economic standards of life in both countries.

Both the research funders have agreed that the MoU will serve as a reflection of their mutual intention to cooperate, coordinate, and combine their resources, experience, and expertise to effectively execute their mandates.

CEO of the NRF, Dr Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, said this partnership reaffirms the NRF’s commitment to advancing scientific excellence and innovation through strategic continental partnerships.

“With COSTECH, we are not only strengthening bilateral research cooperation but also building shared capabilities that will benefit both our societies in areas critical to sustainable development,” said Nelwamondo.

The bilateral partnership between the NRF and COSTECH began following an intergovernmental agreement signed in 2011.

In 2012, the two organisations jointly launched a call for collaborative research proposals, resulting in the co-funding of 15 projects across priority areas such as health, information and communication technology (ICT), palaeontology, nanomaterials, and agricultural value addition.

This programme facilitated collaboration among 54 research institutions, including four outside Africa, and led to the training of 11 doctoral and seven postdoctoral students, alongside 27 peer-reviewed publications.

It also enabled mobility exchanges for over 30 researchers and academics.

“This MoU reflects the spirit of mutual respect and shared purpose that defines the relationship between COSTECH and the NRF.

“Together, we are co-creating knowledge, advancing innovation, and jointly addressing the development challenges and opportunities that our countries and the broader region face,” said Director General of COSTECH, Dr Amos Nungu.

In addition to bilateral efforts, both the NRF and COSTECH are active partners in regional and multilateral initiatives. COSTECH hosts two OR Tambo Africa Research Chairs at Sokoine University of Agriculture and the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology.

It has also participated in joint initiatives under programmes such as the African–Japanese Collaboration (AJ-CORE), the Long-term Europe–Africa Water-Energy-Food Nexus (LEAWEF), and the COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund.

Tanzania also participates in the u’GOOD Research Programme, coordinated by the NRF and implemented in partnership with Foundation Botnar and the Human Sciences Research Council.

In addition, both NRF and COSTECH play an active role in the Global Research Council through participation in its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Pilot Initiative and contributing to its governance structures.

The MoU provides a platform to co-develop programmes that enhance research excellence, support innovation ecosystems, and contribute to sustainable development across Africa. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## FORENSIC ARTIST’S EFFORTS ROCK ART CONSERVATION EFFORTS CATCH THE WORLD’S ATTENTION

***Stephen Townley Bassett is a forensic artist on a unique mission. Millimetre by millimetre, Stephen recreates rock art found across ancient caves in Southern Africa; symbols, thoughts, depictions and perhaps even spiritual inklings left behind by the ancient ones years and years ago.***



His mission is to conserve the rock art panel by panel with hopes that his recreations of each one can either restore a former masterpiece, help researchers, uncover more about why the works were created, and allow these works to become more accessible in their replicated form.



Recently, Stephen was spotlighted to the world thanks to a CNN feature (his latest moment in front of the world, having been featured in documentaries before). In the piece, the Cape Town-born forensic artist explains his meticulous process, his “why” and how it all began.

Fascinatingly, Stephen only works with mediums that people like the San would’ve had access to. This is how he’s figured out which materials help enhance certain colours (for example, white raptor faeces and ostrich eggshells heated by fire make that white pigment) and how he’s come to the suspicion that a bee by-product helped make a kind of glue used to stick animal hairs that created an ancient brush.

For Stephen, it is a matter of protecting the rich cultural heritage that lies within caves. With decades of experience and a diligence like no other, the forensic artist’s efforts are the kind all of us can salute, especially in a world where natural challenges, vandalism and a flair of arrogance in thinking all of history has already been figured out threaten the legacy of generations upon generations before. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

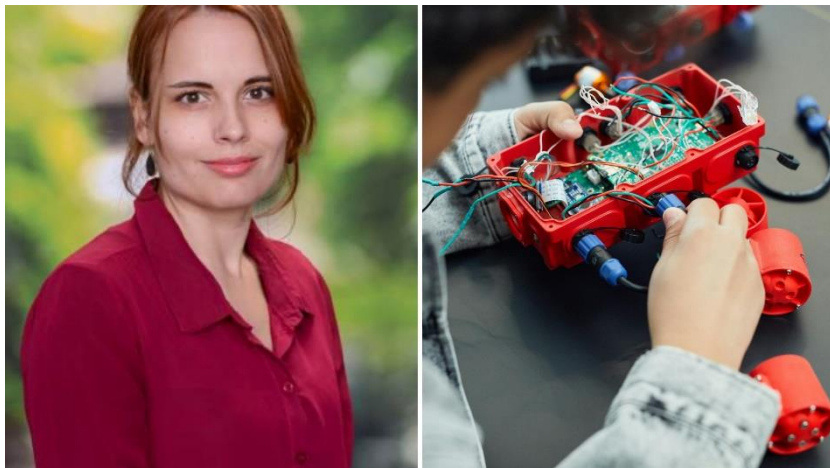
## SOUTH AFRICAN TEACHER HONOURED WITH GLOBAL STEM INNOVATION AWARD

***Nadine Smith is a coding and robotics educator who recently made the local STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) field enormously proud when she was honoured with a prestigious award. Smith was awarded the 025 EDGE in Tech Athena Award for Early Career Leadership.***

Awarded by the Centre for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society and the Banatao Institute (CITRIS) at the University of California, Smith was honoured as part of a unique ceremony at the University of California, Berkeley.



The South African teacher was the only recipient from Africa and one of just four global recipients of the award.



Smith's accolade celebrates individuals who are leading the charge in creating technology ecosystems that are more diverse, equitable and impactful.

"I believe every child deserves to see themselves in STEAM," Smith says. STEAM encompasses STEM fields but with the addition of art.

"Through coding and robotics, I strive to ignite confidence, curiosity, and creativity in learners, especially those who don't yet realise they belong in tech. This award is not just a personal milestone but also a reminder of the importance of creating inclusive learning spaces where all young minds can dream, build and lead," she says.

Beyond leading initiatives, Smith also trains fellow teachers in integrating emerging technologies.

"It is incredibly important to recognise the people doing the difficult work of expanding access to essential tech fields," explains Jill Finlayson, the Managing Director of the CITRIS Innovation Hub (which oversees the awards).

"Those who champion on-ramps into STEM, fair workplaces and welcoming cultures are critical to the development of innovative technologies and help ensure that new solutions will work well for everyone." – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## THE COUPLE PUTTING SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD ON THE MAP IN LONDON

***Amy Corbin and Patrick Williams, a husband and wife duo, are running the Kudu Collective in London, infusing modern European cooking with South African flair.***

The couple opened their flagship Kudu restaurant in Peckham, South London, in 2018 and have since expanded into several other restaurants. They wanted a small neighbourhood restaurant close to where they lived that served high-quality food that showcased Williams' South African roots.

Williams is the executive chef whose main influences on his food come from his parents. His dad was a braai master, while his mom knew her way around a spice rack. Growing up in Durban, Williams would go with his mom to markets to buy spices for her recipes.



Although South Africans are known to be fans of meat, the restaurant takes a different approach to South African food, with Williams adding South African influences to modern European cuisine.

Corbin, the daughter of a London restaurateur, is credited with incorporating a family feel into the collective's restaurants. With the success of their flagship restaurant, the group opened several spinoffs.

In January 2020, the group launched the Smokey Kudu, with the pair trying to capitalise on the lack of a location for a pre- or post-dinner drink. The cocktail bar served South African-inspired drinks and sharing platters but has since closed down.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the pair opened Curius Kudu in 2020 when the previous tenant left and asked if they wanted to take over the lease. Due to the lockdown, they changed the restaurant's concept and decided to create a private dining room. Kudu only accommodates tables up to six. During the day, it serves as an art gallery.

The pair did not let the second United Kingdom lockdown get them down and found a site for their grill concept, Kudu Grill, a speciality braai location in the nearby Nunhead.

The South African influences are clear to see at the group's restaurants, with the flagship offering Kalahari-spiced biltong, stuffed peri-peri chicken wings and rooibos pickled carrots.

The Curious Kudu also highlights the South African-European fusion with a Cape Malay velouté, while the Kudu Grill clearly shows its South African roots with its lamb potjie and melkert.

### Big changes coming

Despite being recognised as one of London's coolest, up-and-coming areas, the group is leaving Peckham for the chic Marylebone in central London.

The new restaurant will continue to offer seasonal-led European cuisine with a South African twist, but it will have a new menu format, with new dishes alongside favourites from the group.

The new site brings all three of its current restaurants under one roof, marking a new era for the group after close to a decade in Peckham and the nearby Nunhead.

Most of the original team will remain on board as part of the move, with the new location having a refreshed interior design that includes a private dining room and bar area.

"We're absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to bring Kudu to central London; it's something we've dreamed about for a long time," said Williams.

"The move to a larger site with a bigger kitchen opens up so many exciting opportunities to share and celebrate our South African cuisine with our guests."

Ahead of the move, the Kudu and Kudu Grill will offer a limited-edition "Best of Kudu" menu throughout July, celebrating dishes from the past eight years.

This includes Parmesan churros with miso mayo and smoked paprika, as well as whole black bream with zhug butter rotis.

The new Kudu will open in Marylebone this September, and the South London locations will remain open until early August. – Source: [www.businesstech.co.za](http://www.businesstech.co.za)

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## SOUTH AFRICA DOMINATES 2025 AFRICAN BEER CUP WITH RECORD WINS

***South African craft brewers have plenty to celebrate after a stellar showing at the 2025 African Beer Cup, the continent's largest beer competition.***

Local breweries clinched dozens of medals across a broad range of categories, from classic lagers and ales to innovative sour beers and even mead, cementing South Africa's prominent place in Africa's flourishing craft beer scene.

This year's competition featured nearly 260 brews from 14 African countries, all vying for top honours. An international panel of expert judges evaluated the entries over several days in Cape Town, ultimately awarding medals to the best beers in each category and crowning one overall champion. By the end of the awards ceremony, South African breweries had earned an impressive haul of gold, silver, and bronze medals, including the prestigious "Best Beer in Africa" title for the second year running.

Leading the South African triumphs is Soul Barrel Brewing, a boutique brewery from Franschhoek, which once again clinched the Best Beer in Africa award. Soul Barrel's Wild African Soul, a collaboration with Apiwe Nxusani-Mawela of Tolokazi Beer, was the gold medal winner in the African Speciality Beer category and also beat out every other beer in the competition to claim the overall top prize.

This unique beer blends a traditional sorghum umqombothi with a farmhouse ale and ages it for two years in wine barrels. The result is a complex, soulful brew that wowed judges.





“Winning Best Beer in Africa three times shows the world just how exciting African beer can be. Winning with a beer based on umqombothi sends a message that South Africa has a fascinating beer culture, and at Soul Barrel we aim to tell its story,” said Nick Smith, founder of Soul Barrel.

Apiwe Nxusani-Mawela added, “On behalf of Tolokazi Beer, I am deeply honoured to receive this recognition for Wild African Soul. This award is a true reflection of our dedication to crafting distinctly African beers—celebrating our heritage and embracing the richness of indigenous knowledge.”

This marks the second year in a row that a South African beer from Soul Barrel has taken the top title, making them the only brewery to have won Best Beer in Africa three times. In addition to the overall trophy, Soul Barrel picked up more medals, including gold for Ale of Origin and silver for Live Culture.

**Celebrating South Africa’s medal haul**

South African breweries of all sizes, from independent microbreweries to major beverage companies, shone across nearly every category of the African Beer Cup. In total, South African brewers brought home dozens of medals, with standout performers like Richmond Hill Brewing Company (RHBC) earning five awards from five entries.

“We are very pleased with our performance, as all the beers we entered won an award,” said RHBC brewmaster Niall Cook.

Other familiar names like Afro Caribbean Brewing Company, Jack Black’s, Darling Brew, Woodstock Brewery, and Hazeldean Brewing Co. also claimed multiple medals. Big players Heineken (Sedibeng Brewery) and AB InBev joined the winner’s list too, proving excellence across the board.

The variety of styles South African breweries excelled in is striking—from classic Czech lagers and British bitters to hazy IPAs, wild ales, spiced beers and beyond.

From Cape Town to Gqeberha, and Joburg to the Winelands, the awards spanned every corner of South Africa, highlighting the strength of our national brewing scene. Whether it was experimental fermentation or classic brewing mastery, South African brewers showed their skill, creativity and dedication.

**A brief history of the African Beer Cup**

The African Beer Cup launched in 2019, founded by Lucy Corne and Shawn Duthie to recognise and celebrate excellence in African brewing. Africa had been the only continent without a continental beer competition until this one came along.

What began with 150 beers from 11 countries has grown each year. In 2025, nearly 260 beers from 14 countries entered the competition. New categories have been added to embrace African traditions, including beers brewed with indigenous grains and mead.

Held annually in Cape Town alongside BeerEx Africa, the cup has become the continent’s most prestigious beer competition, fostering collaboration and raising the standard of brewing across Africa.

All beers are judged blind by certified professionals. Each entry is evaluated by two panels independently and judged against strict international style guidelines. Medals are only awarded if a beer meets the threshold, meaning no guaranteed golds or silvers unless the beer earns it. Every gold-medal winner moves to a “Best of Show” round, where the Best Beer in Africa is crowned.

Each year, the overall winner is awarded a specially commissioned artwork, a unique way to honour the artistry of craft beer.

This year’s success proves that South Africa is not just participating in the craft beer movement; we’re leading it. Our brewers are creating world-class beers rooted in local heritage, pushing boundaries and proving that African flavour belongs on the global stage. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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**TRECHIKOFF AND DUMAS: A DOUBLE VICTORY FOR SOUTH AFRICAN ART ON THE WORLD STAGE**

*It has been a record-breaking season for South African art not just once, but twice.*

On 27 May 2025, a portrait painted in 1955 became the centre of attention (and applause) at a packed Strauss & Co auction in Johannesburg, where Vladimir Tretchikoff's *Lady from the Orient* sold for a staggering R31.9 million. The sale set a new world record for the Russia-born South African painter and also sparked pure celebration within the local art community.

With 89 rapid-fire bids, the drama unfolded between an anonymous telephone bidder and an in-room contender, the kind of back-and-forth you'd expect in a blockbuster film.

Auctioneer Alastair Meredith could feel the energy climbing as he called out, "We've breached the US\$ one million mark," later adding, "The next bid is R25.2 million, which is something I have never said." And just a few bids later, the hammer came down—history made.

*Lady from the Orient*, featuring Valerie Howe—a Cape Town grocer's daughter swathed in a green silk gown—is a standout example of Tretchikoff's signature Technicolour style. It's bold, it's glamorous, and it's pure 1950s drama. The piece is part of a powerful legacy of works created after Tretchikoff moved to South Africa in 1946, and it clearly still captivates today.



In what can only be described as an incredible double win for South African talent, another artist from our shores recently also made history, this time on the international stage. Marlene Dumas, the iconic painter who studied Fine Arts in Cape Town, smashed the record for the highest auction sale for a living female artist this week in New York. Her 1997 painting *Miss January* sold for an astounding US\$13.6 million, toppling the previous record held by British artist Jenny Saville. What makes this moment even more special is the decades-long journey Dumas has walked. From showcasing her work in the 1970s with little attention to becoming one of the most celebrated artists in the world, Dumas has built a career rooted in both technical mastery and emotional power.

Together, these two moments are reminders that South African art is not just alive and well, it is thriving. It's reaching global stages. It's shifting the conversation. And that's something truly worth celebrating. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## ZOALIZE'S PROTEA-INSPIRED DRESS WINS WORLD DESIGNER AWARD AT MISS WORLD

***In a stunning showcase of South Africa's craftsmanship, our very own Zoalize Jansen van Rensburg wowed Miss World judges in India in a gown that celebrated the vibrancy of our nation and embodied unity, innovation, and humble strength.***



Her breathtaking creation by local designer Juan William Aria, which was a masterpiece that celebrated the richness of South Africa's natural beauty and cultural soul, won judges over, giving her the World Designer Award.

The Pretoria-born model was in Hyderabad, India, where she was competing alongside some of the world's most influential women to receive the coveted crown of Miss World.

According to Miss World, the award-winning dress was crafted from satin glass fabric and adorned with custom artwork and hand-embroidered motifs. The gown is a vibrant tribute to the nation's flora. At its heart blooms the protea, king of all flowers and national symbol of South Africa, embodying unity, innovation, and humble strength.



An overjoyed Zoalize expressed her deep gratitude to the designer, calling the gown “a celebration of who we are as a people—diverse, rooted, and proud.”

“I got to share the story of all the wonderful friends and family of my project @nevertotoyoungtoadvocate, giving them the light and visibility through the Beauty with a Purpose initiative had been fulfilling.

“I have felt empowered and supported every step of the way through everyone supporting me here in Hyderabad as well as back home. My gratitude goes out to you all, she said in a recent post. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## JORDY SMITH DOES IT AGAIN WITH HIS SECOND WIN OF THE SEASON

***Legendary South African surfer and Durbanite Jordy Smith has claimed his second win of the World Surf League (WSL) season thanks to a smashing score at the 2025 Western Australia Margaret River Pro.***



**WATCH THE VIDEO**

Against competitor Griffin Colapinto from the United States, Smith claimed a score of 12.00, placing the South African surfer in the first spot and 4.84 points ahead of Brazilian talent Italo Ferreira in the Championship Tour standings. It was pace and patience that stood in the surfer’s favour most during the final heat, as well as a dedication to making every wave count.

The 37-year-old surfer dedicated the win to both his family and iconic surf filmmaker Jack McCoy who recently passed away.

“Jack McCoy is someone who has inspired me throughout my whole life. All his movies, his videos, his family—this is for you guys.”

There are still five events left in the Tour schedule, with hopes high that Smith will keep his winning momentum. The next round will take place in sunny California for the Lexus Trestles Pro from 9 June 2025.

Last month, in Punta Roca, El Salvador, Smith made fans enormously proud when he secured his seventh Championship Tour victory in a riveting and emotionally charged moment for his supporters everywhere. This was the surfer’s first victory of this kind in eight years and marked a proud moment for the veteran. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## BAYANDA WALAZA BLAZES TO NEW HEIGHTS: TEEN SENSATION SHATTERS 100M RECORD IN ZAGREB

***In a stunning display of raw power and undeniable talent, on Saturday, 24 May 2025, Bayanda Walaza powerfully shattered yet another record at the Boris Hankezevovic Memorial in Zagreb, clocking in at 9.94 seconds in the 100m.***

Not only is this the fourth fastest time ever recorded by a South African and a new national junior record, but it also marks the breaking of his very own national U20 record of 9.99, which he set in Tshwane in March.

Walaza finished well clear of German sprinter Owen Ansah, who took second place in Zagreb in 10.20, *EWN* reports.

The incredible feat comes after the incredible gold win at the World Athletics Relays in Guangzhou, China, in which Walaza was a part of the team that delivered a world-leading time of 37.61 seconds in the men’s 4x100m relay.

This 19-year-old athlete has been on a meteoric rise since he first caught our attention last year when he made the 2024 SA Olympic team, where he went on to clinch silver in the 4×100 metres relay race. He further won gold in the U20 World Athletics Champs and has shattered just about every record in his midst.

Walaza’s success on the international stage provides an inspiring example of how talent can be cultivated and dreams can be realised. With every race, Bayanda Walaza isn’t just running; he’s breaking history and signalling a thrilling future for South African sprinting. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)



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## MINISTER MCKENZIE CONGRATULATES RAYNO NEL ON HISTORIC VICTORY AT 2025 WORLD’S STRONGEST MAN COMPETITION

*The Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Gayton McKenzie, has congratulated Rayno Nel for becoming the first African and the first man from outside Europe and North America to win the prestigious World's Strongest Man title.*



“South Africa is beaming with pride as the rookie competitor made history on the global stage over the weekend in Sacramento, United States of America. It was not just a personal victory but a continental milestone,” the department’s statement read.

As a former Cheetahs rugby player turned world champion strongman, the department said Nel showed the world what South Africans are made of—“grit, determination, and unstoppable courage”.

At the end of 2024, South Africa hosted the Strongman Champions League for the first time, with the vision of someday seeing a South African reach the top of this sport.

“For it to have happened this quickly, however, was a welcome surprise.”

From his Varsity Cup days at Central University of Technology (CUT) to lifting the ultimate title in strength sports, the department stated that Nel’s journey has been one of sheer resilience and national pride.

“His win is a reminder that greatness does not ask for permission; it announces itself. And Rayno, in his rookie season, announced South Africa’s presence in this global sport in the boldest way possible.”

The Minister recalled how Nel, who weighs 148kg and is the first rookie to win the competition since 1997, reached out to him for support in the early stages of his journey in strongman competitions.



“When Rayno approached me, he spoke with humility but had the fire of a champion. I told him then that I would stand behind him. Today, South Africa and the entire African continent celebrate with him.”

The World’s Strongest Man competition is designed to push the strongmen to their absolute limits, challenging not only their physical strength but their agility and mental toughness too.

Past events have featured several fan-favourite competitions, including the car walk, where the contestants race two-by-two while strapping a vintage VW Beetle to their shoulders and sprinting down a 25-metre course.

Other events have included keg tossing, the axe hold—where competitors must hold a heavy axe or axes in a specific position for as long as possible—and stone lifting.

Minister McKenzie has since saluted Nel for his passion and perseverance.

“To see him raise the South African flag on such a massive platform and to hear his words of pride for his country is a moment I, and this nation, will not forget.

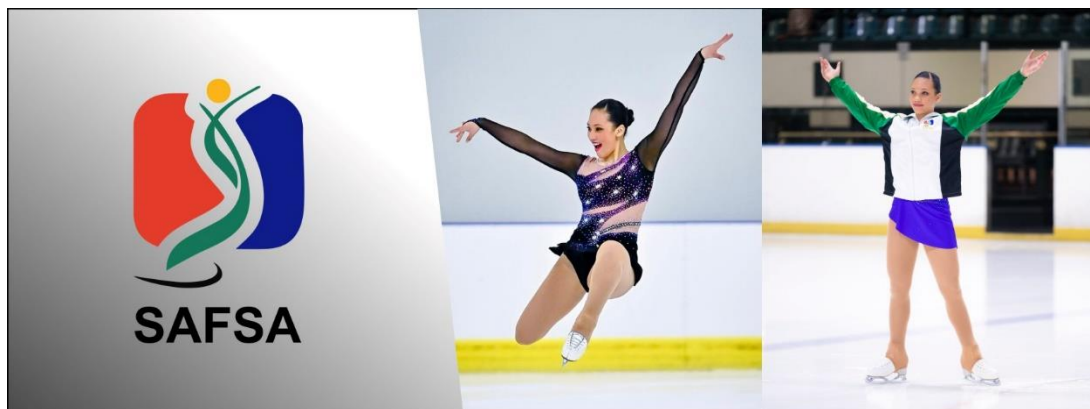
“South Africa salutes you,” Minister McKenzie added. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## MEET LISA STIGANT, PROPELLING SOUTH AFRICAN FIGURE SKATING FORWARD

*Behind the scenes of the exquisite and captivating sport of figure skating stands a woman who is a powerhouse in her own right, overseeing the technical side of the country’s competitive ice sport.*

As the country’s sole International Skating Union (ISU) Technical Specialist, she’s the unsung hero ensuring South African competitive ice sport shines on the global stage.



Since 2010, Stigant has been an international technical specialist, achieving full ISU status in 2022. According to the South African Figure Skating Association (SAFSA), she represents South Africa at ISU-sanctioned competitions around the world, bringing international insight to every event she officiates.

Currently based in the Netherlands, where she works as a coach for the TKV Club in Tilburg, Stigant’s relocation has enabled her to participate in and officiate at numerous international competitions, significantly expanding her experience and influence in the sport.

As the Head of the Technical Panel for SAFSA, Stigant runs a well-oiled machine, meticulously assembling panels for national events and ensuring every competition meets rigorous international standards.

Beyond events, she plays a pivotal role in building capacity within SAFSA by training technical specialists in Singles and Pairs disciplines. She has spearheaded both online and in-person workshops with technical experts from Europe, laying the groundwork for consistent technical excellence at all levels of the sport.

Her impact goes beyond just technicalities and officiating. Stigant has also been instrumental in bringing renowned international coaches like Valter Rizzo and Luca Demattè to South Africa, directly impacting the development of national athletes.

She herself is a highly active international coach who has participated in elite training camps and competitions across Europe, including the TKV Spring Training Camp with Jorik Hendricks and Marina Shirshova, Elite KNSB Camp with Manon Perron, and events such as Skate Celje, Victorie Cup, and the Challenge Cup.

She also accompanied South African skater Rachael Rodd to Skate Celje in Slovenia in 2024, further affirming her dedication to South African athletes on the world stage.

Moreover, her dedication is evident in her packed ISU Technical Specialist schedule, which includes officiating at prestigious events like the Coupe de Caroline in Belgium, the Belgian National Championships and the Spring on Ice International in the Netherlands.

“Lisa brings a rare combination of international credibility, technical precision, and development-minded leadership to SAFSA. Her contributions are invaluable,” says Christo Viljoen, President at SAFSA.

With her tireless work both locally and abroad, she continues to raise the bar for South African figure skating, ensuring its athletes, officials, and events meet the highest global standards. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)



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