“Let’s continue to work as one nation, united and determined. We have done it before. We can do it again. There will come a day when this pandemic will be over. On that day, we must be able to look one another in the eye and say: ‘We gave it our all, we each played our part, we worked together as one nation, and we prevailed.’”

– President Cyril Ramaphosa
UBUNTU magazine – issue 25
South Africa’s Public Diplomacy in action

contents

Lifestyle

108
The fascinating case study of the Salt River murals

115 “My world” in one theatre

Diplomacy

12 Let us, together with the UN, write a new history for humankind
16 BRICS is of immense strategic importance to South Africa
18 UN central to SA’s foreign engagement
20 Let us be the architects of our common future
22 Reflections on youth and racism 20 years later
26 We stand with the people of Palestine
28 Honouring the spirit of Charlotte Maxeke
32 BRICS united in its vision
38 Peace and justice must co-exist for both to thrive
42 African Green Stimulus Programme: a source of pride
44 GBVF: We can eradicate this scourge together
46 South African and Nigerian youth must collaborate in pooling indigenous knowledge for job creation
52 Celebrating 100 years of rugby between New Zealand and South Africa: How sport can bring people together, inspire and unify

Feature

56 Liberation heritage: Tsitsi Masinini
58 Rebuilding the tourism sector post-COVID-19
62 How a film is fighting the erasure of South African activist Dulcie September
64 In a world first, South Africa grants patent to an Artificial Intelligence system
68 WoF praised after successful expedition in Canada

12 Let us, together with the UN, write a new history for humankind
70 African youth speak out for the protection of our oceans
72 Research and development are key to resilient food systems in Africa
74 Africa has a great strategic plan: Now it needs to roll up its sleeves and take action
76 Analysis of 2 000 galaxies using the MeerKat radio telescope reveals fresh insights
78 South Africa’s bandit slaves and the rock art of resistance
80 The first-ever dictionary of South Africa’s Kaaps language has launched – why it matters
84 SA Paralympians inspire the nation
86 The man behind the blades uplifting our youth
88 Proudly South African: Our Tokyo Olympic medallists
90 Flying the flag

76 Analysis of 2 000 galaxies using the MeerKat radio telescope reveals fresh insights
98 Survey reveals South Africa’s most iconic products
100 These South African resorts are some of the best in the world
103 South African jewellery brand shines in Las Vegas
106 The art landscape in South Africa
108 The fascinating case study of the Salt River murals
110 Great small-town foodie stops
112 South Africa’s largest sculpture fair now open
115 “My world” in one theatre
This year, we commemorate 25 years since the adoption of the Constitution of a South Africa finally freeing itself from the shackles of apartheid. We agreed that our thematic focus for 2021 would be extolling and recollecting our national heroine Charlotte Maxeke, a woman of distinction who marked her place in history through excellence, commitment and service. It is absolutely fitting to mark such heroes and heroines as they have left an indelible mark on the socio-political landscape of our country.

The compilation and adoption of our Constitution was one of the boldest decisions taken by our infant democracy. It signalled a decisive and necessary break with our past while simultaneously setting out clear, progressive, and even radical aspirations for the future.

Our Constitution is the result of a long journey by the people of South Africa, of Africa and the world. It draws us together in a manner that no single legal instrument does and is extraordinary testimony of the ingenuity and humanity of millions of South Africans and the legions of men, women and communities who entrenched the values and principles that are emphatically elaborated in it.

The Constitution weaves together the struggles for humane treatment and fair play fought for by the Khoisan in the beginning of the struggle. Their desire to settle on their land and derive sustenance from it, to breed and rear their cattle and not to be pushed to the margins are embodied in the transformative land rights and recognition of communities elaborated in 1996.

The epic confrontations of the frontier wars of the Xhosa, the Basotho and the Barotse, their dispossession and displacement and their yearnings are mirrors in the aspirations of nationhood and unity in the Constitution. The brave heroism of Makhanda, Xhosa, Moshoshoe, Bafhoeng and Seskukhune reverberates.

Our Constitution was crafted over centuries of experience. This is why we can refer to the African claims of 1946, the Freedom Charter of 1955, the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960, the assertion that Africa is for Africans by Robert Sobukwe and the courage and steadfastness of Steven Bantu Biko in his belief that given opportunity, the oppressed will achieve excellence and determine their destiny.

Added to these influences are illustrious women fighters such as Charlotte Maxeke, who showed women’s place in the struggle. Albertina Sisulu, who withstood banning, prison and brutal assault on family, yet emerged with dignity and compassion for South Africa and all her people. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, who would never give up believing that struggle would lead to victory. It is Mama Winnie whose undying spirit must persuade us to consistently believe that the progressive ambitions of our Constitution will be realised and that we must never tire of wanting to achieve realisation of its key goals for every person in South Africa.

There is the leadership of Oliver Tambo and the African National Congress’ constitutional committee in formulating Ready to Govern to prepare for drafting a constitution that draws from our history, our lived experience and our aspirations. luminaries such as Kader Asmal, Zola Skiewyana and Frence Ginwala all played a role. Human rights lawyers such as Justice Mohammed, Arthur Chaskalson and Nelson Mandela believed just laws and accessible judicial institutions were plausible and should apply universally and not for a privileged few. Our Constitution firmly affirms those beliefs.

Idath Mtwana, Helen Joseph and Ray Alexander came from vastly different backgrounds, yet are united in the Constitution by the full recognition of the rights of workers and the protections they should enjoy. Mary Burton promoted gender equality and the rights of all, drawing on these brave men and women and their core beliefs.

The sacrifices, bravery and fearlessness of the young people of 1976, of Mashinini, Hector Peterson, Antoinette Peterson and thousands of others gave life to the right to education and to children’s rights in our document.

Those who shaped the Constitution of South Africa number millions. It does not belong to a few; it is our instrument of freedom honouring Kwame Nkrumah, Patrice Lumumba and Sekotore.

We in Parliament and government have a critical role to play in honour of these men and women and millions others. We need to consistently ensure that the ambitions of service to the people are honoured and realised; that we do support the maturing of a nation united in its diversity. And, that all rights enshrined in the Constitution are accessed and enjoyed by all people in South Africa. We strive for this not just for ourselves but for all men and women who suffer oppression and exclusion today. This is why we are mandated to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Palestine, of Saharawi, of Cuba and of Myanmar. They too will overcome as our leaders and our people ensured South Africa overcame.

This history of framing our Constitution must be read today alongside the still visible remnants of systematic exploitation and discrimination that continue to scar our nation due to centuries of colonialism and exclusion. The key challenge all of us face is to strengthen our efforts at reversing the precarious socio-economic situation in which millions of the most vulnerable find themselves. We acknowledge that much has been achieved but the full realisation of our Constitution demands much more of each of us.

Our Constitution is the result of a long journey by the people of South Africa, of Africa and the world. It draws us together in a manner that no single legal instrument does and is extraordinary testimony of the ingenuity and humanity of millions of South Africans and the legions of men, women and communities who entrenched the values and principles that are emphatically elaborated in it.

Recognise the injustices of our past;
Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;
Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and
Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to -

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;

Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and

Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

May God protect our people.

Nkosi Sikelel’iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.
God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatushezha Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afurika.

(Preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa)
Publisher’s Note | Let’s talk foreign policy...

On 22 July 2021, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) accredited Israel to the AU, which has created an unprecedented strong response and objection from AU member states, at all political levels. So far, the AU has accredited over 170 non-African states and organisations.

Throughout the years, accreditation of a new non-African state to the AU has been a non-event and never created so much controversy as has been the case with Israel. On 6 August 2021, after receiving a lot of criticism and objections from member states and interest groups, the Chairperson issued a communiqué. A reading of the communiqué raises several legal and political questions related to the AU Constitutive Act and other relevant policy documents.

The arguments or criteria that the Chairperson cited in his communiqué were based purely on an alleged number of member states (he indicates that it is 46) that have established or reinstated bilateral relations with the concerned State. However, the Criteria for Accreditation of non-African states clearly indicate as the first criterion that the aims and purposes of non-African states shall be in conformity with the spirit, objectives and principles of the Constitutive Act of the AU.

The State of Israel has been described as an occupying force of Palestine, therefore violating the principle of prohibition of use of force mentioned in the Constitutive Act and international conventions.

Furthermore, the criteria outline the process of accreditation of non-African states and indicate that the Chairperson should consider the decisions of the AU and bear in mind the supreme interests of the union and the concerns of its member states. All OAU/AU decisions recognise the Palestinian people’s legitimate rights to self-determination, liberation, independence and full sovereignty.

The Chairperson also used the term “more than two-thirds majority” in an attempt to legitimise this grave violation of the Constitutive Act of the AU and the criteria for the accreditation system for non-African states. If his decision was indeed made by receiving the approval of this number of member states, this could mean that the Chairperson had only consulted parts of the organisation and disregarded the rest of the member states. Again, this in itself would be a violation of his mandate and procedure, and therefore, setting a dangerous legal precedence. The usual procedure calls for gaining the two-thirds majority only through official communication by member states to the commission, which in this case was never received.

The Chairperson justified his decision by taking into consideration “the expressed demand of more than two thirds of AU member states. There is no documentation or evidence showing what the Chairperson referred to as “expressed demand of member states”. On the contrary, 24 member states expressed officially and publically their objection and rejection to his decision; he described them as “a few”.

The Chairperson went further and used non-diplomatic terminology when he used the word “a few” in the last paragraph to describe and refer to member states that officially rejected his unilateral decision. The Constitutive Act gives equal sovereignty to all member states and so the expression “a few member states” not only belittles and undermines certain members of the AU but could be interpreted to mean that the Chairperson does not take the concerns of those expressing objection into consideration.

The criteria indicate that if any member state, which means one or more, objects to the accreditation, the issue should be tabled at the Executive Council for review. When the criteria clearly give the full weight for just one member state to object, how is it possible for the Chairperson of the commission to describe 24 member states as simply a “few”?

The criteria give the sole prerogative of the granting, suspension and withdrawal of accreditation of a non-African state to member states. This clause of the criteria contradicts the Chairperson’s statement that this “falls within his full sphere of competence”. Therefore, this decision of the Chairperson should be suspended or withdrawn.

The Chairperson should have acknowledged the concerns raised and officially communicated by many member states. He needs to lead by example and reassure member states that he holds the oath he has taken before the heads of state and government very seriously and that he would always ensure consensus in decision-making. Therefore, this decision of the Chairperson should be suspended or withdrawn.

The Chairperson made the decision on 22 July 2021 after being confirmed for a second and last term at the helm of the AUC, is in contradiction of the person who made a strong and principled declaration against United States President Donald Trump’s decision in December 2017 to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Throughout history, organisations committed unintentional mistakes or political oversight, which negatively affected image and credibility. However, what is important is to remedy the situations that arise from these oversights. History would mostly recognise the steps taken to correct the mistakes rather than the mistakes themselves.

After the decision of the Southern African Development Community Summit, the total number of member states that have so far rejected the Chairperson’s unilateral decision on Israel has increased to 24. This shows that the accreditation of Israel is a source of division among AU member states, thereby jeopardising its unity which is a source of pride for the continent and an embodiment of the spirit of Pan-Africanism. There is an absolute need to separate bilateral relations which countries have with Israel from the interests and objectives of the union as contained in the AU Constitutive Act. The unity of the AU is seen as the supreme interest and ensure that the Africa We Want is always united, strong and speaking with one voice.

This matter has now been referred to the Assembly of Heads of State in early 2022 for a decision. We are hopeful that the leadership of the continent will make the right call.”
Table Bay is a natural bay on the Atlantic Ocean overlooked by Cape Town and Table Mountains and is located at the northern end of the Cape Peninsula, which stretches south to the Cape of Good Hope.
The pandemic has been a stark reminder of our mutual dependency, and that instability in one region of the world inevitably impacts its neighbours.

The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination has been raised in the General Assembly for almost as long as this body has been in existence.

We raise it again, not because we are bound by practice or habit to do so, but because we resolutely believe that there shall be no peace and no justice until the Palestinian people are free from occupation and are able to exercise the rights for which the UN stands.

We have a responsibility, as the nations of the world, to spare no effort in finding a just, lasting and peaceful solution based on internationally agreed parameters enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions.

We reiterate our position that the people of Western Sahara have the right to self-determination in line with the relevant AU decisions and UN Security Council resolutions.

South Africa furthermore affirms its solidarity with the Cuban people and calls for the lifting of the economic embargo that has caused untold damage to the country’s economic development.

It was through multilateral solidarity, support and cooperation between member states that countries were able to access much-needed medical equipment and supplies.

In dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is generally agreed that vaccines are the greatest defence that humanity has against the ravages of this pandemic. It is therefore a great concern that the global community has not shared the principles of solidarity and cooperation in securing equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

The agreement on the allocation of US$650 billion in Special Drawing Rights is significant, but it is insufficient to meet the extent of the need.

South Africa therefore reiterates its call for 25% of the total allocation, amounting to around US$165 billion, to be made available to the African continent.

Climate change is an existential crisis for the entire world, yet, poor countries are particularly vulnerable.

Although we bear the least responsibility for causing climate change, African countries are among those that carry the greatest cost.

For the forthcoming COP 26 in Glasgow to respond adequately to the crisis we face, we need to see greater ambition and progress on mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation.

We urge all member states to support the proposal for a temporary waiver of certain provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights at the World Trade Organisation to allow more countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, to produce COVID-19 vaccines.

Let us, together with the UN, write a new history for humankind

Let us, together with our UN as our instrument, write a new history for humankind – one of equality, freedom, fundamental rights and shared prosperity for all, leaving no-one behind.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

The pandemic has been a stark reminder of our mutual dependency, and that instability in one region of the world inevitably impacts its neighbours.

By practice or habit to do so, but because we resolutely believe that there shall be no peace and no justice until the Palestinian people are free from occupation and are able to exercise the rights for which the UN stands.

We have a responsibility, as the nations of the world, to spare no effort in finding a just, lasting and peaceful solution based on internationally agreed parameters enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions.

We reiterate our position that the people of Western Sahara have the right to self-determination in line with the relevant AU decisions and UN Security Council resolutions.

South Africa furthermore affirms its solidarity with the Cuban people and calls for the lifting of the economic embargo that has caused untold damage to the country’s economic development.

This year marks 12 years since the start of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations process and 16 years since the World Summit of 2005, where world leaders unanimously agreed on early reform of the Security Council.

We have not honoured this undertaking. South Africa reiterates its call for urgent reform and a move to text-based negotiations through which an agreement can ultimately be reached.

We must address the underrepresentation of the African continent in the UN system, and ensure that the voice of the African continent, where 1.3 billion people reside and also of the Global South in general, is strengthened in the multilateral system.

Concurrent with achieving equitable geographical representation in the UN, we must also address the question of gender parity.

In September 2021, we marked the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the World Conference against Racism in South Africa.

This remains the international community’s blueprint for action to fight racism and other forms of intolerance.

We are bound by a common responsibility to fight both the legacy of past racism and the manifestation of racism in the present, Racism, like sexism, xenophobia and homophobia, demeans all of us.

It undermines our humanity and stifles our efforts to build a world rooted in tolerance, respect and human rights.

Let us use this anniversary to renew our commitment to combating racism, to eliminate racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances wherever they are found.

The challenges we face are immense. We have to drive the global recovery.

We have to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We have to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

We have to address climate change, maintain peace and security and protect society’s most marginalised.

By practice or habit to do so, but because we resolutely believe that there shall be no peace and no justice until the Palestinian people are free from occupation and are able to exercise the rights for which the UN stands.

We have a responsibility, as the nations of the world, to spare no effort in finding a just, lasting and peaceful solution based on internationally agreed parameters enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions.

We reiterate our position that the people of Western Sahara have the right to self-determination in line with the relevant AU decisions and UN Security Council resolutions.

South Africa furthermore affirms its solidarity with the Cuban people and calls for the lifting of the economic embargo that has caused untold damage to the country’s economic development.

This year marks 12 years since the start of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations process and 16 years since the World Summit of 2005, where world leaders unanimously agreed on early reform of the Security Council.

We have not honoured this undertaking. South Africa reiterates its call for urgent reform and a move to text-based negotiations through which an agreement can ultimately be reached.

We must address the underrepresentation of the African continent in the UN system, and ensure that the voice of the African continent, where 1.3 billion people reside and also of the Global South in general, is strengthened in the multilateral system.

Concurrent with achieving equitable geographical representation in the UN, we must also address the question of gender parity.

In September 2021, we marked the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the World Conference against Racism in South Africa.

This remains the international community’s blueprint for action to fight racism and other forms of intolerance.

We are bound by a common responsibility to fight both the legacy of past racism and the manifestation of racism in the present, Racism, like sexism, xenophobia and homophobia, demeans all of us.

It undermines our humanity and stifles our efforts to build a world rooted in tolerance, respect and human rights.

Let us use this anniversary to renew our commitment to combating racism, to eliminate racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances wherever they are found.

The challenges we face are immense. We have to drive the global recovery.

We have to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We have to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

We have to address climate change, maintain peace and security and protect society’s most marginalised.

Let us use this anniversary to renew our commitment to combating racism, to eliminate racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances wherever they are found.

The challenges we face are immense. We have to drive the global recovery.

We have to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We have to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

We have to address climate change, maintain peace and security and protect society’s most marginalised.

Let us use this anniversary to renew our commitment to combating racism, to eliminate racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances wherever they are found.

The challenges we face are immense. We have to drive the global recovery.

We have to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We have to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

We have to address climate change, maintain peace and security and protect society’s most marginalised.
Above all, we must close the wounds of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment that are preventing societies from realising their full potential. This can only be done within the framework of a revitalised and reformed multilateral system, with a strong and capable UN at its centre. Let us, together with the UN as our instrument, write a new history for humankind – one of equality, freedom, fundamental rights and shared prosperity for all, leaving no-one behind: “

Let us, together with the UN, write a new history for humankind who dream of a better world. The UN stands as a beacon of hope for all who dream of a better world.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, concluded her visit to New York on Friday, 24 September 2021, where she participated in person in the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA76), held under the theme: “Building Resilience through Hope – To Recover from COVID-19, Rebuild Sustainably, Respond to the Needs of the Planet, Respect the Rights of People, and Revitalise the United Nations”.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the general Debate and High-level meetings of UNGA76 were held in a hybrid in-person and virtual format.

President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered pre-recorded statements at the High-Level Meeting on the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) against Racism, and at the General Debate of UNGA76. In both recorded statements, President Ramaphosa stressed that the international community must redouble its efforts to build a world free of racism and all forms of discrimination and stand united in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Pandor chaired a roundtable of the High-Level Meeting on the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA, themed: “Reparations, Racial Justice and Equality for People of African Descent – Where do we Stand 20 Years after the Adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”, and also presented the summary of the roundtable discussion at the closing segment of the meeting.

In addition to chairing the roundtable, Minister Pandor also delivered a statement and lamented the fact that some countries decided not to take part in this commemorative event at a time when incidents of racism and racial injustice continued to occur globally. Nonetheless, member states adopted a political declaration aimed at mobilising political will at national, regional and international levels for the full and effective implementation of the DDPA and its follow-up processes.

Minister Pandor, together with the Italian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mara Sereni, presided over the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Article XIV Conference, held on the margins of UNGA76. In her remarks, Minister Pandor stated that this conference was an opportunity for the international community to highlight the dangers and threats posed to international peace and security by nuclear weapons and tests. “We believe that the conference should be part of sustained and redoubled efforts to encourage the signing and ratification of the treaty,” said Minister Pandor. A declaration and measures to promote the entry-into-force of the CTBT were adopted as an outcome of the meeting.

Minister Pandor delivered a recorded statement at the World Food Systems Summit and at the High-Level Meeting on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 28 September 2021.

In addition, Minister Pandor attended several ministerial side events such as the Informal Network of Women Foreign Ministers Dinner and the High-Level Meeting on the situation in Libya. Furthermore, Minister Pandor addressed the Council on Foreign Relations on topical issues such as the state of democracy in sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa’s response to COVID-19 as well as other regional and international foreign policy matters.

While in New York and on the margins of UNGA, Minister Pandor met with António Guterres, UN Secretary-General; Abdulla Shahid, President of UNGA76; and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and Co-Chair of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. Minister Pandor also held bilateral discussions with 16 foreign ministers from Africa, Asia and the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In her media engagements on the sidelines of UNGA76, Minister Pandor stated that this year’s UNGA highlighted a number of global challenges such as the inequity in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, growing inequalities between states and within states, rising human rights violations and conflicts in several countries. In this regard, world leaders must step up to the plate and address these challenges through multilateral cooperation, with the UN at the centre.

Before concluding her visit to New York, Minister Pandor officially opened the South African Consulate-General to New York’s Cultural Centre, which showcased an inaugural exhibition of Prof. Zakes Mda’s artwork.
BRICS is of immense strategic importance to South Africa

In the 11 years since we joined BRICS, our membership has substantially advanced our national interest. Being a member of BRICS has enhanced our position as an important emerging economy.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

A year before the first democratic elections, President Nelson Mandela wrote an article in Foreign Policy magazine on the new South Africa’s future foreign policy. Reflecting on the shifts in global alliances brought about by the end of the Cold War, he wrote that countries would have to “recast their nets” if they were to reap any benefit from international affairs.

Since the tectonic shift of 1994, when we made a decisive break with not just apartheid but the international relations outlook of its architects, South Africa’s foreign policy continues to be characterised by this “recasting the net”.

Our foreign policy priorities are regional political and economic integration, pursuing African development, multilateral engagement and the promotion of democracy, peace and human rights.

To this end, we have forged strategic alliances with both the countries of the Global South and mutually beneficial cooperation with the countries of the North.

Joining the BRICS group of countries in 2010 was a milestone in our quest to advance our own national development priorities by forging stronger ties with the important emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China.

Put into context, BRICS countries comprise roughly 42% of the world’s population and account for around 23% of global gross domestic product and some 16% of global trade.

We have reaped the benefits of membership of this important bloc, most notably in the area of economic cooperation.

Bilateral trade has grown, particularly with China and India, with commodity exports and manufactured goods imports featuring strongly.

The BRICS countries continue to be important sources of foreign direct investment in key areas such as mining, automotive, transportation, clean energy, financial services and IT.

A 2018 review of our BRICS membership by professional services firm Deloitte noted that BRICS partners “invested three times more capital in the country compared to the seven years prior to 2011”. These investments and projects have in turn led to significant job creation.

Since the formation of the New Development Bank (NDB), whose regional office is located in Johannesburg, South Africa has been a beneficiary of financing and technical support for projects in transportation, clean energy, environmental protection, water infrastructure and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa has received US$2 billion in funding from the NDB under the COVID-19 Emergency Loan Programme to fight the pandemic and to support our economic recovery.

There has also been substantial cooperation with our BRICS partners in securing personal protective equipment and cooperation around vaccine access and distribution.

We recently participated in the 13th BRICS Summit, where BRICS countries agreed to deepen cooperation to fight COVID-19 and mobilise the political support and financial resources needed to respond to future pandemic preparedness.

This includes the establishment of a virtual BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre and a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System to forecast future outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Another important area of agreement was on mutual recognition of national documents of vaccination and systems of COVID-19 testing – something that will be vital to cross-border travel in the future.

The concept of mutually beneficial cooperation will be particularly important in the global economic recovery, where unequal development means that some countries will bounce back quickly, while others will lag behind.

In support of economic recovery, BRICS partners agreed to strengthen collaboration in catalytic sectors such as energy, IT, science, technology and innovation, agriculture and the green economy. These are all important sectors identified in our Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan announced last year.

Cooperation with other BRICS countries, particularly in the field of innovation research, will help to accelerate our country’s industrialisation and help us meet our Fourth Industrial Revolution aspirations. In this regard, discussions were held around the creation of formal BRICS platforms to share best practice, knowledge and expertise, including the use of open source technology platforms.

The BRICS partners agreed that developing countries needed assistance to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and that donor countries should honour their commitments in this regard.

This is particularly important within the context of climate action. Like most countries, South Africa seeks to move towards a low-carbon development path that is inclusive, sustainable and that takes into account its status as a developing country. The BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform will be valuable as we move to diversify our energy sources.

In the 11 years since we joined BRICS, our membership has substantially advanced our national interest. Being a member of BRICS has enhanced our position as an important emerging economy.
The centrality of the UN to South Africa’s foreign engagement is in part based on a strong belief in collective and equitable global governance, but also because of the organisation’s role in the fight against apartheid.

By Dr GNIM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

For South Africa, the United Nations (UN) will always have special meaning. Since 1944, a primary foreign policy priority for South Africa has been to promote an international rules-based system through active and constructive participation in multilateral institutions and processes. Pursuing these principles through multilateral institutions, with the UN as its centre, has been key.

The centrality of the UN to South Africa’s foreign engagement is in part based on a strong belief in collective and equitable global governance, but also because of the organisation’s role in the fight against apartheid.

As early as June 1946, shortly after the creation of the UN, the issue of South Africa’s discrimination policies was proposed by India as an agenda item in the Second Session of the UN General Assembly (GA). This was despite the fact that South Africa was one of the founding members of the organisation. South Africa adopted its apartheid policy in 1948, yet remained a member until its expulsion in 1974.

In 1962, the UN Special Committee on Apartheid was set up by the GA under Resolution 1761 (XVI). The committee was entrusted with the responsibility to monitor and promote a comprehensive programme of action against apartheid in South Africa. Through the many decades leading up to 1994, the UN took many important steps that assisted in the international struggle against apartheid. The UN became the arena where the morality and legality of the system of apartheid was questioned.

The new Government eagerly took on its new international role, and enthusiastically carried out its responsibilities as an active member of the United Nations. We have sought to participate in all the principal organs. The UN needs to reform to remain credible. The UN is the UN because of the member states and the international community. Together, we have their support for human rights, freedom for those who suffer oppression and implementation of the UN’s SDGs.

The General Debate provided member states with an opportunity to reflect on rebuilding post the pandemic. The high-level meetings specifically focused on key development priorities aimed at the attainment of the SDGs. In addition to the pandemic, there was, among others, an opportunity to reflect on the global food systems and Climate Change. For South Africa, a key meeting was to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) at the World Conference against Racism, held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. The DDPA remains the international community’s blueprint for action to fight racism both historically and in the present. The holding of this event, the modalities of which were co-facilitated by South Africa and Portugal, provided us with an opportunity to renew our commitment to combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The UN remains the hope for billions around the globe to achieve peace, security and development. For this to be realised, the UN needs to remain relevant and address these contemporary challenges. Additionally, the UN needs to reform to remain credible.

South Africa views the UN as the world’s chief deliberative, policy- and decision-making body in the international system. Thus, South Africa has consistently called for and worked towards the strengthening of the assembly to ensure that it remains relevant and responsive to the needs of the world’s population.

I extend the sincere thanks of the Government and peoples of South Africa to the UN and its member states for the invaluable contribution they made in assisting to bring democracy to our country. South Africa’s success belongs as much to us as it does to the nations of the world. Together, we have a special responsibility to carry forward the vision and the mandate of the UN, for future generations.

For South Africa, a strong and effective UN remains central to our vision of securing a better quality of life for all.

South Africa has been privileged to serve in the UN Security Council (SC) as a non-permanent member. We have actively promoted adherence to the mandated role of the UNSC and have resisted attempts to convert it into a body that advances the interests of the more powerful permanent members. Our key focus has been promoting support for human rights, freedom for those who suffer oppression and implementation of the UN’s SDGs.

South Africa has also consistently argued for reform of the UNSC. Importantly, the historical injustice against the African continent as reflected in the structure of the UNSC should finally be corrected.

South Africa has also consistently argued for reform of the UN’s SDGs. Importantly, the historical injustice against the African continent as reflected in the structure of the UNSC should finally be corrected.
This summit presented a reimagining of the future of relations between our peoples, who, although separated by a vast ocean, are united by a shared history.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

The first Africa-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit of Heads of State and Government was held on 7 September 2021. This initiative placed us on the threshold of a new epoch of integration, unity and cooperation.

It called to mind the words of Kenya’s founding father, Jomo Kenyatta, who said: “Our children may learn about the heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves architects of the future”.

This summit presented a reimagining of the future of relations between our peoples, who, although separated by a vast ocean, are united by a shared history.

The summit took place in the first year of the Decade of African Roots and Diaspora, which was declared in February 2021 at the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU).

The Diaspora is an integral part of the story of Africa, the progress of Africa and indeed, the future of Africa. Greater cooperation between the countries of our continent and the Caribbean community was espoused by our forebears who convened the Fifth Pan-African Congress in Manchester in 1945.

It was there that leaders like Jomo Kenyatta and Kwame Nkrumah planted the seed that would become the Organisation of African Unity in 1963.

In this sense, we are fulfilling an important aspiration of the pioneers of Pan-Africanism, and, within a contemporary context, of the AU’s Agenda 2063. Our common heritage should encourage us to deepen our engagement, strengthen trade and investment, collaborate in research and development and share expertise and knowledge among our countries. Just as we share a common history, we also have common challenges.

This pandemic has demonstrated the value and the necessity of confronting challenges together. From the onset of the pandemic, we developed a united African continental response strategy, established a special COVID-19 Response Fund and launched the groundbreaking African Medical Supplies Platform to enable countries to access vital medical supplies.

We share a determination that when it comes to vaccines and other critical health interventions, no region, no country and no person should be left behind. It is therefore a matter of great significance that Caribbean countries have joined in the efforts galvanised by the AU on acquiring vaccines. Just as we have worked together to access vaccine doses for our people, we need to share experiences, expertise and technology to better respond to COVID-19 and future pandemics.

We are all contending with the devastating human, social, political and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all working to overcome the effects of colonialism and underdevelopment by building inclusive economies and creating more opportunities for our people.

We are all vulnerable to the effects of climate change through rising sea levels, adverse weather effects and social and economic disruption.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is a grouping of 20 countries: 15 member states and five associate members. It is home to approximately 16 million citizens, 60% of whom are under the age of 30, and from the main ethnic groups of indigenous peoples: Africans, Indians, Europeans, Chinese, Portuguese and Javanese. The community is multilingual, with English as the major language, complemented by French and Dutch and variations of these, as well as African and Asian expressions.

While these states are at relatively small, both in terms of population and size, there is also great diversity with regard to geography and population as well as the levels of economic and social development. CARICOM came into being on 4 July 1973 with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas by prime ministers Eric Barrow for Barbados, Forbes Burnham for Guyana, Michael Manley for Jamaica and Eric Williams for Trinidad and Tobago. The treaty was revised in 2002 to allow for the eventual establishment of a single market and a single economy.

We must mobilise the global community behind the call for a temporary waiver of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights at the World Trade Organisation, and continue to lobby for partnerships on licensing and technology transfer with those countries that have the capacity to produce their own vaccines.

The pandemic has shown what is possible when principled solidarity is put to the service of the common good. Let us draw on this solidarity as we rebuild our economies.

Let us, in particular, explore the opportunities that are presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area to advance our aspirations towards economic integration and shared prosperity.

Through this partnership, let us work to transform the fortunes of all the people of Africa and all the people of African descent.

Through our actions, let us be the architects of our common future, where Africa and the Caribbean are joined together by the common goal of the prosperity of our people.”

Unity across Continents & Oceans

Let us be the architects of our common future
Reflections on youth and racism 20 years later

The 2001 Durban Conference represented not only the cumulative effect of the global struggles against all forms of racism and to prohibit racism and racist practices, but it also underscored the prevailing optimistic mood at the time of the conference worldwide.

By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Twenty years ago, the world converged in Durban, South Africa, with the resolve to tackle the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. When we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), we do not only want to remind ourselves of the existence of the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, but to recommit ourselves, as individuals, members of our communities, nations and as children of our common human heritage, to rekindle our efforts and rid our world of this scourge.

It is in this context that South Africa appreciates the decision of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to mark, in a special way, and at heads-of-state level, the 20th commemoration of the Durban WCAR on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September this year.

In South Africa, the 20th commemoration of the Durban WCAR coincides with two important events, namely, the commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Youth Uprising and the celebration of 25 years of the adoption of our Constitution. The events of 1976 clearly demonstrated the resolve by the young people of our country to take their destiny into their own hands and fight any stereotypes and prejudices, such as racism, that stood in their way. The sacrifices of those young people, especially those who paid with their lives, should not be in vain. Their courage and determination to fight for and build a society and world that would be free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance should inspire, not only young people, but all of us to march forward knowing that we can win.

When we adopted our Constitution 25 years ago, we committed ourselves, among other objectives, to: “Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental rights”. We also committed ourselves to build a South Africa founded on values such as “human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of rights and freedoms” as well as “non-racialism and non-sexism”.

The defiant spirit of the young generation of 1976 to free themselves from the shackles of apartheid, racism and racial discrimination, and our collective desire to build a society based on respect for human dignity, achievement of equality and advancement of rights and freedoms continue to inform our approach, as a country, in the fight against the continuing manifestations of racism and related intolerance in our world.

We shall work with our partners, young people, civil society and all people of goodwill throughout the world to realise these objectives; precisely because peaceful nations free of racism in all its manifestations will produce a peaceful world free of racism in all its manifestations.

The 2001 Durban Conference represented not only the cumulative effect of the global struggles against all forms of racism and to prohibit racism and racist practices, but it also underscored the prevailing optimistic mood at the time of the conference worldwide.

In 2001, the world was still celebrating the triumph of the human spirit over the racism and racial discrimination of apartheid. The victory of the anti-apartheid movement, which was supported by the entire community of nations, demonstrated to us all what could be achieved against the scourge of racism when the family of nations united in its determination to say “no to racism!” in Durban. Many believed, correctly so, that there was a need to draw a solid line in the sand between civility and barbarism.

This optimism and belief in the inherent potential of humanity to triumph over evil are echoed in the “Mandela-Robinson pledge”, which was one of the important messages that delegates at the Durban Conference embraced. In that pledge, the late President Nelson Mandela and Mary Robinson, former High Commissioner for Human Rights, challenged delegates when they said: “As a new century begins, we believe each society needs to ask itself certain questions. Is it sufficiently inclusive? Is it non-discriminatory? Are its norms of behaviour based on the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?”

Further, the pledge expressed the strong desire that: “Over the coming year, we pledge ourselves to seek that conversion of mind and heart. What we envisage for every man, woman and child is a life where the exercise of individual gifts and personal rights is affirmed by the dynamic solidarity of our membership of the one human family.”

The Durban WCAR adopted a wide-ranging political declaration and an extensive programme of action to nudge states and non-state actors to not only note the decisions, so that there was a need to draw a solid line in the sand between civility and barbarism. This optimism and belief in the inherent potential of humanity to triumph over evil are echoed in the “Mandela-Robinson pledge”, which was one of the important messages that delegates at the Durban Conference embraced. In that pledge, the late President Nelson Mandela and Mary Robinson, former High Commissioner for Human Rights, challenged delegates when they said: “As a new century begins, we believe each society needs to ask itself certain questions. Is it sufficiently inclusive? Is it non-discriminatory? Are its norms of behaviour based on the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?”

Further, the pledge expressed the strong desire that: “Over the coming year, we pledge ourselves to seek that conversion of mind and heart. What we envisage for every man, woman and child is a life where the exercise of individual gifts and personal rights is affirmed by the dynamic solidarity of our membership of the one human family.”

The call, 20 years ago, by Nelson Mandela and Mary Robinson for the “conversion of mind and heart” to achieve inclusive and non-racist societies was forward-looking. In that regard, young people become the critical section of society in the quest to rebuild new communities that will embrace and live by the spirit, norms, values and principles contained in the Mandela-Robinson pledge and the DDPA.

On 30 July 2021, an event, held to reflect on racism and youth 20 years later, forced us to self-examine the progress or lack thereof in relation to what we have done to create the kind of conditions for young people in our country and the world and to determine whether the future generation will enjoy the society envisaged by Mandela and Robinson.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, young people are some of the hardest-hit members of our societies. Many young people have lost their jobs, as most of them occupy less-secure casual jobs; some have lost parents, guardians, breadwinners, care-givers and mentors and have suffered “psychologically” due to the pandemic. The future appears bleak. But we cannot lose hope! We need to recommit ourselves to the goals and objectives we inscribed in the DDPA. A world free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is and will be a peaceful world. We must all join hands to achieve that world.
Young people can and must be agents of change.

Young people can and must be in the forefront in the fight against racism, poverty, ignorance, marginalisation, exclusion and disease.

And as governments, we should create conditions that will allow young people to realise their basic righteousness; to utilise their potential; to harness their energies; to release their creativity; to dream the seemingly impossible; and to succeed big.

As members of the world community, we need to recommit ourselves to the goals and objectives we inscribed in the DDPA. A world free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is and will be a peaceful world. We must all join hands to achieve that world. We should not allow ourselves to be distracted by petty differences, accusations and arguments and thereby win insignificant battles and lose the important war against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We all need to #FightRacism.

On 30 July 2021, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, hosted a webinar on “Durban+20: Reflections on Youth and Racism 20 Years Later” with the objective of commemorating 20 years since the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban+20).

The WCAR was held from 31 August 2001 to 8 September 2001 in Durban, South Africa, under the theme “United to Combat Racism: Equality, Justice, Dignity”. This is commonly referred to as the Durban Conference.

Adopted by consensus at the 2001 WCAR, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) is a comprehensive, action-oriented document that proposes concrete measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It is holistic in its vision, addresses a wide range of issues and contains far-reaching recommendations and practical measures.

The webinar reflected on the contemporary challenges facing young people nationally and globally, but most importantly, on how young people can be agents of change against the backdrop of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the WCAR and the DDPA as well as the 45th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Youth Uprising against the racist apartheid system.

Minister Pandor led the panel discussion consisting of Fatima Chohan, Deputy Chairperson of the South Africa Human Rights Commission; Malaka Maitali, youth activist; Abigail Noko, Head of the Regional Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights; and Professor Adekeye Adebayo of the University of Johannesburg. Also on the panel with video messages were Tendayi Achiume, the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; and Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and currently the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

On the panel, the panelists took stock of the achievements and challenges arising from the adoption of the DDPA in 2001, and its review in 2009. In general, panellists expressed the view that the DDPA had a significant impact but also cautioned that much still needed to be done, especially for the young people.
The Palestinian narrative evokes experiences of South Africa's own history of racial segregation and oppression. As oppressed South Africans, we experienced first-hand the effects of racial inequality and discrimination and are well aware of the long-term impact and consequences of racial and other forms of discrimination.

These actions undermine the Palestinian people and deprive them of their universal and inalienable right to self-determination and equality. It goes against internationally adopted human rights instruments and violates international law, further provoking political tension and endangering international peace and security.

Since its inception in 1945, the UN has championed the principles of equality, non-discrimination and the right to self-determination as an integral element of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. With international human rights instruments to guide us such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; as well as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (1960), we ask, why is it that, over half a century later, the question of Palestine remains unresolved and why is it that the people of Palestine are denied many of the rights contained in these seminal documents?

South Africa, along with many in the UN membership, has long accepted and supported a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace. Decades of aggression have made this internationally recognised concept improbable.

The pivotal role played by the UN and civil society in supporting our respective liberation struggles and the impact this had in us achieving our self-determination must be peremptory to avoid reducing these initiatives to “feel-good talk shops”.

We are currently living in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented enormous social and economic challenges, straining existing systems that are already grappling with numerous difficulties. The pandemic has further exacerbated the challenges faced by civilians and vulnerable groups, especially women, girls, people with disabilities and children, including those in the Occupied Territory. Containment measures have affected access to socio-economic necessities. Women and girls living under occupation and in armed conflicts are often subjected to not only social, economic and political subjugation but are at particular risk of suffering from lifelong psychological traumas. In this regard, it is paramount that the occupying power fulfil its obligations in terms of international law and together with the international community ensure that all barriers to accessing healthcare are eliminated in order to save lives.

The illegal settlements leading to dispossession and displacement and human rights abuses are incompatible with international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The policies and practices of Israel, as the occupying power, are in flagrant violation of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and contravene international law.

It is therefore imperative that the Security Council, as the body entrusted to maintain international peace and security, take concrete steps against these illegal acts and go beyond mere rhetoric condemnation. The recorded failures of the Security Council in ensuring respect for and the upholding of the rule of law has dented the integrity of this august organ and highlighted the urgent need for Security Council reform.
Honouring the spirit of Charlotte Maxeke

By Dr GN M Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

On 23 August 2021, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) launched the Charlotte Maxeke African Women’s Economic Justice and Rights (AWEJR) Initiative. The commemoration of this year’s Women’s Month took place against the backdrop of the celebrations of 150 years since the birth of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke. Government has declared 2021 as the Year of Charlotte Maxeke.

As we paid tribute to the women’s generation of 1956 who marched to the Union of South Africa, we also paid tribute to the pioneers of the women’s movement in South Africa dating back to the 1913 women’s march when Charlotte Maxeke led a march in Bloemfontein against the early introduction of passes.

This year, we observed Women’s Month under the theme: “The Year of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke: Realising Women’s Equality”. This theme underscored the constant struggle for the attainment and protection of women’s rights during a time when the country battles with the devastating COVID-19 global pandemic.

Mme Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke lived in a different South Africa from the one we live in today. In fact, it was not until 50 years following her death that the winds of change swept across her native land, ushering in a democratic process that would realise the conditions of Africans in South Africa. This is documented in some of her letters with this outstanding Pan-Africanist.

• An intellectual: She became a symbol of academic excellence and one of the first women in southern Africa to acquire a Bachelor of Science degree in 1901 from the prestigious Witterborefore University, Ohio, USA.

• A torchbearer in women’s leadership: She was the only woman in the room at the founding meeting of the South African Native National Congress, now the African National Congress, at the Methodist Church in Waltham in Bloemfontein on 8 January 1912. It was through a motivation of Alfred Billini Xuma that she was given observer status at this meeting. The one thing that is unimaginable is how she sat there quietly when her participation was being discussed. The irony is that at the time of this meeting, she was intellectually more advanced than most men in that room but her gender was a barrier for her participation.

• An advocate for women’s rights: Maxeke was the leader of the first women’s march of 1913, held in Bloemfontein, against the extension of reference books to women. She was a pioneer in one of the greatest of human causes, working under extraordinary difficult circumstances to lead the people, in the face of prejudice, not only against her race, but against her gender. Her courage and leadership allowed her to transcend religious and cultural barriers.

• A visionary: In 1918, she co-founded the Bantu Women’s League and became its first president, which not only fought against pass laws but aroused public opinion on another equally disgusting practice of medical inspection of black women before entering domestic service. In today’s world, we would define her as an activist of sexual reproductive health and rights.

• A teacher: She later taught at a primary and secondary school she co-founded, called Witterborefore Institute in Evaton, in the Vaal.

The institute is still in existence to this day.

• A social worker: Her work as social worker and native welfare officer can be argued to be the best portrayal of her strength and distinguished ability. Maxeke had, in most instances, used the need and taken the initiative to serve her people without funds and for no pay. Her opinions and recommendations were sought by the State and, in many cases, she succeeded to get suspended sentences for her cases where lawyers often failed in the cases of their clients.

• An economic empowerment agent: Maxeke understood the intersectional identities of women who faced multiple discrimination and imbued with the spirit of service, her work included economic empowerment whereby she set up an employment agency for Africans in Johannesburg. She also worked with young people who were in conflict with the law.

• Human rights activist: As a human rights activist, not only did she help with reducing sentences for juvenile delinquencies, she also had the ability to gain insight into human life and conduct by assisting with their rehabilitation and socio-economic needs.

While being the first black woman in the many spaces she operated in, she understood that for meaningful representation of women, she needed to rally other women to amplify their voice in the struggle for gender equality.

Based on all of these factors, we had to find a way to not only tell her story but to impart knowledge and inspire generations of women who will embody her values in a meaningful way. We wanted to ensure that she multiplies.

In paying tribute to the work of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke, DIRCO has developed an organic legacy initiative that will be an embodiment of her values and leadership qualities. This initiative will be anchored on South Africa’s foreign policy, which is primarily Pan-Africanist in form and internationalist in content, titled, the Charlotte Maxeke AWEJR Initiative.

The AWEJR Initiative is our contribution to the global acceleration agenda for the empowerment of women and girls. It is the missing piece in our Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Through this initiative, we have come full circle in our efforts on the full emancipation of women and girls.

This initiative is a practical expression of our diplomacy of Ubuntu and it aims to strengthen South Africa’s international solidarity work. It is an affirmation and a validation of women’s economic justice rights as fundamental human rights.

South Africa recognises that while more efforts have gone to civil and political rights of women, the economic rights of women and girls have largely been neglected. It is for this reason that South Africa chose to focus its efforts under the Generation Equality Forum on Economic Justice and Rights.

In July 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa joined the First Ministerial Meeting of the Paris Forum to endorse the outcome of efforts under the Generation Equality Forum on Economic Justice and Rights.

In paying tribute to the work of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke, DIRCO has developed an organic legacy initiative that will be an embodiment of her values and leadership qualities. This initiative will be anchored on South Africa’s foreign policy, which is primarily Pan-Africanist in form and internationalist in content, titled, the Charlotte Maxeke AWEJR Initiative.

The AWEJR Initiative is our contribution to the global acceleration agenda for the empowerment of women and girls. It is the missing piece in our Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Through this initiative, we have come full circle in our efforts on the full emancipation of women and girls.

This initiative is a practical expression of our diplomacy of Ubuntu and it aims to strengthen South Africa’s international solidarity work. It is an affirmation and a validation of women’s economic justice rights as fundamental human rights.

South Africa recognises that while more efforts have gone to civil and political rights of women, the economic rights of women and girls have largely been neglected. It is for this reason that South Africa chose to focus its efforts under the Generation Equality Forum on Economic Justice and Rights.

In July 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa joined the First Ministerial Meeting of the Paris Forum to endorse the outcome of efforts under the Generation Equality Forum on Economic Justice and Rights.
he outlined South Africa’s commitments for the next five years, including the Charlotte Maxeke AWEJR Initiative as one of the programmatic commitments.

Through the implementation of this initiative, South Africa seeks to mobilise the global community to support women’s leadership across all the action coalitions, particularly economic justice and rights, through education, training and mentorship of women and youth as well as creating opportunities in economic participation, networking, diplomacy and trade.

The Charlotte Maxeke Initiative will launch collaborative projects with targeted support for women and girls to ensure that they have increased opportunities in decision-making across political and economic spheres.

The Charlotte Maxeke AWEJR Initiative has six concrete flagship programmes that will be implemented gradually:

• The Africa Future Leadership Development Programme is aimed at inculcating the values of Pan-Africanism, integrity and selflessness through mentorship and training opportunities for youth on international policy and diplomacy work. This programme will target young people from all over the continent.

• The African Women’s Leadership Award will recognise and honour exceptional African women leaders whose achievements, mentorship, influence and contributions have advanced Africa’s development in various sectors of society.

• The first-ever Minister’s breakfast with women ambassadors on gender equality initiatives created a platform for female diplomats to share perspectives on the gender agenda and explore available opportunities to promote the empowerment of women and girls in Africa.

• The African Women’s Leadership Training Programme on Economic Justice and Rights will be exclusively tailored to enable astute African women leaders opportunity to apply leading-edge knowledge, experience and insight on economic justice and rights. It aims to provide a networking platform for African women leaders to share best practices and lessons from their experience in the field.

• The Women’s Trade Fair will showcase African women’s products and services to markets on the continent and globally. Furthermore, it will also raise awareness about the opportunities provided through policy initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area.

To honour this exceptional educationalist, DIRCO will seek partnership for the annual Fellowship for African Women in Diplomacy. This programme will provide both degree and non-degree awarding opportunities to the next generation of African women in diplomacy. This is an effort to impart and mold a female public servant inspired by the values of Charlotte Maxeke such as ethical leadership, empathy and excellence.

The department, through the Office of the COO, has been engaged in the consultative process with many of our friends and partners with whom we would like to take this initiative forward. Nonetheless, it continues to be an open invitation for all who see an opportunity to contribute to the realisation of the economic justice and rights of women and girls in Africa.

In the words of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke: “This work is not for yourselves, kill that spirit of self, and do not live above your people but live with them and if you can rise, bring someone with you.”

We celebrate Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke as a trailblazer and a torchbearer in various sectors of society.
The preamble of our Constitution instructs us not only to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights, but also to build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

To this end, South Africa has forged strategic alliances with the countries of the Global South and mutually beneficial cooperation with the countries of the North. Joining the BRICS group of countries in 2010 was a milestone in our quest to advance our own national development priorities by forging stronger ties with the important emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China.

But the history of BRICS is far longer than its first meeting of foreign ministers in 2006, its first Leaders’ Summit in 2009 and its expansion to include South Africa in 2010. Indeed, it is a common history of struggle against imperialism, colonialism, exploitation and underdevelopment. It is a continuation of the Bandung Conference, held in 1955, where Asian and African powers proposed to develop economic and cultural cooperation and demanded increased representation for developing countries in the United Nations (UN). In the Bandung Assembly, our voice was heard, and Moses Kotane spoke there for the real aspirations of the South African people.

BRICS continues this tradition of promoting economic and cultural cooperation between emerging and developing economies and demanding increased representation and voice in today’s global governance institutions. Individually, all of us are strong in the world and our opinions and views are sought on matters of importance. However, we are not all represented in a system that was set up in 1945. The five members of BRICS together make up 42% of the world’s population, 30% of the territory in the world and 23% of the global economy. This so dramatically illustrates that the current world order indeed does not reflect our economic, political and social reality.

BRICS continues to represent a powerful coalition of countries that ensures the centrality of multilateralism, which pronounces itself unambiguously against unilateralism, protectionism and populism. One of the foundational values of BRICS is a shared vision of the need to restructure the global political, economic and financial architecture to be more equitable, balanced, representative and rest on the important pillars of multilateralism and international law.

President Cyril Ramaphosa participated in the 13th BRICS Summit on 9 September 2021, during which BRICS leaders endorsed a Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming of the Multilateral System adopted on 1 June 2021 by our foreign ministers. This standalone Joint Statement of 28 paragraphs is by no means a negligible accomplishment for the bloc.

The Joint Statement highlights key principles of reform and calls for the strengthening and reform of principal organs of the UN, international peace and security architecture, international financial architecture, trade and development architecture and a global health system.

We are confident that we are building momentum and slowly eroding resistance to change. South Africa has benefitted from being part of a collective BRICS voice striving to advance a world order based on mutual respect and the equal sovereignty of nations.

The most difficult body to reform remains the UN Security Council. For South Africa, it is imperative that the Security Council be more representative and inclusive, in line with the principle of the sovereignty of all states. Beyond the question of reform, South Africa approaches BRICS as a partnership where leading countries of the world have an opportunity to share their strengths and learn from each other’s best practice.

In South Africa, we refer to the triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment. As government, we have set in motion processes to respond to the pandemic, grow our economy and expand our infrastructure, among others. Other BRICS member states are dealing with similar challenges, albeit with their own unique circumstances.

South Africa has reaped the benefits of membership of this important bloc, most notably in the area of economic cooperation. Bilateral trade has grown, particularly with China and India, with commodity exports and manufactured goods exports featuring strongly.

Within the inclusion of South Africa in BRICS, our trade balance with most BRIC countries has switched from deficit to surplus, and the value of our exports to our BRIC partners now is larger than to our other partners. South Africa’s trade with our BRICS partners increased from R268 billion in 2011 to R540 billion in 2020. However, we still have work to do to reach our target of US$50 billion intra-BRICS trade as it stood at US$354 billion in 2019.

The BRICS countries also continue to be important sources of foreign direct investment in key sectors such as mining, automotive, transportation, clean energy, financial services and information technology. These investments and projects have in turn led to significant job creation.

The building of vaccine development and manufacturing capacity in South Africa is a strategic priority to strengthen both health and industrial capacity.

If we are to save lives and end the pandemic, we need to expand and diversify manufacturing and get medical products to treat, combat and prevent the pandemic to as many people as quickly as possible. The proposed Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights waiver is a temporary, targeted and proportional response, which recognises the unprecedented nature of the pandemic. During the 13th BRICS Summit, all BRICS members welcomed this call on all BRICS members to unequivocally support the waiver and negotiations that will result in a massive and rapid expansion of production across the world.

The concept of mutually beneficial cooperation that characterises BRICS will be particularly important in the global economic recovery, where unequal development means that some countries will bounce back quickly, while others will lag behind.

In support of economic recovery, BRICS partners also agreed to strengthen collaboration in catalytic sectors such as energy, information technology, science, technology and innovation, agriculture and the green economy. These are all important sectors identified in South Africa’s Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan announced last year.

Cooperation with other BRICS countries, particularly in the field of innovation research, will help to accelerate our country’s industrialisation and help us meet our Fourth Industrial Revolution aspirations. In this regard, BRICS countries have held discussions around the creation of formal BRICS platforms to share best practice, knowledge and expertise, including the use of open source technology platforms.

Under the Chairmanship of India in 2021, around 150 meetings will eventually be held across all three pillars of our cooperation: political and security, economic and financial, and social and people-to-people. These include meetings to address a more equitable and representative international environment; increased people-to-people relations across our countries through art, film and cultural exchanges; increased access to capital for infrastructure and sustainable development; enhanced research and innovation; recovery of the tourism sector; investment and trade; more opportunities for our businesses, men and women; and the empowerment of women, girls and the youth; and increased living standards of our people.

South Africa is encouraged that the members of BRICS continue to show a commitment to addressing the issues that face our continent, particularly those of the Global South. South Africa therefore continues to centre African issues and interests on the BRICS agenda. Our BRICS partners have demonstrated their commitment to Africa’s own policy priorities—particularly voicing their support for Africa’s Agenda 2063.

BRICS is also a platform for sharing ideas and learning and is open to new ideas and initiatives.
directions. A unique aspect of BRICS is the establishment of the BRICS Think Tank Council, BRICS Academic Forum and the BRICS Civil Forum. These academic and civil-society engagements independently assess the programmes of BRICS cooperation, conduct research in support of BRICS priorities and make recommendations to the BRICS leaders. Similarly, the BRICS Business Council and the BRICS Women’s Business Alliance are important drivers of commercial economic networks and are therefore instrumental to broader socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. These engagements not only provide well-researched policy guidance to BRICS countries, but provide a unique feedback mechanism to BRICS leaders about the concrete impact of our cooperation on our people.

South Africa is encouraged that the members of BRICS continue to show a commitment to addressing the issues that face Africa and the developing world. South Africa therefore continues to centre African issues and interests on the BRICS agenda. Our BRICS partners have demonstrated their commitment to Africa’s own policy priorities, particularly voicing their support for Africa’s Agenda 2063.

One of the priorities of the Indian Chairship in 2021 has been to strengthen people-to-people cooperation. We need to spread the BRICS story far and wide to further enhance the mutual understanding and traditional friendship among our peoples. For South Africa, our participation in BRICS is aimed at delivering concrete benefits to our people in our communities and must therefore be owned by the people. We want our own academia, our own thinkers, our own civil society and our own people-to-people contact to determine what BRICS is going to be about in future. South Africa is therefore aiming at greater people-to-people connectivity and more popular support for BRICS cooperation through extensive exchanges in cultural, educational, health, sports, tourism and other areas.

In the 11 years since South Africa joined BRICS, our membership has substantially advanced our national interest. Being a member of BRICS has enhanced our position as an important emerging economy. It has given us access to policy and technical expertise of larger and established economies, as well as access to the support of the NDB. It has strengthened our activism on the global stage, particularly around reform of multilateral institutions. We have benefitted from being part of a collective voice striving to advance a world order based on mutual respect and the equal sovereignty of nations.

As the President stated in his newsletter of 13 September 2021, BRICS is of immense strategic importance to our country and will therefore continue to be so for some time to come.

South Africa is encouraged that the members of BRICS continue to show a commitment to addressing the issues that face Africa and the developing world. South Africa therefore continues to centre African issues and interests on the BRICS agenda. Our BRICS partners have demonstrated their commitment to Africa’s own policy priorities, particularly voicing their support for Africa’s Agenda 2063.
Wildebeest Kuli Rock Art Centre is a rock-engraving site with a visitors centre on land owned by the Xun and Khwe San, situated about 16 km from Kimberley, in the Northern Cape. It is a declared Provincial Heritage Site, managed by the Northern Cape Rock Art Trust in association with the McGregor Museum.
I have always been of the view that peace and justice must work contemporaneously. Prioritising one over the other jeopardises the chance of achieving either. As is often cried on the frontlines, no justice, no peace.

By Dr Fatou Bensouda
Former International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor

I believe this package is a more sustainable recipe for actualising Madiba’s vision of transitional justice; whether through redress or transformation of political and social systems. We must continue to question how we approach these processes to attain more sustainable and progressive futures.

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. When a government does not invest in education and standard of living, the people despair. When a government runs a sham democracy and fails to take into account the consequences of law for the vulnerable and marginalised groups, the people despair.

In my career as Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC), while investigating alleged commission of crimes in areas of armed conflict, some negotiators often believed the ICC’s intervention would impede the peace process.

I have always been of the view that peace and justice must work contemporaneously. Prioritising one over the other jeopardises the chance of achieving either. As is often cried on the frontlines, no justice, no peace.

By Nelson Mandela, one of the world’s greatest public servants and civil rights icons, continues to inspire us all, as we tackle the multifaceted challenges that face humanity today.

During apartheid, Mandela’s name became a beacon of light in the struggle against oppression and injustice. With courage on the one hand, and tenacity on the other, he guided South Africa through murky waters and wrote his name on the sands of time as a symbol of peace and reconciliation, resonating across Africa and beyond.

A new liberatory social contract, therefore, would see a world where young people have a seat at the table and speak boldly on issues, which impact our collective futures.

In a world where we must learn to coexist in mutual respect despite our differences, we are tasked with the responsibility not just to learn but to understand; to break generational cycles as a form of catharsis.

Turning to strong institutions.

One thing I often say is: “The law is my boss.” This motto reinforces the concept of the relationship between government and the people, namely: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

A new liberatory social contract, therefore, would see a world where young people have a seat at the table and speak boldly on issues, which impact our collective futures.

In a world where we must learn to coexist in mutual respect despite our differences, we are tasked with the responsibility not just to learn but to understand; to break generational cycles as a form of catharsis.
their independence, impartiality and ability to achieve their goals, not judicial findings, is the driving force and rationale behind coordinated policies at both domestic and international levels.

The ICC is the world’s first permanent criminal court, holding accountable those responsible for the commission of crimes of concern to the international community – including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. Over the last two decades, it has developed a body of knowledge that addresses these questions through various opinions and jurisprudence.

The Statute regime criminalises and seeks accountability for conduct, which strikes at the very heart of our societies. These include not only violent crimes against protected groups and persons, but also crimes against cultural property and emerging threats that must be captured by the International Criminal System.

While examining the relationship between international criminal justice and the broader challenges of attaining sustainable development, it is important to stress that the independent mandate of the Court and its Office of the Prosecutor must always be respected. Let me recall here the immortal words of Mr. Tchekedzeho: He said, “We have little hope of preventing genocide, or reassuring those who live in fear of its occurrence, if people who have committed the most heinous of crimes are allowed to just lie down on a bed and not held to account. It is therefore vital that we build and maintain robust judicial systems, both national and international – so that, over the years, people will see there is no impunity for such crimes.”

If we flip through the pages of history, we are constantly reminded that there can be no healing without peace; there can be no peace without justice; and there can be no justice without the rule of law. In commemoration of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the United Nations General Assembly underscored the importance of justice and accountability in the following words: “Exploiting and holding perpetrators, including their accomplices, accountable, as well as restoring dignity of victims and their families, is critical to securing the prevention of future violations.

It is therefore important for policymakers, legal practitioners and all relevant parties to continue exploring innovative ways to strengthen national institutions, including their international cooperation, building capacity with the weapons of the law.

There is a need to improve how we approach our pursuit of justice in a concerted effort to build sustainability. When we build on lessons learnt and best practices, it sets the stage for innovative and sustainable solutions to the types of challenges we have illustrated today.

As you know, the efforts of war have intra- and intergenerational repercussions. But how can the long arm of strong institutions avert and mitigate some of the consequences?

When considering the rights of future generations, the ICC is not designed to replace national systems, nor is it designed to take over what is primarily their responsibility to investigate and prosecute serious crimes of international concern. It is therefore important that at the national and regional levels, awareness is raised about how strong institutions working in collaboration can produce better outcomes in the fight against impunity.

Various campaigns labelled the ICC as a “white man’s court” on the false premise that the Court targets African countries and leaders, but not their global counterparts. This is simply inaccurate and highly questionable. In every African states to attempt to withdraw from the Court. However, it must be said that there can never be an excuse for impunity. Victims should never be re-victimised.

What surprised me the most about the above events was the lack of discussion around justice for victims of these alleged crimes. The failure to centre victims when seeking justice, can deter this critical debate from the essential.

There is more work to be done. We must pursue peace by upholding the rule of law through strong institutions, and strive towards a more just world.
The rapid progress in the development and implementation of this African-led and -owned programme is a source of pride for the continent, more so, as this programme is intended to significantly contribute to Africa's green recovery from the impacts of the pandemic and support the continent's journey towards a sustainable and low-carbon development pathway.

By Barbara Creecy
Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

The 17th Ordinary Session took a decision to establish a core group of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity in developing a common regional position to strengthen Africa's voice on biodiversity.

Minister Creecy addressed AMCEN as its outgoing President after she presided over this august conference for the past two years. AMCEN was established in December 1985, following a conference of African ministers of environment held in Cairo, Egypt. Its mandate is to provide advocacy for environmental protection in Africa; and ensure that basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner, that social and economic development is realised at all levels and that agricultural activities and practices meet the food security needs of the region.

The 18th Ordinary Session of AMCEN took place from 26 to 27 May 2021. These bureau meetings were invaluable in guiding the work of AMCEN during the challenging inter-sessional period. Outcome statements of the key issues discussed at these bureau meetings were circulated to all member states to ensure that the continent was kept informed of developments and ongoing work of AMCEN.

COVID-19 has shown the importance of technology in doing business and the benefits to the environment. In this regard, the online platform for the African Green Stimulus Programme, which was first established at the previous AMCEN Bureau meeting in May 2020, was launched in September 2021.

The rapid progress in the development and implementation of this African-led and -owned programme is a source of pride for the continent, more so, as this programme is intended to significantly contribute to Africa's green recovery from the impacts of the pandemic and support the continent's journey towards a sustainable and low-carbon development pathway.

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, virtually addressed the opening segment of the 18th Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) on Thursday, 16 September 2021. Minister Creecy addressed AMCEN as its outgoing President after she presided over this august conference for the past two years. AMCEN was established in December 1985, following a conference of African ministers of environment held in Cairo, Egypt. Its mandate is to provide advocacy for environmental protection in Africa; and ensure that basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner, that social and economic development is realised at all levels and that agricultural activities and practices meet the food security needs of the region.

The 18th Ordinary Session of AMCEN provided progress on the African Green Stimulus Programme and launched the programme's online platform. The programme intends to provide an overarching framework that will support the "green recovery" from the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing together existing environment and sustainable development initiatives in Africa in a coherent and coordinated way, while identifying new areas requiring strategic interventions.

Addressing the event, the United Nations' (UN) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, Inger Andersen, said Africa suffered the most from the climate crisis, from nature and biodiversity to the pollution crisis.

"It is a crisis that we have to face while dealing with the ongoing human and economic tragedy of COVID-19," she said, adding that the pandemic had eroded nearly 5 per cent of per capita income in Africa, while food prices were soaring globally.

According to Andersen, if the green stimulus measure is done right, it could boost the economy in the short term, deliver growth pathways that are sustainable and mitigate environmental degradation.

All of these "win-win" livelihoods, food security, economic prosperity and peace.

She described the stimulus programme as a critical step in taking advantage of this opportunity.

"The programme hits all the right notes: climate action, air quality, land restoration, biodiversity, blue economy, green cities and so on," Andersen added.

Minister Creecy said it was an honour and privilege to preside over the august conference over the past two years and extended her best wishes to her successor, Minister Abdul Karim Salt of Senegal.
GBVF: We can eradicate this scourge together

On 31 July, Pan-African Women’s Day was observed under the theme: “Financial Inclusion of Women: Challenges and Opportunities”. Our goal is to allow women across Africa to trade on the continent, across borders.

By Malite Nkoana-Mashabane
Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

As we launched Women’s Month 2021 in August, we honoured, remembered and saluted all women from all generations who have been part of our struggle and have made significant contributions for our nation’s freedom, democracy and development.

This year, we commemorated Women’s Month under the theme: “The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: Realising Women’s Rights”. This was in recognition and celebration of the 150th birthday anniversary of Mme Charlotte Maxeke Mamilya-Maxeke.

Women’s Month provides a unique opportunity to pay tribute to the role and contribution of women in shaping the current South Africa’s democratic dispensation.

It also an opportunity to reflect on what progress we have made and current challenges in achieving gender equality in our country.

We once again commemorated Women’s Month and Women’s Day under difficult circumstances due to the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This pandemic has further exacerbated the plight of women by increasing women’s economic and social insecurity.

Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the suffering with heart-wrenching impact on individual women, children and LGBTQI+ persons, families, communities and society as a whole.

Despite the difficult situation confronting us, it was of utmost importance that we used the month of August to turn the spotlight to the plight of women in this country.

Women and the LGBTQI community in our country continue to experience the worst forms of violence and abuse.

Women’s economic inclusion and access to the mainstream of the economy should be a priority. We have to provide women the key to feminism from the shackles of depending on their perpetrators for livelihoods.

We therefore call on all government departments and the private sector to give 40% of procurement to women-owned business, even when there’s no legislation, as we all have a moral duty to have a just and equal society as enshrined in our Constitution, and reach 50-50 by 2030.

On 31 July, Pan-African Women’s Day was observed under the theme: “Financial Inclusion of Women: Challenges and Opportunities”. Our goal is to allow women across Africa to trade on the continent, across borders.

The African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement will create the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating.

Access to information on how to register a business, how to do business with the State, in all languages, remains a challenge for tens of thousands of women.

In August 2021, government started a series of radio shows on 11 of South Africa largest stations. The focus was to answer the questions women business owners have, but cannot get answers to, especially in all African languages.

We also hosted the Women’s Economic Assembly in response to Pillar Five of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

The implementation of the action plan requires robust dialogue at every level of society in which communities are central to developing peacebuilding strategies that are able to speak to the unique conditions in each community.

The second pandemic of GBVF remains a dark stain on our country’s image. As government, we remain committed to eradicating GBVF in our lifetime.

Our priority is the implementation of the NSP on GBVF in the context of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBVF.

We have made remarkable progress in the implementation of the NSP in the following areas:

- Monthly progress reports on the implementation of the NSP were submitted to the President.
- National departments have integrated the NSP priorities in their departmental annual plans and have been reporting against their annual targets.
- We are working with provinces and districts to integrate the NSP into their provincial departmental plans, district development plans and establish district rapid response teams.
- We have developed a Draft Bill to establish a National Council on GBVF that will coordinate the implementation of the NSP to ensure that as a nation, we eradicate GBVF in this decade. We will be consulting on this Bill soon.

The implementation of the NSP is not only the responsibility of government.

I call on all sectors of our society to take ownership of the NSP on GBVF, so that we can eradicate this scourge together.

Our appeal to the nation is to be part of a collective of change-makers of all ages, ensuring equality for women and girls and realising women’s rights.

I recently attended the Women Peace Table convened by the Gertrude Shope Women’s Mediators Network.

I was inspired by the willingness of women to roll up their sleeves and contribute to long-lasting solutions to challenges facing our country.

We commend the role women played as peacebuilders in the struggle for our freedom by maintaining peace efforts and ensuring calm within communities.


Makgomo Mannya-Maxeke
Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

GBVF: WE CAN ERADICATE THIS SCOURGE TOGETHER | DIPLOMACY
Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) can be used as a tool to enhance and promote the rich diversity and complementarity of Nigeria and South Africa’s respective cultures, home-grown philosophies and indigenous languages as resources for social cohesion, unity, job and wealth creation.

For the continent to industrialise, South Africa and Nigeria, as two of the two biggest economies in Africa, must lead the charge and put into place mechanisms and interventions to mitigate the current challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The two continental giants, with their buoyant economies and vibrant youth, are poised to change existing perceptions about the developmental trajectory of the entire continent. They are better placed to deliberately work together to demystify the stigma attached to the notion that Africa is rich with mineral resources, yet remains home to the poorest people in the world.

A lot has been written about this narrative, but little has been done to change it. In one of his many inspiring quotes, Nelson Mandela reminds humanity that “like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made, and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice … Sometimes, it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.”

It is upon the current generation of our youth to eradicate the scourge of poverty, but they cannot do it alone. They will need the support of those who did it before, including the support of government, the private sector and other key institutions and stakeholders.

Dr Bobby J Moroe
Deputy High Commissioner of South Africa to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

For the continent to industrialise, South Africa and Nigeria, as two of the two biggest economies in Africa, must lead the charge and put into place mechanisms and interventions to mitigate the current challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Many of the youth in both countries are armed with a multiplicity of skills, which can be exchanged and shared among themselves through various training programmes. They possess enough energy to contribute to the growth of their respective economies through a variety of activities.

Dr Bobby J Moroe
Deputy High Commissioner of South Africa to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

South African and Nigerian youth must collaborate in pooling indigenous knowledge for job creation

It is upon the current generation of our youth to eradicate the scourge of poverty, but they cannot do it alone. They will need the support of those who did it before, including the support of government, the private sector and other key institutions and stakeholders.

UBUNTU South Africa’s Public Diplomacy in action Issue 25

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) can be used as a tool to enhance and promote the rich diversity and complementarity of Nigeria and South Africa’s respective cultures, home-grown philosophies and indigenous languages as resources for social cohesion, unity, job and wealth creation.

For the continent to industrialise, South Africa and Nigeria, as two of the two biggest economies in Africa, must lead the charge and put into place mechanisms and interventions to mitigate the current challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The two continental giants, with their buoyant economies and vibrant youth, are poised to change existing perceptions about the developmental trajectory of the entire continent. They are better placed to deliberately work together to demystify the stigma attached to the notion that Africa is rich with mineral resources, yet remains home to the poorest people in the world.

A lot has been written about this narrative, but little has been done to change it. In one of his many inspiring quotes, Nelson Mandela reminds humanity that “like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made, and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice … Sometimes, it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.”

It is upon the current generation of our youth to eradicate the scourge of poverty, but they cannot do it alone. They will need the support of those who did it before, including the support of government, the private sector and other key institutions and stakeholders.

Dr Bobby J Moroe
Deputy High Commissioner of South Africa to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

SOUTHAFRICAN AND NIGERIAN YOUTH MUST COLLABORATE

For the continent to industrialise, South Africa and Nigeria, as two of the two biggest economies in Africa, must lead the charge and put into place mechanisms and interventions to mitigate the current challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

In 1675, scientist Isaac Newton wrote a letter to associated scientist Robert Hooke, which combined this powerful quote on succession, support and mentorship: “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” What this means is that in order to gain more insights about what needs to be done to overcome poverty, the youth of today can lap into the wells of wisdom of those who have come before. Similarly, they too should leave the traces of their footsteps for posterity.

The youth of Nigeria and South Africa share similar developmental challenges, and value system aspirations. Many of the youth in both countries are armed with a multiplicity of skills, which can be exchanged and shared among themselves through various training programmes. They possess enough energy to contribute to the growth of their respective economies through a variety of activities.

According to Young Africa Connects, before the end of the 21st century, more than a billion young people will reach working age, making it the largest labour market in the world. As the job market becomes competitive, employers expect African youth to have relevant and employable skills. However, the notion that African youth lack skills is often grossly misplaced, and only linked to skills that are required in the formal workplace.

Today, most African youth possess skills, but they do not match skills required in the workplace – this must not, therefore, suggest that they are unskilled. They are just skilled differently, outside the often Eurocentric definition of what constitutes a skilled person.

Individually and collectively, the youth of today are able to make things happen for themselves. What they require is the necessary support from both the private sector and government.

Both South African and Nigerian youth are ambitious, enthusiastic, energetic and promising – they are an asset. Many of them are tech-savvy and involved in online business activities through social media. Today, it is not unusual to buy a variety of products through social media platforms. Those who are not involved in online business platforms are selling products, including food, clothes, accessories and hair and beauty products. They are active and vibrant contributors to the economic growth of their respective countries. However, they are considered vulnerable in society because of the rapid pace of change they experience at this time in their lives.

The unemployment or unemployability of youth in Africa aggravates efforts made by governments to promote their respective economies. This phenomenon has also led to social immorality among the youth themselves.

Bringing the youth of both countries together is essential in mitigating and circumventing the prevalent social immorality borne by unemployment. There is a lot that can be done to advance the course of the youth. One area that has received little attention among the youth is the appreciation and understanding of IKS.

The concept of IKS refers to bodies of knowledge, technologies, skills, beliefs and values system that are the cultural and ecological diversity, consider indigenous is not necessarily what is traditional, but whatever the youth in both countries, in general, and South Africa and Nigeria in particular, have always been sources of creativity and inspiration for non-African global designers, musicians, painters and other categories of artists.

It is upon the current generation of our youth to eradicate the scourge of poverty, but they cannot do it alone. They will need the support of those who did it before, including the support of government, the private sector and other key institutions and stakeholders.

ubuntu 46
Afrika in general, and South Africa and Nigeria in particular, have always been sources of creativity and inspiration for non-African global designers, musicians, painters and other categories of artists.

In this regard, it is important that the private sectors of both countries support these initiatives. South Africa and Nigeria, as two of the largest economies in Africa, can leverage on their sizeable, diverse and dynamic private sectors to facilitate and support the building of youth-led digital cultural and creative industries for job and wealth creation in times of the pandemic. To take the first step in realising such a form of social cohesion, there will be a need to develop a database of identified/relevant youth organisations, the private sector and other stakeholders in both countries as champions who could promote and contribute to the effective implementation and impact of the project initiative.

It will also be critical that a concept note to the effective implementation and impact of the project initiative.

A concise and unambiguous roadmap will become a strategic mechanism to implement the project initiative, including building partnerships with diverse stakeholders. Through an organised platform/dialogue, the voices of the youth will be strengthened, their role in society will be clearly defined and their commitment to being creative will be revealed.

Convening a youth task team and regular meetings will assist in setting the ball rolling towards formal engagement about pragmatic programmes. The task teams may be established according to communities of practice (art forms, food cultures, textile designs and so on) to profile the rich knowledge and skills among the youth in both countries, which could contribute to the establishment of digital cultural and creative industry platforms for job and wealth creation.

The South Coast has many natural, economic and structural advantages:

- Market access — gateway to the Eastern Cape, close proximity to Durban Harbour
- Direct flights to Johannesburg daily from Margate Airport, and weekly to Cape Town
- Skilled workforce
- Ease of doing business, government committed to supporting business
- Competitive operational environment — Ugu offers investors many advantages including competitive labour costs and low cost of living
- Subtropical climate

Let Ugu South Coast Development Agency assist you

Ugu South Coast Development Agency is responsible for ensuring that foreign investors have the information and support they need to take advantage of the business opportunities in the following sectors:

- Property Development
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Ocean Economy
- Small-scale Mining
- Manufacturing

Endless Opportunities

With abundant natural advantages, close proximity to fast-growing SA economies, a well-skilled workforce and a stable economy, Ugu represents an unrivalled investment destination.

How we help investors

We understand the complexities of investing and provide the information required for you to make good investment decisions in a coordinated approach that saves investors time and money.

Our specialist investment team provides a range of business and investment services to investors:

- Detailed industry knowledge about business costs
- Preparing business cases
- Arranging site visits
- Introduction to industry and service providers
- Government liaison
- Market intelligence
- Partnering with local councils, economic development agencies/departments and private service providers to identify investment-ready projects.

Snapshot of Ugu – South Coast

Province: KwaZulu-Natal
Economic Hub/City: Port Shepstone
Climate: Subtropical
Summer: 20°C to 22°C
Winter: 15°C to 22°C
Coastline: 112km
Total area: 5,047km² (1,949mi²)
Population: 722,484
Airport: Margate Airport

www.uscda.org.za • info@uscda.org.za • 039 682 3881
The message that Freedom Park sends to every South African is this: look at where we come from, look what we have lived through — if we can do that and survive, then our future must hold infinite possibilities. Let Freedom Park open your mind to these possibilities.

Everything at Freedom Park is representative of our history, culture, spirituality and indigenous knowledge. Even the 360° view of the capital city from Salvokop Hill symbolises a link between the past, present and future. From here you can see the Voortrekker Monument — a reflection of the past; the Union Buildings — our current governance; and UNISA’s Centre of Knowledge — engendering a sense of knowledge and development for the future.

Freedom Park is a one-stop heritage destination because we narrate the history, culture, spirituality and indigenous knowledge systems of our nation.

Freedom Park honours those who took a stand and sacrificed for a better South Africa. We want our youth to know that there is a place that recognises such heroes and heroines. Our youth’s contributions mattered so much in the history of our nation. It is, however, time for today’s youth to take their lead from those who have gone before and take a stand to build this nation even further.

EDUCATING OUR NATION’S YOUTH

We have a fully-equipped education unit that arranges activities that bring together youth from diverse backgrounds to talk about culture and heritage. We also have specific programmes for basic and tertiary education and a special Youth out of School programme that teaches young people about where they come from and assists them to develop a sense of pride in their own identity. We teach young people about tolerance and acceptance, and to understand and respect each other. We believe that racism and intolerance often result from ignorance and misconceptions about who you are.

Freedom Park also focuses on school tours but is aware that accessibility becomes an acute challenge; hence the outreach programmes that aim to take Freedom Park to the people.

Our visiting hours are 08:00 – 16:30, Monday through to Sunday. We offer scheduled guided tours 09:00, 12:00 and 15:00.

For a tour, please contact us on 012 336 4020.

AWARD-WINNING LOCATION

Besides visiting Freedom Park for a tour, or to spend time learning, reflecting and praying, it is also the perfect location for corporate functions and retreats, picnics, and even concerts. This beautiful and inspiring venue offers state-of-the-art technology and facilities, as well as a peaceful space for walking, hiking and bird watching. ‘When you’re at Freedom Park you’ll forget that you’re in the city centre. In recent years, Freedom Park was voted among the top 10 architecturally outstanding museums in the world and Pretoria’s best heritage destination. We believe these are testaments to the beauty and uniqueness of Freedom Park.

Please visit us on www.freedompark.co.za
Blacks won that test, the series was drawn and set up every meeting to come as an unofficial world championship. Tours occurred around once every decade, with each meeting highly anticipated and intensely followed. In 1956, 61,240 people watched the All Blacks defeat the Springboks at Eden Park – a record crowd for a rugby game in Aotearoa New Zealand that stands to this day.

The 1981 Springbok tour
Our rugby relationship has not been without its controversy, as most famously represented by the 1981 Springbok tour to New Zealand. This tour inspired widespread, nationwide protests in Aotearoa New Zealand against apartheid in South Africa. The protests had a profound impact on the New Zealand community at the time, and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa was buoyed by the protests in New Zealand. Nelson Mandela recalled that when he was in his prison cell on Robben Island and heard that the Hamilton rugby game had been cancelled, it was as “if the sun had come out”.

Our rugby relationship grows from strength to strength
Since the end of apartheid, the relationship has continued to grow. Together, the All Blacks and the Springboks have combined to be the most successful sides in the professional era. And despite many hard-fought games, there has always been a deep respect between the two sides. Perhaps one of the greatest signs of respect for the All Blacks for their greatest rival came in 2005, when the All Blacks debuted their new haka for the Springboks in Dunedin. The haka is a type of ceremonial Māori (the indigenous people of New Zealand) dance or challenge that can be used to intimidate opponents on the sports field. The All Blacks perform the haka before each match to show strength and physical prowess. The debut before a Springboks game was a sign of respect and recognition of the Springboks’ strength, and since then, Kapa O Pango (meaning “Team in Black”) has only been performed before the All Blacks’ most important test matches.

We can also be excited that a new era of rugby competition between Aotearoa New Zealand and South Africa lies with the Black Ferns and Springbok Women. Although the two sides have only played once, we are excited to watch the development of the women’s game across both countries.

How sport can bring people together, inspire and unify
As we reflect on the last 100 years, one aspect is evident: Sport is not “just a game”. Sport can bridge relationships across social, economic and cultural divides within society. As seen through the 1981 Springbok tour, sport can build a sense of shared identity among groups that otherwise may have not felt a common sense of purpose. Mandela once said: “Sport has the power to change the world; it has the power to inspire; it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers.”

With Mandela’s prophetic words in mind, we are celebrating our rugby relationship contemporary through a six-week sports diplomacy campaign that aims to demonstrate how sport can bring people together, inspire and unify. Central to our campaign is a social media campaign to increase public awareness of the strength and longevity of our rugby relationship. Our campaign will use archived photos to “tell the story” of 100 years of playing rugby together, including touching on many of the iconic moments and players in our shared history. Our aim is to reach out to a broad audience, including the wider South African public. We want to connect with both ardent rugby fans who will enjoy a trip down memory lane, as well as bring on-board a new generation of rugby fans.

Our campaign also includes in-person events to further increase awareness of the enduring relationship between South Africa and Aotearoa New Zealand through highlighting our shared interests. We hosted New Zealand and South African friends for an informal networking event in Cape Town to celebrate the centenary. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have certainly given us all a new appreciation of the universal language of sport to connect, and we are excited for both of these events to reconnect old friends, as well help forge new relationships.

For 100 years, rugby has brought South Africans and New Zealanders together, both on and off the field. The Māori have a whakatauki (proverbial saying) He waka eke noa. The translation of this is “the canoe which we are all in without exception”, meaning that we are all in this together. We look forward to another 100 years playing together, and continuing to build our relationship with South Africa through a common identity we share in rugby. “

Celebrating 100 years of rugby between New Zealand and South Africa: How sport can bring people together, inspire and unify

By Rebecca Williams
Acting High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission to South Africa

Aotearoa New Zealand and South Africa enjoy a deep and diverse relationship, with strong political and economic ties as well as long-standing people-to-people and historical links. We have fought together, and joined our voices against apartheid together.

We have also played sport together. Rugby has provided a common purpose to bring our two nations together, and it has strengthened the close bonds between our people. 2021 marks 100 years of the sporting rugby relationship between the All Blacks and the Springboks. And what a relationship it’s been – from historic wins to bitter defeats, from controversial tours to legendary players from both sides of the ledger.

For so many New Zealanders and South Africans, rugby is an intrinsic part of our culture and our history. Some of us will remember eating oranges at half time during school rugby games, or watching a local game from the grassy sidelines. Others of us will recall sitting down with our family, or meeting a group of friends at a local pub, and watching one of the iconic rugby games of yesteryear. All of us, I’m sure, will remember the iconic image of Nelson Mandela, wearing a Springbok rugby jersey, shaking the hand of a victorious Francois Pienaar holding the 1995 Rugby World Cup. It was a symbolic moment in South Africa’s history, where all South Africans were united as one, and a moment where rugby played an integral role in facilitating a step towards reconciliation across the nation. For us kiwis who were somewhat shell-shocked at Joost van der Westhuizen’s drop goal in extra time (including myself, as a 15-year-old at the time whose bedroom wall was plastered with rugby posters), we also felt a great privilege to be part of history, and part of something bigger than a rugby game.

In the beginning
Where did it all begin for the All Blacks and Springboks? The two great sides first met in Dunedin on 13 August, 1921. While the All Blacks surprised many by coming out on top during their first test against the Springboks in 1921, the story was different when the sides met again in a return test in Auckland the following year. On 25 September 1922, the Springboks ran out 13-9 winners at Eden Park, handing the All Blacks their first-ever defeat in New Zealand.

For 100 years, rugby has brought South Africans and New Zealanders together, both on and off the field. The Māori have a whakatauki (proverbial saying) He waka eke noa. The translation of this is “the canoe which we are all in without exception”, meaning that we are all in this together. We look forward to another 100 years playing together, and continuing to build our relationship with South Africa through a common identity we share in rugby. “
Cosmos flowers in full bloom along the roadside in the eastern Free State.
**Liberation heritage: Tsietsi Mashinini**

**Tsietsi Mashinini** was born on 27 January 1957 in Western Jabavu, Soweto. Clad in his famous school uniform with a lean tie on, Mashinini’s image immaculately hid the fiery revolutionary who led and agitated students across Orlando township on that fateful, yet defining day, on 16 June 1976.

The events of that day were to catapult him into a radical young man, leading masses in the student uprisings. He was already active in his local Methodist parish and chairperson of the Methodist Wesley Youth Guild at the age of 16. As a student at the famous Morris Isaacson High School where it all began, he chaired the school’s Debating Society.

Mashinini joined the branch of the South African Students Movement as a member, a student body established to assist students with the transition from Matric to university. He was elected president of the Soweto Student Representative Council (SSRC) at the time of his 16. As a student at the famous Morris Isaacson High School where it all began, he chaired the school’s Debating Society.

Mashinini delivered a moving and remarkable speech, calling for a mass demonstration the following Wednesday, 16 June. About 20 000 uniformed students joined the mass demonstration that day. As they marched down in a throng, they came across a police barricade on their way to the mass demonstration assembly point. He stood on a makeshift podium to make an impromptu, yet spirited address, telling students to march peacefully, orderly and not to provoke the police.

On that fateful and historic morning of 16 June, at Morris Isaacson High School during assembly, Mashinini climbed onto the podium and led students into song, and out of the school grounds towards their assembly point for the planned student demonstration.

They were then joined by students from other schools in Soweto. It is estimated that about 20 000 uniformed students joined the mass demonstration that day. As they marched down in a throng, they came across a police barricade on their way to the mass demonstration assembly point. He stood on a makeshift podium to make an impromptu, yet spirited address, telling students to march peacefully, orderly and not to provoke the police.

The horrific events of that day, which saw the South African police shoot live bullets at peacefully protesting students, turned him into an instant hero and an activist of national importance. Not surprisingly after 16 June, he became the most wanted man in the country by the apartheid police. He nonetheless continued to promote the message of student resistance against Bantu education, particularly the use of Afrikaans as a medium of education in black schools.

Against harassment by the State and imminent police arrest, he stood firm and steadfastly by issuing press statements, calling for students to boycott classes and wrote critically of the police’s actions on 16 June that saw innocent students massacred. He became a sworn enemy of the apartheid government with police continuously searching for him, a situation that compelled him to flee the country. The police even offered a reward for information that could lead to his arrest and he was declared the most wanted person in South Africa at the time.

On that fateful and historic morning of 16 June, 1976 assisted in the biggest recruitment drive that saw large numbers of youth joining the ranks of the African National Congress (ANC) and its military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe, eventually leading to more vigorous mass action, international boycotts against apartheid and finally, the forced political fortunes in South Africa.

He eventually left the country for a brief stay in Botswana. Mashinini later visited the United Kingdom and the United States where he addressed the United Nations on the brutalities of the apartheid regime. By many accounts, however, Mashinini did not join any of the established liberation movements in exile, the ANC or the Pan-Africanist Congress, preferring to call for their unity.

He died mysteriously in Guinea Conakry in 1990, on the eve of South Africa’s political emancipation. In the end, Tsietsi Mashinini paid the ultimate price for fostering a revolution against the oppressive Bantu education system and apartheid in general. He will always be remembered as a fearless fighter and student leader whose name would forever be etched in memory as one of the outstanding leaders of the South African revolution, and for the sacrifices that he made for his country to be liberated.

On 27 April 2011, the South African Government honoured Tsietsi Mashinini with the Order of Luthuli in Bronze for his inspirational leadership to young people, for the sacrifices he made while leading students against Afrikaans as a medium of instruction and for his role in the struggle against apartheid.
South Africa has always recognised tourism’s crucial role in developing and growing an inclusive economy. And the fact that it is listed as one of eight interventions in its recovery plan illustrates this point.

Policy priorities to support Africa’s transformation to a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic recovery

Despite the economic growth prospects outlined above, the continued uncertainty about when the virus would finally be contained will continue to pose a major threat to Africa’s recovery. It is therefore important that we continue to pay attention to policy priorities that seek to mitigate the impact of the pandemic but also bolster Africa’s transformation to a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic recovery.

It would be critically important that we continue to focus on the following priorities, among other initiatives, that individual countries are taking:

• continuing support for the health sector to consolidate gains in the fight against the pandemic
• effectively using monetary and fiscal support to underpin the economic recovery where policy space remains available
• expanding social safety nets and making growth more equitable to address income poverty
• scaling up active labour market policies to retool the workforce for the future of work
• intensifying structural transformation through digitalisation and economic diversification to build resilience
• fostering regional and multinational co-operation to ensure sustained and wide-spread recovery.

Reopening African markets

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a more negative impact on our tourism activities in the...
We are ready to take our fair share of the World Tourism Organisation’s estimate that tourism in Africa could more than double to 134 million tourists in 2030 as opposed to 50 million we had in 2010.

It is estimated that tourism jobs in the East African region dropped by 46%, from 4.1 million to 2.2 million, according to a new report published by the East African Business Council. It is estimated that a total of US$87.8 million is needed to implement the East African tourism sector’s recovery plan.

As we embark on new ways of doing business and hosting the peoples of the world, let’s draw lessons from the experiences of the pandemic and ensure that our businesses are more robust and agile for future sustainability. Soon, certainly, we will gather again like we did before.

It is therefore important that we are aligned as a continent when we adopt measures to reignite the tourism industry. This is crucial for building inclusive recovery.

Vaccination drive

Reports have shown that tourism in countries with a high share of vaccinated people will rebound faster than in countries with a low share.

The nature of the COVID-19 pandemic is that new variants are bound to develop as a natural evolution of the virus. This is why, while vaccination remains absolutely important, non-pharmaceutical interventions such as maintaining social distancing, wearing masks and sanitising remain critical.

International tourism recovery will strongly depend on pandemic trajectories, travel restrictions and vaccine development.

The African Union (AU) has made great strides to ensure the vaccines are administered securely. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Consortium for COVID-19 is a knowledge hub that brings together vaccine developers, funders and African organisations that conduct clinical trials to collate information on the virus and act on their findings.

The AU also launched the Pan-African biosurveillance technology, called PanaBIOS, which can track the spread of the Coronavirus and connect testing centres across the continent.

South Africa’s Tourism Recovery Plan

South Africa has always recognised tourism’s crucial role in developing and growing an inclusive economy. And the fact that it is listed as one of eight interventions in its recovery plan illustrates this point.

The Department of Tourism has drawn up and is implementing its Tourism Sector Recovery Plan, which is in line with the Government’s broader Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, with the following strategic interventions:

• implement norms and standards for safe operations across the value chain to enable safe travel and rebuild traveller confidence
• stimulate domestic demand through targeted initiatives and campaigns
• strengthen the supply-side through resource mobilisation and investment facilitation
• support for the protection of core tourism infrastructure and assets
• execute a global marketing programme to reignite international demand
• tourism regional integration
• review the tourism policy to provide enhanced support for sector growth and development.

South Africa needs to reset the tourism sector on the continent. We hope to make immediate gains through inter-regional and domestic travel to sustain the sector. We are ready to take our fair share of the World Tourism Organisation’s estimate that tourism in Africa could more than double to 134 million tourists in 2030 as opposed to 50 million we had in 2010. We are gearing ourselves for that.

In South Africa, we regard ourselves as a desirable tourism destination, which accounts for a substantial amount of the country’s revenue.

This path we are about to undertake in reviving tourism in Africa will not be an easy one, especially if we do not harness the energy of our oneness, our unity of purpose and our common dream of a destination connected and united.

It is a long road ahead, but the interventions outlined here will go a long way to rebuilding the sector.
How a film is fighting the erasure of South African activist Dulcie September

South Africa, like any country, has a unique set of characteristics that influence how films reach audiences. That's why it's so important to document and share case studies of local impact campaigns that cater to the South African context, audiences, challenges and opportunities.

By Liesl Maasdorp
Senior Lecturer in Screen Production and Film and Television Studies, University of Cape Town

Film impact involves designing and implementing strategies to ensure a social justice film reaches the right audience so it has the best chance to bring about the desired change. Social change takes many forms, from creating awareness and changing perception to behaviour and policy change.

South Africa, like any country, has a unique set of characteristics that influence how films reach audiences. That's why it's so important to document and share case studies of local impact campaigns that cater to the South African context, audiences, challenges and opportunities.

With this in mind, I hosted a panel discussion about the impact campaign of Murder in Paris at the Encounters documentary festival recently. The event was supported by the University of Cape Town and Sunshine Cinema’s Film Screening Impact Facilitator course.

Murder in Paris tells the 1988 assassination of Dulcie Septembre, an anti-apartheid activist jailed by the South African government who later left the country. In exile, she worked for the resistance, the African National Congress (ANC), becoming its chief representative in France, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

The fast-paced documentary reveals the ongoing attempts by her family and a journalist to find justice, revisiting and interrogating the cold case. Most recently, it shared the Best South African Documentary Award at the Durban International Film Festival. Director, Enver Michael Samuel, also won the festival’s Human Rights Award.

The panel discussion with Samuel and the film’s impact producer, Miki Redelinghuys, covered the film’s impact goals and some of the tough distribution decisions they’ve had to make to reach the right audiences to try and bring about awareness and change.

What were the impact goals for the film?

Miki Redelinghuys: The low-hanging fruit of any impact is awareness. It’s also the first impact goal in this campaign, but we’re calling that “the erasure.” Secondly, a big driver is “justice for Dulcie.” Thirdly, addressing family trauma. So very clear, very simple impact goals … We were guided by a quote from academics Kelly-Eve Koopman and Rasmus Blish: “The cost of erasing Dulcie September and others like her is not only the billions that could have been spent on a society in dire need. It is also the opportunity to accurately understand the past in order to improve the future. And, of course, justice.”

Enver Samuel: I knew there was going to be something strategic that needed to be in place because it wasn’t going to be that the broadcast stage was the all and end all … The documentary had to take on another life after the broadcast, which it is actually doing at the moment.

This erasure of Dulcie September is ongoing … When you tell people about her generally – if you’re not within ANC circles – the question is: “Dulcie what? Dulcie, who is that?” Then when you explain, it’s “Oh my, why didn’t I know about this person?” So, I think we are contributing to un-erasing the name of Dulcie September.

Miki Redelinghuys: Key to this process has been building a community. Léa Vermuelen, the co-impact producer on this project, has been working hard on building a community alongside Enver, from 2018 already. Reaching out to people, gathering names. Gradually placing the story out there, getting people to interact on social media, subscribing to a newsletter. Our #RememberDulcieSeptember campaign, to be implemented by doing screenings and a school campaign, rolled out in August, which was Women’s Month and also Dulcie’s birthday month. And then “say her name”, making Dulcie visible in public spaces; a public art campaign; and actively driving for key landmarks to be named in recognition of Dulcie.

Can you tell us more about the justice for Dulcie aspect of the campaign?

Enver Samuel: It’s become one of our pinnacle goals. It’s 33 years later and the family are still suffering the anguish of not knowing (who killed Dulcie) … The Truth and Reconciliation Commission failed them. The French courts failed them. So, they have recently started an initiative to get the case reopened. And I’m pleased to say that their French lawyers have said they’ll introduce the documentary as part of the evidence submission to get it reopened.

How did the trauma you observed while making the film drive the social justice work?

Enver Samuel: When that window is open for you as an observer, making a documentary, you start to realise the pain and the anguish of the families … the bodies are bent, the language, the voice, you know. I guess that is in some ways my driving motivation to try and tell these stories.

Miki Redelinghuys: That motivation drives the third goal in the impact campaign. #MerciDulcie (Thank you Dulcie), which is about using the film to address family trauma, to open dialogues … to revisit this unresolved pain. Not that we, for one minute, think the film can offer resolution. But, I think there’s a certain healing in recognition and dialogue.

Why was it important to prioritise screenings on the public broadcaster in South Africa?

Enver Samuel: That’s where you get the bums on seats. For me, that’s always been the main mission. I’ve done it with the three documentaries I’ve just made. If you’re making these types of documentaries, the more people that see it the better, because that’s contributing to the un-erasure.

So, I pushed with SABC3 to also get the documentary shown on a significant day. Human Rights Day … The second part (was broadcast) one day before the 33rd anniversary of Dulcie’s assassination. Doing this way, has borne some fruit because the documentary made the top 15 of the audience ratings for SABC3 (in the month it was broadcast). That jeopardised my film festival chances, because it can’t be entered into official competition. So, that’s something filmmakers must keep in mind. But, for me that wasn’t a reason to not roll it out.

How are your distribution plans for Europe different?

Enver Samuel: France is damouring to watch the documentary. I mean, Dulcie was there for five years. If you look at the archive footage during her funeral you would think that it was a funeral for a rock star. Currently, we’re re-cutting the documentary for a European audience … We arranged for a travelling exhibition on Dulcie September’s life to come to the Nelson Mandela Foundation (when French President Emmanuel Macron was on a State Visit to South Africa). The CEO took President Macron on a tour. And, he knew who Dulcie September was. He knew that she had been assassinated there, and, he uttered – for us – the immortal words: “We will look into it.” The French lawyers are over the moon by this.

Miki Redelinghuys: That was a big moment for us and we continue to build on that … And as Enver mentioned earlier, that part of the campaign is actually making it into the international version of the edit as well. So, the two are constantly connecting; the film and the campaign itself.

Questions have been adapted and minor edits were applied to answers for ease of reading.

This article was first published on The Conversation.
In a world first, South Africa grants patent to an ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE system

Given the policy environment and the vast potential of AI, the granting of the patent makes sense. Perhaps, this will turn out to be a strategic masterclass by the South African office, which will lead to a much more innovative nation.

By Meshandren Naidoo
PhD Fellow and Lexis Nexis Legal Content Researcher and Editor, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Artificial Intelligence

I first glance, a recently granted South African patent relating to a “food container based on fractal geometry” seems fairly mundane. The innovation in question involves interlocking food containers that are easy for robots to grasp and stack. On closer inspection, the patent is anything but mundane. That’s because the inventor is not a human being — it is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) system called DABUS.

DABUS (which stands for “device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentience”) is an AI system created by Stephen Thaler, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming. The system simulates human brainstorming and creates new inventions. DABUS is a particular type of AI, often referred to as “creativity machines” because they are capable of independent and complex functioning. This differs from everyday AI like Siri, the “voice” of Apple’s iPhones. The patent application listing DABUS as the inventor was filed in patent offices around the world, including the United States (US), Europe, Australia and South Africa. But only South Africa granted the patent (Australia followed suit a few days later after a court judgment gave the go-ahead).

South Africa’s decision has received widespread backlash from intellectual property experts. Some have labelled it a mistake, or an oversight by the patent office. However, as a patent and AI scholar whose PhD aims to address the gaps in patent law created by AI inventors, I suggest that the decision is supported by the Government’s policy environment in recent years. This has aimed to increase innovation, and views technology as a way to achieve this.

Creativity machines

Creativity machines can process and critically analyse data, learning from it. This process is known as machine learning. Once the machine learning phase has occurred, the machine is able to “autonomously” create without human intervention. As has been seen in the COVID-19 pandemic, as just one example, AI is able to solve problems humans were unable to — and also much faster than people can.

Over the years, there have been many kinds of creativity machines. Prior to DABUS, Thaler built another AI, which created novel sheet music, and which he credited with inventing the cross-bristle toothbrush design. He filed a patent for the cross-bristle design, and it was granted — proving AI’s ability to generate truly novel inventions that meet the standards for patents. However, Thaler listed himself, rather than the AI, as the inventor at that time.

When it came to the food container invention by DABUS, Thaler, assisted by Ryan Abbott of the University of Surrey, decided instead to list DABUS as the rightful inventor, as the invention was entirely devised by the AI. This was the start of their push for AI to be recognised as inventors the world over. The US Patent and Trademark Office and the European Patent Office rejected these applications in the formal examination phase. They gave three reasons. First, their respective patent laws only provide for human inventors — not AI — as indicated by the use of pronouns such as “him” and “her” in their text. Second, ideas for the purposes of patents, require the element of “mental conception” — something of which only a human mind is capable. Finally, inventorship comes with rights, which AI is not legally capable of possessing.

Much to the surprise of the global community, South Africa’s patent office, the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, granted the patent, recognising DABUS as an inventor. It has not yet explained its reasons for doing so.

This patent was published in July 2021 in the South African Patent Journal, with major news agencies, including The Times, reporting on the matter.

The granting of the DABUS patent in South Africa has received widespread backlash from intellectual property experts. The critics argued that it was the incorrect decision in law, as AI lacks the necessary legal standing to qualify as an inventor. Many have argued that the grant was simply an oversight on the part of the commission, which has been known in the past to be less than reliable. Many also saw this as an indictment of South Africa’s patent procedures, which currently only consist of a formal examination step. This requires a check box sort of evaluation: ensuring that all the relevant forms have been submitted and are duly completed.

Critics feel that if South Africa instead had a substantive search and examination system in place, the DABUS patent application would have been rejected.

Enabling policy environment

While it is possible that the commission erred in granting the patent, South Africa’s policy environment in recent years suggests otherwise.

The first relevant policy was the Intellectual Property Policy of the Republic of South Africa Phase 1 of 2018. It marked the beginning of patent reform in the country. Since then, from 2019 to 2021, three other notable instruments have been published: the Department of Science and Technology’s White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation; the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution; and the proposed National Data and Cloud Policy in terms of the Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005.

The core message of all these documents is that South Africa’s government wants to increase innovation to solve the country’s socio-economic issues. There is clear worry about issues such as poor innovation levels, lack of funding and lack of suitable infrastructure, which is necessary to really capitalise on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Given the policy environment and the vast potential of AI, the granting of the patent makes sense. Perhaps, this will turn out to be a strategic masterclass by the South African office, which will lead to a much more innovative nation.

This article was first published on The Conversation.
CAPE TOWN WELCOMES YOU

VISIT, LIVE, WORK, PLAY
& INVEST IN ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES ON EARTH

Cape Town has been voted the world’s Best City by readers of the UK’s Telegraph for five consecutive years, and there’s good reason why. We rank among the world’s top destinations to visit and have all the attributes that appeal to people looking for a great city in which to live, work, play and invest.

Cape Town is a proudly inclusive city, welcoming all who can join us in our vision to create a safe, sustainable, vibrant urban environment for generations to come.

We are national leaders in business and have a thriving knowledge economy, our skills market is growing and the city offers numerous opportunities for work and investment.

Cape Town is also a proud recipient of a number of international awards and accolades. In 2018, the city was named one of the Top 10 Surf Cities in the world by Surfer Magazine and crowed the number one city in Africa for business tourism events by the International Congress and Convention Association. Cape Town has also been voted one of the Top 10 Cities in the World for Travellers by Lonely Planet in 2017, Skytrax voted our airport the Best in Africa and international real estate company Savills ranked the Cape Town amongst the world’s Top Tech Cities in a 2017 report.

VISIT

Cape Town is a must-visit destination. Cape Point, Groot Constantia, Kirstenbosch, Robben Island, the Table Mountain Cableway and the V&A Waterfront are the iconic destinations that form the core of the true Cape Town experience, and a trip to the city will not be complete without a visit to each Big 6 attraction. Cape Town also has the highest number of Blue Flag beaches in South Africa. Seven of the city’s most popular beaches and three Cape Town marinas have been recognised for meeting the globally-acclaimed Blue Flag standards.

Beaches awarded the prestigious status include: Bikini Beach, almonds, Strandfontein, Llandudno, Camps Bay, Clifton 4th and Silverstrom.

Cape Town has a number of world class museums that offer up a treasure trove to the past. A number of these museums are located in the city centre – all within walking distance of each other – and together offer a view as diverse and entertaining as the city itself.

The state-of-the-art Zeitz MOCAA – recently voted the world’s top cultural destination – is the latest addition to the Cape Town landscape and the first major museum in Africa dedicated to contemporary art. The museum, housed in the historic Grain Silo at the V&A Waterfront, comprises over 9,500 square meters (102,000 square feet) placing it among leading contemporary art museums worldwide.

Zeitz MOCAA is spread over nine floors, of which 6,000 square meters (65,000 square feet) is dedicated to exhibiting space. Through an entire floor dedicated to education, the museum aims to develop a new art buying, museum-going audience.

LIVE

Cape Town has a terrific mixture of areas to live from vibrant city living to quiet, leafy residential suburbs. The city is known for its successful property market. In recent years Cape Town’s property values and sales transactions have exceeded Johannesburg’s and continue to attract international property investors. The city and surrounds is also home to four public universities, two globally recognised business schools and a number of trustworthy private and public institutions. Educational institutions situated in the city include the University of Cape Town, University of Western Cape and the Cape Town University of Technology. Cape Town is also fast becoming the most digitally connected city in Africa. The City’s public Wi-Fi service and other digital inclusion projects are part of a broader Digital City Strategy, which aims to make Cape Town the most digitally connected city in Africa. Other elements of the strategy include investment in digital infrastructure, digital business initiatives, and a focus on digital government.

WORK

Cape Town is making sure that our infrastructure investments support key sectors, like the tech industry. An extensive open source fibre optic network has been installed with plans to extend the footprint over the forthcoming years.

PLAY

Cape Town hosts a wide range of local and international events - from concerts and community based events to business conferences and international sports tournaments.

One of the fastest growing sectors in Cape Town’s economy is the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, with many global call centres and online retailers like Amazon choosing to conduct their operations from our shores.

INVEST

Cape Town is South Africa’s oldest city, its second most populous and an important contributor to national employment. It is the legislative capital of South Africa, the administrative and economic centre of the Western Cape, and Africa’s third biggest economic hub.

The Mother City produces 9.8% of South Africa’s gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for more than 7% of the Western Cape’s economic activity (Global Insight, 2016). The City has a diversified economy, and the three biggest sectors are: finance, insurance, property and business services. Cape Town is attracting thinkers, innovators and design-led entrepreneurs who are helping to build an ecosystem that is strong in many aspects of the knowledge economy. The city is the leader on the African continent in the information technology sector, with more tech start-ups than anywhere else on the continent.

Cape Town has been chosen as the African headquarters of innovation by companies such as Barclay Rise and Thomson Reuters. The city is also the home to many of South Africa and Africa’s financial institutions, and, coupled with the national headquarters of many legal and consultancy firms, offer all the services needed to underpin a global drive into Africa.

Cape Town is South Africa’s Public Diplomacy in action UBUNTU.
WoF praised after successful expedition in Canada

Following the successful mission, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, praised the South Africans for their “professionalism and high-performance standards” expressed by Canadian authorities.

“Working on Fire (WoF) continues to make strides towards becoming a leading agency in integrated fire management following its successful expedition in Manitoba, Canada.

Early in August 2021, 109 firefighters and management from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment’s WoF programme were deployed to Manitoba to assist provincial firefighting authorities with wildfire fighting efforts.

Following the successful mission, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, praised the South Africans for their “professionalism and high-performance standards” expressed by Canadian authorities.

She said the vote of confidence was indicative of the success of the WoF programme and its capabilities in integrated fire management over the past 18 years.

“This was by far one of the most successful international deployments and indeed a huge vote of confidence in the South African Government’s Expanded Public Works Programme, WoF. These young men and women represented our country with pride and dignity, their work ethic, professionalism and fitness levels were highly regarded in Canada,” Minister Creecy said.

Sharing her experience, Jini said that upon deployment, she felt valued and trusted by the programme for such a responsibility, which she would forever be grateful for.

Her responsibilities on the mission included building a relationship between the Incident Management Team (IMT) and South African deployees.

“My continuous engagement with IMT was very critical. I joined the IMT meetings in the mornings and evenings or at any other point in time as the need arose. I had to join hands in achieving the objectives of the Incident Command (IC) and make sure the assignments assigned to my teams were met accordingly,” Jini said.

Jini said that the experience she attained back home played a critical role in assisting the efforts to stop the wildland fires in Manitoba.

Being an operational manager played a critical role in contributing to the objectives of the incident. I had to understand their fire behaviour first and I would be able to play my role. The refresher training that was done prior to our departure from South Africa was never in vain.

“On arrival in Winnipeg, we went through an orientation on camping because this time around, teams would camp next to the fire lines assigned to them. We had five divisions: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta and Echo. These divisions were placed in different areas in the Cold Lake Fire Complex.

“Each division had 20 crew members led by one strike team leader. Each team had an allocated pump operator and chain-saw operators. Our teams worked independently with very little supervision from the Canadians. Our teams could maintain the pump machine without delaying the operations by waiting for the Canadians to assist. We recorded zero injuries on the fire line,” Jini said.

Jini applauded the professionalism on how things were conducted, including risk assessments, which were conducted prior to any task.

She described this as a proud moment for the firefighters and everyone who was deployed on the mission.

“We are very proud with countless words for accomplishing the assignment and being trusted by the country for such objectives. We will continue serving regardless of the circumstances. One of the values of WoF is adaptability and I think we did just that,” Jini said.

Jini expressed her gratitude to all who played a role (from the Canadian teams, the IC, to the kitchen staff who looked after the team) for the consistent appreciation of the South African team, the teamwork demonstrated and for lessons imparted during this deployment while maintaining focus on the objectives of the assigned work.”

Working on Fire (WoF) is an Expanded Public Works Programme aimed at providing work opportunities to young men and women. The programme resides under, and is funded by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

Participants are recruited from marginalised communities and trained in fire awareness and education, fire prevention and fire suppression skills. In addition, they are also trained in skills such as first aid, carpentry, cooking, health and safety and communications.

WoF recruits and trains young men and women from across South Africa, with a strong focus on marginalised communities and people with disabilities. There are currently more than 5 000 participants stationed at 200 bases across the country in the programme, 94% of whom are youth, 31% are women (the highest level in any comparable fire service in the world) and 3% disabled.
African youth speak out for the protection of our oceans

The concurrent call-to-action discussions were testament that African youth have a voice, which they are determined to make heard one way or the other. African youth stood unified in the plea for increased protection of our oceans but protection tailored for Africa and her people.

On 19 and 20 August 2021, the first-ever virtual African Youth Summit took place, with over 500 youth from across Africa in attendance. The summit brought together African youth from all walks of life with prominent experts in the field of marine conservation, representatives of youth-led organisations, educational institutions, artists, musicians and students.

In the first-ever virtual event of its kind on the continent, a youth-driven marine group called Youth4MPAs, in partnership with WILDOCEANS, and supported by World Surf League PURE, The Pew Charitable Trusts and Oceans4lindi launched the African Youth Summit, focussing on uniting youth across Africa, engaging with global marine experts and amplifying their young voices to advocate for the protection of its oceans.

The African Youth Summit was primarily aimed at building ownership and stewardship by the youth (for the youth), of the global 30x30 initiative.

The summit provided a platform for interdisciplinary and intergenerational collaborations and engagements that will help build capacity to further engage in the 30x30 message on international platforms, and with key decision-makers.

“The summit reinforces the importance of ensuring the active participation of youth leaders as we collectively work to conserve our blue planet,” said Masha Kalirina, senior officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts. “Today, more than 80 countries have joined the call to action to protect at least 30% of our global ocean by 2030. The support of individuals and networks of African youth means that their voice can build on this momentum to secure a robust agreement for the high seas and to set targets to conserve our marine environment over the next decade.”

The summit was particularly important in that it built and expanded new and already existing networks and relationships across Africa and remains a legacy for future generations of ocean advocates. It also promoted unity and patriotism among Africa’s youth that will greatly impact our ocean’s capacity to produce oxygen, sequester carbon and provide food and livelihoods for billions of people. They are also important for the future because they can protect depleted, threatened, rare and endangered species. In addition, MPAs generate economic benefits such as revenue from nature tourism and ecosystem services, making nature another economic sector in its own right.

South Africa has already protected 5.4% of its waters. The National Plan committed to protecting 10% by 2020, which has not been achieved yet, with hopes for this milestone in 2021. This will go a long way in contributing to the global ocean target of protecting 30% of our oceans by 2030 (30X30). Scientific research indicates that the effective protection of at least 30% of the global ocean is needed to reverse adverse impacts, preserve fish populations, increase resilience to climate change and sustain long-term ocean health. Protecting at least 30% of the global ocean is the minimum to maintain a healthy and sustainably managed ocean and achieve socio-economic goals.

Creating a unified voice for African youth by building strong relationships and networks

“As an active youth movement, with the vision of generating youth voices that educate and create awareness about ocean health, protection, and sustainability - we are inspired to forge an African network of young people that take change in shaping the future of our oceans,” said Morissa Naidoo, Youth4MPAs’ spokesperson.

WILD OCEANS Project Manager, Rachel Kramer, also added that, “young people represent the largest population group on the African continent. The youth have the potential to become a formidable force if they are equipped with the tools to engage in the ocean conservation conversation. We believe that engaging youth fulfils their right to participation and ensures the continued survival of Africa’s magnificent marine biodiversity and the ecosystem services the ocean provides. This is the ocean they will ultimately inherit – we all need to do our part in better protecting it.”

The concurrent call-to-action discussions were testament that African youth have a voice, which they are determined to make heard one way or the other. African youth stood unified in the plea for increased protection of our oceans but protection tailored for Africa and her people. These discussions will lead the way for African youth involvement in key decisions for Africa’s future of marine protection. The discussion themes were linked to jamboree documents, which were kept open for two weeks to allow for continuous additions from youth. These will then be collated into a call-to-action letter that will later be presented to global leaders in the spaces of ocean protection.

The summit was filled with emotion, inspiration, humour and passion where the youth got to navigate through non-conventional spaces to speak about biodiversity crises and the importance of protecting our oceans.

“Our goal was to bring together African youth and create a safe space where we could discuss issues that brought us to the edge of our comfort zones and pushed us to think about things in a different way,” said Kajal Lachman, African Youth Summit Coordinator. Prof. Buscher highlighted the critical importance of including youth in the processes of managing and protecting governed areas.

“Youth are very important. We need to bring together young people to change the discourse in South Africa and raise their voices on conservation efforts. I also urge the youth to tell us how they want to get involved because they are the drivers of change.”

The art workshop, music and film festivals featured local (African) artists, including Umtuli Namanyange, Dr Gcina Mhlophe, Nomakwazi Becker, Jamila Janna and Tembisa Jordaan, who were seeking transformational change while creating awareness and conveying the message of conservation through their art.
Research and development are key to resilient food systems in Africa

Ultimately, Africa’s food system needs to produce healthy and nutritious food that meets the standards of the global end consumer. Innovation at every level of the food system is crucial to achieving this objective.

By Lulama Ndibongo Traub, Technical Chair, Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes, Stellenbosch University; Thomas Jayne, MSU Foundation Professor, Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University; and Wandle Shitholo, Visiting Research Fellow, WitS School of Governance, University of the Witwatersrand

What will it take to build sustainable, resilient food systems in African countries? This was among the questions considered at the 2021 United Nations (UN) Food Systems Pre-Summit in late July. The summit, the first of its kind this century, aimed to identify bold, innovative actions, with measurable outcomes. These actions are needed to achieve many of the Sustainable Development Goals in what the UN has dubbed the ‘Decade of Action’.

African ministers of agriculture met before the summit to discuss the continent’s common position. Among the issues they tabled was using agriculture to reduce poverty, particularly for women and youth. We want to contribute to the African common position by flagging the importance of technical innovation and the role of agricultural research and development (R&D) in building the food systems the continent needs.

When agriculture grows, there are benefits across the board. Its extensive linkages with the off-farm stages of the agrifood system and non-farm sectors expand employment and livelihoods in the rest of the economy. High-farm production growth in sub-Saharan Africa since 2000 has contributed to high overall economic growth and improvements in the welfare of most people in the region. But, approximately 75% of Africa’s agricultural production growth resulted from area expansion and only 25% from yield improvements. This is not sustainable in the long run: 90% of Africa’s available arable land is located in eight countries. Many of these countries are fragile states.

The future livelihoods of millions of land-constrained African farmers will depend on raising the productivity of existing farmland. Technical innovation is key to raising yields and productivity. This sort of innovation comes from continuous investments in agricultural R&D and extension systems. Examples include higher yielding seed varieties, mechanisation, improved soil management and conservation practices. Profitable and efficient fertiliser use is also critical.

Spending below target

In 2006, African leaders met in Khartoum, Sudan, and pledged to allocate 1% of agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) to R&D. However, most countries in sub-Saharan Africa have failed to achieve this target. The average for sub-Saharan African countries is only 0.38%.

We examined the International Food Policy Research Institute’s Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators database for more nuanced detail. It revealed that, for the latest available year, only six of the 40 sub-Saharan African countries tracked – Botswana, Cabo Verde, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe – spent more than 1% of agricultural GDP on agricultural R&D.

As a continent, Africa has set a target and made a political commitment. It needs to get serious about achieving this target. Governments must identify and address the factors constraining their ability to achieve the 1% target. The consequence of not achieving this includes constrained productivity and limited transformation of Africa’s agricultural sector. Ultimately, it also means slower progress in reducing poverty and food insecurity.

While it’s a necessary condition, increased R&D spending alone is certainly not sufficient. It’s also important for African countries to produce agricultural innovations and technologies at all levels of the food system.

Innovation at all stages

While it’s a necessary condition, increased R&D spending alone is certainly not sufficient. It’s also important for African countries to produce agricultural innovations and technologies at all levels of the food system.

An interesting pattern emerges when looking at the number of published patents by Africans in Africa across two decades: 2000 – 2009 and 2010 – 2019. In fields of technologies with greater on-farm application, the number of patents published increased between the two decades.

For example, in biotechnology and environmental technology, the number of patents published increased from 133 to 200 and from 197 to 212, respectively.

However, in fields with greater technology application in downstream levels of the food system, the number of patents published tended to decline between the two decades. In food chemistry, this number fell from 216 to 190. Handing technologies saw a significant decline in the number of patents published, from 650 in 2000 – 2009 to 264 in 2010 – 2020.

Ultimately, Africa’s food system needs to produce healthy and nutritious food that meets the standards of the global end consumer. Innovation at every level of the food system is crucial to achieving this objective.

In addition, beyond the hard sciences, we need to think differently about which disciplines contribute to the adoption of agricultural innovations at scale. People don’t typically think of the social sciences and humanities when discussing agricultural R&D. In general, investments in these disciplines tend to be a small share of gross domestic expenditure on R&D. This trend needs to be reversed.

Social scientists can achieve two important goals in the food system. First, they can provide relevant evidence to support decision-making. Second, social scientists can provide concrete evidence to policymakers on how alternative national agricultural investments will affect welfare. They are able to facilitate dialogue between stakeholders to set priorities, shape research agendas and build coalitions of support on the way forward. For example, they can help to create platforms or dialogue spaces that ensure global research institutions do not crowd out local institutions and instead work collaboratively with them to share knowledge.

Sustainable solutions

Agricultural R&D focussed on farm productivity is critical. However, resilience and sustainability of the entire food system will be enhanced by public investments that include technologies relevant to the downstream stages of the food system, too.

And in the conversation on R&D, let’s not forget the role social scientists can play in helping policymakers appreciate the actions needed to achieve their national objectives. The combination of strengthened R&D for the food system and stronger local policy analysis will certainly help Africa realise its “Decade of Action”.

The future livelihoods of millions of land-constrained African farmers will depend on raising the productivity of existing farmland. Technical innovation is key to raising yields and productivity. This sort of innovation comes from continuous investments in agricultural R&D and extension systems.
AFRICA has a great strategic plan: Now it needs to roll up its sleeves and take action

Now, more than ever, leaders need to lean into the strategic frameworks they helped develop, but they also need to roll up their sleeves and work with a broad set of stakeholders to develop practical ways to achieve their aspirations within these frameworks.

By Carlos Lopes
Professor at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town

When the United Nations (UN) started framing its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2012 – a shared blueprint for working towards global peace and prosperity by 2030 – Africa was the first region to submit its list of priorities.

The continent was quick to act as it was in the process of finalising its Agenda 2063 framework, which sought to articulate African aspirations for the coming decades. It was a product of the celebrations of the 50th year of the Organisation of African Unity, now known as the African Union (AU). Such a symbolic product of the celebrations of the 50th year of Africa’s history. Most African countries have the most important integration project in the continent – the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is an amazing success story, and the most important integration project in Africa’s history. Most African countries have signed and ratified the agreement. But, since it was officially launched in January this year, progress has been hampered by disagreements over appropriate dispute mechanisms, clauses around rules of origin and intellectual property rights.

It is a difficult task transitioning from general agreement – a shared vision of the future – to practical implementation that delivers on development progress. But, failing to mobilise behind a common agenda, with tangible action, could have dire consequences.

This is one of the reasons we can’t just leave things to governments. Those of us interested in advancing sustainable development in Africa need to find ways to broaden and deepen engagement and conversation around these critical issues and create the space where the diverse capacities of multiple stakeholders can be leveraged to find innovative solutions to the many challenges that the continent faces.

To this end, events such as the International Summit on SDGs in Africa, in September 2021, organised by the University of Cape Town, played a valuable convening role. The summit enabled countries to revisit goals and targets in the light of effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Scholars from across the globe were able to define a roadmap that considers recurrent financing challenges but also the signs of a much stronger commitment to social protection and managing climate change.

Collaboration needs to be real and practical

The pandemic serves as a good example here. Despite proclamations of goodwill and good intentions towards Africa, when push comes to shove, the behaviour of the continent’s main partners has been selfish. It started with personal protective equipment, then vaccines, and more recently with ventilators. For example, soon after the outbreak, countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States introduced measures to restrict exports of protective equipment. For its part, the European Union remains resistant to calls to waive vaccine-related patents.

Africa has been here before. Billions of people died of HIV/AIDS during 17 years of protracted negotiations over intellectual property rights to get a patent waiver. Many calls by developing countries to accelerate Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights waivers on anti-retroviral drugs to save the lives of populations deeply affected by the spread of HIV/AIDS were ignored until the pharmaceutical interests shifted to ensuring large purchases by donors of their products about to lose their profit edge.

Now, Africa is asking for a waiver for COVID-19 vaccines and is facing the same discussions.

In any event, Africa shouldn’t see relinquishing of intellectual property rights as a silver bullet. Materials required for manufacturing, the right supply chains and time to build stock, all need solving. Additionally, issues around ethics and law need to be considered.

Recognising this complexity, the Africa Centres for Disease Control has launched no fewer than three initiatives – the AU’s Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, the African Medicines Agency and the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum – aimed at establishing an ecosystem to enable manufacturing of vaccines on the continent.

All of this calls for discussion between a wide cross-section of stakeholders to prioritise areas of strategic focus, as well as scope actions that will accelerate progress before the next crisis hits. Collaboration can’t be a chimera; it needs to be real and practical. But, collaboration also cannot take place in a vacuum.

A common trial

As new COVID-19 variants spread, the commonality of the threat we face is clear to see. To be purely tactical and try to tackle this disease with a narrow, temporary focus, allowing protectionism to rear its ugly head, will limit Africa’s capacity to address the problem today. It will also do nothing to strengthen our resilience for the challenges of tomorrow.

It is here that the UN’s SDGs and AU’s Agenda 2063 vision have a key role to play. While their time frames – the SDGs are 2030 – are long and their aspirations lofty, it’s exactly these qualities that can help us lift our heads when times are tough; to see the big picture and to know where we are aiming for.

Now, more than ever, leaders need to lean into the strategic frameworks they helped develop, but they also need to roll up their sleeves and work with a broad set of stakeholders to develop practical ways to achieve their aspirations within these frameworks.

It’s only through this kind of strategic cooperation leading to effective implementation that we can hope to shape the future we want and avoid the one we don’t.

Those of us interested in advancing sustainable development in Africa need to find ways to broaden and deepen engagement and conversation around these critical issues and create the space where the diverse capacities of multiple stakeholders can be leveraged to find innovative solutions to the many challenges that the continent faces.
These emissions, after escaping the confines of the electromagnetic emissions, are among the telltale signals picked up by the MeerKAT. These findings help us better understand the nature of these galaxies, and furthermore, the formation and evolution of galaxies in general — including our home galaxy, the Milky Way, which may be undergoing a similar process at the moment. This isn’t a process to worry about. It’s just something scientists want to understand better.

### Combining the data

Our study was what’s called a statistical analysis. Different astrophysical phenomena create electromagnetic waves in different wavelengths, including radio, visible light, infrared, ultraviolet and x-rays. It is therefore important to be able to combine different observations across a broad range of spectra. That’s what a statistical analysis allows.

We selected 2 094 galaxies that are active in forming stars, which means they are energetic and young — in cosmic time-scales. This is an ideal sample to study the way that galaxies grow up and the key features that affect their formation and evolution.

The distances to these galaxies are so great that light, the fastest messenger in the Universe, takes roughly one to 11 billion years to arrive from them. So, the galaxies we observe now reflect how they used to be light years to arrive from them. So, the galaxies we observe now reflect how they used to be. The distances to these galaxies are so great that light, the fastest messenger in the Universe, takes roughly one to 11 billion years to arrive from them. So, the galaxies we observe now reflect how they used to be.

Next, we studied the fundamental physical properties of these distant galaxies by combining the new observations from MeerKAT and the existing observational data from other telescopes. The MeerKAT data were collected over nearly 20 hours as part of the MeerKAT International GHz Tiered Extragalactic Exploration (MIGHTEE) project. This seeks to observe the deep extragalactic space to explore the cosmic evolution of galaxies. It is one of the MeerKAT’s large survey projects prioritised by the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory.

### Key findings

By combining the emission of light in visible, infra-red and radio from these selected 2 094 galaxies, the study measured how massive, how active and how bright they appear to be at different radio frequencies, as well as some other fundamental physical properties. Then we connected the intensities of radio emission with the measured physical properties of these galaxies.

The difference between the radio-emissions at different radio frequencies was correlated with the mass of the galaxies. On average, the most massive galaxies show the largest difference of radio emission intensity at different radio frequencies. On average, we find that the more massive a galaxy is, the larger such a difference tends to be.

Further quantitative analysis shows that this statistical trend is consistent with the radio emission from cosmic ray electrons that are gradually slowing down — a process that accompanies these galaxies throughout different stages of evolution.
not all South African rock art is ancient; some dates back to the colonial period – and was created by runaway slaves. It tells a remarkable story.

With the founding of the Cape Colony in 1652, European colonists were forbidden from enslaving the indigenous Khoi, San and African farmers. They had to look elsewhere for a labour force. And so slaves, captured and sold as property, were unwilling migrants to the Cape, transported – at great expense – from European colonies like Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, the East Indies (now Indonesia), India and Sri Lanka.

Far cheaper was the illegal trade in indigenous slaves that grew in the borderlands of the colony. Khoi-San people were forced into servitude as colonists took both land and livestock. Together with immigrant slaves, they were the labour force for the colonial project.

Desertion was their most common form of rebellion. Runaway slaves escaped into the borderlands and mounted a stiff resistance to the colonial advance from the 1700s until the mid-1800s. In most cases, the fugitives joined forces with groups of akin, mixed outlaws, who themselves were descended from San-, Khoi- and isiNtu-speaking Africans (hunter-gatherers, herders and farmers).

Thus, we find recorded examples of mixed bandit groups hiding out in mountain rock shelters, within striking distance of colonial farms. Using guerrilla-style warfare, they raided livestock and guns. In their refuge, they made rock art images within their own belief systems that relate to escape and retaliation.

These sites can be reliably dated, because they include rock art images of horses and guns. In our most recent study of rock art in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, we see that this art also provides us with the raiders perspective. Our fieldwork enables us to view something of the slave and indigenous resistance from outside the texts of the colonial record.

The paintings

These Mountainous regions house many rock shelters with paintings of the traditional corpus of “San rock art” (antelope and dances) that have become world famous. But owing to almost 2 000 years of contact with incoming African herders and farmers, the hunter-gatherer art changed in appearance, if not in the essence of its meaning. The “disconnected” was most stark, however, during colonisation.

The artists’ societies were deeply affected, disrupted and decimated. Where any art continued, it was that of the mixed outlaws, often referred to simply as “Bushmen” but who were actually a composite of many cultural backgrounds.

The paintings themselves are also mixed – some brush-painted, some finger-painted – but are united by subject matter pertaining to spiritual beliefs concerning escape and protective power. Certain motifs, including baboons and ostriches, continued to be used, but now appearing alongside motifs such as horses and guns. This suggests some continuity in the recognition of these animals, mystical or otherwise, as subject matter pertinent to people’s changed circumstances.

Despite these changes, bandit groups, however mixed they were, held onto, and even highlighted, some specific traditional beliefs.

Ritual specialists

The location of one band of mixed outlaws, in the Markazana River Valley in today’s Eastern Cape, comes from the record of the 1920s settler, poet and abolitionist Thomas Pringle. During our fieldwork in this area, we found rock paintings of horses, riders with guns and cattle raids that can be reliably dated to approximately when Pringle was writing.

That diverse groups of bandits painted depictions of cattle raids suggests that raiding was a fundamental concern for these groups. If we have learnt anything from the last five decades of southern African rock art research, it is that images are not the mere depictions of what the artists saw around them. Rather, they are of what ritual specialists see while travelling through the spirit world.

In the case of bandit groups, the ritual specialist often performed the role of war-doctor, who supplied traditional medicines to ensure protection in dangerous situations, including cattle raids and the flight from servitude.

It is telling that these images also include motifs relating to protection during raids as can be seen in the appearance of certain animals, especially baboons and ostriches.

Baboons are associated with protection across Khoi-San and African farmer society. The Xam San people of the 1800s claimed that the baboon chewed a stick of so-/oa, a root medicine which would alert the user (animal or human) to approaching danger and keep it safe. Among the Xhosa there is a cognate belief in uMabophe – arguably the same root medicine. Like so-/oa, uMabophe was supplied by ritual specialists to those who wished to exert supernatural influence over projectile weapons, including turning “bullets to water”.

Protective animals

Many of these images are painted with a fine-line, unshaded technique. But, there are also images that are finger-painted in black or bright orange pigment, which have a distinctly Khoi-speaker inflection. In technique, they strongly resemble the art of the Korana raiders, to the north of the colony, who were known to take in runaway slaves.

Further into the hinterland, as if to mark the fighting retreat of bandit groups as the colonial frontier expanded, we discovered rock shelters in the Stornberg and Zuurberg that exhibit yet more features of an indigenous resistance ideology. In one, are images of people with horses and guns, as well as baboons and ostriches.

The ostrich was recognised by Khoi-San groups as particularly adept at escaping danger. It could outrun most predators and leap over hunters’ nets. Khoi-San would, and still do, tie the tendons from ostrich legs to their own legs to combat fatigue. Ostrich eggshell was recognised as a medicine that could be ground and consumed as a fortifying tonic. In the art of bandits, images of ritual specialists transforming into ostriches or baboons attest to them drawing on the powers of protective animals to ensure their own escape from former captors or following stock raids.

The bandit's view

Although never officially recognised as slaves, the Khoi-San were uprooted from their land and forced by European settlers and forced into bondage. This brought them in contact with immigrant slaves, alongside whom they often escaped. In defiance, they raided their former captors and other settlers and in rocky hideouts they painted their concerns.

The rock art of bandit groups is bound up with beliefs in the ability to call upon the protection of the supernatural. Baboons and ostriches, painted with images of livestock and people on horseback with firearms, were heralded for their associated powers pertaining to escape and protection while raiding.

For these runaway slaves, rock art was one of several crucial ritual observances performed to prevent the likelihood of ever returning to a life of oppression.

By Sam Challis, Senior Researcher, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); and Brent Sinclair-Thomson, Support Staff, Wits

In the art of bandits, images of ritual specialists transforming into ostriches or baboons attest to them drawing on the powers of protective animals to ensure their own escape from former captors or following stock raids.
The first-ever dictionary of South Africa’s Kaaps language has launched – why it matters

A Kaaps dictionary will validate it as a language in its own right. And it will validate the identities of the people who speak it. It will also assist in making visible the diverse cultural, linguistic, geographical and historical tributaries that contributed to the evolution of this language.

By Adam Haupt, University of Cape Town

It’s been in existence since the 1500s but the Kaaps language, synonymous with Cape Town in South Africa, has never had a dictionary until now. The Times’ Dictionary of Kaaps has been launched by a collective of academic and community stakeholders – the Centre for Multilingual and Diversity Studies at the University of the Western Cape along with the hip hop-driven community NGO Heal the Hood Project. The dictionary – in Kaaps, English and Afrikaans – holds the promise of being a powerful democratic resource. Adam Haupt, Director of the Centre for Film and Media Studies at the University of Cape Town, is involved in the project and tells us more.

What is Kaaps and who uses the language?

Kaaps or Afrikaaps is a language created in settler colonial South Africa, developed by the 1500s. It took shape as a language during encounters between indigenous African (Khoi and San), South-East Asian, Dutch, Portuguese and English people. It could be argued that Kaaps predate the emergence of an early form of Kaaps-Hollandse (the South African variety of Dutch that would help shape Afrikaans). Traders and sailors would have passed through this region well before formal colonisation commenced. Also consider migration and movement on the African continent itself. Every intercultural engagement would have created an opportunity for linguistic exchange and the negotiation of new meaning.

Today, Kaaps is most commonly used by largely working class speakers on the Cape Flats, an area in Cape Town where many disenfranchised people were forcibly moved by the apartheid government. It’s used across all online and offline contexts of socialisation, learning, commerce, politics and religion. And, because of language contact and the temporary and seasonal migration of speakers from the rest of South Africa, it is spoken and across South Africa and beyond its borders. It is important to acknowledge the agency of people from the global South in developing Kaaps – for example, the language was first taught in madrassas (Islamic schools) and was written in Arabic script. This acknowledged is imperative especially because Afrikaner nationalists appropriated Kaaps in order to create the dominant version of the language in the form of Afrikaans. A “suiwer” or “pure” version, claiming a strong Dutch influence, Afrikaans was formally recognised as an official language of South Africa in 1925. This was part of the efforts to construct white Afrikaner identity, which shaped apartheid based on a belief in white supremacy.

How did the dictionary come about?

The dictionary project, which is still in its launch phase, is the result of ongoing collaborative work between a few key people. You might say it’s one outcome of our interest in hip hop art, activism and education. We are drawn to hip hop’s desire to validate black modes of culture and insists on standard language varieties by designating often black modes of speech as “slang” or marginal dialects.

Can a dictionary help overturn stereotypes?

Visibility and the politics of representation are key challenges for speakers of Kaaps – it’s in the media, which has done a great job of lampooning and stereotyping speakers of Kaaps – or in these speakers’ engagement with governmental and educational institutions.

For example, think about theKaaps tradition of koesisters – fixed south connotations – which was appropriated (taken without acknowledgement) and the treats were named koesisters by white Afrikans. They were claimed as a white Afrikaner tradition. The appropriation of Kaaps reveals a great deal about the extent to which race is socially and politically constructed. As I have said elsewhere, cultural appropriation is both an expression of unequal relations of power and is enabled by them.

When people think about Kaaps, they often think about it as “mixed” or “impure” (“verouder”). This relates to the ways in which they think about “racial” identity. They often think about coloured identity as “mixed”, which implies that black and white identities are “pure” and bounded; that they only become “mixed” in “inter-racial” sexual encounters. This mode of thinking is biologically essentialist.

Of course, genicists now know that there is not sufficient genetic variation between the “races” to justify biologically essentialist understandings. Enter cultural racism to reinforce the concept of “race”. It polices culture and insists on standard language varieties by designating often black modes of speech as “slang” or marginal dialects.

It will be a resource for its speakers and valuable to educators, students and researchers. It will impact the ways in which institutions, as loci of power, engage speakers of Kaaps. It would also be useful to journalists, publishers and editors keen to learn more about how to engage Kaaps speakers.

A Kaaps dictionary will validate it as a language in its own right. And it will validate the identities of the people who speak it. It will also assist in making visible the diverse cultural, linguistic, geographical and historical tributaries that contributed to the evolution of this language.

Kaaps was relegated to a slang status of Afrikaans?

Acknowledgement of Kaaps is imperative especially because Afrikaner nationalists appropriated Kaaps in order to create the dominant version of the language in the form of Afrikaans. A “suiwer” or “pure” version, claiming a strong Dutch influence, Afrikaans was formally recognised as an official language of South Africa in 1925. This was part of the efforts to construct white Afrikaner identity, which shaped apartheid based on a belief in white supremacy.

It is important to acknowledge the agency of people from the global South in developing Kaaps – for example, the language was first taught in madrassas (Islamic schools) and was written in Arabic script. This acknowledgement is imperative especially because Afrikaner nationalists appropriated Kaaps in later years.

This article was first published on The Conversation.
Pretoria is one of South Africa’s three capital cities, serving as the seat of the executive branch of government, and as host to all foreign embassies to South Africa. The city straddles the Apies River and extends eastward into the foothills of the Magaliesberg mountains. Pretoria is informally known as “the Jacaranda City”, for its beautiful purple-lined streets when the jacaranda trees are in full bloom.
SA Paralympians inspire the nation

International Paralympic Committee Chief, Andrew Parsons, declared the Games closed on a cool night in the Olympic Stadium, saying they had "not just been historic, they've been fantastic".

South Africa competed at the 2020 Summer Paralympics in Tokyo, Japan, from 24 August to 5 September 2021. The team of 34 athletes flew the South African flag high, bringing home seven medals.

Except for one gold medal in cycling, all the team’s medals, four gold, one silver and two bronze, were won in athletics. Three African and three world records were also set in athletics.

The very first gold of the sporting event was earned by Annaru Weyers and the second by Ntando Mahlangu.

Weyers won her gold in the women’s 400m (T47) final. She won in a time of 56.05, cruising ahead of Venezuela’s Lisbeli Vera in second (57.32).

Mahlangu – who scooped two gold medals – addressed a delighted crowd. He said in the past three or so weeks in Japan, he and his teammates “grew together and we’ve become one”.

He said for him, the Paralympic Games became “not about Ntando Mahlangu anymore. I was running for the nation. Even in my long jump – I gave it my best. And then on the last jump – I was not jumping for myself anymore. I was jumping for the nation.”

He said it was an honor to see how happy his achievements had made people, and he hoped he had restored Ubuntu in South Africa.

"I think that was the whole idea for myself – I just have to believe in ourselves as a country. I really hope that I get to bring back Ubuntu in SA."

Weyers, who won the country’s first gold medal at the Paralympics said: “I’m really proud to be part of Team SA and really honoured that the logo in Tokyo was ‘United by Emotions’ … and it definitely was united by emotions.”

She said “every single member of this team gave everything while they were on the track” and that it had been a “proud moment to see them do the best they can.”

The third medal earned by Team South Africa, was by long-distance runner Louzanne Coetzee and her guide Erasmus Badenhorst. Coetzee earned the silver in the 1500m final (T11). To earn her place in the race, Coetzee beat her personal best of 4:49.24. She then went on to set the new African record for the 1500m with a time of 4:40.96.

Pieter du Preez won the gold medal in the men’s H1 cycling time trial on Tuesday, 31 August.

Earlier, the race almost ended in disaster for Du Preez after another competitor swerved in front of him.

The famous track, nearly two hours outside of Tokyo, is known in motorsport as a fast track, and hosted the Japanese Grand Prix until 2009. It also has one of the longest straights in motorsport, at 1.475 km.

Sheryl James won bronze in the women’s 400m T37 final on Tuesday, 31 August, at the Olympic Stadium. James won the country’s fifth medal at the Tokyo Paralympics and the first bronze of the Games. Running in lane six, the 35-year-old crossed the finish line third in a wet and rainy Tokyo, running a personal best of 1:03.82.

On Friday, 3 September, Mahlangu stormed the home straight to grab his second gold medal of the Tokyo Paralympics in the men’s 200m T61 final in 23.59 seconds.

Louzanne Coetzee applied the finishing touches to Team SA’s campaign at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics when she surged to the bronze medal in the women’s marathon (T12) on an overcast morning in the Japanese capital on Sunday, 5 September 2021.

International Paralympic Committee Chief, Andrew Parsons, declared the Games closed on a cool night in the Olympic Stadium, saying they had “not just been historic, they’ve been fantastic”.

"I really hope that I get to bring back Ubuntu in SA."

"We are guided by our core values of an athlete-centred and excellence-driven sports system. Our aim is to provide incentives and to applaud individual athletes and teams who continue to make our nation proud by displaying exceptional performance and attaining remarkable results."

Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, announced the following financial incentives for medal-winning Tokyo Games 2020 Paralympic and Olympic athletes and their coaches:

• gold medal winners would be rewarded with R450 000 with their coach earning R120 000
• silver medal winners would be rewarded with R220 000 with their coach earning R70 000
• bronze medal winners would be rewarded with R100 000 with their coach winning R30 000
• world record-breaking feats would earn athletes R40 000.

"The third medal earned by Team South Africa was by long-distance runner Louzanne Coetzee and her guide Erasmus Badenhorst. Coetzee earned the silver in the 1500m final (T11). To earn her place in the race, Coetzee beat her personal best of 4:49.24. She then went on to set the new African record for the 1500m with a time of 4:40.96.

Pieter du Preez won the gold medal in the men’s H1 cycling time trial on Tuesday, 31 August. Earlier, the race almost ended in disaster for Du Preez after another competitor swerved in front of him.

The famous track, nearly two hours outside of Tokyo, is known in motorsport as a fast track, and hosted the Japanese Grand Prix until 2009. It also has one of the longest straights in motorsport, at 1.475 km.

Sheryl James won bronze in the women’s 400m T37 final on Tuesday, 31 August, at the Olympic Stadium. James won the country’s fifth medal at the Tokyo Paralympics and the first bronze of the Games. Running in lane six, the 35-year-old crossed the finish line third in a wet and rainy Tokyo, running a personal best of 1:03.82.

On Friday, 3 September, Mahlangu stormed the home straight to grab his second gold medal of the Tokyo Paralympics in the men’s 200m T61 final in 23.59 seconds.

Louzanne Coetzee applied the finishing touches to Team SA’s campaign at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics when she surged to the bronze medal in the women’s marathon (T12) on an overcast morning in the Japanese capital on Sunday, 5 September 2021.

International Paralympic Committee Chief, Andrew Parsons, declared the Games closed on a cool night in the Olympic Stadium, saying they had “not just been historic, they’ve been fantastic”.

"I really hope that I get to bring back Ubuntu in SA."

"We are guided by our core values of an athlete-centred and excellence-driven sports system. Our aim is to provide incentives and to applaud individual athletes and teams who continue to make our nation proud by displaying exceptional performance and attaining remarkable results."

"Rewarding of excellence, especially every four years with the primary focus on the Olympics, has been a permanent feature on our sporting calendar," Minister Mthethwa said.

Sports, Arts and Culture Minister, Nathi Mthethwa, announced the following financial incentives for medal-winning Tokyo Games 2020 Paralympic and Olympic athletes and their coaches:

• gold medal winners would be rewarded with R450 000 with their coach earning R120 000
• silver medal winners would be rewarded with R220 000 with their coach earning R70 000
• bronze medal winners would be rewarded with R100 000 with their coach winning R30 000
• world record-breaking feats would earn athletes R40 000.

“We are guided by our core values of an athlete-centred and excellence-driven sports system. Our aim is to provide incentives and to applaud individual athletes and teams who continue to make our nation proud by displaying exceptional performance and attaining remarkable results.”

“Rewarding of excellence, especially every four years with the primary focus on the Olympics, has been a permanent feature on our sporting calendar,” Minister Mthethwa said.
I met Ntando just before the 2012 London Paralympics. I did an assessment on him when I came back from London and we fitted him with a set of blades. He’s got a set of standard blades that you see him walking around on and is extremely mobile. He’s now at Afrikaans Hoër Seunskool and is currently studying for Matric exams. He loves his sport and plays football as well. He did play a bit of rugby, but he’s too rough for his friends. So, he plays soccer with them.

“You have seen how mobile he is; going up and down stairs is no problem to him at all. “The difference between him and some of the double amputees in the Paralympic Village is that Ntando just doesn’t have any fear. And that confidence comes from wearing blades. He doesn’t wear shoes, and it might be that the fact he’s so comfortable in standard blades gives him an advantage on some of his rivals. He’s totally in sync with blades and has the ‘normal’ ability to quickly change speed. That’s the secret. “We fit all the kids at home with blades, and all the jumping kids wear blades.”

By now, you will have the picture: Snyders is the “Blades Doctor” as much as other athletes have been dubbed “Blade Runners” or “Blade Jumpers”. When asked to explain what his profession is, he does so in layman’s terms, and in doing so, probably undersells himself. Then again, once one starts to dig underneath the exterior of this passionate Afrikaner from Pretoria, you feel that he puts others before him and has a heart of pure gold.

“I’m a professional orthist,” he says. “I probably look puzzled, perhaps there’s a foreman he can see above my own mask. “That entails two sides – orthotics’ bracing and prosthetics’ [artificial] limbs, I am actually fond of rehabilitation. I use sport as a tool to do rehab for all ages, not just Paralympians. But when you lose your legs through diabetes, an accident or cancer, then sport is one of those tools where people feel they are fitting in again in society.

“That can be bowls, or fishing – or simply being out and about. It can even be youngsters just going to a beach. From a rehab perspective that is my job, to give people opportunities to just be as normal as possible again.”

Snyders, CEO of Pretoria-based Inceptosis Prosthetic Progressive Prosthetics, was involved with the start-up of the Jumping Kids charity in 2009. The vision was to provide the latest prosthetic limb technology to child amputees in South Africa and Africa with the help of corporate funding.

“Jumping Kids is about trying to give kids opportunities to get an academic qualification. To have kids mobile, they can go to a mainstream school, allowing kids to be equal to other kids. That’s the real story, what Jumping Kids is doing. We have the Steve Biko Clinic in Pretoria where we take care of youngsters. We have a good team between the orthopedic side and our side and the decisions we make are good for the children. You might ask why we fit children with blades? The answer is that blades allow the kids to be mobile. Even in the rural areas, they can then run in the sand, go down to the river, scoop up water, do everyday things.

“You have a look at the village here and you see how many double amputees are in wheelchairs. I try not to encourage that with kids. To put a kid with a disability in the sand is a disaster. People don’t always understand that the environment in South Africa is not always wheelchair-friendly.”

Mahlangu went straight into blades at the age of 10 and his exploits as an athlete have a whole new generation. Snyders is adamant that South Africa’s latest role model is going to play an important part in shaping the lives of amputees. “We have a limited time with children to develop their big motor skills,” says Snyders. “With boys, you can maybe get them to have buy-in to wearing blades at 10, 11, 12 … at 13, 14. Boys are getting busy at school and then their priorities change. They don’t play as much any more. With girls, it’s even younger. We have to stimulate big motor skills development in youngsters as soon as possible for them to be capable athletes.

“But, not all kids will be like Ntando, or run very fast, but all kids will then be mobile and go to a good school. Isn’t that supposed to be our responsibility? It’s our job. “Not the eyes. They were watery and red but the concept of providing amputees with gadgets to allow them, to be out of the ordinary. If you look at Ntando in the village compared to all the other athletes, you’ll see the advantage he has got with how comfortable and mobile he is in it.

“So, now far has Mahlangu grown in those blades in the five years since he took silver behind Britain’s Richard Whitehead in the 200m final at Rio 2016 at age 14? “The rules are stringent and clear,” Snyders says. “They stipulate how tall he can be. Ntando’s last check was in 2017, and he’s now arriving at his skeletal maturity age. He’s now not supposed to grow as much. So, we look at the specifications when we measure him and that’s according to his body, his build and what would be his appropriate height. We have a bit of leeway but he’s not much taller than he used to be. He is measured at 1.80m.

“Snyders admits that after the Paralympics, and perhaps even due to Mahlangu’s impressive world-record leap of 7.17m in the long jump and his gold in the 200m, that the eyes will be on his blades. “There’s definitely an academic side to us as a group of blades professionals. After these Games, there will be a few more papers that come out, where they will look at athletes and compare them to able bodies.

“Ntando jumped fairly far, so there’ll be comparison, but globally, we are a lot of professionals who like to work together. In the prosthetics industry, we always talk to each other and we’re friendly, and although it’s competitive on the track, we do share information.”

Mahlangu’s gold medal in the long jump came as a pleasant surprise within the Team SA squad. “When we chatted about the jump before, we talked about it being a naughty medal,” Snyders says. “It was never in our intentions to come to Tokyo and jump because the impact on his body is so much.

“But you also need to occupy the time. In the 200m, he is so dominant in that field, we needed him to be challenged, so we approached Niel [Cornelius] who is a very technical long-jump coach and explained him the kinematics. He and Ntando did the rest.

“My role is just to make the leg,” Snyders says modestly. “I need to make sure everything is fine from a functional point of view and it was extremely stressful for me to be in the middle of Niel and Ntando, but the message was clear what to do and what not to do and they were incredibly well prepared for the long jump. We always knew we had an outside chance for a medal but that last jump was absolutely phenomenal.

“Ntando has a lot of guts and we have a close relationship. He has a lot of trust in the process and the results speak for themselves. Obviously, I’m extremely proud and I’m sure South Africa is proud. We’re looking at bigger things. But, I believe we have inspired a whole group of double amputees globally who would never jump because they would be too scared. They might now think, ‘let’s maybe jump a bit not only run.’”
The 27-year-old felled the third and second seeds on her way to the final, where she was downed by no 1, Carissa Moore of the United States (US), who created magic on typhoon-driven waves at Tsurigasaki beach.

Buitendag is only the second South African woman in history to win an Olympic gong outside of athletics and swimming. Kayaker Bridgette Hartley was the first at London 2012.

Buitendag saw off Australia’s no 33 seed, Stephanie Gilmore, in the third round and no 2 seed, Caroline Marks of the US, in the semi-finals.

Buitendag had beaten Moore five times in eight outings before, but the Olympic final wasn’t to be.

Buitendag spent her formative years in Victoria Bay, a picturesque cove hidden along the West Cape between Jeffreys Bay and Cape Town. Her most treasured memories are being awakened early to go explore the surrounding coast with her father and brothers. She spoke only Afrikaans until she was 12 when her parents put her in an English school. By the age of 14, she was travelling along the South African coast to compete, and the speed and vertical angle of attack she was exhibiting with her tall frame made her an immediate standout. At 19, she finished no 2 in the Qualifying Series thanks to two big wins in Peru and the Azores and joined the Championship Tour in 2013.

She finished her rookie season as the World No 8 and did one better the following year after runner-up finishes at Snapper and Honolua Bay. Her father Colin, a well-known South African surfer, was by her side the whole way, as he had been from the beginning. In March 2015, Buitendag’s world was shattered when her father passed away.

In 2019, she secured Olympic qualification through her performances at the 2019 ISA World Surfing Games. Following Jordy Smith’s absence due to injury, she travelled to Tokyo as South Africa’s sole competitor in surfing.

These two women brought immense happiness, pride and inspiration to their nation. They have, indeed, given us hope.

SASOC | www.worldsurfleague.com | www.sowetanlive.co.za

Proudly South African:
Our Tokyo Olympic medallists

“The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 are the Olympics Games of hope, solidarity and peace.”

The 2020 Summer Olympics, officially the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and branded as Tokyo 2020, was held from 23 July to 8 August 2021 in Tokyo, Japan.

Originally scheduled to take place from 24 July to 9 August 2020, the event was postponed to 2021 in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first such instance in the history of the Olympic Games. It was largely held behind closed doors with no public spectators permitted due to the declaration of a state of emergency.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, International Olympic Committee President, Thomas Bach, noted that the athletes at the Games had given the world the “gift” of hope.

“For the first time since the pandemic began, the entire world came together. The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 are the Olympics Games of hope, solidarity and peace.”

South Africa garnered a total of three medals – two silver, and one gold, along with a new world record.

Tatjana Schoenmaker, the talented swimmer competing from South Africa, drowned her people in joy with the grand win of two medals and a new world record.

In a gripping final at the Tokyo Aquatic Centre, the 24-year-old won gold in the 200m breaststroke, prompting elation and celebration. She also smashed the world record. Her achievement in the event, which came at the end of a punishing schedule, will go down in history as one of South Africa’s greatest Olympic swims.

Not only this, the young woman was awarded the silver medal for the women’s 100m breaststroke, adding to the grandiose of her back-to-back wins.

Schoenmaker has flown the South African flag high in several international competitions and has a number of gold medals under her belt.

The professional athlete was born on 9 July 1997 in Johannesburg, South Africa. She grew up in Roodepoort before moving to Pretoria. Her father was a professional athlete, who was by her side the whole way, as he had been from the beginning. In 2015, Schoenmaker’s passion for swimming started when she was five years old. She did not make swimming her main sport until towards the end of her high school education.

In 2014, the 16-year-old Grade 11 student from Tukk Sport High school won a gold medal in the 50m breaststroke at the second Africa Youth Games, held in Botswana. She has since won at various national and international swimming competitions.

The professional athletes won two gold medals at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. She emerged victorious in the women’s 100m and 200m breaststroke.

Since coming into the limelight as one of the best female swimmers in South Africa, Schoenmaker has been recognised numerous times for her swimming prowess. SwimSwan named her the African Female Swimmer of the Year in 2019 and 2020. She also emerged as the Sportswoman of the Year and Sports Star of the Year at the 2019 South African Sport Awards.

Semi-retired surfer Bianca Buitendag from Victoria Bay stunned the world as she scooped Olympic silver at the Tokyo Games.

They have, indeed, given us hope.
Flying the FLAG

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka bags 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award

The award recognises a leader who has driven progress on a global scale toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Mlambo-Ngcuka has been honoured for fighting for gender equality and her continued advocacy in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic’s disproportionate impact on women and girls.

“By shining a light on the pandemic’s disproportional impact on women and girls, Mlambo-Ngcuka has ensured that global and local efforts to battle COVID-19 must take into account the acute disparities they face,” said Melinda French Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Former United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, has been named this year’s recipient of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award.

Thuso Mbedu wins TV Breakout Star Award for The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad actor Thuso Mbedu won the award for TV Breakout Star at the Hollywood Critics Association TV Awards on Sunday, 29 August 2021.

Due to the rising number of positive COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles, the Hollywood Critics Association made the switch from an in-person event to a virtual one. Thirty-year-old Mbedu, from Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal, bagged the award for her portrayal of Cora in the Amazon Prime series, The Underground Railroad.

Sharing the news with her followers on Instagram, Mbedu wrote: “The Underground Railroad has been an amazing journey from start to finish. I could not have asked for a better introduction to storytelling on this side of the world.”

“I am truly honoured. Truly. Thank you to every single person who has walked this journey with me. You’re loved by me. Forever.

South African hotels, resorts and lodges clean up at the 2021 World’s Best Awards

South African hotels, resorts and lodges cleaned up at the 2021 World’s Best Awards, announced by the travel magazine that’s ranked as one of the most influential publications in the travel industry.

The scores are tallied and the winners sorted into lists. Here’s which lists Mzansi featured on in 2021:

- The 25 Best Cities in the World: Cape Town (#20)
- The 100 Hotels in the World: andBeyond Phinda Vlei Lodge (#3) in KwaZulu-Natal and andBeyond Ngala Safari Lodge (tied for #88) and Lion Sands Game Reserve (tied for #88), both in the Kruger National Park.
- The Top 10 Cities in Africa and the Middle East: Cape Town (#1)

Krugern National Park named 10th most popular selfie spot in the world

The Kruger National Park has been named the 10th most popular selfie spot in the world with a winning total of over 96 734 291 selfies shared on social media.

Enjoy Travel, an international car website, asked their team to analyse social media to find the 25 Most Popular Selfie Spots in the World. The team compiled data from both Instagram and TikTok to come up with the locations that had the most selfies.

Krugern National Park made the top 10 list. From the hco-built citadel of Machu Picchu to the turquoise seas of Phi Phi Island, these are the top spots:

- Disneyland – Paris, France (Total 6 128 408 478)
- Disney World – Florida, United States of America (USA) (Total 6 014 657 716)
- Burj Khalifa – Dubai, United Arab Emirates (Total 5 955 189 556)
- Eiffel Tower – Paris, France (Total 4 199 052 059)
- Taj Mahal – Agra, India (Total 3 482 047 864)
- Grand Canyon – Arizona, USA (Total 2 233 880 404)
- Machu Picchu – Peru (Total 2 039 089 207)
- London Bridge – London, England (Total 1 119 568 402)
- St Basil’s Cathedral – Moscow, Russia (Total 1 109 165 098)
- The 3 Resort Hotels in Africa: The Oyster Box, Umhlanga Rocks (#2)
- The 5 African City Hotels: The Cape Grace (#1), The Silo Hotel (#2), Ellerman House (#3) and One&Only (#5)

“The Kruger National Park is one of Africa’s largest game reserves. It is home to a vast array of wildlife, including the Big Five. As you can imagine, safari holidays here are very popular, and so too is taking selfies. Just be sensible and abide by the park rules. Remember, these are wild animals and should be treated with respect. One of the best places in Kruger National Park to get a selfie with sleeping lions in the background is Kruger Tents. For an elephant selfie, head to the N’Wetondpo River crossing.”

www.goodegreens.co.com

South African hotels, resorts and lodges featured in the 2021 World’s Best Awards list included:

- The Top 100 Hotels in the World: andBeyond Phinda Vlei Lodge (#3) in KwaZulu-Natal and andBeyond Ngala Safari Lodge (tied for #88) and Lion Sands Game Reserve (tied for #88), both in the Kruger National Park.

www.timeslive.co.za
South African woman wins World Championship of Public Speaking

South Africa’s Verity Price is the new World Champion of Public Speaking after winning the top spot at the Toastmasters World Championship for 2021 on 28 August 2021.

The championship started with the Toastmasters clubs worldwide. Club members participate in speaking events and advance up the ranks from Area, Division, District and Region. They then work their way towards the Toastmasters semi-finals and on to the World Championship of Public Speaking.

The goal is to wow the judges with a five-to-seven-minute speech and the very best person goes on to win. Winners are catapulted into the public speaking realm where they can go on to build successful speaking careers.

Price won thanks to her speech, A Great Read. She became the fifth woman to win this title in the last 80 years of the competition. Friends, family and fans have been showering her with praise for winning the championship and raising the South African flag on the international speaking platform.

[Verity Price's image]

Dr Thato Mosehle does SA proud at Miss Supranational pageant

Medical doctor Thato Mosehle made South Africa proud after she was named second runner-up for 2021 Miss Supranational in Poland, on 21 August 2021.

The African continent thrived and shined at this year’s Miss Supranational pageant, after Chanique Rabe from Namibia took home the title and South Africa’s Mosehle made the top three in the contest.

Mosehle was the first person in South Africa to compete under the official Miss South Africa organisation banner in the pageant, after she was crowned Miss Supranational SA 2020 at the Miss SA pageant last year.

Mosehle, 26, from North West, represented Mzansi against contestants from nearly 60 other countries in the 12th edition competition that was held in Nowy Sacz, Poland, and was one of the front runners throughout the build-up to the finale.

The live show was aired on the Miss Supranational Facebook and YouTube channels and South Africans gathered to watch Mosehle, including the reigning Miss SA, Shudufhadzo Musida, and Miss Universe SA 2020, Natasha Joubert.

Speaking after the crowning, Mosehle said: “Congratulations to Chanique, she is going to be a fantastic title holder and I wish her everything of the best during the coming year.”

She added that the Miss Supranational experience was beyond her wildest expectation, and that she was delighted to have done so well in the competition.

She celebrated her win on Instagram where she expressed gratitude to South Africa for their support.

“This one is for you in South Africa! Thank you for believing in me. I hope I made you all proud,” Mosehle said in a caption under an image of her being crowned. She also thanked Werner Wessel, who was in Poland to support her.

Stephanie Weil, and Miss SA Creative Director, Musida, and Miss Universe SA 2020, Natasha Joubert, were in Poland to support her.

Mosehle last won the gold medal at downhill mountain biking’s biggest event of the year all the way back in 2013 in his home town of Pietermaritzburg, having also won in 2012 and 2003.

Greg Minnaar wins 4th World Downhill Championship for South Africa

South Africa’s Greg Minnaar stunned the field to win his fourth World Downhill Championship at the age of 39 in Val Di Sole, Italy, on Sunday, 29 August 2021.

Minnaar last won the gold medal at downhill mountain biking’s biggest event of the year all the way back in 2013 in his home town of Pietermaritzburg, having also won in 2012 and 2003.

Minnaar finished ahead of France’s Benoit Coulanges and Australia’s Troy Brosnan in third.

Fifth-last down the hill, Minnaar had to watch on as another four riders attempted to beat his time and when none of them could, the reality of another massive win sank in as the popular Santa Cruz rider was overwhelmed with emotion.

“I just dropped my head and started crying,” Minnaar said afterwards.

“I couldn’t hold back. “It’s an incredible feeling, so overwhelming,” Minnaar, who has been on the podium at the World Championships 12 times over the course of his career, is largely considered the greatest downhill mountain biker of all time with a record 23 World Cup career victories to his name.

Cape Town International Airport named as Africa’s best

The Cape Town International Airport has once again been named Africa’s best airport.

This aviation hub, which is situated in the heart of the Mother City, has scooped the top gong for the sixth consecutive year at the 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards, with Durban’s King Shaka coming second. In third place, is Johannesburg’s OR Tambo International Airport.

Conducted from August 2020 until July 2021, and assessing customer service and facilities across more than 500 airports, the annual customer survey for the passenger’s choice awards saw numerous travellers vote for their favourite airport based on pre-pandemic travel experiences.

“With many airports around the world having seen a 70% - 80% drop in passenger numbers during our survey period, we considered that our 2021 awards should reflect these conditions, and while many customers voted for their favourite airport without visiting there in the last year, we had a very large survey response for airports where users have been travelling during COVID-19,” Edward Plaisted of Skytrax said.

The World Airport Awards began in 1999 and are regarded as a quality benchmark for the world airport industry, assessing customer service and facilities across over 500 airports. Globally, Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar, was ranked as the top international airport in the world, up from third position in 2020.

Skytrax and www.gothinganguy.com
A trio of local wine estates named among the World’s Top 50 Vineyards

The 2021 ranking features the globe’s greatest wine tourism destinations in 16 countries and was compiled based on the votes of nearly 600 international wine and travel experts. According to the World’s Best Vineyards website, the vineyards that made the grade are “the best places to taste terrific wines and learn about winemaking and grape-growing. Many also offer superb views, restaurants and places to stay.”

The Zuccardi Valle de Uco vineyard in Argentina clinched the number one spot, followed by others in Spain, France, Uruguay, Chile and Italy. Creation came in at number 10 on the list and was also named continent winner for Africa.

A wine estate that was established as recently as 2002 by JC Martin and his wife, Carolyn, in the Hille-en-Aarde valley, it has become well-known for not only its fine wines but its delicious food and wine-pairing menus and breathtaking grounds where visitors are welcome to hike, cycle or admire the art on the property.

Delaire Graff Estate in Stellenbosch was ranked number 30. Opened in 2009 by Laurence Graff, the estate not only boasts wonderful wines but a five-star hotel, two restaurants, a spa and an art collection.

The third local winery on the list is Klein Constantia Winery, at number 44. Far older than the other two local estates on the list, its reputation spans many years, dating back to 1685 when it was owned by Simon van der Stel, then Governor of the Cape.

Today, its tastings, studio and restaurant dazzle visitors, with its vistas of Table Mountain on one side and False Bay on the other.

Global sports marketing agency Roc Nation Sports added Springbok sensation Aphelele Fassi to their growing list of South African talented athletes.

The 23-year-old joins his Bok captain Siya Kolisi and fellow internationals Cheslin Kolbe and Sharks team-mate Sbu Nkosi.

Also on their books are Proteas white ball captain Temba Bavuma and South Africa’s netball skipper Bongi Msomi as well as retired Rugby World Cup winner Tendai “Beast” Mtawarira.

Roc Nation Sports president, Michael Yormark, called the partnership “a natural fit.”

“Aphelele is one of the most talented young rugby stars in South Africa and in the sport. Partnering with him is a natural fit due to both his rugby skills and incredible life story,” said Yormark.

“We are looking forward to growing with him throughout his exciting career and providing him with the best opportunities to achieve his rugby and personal goals.”

Fassi made his Test debut against Georgia this winter, where he scored his first international try playing at left wing.

He added that this tally in his second Springbok game against Argentina in Georgia during the Rugby Championship.

“Roc Nation Sports are a family who are committed to professionalism, growing players holistically and helping them make a difference in their community,” he said.

“I was attracted to Roc Nation’s capabilities, which align to the big dreams and goals I have for my career.

“Given that my career is still quite young, knowing I have the right people around me gives me the peace of mind to focus on my priority, which is rugby.”

Trio of local wine estates named among the World’s Top 50 Vineyards

SA under 20 athletics team excels

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture joined the nation in welcoming back the South Africa under 20 athletics team from their excellent performance at the Under 20 World Athletics Championship, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2021.

Team SA finished sixth out of 100 participating countries after a hard-fought and thrilling encounter across most codes, amassing nine medals, including breaking the men’s U20 4x100m relay world record.

The relay team comprising Benjamin Richardson, Sinesipho Dambile, Mihlali Xhoyeni and Lethabogolo Moleyanne finished at 38.51, followed by Jamaica (38.61) and Poland (38.90).

The rest of the medals were as follows:

• Gold: Mire Paimstorf (pole vault women), Mine De Klerk (discus women)
• Silver: Benjamin Richardson (100m sprint), Mine De Klerk (discus women)
• Bronze: Kyle Rademeyer (pole vault), Dane Roots (shot put), Matt Norpke (400m), Sinesipho Dambile (200m).

“Congratulations to the U20 athletics team, under the guidance of Athletics South Africa. Our appreciation goes out to all of them for making the nation proud and flying the South African flag with such distinction,” the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, said upon hearing the successful story of the U20 athletics team.

“My appreciation as well goes out to Athletics South Africa for ensuring that they were able to send a talent-made team of not more than 50 athletes and for bringing home nine medals, including breaking the world record,” Minister Mthethwa said.

Springbok sensation Aphelele Fassi signs for Roc Nation

Located at the zenith of Mpumalanga’s Panorama Route, God’s Window offers visitors a panoramic view of the Lowveld more than 900 metres down into a lush indigenous forest-clad ravine. On a clear day, you can see as far as the Indian Ocean and M菩提。The Skywalk will be a cantilevered glass walkway suspended off the edge of the cliff to give visitors a 360-degree panoramic view. The walkway will protrude about 12 metres out from the cliff and will be about 5 metres wide.

The Skywalk is designed to be a global iconic attraction with a number of activities on-site – the skywalk, a sky bridge, a sky swing, a zero-gravity room and a conference and meeting facility. The plan is for a significant part of the activities to be run by local unemployed youths from the area.
Cape Town launches new platform for global film industry

South African designer Lukhanyo Mdingi awarded the Karl Lagerfeld Prize, including LVMH Mentorship

In September 2021, the Cape Town-based designer was announced as joint winner of the Karl Lagerfeld Prize alongside Shanghai-based designer Rui Zhou and United States designer Kidsuper. The prize comes with a year’s mentorship at the LVMH Group and €150 000 (more than R2.5 million).

Albanian designer Nenad Djekic took home the top LVMH Prize for young designers. The jury for this year’s prize included Virgil Abloh, Louis Vuitton men’s artistic director; Stella McCartney, British designer and sustainability champion; and Kim Jones, artistic director of women’s collections at Fendi, among other industry heavyweights. South African designers have been ranking high at the LVMH Prize in recent years. Sustainable luxury designer Sindiso Khumalo was one of eight finalists in 2020, who shared the prize because of the cancellation of finals due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

In 2019, womenswear designer Thebe Magugu became the first-ever African designer to win the LVMH Prize, which was the beginning for South African designers and creatives sharing the stage with international peers.

Upon receiving the award at the ceremony at the Louis Vuitton Foundation, Mdingi said, “I’ve always believed that the power of a collective is far greater than that of a singular and I think that this prize is testament to that.”

The sixth-generation Volkswagen Polo has been on sale locally since 2018, continuing the sales success of the models before it. Come the first quarter of 2022, an updated version of this car will hit South African showrooms, but international markets will soon receive the locally produced Polo.

Since October 1996, Volkswagen South Africa (VWSA) has produced the Polo at its plant in Uitenhage, now known as Kariega. This new Polo will also be built here for both the local and international right-hand drive markets. In the last week of August 2021, the first consignment of new Polos left VW’s manufacturing plant, where they will be shipped to overseas markets from Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) harbour.

Since 2018, VWESA has built more than 400 000 units of the current Polo, of which more than 326 000 units (over 80%) were for the export markets. VWESA says that a total of 73 439 units have been sold locally in the last three years.

Steve Knapp, Head of the Volkswagen Passenger Cars Brand, says: “The Volkswagen Polo is the second best-selling passenger vehicle in South Africa (behind the Polo Vivo) and an important derivate for our brand. In 2021 alone, we have sold over 10 000 Polos in the local market, giving Volkswagen a share of 21.8% in the A0 Hatch segment.”

Kariega is also the sole manufacturer of the Polo GTI, www.wheels24.com

From South Africa to the world: First batch of updated Volkswagen Polos leaves Kariega for export

n April 2021, Volkswagen presented the latest evolutionary stage of the sixth generation of Polo. In August 2021, came its sportiest version: the new Polo GTI.

The sixth-generation Volkswagen Polo has been on sale locally since 2018, continuing the sales success of the models before it. Come the first quarter of 2022, an updated version of this car will hit South African showrooms, but international markets will soon receive the locally produced Polo.

Since October 1996, Volkswagen South Africa (VWSA) has produced the Polo at its plant in Uitenhage, now known as Kariega. This new Polo will also be built here for both the local and international right-hand drive conference areas, among other amenities. It offers a 360-degree view over the city of Johannesburg; west to the Magaliesberg mountain range, north to the Voortrekker Monument, south to the once home of Nelson Mandela and east to the planes taking off at OR Tambo International Airport.

The seven seating areas include large lounge suite spaces, dining areas and look-out points. Alto234 also offers three gas firepits to warm the lounge areas on cooler days.

Furniture in the area is custom-made to fit the various spaces and is arranged to ensure that each space is private, while also optimising the views from all angles.

When it comes to champagne, the establishment has picked Moët & Chandon as its preferred supplier. The champagne-maker gifted Alto234 a special edition Moët Mini Machine as a permanent feature – delivered to the 57th floor via helicopter.

The Moët machine allows guests the opportunity to order Moët Mini 200ml bottles with golden slips – using Moët & Chandon tokens at R345 each.

Business Insider SA

Sandon now has Africa’s highest urban bar – with a Moët vending machine
Survey reveals South Africa’s most iconic products

Most respondents agreed that the traditional braai was how they enjoyed to celebrate and spend time with family – across demographics and age groups.

By Brent Lindeque

www.goodthingsguy.com

South Africa is a country steeped in heritage and culture, from so many different backgrounds. In the run-up to Heritage Day on 24 September 2021, the retailer Game sought to find out which products were most closely tied to our heritage as South Africans – through a consumer survey. Respondents were asked to identify the products they see as quintessentially South African, and the majority of respondents connected these products to their heritage.

The survey found that the majority of South Africans were using food, beauty and household products that tied back to their experiences as children. The reasons for using these products versus newer ones were multifaceted and often hard for respondents to articulate – usually linking back to a connection to traditions and their childhood experiences.

Eating together emerged as an incredibly important way for respondents to not only honour but also celebrate their heritage. Most respondents agreed that the traditional braai was how they enjoyed to celebrate and spend time with family – across demographics and age groups. Some respondents said they cooked over the fire every weekend, while some kept this practice to special occasions only. When asked about the food products that really present them with a taste of home, however, the top five products were:

- Biltong
- Koo Baked Beans
- Ultra Mel Custard
- Amarula Cream Liqueur
- Nik Naks.

Also featured in the top 10 products were:

- Castle Lager Beer
- Lay’s Potato Chips
- Peppermint Crisp
- Fritos
- Flings.

On their tables, and as an accompaniment to any meal, South Africans voted All Gold (76%) and Arco Oil (71%) as their most loved items, followed by Chakalaka (67%) and Mrs Balls Chutney (65%). Stoney Ginger Beer was identified as the most popular drink for celebrating Heritage Day – interestingly, most loved by those in the Free State and Northern Cape – followed by Oros and Amarula Cream Liqueur. Meanwhile, respondents from KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, the Free State and the North West were most likely to enjoy traditional umqombothi as part of their celebrations.

The majority of South Africans were using food, beauty and household products that tied back to their experiences as children. Many respondents tied this nostalgia to the past and to what they plan to pass on to their own children, highlighting the importance of their family names, recipes, tableware and even just the tradition of spending time together as a family on a regular basis.

With regard to the most popular homeware items that keep their heritage alive, respondents identified potjie pots, Weber braais and cast-iron pots, along with appliances like meat grinders and coffee grinders and a Kenwood Mixer. Houseware items like Jik, Handy Andy, Omo and Sunlight Soap also made the list.

“South Africa is a country steeped in heritage and culture, from so many different backgrounds. It is so interesting to see people across the country come together to agree on their love for these products. Our survey respondents were passionate about their heritage, traditions and culture, and about the role that food and drink products play in celebrating these,” said Katherine Madley, Vice President of Marketing, Game.
The Condé Nast Traveller Readers’ Choice Awards are the longest-running and most prestigious recognition of excellence in the travel industry.

By Brent Lindeque
www.goodthingsguy.com

It’s been said that South Africa has some of the most incredible resorts in the world, and according to the latest Condé Nast Traveller Readers Choice Awards, it’s not just all talk. For their 34th annual Readers’ Choice Awards survey, hundreds and thousands of registered Condé Nast Traveller voters weighed in on their favourite resorts in the world … and five of them are right here in South Africa.

The Condé Nast Traveller Readers’ Choice Awards are the longest-running and most prestigious recognition of excellence in the travel industry.

“For our 34th annual Readers’ Choice Awards survey, registered voters weighed in on their favourite resorts around the globe. As the world has begun to reopen and readjust, the results reflect the kinds of properties you longed to visit when you couldn’t travel and the ones you returned to first once you could. More than 800 000 of you filled out our survey, and while we’re always curious about where you’ve been and where you’re going, we’re especially excited to learn about the truly memorable places that sparked your imagination and stayed with you when travel seemed out of reach.”

Here are the South African resorts that global trotters loved most this year:

**Number 44 – Cheetah Plains – Sabi Sands Game Reserve**
Eschewing traditional safari motifs, this trio of private villas in South Africa’s Sabi Sands Game Reserve is all about clean lines and ultra-modern design: Think raw concrete, rusted steel, statement blown-glass chandeliers and colourful works of art, including portraits by Loyiso Mkize. A similarly forward-thinking approach to sustainability means the property is equipped with solar panels, a greywater recycling system and a fleet of electric Land Cruiser safari vehicles. Prowling the surrounding landscape as stealthily as leopards, the cruisers allow guests to get surprisingly close to the Big Five, which are easier to encounter here than almost anywhere else across Africa.

**Number 11 – Morukuru Family – Madikwe Game Reserve (Owner’s House, River House and Farm House)**
The Big Five is the big draw card across the continent, but at this family-friendly lodge on South Africa’s fifth-largest game reserve, you’ll spot the Magnificent Seven — adding cheetah and African wild dog (an insider favourite for their strategic hunting abilities) as well hippo, rhino, prides of lions and the rest. It’s a fittingly spectacular viewing lined up alongside the camp’s equally spectacular accommodation: three free-standing luxury villas, each uniquely designed. Think lots of raw blond woods in the Farm House; stone fireplaces and sink-into-em couches over at the River House; and a staff of eight, plus an infinity pool and African artwork at the Owner’s House. And unlike many of the lodges across the region, WiFi here is fast and available everywhere.

**Number 9 – Royal Malewane – Greater Kruger National Park**
It can be hard to make the Greater Kruger National Park — a popular destination for safaris that cover an area the size of Wales — feel exclusive, private and intimate. But Royal Malewane, in the Thornybush Private Game Reserve, manages to achieve that (and some more) with just six luxury suites, two Royal suites, and the palatial six-bedroom, private chef-included Africa House. Twice daily game drives are led by expert rangers far from Kruger’s crowds, which means you’re almost guaranteed to be able to see the Big Five before you leave.
THESE SOUTH AFRICAN RESORTS ARE SOME OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD

**Number 2 – Morukuru Beach Lodge (Beach Lodge and Ocean House) – De Hoop Nature Reserve**

Say you’re more of a beach bum than a safari enthusiast – don’t worry, South Africa still has you covered. Head to the intimate five-suite Morukuru Family Beach Lodge or the nearby four-bedroom Morukuru Family Ocean House, about three hours east of Cape Town on the shores of the Indian Ocean. There are white sand beaches, of course, but also access to the De Hoop Nature Reserve with its zebra and bontebok and protected marine area. Simply chill on the beach or by the lodge’s pool, but we’d suggest letting Morukuru’s friendly, attentive staff fill your day with game drives through the reserve, mountain biking, sandboarding, snorkelling and more. Plan your trip during South Africa’s winter (July to October) for prime southern white whale watching from shore, from the lodge’s restaurant, and even from your bed.

**Number 7 – Singita Sabi Sand (Ebony Lodge, Boulders Lodge and Castleton Lodge) – Sabi Sands Game Reserve**

Singita Sabi Sand includes three well-appointed options that provide an elegant base from which to bask in the natural beauty of one of South Africa’s most renowned game reserves. Singita’s founding property, Ebony Lodge, sits surrounded by a grove of its namesake trees, with 12 suites inspired by old explorers’ camps. Boulders Lodge, meanwhile, was named after the ancient rocks strewn along the banks of the Sand River, and the 12 glass-fronted suites have artfully pared-down interiors, featuring fossilised tree stumps and other found objects. Castleton Lodge occupies the ancestral home of Singita founder, Luke Bailes. Its Cape Dutch charm, mulioned windows, antiques, expert safari guides and long-time family staff remain, but the wine cellar, state-of-the-art kitchen and full gym are all new.

**Number 47 – Ellerman House – Cape Town**

Twenty-six years on, Ellerman House is still everybody’s fantasy bolthole in Cape Town: minutes from the best beaches and the Table Mountain Cableway, but close enough to the city and its dynamic food, art and design scene. Sandwiched between Lion’s Head and the Atlantic Ocean, the Cape Edwardian mansion looks like a private residence from the road and that’s exactly what keeps guests coming back. Owner Paul Harris takes enormous pride in his country – his impressive collection of South African art spans original works from the turn of the last century to current contemporary art. An informal tour of the collection with one of the in-house art experts is a fascinating lesson in the country’s socio-political history.

**Number 34 – Babylonstoren – Franschhoek Valley**

What if you could actually visit the Garden of Eden? And what if it was surrounded by vineyards, historic Cape Dutch farm buildings and a formal French-style potager garden, where you could pick your own strawberries and fragrant herbs? At Babylonstoren, in the Drakenstein Valley, 33 miles northeast of Cape Town, the mythical garden comes to life. Founded in 1690, the 595-acre compound is modelled on the farms that supplied the ships making their way around the Cape of Good Hope en route to India. The cottages and suites are minimalist but stylish. You won’t find a grand lobby or an obsequious concierge here, but the staff, most of whom are wearing T-shirts, aprons or khakis, combine a genuine eagerness to help with a high level of knowledge about the farm and its long history.

Conde Nast Traveller also released the list of the best hotels in the world and South Africa took two places in this category. There are 7 590 bottles of rare and vintage South African wines in the cellar, and the indigenous plants sourced from Kirstenbosch (Cape Town’s botanical garden) in the 1.5-acre terraced gardens. Besides the main house, there are two modern, minimalist private villas built into the granite mountainside, as well as a wine gallery and an excellent little spa.
South African jewellery brand shines in Las Vegas

"This dazzling collection of jewellery is demonstrative of what happens when the world’s most creative minds stretch the boundaries of design," said the Couture Show.

The Cape Town-based diamond jeweller, Shimansky, dazzled the City of Lights, Las Vegas, in August 2021, scooping a first-ever win for a South African jewellery brand at a prestigious international awards show.

Shimansky was awarded the Best in Gold Award at the International Couture Design Show Awards in Wynn, Las Vegas.

This is an exceptional global achievement for Shimansky, the well-known South African diamond jewellery brand, which has its flagship store in the V&A Waterfront, as well as a store located in New York.

"As a first-time exhibitor, I am honoured and proud to accept this award. Thank you so much for allowing Shimansky to be a part of the Couture Show," said Yair Shimansky, founder and CEO of Shimansky.

Shimansky is known for its classic, timeless and contemporary creations, designed to celebrate the special moments in people’s lives.

The never-before-seen design, which took home the gold was the Shimansky Infinity Ring in 18K yellow, white and rose gold, designed to capture precious memories and the sentiment of everlasting love.

The Couture Design Awards Show is known as the world’s most exceptional curation of designer fine jewellery and luxury timepieces. It is regarded as the top jewellery show in the United States of America (USA) for designers and international brands.

"This dazzling collection of jewellery is demonstrative of what happens when the world’s most creative minds stretch the boundaries of design," said the Couture Show.
THE ART LANDSCAPE IN SOUTH AFRICA

By SA Tourism

From the rock art of the San to the most recent contemporary museum in Cape Town, the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art, South Africa’s history of art is a long and interesting one. Often, this history is closely tied to the political landscape, and most times reflects that landscape.

The Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park (recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation as a mixed cultural and world heritage site) boasts the largest group of rock paintings to be found in sub-Saharan Africa. This can be considered the earliest examples of visual art, with subject matter that extends beyond the simple visual representations of day-to-day life towards a representation of spiritual and religious beliefs of the San people.

One of the oldest galleries in the country, the Goodman Gallery, situated in Johannesburg, was established in 1986 by Linda Givon. Often, this history is closely tied to the political landscape, and most times reflects that landscape.

Artists such as David Koloane, Dumile Feni and Sydney Khumalo, who went on to play an active role in the creation and sustenance of the Federated Union of Black Artists, established in 1978. Its main purpose was to collaboratively work with artists of different disciplines, particularly around issues of ownership and distribution. The Goodman Gallery remains a critical vessel through which to explore art history in relation to commerce.

South Africa boasts a number of homegrown exports who have gone on to create remarkable bodies of work as well as contribute to the global art discourse. Among these are Parys in the Free State and Maikhanda in the Eastern Cape. Maikhanda is home to the National Arts Festival, an important event on South Africa’s arts calendar. The festival originated in 1974 and has gained a reputation as the leading arts festival, showcasing the best art in Africa through performances, comedy shows, visual art exhibitions and more. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the activities had to be conducted online in recent years.

A brilliant initiative to get a sense of the lay of the land is through participating in First Thursdays, where residents and tourists alike walk the streets of Johannesburg and Cape Town galleries, hopping from one spot to another. This is truly one of the best ways to enjoy the art scene and all it has to offer.

Despite mainstream contemporary art dominating the conversation, steps have been taken to integrate artists on the fringe. One of these is through the Joburg Fringe, often described as “the gutsy, independent, streetwise, annual art fair”. A brilliant initiative to get a sense of the lay of the land is through participating in First Thursdays, where residents and tourists alike walk the streets of Johannesburg and Cape Town galleries, hopping from one spot to another. This is truly one of the best ways to enjoy the art scene and all it has to offer.

Despite mainstream contemporary art dominating the conversation, steps have been taken to integrate artists on the fringe. One of these is through the Joburg Fringe, often described as “the gutsy, independent, streetwise, annual art fair”, which runs alongside the famous Joburg Art Fair and congregates art lovers, collectors, galleries and thinkers around African contemporary art. Joburg Fringe creates a space for independent and emerging artists to engage with curators, collectors and the public, and takes place at Victoria Yards in the suburb of Lorentzville, an industrial complex turned artist hub complemented by digital art, fine art, film and television, history of art, theatre/performance and more. Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town, and the Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg. The Goodman Gallery remains a critical vessel through which to explore art history in relation to commerce.

One of these is through the Joburg Fringe, often described as “the gutsy, independent, streetwise, annual art fair”, which runs alongside the famous Joburg Art Fair and congregates art lovers, collectors, galleries and thinkers around African contemporary art. Joburg Fringe creates a space for independent and emerging artists to engage with curators, collectors and the public, and takes place at Victoria Yards in the suburb of Lorentzville, an industrial complex turned artist hub complemented by digital art, fine art, film and television, history of art, theatre/performance and more. Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town, and the Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg. The Goodman Gallery remains a critical vessel through which to explore art history in relation to commerce.

Metropolitan cities such as Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town make up a good part of the South African art scene, but some smaller towns have and continue to make a name for themselves. Among these are Parys in the Free State and Maikhanda in the Eastern Cape. Maikhanda is home to the National Arts Festival, an important event on South Africa’s arts calendar. The festival originated in 1974 and has gained a reputation as the leading arts festival, showcasing the best art in Africa through performances, comedy shows, visual art exhibitions and more. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the activities had to be conducted online in recent years.

One of these is through the Joburg Fringe, often described as “the gutsy, independent, streetwise, annual art fair”, which runs alongside the famous Joburg Art Fair and congregates art lovers, collectors, galleries and thinkers around African contemporary art. Joburg Fringe creates a space for independent and emerging artists to engage with curators, collectors and the public, and takes place at Victoria Yards in the suburb of Lorentzville, an industrial complex turned artist hub complemented by digital art, fine art, film and television, history of art, theatre/performance and more. Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town, and the Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg. The Goodman Gallery remains a critical vessel through which to explore art history in relation to commerce.

One of these is through the Joburg Fringe, often described as “the gutsy, independent, streetwise, annual art fair”, which runs alongside the famous Joburg Art Fair and congregates art lovers, collectors, galleries and thinkers around African contemporary art. Joburg Fringe creates a space for independent and emerging artists to engage with curators, collectors and the public, and takes place at Victoria Yards in the suburb of Lorentzville, an industrial complex turned artist hub complemented by digital art, fine art, film and television, history of art, theatre/performance and more. Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town, and the Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg. The Goodman Gallery remains a critical vessel through which to explore art history in relation to commerce.

One of the oldest galleries in the country, the Goodman Gallery, situated in Johannesburg, was established in 1986 by Linda Givon.

It quickly became an important instrument towards challenging the apartheid laws that sought to segregate black and white people through all spheres of ordinary life, including arts and culture. In the early years, the gallery presented exhibitions by black artists such as David Koloane, Dumile Feni and Sydney Khumalo, who went on to play an active role in the creation and sustenance of the Federated Union of Black Artists, established in 1978. Its main purpose was to collaboratively work with artists of different disciplines, particularly around issues of ownership and distribution.

The Goodman Gallery remains a critical vessel through which to explore art history in relation to commerce. Metropolitan cities such as Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town make up a good part of the South African art scene, but some smaller towns have and continue to make a name for themselves. Among these are Parys in the Free State and Maikhanda in the Eastern Cape. Maikhanda is home to the National Arts Festival, an important event on South Africa’s arts calendar. The festival originated in 1974 and has gained a reputation as the leading arts festival, showcasing the best art in Africa through performances, comedy shows, visual art exhibitions and more. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the activities had to be conducted online in recent years.

One of these is through the Joburg Fringe, often described as “the gutsy, independent, streetwise, annual art fair”, which runs alongside the famous Joburg Art Fair and congregates art lovers, collectors, galleries and thinkers around African contemporary art. Joburg Fringe creates a space for independent and emerging artists to engage with curators, collectors and the public, and takes place at Victoria Yards in the suburb of Lorentzville, an industrial complex turned artist hub complemented by digital art, fine art, film and television, history of art, theatre/performance and more. Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town, and the Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg. The Goodman Gallery remains a critical vessel through which to explore art history in relation to commerce.

A brilliant initiative to get a sense of the lay of the land is through participating in First Thursdays, where residents and tourists alike walk the streets of Johannesburg and Cape Town galleries, hopping from one spot to another. This is truly one of the best ways to enjoy the art scene and all it has to offer.

Despite mainstream contemporary art dominating the conversation, steps have been taken to integrate artists on the fringe. One of these is through the Joburg Fringe, often described as “the gutsy, independent, streetwise, annual art fair”, which runs alongside the famous Joburg Art Fair and congregates art lovers, collectors, galleries and thinkers around African contemporary art. Joburg Fringe creates a space for independent and emerging artists to engage with curators, collectors and the public, and takes place at Victoria Yards in the suburb of Lorentzville, an industrial complex turned artist hub complemented by digital art, fine art, film and television, history of art, theatre/performance and more. Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town, and the Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg. The Goodman Gallery remains a critical vessel through which to explore art history in relation to commerce.

A brilliant initiative to get a sense of the lay of the land is through participating in First Thursdays, where residents and tourists alike walk the streets of Johannesburg and Cape Town galleries, hopping from one spot to another. This is truly one of the best ways to enjoy the art scene and all it has to offer.
The fascinating case study of

the Salt River murals

“Street art isn’t new. But, like the murals, the medium is evolving. The nature of activism is changing. And with it, the future of freedom of expression.”

By Brent Lindeque
www.goodthingsguy.com

The key rule of street art is that no wall’s design is untouchable. If you believe you can make a mural better, go ahead and add your mark.

During the recent Israel-Palestine unrest, some local South African street artists did exactly this. They modified murals, done by artists during previous street protests, by adding their own commentary to the art. A tear-filled woman with the Palestinian flag appeared in the eye of a woman in a headscarf with her prayer beads. The artwork portraying green, white, black and red tones now represent the colours of the Palestinian flag.

IPAFA organiser and leader in transforming spaces through urban art, NPO Baz-Art, welcomes the evolution of the artworks, calling it inspiring.

“We are a strictly apolitical and non-religious organisation, we welcome creativity and talent, and we know the medium of street art is a powerful platform for activism,” says Baz-Art co-founder, Alexandre Tilmans.

“The murals are based in Salt River, the site of the IPAF. We have profound respect for this community, which we have worked closely with for more than five years. We know this was a cause close to some of their hearts. We consider the recent modifications as creative commentary on very serious, impactful events, which is the very essence of street art.”

Art as commentary

Tilmans adds that in recent times we’ve seen many movements sweep the world, from Black Lives Matter to climate change marches.

“There’s an upsurge in activism, often driven by young people. We’re seeing more and more people use their voices to advocate for what they believe to be right. In the case of street art, people are using their talents and tools to make statements. Think about the recent ‘Mural of Marianne’ – named a symbol of France – which was ‘defaced’ with red tears in the recent Paris riots against the law preventing people from posting pictures of police on duty.

“Street art has always been a form of commentary – now more than ever. It is a great democratiser: it’s something everyone can draw meaning from. It’s one of the best ways to share people’s stories. Yes, this can be polarising. It can also be unifying. It’s a means to start – and continue – a conversation.”

While art as activism is not new, Tilmans does wonder what the future of street art may look like.

“Street art follows the rule of the jungle. Artists who believe they can do better can adapt or modify a wall. But of course, it would be considered ethical and professional to speak to the original artist and get the necessary permission. A bit like a DJ remixing a song. I think this medium has a pivotal role to play in empowering communities to express their values and localise global – and national – issues that they feel strongly about. The Salt River murals are an ongoing dialogue. They evolve with each new artist’s input.”

Anthea Missey, an artist who participated in the IPAF 2018, created the “Save our Trees, Save us” mural to raise awareness around the responsibility to protect the environment as a natural space of health and nature and highlight the deforestation and protests in South Africa as part of the climate crisis.

“I believe the street is a public space that belongs to everyone. As an artist, when I produce a mural visible to the public and made for people to appreciate, I get to enjoy the privilege of speaking in public in order to create a symbol that remains in the space for a certain amount of time and sometimes for a while. Given the purpose of art to express a certain time and perspective that is mainly social, I understand that some artists may use my works to express their opinion and add democratic meaning,” says Missey.

A resident from Salt River says that visitors from all around Cape Town were amazed at the murals in Salt River while doing the street art walking tours at the IPAF 2021.

“The tour guides incorporated Salt River’s History as part of their tour’s commentary. Given how beautiful the walls turned out and the message which tied into this year’s theme, ‘sustainability’, I always thought the community would appreciate the art on their homes, which some really do,” says the resident.

The future of street art

Tilmans concludes: “Historians have found evidence of street art dating back to the first century BCE. With the Romans writing messages to each other on their walls. During the French Revolution, rebels defaced artworks to make a statement about the country’s Hierarchical society. One side of the Berlin wall was full of vivid pictures, the other side bare concrete.

The starkness was the statement. Most recently, the words ‘Black Lives Matter’ were sprayed on walls around the world – an anguished movement in memorial of George Floyd.

“Street art isn’t new. But, like the murals, the medium is evolving. The nature of activism is changing. And with it, the future of freedom of expression. It’s an interesting question to ask what street art will look like in another 10 to 50 years’ time. Will we be freer or less free to express ourselves? Will there be digital defacing – for example, could there be a form of ‘street crypto art’ delivered via non-fungible tokens?’”

“Street art also comes with an interesting question of ownership. For example, Banksy’s art was removed from the wall and sold for six figures against the artist’s wishes. But how much ownership of the artwork did he really have given his canvas belonged to someone else? Part of the journey with this art is letting go. That includes accepting that someone else may modify your work. Their story becomes part of your story. It takes a certain humility to accept that.”
The December holidays are approaching, providing an opportunity to leave behind the big lights and take a road trip to explore small-town cuisine, or even making a trip of it and spending a night or two and exploring what else is on offer. Here are some of South Africa's best small-town food stops.

**Diesel and Creme, Barrydale, Western Cape**

Diesel and Creme offers warm, fresh food and old-time petrol pumps out front, pass, bicycles hanging from the ceiling from rubber duckies lining the kitchen quirk décor and great road-trip cuisine. This Barrydale treasure trove combines making a trip of it and spending a night or two and exploring what else is on offer. Here are some of South Africa's best small-town food stops.

**The Windmill, Harbeespoort, North West**

The Windmill Restaurant has frequent travellers coming back for more. It’s housed inside an old giant windmill and visitors can enjoy a Dutch-inspired lunch. The apple pie with cream comes highly recommended.

**Oude Post Bistro, Buffeljagsrivier, Western Cape**

Oude Post Bistro for their delicious, freshly fried oats or get “fancy” with one of their weekly new flavour. It’s the perfect touch of “braai” on your road trip. Watch the ladies roll and roast the buns on the hot fires out back or peruse the deli while you wait for your order.

**Springbok Lodge, Springbok, Northern Cape**

If you’re going anywhere near the Western Cape, be sure to stop at Oude Post Bistro for their delicious, freshly roasted noostkook.

**The Marmalade Cat, Darling, Western Cape**

Darling is a wonderful hub of flora, farming, arts and culture. Wake up to the sounds of red bishops outside your window before strolling into the charming town for brunch. Pop into The Marmalade Cat for a bite to eat while enjoying their toasted or freshly baked goods. How do you know it’s The Marmalade Cat? The ginger kitty outside of course! The restaurant also offers thoughtful gifts and knock-knacks for easy access to country crafts.

**Pickles and Things, Dullstroom, Mpumalanga**

Pickles and Things, in the heart of this town, shines for its hearty breakfasts like the Dullies (eggs, bacon, tomato and smoked trout fillet), gourmet sandwiches and fantastic burgers. The coffee is good, and in autumn and winter, log fires (almost synonymous with Dullstroom) keep out the chill.

**The Blind Pig, Wilderness, Western Cape**

Pop in for a gin tasting at the Blind Pig and Bootlegger Brewery. Nestled around a bend off the N2 in Wilderness, the Blind Pig offers 12 craft beers on tap, including Darling Brew and Fraser Folly Pilsner. You can also tuck into their bottled options, including CBC Amber Weiss, Kudu Lager and Devil’s Peak Pale Ale.

If you’re not crazy about beer, but don’t want to feel excluded, try the delicious Moerkoffie Condensed Milk Stout on tap or Everson’s Pomegranate Cider for something quite unique. It can get busy on long weekends so book ahead or try your luck during the off season to enjoy your visit at a leisurely pace, while getting the best service away from the crowds.

**Clarens Brewery, Clarens, Free State**

Clarens may be the cuisine capital of the Western Cape, but not everyone who visits the town is in pursuit of a Michelin-style meal. The Franschhoek Station Pub is a gastropub in the heart of the village that plays host to many a visitor looking to keep their eye on the rugby match and enjoy a few cold pints and a hot meal with friends and family. Try their huge burgers, chicken-strip baskets or waffles for comfort eating at its best.

Established in 1832, the historic Pig and Whistle Inn is the cornerstone attraction of the frontier town of Bathurst and is a South African national monument, as well as home to the oldest continuously licensed pub in the country. Only a 15-minute drive from the seaside town of Port Alfred (along the R67 to the university town of Makhanda), a visit to the Pig and Whistle Restaurant is a lovely stop on any day out, and the inn is a perfect spot to use as your base for exploring the area.

The traditional inn has 10 bedrooms, all lovingly restored and furnished with tasteful antiques. The restaurant is popular among visitors and locals, offering traditional English food and Sunday roasts, freshly baked cakes and desserts, vegetarian meals and Mediterranean favourites. The pub’s convivial atmosphere has made it a favourite among locals and its tangible history makes it a popular watering hole for holiday-makers.
The fourth edition of SculptX opened this spring, offering visitors the unique opportunity to view the largest and most diverse collection of sculptures. This annual sculpture fair, the largest of its kind in South Africa, this year, presents over 200 works. The materials they are fashioned from vary from bronze to wood, glass, crystal, steel, bone to stone, plant-based resin and other media. Similarly, the modes of expression encompassed in this vast number of sculptures vary widely too from figurative works, depicting the human body, the natural world, or the built environment to abstract works, where form, texture and line entertain the eye.

In this way, SculptX reveals the breadths and depths that this traditional art medium can offer and the abundance of artistic talent in the country that has applied itself to this three-dimensional art form. In short, SculptX is a celebration of all manner of sculptural expression.

It was established by The Melrose Gallery in 2017 in association with Melrose Arch, and is on view across multiple venues from 3 September until 24 October 2021.

“We wanted to create a platform to promote sculpture and sculptors to those who live, work and play in the precinct, as well as art collectors and enthusiasts in general,” says Craig Mark, director of The Melrose gallery.

The fair was also conceived in response to the increase in bronze-casting foundries in South Africa, which has led to growth in the production and interest in sculpture. This has translated into the establishment of outdoor sculpture parks in the country by a number of art foundations and artists primarily working in this medium.

Clearly, there is a need for more platforms for sculpture. SculptX provides a space for artists at different levels in their careers. Established artists – Anton Smit, Andries Botha, Willie Bester, Pietra Ntuu, Andre Stead and Strijdom van der Merwe, among numerous others – show alongside a younger set of artists pushing the boundaries of the medium such as Sophie van Wyk, Nindya Bucktowar, Mandy Johnston and Kenneth Shandu as well as other emerging artists still exploring the possibilities of sculpture. Female artists are represented strongly in the fair with works by well-known artists such as Nonia Mabasa, Wilma Cruise, Elizabeth Balcomb and Ledelle Moe, among many others, dispelling the myth that sculpture is primarily the preserve of male artists.

“We have put much effort into sourcing female and young artists from the previously disadvantaged communities to give them the benefit of this valuable platform as they are often overlooked and underrepresented in this genre,” adds Mark.

A public call-out process was used to identify works for the fair and attracted proposals from many emerging artists. More than 350 submissions were considered before 200 works by 80 artists were chosen. This approach ensures that SculptX remains an open platform that offers many surprises in terms of its content.

Some of the highlights include a work, titled *Amisa Anima Mea (Lost Soul)* by Andries Botha, which is created from hot dipped, galvanised mild steel, leadwoods and Nguni cow skin. Jacques Dhont’s giant plant vessels return our attention to the natural world, while Ledelle Moe’s concrete and steel *Findings IV*, which consists of small forms mapping astronomical and geological locations, prompts questions about our place in the universe and how we mark time. Nicola Roos’ intricate sculptures of black Samurai warriors, which shine a light on an unexplored African history, are also an attraction. These works are complemented by a script reading by award-winning director, producer Mandla Walter Dube, from his upcoming film about the black samurai Legend of Yasuke.

The works are shown at The Melrose Gallery and a number of other venues at Melrose Arch, which include the Daytona showroom as well as Sandton City’s Diamond Walk.

This year, the event is also paired with an online viewing room where more details about the works and the artists are available, allowing those near and far to enjoy and browse through the vast content this fair offers. Panel discussions and talks focused on the artists and sculpture as a form of expression are held during the two-month run of the fair. **"
"My World" in one theatre

A theatre needs colour, texture, emotions and lights. All of that was an arm's length away in a different medium.

The seats of a theatre filled with art – this was the sight that awaited visitors to the Atterbury Theatre in Tshwane in August 2021 – a first for the theatre and perhaps even a first in the world.

A theatre needs colour, texture, emotions and lights. All of that was an arm's length away in a different medium.

OPTOG! and Atterbury Theatre invited the whole of South Africa to enter the first OPTOG! National Art Competition. The response exceeded its wildest dreams. It received art from all over the country – Upington, Middelburg, Parys, Cape Town and more. The art competition's theme was "My World".

The judges, Lize Beekman, Anna Davel, Jak de Priester and Lily Brannon, had the difficult task of judging the art to select the winners in each category, out of the 467 entries displayed in the Atterbury Theatre. The theatre's 400 seats were converted into an art gallery that was open for the public to view.

The art was also for sale to support the artists and the theatre.

It invited the whole of South Africa to enter the art competition, and all its loyal supporters who live far away could visit the online gallery and vote for their favourite artist.

The Atterbury Theatre: A decade of art

On 18 May 2011, the doors of the Atterbury Theatre opened for the first time, and the stage was inaugurated with the impressive musical Stuur Groete aan Mannetjies Roux. All 24 star-studded performances were sold out, ushering in a new era in South African theatre. In the past decade, more than 2 881 shows, productions and functions have been presented in the theatre that translates into approximately 865 671 feet that crossed the threshold of the theatre.

The Atterbury Theatre embodies the commitment of the Atterbury Trust to promote the performing arts and the development of talent. It is widely regarded as one of the best theatres in the country and offers artists in Gauteng, in particular, a world-class space where music, drama and various other performing arts can be embodied.

Many musical productions and plays with national and international artists, school and dance productions, beauty, music and gymnastics competitions, corporate functions, gala evenings and dinners have been presented at the theatre.

During the national lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the theatre entered the digital space in the form of a television and music studio where online concerts were recorded and broadcast. The very first concert was a live broadcast with more than 120 000 viewers from around the world. This was the beginning of a dream that grew to 39 online performances in the digital library. The theatre is now also able to provide live streaming services for any function.

The final performance of Naturiel’s show, Butterfly, on Tuesday, 18 May 2021, was a fitting celebration of the theatre’s 10th birthday, and in addition to the show, theatre-goers were entertained with a celebratory video focusing on highlights of the past 10 years as well as messages from well-loved Atterbury Theatre artists.

The Atterbury Theatre: A decade of art

On 18 May 2011, the doors of the Atterbury Theatre opened for the first time, and the stage was inaugurated with the impressive musical Stuur Groete aan Mannetjies Roux. All 24 star-studded performances were sold out, ushering in a new era in South African theatre. In the past decade, more than 2 881 shows, productions and functions have been presented in the theatre that translates into approximately 865 671 feet that crossed the threshold of the theatre.

The Atterbury Theatre embodies the commitment of the Atterbury Trust to promote the performing arts and the development of talent. It is widely regarded as one of the best theatres in the country and offers artists in Gauteng, in particular, a world-class space where music, drama and various other performing arts can be embodied.

Many musical productions and plays with national and international artists, school and dance productions, beauty, music and gymnastics competitions, corporate functions, gala evenings and dinners have been presented at the theatre.

During the national lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the theatre entered the digital space in the form of a television and music studio where online concerts were recorded and broadcast. The very first concert was a live broadcast with more than 120 000 viewers from around the world. This was the beginning of a dream that grew to 39 online performances in the digital library. The theatre is now also able to provide live streaming services for any function.

The final performance of Naturiel’s show, Butterfly, on Tuesday, 18 May 2021, was a fitting celebration of the theatre’s 10th birthday, and in addition to the show, theatre-goers were entertained with a celebratory video focusing on highlights of the past 10 years as well as messages from well-loved Atterbury Theatre artists.

www.goodthingsguy.com /
https://atterburytheatre.co.za
The giraffe is the tallest animal in the world, attaining a height of 5.5 m, with its incredibly long neck accounting for much of its weight. Males can weigh some 1200 kg while females normally weigh between 600 kg to 900 kg.