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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

UBUNTU

a Nguni word meaning humanity

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's quarterly magazine

UBUNTU



ON THE COVER

"We remain steadfast in our conviction that achieving world peace through negotiation, and not force of arms, is indeed attainable. This is a principle on which we have been consistent since the advent of our democracy, and which remains an important part of our foreign policy orientation."

– President Cyril Ramaphosa

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SOUTH AFRICA: CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

2023 – 2025

"Together, building back better through human rights"



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LETTER FROM THE MINISTER



The 49th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) on 28 February 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, took place against the backdrop of the worrying situation in Ukraine. South Africa is deeply concerned about the situation in Ukraine and expresses the hope that both parties will use diplomacy to de-escalate the situation, leading to a durable political and security outcome.

We also met against the backdrop of the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, confronting many of our countries. In the midst of tragic loss, we must build back better and address all inadequacies that were revealed during the pandemic. We must ensure that poor countries have access to vaccines. We must ensure that developed countries provide economic and full support for the recovery of many of our economies, which are in dire need. We must ensure that access to

treatment becomes a public good and not the selfish terrain of a few.

On 10 December 2021, the people of South Africa celebrated 25 years of the signing into law of our Constitution by our first President of a free South Africa, President Nelson Mandela. The event took place in a town called Sharpeville, the place where 69 unarmed women and men, who were protesting peacefully against the draconian and discriminatory pass laws of the apartheid regime were massacred on 21 March 1960. Our Constitution contains the hopes and the aspirations of a people who had endured great suffering and gross violations of their human rights for over 350 years. We experienced colonialism, racism and apartheid.

When President Mandela chose 10 December 1996 as the day on which he would sign our Constitution into law, and that Sharpeville, would be the place to mark this occasion, he wanted to etch in the minds of South Africans the significance

of 10 December (International Human Rights Day) and 21 March (South African Human Rights Day) in the history of the struggle for human rights in our country.

He chose the day to ensure that our Constitution became the supreme law of South Africa, with a reminder of the abuse that we had experienced. He wanted to pay tribute to and recognise the important role that the international community played in the struggle for human dignity, achievement of equality and respect for human rights in South Africa.

We have committed as South Africa to the advancement of human rights and freedoms, not just in our country, but the entire continent of Africa, in fact, globally. Human rights, we believe, must not only be in a human rights instrument – a Bill of Rights Charter – they must be given practical meaning and they must be realised by all people in real terms. All of us should promote and protect the rights of all, effectively. And, we should ensure that all human beings tangibly enjoy access to human rights.

This applies, in our view, to all human rights and all people. In this regard, we call on the HRC to be true to the letter and spirit of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by truly treating all human rights as “universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis for all people”.

The HRC is a proper multilateral forum to advance human rights. But in order to achieve that, the council must remain true to its mandate and avoid the pitfalls that could destroy it; as it happened to its predecessor, the erstwhile Commission on Human Rights. We need a council free of the current politicisation, divisions, selectivity and double standards. We can't find fault in one direction. We must look at each problem in its full compass of issues. When we address human rights matters, be it thematic or country-specific issues, let us look at the full dimension of the problem.

We need a council that responds to all violations and abuses, regardless of where they have been committed or who has committed them. We need to use the opportunity of the review of the council to rid it of the past crippling challenges.

We strongly believe that the review of the HRC is an opportune moment for the international community to ensure that the credibility and authority of the council are

reinforced. We must strengthen the council and ensure its efficacy so that the people of the world and the humanity we serve can truly live in a world that respects all human rights and freedoms.

One way we could achieve this is through filling gaps in international human rights law whenever we identify them, by developing new treaties and protocols. It is for this reason that South Africa will continue to support and actively participate in the processes aimed at developing treaties on the right to development, and on transnational corporations and other business enterprises that are involved in the illicit trafficking of our resources. We also believe we should look at protocols on private military and security companies whose business activities trample human rights.

The year 2023 will mark the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which led to the adoption of the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We recognise with great gratitude the sterling role that the international community played, both in our struggle for human rights and self-determination as well as freedom and justice.

South Africa remains unequivocal in our support for the struggle of the people of Palestine and the people of Western Sahara. South Africa will not sit back and live under the illusion of freedom when the people of Palestine and Western Sahara are not free. We are the beneficiaries of international human solidarity. We know what can happen when the global community and ordinary people of goodwill commit themselves to a just cause: a cause for freedom, human dignity, self-determination, peace and reconciliation.

As a community of nations, we should not tire to hold ourselves to higher standards and values that brought us to where we are today; the same standards and values must continue to inspire us and we must hold true to our commitment to human rights, human dignity, self-determination and respect for the rights of all.

In 2013, the General Assembly declared 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent. The proclamation and the subsequent adoption of its programme of activities remain a step in the right direction in combatting the scourge of racism and racial discrimination, especially against Africans and people of African descent who are still victims of persistent racism and racial discrimination, enslavement and denial of their rights.

How we wish that as we worry about other countries and war, we would worry about the Sahel in a similar fashion – that Africa would matter as much as the rest of the world matters.

South Africa is encouraged that the international community has made strides in some of the action plans on the Decade on People of African Descent and has created a Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. We also welcome the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent and also believe much more must be done.

South Africa remains concerned about the lack of funding for the Office of the High Commissioner and its dependence on donor funding. We believe that the lack of sufficient funding for the human rights pillar of the United Nations must be corrected as a matter of urgency and priority. The Office of the High Commissioner needs the kind of resources that will enable it to continue its important work in the global quest to advance human rights and to contribute to addressing the global challenges of development and peace and security.

South Africa is ready and willing to put our shoulder to the wheel and work with all partners to address human rights for all in all corners of the world and to strengthen the HRC to ensure it is fit for purpose and serves all of humanity. ¶





The world sits at possibly the most dangerous juncture since the end of the Second World War. As conflict rages in Ukraine, the ramifications are being felt worldwide, and given that nuclear powers are involved, the conflict could escalate into one that poses a danger to the entire globe.

Considering the current loss of life, it is time to suspend debates and to work towards lasting peace in the region. South Africa has repeatedly called for the international community to de-escalate tensions and bring the sides closer to dialogue and not further apart. The door of diplomacy should never be closed even after conflict has broken out.

We are deeply concerned at the humanitarian impact, the loss of life, injury and the displacement of people as a result of this conflict. The conflict is also having a devastating impact on the global economy, and higher fuel and food prices are something that none of us can afford.

In keeping with our independent foreign policy, we have adopted a non-aligned position, and sought to discourage a war in which the chief protagonists are essentially the big powers, with the people of Ukraine being at the receiving end of post-cold war disagreements on what would constitute a safer Europe and Russia.

We called for dialogue based on honouring long-standing agreements. We are firmly aligned to peace, security and justice, and not to the key protagonists.

We call on all sides to uphold international law, humanitarian law, human rights and the principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter, and to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We urge all to increase their diplomatic efforts to seek a solution and avert further armed escalation. An immediate ceasefire would give the parties space to resolve issues through negotiation.

South Africa attained democracy through a negotiated settlement, and we remain steadfast in our conviction that achieving peace through negotiation, and not force of arms, is attainable.

Actions taken by members of the international community that are likely to harden the stance of the protagonists should be avoided. The continued imposition of sanctions could shut the door to resolution of the conflict.

Despite extensive commentary on this situation, very little is said about the causes of the conflict. Any diplomatic process must address the security concerns of all parties. Had the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) given Russia the security assurances they required and were promised since the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the region would not likely find itself in the situation it is currently in. Russia has been asking NATO for legally binding guarantees that NATO membership would be denied to Ukraine and Georgia, and that NATO's eastern expansion would end.

Russia also wants assurances that no missiles will be deployed near its borders that could be used to strike its territory, and that NATO military drills not take place in the vicinity. Just as Russia will not tolerate NATO positioning missiles near its territory, the United States (US) would never tolerate Russia deploying missiles in its neighbourhood. This was the very issue that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 – when Russia constructed sites for nuclear missiles in Cuba, and the US threatened a nuclear response if the sites were not dismantled.

As stated recently by US Senator Bernie Sanders, the US continues to adhere to the tenets of the Monroe Doctrine, whereby the US believes that as the dominant power, it has the right to intervene in any country in the region that threatens US interests. Russia has stated that its concern has been for its own national security interests as NATO has expanded eastwards towards its borders over the past

two decades, despite promises that this would never happen.

Documents at the National Security Archive at George Washington University indicate that in his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on 9 February 1990, then US Secretary of State, James Baker, assured the Soviets that NATO would not expand "not one inch eastward". On 31 January 1990, West German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, said that NATO should rule out "an expansion of its territory towards the east". He advocated for NATO and the Warsaw Pact to be eventually dissolved into a model for a common approach to European security.

Instead of honouring these commitments, NATO has admitted 14 eastern European countries to join as members since 1999, despite Russia's statements that NATO expansion is a serious provocation. In direct breach of these commitments, NATO actively sought to admit Ukraine and Georgia as active members. These moves have been accompanied by declarations that name Russia and China as adversaries in need of containment. This has proved to be needlessly provocative, especially as many politicians in leading NATO countries have warned against this, given that they are known redlines for Russia.

In 2007, William Burns, the current Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, wrote to Condoleezza Rice, warning of the dangers associated with NATO's Membership Action Plans for Ukraine and Georgia. Burns' warnings have been echoed by analysts such as Henry Kissinger. This issue remains one of the root causes of the current conflict and needs to be urgently addressed as part of the de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the current conflict.

South Africa is willing to work with all interested parties towards a ceasefire and lasting peace. As a middle power, we depend on responsive institutions of global governance to assist in working towards security. We call on the big powers who use their militaries disproportionately more than they do diplomacy, to work with us within the UN to settle this and other conflicts that have been raging for many years. We also call on them to consistently respect international law. We repeat our call for a peaceful resolution of this crisis. ♪

@ClaysonMonyela

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Since its launch in 2013, South Africa's first, 24-hour online radio station has been setting in motion dialogue on South Africa's foreign policy.

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Ubuntu Awards 2022 celebrate excellence in diplomacy

The Ubuntu Awards seek to recognise the efforts of South Africans who promote South Africa's national interests and values through their service and personal contribution towards advancing the country's image across the globe.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) recognised various individuals and organisations for flying the South African flag abroad during the sixth Ubuntu Awards, held on Saturday, 12 February 2022, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

The Ubuntu Awards seek to recognise the efforts of South Africans who promote South Africa's national interests and values through their service and personal contribution towards advancing the country's image across the globe.

Addressing the glittering occasion, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, said:

"The Annual Ubuntu Awards are an important and strategic platform that allows South Africans to see and connect the dots between what our diplomats do all over the world and how that translates into improving the life of the man in the street and the lives of our people in any corner of our country.

"The *White Paper on South Africa's Foreign Policy* speaks of the Diplomacy of Ubuntu.

"South Africa is a multifaceted, multicultural and multiracial country that embraces the concept of Ubuntu as a way of defining who we are and how we relate to others. The philosophy of Ubuntu means 'humanity' and is reflected in the idea that we affirm our humanity when we affirm the humanity of others. It has played a major role in the forging of a South African national consciousness and in the process of its democratic transformation and nation-building.

"Since 1994, the international community has looked to South Africa to play a leading

role in championing values of human rights, democracy, reconciliation and the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment. We believe that South Africa has risen to the challenge and continues to make a meaningful contribution in the pursuit of these goals in our region, on the continent and globally.

"South Africa's unique approach to global issues has found expression in the concept of Ubuntu. This concept informs our particular approach to diplomacy and shape our vision of a better world for all.

"This philosophy translates into an approach to international relations that respects all nations, peoples and cultures.

"We introduced the Ubuntu Awards to recognise South African citizens and organisations who fly the South African flag high on the global stage. Through excelling in their chosen fields, these patriots have become our country's ambassadors. When the world sees them, they see South Africa.

"Allow me then to take this opportunity to congratulate all the nominees and the winners who will be recognised tonight. Thank you for all you do, for going out of your way to make South Africa look good.

"This occasion proves that international relations work is not the exclusive domain of government and its entities. It also involves participation by citizens. Ours is a participatory democracy.

"South Africa is a beautiful country with wonderful people. Working together and through small individual efforts in everyday life, we can all contribute to be bigger goal of building a winning nation that takes care of the needs of all our people. And as President Cyril Ramaphosa said during the State of the Nation Address, leaving no one behind."

"South Africa's unique approach to global issues has found expression in the concept of Ubuntu. These concepts inform our particular approach to diplomacy and shape our vision of a better world for all."

The winners of the various categories were:

2022 Ubuntu Award in Economic Diplomacy (Africa): Old Mutual

Old Mutual was established in Cape Town in 1845 as South Africa's first mutual life assurance society. Today, it employs over 30 000 people and operates in 14 countries across two regions: Africa (South Africa, Botswana, eSwatini, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe) and Asia (China). Old Mutual Limited is a pan-African investment, savings, insurance and banking group. It is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, the Namibian Stock Exchange and the Botswana Stock Exchange.

Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Global): Aspen Pharmacare

With a 160-year heritage, Aspen is a global speciality and branded multinational pharmaceutical company with a presence in both emerging and developed markets. It has approximately 9 100 employees at 69 established offices in over 50 countries and improves the health of patients in more than 150 countries through its high-quality, affordable medicines.

Stephen Saad, Aspen Group Chief Executive, said, "Aspen is honoured to be presented with an Ubuntu Award for a second time in the Economic Diplomacy (Global) Category. We have invested heavily in our pharmaceutical capacity in South Africa and the African continent. Our commitment to our country and our continent is demonstrated in our investments of over R8 billion in our manufacturing capabilities, which is more than the rest of the industry combined. These investments are critical for the industrialisation, autonomy and export opportunities for our economy. These investments have helped us play a pivotal role in harnessing our manufacturing excellence, scientific development and the significant skills and competency of our people in assisting to combat the COVID pandemic. Together with our cutting-edge technologies, we are making tangible progress towards addressing vaccine inequality on the African continent. Through our agreement with Johnson & Johnson, we have produced more than 160 million COVID vaccines for distribution across the continent

and we are working with them to finalise the terms on Aspenovax, the Aspen COVID-19 vaccine made in Africa for Africa."

Ubuntu Social Responsibility Award: Nomso Faith Kana

DIRCO recognised nuclear scientist, Nomso Kana, for her contributions in empowering women and girls in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, through her work.

Kana took home the statue for social responsibility. She is also a South African delegation leader for the World Sustainability Energy Forum based in Austria.

She dedicated the award to the girls she's met through her work.

"Girls that I meet in the SADC region, with so much interest in science, really want to contribute to the growth of our continent; and this is where we believe our generation will lead in artificial intelligence. Africa, and

our country, will not just consume, we'll also participate, innovate and generate ideas that can put our continent in the forefront."

Ubuntu Sports Diplomacy Award: Pitso Mosimane

Hours after securing a second consecutive Fifa Club World Cup bronze medal, Pitso Mosimane was honoured by DIRCO.

Mosimane helped Al Ahly to a third place finish at the recently concluded Fifa Club World Cup after seeing Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal off in the third/fourth place play-off match.

Mosimane is one of the longest serving and most decorated coaches in all of South African football, having won multiple major trophies with SuperSport United between 2001 and 2007 and Mamelodi Sundowns between 2012 and 2020.

The legendary South African coach looks set to sign a new deal at Al Ahly with his current contract coming to an end in June 2022. ▶▶



Ubuntu Youth Award: Lesego Finger

Lesego Finger from Johannesburg is a developer who taught himself to code at the age of 19. He identified the need for assisting Matric learners and developed an app in just three months to help them on their journey to success.

The app, Matric Live, has been downloaded hundreds of times and is assisting students across all nine provinces.

Ubuntu Cultural Diplomacy Veteran Award: Don Mattera

Don Mattera is a renowned South African poet, community activist, former journalist and musician with an enviable life story. He is a man of great reputation in South Africa. He is respected widely for his work in activism and for fighting for the rights of the underprivileged during apartheid.

Ubuntu Cultural Diplomacy Youth Award: Master KG

Master KG is a South African musician and record producer. Born and raised in Tzaneen, his debut studio album, *Skeleton Move*, achieved acclaim, including an AFRIMA Award for Best Artist/Group in the African Electro Category. His song, *Jerusalem*, featuring South African vocalist Nomcebo, went viral during mid-2020, garnering international reaction due to the #JerusalemChallenge. The song became a global hit and pulled impressive numbers online.

OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement in Diplomacy Award: Aziz Pahad

In 1964, Aziz Pahad was banned by the apartheid government and went into exile



following the Rivonia Trial. He played a major role in developing the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the United Kingdom and Europe, and was elected as a member of the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party in 1984 and a member of the African National Congress' National Executive Committee in 1985. He served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa from 1994 to 2008.

Special Ubuntu Humanitarian Award: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

World Health Organisation Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, received the Special Ubuntu Humanitarian Award. Dr Ghebreyesus was in the country to discuss progress in making Africa self-sufficient in the production of COVID19 vaccines and related treatments.

"We hope that this year will be the end of the acute phase of the pandemic. Of course,

we have to reach 70% vaccination coverage in each and every country. And we have to observe the public health measures, but I believe that the future in South Africa, our continent and the whole world will be better if we can use this pandemic as an opportunity, because it's not just a health issue. It has exposed everything, the inequities, the inequalities and all the problems that we have," Dr Ghebreyesus said upon receiving the award. **U**

"Through excelling in their chosen fields, these patriots have become our country's ambassadors. When the world sees them, they see South Africa."

Agenda 2063



THE AFRICA WE WANT

Our Aspirations for the Africa We Want

- A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
- An integrated continent, politically united, and based on the ideals of Pan Africanism
- An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
 - A peaceful and secure Africa
- An Africa with a strong cultural identity, Common Heritage, values and ethics
- An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, particularly its women and youth, and with well cared for children
 - Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner

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Resolution of conflict in Ukraine must be durable and lasting

The historical tensions between Russia and Ukraine make it all the more important that whatever agreements are brokered are sustainable in the long run and address the concerns of both parties to the conflict.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

In a world where far too many disputes between and within countries are settled through the barrel of a gun, the view that differences are best resolved through negotiation, dialogue and compromise may seem out of touch, and even fanciful.

And yet, as a country that attained democracy through a negotiated settlement, we remain steadfast in our conviction that achieving world peace through negotiation, and not force of arms, is indeed attainable.

This is a principle on which we have been consistent since the advent of our democracy, and which remains an important part of our foreign policy orientation.

South Africa abstained from voting on the United Nations (UN) Resolution on the escalating conflict between Russia and its neighbour Ukraine because the resolution did not foreground the call for meaningful engagement.

Even prior to the resolution being passed at the UN, talks between Russian and Ukrainian officials had already started. South Africa expected that the UN Resolution would foremost welcome the commencement of dialogue between the parties and seek to create the conditions for these talks to succeed.

Instead, the call for peaceful resolution through political dialogue was relegated to a single sentence close to the conclusion of the final text.

This does not provide the encouragement and international backing that the parties need to continue with their efforts.

Calling for peaceful negotiation is aligned with values upon which the UN was founded. We are particularly concerned that the UN Security Council was unable to discharge its responsibility to maintain peace and security. This gives impetus to the long-standing calls for the Security Council's reform to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The UN Charter enjoins member states to settle their disputes by peaceful means in the first instance, stating explicitly that parties to any dispute should first seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and similar mechanisms. Since the outbreak of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, South Africa's position has been to affirm this call.

There have been some who have said that in abstaining from the vote and condemning Russia's military operation in Ukraine, South Africa has placed itself on the wrong side of

history. Yet, South Africa is firmly on the side of peace at a time when another war is something the world does not need, nor can it afford. The results of these hostilities will be felt globally and for many years to come.

A cessation of hostilities may indeed be achieved through force of arms or economic pressure, but it would be unlikely to lead to sustainable and lasting peace.

The historical tensions between Russia and Ukraine make it all the more important that whatever agreements are brokered are sustainable in the long run and address the concerns of both parties to the conflict.

Our own experience with ending apartheid, and our country's role in mediating conflict elsewhere on the continent, have yielded a number of insights.

The first is that even the most seemingly intractable differences can be resolved at the negotiating table. The second is that even as talks may collapse, they can and do resume, as was the case in our own negotiating process. And that even when it seems the parties cannot see eye to eye, breakthroughs can and do happen.

That we continue to support the call for negotiation and dialogue does not render our

commitment to human rights any less. Since the outbreak of the conflict, we have expressed our concern at the impact of the conflict on civilians believing that war is not the solution to conflict and that it leads to human suffering.

Our country is committed to advancing the human rights and fundamental freedoms not only of our own people, but for the peoples of Palestine, Western Sahara, Afghanistan, Syria and across Africa and the world.

It is our hope that negotiations between Russia and Ukraine yield positive outcomes

that pave the way for an end to the conflict. Even though the pace of negotiations may proceed slowly, there is progress nonetheless. Every effort of the international community should be oriented towards supporting these talks, and to bringing the two sides together.

South Africa is greatly encouraged by the words of the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, who said he would do everything in his power to contribute to an immediate cessation of hostilities and urgent negotiations for peace.

We all call upon Russia and Ukraine to subject this conflict to mediation and do everything in their power to reach an agreement that will lead to the cessation of hostilities.

The peoples of Russia and Ukraine – two neighbours whose histories, peoples and fortune are inextricably bound together – deserve a peace that is durable, sustainable and lasting. 🇺🇦

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THE COUNTRIES OF AFRICA are open for BUSINESS

South Africa stands ready to work closely with all African countries to forge more balanced, equitable and fair trade relations among African nations.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

On 1 January 2021, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) commenced trading – a significant milestone in our quest for African economic integration.

The AfCFTA aspires to connect all the regions of Africa, deepen economic integration and boost intra-African trade and investment.

It aspires to create a single market for goods and services across 55 countries and our continent, creating a market of as much as 1.3 billion people with a combined gross domestic product of US\$3.4 trillion.

The countries of Africa are open for business. Since ancient times, trade has been

the engine that connected communities both near and far.

From the ancient centres of learning like Alexandria and Timbuktu, to the northern civilisations in Egypt and Carthage, the western Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai, the trans-Saharan trade routes, the eastern trading centres of Zanzibar, Mombasa and Mogadishu, to the ancient southern civilisations of Great Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe, for many centuries, Africans traded the goods that they produced.

Throughout history, Africa has had a network of trade routes that facilitated the flow of goods such as beads, carvings, ivory, gold, gum, metal works, salt, textiles and metals. These trade routes enabled African traders to seek

out markets beyond the continent. Colonialism deeply damaged the indigenous development of African trade and caused great harm to our societies.

At first, Europeans traded in African lives, carrying millions of slaves across the Atlantic to produce the wealth of their new-found colonies.

Then, with the realisation of Africa's vast raw materials, colonial powers turned to the extraction of Africa's minerals and agricultural products.

Much of the economic storyline of colonialism persists to this day.

Now, Africa is taking concrete steps to write its own economic success story. It is opening up new fields of opportunity.

The AfCFTA will provide new export opportunities for "Made in Africa" products and enable member countries to trade with each other without tariffs or other hindrances.

One such opportunity is in Africa's rapid adoption of locally developed fintech, of which M-PESA is the most well-known.

It is an example of financial and technological innovation in which Africa leads the world.

A recent report from the Brookings Institution notes that Africa "is already the largest adopter of mobile money transfer systems, comprising nearly half of the globe's registered mobile money customers, approximately 70% of global mobile money transactions, and two-thirds of the transaction volume by value".

It is by harnessing all our capabilities, both existing and emerging, that we will accelerate Africa's economic growth and integrated development.

It is important for African manufacturers to promote and sell more "Made in Africa" goods to one another.

This is critical if we are to change the distorted trade relationship that exists between African countries and the rest of the world.

We can no longer have a situation where Africa exports raw materials and imports finished goods made with those materials.

We can no longer have a situation where the resources of Africa provide employment and add value in other economies, while so many of our people live in poverty and conditions of underdevelopment.

By promoting trade between African countries, we are strengthening the continent's industrial base and ensuring that we produce goods for ourselves and each other.

Two key developments of global significance can serve as a stimulus for Africa to act in unison.

Firstly, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first quarter of 2020 exposed the frailty of African economies.

More importantly, it sent a powerful message to our continent about the dangers of over-reliance on external sources to meet its growing demand for food, medicines and other essential supplies.

It clearly demonstrated that Africa needs to produce its own food and medicines, to strengthen continental supply chains and to invest in infrastructure and capacitate African institutions.

To illustrate the extent of the challenge, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa estimates that Africa imports about 94% of its pharmaceutical and medicinal needs from outside the continent at an annual cost of US\$16 billion.

Secondly, the AfCFTA has the potential to accelerate economic growth across the continent and create opportunities for entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises as well as large corporations to flourish.

The AfCFTA will provide new export opportunities for "Made in Africa" products and enable member countries to trade with each other without tariffs or other hindrances.

All of this will help the continent to absorb the 10 to 12 million African youth looking to enter the job market annually.

The AfCFTA should therefore be underpinned by strong and ambitious rules of origin, requiring a very high level of value-add on the African continent.

We need, as Africans, to resist the temptation to simply become transshipment centres, adding only limited industrial value in Africa.

The AfCFTA will unlock more value and give effect to the dream of African development if it promotes complementary trade between countries.

It is about using the combination of the continent's raw materials and industrial capacity, finance, services and infrastructure to produce quality finished goods to local and global markets.

It is about creating a market large enough to attract investors from across the world to set up their production facilities on the continent.

We need to mobilise all African governments, together with our social partners, to work tirelessly to address youth unemployment.

Half of Africa's population are women, and they are the dominant actors in the informal sectors of Africa's economic landscape.

Despite this, women only generate around a third of the continent's combined gross domestic product.

Trade is built on a bedrock of investment.

We must therefore find ways of attracting more investment into our economies, and, crucially, we must encourage African businesses to invest in each other's countries.

This requires that we improve the ease of doing business in our countries and provide protection for investors through strong and independent legal systems that will ensure the sanctity of contract and fair and expeditious legal processes.

It means also that investors must be sensitive to our continent's development goals:

jobs, industrialisation and development of local entrepreneurs.

The conditions of Africa's workers must improve as part of our development goals and the decent work agenda that all of us have committed to must find expression in our trade, investment and industrial frameworks.

On 24 May 1963, independent Ghana's first President, Kwame Nkrumah, delivered his famous "We must unite now or perish" speech in Addis Ababa.

His words are as true today as they were when the Organisation of African Unity was formed.

President Nkrumah said:

"With our united resources, energies and talents, we have the means, as soon as we have shown the will, to transform the economic structures of our individual states from poverty to that of wealth, from inequality to the satisfaction of popular needs. Only on a continental basis shall we be able to plan the proper utilisation of all our resources for the full development of our continent."

Now is the hour of action.

As countries, let us work with speed to resolve any outstanding issues around the AfCFTA; let those countries who have not already ratified it do so; and let us take the necessary steps towards domestication.

We are greatly encouraged by the sentiment expressed by the African Development Bank that the implementation of the AfCFTA will be a key component of the bank's lending programme and that working with the AfCFTA Secretariat the bank hopes to amass a number of AfCFTA-aligned investments.

South Africa stands ready to work closely with all African countries to forge more balanced, equitable and fair trade relations among African nations.





Good governance is essential for peace and prosperity

We share a responsibility, alongside our sister countries, to strengthen good governance in Africa. After all, good governance brings investment, development, peace, progress and, ultimately, shared prosperity.

By Ayanda Dlodlo
Minister of Public Service and Administration

Early in February 2022, at the 35th African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government, South Africa's two-year Chairship of the African Peer Review Forum came to an end.

The forum is one of the structures of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which aims to promote and protect human rights, consolidate democracy and advance good governance and the rule of law among African countries.

Of the AU's 55 member states, 42 are now members of the APRM. In recent months, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi became the most recent countries to join the mechanism. Efforts are underway to encourage all remaining AU member states to join by the end of this decade.

The APRM encourages best practice for political, social and economic stability, while helping to address governance deficiencies by providing a National Programme of Action for each state concerned.

In essence, the APRM is a voluntary arrangement among participating states "to

assess and review governance at Head of State peer level". By joining the APRM, states agree to independently review their compliance with continental and international governance commitments.

South Africa was one of the first countries to join the APRM in 2003 and has undergone two assessments. Our most recent review was last year, during which we were assessed on democratic and political governance, economic management, corporate governance, socio-economic development and state resilience.

Our country received favourable reviews for, among others, the rule of law, oversight

bodies like our Chapter 9 institutions, the advancement of women's rights, strong refugee protection and our extensive social welfare net.

South Africa was also cited for its strong corporate governance, open budget processes and for the proliferation of corporate social responsibility initiatives.

We were also praised for the evolution of our electoral system through the introduction of independent candidature for last year's local government elections.

With regard to management of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa was congratulated for demonstrating resilience and global leadership. The APRM Review Mission further commended South Africa for publicising its detection of the Omicron variant late last year, "despite the risks to its economy".

But the assessment also found several areas of concern. These include rising inequality and unemployment, corruption, incidents of xenophobia and poor service delivery. It recommended that government develop a barometer to measure inequality and tools to measure the efficacy of transformative programmes such as broad-based black economic empowerment, employment equity and land reform.

As a country, we are taking these recommendations on board and exploring areas of alignment between the APRM National Programme of Action and the work of our National Planning Commission.

It is greatly encouraging that despite pockets of instability, we have come a long way in consolidating democracy and good governance on the continent.

With regard to management of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa was congratulated for demonstrating resilience and global leadership. The APRM Review Mission further commended South Africa for publicising its detection of the Omicron variant late last year, "despite the risks to its economy".

The Africa Governance Report 2021, which South Africa presented to the AU Assembly recently, noted progress in consolidating democracy and moving towards economic integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area. At the same time, it recommended that leaders take urgent steps to address drivers of instability, such as growing youth unemployment, extremism, mass migration and deepening inequality.

Because participation is voluntary, the APRM seeks to encourage good governance through self-assessment and peer review. Member states are encouraged to work towards compliance by addressing deficiencies and implementing their national programmes of action.

While the APRM is not punitive, the AU has itself taken decisive positions on states whose actions undermine the principles of the AU Charter and the AU's Agenda 2063.

For example, following coups last year, Mali, Guinea and Sudan's membership of the AU was suspended. Early in February 2022, the AU also suspended Burkina Faso's membership following a coup in the West African nation.

At the founding of the Organisation of African Unity, the precursor to the AU, in 1963, Ghana's President, Kwame Nkrumah, issued a clear warning to Africa's leaders: "Our people supported us in our fight for independence because they believed that African governments could cure the ills of the past ... if now that we are independent we allow the same conditions to exist that existed in colonial days, all the resentment which overthrew colonialism will be mobilised against us."

The APRM is one of the most important responses of Africa's leaders to this danger.

Just as South Africa's fortunes are inextricably tied to those of the continent, we are also inevitably affected by political, economic and other forms of instability in Africa. This makes our participation in the APRM all the more critical.

We share a responsibility, alongside our sister countries, to strengthen good governance in Africa. After all, good governance brings investment, development, peace, progress and, ultimately, shared prosperity. 🇺🇦

The world must end vaccine apartheid

In an interdependent world, there is an urgent need for enhanced North-South collaboration around future pandemic preparedness and early warning systems.

By Joe Phaahla
Minister of Health

The story of the Trojan War contains a perfect allegory about the powerlessness of humankind against the forces of nature. It was unfavourable winds, not a lack of manpower or equipment, which stranded the Greek armada in a tiny coastal port, throwing its attack on Troy into disarray.

The worst global health crisis of this century, the COVID-19 pandemic, has similarly caught us all unprepared. Just as the winds trapped the ancient Greeks at Aulis, the pandemic has thrown off course our plans to end poverty, drive inclusive economic growth and reduce inequality.

The pandemic has exposed the fragility of the global economy and society. It has challenged the notion that richer nations can successfully insulate themselves from the plight of the developing world. Although the advent of Coronavirus vaccines has broadened the frontiers of hope for a sustainable global recovery, the inequitable distribution of these vaccines means that the recovery will be uneven and, potentially, short-lived. If the world is to overcome the pandemic in 2022, it needs to end vaccine apartheid.

That will require a more progressive approach to intellectual property around vaccines. Ensuring the availability of medical supplies for everyone will require, among other measures, enabling and expanding vaccine production in developing economies. COVID-19 has exacerbated poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment across vast swathes of the globe. To respond effectively, we will need to increase social spending on healthcare and welfare, strengthen health systems, undertake mass job-creation programmes and build resilience in communities.

Governments in low- and middle-income countries will need to take the lead in aggressive infrastructure investment, accelerating industrialisation and implementing growth-enhancing reforms. As the pace of global trade continues to recover, countries and

companies will be in search of investment and business opportunities beyond their shores. Developing economies, particularly those on the African continent, will be able to position themselves as new frontiers for growth, notably in infrastructure, mining, renewables, information technology, agriculture and the green economy.

The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area will gain momentum, bringing the world's biggest free-trade zone into full operation. Developing economies will continue to make the case that official development assistance is no substitute for increased foreign direct investment, which is more sustainable, creates more opportunities and benefits both investors and recipient countries.

There will be renewed attention on the Sustainable Development Goals and on mobilising resources to help poorer countries meet them. We will intensify efforts to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Much more support must be given to low- and middle-income countries, which are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change while bearing the least responsibility for it.

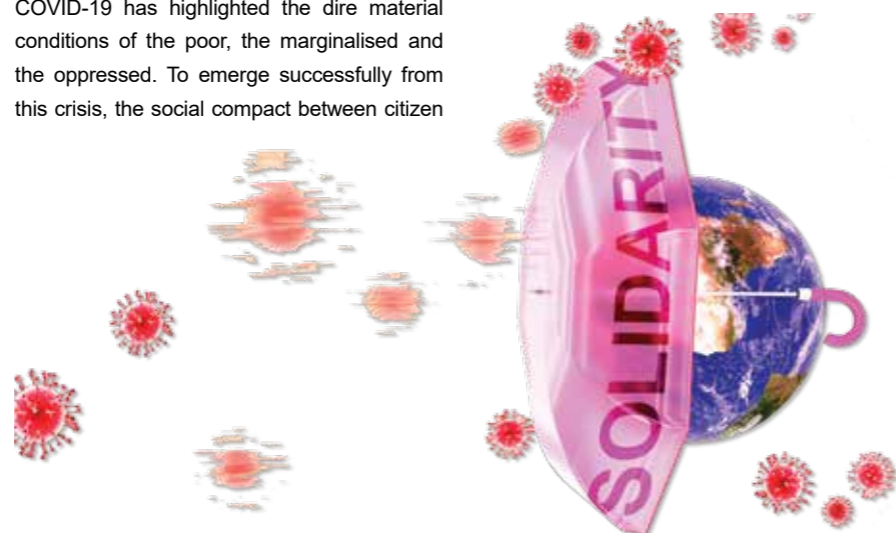
In an interdependent world, there is an urgent need for enhanced North-South collaboration around future pandemic preparedness and early warning systems. COVID-19 has highlighted the dire material conditions of the poor, the marginalised and the oppressed. To emerge successfully from this crisis, the social compact between citizen

and state must be upheld and deepened. In their management of both the pandemic and the economic recovery, governments will need to prove themselves worthy of the trust and confidence of their people.

At a global level, the altruism that brought communities and societies together in the early days of the pandemic will deepen as we work to overcome domestic and global challenges, including gender-based violence, racism and xenophobia. To achieve our goals, social solidarity must overcome narrow self-interest. This solidarity must be indivisible and unconditional. It must be based on mutual respect and mutual responsibility.

The power of solidarity

We can no longer avert our eyes from the inequalities that prevent all human beings from leading lives of dignity and prosperity. The year 2022 must be a turning point, in which we not only overcome a devastating pandemic, but also achieve a sustainable, just and inclusive global recovery. Let it be a year in which we harness the power of solidarity to realise a more equal and more resilient future – one that leaves no country, community or person behind. [U](#)



HELP SAVE LIVES

A record 45 million people across Southern Africa are starving.

The World Food Programme delivers food in emergencies and helps hard-hit communities build resilience to climate shocks.

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SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

The nations of the world can only address the global climate change crisis by working together

It is with pride that we can say that Africa spoke with one voice at COP26 in Glasgow late last year.

By Barbara Creecy
Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

The COVID-19 pandemic has set back many multilateral processes, including around climate change.

It is imperative that we do not lose momentum, and that climate change is not relegated to the periphery of the global development agenda.

Africa is experiencing the worst impacts of phenomena associated with global warming such as droughts, floods and cyclones. Climate change impacts are costing African economies between 3% and 5% of their gross domestic products. Despite not being responsible for causing climate change, it is Africans who are bearing both the brunt and the cost.

It is with pride that we can say that Africa spoke with one voice at COP26 in Glasgow late last year.

A number of key outcomes and successes were achieved.

The conclusion of the Paris Agreement Work Programme, which will provide a basis for parties to implement fully the Paris Agreement, in the context of a just transition and sustainable development, and leaving no one left behind.

The complex Glasgow Climate Pact strives to strike the right balance by accommodating the differing national circumstances and capacities among the nearly 200 parties. The aim is that all are enabled and empowered to contribute their fair share as well as to enhance their climate ambition.

Glasgow further sends a clear signal that the world will be safer under the 1.5 degree temperature rise scenario, compared to 2 degrees or more.

Developed economy countries have agreed to support the implementation of just transitions that promote sustainable development, poverty eradication and the creation of decent work and quality jobs.

Much more work needs to be done for Africa and the world to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

It is still of concern that the necessary financial flows to enable developing economy countries in particular to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change remain vastly inadequate.

Africa's special needs and circumstances need to be recognised globally because of our natural resource-based economies, and owing to high levels of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

Such a decision will unlock the necessary financial flows to our continent as we embark on just transitions towards a low-carbon future.

As we prepare for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP27 taking place in the Arab Republic of Egypt in November, Africa must once more speak with one voice, expressing their unwavering support for the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and for the primacy of multilateralism.

COP26 recognises our right to develop our own development pathways towards shared global objectives, based on our national circumstances and the guiding principles of the UNFCCC. Foremost among them is equity, and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

We must promote and defend this, as well as the right of all African and other developing countries to support in the form of finance, technology and capacity-building.

A one-size-fits-all approach to complex issues such as a transition from fossil fuels that disregards the realities on the ground in Africa will simply not work, and is neither just nor equitable.

To achieve the expected results for Africa at COP27, it is imperative that we develop a strong and well-coordinated Common African Position, and that we formulate a set of robust key messages that encapsulate Africa's aspirations.

Most importantly, we must continue to work together in the spirit of unity and solidarity.

Recent highlights in this regard include:

- The finalisation of the African Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022 – 2032 that was launched during the meeting of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) in February 2022. It provides a broad outline for harmonised and coordinated actions to respond to the impacts of climate change, as well as to plan for the continent's low-emission and climate-resilient future.

Africa's special needs and circumstances need to be recognised globally because of our natural resource-based economies, and owing to high levels of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

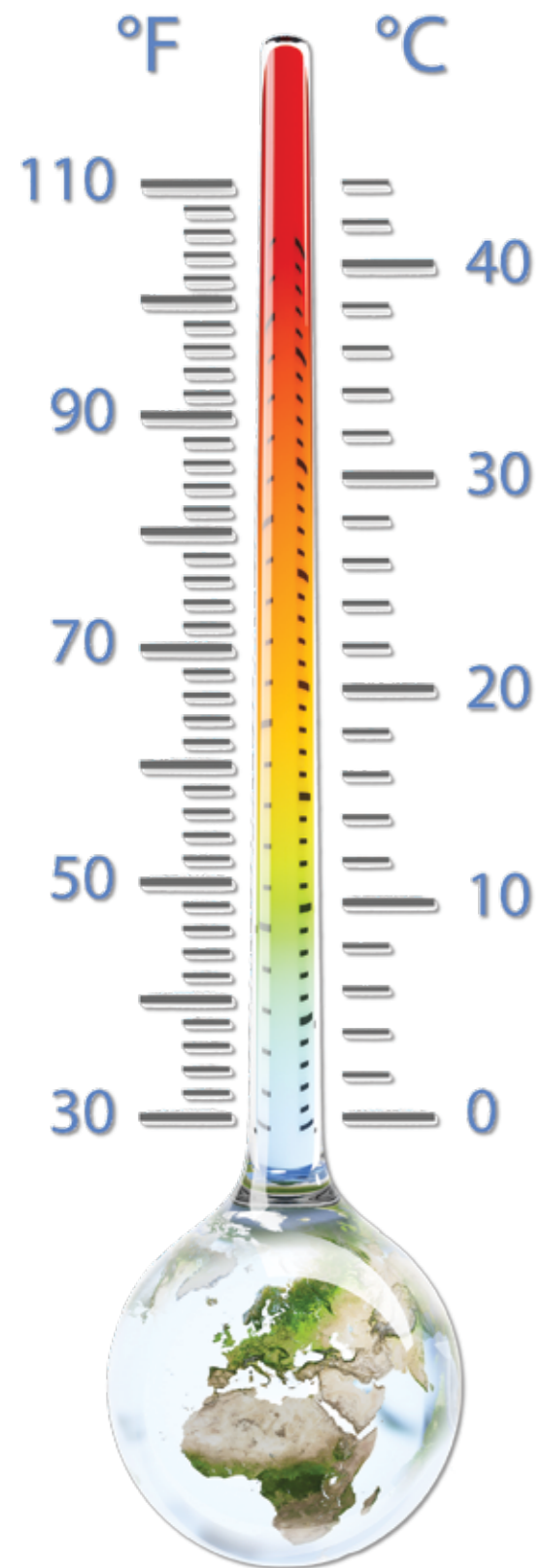
- Work that has been done on advancing the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI). The AAI has successfully evolved into a promising vehicle for achieving transformative adaptation results for African countries.
- The programme of work of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative has continued. This is a transformative and Africa-led effort to accelerate and scale up harnessing the continent's huge renewable energy potential.
- The outcomes of the engagements and progress on resource mobilisation for Africa's climate programmes by the three climate commissions, as well as planned activities.
- The report includes the African Green Stimulus Programme, as well as the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan. These plans were developed during the past two years, and seek to harness the opportunities that a green recovery of the continent can deliver.

South Africa's term as coordinator of CAHOSCC came to a close in February 2022.

The African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment developed the Common African Position on Climate Change ahead of COP26 and promoted and defended Africa's interests at the global climate change negotiations. This sterling work will have an impact for generations to come.

The nations of the world can only address the global climate change crisis by working together. All parties should honour their undertakings and commitments, and base their climate actions and policies on the latest available science. They should furthermore respect the UNFCCC's guiding principles.

A one-size-fits-all approach to complex issues such as a transition from fossil fuels that disregards the realities on the ground in Africa will simply not work, and is neither just nor equitable.





2022
STATE OF THE NATION
ADDRESS
10 February, Cape Town

**WELCOME
TO
PARLIAMENT**



President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on 10 February 2022 before a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament, at the Cape Town City Hall. The annual SoNA sets out government's key policy objectives and deliverables for the year ahead, highlights achievements, flags challenges and outlines interventions to unlock development interventions for the coming financial year.

Contributing to the fight against poverty, inequality and unemployment through diplomacy

South Africa is a strong proponent of African unity and solidarity. We believe that continental unity, peace and prosperity begin at bilateral levels when individual states reach out to others and forge closer bilateral ties.

By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The year 2021 was the second year in which we had to implement South Africa's foreign policy under the challenging conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The work we have done – and will continue to do – aims to pursue our foreign policy mission of “championing an African continent, which is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united and which aspires for a world that is just and equitable.”

SADC's role in restoring peace and stability in the region

South Africa continues to play an active role within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), working as part of a

regional collective and assuming specific responsibilities as assigned through the decision-making structures of the regional body.

SADC has undergone changes in 2021, the most notable of which was the appointment of a new Executive Secretary, His Excellency Elias Mpedi Magosi. South Africa will continue to support the work of the SADC Secretariat, which is tasked with, among other things, coordinating our response to the development and security challenges facing the region.

The situation in the Republic of Mozambique is of particular concern to all of us in the region. Following extensive discussions, SADC has deployed the Regional Coordination Mechanism on the operations of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM).

The Extraordinary Summit of the SADC Troika, which met in Pretoria in October 2021, approved the extension of the SAMIM “to continue with offensive operations against terrorists and violent extremists to consolidate the stability of security and create a conducive environment for resettlement of the population and facilitate humanitarian assistance operations and sustainable development.”

The SADC region remains unwavering in its commitment to continue supporting the Republic of Mozambique in achieving peace and security in some parts of the central and northern Cabo Delgado province. The leaders of our region have committed to contributing towards the efforts to bring about lasting peace and security, as well as reconciliation and development in the Republic of Mozambique.

In August 2021, South Africa took over the role of Chair of the SADC Organ for Politics, Defence and Security. Our responsibility is to continue to support efforts aimed at supporting the achievement and maintenance of security and the rule of law in the SADC region. The SADC Treaty, the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ II are the key documents that guide the activities of the organ.

Fostering closer bilateral political and economic ties with fellow African states

South Africa is a strong proponent of African unity and solidarity. We believe that continental unity, peace and prosperity begin at bilateral levels when individual states reach out to others and forge closer bilateral ties. Strong bilateral ties provide the foundation for greater Pan-African unity. We have worked harder at forging closer bilateral ties with several of Africa's leading economies, including Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

In November 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted his Kenyan counterpart, President Uhuru Kenyatta, on a State Visit to South Africa. South Africa and Kenya share friendship, mutual respect, common values and solidarity not only on issues of bilateral concern but also on the vision for the continent. Both countries are proponents of unity and integration and have a common vision for the development and Renaissance of Africa as encapsulated in the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

In August 2021, South Africa took over the role of Chair of the SADC Organ for Politics, Defence and Security. Our responsibility is to continue to support efforts aimed at supporting the achievement and maintenance of security and the rule of law in the SADC region.

After the Kenya State Visit, President Ramaphosa led a delegation comprising government and business leaders on a State Visit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, at the invitation of President Muhammadu Buhari.

The State Visit to Nigeria coincided with the 10th Session of the Nigeria-South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC), which reflected on the progress made in advancing trade and investment between the two countries.

President Ramaphosa also undertook a State Visit to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire at the invitation of President Alassane Dramane Ouattara.

The State Visit was historic. It was the first since diplomatic relations between South Africa and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire were established in May 1992.

A third State Visit was to the Republic of Ghana at the invitation of President Nana Addo Akufo-Addo. Bilateral relations between South Africa and Ghana have grown significantly over the years.

We are focussed on the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

and advancing the objectives of the economic integration of our continent.

Business relations are thriving. There are over 200 South African companies registered in Ghana, employing nearly 20 000 Ghanaians and around 500 expatriates. There is, however, still room for improvement, and our two countries are exploring more opportunities for further economic collaboration.

President Ramaphosa undertook a further Official Visit to the Republic of Senegal at the invitation of President Macky Sall. The President took part in the Dakar Peace and Security Forum.

South Africa and Senegal enjoy cordial bilateral political, economic and social relations underpinned by strong historical ties dating back to the years of the liberation struggle.

A visit to Gorée Island was a moving highlight of the visit.

Managing the COVID-19 pandemic

As part of its continuous response and effort in fighting against COVID-19, South Africa has (through the African Renaissance Fund)



Our diplomats work tirelessly daily to market South Africa as a trade, investment and tourism destination of choice. This is one of the ways in which we contribute to the fight against poverty, inequality and unemployment in our country and continent.

paid a grant to the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust, which was established by the AU, when President Ramaphosa served as Chair of the AU. This followed the establishment of the COVID-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team in November 2020. The main purpose of the task team is to ensure that the African continent secures vaccines and blended financing resources for achieving Africa's COVID-19 vaccination strategy, which targets vaccinating a minimum of 60% of Africa's population.

The announcement that Johnson & Johnson has granted South African pharmaceutical company, Aspen, an intellectual property licence to produce its vaccines under the new brand name, Aspenovax, is not only a step in the right direction but also a good sign that our diplomacy and advocacy work are bearing fruit.

This is what South Africa has been calling for.

International solidarity work relating to Palestine and Western Sahara

In 2021, we highlighted concern that the situation relating to Western Sahara and Palestine remained deadlocked – in some instances even worsening. The question of Palestine is still unresolved after 70 years and continues to challenge human conscience and international justice.

In keeping with South Africa's long-term and principled support for the Palestinian people, the Government of South Africa remains committed to supporting initiatives aimed at refocussing the international agenda on Palestine and the Middle East Peace Process. The Palestinian question remains at the heart of the Middle East situation.

The South African Government believes that the only way to bring about lasting peace in the Middle East is to have a comprehensive and unconditional negotiated settlement to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and Israel's continued blockade of Gaza. The ongoing delay in achieving such

a settlement leads to an unending cycle of violence.

In the context of Israel's continuing violations of its international law obligations, we have worryingly seen the AU Commission (AUC) last year granting Israel the status of an observer in the AU. This came as a shock, given that the decision was made at a time when the oppressed people of Palestine were hounded by destructive bombardments and continued illegal settlements of their land.

The unjust actions committed by Israel offend the letter and spirit of the Charter of the AU. The AU embodies the aspirations of all Africans and reflects their confidence that it can lead the continent through the practical expression of the goals of the charter, especially on issues relating to self-determination and decolonisation. The decision by the AUC in this context remains inexplicable.

South Africa in the multilateral system (the United Nations [UN], its institutions and other bodies)

South Africa is a proud member of the world community of nations. During 2021, we continued to play active roles in institutions of global governance, including the UN; the G20; and Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). We are serving in the UN Peacebuilding Commission from 2021 to 2022.

South Africa participated in the 76th UN Session of the General Assembly (UNGA76) in September 2021 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".

In his address to the General Assembly, President Ramaphosa called for fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, saying: "In this interconnected world, no country is safe until every country is safe".

At the G20, held in Rome, Italy, South Africa joined other countries in discussions aimed at forging a common global recovery effort from the COVID-19 crisis and enable

sustainable and inclusive growth. Together with other G20 members, South Africa committed itself to overcoming the global health and economic crisis stemming from the pandemic, which has affected billions of lives, dramatically hampering progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and disrupting global supply chains and international mobility.

The year 2021 saw BRICS commemorating 15 years of its existence. Together with its BRICS partners, South Africa takes pride in the achievements of this organisation. These achievements include the creation and operationalisation of the New Development Bank, the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, the Energy Research Cooperation Platform and Partnership for New Industrial Revolution and the Science, Technology and Innovation Framework, to name but a few.

Cooperation among BRICS member states continues to grow. In December 2021, we announced that the South African Government had invited BRICS scientists to collaborate on research, including sharing of data and information on COVID-19 with a particular focus on Omicron, the new variant first discovered and reported by South African scientists.

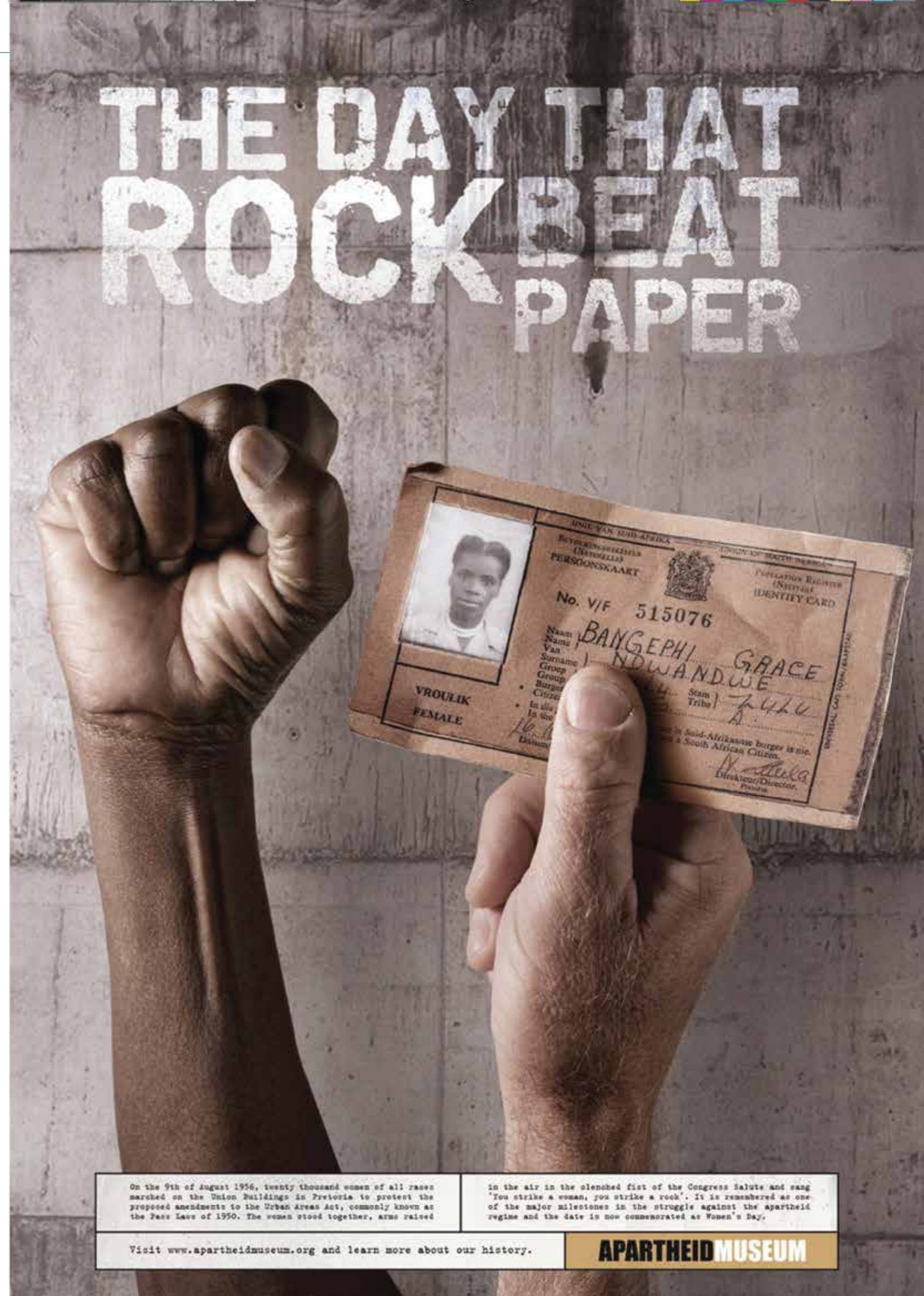
South Africa is currently the host of the BRICS Vaccine Research Centre and research on the Omicron variant will form part of the centre's initiatives.

In 2021, we launched the Charlotte Maxeke African Women's Economic Justice and Rights Initiative.

This will be our contribution to the empowerment of women and girls in the global agenda of economic justice, peace, security, reconstruction and development.

Our diplomats work tirelessly daily to market South Africa as a trade, investment and tourism destination of choice. This is one of the ways in which we contribute to the fight against poverty, inequality and unemployment in our country and continent. 🇿🇦

South Africa is a proud member of the world community of nations. During 2021, we continued to play active roles in institutions of global governance, including the UN; the G20; and Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). We are serving in the UN Peacebuilding Commission from 2021 to 2022.



THE DAY THAT
ROCK BEAT
PAPER



On the 9th of August 1956, twenty thousand women of all races marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas Act, commonly known as the Pass Laws of 1950. The women stood together, arms raised in the air in the clenched fist of the Congress Salute and sang 'You strike a woman, you strike a rock'. It is remembered as one of the major milestones in the struggle against the apartheid regime and the date is now commemorated as Women's Day.



In solidarity with the people of Palestine: Remembering the Goldstein massacre

To this day, Palestinians under Israeli rule continue to experience widespread abuse, including killings through the excessive use of force, torture, arbitrary arrests and long-lasting curfews over wide areas.

By Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Twenty-eight years ago on 25 February 1994, less than six months after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat signed the landmark Oslo Accords in Washington DC, during the overlapping religious holidays of both the Jewish Purim and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, extremist Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein carried out a massacre targeting Muslim worshippers who were performing the dawn prayer (*Fajr*) at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

This gruesome attack left 29 worshippers martyred and more than 150 others injured, before Goldstein was overpowered and beaten to death.

Word of the attack unleashed mass Palestinian protests across Hebron, the West Bank and Gaza, leading to an estimated 20 to 50 more fatalities, including nine Israelis, with

more than 150 injuries recorded. The fall-out from the massacre had far-reaching political and economic consequences that remain in place today.

The heart of Hebron's history centres around the Ibrahimi Mosque, also known as the Cave of the Patriarchs, located in Hebron's Old City, which tradition holds is built on the burial site of biblical patriarchs such as Abraham. It is revered by Muslims, Christians and Jews alike.

The aftermath of the Goldstein massacre provoked international outrage and condemnation. The United Nations (UN) Security Council passed Resolution 904 without a vote, calling for "measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory". Resolution 904 resulted in the creation of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), which was supposed to protect the Palestinian population.

However, Israel only allowed TIPH to act as observers, leaving Palestinians in Hebron at the mercy of settlers and the soldiers assigned to protect them.

In response to the international outcry, the Israeli Government created a commission of inquiry that found Goldstein, a follower of the manifestly racist Rabbi Meir Kahana – an Orthodox Jewish American known for his ultra-nationalist ideology and for founding the Kach party in 1971 – had acted alone. The decision effectively absolved Israel of any responsibility.

From the time that Israel was established in 1948, its policies and legislation have been shaped by an overarching objective: to maintain a Jewish demographic majority and maximise Jewish Israeli control over land to the detriment of Palestinians. To achieve this, successive Israeli governments have deliberately imposed a system of oppression and domination over Palestinians. The key

Israel's policies in Hebron's Old City reveal a system that infiltrates every aspect of daily life for Palestinian residents. Violating international humanitarian and human rights law, the Israeli regime creates a coercive environment that triggers forcible transfer of Palestinians living in the Old City.

components of this system are territorial fragmentation, segregation and control, dispossession of land and property and denial of economic and social rights.

Hebron is a city built around its most ancient relic, the Ibrahimi Mosque, a sacred structure listed as a UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation World Heritage Site since 2017, which should bring worshippers together, whether Jewish, Christian or Muslim. Instead, the reality of Zionism and settler colonialism in Palestine has instead rendered the Mosque an apartheid construct, not a unifier.

The political, social and economic consequences of Israeli colonial expansion, the closures and movement restrictions and the excessive use of force continue to affect the lives of all Palestinians, not only in Hebron.

Since around 2020, a succession of human rights groups in Israel and globally have conducted monitoring and have produced highly critical reports of Israel's practices, mechanisms and measures and wider policies aimed at creating a coercive environment that triggers the forcible transfer of Palestinians from their land.

Israel's policies in Hebron's Old City reveal a system that infiltrates every aspect of daily life for Palestinian residents. Violating international humanitarian and human rights law, the Israeli regime creates a coercive environment that

triggers forcible transfer of Palestinians living in the Old City.

Israel continues to restrict Palestinian rights, including free movement and access to property, while strengthening military protection of the colonisers. This, in turn, emboldens them to harass, abuse and attack the Palestinian population.

To this day, Palestinians under Israeli rule continue to experience widespread abuse, including killings through the excessive use of force, torture, arbitrary arrests and long-lasting curfews over wide areas. Strict and arbitrary controls on movement impede their ability to earn a living, study at universities, obtain goods and services and otherwise conduct their everyday lives.

The West Bank city, long a flashpoint of conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, has been the scene of widespread human rights abuses since the renewal of violent clashes on 29 September 2000, an uprising that Palestinians commonly refer to as the *Al-Aqsa Intifada*.

Hebron is the only major Palestinian city in the West Bank that remains in substantial measure under the direct control of the Israeli Defence Force. The crisis in Hebron, as in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, has at its core a disregard for human rights and international humanitarian law.

In November 2000, Human Rights Watch, in consultation with individuals and other organisations, undertook a two-week fact-finding mission to the West Bank and a three-week fact-finding mission to the West Bank and Gaza in February 2001 and released a study of human rights abuses in Hebron district.

As published in its report, *Centre of the Storm*, the research found serious and extensive human rights abuses in the district, including excessive use of force by Israeli soldiers against unarmed Palestinian demonstrators, unlawful killings, unacknowledged assassinations of suspected Palestinian militants, attacks by Palestinian gunmen directed against Israeli civilians living in settlements and in circumstances that have placed Palestinian civilians at grave risk from Israeli response fire, disproportionate Israeli gunfire in response to Palestinian attacks and extensive abuses by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians.

In another report published in April 2021, Human Rights Watch said Israel was using "apartheid". The report further noted that Israel was guilty of "persecution" under international law, because it deprived Palestinians of "key fundamental rights" based on "their identity as Palestinians". The report concluded that the actions from Israel across a broad spectrum undermined the Palestinian people and deprived them of their universal and inalienable right to self-determination and equality. It goes against internationally adopted human rights instruments, violates international law, further provoking political tension and endangering international peace and security.

The debate about whether the Israel-Palestine situation can be termed as apartheid has been gaining traction. After a four-year investigation, Amnesty International (AI), one of the most prominent human rights groups in the world, published on 1 February 2022 a comprehensive report, entitled, *Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians; Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity*.

AI's report documents comprehensively the systematic discrimination and how Israel enforces a system of oppression and domination against the Palestinian people. AI became the fourth major human rights group to indict Israel for creating and maintaining an "apartheid" system to control Palestinians. AI's report meticulously details the realities on the ground and what many Palestinians, activists and allies have said for years. The report has been widely received as an in-depth and concise compilation of incidents, policies and aggressions against Palestinians living under occupation and apartheid.

Some of the incidents and realities covered in the report include home demolitions, unjust imprisonment, detention of children, lack of water access, endless checkpoints, curfews and many more human rights abuses.

Over the last two years, South Africa has been instrumental in stepping up pressure on the Government of Israel. In partnership with the Government of Namibia, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations and international legal scholars, it has been working to catalyse discussions on whether the actions of the Israeli Government contravene international legal prohibitions on the Crime of Apartheid. ►►

In keeping with South Africa's long-term and principled support for the Palestinian people, the Government of South Africa remains committed to supporting initiatives aimed at refocussing the international agenda on Palestine and the Middle East peace process.

In keeping with South Africa's long-term and principled support for the Palestinian people, the Government of South Africa remains committed to supporting initiatives aimed at refocussing the international agenda on Palestine and the Middle East peace process.

The South African Government believes that the only way to bring about lasting peace in the Middle East is to have a comprehensive and unconditional negotiated settlement to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and Israel's continued blockade of Gaza.

The ongoing delay in achieving such a settlement leads to an unending cycle of violence.

South Africa's foreign policy reflects its longstanding commitment to the development of a viable, sovereign Palestinian state, living in peace alongside the State of Israel.

South Africa therefore supports international efforts aimed at the establishment of a viable Palestinian state, existing side-by-side in peace with Israel within internationally recognised borders, based on those existing on 4 June 1967, prior to the outbreak of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In commemorating and marking the anniversary of the Goldstein massacre that took place on 25 February 1994, the story of what happened at the Ibrahimi Mosque and in Hebron 28 years ago should be told around the world.

What happened in Hebron was not only the responsibility of Baruch Goldstein. The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was not just a passing event, but rather an act planned to impose a new reality through which the occupation could achieve its goals, seeking to

expel the Palestinians from the Old City and control the Ibrahimi Mosque.

Since the massacre, the city of Hebron has been subjected to a series of measures that changed its historical features and strengthened Israeli settlement. The level of Israeli occupation and domination throughout one of the world's oldest cities continue to rise.

The Israeli Government, and those who push an anti-Palestinian narrative, must take responsibility for what happened and what continues to happen today.

Until constructive action to recognise accountability occurs alongside acute measures to end illegal occupation, the threat and reality of violence will remain.

As South Africa, we remain steadfast in our support for and solidarity with the people of Palestine. 🇷🇺

In commemorating and marking the anniversary of the Goldstein massacre that took place on 25 February 1994, the story of what happened at the Ibrahimi Mosque and in Hebron 28 years ago should be told around the world.



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South African NATIONAL PARKS



Solidarity with the Palestinian people must go beyond slogans and the UN must abide by its resolutions

As was the case with South Africa before democracy in 1994, the international community must consider the impact of Israel's systematic violation of human rights and enforcement of discrimination against the Palestinian people.

By Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The international community must consider the impact of Israel's systematic violation of human rights and enforcement of discrimination against the Palestinian people. It is time for

the United Nations (UN) and its member states to take appropriate action, just as it did with apartheid South Africa.

Monday, 29 November 2021, marked the 44th observance of the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Sadly, this day once again highlighted the shortcomings of the UN and its member states – 74 years since the General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 (II) to partition Palestine into two separate states, this has yet to occur.

To maintain the credibility of the UN, we must insist that all member states abide by the resolutions we adopt. Our words must transcend rhetoric and translate into actions aimed at safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people, protection of their land and property, and to provide the necessary impartial support towards achieving a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

Instead, we witness an occupation that grows more entrenched with each passing year. Recent developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) are disconcerting, undermining decades of efforts aimed at achieving sustainable political settlements and self-determination.

Israel as a state has continuously shown disdain for international human rights law with respect to the rights of the people in the OPTs, trampling on their right to self-determination, which is enshrined in the two key international human rights instruments, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on Social Economic, and Cultural Rights, both of which have as their first Article, the Right to Self-Determination.

In May 2021, we witnessed harrowing events emanating from actions by the occupying force, which imposed restrictions that ignited rising tensions, protests and violence. The pending, forcible evictions and demolition orders of Palestinian property in the neighbourhoods of Sheik Jarrah and Silwan further inflamed tensions, spurring violence. The result was the loss of lives of innocent women, children and the elderly.

The May events and subsequent developments, especially around Sheik Jarrah and Silwan – and the Government of Israel's annexation agenda it pursues – shed light on how Israeli laws and practices are seemingly engineered to violate Palestinian rights.

Palestinians living in the OPTs are denied fundamental freedoms through the systemic discrimination and subjugation of an Israeli-designed system under which Palestinian rights fail to exist.

This does not only illustrate the occupying power's continuous disrespect of internationally adopted provisions and

principles; it would also suggest that it may be exercising an apartheid-like system against Palestinians. These unacceptable practices cannot continue and we, as UN member states, have a responsibility to bring an end to these injustices.

As was the case with South Africa before democracy in 1994, the international community must consider the impact of Israel's systematic violation of human rights and enforcement of discrimination against the Palestinian people. Civil-society organisations, including Human Rights Watch and the Israeli NGO, B'tselem, have been clear on Israel's apartheid-like policies.

It is therefore time to abandon the mere solidarity rhetoric and for the UN and its member states to take appropriate action just as it did with apartheid South Africa.

Our collective conscience cannot allow us to continue to be spectators as Palestinian lives move through cycles of violence and oppression as they have for the past seven decades and yet, on an annual basis, we pledge our solidarity to the people of Palestine without any further concrete change in their plight.

We need to stop reacting momentarily as events unfold and instead be proactive in our approach as we restore hope and work towards achieving a two-state solution.

Part of this action is holding the international community, and in particular the UN Security Council, accountable for its evident lack of action in recent years to act against the State of Israel, despite the fact that Israel continues to flout international law and practices.

To maintain the credibility of the UN, we must insist that all member states abide by the resolutions we adopt. Our words must transcend rhetoric and translate into actions

aimed at safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people, protection of their land and property, and to provide the necessary impartial support towards achieving a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

We need to intensify the call for international action, with the UN playing a leading role, to eradicate the scourge of racism and discrimination and allow those whose basic rights have been violated to enjoy inherent human rights that others get to enjoy on a daily basis.

The denial of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, the right to national independence and sovereignty and the right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced, eroded any prospect of Palestinian statehood and subverts hope of a just and lasting settlement towards peace.

Similarly, the onus also falls on the shoulders of the respective Palestinian actors to work towards creating a favourable atmosphere that provides for a willingness to initiate dialogue and reconciliation among themselves. As a united front, a viable and sustainable peace plan can be put forward so that Palestine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic viability is guaranteed, with sovereign equality between Palestine and Israel.

South Africa reaffirms its commitment to the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and build a future of peace, dignity, justice and security.

South Africa firmly believes that lasting peace can only be attained through restoring all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with the two-State solution and the relevant UN resolutions and international terms of reference. [U](#)

The denial of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, the right to national independence and sovereignty and the right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced, erodes any prospect of Palestinian statehood and subverts hope of a just and lasting settlement towards peace.



South Africa must lead in implementing continental free trade deal

“The Africa we want” can certainly be “made in Africa”, “by Africa” and “for Africans”.

By Ambassador Ntsiki Mashimbye
South Africa's Ambassador to Egypt

Between the first and the 12th centuries, extraordinary events happened in Africa, events that transformed not just the history of the continent, but the history of the world.” – Henry Louis Gates Jr, *Africa's Great Civilisations*.

The economic foundations of Africa and its peoples, the economic evolution of the continent and the manner in which its ancient civilisations developed cultural and commercial ties with other parts of Africa and the world are unfamiliar topics for most people, including Africans.

In his book, *A Fistful of Shells*, historian Toby Green writes: “For decades, outside a small circle of passionate, dedicated scholars, these African pasts have suffered neglect.

“Yet, they reveal ancient civilisations and a history whose relevance is absolutely contemporary.”

Indeed, ancient Egypt, Aksum, Carthage and Kush are said to have the same level of commercial prowess as the ancient Romans and Greeks, and were even pioneers and innovators of commerce and trade. Agriculture thrived in the Nile Valley and crops were also exchanged.

In medieval times and in precolonial Africa, the kingdoms of Ghana, Timbuktu and Mapungubwe were trading hubs for regional and international trade, including with India and China.

In a 2017 essay, titled: *The History of African Trade* (commissioned by the president of the African Export-Import Bank [Afreximbank], Benedict Oramah), Harvard University's Professor Emmanuel Akyeampong reflects on the pre-1652 regional trade networks across South Africa between the Khoisan in the south-west, the Batswana in the north and the AmaXhosa in the south-east.

Postcolonial Africa also became a proponent of regional integration, with a desire to industrialise and correct perverse patterns of trade that perpetuated the continent's dependency on the developed world.

The success of the second Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) 2021 is evidence that Africa has now come full circle in its economic history.

The event brought together leaders of industry from 69 countries (46 African and 23 non-African), as well as seven African heads of state. Small and medium-sized enterprises also showcased their products to throngs of visitors and buyers.

Estimates are that about 12 000 people visited the Durban International Convention Centre daily, with many participating virtually. Upwards of 1 160 companies or entities showcased their wares and services. For the first time, the youth and the creative industries

of our continent also participated in this majestic spectacle.

Moreover, the fair proved to be a powerful uniting force across the continent, in the face of an insidious pandemic that continues to divide the world into north and south, rich and poor, and vaccinated and unvaccinated.

The IATF showed the world that Africa needed no longer remain on the periphery of the global trading system: it can and will industrialise and diversify its exports, break out of existing trade patterns and seek its own unique development path.

All efforts were made to pursue enhanced connectivity and trade between our peoples, and to revive the commercial culture and market economies of ancient and medieval Africa, which were hallmarks of African civilisation.

At the opening of the fair, President Cyril Ramaphosa aptly said: “It is our expectation that this Intra-African Trade Fair will further cement its position as Africa's premier trading platform, where African manufacturers can promote and sell more ‘made in Africa’ goods to one another. This is critical if we are to change the distorted trade relationship that exists between African countries and the rest of the world.”

The IATF Advisory Council, chaired by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, reported that deals to the value of US\$42.1 billion in trade and investment were concluded.

This is significantly more than the US\$32 billion worth of deals that were signed during the first instalment of the fair, which was held in Cairo, Egypt, in 2018.

The event also came at a critical juncture in South Africa's leadership role in Africa, particularly given President Ramaphosa's prioritisation of economic diplomacy on and with the continent.

At the core of South Africa's foreign policy sits Africa – and since 1994, the country's leaders have accepted that its success is inextricably linked to that of the continent.

A democratic South Africa was therefore at the forefront of a plethora of African ideational and institutional initiatives, whose aim was to strategically reposition the continent in the global geopolitical system.

One such initiative was the transmutation of the Organisation of African Unity into the African Union (AU) on 9 July 2002 in Durban. In spite of the challenges that remain, the AU has now evolved into an organisation Africans should be proud of. South Africa was also at the centre of other landmark initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development

At the core of South Africa's foreign policy sits Africa – and since 1994, the country's leaders have accepted that its success is inextricably linked to that of the continent.

and the African Peer Review Mechanism, whose successes have defined the continent's socio-economic and democratic trajectory.

The hosting of the IATF – organised by Afreximbank, the AU and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat – from 15 to 21 November 2021 in Durban was a continuation of South Africa's tradition of outstanding service to the people of the continent.

The second instalment of the IATF was scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda, but just three months before the event, with all the limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its variant tentacles, the South African Government agreed to host this historical exhibition in the birthplace of the AU.

The tremendous success of the event was no doubt a nostalgic moment for South Africans who have witnessed the evolution of our leadership in the continent's affairs, despite some observers arguing that South Africa's influence in Africa is in decline.

It could well be true that because of domestic challenges, the country's focus has not been as sharp on the African Agenda and the renaissance of the continent.

As a result, other players have occupied the space and dictated the agenda, lending credence to ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle's observation that “nature abhors a vacuum”.

As the most industrialised country with the most sophisticated economy in Africa, South Africa has no choice but to take the lead – in concert with other economic powerhouses, such as Nigeria and Egypt – in ensuring the successful implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

South Africa should also support its son Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the AfCFTA, with the difficult task the AU has placed on his shoulders. As a country that has always been known for punching above its weight and leading “a realist paradigm from the south”, South Africa must now live up to the expectations of many in Africa and beyond.

It must therefore use its resources and capacity to ensure that trade interconnectedness is achieved and intra-African value chains are developed – fast.

The World Bank reports that the AfCFTA Agreement “will create the largest free trade

area in the world” ... connecting 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined GDP valued at US\$43 trillion ... with the potential to lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty”.

It is encouraging that President Ramaphosa embarked on a tour of four West African countries (including Ghana, the seat of AfCFTA) with a view to consolidating political and economic relations, as well as establishing new ones.

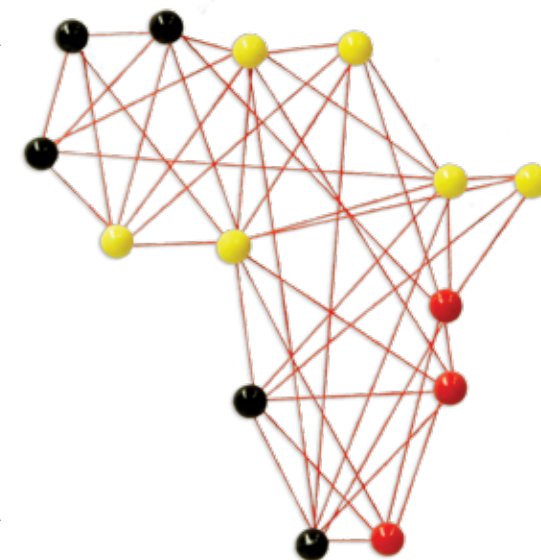
If we are to achieve “the Africa we want”, it is high time that countries like South Africa ensured the actualisation of initiatives such as the Cape to Cairo Project, from which other economic opportunities could emerge.

Nigeria and Egypt, equally, have an obligation to put their shoulders to the wheel and address Africa's current developmental challenges through the strategic implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and other progressive initiatives. “The Africa we want” can certainly be “made in Africa”, “by Africa” and “for Africans”.

Extraordinary events are again taking place on the continent, with the potential to effect real structural transformation in the economies of its countries and, indeed, to trigger strategic shifts in the global economic system.

This is without doubt the “raging hurricane against which the old order cannot stand” of which the great Ghanaian Pan-Africanist Kwame Nkrumah wrote.

The journey is bound to be filled with all manner of obstacles, but by working together, we will certainly be triumphant – as the success of the recent IATF demonstrated. It is now time for South Africa to lead! 🇿🇦



Science and innovation vital for our economic recovery

As we have demonstrated during the course of this pandemic, South Africa is more than capable of holding its own in the international scientific community.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

As South Africa strives to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing science and innovation playing a far more prominent role both in our efforts to overcome the disease and rebuild our economy.

In January 2022, I attended the launch of a state-of-the-art vaccine manufacturing campus in Cape Town. The facility forms part of a multi-million rand investment by the multinational technology company NANTWorks, which is headed by South African-born scientist, Dr Patrick Soon-Shiong.

South Africa already has advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities in companies like Aspen Pharmacare, Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines and the Biovac Institute, which is a public-private initiative.

These projects will greatly aid South Africa in our quest to become a hub of scientific innovation, research and development, especially in vaccine manufacturing for COVID-19, cancer, tuberculosis and other future pandemics.

Thousands of miles away, in Cape Canaveral in the United States, the aerospace company SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket recently successfully launched three South African-made nanosatellites into space. The satellites form part of a project to detect, identify and monitor shipping vessels along our coastline.

These are just some of the projects that demonstrate how science and technology have a key role to play in our economic recovery, in attracting greater levels of investment, and in contributing to skills, knowledge and technology transfer to capacitate our country's workforce.

We are therefore prioritising investment in science, technology and innovation to revitalise and modernise existing industries, as well as to create new sources of growth and stimulate industrialisation. There is huge potential in agriculture, mining, energy and manufacturing, among others.

This is an area where, as government, we have been pursuing several collaborative partnerships with the private sector and academia to broaden the frontiers of scientific endeavour.

We have, for example, undertaken projects around hydrogen, energy storage and renewable energy. We have supported emerging farmers through the Agricultural Bio-Innovation Partnership Programme. Government also has funding partnerships with a number of South African universities in the field of nanotechnology development.

We are looking far into space by enhancing the capabilities of the South African Square Kilometre Array radio telescope project and supporting a number of new discoveries using the MeerKAT telescope. At the same time, we are using science to support and guide municipalities to plan for and assess the risks of climate change.

We are looking at how to harness new technologies for development, such as using 3D printing to build houses.

To build on our successes and forge ahead with our transformation to a truly digital economy and society, we rely on a combination of technical skills and intellectual enterprise.

Visiting the Biomedical Research Institute at the University of Stellenbosch recently, for which our government has invested R300 million, it was not so much the impressive laboratories that inspired awe, but rather the human skills and

capabilities that had enabled such innovative research.

We need solid investment in skills development in these different industries and a firm commitment to increase the number of students studying science, if we are to promote scientific excellence and its attendant economic benefits.

We will therefore continue to support initiatives such as the Grassroots Innovation Programme of the Department of Science and Innovation, which provides support to local innovators to develop their concepts, create prototypes and commercialise their ideas.

There is also the Imvelisi Enviropreneurship Programme that has boot camps and business mentoring for innovators in the green economy, and a host of other incubation initiatives being piloted on campuses across the country in areas such as deep learning, artificial intelligence and data science.

As we strive to harness science, technology and innovation in the cause of economic growth, we must provide all the necessary support to innovators and become a country that nurtures great ideas.

As we have demonstrated during the course of this pandemic, South Africa is more than capable of holding its own in the international scientific community. Through the combination of our established scientific infrastructure and expertise, new investment in research and development and support to budding innovators, we will and are able to propel our country into the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

And most importantly, we will be able to more effectively use technology to grow our economy, create jobs and improve people's lives. [U](#)

As we strive to harness science, technology and innovation in the cause of economic growth, we must provide all the necessary support to innovators and become a country that nurtures great ideas.

Genuine cooperation between Europe and Africa must be inclusive and mutually beneficial. Otherwise, the partnership will not hold.

The two continents are also connected in cultural terms, at times passing through the city cultural diplomacy. The level of cultural exchange is remarkable: from the university system to religious integration; and from a linguistic commonality to the arts scene.

Security threats are also shared by the two continents. From terrorism to cyber-attacks, Africa and Europe face common problems, and need to find common responses.

In short, Africa needs Europe, just as Europe needs Africa.

The AU-EU meeting in Brussels stated its areas of focus as: growth financing; health systems and vaccine production, agriculture and sustainable development; education, culture and vocational training; migration and mobility; private-sector support and economic integration; peace, security and governance; climate change and energy transition; and digital and transport connectivity.

These focus areas are well chosen but the question is how best to unlock the potential of this partnership.

What's missing?

With the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area in 2018, the continent laid the ground for significant growth through trade. The COVID-19 pandemic that delayed this growth is slowly fading away. The time is ripe for a take-off.

The African market of 1.2 billion people, with an average age of 27 and a gross domestic product of more than US\$3 000 billion, is ready for an enabling partnership.

Beyond political cohesion and stability, Africa lacks growth financing and active support of its private sector. Governments and international organisations can certainly support regional growth. But in my opinion, it is from partnerships with the private sector that most resources can be generated.

Local companies should make long-term investments to enhance their capabilities and position themselves as key players in national development. But this cannot happen until governments set up adequate normative frameworks for good business practices. For instance, Kenya has a public-private partnership law that gives incentives and guarantees continuity (in case of political transition) to investors who put money in public projects.

Such interventions would swell the middle class to drive growth. That, in turn, could deliver economic and political stability, as the history of modern state-building shows.

Infrastructure development is another key area for investment. Land, air and maritime transportation is still severely limited across the continent. More roads, rails and flight connections are needed in order to achieve the full potential of economic growth in the region.

The strengthening of intercontinental value chains (step-by-step activities that transform raw material or ideas into products) is a priority area for the partnership between Africa and Europe. Functioning value chains could have spillover effects on the domestic industrial sector and help boost national self-sufficiency. This is particularly critical for sectors such as pharmaceuticals where the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed weakness.

The continental project for free trade is an essential component for the growth and industrial transformation of Africa. Its building blocks are the various regional economic communities that currently exist across Africa. The cooperation between Africa and Europe needs to strengthen these groupings.

Connected to the search for a single market is the need for investment in human capital. Empowering young people could bring demographic dividends (economic growth resulting from a change in the age structure of a population). This can be accelerated through mobility between the two continents, and collaboration between European and African universities.

Genuine cooperation

Genuine cooperation between Europe and Africa must be inclusive and mutually beneficial. Otherwise, the partnership will not hold.

If properly developed, the relationship between Africa and Europe could constitute a very significant component of global inclusive development. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



AU-EU Summit: Private-sector partnerships are where real change can happen

Europe remains Africa's largest foreign aid provider. The flow of trade and investments between the two continents is high. Africa's exports to the European Union, for instance, totalled US\$146 billion in 2021 compared to its imports of US\$142 billion.

By Raffaele Marchetti

Deputy Rector for Internationalisation and Full Professor of International Relations, *LUISS Università Guido Carli*

Five years since the African Union (AU) leaders and their European Union (EU) counterparts held their fifth meeting in 2017, the two regional organisations have met again. The February 2022 meeting – 16

months overdue because of COVID-19 – was significant, given the actual and potential size of the two blocs.

The relationship between the two continents (the subject of a book I have edited) has been tested in recent months. Africa has felt neglected by Europe as

it struggled to access COVID vaccines. Europe has been uncomfortable with China's rising influence in Africa.

But their future depends on the relationship. The current dialogue between the two blocs is about priority areas of economic cooperation, job creation and climate change. Others are

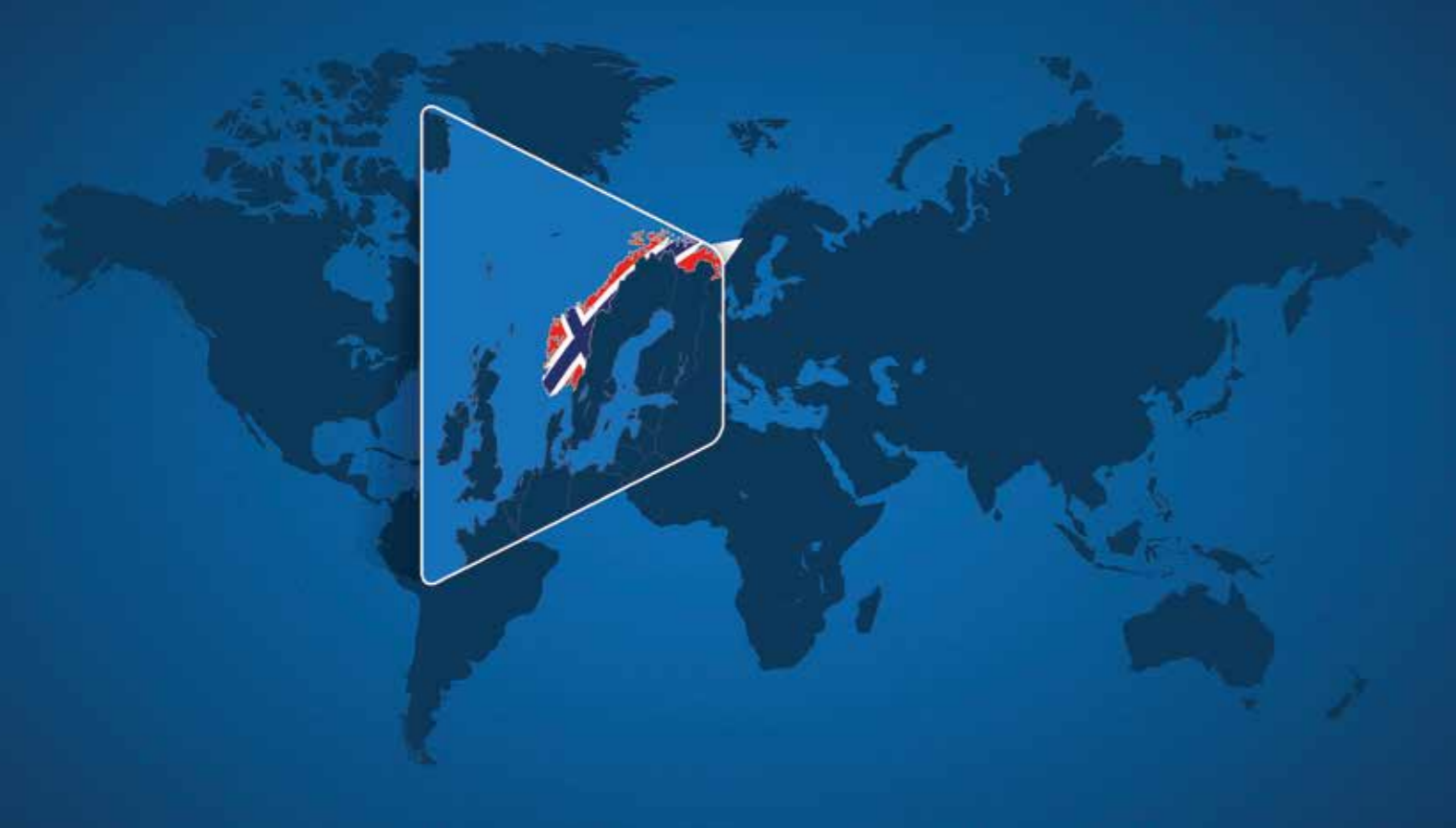
migration management, investment in youth, and peace and security.

If they can build real partnerships, both continents can prosper. Conversely, entering into a competitive relationship or seeking partnership elsewhere represents a significant loss of opportunity.

Important connections

Europe remains Africa's largest foreign aid provider. The flow of trade and investments between the two continents is high. Africa's exports to the EU, for instance, totalled US\$146 billion in 2021 compared to its imports of US\$142 billion.

Technological transfer is similarly robust, with recent new lines open on pharmaceuticals. Africa provides a significant amount of raw materials and labour to Europe. Much of Africa's Diaspora population live in Europe.



South Africa and Norway relations strengthened through high-level consultations

Due to Norway's unwavering support and strong solidarity during the struggle towards democracy, a special and unique relationship exists between the two countries.

By Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

I recently visited Oslo, Norway, from 6 to 8 March 2022 for political consultations, during which I met with the Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Henrik Thune, and Norwegian Secretary of State to the Minister of Trade and Fisheries, Halvard Ingebrigtsen. I visited the Nobel Peace Centre for a roundtable discussion with the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs on South Africa's foreign policy and peace and security. I also participated in a business seminar hosted by the Norwegian-Africa Business Association, with a focus on green energy and South African investment opportunities in this field. I engaged with various companies to promote investments in South Africa.

Relations between Norway and South Africa are relatively mature and mutually beneficial. Due to Norway's unwavering support and strong solidarity during the struggle towards democracy, a special and unique relationship exists between the two countries.

South Africa and Norway cooperate in the realm of peace and democracy in Africa. Norway views South Africa as a key player in several peace and reconciliation efforts throughout Africa. According to the Norwegian authorities, the knowledge and experience embedded in South African entities make South Africa a valuable partner for Norway. Consequently, Norway supports several South African think tanks with the objective of enhancing regional capacity.

From a geopolitical perspective, Norway deems South Africa as an important alliance partner for the following key reasons:

- historical ties dating back from the freedom struggle
- South Africa is a member of the G20
- Norway views South Africa as a credible partner as a peace mediator on the African continent and in driving post-conflict reconstruction and development on the continent
- a partner in the global effort to tackle climate change
- trade.

At multilateral level, the two countries share similar orientations issues of democracy;

energy renewal; good governance; human rights; global health; environment and climate change; peaceful resolution of conflict; and poverty alleviation, including women, peace and security; and trade.

South Africa and Norway hold similar positions of strengthening multilateral approaches to improving global peace and security, including the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. South Africa has supported the proposal of extending the programme on the training of women and youth as mediators for peace for another three years and emphasised the importance of the Gertrude Shope Dialogue Forum, which takes place annually.

Technical cooperation includes the sectors of science and technology, oceans economy, maritime security, energy, environment, education, skills development, peace and security, and human rights.

There are currently 21 Norwegian companies directly invested in South Africa, representing the renewable energy, oil and gas, financial services, oceans economy, chemicals and digital technology sectors. Although more Norwegian companies are active in South Africa, many prefer joint ventures or partnerships as their route to market and do not necessarily set up a separate subsidiary entity.

Norway is providing substantial financial support for projects in South Africa and Norfund, the Norwegian Investment agency, which is managing a R3.2-billion investment in South Africa, has relocated from Maputo to Cape Town.

South Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are also expected to be important destinations for the Norwegian climate fund, which is planning to provide about R17 billion globally in finance to renewable energy projects, and which Norfund is intended to administer. The office was opened on 3 March 2022 with Department of Trade, Industry and Competition representation at the opening.

The energy sector plays a key role in both countries, and the long-standing energy cooperation has been beneficial for government partners and the private sector. As

The South African and Norwegian anti-apartheid activists who were based in Norway played a significant role in the fight against apartheid.

both countries are positioning themselves for a transition to a low-carbon economy, there are plenty of opportunities for close commercial and political cooperation on new and existing technologies, including solar, wind, hydro and natural gas. It was noted that Norwegian companies are well-positioned to play an active role, including Scatec, which is one of the main players in solar energy. It was agreed to start planning visits and finalising and signing an Memorandum of Understanding on energy cooperation.

I had an opportunity to visit the Nobel Peace Centre where I was taken on a tour and briefed about the history of the Nobel Peace Prize and its founder, Alfred Nobel. Four of our leaders were honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize, and we acknowledge that recognition from the Nobel Institute. It was a privilege when it was reiterated that 59 years after the Nobel Peace Prize was established, Chief Albert Luthuli was the first non-Western recipient in 1961, Archbishop Desmond Tutu was a recipient in 1984, while former presidents Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk were recipients in 1993.

South Africa's solidarity not only found its roots in Europe but also in the Nordic countries. The South African and Norwegian anti-apartheid activists who were based in Norway played a significant role in the fight against apartheid. I had the privilege of meeting with them and they shared how they participated in the struggle, namely Liv Torres, Fanny Duckert, Graham Dyson, Zanele Baqwa and Hans Beukes.

At the end of the tour of the Nobel Peace Centre, I participated in a roundtable discussion with the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs on South Africa's foreign policy and peace and security. The roundtable explored what defined and shaped South Africa's relationship with Norway to date and beyond. The discussion focussed on peace and security challenges facing the southern

African region such as violent extremist activity in Cabo Delgado.

South Africa remains committed to regional peace, security as well as stability and in this regard, engagements are continuing between the two countries to find possible solutions. South Africa understands that the situation in Mozambique is complex and not just one of security. Thus, a solely securitised response would be a misjudgment of what is required. Therefore, a multi-pronged approach inclusive of, among others, development of the Northern Province, humanitarian support and capacity training of the national security forces in Mozambique, may need to be considered.

South Africa supports and aligns herself with the SADC position to support and assist Mozambique as directed by the 40th SADC Summit. SADC continues to be seized with the situation in Mozambique. A consolidated regional approach in dealing with the matter is being pursued by SADC. South Africa as the current Chair of the SADC Organ on Peace and Security Cooperation, is expected to provide leadership and guidance on the situation in Mozambique, including the continued deployment of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM).

As South Africa, we reiterate our unwavering support for the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. South Africa and Norway hold similar positions on a number of issues, including Venezuela. In 2021, the Venezuelan Government and opposition initiated negotiations on a comprehensive solution to the crisis in the country. Norway's engagement to assist the parties in Venezuela in finding a solution to the country's conflict for the benefit of the population started in earnest in 2018.

From May to August 2019, Norway facilitated negotiations between the delegations of Nicolás Maduro and Juan Guaidó in Oslo and in Barbados. 🇳🇴

South Africa understands that the situation in Mozambique is complex and not just one of security. Thus, a solely securitised response would be a misjudgment of what is required.



A colony of Cape fur seals in False Bay, Western Cape. It is estimated that approximately two million Cape fur seals inhabit the coasts of southern Africa, mostly living in 25 to 40 colonies on the rocky coastlines and islands.

Freedom[®] PARK

a heritage destination

an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Freedom Park

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- An eternal flame paying tribute to unknown heroes and heroines ...
- A gallery dedicated to the legends of humanity ...
- A symbolic resting place for our fallen countrymen and women ...
- the story of Southern Africa's 3.6 billion years of history
- this is Freedom Park, hailed the fulcrum of our vision to heal and reconcile our nation ...

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, heritage, 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, heritage, 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.

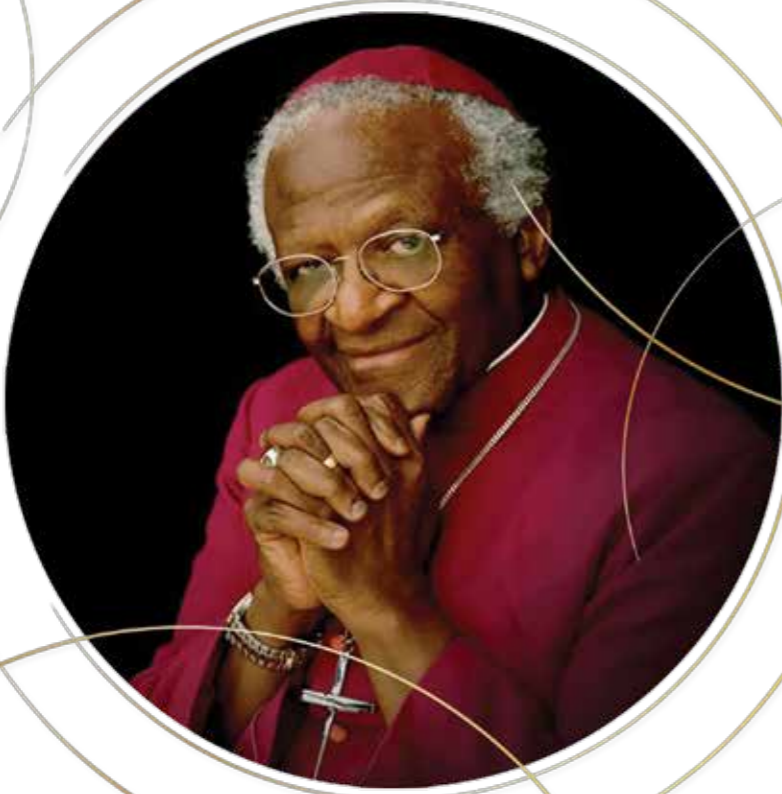
Our visiting hours are 08:00 – 16:30, Monday through to Sunday. We offer scheduled guided tours 09:00, 12:00 and 15:00.

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Please visit us on www.freedompark.co.za



LIBERATION HERITAGE: DESMOND TUTU

"A man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility against the forces of apartheid, he was also tender and vulnerable in his compassion for those who had suffered oppression, injustice and violence under apartheid, and oppressed and downtrodden people around the world."

On Sunday, 26 December 2021, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu, the last surviving South African laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize, passed away in Cape Town at the age of 90.

Expressing his condolences, President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "The passing of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu is another chapter of bereavement in our nation's farewell to a generation of outstanding South Africans who have bequeathed us a liberated South Africa.

"Desmond Tutu was a patriot without equal; a leader of principle and pragmatism who gave meaning to the biblical insight that faith without works is dead.

"A man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility against the forces of apartheid, he was also tender and vulnerable in his compassion for those who had suffered oppression, injustice and violence under apartheid, and oppressed and downtrodden people around the world.

"As Chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), he articulated the universal outrage at the ravages of apartheid and touchingly and profoundly demonstrated the depth of meaning of Ubuntu, reconciliation and forgiveness.

"He placed his extensive academic achievements at the service of our struggle and at the service of the cause for social and economic justice the world over.

"From the pavements of resistance in South Africa to the pulpits of the world's great cathedrals and places of worship, and the prestigious setting of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, the Arch distinguished himself as a non-sectarian, inclusive champion of universal human rights.

"In his richly inspiring, yet challenging life, Desmond Tutu overcame tuberculosis, the brutality of the apartheid security forces and the intransigence of successive apartheid regimes. Neither Casspirs, teargas nor security agents could intimidate him or deter him from his steadfast belief in our liberation. He remained true to his convictions during our

democratic dispensation and maintained his vigour and vigilance as he held leadership and the burgeoning institutions of our democracy to account in his inimitable, inescapable and always fortifying way.

"We share this moment of deep loss with Mam Leah Tutu, the Archbishop's soulmate and source of strength and insight, who has made a monumental contribution in her own right to our freedom and to the development of our democracy.

"We pray that Archbishop Tutu's soul will rest in peace but that his spirit will stand sentry over the future of our nation."

Desmond Mpilo Tutu (known fondly as the "Arch") was born in Klerksdorp on 7 October 1931. His father, Zachariah, who was educated at a Mission school, was the headmaster of a high school in Klerksdorp, a small town in the Western Transvaal (now North West province). His mother, Aletha Matlhare, was a domestic worker. They had four children – three girls and a boy. This was a period in South African history that predated formal apartheid but was nonetheless defined by racial segregation.

As an infant, he survived polio, leaving him with a weakened right hand and at the age of 15 years, he suffered tuberculosis, which left adhesions on his lungs

On 2 July 1955, Tutu married Nomalizo Leah Shenxane, a marriage that would last 66 years.

He was admitted to the University of Witwatersrand's medical school but due to a lack of financial resources, Tutu went into teaching instead. He left the teaching profession in protest against what he called the "thin gruel" of apartheid education.

He was ordained as a deacon in December 1960 at St Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg, and took up his first curacy at St Albans Church in Benoni. By then, Tutu and Leah had two children, Trevor Thamsanqa and Thandeka Theresa. A third, Nontombi Naomi, was born in 1960. At the end of 1961, Tutu was ordained as a priest, following which he was transferred to a new church in Thokoza. Their fourth child, Mpho, was born in London in 1963.

On 14 September 1962, Tutu arrived in London to further his theological studies. Money was obtained from various sources and he was given bursaries by Kings College in London and awarded a scholarship by the World Council of Churches (WCC).

London was an exhilarating experience for the Tutu family after the suffocation of life under apartheid. Tutu was even able to indulge in his passion for cricket. He enrolled at Kings College, at the University of London, where he again excelled and completed Honours and Master's degrees in Theology.

Around 1966, when he came back from London, Tutu taught at his alma mater, St Peter's College in Alice in the Eastern Cape, as well as at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland in Roma, Lesotho. During this period, "Black Theology" reached

South Africa and Tutu espoused this cause with great enthusiasm.

As Africa secretary to the Theological Education Fund of the WCC, based in London, he paid 48 visits to 25 African countries over a three-year period, learning of successes achieved and pitfalls encountered by newly-independent nations across the continent.

Tutu returned to South Africa in 1975 to take up the post as the first black Anglican Dean of Johannesburg and the Rector of St Mary's Cathedral Parish in Johannesburg. Here, he brought about radical changes, often to the chagrin of some his white parishioners.

The Archbishop publicly opposed the war in Iraq – he joined the unprecedented international protests against the war, a month before the United States (US) and its allies invaded Iraq in March 2003

On 6 May 1976, he sent an open letter to the then Prime Minister, John Vorster, reminding him of how Afrikaners had obtained their freedom and, among others, drew his attention to the fact that black people could not attain freedom in the homelands; the horrors of the pass laws; and discrimination based on race.

On 16 June 1976, Soweto students began a wide-scale rebellion against being forced to accept Afrikaans as the language of instruction as well as the inferior education they were forced to endure. Tutu was the Vicar General when he received news of the police massacre and murdered students. He spent the day engaged with students and parents, and thereafter played a significant role in the Soweto Parents Crisis Committee, which was set up in the aftermath of the killings.

Following this, Tutu was persuaded to accept the position of Bishop of Lesotho. It was while he was still in Lesotho that he was

invited to deliver the oration at the funeral of the freedom fighter, Steve Biko. Biko was killed in detention by the South African Police.

After only a few months in his new post, Tutu was invited to become the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), which he took up on 1 March 1978.

In 1981, Tutu became the Rector of St Augustine's Church in Orlando West, Soweto, and as early as 1982, he wrote to the Prime Minister of Israel, appealing to him to stop bombing Beirut; while at the same time writing to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, calling on him to exercise "a greater realism regarding Israel's existence". He also wrote to the prime ministers of Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland and the presidents of Botswana and Mozambique, thanking them for hosting South African refugees and appealing to them not to return any refugee back to South Africa.

All of this brought critical and angry responses from conservative South Africans and at times even the mainstream media, yet on no occasion did Tutu forget his calling as a priest.

On 7 August 1980, Bishop Tutu and a delegation of church leaders and the SACC met with Prime Minister PW Botha and his Cabinet delegation. It was an historic meeting as it was the first time a black leader, outside the system, talked with a white government leader. However, nothing came of the talks, as the government maintained its intransigent position.

During his overseas trips, Tutu spoke out persuasively against apartheid, the migrant labour system and other social and political ills. In March 1980, the Government withdrew Tutu's passport. This prevented him from travelling overseas to accept awards that were being bestowed upon him. For instance, he



was the first person to be awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Ruhr, West Germany, but was unable to travel having been denied a passport. The Government finally returned his passport in January 1981, and he was consequently able to travel extensively to Europe and America on SACC business, and in 1983, Tutu had a private audience with the Pope where he discussed the situation in South Africa.

The Government continued its persecution of Tutu throughout the 1980s. The SACC was obliquely accused by government of receiving millions of rands from overseas to foment unrest. To show that there was no truth in the claim, Tutu challenged the government to charge the SACC in an open court but the Government instead appointed the Eloff Commission of Inquiry to investigate the SACC. Eventually, the commission found no evidence of the SACC being manipulated from overseas.

In September 1982, Tutu was issued with a limited "travel document". Again, he and his wife travelled to America. He was able to raise funds for numerous projects in which he was involved. During his visit, he also addressed the United Nations (UN) Security Council on the situation in South Africa.

In August 1983, he was elected Patron of the United Democratic Front. Tutu's anti-apartheid and community activism were complemented by that of his wife, Leah. She championed the cause for better working conditions for domestic workers in South Africa. In 1983, she helped found the South African Domestic Workers' Association.

On 18 October 1984, while in America, Tutu learnt that he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his effort in calling for an end to white minority rule in South Africa, the unbanning of liberation organisations and the release of all political prisoners. The award ceremony took

place at the University of Oslo, Norway, on 10 December 1984.

On 7 September 1986, Tutu was ordained as the Archbishop of Cape Town, becoming the first black person to lead the Anglican Church of the Province of Southern Africa. Again, there was great jubilation at him being chosen as the Archbishop, but detractors were critical. At the Goodwood Stadium over 10 000 people gathered in his honour for the Eucharist.

A year after the first democratic elections that saw the end of white minority rule in 1994, Tutu was appointed Chair of the TRC to deal with the atrocities of the past. Tutu retired as the Archbishop of Cape Town in 1996 in order to devote all his time to the work of the TRC. He was later named as the Archbishop Emeritus.

In 1997, Tutu was diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent successful treatment in America. Despite this ailment, he continued to work with the commission. He subsequently became patron of the South African Prostate Cancer Foundation, which was established in 2007.

In 2007, Tutu joined former President Nelson Mandela; former US President Jimmy Carter; retired UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan; and former Irish President, Mary Robinson, to form The Elders, a private initiative mobilising the experience of senior world leaders outside of the conventional diplomatic process. Tutu was selected to chair the group. Subsequent to this, Carter and Tutu travelled together to Darfur, Gaza and Cyprus in an effort to resolve long-standing conflicts. Tutu's historic accomplishments and his continuing efforts to promote peace in the world were formally recognised by the US in 2009, when President Barack Obama named him to receive the nation's highest civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Tutu officially retired from public life on 7 October 2010. However, he continued with his involvement with The Elders and Nobel Laureate Group and his support of the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre.

Tutu received several awards for his humanitarian work, as well as numerous doctorates and fellowships from universities around the world. In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, he was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism in 1986, the Pacem in Terris Award in 1987, the Sydney Peace Prize in 1999, the Gandhi Peace Prize in 2007, and the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.

In recognition of the late Archbishop Emeritus' distinguished life and invaluable contribution to the nation, President Ramaphosa designated the late leader's funeral as a Special Official Funeral – Category 1. The funeral took place in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, on New Year's Day, Saturday, 1 January 2022.

In the main eulogy, President Ramaphosa described the archbishop as a "crusader in the struggle for freedom, for justice, for equality and for peace. Not only in South Africa ... but around the world as well".

"If we are to understand a global icon to be someone of great moral stature, of exceptional qualities and of service to humanity, there can be no doubt that it refers to the man we're laying to rest today," he said.

Tutu is survived by his wife, four children, seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren. 🇷🇵

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Endurance: Shackleton's lost ship found in Antarctic

The South African icebreaker, *Agulhas II*, helped get the scientists, archaeologists and filmmakers to where *Endurance* lay at the bottom of the ocean for over 100 years.

By Brent Lindeque, www.goodthingsguy.com

National Geographic has partnered exclusively with *History Hit*, the SVOD and content platform co-founded by historian Dan Snow; award-winning digital content agency and media network Little Dot Studios (an All3Media company); and impact-driven production company Consequential for an epic documentary event detailing the successful search and discovery of one of the great lost shipwrecks of history: Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance*.

Set to premiere in Spring 2022 as part of the *National Geographic's Explorer* series, this documentary event will air globally on National Geographic Channels and Disney+. The documentary – also produced in partnership with ABC News – will be directed by BAFTA-nominated Natalie Hewit (*Antarctica: Ice Station Rescue*, *Greta Thunberg: A Year To Change The World*).

Exclusive storytelling about the *Endurance* will also be featured across *National Geographic's* unrivalled digital and social platforms, including on TikTok (@natgeo) and Instagram (@natgeo), as well as in a future issue of *National Geographic* magazine and

an episode of the award-winning podcast, *Overheard at National Geographic*. An in-depth story about the finding of *Endurance*, including its historical relevance and featuring exclusive interviews, images and video, is available on natgeo.com now.

Courteney Monroe, President, *National Geographic* Content, said: "Through bold exploration and storytelling, *National Geographic* has taken generations of loyal fans from the deepest depths of the ocean to the peak of Mount Everest, enabling them to see and engage with the world in entirely new ways. The search for Sir Ernest Shackleton's lost ship, *Endurance*, could not be a more perfect story to continue this proud legacy and join the storied *Explorer* franchise, which for almost four decades has been investigating and reporting on some of the world's greatest mysteries. It is our hope – along with our incredible partners on this project – that the blockbuster story behind Shackleton's *Endurance*, featuring exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to the high-stakes adventure, will inspire the next generation of explorers and adventurers."

Organised by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, the expedition to locate the

shipwreck, which has for over a century remained inaccessible and undiscovered, set off from Cape Town on 5 February 2022 on a voyage to the Weddell Sea, off the coast of Antarctica where the *Endurance* sank in 1915. The expedition was led by polar geographer Dr John Shears with marine archaeologist Mensun Bound as Director of Exploration. With them, on board the South African icebreaker *Agulhas II*, was a crew of scientists and archaeologists alongside a team of highly experienced extreme environment filmmakers, led by Dan Snow for *History Hit*, who have documented the events in real-time leading up to the historic discovery.

"We salute the team at the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, Dr John Shears, Mensun Bound and the crew of scientists and archaeologists aboard the South African icebreaker *Agulhas II* for this incredible discovery and for opening a new chapter in one of the most fabled stories in exploration history," said Debra O'Connell, President, Networks, Disney Media and Entertainment Distribution.

"From the stories we are telling right now on natgeo.com, the ABC Network through ABC News and our ABC-owned television stations

Dan Snow, co-founder and creative director of *History Hit*, said: "This has been the most exciting and challenging experience of my career so far. The team has found not only the world's most famous shipwreck but also its most inaccessible,

to what will be an exceptional documentary on the *National Geographic* Channels and Disney+ this fall, we are excited about the ways in which we will illuminate and celebrate the achievement of this remarkable team."

It took 10 days for the crew to reach the search area after navigating tricky terrain and icy waters. After overcoming technical challenges and conducting multiple survey sweeps, the wreck was found 100 years after Shackleton's death, at a depth of 3008 metres in the Weddell Sea. The wreck was found within the search area defined by the expedition team before its departure from Cape Town and approximately four miles south of the position originally recorded by Captain Worsley, using submersibles called Saab Sabretooths, equipped with 4k cameras and lighting arrays. The wreck appears to be well preserved due to the lack of wood-eating microbes in the Weddell Sea.

The wreck will remain untouched and without any artefacts removed, where it has lain for more than a century – but the results of the discovery will provide significant insights into Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition and offer an incredible opportunity to bring the stories of Shackleton to new generations.

This has been the most ambitious broadcasting project ever undertaken from the ice of the Weddell Sea. *History Hit*, Little Dot

Studios and Consequential have produced a range of content covering the setting up of the expedition, the voyage and search, and now the discovery itself, as well as the history, science and other themes that connect to the wider mission. Short-form content has and will continue to be distributed to millions of subscribers with exclusive content breaking first on TikTok, followed by *History Hit* TV, *HistoryHit.com* and *History Hit's* podcast network and other social channels, together with Little Dot Studios' network of owned and operated digital and social media accounts, including *Timeline World History*, *Earth Stories* and *Real Stories*.

National Geographic has the exclusive long-form documentary chronicling this incredible expedition and their triumph set to air later this year.

Endurance left South Georgia for Antarctica on 5 December 1914, carrying Shackleton and 27 other men with the goal of reaching the South Pole and ultimately crossing the continent via an overland trek. However, when nearing Antarctica, the ship became trapped in pack ice and the crew was forced to spend the winter in the frozen landscape. After being stuck in the ice for some 10 months, *Endurance* finally succumbed to the pressure of the pack ice and sank. Following the ship's sinking, the crew was forced to make their way by sea to uninhabited Elephant Island before Shackleton

and five men set off in a lifeboat on an epic journey to seek help from a whaling station in South Georgia, more than 800 miles away. After several attempts, Shackleton eventually made it back to Elephant Island to rescue his crew and, miraculously, all of the men under his command in the Weddell Sea survived two years in the wilds of Antarctica, making it one of history's great stories of human survival. Shackleton himself died of a heart attack on 5 January 1922, aged 47.

Dan Snow, co-founder and creative director of *History Hit*, said: "This has been the most exciting and challenging experience of my career so far. The team has found not only the world's most famous shipwreck but also its most inaccessible. After going through storms, blizzards and thick sea ice, we have got some astonishing images of *Endurance* and a laser scan accurate to within centimetres. People thought the story of *Endurance* was over when it sank in November 1915, but it wasn't. This is the start of a new chapter."

The National Geographic Society has a long history with Ernest Shackleton, who in 1910 received the Society's Hubbard Medal – the organisation's highest honour – for his Antarctic exploration. The award was presented by President William Howard Taft following a National Geographic Society lecture by Shackleton. www.natgeo.com

National Geographic and www.goodthingsguy.com

National Geographic has the exclusive long-form documentary chronicling this incredible expedition and their triumph set to air later this year.



SA Agulhas II is a South African icebreaking polar supply and research ship owned by the Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF). She was built in 2012 by STX Finland in Rauma, Finland, to replace the aging *SA Agulhas*, which was retired from South African National Antarctic Programme duty. Unlike her predecessor, *SA Agulhas II* was designed from the beginning to carry out both scientific research and supply South African research stations in the Antarctic.

In March 2022, South African crew members of the *SA Agulhas II* were applauded for their discovery of a missing historic ship. One hundred and seven years after it went missing off the coast of Antarctica, teams finally found the wooden *Endurance* shipwreck, still well preserved, some three kilometres below sea level.

The discovery team left the Cape Town harbour in February 2022, to embark on what was dubbed as the most challenging search for a shipwreck.

The team was chartered by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, headed by South Africa's Captain Knowledge Bengu.

DEFF said in a statement: "Minister Barbara Creecy says the department is proud that South Africa, through the *SA Agulhas II*, has played a successful role in the expedition. The minister says that it's a success that can be attributed to the excellent cooperation between the department, the expedition leaders and the department's ship management company, Amsol." ewn



Lindiwe Mabuza:

Feminist icon who used art to fight for democracy in South Africa

Lindiwe believed that it was important for women to tell their own stories because they too played an important part in the history against oppression. She was indeed a feminist when the concept was not yet as popular as now.

By Mary Hames
Researcher and Gender Equity Officer, University of the Western Cape

As the tributes continued to pour in for South Africa's Lindiwe Mabuza, who passed away on 6 December 2021, it was clear that she would be remembered for the many different roles she occupied during her lifetime.

She was called ambassador, diplomat, feminist, poet, writer, freedom fighter, leader and educator, among others.

Born in 1938 in Newcastle, South Africa, she was undoubtedly an advocate for women's rights, and she foregrounded women's concerns at a time when the struggle against apartheid surpassed the rights of women.

Lindiwe skillfully linked her love for the creative arts with teaching moments. Close to her heart were innovative ways of teaching children to write about their experiences.

She travelled across Scandinavia, teaching children about the evils of apartheid – an ideology of racial segregation entrenched by white minority rule in South Africa.

Long before the demise of apartheid, from 1979 already, she was representing the African National Congress (ANC) in the Nordic countries and the United States and is well recognised for her role in solidifying the international movement against apartheid. After democracy in 1994, she would become an ambassador, eventually serving as South Africa's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom from 2001.

Intellectual cultural activism

For Lindiwe, art was an essential component of the apartheid struggle: "We used it as a weapon, an extra weapon of the struggle."

It was the combination of the art of storytelling as teaching methodology, as a way of raising awareness, as a tool to network, that contributed to her leadership style. Examples of these are her networks and friendships with prominent African American artists such as Quincy Jones, Danny Glover and Harry Belafonte as well as black leaders like Reverend Jesse Jackson, Randal Robinson and Barbara Lee, to name a few.

In 2017, she deservedly received the Arts and Culture Trust Lifetime Achievement Award for Arts Advocacy. The award traced her involvement in becoming the editor of the ANC Women's League publication *Voice of Women* in 1977, where she provided the platform for women to express themselves. She also used her position as broadcaster at the ANC's Radio Freedom to highlight women's plight. And she was responsible for promoting the Malibongwe book project. For this, she invited women teachers, freedom fighters, nurses and students who were in the trenches of Tanzania, Angola and Mozambique to submit in their own words their experiences as black women in the struggle. She edited the book – which was banned but appeared in Europe in 1980 – under the name Sono Molefe.

Lindiwe believed that it was important for women to tell their own stories because they too played an important part in the history against oppression. She was indeed a feminist when the concept was not yet as popular as now.

Her love for storytelling is evident in her various poetry anthologies. She herself said:

"Poetry is part of the struggle. You use the armed struggle; you use political methods ... You recite a poem. It's better than a three-hour speech. It gets to the heart of the matter. It moves people."

This is so reminiscent of the struggle poetry and theatre that have such an integral part of the apartheid struggle era.

She published *Voices that Lead: Poems 1976-1996* (1998); *Letter to Letta* (1991); *Footprints and Fingerprints* (2008); *Malibongwe, One Never Knows – Poetry and short stories by African Congress Women; From ANC to Sweden; and Africa to Me: Gedichte Englisch/Deutsch* (1999).

Lindiwe never forgot the children and in 2007, she published a children's book *South African Animals*. In the same pedagogical tradition, she edited a book by 30 contributors, titled *Conversations with Uncle O.R. – Childhood Memoirs in Exile*, in which the contributors reflect on their experiences born, raised and educated in foreign countries.

It was important for her to give space and voice to the children whose experiences were often marginalised and even erased in the broader struggle for freedom and democracy.

Lifelong educator

Her life is a kaleidoscope of a lifelong educator and artistic creator intersecting with age, nationalities and gender. She used every opportunity to build movements with a consciousness and understood it was imperative that you archive these experiences

Her life is a kaleidoscope of a lifelong educator and artistic creator intersecting with age, nationalities and gender. She used every opportunity to build movements with a consciousness and understood it was imperative that you archive these experiences in writing. She leaves behind a legacy of collaboration and networking.

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Lindiwe was especially interested in marginalised children and women and had the ability to draw on her skills as educator and provide the platforms where they too could give expression in this masculine and patriarchal world.

Lindiwe Mabuza's life did not have an easy beginning, but she was able to use those disadvantages as a challenge and in the process, she did not leave others behind but continued to create opportunities and platforms for others. Her cultural and political work will continue to live in her publications. 🇷🇵

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

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Africa's first mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub gets to work

The WHO and Medicines Patent pool, along with the South African Government, the African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Africa, have put in enormous effort and support, and the funders have recognised that South Africa's scientists are very capable – some of the global leaders in the vaccine space.

By Petro Terblanche

Professor, Business Development; Managing Director, Afrigen Biologics; North-West University

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the COVID Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative announced in mid-2021 that they were working with a consortium to establish the first COVID messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine technology transfer hub on the African continent, in South Africa. *The Conversation Africa's* Natasha Joseph spoke with Petro Terblanche, Afrigen's Managing Director and a Professor at South Africa's North-West University, about what this work entails – and what it will mean for the continent.

What is a technology transfer hub?

The technology transfer model is designed to create a platform that facilitates localised manufacturing of vaccines and stimulates vaccine innovation through partnerships with universities and science councils.

The pandemic stimulated and gave enormous momentum to establishing this

first-ever mRNA vaccine hub based in Africa. The use of a hub and spoke model based on technology transfer practices is quite common and well established, but it requires significant partnerships between the owners of technology and the recipients. One successful example is the WHO influenza vaccine technology transfer to about 10 developing countries during the 2007 pandemic. The insights from this case study are being applied to the mRNA Hub.

Africa currently has no vaccine technology hub, although there are six vaccine production facilities on the continent. One of these is the Pasteur Institute in Senegal; it's based on a technology transfer model and produces the yellow fever vaccine.

The decision to set up a South African hub was driven by COVAX. It realised some way into the pandemic that the necessary vaccine supply to Africa just wasn't going to happen. That's partly because of the capacity and prioritisation of established manufacturers; the continent is completely reliant on the

expansion of existing manufacturing capacity in China, India, the United States and Europe. So, there's now a significant drive towards making vaccines in the region where they will be used. The WHO will select a few recipients of the technology from the mRNA Hub in South Africa, which has been nominated as the global mRNA Hub for lower- and middle-income countries. The hub will transfer end-to-end vaccine production technology to the recipients and train the personnel in these entities to implement the technology. The recipients will produce commercial scale vaccines and supply to countries where it is most needed.

What is Afrigen's role in this process?

Afrigen will be a technology transfer and training hub: it shares technology and develops skills specifically around how to produce a safe, effective and affordable mRNA vaccine.

We have to establish a unit that is fully compliant with global good manufacturing

processes, complying with quality standards, safety for patients and workers, and environmental responsibility. When we achieve these milestones, we'll get a licence from the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, which will have international endorsement from stringent regulatory authorities.

At our facility in Cape Town, we'll make the drug substance and the drug product, which is the final formulated mRNA vaccine. The facility will be licensed to make clinical material batches.

Afrigen will conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 clinical trials while transferring the end-to-end production processes to Biovac; they will perform the Phase 3 clinical trial and obtain full market authorisation for commercial production and distribution into Africa. Between Biovac and Afrigen, there will be the capacity to make more than 250 million doses a year – that's small when you consider that Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech can produce 1.7 billion doses a year.

Other commercial production facilities in Africa will receive Afrigen's vaccine technology too.

Afrigen will be a technology transfer and training hub: it shares technology and develops skills specifically around how to produce a safe, effective and affordable mRNA vaccine.

We'll also be working closely with a consortium of South Africa universities, coordinated by the country's Medical Research Council, to design and develop new and improved vaccines and manufacturing processes to enable the successful commercialisation of a pipeline of vaccines relevant for the burden of disease in Africa.

Why does it require specialised skills to produce vaccines with this technology?

The development and the production of any vaccine that meets safety and efficacy targets, and can be made at scale in an affordable model, is complex. It requires the combination of engineering and science with regulatory and quality systems at every step of the process. So, it's highly specialised work.

For mRNA vaccines, we require geneticists, bioprocess engineers, biochemists, analytical chemists, molecular biologists, pharmacists and mechanical operators. It's not easy to separate DNA into the RNA strands; it uses all sorts of enzymes and processes, and scientists must ensure throughout that the RNA is stable and safe for use.

What are your timelines?

The first step is to get all the necessary equipment and qualified people in place; then to produce the vaccine at lab scale to ensure we have the properties required for a safe, effective vaccine. After that, we have to scale up and produce vaccines under non-good manufacturing processes, as part of training and process validation. Then, on to good manufacturing processes standards, with all the regulatory boxes ticked.

By the end of September 2022, we should have the first good manufacturing processes

batches ready. It's very ambitious, but we believe this is healthy pressure.

It helps that we're being well supported. The WHO and Medicines Patent pool, along with the South African Government, the African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, have put in enormous effort and support, and the funders have recognised that South Africa's scientists are very capable – some of the global leaders in the vaccine space.

Where does the "transfer" part of your work come in?

People will come to us to learn. We're in touch with research hubs in Brazil, Argentina, the Ukraine, Colombia, the Philippines and several other African countries. Groups of people from the designated "spokes of the hub" will come and train with us. In a lab like this, everyone is highly trained and specialised, up to and including the cleaners; you're operating in an environment that's totally sterile and temperature controlled and must have no contamination.

We're exploring a "train the trainers" model. We'll likely do some off-site training at the University of Cape Town, then move people to our facility to obtain their final qualification: make the vaccine up to good manufacturing processes standards. They'll take that knowledge and technology back to their colleagues at home.

The consortium comprises Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines (South Africa), Biovac (South Africa), a network of universities as well as the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, which is headquartered in Ethiopia. [U](#)

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How COVID gave African countries the opportunity to improve public health

The challenges presented by the pandemic are an opportunity for African health systems to move beyond their current limitations. Many have been pushed to develop innovative approaches.

By Ebere Okereke
 Senior Technical Adviser, Tony Blair Institute; Honorary Senior Public Health Adviser to the Director Africa CDC; and Associate Fellow, Global Health Programme, Chatham House

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested Africa's public healthcare systems. It exposed weaknesses, gaps and inequalities – but also some potential solutions.

The challenges presented by the pandemic are an opportunity for African health systems to move beyond their current limitations. Many have been pushed to develop innovative approaches.

Countries rapidly expanded diagnostic capacity and genomics and increased the use of electronic health records. Nations and sectors (public and private) pooled resources in response to the logistical challenges of delivering an adult vaccination programme at pace. Scientific capacity across the continent, while limited, pooled together in effective partnerships.

These experiences, lessons and solutions – if supported by political leadership and long-

term financial investment – can be used to develop health systems suited for the 21st century and beyond.

African public health and political leaders should be identifying and investing in what works.

As a public health professional working to strengthen health systems across the African continent for many years, I would like to offer some reflections on these emerging opportunities.

Sharing knowledge and skills has proved to be an effective way to use scarce resources across the continent during the pandemic. The Africa CDC has taken the lead as a coordinating institution for the continent in promoting a “do once and share” approach.

A useful framework for these reflections comes from the Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr John Nkengasong. He described four essentials for a new public health order for Africa. These are: stronger institutions; local manufacturing; the public health workforce; and respectful partnerships. I would add a fifth: empowered citizens.

Strengthened public health institutions

Sharing knowledge and skills has proved to be an effective way to use scarce resources across the continent during the pandemic. The Africa CDC has taken the lead as a coordinating institution for the continent in promoting a “do once and share” approach.

The strengths of African scientific and health institutions have been pooled to build up others. For example, Institute Pasteur Dakar Senegal provided training across the continent on PCR testing for COVID-19. This raised capacity for diagnostics from two countries (Senegal and South Africa) in January 2020 to 48 African Union (AU) member states by the end of April 2020.

The African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases, based in Nigeria, has worked with the Africa CDC's Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative to extend the skills across the continent.

National public health institutes have grown their capacity to monitor and respond to situations. They've built on experience from past epidemics and adopted new technology for faster electronic, event-based information management systems.

The scarcity of supplies during the COVID pandemic has led to the emergence of African solutions to procure resources, from medical equipment to vaccines.

The Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team could be a game changer by improving value for money through pooled procurement and supporting a domestic manufacturing market.

Local production

Africa has the highest burden of HIV in the world and yet relies on other regions to produce diagnostic tests. Just 1% of Africa's vaccine needs are domestically produced. It's similar for drugs to treat African high-burden diseases. The lack of diagnostic capacity persists and the story of vaccine inequity is well described.

African leaders have recognised the importance of a health sector manufacturing ecosystem. There is renewed commitment to develop a system to deliver 60% of the continent's vaccine needs by 2040. This ambition has stimulated support for the Africa Medicines Agency, a body to regulate the manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

A pharmaceutical manufacturing ecosystem on the continent will drive research and development focussing on African health needs.

Stronger health workforce

Africa has far fewer health professionals than it needs. The pandemic has shone a light not just on the numbers and cadres of health workforce required, but also on the quality.

At the beginning of the pandemic when the only control measures relied on community engagement – isolation, personal hygiene and contact tracing – community health workers were essential. They now support the COVID-19 vaccination programme. The opportunity exists for them to be absorbed into health systems to support the wider health service.

Pooled training enabled the development of standardised quality healthcare for COVID-19 patients. This approach lends itself to the development of quality guidelines for other priority diseases across the continent.

Trusted partnerships

The COVID-19 pandemic has driven unprecedented collaboration between the public and private sectors. The growth in

private-sector laboratory diagnostic capacity is of note. The COVID-19 response is the first time that private-sector capacity has contributed so much to a public health response.

The development of the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust as a centralised purchasing agent on behalf of the AU member states and the Africa Medical Supplies Platform are continental firsts. They show what is possible through strong trusted partnerships.

Collaborations like these can be applied to other challenges in the drive towards universal health coverage.

Advocacy and empowered citizens

The COVID-19 pandemic has engaged ordinary citizens in a way that can only be positive for the future of healthcare on the continent. The entire globe and the continent have focussed on the same questions. The weak and under-resourced state of African health systems – and the dependence on aid for health services – have been laid bare.

Citizens are beginning to challenge their political leadership. The opportunity exists now for their demands to be harnessed to a wider debate about healthcare investment. As electoral cycles come along, health system investment needs to be on the agenda. African heads of state must be challenged to meet the commitments of the Abuja Declaration of April 2001 – to commit at least 15% of annual national budgets to improving the health sector.

The pandemic has demonstrated that improvement is possible even with limited resources. Leaders must build on this momentum to establish a new public health order for Africa.

This article is part of a media partnership between the Africa Centres for Disease Control and *The Conversation Africa* for the first Conference on Public Health in Africa.

The pandemic has demonstrated that improvement is possible even with limited resources. Leaders must build on this momentum to establish a new public health order for Africa.



Defining what's ethical in artificial intelligence needs input from Africans

There is already a substantial body of research about ethics in AI. This highlights the importance of principles to ensure technologies do not simply worsen biases or even introduce new social harms.

By Mary Carman, Lecturer in Philosophy, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); and Benjamin Rosman, Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, Wits

Artificial intelligence (AI) was once the stuff of science fiction. But it's becoming widespread. It is used in mobile phone technology and motor vehicles. It powers tools for agriculture and healthcare.

But concerns have emerged about the accountability of AI and related technologies like machine learning. In December 2020 a computer scientist, Timnit Gebru, was fired from Google's Ethical AI team. She had previously raised the alarm about the social effects of bias in AI technologies. For

instance, in a 2018 paper, Gebru and another researcher, Joy Buolamwini, had showed how facial recognition software was less accurate in identifying women and people of colour than white men. Biases in training data can have far-reaching and unintended effects.

There is already a substantial body of research about ethics in AI. This highlights the importance of principles to ensure technologies do not simply worsen biases or even introduce new social harms. As the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) draft recommendation on the ethics of AI states:

"We need international and national policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure that these emerging technologies benefit humanity as a whole."

In recent years, many frameworks and guidelines have been created that identify objectives and priorities for ethical AI.

This is certainly a step in the right direction. But it's also critical to look beyond technical solutions when addressing issues of bias or inclusivity.

Biases can enter at the level of who frames the objectives and balances the priorities. In a recent paper, we argue that inclusivity

and diversity also need to be at the level of identifying values and defining frameworks of what counts as ethical AI in the first place. This is especially pertinent when considering the growth of AI research and machine learning across the African continent.

Context

Research and development of AI and machine learning technologies are growing in African countries. Programmes such as Data Science Africa, Data Science Nigeria and the Deep Learning Indaba with its satellite IndabaX events, which have so far been held in 27 different African countries, illustrate the interest and human investment in the fields.

The potential of AI and related technologies to promote opportunities for growth, development and democratisation in Africa is a key driver of this research.

Yet, very few African voices have so far been involved in the international ethical frameworks that aim to guide the research.

This might not be a problem if the principles and values in those frameworks have universal application. But it's not clear that they do.

For instance, the European AI4People framework offers a synthesis of six other ethical frameworks. It identifies respect for autonomy as one of its key principles. This principle has been criticised within the applied ethical field of bioethics. It is seen as failing to do justice to the communitarian values common across Africa. These focus less on the individual and more on community, even requiring that exceptions are made to upholding such a principle to allow for effective interventions.

Challenges like these – or even acknowledgement that there could be such challenges – are largely absent from the discussions and frameworks for ethical AI.

Just like training data can entrench existing inequalities and injustices, so can failing to recognise the possibility of diverse sets of values that can vary across social, cultural and political contexts.

Unusable results

In addition, failing to take into account social, cultural and political contexts can mean that even a seemingly perfect ethical technical solution can be ineffective or misguided once implemented.

For machine learning to be effective at making useful predictions, any learning system needs access to training data. This involves samples of the data of interest: inputs in the form of multiple features or measurements, and outputs which are the labels scientists want to predict. In most cases, both these features and labels require human knowledge of the problem. But a failure to correctly account for the local context could result in underperforming systems.

For example, mobile phone call records have been used to estimate population sizes before and after disasters. However, vulnerable populations are less likely to have access to mobile devices. So, this kind of approach could yield results that aren't useful.

Similarly, computer vision technologies for identifying different kinds of structures in an area will likely underperform where different construction materials are used. In both of these cases, as we and other colleagues discuss in another recent paper, not accounting for regional differences may have profound effects on anything from the delivery of disaster aid, to the performance of autonomous systems.

Going forward

AI technologies must not simply worsen or incorporate the problematic aspects of current human societies.

Being sensitive to and inclusive of different contexts is vital for designing effective technical solutions. It is equally important not to assume that values are universal. Those developing AI need to start including people of different backgrounds: not just in the technical aspects of designing data sets and the like but also in defining the values that can be called upon to frame and set objectives and priorities.

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

As the UNESCO draft recommendation on the ethics of AI states: "We need international and national policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure that these emerging technologies benefit humanity as a whole."



VISIT
LIVE
WORK
PLAY
INVEST

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 crowned 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 attractions. 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.



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

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

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 exhibition space. Through an entire floor dedicated to education, the museum aims to develop a new art-loving, 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 the 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's favourable lifestyle is one of the major reasons why many of the top wealth and asset management firms choose to base themselves here. The city is home to an impressive group of wealth managers, including the likes of Allan Gray, Old Mutual, Foord, Coronation, Sanlam, Prescient and Sygnia. Most of these companies' staff and top executives live in the city. Top employment sectors in Cape Town include community and social services, the financial and trade sectors. The financial services sector employed the largest number of skilled individuals in 2015 (274 087) and the manufacturing sector employed the largest number of semi-skilled and unskilled individuals (111 213).

Cape Town is also home to over 200 companies in the Information Technology (IT) and software industry employing 7 500 people. Our large retailers have extensive distribution channels into Africa opening up the possibility of collaboration in moving products within the continent. Cape Town also has a booming film and media industry. It's a sector that has created more than 35 000 jobs, contributing about US\$ 92 million to the economy in the last 3 years.

Cape Town is home to the only Hollywood style film studio complex in Africa. Coupled with exceptionally skilled film crew and post-production services, our facilities are winning awards and attracting a growing number of productions and stars to our shores. We also act as a gateway to Africa with several companies running their African operations from our city. The City of 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. The city is a creative hub with arts, heritage and cultural sites, activities and opportunities for all. We have a lively arts and culture scene where creativity and heritage are explored through theatre, live music, dance, visual arts and more. Both day and night in Cape Town offer you exciting cultural spaces to visit and events to be a part of. Explore galleries and museums, cultural precincts, attend signature events and explore our top cultural venues.

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 71% 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.

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.

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Artificial intelligence carries a huge upside. But potential harms need to be managed

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for data to be regulated in the collective interest or common good. This does not mean that the right to privacy needs to be foregone.

By Alison Gillwald, Adjunct Professor, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town (UCT), and Rachel Adams, Doctoral Supervisor, UCT

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning have the potential to contribute to the resolution of some of the most intractable problems of our time. Examples include climate change and pandemics. But they have the capacity to cause harm too. And they can, if not used properly, perpetuate historical injustices and structural inequalities.

To mitigate against their potential harms, the world needs frameworks for the governance of data that are economically enabling and that preserve rights. AI and machine learning operate on the basis of

massive datasets from which algorithms are programmed to discern patterns. These patterns can be used to infer new insights and also predict behaviour and outcomes. Increasingly, AI and machine learning are being used to substitute human decisions with automated decision-making on behalf of humans. This is often in areas which can have a significant impact on people's lives. Take access to loans or even access into a country.

Yet, it all happens in a black box that even the designer of the algorithm may not have access to, so, deciding what goes into the box is important.

The biggest datasets and algorithmic activity are generated by the global social networks that surveil our every action online. These datasets can be used to anticipate and mould our needs and desires.

Big technology firms, multilateral agencies and development banks have made much of the potential of AI to advance economic growth and national development. And they're increasingly being used in social and economic applications as well as public decision-making, planning and resource allocation. These include guiding court judgments, selecting job applicants and assigning scholars to schooling systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the enormous value of public data and the potential value of combining public and private data to deal with public health and disaster crises.

Yet, there is growing concern about the uneven distribution of both the opportunities and harms associated with artificial intelligence.

The threats

The increasing use of AI and machine learning in public decision-making is raising critical issues around fairness and human rights.

In particular, how digital data are produced is being red-flagged. Datasets have some huge gaps. Certain people are rendered visible, underrepresented and discriminated against as a result, in the way data are collected. The fact that most of world's population isn't connected to the Internet and the global social networks that drive the new, data-driven economy means they simply don't exist.

Globally, AI also poses a risk to the progress made towards gender equality. Stories abound of AI systems being biased against women and gender minorities.

What's more, AI systems may rely on assumptions and data that exclude or misrepresent groups that already face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. This often results in outcomes that reflect and reinforce gendered, racial and ableist inequalities and biases.

These systems are not adequately subject to the kind of rigorous accountability and regulation needed to mitigate the risks they pose to society.

So significant is this threat that several international forums have emerged that are committed to the development of "good", "ethical" and "responsible" AI.

But most of the initiatives present technical solutions to social and political problems. This means they are being developed outside a human rights frame. They are also largely initiatives of the global North, with limited multistakeholder participation from the global South.

A right-based approach

There are rights-based data frameworks, which inform AI development. These include the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation. But they tend to focus primarily on first generation or fundamental rights, such as privacy. Privacy is broadly conceived of as an individualised right. It may not always be the chief value in more communitarian-centred societies.

Governments and the international community have started to respond to the global call for responsible AI. In 2019, 42 countries signed up to the OECD principles on Trustworthy AI. This commits them to ensuring that AI systems are safe, fair and trustworthy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for data to be regulated in the collective interest or common good. This does not mean that the right to privacy needs to be foregone.

Collective interest also pertains to the governance of data in the context of identifiable groups or communities where the potential consequence of individual identification results in the exposure of collective identity.

The literature and practice of data governance have predominantly been viewed and undertaken from this negative regulatory perspective. In other words, with a focus on compliance with data protection and cybersecurity and penalties for breaches.

This is a necessary condition for just AI. But it's not sufficient. There are many areas of data governance that require positive intervention. Examples include enabling access to data, its usability and integrity if it is to deal with issues of inclusion, equality, redress and social justice.

These are issues that can be understood as second and third generation, social and economic rights.

AI that respects human rights

To address these issues, a new global project was launched on the sidelines of the Summit for Democracy.

The summit represented an international forum to advance commitments in support of democracy and human rights. Its objective was to assess the progress being made by countries in advancing AI that respects human rights and democratic values.

The project is known as the Global Index on Responsible AI. It is being led by the African digital think-tank, Research ICT Africa, and an independent Data 4 Development network.

Governments and the international community have started to respond to the global call for responsible AI. In 2019, 42 countries signed up to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) principles on Trustworthy AI. This commits them to ensuring that artificial intelligence systems are safe, fair, and trustworthy.

Most recently, the UNESCO-developed Recommendation on Ethics in AI was adopted by its 41st General Assembly. The recommendation centres on the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, environmental sustainability and diversity.

The Global Index addresses the need for an inclusive, measurable standard that complements the rapid evolving understanding of what responsible artificial intelligence means in practice. It also encourages and tracks the implementation of governance principles by relevant actors.

The Global Index will track the implementation of responsible artificial intelligence principles in over 120 countries. An international network of independent researchers will be established to assess the extent to which the principles are being applied. It will also collect primary and secondary data on key indicators of responsible artificial intelligence.

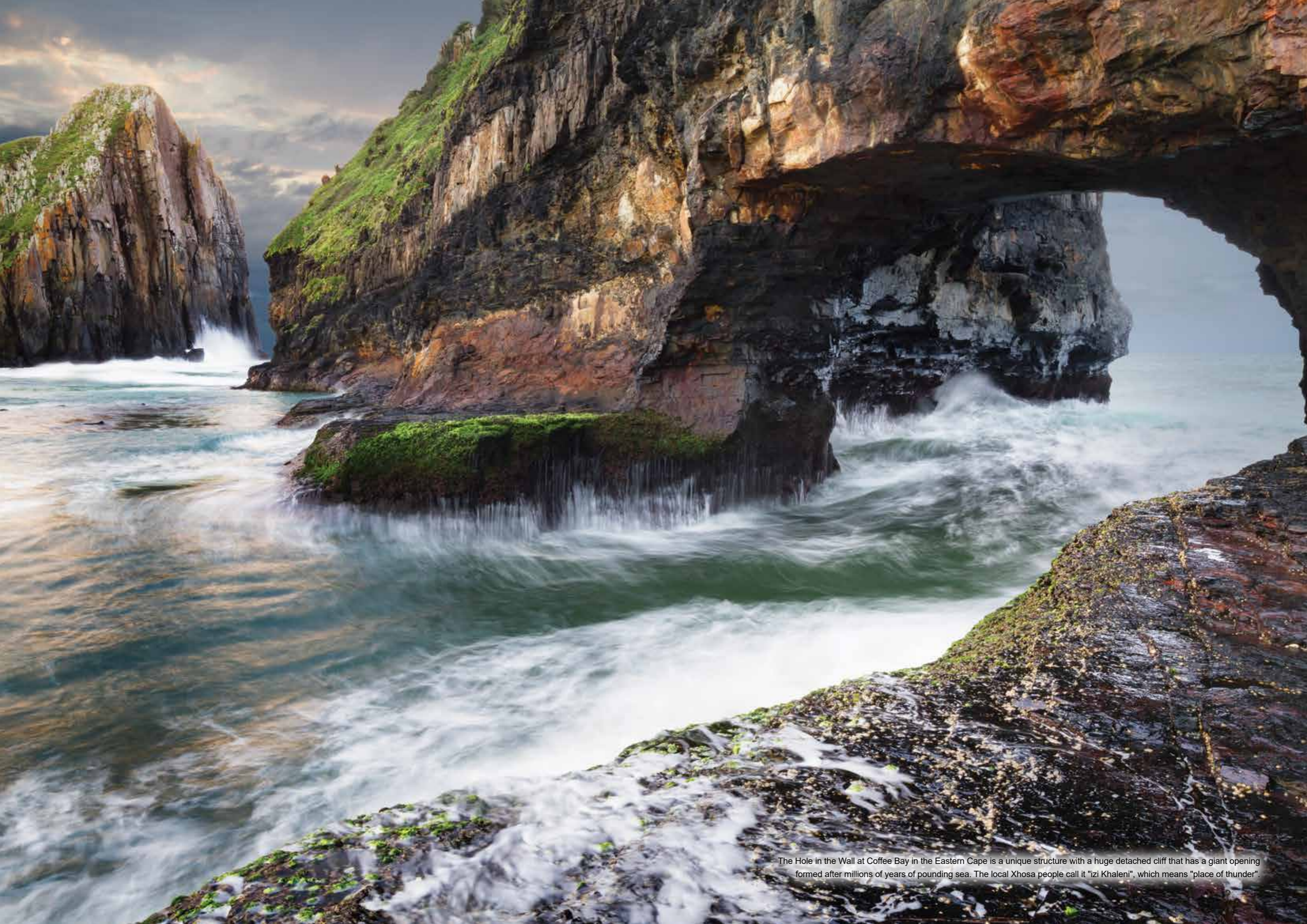
This will equip governments, civil society, researchers and other stakeholders with the key evidence they need to uphold responsible-use principles in the development and implementation of AI. The evidence will also be used to:

- meet development and human rights obligations
- build capacity for responsible artificial intelligence around the world
- deepen international cooperation.

The public and other interested stakeholders will be given an opportunity to help shape the design and reach of the index, which will be developed consciously through a global South lens.

Its development represents an important opportunity for experts from the African continent, and the Global South, to be at the forefront of shaping the new global agenda on the responsible use and development of artificial intelligence. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



The Hole in the Wall at Coffee Bay in the Eastern Cape is a unique structure with a huge detached cliff that has a giant opening formed after millions of years of pounding sea. The local Xhosa people call it "izi Khaleni", which means "place of thunder".



Nanosatellite launch is a big step forward for African space science

This project represents a big step towards autonomy of South Africa's precious natural resources: data from and about the country, for its own use.

By Nyameko Royi
Acting Chief Engineer, MDASat constellation project, Cape Peninsula University of Technology

South African space science had a big day on 13 January 2022. The Cape Peninsula University of Technology, based in Cape Town, launched its third satellite mission into space from the Cape Canaveral rocket launch site in Florida in the United States.

The nanosatellite constellation – consisting of three satellites – is called MDASat (Marine Domain Awareness). A nanosatellite is smaller than standard satellites, weighing between 1kg and 10kg; it's an affordable, functional option. The mean mass of each of our satellites is 2.1kg.

MDASat is designed to collect data that will enhance the security and protection of South

African marine resources. The constellation will detect, monitor and identify foreign vessels within the country's Exclusive Economic Zone. This could help track illegal dumping and fishing.

Our hope, as the team that developed and designed the constellation – I am the acting chief engineer on the project – is that MDASat will enhance the country's ocean sovereignty and protect our marine resources.

This mission follows on from the successful development, launch and operation of two other nanosatellites: ZACUBE-1, known as TshepisoSat, and ZACUBE-2.

It's an exciting moment not just for the institution and for South Africa, but for the African continent more broadly: this is the first constellation of satellites developed and

designed in Africa. Other African countries, among them Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and Ghana, have sent satellites into space. But these were not developed and designed on the continent; they involved partnerships with non-African nations or companies.

This is important because the more countries and scientists are involved in space the better: this provides better collaborations and presents new technical techniques to process information. Different data can be used for all sorts of purposes, like tracking space weather and monitoring natural and marine resources.

MDASat's role

The 13 January launch sent three satellites of the MDA constellation (we hope to launch nine

in total as part of this constellation) into space. MDASat-1 will use Automatic Identification System data to monitor ships' movements within South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone. The Automatic Identification System is a radio system used for the tracking of maritime traffic. The location messages received by the satellites from ships in the ocean beneath are downloaded daily from the satellite when it passes over the ground station at the university's Bellville, Cape Town campus.

The satellites can do a number of things. For instance, they can receive over-the-air upgrades, meaning software can be developed and uploaded to the orbiting satellite when ready. They can also collect raw data, enhancing the opportunity for diagnostic testing on signal interference and decoding messages. This information allows us to track the satellites' health status – if they experience software bugs or electronic malfunctions, we can study that information, then apply fixes or backup manoeuvres.

MDASat also has an enhanced data interface. This means it uses the entire available bandwidth so it's operating optimally and can put through maximum data.

These enhancements pave the way for the future MDASat-2s development and launch. They also minimise the risk of damage to the current payload from space weather conditions.

Each satellite will initially pass the ground station an average of four times a day, but that will steadily increase. The satellites will drift apart over time and, as they eventually spread further apart, we will have an average of 12 passes per day. We expect an average of 1883k bytes of data to be generated per pass per satellite.

At the same time, we are also still tracking the previously launched ZACUBE-2. It is also tracking ships, as well as forest and vegetation fires. Since its launch in 2018, ZACUBE-2 has provided cutting-edge very-high frequency data exchange communications systems to the country's maritime industry, as a contribution to Operation Phakisa. This government initiative aims to fast-track several priority projects.

Another African connection

Space engineering projects started at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in 2008. Today, these are coordinated by the

institution's African Space Innovation Centre. We work from laboratories near the institution's Bellville campus. Our satellites are built to last and to stay the course: they undergo a rigorous flight acceptance review that confirms not only that they're fit to go into space but that they'll work once they get there. The review includes environmental testing to ensure mechanical shocks don't obliterate satellite and thermal testing to ensure they can operate within designated temperature ranges.

There was another South African element to the 13 January launch: MDASat was launched by SpaceX, the company founded by South African-born entrepreneur Elon Musk. SpaceX provides affordable ride share options into space and MDASat was just one project launched aboard the aerospace company's Falcon 9 rocket on this occasion. The rocket carried a total of 105 spacecraft, which will all gather data for different entities.

This project represents a big step towards the autonomy of South Africa's precious natural resources: data from and about the country, for its own use. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

Space engineering projects started at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in 2008. Today, these are coordinated by the institution's African Space Innovation Centre.



Can e-commerce help save the planet?

Google is part of a wave of digital companies, including Amazon and Ant Financial, encouraging consumers to make more sustainable choices by offering eco-friendly filter options, outlining the environmental impact of products and leveraging engagement strategies used in video games.

By the United Nations Environment Programme

If you have logged onto Google Flights recently, you might have noticed a small change in the page's layout. Alongside the usual sortable categories, like price, duration and departure time, there is a new field: CO2 emissions.

Launched in October 2021, the column gives would-be travellers an estimate of how much carbon dioxide they will be responsible for emitting.

"When you're choosing among flights of similar cost or timing, you can also factor carbon emissions into your decision," wrote Google's Vice President of Travel Products, Richard Holden.

Google is part of a wave of digital companies, including Amazon and Ant Financial, encouraging consumers to make more sustainable choices by offering eco-friendly filter options, outlining the environmental impact of products and leveraging engagement strategies used in video games.

Experts say these digital nudges can help increase awareness about environmental threats and the uptake of solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Our consumption practices are putting tremendous pressure on the planet, driving climate change, stoking pollution and pushing species towards extinction," says David Jensen, Digital Transformation Coordinator with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

"We need to make better decisions about the things we buy and trips we take," he added.

"These green digital nudges help consumers make better decisions as well as collectively drive businesses to adopt sustainable practices through consumer pressure."

Global reach

At least 1.5 billion people consume products and services through e-commerce platforms, and global e-commerce sales reached US\$26.7 trillion in 2019, according to a recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report.

Meanwhile, 4.5 billion people are on social media and 2.5 billion play online games. These tallies mean digital platforms could influence green behaviours at a planetary scale, says Jensen.

One example is UNEP-led Playing for the Planet Alliance, which places green activations in games. UNEP's Little Book of Green Nudges has also led to more than 130 universities piloting 40 different nudges to shift behaviour.

A 2020 study by Globescan involving many of the world's largest retailers found that seven out of 10 consumers want to become more sustainable. However, only three out of 10 have been able to change their lifestyles.

E-commerce providers can help close this gap.

"The algorithms and filters that underpin e-commerce platforms must begin to nudge sustainable and net-zero products and services by default," said Jensen. "Sustainable consumption should be a core part of the shopping experience, empowering people to make choices that align with their values."

Embedding sustainability in tech

Many groups are trying to leverage this opportunity to make the world a more sustainable place.

The Green Digital Finance Alliance (GDFA), launched by Ant Group and UNEP, aims to enhance financing for sustainable

development through digital platforms and fintech applications. It launched the Every Action Counts Coalition, a global network of digital, financial, retail investment, e-commerce and consumer goods companies. The coalition aims to help one billion people make greener choices and take action for the planet by 2025 through online tools and platforms.

"We will bring like-minded members together to experiment with new innovative business models that empower everyone to become a green digital champion," says Marianne Haahr, GDFA Executive Director.

In one example, GDFA member Mastercard, in collaboration with the fintech company Doconomy, provides shoppers with a personalised carbon footprint tracker to inform their spending decisions.

In the United Kingdom, Mastercard is partnering with HELPFUL to offer incentives for purchasing products from a list of over 150 sustainable brands.

Mobile apps like Ant Forest, by Ant Group, are also using a combination of incentives and digital engagement models to urge 600 million people make sustainable choices. Users are rewarded for low-carbon decisions through green energy points they can use to plant real trees. So far, the Ant Forest app has resulted in 122 million trees being planted, reducing carbon emissions by over six million tons.

Three e-commerce titans are also aiming to support greener lifestyles. Amazon has adopted the Climate Pledge Friendly initiative to help at least 100 million people find climate-friendly products that carry at least one of 32 different environmental certifications.

SAP's Ariba platform is the largest digital business-to-business network on the planet. It has also embraced the idea of "procuring with purpose," offering a detailed look at corporate supply chains so potential partners can assess the social, economic and environmental impact of transactions.

"Digital transformation is an opportunity to rethink how our business models can contribute to sustainability and how we can achieve full environmental transparency and accountability across our entire value chain," said SAP's Chief Sustainability Officer Daniel Schmid.

UNEP's Jensen says a crucial next step would be for mobile phone operating systems to adopt standards that would allow apps to share environment and carbon footprint information.

"This would enable people to seamlessly calculate their footprints across all applications to develop insights and change behaviours," Jensen said. "Everyone needs access to an

individual 'environmental dashboard' to truly understand their impact and options for more sustainable living."

"Green digital nudges help consumers make better decisions as well as collectively drive businesses to adopt sustainable practices through consumer pressure."

Need for common standards

As platforms begin to encode sustainability into their algorithms and product recommendations, common standards are needed to ensure reliability and public trust, say experts.

Indeed, many online retailers are claiming to do more for the environment than they actually are. A January analysis by the European Commission and European national consumer authorities found that in 42%, sustainability claims were exaggerated or false.

To help change that, UNEP serves as the secretariat of the One Planet network, a global community of practitioners, policymakers and experts that encourages sustainable consumption and production.

In November 2021, the One Planet network issued guidance material for e-commerce platforms that outlines how to better inform consumers and enable more sustainable consumption, based on 10 principles from UNEP and the International Trade Centre.

The European Union is also pioneering core standards for digital sustainability through digital product passports that contain relevant information on a product's origin, composition, environmental and carbon performance.

"Digital product passports will be an essential tool to strengthen consumer protection and increase the level of trust and rigour to environmental performance claims," says Jensen. "They are the next frontier on the pathway to planetary sustainability in the digital age." ^U

"Our consumption practices are putting tremendous pressure on the planet, driving climate change, stoking pollution and pushing species towards extinction," says David Jensen, Digital Transformation Coordinator with the United Nations Environment Programme.



FROM MASSACRE TO MAJESTY:

THIS IS SEHA'S JOURNEY

Seha symbolises the worst of what humans can inflict; the unspeakable darkness and the cruelty. Conversely, he is remarkable too, in symbolising the best that humans can be.

By Baby Rhino Rescue and www.goodthingsguy.com

From the blood-red depths of the rhino poaching tragedies, a glimmer of hope. His full name is *Sehawukele* – “God have mercy on us” – and this is his incredible story.

He's battle-worn and scarred. He has seen the best and survived the worst of humanity. He is Seha, a 10-year-old rhino bull – and he recently went home.

On Monday, 24 January 2022, after 30 operations and with the aid and collaboration of three organisations, dozens of volunteers and hundreds of donors, the two-ton bull returned to the wild, in the pristine Marataba Game Reserve in South Africa.

In 2021, poachers slaughtered 36 rhinos in just 24 hours. The carnage was felt globally, and the famous Kruger National Park is facing the strong possibility of local rhino extinction in just three years.

Now, from the blood-red depths of this tragedy, a glimmer of hope and fate brought him to another who doesn't give up: wildlife vet Johan Marais, founder of Saving the Survivors.

In 2016, poachers ripped his horns from his face, leaving Seha disfigured and in unimaginable pain. Local police found him stumbling along the fenced border of the reserve, and the owners of the land suggested he be shot. The police, moved by this bleeding mass of once-majestic beast, reached out to the well-known wildlife vet Marais, who has vowed to save every rhino that survives a poaching. Over the following six years, Seha endured 30 operations, crying with each one as these emotional animals tend to do.

Marais managed to give *Sehawukele* enough facial function for him to eat. But instead of hearing lions roaring across his natural habitat, he had to be kept in a paddock.

He has endured many treatments over the last few years, and has showed remarkable resolve and courage to survive. In 2018, Saving the Survivors decided that his wound had healed enough to introduce him to two females, with the result that little Daniel was born in June 2019. This underpins the concept of saving injured and poached survivors, allowing them to breed eventually as not to

lose their genetics and having these animals contribute to the survival of the species.

Marais knew it was time to make contact with Baby Rhino Rescue. Baby Rhino Rescue is an international organisation that passionately believes in working together to make miracles. Founder and president, Helena Kriel, asked Marais what his number one wish for Seha would be.

“To get him back into the wild,” he said. Helena says, “This really is the miracle of Seha's journey back to the wild. It's what happens when people work together.

“I think it's the message we really want to get across strongly. Inspire people and get involved.”

Seha's walk to freedom begins ...

Baby Rhino Rescue's American team launched the Seha's Fund Campaign. They had to raise funds to transport him but couldn't send him back to the wild alone. His lineage is magnificence; he has prize genes, essential for the survival of the species. He was to go into the wild with two breeding females, and within

a few months, the baby Rhino Rescue Team had raised funds to buy Seha his mates.

“Fifty rhinos used to live in this area,” says Andre Uys, MD of Marataba, of the 2000 square hectare piece of bush. “This is heaven for a rhino.”

It's a horror-to-heaven tale of the brutality of some and the profound compassion of others dedicated to love and healing. Seha symbolises the worst of what humans can inflict; the unspeakable darkness and the cruelty. Conversely, he is remarkable too, in symbolising the best that humans can be.

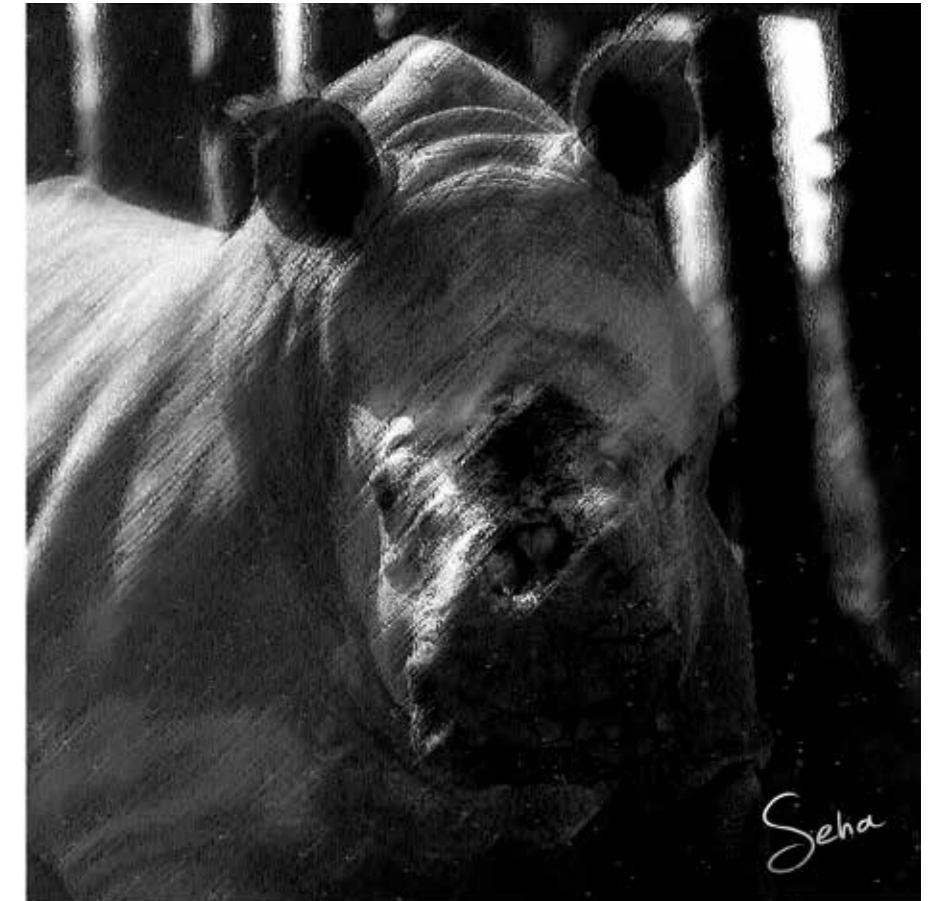
This beautiful animal illustrates the power of a revered, ancient species: Years after the most heinous attack, Seha is still standing. And he's wild. This is a creature that does not want to go extinct.

The moment of majesty

With permits in place, Seha was darted on Monday, 24 January, and taken from Bela Bela wildlife farm to Marataba in the Waterberg, a 130-km journey. On arrival, he was taken to the area chosen for him, where the two females – Dakalo (Ducky), which means Joy; and Tshilidzi (Chilli), which means Grace; were waiting for him.

On his release, the Seha Legacy Fund was launched, enabling the public to get involved by adopting this legend and his new family. Bush cameras will track the rhinos and allow us to see where Seha is sleeping. When his ladies fall pregnant, the Seha Legacy Fund will follow their gestation up to the moment that a baby rhino is born.

Funds raised by the ongoing adoption of Seha's family will enable Baby Rhino Rescue to donate funds to Saving the Survivors,



supporting Marais' vital work with badly injured rhinos left to suffer by poachers.

Saving the Survivors, Baby Rhino Rescue and Marataba are partnering to save the rhino from extinction. Each one, reach one – together, we can send a call across Africa and the world about the rhino that wouldn't give up and the vet that wouldn't let him.

There can be little more apt to celebrate this majestic animal's giant heart and future freedom than see him home with Joy and Grace. u

From the blood-red depths of the rhino poaching tragedies, a glimmer of hope. His full name is *Sehawukele* – “God have mercy on us” – and this is his incredible story.



Saving the Survivors was founded in 2012 by Dr Johan Marais to attend to injured endangered wildlife that have fallen victim to poaching or traumatic incidents. While it attends to the needs of any injured animal, most of its efforts have been directed at rhino due to the vicious attacks that many of them have fallen victim to.

Due to the escalation in poaching and snaring incidents, the number of victims is rapidly increasing. Fortunately, many injured animals have been given a second chance after undergoing various interventions and surgical procedures performed by the team. Most of these animals are treated in their natural habitat as transporting injured wildlife increases the risk and trauma they experience.

Every case it encounters is unique and tests the teams' resolve. Saving the Survivors is fortunate to collaborate with world-renowned clinical specialists and conservation groups, and grateful for the unwavering support of the public.

Saving the Survivors has been awarded multiple conservation awards over the years, including:

- Rhino Conservation Awards 2014 – Winner in the Category, Best Science, Research and Technology
- SA National Parks Inaugural Kudu Awards 2015 – Winner in the Professional Stakeholders Category
- Rhino Conservation Awards 2015 – Runner-up in the Category, Best Science, Research and Technology
- Enviropaedia Eco-Logic Awards 2017 – Eco-Angel Bronze Award.

Saving the Survivors





How we found a way to track alien marine species along South Africa's coast

The potential impacts of alien species are so alarming that international organisations urge countries to act locally in parallel with global efforts and coordination.

By **Tainā Gonçalves Loureiro**
Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Stellenbosch University

Saldanha Bay harbour on the west coast of South Africa has long been an important point for global shipping routes. It was also the port of entry for an unwanted stow-away: the Mediterranean mussel. The species first appeared in South Africa in the late 1980s, and has spread along the west and south coasts.

It has displaced native species, increased the areas covered by mussel beds, and damaged infrastructure like pipes, jetties and aquaculture equipment.

Saldanha is one of eight major maritime ports and 23 marinas and yacht clubs in South Africa through which marine alien species have entered South African waters. These aliens from all around the world can arrive attached to the hulls of vessels or in ballast water.

Scientists have identified 95 marine alien species along the South African coast. Among these marine aliens, there's a special group known as fouling agents. These organisms attach to surfaces like a vessel's hull, jetties, mariculture rafts and rocks.

Most fouling organisms are sedentary, such as algae, barnacles and mussels. Some are burrow-dwelling, such as worms, while others cling to surfaces, such as amphipods and isopods. Crabs, starfish and some small fishes are also included in the group.

Alongside threats to biodiversity, fouling can be a nuisance for vessel owners and harbour managers. It costs a lot of money to clean hulls and infrastructure and prevent fouling that can clog pipes and damage systems. The costs can be direct, such as lower productivity for the aquaculture industry or increased fuel demand for ships.

Some indirect costs link to prevention, management and control. Prevention is

best. It requires knowing which species are present and whether they're multiplying and establishing themselves. So, it's essential to develop a standard long-term monitoring approach.

With coordinated efforts between academics, governments and harbour managers, it's possible to put into motion measures to track aliens before they become established, prioritise actions and measure the effectiveness of interventions.

We started with tracking the arrival of these aliens. The Robinson Lab at Stellenbosch University developed and tested a method to monitor alien fouling species at ports and yacht clubs along the South African coast.

We showed that a simple, low-cost method can yield useful information about which species are present and the best time to intervene. The method can be used in other vulnerable locations too.

Better safe than sorry

We attached small PVC (plastic) panels, about the size of a medium-sized envelope, to harbour piers or buoys close to the harbour. We left them to float in the water for two months to see what organisms would attach themselves.

Some of the units were enclosed in a cage-like structure, to stop other species, such as fishes, crabs or shrimps, from eating whatever alien organisms might attach to the panels. The materials for the entire experiment cost as little as R800 (about US\$50) for the 20 units installed at each harbour site.

We tested the method at harbours in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Saldanha Bay in 2019 and found that two months were the minimum time necessary to detect and identify invasive species.

During our trial, we detected 21 species of which 66% were invasive. The high prevalence of invasive species was alarming and reinforces the need to monitor these environments. Most of the species had been detected by researchers before but one of them, *Asciidiella aspersa*, was recorded only for the Western Cape and we found it in Port Elizabeth, indicating a range expansion eastwards.

These results show how important it is to establish long-term standardised surveillance. This will enable temporal and spatial comparisons of information that's collected consistently.

Our study, coupled with previous research, shows that most fouling species reproduce all year long, but have reproduction peaks during summer and winter. The main message is that harbours should monitor what's there at least twice a year during the reproduction peak season.

Going forward

The potential impacts of alien species are so alarming that international organisations urge countries to act locally in parallel with global efforts and coordination. The Convention on Biological Diversity, a multilateral treaty among participant countries, instigated by the United Nations' (UN) 2030 agenda to promote the Sustainable Development Goals, requires the prevention of alien species introduction and the control or eradication of already introduced aliens that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

Developing a standardised long-term monitoring approach is essential for meeting national and international standards of sustainable development such as achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN member states in 2015. For the industry, monitoring alien species is also relevant to increase competitiveness in global markets that are progressively turning their attention towards a green economy.

The method we're suggesting can be valuable to governmental conservation

With coordinated efforts between academics, governments and harbour managers, it's possible to put into motion measures to track aliens before they become established, prioritise actions and measure the effectiveness of interventions.

departments aiming to control bioinvasions, as well as to policymakers who need to evaluate the efficacy of biosecurity protocols.

For the industry, this monitoring approach can help shipping companies, aquaculture companies, as well as managers of ports, marinas and yacht clubs that might want to pursue green certification such as the Blue Flag programme.

This efficient, easy and versatile method could decrease the potential of future invasion and losses. We recommend that this early-warning method be used widely in South African harbours and abroad. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



DAMON GALGUT'S Booker-winning novel probes white South Africa and the land issue

At the heart of the novel – and the unfulfilled promise to Salome – lies the question of what sort of restitution is possible in the context of South Africa's brutally iniquitous history?

By Sofia Kostelac
Lecturer, University of the Witwatersrand

In November 2021, South African writer Damon Galgut won the United Kingdom's most prestigious literary award, the Booker Prize, for his work *The Promise*. It was Galgut's third shortlisting for the career-defining award, which has evaded him until then. In 2003, he was shortlisted for *The Good Doctor* and in 2010 for *In a Strange Room*. So, what is it that makes his latest novel *The Promise* so special? We asked Galgut expert Sofia Kostelac to fill us in about the writer and his tale of a white South African family's reckoning with a racist past – and why the book is important, especially in South Africa where it is set.

Who is Damon Galgut?

Damon Galgut is a South African writer born in Pretoria in 1963. He now lives and works in Cape Town. He made his literary debut at the age of 18, with the publication of his first novel, *A Sinless Season*, in 1982. *The Promise* is his ninth novel, and the third to be shortlisted for the prestigious Booker Prize. Although best known for his novels, Galgut has also authored several plays, screenplays and short stories.

Like many readers, I was first made aware of Galgut's writing when *The Good Doctor* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2003. That

novel encompasses many of the themes that Galgut has become best known for, including his searching meditations on the devastating legacies of apartheid and white-minority rule in South Africa. Yet, his literary range also extends well beyond forms of politically engaged realism. It includes experiments with fictionalised memoir or "autobiography" (*In a Strange Room*), biographical fiction (*Arctic Summer*) and metaphysical crime writing (*The Quarry* and *The Impostor*).

What is *The Promise* all about?

The Promise is a carefully layered novel that spans just over three decades in the lives of the Swarts, a white South African family living on a farm just outside Pretoria. The promise of the novel's title refers to the commitment that Manie makes to fulfil his wife Rachel's dying wish: to give their domestic worker Salome, who has worked for the family for decades, the house on the Swart farm in which she lives. The promise remains unfulfilled for the next 31 years as successive inheritors of the land refuse to cede the property to Salome.

The novel is divided into four parts, each focussed on the death and funeral of a member of the Swart family. The deaths occur roughly a decade apart from each other. This is a structuring device that allows Galgut to

hold three decades of South African history – from the violent State of Emergency in the mid-1980s to the tumult of contemporary times – in view. While the dramatic socio-political changes of these years are apparent in every aspect of the Swart family's lives, little changes for Salome, whose wait for the dignity and safety represented by land and property endures.

Why does the book matter?

At the heart of the novel – and the unfulfilled promise to Salome – lies the question of what sort of restitution is possible in the context of South Africa's brutally iniquitous history?

The bitter irony on which the story rests is that Salome's house is entirely undesirable, consisting of "three rooms and a broken roof.

On a tough piece of land." It holds almost no material value for the Swarts, yet the family is torn asunder by their disagreements over its fate.

What would it take, the novel implicitly asks, for a family like the Swarts to give up a modicum of their privilege to nudge us towards a more equitable society? *The Promise* attends, with meticulous detail and insight, to the pathologies of racism, pride and fear that make such acts unlikely.

Galgut has rightly been praised by reviewers and the Booker judges for the formal skill with which he handles these vexing themes. The narrative voice is a remarkably inventive one that ranges between diverse characters with apparent ease, and delivers a rare combination of irony and empathy that

wryly critiques the novel's deeply flawed and afflicted characters without dehumanising them.

Does the Booker Prize matter and what will it do for Galgut's career?

The Booker Prize is almost unparalleled in the attention and esteem it affords its winners. The prize has played a significant role in shaping the South African literary canon, and Galgut is now likely to take up a well-earned place alongside pantheons like JM Coetzee and Nadine Gordimer as among the most recognised, studied and anthologised of the country's writers. 📖

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

What would it take, the novel implicitly asks, for a family like the Swarts to give up a modicum of their privilege to nudge us towards a more equitable society? *The Promise* attends, with meticulous detail and insight, to the pathologies of racism, pride and fear that make such acts unlikely.



DAMON GALGUT

The Promise

DAMON GALGUT

The Promise

DAMON GALGUT

The Promise



I was part of the team that found the *Homo naledi* child's skull: How we did it

| I was the first of the group to step into the Dinaledi Chamber and it was pretty amazing.

By Marina Elliott
Researcher, Physical and Biological Anthropology, Simon Fraser University

In 2015, a new member was introduced to the family tree of humans. Fossil hominins from the Rising Star cave system outside Johannesburg, South Africa, were found to belong to a previously unidentified hominin species, which was then named *Homo naledi*.

In November 2021, an international team of researchers, led by Professor Lee Berger, a palaeoanthropologist from South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand, revealed

the first partial skull of a *Homo naledi* child, also from the Rising Star cave. In two journal articles, researchers estimate that the child died almost 250 000 years ago, at the age of between four and six years old. Given that this is the first partial skull of a child of *Homo naledi* ever recovered, it can offer important insights into the species' different life stages.

The child has been named "Leti" after the Setswana word "letimela", meaning "the lost one". *The Conversation Africa's* Natasha

Joseph spoke with Dr Marina Elliott, lead author of the paper describing how and where the skull was discovered, about the painstaking and physically demanding work involved in bringing Leti to the surface.

Seven years ago, you became an "Underground Astronaut". What does that entail?

The "Underground Astronauts" is a nickname for the group of six scientists and excavators

from the original Rising Star expedition. We got the name, I think, because working in the Dinaledi Chamber was a little bit like a space mission: a journey through the darkness, working remotely with only video and voice connection to a "command centre" on the surface, and matching overalls and helmets.

All of us ended up on the project after responding to a Facebook ad that Lee Berger posted, asking for excavators who were able (and willing!) to dash off to South Africa on a month's notice to work in a cave system, in cramped quarters, in a small team to excavate some fossil material. We didn't really know at the time what we would end up with, or how important it would be.

Can you describe the Rising Star system?

The Rising Star cave system is located in the Cradle of Humankind, just outside Johannesburg. It's a large area that has many caves, cave systems and underground rivers, and it has been famous for important fossil finds since the 1920s. The Rising Star cave system isn't just one big cave: it's a complex network of tunnels, passages, squeezes and chambers, some of which interconnect. It's more of a maze or labyrinth than a single "cave".

The Dinaledi Chamber is just one in a sub-system of chambers and passages within the larger Rising Star system. The new fossil area, U.W.110, where the child's remains were recovered, is in a very small passage in the Dinaledi Chamber, about 12 metres away from where we originally excavated adult *Homo naledi* fossils.

Do you remember the first time you went into Rising Star?

Shortly after we arrived on site, some of the cavers took us into Rising Star to give us a sense of the route and the spaces. It was very interesting at first, walking along the passages with the musty smells of the cave all around us. But, we quickly had to crawl through a squeeze, then climbed up a knife-ridge of rock (called the Dragon's Back) using harnesses, and arrived at an area called the top of the Chute.

The Dinaledi Chamber is just one in a sub-system of chambers and passages within the larger Rising Star system. The new fossil area, U.W.110, where the child's remains were recovered, is in a very small passage in the Dinaledi Chamber, about 12 metres away from where we originally excavated adult *Homo naledi* fossils.

We didn't go down the Chute that day, but knew we would be heading into it the next day to begin the excavations. I remember peering into it, knowing that it was a 12-metre long vertical fissure in the rock, but not being able to see the route for the narrowness of the gap and the spikes of rock all the way down. I remember thinking perhaps I'd been too hasty in signing up for such a project!

But the excitement of the fossils overcame that feeling and the next day, Becca Peixotto, Hannah Morris and I were the first excavators to go in. The Chute took a long time to negotiate, but then we dropped into a small chamber that led into the Dinaledi Chamber proper.

I was the first of the group to step into the Dinaledi Chamber and it was pretty amazing. With only my headlamp for light, I had to sweep back and forth to see what was there; immediately, I could see that there were fragments of bone all over the floor. Even without knowing there was so much more below the surface, it was exhilarating to stand there, thinking about how we were going to get all the material out, how it got there and what it all meant.

How did you find the skull, and then bring it out?

The discovery of the U.W.110 location came out of explorations that we conducted in 2017, trying to understand more about the physical spaces in the Dinaledi sub-system; how they might have formed and how the fossil material might have arrived in the area. The exploration team was tasked with systematically exploring and mapping as many of the interconnected passages as possible, for as far as they could physically work their way in.

The U.W.110 location is just over 12 metres from the Dinaledi Chamber excavation area. To get there from the Dinaledi Chamber, you have to go through a short squeeze and into another small chamber, called Chaos. From there, you have to climb over some fallen boulders and drop into a narrow crawl space. The Leti material was recovered from the surface of a tight, narrow passage a bit further in, that can only be accessed with difficulty by one person at a time.

Becca Peixotto recovered the fragments, but had to do so bent around a corner and almost upside down. Even taking photos of the material in place was difficult because of the small, awkward spaces and Becca had to pass each piece through a little window of rock out to me. Before we removed anything, it was documented – photographs, drawings etc – and given a field number and label. We wrapped each fragment in bubble wrap, placed it in a plastic container and then put it in a dry bag to be carried up to the surface.

Do you think the Rising Star system holds more secrets?

I think there is likely a lot more to find in the cave system. There may be other locations of *H. naledi* material, but there is also a lot of work that still needs to be done in the Dinaledi and Lesedi chambers (and elsewhere in the system) to understand the geology and context of the fossils, and so many questions remain to be answered. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.





A zebra herd grazing in the Welgevonden Game Reserve. Welgevonden is a 37 000-ha private game reserve in the Waterberg District of the Limpopo province. The reserve is nestled within the internationally recognised United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, flagged for the sustainable conservation of biodiversity.

Flying the FLAG

Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim scoop international award



World-renowned Durban scientists and infectious disease epidemiologists at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (Caprisa), professors Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, were in January 2022 honoured in Vietnam as inaugural recipients of a VinFuture special prize for their groundbreaking research on HIV prevention in South Africa.

The couple was awarded the VinFuture Special Prize for innovators from developing countries at a ceremony held at the Hanoi Opera House in Vietnam on Thursday, 20 January 2022.

Guests included Vietnam Prime Minister, Pham Minh Chinh, and leaders of government ministries, ambassadors, Nobel laureates and the founders of the VinFuture prize.

The award programme is part of the VinFuture Foundation, an independent, non-profit organisation set up by Phạm Nhật Vượng, the first Vietnamese billionaire and founder

and Chairperson of the largest Vietnamese conglomerate, VinGroup Corporate, with his wife, Phạm Thu Hương, to create meaningful change in the lives of millions by recognising and rewarding transformative innovation in sci-tech.

Almost 600 nominations across 60 countries were received for the prize. Of these, nearly 100 were for the world's top 2% most-cited scientists, many of whom are themselves laureates of distinguished awards, including the Nobel Prize, Japan Prize and Tang Prize.

"The Abdool Karims have tirelessly championed the importance of science in defining the HIV and COVID-19 response," said Chair of the Caprisa Board, Bongiwe Ntuli.

"South Africa is blessed to have such world-class scientists whose research is making the world a better place."

The couple said the 2022 prize for scientists in developing countries was "a beacon of recognition for the many scientists in the developing world who toil away each day in their laboratories, clinics and libraries, that

scientific excellence is achievable in the midst of adversity.

"While we serve as its recipients, this prize is recognition for the dedication and commitment to excellence by a team of more than 200 researchers in South Africa, with collaborators from five continents and thousands of volunteers who have participated in our studies over the past 33 years," they said.

The ceremony honoured the winners of the inaugural VinFuture prizes, including the US\$3 million (about R45 million) VinFuture grand prize and three US\$500 000 (about R7.5 million) special prizes for female innovators, innovators from developing countries and innovators with outstanding achievements in emerging fields.

TimesLIVE

Cape Town earns place on "Most Instagrammable" list again



Cape Town has earned a place on the "Most Instagrammable" list for the fourth consecutive year.

There is no denying the international world adores Cape Town. It is one of the most celebrated cities in South Africa and often makes headlines for earning travel-related accolades. Once again, it has earned a spot on the Big 7 Travel "Most Instagrammable" list.

The list was started in 2019 by the travel media company and has become something to look forward to each year. Millions of travellers worldwide do research to find their

next holiday destination and lists like the "Most Instagrammable" are just the type of thing that will entice travellers to visit South Africa.

Cape Town has been selected for the Big 7 Travel Most Instagrammable list for the fourth year in a row. Selection for this list is made by using several judging methods.

"How did Big 7 Travel choose the winners? Via a comprehensive scoring system that analysed the number of hashtags per destination, sample survey results of Big 7 Media's 1.5 million audience, and from our global editorial team.

"The final results are ranked in order of their visual allure and popularity on social media." – Big 7 Travel.

In 2019, Cape Town landed fifth on the list, 2020 earned 15th place, and in 2021, Cape Town got 45th place.

"Dramatic scenery, fantastic hiking trails and deserted beaches that boast spectacular ocean views. What more could you ask for? Cape Town is an Instagrammer's dream location to visit: endless natural beauty and cliff-top views, pastel pink neighbourhoods and turquoise waters." – Big 7 Travel.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Zozibini Tunzi to make film debut in *The Woman King* with Viola Davis and Thuso Mbedu



Former Miss South Africa and Miss Universe 2019, Zozibini Tunzi, has been cast in the upcoming American historical epic film, *The Woman King*,

written by Dana Stevens and directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood.

It stars Viola Davis, Thuso Mbedu, Lashana Lynch and John Boyega.

Shot on location in South Africa, other familiar faces who have signed on are Masali Baduza, Seputla Sebogodi, Thando Dlomo and Makgotso Monyemorathoe. Grammy Award-winner Lebo M created five original songs for the film.

Sharing the news on Instagram, Zozibini wrote: "I am so honored and excited to announce that I have been cast for the film, *The Woman King* (@womankingmovie).

"It is a completely new world and first time experience for me so I enter it with the utmost respect and humility. Forever grateful and looking forward. [sic]"

The film is scheduled to be theatrically released by Sony Pictures in September 2022.

www.news24.com

Wits Steakhouse opens in Dallas, Texas – with biltong and braai



told *Business Insider South Africa*, adding that his mother attended Wits, and that's what inspired the name.

"I still have quite a bit of family in South Africa and it's where my roots are. Wits is a way to bring attention to South African food and culture and hopefully it provides a small taste of the homeland for the many South Africans living in Dallas."

The restaurant serves traditional steakhouse dishes, like tomahawk steaks and ribeye. It also experiments with starters like wagyu meatballs and matzah ball soup.

The uniquely South African flavours start with a serving of biltong and include a free-range chicken braai with roasted peppers and sunchokes, which costs US\$28 (or around R430).

The South African influence comes through even stronger when it comes to the drink's menu. Diners can enjoy Windhoek Lager; technically from Namibia but much-loved in South Africa. They can also sip on cocktails called the "Gold Digger" and "Mine Cart".

Bottles of wine from Mulderbosch, Hamilton Russell Vineyards and Simonsig also represent South Africa.

"We hope to exceed expectations with our steaks and seafood by offering guests a different experience than they might expect," said Ellman.

"Because we are not the typical Texas steakhouse, we are taking a chance and embracing what sets us apart."

Business Insider

A restaurant named after Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), offering biltong, braai meat and local beer, recently opened in Dallas, Texas.

Described as a modern steakhouse with creative flair, Wits Steakhouse quietly opened in Dallas' trendy Design District at the start of 2022, nearly 15 000 km away from the university after which it is named.

It's not just the restaurant's name and some of its dishes which draw inspiration from South Africa; some of the décor also has a touch of Johannesburg. Bookcases, ostensibly a nod to the university, dot the walls, while a trunk

full of "gold bars" point to Johannesburg's development in the first place.

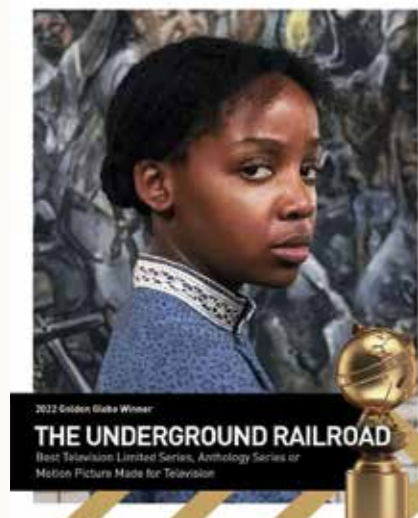
The 370-m² steakhouse can accommodate around 80 diners. It also features a private area that seats 40, a semi-private chef's table and a large patio.

The restaurant, which is only open for dinner, was created by owner Richard Ellman, founder of Apheleia Restaurant Group, which owns three other restaurants in Dallas.

Ellman, although born in Gqeberha – formerly known as Port Elizabeth – never studied at Wits.

"We moved to Dallas when I was seven and I've lived here the majority of my life," Ellman

Thuso Mbedu's *Underground Railroad* series bags Golden Globes Award



Actress Thuso Mbedu has once again put South Africa and KwaZulu-Natal on the map after the hit series she stars in, *The Underground Railroad*, won a Golden Globe.

Mbedu, a former Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School pupil, plays a runaway slave named Cora Randall in the series.

In November 2021, she won Outstanding Performance in a New Series for her role at the Gotham Awards. She was also honoured at the Hollywood Critics Association Awards in August last year.

The Underground Railroad won Best Limited Series or TV Movie at the 2022 Golden Globes.

www.news24.com

Proteas women beat West Indies by six wickets to win ODI Series 2-1



Early in February 2022, the South African women's cricket team beat the West Indies by six wickets in the fourth and final One Day International at the Wanderers in Johannesburg to win the series 2-1

After winning the toss and choosing to bat, the West Indies women set the Proteas women a target of 175 for victory.

The Proteas reached 175 in the 40th over for the loss of just four wickets to register victory and win the series.

Openers Deandra Dottin and Rashada Williams combined for a paltry 19 for the first wicket. Shabnim Ismail removed Williams for six in the fifth over. Dottin and Kycia Knight rebuilt the visitors' innings with their 65-run partnership, taking them to 84.

Dottin was next to depart. She was caught for 36 by captain, Sune Luus, off the delivery of Ismail to leave the West Indies on 84 for two.

The West Indies women lost wickets at regular intervals and were all out for 174.

Afy Fletcher was the last wicket to fall after she was caught behind by Sinalo Jafta for six, off the delivery of Nadine De Klerk.

Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits had an opening partnership of 38 for the Proteas women.

Wolvaardt was caught at midwicket for 23 off the delivery of Aaliyah Alleyne in the 10th over. Fletcher then removed Britz for 20 in the 12th over to leave the hosts on 56 for two. Andrie Steyn and Luus' 92-run partnership lifted the hosts' innings to 144.

But the Proteas captain was removed for 47 by West Indies captain, Anisa Mohammed, with the hosts needing 31 for a win. Chloe Tryon and Mignon du Preez took the Proteas over the line with the hosts winning by six wickets in the 40th over.

www.sabc.com

South Africa's Marais Erasmus scoops ICC Umpire of the Year Award



Experienced South African umpire Marais Erasmus has been honoured with the International Cricket Council (ICC) Umpire of the Year accolade for 2021.

Erasmus, who umpired in last year's T20 World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand in Dubai, has led the way in his officiating, earning the respect of his peers and the international cricket fraternity.

The 2021 ICC Umpire of the Year Award sits alongside his successive Dave Shepherd trophies, won in 2016 and 2017.

Apart from umpiring the T20 World Cup final, the 57-year-old Erasmus oversaw 20 international fixtures across the three formats in 2021.

Erasmus recently stood in his 100th ODI, when the Proteas took on Indian in Paarl.

Erasmus said it's a "real honour" to receive the prestigious award.

"To be honoured by the ICC match referees and international Test captains is recognition for a year of hard work and I'm pleased to have performed under difficult circumstances with COVID-19 bubbles and long periods away from home.

"A massive thanks to my wife Adele and boys Chris and Geo for their unwavering support as well as ICC umpire coach Karl Hurter for his support of me and many other umpires."

www.news24.com

City of Cape Town receives medal of honour in global sustainability award



The City of Cape Town has been awarded a Medal of Honour in the fifth Guangzhou International Awards for Urban Innovation for its partnership with the Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme (WISP), delivered by GreenCape.

The awards recognise the innovation that improves social, economic and environmental solutions in cities and regions. The city-funded programme was recognised for developing mutually profitable links between companies across

industrial sectors so that underutilised and waste resources from one business can be recovered, reprocessed and re-used by others.

It's a solution that allows participating businesses to cut costs, improve processes and create new revenue streams and job opportunities, all while positively impacting the environment through the re-purposing of waste.

"I am exceptionally proud that the city's partnership with and funding of GreenCape for the implementation of the WISP has

resulted in a successful model of economic and environmental sustainability and that it is receiving a deserving level of global recognition," said Alderman James Vos, Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth.

GreenCape CEO, Mike Mulcahy, said that through the programme, his organisation had facilitated successful synergies in the food, textile and manufacturing industries.

"Our WISP team at GreenCape reaches out to businesses and industry, sets up meetings and site visits and, finally, facilitates the business relationship. The programme shows that Cape Town is a leader in developing a circular economy," said Mulcahy.

The city was shortlisted in the Top 15 earlier this year, out of 273 initiatives from 175 cities and local governments in 60 countries and regions.

"WISP is an example of the impact of simple yet innovative solutions that create jobs and a cleaner environment," said Alderman Vos.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Talented South African land artist receives prestigious grant



Strijdom van der Merwe – a South African award-winning land artist who uses materials he finds on-site to create his artworks –

was named as one of the recipients of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant for 2022.

Van der Merwe is a sculptor and contemporary artist whose art, sculptures,

limited edition prints and art installations form part of art collections, art routes, sculpture parks and residences internationally. His work makes a statement about our relationship with the land and is informed by an open dialogue with sites and spaces.

For more than three decades, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation has supported working artists internationally. Established in 1985 through the generosity of Lee Krasner, one of the foremost abstract expressionist painters of the 20th century, the foundation is a leader in providing resources to emerging and established artists. To date, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation has awarded nearly 5 000 grants to professional artists and organisations in 78 countries, for a total of over US\$82 million.

www.goodthingsguy.com

South African wines win at 2021 Global Sauvignon Blanc Masters



The *Drinks Business* magazine annually selects the "best of the best" in booze, and South Africa did very well at the 2021 Global Sauvignon Blanc Masters.

Two South African wines were awarded Gold by *The Drinks Business*, landing in the top 12 of the best Sauvignon Blanc wines of 2021. The roundup includes wines from New Zealand, Greece, California and France, to name a few.

The Drinks Business is a magazine that focusses on the world's alcohol industry. It features news about the industry as well as lifestyle tips and more related to drinks.

The magazine also hosts an annual award ceremony, called "Drinks Masters". You name a type of alcohol, and they probably have a competition for it. They have been running the awards since the 2000s.

For the 2021 Global Sauvignon Blanc Masters, around 200 bottles from around the world were sent in to be judged.

Each wine was judged "blind" over one day in November 2021 at the 28-50 Wine Workshop and Kitchen in Chelsea, United Kingdom. While all using the same grape, the wines used a variety of methods to create their own version, whether that be oaked or unoaked, blended or not.

"In particular, we tasted Sauvignons made using many different fermentation formats, from stainless steel tanks to egg-shaped concrete vessels, barriques and oak casks of varying sizes. We also assessed Sauvignons blended with other grapes, such as Riesling and Semillon, Muscat and Verdelho, and then there were the source areas, which in 2021 included France, New Zealand, the US, South Africa, Chile, Italy, Australia and Greece." – Patrick Schmitt, *The Drinks Business*.

Two South African wines made it into the winning top 12 with Gold, but they were not the only local wines to earn high praise at the awards:

Gold Sauvignon Blanc
Durbanville Hills, The Tangram White Blend – Vintage 2018

Elgin Vintners, Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2021

Silver
Durbanville Hills Collectors Reserve, The Cape Mist Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2019

Elgin Vintners, Cloud Haven Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2021

Nederburg Winemasters, Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2021

Durbanville Hills, Signature Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2021

Kleine Zalze Wines, Vineyard Selection Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2020

Kleine Zalze Wines, Family Reserve Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2019

Klein Constantia, Estate Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2020

Bronze
Fish Hoek, Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2021

Durbanville Hills Collectors Reserve, The Cape Mist Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2020

De Grendel, Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2021

Flagstone Free Run, Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2020

Klein Constantia, Metis Sauvignon Blanc – Vintage 2018.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Western Cape claims third spot in the Top 50 "Most Loved Destinations"



In January 2022, Cape Town, Hermanus, Stellenbosch and Knysna were all crowned with the titles of "Most Loved Destinations in the World" with three of these Western Cape gems ranking in the top 50 out of 100 places globally.

Cape Town stood at #54, Hermanus at #41, Stellenbosch at #23 and Knysna at #19 according to the Tourism Sentiment Index (TSI).

The TSI is a travel data intelligence solution created by destination marketing agency Destination, which compiled the list.

An intensive data study that analysed more than 1.6 billion online conversations and content pieces publicly available on about 21 330 global destinations took place to unearth the "Most Loved Destinations".

Overjoyed with the news, Western Cape Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, David Manier, expressed as per Wesgro:

"For four Western Cape towns and the Mother City to be identified in the top 100 most loved places in the world – following a global consumer sentiment analysis – is an outstanding achievement. The last two years will go down in history as the most challenging years thus far for the global tourism sector, and the rankings demonstrate that Cape Town and

the Western Cape is a world-class destination and a firm favourite on the global travel bucket list.

"This announcement puts a huge pep in our step as Western Cape warriors – especially in light of tourism."

As Wesgro announced, domestic travellers tripled between November and December of 2021 – at a 66% recovery rate. Internationally, this number was at a peak in November last year at a 41% recovery rate, which unfortunately decreased in the later seasons of the year due to the Omicron variant scare.

Nonetheless, the number of tourists grew by 28% compared to 2020.

Favourite attractions included Table Mountain Aerial Cableway, Cape of Good Hope, Boulders Beach and Robben Island. Kirstenbosch Gardens were also able to recover about half of its 2019 figures in both November and December compared to 2019.

www.capetownetc.com

Two South African hotels named on "Most Romantic in the World" List



In February 2022, two South African hotels were honoured on the "Most Romantic Hotels" list of 2022.

The list was compiled by travel media company Big 7 Travel.

Lion Sands, Ivory Lodge in Mpumalanga, and La Residence in Franschhoek were listed among the world's most romantic destinations. Included on the list are hotels from Aruba, Botswana, Bali and France, to name a few.

South Africa was also named the sixth-best honeymoon destination by the Big 7 Travel readership. According to 1.6 million international travellers from Big 7 Travel,

South Africa is the place to be to celebrate your love, whether that be on a honeymoon or for a romantic getaway.

Ivory Lodge earned the 33rd spot on the list of Most Romantic Hotels. "Ivory Lodge thinks of everything – from your champagne of choice in the maxibar to unique dining under the stars. Guests staying at Ivory Lodge can also spend a night or two in a luxury treehouse.

"The Kingston Treehouse is built on boulders, across a small drawbridge, with lanterns to light the way. The pictures speak for themselves ..."

La Residence earned the 29th spot on the list.

"Located in the beautiful Franschhoek Valley on a private 30 acre estate, La Residence is surrounded by Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz vineyards, olive groves and plum orchards. One of the world's most romantic hotels.

"A romantic and indulgent paradise that's filled with rich fabrics, wonderful artwork and antique furniture. Guests dine either in their suite or the central Terrace Room, beside a fire or the stunning double rim-flow pool."

Big 7 Travel and www.goodthingsguy.com

South Africa named sixth-best Honeymoon Destination In 2022



Newlyweds will be arriving to celebrate their love, thanks to South Africa being named a honeymoon destination for 2022.

The 15 Best Honeymoon Destinations for 2022 have been announced, and South Africa has landed a place at number six.

South Africa is home to beautiful white sanded beaches and so much more. You can explore the Karoo, the desert, climb mountains, walk through forests, watch bush

sunsets, drink cocktails in hot air balloons, go on drives with elephants, see seals frolic in the waves.

If you can dream it, you can definitely do it in South Africa with your partner.

"South Africa is a dream location to visit: endless natural beauty and cliff-top views, pastel pink neighbourhoods in Cape Town, wineries in Stellenbosch and turquoise waters. What more could you ask for from a romantic honeymoon?"

"Hike Table Mountain National Park, learn about the country's history and see penguins up-close. South Africa is also home to amazing wine and food, and there's plenty of exciting new additions to the country's hospitality scene. Cape Town is the perfect starting point for honeymooners eager to enjoy safari trips in Kruger National Park, or explore the wineries along the Western Cape." – Big 7 Travel.

www.goodthingsguy.com

South African photographer wins prestigious international award



In March 2022, South African photographer, Gavin Goodman, was named one of the winners of the prestigious Hasselblad Masters Competition.

Goodman is a father, photographer and passionate surfer, born and raised in the beautiful city of Cape Town. His career began 16 years ago in the local film industry, working as a cinematographer, shooting mainly commercials, short films, documentaries and feature films. But he has always had a strong pull towards still images and eventually transitioned to the world of still photography.

Hasselblad Masters is widely acclaimed as one of the world's most prestigious professional photography competitions. In fact, a list of some of the past winners reads like a list of some of the most prominent names in professional photography over the past 30 or 40 years: Anton Corbijn, Patrick Demarchelier, Albert Watson and Mary Ellen Mark, among others. The winners are chosen through a combination of a public vote and a professional Hasselblad Masters Jury comprised of internationally renowned photographers and imaging experts.

The 2021 competition received a record-breaking number of over 63 000 submitted images.

Goodman was the winner of the "art" category, having submitted three photographs from three different shoots as part of his entry.

"As this is considered one of the most prestigious awards in the world of photography, it's a very surreal and humbling experience. Even more so, is now being part of the Hasselblad family – a brand I've admired from the beginning of my photography journey," he says of his win.

As well as being named a "Hasselblad Master" as part of his prize, he will be partaking in fulfilling a brief for a new collaborative project set by the brand.

"Each winner receives a new Hasselblad camera system and lens to keep, as well as a theme/brief from Hasselblad – we are then asked to conceptualise an 8 -10 image series based on this theme. We pitch our concept to the Hasselblad team and receive a budget to help finance the production. The images are then printed and released in the biennial *Hasselblad Masters* book," he explains.

www.goodthingsguy.com

SA athlete Stephen Mokoka breaks 50-km world record



STEPHEN MOKOKA
EVENT: 50KM
TIME: 2:40:13 WR

South African athlete Stephen Mokoka set the 50-km men's world record in a road race in Gqeberha on Sunday, 6 March 2022

Mokoka's time of 2:40:13 has been recognised as the world record by World Athletics.

Mokoka, a three-time Olympian, has been running marathons for more than a decade but made history in his first 50-km race.

He won by almost four minutes and improved the inaugural world 50-km record of 2:42:07 that had been set by Ethiopia's Ketema Negasa at the same event last year.

Mokoka has won national titles in his career, ranging from 1 500 m up to the marathon. His marathon best is 2:07:40 from Shanghai in 2015, while he set the South African half marathon record when running 59:36 to place seventh at the 2020 World Half Marathon Championships in Gdynia.

South Africa's Tete Dijana was runner-up to Mokoka, clocking 2:44:08, with compatriot and 2019 Comrades winner, Edward Mothibi, third in 2:45:27.

In the women's race, Ethiopia's Amelework Fikadu Bosho won in a dominant time of 3:04:58.

www.news24.com



VENICE, 23.04 - 27.11 2022

BIENNALE ARTE 2022

THE MILK OF DREAMS

SA artists and curators to participate in Venice Biennale 2022

The South African stand was conceptualised around the subtheme of *Into the Light*. This integrates with the exhibition theme, adding the element that the solitude and separation of the COVID-19 lockdown can be a vehicle for artists to embark on the process of focussed self-evaluation.

The South African Department of Arts and Culture has announced their team for the 59th Venice Biennale 2022: Roger Ballen, Lebohang Kganye, Phumulani Ntuli, Amé Bell, Thuli Mlambo-James and Grace Rapholo.

The enforced lockdown, quarantine and other restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic have had a negative impact on almost every sector, with the arts being particularly badly affected. Yet, adversity often brings creative opportunity. The isolation of the individual from the routine social interactions with their peers provides the time and space for earnest introspection, re-examining who we are, what we stand for and how we present ourselves to the world. This process can unlock hidden truths, which are critical to self-identity and individual artistic expression.

This is the message that South African art will be taking to the world via the country's pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2022, to be held in Venice, Italy, from 23 April to 27 November 2022. Held every two years since its founding in 1895, the Biennale Arte is a highlight event on the international arts calendar and is often described as "the Olympics of the art world".

The theme chosen for this year's Biennale Arte is *The Milk of Dreams*. The theme reflects the richness of creative expression that is unlocked when the artist incorporates fantasy and re-imagination into their self-identity and how they express their personal truths to those who experience their art.

The South African stand was conceptualised around the subtheme of *Into the Light*. This integrates with the exhibition theme, adding the element that the solitude and separation of the COVID-19 lockdown can be a vehicle for artists to embark on the process of focussed self-evaluation.

"We wanted our national stand to be unique, to offer more than just a conventional display of artworks to the public," explains Nosipho Ngcaba, a Commissioner for the South African Pavilion at Biennale Arte 2022. "Each of our featured artists has undertaken a courageous journey of self-discovery, stepping beyond the bounds of physical reality into a daunting, surprising and sometimes macabre alternative realm of fantasy and imagination. We patriotically ensure that our stand celebrates that journey, as much as the artworks that resulted from it."

Three South African artists will be showcased during Biennale Arte 2022. The photographer Dr Roger Ballen was initially inspired by the etchings that women prison inmates had created by scraping off the paint used to black out the windows of their prison cells.

For his *The Theatre of the Apparitions* showcase, he developed his own technique, coating glass in special paints, etching off the coating and backlighting the glass. This technique results in a monochromatic theatrical world in which fantasy figures engage with swirling shadowy apparitions in bizarre rituals.

In *B(l)ack to Fairy Tales*, Lebohang Kganye casts and photographs herself autobiographically as the protagonist in the Westernised fairy tales of her childhood but sets these one-act cameos in a South African township. The "happily ever after" fantasy milieu of the fairy tale is contrasted with the grim reality of her township life as a child, challenging the pervasive effect that the mythical folklore has on our psyche and world view.

Phumulani Ntuli's *Godide* is a work that utilises stop-motion animation. In this photo-realistic realm, Ntuli portrays himself as an intrepid explorer, discarding his traditional African attire to shed notions of self-identity before diving beneath the paper cut-out waves. In this watery fantasy realm, which is accessible only through the imagination, he experiences the vast diversity of self-identity, cultural association, places of belonging as well as states of being that are possible in the geopolitical scope.

"Just as our featured artists have undertaken their own journeys of discovery in search of artistic truth and reimagined self-identity, we want to encourage visitors to our stand to embark on their own similar journeys.

"In trying times, South African art is taking a positive message to the international art world. Visiting our stand should prove a memorable experience and inspire artists and art lovers everywhere to step into the light and draw opportunity from adversity," said Dr Ballen.

Through the creative use of lighting, dressing and exhibition stand design, we aim to inspire and draw visitors into exploring unknown realms," adds Amé Bell, Curator of the South African Pavilion.

As part of the Biennale Arte activities, the Department of Arts and Culture will also be hosting a schools art competition. This nationwide competition will see learners from schools around the country invited to submit their own artistic interpretation of the event's theme, *The Milk of Dreams*.

Participants stand the chance to win individual cash prizes, along with art supplies for their school's art department. Further, the overall winner will enjoy a day spent with Dr Ballen at his photographic studio in Johannesburg. A noteworthy benefit of the competition is that winning entrants will have their artworks displayed at the South African Pavilion during the Biennale Arte. The schools art competition also dovetails with the Mzansi Gold initiative, promoting art as a career

choice to pursue with the benefit of creating sustainable jobs.

"In trying times, South African art is taking a positive message to the international art world. Visiting our stand should prove a memorable experience and inspire artists and art lovers everywhere to step into the light and draw opportunity from adversity," said Dr Ballen.

The Venice Biennale has for over 120 years been one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the world. Established in 1895, the Biennale has an attendance today of over 500 000 visitors at the Art Exhibition. The history of the La Biennale di Venezia dates back from 1895, when the first International Art Exhibition was organised. In the 1930s, new festivals were born: music, cinema and theatre (the Venice Film Festival in 1932 was the first film festival in history). In 1980, the first International Architecture Exhibition took place, and in 1999, dance made its debut at La Biennale. [u](#)





South African shines at World Photography Awards

South Africa's Aidan Murgatroyd is one of the shortlisted student photographers whose work will be exhibited at Somerset House, London.

By Brent Lindeque
www.goodthingsguy.com

South Africa's Aidan Murgatroyd is one of the shortlisted student photographers whose work will be exhibited at Somerset House, London.

The World Photography Organisation announced in January 2022 that South Africa's Aidan Murgatroyd, from the Stellenbosch Academy of Design and Photography, was one of the shortlisted photographers for the Student competition of the Sony World Photography Awards 2022.

Murgatroyd joins 16 other photographers who have been shortlisted in the Student and Youth competitions of the 2022 awards.

Winners of Student Photographer of the Year and Youth Photographer of the Year will be announced on 12 April and will go on display as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2022 exhibition at Somerset House, London.

The Student shortlist showcases series of works by 10 students at leading international higher education institutions. For the 2022 competition, students were invited to submit a

series of five to 10 images interpreting the brief *Connections*.

"Over the past two years, we have had to think differently about how we connect in more ways than we could have imagined. The shortlisted entries have each been chosen for their nuanced and intelligent responses to this brief."

The Student shortlist

Connections to cultural identity and community are examined by several of the projects, such as *The Identity of Holland* by Ezra Bohm

His submission follows the photographer's journey in search of a greater understanding and sense of connection to his home country after prolonged absences.

(The Netherlands, *Nederlandse Academie voor Beeldcreatie*), which focusses on the inhabitants of the Dutch village of Urk, the last people in the Netherlands to still wear traditional dress; *Becoming South African* by Aidan Murgatroyd (South Africa, Stellenbosch Academy of Design and Photography) follows the photographer's journey in search of a greater understanding and sense of connection to his home country after prolonged absences; *Theologians* by Sergey Pronin (Russian Federation, Docdoc School of Modern Photography) captures participants seeking spiritual connection in the summer camp of St Tikhon's Orthodox University's Theological faculty; *The Butcher* by Dennis Mubanga Kabwe (Zambia, Open Window University Zambia) spotlights a local butcher at work in the heart of the marketplace; and *Cariño* by Chris Rosas Vargas (United States of America [USA], Parsons), a series of sentimental portraits of public spaces in the Bronx and Harlem.

Elsewhere, the series explore connections through representations of togetherness, as in *Tiramisu* by Alexander Komenda (Canada, Aalto University, Finland), which depicts Komenda's playful collaborations with fellow students to help pass the time during the lockdowns; and *Disconnected* by Oriol Naxhielli Martins (Armenia, ENFO Escuela De Fotografia, Argentina), where the photographer focusses on moments of physical intimacy and the struggle of coping with isolation during the pandemic.

Connections to the past and to family history were also central to several of the

projects, including *Connections* by Sachi Deshmukh (India, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti, Italy), which juxtaposes past and present through old photographs of her then newly married parents held by their now aged hands and linked together with red thread; *Memories of Family* by Xu Han (China Mainland, Nanjing University of the Arts) uses close-up abstract images of paint droplets and patterns to explore the photographer's relationship with family; and *Even When We're Breathing, We're Moving* by Angela Stoll (Australia, University of Wollongong) examines the idea of movement as a passage of time through long-exposure black and white images of a dancer within an abandoned space.

The winner of Student Photographer of the Year 2022 will be selected from the 10 students and announced on 12 April. Together with their university, the winner will be awarded Sony digital imaging equipment amounting to a combined total of €30 000 (over R500 000).

This year's Student shortlist was judged by Colin Czerwinski, Founder of *NOICE Magazine*.

Becoming South African

Murgatroyd is a professional photographer and graphic designer based in Centurion, Gauteng. He was born in South Africa, and growing up, his family moved a lot. These travels included Botswana, Dubai, America, Thailand and then South Africa once again. He completed his International General Certificate of Secondary Education and International Baccalaureate degrees in Dubai before moving to the USA to study Journalism at the University of Oregon.

From there, he returned to South Africa to complete a specialist degree in Photography and Design, his true passion. This allowed him to develop a love and interest in a wide variety of cultures, countries and people, which influence his work today. He has an innate love for the cinematic and fine art stylings of conceptual portraiture.

His submission follows the photographer's journey in search of a greater understanding and sense of connection to his home country after prolonged absences.

"As a third-culture kid born and raised in various regions of the world and spending more time outside South Africa than in it, I've always desired to explore, understand and connect with what it means to be South African. As a child of mixed cultural background with one English and one Afrikaans parent, even in the midst of family gatherings, I felt a sense of otherness.

"I returned to South Africa in 2017 and wanted to travel, connect and interact with the people, places and spaces that make up the South African experience. Finally in 2021, at the first chance available, I undertook a countrywide road trip over five months. The goal? To ascertain what it means to be South African, especially in a nation that encompasses so many cultures, languages and identities. Who are we?"

<https://www.aidanmurgatroyd.com/> / www.goodthingsguy.com/ / Sony World Photography Awards 2022





Barney Rachabane: South Africa's little giant who took an epic jazz journey

By Chatradari Devroop
Associate Professor, University of KwaZulu-Natal

In this time of loss and praise, we should pay tribute to Barney Rachabane in a way he would expect, by paying an unprecedented level of attention to the music he loved and lived for, unprejudiced by academic and jazz dogma alike, leaving the circumstances of his music to the antiquarians.

Preparing for a jazz gig on 13 November 2021, I learned of the passing of my South African music soul brother and boyhood idol, Barney Rachabane. He was 75. The words of United States alto saxophonist Eric Dolphy ran through my head in that moment:

"When you hear music, after it's over, it's gone, in the air. You can never capture it again."

The words echo my sentiments about Barney – a little giant, whose music and unique sound I got to know in my youth, and

one that became pivotal in my later years. Reflecting now, after his passing, I believe musician Kevin Davidson's academic article reviewing Barney's stylistic traits, appropriately captures his contribution to the South African music landscape. He regards the late artist as a master of capturing the listener's emotions, helping shape a definitive homegrown, African sound.

In this tribute, I deliberately avoid categorising Barney's music into a genre. After all, when Chris Walton and I asked him about his music-making for our book *Unsung*, he responded:

"I am quite versatile, I could play anything. I also played in *The Buddy Holly Story*; that was a rock-and-roll oriented musical. I could play mbaqanga, and I did a lot of sessions with all kinds of music: classics, soundtracks, whatever. I played flute, soprano and alto sax, tenor sax. So, I do a lot of work in different spheres of music."

Now that he has passed, the tributes will keep coming. Academics will drill into the details of his life story and his life's work. They will establish exact dates of recordings, correspondences, performances and interviews. They will map associates, influences

and antipathies. Definitive collections, bootlegs and archival fragments will be released.

Paradoxically, it's at this point that Barney will be lost to history – the actual history in which he died and lived. He will become part of the obligatory jazz experience and the world of respectful citations, lineages and footnotes. His music might, with luck on its side, not suffer the same fate.

Penny whistle to saxophone

Alexandra township in Johannesburg was an early site of black resistance to white minority rule and apartheid in South Africa. It was also an important cultural hub. It's here that Barney was born in 1946 into a working class, music-loving family. He admired the great jazz musicians of the time, like saxophonist Kippie Moeketsi, and as a young boy started performing in a street penny whistle band.

Barney worked actively against apartheid, yet took the decision to play in Paul Simon's contentious *Graceland* project, which earned him good money and helped make him famous. He would play with the greats and tour the world.

Barney worked actively against apartheid, yet took the decision to play in Paul Simon's contentious *Graceland* project, which earned him good money and helped make him famous. He would play with the greats and tour the world.

The romance of the penny whistle flute buskers in a South Africa segregated by law resonates with the stories of the many street musicians of every genre, globally, who are harassed daily by authorities – only to ingeniously return in some better disguised corner of the public realm.

Encountering the saxophone was, according to Barney, a key to directly unlocking the many recordings of American jazz, by then part of America's cultural exertion of soft power on all nations in danger of Soviet ideological influence. Barney saw it as his vocation to imitate this music in a long, self-taught adventure, while finding ways to fit it over what he called "our music". He told Walton and I:

"I put those American phrases on top of our mbaqanga. I still do it now, I have a good time doing that ... We do have an African identity, but the American influence has been too strong ... You hear the African music, you hear the American solos on top of it, all the time, if you like it or not. It is just natural, you know. That influence has been there for years."

The long experiment

Barney's long experiment took him on a cosmopolitan trip, an epic journey that included a working proximity with, but never absorption into, the different experiments that were then trying to distil a new music fitted to the South African experience from the eclectic sources of South Africa's post-1959 jazz boom (that began with the breakthrough musical *King Kong*) and the Broadway musical. Barney's

discernment is evident in the many recordings he did not make during this period, as much as in those he did.

His project has often been papered over the clichés of the Paul Simon episodes. But Barney's eclecticism, unlike Simon's, was a delicate experiment in exploring the transition between street performance and the peculiar condition of recorded jazz. Barney was trying to avoid anything aspiring towards a mainstream without falling into idiosyncrasy. In this respect, his musical project most resembles that of composer and pianist Igor Stravinsky, whose starting point was also imitative collage but whose tenacity forced him to find more and more tiny degrees of freedom in the detail.

An unceasing rebellion

In this time of loss and praise, we should pay tribute to Barney Rachabane in a way he would expect, by paying an unprecedented level of attention to the music he loved and lived for, unprejudiced by academic and jazz dogma alike, leaving the circumstances of his music to the antiquarians.

It is in these circumstances, then and now, that his music was his constant, quiet, subversive and unceasing rebellion against conformism and apartheid, and an expression of his creative African spirit. The last words belong to him:

"If you play the penny whistle (you can) just pick up the saxophone and play it. I can play a song immediately ... I felt the pain through apartheid but did not want to run away from it. I was also not a threat somehow, though I was very militant as well, you know. I loved to be here." [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

He will become part of the obligatory jazz experience and the world of respectful citations, lineages, and footnotes. His music might, with luck on its side, not suffer the same fate.

RICH MNISI



Rich Mnisi's first collaboration with Adidas celebrates his South African heritage and identity

The collection features a line-up of beautiful, bold pieces that celebrate Mnisi's Tsonga heritage and support a range of sports, including running, cycling, swimming and training.

In January 2022, sports brand Adidas unveiled its debut line with South African contemporary fashion designer, Rich Mnisi. The collection features a line-up of beautiful, bold pieces that celebrate Mnisi's Tsonga heritage and support a range of sports, including running, cycling, swimming and training.

Alongside these pinnacle performance pieces are statement streetwear looks featuring exaggerated silhouettes that seamlessly fuse style, colour and function. The drop is also rounded off with iconic Adidas footwear lines and innovation, including Superstar, UltraBOOST and Forum, which have been reborn with Mnisi's signature prints via a series of design accents that feature throughout.

Mnisi said: "I am immensely proud to present this collection in collaboration with Adidas, an iconic brand that I grew up seeing on people of colour that were rewriting the arts. It has been a pleasure to bring my designs

to classic pieces. We have created a bright, unique collection that reflects my love for the idea of community and heritage, individuality and self-expression. Our aim was to create pieces that support life on and off the sports field.

"The spirit of this collection celebrates our homeland, so environment was an important aspect when looking at methods and materials used in the creation process. I am so pleased we've used Adidas' advanced technology and partly recycled materials. I am truly excited for the world to see this collaboration come to life."

Mnisi's dedication to push the dial on the celebration of identity, intersects with Adidas' belief that through sport, it has the power to change lives. The result is a line that pushes the boundaries of sport style, all with self-expression at the heart. Pieces in the collection fuse bright, bold animal prints, vibrant clashing colours and striking abstract patterns that come together to tell the exciting story of his roots.

Each piece has been designed to be worn as a standalone piece or accessorised and layered for a more individual and expressive look.

Reflecting Mnisi's vision for celebrating community, habitat and homeland environments, hero styles and performance pieces have also been made in part with recycled materials and Parley Ocean Plastic, to help end plastic waste. The campaign features his close circle and local community in South Africa – a line-up of inspirational figures who he believes use their identity to push culture forward.

Born in Johannesburg, Mnisi is a young designer with a heart for the world of pop culture. He graduated from the Leaders in the Science of Fashion with a BA in Fashion Design and Business Management and founded his own brand, OATH Studio, in 2014.

In the same year, he gained the title of the African Fashion International Young Designer at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Africa.

The explorer aims to enhance daily expressions and storytelling blended through film, music, art and nature.

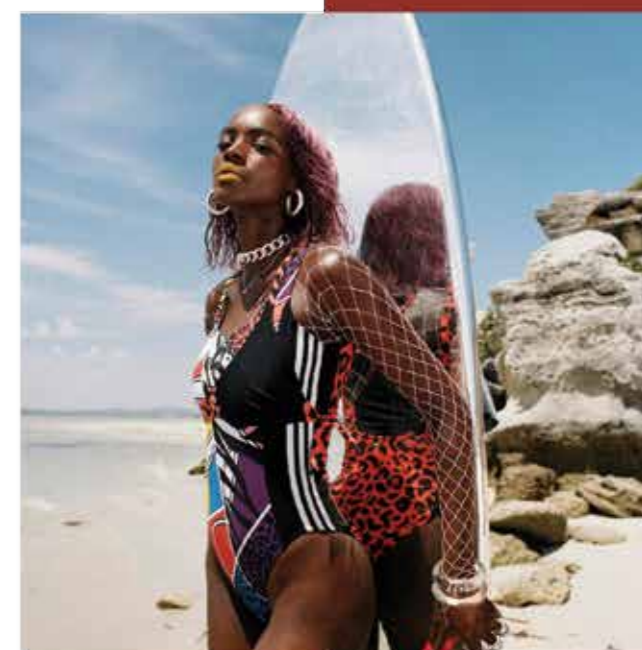
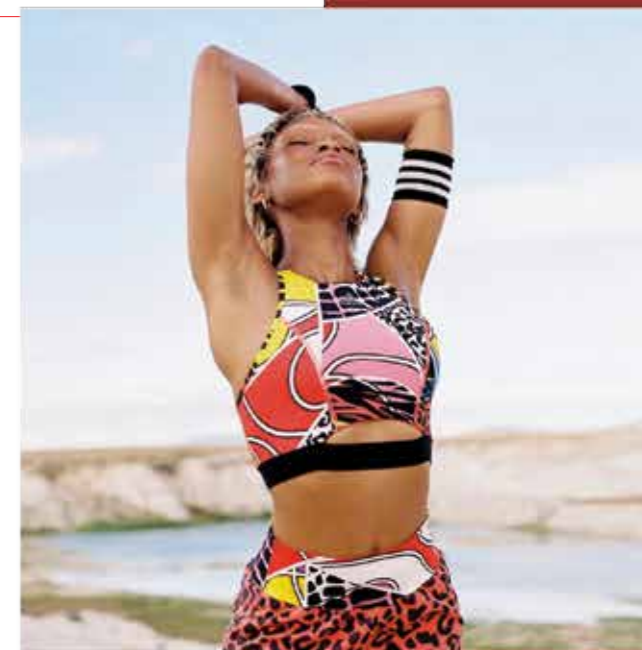
Showcasing his collection at the Design Indaba expo in 2015, he bridged a modern culture and the unique heritage stories from Africa.

Mnisi has a strong connection with young creatives and keeps a contemporary outlook, sourcing visions outside the fashion realm and pushing boundaries on gender blurs. The explorer aims to enhance daily expressions and storytelling blended through film, music, art and nature. This young visionary has already caught the attention of both local and international media with features in *Marie Claire*, *ELLE*, *Fashion Glossary UK*, *Sunday Times*, *Vogue* (Russia and China), *Mail and Guardian* and others.

Over the years, Mnisi has been attracting the attention of the biggest and best-performing global brands such as Coca-Cola.

He won the Emerging Designer of the Year Award in 2019 at the Essence Best in Black Fashion Awards. 🇺🇹

<https://www.adidas-group.com> / <http://storiesofnear.com> / <https://briefly.co.za/>





Celebrating DOLLY RATHEBE, South Africa's original black woman SUPERSTAR

By Nokuthula Mazibuko Msimang
Artist in Residency, University of Pretoria

Dolly Rathebe and the other mega divas navigated politics, life and their music, gaining superstardom locally and abroad despite their third-class citizen status in a racist South Africa.

Dolly Rathebe, the musical legend of Sophiatown, is part of South Africa's rich heritage and history. Sophiatown was a much-storied suburb and vibrant cultural hub in Johannesburg that was destroyed by the South African state in 1955. Its 60 000 black residents were forcibly removed to Meadowlands, a township outside the city,

as the country's white ruling party entrenched apartheid's policy of racial segregation.

Together with Miriam Makeba, Letta Mbulu and Dorothy Masuku, Rathebe's name represents a golden era of local blues and jazz music that captured the lives of black people.

These mega divas of Sophiatown came out of a golden era of literary and musical genius, a time – the 1950s – often referred to as “the *Drum* decade” after the popular black

urban culture magazine. *Drum's* dramatic first decade, 70 years ago, amplified the names of black South African writers, journalists, anti-apartheid freedom fighters, beauty queens, gangsters and musicians.

During these times, South African female musicians rose and became stars. Their names were as big as the names of politicians like Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and gangsters like Boy Faraday. They were gorgeous, they were

powerful on and off stage; their pictures graced the covers of magazines and newspapers. Their legendary songs announced South Africa's race blues to the world – an important record of their disruption of apartheid and patriarchy.

In March 2021, the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study held a symposium celebrating 70 years of *Drum* magazine, where I presented a paper, *The Mega Divas of Sophiatown*. It remembers the impact that these female stars had on popular culture, politics and jazz music globally. I was struck by the role that Rathebe in particular played in inspiring Makeba, Mbulu, Masuku and many others to follow their dreams and become singing stars. I wanted to know more about her, to excavate and celebrate her legacy.

A few months later, I was awarded the University of Pretoria Future Africa Institute Fellowship and a Xarra Books publishing deal to research and write Rathebe's biography. It is a unique opportunity to share the life of a legend with future generations – and to map the musical links between the past and future.

Dolly takes Joburg

Dolly Rathebe paved a glittering path as Africa's very first black female movie superstar after appearing in the 1949 film, *Jim Comes to Joburg*.

She was born in 1928, in Randfontein, west of Johannesburg. Her parents named her Josephine Malatsi. She changed her name to the more glamorous Dolly Rathebe, apparently after a young lady from a well-off family. Rathebe was spotted singing at a Sunday picnic by two British film-makers – director Donald Swanson and producer Eric Rutherford. The two immediately recognised her star quality and gave her the role of Judy, a club singer, in the movie.

The synopsis is simple: a young man leaves his rural home to find his fortune. He is attacked and harassed in Johannesburg. But he is offered a chance to make it as a singer with a night club's star singing sensation – Dolly Rathebe. The audience loved Rathebe's sultry vocals and magnetic screen presence. Overnight, her name became slang for everything nice. If it's “Dolly”, it's great. If it's “double Dolly”, it's out of this world.

Her famous *Drum* cover – wearing a bikini made of two handkerchiefs tied together on the

They were gorgeous, they were powerful on and off stage; their pictures graced the covers of magazines and newspapers. Their legendary songs announced South Africa's race blues to the world – an important record of their disruption of apartheid and patriarchy.

city's famous mine dumps – propelled her to legend status. The picture, taken by Jurgen Schadeburg, got them both arrested for flouting the Immorality Act, an apartheid law that forbade sexual relations between whites and other races. The police suspected that they were lovers. Rathebe's arrest just made her legend grow. Everyone was talking about it, and everyone was talking about Dolly Rathebe and singing her songs.

Musical life

Rathebe travelled and sang all over southern Africa with top bands like the Manhattan Brothers and the Elite Swingsters. She was a star attraction for many years in Alf Herbert's *African Jazz and Variety Show*, which opened in 1954.

Rathebe's music was not overtly political. She sang mainly about everyday troubles. There was *Uyinto yokwenzani umbi kanganka* – where she is complaining about her lover. And then *Into Yam ndiyayithanda nomi isel' utswala* – where she is complimenting her lover, even though he drinks too much! Her own compositions were mainly about ordinary day-to-day highs and lows, like *Andisahambi Netshomi zam* about a young lady promising her mother not to go out late at night with her friends anymore.

Her compositions ranged from the popular talk of parties, gangsters and matters of the heart to the more political *Mbombela*, a beautiful melodic, deeply emotional classic that laments the fate of workers who have to catch early morning trains to go and create wealth they will never own:

“Wenyuk' umbombela, wenyuk' ekuseni! Wenyuk' umbombela ... (There goes Mbombela the early morning train ...) Shuku shuku shuku shuku ...”

Mbombela became a Grammy-winning hit after it was sung by Miriam Makeba and Harry Belafonte on their legendary album,

An Evening with Harry Belafonte and Miriam Makeba.

A political force

Although Rathebe's compositions were not overtly political, her celebration of black life, black beauty and black humanity through her films and music was subversive. Apartheid sought to erase black creativity and achievement; Rathebe refused to be silenced. Rathebe, Makeba, Mbulu and Masuku's music was dazzling and authentic; insisting on recording the humanity, depth and elegance of black lives beyond the cardboard cut-out smiling natives favoured by the apartheid government propaganda machinery.

Rathebe's bold occupation of public spaces and her proudly African, slick city diva image made her the darling of movie and music lovers all over Africa.

The decade in which the mega divas forged their phenomenal careers is also the decade of the historic South African 1956 Women's March where women freedom fighters Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Bertha Mashaba, Rahima Moosa, Sophie de Bruyn and Albertina Sisulu organised 20 000 women to march to the government buildings in Pretoria to stop amendments to the Urban Areas Act. These would've meant black women had to carry pass books as well as men. Their movement would have been severely restricted, exposing them to more arrests and harassment.

Dolly Rathebe and the other mega divas navigated politics, life and their music, gaining superstardom locally and abroad despite their third-class citizen status in a racist South Africa.

In the late 1950s, when apartheid repression intensified and Sophiatown was demolished, Rathebe moved to Cape Town to raise a family and run a shebeen. Her performances and public life faded. Her fellow divas went into exile, ending a golden era of incredible artistic output. 🇷🇵

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



Five exciting African museums to add to your travel wish list

In recent years, virtual reality has added an exciting dimension to the world of museums. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many museums have introduced fully virtual tours so that distance is no object.

By Nompumelelo Maringa
Faunal Research Assistant, Genus, University of the Witwatersrand

Museums don't often feature on vacation itineraries. That's probably because people think of these spaces as dull houses of antiquities. But, there are few better ways to learn about a country's history, its people and their cultures than by visiting a museum.

Maybe I'm biased: as an archaeozoologist – an archaeologist who studies animal fossils (mostly rodents) – I like digging in the past. And I've worked as a museum tour guide at the University of the Witwatersrand's Origins Centre Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

So, I love museums, because they archive, preserve and display objects of significant importance. They allow you to delve deep into the past with eye-catching displays of artefacts, ancient textiles, high-quality images and short films that narrate how our ancestors lived.

In recent years, virtual reality has added an exciting dimension to the world of museums. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many museums have introduced fully virtual tours so that distance is no object.

If virtual tours are unavailable for your museum of choice, search for their formal or social media platforms (websites, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter). Many museums use these

platforms to share detailed information, high-resolution photographs, videos and audio files. Another alternative is the Google Arts and Culture App: it provides phenomenal images of the exhibitions, limited virtual tours (similar to the Google Maps Street view) of the museum and general interactive activities to rouse your interest.

For those who are planning a holiday on the African continent, I've put together a list of museums that would be a delight to visit. Some offer digital and virtual reality alternatives; others require a physical visit. And if you can't get there now, why not add these to your bucket list for future museum adventures?



Maison Tiskiwin/Musée Tiskiwin (Tiskiwin Museum) – Marrakech, Morocco

This museum is one of the oldest in Marrakech. It focusses on the history and culture of the Amazigh and Tuareg people; indigenous nomadic groups in North Africa. It holds a collection of objects acquired by the founder of the museum, Dutch anthropologist Bert Flint. He collected these cultural items during decades of North African expeditions. The exhibits represent different regions, recreating the former caravan route from Marrakech to Timbuktu. Each exhibit is generously filled with crafts, artworks, traditional attire and intricately designed carpets.



Nairobi National Museum – Nairobi, Kenya

This museum's beautiful architecture and modern interior design set the ambience for bountiful exploration. It focusses on four aspects: culture, history, contemporary art and nature. All are well-represented and celebrated. Statues and artworks are peppered in among the collections. Visitors can explore at their own pace, using self-guided tour options.



Musée des Civilisations Noires (Museum of Black Civilisations) – Dakar, Senegal

Long before European settlers arrived on the continent, African civilisations boasted advanced heritage, technology and knowledge systems. This museum evokes that history. It educates visitors about the diversity and versatility of African civilisations. Elaborate masks, statues, art pieces and objects of significance are displayed throughout – each with its own story to tell. It doesn't shy away from darker matters, examining how communities were demoralised, divided and diminished during colonialism.



Museu Nacional de Antropologia (National Museum of Anthropology) – Luanda, Angola

The National Museum of Anthropology is especially significant because it was opened in 1976, soon after Angola gained its independence from Portugal. The museum cleverly captures Angola’s heritage; you’ll find a variety of masks, musical instruments, sculptures, art pieces, traditional accessories and attire on display. Some of these date as far back as the early days of the Kingdom of Kongo (1390 – 1914), which was centred on what is today, northern Angola.



Maropeng: Official Visitor Centre for the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site – Krugersdorp, South Africa

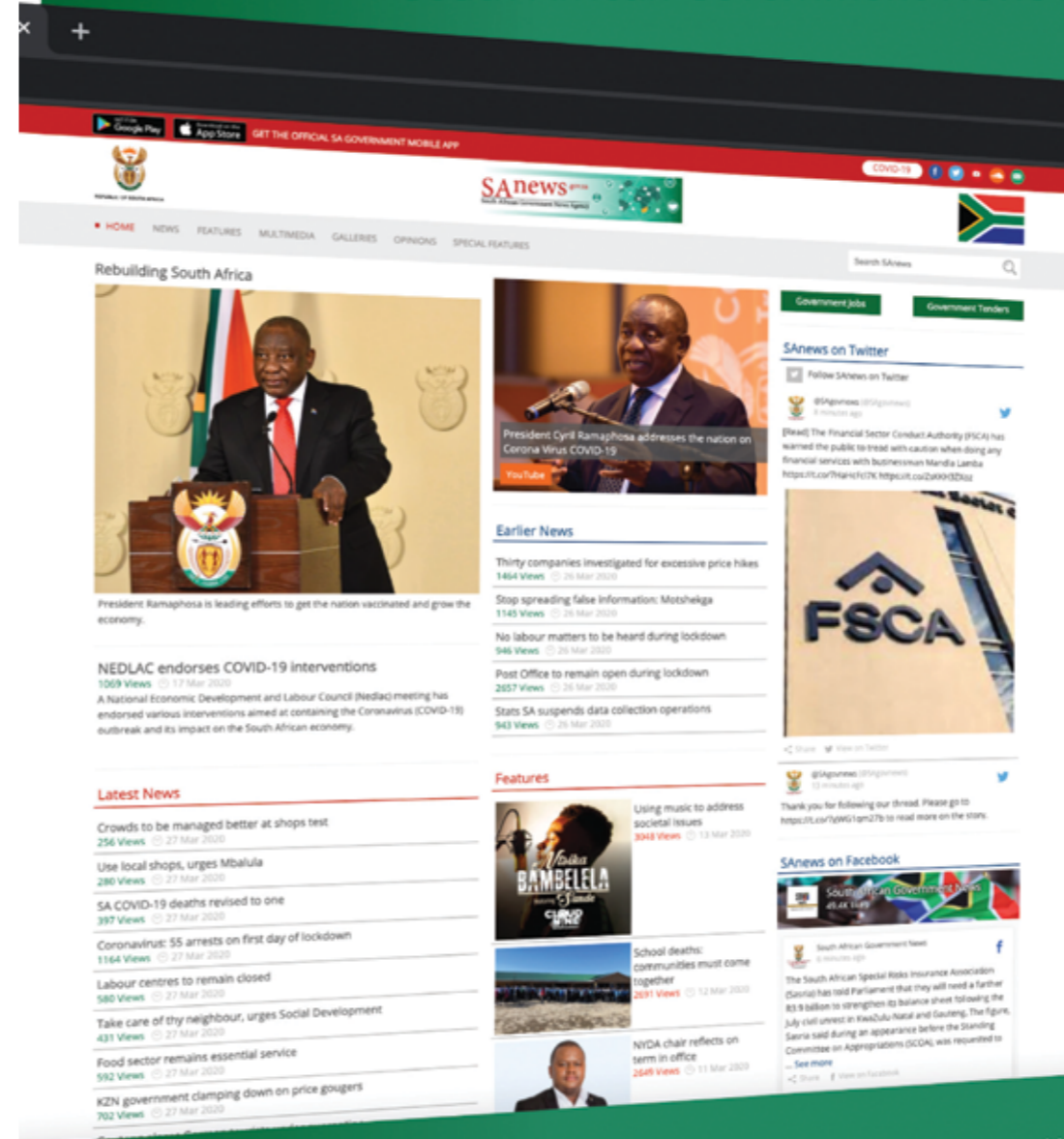
The Maropeng Visitor Centre is a world-class exhibition at the Cradle of Humankind, a World Heritage Site. The museum is centred on our human ancestors and their development over millions of years.

The exhibitions are organised chronologically from the formation of our planet to recent modern developments; they cover a wide range of topics that you can navigate at your own pace. Aspects of adventure and intrigue are introduced with a family-friendly boat ride, interactive games and fun activities that add to this pleasurable experience. Lastly, you can explore a few archaeological sites on a pleasant walk on the paths outside the Tumulus (main museum).

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