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Issue 27

South Africa's Public Diplomacy in action 



Freedom is meaningless if people cannot put food in their stomachs.

– Nelson Mandela



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International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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UBUNTU

a Nguni word meaning humanity

The Department of International Relations
and Cooperation's quarterly magazine



ON THE COVER

The African Union (AU) has declared 2022 the Year of Nutrition. The theme presents an opportunity to link the African objectives of ending hunger and promoting sustainable agricultural transformation on the continent. The general objective of the Year of Nutrition is to secure greater political commitment and investment in nutrition to address the ongoing related challenges.

The AU also celebrated its 20-year anniversary on 9 July 2022. It was officially launched in 2002 in Durban, South Africa, as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity. The continental body now consists of 55 member states that make up the countries of the African continent.

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LETTER FROM THE MINISTER



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation recently held a symposium on the *Framework Document on South Africa's National Interest and its Advancement in a Global Environment* – a document that seeks to outline and define the key values, principles and goals that influence South Africa's foreign policy and practice.

Our framework is broad in character and content in that we believe there are a variety of factors that shape what we have set out as our National Interest. The document sets out these elements in what we hope provides a clear articulation of our aspirations.

In crisp terms, we define our National Interest as encompassing national sovereignty and constitutional order, the safety of our citizens, well-being of our citizens, economic prosperity and a better Africa and world. The

document presents our fuller description of these in some detail.

It has taken several years for agreement to be reached on a National Interest framework document, possibly due the difficulties Yolanda Spies (2019) points to when she deliberates on the “not so pure concept of diplomacy”. In a more recent book, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos suggests that reliance on the 2015 *Foreign Policy White Paper* may be a more sensible route than drafting a framework document. Nevertheless, we agreed that the changing global context, which poses evermore complex challenges for our craft, requires us to devote careful attention to defining our National Interest. It also provides a useful template for our interlocutors to perhaps understand the decisions and choices we make.

The energy DIRCO colleagues and others brought to this task probably lies in our awareness that the world is rapidly changing

in difficult and complex ways and we need to confirm our tools as worthy of combat or get fresher, sharper tools more suited to the emerging terrain of international relations. I use the term “emerging” advisedly as I believe none of us can be sure of what is next. An example of an amazing “what is next” is the unprecedented action of the USA House of Representatives, which adopted a draft bill intended to punish countries in Africa that have not towed the line on the Russia-Ukraine war.

More stunning than that action is the loud silence of African political intellectuals who surely hold freedom of choice and sovereign status in high regard. How do developing countries exercise their sovereign rights as United Nations (UN) member states when confronted by such reactions?

The framework document provides our perspective on the challenges confronting Africa today. While recognising the strides the continent has made in the past two decades, the ever-present problems of insecurity, political conflict and poor progress on key development priorities are acknowledged. We confirm South Africa's belief that its National Interest is closely intertwined with the goal of achieving progress in Africa. Linked to this, is South Africa's support for the implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063. We also argue for stronger development links with a wider range of African countries, and redoubled efforts at advancing regional and economic integration in the Southern African Development Community. The framework document moves beyond defining our National Interest by proposing action we should focus on in our international work to give effect to our interest.

Our framework identifies the foundations of our National Interest as closely associated with our history of anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggle. We are part of a nation that has waged a mighty battle for freedom under the throes of oppression and our experience has resulted in strong bonds being established with all who strive for freedom. Our ideals of Pan-Africanism, progressive international solidarity and Ubuntu underpin our National Interest.

The nature and forms of that struggle have also contributed to shaping our National Interest. The document asserts a solid commitment to solidarity with those who are still striving for freedom. The important contribution of a well-coordinated international anti-apartheid movement has influenced the inclusion of global links of progressive solidarity

as a strong element of our goal of building a better world that advances full enjoyment of human dignity, justice and freedom for all.

Our analysis of the global environment and extensive ideological changes in different regions made this a strategic moment to reflect on and define our framework. While we continue to espouse progressive ideals, we highlight the decline in progressive ideals and diminishing opportunities for shared solidarity, especially with respect to the most powerful countries. We attempt to show that the world community often pretends at shared common ideals and objectives. This was evident as we battled COVID-19, isolated from the benefits of innovation in our powerful partner countries.

In addition, the framework suggests we need to be astute in trade negotiations and not accept fair trade rules promises when made by the most powerful economies that sometimes breach these rules directly or by stealth. We see this in European Union rules on our citrus products. We will pursue our interest by using international organisations whose remit is to ensure fairness in all trade.

The recent excellent leadership of India and South Africa on the trips waiver proposal was an important lesson for the South in securing global support for the development of vaccine manufacturing capacity in Africa and other developing regions. This experience complements our National Interest commitment to South-South solidarity and cooperation.

The ongoing struggle to begin UN reform negotiations are further evidence of the resistance to change powerful countries exhibit on the international stage.

Our document emphasises the possibilities offered by progressive international solidarity while also acknowledging that strenuous efforts have been directed at dividing developing nations and that the magic of Bandung has been shredded by national interests that focus on sovereign gain. So, even as we promote South-South relations,

we are alert to the reality that interest may not always coalesce.

We assert that South Africa's liberation movements artfully built a solid wall of global support against apartheid through direct persuasion, links to active organs of civil society in a wide range of sectors and clear articulation of the objectives desired by a free South Africa. As firm supporters of the Palestinian cause for freedom, we have been urging our friends in Palestine to do more to create similar bonds of global activism and assure them of our active support.

Our National Interest document stresses that the values, principles and socio-political and socio-economic ambitions in our Constitution are the key foundation for our National Interest.

The Constitution draws from the history and experience of the struggle for freedom, in particular, it acknowledges progressive policy proposals from the African National Congress such as the African Claims document, the Freedom Charter and other descriptions of the post-apartheid nation. Its very preamble sets out the driving principles of post-apartheid South Africa. While we are careful not to be naive in our belief in our ability to influence others, we do think these instruments are an important part of nation formation that we could share with nations in transition to democracy. The democratic transformation of South Africa, while not perfect, forms a very important platform for entrenching good governance, democracy and development.

Pan-African thought and consciousness are also acknowledged and incorporated, especially South Africa's commitment to the progress and development of Africa. This perspective has begun to inform our bilateral interaction with various countries on the continent that we consider strategic partners in the goal of creating a better Africa and we hope to be far more strategic and goal-oriented in our engagements.

South Africa recognises that the pursuit of our National Interest takes place in an increasingly complex global context in which challenges, alliances, interests and commitments exist on shifting sands.

Even the important self-evident imperative of responding to climate change finds expression in this complexity. Debates on this subject and lack of action on conference agreements and attempted arm twisting indicate the dilemma developing countries have to overcome. We focus on these increasingly important emerging global tasks in our document.

In the final analysis, our national interests are the achievement of a better South Africa, Africa and world. We will pursue these in our foreign policy and practice, focussed primarily on our three significant national challenges for South Africa: unemployment, poverty and inequality. We will strive to achieve success while simultaneously promoting the values and principles I have referred to. As the Government of South Africa, our main responsibility is to South Africa. We do indicate in the framework that we have institutions, laws and democratic practices in South Africa, which create the basis for our country to be a force for good in Africa and in other parts of the world.

We also have a robust civil society that has organisational capacity to play a progressive role in countries that are at very early stages of transition. These institutions include academic institutions, research bodies and others that could help promote an active progressive agenda in a range of settings. We hope our framework will persuade a wide range of actors to work with us to advance change, progress and development in South Africa, Africa and the world. ▢

Dr GNM Pandor
The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Our National Interest document stresses that the values, principles and socio-political and socio-economic ambitions in our Constitution are the key foundation for our National Interest.



As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the African Union (AU) this year, we are reminded of the foundational philosophy that influenced African political ideology – Africanism.

Pan-Africanism was born out of an intellectual contestation of ideas by Africans on both the continent and in the Diaspora during the 19th century. These contested ideas evolved from reflections about racism and empowerment and then became a global movement. It was initially a response to the evil of slavery, imperialism, colonialism and racism, which were visited upon African people.

The development of intellectual reflections on Pan-Africanism began to circulate in the mid-19th century in the United States of America (USA), led by thinkers such as Martin Delany, Alexander Crummell and Edward Blyden.

These thinkers held the view that black people could not prosper alongside white people and they therefore advocated the idea that African Americans should separate themselves from the USA and establish their own state in Africa.

In the early 20th century, these ideas were embraced and further developed by influential thinkers such as WEB Du Bois and Marcus Garvey. Garvey championed the cause of African independence with an emphasis on the attributes of black people's collective past. As for Du Bois, he was credited as the true father of modern Pan-Africanism, to the extent that his name became synonymous with this movement. He spent much of his life studying in Africa. His famous speech, *The Problem of the Colour Lines in the 20th Century*, articulated his thinking on these matters. *The Soul of Black Folks* was an extensive account of the condition of black people in slavery and after slavery. The challenging legacy of racism was a key focus.

Du Bois was an academic at Fisk University, and later at Wilberforce and Atlanta University, where he ended up teaching. As a thinker who understood the importance of transforming theory into practice, he was one of the organisers of the first Pan-Africanist conference that took place in Paris in 1919, which was followed by a second congress two years later, which convened sessions in London, Brussels and Paris.

He believed in black action to address the residue of racism and believed the educated African could play a great role.

Among the participants in these conferences were African students based in these countries, and the deliberations had a profound impact on their political consciousness. Most of them became leaders of liberation movements in their own countries on their return to Africa.

Among the earliest proponents of Pan-Africanism from the continent were prominent South Africans Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke and Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme. Seme was also one of the founding fathers of the African National Congress (ANC). During their academic sojourn in the USA as young and impressionable students, Seme and Maxeke were among some of the first Africans to interact with the intellectual movement of Pan-Africanism.

As a student at Wilberforce University, at the time when Du Bois also graced the corridors of this great institution of African-Americans as a lecturer, Maxeke could not escape the infectious pull of Pan-Africanist ideals propagated by her mentor and teacher, Du Bois, and those who shared his ideals.

Seven hundred kilometres away from Wilberforce University, at the hallowed halls of Columbia University in New York, a 25-year old South African student, Pixley Ka Isaka Seme delivered a seminal speech, entitled: *The Regeneration of Africa*. The speech was so impressive that it won him an oratory award – the Curtis Medal – from the university. In essence, the philosophy promoted a belief in self, in Africaness and posited taking charge of Africa's destiny.

It was in this speech that the young Pixley Ka Seme articulated the ideas of Pan-Africanism, echoing his influencers such as Du Bois. Pixley's speech later inspired African revolutionaries such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. In December 1962, at the first International Congress of Africanists in Accra, Nkrumah quoted Seme's oratory work in its entirety.

Chief Albert Luthuli said the following when receiving the Nobel Prize Award in 1961 in Oslo, Norway: "This award could not be for me alone, nor for just South Africa, but for Africa as a whole. Africa presently is most deeply torn with strife and most bitterly stricken with racial conflict. How strange then it is that a man of Africa should be here to receive an award given for service to the cause of peace and brotherhood between men. There has been little peace in Africa in our time. From the northernmost end of our continent, where war has raged for seven years, to the centre and to the south, there are battles being fought out, some with arms, some without.

"Our continent has been carved up by the great powers; alien governments have been forced upon the African people by military conquest and by economic domination; strivings for nationhood and national dignity have been beaten down by force; traditional economics and ancient customs have been disrupted, and human skills and energy have been harnessed for the advantage of our conquerors. In these times there has been no peace; there could be no brotherhood between men."

Ninety years later, the opening lines of Seme's speech, "I am an African, and I set my pride in my race over against a hostile public opinion" were echoed by the then South African Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki, during the occasion of the adoption of the new South African Constitution in Parliament, Cape Town.

The same ideals underpinned the African Renaissance philosophy, which was later adopted as central to South Africa's foreign policy towards the African continent. Working towards the renaissance of the continent continues to be the lodestar of our diplomatic activities in Africa.

The intellectual influence that the founding fathers of Pan-Africanism had on South African students was so profound that they later transformed these ideas from theory into practice. When they eventually returned to South Africa after completing their studies abroad, they fought the horrendous injustice of the system that treated black people as foreigners in their own land.

Seme later became one of the first conveners of the famous conference that founded the ANC in Mangaung in 1912.

A strong African nationalism informed that initial formation later to be transformed to a national movement that had a broader identity and membership.

The end of apartheid in South Africa ushered in new energy and bolstered the ideals of Pan-Africanism, both theoretically and practically.

The new democratic Government sought to articulate a new vision of Africa informed by the notion of an impending African Renaissance.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), and later the AU, portrayed the organisation as a Pan-African one, ready to fulfil the continent's destiny through all available means. It was this resolve that found expression in the Constitutive Act of the AU, which reads as follows:

"We are inspired by the noble ideals which guided the founding fathers of our Continental Organization and generations of Pan-Africanists in their determination to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion, and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States." Pan-Africanism here meant integrated efforts to advance Africa's development.

Kwame Nkrumah, at the launch of the OAU in Addis Ababa in 1963, said:

"The resources are there. It is for us to marshal them in the active service of our people. Unless we do this by our concerted efforts, within the framework of our combined planning, we shall not progress at the tempo demanded by today's events and the mood of our people. The symptoms of our troubles will grow, and the troubles themselves become chronic. It will then be too late even for Pan-African unity to secure for us stability and tranquillity in our labours for a continent of social justice and material well-being. Unless we establish African unity now, we who are sitting here today shall tomorrow be the victims and martyrs of neo-colonialism."

Just five years before the launch of the OAU, George Mills Houser wrote in his report on the outcome of the All African Peoples' Conference, held in December 1958 in Accra, Ghana:

"A genuine Pan-Africanism was given expression throughout the Conference [...] a

new important dimension has been added. Whereas until recently Pan-Africanism has always been a racial concept ("Africa for Africans" – meaning black Africans), now a residential element has been added. Anyone living in Africa, white or black, could be part of the Africa of the future so long as the basic principle of democracy ("one man one vote") is accepted."

There is no question that the South African struggle was inspired by Pan-Africanism and that philosophy heavily influenced the liberation movements in our country. Pan-Africanism as a philosophy always found expression in what the ANC believed, and our former President Nelson Mandela espoused the vision of Pan-Africanism in many of his speeches. Our first democratic government was quick to adopt the symbolic *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* (God bless Africa) as our national anthem.

Today, we enjoy a principled foreign policy, which is also inspired by the ideals and values of Pan-Africanism, and it is now our challenge to ensure that the ideals are translated into tangible action so that all of Africa's people enjoy a better life and a prosperous future. [U](#)

Clayson Monyela
Deputy Director-General: Public Diplomacy

The new democratic Government sought to articulate a new vision of Africa informed by the notion of an impending African Renaissance.



Queens of the continent!

Banyana Banyana crowned African champions

| Banyana Banyana were also named as the Women's National Team of the Year.

By Brent Lindeque
www.goodthingsguy.com

Banyana Banyana are the new queens of the continent after coach Desiree Ellis' brave charges beat hosts Morocco to win a maiden Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) title at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium on Saturday, 23 July 2022.

It was a tightly-contested final, but in the end, the SASOL-sponsored South African senior women's national team brushed aside the intimidating atmosphere created by the massive home support in the stands to win the match 2-1.

After a goalless first half, Hildah Magaia put Banyana Banyana in the lead when she beat Morocco goalkeeper Khadija Er-Rmichi with a clinical finish in the 63rd minute following some good work on the left by hard-running Jermaine Seoposenwe.

Magaia was not done and completed her brace with a tap-in in the 71st minute, again Seoposenwe being the main architect of the goal.

However, Morocco fought back and pulled a goal back through Rosella Ayane in the 80th minute, but it was a question of too little too late.

It had been years of heartbreak for the South African senior women's national team after finishing as runners-up five times, but the agony evaporated into the Morocco skies after the final whistle.

It was a glorious night for Banyana Banyana as Andile Dlamini walked away with the Goalkeeper of the Tournament Award at a ceremony held on the pitch moments before the official handover of the trophy to the new champions. Hildah Magaia emerged as the top goal scorer.

Banyana Banyana were also named as the Women's National Team of the Year.

The team arrived home on 26 July 2022. South Africans flooded the OR Tambo International Airport to give Banyana Banyana a heroine's welcome home.

Thousands of fans and supporters were present to celebrate the ladies coming home as African Champions. The mood was elated, and it was evident to see the pride of the nation. The air was filled by the sound of our iconic vuvuzela and people danced and cheered to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

The Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, congratulated the team for winning.

"The fact that it was Banyana Banyana that remained standing when all was said and done, is particularly sweet. It feels good for South African football to once again reach the pinnacle of African football for the first time since 1996.

"In addition to saluting Desiree Ellis and her conquering heroines, I also want to commend the South African Football Association leadership for having the presence of mind to offer incentives as encouragement to the teams. Lastly, we are thankful to SASOL and other sponsors for believing in our women," the Minister said. 🇿🇦

"The fact that it was Banyana Banyana that remained standing when all was said and done, is particularly sweet. It feels good for South African football to once again reach the pinnacle of African football for the first time since 1996."



Banyana Banyana mentor Desiree Ellis was named the Women's Coach of the Year for a third successive time at the 2022 CAF Awards in Rabat, Morocco, on 21 July 2022.

The 59-year-old previously won the prestigious award in 2018 after turning around the fortunes of the South African national senior women's team.

Ellis, a former Banyana Banyana player, replaced Vera Pauw on an interim basis in 2016 while the South African Football Association (SAFA) searched for a replacement.

She remained in the job for nearly two years before SAFA offered her the full-time job as Banyana Banyana head coach.

And with that confirmation signed and settled, Ellis further fine-tuned her charges and laid claim to what was a phenomenal 2018 for women's football in South Africa.

Ellis guided Banyana Banyana to the 2018 Women's Africa Cup of Nations final – losing on penalties to Nigeria – and qualified for the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup for the first time in the national team's history.

In 2019, Ellis retained the Women's Coach of the Year gong (announced in January 2020) – and with the COVID-19 pandemic wreaking havoc in 2020 and 2021 – the award made her feat in Morocco a third successive one.

www.news24.com



Today, six African countries are developing vaccine production processes and establishing facilities for this. This is a major advance for Africa, and we are pleased that President Cyril Ramaphosa gave leadership on these issues and advanced Africa in its research and innovation initiatives.

Russia and Ukraine war

The Russia and Ukraine war has severely eroded that hope, has divided the world once again and diverted us from the Secretary-General's common agenda.

Despite our calls for a ceasefire, and for UN-led negotiations, the war rages on, with millions displaced and thousands maimed and dead. We remain steadfast in our belief that war benefits no one and that all efforts should focus on peaceful settlement of disputes.

The UN Security Council (SC) has failed the world, proving that it cannot be relied upon to preserve peace and security. The ongoing conflict has starkly exposed the inadequacy of the UN system and highlighted the need for serious attention to our repeated calls for substantive reform of the UNSC, and indeed, the UN. We look forward to working closely with new non-permanent members of the UNSC to urge them to initiate a genuine robust process of reform.

South Africa firmly believes that the Ukraine-Russia war will only be ended through negotiations, and we urge the Secretary-General to lead as the key negotiator to secure a cessation of hostilities.

Drawing on our experiences in the past year, South Africa will give greater attention to member states of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and work with them to ensure that we all actively contribute to shaping the reform deliberations within the UN system, as well as giving new content to the UNSC. The NAM member states have always worked hard to support multilateralism and have contributed extensively to the battles for an end to colonial oppression and abuse of multilateral institutions.

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)

South Africa continues to derive great value from the BRICS partnership. Our joint call with India, a fellow BRICS member, at the World Trade Organisation for the temporary suspension of intellectual property rights, so that COVID-19 vaccines and other new technologies treatments and diagnostics are accessible for developing countries, was an

important intervention in the fight against COVID-19. We are pleased that South Africa and India will also be collaborating on genomic sequencing to further research COVID-19 and its mutations.

We're thrilled that the virtual BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre was launched in March this year, and that it is one of South Africa's BRICS Chairship legacy projects. We look forward to leading further progress on BRICS initiatives once more, as we assume Chairship of BRICS in 2023.

We are heartened at the advances recorded by the New Development Bank. In 2021, its membership expanded to include Bangladesh, Egypt, Uruguay and the United Arab Emirates. We hope to expand the membership further next year.

South Africa also remains committed to championing the interests of Africa within BRICS as the African Agenda remains a cornerstone of our foreign policy.

Silencing the guns

In terms of our priorities on the continent, we are ever mindful that there can be no development without peace and no peace without development. We had long hoped to silence the guns on our continent, but there is still much work to be done to achieve that.

One of the important priorities of the African Union (AU) agenda, as well as on the Secretary-General's common agenda, is the maintenance of peace and the prevention of conflict. Member states have been encouraged to reshape their responses to all forms of violence and to engage in genuine peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Much must be done to promote democracy and good governance on our continent. We welcome the efforts led by President Ramaphosa to strengthen unity and cooperation throughout Africa and plan to build on the foundation laid through successful visits to Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal last year.

In August 2021, South Africa assumed the rotational Chairship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Consolidating South Africa's foreign policy contribution to a better Africa and a better world

We strive to be a positive contributor to the global family of nations and to promote our aspirations for a peaceful, prosperous and united Africa in a just and equitable world. These are difficult goals to pursue, challenged by complex shifts in global relations and unprecedented global instability.

By Dr GNM Pandor

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa continues to conduct its foreign relations in accordance with the values and principles set out in our Constitution. We strive to be a positive contributor to the global family of nations and to promote our aspirations for a peaceful, prosperous and united Africa in a just and equitable world. These are difficult goals to pursue, challenged by complex shifts in global relations and unprecedented global instability.

Some believe we are at an inflection point in history and that we have an opportunity to reshape and rethink global institutions and

mechanisms. COVID-19 has been a challenge like no other since the end of the Second World War, revealing our shared vulnerability and our connectedness. The pandemic exposed poverty and inequality in our own society and worldwide. We must ensure that we continue to respond effectively and to prepare for future crises and new pandemics.

Our country has been hit hard by the effects of COVID-19, but we responded speedily as a nation and as government and this led to the saving of many lives.

South Africa has made progress in advancing its foreign policy agenda and has worked hard at consolidating the progress

achieved in the past two decades. South Africa is committed to using its foreign policy to contribute to a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world as stated in goal seven of its Medium Term Strategic Framework. Our country showed this commitment through implementing a comprehensive strategic framework in combatting the pandemic and its effects and sharing our programmes and our experiences with the entire continent.

South Africa used its participation in the G20, G7 and BRICS to secure practical actions to address the fall-out from the pandemic. We were able to achieve important outcomes. One of these was an agreement

that multilateral financial institutions would implement a year-long debt standstill to provide liquidity for the economies of low- and middle-income countries and funding for businesses that experienced losses under COVID-19 restrictions. We also actively argued in these fora for Africa to be a vaccine producer to reverse inadequate vaccine access for Africa.

Today, six African countries are developing vaccine production processes and establishing facilities for this. This is a major advance for Africa, and we are pleased that President Cyril Ramaphosa gave leadership on these issues and advanced Africa in its research and innovation initiatives.

In 2021, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General gave the global community new hope when he presented a global vision of inclusive and transformed multilateralism. He proposed adoption of a common agenda for humanity that would see us address climate change, conflict, poverty and insecurity in a manner that promotes inclusion, shared development and equality. He proposed that the UN and its institutions would serve as the strategic multilateral body supporting the globe in acting on this common agenda.

The 2021 General Assembly enthusiastically welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative and committed to his common agenda. We thus began 2022 with renewed hope for the global community.

It is our hope that the Free Trade Area implementation will result in a continental customs union robustly overseeing intra-African trade.

Our Chairship is focussed on the challenging political and security matters in the Kingdom of Lesotho, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the Kingdom of eSwatini.

President Ramaphosa's facilitation on behalf of SADC in the Kingdom of Lesotho continues, and the national reform process is at a very critical stage. The constitutional amendments have now been tabled before the Parliament of Lesotho and are under consideration. We also continue to support the SADC deployment in Mozambique as part of our region's response to the fight against extremism and terror. We thank our men and women for their courageous efforts in the fight against terrorism.

South Africa welcomed the establishment of the Tanzania-based Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre in February this year. This is an important step towards strengthening our regional security architecture.

We are also promoting strong humanitarian efforts on the ground in Mozambique. This involves working with other SADC countries to alleviate the plight of internally displaced persons in the Cabo Delgado region.

The Mozambican Government has specifically requested assistance for internally displaced families to be resettled. South Africa plans to contribute, through support for sustainable food production projects. Our efforts at promoting democracy and good governance in eSwatini are also underway. The SADC Secretariat has, through the Organ Troika, prepared Terms of Reference (TORs) for an inclusive national dialogue in eSwatini.

These TORs have been submitted to the Government of eSwatini and to His Majesty King Mswati III. We are hopeful that the kingdom will draw on our goodwill and convene a genuine dialogue.

We are deeply concerned that there appears to be a rise in unconstitutional changes of governments in other regions of our continent, as well as an increase in violent extremism. We believe this undermines our continent's efforts to realise a peaceful and secure Africa.

South Africa will work with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the AU to combat these incidents of insecurity. Working with our partners on the continent, we will redouble our efforts within the AU, to hold governments accountable, build a united front against terrorism and

prevent military interventions, as well as stop negative foreign interference on our continent.

We must combat persistent instability caused by poverty, high unemployment and violent conflict in Africa.

Promoting African trade, African regional integration and African industrialisation

There are massive opportunities awaiting South Africa in promoting African trade, African regional integration and African industrialisation. To draw benefit from these opportunities, we must be seen as a country that is inclusive, that practises social cohesion and that is a home for all who live in it. Our Pan-African dream of Africa's prosperity and development really relies on mutual African support and interdependence. South Africa must boost intra-African trade and reduce import of goods from beyond Africa and ensure that that which can be grown in Africa, is grown in Africa, and that that which can be manufactured in Africa, is manufactured in Africa. We have developed a framework through which we can realise the benefits of intra-African trade and we look forward to the full operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

This will show our commitment to the joint prosperity and development of Africa. And it is our hope that the Free Trade Area implementation will result in a continental customs union robustly overseeing intra-African trade.

We are thrilled about the progress that has been made in the ratification of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), which consists of SADC, the East African Community and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Only three more states need to ratify the agreement to enter into force. The TFTA has the possibility of creating a market of 29 countries with a combined population of more than 700 million people. The challenge we face as South Africa is to trade within the continent beyond the SADC region, and to make sure we take up the enormous economic opportunities that exist in other regional economic communities.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) has worked hard to coordinate South Africa's economic diplomacy on the African continent and to have a coordinated approach to this. It recently launched the Coordination Mechanism for Economic Diplomacy (COMED) as a platform in South Africa to exchange information between

government departments, the private sector and civil society on economic opportunities on the continent and to coordinate efforts for export promotion. We hope that COMED will assist us in ensuring a coherent South African response to economic opportunities. The common agenda of the Secretary-General aspires that all of us will embrace global solidarity.

Humanitarian assistance

DIRCO is committed to provide humanitarian assistance as part of our global responsibility, particularly on the African continent, and in countries of the South. It makes no sense to us that we expect to receive grants and support from other nations of the world and yet as South Africa, we don't wish to give to others.

The African Renaissance Fund (ARF) was set up for the purpose of humanitarian assistance. We receive requests from various partners on the continent for mitigating circumstances of extreme poverty and providing support in disaster relief. We will continue within our abilities to provide what we can to assist our fellow Africans on the path towards sustainable and inclusive development.

We believe this is an important obligation and South Africa, as one of the nations of the world, must honour it. We are also prepared and committed to act in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Cuba, as we cannot turn a blind eye to their plight while their economy is strangled by illegal blockades and sanctions. The Cuban economy has been brought to its knees after 61 years of draconian United States economic sanctions imposed on that impoverished island nation. This is a nation that stood shoulder to shoulder with our combatants in the struggle for freedom and we must help if we can. It was Cubans who sent their sons and daughters to fight for the liberation of southern Africa. Of course, those who were never in the trenches fighting for freedom cannot appreciate nor know this history. Cuba played a pivotal role in turning the tide against our colonial oppressors. It would be unjustified and unethical for us to turn our backs on them in the hour of their greatest need.

Western Sahara and Palestine

South Africa also has an important obligation to consolidate our support for international solidarity. We continue to support the

revolutionary causes of those who suffer under the yoke of colonial oppression. The last colony in Africa, Western Sahara, is still not free. Its resources are being plundered and the international community remains silent in the face of this long-standing injustice. We believe time has come to exert maximum diplomatic pressure to ensure that the promised referendum on Western Sahara's self-determination is finally held.

Similarly, the people of Palestine who continue to struggle for human rights, dignity and self-determination in their own land, need our support. The situation on the ground for ordinary Palestinians has become unbearable in terms of the gross violations of their human rights and dignity. We hope that all members of the UN will combat the infringement of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Palestine and will ensure that as members of the global family of the UN, we are equally angry at the plight of the people of Palestine, just as we are angered at the conflict in Ukraine. The UN Secretary-General has issued a call to action for human rights and his agenda calls for human rights for all to be placed at the centre of our global and national agenda.

Human Rights Council

South Africa has launched its campaign to return to the Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2023 and the AU has endorsed our candidature. We regard the HRC as an important multilateral body where South Africa can pursue its foreign policy objectives and promote the human rights enshrined in our Constitution. Given our dedicated commitment to multilateralism, our presence

in the council will provide an opportunity to argue for the transformation of the global system of governance from one based on power to one based on rules.

Women empowerment

We also place women's empowerment and gender equality at the heart of our foreign policy. This year, South Africa has assumed Co-Chairship of the Global Network of National Focal Points on Women, Peace and Security, and we are working to close the implementation gaps in our UN resolutions.

A major initiative that DIRCO recently launched is the Charlotte Maxeke African Women's Economic Justice and Rights Initiative. Me Charlotte Maxeke was one of our earliest ambassadors, a true internationalist forging relations across the globe and was one of the first women in southern Africa to attain a Bachelor of Science degree in 1901. Her commitment to social justice at home and abroad should inspire a new generation of women ambassadors in diplomacy.

We have begun the implementation of our multi-year flagship programme, such as the Minister's Annual Breakfast with female heads of mission accredited to South Africa, as well as the African Women's Leadership Awards, which will be held later this year. The awards will recognise exceptional African female leaders whose achievements have advanced Africa's development. We're also working on projects such as the Charlotte Maxeke Africa Future Leadership Programme, a Women's Trade Fair and African Women's Scholarships.

We are deeply concerned that there appears to be a rise in unconstitutional changes of governments in other regions of our continent, as well as an increase in violent extremism. We believe this undermines our continent's efforts to realise a peaceful and secure Africa.

DIRCO's Diplomatic Academy is also running an international women's capacity-building programme on conflict resolution, mediation and negotiation, an initiative that invites women from all over Africa. All of this is indicative of our commitment to the full participation of women in advancing and maintaining peace and security.

As the first President of a democratic South Africa, President Nelson Mandela, said during the Fifth Steve Biko Lecture in 2004: "One of the challenges of our time, without being moralistic, is to re-instil in the consciousness of our people, that sense of human solidarity, of being in the world for one another and because of and through others."

That quotation illustrates our own platform of global solidarity. 🌍





Africa in 2063 – Removing obstacles to prosperity

Agenda 2063 envisions a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; an integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. The vision for the continent is one of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, peace and human security and people-driven development.

By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

During Africa Month, in May 2022, we celebrated our continent and focussed on how best we could achieve Agenda 2063, by removing blockages to our collective prosperity before the African Union's (AU) centenary.

As Africans, we proudly claim Africa as the Cradle of Humankind. Our continent has an incredibly rich history and heritage, and a visit to Maropeng reveals the impressive historical exhibitions, which detail how modern *Homo sapiens* emerged 200 000 years ago in Africa. Some of the earliest fossils of our species have been found in Ethiopia and South Africa. We only have to look at the city of Timbuktu in central Mali to understand the depth of African history, and how it was once one of the world's greatest cities from 1300 – 1600 when it was the centre of Arab-African trade and Islamic scholarship under the Mali Empire. Timbuktu's university was a centre of learning that drew people from all over Africa and the Middle East.

Throughout its history, Africa has also been endowed with rich natural resources, which

have been the envy of great powers around the world. The continent currently has 40% of the world's gold and up to 90% of its chromium and platinum. The largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium in the world are in Africa. Our continent also holds 65% of the world's arable land and 10% of the planet's internal renewable fresh water sources. If we harness the potential of our vast arable land, it could be a source of economic prosperity and food security. As we commemorated Africa Month, we celebrated all these remarkable attributes of our continent.

During Africa Month, we paid special tribute to the leadership role played by the founding fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the role that Africans played in the fight against oppression, colonialism and apartheid. Their selfless sacrifices and the hardship they endured in the fight against apartheid will always be engraved in our hearts.

It was visionary leaders like Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya whose

dream of a united and prosperous Africa laid a solid foundation for the establishment of the OAU. Their vision also inspired the calibration of the OAU Charter into the Constitutive Act of 2000, as well as the establishment of the African Economic Community, whose roadmap birthed landmark initiatives such as the regional economic communities and the establishment of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The Abuja Treaty, which came into force in 1994, also envisioned the establishment of three financial institutions: an African Central Bank, African Investment Bank and African Monetary Fund.

African leaders have developed a roadmap that should take the continent beyond 2063, but it is our role to implement the necessary programmes and actions.

Agenda 2063: An e-mail from the future

In January 2014 in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma presented a letter to a meeting of foreign affairs ministers of the Executive Council of the AU, entitled: "Agenda 2063: An e-mail from the future". In this letter,

Dr Dlamini Zuma, who was the Chairperson of the AU Commission (AUC), addressed Nkrumah, informing him of the progress Africa would have made in 2063. The following are some of the visionary milestones outlined by Dr Dlamini Zuma:

"Africa would be united through the formation of the Confederation of African States in 2051.

"The youth would have played a strong agitating role for the integration of Africa.

"The implementation of the Abuja Treaty would have been accelerated, and the integrated African Economic Community realised.

"Our mineral resources are benefited on our shores through a strong manufacturing base.

"Rural agriculture would be fully integrated in a buoyant agro-industry based on Africa's fertile and large river systems.

"The green economy, the blue economy, and ICT industry being the backbone of the continent's economy.

"Africa becoming the author of its own narrative."

Subsequently, the AU heads of state and government adopted a 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration that pledged their commitment to prosperity and peace on the continent, and the integration of these ideals and goals in national development plans and in the development of the Continental Agenda 2063. This would be accomplished through a people-driven process towards a prosperous Africa at peace with itself. A consultation process ensued, which saw institutions of higher learning, think tanks, governments and civil society contributing to a discourse that led to the adoption of *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*.

Agenda 2063 envisions a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; an integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. The vision for the continent is one of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, peace and human security and people-driven development.

Agenda 2063 also identifies flagship projects to propel the continent towards sustained development and prosperity.

These projects include an extensive infrastructure build, the establishment of the AfCFTA, a single currency, cybersecurity, and the founding of Encyclopedia Africana, among others.

The pace of economic growth and development on the continent rests on the success of the AfCFTA, and it is imperative therefore that as Africans, we must embrace and support its full implementation. We must also guard against any efforts to derail us in achieving our goals and objectives.

AU member states are expected to adopt these aspirations and contribute towards their implementation. A 10-year implementation plan is in place and the AUC is monitoring and providing progress reports to the Heads of State and Government Summit on an annual basis.

South Africa's Chairship of the AU

When South Africa assumed the Chairship of the AU in February 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined strategic priorities, which South Africa was going to pursue during its Chairship tenure. He addressed the AU, saying:

"As Africans living in this new era, we shoulder the greatest of responsibilities to ensure that Africa's wealth does not become her poverty; that her blessing does not become her curse; and that our endowment does not become our downfall."

South Africa's focus for its Chairship was on silencing the guns, advancing inclusive economic growth and development, expanding continental trade, strengthening democracy and good governance and combatting violence against women and girls. However, within a month of our Chairship, the world was struck with the catastrophic COVID-19 global pandemic, leading to global lockdowns, restrictions on international travel and the interruption of goods and services.

We have gleaned many lessons from the challenges the pandemic presented the continent, most especially the need to strengthen our comparatively weak health systems. We are all affected when it comes to contagion, and we urgently need to address the disparities in access to decent quality healthcare.

Climate change

There is no doubt that climate change is escalating at a rapid pace. The destructive impact of cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and then cyclone Kenneth in Mozambique in 2019, suggests that natural disasters are likely to reverse developmental gains. Madagascar has also suffered greatly following the devastating tropical cyclones

earlier this year. In April 2022, South Africa saw more than 400 people killed by the floods that wrought untold devastation to private and public infrastructure.

We continue to read reports about water distress levels in South Africa and water shortages and drought in other parts of the continent that have led to intercommunal conflicts over grazing lands. East African countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia continue to experience locust swarms that destroy crops and vegetation, drastically affecting food security.

New prospects for success

But beyond the challenges, we have new prospects for success, notably the establishment of the AfCFTA, which resumed trading on 1 January 2022. It is a milestone achievement for the AU and indeed for the entire continent. When fully implemented, the AfCFTA will greatly improve intra-Africa trade, which is currently around 10% – 12%. It will enhance industrialisation and strengthen continental and regional value chains. The pace of economic growth and development on the continent rests on the success of the AfCFTA, and it is imperative therefore that as Africans, we must embrace and support its full implementation. We must also guard against any efforts to derail us in achieving our goals and objectives.

By May 2022, the AfCFTA had been ratified by 41 out of 55 countries of the AU. The overall legal framework had been agreed on, including protocols on trade in goods and services, as well as protocols on procedures for the settlement of disputes. The trade negotiations aimed at the finalisation of Rules of Origins were at an advanced stage of completion.

Preparations have also resumed on the finalisation of our commitments on trade in services under the AfCFTA, covering key sectors such as finance, tourism, communication and professional services. There are also consultations underway on protocols covering support to vulnerable groups such as women and youth, to unlock opportunities for these groups. ►►

The speeding up of developing infrastructure on the continent is critical if we are to achieve an integrated and prosperous Africa by 2063 and beyond. The building of proper roads, rail, ports and tourism infrastructure is a key driver of economic integration at national, regional and continental level.

While the continent is making progress on regional integration, the war between Russia and Ukraine directly impacts global supply value chains. There are countries on the continent, which are dependent on both Russia and Ukraine for wheat and agricultural input such as seed fertilisers, and the supply has been disrupted. South Africa imports crude oil, diesel and related chemicals from Russia and Ukraine, and exports citrus. The flow of these products has also been negatively affected. This underscores the need for greater levels of intra-African trade so that as a continent, we become more self-reliant.

In 2013, the heads of state and government of the AU made an undertaking not to “bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans”. They also made a commitment to “speed up the process of attaining the objectives of the African Economic Community and take steps towards the construction of a united and integrated Africa and to move with speed towards the integration and merger of the RECs as the building blocks of the union.”

The speeding up of developing infrastructure on the continent is critical if we are to achieve an integrated and prosperous Africa by 2063 and beyond. The building of proper roads, rail, ports and tourism infrastructure is a key driver of economic integration at national, regional and continental level.

South Africa has hosted the AU Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD) since its establishment two decades ago. The AUDA-NEPAD plays an important role and is key to unlocking Africa’s economic potential by “facilitating and coordinating the implementation of regional and continental priority development programmes and projects, and to push for partnerships, resource mobilisation and research and knowledge management.”

Another key AU agency that we take pride in, and whose mandate we must continue to support is the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The APRM continues

to play a fundamental role in the promotion of good governance and democracy across the continent. Since its establishment, it has registered significant gains with more than 41 AU member states voluntarily acceding to the mechanism and subjecting themselves to the periodic review in terms of political, economic and corporate governance. The APRM has created the potential for holding leaders accountable. South Africa has just concluded validation of its second report, and it will be ready for submission soon.

Conflict on the continent

The above achievements made in the past two decades will come to naught and our Agenda 2063 vision will only be a pipe dream if we do not decisively deal with the perennial challenge of conflicts in several hotspots on the continent, which sadly have become a permanent feature on the agenda of the AU since 2002.

The AU’s priority of strengthening development, including addressing the unprecedented levels of poverty in Africa, has had to take a back seat as a result. The flagrant violations of human rights that our continent continue to witness remain a stubborn stain on the tapestry of commendable work that the AU continues to implement on the continent.

The unconstitutional changes of government and the re-emergence of coups d’état in the past year do not bode well for the long-term integration and socio-economic development in Africa. The coups, coupled with long-running conflicts in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, South Sudan and the Central African Republic have undermined AU efforts to silence the guns by 2030.

Closer to home, the ongoing insurgency taking place in the Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique is concerning, and it threatens the security and stability of the entire Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. However, we commend the role that has been played by the Economic Community of West African States and SADC in dealing

decisively with the coups in West Africa and the insurgency in Cabo Delgado, respectively.

South Africa remains extremely concerned about the humanitarian consequences of conflicts on the continent and the resultant displacement of people, especially across the Sahel, in the Eastern DRC and in the Central African region.

These conflicts have huge implications on the livelihoods and social cohesion in the affected areas. South Africa therefore fully supported the AU Summit on humanitarian assistance, which took place in Malabo at the end of May 2022. Our participation in the summit reaffirmed our commitment to support fellow Africans that might be in humanitarian distress.

Embracing Agenda 2063

The AU has laid a solid foundation for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and will drive the continent to finally realise its potential. However, our view is that the success of the AU, and indeed the continent, will be hollow if Agenda 2063 is not fully embraced and domesticated at regional and national level by all member states and by Africans in general. In that regard, South Africa will continue to advocate for the alignment of Agenda 2063 with national development plans across the continent to ensure coordination and synchronisation with continental agendas.

We should not relent in our commitment to silence the guns by 2030, speed up regional integration and fully implement the AfCFTA while accelerating the roll-out of infrastructure development across the continent, which will otherwise remain a stumbling block to the realisation of our economic prosperity and integration.

As former President Thabo Mbeki, who boldly captured the spirit that must permeate throughout the continent, said: “Whatever the moment, nothing can stop us now! Whatever the difficulties, Africa shall be at peace! However improbable it may sound to the sceptics, Africa will prosper!”. 🇿🇦



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SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS

The Nordic nations comprise five countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden – whose total population is less than half of South Africa's, and although without major resource endowments, their combined gross domestic product is almost six times that of ours.

By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The valuable Nordic-Africa Foreign Ministers' Forum was held in Helsinki earlier this year. The Nordic countries are at the forefront of innovation and global development, resulting in forward-looking foreign policies.

They have sought to find new ways to deal with existing challenges and invested heavily in the belief that innovation and development will provide solutions. Their domestic development provides the conviction that it can be done elsewhere with equal success. We are pleased to have them as partners in so many different areas of our domestic and foreign policy.

The Nordic nations comprise five countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden – whose total population is less than half of South Africa's, and although without major resource endowments, their combined gross domestic product is almost six times that of ours.

Their rankings on the human development indices indicate that they are among the most successful and contented nations. Their political, economic and development successes, while remarkable, are not unique. Although they are viewed as social democratic governments, their political views are not homogenous.

No Nordic country has ever had a party holding a full Parliamentary majority. What has been created in the Nordic region is a system of open dialogue and shared commitment; whether between politically disparate parties, or labour and government, or private sector and civil society.

They have forged a system of trust in each other that has served to build societies based on shared values of democracy and human rights, equality and equity and free-market economics within a responsive social welfare system, where the social balance is maintained and that allows their citizens to flourish.

In many respects, the Nordic model is an embodiment of the spirit of Ubuntu, often expressed in the phrase "If we want to go far, let's go together". Their coalition governments, rather than focussing on compromise and accommodation, often express a philosophy of innovation and problem-solving.

The words of the former Finnish President, Urho Kekkonen, when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in 1961, are worth recalling: "We see ourselves as physicians rather than judges; it is not for us to pass judgement nor to condemn. It is rather to diagnose and to try to cure".

It is a philosophy that has served them well. In Africa, they are widely regarded as countries without an agenda, resulting in major Nordic-Africa partnerships that serve as catalysts for African countries to build greater autonomy and self-sufficiency.

This is evidenced by the growing number of partnerships with Africa, including the dialogue for peace, the programmes to build African peacekeeping capacity, supporting African economies, the developmental aid where Africa is a major focus and their substantive humanitarian aid commitments.

They are also an important support for Africa within the European Union. As small states, they have maintained strong convictions that all nations are interdependent, and that multilateralism and the rule of law are the best options for international security and stability. Another former President from Finland, President Juho Kusti Paasikivi, reminded us that "small states have to put their efforts into law and cooperation, while great powers can rely on their might".

For many generations, the Nordics have remained steadfast in support of peace, peaceful resolution of conflicts, support for mediation and dialogue as a way of resolving difficult situations. They have been our partners and active proponents of peace and restraint

in many conflicts such Ethiopia, South Sudan, Libya, Mali and the Sahel region, Palestine, Venezuela, Sri Lanka and Yemen ... in some of the most protracted and difficult conflicts.

Even as our ardent supporters in the struggle against apartheid, the Nobel Committee, knowing and understanding the deep hurt of the African people, chose to jointly award the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize to Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk. It was easy for many of us to see this as the committee equating the two politicians and many of us, at that time, may have felt disappointed.

However, the committee issued the following statement that embodies this philosophy of peace and reconciliation: "From their different points of departure, Mandela and De Klerk have reached agreement on the

principles for a transition to a new political order based on the tenet of one man-one vote. By looking ahead to South African reconciliation instead of back at the deep wounds of the past, they have shown personal integrity and great political courage."

I had the occasion, during the tail-end of my visit to the region, to visit the Nobel Peace Centre. As I walked through the hall of laureates, I was reminded that the laureates, all eminent global citizens, had embodied this belief in peace and reconciliation.

It made me proud that four of our fellow South Africans were among the eminent persons. However, walking through the Nobel Peace Centre also reminded me that these Nordic countries are at war today. These very values that they have so cherished are being

tested. As I walked through the peace centre, I could not help but wonder: where are the eminent global citizens of today that will stand up to stop the war in Ukraine so that peace may have a chance?

I recalled the words of former President Kekkonen, who said, "Small states have little power to influence the course of international events. The Great Powers, possessing the means of destroying the world, bear the chief responsibility for the maintenance of peace", but "the smaller states can and must constantly remind them of this responsibility".

We stand ready to work with the Nordics to build a coalition for peace, for ending the war in Ukraine, for ending the humanitarian suffering and for reconciliation that will help end the deep divisions. We need political courage today. 🇺🇦

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The best interests of the South African people are international peace

The best interests of the South African people are international peace, and where this breaks down, internationally agreed peaceful mechanisms to solve conflict should be resorted to.

By Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa, like all countries, faces a range of conflicting pressures when making and implementing foreign policy. Balancing these diverse factors is, inevitably,

a difficult task. The *White Paper on Foreign Policy* is instructive in this regard by stating that “The business of National Interest cannot be the purview of the State alone, but it can encourage an enabling environment of dialogue and discourse among all stakeholders to interrogate policies and strategies, and their application in the best interests of the people”.

The best interests of the South African people are international peace, and where this breaks down, internationally agreed peaceful mechanisms to solve conflict should be resorted to.

The numerous conflicts between the big powers over the last few decades are also an indicator of the myth of the end of the Cold War. These conflicts, however, took place in the territories of others, with competing former Cold War adversaries exploiting discontent in mostly developing countries, through arming and often instigating violent conflict as they sought to cement government's support for their respective agendas.

The war in Ukraine is the latest instalment of big powers contesting for hegemony. This is why we called it a proxy war. Like the war in Ukraine, much of the most recent wars were illegal. This includes the invasion of Iraq, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia, which was unilaterally done, without the decision of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

We need to unequivocally restate South Africa's foreign policy imperatives, particularly multilateralism and the centrality of the transformation of global governance institutions, with specific reference to the UNSC, that has the pertinent and express mandate on peace and security. The Africa Common Position, as encapsulated by the Sirte Declaration and Ezulwini Consensus, is an essential reference as South Africa seeks to enrich UN Secretary-General António Guterres' Common Agenda, entitled the “UN We Want”.

South Africa must continue to be firm on her foreign policy principles. We are born out of a nation which was beholden to conflict, and we must be the vanguard of our Freedom Charter, which states that There Must be Peace and Friendship.

We must remain non-aligned in conflicts, urging the application of peace diplomacy as the most potent instrument in conflict

We are born out of a nation which was beholden to conflict, and we must be the vanguard of our Freedom Charter, which states that “There Must be Peace and Friendship”.

resolution. Ukraine's bilateral relationship with South Africa is three decades old and we value this significant member of the UN community of states, including appreciating her rights to territorial integrity as a sovereign state.

Russia is an esteemed member of the UNSC's P5 and has a special responsibility to maintain the world peace and security architecture. It is for this reason that President Cyril Ramaphosa has called for the return to mediation and negotiations. We value the view expressed by French President Emmanuel Macron, who also holds the European Union Presidency, who has pointed to the 2015 Minsk Agreement between Kyiv and Moscow as the blueprint for a breakthrough in the Ukraine crisis.

However, there are also domestic issues that have international implications and demand the State to use their foreign relations to address domestic matters. An important responsibility of our foreign policy is to have a systematic focus on economic diplomacy.

The Fourth South African Presidential Investment Conference took place on 24 March 2022, with announcements of R366 billion in new investment projects and investment.

Our strategic bilateral relationship with the United States of America (USA) is being fortified through the US' improved foreign direct investment in South African stock, which stood at US\$7.8 billion (R116 billion) in 2019, a 6.8% increase from 2018. South Africa is therefore looking forward to the formal announcement of the Biden Administration's Africa Strategy, including information on US support for the African Continental Free Trade Area and the anticipated US-Africa Summit to be hosted by President Joe Biden.

The total current investment stock from Europe is estimated at R1.4 trillion, which represents approximately 77% of total foreign investment in the country. It has made a significant contribution towards job creation and industrialisation in South Africa, through more than 2 000 European companies operating in South Africa, creating significant employment opportunities for South Africans.

South Africa's relations with the Nordic region continue to deliver excellent results, and our recent regional tour resulted in a major positive surge in our relations. We continue to reap the benefits of committed partners on the

multilateral and regional challenges we face though joint efforts on peace and security, the promotion of women and youth, the protection of our rules-based international system, as well as excellent growth in our bilateral cooperation, especially in the innovative and renewable energy space. We noted more than R20 billion of new investments announced from this region during 2021/22.

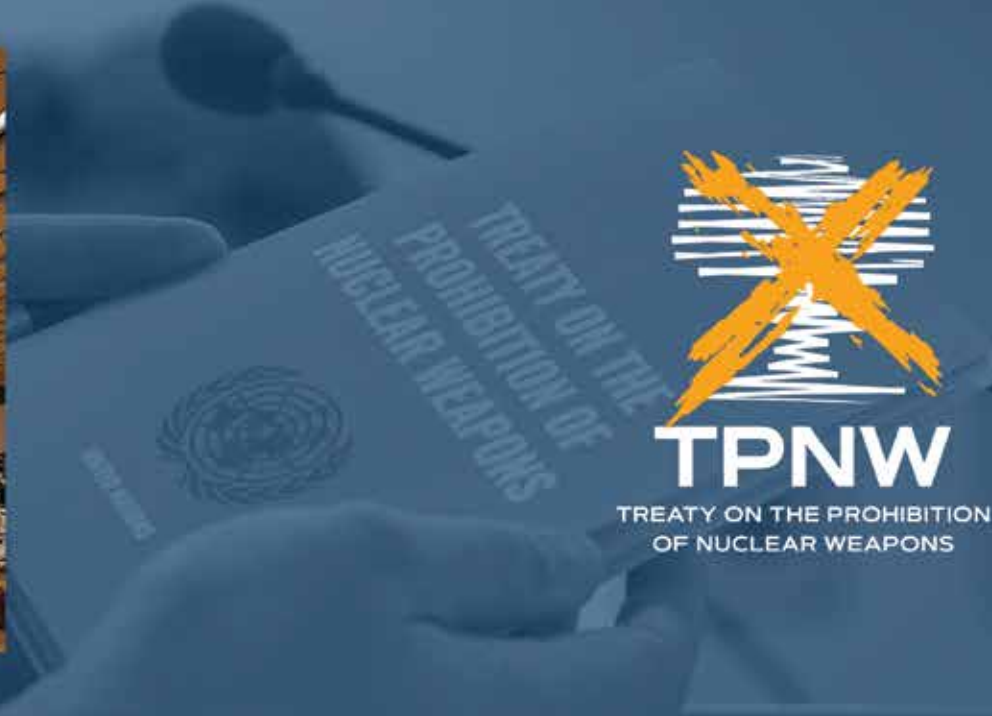
South Africa is committed to strengthened a comprehensive engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes South Africa's foreign policy objective of South-South cooperation and in pursuit of South Africa's national priorities, including standing in solidarity with Cuba and Venezuela. Nelson Mandela reminded us that we must always “admire the sacrifices of the Cuban people in maintaining their independence and sovereignty”. We thus urge the USA to reconsider the extraterritorial sanctions levelled against the people of Fidel Castro. We further urge the USA to support the Oslo Dialogue process, which is aimed to bring about unity between the Government of Venezuela and opposition groups.

South Africa will also continue to use its membership and bilateral and multilateral engagements with groupings of the South to support foreign policy objectives, advocate for strong, mutually beneficial South-South cooperation and focussed regional integration in fast-growing markets. It will also strengthen regional cooperation in areas of interest with countries of the South. Groupings of the South include BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa); IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa); the Indian Ocean Rim Association; Group of 77 (G77) and China; and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Contact with the African Diaspora in the region will serve to enhance relations with South Africa and the African continent, especially with respect to the Caribbean countries. The African Diaspora in the Americas, particularly in the Caribbean, continues to have significance for South Africa considering their support for Africa's liberation and a shared vision of an equitable world.

We pledge to firmly remain non-aligned and will continue to be the vanguard of the Freedom Charter's peace and friendship ideals. 🇿🇦





A nuclear weapon-free world is possible

We have a shared responsibility to protect future generations. Let us work together and let us display our courage, in a sustained commitment and concerted effort to rid this planet of these horrific weapons.

By Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa has been at the forefront of nuclear disarmament efforts for decades. The democratic transformation process in the country fundamentally altered the role of apartheid South Africa from being a threat to international peace and security to a democratic state, which is a principled and responsible actor in terms of the maintenance of international peace and security.

This approach also forms the basis of our engagement in disarmament diplomacy. Since its inauguration in May 1994, the democratic Government of South Africa committed itself to a policy of disarmament and non-proliferation, which covers all weapons of mass destruction. This policy forms an integral part of South Africa's commitment to democracy, human rights, sustainable development, social justice and environmental protection, which is reflected in our humanitarian approach to, among others, disarmament.

South Africa's commitment to disarmament is based on its belief that international peace and security cannot be divorced from development.

Global security cannot be achieved when enormous financial and other resources are still being diverted towards the acquisition of more and more destructive capabilities, while more and more people around the world continue to suffer from hunger and deprivation.

Our ultimate goal is a world free of nuclear weapons and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is an important addition to the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, that takes us closer to that goal.

Twenty-four years ago in 1998, President Nelson Mandela, in his last address to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, pertinently noted that, "We must ask the question, which might sound naive to those who have elaborated sophisticated arguments to justify their refusal to eliminate these terrible and terrifying weapons of mass destruction – why do they need them anyway!"

South Africa's own experience has shown that neither the possession, nor the pursuit of nuclear weapons, can enhance international peace and security. The continued retention of nuclear weapons on the basis of the perceived

security interests of some states comes at the expense of the rest of humanity.

While most of the nuclear-possessing states justify their continuing possession of those weapons on the grounds that they purportedly guarantee their security, it must be reiterated that we, as non-nuclear-weapon states, have the conviction that their mere existence constitutes a threat to our national security and to humanity as a whole.

South Africa has always emphasised the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, as well as the humanitarian imperatives that underpin our search for a world without the threat posed by the possession, use and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

These considerations are today a fundamental and global concern that should be at the core of our deliberations, actions and decisions as we work on the implementation of the TPNW.

We must recognise that this treaty is the democratic wish of the overwhelming majority of UN member states and the people of the world. No longer should the world's peoples be held hostage to the unspeakable terror of these weapons.

The TPNW's intention is to stigmatise and delegitimise nuclear weapons based on the adverse and indefensible humanitarian consequences of their use. One of the greatest achievements of the TPNW is its filling of the legal gap on the prohibition of nuclear weapons and we, as state parties, should ensure that our work continues to strengthen this international norm and advance this imperative.

While we recognise the sovereign right of each state to decide whether or not it would ratify treaties that seek to establish higher international norms, we regret any attempts to undermine this new treaty and in particular what it endeavours to achieve.

The TPNW complements other international instruments by contributing to fulfil the nuclear

disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the objectives of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty as well as the various nuclear weapon-free zone treaties, such as the Pelindaba Treaty that already banned nuclear weapons in Africa.

It must be stressed that the TPNW is complementary to these instruments and not an alternative. It will not replace the obligations and commitments that states have already made under the NPT and other instruments.

As we move towards the 10th NPT Review Conference in August 2022, we have to reiterate serious concern about the apparent lack of urgency and seriousness with which the solemn undertakings, particularly in respect to nuclear disarmament, continue to be approached.

Still more concerning are attempts to justify the retention of nuclear weapons under the pretext of their security benefits. Ongoing modernisation programmes, including in relation to delivery systems, increases in stockpiles and threats, both implicit and explicit, make it clear that some states still wish to indefinitely retain these instruments of destruction, contrary to their legal obligations and political commitments.

TPNW state parties' focus on the implementation of Article 6 of the NPT gives impetus to nuclear disarmament. This complementarity is essential in the face of previous nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments that remain unfulfilled, and which puts at risk the grand bargain and indefinite

extension of the NPT.

Most of the significant events related to nuclear weapons that have taken place over the last few years, both globally and regionally, highlight that nuclear deterrence does not preserve peace.

South Africa calls on policymakers in states under the extended nuclear security guarantee to shift their policy toward nuclear weapon elimination and free themselves from this notion of nuclear deterrence.

Humanity cannot afford to wait for the "right time" before doing away with nuclear weapons.

Despite the inclusiveness of the TPNW, states possessing nuclear weapons unfortunately decided not to participate in the various activities and discussions under the humanitarian initiative and instead endeavoured to portray this treaty as a divisive effort.

The TPNW continues to remain open to all nuclear weapon possessing states and their allies, and we, the state parties, continue to work on the treaty's implementation bearing in mind the manner in which we drafted it, and where we were sensitive to their needs. We continue to anticipate what they will require when they join and include them in our actions. They have a moral duty to join and we have a moral duty to bring them in.

A nuclear weapon-free world is possible.

We have a shared responsibility to protect future generations. Let us work together and let us display our courage, in a sustained commitment and concerted effort, to rid this planet of these horrific weapons. 🌍



The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Alvin Botes, led a South African delegation that participated in the First Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) from 21 to 23 June 2022 in Vienna, Austria.

The TPNW was adopted on 7 July 2017 and entered into force on 22 January 2021, after its ratification by 50 states. By 17 June 2022, it had been ratified by 62 states and signed by 86 states. South Africa ratified the treaty on 25 February 2019.

South Africa, together with a core group of countries (Nigeria, Austria, Ireland, Brazil and Mexico) played a leading role in driving the TPNW negotiations until its adoption in 2017. South Africa continues to play a leading role in organising the implementation of the treaty.

The TPNW is a landmark agreement in the history of nuclear disarmament and represents the wish of member states of the United Nations to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The TPNW's intention is to further stigmatise and delegitimise nuclear weapons based on the adverse and indefensible humanitarian consequences of their use. The treaty places an emphasis on the humanitarian consequences of the use of such weapons.

Among the TPNW's core principles and norms is the complete and unequivocal prohibition of nuclear weapons without conditions. Thus, one of the greatest achievements of the TPNW is its filling of the legal gap on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

South Africa's own experience has shown that neither the possession nor the pursuit of nuclear weapons can enhance international peace and security. The continued retention of nuclear weapons based on the perceived security interests of some states comes at the expense of the rest of humanity. South Africa's commitment to disarmament is based on the belief that international peace and security cannot be divorced from development.

SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT NEUTRAL, WE ARE NON-ALIGNED

South Africa's position has consistently been that no country deserves to be invaded and subjected to endless conflict.

Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa has maintained a clear position that wars can only be prevented through dialogue without conditions, and that once wars have started, the only way to end them is through negotiations.

The global order has remained relatively static over the past 70 years, that is until recently. Up until a few months ago, before the invasion of Ukraine, the post-World War 2 victors continued to be the dominant players shaping global politics. The war between Russia and Ukraine has laid bare the myth that the “end of history” is at hand given the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

The big powers continue to flex their muscles around the world with a sense of impunity. The numerous conflicts between the big powers themselves over the past few decades suggest that the Cold War never in fact ended.

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, conflict in fact proliferated. These conflicts violated the territorial integrity of other countries, as competing former Cold War adversaries exploited discontent within developing countries. They instigated violent conflict by arming factions, which they believed would support their respective agendas and narrow interests.

The war in Ukraine is the latest instalment of the big powers contesting for hegemony through a proxy war. As is the case in Ukraine, these wars have been for the most part illegal under international law, and without sanction by the United Nations (UN). Other examples were the invasions by Western powers of Iraq, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia. Countries comprising the so-called coalition of the willing

were never held accountable for their gross violations of international law.

Unilateral collective action is no less illegal than when Russia takes unilateral action. Wars inspired by liberal imperialism are no less illegal and abhorrent than wars inspired by conservative nationalism.

Over the past few months, some of the most disturbing statements we have heard included suggestions by European diplomats that the war in Ukraine was worse than other wars as Russia is an “autocratic” country, invading a “democratic” country. The inference was that other countries were perhaps deserving of being bombed because their governments were not democratic. These diplomats hardly noticed the racism implicit in their statements, as most of the countries subjected to military aggression since World War 2 have been in either Asia, the Middle East or Africa.

There has always been a violent edge to the civilisational discourse that shaped colonialism, the League of Nations and even aspects of the UN Charter.

The acceptance of wars associated with liberal imperialism and its racism partly explains the difference in global responses to the war in Ukraine and other illegal wars. South Africa has not taken a neutral position on the war in Ukraine, but rather a non-aligned one, since it prefers not to be aligned with any of the protagonists or major powers involved.

South Africa's position has consistently been that no country deserves to be invaded and subjected to endless conflict.

The war in Ukraine and the wars waged against Iraq and Afghanistan are similar in nature in that the big powers have executed their aggression with a sense of impunity. Most of the protagonists in these wars are not state parties to the International Criminal Court

(ICC). This is because the big powers prefer to operate outside of the norms and rules provided for by international law.

Former United States (US) Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, stated that the use of force was a legitimate tool of diplomacy, and that the US would not want this tool to be subjected to scrutiny, or for the US to be held accountable by an international institution, including the ICC.

What Kissinger articulated forms part of the ideology that gave rise to the notion of “endless wars” as being part of the duty of great nations.

Wars take on an endless character when two conditions are met: when a belligerent pursues objectives while lacking the capacity to achieve them; and when despite the inability to achieve its objectives, the belligerent is not at risk of being defeated. When these two conditions hold over a prolonged period with no clear possibility of change in sight, endless war emerges.

South Africa is not immune from these geopolitical realities, and the proliferation of endless wars. We have maintained a clear position that wars can only be prevented through dialogue without conditions, and that once wars have started, the only way to end them is through negotiations. In other words, there can never be a military solution to violent conflict, since peace is only sustainable through political solutions.

Given the ramifications of “endless wars” for the global economy and the developmental agenda of the Global South, we are in urgent need of a revitalised Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that can push for the transformation of the system of global governance.

The NAM must advocate for transformative internationalism to effectively address issues such as persistent inequality, poverty, climate

change and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

South Africa's foreign policy is based on principles derived from our foundational values and informed by the needs of our people. These guiding principles allow us to be consistent in

our foreign policy stance, and there is strength in this type of consistency since we can explain and justify our actions.

At times, our positions will be at odds with our friends and allies, but we are confident in the fact that we take positions guided by our

commitment to human rights, international law and the equality of nations. [U](#)

At times, our positions will be at odds with our friends and allies, but we are confident in the fact that we take positions guided by our commitment to human rights, international law and the equality of nations.



IORA is in a unique position to bring together the key global players in helping to shape an Indo-Pacific region that is underpinned by cooperation and development rather than contestation and containment, to the benefit of the global community.

fostering peace, cooperation and collaboration in harnessing the full potential of the region to the benefit of the global community. The Indo-Pacific region can play an important role in advancing the African Continental Free Trade Area, as a practical contribution to the economic development of Africa.

It is pertinent to recall that President Nelson Mandela was the founding father of the concept of the Indian Ocean Rim community. His vision of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) was crystallised in 1995 during a visit to India when he stated, "The natural urge of the facts of history and geography ... should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic cooperation and other peaceful endeavours. Recent changes in the international system demand that the countries of the Indian Ocean shall become a single platform". In this regard, IORA today is the apex body of the Indian Ocean region with 23 member states and 10 dialogue partners.

IORA is in a unique position to bring together the key global players in helping to shape an Indo-Pacific region that is underpinned by cooperation and development rather than contestation and containment, to the benefit of the global community. All the permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council are represented in IORA with France being a full member and the others dialogue partners. Other key dialogue partners such as Japan, South Korea, Turkey and Egypt are also key Indo-Pacific nations and therefore provide an opportunity for IORA to be at the centre of the evolving Indo-Pacific.

IORA is currently seized with finalising its own vision of the Indo-Pacific, which we hope will be adopted at the Council of Ministers Meeting in Bangladesh in November 2022. South Africa was instrumental in introducing the Indo-Pacific into the agenda of IORA during its Chairship from 2017 – 2019.

It is imperative that IORA, as an association focussed on the Indian Ocean, also interacts with regional organisations and entities from the Pacific, given the common agenda to create an ocean space that is peaceful and focussed on cooperation and development as outlined in the IORA Jakarta Concord adopted by the first IORA Leader's Summit in

Jakarta in March 2017. The concord recalled the UN General Assembly Resolution 2832 of 16 December 1971 declaring the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. The principles of this resolution must equally apply to the Indo-Pacific region as a whole.

South Africa views the Indo-Pacific through the architecture of a rules-based multilateral global order with respect for international law and working with multilateral institutions like the International Maritime Organisation and cognisant of the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas as guiding our interactions in the Indo-Pacific region.

It should be noted that a number of countries that are either full members or dialogue partners of IORA are also members of the Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC). In this regard, we have a shared platform and a meeting point of the Indian Ocean Rim member states, dialogue partners and the APEC countries. It is therefore important that we work in a collaborative spirit with all role players of the Indo-Pacific to further explore and direct the evolution of the Indo-Pacific as a region which brings together the global community in a spirit of cooperation rather than dividing and contributing to unhealthy competition and contestation in this important geostrategic region.

It is critical, given the current challenges to the global security architecture, which is exacerbated by major power rivalries, that the Indo-Pacific does not become a political tool in the hands of a few who seek to control and shape the region in a divisive manner rather than ensuring that it is inclusive, open, free and a region underpinned by peace and security. We need to find convergence and common ground rather than looking at differentiation, contestation and containment.

IORA can be an important vehicle in initiating a process that seeks to harmonise and set an agenda of peace, security, cooperation and collaboration to fully harness the tremendous positive benefits that the Indo-Pacific can bring to the global community and especially to the underdeveloped and less-endowed among us. 🌐

The Indo-Pacific: A paradigm for peace, cooperation and development

South Africa has been following and actively formulating and contributing narratives into the broader discourse of the Indo-Pacific as it has been evolving in recent years.

By Prof. Anil Sooklal

Ambassador at Large: Asia and BRICS, Department of International Relations and Cooperation

The Indo-Pacific is a widely used geopolitical concept. Currently, there are several interpretations of what constitutes the Indo-Pacific in geographical terms, however, there is growing consensus that it extends from the East Coast of Africa to the Western shores of the Americas and inclusive of the Pacific Island states. But simply put, it is best described as the ocean space traversed by the Indian and Pacific oceans.

South Africa has been following and actively formulating and contributing narratives into the broader discourse of the Indo-Pacific as it has been evolving in recent years. We have taken note of the various strategies, papers, outlooks and visions that have been developed and shared by several countries both from the Global North and South, including the position

of the European Union and its member states, Germany and France. We also have taken note of the views of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, Japan, India and the regional grouping, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, among others.

We have noted that in some of the abovementioned positions of the Indo-Pacific, Africa is excluded, specifically the littoral states of the Western Indian Ocean comprising the Southeast, Eastern and reflecting Northeast coast of Africa. It is hoped that this exclusion of the Western Indian Ocean will be addressed by the concerned entities reflecting Africa as an integral part of the Indo-Pacific. South Africa, as a country, is fortunate to be washed by two oceans, the Atlantic and the Indian oceans, and we have recognised the strategic importance of the oceans and the seas for our own development and that of the African

continent. South Africa unveiled its Oceans Economy Strategy – Operation Phakisa – in 2013 to fully harness the potential of the oceans economy.

Furthermore, the African Union (AU) at its summit in South Africa in 2015 declared 2015 – 2025 as the Decade of Seas and Oceans with 25 July being declared as Africa's Day of the Seas and Oceans. The AU's Agenda 2063 aims at a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development by harnessing the opportunities of its seas and oceans for the continent's blue economy. Agenda 2063 notes that Africa's oceans, which are three times the size of its land mass, will be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth. Furthermore, the goal of the AU's 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMS) is to encourage states to create a blue economy that will foster wealth creation

and development through coordinated and sustainable maritime industries. Africa has recognised that achieving a balance between ocean health and development is necessary and an integral part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

In South Africa, the Indo-Pacific is viewed as an integral aspect of peace, security, cooperation and development. It is imperative that as the Indo-Pacific evolves, it must be inclusive and viewed as fostering peace, security, cooperation and socio-economic development. It must be people-centred, people-driven and address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment so that no one is left behind. Therefore, South Africa's view of the Indo-Pacific is shaped by the key pillars of its foreign policy, which include advancing the African Agenda, regional economic integration, South-South cooperation, North-South cooperation and ensuring multilateralism is at the centre of a rules-based international order. Advancing a global community that ensures peace, security, stability, democracy and human rights, women's empowerment, sustainable development, connectivity and new technologies as well as the protection of the environment must be key elements of the Indo-Pacific. Africa and the global community need to work together to ensure that the Indo-Pacific region becomes an important entity in



Communicators must shift Africa's narrative to one of HOPE

Our recovery from the pandemic will take a great deal of effort and resources. It is up to us as Africans to put our best foot forward and guide our continent on a new trajectory of progress, prosperity and self-reliance.

By Phumla Williams
Director-General, Government Communication and Information System

Communications Week 2022 was launched on Monday, 23 May 2022 – a week-long series of events in 20 countries across Africa that brought together communicators across the continent under the theme: “Ahead of the Curve: What’s Next for Comms in Africa?”. Activities through the week provided opportunities to examine how the communication profession could position communicators and demonstrate their relevance. It also sought to position the profession as a management discipline that contributes significantly to Africa’s socio-economic rise.

It has been a difficult two years for our continent as we count the cost in human lives and livelihoods from the ravages of COVID-19. Our recovery from the pandemic will take a great deal of effort and resources. It is up to us as Africans to put our best foot forward and guide our continent on a new trajectory of progress, prosperity and self-reliance.

In the midst of the devastation caused by COVID-19, we learnt key lessons as communicators. The pandemic has demonstrated the power and value of effective communication. Communication became an essential tool in combatting the spread of the virus and later in supporting the participation of citizens in vaccination against serious illness and death from COVID-19.

We have an opportunity as communicators to build on lessons learnt of how communication rose to the enormity of the challenges posed by COVID-19, especially in light of the speed at which the pandemic was evolving, the spread of misinformation

and the use of technology to ensure effective communication.

In South Africa, communication played an instrumental role in keeping South Africans abreast of critical developments in the fight against the virus, reassuring citizens at the height of the crisis and effecting behavioural change. Our transition to the digital and virtual world through national portals, mobile apps and social media ensured the spread of information far and wide to those with access to the Internet.

The pandemic had not only tested our nation’s resolve but also the robustness of our communication system. Our nation’s communication systems rose to the challenge.

In doing so, we have gained valuable experience and saw first-hand what we could achieve as communicators. We saw key stakeholders and communicators unite under the National Communication Partnership directed by the Government Communication and Information System. The spirit of volunteerism throughout this period was unsurpassed and should be harnessed once more by us as communicators to catapult Africa forward.

As the continent’s communicators, we have the important duty to take forward the message of a continent of hope, promise and vast potential. In doing so, we can ensure Africa regains its rightful place in the world. The world has much to gain from African wisdom, ideas and solutions.

It begins by us working together as communication professionals to change the narrative of our continent. The coverage of disasters, famine, terrorism and corruption alone has created a distorted view of Africa. It

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has created the impression for many that the continent lurches from one crisis to another and this has a huge impact on the development of the continent and its people.

Our role as communicators is to find ways to shift Africa’s narrative to one of hope. There are exciting developments on the continent that need to be communicated to citizens and the world.

More people need to know that Africa is working hard to improve its capabilities in vaccine and medical supplies manufacturing. Earlier this year, we saw NantAfrica, a division of global entrepreneur Dr Patrick Soon-Shiong’s Nantworks, launch state-of-the-art medical infrastructure to accelerate domestic production of pharmaceuticals, biologics and vaccines that will reach users across the African continent.

This is the largest genomics facility in Africa and is an important milestone in the development of advanced healthcare on the continent. It places Africa at the forefront of genome research and bolsters the continent’s epidemic and pandemic public health response.

We must also shift our emphases towards more proactive communication on African issues. This will result in claiming the communication space on key issues facing the continent and is an opportunity to re-frame how Africa moves forward in a post-COVID-19

environment. We have seen that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, African nations maintained their spending on infrastructure projects and it is these stories that we need to actively share. According to the *Deloitte African Construction Trends 2021 Outlook* report, there was an increase in the number of infrastructure projects by a fifth compared to 2020.

Let us communicate Africa’s changing landscape represented by the 462 infrastructure projects on the continent valued at US\$521 billion. The highest number of projects across the continent were in the transport sector with 197 projects. The energy sector registered 88 projects while there were 85 real estate sector projects. African governments owned 73.8% of projects and they were the top funders at 31.8%. South Africa recorded 37 projects valued at US\$54.7 billion. It included the Kusile power plant, Waterfall City Development, Baywest City Precinct, Steyn City development and the Roggeveld wind power project.

Through communication, we can support our continent’s recovery efforts through profiling interventions and providing regular updates that help shape the narrative for Africa. On the economic front, African nations have a chance to build back better as we leverage advances in green and low-carbon energy in pursuit of our growth objectives.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents enormous opportunities and the recent adoption of the AfCFTA Rules of Origin covering 87% of goods on the tariff lines of African Union (AU) member states is a historic breakthrough that demonstrates our commitment to dramatically scaling up intra-African trade.

We must put forward a common front towards promoting Agenda 2063, which is Africa’s strategic roadmap to move us to a free, safe and fully developed continent. It is underpinned by the AU’s vision to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa that is a dynamic force in the international arena.

Agenda 2063 reflects the aspirations of Africa as a continent with a strong cultural identity, values and ethics. In support of Agenda 2063, we can foster unity among all Africans across the continent. Future growth will be spurred by the continent’s commitment to Agenda 2063 to drive the social, economic and political rejuvenation of Africa

Let us support African unity as our National Interest is intrinsically linked to Africa’s stability, unity and prosperity. Let us embrace and partner with our fellow Africans residing in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent. In this spirit, let us harness our creativity and ingenuity in communication to the benefit of the continent. 🌍





Bakoven is a small residential suburb on the west coast of the Cape Peninsula, in the southwest of Camps Bay. South of Bakoven and Camps Bay, the coastline is protected, with thousands of acres of mountain nature reserves. This scenic drive from Bakoven and Camps Bay to Llandudno and Hout Bay is one of the most visited in the Western Cape.



South Africa's candidate standing for election as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

Peaceful settlement of international disputes is a fundamental principle of international law of a peremptory character.

By the Branch: Public Diplomacy

Department of International Relations and Cooperation

It is important for South Africa to be represented in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). In this regard, Adv Thembele Joyini is South Africa's candidate duly nominated by Cabinet to stand for election as Judge of the ITLOS.

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides the paramount and most comprehensive legal regime for the oceans in history. Its adoption in 1982 constitutes one of the most significant developments in global ocean governance. The convention is frequently quite rightly called the "constitution for the oceans". According

to its preamble, it establishes "a legal order for the seas and oceans, which will facilitate international communication, and will promote the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment".

To achieve its goals, the 1982 convention, among others, establishes three main institutions, namely the:

- International Seabed Authority (ISA), through which state parties to the convention organise and control all activities of exploration for, and exploitation

of, mineral resources of the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond limits of national jurisdiction (articles 1, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, 157, paragraph 1).

- Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, whose main task is to make recommendations to coastal states on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf (Article 76, paragraph 8).
- ITLOS, whose jurisdiction comprises all disputes and applications concerning interpretation or application of the convention and all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement, which

confers jurisdiction on the tribunal (Article 288, paragraphs 1 and 2; Annex vi, Article 21). The tribunal may also give an advisory opinion on a legal question if this is provided for by "an international agreement related to the purposes of the convention" (Rules of the tribunal, article 138). The tribunal has its headquarters in Hamburg, the Federal Republic of Germany.

While judicial institutions do not play a forefront role in global governance, they constitute an integral element of this process by providing authoritative guidance on what the law is and by fostering the progressive development of international law. This is particularly true in the case of ITLOS because of special responsibilities assigned to it under the convention. In performance of these responsibilities, the tribunal has accumulated a body of jurisprudence, which constitutes its contribution to the progressive development of international law of the sea and thus global ocean governance. In exercising its jurisdiction, the tribunal on several occasions has had an opportunity to provide such contribution to global ocean governance. Peaceful settlement of international disputes is a fundamental principle of international law of a peremptory character. It is formulated as such in the UN Charter (Article 2.3) and developed in UN

General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV) on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States.

According to Article 2, paragraph 1, of the statute, the tribunal "shall be composed of a body of 21 Judges, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea".

In terms of the rules, the positions for judges on the tribunal have been allocated as follows: Africa: five; Asia-Pacific: five; Eastern Europe: three; Latin America and Caribbean: four; Western European and other states: three; and a floating seat for one member from among Africa, Asia-Pacific and Western European and other states. Currently, Africa is represented in the tribunal by five judges. The terms of two judges are coming to an end, creating two vacancies.

Each State Party may nominate not more than two persons having the qualifications prescribed in Article 2 of the statute to serve in the permanent positions of judges for a term of nine years.

It is important for South Africa to be represented in the tribunal. In this regard, Adv Thembele Joyini is South Africa's candidate duly nominated by South Africa's Cabinet to stand for election as Judge of ITLOS. He has also been endorsed by the African Union (AU) during the AU Summit in February 2022. Elections are scheduled for June 2023 at the Headquarters of the UN in New York for the first term from 2023 to 2032.

He is currently the Vice-Chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission of ISA from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2022. He acted as Judge of the High Court of South Africa in Pretoria in 2019. During his acting stint, he presided over several cases and penned 12 judgments. He is well-equipped with a wealth of experience, accompanied by his academic and professional qualifications respectively. He has a strong academic foundation in the form of LLM (International Law), University of South Africa (UNISA) (2007); LLB (Labour Law), UNISA (2000); LLB, Walter Sisulu University (the then University of Transkei) (1995); B Juris, Walter Sisulu University (the

He has also been endorsed by the African Union (AU) during the AU Summit in February 2022. Elections are scheduled for June 2023 at the Headquarters of the UN in New York for the first term from 2023 to 2032.

then University of Transkei) (1993); and BA, UNISA (1989). He has also been admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa since 2007. Since 2008, he has been serving as Principal State Law Adviser (International Law) in the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser (International Law). He is responsible for, among others, international law issues, including various aspects of the oceans and law of the sea issues.

He is also a seasoned negotiator in the international law of the sea space and in this regard, he is currently seized with, among others:

- facilitating the institutional arrangements in the negotiations of the Intergovernmental Conference that is currently developing/ elaborating an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction since March 2022 to date
- leading the negotiations on cross-cutting issues on behalf of the African Group in New York in the Intergovernmental Conference that is currently developing/ elaborating an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction since 2020 to date
- leading the negotiations on behalf of the African Group under the auspices of the ISA Open-ended Working Group in respect of the development of the payment regime of the draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the area since March 2022 to date
- leading the South African delegation in the Intergovernmental Conference on the development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction from 2018 to date
- leading the South African delegation in the council and assembly meetings of ISA in Kingston, Jamaica, from 2017 to date. [u](#)

SAVING OUR OCEANS WITH AFRICA'S GREAT BLUE WALL

With international backing, the innovative plan can boost blue economy investments and restore the health of our seas.

By David Willima
Research Officer, Maritime, Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria

If the shipping industry were a country, it would be the world's sixth-largest emitter of carbon dioxide, wrote *Quartz* environment reporter Zoe Schlanger in 2018. That makes the business a significant contributor to the global climate crisis.

Maritime shipping accounts for 1% to 15% of the world's sulphur and nitrogen oxide emissions, which destroy coral reefs and the ozone layer and fuel the devastating effects of climate change.

That is why initiatives such as the Great Blue Wall (GBW) are so important. It was one of several encouraging steps taken at the 2021 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow to combat climate change. Although it is not well known, the strategy has massive potential and significance.

The GBW is an African initiative for adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. It encourages investment in the blue economy through innovative financial instruments such as the "blue bond" that aim to restore ocean health, safeguard marine biodiversity and support sustainable economic practices.

Launched by the Seychelles and championed by the country's former President

James Michel, the GBW is fast gaining global recognition. The influential International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) endorsed the plan, which featured prominently at the Seventh Our Ocean Conference in Palau in April.

Around 8% (at most) of the Indian Ocean is currently under necessary legal protection. Building a GBW contributes towards the global goal of protecting 30% of the Earth's oceans by 2030. It will also boost climate change responses and the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

If successfully implemented, it should open up and sustain millions of job opportunities for Africa's growing youth population. The IUCN anticipates that the GBW could benefit over 70 million people in the Western Indian Ocean region, and potentially more if additional countries join.

The initiative is open to any country and at present, 10 states have agreed in principle to enhance cooperation between conservation areas in the Indian Ocean region. These are Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. France has also given its support because Réunion island, one of its overseas territories, is in this region. Now, these pledges need to be translated into action.

The GBW shows Africa's influence and innovation in ocean protection. It provides a notable benchmark for all countries on the continent to consider when designing and investing in their blue economies.

The African Union needs to take up its leadership role and encourage member states to join. It can do so by using existing African maritime governance instruments such as the 2016 Lomé Charter and the 2019 African Blue Economy Strategy. These documents already highlight the economic benefits of blue economies as a vehicle for sustainable development, and their vision broadly aligns with that of the GBW.

To succeed though, the GBW needs participation beyond Africa and not simply at government level. As the initiative focusses, for now, on the Indian Ocean, the Indian Ocean Rim Association and more of its member states should get on board the GBW.

This is also an opportunity for crucial Indian Ocean partners such as Australia, India, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore to support African initiatives. Together, they can generate mutually beneficial outcomes through healthier and wealthier oceans.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association can also be used for climate diplomacy. This would enable African countries such as South

If successfully implemented, it should open up and sustain millions of job opportunities for Africa's growing youth population. The International Union for Conservation of Nature anticipates that the GBW could benefit over 70 million people in the Western Indian Ocean region, and potentially more if additional countries join.

Africa to secure support from association partners such as Japan, the United States and Germany.

The success of the GBW will also hinge on essential responses to climate change, such as shipping decarbonisation. A recent study sounded the alarm on the need to protect coral reefs in the Indian Ocean. This is vital for carbon sequestration – an essential process in the fight against climate change.

According to recent projections by Nature Sustainability, without such measures, coral reefs in the Indian Ocean will probably have

collapsed by 2050 due to mounting climate change pressures, overfishing and pollution. This is a far cry from the pristine state of the same coral reefs in the 1970s, just a few decades ago.

Preventing destructive human activities from choking our oceans and causing climate disasters requires action from governments and public-private/industry collaboration. It is here that the International Maritime Organisation – the UN body responsible for creating and enforcing shipping regulations – has a vital role to play. It must back calls to

accelerate shipping decarbonisation by 2030 and prepare the way for zero-carbon vessels and zero-carbon fuels through national action plans and penalties for non-compliance.

The GBW holds tremendous promise but isn't a panacea. The initiative will only work as part of a holistic solution outlined in the domestic and foreign policy of all countries. If implemented successfully, African communities and governments could take ownership of ocean conservation and sustainable blue economies. Until now, this has been conspicuously lacking. [U](#)



At the 2021 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow, Western Indian Ocean states and partners, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) launched the Great Blue Wall (GBW) initiative to establish a network of marine and coastal conserved areas to benefit biodiversity and local livelihoods, empowering communities to become stewards of the ocean.

The GBW is an African-driven roadmap to achieve a nature-positive world by 2030.

It aims at unlocking unprecedented nature-based recovery efforts through the establishment of a transformational movement. Its goal is to dramatically accelerate and upscale ocean conservation actions while enhancing socio-ecological resilience and the development of a regenerative blue economy by catalysing political leadership and financial support.

The GBW initiative aims to establish a first-of-its-kind connected network of seascapes to benefit people and nature. The initiative will help protect 30% of the ocean by 2030; achieve net gain of critical blue ecosystems by 2030 (e.g. mangroves, corals, seagrasses); develop a regenerative blue economy; and create millions of jobs by supporting local communities through funding, training and technical assistance.

Seascapes will be connected by the GBW: composed of conserved and restored ecosystems that shelter communities from the impacts of climate change and help biodiversity recover. Participating in the initiative will help countries meet commitments made under three international frameworks: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Through ocean conservation, the initiative will benefit at least 70 million people in the Western Indian Ocean region but could yet grow as all interested countries are welcome to join the coalition, from Africa and beyond. www.iucn.org



COVID-19 changed the face of DIPLOMACY

As South Africa's chief representatives, the heads of mission carry with them the hopes and aspirations of millions of men and women in our country. As the first line of defence in foreign lands, they shine the country's light on nation states.

By Dr Bobby Moroe
South Africa's Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria

Just a few days after the appointment of the new Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Zane Dangor, the OR Tambo Building in Pretoria, which houses the department, hosted the Heads of Mission (HoM) Conference in April 2022.

This significant conference of South African ambassadors, high commissioners and consuls-general presents an opportunity for the President to interact with his chief diplomats who work abroad.

It is also a forum within which the chief representatives are briefed by the President and the Executive on progress made in advancing the country's domestic priorities, and how these can be reinforced by South African missions abroad.

Similarly, the chief representatives use this session to reflect on and share their thoughts

with the President and the Executive about successes, prospects and the challenges they face in the execution of the country's foreign policy.

As South Africa's chief representatives, the heads of mission carry with them the hopes and aspirations of millions of men and women in our country.

As the first line of defence in foreign lands, they shine the country's light on nation states.

It is through their work that South Africa can be positioned as a preferred destination for trade, investment and tourism, among many other key strategic sectors geared towards building our economy.

This understanding is essential if the country is to excel in ensuring that our foreign policy exists in tandem with domestic priorities.

This, therefore, requires collective efforts by the missions to work with key stakeholders

from other government departments at home. They should all sing from the same hymn book. In his famous Fourteen Points speech of 1918, then United States President Woodrow Wilson advocated:

"Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view."

It is a speech that heralded what came to be known as the "new diplomacy". This was primarily associated with exposing diplomacy to the media and public opinion.

The advent of COVID-19, which heightened dependence on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, has changed the traditional architecture of this profession.

A modern diplomat must be sufficiently equipped with the indispensable skills, knowledge and understanding that would

enable them to perform such diplomatic tasks with ease.

They ought to be a generation of diplomats who are creative, agile and catalytic to be responsive to the challenge of modern-day diplomacy.

A diplomat's ability to foster sound bilateral and multilateral cooperation with other nations is drawn from a good grounding of the fundamentals of diplomacy.

Such fundamentals include, but are not limited to, research and analysis of global developments and how these may affect the home country, advice on the home government's response to prevailing global situations, engagement with foreign diplomats and the host country, public diplomacy events, and trade and investment seminars and road shows.

At the HoM Conference, President Cyril Ramaphosa explained: "Diplomats need to be more innovative and find new ways of practising their craft.

"We need to adapt to digital diplomacy and host targeted seminars to sell South Africa."

In the past two years, the pandemic has taught us as diplomats that our profession of diplomacy can still prosper without physical contact.

In his address, the President further stated: "Not only has the pandemic upended national

economies, health systems and societal relations, it has also changed the diplomatic landscape. Over the past two years and at differing points, we have been swept up by both undesirable and favourable currents."

The overall prevailing changes in the diplomatic landscape will therefore necessitate a great deal of effort to equally recalibrate and restore South Africa's "diplomatic charm" to revive the gains of previous years.

In South Africa, government has already done exceptionally well in reviving the country's economy after almost two years of a frightening pause.

According to the World Bank's *SA Economic Update*: "The reasons for low growth and high unemployment do not lie in government's crisis response.

"Instead, the pandemic has exposed long-standing structural weaknesses that have progressively worsened since the global financial crisis of 2008/09.

"For last year, the World Bank projected a GDP growth of 4%, followed by 2.1% this year and 1.5% next year."

The current Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) aims to build a new economy and unleash South Africa's true potential.

It gives impetus to the positive signs of economic growth.

A modern diplomat must be sufficiently equipped with the indispensable skills, knowledge and understanding that would enable them to perform such diplomatic tasks with ease.

President Ramaphosa enthused: "The overarching goal of the recovery plan is to create a sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy. It will focus on priorities such as food security, energy security and the green economy. The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan is our roadmap, and each of you have an essential role to play in its implementation."

The South African missions abroad are facing a great but exciting task of ensuring that these national efforts find resonance with their diplomatic engagements in their respective countries of accreditation.

At the centre of their post-Heads of Mission Conference is the implementation of strong, achievable and targeted mission annual plans as their own contribution towards reviving the economy in line with the ERRP.

It is through the work of our missions abroad that investor confidence can be restored amid the prevailing global challenges.

Our government has already developed mechanisms that are able to quantify the value that our missions bring into the country's trade and investment landscape.

What remains is to create a framework to monitor and track the extent to which each of our missions can contribute to the national efforts.

This approach will assist government in determining the strengths and weaknesses of missions and leverage on their capabilities.

Without being completely exhaustive, the missions can approach their post-COVID-19 agenda by identifying a few low-hanging fruit and other quick wins that reside within the ambit of our National Interest. ►►

It is the task of missions abroad to display South Africa's tapestry of culture, diversity and other pivotal aspects of the country through disseminating information on different social media platforms and at appropriate events.

They ought to be a generation of diplomats who are creative, agile and catalytic to be responsive to the challenge of modern-day diplomacy.

These can be drawn into the missions' annual plans for implementation. It is also important to introduce a unique implementation framework of operation to forestall potential deviations.

This framework should be flexible and responsive to the present post-COVID-19 realities. With rigidity, there is little room for real innovation, and efforts must be made to avoid it in our recovery strategy.

By way of example, missions can revert to their strategies with different approaches that recognise changes that arose because of the pandemic.

The following three areas could be considered as low-hanging fruit or quick wins:

Tourism, trade and investment

Firstly, to promote and position South Africa as a preferred destination for tourism, trade and investment in host countries by working together with key strategic partners in such sectors.

But, for our country to achieve the targets we have set ourselves in the tourism, trade and investment sectors, there is a need to introduce responsive immigration policies capable of addressing the country's intentions.

Similarly, to increase foreign direct investment in the country, our visa regime must be appealing and inviting to investors.

In the post-COVID-19 world order, it is important to change gears and liberate some of our approaches to doing business, without compromising the laws of the land. Real innovation is required.

People-to-people relations

Secondly, we need to strengthen and encourage people-to-people relations through engagement in activities of common interest and mutual benefit. In diplomacy, citizens of nation states are crucial in determining the success of diplomatic relations between any two nations.

It is therefore important to create platforms and conducive environments through which people can interact at various levels. These will cultivate tolerance and promote cultural understanding and appreciation.

Therefore, diplomats in missions have a great task of assisting the heads of mission to identify relevant platforms and structures, working with local communities – business, youth and NGOs – in the countries of accreditation.

There are several areas to explore, such as youth development programmes and coproduction in the film industry and arts and crafts, among other things. The list is exhaustive.

Public diplomacy

Thirdly, missions should establish strong public diplomacy machinery as primary currency to strategically position South Africa's foreign policy in host countries.

It is the task of missions abroad to display South Africa's tapestry of culture, diversity and other pivotal aspects of the country through disseminating information

on different social media platforms and at appropriate events.

Traditionally, national days have always been used as powerful public diplomacy tools through which host countries can be exposed to South Africa's culture, trade and investment.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, during which diplomacy was almost reduced to a contactless profession, missions had to be more innovative by hosting virtual or hybrid national day celebrations.

This is a cost-effective display of innovative ways of dealing with a crisis, without compromising the fundamental principles.

Similarly, there are many other aspects of our work that have been affected and the same innovation is necessary.

With all hands on deck, these activities can be achieved as a small contribution of missions to the national efforts to revive the economy.

On our part as diplomats, we must support all the efforts towards building a capable state through our work in the missions.

It is our duty to "possess an abiding interest in and passion for the art and craft of diplomacy and international relations".

We must remain true patriots with the national flag always on our sleeves. The world has changed significantly since the advent of COVID-19, and so should our diplomatic craft. 🇺🇦

Agenda 2063



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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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Training is vital for effective AU peace-support operations

Through the Training for Peace Programme, the Institute for Security Studies works with the African Union Commission, regional economic communities and governments to respond to conflicts.

By the Institute for Security Studies

The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and its partners have played a vital role in building the capacity of police officers posted to conflict flashpoints across the continent. Through the Training for Peace (TfP) Programme, the ISS works with the African Union (AU) Commission, regional economic communities (RECs) and governments to respond to conflicts.

Africa is saddled with insurgencies, terrorism and violent clashes that affect countries from Somalia and Mali to Libya and

Mozambique. It's not surprising then that half of the United Nations' (UN) 12 active peace operations are in Africa. These six operations exclude the UN political missions in Libya, Sudan and Somalia, and regional interventions such as the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram.

The role of the AU in preventing, managing and resolving violent conflicts has increased dramatically since the beginning of the 2000s. The failure to prevent the 1994 Rwanda genocide alarmed leaders on the continent who adopted the principle of "Africa solutions

Regional organisations have also started using the AU standard training package. In September 2021, the EASF police component – with technical support from the Danish Police – trained 47 participants from countries in the region.

for African problems" to prevent further disasters.

The AU established the African Standby Force in 2003 to rapidly respond to clashes using peace-support operations (PSOs). The force has faced difficulties getting off the ground, but other PSOs have been deployed in countries such as Burundi, Sudan and Somalia. AMISOM is the longest-running and largest in size. Since 2007, it has worked to degrade the violent extremist group al-Shabaab and build capacity in Somali security institutions, including the police.

For PSOs to succeed in a changing security context, harmonised and standardised training is vital

For PSOs to achieve their goals in difficult and changing security contexts, their members must be well prepared. Missions are made up of soldiers, police and civilians from many different countries, which makes a harmonised and standardised training curriculum vital. While the training itself is the responsibility of states and regional organisations, the AU Commission provides training policies, directives, standards, guidelines and curricula.

The ISS TfP Programme has for over 15 years collaborated with the AU Commission to deliver on this mandate. The programme helped develop pre-deployment training for police in AMISOM, and courses on gender mainstreaming and dealing with sexual and

gender-based violence in PSOs. Courses for trainers on these packages were also provided.

In 2019, an AU generic pre-deployment training package for police was developed with the British Peace Support Team-Africa (BPST-A). It includes a reader manual, facilitator guide, participant's journal, videos and presentations and has been translated from English into French and Arabic.

The package was officially adopted by the AU Commission in February 2020 as the standard for all regional bodies and states.

Sivuyile Bam, Head of the Peace-Support Operations Division, urged regional organisations and governments to "use the training package to train all individual police officers who have undergone and passed the mandatory assessment for mission service in AU PSOs".

The project has enhanced national, regional and continental policing partnerships across Africa

Using the pre-deployment package, the AU Commission – with support from the ISS/TfP, Danish Police, BPST-A and the UN Office to the AU – delivered train-the-trainers' sessions for police. Three 12-day courses were run for the East African Standby Force (EASF), Economic Community of West African States and Southern African Development Community in 2020 and 2021. In total, 72 police training officers from 33 countries (27 of whom were

women) completed the course. Planning is underway to provide the same courses for the North African Regional Capability and Economic Community of Central African States in 2022.

Regional organisations have also started using the AU standard training package. In September 2021, the EASF police component – with technical support from the Danish Police – trained 47 participants from countries in the region. The ISS/TfP was invited to observe the two-week course. Senior Researcher and Training Coordinator, Meressa K Dessu, noted that "course facilitators have applied all the knowledge and skills they learned in the training-of-trainers course".

The project has enhanced policing partnerships across Africa, from national to regional and continental levels. Although many organisations collaborated, the ISS/TfP and BPST-A played key roles. Steven O'Donoghue, BPST-A Police Adviser, said that "ISS provided a credible route to market in the delivery of prioritised training and capacity development for the AU, RECs/regional mechanisms and the member states".

The AU Commission needs to develop and standardise other pre-deployment and in-mission training, such as for the formed police units and police professional staff. The ISS/TfP will continue supporting these efforts. [U](#)

The project has enhanced policing partnerships across Africa, from national to regional and continental levels.





On 2 July 2022, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Candith Mashego-Dlamini, attended the 60th Independence Day Celebrations in Bujumbura, Burundi. Diplomatic ties between South Africa and Burundi were established on 23 June 1995.

Liberation heritage: Amina Cachalia

"Amina Cachalia lived for a higher purpose; she was driven by idealism which, with the dawn of democracy, was translated into a living reality during her lifetime."

In 2004, Amina Cachalia was awarded the Order of Luthuli in Bronze for her contributions to gender, racial equality and democracy in South Africa.

Cachalia (née Asvat) was born on 28 June 1930 in Vereeniging, Transvaal (now Gauteng) to Ebrahim Ismail Asvat and Fatima Asvat. She was the ninth child in a family of 11 children.

From an early age, Cachalia was a member of the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) – her father was Chairperson of its forerunner, the Transvaal British Indian Association – and through the political work of this organisation, she soon became involved in the African National Congress (ANC).

As a member of the ANC, in the early 1950s, Cachalia worked hard to make the Defiance Campaign a success by distributing leaflets, making home visits and recruiting volunteers. She was arrested and sentenced to 14 days in Boksburg Prison for her participation in the Germiston March.

Cachalia was particularly concerned about the oppression of women. In 1948, she was instrumental in launching the Women's Progressive Union, an organisation that aimed to make women financially independent. In 1954, she took the lead in launching, together with other leading women of the movement, the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) of which she became Treasurer.

Amina Asvat married Yusuf Cachalia when she was 25, in 1955. They had two children, Ghaleb and Coco, and she and Yusuf enjoyed 40 happy years together – under the most trying circumstances, as the apartheid regime meted out one calculated and inhumane challenge after another against them and their cadres. Yusuf died in 1995, on the eve of the first anniversary of South Africa's democracy. Cachalia was to continue with her commitment to justice and democracy to her death.

FEDSAW's immediate objective was to oppose the proposed extension of pass laws to black women, a campaign which culminated on 9 August 1956 in a national march of 20 000 women of all races to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to present their petition against pass laws.

After the Treason Trial and the banning of organisations, political activity went underground and took new forms. Activists were all regarded as threats to the State and many were banned in 1963. Amina was banned for a period of five years in November 1963 while she was recuperating from a serious heart operation. Yusuf, her husband, was also placed under house arrest. Amina could not attend social and political gatherings, was not allowed to leave the magisterial district of Johannesburg and could not enter any publishing house or educational premises.

When Amina's banning order was about to expire, she was served with another and then another. She remained under banning orders for 15 years. The bannings, which restricted her movement and ability to associate freely with people, effectively put a stop to her political work.

She played a key role in planning and executing the escape of Arthur Goldreich, Harold Wolpe, Mosie Moolla and Abdulhay Jassat from Marshall Square Prison in 1963.

In the early 1980s, Cachalia supported the campaign to oppose the Tricameral Parliament, a sham institution through which the nationalist Government hoped to co-opt coloured and Indian communities by giving them a limited measure of political rights. The TIC was revived and the United Democratic Front was formed to oppose the new dispensation.

Amina became actively involved in these organisations, campaigning against the new dispensation. When the ANC Women's League was resuscitated in the 1990s, she served on the committee of the PWV [(union of Pretoria, Greater Johannesburg (Witwatersrand) and Vaal Triangle (Vereeniging)) region. She was elected a Member of Parliament for the National Assembly in the first democratic elections in 1994 and was offered an ambassadorial posting, which she declined. In 2004, the University of Witwatersrand conferred Amina Cachalia with a Doctor of Laws degree, *honoris causa*.

Cachalia died at Milpark Hospital in Parktown West, Johannesburg, on 31 January 2013, aged 82. The cause of death

was complications following an emergency operation due to a perforated ulcer.

Her funeral was held in her home in Parkview, Johannesburg, according to traditional Muslim customs. It was attended by then South African President Jacob Zuma, former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe, then ANC Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, former First Lady Graca Machel, former Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, and fellow activist Ahmed Kathrada, among others.

Paying tribute to Cachalia, Mr Motlanthe said:

"Amina Cachalia lived for a higher purpose; she was driven by idealism which, with the dawn of democracy, was translated into a living reality during her lifetime.

"While indeed she is a hard act to follow, pursuing her vision, the vision adopted by her generation, is within the realm of possibility for all those who are equally inspired to bring to fruition a better human condition.

"We cannot afford to fail her and all those who come before her. We can also not afford to be the generation that failed the future. Our unique challenges are not insurmountable."

After her death, in March 2013, her autobiography, *When Hope and History Rhyme*, was published. 

www.dailymaverick.co.za / www.sahistory.org.za

"While indeed she is a hard act to follow, pursuing her vision, the vision adopted by her generation, is within the realm of possibility for all those who are equally inspired to bring to fruition a better human condition."

Radio has a rich history as a weapon of the liberation struggle in southern Africa

The battle for the airwaves became linked with the armed struggle – most famously symbolised by Radio Freedom's iconic opening machine gunfire riff.

By Martha Evans
Senior Lecturer in Media Studies, University of Cape Town

Radio, known for decades as “Africa’s medium”, has many magical qualities. It’s an intimate medium with the ability to transcend borders. It chimes with Africa’s strong oral culture and it is ephemeral – it lives in the present moment. Because of this, radio served as a powerful tool in the liberation struggle in southern Africa.

Radio leaves no incriminating paper trail. It allowed freedom fighters to counter colonial propaganda and helped leaders in exile maintain a presence with supporters back home. Unlike print media, which dominates the “first drafts of history”, radio’s ephemerality makes it difficult to study. With little concrete content in archives (and often only in the archives of the oppressor), historical analysis has been parochial, anecdotal and sporadic.

Guerrilla Radios in Southern Africa: Broadcasters, Technology, Propaganda Wars and the Armed Struggle (2021) is a collection of essays that fills many of the gaps in the study of media’s role in the liberation struggle. Focussing on clandestine radio broadcasting, it shines a light on how rebel broadcasters in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa disrupted and dismantled the propaganda of colonial powers.

Battle of the airwaves

In the second half of the 1900s, southern Africa’s liberation from white colonial powers, including the United Kingdom, Portugal and, in South Africa, the apartheid state, was complicated by the Cold War between the United States and Soviet Union and their allies.

The armed struggle involved a battle for the hearts and minds of citizens. National airwaves were dominated by state-controlled radio designed to maintain the status quo. But this was soon disrupted by the establishment of guerrilla broadcasters – often set up by exiled citizens – in Lusaka, Maputo, Harare, Brazzaville and Luanda. As winds of change swept the continent, newly independent states often hosted the guerilla stations of nearby states still seeking independence.

Now, for the first time in a single publication, historians from a range of institutions have published information on these broadcasters’ producers, policies, listeners and content. They did this by sifting through the archives and conducting interviews with former participants and audiences.

Many challenges

Edited by Sekibakiba Peter Lekgoathi, Tshepo Moloi and Alda Romão Saúte Saíde, the book’s 11 chapters illustrate how the battle for the

airwaves took on a heroic David-and-Goliath character. Rebel broadcasters operated with limited resources and very little training – as discussed in the chapter *Radio Republic South Africa* by Sifiso Mxolisi Ndlovu.

Alda Romão Saúte Saíde’s chapter outlines the experiences of the self-taught *A Voz da Frelimo* (Voice of Frelimo). Broadcasters trained on the spot, each performing a variety of roles.

Staff were also increasingly scattered, as Robert Heinze’s chapter on *Swapo’s Voice of Namibia* explains. And as countries acquired independence and state-owned international services offered to carry guerrilla messages, the stations were weakened through loss of funding and decentralisation.

Acquiring news was also a challenge. The stations were not especially known for news-breaking reporting. Most recycled news items from the colonists themselves, from local state broadcasts or the BBC’s Africa Service. They reframed them by offering commentary – with information from exiles being an exception.

Sonic encounters

Despite these challenges, the book tells how it took only one short, crackling sonic encounter with the voices of the resistance to capture hearts and revive spirits. A major success of the

Radio leaves no incriminating paper trail. It allowed freedom fighters to counter colonial propaganda and helped leaders in exile maintain a presence with supporters back home.

book is its rich qualitative focus on listenership, previously absent in research.

Mhoze Chikowero’s chapter on Zimbabwean exiles explains that the broadcasters themselves had only a sketchy idea of who might be tuning in. Although their message was clear, broadcaster Gula Ndebele remembers: “Our audiences were largely imagined”.

So, it would be interesting for former broadcasters to read about the memories of their listeners. Although audience statistics are absent, it’s clear the broadcasters weren’t speaking into a void. Many listeners attribute their political awakening to the broadcasts. In the Zimbabwean context, a listener recalls how the broadcasts urged him to sign up for military training.

Marissa J Moorman’s chapter includes recollections of adolescent Angolan listeners, many of whom “hid to listen”, often in groups and without their parents knowing.

Tshepo Moloi explains how the “trial-and-error” approach of tuning in to Radio Freedom

in South Africa further electrified audiences. A listener recalls:

“One quiet night as I twiddled a transistor radio, searching for a disco music station, I heard the statement, ‘the terrorist regime of Ian Douglas Smith’, delivered in thick African tones ... my body tensed with every turn of the knob.”

Moloi’s chapter argues, convincingly, that Radio Freedom helped to revive the African National Congress’ dormant reputation among Black Consciousness Movement supporters, encouraging them to join the movement’s armed wing, MK, in exile.

The battle for the airwaves became linked with the armed struggle – most famously symbolised by Radio Freedom’s iconic opening machine gunfire riff. Almost all chapters highlight this relationship.

The broadcasts also transcended the armed struggle. They suffused all aspects of civilian life – domestic, cultural, even spiritual. For instance, Dumisani Moyo and Cris Chinaka’s fascinating chapter plumbs the

memory of Voice of Zimbabwe veterans, who explain how they built links with spirit mediums in order to unsettle the confidence of black Rhodesian army soldiers, appealing to their religious beliefs.

Insightful

Edited volumes often lack focus or collate chapters with spurious connections, resulting in interesting but disparate collections. That is not the case here. The editors’ tight focus on a single medium in a connected geographical area has resulted in a cohesive and thought-provoking read.

The book will be an insightful read for scholars of media, culture and history, as well as anybody interested in southern Africa’s past. We may never have a full picture of the role played by guerrilla radio in the liberation struggle, but this book goes some way towards stamping down some important history that might otherwise be lost. 

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



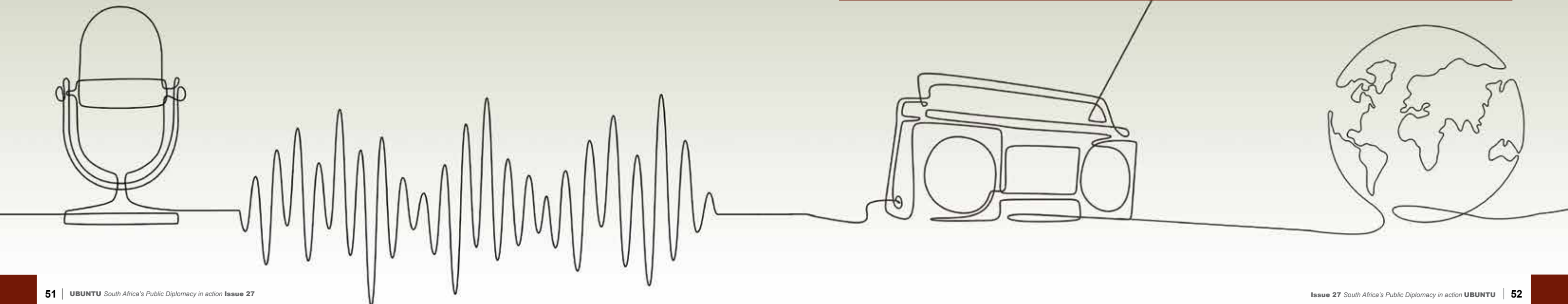
The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) launched an online, 24-hour radio station aimed at enhancing communication on South Africa’s foreign policy in October 2013.

The station, named Ubuntu Radio, is accessible on the Internet, at www.ubunturadio.com, and on DSTV Audio Bouquet Channel 888 and is the first of its kind on the African continent. The station is the first to operate under the auspices of a government institution for non-commercial purposes. Its operating format is that of “talk radio”.

The objective of Ubuntu Radio is to create a platform for exchange of views and opinions by various stakeholders. These include opinion-makers, think tanks, academics, scholars, students, diplomats and other key players in the field of diplomacy and international relations.

By design, the targeted listenership is not limited to South African citizens, but includes the international community. Through this station, DIRCO continues to raise public awareness and stimulate public discourse on South Africa’s foreign policy.

As a multimedia platform, Ubuntu Radio is immediate, reaches many parts of the world and runs live broadcasts of major DIRCO events, announcements and campaigns. Furthermore, this station has become a major source of reliable, recent and trusted news on South Africa’s foreign policy.





Queen Elizabeth II: A reign that saw the end of the British empire in Africa

It was not realised at the time, nor intended, that the Empire would begin to dissolve as fast as it did after the Queen had come to the throne. However, by the early 1970s, a bulk of the Empire had gone.

By Roger Southall
Professor of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand

In the United Kingdom (UK), the Queen's official title is: Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

There has been a lot of political and social change during her 70 years on the throne. None less than in what was once her African empire.

Famously, she was in Kenya (then pronounced by the British as "Kenya"), at the luxury Tree Tops game lodge, when her father died in 1952. She returned hastily to Britain to accede to the throne that year.

This was her second trip to Africa. She had accompanied her parents to South Africa in 1947, the monarchy's "last hurrah" in the country before the National Party, which formalised apartheid, displaced General Jan Smuts' United Party the following year.

At its height, the British Empire extended over something like a third of the world, but was already in recession when the Queen came to the throne. India had been the "Jewel in the Crown", but had proceeded to a violently partitioned independence involving the creation of predominantly Muslim Pakistan in 1947. Burma (now Myanmar) went in 1948.

There were still other territories in Asia, notably Malaya, odd outposts in Latin America and various islands in Oceania. And there was still Africa.

There, Britain's territories included:

- four territories in West Africa
- four in East Africa (inclusive of Zanzibar, then still separate from Tanganyika)
- the two Rhodesias (Zambia and Zimbabwe) and Nyasaland (Malawi)
- the three High Commission Territories in southern Africa (Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland)
- the island of Mauritius
- the Dominion of South Africa.

All are now independent, and have become republics, although all (Zimbabwe being the exception) belong to what used to be known as – but is no longer known as – the "British" Commonwealth.

It was not realised at the time, nor intended, that the Empire would begin to dissolve as fast as it did after the Queen had come to the throne. However, by the early 1970s, a bulk of the Empire had gone.

Britain effectively scuttled in the face of early nationalist stirrings (Ghana); the expense in blood, money and prestige of confronting armed struggle and violence (Malaya and

Kenya); the increasing cost of demands for "development" in the colonies; the foreign policy disaster of Suez; and London's developing sense that it should reorient its trade to a uniting Europe.

In fact, the decolonisation process had started half-a-century before. Ironically, it was South Africa which provided the constitutional precedent for the decolonisation process, which was to take place so rapidly during the reign of Elizabeth II.

The story of the dominions

The rot (if that is the right word) started at the 1911 Imperial Conference, the first of several meetings of the British Prime Minister and his counterparts in the four "dominions" (Australia, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand). These were all countries of white settlement, territories to which Britain had exported population since the end of the Napoleonic wars.

Some went as "explorers", more as traders, and some (notoriously to Australia) were dispatched as convicts. The majority went to make a new life, many escaping hunger and misery at home.

Fearful of a repeat of the loss of their American empire, the British governments of the day conceded "self-government" to British

settlers, albeit in fits and starts. An early marker was laid down with by the North America Act of 1867, which created confederation in Canada.

As dominions, such settler states enjoyed "self-government" over their internal affairs. But, they lacked total independence as Britain continued to control their foreign affairs, and notably, the right to take them into a war.

South Africa had become a "dominion" at Union in 1910, and Prime Minister Louis Botha attended the Imperial Conference the following year. In response to the growing assertiveness of the four dominions, the British Government made a significant concession.

It retained the right to declare that the dominions would join it in declaring war against an enemy state. But, it conceded that they would have the right to decide their level of support for the war effort. The British were wholly confident that Australia, Canada and New Zealand would display their loyalty for "the mother country" in any European conflict.

However, a question hung over South Africa. Its government was headed by Botha and Jan Smuts, two former Boer generals who had recently been fighting against the British. This was answered in 1914. When it came to the crunch, Botha and Smuts threw South African troops into the First World War without any hesitation.

They subsequently took to the field in uniform to crush an Afrikaner Nationalist rebellion against fighting "Britain's war". Yet, when the war was over, a Nationalist government led by another former Boer general, Barry Hertzog, led the way in securing a further concession from the British at the Imperial Conference in 1926.

This time round, the dominions gained the right to run their own foreign policies, to have separate diplomatic representation in countries around the world, and importantly, to decide for themselves whether to side with Britain in the event of another war.

All this was confirmed by the Statute of Westminster of 1931. Come 1939, Smuts won a critical vote in the Union Parliament to lead South Africa into the Second World War against Nationalist opposition. But, they took their revenge by defeating him in the 1948 election.

Although Nationalist desire for South Africa to cut ties with Britain and become a republic ran deep, caution initially prevailed, and formally, the Queen remained head of state, represented by a governor-general as her viceroy. But when faced with hostility to apartheid by African states, Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd led South Africa out of the Commonwealth.

By 1961, it was also a republic.

Decolonisation

This began with the Gold Coast, which achieved "self-government" in 1951 before moving rapidly to independence as Ghana in 1957. Government was now firmly in African hands. But, the imperial legacy remained in the form of a governor-general, who represented the Queen as the country's formal head of state and sovereign. But, this was not to last long.

The time of the Great White Queen sitting at the heart of the Empire had long gone, and Ghana transitioned to the status of a republic in 1960 with Kwame Nkrumah becoming its first president and head of state. Albeit with local variations, this was the route followed in virtually every other British African territory over the course of the following two decades.

By the late 1970s, every formerly British African state, bar Lesotho and Swaziland (now eSwatini), whose own monarchs replaced the Queen as head of state, had become a republic.

The exception which proved the rule was Rhodesia. White Rhodesians, a tiny proportion of the territory's population, had obtained self-government in 1923, yet, Britain had retained nominal sovereignty. As one African government after another swept to freedom, the Rhodesians wanted to follow suit to retain white rule, but fearing African reaction, Britain had declined to grant full independence unless an incoming government had a democratic mandate.

Britain's relationships with its former African colonies are now those of trade, aid and diplomacy.

Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front party rebelled and unilaterally declared independence in 1965 and although the white settlers famously thought themselves more British than the British themselves, declared in 1970 that they no longer recognised the Queen as head of state and declared Rhodesia a republic. This never gained international recognition, and a conservative politician, Christopher Soames, returned briefly as governor and the Queen's representative in 1980.

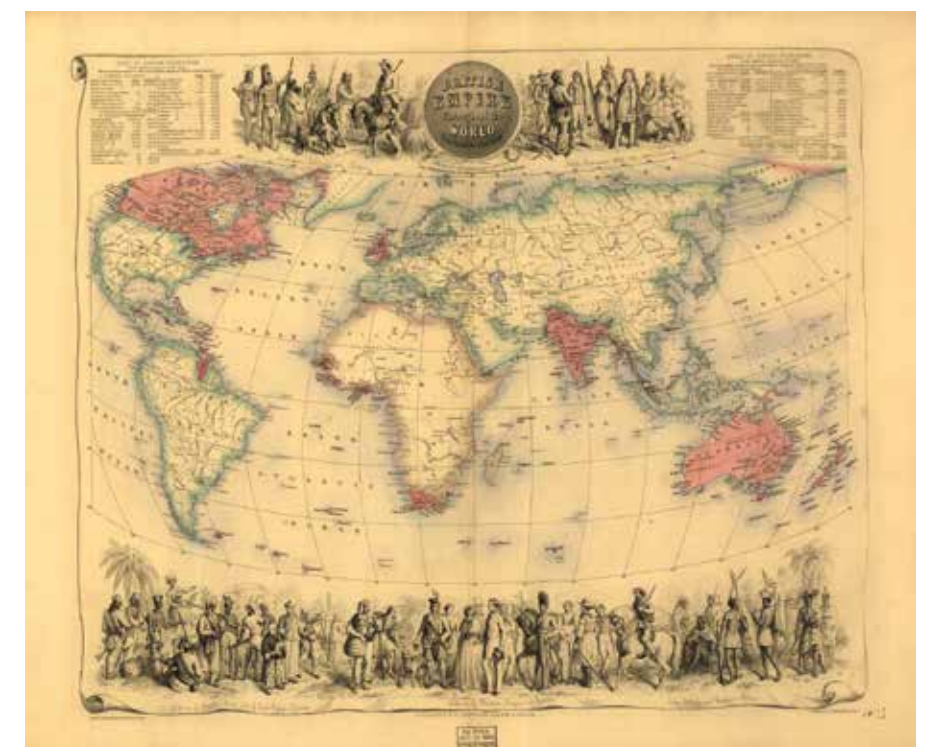
The last British governor in Africa, he waved goodbye when Rhodesia transitioned to independence as the Republic of Zimbabwe in 1980.

Looking to the future

Britain's relationships with its former African colonies are now those of trade, aid and diplomacy. The Queen herself remains highly respected and acknowledged as head of the Commonwealth. Yet, once she has gone, and that cannot be long, even that status for the British monarch may go.

At that moment, the rout of the British monarchy in Africa will be complete. 

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IMPLEMENTING THE BANGKOK RULES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Bangkok Rules aim for the inclusion of a gender perspective and the fulfilment of women's rights in the criminal justice and prison system and guide the development and implementation of appropriate responses to women offenders.

By John Jeffery
Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development

The year 2020 marked the 10th anniversary of the Bangkok Rules – or, as they are formally known, the United Nations (UN) Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders.

The Bangkok Rules complement the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (or, as they are better known, the Nelson Mandela Rules) as well as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules).

The Bangkok Rules cover a wide range of human rights' aspects and deal with, among others, admission procedures, including aspects such as family contact, legal advice and caretaking arrangements for children; hygiene and healthcare; safety and security; contact with the outside world; classification of inmates; prison visits; reintegration after release; and non-custodial measures for women in conflict with the law and those in detention.

The Bangkok Rules aim for the inclusion of a gender perspective and the fulfilment of women's rights in the criminal justice and

prison system and guide the development and implementation of appropriate responses to women offenders.

It focusses on gender-specific options for diversionary measures and pre-trial and sentencing alternatives, taking account of the history of victimisation of many women offenders and their caretaking responsibilities.

In March 2020, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published a *Toolkit on Gender-Responsive Non-Custodial Measures*, which seeks to provide support and guidance on taking steps to ensure that women in conflict with the law are not detained or imprisoned unnecessarily and that detention is used as a measure of last resort, based on the acknowledgment that incarceration can be detrimental to women and their children.

By early May 2022 in South Africa, there was a total inmate population of 143 778 in correctional centres. Of these, 3 785 were female, which amounted to 2.63% of the inmate population. Of the 3 785 female inmates, 1 412 were unsentenced and 2 373 sentenced.

Studies have shown that the global female prison population is steadily increasing. In South Africa, the number of incarcerated

females had been declining for three years, until 2022.

The total number of female inmates, comprising sentenced, unsentenced and state patients in correctional facilities, decreased from 4 316 in 2018/19 to 3 982 in 2019/20 and 3 453 in 2020/21.

The State has a responsibility to care for inmates in a manner that does not violate or compromise their constitutional rights. The Revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) set out essential elements that are suitable and adequate in penal institutions housing inmates.

Collectively, these rules set out to fulfil the right to health for inmates, ensuring their lawful right to access to medical care, timely, medical attention, professional standard of care, preventative health and environmental health.

The White Paper on Corrections states that the primary responsibility of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is first and foremost to correct the offending behaviour, in a secure, safe and humane environment, in order to facilitate the achievement of rehabilitation and avoidance of recidivism.

There are 243 active correctional centres across South Africa.

Eight are for women only, 13 for youths and 129 for men only. A total of 91 accommodate women in a section of the correctional centre.

The number of women in correctional centres is very small in proportion to the overall prison population. There is a clear understanding and commitment to the fact that female offenders do have unique needs that must be recognised and addressed.

In terms of keeping children in centres or babies born in correctional centres, our system allows babies up to the age of two. Measures have been taken to redesign some sections to create crèches and provide recreational facilities. The DCS also ensures that babies born in prison do not have that fact noted on their birth registration document. This is all part of the Imbeleko Project, through which 16 female correctional centres had been designed with mother and baby units to accommodate children.

The DCS is also working with a number of stakeholders, including other government departments and NGOs, to provide healthcare services for the prevention of communicable and non-communicable conditions, pregnancy and post-partum care, including referral to specialists, and general promotion of health for women and their babies, including prevention of mother-to-child-HIV transmission, special diets for nursing mothers and children, vaccinations and health education.

Social work and psychological services are also available internally or through referrals after proper assessments. These stakeholders and NGOs also assist with the alternative placement of babies after leaving correctional facilities at the age of two years and try

to ensure and enable continued contact between the mothers and their children.

In an attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19 in overcrowded correctional facilities, government implemented the 2020 COVID-19 Special Parole Dispensation (SPD) for selected low-risk offenders who had served their minimum detention period and those who were approaching their minimum detention period in the next five years.

The SPD was announced by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services in May 2020. The category of low-risk sentenced offenders who qualified for the SPD were sentenced offenders who had or would have reached their minimum detention periods within a period of 60 months from 27 April 2020.

With regard to female inmates specifically, the structured release schedule was implemented with the first category of offenders considered for release from correctional centres being mothers with babies, females, children, youth, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

While that is the position in relation to our correctional facilities, what about the rest of the Criminal Justice System (CJS)?

And how does it respond to women in detention and those in conflict with the law?

One needs to highlight that the majority of women sentenced to incarceration in South Africa are serving short-term sentences. There is thus a greater potential for successful rehabilitation through alternative sentences.

If one views the CJS as a long chain of various stakeholders – like the South African Police Service, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, court officials, Legal Aid SA practitioners, prosecutors, probation officers and social workers, judges and magistrates, and DCS officials – it is

The State has a responsibility to care for inmates in a manner that does not violate or compromise their constitutional rights. The Revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) set out essential elements that are suitable and adequate in penal institutions housing inmates.

evident that each and every one of us have a very specific role to play in making our CJS more gender-responsive.

All over the world, women offenders tend to have unique pathways to crime, often making them unsuited for incarceration.

This is especially the case for victims of trafficking, women who are exploited by criminal networks, sex workers or women who have experienced gender-based violence (GBV). Prior victimisation and GBV are key issues for women in conflict with the law, which is often part of the pathways to conditions and consequences of imprisonment of women.

Many incarcerated women have committed non-violent and/or so-called victimless crimes such as using drugs, suggesting that incarceration may neither be the most appropriate nor proportionate response. ►►

There is a very clear understanding and commitment to the fact that female offenders do have unique needs that must be recognised and addressed.

Many women in conflict with the law have not committed violent offences and a large majority do not pose a risk to society. Many simply cannot pay the fines imposed on them because they are poor.

So, what are the specific factors which lead to discrimination against women in the CJS?

These factors have been identified as:
Firstly, legislation and/or its implementation, in other words, provisions that appear to be gender-neutral may be discriminatory if, in practice, charges are brought only or predominantly against women.

Secondly, vulnerability to pre-trial detention, as many women, particularly those in situations of vulnerability and who are economically disadvantaged, cannot afford bail or the services of a legal representative and are therefore likely to be detained before trial.

Thirdly, gender stereotypes and biases, as women who are seen to be violating entrenched norms of gender behaviour may face challenges such as their statements being considered less credible or they may face a heavier burden of proof than men and therefore may be sentenced more harshly.

One of the recommendations made by the UNODC is that we need greater understanding and sensitised criminal justice responses to the pathways from victims of GBV or trafficking, to that of perpetrators of drug or related crimes.

Non-custodial measures can reduce the social and economic cost of imprisonment, the

prison population and rates of recidivism. Non-custodial measures should be considered at every stage of the criminal justice process.

A range of non-custodial measures are applied in South Africa, which include, among others, the imposition of fines, caution and discharge, compensation orders, suspended sentences, correctional supervision, community service orders, house arrest with monitoring, electronic monitoring, committal to an institution and with a range of programmes and conditions (for example, compulsory attendance of drug treatment programmes and testing.)

Possibly one of the best-known cases in South Africa, is the case of Ellen Pakkies. Ms Pakkies, a mother from Lavender Hill on the Cape Flats, killed her son, Abie, in 2007. He was addicted to tik and abused her, verbally and physically, and stole from his own parents. Ms Pakkies tried for seven years to find help – from the police, welfare services, the courts, rehabilitation centres – but to no avail. She pleaded guilty to murder in the Magistrates Court and received a suspended sentence and 280 hours of community service. In passing sentence, the magistrate said that the system had failed Ellen.

Every stakeholder has a role to play. Sentencing falls within the discretion of the courts, but there are arguments in favour of the legislature putting sentencing guidelines in legislation to specifically direct trial courts

to consider more nuanced sentencing approaches in the context of the Tokyo Rules and the Bangkok Rules.

There is the National Preventative Mechanism (NPM), which was established in terms of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in 2019. The NPM monitors various places of deprivation of liberty, such as police stations, mental health institutions, correctional centres, refugee reception centres, secure care centres and child and youth care centres.

South Africa has bodies such as the Chapter 9 institutions and the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS) as a vital body that seeks to ensure inmates' rights.

Civil society also plays an extremely important role. Many may be familiar with the Sonke Gender Justice case, where the court was asked to consider the constitutionality of sections of the Correctional Services Act to the extent the provisions failed to provide an adequate level of independence to the JICS.

Academia is another fundamental role player, as we rely heavily on research and other studies in order to guide us on the implementation of our laws and compliance with international instruments, and also to provide us with crucial information in order to shape public policy and decision-making. 📖



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Lion | The King



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TOURISM RECOVERY UNDERWAY

The turnaround in the performance of the sector, although from a low base, is apparent for all to see. Most sector performance indicators we are measuring showed an upturn in the year 2021. Travel by South Africans has increased by 173%, while foreign visitors grew by 254%.

By Lindiwe Sisulu
Minister of Tourism

Now more than ever, there is greater hope of global tourism recovery since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. Confidence in our country as a tourism destination is lifting as various partners and airlines resume operations in South Africa. Throughout this period, South Africans have shown their resilience and solid commitment to the tourism sector and indeed supported domestic tourism through these very trying times.

Global tourism is rebounding despite lingering COVID-19 restrictions and the effects of the conflict in Ukraine, but tourist arrival numbers are not back to pre-pandemic levels. The pace of recovery is slow and uneven across world regions and this is due to varying degrees of mobility restrictions, vaccination rates and traveller confidence.

International tourist arrivals were up 4% in 2021. The outlook for 2022 holds better prospects, although opinion is split on whether rebound will take place in 2022 or 2023. The United Nations World Trade Organisation's (UNWTO) expectation is that international arrivals will return to 2019 levels only in 2024 or later.

South Africa is among those African destinations that experienced the biggest declines in arrivals in 2021: 78% down vs 2019, while countries in East Africa were not as deeply affected: Kenya 55% down, Tanzania 39% and Ethiopia 26% (UNWTO).

According to the Airports Company South Africa, air travel to and from South Africa has reached its highest levels of activity since the COVID-19 pandemic – almost 2.3 million through OR Tambo, Cape Town, Durban in March – up 70% from the previous year.

Recovery is being bolstered by international arrivals. Cape Town International Airport's total passenger activity had increased to 66% of levels last seen in the first quarter of 2019. January and February 2022 saw strong growth in arrivals from the United Kingdom (UK), Netherlands, Australia, Germany and Switzerland: 549% up in 2022

versus 2021 from our top 10 source markets (Stats SA).

International airlines can't keep up with the demand for travel to and from South Africa, resulting in stubbornly high airfares made even worse by soaring fuel prices.

We are experiencing numerous seismic social, economic and humanitarian crises.

First, was the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact was immediate and restrictions on movement devastated the global tourism sector and hampered recovery efforts in 2021/22.

Second, has been the dramatic floods in KwaZulu-Natal, which have greatly affected the health, welfare and livelihoods in sectors such as tourism. An estimated 40 723 people have been affected.

Tourism has always been one of the most lucrative activities, contributing billions to the local economy in job creation and small business development. But since the onset of the pandemic, the July unrest in 2021 and the devastating April floods, the sector has suffered losses estimated to be billions.

These events force us to dedicate resources to support the recovery of our economy, and especially the tourism sector. Importantly, they challenge us to answer the question: how do we build an inclusive and resilient tourism sector and economy which, as it grows, will ensure the participation of women and young people in a meaningful way?

The floods in KwaZulu-Natal have also announced the sobering reality that climate change is here. The unpredictable and dramatic weather conditions will affect our sector especially, and we should be intentional in our planning and budgeting in a way that demonstrates our awareness of the changes in our world, and a sensitivity to the conditions and vulnerability of our people. We cannot be reactionary. Our people rely on their government to put in place measures to support

and safeguard their lives and livelihoods from both predictable and unpredictable crisis.

Stabilising the sector and strategising for recovery

During our attendance at the Arabian Travel Market, SA Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Emirates Airlines to grow the tourism market in South Africa. Air travel is a key pillar of South Africa's tourism recovery and we expect this will boost visitor arrivals. It will promote tourism and inbound traffic to South Africa from key markets across the Emirates network. The Middle East is a critical market for South Africa, so this collaboration will be instrumental in ensuring ease of access to and from South Africa for travellers from this region and will assist us in elevating our trade efforts.

A similar effort is underway with Qatar Airways. This follows successful efforts we have undertaken, in the spirit of our people who have risen to the challenge of every obstacle. We invested in ensuring that as the world re-opens, Destination South Africa remains top of mind in our key markets and beyond through:

- Launching the Global Advocacy Programme to ensure that consumers, trade partners and the global media are informed about Destination South Africa.
- Hosting Meetings Africa under the theme "Advancing the African Agenda Together". Meetings Africa, now in its 16th year, was created in response to the global meeting industry's growing recognition of Africa as a sought-after premier business event destination. There were 13 countries exhibiting from the African continent and just under 200 buyers, representing 40 countries.
- Championing the removal of "red listing" of South Africa through diplomatic efforts. Furthermore, through structured engagement with the sector, tourism has been able to make a case for its readiness to operate safely and this has yielded good results.

- Various campaigns focussing on the domestic market to encourage South Africans to enjoy the beauty and heritage our home has to offer.
- South Africa securing a seat on the UNWTO Executive Council, which is the highest decision-making body and successfully lobbied the UNWTO to back African states and call on the world to reopen their borders.
- Sponsoring a framework for the establishment of the Africa Tourism Unit at the African Union Commission to strengthen regional integration.
- Regional collaboration and synchronisation of policy. An MoU was signed with Kenya.
- Holding bilateral engagements with key Investors in the United Arab Emirates and Gulf Cooperation Council Region, which have shown interest to invest in tourism-mega projects.
- Supportive interventions led by the Ministry and SA Tourism to reconnect Destination South Africa through air service development working through multi-stakeholder public- and private-sector structures.
- Launching a new global campaign, titled: *Live Again*, through which we are encouraging everyone to take the reins and explore all South Africa has to offer.

The turnaround in the performance of the sector, although from a low base, is apparent for all to see. Most sector performance indicators we are measuring showed an upturn in the year 2021. Travel by South Africans has increased by 173%, while foreign visitors grew by 254%. This is according to statistics from Stats SA comparing February 2022 to the same period last year. The recovery is underway.

It is this glimmer of hope that strengthens our resolve to do even more; to plant more seeds that will see tourism growth beyond the 2019 levels. 





How visionary scientist Bernie Fanaroff put African astronomy on the map

The project quickly became about more than just science: it also drove human capacity development in South African astronomy. At the time of the SKA bid, there were only five or six radio astronomers in the country.

By Daniel Cunnama, Science Engagement Astronomer, South African Astronomical Observatory, and Jacinta Delhaize, Lecturer, University of Cape Town

Recent decades have seen remarkable growth in astronomy on the African continent. Africa enjoys pristine dark skies and vast radio quiet zones, making it the ideal home for many advanced telescopes trained on our galaxy and beyond.

For instance, Namibia hosts the High Energy Spectroscopic System, which is an impressive gamma-ray telescope. The Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) in

the small South African town of Sutherland is the largest optical telescope in the southern hemisphere. The MeerKAT telescope in South Africa's arid and sparsely populated Karoo region is one of the world's most powerful radio telescopes. It is also one of the precursor telescopes that have been built in preparation for an almighty radio telescope called the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).

The SKA is an international mega-science project. Part of it will be built in South Africa and will incorporate MeerKAT. The other part will be

built in Western Australia. Construction of the SKA is expected to begin this year.

Through these and other projects, Africa is beginning to emerge as a world leader in astronomy. Many brilliant scientists contribute to this status – but without one, Dr Bernie Fanaroff, the SKA might never have come to South African shores.

We are both astronomers and, in March 2019 launched a podcast, *The Cosmic Savannah*, to showcase the amazing astronomy and astrophysics coming out of the

African continent. When we reached the 50th episode, Bernie was the obvious guest for the landmark occasion.

Who better than Bernie, we thought, to reflect on how the discipline reached this point.

Fanaroff is one of the key individuals responsible for the current growth and strength of astronomy in South Africa.

He is a world-renowned radio astronomer who, while working on his PhD at Cambridge University in the early 1970s, made a breakthrough discovery about radio galaxies. Radio galaxies contain supermassive black holes at their cores, which spew out huge jets of plasma and glow at radio wavelengths.

Bernie and his collaborator, a British astronomer named Julia Riley, were some of the first people to examine high-resolution images of such radio galaxies.

They noticed that the luminosity of a radio galaxy was closely related to the shape of the plasma jets. This led to what became known as the "Fanaroff-Riley" classification system, still used today, in which galaxies are grouped by their "Fanaroff-Riley" type.

But, it took decades for Fanaroff to learn that a classification system had been named partly in his honour. He left the field of astronomy shortly after completing his PhD. Incensed by the poor treatment of workers in apartheid South Africa, he joined the National Union of Metalworkers, eventually becoming its national secretary. He later served in Nelson Mandela's government, beginning in 1994.

Come 2003, he attended an astronomy conference – and discovered he was world famous. He told us:

"One or two people said to me, 'Are you the Fanaroff of Fanaroff-Riley?' This was actually news to me. And they said, 'We thought you were dead! We heard you'd died because nobody's heard anything of you since, you know, 1974.' So, I said, 'No, I haven't died and it is me,' but it was all a bit of a surprise."

After this, Fanaroff returned to astronomy: he became the project director for South Africa's bid to host the SKA Telescope. Both South Africa and Australia were finalists in the bid; in 2012, it was decided by the international SKA consortium that the telescope would be split between both sites.

A long-term vision

Fanaroff and his colleague, Professor Justin Jonas, drove the bid. In our interview, he recalled:

"So, [Jonas] said, if we're going to have the world's largest telescope in South Africa and in Africa, we better develop a community of radio astronomers and engineers who can build it and use it. So, we were able to persuade our steering committee that we should start building a precursor."

The project quickly became about more than just science: it also drove human capacity development in South African astronomy. At the time of the SKA bid, there were only five or six radio astronomers in the country.

He explained:

"We decided very early on that we had to focus on getting the young people into science and making sure that we could develop them. So, we put aside money for grants for undergraduate study in Physics and Engineering, for postgraduate study, for master's and PhD students, for research fellows."

Ultimately, it was this long-term vision, which led to Bernie and his team landing the biggest global scientific project in Africa.

A bright age of astronomy

Thanks to people like Bernie, the future is bright for African astronomy. His message to young researchers, he said on the podcast, is:

"I think that you're actually in a golden age of astronomy and I really envy you and the other young people who are coming into astronomy. Now you've got the MeerKAT, but you'll soon have the SKA, which will be a wonderful telescope."

Fanaroff is one of the key individuals responsible for the current growth and strength of astronomy in South Africa. He is a world-renowned radio astronomer who, while working on his PhD at Cambridge University in the early 1970s, made a breakthrough discovery about radio galaxies.

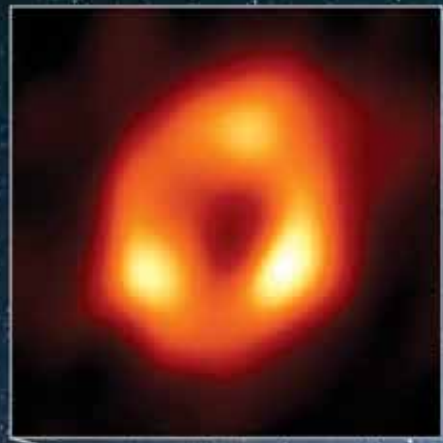
He added: "You'll have the James Webb Space Telescope, which will be a revolutionary optical and infrared telescope. You've got all the other new telescopes, the Extremely Large Telescope (in Chile), gamma-ray telescopes. And of course, you've now got gravitational wave telescopes. So, you're in a golden age where you're going to be having so many opportunities." 🌌

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.





The small Namaqualand town of Nieuwoudtville lies on the Bokkeveld Escarpment, just north of the border between the Western and Northern Cape. Known as the "Bulb Capital of the World", it is home to, among others, the spectacular March flowers (*Brunsvigia Bosmaniae*), which only bloom if it rains during the month of March. *Brunsvigia bosmaniae* is a South African geophyte belonging to the family *Amaryllidaceae*.



The unveiling of an image of our black hole, Sagittarius A*, is not just a massive moment for science. It could also be an important catalyst for diversifying African astrophysics research using existing strengths.

By Roger Deane

Director: Wits Centre for Astrophysics; SKA Chair in Radio Astronomy, University of the Witwatersrand

Astronomers have revealed the first image of the black hole at the centre of our galaxy, the Milky Way. The image was produced by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) Collaboration, an international team made up of over 300 scientists on five continents – including Africa.

Black holes were predicted by Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity over a century ago. They are regions of space so dense that nothing, including light, can escape. Their boundary is known as the event horizon, which marks the point of no return. That's just one of the reasons these objects are hidden from our eyes. The other is that they are exceedingly small, when placed in their cosmic context. If our Milky Way galaxy were the size of a soccer field, its black hole event horizon would be a million times smaller than a pin prick at centrefield.

How, then, can one photograph them? Our team did so by capturing light from the hot swirling gas in the immediate vicinity of the black hole. This light, with a wavelength of 1 millimetre, is recorded by a global network of antennas that form a single, Earth-sized virtual telescope.

The light looks rather like a ring; a characteristic signature that is the direct consequence of two key processes. First, the black hole is so dense that it bends the path of light near it. Second, it captures light that strays too close to the event horizon. The combined effect produces a so-called black hole shadow – a brightened ring surrounding a distinct deficit of light centred on the black hole. In the case of our Milky Way black hole, this ring has the apparent size of a doughnut on the moon, requiring an extraordinary engineering effort to bring it into focus.

The unveiling of an image of our black hole, Sagittarius A*, is not just a massive moment for science. It could also be an important catalyst for diversifying African astrophysics research using existing strengths. We were the only

two of more than 300 EHT team members based on the African continent. The continent doesn't host any EHT telescopes – we were brought on board because of expertise we've developed in preparation for the world's largest radio telescope, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), to be co-hosted by South Africa and Australia.

Why the image is important

This is not the first time a black hole image has captured people's attention. We were also members of the team that captured the first-ever image of a black hole in 2019 (this one is at the centre of a different galaxy, Messier 87, which is 55 million light years away). It has been estimated that more than 4.5 billion people saw that image. Sagittarius A* has also dominated headlines and captured people's imaginations.

But there's more to this result than just an incredible image. A plethora of rich scientific results have been described in 10 publications by the team. Here are three of our primary highlights.

First, the image is a remarkable validation of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. The EHT has now imaged two black holes with masses that differ by a factor of over 1000. Despite the dramatic difference in mass, the measured size and shape are consistent with theoretical predictions.

Second, we have now imaged black holes with very different environments. A wealth of prior research over the past two or three decades shows strong empirical evidence that galaxies and their black holes co-evolve over cosmic time, despite their completely disparate sizes.

By zooming into the event horizon of black holes in giant galaxies like M87, as well as more typical galaxies like our own Milky Way, we learn more about how this seemingly implausible relationship between the black hole and its host galaxy plays out.

Third, the image provides us with new insights on the central black hole in our own

galactic home. It is the nearest such beast to Earth, so it provides a unique laboratory to understand this interplay – not unlike scrutinising a tree in your own garden to better understand the forests on the distant horizon.

Southern Africa's geographic advantage

We are proud to be part of the team that produced the first black hole images. In future, we believe South Africa, and the African continent more broadly (including a joint Dutch-Namibian initiative), could play a critical role in making the first black hole movies.

As has been the case with the country's key role in paleoanthropology, there are contributions to global astronomy that can only be made from South African soil. Sagittarius A* lies in the southern sky, passing directly above South Africa. That is a major reason why this image of the Milky Way's centre, taken by the MeerKAT (a precursor to the SKA) is the best there is.

South Africa also has well-established infrastructure at its astronomical sites, which are protected by legislation. And it has world-class engineers at the forefront of their craft. This makes for low-cost, high-performance telescopes delivered on time and to budget.

New technology is also on our side: a cutting-edge simultaneous multi-frequency receiver design, pioneered by our Korean colleagues, means that EHT sites no longer need to be the most pristine, high-altitude locations on Earth.

All the elements are in place for a dramatic increase in the number of young Africans who participate in this new era of black hole imaging and precision tests of gravity. In the coming years, we hope to be writing about findings that couldn't have been made without technology on South African soil, as well as African scientists leading high-impact, high-visibility EHT science in synergy with our multi-wavelength astronomy and high-energy astrophysics programmes. 🌌

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All the elements are in place for a dramatic increase in the number of young Africans who participate in this new era of black hole imaging and precision tests of gravity.

African scientists and technology could drive future black hole discoveries

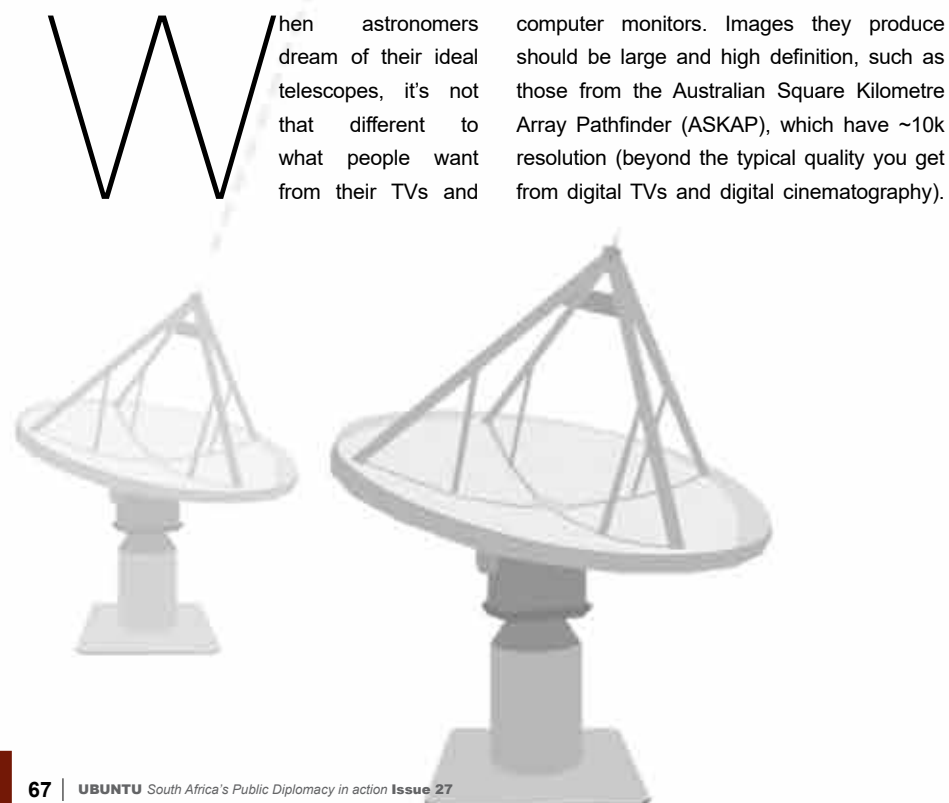
Future discoveries far above us may look faint – but the possibilities paint a bright future.

Combined power of two telescopes is helping crack the mystery of eerie rings in the sky

MeerKAT's unique sensitivity and sampling ability, achieved by its large number of dishes (64, located in a remote part of South Africa's Northern Cape province), highly sensitive low-noise amplifiers and large bandwidth, enable these objects to be studied in greater detail. MeerKAT is the best imaging radio telescope of its kind.

By Jordan Collier

Ilifu Support Astronomer, Inter-University Institute for Data Intensive Astronomy



When astronomers dream of their ideal telescopes, it's not that different to what people want from their TVs and computer monitors. Images they produce should be large and high definition, such as those from the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP), which have ~10k resolution (beyond the typical quality you get from digital TVs and digital cinematography).

And they should have a high dynamic range, indicating high-quality imaging with deep sensitivity to faint objects. But not every telescope can do it all. That's why complementary science – using some telescopes for some tasks, others for different but related tasks, and then combining the data – is so important in astronomy.

The value of complementary science is emphasised in our recent paper. We worked with ASKAP and South Africa's MeerKAT telescope to harness their different capabilities.

In 2019, ASKAP discovered a rare and mysterious type of object, referred to as an "odd radio circle" (ORC). We didn't know what these eerie glowing rings in the sky were.

It took data from MeerKAT to help us conclude that the circles are most likely enormous shells of gas, about a million light years across, emanating from the central galaxy.

Neither the discovery nor the detail would have been possible without both telescopes. ASKAP's uniquely large field of view enables the discovery of rare objects like ORCs. It also enabled the discovery of many new Fast Radio Bursts; these are seemingly rare, extremely bright and short-lived flashes of radio waves.

Meanwhile, MeerKAT's unique sensitivity and sampling ability, achieved by its large number of dishes (64, located in a remote part of South Africa's Northern Cape province), highly sensitive low-noise amplifiers and large bandwidth, enable these objects to be studied in greater detail. MeerKAT is the best imaging radio telescope of its kind.

Both ASKAP and MeerKAT are precursors to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). This is a global project to build the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope within the coming decade, co-located in South Africa and Australia. As our new research makes clear, complementary science will be at the heart of the SKA. This is an exciting prospect for African science, with South Africans putting themselves forward as world leaders within radio astronomy.

The nature of ORC1

Our new paper focusses on the first ORC that ASKAP discovered in 2019. We call it ORC1. MeerKAT provided something critical to deepening our understanding of what it might be and how it formed: beautiful, detailed images.

The data we collected from MeerKAT was run through a complex workflow. This was developed and provided by the Inter-University Institute for Data Intensive Astronomy (IDIA), a partnership of three South African universities. This specialised software enabled specific data products to be generated, such as images of ORC1's polarisation and "radio colour".

MeerKAT's technology revealed three especially important and previously uncertain details about ORC1. First was the object's internal structure, revealed for the first time due to MeerKAT's deep sensitivity and high resolution. We can now see ORC1 contains multiple arcs, a radio source where the central galaxy is located, and knots of radio emission associated with other galaxies within the vicinity.

Our theory is that the central galaxy, a few billion light years away, caused the ORC during a particular event. This may have been the merging of supermassive black holes or

a starburst event (the rapid forming of many stars within the galaxy) that occurred billions of years ago. It was during this event, we hypothesise, that the ORC expanded to its enormous size of about 1.6 million light years.

The second detail revealed by MeerKAT's data relates to the ORC's polarisation, made possible by its deep sensitivity.

All light from the electromagnetic spectrum is polarised: its magnetic and electric fields are oriented in a certain direction. However, waves or photons from an unpolarised source of light are randomly polarised – they do not tend toward any particular orientation.

Certain physical processes, such as the presence of magnetic fields, can polarise light. This causes some or all of the waves to be oriented in the same direction. We found that ORC1 is strongly polarised along its outer ring.

The third detail was the structure of ORC1's spectral index or "radio colour": how its brightness changes across frequency.

Typically, spectral index is measured with several radio telescopes combined, each observing at a different frequency that one can compare to see how the brightness changes. For large resolved sources like ORC1, there's huge scope for uncertainty. MeerKAT's large bandwidth enabled us to measure an "in-band" spectral index map across the entire source. Within this map, every pixel itself measures the spectral index across the many frequencies we've combined. Our resulting map showed a steep spectral index across both the ring and its internal structure, suggesting they may have been produced by the same mechanism.

These new details fit with an explanation where synchrotron radiation (electrons

whizzing around magnetic fields) is causing the radio emission, from a shell of gas in the form of a spherical shock wave. However, the internal arcs and rings require further explanation. We hypothesised that these are caused by the nearby galaxies moving through the shell and leaving trails in their wake.

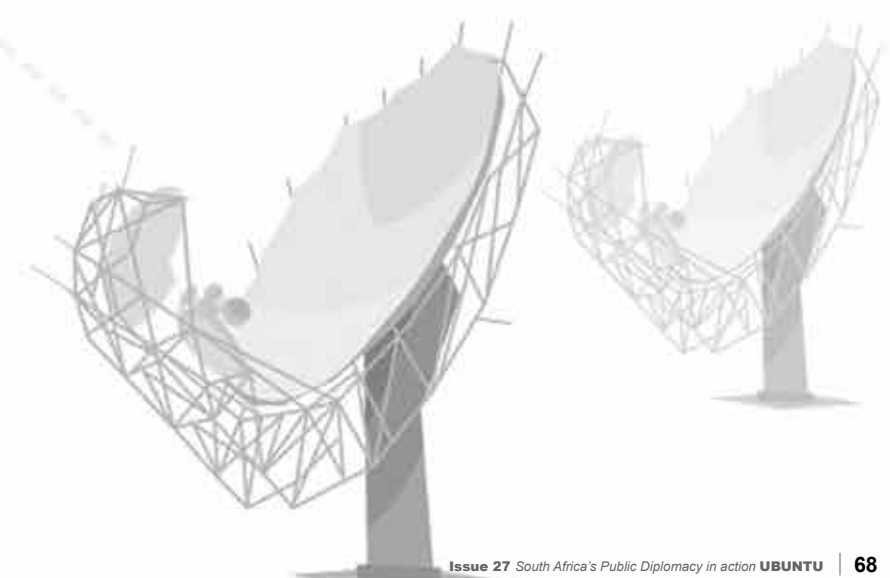
New questions to pursue

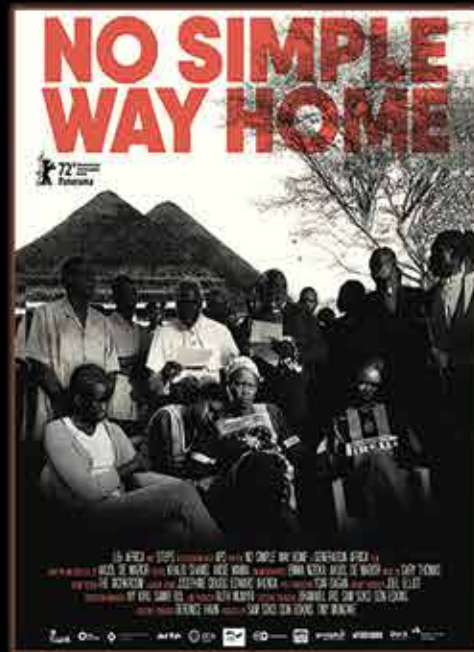
So, what does it all mean? As with so much radio astronomy, we're not certain: more data and information added to the mystery, with some clues provided.

However, we have three hypotheses to explain the nature of ORCs. One: it's a spherical shell from an expanding shock wave caused by a huge explosion, such as the coalescing of two supermassive black holes. Two: it's a spherical shell from the "termination shock" of a previous "starburst" event – when many stars rapidly formed within the galaxy over a short period of time. Three: it may be a view from one end of powerful radio jets of highly energetic particles that spew out from near a central supermassive black hole.

Not having definite answers may strike some as frustrating. But this is the nature of some science. What's exciting is that there's more to come: the SKA, which is due to become operational within the coming decade, will probe even more deeply into faint, rare and mysterious objects. This almost guarantees the discovery of the unexpected, as we've seen throughout the history of science, and as we now see with ORCs. Future discoveries far above us may look faint – but the possibilities paint a bright future. 🌌

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.





The award-winning African documentary project that goes inside the lives of migrants

Through attention to structure and storytelling, the *Generation Africa* films provide new insights by revealing the personal stories, circumstances, challenges and achievements of some of the individuals behind the anonymous statistics on migration.

By Liani Maasdorp, Senior Lecturer in Screen Production and Film and Television Studies, University of Cape Town (UCT); and Julia Cain, Lecturer in Screen Production and Film Theory and Practice, UCT

For far too long, the West has been telling stories about and talking on behalf of Africa. However, a new slate of 25 documentary films by African filmmakers called *Generation Africa* is currently making waves at international film festivals and is set to shift perspectives about migration in and from the continent.

It's the latest initiative by a Cape Town-based organisation called STEPS. For 20 years, the NGO has been an innovator in using film as a tool for social change and in developing talent from the continent. They produce ambitious theme-based collections of films that engage with pressing issues, in this case migration. The 25 new documentaries present diverse and nuanced insider perspectives of people moving both between African countries and from Africa.

Filmmakers from around Africa were invited to submit proposals for films specifically to address the missing perspective

of Africans on this contentious global issue. Several of the films have been completed, among them ones that have been gathering media attention for high-profile film festival selections and awards. *The Last Shelter* (Mali) had its world premiere at CPH:DOX in Denmark in 2021, where it also won the Dox:Award, the top prize at this festival. *No U-Turn* (Nigeria) received a Special Mention from the jury at the Berlin International Film Festival in February. *No Simple Way Home* (South Sudan) has recently won the DOK. horizonte prize at DOK.fest Munchen.

Premiering at one of these A-list festivals would be a crowning achievement for a documentary from anywhere in the world. But, festival success is merely the beginning of the plans for these films. From the start, STEPS wanted compelling stories that would offer images of Africans as active change-makers shaping their own destinies, whether they chose to move within the continent or out of it, whether to stay abroad or return.

Social change

STEPS stands for Social Transformation and Empowerment Projects. The organisation laid the groundwork in South Africa for what was then called outreach by many and is now referred to as impact producing, the design and implementation of a social change strategy with a film at its centre.

Its first programme in 2001, STEPS for the Future, focussed on southern African stories about people living with HIV/AIDS and pioneered the use of mobile cinemas to get films to hard-to-reach rural and semi-urban audiences. Though it often makes shorter films collaboratively with communities, STEPS also boasts a long history of high-profile international successes, like co-producing the 2008 Oscar-winning documentary *Taxi to the Dark Side* as part of its *Why Democracy* slate of 27 films.

STEPS intends that each of the *Generation Africa* documentaries has an impact campaign designed to effect targeted social change

centred on the issues raised in the film. Socio-political, economic and climate change crises drive many Africans to move to new countries as migrants, refugees or asylum-seekers. Many of the *Generation Africa* films have the potential to help lobby for policy change, raise money or secure material support for affected communities.

The STEPS method relies on creating meaningful conversations through holding audience engagements after a screening. These sometimes include filmmakers and participants from the films and are aimed at influencing social change at individual, community and policy level.

Three of the new films

The Last Shelter centres on several characters at the House of Migrants on the edge of the Sahara desert in the city of Gao in Mali. Some are about to undertake a perilous attempt to cross the desert, others seek shelter after failing to. It's clear that Malian filmmaker Ousmane Samassekou had privileged access to the people of the shelter.

No U-Turn, directed by Nollywood producer Ike Nnaebue, is structured around the migration journey he himself took as a young man travelling from Nigeria to Morocco, dreaming of Europe.

No Simple Way Home by Akou de Mabior reflects on her parents, who are past and present political leaders in South Sudan. She explores her own complicated relationship to the country.

Through attention to structure and storytelling, the *Generation Africa* films provide new insights by revealing the personal stories,

circumstances, challenges and achievements of some of the individuals behind the anonymous statistics on migration. The films are able to move audiences in such a way that there is the potential to effect change. But, impact strategy relies on much more than simply screening a film.

Impact strategies

To kickstart their impact strategy design, STEPS hosted an "impact lab" with the *Generation Africa* filmmakers. Best practice was explored on topics like facilitating audience conversations, working with partner organisations, creating impact goals for activist filmmakers and engaging with policymakers.

The Last Shelter's impact producer, Giulia Boccato-Borne, has already commenced an impact campaign. The film provides a meaningful way to initiate conversations with potential migrants before they leave their home country. And also with communities who put pressure on young people to migrate to support their extended families financially.

A specific goal at an individual level is to help Esther, a 16-year-old girl in the film running from a home situation so bad she chose to rather risk walking across the desert. She crossed to Algeria successfully after the film was shot but then fell into the hands of human traffickers. Khadija Benouataf, one of the impact team, used her Algerian connections to find the girl and place her in foster care. They are working on securing asylum for her.

No U-Turn, which is still in the initial stages of impact strategy design, plays particularly well to a European audience as it reveals the dreams and goals that drive individuals

For far too long, the West has been telling stories about and talking on behalf of Africa.

to migrate. After watching the film, it is much harder to see migration from Africa as a systemic problem that has to be "fixed". One is, instead, invited to dream with each of the characters during the road trip vignettes that make up the film. The director reflects towards the end:

"The countries of our birth do not allow us enough opportunities to dream. So, we cross to the next border, hoping there will be space for our dreams there."

No Simple Way Home's impact campaign has been supported by influential organisations like DocuBox Kenya, DocSociety, The Good Pitch and The Wickers. Their community screenings in South Sudan will kick off in July, led by impact producer Jacob Bul. Impact goals include opening intergenerational conversations around South Sudan's future and solidifying women's roles in leadership in Africa.

By contributing to conversations in Africa and globally about identity and home and the experience of being physically detached from your country of origin, the *Generation Africa* films play a role in shifting the contemporary narrative about migration and the people who move from country to country, and continent to continent, dreaming of a better future. 🌍

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

Antjie Krog and the role of the poet in South Africa's public life

This year, Antjie Krog turns 70 and her passions and commitments, forged in the 1970s, show no waning. For decades, she has represented the important role that a poet can play in public life in a fractured country.

By Anthea Garman
Professor of Journalism and Media Studies, Rhodes University

When South African writer Antjie Krog was just 17, she wrote a poem for her school magazine, which was shocking enough to upset Kroonstad High's parents. The furore caught the attention of the Sunday newspapers, who descended on the town in the Free State province.

The 17-year-old had expressed the desire to: "build myself a land/where skin colour doesn't count/only the inner brand/of self; where no goat face in parliament/can keep things permanently verkrampt/where I can love you,/can lie beside you in the grass/without saying 'I do'/where black and white hand in hand/can bring peace and love/to my beautiful land." (Translated from Afrikaans by Krog.)

In South Africa in 1970, the minority white government's apartheid policy spurned "racial" mixing and prohibited sexual relations between black and white. The poem attacked Afrikaner conservatives (*verkrampt* means cramped, but also a political designation).

Die Beeld newspaper repeated the entire poem and consulted Dr Ernst van Heerden, poet and head of Afrikaans and Nederlands at Wits University, about whether it had value. His opinion was that Krog's work was like that of famed poets Breyten Breytenbach and DJ Opperman. More press descended, and the poem was published again (in English in the *Rand Daily Mail*). Her mother got involved in defending her writing. The poem appeared in the African National Congress (ANC) publication *Sechaba* (the ANC, now the country's governing party, was then a liberation movement in exile). Her father was summoned by the Broederbond (a powerful and secretive patriarchal Afrikaans nationalist society) to explain how this could have happened.

This rapid set of events led to the publication of her first volume of poetry – *Dogter van Jeffa*

(Daughter of Jephthah) – but without the offending poem appearing in it.

That tale holds all the ingredients of Krog's unfolding trajectory as a South African voice: an uncompromising stance about her own experiences and thoughts and a courage to say them out loud, the instant attention of the press and literary fraternity, and a curious and appreciative audience.

This year, Antjie Krog turns 70 and her passions and commitments, forged in the 1970s, show no waning. For decades, she has represented the important role that a poet can play in public life in a fractured country.

Two audiences

With *Dogter van Jeffa*, Krog was immediately set on a path to become a serious poet, a writer mentored by Opperman and able to produce volume after volume with the assurance that thousands would buy them. But, the appearance of the poem in *Sechaba* and the *London Observer* gave Krog another audience; invisible and silent for many years until the liberation movements were unbanned and the ANC returned to South Africa.

At a rally in Soweto in 1989, ANC cadre Ahmed Kathrada, newly released from jail, quoted Krog's poem written when she was 17. How had he got his hands on it in prison on Robben Island? He thought it might have been in a magazine. It had so touched him, he'd written it out by hand and kept it.

So, Krog had become a recognised poet within South Africa, but also a voice of dissent and hope for those in prison and exile. The two hallmarks of the poem, aesthetic-poetic and personal-political, and their entanglement, have since marked all Krog's work as she has moved beyond poetry into journalism, into non-fiction book writing in English, and as she has taken up an academic post at the University of the Western Cape.

The truth commission

Krog had written book reviews for the press for some years before she became editor of

the left-leaning Afrikaans magazine *Die Suid-Afrikaan* in 1993. But it was in 1995, when the public broadcaster's radio team was gearing up to cover the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that Krog stepped properly into news journalism. She became leader of the Afrikaans reporting team at the SABC. The TRC was a court-like restorative justice body that sought to reveal human rights abuses under apartheid, which had formally ended in 1994.

Bringing a poet's sensibility to journalism, Krog pushed the boundaries of radio reporting. She insisted that the voices and sounds of those affected be foregrounded in the listener's ear. Journalist Hanlie Retief called her "a disturbing conscience, an umbilical cord between the TRC and Afrikaans-speakers. She ... let the often macabre testimonies sometimes wail, sometimes sing."

The constraints of news journalism irked Krog. In a great outpouring of energy, she produced a non-fiction book in English, which described the experiences of reporting on the TRC, *Country of My Skull*. The book also told the powerful stories of victims and their families.

It was this book with its blend of reportage, memoir, poetry and fiction that propelled Krog onto an international stage. Hundreds of invitations were made to talk at conferences and the book became incorporated into university courses all over the world. The book's power lies in the rawness of her experiences and unflinching descriptions, coupled with a worldwide attention to commissions of inquiry into past atrocities.

How South Africans speak to each other

Two more books followed as Krog took on creative non-fiction, *A Change of Tongue* and *Begging to be Black*. Working in both English and Afrikaans, she did her own translations and brought out more poetry, like *Body Bereft/Verweeskryf* in 2006.

Using this facility in both languages, she also leaned on her experience during the

1980s, at anti-apartheid rallies with poets reading in other African languages. She ventured into writing that worked in the spaces between translation, into the somewhat untranslatable. The notable book, *There was this Goat*, co-written with Nosisi Mpolweni and Kopano Ratele, took on a TRC testimony that had elements of the fantastic and bizarre.

Krog was present during the testimony and had read the official translation but was dissatisfied with it. She, Mpolweni and Ratele worked on a retranslation. She had developed a preoccupation with how South Africans speak to each other, with how they listen and what they hear. As the authors write: "We became aware of the barriers we have to overcome, as well as the lengths we have to go to, in order to arrive at some understanding of our fellow human beings."

This project has become Krog's university work. Although earlier, she had embarked on translation and transcription projects, they were of her own writing or forays into older work in indigenous languages. Some were commissions, like the translation of former President Nelson Mandela's autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom* into Afrikaans. Now, she works with a team selecting key historical texts, usually in a single African language, which are then translated into many South African tongues.

Krog has been busy with the same work since she was 17: using all her literary devices to get South Africans to see and listen to each other. In my doctoral thesis and my book on Krog, I summed up the role I see her playing in South African public life. It's to affirm the literary as a resource for social and political life, bringing the personal into the political by asserting its messy, emotional and passionate dimensions, and by insisting on the very great value of open-hearted encounters with others. 🇿🇦

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Bringing a poet's sensibility to journalism, Krog pushed the boundaries of radio reporting. She insisted that the voices and sounds of those affected be foregrounded in the listener's ear. Journalist Hanlie Retief called her "a disturbing conscience, an umbilical cord between the TRC and Afrikaans-speakers. She ... let the often macabre testimonies sometimes wail, sometimes sing."



Legendary *Mike Mzileni* captured South Africa's history and also its musical stars

With Mike Mzileni's passing, we have lost the eye, heart and head of a titan of South African music portraiture.

By **Gwen Ansell**
Associate of the Gordon Institute for Business Science, University of Pretoria

Sophie Mgcina, composer, educationist and performer, gazes out from the page, uncompromising and direct. She's just swung around from the piano to face us; behind her, a score sits open. It's 1993, and she's been telling journalist ZB Molefe, "I had to work like 10 black women to get where I am today." But if she hadn't said it, photographer

Mike Ndumiso Mzileni's accompanying image would have stated it loud and clear.

Respected elder statesman of press photographers, Mzileni, has died at the age of 80, after a series of debilitating ailments, but not before an exhibition in January in Johannesburg had finally brought together both facets of his long career: news photography that captured history, and music photography where artists had the visual space to be who they really were.

Photojournalism

Mzileni was a photojournalist described by one reporter as "one of the last of the *Drum*-era soldiers credited as black journalism's pathfinders". He began working in the 1970s, during the turbulence of South Africa's apartheid years. He documented black life under white minority rule; one of the photographers who captured the Soweto Uprising of 1976.

Ndumiso Mzileni was born in Stutterheim in the Eastern Cape on 16 January 1942. His work featured in publications, including *The World*, *Drum*, the *Rand Daily Mail* and the *Sunday Times*. His longest stint was at *City Press*, which he joined on its establishment in 1982, rising to become chief photographer by his retirement in 2000.

Tributes were not slow to pour in: just about every young photographer who encountered him had memories of his kindness and support for their own careers, of the high newsroom standards he set and of the steadfast Africanist politics that informed his lens. "A camera is more powerful than an AK47," he admonished; be responsible in how you employ it.

The music photos

For jazz fans, it is Mzileni's images of music-making and musicians, collected in two books, *A Common Hunger to Sing* (the source of that Mgcina image) and *All That Jazz*, which bring home most powerfully the skill and insight we have lost. Alongside his vibrant performance images, Mzileni's jazz portraits, in particular, established a standard and an approach that inspired and influenced younger counterparts such as Sphiwe Mhlambi.

Philosopher Susan Sontag asserted, "The painter constructs, the photographer discloses." In other words, the truth of a photographic subject is there already; the photographer's art is finding it and expressing it as an image so viewers can find it too. Photographers make, not simply find and "take", photographs. Their

choices about a subject's setting and pose, and how a shot is framed and lit, can reveal or obscure that subject's truth, and sometimes even (accidentally or deliberately) convey something else entirely.

The worst of music photography – today's unskilled point and shoot fan shots, which editors too often use instead of employing specialist, skilled photographers – doesn't tell us much except what an artist was wearing, how wide their mouth gaped behind a mic or how dazzling the stage lights were.

But that was not Mzileni's enterprise. The discipline of black and white photography like his takes away the easy dazzle of stage lights and sequined costumes that a full-colour image can ride on. It makes intelligent choices about framing and lighting even more crucial.

Women of jazz

We see clearly how powerful those choices can be in the portraits of female artists Mzileni created for *A Common Hunger to Sing*.

There's a democracy between the artist in front of the camera and the one behind it in how Mzileni presents these women. Some have chosen to wear African finery (Mara Louw). Some, such as veteran Snowy Radebe, sit in their best chair, in their best jacket and neat beret: a respected matriarch of family and church. Others, like Mgcina, Lynette Leeuw, Nothembi Mkhwebane and Sathima Bea Benjamin, present themselves in the context of their music. Mgcina has that piano; Leeuw cradles her saxophone; Mkhwebane proffers

her guitar ahead of her; Benjamin fans out some of her albums. Some smile; some look thoughtful, challenging, solemn or sad.

And Mzileni's lens doesn't treat any of this as incidental to zoom in for the big shiny grin that has become the cliché of photographing female singers. Every fold and print detail of Louw's attire, for example, matters for that image, because her vocal identity is as a consummate stylist of song. The clearly-lit experience lines on the faces of stage veterans reinforce their authority and stature: the portrait of Dorothy Masuku is distilled down to the fierce intelligence of her expression, and the working hands that wrote her songs.

Mzileni was fond of chiaroscuro and used it well: light illuminates the joy of those who have told happy tales in Molefe's interviews; shadow underlines the regrets and frustrations of others. The full-page portrait of each artist does not just complement the full-page interview it sits opposite; it underlines but also enriches each story. The shared authorial credit on the book's cover is more than justified.

Another master photographer, the Frenchman Henri Cartier-Bresson, declared:

"It is an illusion that photographs are made with the camera ... they are made with the eye, heart and head."

With Mike Mzileni's passing, we have lost the eye, heart and head of a titan of South African music portraiture. 🕯

This article appeared in an earlier form on the author's web page and was later published on *The Conversation*.



Flying the FLAG

Gr 9 learner heads to Washington DC to advocate for South Africans



A Grade Nine learner from Curro Aurora is one of just three South African girls selected to represent adolescent girls and young women in an advocacy campaign for the Global Fund's seventh replenishment campaign in South Africa.

Fourteen-year-old Galaletsang Phalatse will partake in various activities between June and August 2022 to help make global leaders aware of the plight of girls and young women on the African continent. To wrap up her advocacy efforts, Phalatse will attend a high-

level meeting in Washington DC, hosted by Ambassador Nomaindiya Mfeketo, the South African Ambassador to the United States.

A passionate campaigner for female empowerment, Phalatse has been devoted to HIV prevention for as long as she can remember. Being able to raise awareness about the importance of comprehensive sexual education and better access to HIV-prevention methods on the global stage is central to her efforts.

"It is a huge honour and very humbling to be only one of three girls chosen to represent South Africa in this fantastic campaign. The Global Fund has done some fantastic work to help save lives by helping to provide HIV treatment. However, it is so important for young girls around the world to be equipped with the right knowledge to prevent HIV from spreading, and ensure we stay HIV-negative. I am so excited to see that the youth is taking part in changing the world and I get to be part of the impact," she says.

It was a compelling HIV-prevention video made by the voracious youngster for people in her local community that caught the attention of mentor Sibulele Sibaca. She, in turn, encouraged Galaletsang to get involved with the Global Fund campaign. With the help of the NGO, Impact Drivers, Phalatse created

an inspirational pitch at the start of 2022 and hasn't looked back since.

In March 2022, she was invited to be a panellist at an International Women's Day event, held in Sandton. Despite it being her first time presenting to such a large crowd, she confidently addressed them on pertinent issues affecting young girls today, alongside well-known celebrities and HIV activists.

"A huge congratulations to Galaletsang on her brilliant achievement. Galaletsang is exceptionally passionate about female empowerment, having previously spearheaded a Pad Drive in school to prevent less fortunate girls from missing school because of their periods. She is an inspiration to her peers, and we wish her only the best in America. We just know she will make the most of every opportunity thrown her way and come back with plenty of stories to share," says JC Engelbrecht, Executive Head at Curro Aurora.

The Global Fund campaign runs from March to October every three years, advocating for the end of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. The fund raises and invests billions of dollars every three years in more than 100 countries, and this year's pledging conference will be hosted by President Joe Biden in New York.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Leanne Manas awarded French National Order Merit



The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) has congratulated South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) *Morning Live* presenter, Leanne Manas, who

was bestowed with the Knight of the French National Order Merit on 16 May 2022.

The award recognises Manas' stellar contribution to journalism, media and various important charitable projects that she has worked on.

The Ambassador of France to South Africa, Aurélien Lechevallier, bestowed the award upon Manas on behalf of President Emmanuel Macron.

"We are pleased to see one of our own being recognised internationally; it means that the great work that she does also impacts other people outside of our borders.

"When one of us is recognised by a global audience, we all become very proud because the South African flag is flown high. We acknowledge and appreciate Manas' enormous contribution to the media industry. We have seen her passion coming through every time we watch her on our television screens," GCIS Director-General, Phumla Williams, said.

SAnews.gov.za

Cape Town student named as one of the top three in the world



In June 2022, a Cape Town student was named as one of the top three in the world. Former winners of this incredible accolade include luminaries such as Victor Hugo, Louis Pasteur and Charles Baudelaire.

The Grade 11 student at the Cape Town French School is among the three best students in the world in History.

This was confirmed by Principal Samuel Jourdan, who said that Emiliano Lopez Granados had received a prize in the *Concours*

Général, the oldest examination in the French School system, started in 1744.

Concours Général is a worldwide exam open to the very best students at all French schools both in France and throughout the world. Several thousand students enter every year.

"Emiliano elected to enter the exam in History, and his teacher, Guillaume Basello, spent a significant amount of extra tuition time with him in preparing for the gruelling examination. What is extraordinary is that Mexican citizen Emiliano wrote the examination in French, and this is not his home language.

"This is the equivalent of obtaining three stars in the Michelin Guide! It's an extraordinary result for us in Cape Town, and we are enormously proud of him."

Emiliano will receive his prize from the French Minister of Education on 7 July at La Sorbonne University in Paris, and he will find out then where in the top three he was graded.

But this is not the only good news story from the Cape Town French School – which admits children from age two to 18, including non-French speaking children up to Grade 10. The school has achieved many other accolades in the past few months.

Joshua Engelsmann, a Grade 12 student, was selected for the *Bourse Excellence Major*, a five-year scholarship granted to the best non-French Grade 12 students in the international French School system (AEFE). Joshua is one of only two students selected in South Africa and among only 182 globally.

Students Tom Vanrenterghem and Riyad Yahyaoui have been selected to represent South Africa and 14 other neighbouring countries for the finals in France of the *Ambassadeurs en Herbe*, the French Model United Nations.

Grade 7 pupil Emilie Duchenne has just published her first novel, an extremely engaging book for young readers called *Azimagina: La Princesse Secrète*.

The Cape Town French School has about 350 pupils from over 30 nationalities across its two campuses. It was founded in 1987 and offers first-class French education in a dual-medium environment. The syllabus is run under the auspices of AEFE, the world's largest network of schools with a single curriculum in 543 schools across 139 countries.

It offers the *French Baccalauréat* and the Cambridge International Examination at its two campuses.

www.goodthingsguy.com

UP alumnus only second South African to receive gold medal from the OIE for Outstanding International Veterinary Service



The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has awarded Dr Gideon Brückner, an alumnus of the University of Pretoria's (UP)

Faculty of Veterinary Science, the OIE Gold Medal for 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, physical award ceremonies have been postponed and will resume once the annual general sessions are held again in person. Dr Brückner was officially recognised at the OIE's virtual General Session and he recently received his gold medal during an event in Cape Town facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Dr Brückner is only the second South African veterinarian to receive this prestigious award, which is one of the highest international honours for any individual.

The medal is a mark of international recognition awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding

service in the field of veterinary science, and their significant contribution to the technological and scientific development of activities relating to the objectives of the OIE.

"I feel extremely humble and honoured to have received this prestigious award and recognition by the World Organisation for Animal Health," said Dr Brückner, who graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Science in 1972.

"I would like to thank my family and many colleagues all over the world for their support and for working side by side with me – without which, this achievement would not have been possible. I am also thankful that South Africa will receive recognition through this award."

7 Summits 7 Flights – South African adventurer completes six of seven



South African adventurer Pierre Carter is officially the first man to ever paraglide off Everest with permission, ticking off his sixth of seven summits and flights goal.

Carter, 55 years old, has dedicated the last few years of his life to completing an adventure of a lifetime – seven summits and seven flights. His goal has been to climb to the summit of the seven highest mountains, one on each continent, and then paraglide off the mountain back down to where he started.

Pierre started paragliding in 1988 and loved it. He started formulating a plan to paraglide off some of the highest mountains in the world but really set the plan in motion in 1998, and by 2000, he was on his way to summiting both

Elbrus and Aconcagua. Pierre realised there was something to his idea and decided to give the expedition a real try.

He put together a team and started working towards completing a summit and flight on each of his seven chosen mountains. He even went back to Elbrus and Aconcagua, so they could properly document his summit and flights. His list includes nine mountains so far, two of which he has been unsuccessful in climbing or flying and one he plans to climb in 2023.

So far, he has summited or attempted to and flown the following:

- Aconagua in Argentina – Completed in 2005, 2007 and 2011

- Denali in Alaska – Completed in 2016 (prohibited from flying off)
- Kilimanjaro in Tanzania – Completed in 2011, 2017, 2018 and 2019
- Elbrus in Russia – Completed in 2005 and 2010
- Carstens Pyramid in Iranian Jaya – Completed in 2018
- Mount Kosciuszko in Australia – Completed in 2018
- Mount Cook in New Zealand – Attempted in 2018
- Mount Everest in Nepal – Completed in 2022
- Mount Vinson in Antarctica – To be done in 2023.

Pierre has been successful in his attempt to summit and paraglide off Mount Everest. This makes him the first man to ever do so (legally), and the fourth man to have done it overall.

Pierre was successfully issued a permit by the Nepali Government to glide from the top. This meant he could take the leap towards achieving his “7 Summits 7 Flights” goal. He set off on this massive adventure in early May. Beating weather and a viral infection, he made his way back to the base camp on 15 May 2022.

Now, he can start making his plans for Mount Vinson in 2023.

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The best beer on the continent is made in the Cape Winelands



Soul Barrel Brewing Co is a small craft brewery proving that dynamite comes in small packages. The local business has recently earned

the coveted title of Best Beer in Africa. The brewery is located just outside Franschhoek and is built within the old tank walls of the former Drakenstein Cooperative Winery.

Their Live Culture Grand Cru beat 250 entries from 14 different African countries. The craft brewery was awarded the best beer title at the 2022 African Beer Cup, AKA Africa's biggest beer competition, on 14 May 2022.

Founder of Soul Barrel, Nick Smith, says winning Best Beer in Africa is one of the most significant accomplishments a brewery can achieve in Africa. “The African Beer Cup is the most competitive, intense beer competition on the continent with some of the best judges in the world. We are so proud to have won with a beer that features our very own malt and hops as well as fynbos from our garden. We believe in South African agriculture and winning best

beer in Africa with a beer that's brewed with 100% local ingredients is testament to that.”

Live Culture Grand Cru is a barrel-aged farmhouse ale fermented with wild yeast native to the Simondium-based brewery. It's brewed with barley from Caledon, along with citrus, fynbos and hops grown in Soul Barrel's beer garden. The team has always believed that this is one of the best beers they've ever made and the award is confirmation.

This is the third year that the competition has run and the first time that international judges were invited to join. Judges from 16 different countries evaluated the 251 entries over three days. The awards evening was held at the Jack Black Brewing Company in Cape Town.

<https://www.capetownetc.com>

News24 scores second place and four special mentions at Global Awards for Media Excellence



News24 has been recognised at the 2022 Global Media Awards, held on 9 June 2022, cementing the organisation's position as South Africa's leading news publication.

The International News Media Association (INMA) acknowledged five of News24's in-depth journalism projects during a virtual

ceremony aimed at celebrating excellence in media.

News24 scored second place after competing against international media brands in the Best Use of Audio Category for *My Only Story: Back to School*, a podcast series that investigated allegations of improper conduct against former St Andrew's College

water polo coach David Mackenzie. Another News24 podcast series, *The Inge Lotz Story: A Miscarriage of Justice*, which delves into the unsolved murder case from March 2005, was recognised in the same category.

For the Best Use of Video, an honourable mention was given to News24's *Cape of Flames* documentary on the 2021 Table Mountain fires, while the 2021 Elections Forecaster tool received credit in the category for Best New Digital Product.

News24's data journalism project *Out of Order* was also given props in the category Best Public Relations or Community Service Campaign.

In addition, News24's parent company, Media24 Group, won the Best in Africa Award.

In March, the 333 finalists were announced in the 2022 INMA Global Media Awards following 854 entries from 252 news brands in 46 countries.

The annual awards showcase innovation and best practices in news brands to promote the optimal use of media platforms, subscriptions, advertising, data and insights, products and newsrooms.

www.news24.com

First South African to captain Harvard's hockey team gets prestigious award



Hannah Pearce has been flying the country's flag high as the first South African captain of Harvard University's distinguished hockey team ... and she just keeps bringing home the big wins.

The Senior Captain was named National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Player of the Year for 2021 and recently, the talented South African also received the coveted Radcliffe Prize.

First established in 1975, this award is given annually to that member of a women's team, who, through dedication to the sport, qualities of leadership and outstanding ability on the playing field best reflects the purposeful achievement of Radcliffe alumnae in every field around the world. In short, the award goes to the most outstanding athlete from a women's team.

Pearce also won the William J Bingham '16 Award as Harvard's top female athlete.

Pearce had her best season – playing for the Ivy League University – in 2021, leading the team with 30 points (14 goals, two assists) and serving as the team's most valuable

defensive player. She is also an NFHCA Academic Squad Honoree.

According to Harvard University's daily newspaper, “Consecutive weekends of back-to-back wins bumped Harvard field hockey to No. 12 in the United States of America. Exciting victories over Columbia and Bucknell, and then against the University of Pennsylvania and University of New Hampshire the following weekend brought the team's overall win-loss tally to 9-1, marking an incredible start to the season.”

MatchKit – a South African platform that helps athletes manage their digital brands – explained to *Good Things Guy* that according to their research, Hannah is actually the first South African to captain the respected university's hockey team, and she continues to build her credentials and establish her case to make it back into the national team as she looks ahead to Paris Olympic 2024 qualification.

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SA's Prof. Zeblon Vilakazi appointed as Fellow of prestigious scientific academy



Professor Zeblon Zenzele Vilakazi, a nuclear physicist and the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Wits University, has been appointed as a Fellow at the Royal Society in the United Kingdom (UK).

Professor Vilakazi has been honoured at the highest academic level by the Royal Society UK, becoming a Fellow at the society. He joins the ranks of Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Dorothy Hodgkin and Stephen Hawking.

Professor Vilakazi obtained his PhD from Wits in 1998 in Nuclear Physics under the supervision of the late Professor J Sellschop. He was instrumental in establishing South Africa's first experimental high-energy physics research group in 1999 at the University of Cape Town.

Today, he is the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Wits University, appointed in January 2021. Before his appointment, he served as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Postgraduate Studies, during which time Wits' research outputs doubled.

On 10 May 2022, it was announced that Professor Vilakazi was appointed as a Fellow at the Royal Society (UK), one of the world's most prestigious scientific academies. He is one of several South Africans to have now earned this honour. He joins the likes of Robert Broom, Phillip Vallentine Tobias, Basil Schonland, Frank Nabarro and Nobel-Prize winner Aaron Klug, all of whom are also Wits alumni.

"It is an honour to welcome so many outstanding researchers from around the world into the Fellowship of the Royal Society," – Sir Adrian Smith, President of the Royal Society

"Through their careers so far, these researchers have helped further our understanding of human disease, biodiversity loss and the origins of the universe. I am also pleased to see so many new fellows working in areas likely to have a transformative impact on our society over this century, from new materials and energy technologies to synthetic biology and artificial intelligence. I look forward to seeing what great things they will achieve in the years ahead."

Professor Vilakazi says he feels honoured to be welcomed into the academic society and credits it as a recognition for the high calibre of science and scientists living and working in Africa.

"I am honoured to be welcomed as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

"This is not just an honour for me, but also for Wits University, and all those who supported me. South Africa is home to a host of incredibly talented scientists, who punch above their weight in the global knowledge arena. While this Fellowship acknowledges some of my achievements, more importantly, it recognises the high calibre of science and scientists based in Africa."

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship made up of the most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth. Fellows and foreign members are elected for life through a peer-review process based on excellence in science.

There are approximately 1 700 fellows and foreign members, including around 85 Nobel Laureates. Each year, up to 52 fellows and 10 foreign members are elected from a group of about 800 candidates who are proposed by the existing Fellowship.

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Black Coffee wins Grammy



President Cyril Ramaphosa sent his well wishes to house music DJ Nkosi Maphumulo, also known as Black Coffee, for winning an award at the Grammy Awards, held in Las Vegas in the United States of America in April 2022.

Maphumulo won the award in a tight list of nominees, including legendary house music group Ten City.

"Congratulations to Black Coffee for being awarded the Best Dance/Electronic Music Award for his album *Subconsciously* at last

night's Grammys. Thank you for flying the flag and inspiring a new generation of talent to take over the world," President Ramaphosa said.

The DJ joined a select group of South Africans who have scooped a Grammy, including legendary group Ladysmith Black Mambazo and the Soweto Gospel Choir, with nominations for other legendary artists Johnny Clegg and Savuka, Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela.

The house music muso is now one of the most decorated DJs on the African continent and the first to have won both a Grammy and a BET Award.

His work has also earned him several gongs at the South African Music Awards, Metro FM Awards, DJ Awards and Dance Music Awards.

Accepting the award alongside him on stage was his eldest son, Esona.

"I want to thank God for the gift of music and being able to share it with the world and heal souls and help people go through whatever they're going through in life," he said during his acceptance speech.

Black Coffee was not the only South African on show at the Grammys with South African comedian Trevor Noah hosting the awards show.

This was Noah's second stint as the host of the prestigious music awards after doing the same last year.

SANews.gov.za and www.news24.com

South African brandy named Best Wine Brandy in the World



South Africa is celebrating with the announcement that the locally produced Van Ryn's 20-year-old potstill brandy has been awarded World's Best Wine Brandy at the 2022 World Brandy Awards.

The World Brandy Awards, which see the finest brandies enter from around the world, are presented by *TheDrinksReport.com*, and rewards and promotes the world's best spirits to global consumers and trade.

Each entry is tasted blind and marked to an agreed and strictly enforced scoring system. As

well as nose, palate and finish, judges review balance, character, complexity and quality.

"This World's Best title is the highest accolade any master distiller aims for. Our commitment to innovation, quality and the art of crafting exceptional brandy, comes full circle with yet another global recognition," says Van Ryn's Master Blender, Marlene Bester.

The 20-year-old potstill brandy is a rich, decadent brandy, with delicate sweet vanilla, spice and rose water, ending with a supremely velvety finish.

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Trevor Noah takes centre stage at White House dinner



The President and the jokes were back, as the gloves came off for the return of the White House correspondents' dinner in Washington on 30 April 2022.

South African comedian, Trevor Noah, was the first African to host the dinner, offering a light roast of the United States President as well as words of wisdom towards journalism. President Joe Biden poked fun at his slumping

poll ratings, took several sly digs at his predecessor Donald Trump and accepted a roasting from *Daily Show* host Trevor Noah at the glitzy party mixing Washington politics, media and Hollywood.

And there were serious references as well: to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and challenges to democracy and media freedoms at home and abroad.

"I'm really excited to be here tonight with the only group of Americans with a lower approval rating than I have," President Biden said in his opening comments.

The White House Correspondents' Association has hosted presidents for an annual black-tie dinner starting with Calvin Coolidge in 1924. www.news24.com

Scientists who identified Omicron named on *TIME* 100 Most Influential



The scientists who discovered the genetic sequence of the Omicron variant were selected as Pioneers for the *TIME* 100 Most Influential People of 2022.

Prof. Tulio de Oliveira, Director of South Africa's Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI), was named as one of *TIME*

magazine's "100 Most Influential People" for his work with Dr Sikhulile Moyo, the Laboratory Director for the Botswana-Harvard HIV Reference Laboratory. Together, they sequenced the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

John Nkengasong, the Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, hailed both Prof. de Oliveira and Dr Moyo as

symbols of excellence in science from the African continent in his article for *TIME*. The scientists are named in the "Pioneers" section of the list.

While many people were frustrated when the rest of the world placed travel bans on the African continent for the identification of the new variant, the scientists performed their duties with integrity. They kept the world safer by sharing their findings.

The ability of African scientists to monitor and sequence pathogens is some of the best science in the world. This is due to the HIV epidemic and the rates of TB and other diseases like malaria.

South Africa's CERI is based at Stellenbosch University. The hope is that the research teams from all major universities around South Africa can develop an interlinked system that will create unrivalled data systems in Africa. Essentially, CERI tracks the genetics of any one disease, bacteria or virus and studies how it evolves. They have the ability to discover where it originates from as well.

Prof. de Oliveira joins the ranks of Oprah Winfrey, Volodymyr Zelensky, Rafael Nadal and Faith Ringgold, to name a few.

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Surfer Luke Thompson does South Africa proud at Junior World Championship



In June 2022, local surfer Luke Thompson won overall third place at the International Surfing Association (ISA) Junior World Championships in El Salvador.

Surfers from 45 national teams competed at the ISA Junior World Championships at Surf City in El Salvador from 27 May to 5 June 2022.

The event was a massive one for surfing, and South Africa's very own Thompson won an overall third in the Under 18 Boys division.

Thompson is from Durban and joined the Surfing South Africa (SSA) team at the 18th ISA Junior World Championships. The SSA team was made up of several proudly South African

surfers. SSA is the national governing body for the sport in South Africa. SSA is a member of the South African Sports Commission and Olympic Committee and the ISA.

The team was made up of U18 and U16 competitors in both the boys' and girls' categories.

Connor Slijpen (Llandudno, Western Cape), Daniel Emslie and Luke Thompson (Durban, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and Adriel Wolmarans and Aimee du Preez (both East London) and Indiphile Osinachi made up the U18 representatives, while Nate Colby, Ntokozo Maphumulo (both Durban) and Luc Lepront (Scottburgh, KZN), Sarah Scott, Gemma Hanafey (East London) and Zia Hendricks (Jeffreys Bay, Eastern Cape) made up the U16 side A.

Luke earned bronze by scoring 730 points overall. The whole South African team placed 10th overall in the competition with 4 033 points.

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South Africa to host prestigious *Concours Mondial Du Sauvignon*



To be the first to ever host the *Concours Mondial Du Sauvignon* outside of Europe is an amazing accomplishment for South Africa and its wine industry.

The 2023 *Concours Mondial du Sauvignon* will take place from 13 March to 17 March, in Franschhoek in the Cape Winelands. The competition is hosted by the cultivar association Sauvignon Blanc South Africa in partnership with local as well as international partners.

Over the past decade, the competition has taken place in winegrowing regions all over Europe, including Bordeaux, Touraine, Styria, Rueda, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Torres Vedras. Sauvignon Blanc has in recent years become an extremely popular varietal in the international marketplace.

"Sauvignon Blanc is South Africa's top-selling cultivar and our most exported varietal," says Sauvignon Blanc SA Chairperson, RJ Botha.

"South African Sauvignon Blanc is a unique asset, which helps build and maintain a strong brand reputation for the country. It makes perfect sense to host this competition, the largest and most significant international competition entirely dedicated to Sauvignon Blanc, in the Cape Winelands. To be the first host ever outside of Europe is an amazing accomplishment for our country and our wine industry.

"We are excited to work closely with our platinum partners: Wesgro, Concours Mondial du Bruxelles and Vinventions, as well as our bronze partners: Boutes South Africa, Tonnellerie Sylvain and Enartis, to bring together hand-picked specialists from around the world to taste and evaluate some of the world's best Sauvignon Blanc wines.

"The *Concours Mondial du Sauvignon* is more than just a competition between producers and appellations. It is aimed at fostering dialogue and creating a meeting point for industry specialists. In 2022, a total of 1 120 entries from 23 producer countries were evaluated by over 70 judges representing 20 nationalities, guaranteeing the outstanding

diversity that sets the *Concours Mondial du Sauvignon* apart from other wine competitions.

"We look forward to hosting these international members of the wine industry, journalists, and wine writers on local soil. We are excited to introduce them to our country, our people and our unique South African hospitality," Botha concluded.

The competition was launched in 2010 to promote white wines and showcase one of the world's most popular white grape varieties. Since then, the event has become an international competition, with the number of producer countries taking part increasing year on year. Technical management of the tastings is handled by the organisers of the *Concours Mondial de Bruxelles*, who boast over 20 years' experience in organising world-class wine competitions.

The *Concours Mondial du Sauvignon* is open to all wines made from a majority percentage (51% min.) of Sauvignon Blanc and/or Sauvignon Gris, irrespective of their producer, origin or category. Since 2017, a new category has allowed Sauvignon-based sparkling wines to take part.

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Local seven-year-old set on bettering the world, wins Mini Model Earth 2022



Keabetswe Temane is the 2022 Grand Prix Mini Model Earth winner, flying the South African flag in Zanzibar and furthering her cause to better the world.

The Grade One learner from Curro Academy Pretoria has beaten off stiff competition from peers across the globe, to

be crowned Grand Prix Mini Model Earth 2022 at an international pageant held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, recently.

Seven-year-old Keabetswe, fondly known as Kea, represented South Africa at the Little Model Earth International Pageant this year and came out on top in her age category.

The competition, hosted by Amone Modelling Academy, under the guidance of Amanda Kriel, attracted child competitors from Romania, Georgia, Brazil, Kenya, Bulgaria, South Africa and Tanzania. This was the second time Mamelodi-born Kea participated, after coming second at the little Miss Nations and Little Model Earth Pageants in 2021.

Despite her young age, Kea is no stranger to the global stage. Under the guidance of her mentor, Dr Mmatepeng Muda Temane, Kea became the youngest member of the American Field Services Inter Culture South Africa – a global peace-building organisation, when she joined as a toddler.

She quickly rose to the ranks of a peace ambassador and was featured in the 95

Voices Strong for Peace Campaign during the riots in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng in 2021.

If that wasn't enough, Kea also runs her own project called *Sharing Inspires Caring* under the Ditsala Children Shield banner, where she donates clothes and shoes for needy children in the surrounding areas of Mamelodi. And to top it off, she is a passionate champion of the environment, recently involving herself in a clean-up campaign in Nellmapius with the local councillor, Shaun Wilkinson.

"Despite only joining our school at the start of this year, Kea's passion and commitment to the local community is a treasured quality. We are incredibly honoured to have such an empowered and motivated learner with us and look forward to supporting her as she accomplishes even more remarkable achievements," says Johan Goosen, Executive Head at Curro Academy Pretoria.

Kea hopes to continue her charitable endeavours while in school and would like to host motivational sessions with other learners.

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Cape Town to host HSBC Sevens Tournament



After two years of cancelled rugby, South Africans are excited to hear that the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2023 will be back in Cape Town just two months after hosting the Sevens World Cup.

World Rugby has announced the dates and places for the HSBC Sevens tournament, and Cape Town is one of them.

This year, the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2023 starts on 4 November 2022 in Hong Kong. Cape Town will play host from 9

to 11 December at the DHL Stadium, just two months after hosting the Sevens World Cup in September 2022. All teams competing in the series have a chance to earn their place in the Olympic events for 2024. Olympic qualification will be achieved by the top four women's and men's teams.

"Fans around the world can mark their calendars and look ahead with excitement and certainty to a series, which promises to be highly competitive and intense from the start to finish with Paris 2024 Olympic qualification

on offer for the top four women's and men's teams in the 2023 Series standings." – Alan Gilpin, World Rugby Chief Executive

Capetonians are excited that the event will be returning to the city just months after the world cup and the Mayor, Geordin Hill-Lewis, shared the hope that the event would be able to take place with a stadium at full capacity.

"I was excited to see World Rugby's announcement that the HSBC Sevens tournament will return to Cape Town after a two-year hiatus. The tournament will be played on the weekend of 9 to 11 December and will see Cape Town's own DHL Stadium playing host to the world's best male and female sevens rugby players.

"It is fantastic to see renowned international events such as this return to the Mother City. Not only is the economic boost that results from events like this crucial for our post-COVID economic recovery, but this also reinforces Cape Town's status as an international events destination.

"Cape Town is ready to welcome all players and fans to our shores for a sports-, fun-, and entertainment-filled summer."

www.goodthingsguy.com

South Africa's *Penguin Town* receives three Daytime Emmy Awards



In June 2022, the Netflix series *Penguin Town*, which was filmed and produced in South Africa, received three Daytime Emmy Awards. The eight-part series was released on Netflix in June 2021.

The series follows a group of penguins as they make their homes in the gardens of Simon's Town, Western Cape.

Penguin Town was nominated for six Daytime Emmy Awards and was able to pick up three wins for Outstanding Travel, Adventure and Nature Series, Outstanding Cinematography and Outstanding Sound Mixing and Sound Editing.

South African filmmaker and *Penguin Town* producer, Cayley Christos, was there to accept the awards. Christos has more than 10 years of experience in filming wildlife content. She is also the owner of the production company, Red Rock Films, which produced *Penguin Town*.

Dale Hancock, a Pietermaritzburg-born wildlife filmmaker, also worked on *Penguin Town* as the series' cinematographer.

www.jacarandafm.com

Proteas duo Lee, Van Niekerk scoop prestigious Wisden cricket accolades



South Africa's Lizelle Lee has scooped the Wisden Leading Woman Cricketer in the World accolade. Lee's compatriot, Dane

van Niekerk, is one of the almanack's five Cricketers of the Year.

Lee was honoured with the accolade after a dominant 2021 in which she averaged

90.28 with the bat in ODI cricket, including a spectacular series against India in which she scored 288 runs in four innings.

On the men's side, Joe Root was named Leading Cricketer in the World, just a week after he stepped down as England's Test captain.

Elsewhere, South Africa's Dane van Niekerk was named as one of the almanack's five Cricketers of the Year.

She joined New Zealand's Devon Conway, England's Ollie Robinson, and Indian duo Jasprit Bumrah and Rohit Sharma, in earning the prestigious award, which dates back to 1889.

Van Niekerk was a leading player in England's The Hundred competition, earning the award of Most Valuable Player after captaining her side, the Oval Invincibles, to victory in the women's competition.

Van Niekerk was also the tournament's leading run-scorer with 259 runs at 43 and took eight wickets with the ball at an average of 20.

www.news24.com

Young SA restaurant owner named on list of World's 50 Best



Mmbatho is South Africa's next big thing on the international scene ... and has just been named on the World's 50 Best 50 Next.

Mmbatho Molefe's modern Zulu restaurant, Emazulwini, at the V&A Waterfront's Makers Landing, has made waves in the local dining scene; now, the young head chef's visionary

culinary interpretations have scored her a spot on the World's 50 Best's 50 Next list.

The second-ever list of 50 Next celebrates 50 people aged 35 and under who are shaping the worldwide gastronomy scene, getting their work recognised on a global stage. Winners from around the world are drawn from the entire food and drink ecosystem and divided into categories: Game-changing Producers,

Tech Disruptors, Empowering Educators, Entrepreneurial Creatives, Science Innovators, Hospitality Pioneers and Trailblazing Activists.

Molefe, age 27, attended the awards ceremony on 24 June in Bilbao, Spain, where she joined in an inspirational day of discussions with members. Along with other winners, Molefe got to share her vision "to be an outspoken black woman, to reintroduce indigenous ingredients to the South African diet and to show the beauty of them".

Emazulwini means "the heavens" in isiZulu, and it opened in 2020 after Molefe lost her job in the restaurant industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I tell myself every morning, I am telling my story; my interpretation of what Zulu food is.

I hope people embrace it for what it is. We hope to elevate ordinary dishes to the exceptional."

The recognition came just weeks after Emazulwini won the African Restaurant of the Year title at the fourth annual Luxe Restaurant Awards.

www.goodthingsguy.com



The majestic Cederberg is a 100-km long mountain range known for its characteristic jagged sandstone, richly coloured by iron oxides to a deep orange, as well as its curious rock formations and San rock art. Most of the Cederberg is a designated wilderness area and part of the Cape Floral Kingdom, which is a World Heritage Site. Among the twisted rock formations, farmers cultivate the world-famous rooibos tea, found only in the Cederberg of South Africa.



Young South African Winemaker takes Gold at 2022 London Wine Competition

Invested in the long game, today, Piekenierskloof Wines rests on a wine legacy that goes back to 1959. The first vines were planted three short years later and a new family chapter began.

By Jason Curtis
www.goodthingsguy.com

Harvested from vines planted in 1962, a young female South African winemaker has taken the top spot at the 2022 London Wine Competition.

Over the past two years, Piekenierskloof Wines has racked up more than 70 accolades behind its award-winning wines, but of the more recent acknowledgements, the one that stands out is the highly coveted 2022 London Wine Competition prize for their Bergendal Chenin Blanc 2020, ranked gold in The Best Wines by Country Award.

Harvested from vines planted in 1962, this stellar vintage was crafted by a passionate young winemaker, Hendrien Vercueil.

When Vercueil was born, the vines were already 30 years old. Still, it took her creativity, qualification and commitment to a rich family heritage deeply rooted in Citrusdal in the Western Cape to deliver a wine worthy of the praise it now enjoys some 30 years later.

Some 1 300 wines were submitted in this year's competition from more than 36 countries, so to rise victorious, was no mean feat. Weighted and rated on quality, value and packaging, this was where Piekenierskloof's

Bergendal Chenin Blanc 2020 ruled supreme in its class.

Harvesting for tomorrow

Invested in the long game, today, Piekenierskloof Wines rests on a wine legacy that goes back to 1959. The first vines were planted three short years later, and a new family chapter began.

Passed down from father to sons over the decades, today Piekenierskloof Wines has a winemaker who, over the past two years, has been instrumental in taking its ever-growing range of wines to even greater heights than

the pioneering Van Zyl family could ever have imagined.

In 2022, the winemaking falls to Hendrien, and with that, the opportunity to work hard and reward the investment made in her ability.

"Our cellar master, Jaco van Niekerk, believed and trusted me enough to throw me in the deep end," Hendrien recalls. "It's intimidating, as a young female winemaker, to stake my claim and install myself in a fast-evolving industry. Jaco offered me that freedom, and I would like to think his belief in my ability is paying dividends."

Piekenierskloof Wines is no small operation, so attention to detail, working within a well-oiled machine and being given enough room to inject personality and curiosity to deliver extraordinary wines is rare.

"I work with what Mother Nature gifts us, and thankfully the terroir is amazing, and the old vines, especially, continue to deliver spectacular vintages," Hendrien shares.

As to why Piekenierskloof Wines is finally enjoying its day in the sun, the reasons are multiform. An actively supportive and invested family, coupled with the freedom for a young creative to marry art and nature to deliver award-winning wines, is part of it.

"I am a perfectionist in everything I do," Hendrien insists. "You must be precise, but that doesn't mean you can't be playful," she says with a confident wink. "With every varietal and every vintage, I let my imagination run. I am one part of a bigger chain of thousands who toil the soil to realise a palatable and precious product."

Staying true

Trial, experimentation and zero tolerance for failure is the space where Hendrien expresses herself and turns raw to magic, and it's working. With the Rhône tradition her guide, everything else is on the table to test and try.

"We are gifted with giving grapes, which allows us to push and improve on what came before it," Hendrien shares.

Edited to perfection, Piekenierskloof Wines took a single vintage and varietal to the 2022 London Wine Competition and won. One can only wonder what would have transpired if they'd delivered all their growing raft of carefully crafted wines celebrating "magic in a bottle", as Hendrien put it.

Mere days after winning in the United Kingdom, *Winemag's Prescient Chenin Blanc Report 2022* delivered a confirmatory endorsement that Piekenierskloof's Bergendal Chenin Blanc 2021 was Top 10 worthy, with an impressive score of 93. Upon reflection, what's remarkable is the number of times Piekenierskloof Wines has been decorated at the Novare SA Terrior Wine Awards, Michelangelo, Merit Awards and Decanter World Wine Awards. Further to that, Tim Atkin, Platter's, the Prescient Chenin Blanc Report, Gilbert & Gaillard, Veritas and the International

Wine and Spirits Competition have prolifically endorsed Hendrien's investment in delivering only the very best.

Consistency is king

In this journey, credibility is tantamount to success.

"What Piekenierskloof Wines does well is happily stand up and be counted as one of the best in the world, and that's now acknowledged, on a global scale," Hendrien points out. "We've been able to stand our ground against estates and brands, many of which have an even longer history than we do, and yet we thrive!"

The bottom line is, people buy what they know, especially if they can't taste the fruits of your labour before purchase.

"We want people to taste, let it swirl, and then decide if it's for them," Hendrien says. "The moment a wine is consumed, and it elicits a positive reaction, that's the richest reward for me."

Singularly focussed on the wine in the bottle, free of gimmickry, Piekenierskloof Wines has nowhere to hide, rated only on its merits. Few farms can claim that level of authenticity from brand to bottle.

As volumes increase, a shared passion both winemaker and cellar master enjoy, the sky's the limit, primarily because neither rest on their laurels.

So, whether it's Grenache, Chardonnay or Tempranillo, it's anyone's guess which varietal Hendrien will reign supreme in next. What's guaranteed, however, is the fact that Hendrien Vercueil is hell-bent on skirting outside of her lane to find the next best thing. And, based on her short but impressive run at Piekenierskloof Wines, what's further assured is, nothing is off the table. 🍷

"I work with what Mother Nature gifts us, and thankfully the terroir is amazing, and the old vines, especially, continue to deliver spectacular vintages."



SA Fashion Week celebrates 25 years

| "It's about more than clothing. Fashion becomes the attitude you wear."

Ecological sustainability, women's empowerment, inter-brand collaboration and proudly local production investment were some of the dynamic developments that marked

SA Fashion Week's (SAFW) 25th Spring/Summer Collections, which kicked off on 28 April 2022 at the Mall of Africa.

Twenty iconic names, including Ephraim Molingoana for Ephymol, Amanda Laird Cherry and Palesa Mokubung of Mantsho as well as cult Kasi brand, Loxion Kulca, now designed by Olé Ledimo, launched their 2022 collections to the media, buyers, selected VIPs and a limited edition of public tickets, alongside exciting new stars, including 2021 New Talent winner Artho Eksteen as well as Fikile Zamagcino Sokhulu and Sipho Mbuto, who both participated in the Fashion Bridges collaboration with Milan Fashion Week last year.

Hosted by Maps Maponyane, the 24th New Talent Search again opened the event with a line-up of six of the most promising young designers to watch. This year's contenders were:

- Thando Ntuli – MUNKUS
- Nichole Smith – Ipikoko
- Mikhile du Plessis – McKay Designs
- Calvin Lunga Cebekhulu – Czene.24
- Mimangaliso Ndiko – Sixx6.

Other highlights of the first day was the Cruz Collective featuring Sokhulu and Mbuto as well as another new generation notable, Michael Ludwig Studio.

Day two opened with The Oppo Collections, which brought Artho Eksteen, Ezokhetho, the gender-neutral signature, The BAM Collective, and the much revered Amanda Laird Cherry together in a celebration of technology and perfection.

"We are excited to go into our second year of partnership with SA Fashion Week. This is an important partnership for Oppo, as it gives us the space to connect with our customers and it shows our commitment to empowering local talent through our technology to curate

a line of sustainably resourced fashion that represents both the heartbeat and heritage of our country. We are looking forward to our second collection and what our designers will come up with this year. For us, it is all about the creative collaboration that translates South African culture into design, which is the essence of what the Oppo brand represents both locally and globally," says Avashnee Moodley, Head of Marketing at Oppo South Africa.

This was followed by the high-profile trio of Cape Town-based Helon Melon who wowed audiences in 2021 with her all-white, sustainable collection; fashion forward Judith Atelier, an ardent supporter of South African mohair; and perennial fashion week darling, Palesa Mokubung of Mantsho.

Every follower of ethical fashion was delighted by the four designers opening day three.

Joanna Hedley of BeachCult and Belhauzen are both Cape Town-based designer brands committed to clean fashion.

BeachCult offers swimwear and apparel with unique fits and one-off prints made from sustainable and recycled techno swim fabric and is designed and produced wholly in South Africa. Equally, Johannesburg-based Kayla Stamboul of Kayla Stam proudly supports women empowerment with a fully female-owned supply chain while Pretoria-based Isabel de Villiers is a body-positive activist who unveiled her current size-inclusive collection.

The SAFW Collections Men on Saturday, 30 April 2022, threw a spotlight on the excitement that is contemporary menswear design in South Africa with the power trio consisting of Ntando Ngwenya, who merges conservative and postmodern techniques to create a distinctively new clothing presentation, Thato Matabane's Afrikanswiss denimwear and the much-loved Loxion Kulca brand currently under the baton of Olé Ledimo.

An exciting new collaboration between designers Fabrice Moyo of Franc Elis, menswear brands Floyd Avenue and Ephymol, with KwaZulu-Natal-based and proudly South

African shoe manufacturers Eddels, Evox and Hopewell Footwear respectively, marked an exciting grand finale for the Spring/Summer 22 Collection, said SAFW director, Lucilla Booyzen. "This mutually supportive opportunity for synergistic brands to benefit from each other's creativity, reputation, reach, and of course, budget, is certainly an example of the type of undertaking that would allow us to map creative ways to bolster the creative design industry going forward."

The South African Footwear and Leather Export Council (SAFLEC) was proud to be making industry history with its inaugural association with SAFW this year, said Nerisha Jairaj, Executive Director of SAFLEC. "We are thrilled to be flying our 'Made in South Africa' banner with the debut of three of our most exciting footwear brands for men on this high-profile and prestigious platform so that a wider audience may discover the remarkable capability of fashion South Africa."

According to Booyzen, SAFW recognises the pivotal role played by its corporate partners, collaborators and supporters in sustaining the creative fashion design industry.

"The investments made over the years for example, by the Mall of Africa, OPPO, CARLTON HAIR, M.A.C. as well as luxury brand Cruz Vodka, have contributed directly to building the creative fashion design industry we have today. It is this investment that has enabled us to unearth, nurture, support, market and sell the designer collections, and which allows a brilliant young designer to become a job-creating contributor to the country's GDP," she says.

Maishe Mambolo, Brand Manager of Cruz Vodka, believes that fashion reflects the culture of a country. "It's about more than clothing. Fashion becomes the attitude you wear. People in fashion have an appreciation of art, design and culture with an affinity for beauty and Cruz Vodka reflects these values," he says. 🇿🇦

www.safashionweek.co.za



"For us, it is all about the creative collaboration that translates South African culture into design."



Joburg Polo in the Park makes a welcome return

The second Standard Bank Joburg Polo in the Park was held at Gauteng's residential lifestyle estate Steyn City, at the end of April 2022.

The inaugural Standard Bank Joburg Polo in the Park was hosted in 2019, dazzling guests with fabulous fashion, good music and delectable gourmet meals and beverages.

The 2022 event was Joburg's most exciting polo event to date, combining a sensational line-up of polo in a brand-new polo format with international-level hospitality, riveting entertainment and a programme of luxury lifestyle brands that showcased the City of Gold like never before.

Polo in the Park brings a special thrill to a time-honoured sport, thanks to its unique format: because there are only three players a side with an inflatable ball, rather than the hard one used in traditional matches, spectators can get close up to the action and enjoy all the thrills of the matches.

This year's eagerly awaited edition came on the back of the lifting of the National State of Disaster more than two years after it was first declared in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Commenting on its return, Sandile Dlamini, founding member of the luxury events and marketing company, African Deluxe Company, said they were excited to bring back the event after the uncontrolled two-year hiatus.

"Polo is the sport of kings. Any event celebrating this sport must reflect this. To ensure the Polo in the Park upholds its regal upstanding image, we have benchmarked this event against internationally respected polo tournaments.

"The result is a spectacular occasion marked by glamour and luxury offering dynamic networking opportunities, classy live entertainment and of course, the excitement of this fast-paced format. All these elements come together to create an unforgettable experience for all who attend."

The 2022 event was Joburg's most exciting polo event to date, combining a sensational line-up of polo in a brand-new polo format with international-level hospitality, riveting entertainment and a programme of luxury lifestyle brands that showcased the City of Gold like never before.



M A B U T A



JAZZ: South Africa's Shane Cooper and his band Mabuta make borders irrelevant

Today, South African jazz speaks in multiple, diverse voices. Its internationalism, thankfully, is no longer driven by hideous repression at home and, in the digital age, doesn't always even require physical journeys.

By Gwen Ansell

Associate of the Gordon Institute for Business Science, University of Pretoria

South African jazz seems to be having another international moment. Recently, for example, the Blue Note jazz label launched a new imprint, Blue Note Africa, dedicated to the continent's music. Its first release – and his second for the label – will be South African pianist Nduduzo Makhathini's *In the Spirit of Ntu*. In the same month, Jazz at Lincoln Centre hosted a South African season.

Even the United Kingdom's (UK) annual BBC Proms this year will dedicate a night to *The South African Songbook*, with trumpeter Marcus Wyatt conducting the international Metropole Orkest and the voices of South African vocalist Siyabonga Mthembu and Zimbabwe-born UK singer/songwriter ESKA.

Of course, such exposure is not unprecedented. South African painter Gerard Sekoto was playing jazz in Paris bars in the late 1940s. The international careers of Miriam Makeba, Abdullah Ibrahim and Hugh Masekela are only the best known of a raft of musicians who sought exile from apartheid. The South African band Blue Notes was massively influential on European jazz scenes from the 1960s onwards.

There are risks in being "fashionable" – not least that straitjackets of international audience perception may be created about what "South African jazz" is. Many of today's international showcases have a nostalgic focus on the greats of the past such as Makeba and Masekela. However, multiple legacies inform the sound of South African jazz and contribute to the rich lexicon from which it can draw. But none of them defines it.

Today, South African jazz speaks in multiple, diverse voices. Its internationalism, thankfully, is no longer driven by hideous repression at home and, in the digital age, doesn't always even require physical journeys. One example (and there are many) is the new album *Finish the Sun* from the group Mabuta, led by bassist Shane Cooper.

Finish the Sun is only the latest demonstration of how South African jazz simultaneously looks inwards and outwards and communicates with listeners and fellow players everywhere.

Many of today's international showcases have a nostalgic focus on the greats of the past such as Makeba and Masekela. However, multiple legacies inform the sound of South African jazz and contribute to the rich lexicon from which it can draw. But none of them defines it.

Finish the Sun

Mabuta takes its name for the Japanese word for "eyelid", opening a door between the conscious and the unconscious. Liminality – crossing borders and the interrogation of boundaries – was on Mabuta's agenda from its first release, *Welcome to this World* (2018). Cooper himself is a bassist who also skips the border into electronic club music; the 2018 personnel were all-South African, with the addition of UK saxophonist Shabaka Hutchings.

On this 2022 outing, South Africans Cooper (on guitars and synths as well as bass), keyboard player Bokani Dyer, trumpeter Robin Fassie and reedmen Buddy Wells and Sisonke Xonti work with guest drummers from Switzerland (Julian Sartorius, Arthur Hnatek and Mario Hänni); Sweden (Christopher Castillo); the Netherlands (Jamie Peet); Lungile Maduna (South Africa); and Andre Tougamani (Senegal), with some recorded at a distance.

Like its predecessor, *Finish the Sun* is "a bassist's album but not a bass album". Cooper created all the compositions, but the instrumental solos come from everybody – although the track *Spirit Animal* is quintessential Cooper. It is never clear whether he is the bass' spirit animal or it is his. His concept sounds as much through his guitar and through his use of effects and washes. These shape the mood of the eight tracks, sometimes creating a feel that irresistibly invokes a time or place.

The album employs markers of national identity in surprising and often subtle ways, so it speaks fluently across all musical borders. Nevertheless, it does draw deep from our lexicon.

The first two numbers, the title track and *Where the Heart Is*, are where South Africa

speaks most explicitly. The title words can't help recalling the classic song *Lakutshon' llanga* (When the sun sets, I'll remember you). Here, the album notes say, it alludes to "the energy (that) was felt by all the musicians in a way that sounds as though we were in the same room after finishing some sun together".

It's a fast, cyclical, galloping Eastern Cape sound, but layering modernity and tradition in its juxtapositions of electronic and instrumental voices. *Where the Heart Is* maintains the pace, with a classic South African bass line, call and response and chorusing behind the solos; it can't wait to get home.

By contrast, *Umshana* carries a vibe of South Africa's Afro-Soul era, with Xonti's solo channelling the spirit of saxophonist Basil Manenberg Coetzee, while *Kucheza* has Dyer's organ reminding us of Black Moses and the Soul Brothers, and Cooper's bass recalling bassist Bakithi Khumalo. None of these are obvious copycat quotes. Rather, the musicians are using a pinch of this and a dash of that to magic up some time-travel to where South Africans will recognise the scenery.

But if you're in a club in Basel, you can just relish *Umshana's* gorgeous rhythmic complexity or *Kucheza's* chiming, joyful guitar and keys: you don't have to have been where we've been. Nor do you need to know Johannesburg to recognise the moody urban vibe of *Joburg Poem*; Cantillo's Swedish drums perfectly catch its feel.

Rather than retreating behind idiomatic musical borders, or spending energy explicitly fighting them, Mabuta simply makes them irrelevant.

In many ways, that is the essential legacy of South African jazz on its international journeys from the 1940s onwards. And that, rather than any externally curated definition, from however prestigious a platform, is what continues to keep the music vibrantly breathing and growing. 🇿🇦

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

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NOORDHOEK – A tourism gem in the Western Cape

By Brent Lindeque
www.goodthingsguy.com

Tourists love staying overnight, thanks to Noordhoek's rural feel. The survey found that accommodation made up almost half of the local tourism sector by number and was an anchor and launchpad into the area's different activities.

A recent tourism survey found that tourists visited Noordhoek mainly for its village atmosphere and generated more than R90 million annually. It also found that the sector employed more than 300 previously under-resourced people from neighbouring communities.

The circular economy is one of the key aspects of the *Noordhoek Vision*, a shared document made up of six goals put together by residents in 2016 to shape the community's future. The Circular Economy Goal aims to build Noordhoek into a self-sustaining community in a self-sustaining valley, where locals support local businesses and employ local people. As the tourism survey has confirmed, tourism is a key aspect of the local economy and a critical income generator for all sorts of businesses in the valley.

Tourists love staying overnight, thanks to Noordhoek's rural feel. The survey found that accommodation made up almost half of the local tourism sector by number and was an

anchor and launchpad into the area's different activities.

Restaurants and retail are the second-most popular reason for people visiting and spending their money there.

Brad Bing, Chairperson of the Noordhoek Ratepayers Association (NRPA), says: "The rural, open and natural atmosphere is critical to people wanting to stay over and spend money in the valley. It speaks to the village's sense of place. As locals, we should encourage this and ensure we do everything possible to keep it. We can do so by encouraging entertainment in the village that complements the natural, open village feel, and by supporting activities that leverage this sense of place."

The food and beverage sector is the most significant employer in the valley, with respondents collectively employing 307 staff year-round, increasing to 342 in season. Ninety-one per cent of staff members are from under-resourced communities.

Bing says, "The survey found that the food beverage and retail sector was by far the largest contributor to local investment and

employment. It is an extremely valuable direct employer and investor back into the under-resourced communities of our area."

"This survey is critical as it helps us understand and grow the socio-economic drivers in the valley and gives us a good estimation of the value of Noordhoek's tourism industry. In 2019, the NRPA conducted an equestrian economy audit highlighting the value of rural zoning and small holding-sized erven. The tourism survey complements these findings, as it is exactly these aspects that create the rural space and village atmosphere which drives the tourism sector," he says.

"This survey allows us to attach social and economic value to our spatial assets, and we can use this as leverage when engaging with the City of Cape Town on densification, subdivision and developmental matters. We hope that this will influence development in a way that respects Noordhoek's sense of place because we can see the full value of it," he says. 



Noordhoek is a seaside town in the Western Cape, located below Chapman's Peak on the west coast of the Cape Peninsula and is approximately 35 kilometres to the south of Cape Town. The name "Noordhoek" was taken from Dutch and literally means "north corner".

The Noordhoek valley remains one of the Cape Town's treasured destinations. Situated at the foot of Chapman's Peak and surrounded by Table Mountain National Park, it has a delightful village atmosphere with awesome mountain and sea views. Here, one finds horses, pigs, cows, hens, ducks, geese and rabbits roaming around in gardens and open public spaces. You will often catch sight of wild peacocks, guinea fowl, Egyptian Geese and suricats.

Besides its rural atmosphere and rustic surroundings, its famous beach and rich wetlands, Noordhoek also plays host to a wide range of activities and events.

The village of Noordhoek is sandwiched between sea, mountains and a prized wetlands area. Noordhoek is reached by driving some of the most spectacular roads in the Western Cape – via Chapman's Peak Drive or over Ou Kaapse Weg (with the Silvermine section of Table Mountain National Park at its centre).

The Cape Point Route recommends horse-riding on Noordhoek beach for a close-up natural experience. Try surfing on Noordhoek beach or walk to the SS *Kakapo* shipwreck. Look out for the Verreaux eagles, enjoy sundowners overlooking Noordhoek beach or purely absorb the atmosphere with a walk along the beach (watch for whales or dolphins in season) and do take a moment to appreciate the ancient milkwood forest.

Noordhoek is also home to an award-winning wine estate, with the Noordhoek vineyards producing white varietal grapes for the Cape Point Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc. Gourmet dining has become standard fare with many restaurants in the area.



The majestic lion is found in parts of Africa, south of the Sahara Desert. Lions are the most social of all the felids and live in organised groups (prides), which can hold four to 40 members. The pride is made up of related lionesses and their cubs and one to six males, which have fought their way into the pride. These cubs were photographed in the Kalahari Desert, a large semi-arid sandy savanna in southern Africa extending for 900 000 km², covering much of Botswana and parts of Namibia and South Africa.