



South Africa's Springboks: Rugby World Cup Champions 2023

credits

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UBUNTU

a Nguni word meaning humanity

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's quarterly magazine



ON THE COVER

Stronger Together is a belief that came to life for Springbok supporters all around our country, continent and the world when South Africa claimed Rugby World Cup victory over New Zealand on 28 October 2023, making South Africa the first country ever to win the championship four times.

"Rugby has taught me many valuable lessons, but perhaps the most important one is the power of teamwork. When we work together, support each other and trust in each other's abilities, we can achieve greatness."

– Springbok Captain, Siya Kolisi



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XV BRICS SUMMIT

22 – 24 August 2023

OUTCOMES

EXPANSION



Historic expansion to include Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as full members of BRICS from 1 January 2024

TRADE IN LOCAL CURRENCY



BRICS leaders tasked finance ministers and central bank governors to consider the issue of local currencies, payment instruments and platforms and report back at the next summit in 2024

#BRICS #BRICSza www.brics2023.gov.za

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Like many people around the world, South Africans have watched with great anguish and pain the devastating violence and destruction in Israel and Gaza.

It has never been our nature as South Africans to reserve our empathy only for those with whom we share an ethnic, racial, religious or cultural affinity. As South Africans, we have made it part of our national DNA to stand firm against all forms of prejudice, including racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and xenophobia.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of both Palestine and Israel as they go through these difficult times.

It has been traumatic to see the images of civilians killed, wounded and captured, of destroyed homes and of entire neighbourhoods flattened by bombardment. The atrocities that we are witnessing are the latest chapter in a painful history of suffering, oppression, occupation and conflict going back more than 75 years.

The harrowing deaths of Israeli and Palestinian civilians are a shock to our collective humanity. While international law recognises the right of the oppressed and people who defend themselves to use arms as a means of struggle and defence, that right must be exercised within the bounds of the Geneva Conventions. The images of the killing of civilians in Israel by Hamas and the ongoing killing of civilians in Gaza by Israeli forces go against the tenets of international law, which prohibit the targeting of non-combatants, especially women, the aged and children.

We express our sadness and condolences to all those who are going through the most difficult time with their families. As South Africans, we are particularly filled with deep sorrow as some who have died are South African citizens caught in this conflict.

The sheer scale of human suffering is a grim reminder that it is civilians who bear the brunt in armed conflict and who pay the heaviest price. We stand firm against violence directed at civilians; against the killing of children, the elderly, the infirm and non-combatants; against the targeting of critical infrastructure such as hospitals; and against the collective punishment of civilian populations.

The wanton attack on civilians in Israel and the siege of Gaza and the decision to forcibly expel a population of over one million people from Gaza, together with the indiscriminate use of force, lay the basis for further suffering and death on a huge scale.

Acts of collective punishment like cutting electricity, food, water, medical and other



We echo the position taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that depriving civilians of goods essential for their survival is prohibited under international law.

essential supplies to civilian populations are abhorrent, as is the deliberate destruction of people's homes.

As South Africans, this has echoes of the collective punishment of our own people by the apartheid regime as it sought to destroy the liberation movement. It brings back painful memories, as it does for our neighbours in the region.

We echo the position taken by the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights that depriving civilians of goods essential for their survival is prohibited under international law.

We call for an immediate cessation of acts of war between the two sides, the opening of humanitarian corridors and a UN-led negotiation process towards resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This must lead to a just and lasting peace that satisfies the human rights, dignity and aspirations of all the people on both sides of this conflict.

There is growing concern that the current conflict may render the possibility of a sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians and a two-state solution even further out of reach.

Yet as South Africans, we know that reconciliation and peace are indeed possible if there is demonstrable political will from all sides and when ordinary citizens commit to a

common, shared future. Without justice, there can be no peace. The cycle of violence that has been unleashed is the tragic outcome of decades of unmet and unfulfilled possibilities to peacefully solve the problem between Israelis and Palestinians.

The international community has a responsibility to support peace and create favourable conditions for negotiation and dialogue, and not to fan the flames of conflict. World leaders need to, and must make, a call for peace and not vengeance.

During apartheid, our country's problems were seen as intractable by many people around the world. But as a people, South Africans rejected attempts to lead us down the path of vengeance. We chose reconciliation over retribution and peacemaking over war. Our nationhood is testament to the power of meaningful negotiation, dialogue and reconciliation.

The only way to bring about peace is the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to human rights, dignity and nationhood.

It is our collective hope that the Israeli and Palestinian people come together, reconcile and choose the path of a just peace. ♪

Dr GNM Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA: MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

2023 – 2025

*“Together, building back better
through human rights”*



The Springbok victory is about much more than sporting excellence. The Springboks' win at the *Stade de France* on Saturday, 28 October 2023, has lifted the nation's spirits, confirming the enduring power of sport to unite and build a nation.

The Springboks go down in history for having won the Rugby World Cup more than any other nation, but this alone is not what makes this an exceptional triumph. The symbolism of this victory is as significant as the great sporting achievement we have witnessed.

It has been under democracy that the Springboks racked up these wins and lifted the coveted Webb Ellis Cup a record four times.

When South Africa first competed in the Rugby World Cup in 1995, our democracy was just a year old. Back then, there was just one black player on the team, the legendary Chester Williams. Of the squad that played in the final, just short of half were black players, including the team captain, Siya Kolisi.

The journey of the Springboks to the historic victory in the 2023 Rugby World Cup is as much about our journey towards nationhood as it is about sporting excellence.

It is as much about our quest to ensure that representation in all facets of public life, including sport, stands as a potent symbol of the cherished values upon which this country was founded.

The fervent, colourful and touching displays of national pride from South Africans, both at home and abroad, during this tournament, show that perhaps as never before, the Springboks have well and truly been embraced by all races as their own.

The viral clip of Springboks winger Makazole Mapimpi being cheered on by customers and store staff while out grocery shopping, and that of Eben "Elizabedi" Etzebeth and RG Snyman dancing with South African fans near the Eiffel Tower in Paris are among my personal favourites.

Witnessing so many South Africans don the national team's colours and profess their support online and on other platforms speak to the deep love for our country and to our



The journey of the Springboks to the historic victory in the 2023 Rugby World Cup is as much about our journey towards nationhood as it is about sporting excellence.

ability to pull together even when the going gets tough.

We need more of this, and not just in the domain of sporting achievements.

That we were able to overcome one of the worst global disasters in living memory in the form of the pandemic was in large part due to our ability to rally around a common cause, in pursuit of the greater good.

At times such as this, when our country faces many problems that at times cause our spirits to flag, we are reminded that our South Africanness, our sense of community and belonging and our very nationhood did not evolve overnight.

It has taken considerable time to forge, and at times faced obstacles that threw us into uncertainty and doubt.

But if the story of the transformation of South African rugby, a sport that was once the bastion of racial supremacy, is anything to go by, our country will continue to reap the benefits of change if we remain united and if

we stay the course. The patriotism we display in sports stadiums should be reflected in our approach to overcoming our challenges. We are all in this together as government, business, labour, civil society and citizens.

We do not make light of South Africa's challenges. They cannot be forgotten or wished away by a fleeting moment such as a sporting victory.

The Springboks' win has united us in celebration. It is our hope that it must also serve to inspire the younger generation to derive important life lessons about perseverance, teamwork, discipline and leadership.

The interview that Siya Kolisi gave shortly after the team's win will be remembered as one of the most poignant and meaningful from a sports person in our country.

He spoke about the different backgrounds of the team members and the difficulties they have had to overcome to reach this pinnacle of sporting achievement. "You have to be South African to see, feel and experience the things we do," he said.

This Springbok squad is one of the best rugby teams in the history of the sport. But they are far more than that. They are also great ambassadors for our country and for the values that continue to drive our efforts to build a united, more equal and prosperous nation. ▮
**Clayson Monyela, Deputy Director-General:
Public Diplomacy**

The Springbok victory is about much more than sporting excellence. The Springboks' win at the *Stade de France* on Saturday, 28 October 2023, has lifted the nation's spirits, confirming the enduring power of sport to unite and build a nation.

UBUNTU

RADIO

SOUTH AFRICA'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

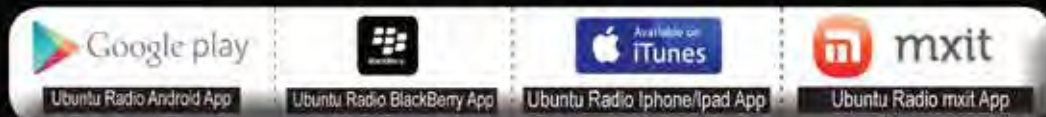
Since its launch in 2013, South Africa's first, 24-hour online radio station has been setting in motion dialogue on South Africa's foreign policy.

In celebration of its first anniversary in 2014, UbuntuRadio launched on DSTV's audio bouquet, increasing its reach to over 45 African countries and over 10 million potential listeners. In addition to the mobile application accessible globally, the UbuntuRadio Mxit Application is also available to a potential 80 million users.

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A baobab tree at sunset, Limpopo



Leading digital solutions

**for Africa's
progress**



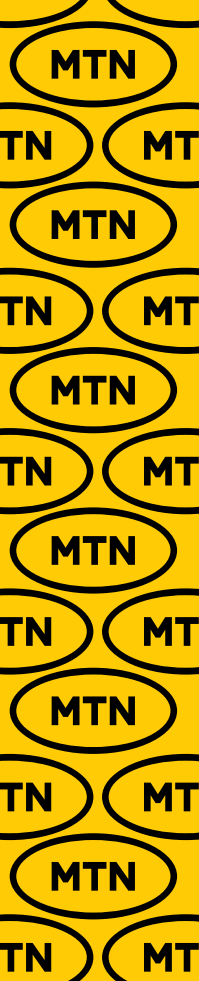
MTN Group is a pan-African mobile operator driven to enable the benefits of a modern connected life for everyone in our 19 markets. Guided by our strategic intent – which is 'Leading digital solutions for Africa's progress' – we provide our 290 million subscribers with a diverse range of voice, data, fintech, digital, enterprise, wholesale, and API services.

Established in South Africa at the dawn of democracy in 1994, MTN has grown by investing in sophisticated communication infrastructure, developing new technologies, and by harnessing the talent of our diverse people to offer services to communities across Africa and in the Middle East.

We aim to be the trusted partner for progress with our nation state hosts in the socioeconomic development of their countries as well as to contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. We continue to expand our network coverage; lower the cost to communicate; reduce our GHG emissions; and advance the representation of women across our business.

In 2022, we contributed approximately R149 billion to society, as measured by economic value added. Of this, our total tax contribution was R51.5 billion. As a company rooted in Africa, we are connected with all things that give Africans dignity, hope

and opportunity. Expanding digital and financial inclusion are a particular focus. In 2022, of our 289 million subscribers, 137 million were active data users and 69 million were active users of MTN Mobile Money. Some 88% of the population



We are committed to contributing to the 'Africa We Want'...

in our markets fell within our broadband coverage and we are targeting 95% by 2025. In 2022, we contributed approximately R149 billion to society, as measured by economic value added. Of this, our total tax contribution was R51.5 billion. As a company rooted in Africa, we are connected with all things that give Africans dignity, hope and opportunity.

Expanding digital and financial inclusion are a particular focus. In 2022, of our 289 million subscribers, 137 million were active data users and 69 million were active users of MTN Mobile Money. Some 88% of the population in our markets fell within our broadband coverage and we are targeting 95% by 2025.

Women make up 40% of our workforce, and we aim for 50% by 2030. To contribute to the fight against climate change, we are committed to a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and Net Zero by 2040.

MTN's journey is rooted in the soul of Africa. It is a journey of tenacity, resilience, dedication, and the pursuit of excellence. We are committed to contributing to the 'Africa We Want' and are inspired by the transformative power of connections and the potential they hold for mutual and sustainable growth, development, and understanding. We actively seek

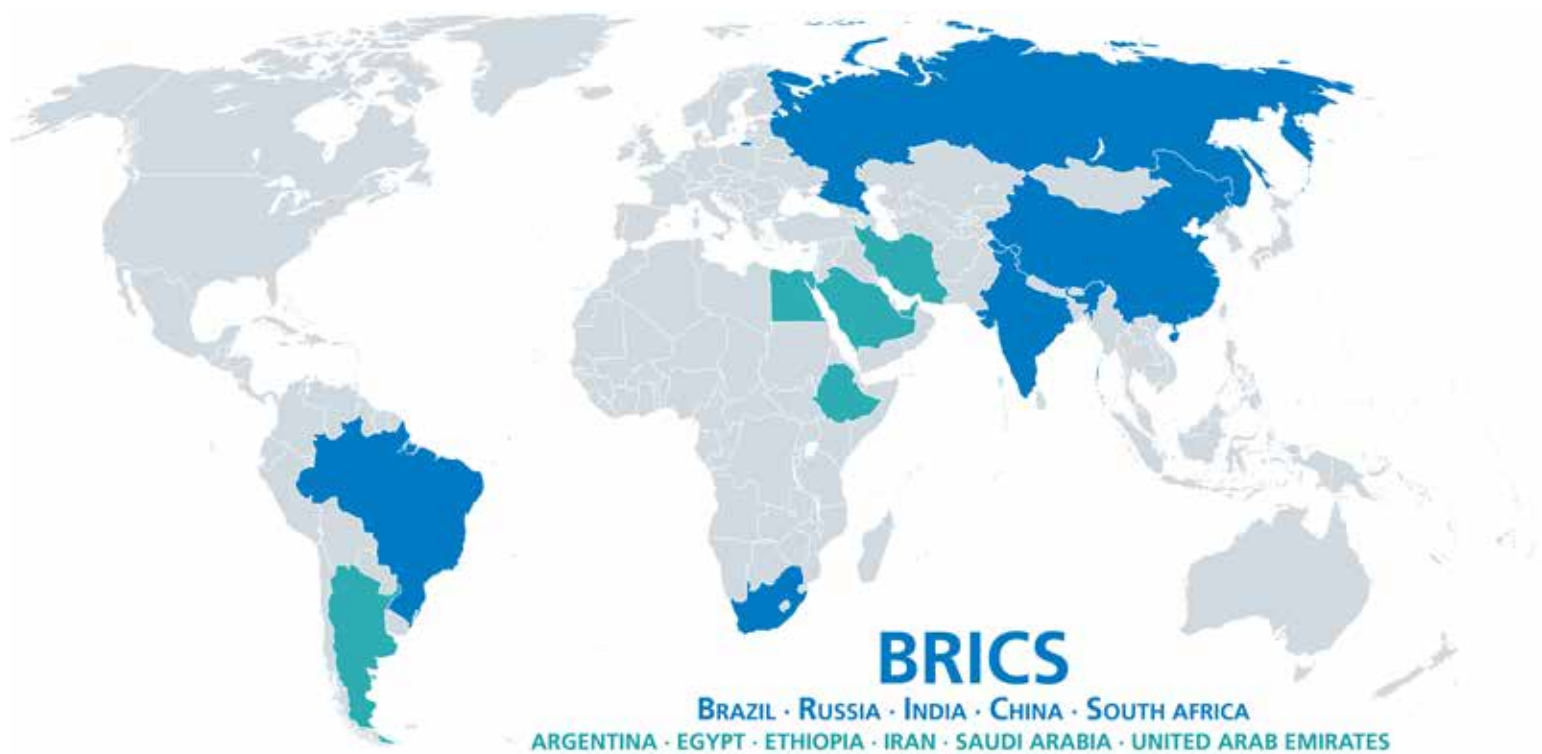
opportunities to leverage our connections to address the challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Through increased collaborations in trade, investment, tourism, skills for the future, and technology transfers, we envision a future of sustainable growth and development for Africa and beyond.

We are excited about the opportunities of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the African Digital Transformation Strategy and remain committed to strengthening the post-pandemic recovery. We are at the forefront of sustainable solutions, investing in renewable energy and innovative technologies that reduce our environmental footprint

Since over 60% of Africa's population is under 35 years of age, we are determined to empower young people by equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in the digital age, and beyond. MTN is a partner in progress, a catalyst for change, and a believer in the power of connection. We are excited about the opportunities ahead. Together, we can create a better Africa and world, with a more connected future for all.

Doing for tomorrow, today.





South Africa continues to play a constructive role in world affairs

Since the advent of democracy, South Africa's foreign policy has been based on what our forebears inscribed in the Freedom Charter in 1955, when they declared that: "South Africa shall be a fully independent state which respects the rights and the sovereignty of all nations; South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation – not war".

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

South Africa hosted the XV BRICS Summit from 22 to 24 August 2023 at the Sandton Convention Centre.

A day ahead of the summit, we received President Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, on his fourth State Visit to South Africa.

The BRICS Summit and the State Visit by President Xi, as well as the many bilateral engagements we had with President Lula da Silva of Brazil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and many other heads of state on the sidelines of the summit, have a bearing on our relationships with other countries and South Africa's place in the world.

To understand why these relations are so important for our country and its people,

we need to understand the principles and the values that shape our foreign policy and inform our international relations.

Before the dawn of democracy in 1994, the apartheid South African state was a pariah in the international community, condemned for committing a crime against humanity. The foreign policy of apartheid South Africa was defined by coercion, destabilisation and military aggression.

Since the advent of democracy, South Africa's foreign policy has been based on what our forebears inscribed in the Freedom Charter in 1955, when they declared that: "South Africa shall be a fully independent state which respects the rights and the sovereignty of all nations; South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation – not war".

This foreign-policy approach is also a product of the efforts of leaders such as the late Oliver Tambo who mounted a vigorous worldwide campaign to secure global support for our just struggle against apartheid.

This put South Africa on the global map in relation to the interests of its people while the world condemned its apartheid rulers.

Our foreign policy is a matter that is vital to our progress as a nation.

Through stronger relations with other countries, manifested through investment and trade relations, we can grow our economy and create more opportunities for new businesses and jobs.

South Africa's foreign policy aims to promote our National Interest based on the protection and promotion of our national sovereignty and constitutional order. It is

also aimed at improving the well-being, safety and prosperity of our citizens, and the achievement of a better Africa and world.

The key pillars of our foreign policy include the promotion of human rights, peace and stability and the strengthening of trade and investment ties with other countries.

The foreign policy stance we have taken since the advent of democracy has positioned South Africa as a reliable and influential partner on our continent and in the world. This has enabled our country to have friendly and valuable relations with countries around the world at political, diplomatic, trade, investment, sporting, social and many other levels.

It is these principles that guide our participation in BRICS.

Together, the members of BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – make up a quarter of the global economy, they account for a fifth of global trade and are home to more than 40% of the world's population.

The three-day BRICS Summit concluded with several successful outcomes, including the expansion of six countries to become full members of BRICS effective from January 2024.

The inclusion of Argentina, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as new members of the group will strengthen beneficial cooperation with South Africa in political, economic and financial matters.

These countries will enhance economic partnerships in key sectors such as oil and energy, telecommunications and information technology, agriculture, textile, logistics, air transportation, tourism and medicine.

BRICS as a formation plays an important role in the world due to its economic power,

market potential, political influence and development cooperation.

Yet, the value of BRICS extends beyond its sheer size.

BRICS countries can collectively shape global dynamics, and acting together, have the potential to drive significant changes in the world economy and international relations.

Together, the BRICS members have used their collective voice to call for a world that is more equitable, balanced and governed by an inclusive system of global governance.

Being a BRICS member has created positive opportunities for South Africa. It has enabled our country to have a strategic relationship with China. Based on the strategic relationship between South Africa and the People's Republic of China, we signed several agreements during President Xi's State Visit.

We have steadily strengthened trade and investment ties with other BRICS countries alongside collaboration in areas such as development, skills, technology, security and innovation.

South Africa has benefitted from the New Development Bank, which was established by the BRICS countries in 2015. Our country has been funded by the bank in several infrastructure projects to the value of R100 billion in sectors such as roads, water, transport and energy.

South Africa has always championed the interests of Africa within BRICS. To further advance the African development agenda, more than 30 heads of state and government from across Africa attended the summit.

We want to build a partnership between BRICS and Africa so that our continent can unlock opportunities for increased trade, investment and infrastructure development.

There are great opportunities for other BRICS countries to participate in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by locating production and services in various countries on the African continent, including our own, by partnering with local companies and entrepreneurs.

The XV BRICS Summit discussed a number of issues, including the possible expansion of BRICS membership. More than 20 countries have formally applied to join BRICS and several others have expressed an interest in becoming part of the BRICS family.

South Africa supports the expansion of the membership of BRICS.

The value of BRICS extends beyond the interests of its current members.

For its efforts to be more effective, BRICS needs to build partnerships with other countries that share its aspirations and perspectives. An expanded BRICS will represent a diverse group of nations with different political systems that share a common desire to have a more balanced global order.

In addition to the other African leaders in attendance at the BRICS Summit, we also welcomed leaders from several countries of the global South. These included countries from the Caribbean and South America, the Middle East, West Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

The XV BRICS Summit was particularly important as it was held as the world is confronted by fundamental challenges that are bound to determine the course of international events for years to come.

Our world has become increasingly complex and fractured as it is increasingly polarised into competing camps. Multilateralism is being replaced by the actions of different



South Africa's approach to foreign relations is to seek increased collaboration, to secure greater trade opportunities and increased investment, and to work closely with partners across the globe to entrench peace and democracy.

power blocs, all of which we trade with, invest with, and whose technology we use. It is for this reason that South Africa continues to advocate for an open and rules-based global governance, trade, financial and investment system. It must be a system that does not depend on the exercise of power or unilateralism, but by the advancement of the interests of the peoples of the world.

It is in this rules-based system that we seek to advance African prosperity and industrialisation. We seek to change the rules to be fairer but ultimately, we want to promote an open system of economic and political relations.

Amid all these challenges, Africa remains at the centre of our foreign policy.

We are firmly committed to strengthening the African Union (AU) so that it increases its capacity to support the achievement of greater integration on the continent.

We are working towards the full implementation of the AfCFTA, which is set to eliminate trade barriers, boost intra-African trade and achieve prosperity for all of Africa. It will also accelerate manufacturing and industrial capacity on our continent.

The vibrant trading Africa we seek to build depends on Africa being stable and peaceful. For Africa to thrive, we must silence the guns.

We continue to work within the AU to end several ongoing conflicts on the continent and restore constitutional and democratic government to countries that have recently experienced coups.

South Africa is directly involved in a number of efforts to bring peace to Africa. We are involved in supporting the people of Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo to ensure that there is peace and stability in their countries.

The administration I have the honour to lead has been devoted to attracting greater trade and investment into South Africa. Every visit we make to countries on our continent and across the world and every visit by heads of state from other countries focusses on strengthening economic ties. When a foreign leader visits our country for a state visit, they are usually accompanied by a business delegation. We are usually accompanied by South African companies when we travel to other countries.

The business fora that are held during these visits result in greater trade, investment and business partnerships.

To further strengthen economic ties between African countries and the United States (US), South Africa invited more than 30 African trade ministers and senior US Administration and Congressional representatives to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, which was held in November this year.

As part of our ongoing relationship with the countries of the European Union (EU), we will hold the EU-South Africa Summit in South Africa to foster our investment and trade relations.

Recent trade statistics indicate the success of all our international links. Within the first three months of this year, we exported R450 billion worth of goods in the mining,

manufacturing and agricultural sectors. Our biggest exports were to China, followed by the US, Germany, Japan and India.

Exports to other African countries account for around a quarter of the value of all our exports.

Our tourism industry is recovering well from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than four million tourist arrivals were recorded in the first half of this year, almost twice as many arrivals as in the same period last year.

Companies across the globe have established new or expanded ventures in our country in sectors as diverse as energy, mining, vehicle production, the creative sector, manufacturing and many others.

For every rand we attract, jobs are created and sustained.

Our country is committed to a policy of non-alignment. We have resisted pressure to align ourselves with any one of the global powers or with influential blocs of nations.

During the Cold War, the stability and sovereignty of many African countries were undermined because of their alignment with the major powers.

This experience has convinced us of the need to seek strategic partnerships with



other countries rather than be dominated by any other country.

While some of our detractors prefer overt support for their political and ideological choices, we will not be drawn into a contest between global powers. Instead, our country strives to work with all countries for global peace and development.

It is for this reason that South Africa is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.

Our decision not to align with any one of the global powers does not mean that we are neutral on matters of principle and National Interest. Our non-aligned position exists alongside our active support for the struggles of the oppressed and marginalised in different parts of the world.

We have always believed that the freedom we won – and the international solidarity from which we benefitted – impose a duty on us to support the struggles of those who continue to experience colonialism and racial oppression.

That is why we will continue to support the struggles of the people of Palestine and Western Sahara. We are fully committed to the articles of the United Nations (UN) Charter,

including the principle that all members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means.

Most recently, we participated in the African initiative to seek peace in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Through this African Peace Initiative, South Africa continues to be involved in processes to ensure that children who were removed from their homes in Ukraine are returned to their families and that prisoners of war are exchanged.

We continue to be involved in the talks regarding the reopening of the Black Sea to facilitate the flow of grain.

South Africa believes that dialogue, mediation and diplomacy are the only viable paths to end the current conflict and achieve durable peace. We support the principle of respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states and peoples.

In the midst of the grave challenges facing humanity, we are determined that a reformed and representative UN must be at the centre of global affairs. South Africa's support for the UN exists alongside our firm belief that this premier multilateral institution needs genuine reform to make it more democratic, representative and efficient. The UN Security

Council must be transformed into a more inclusive, more effective body that is able to ensure peace and security.

South Africa, as a member of the community of nations, will continue to play a constructive role in world affairs.

In 2025, South Africa will assume the presidency of the G20 group of nations. This will be the first time that G20 meetings will be hosted in Africa. The G20 Summit in 2025 will be an opportunity for South Africa to take a lead on critical challenges facing the global community.

South Africa's approach to foreign relations is to seek increased collaboration, to secure greater trade opportunities and increased investment and to work closely with partners across the globe to entrench peace and democracy.

As we continue to define our place in the world, as we advance the needs of our people, we will continue to mobilise all our moral, political and economic strength on the side of peace and development for all of humanity.

We will continue our efforts to give effect to the call of the Freedom Charter that "There shall be peace and friendship". 





The world needs to do much more **to tackle climate change and do it faster**

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, unity of purpose and action between countries is vital, as is a common commitment to multilateralism in the global climate-change effort.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

The recent catastrophic floods in Libya are a stark reminder of the extreme vulnerability of developing economy countries to the effects of an ever-

changing climate. Many other countries on the African continent are just as vulnerable.

Despite carrying the least responsibility for global warming, Africa is warming faster than the rest of the world.

In September 2023, I attended the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York where climate change was a major focus of discussion. There is growing concern that the international community is falling significantly short on meeting the goals



The transformation of the energy landscape in Africa is a priority. As African countries, we have called on the international community to support efforts to increase the continent's renewable energy capacity while ensuring energy security for Africa's people.

contained in the Paris Agreement to combat climate change. While the nations of the world agreed in Paris in 2015 on urgent actions to limit global temperature rises and mitigate the impact of climate change, the effects of climate change are being increasingly felt with greater ferocity.

Although developed economy countries promised to support developing economies as they transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient societies, this support has not been forthcoming at the scale and with the urgency that is needed. Among other things, wealthy countries have not provided the promised finance that vulnerable countries need to adapt to climate change and to cover the cost of the loss and damage caused by climate disasters.

To galvanise governments, business, financial institutions and civil society towards greater climate action, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, convened a Climate Ambition Summit on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. By emphasising "ambition", the UN Secretary-General said that not nearly enough was being done to tackle climate change and that there was insufficient urgency.

South Africa used the summit to reiterate its long-stated position that developed economy countries must fulfil their obligations and honour their past promises to developing economy countries. This is not about charity. It is about economic and social justice. Africa's people are literally paying the price for the industrialisation and development of the countries of the North. It is also about shared interests because the economic and social havoc caused by climate change will make the world more unstable, less secure and will increase competition for scarce resources like water and food.

As African countries, we cannot be bystanders to our own development. We are putting the necessary measures in place to decarbonise our respective economies while pursuing sustainable development. The transformation of the energy landscape in Africa is a priority. As African countries, we have called on the international community to support efforts to increase the continent's renewable energy capacity while ensuring energy security for Africa's people. This needs to take place alongside increased investment in smart, digital

and efficient green technologies in carbon-intensive sectors such as transportation, industry and electricity.

As South Africa, we want to use our abundant solar and wind resources to position our country at the forefront of the clean energy transition. Regulatory reforms undertaken by this administration have resulted in a confirmed pipeline of renewable energy projects that are expected to produce in excess of 10 gigawatts of electricity. We have reaffirmed that the transition to low-carbon economies and societies must be just and inclusive. It must also be appropriate to our national circumstances and development plans.

As the world works to address climate change, we need to avoid measures that, while intended to reduce global warming, simply further increase the vulnerability of developing economies. One of these measures is the European Union's (EU) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, which will increase tariffs on all imports into the EU that are produced through carbon-intensive processes. This is likely to have a significant impact on South African producers, increase the costs of South African exports to European markets and reduce our economy's competitiveness.

In my address to the Climate Ambition Summit, I said that trade mechanisms must enable products from Africa to compete on fair and equitable terms. Trade tariffs and non-trade barriers that have an environmental purpose should be the product of multilateral agreements.

As South Africa, we are committed to contributing our fair share to the global climate-change effort. The message we took to this year's UN General Assembly was that the unique circumstances of countries with low levels of development must be taken into account and that developed economy countries must honour their commitments to support climate mitigation and adaptation.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, unity of purpose and action between countries is vital, as is a common commitment to multilateralism in the global climate-change effort.

Ultimately, no country should be forced to choose between climate action and meeting their developmental aspirations. [U](#)





Africa is ready for new investment and strong partnerships

Multilateralism has served humanity well. While the rules have not always been appropriate for many developing economies, particularly on the African continent, they are better than unilateralism and the exercise of might.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

On 18 September 2023, the United States (US)-South Africa Trade and Investment Business Roundtable Dialogue was held in New York on the sidelines of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Business leaders are aware of the global challenges that provide the backdrop against which their companies seek to grow and provide a return to investors.

These global challenges include climate change, which is reshaping policy agendas and firm-level strategies. These challenges include technological innovation, including the rise of artificial intelligence and more complex geopolitics, characterised by heightened tension between global powers.

Global prosperity has been founded on greater levels of openness and engagement between nations and people.

In recent decades, a more open, rules-based trading system, complemented by deeper levels of cross-border investment,

has helped to sustain and grow global gross domestic product (GDP). It has helped to increase employment in many countries and spur innovation and new technologies.

Yet, the heightened tension of the moment has led to fragmentation, hostility and increasing protectionism.

For South Africa, a divided world is not a good thing. We are a trading nation, with above average trade-to-GDP ratios.

A significant part of our economic growth is driven by exports.

We believe that the voices advocating greater dialogue and continued economic engagement between nations need to be strengthened.

Multilateralism has served humanity well. While the rules have not always been appropriate for many developing economies, particularly on the African continent, they are better than unilateralism and the exercise of might.

It is far better to change the rules and make them fairer than to live in a world without rules.

South Africa has an ambitious trade and investment agenda.

Firstly, we are finalising the modalities for the imminent launch of trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). We expect that the first goods to be traded under this free trade pact would commence within the next six months or sooner.

The AfCFTA will cover 1.3 billion consumers in countries possessing some of the world's most valuable minerals and raw materials.

Secondly, we are working with the US Administration to make the case for the extension of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to current beneficiary countries, for a further period of 10 years, prior to its expiry in 2025.

The US remains a very important economic partner in trade and investment, with great potential to further expand economic ties. There are a reported 600 US firms based in South Africa, and more firms will find value in being present in South Africa in the next phase of our growth.

The US remains a very important economic partner in trade and investment, with great potential to further expand economic ties. There are a reported 600 US firms based in South Africa, and more firms will find value in being present in South Africa in the next phase of our growth.

According to the US Bureau of Economic Analysis, US firms in South Africa generate over US\$30 billion of revenue per annum.

Thirdly, we have an Economic Partnership Agreement with both the European Union and the United Kingdom. Trade flows continue to be very significant. Exports of manufactured goods, particularly of automotive products, have grown.

Fourthly, we are expanding our trade links with countries in the Middle East, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Common Market of the South and within the BRICS group. These include some of the fastest-growing economies and are a source of capital for our industry and markets for our goods.

Accompanying this trade agenda, we have embarked on far-reaching economic reforms.

The energy market is being restructured. The public electricity utility, Eskom, which has faced severe challenges, has improved maintenance of its generation fleet and has received debt relief from the State to strengthen its financial position. Private energy generation, specifically in renewables, constitutes a growing share of total energy generated. Since the implementation of regulatory changes, the pipeline of private-sector generation projects has increased to over 100 projects representing more than 10 000 MW of new capacity.

South Africa's location requires an efficient transport logistics system. This is to enable us to move goods between the main industrial heartland and port cities and to act as the hub for moving products from and to other African countries.

Following a period of under-investment in ports and rail infrastructure, we are now working closely with the private sector to use the wider pool of skills available to improve the logistics system.

The economic reform agenda is also focussed on expanding our industrial capacity. The availability of critical raw materials in South Africa and in neighbouring countries is driving efforts to expand high-value manufacturing. This is a real opportunity for more US investment that can leverage off the demonstrated manufacturing base of South Africa.

African growth rates provide a stable growth in aggregate demand over the next decade and more. As the recently published

African Economic Outlook for 2023 noted: "Growth is projected to rebound to 4 percent in 2023 and consolidate at 4.3 percent in 2024, underpinning Africa's continued resilience to shocks."

The report goes on to say: "Africa is endowed with 30 percent of the world's mineral resources and 65 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land, the world's most productive forests both in timber and carbon retention resources, and ample solar, wind, and hydropower." With this kind of potential, savvy investors will be expanding their base in South Africa and the rest of the continent.

Our economic reform agenda also includes targeted measures to open the market for more South Africans to participate.

What we refer to as transformation of the economy helps to build long-term stability and growth. Our efforts to open digital markets represent an example of this, as does the use of flexible measures such as the equity equivalent investment programme that a number of US corporations, most recently CitiBank, have used.

This includes efforts to provide share-ownership options to employees in companies, as has been done by Pepsico in South Africa. These are all examples of good corporate practices to broaden economic participation and ensure sustainability.

Industrialisation is an important focus area. I must commend companies like Coca-Cola, which has embraced it fully and has been a strong and reliable partner in development of the local industrial capacity in the South African economy. We look forward to more companies following this example.

Skills development is both a necessity in a period of fast-changing human resource needs of firms, and an opportunity for us. We have a large population of young people – a growing number of who are attending university and other higher education institutions.

A focussed effort to expand workplace exposure for graduates, coupled with a shift to technical education and the teaching of Maths and Science, will enable South Africa to build a larger resource of skilled workers.

This focus on skills is vital to our ambitious investment drive. We recently concluded the first five-year phase of our investment

drive, raising R1.5 trillion in commitments from firms across the economy. These range from automobiles to pharmaceuticals, mining, the digital economy, manufacturing, energy, transport, logistics and many others. We have now increased the target over the next five years to R2 trillion. The next South Africa Investment Conference will be held in March 2024.

The investment drive includes an expansion of special economic zones, the most recent of which was built around the Ford Motor Company's plant in the capital city, Pretoria. Around 10 large factories now produce components for the scaled-up Ford plant.

Infrastructure investment is a special focus, with increased investment in energy, transport, digital infrastructure and water.

The reform of our visa system is underway, with increased visa-free travel. The focus is now shifting to business visas and work permits and we are prioritising senior executives and scarce skills, so that the short-term constraints in skill availability do not impede growth.

Finally, we are working on ways to expand the greening of our economy. This includes renewable energy generation, proposed green hydrogen pilot projects and the development of a roadmap for electric vehicle production.

Africa is ready for new investment and strong partnerships.

South Africa is well-positioned as the continent's industrial centre, with deep capital markets, the rule of law, protection of property rights and a dynamic and youthful population.

The significant presence of US companies operating in South Africa, including Ford, Coca-Cola, Pepsico, Procter & Gamble, Google, Amazon and Walmart, among many others, forms a base for increased investment.

The US Africa Business Council and Business Unity South Africa hosted the inaugural business and investment forum on the margins of the AGOA Forum, in November 2023.

This platform presented our respective governments, private sectors and civil society with numerous opportunities to advance our trade and investment relations.



President Cyril Ramaphosa arrived in New York on 17 September 2023 for a Working Visit to lead a South Africa's delegation to the General Debate of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA78) from 18 to 26 September 2023.

The President delivered the South Africa statement to the UNGA on Tuesday, 19 September 2023.

The address to the UNGA was preceded by a number of high-level engagements.

These included summits on Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; Sustainable Development Goals; a High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development; as well as the Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and Climate Ambition Summit hosted by the UN Secretary-General.

President Ramaphosa also led discussions during the Presidential Roundtable that was hosted by the United States (US) Chamber of Commerce and US-Africa Business Centre.

In addition, the President's programme also included several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of UNGA.

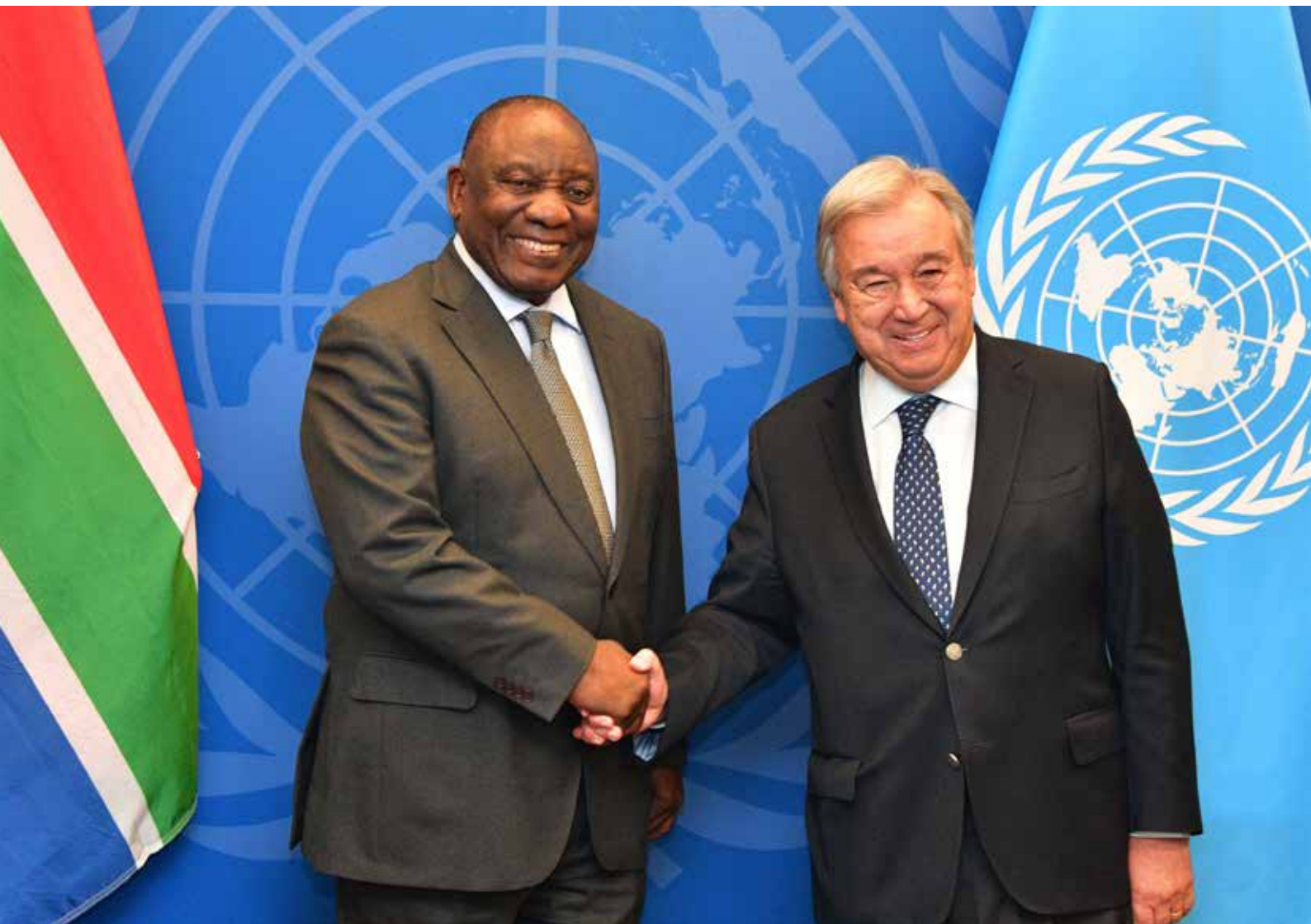
UNGA78 was convened under the auspices of *Rebuilding Trust and Reigniting Global Solidarity: Accelerating Action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development towards Peace, Prosperity, Progress and Sustainability for All*.

The theme was set by the incoming President of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Dennis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago.

South Africa's participation in the UN was directed by its international relations policy objectives of, among others:

- mobilising support for South Africa's domestic objectives, as outlined in the National Development Plan, including reducing inequality, unemployment and poverty eradication
- support for the African Agenda and promoting Africa's sustainable development by advocating for Africa's priorities under the African Union Agenda 2063.
- influencing the reform of the global multilateral architecture; and advancing the agenda of the South in the North-South Dialogue platform.

The ministerial delegation in support of the South Africa's participation to UNGA78 consisted of the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor; Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ebrahim Patel; Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Barbara Creecy; Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla; Minister in The Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni; and Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Maropene Ramokgopa. 🇺🇳



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Securing a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for generations to follow

Democratic South Africa has consistently advocated for dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy to prevent and end conflict and achieve lasting peace.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

Seventy-eight years ago, in the aftermath of the Second World War, the nations of the world made a solemn commitment to save future generations from the horror and the suffering of war.

Through the United Nations (UN) Charter, these nations accepted a shared mandate to foster peace and promote fundamental human rights, social progress and a better standard of life for all.

And yet, as we gathered in New York at the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly

in September 2023, much of humanity was confronted by war and conflict, want and hunger, disease and environmental disaster.

Solidarity and trust between states are being eroded.

Inequality, poverty and unemployment are deepening.

In these conditions and in the wake of a devastating global pandemic, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seems increasingly remote.

At the moment when every human effort should be directed towards the realisation of Agenda 2030, our attention and our energies

have once again been diverted by the scourge of war.

But these woes, divisions and seemingly intractable troubles can and must be overcome.

Over millennia, the human race has demonstrated an enormous capacity for resilience, adaptation, innovation, compassion and solidarity. We are now all called upon to reaffirm these essential qualities that define our common humanity.

These qualities must be evident in how we work together as a global community and as nations to end war and conflict.



As the international community, we must do everything within our means to enable meaningful dialogue, just as we should refrain from any actions that fuel the conflict.

We must work for peace in the Middle East. For as long as the land of the Palestinians remains occupied; for as long as their rights are ignored and their dignity denied, such peace will remain elusive.

The actions of the Government of Israel have imperilled the possibility of a viable two-state solution. The principles of the UN Charter on territorial integrity and on the prohibition on the annexation of land through the use of force must be applied in this situation.

South Africa continues to call for the lifting of the economic embargo against Cuba, which has caused untold damage to the country's economy and people.

Sanctions against Zimbabwe should also be lifted as they are imposing untold suffering on ordinary Zimbabweans.

As many people around the world are confronted by hunger and want, the essential human qualities of cooperation and solidarity must be evident in the actions we take to bridge the divide between wealthy and poor.

We must summon the necessary will and resolve to regain the momentum towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

This means that we must address the fundamental development challenges that have long characterised our unequal world.

To address the developmental challenges that face many people in the world, we require targeted investment, technology transfer and capacity-building support, especially in key areas such as industrialisation, infrastructure, agriculture, water, energy, education and health.

This also requires predictable and sustained financial support, including supportive trade policies, from the international community.

We call on our partners from wealthier countries to meet the financial commitments they have made.

It is a great concern that these wealthier countries have failed to meet their undertakings to mobilise US\$100 billion a year for developing economies to take climate action.

We support the proposals outlined in the Secretary-General's Sustainable Development

Democratic South Africa has consistently advocated for dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy to prevent and end conflict and achieve lasting peace. It has committed itself to the promotion of human rights, human dignity, justice, democracy and adherence to international law.

From the experience of our own journey from apartheid to democracy, we value the importance of engaging all parties to conflicts to achieve peaceful, just and enduring resolutions.

It is these principles that inform South Africa's participation in the African Peace Initiative, which seeks a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

In this conflict, as in all conflicts, we have insisted that the UN Charter's principle of respect for the territorial integrity of every country should be upheld.

Our participation in the African Peace Initiative is informed by a desire to see an end to the suffering of those most directly affected by the conflict and the millions on our continent and across the world who, as a result of the conflict, are now vulnerable to worsening hunger and deprivation.

As the international community, we must do everything within our means to enable meaningful dialogue, just as we should refrain

from any actions that fuel the conflict. As we confront other conflicts in several parts of the world, including on our continent Africa, we need to be investing in prevention and peacebuilding.

We support the call by the UN Secretary-General in the New Agenda for Peace for member states to provide more sustainable and predictable financing to peacebuilding efforts.

As a global community, we should be concerned by recent incidents of unconstitutional changes of government in some parts of Africa. The global community needs to work alongside the African Union (AU) to support peace efforts in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Mali, Central African Republic, South Sudan, northern Mozambique, the Great Lakes Region, the Sahel, Niger and the Horn of Africa.

The AU Peace and Security Council has declared that it stands ready to deepen its cooperation with the UN Security Council to silence the guns on the African continent and to achieve peace, stability and development.

We are called upon to remain true to the founding principles of the UN, by recognising the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination in line with the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions.



Goals Stimulus. In particular, we support the call to tackle debt and debt distress, to massively scale up affordable long-term financing to US\$500 billion a year and to expand contingency financing to countries in need.

It is a grave indictment of this international community that we can spend so much on war, but we cannot support action that needs to be taken to meet the most basic needs of billions of people.

The achievement of the SDGs depends fundamentally on the empowerment of women in all spheres of life.

Social and economic progress will not be possible unless we end gender discrimination. We must ensure that there is equal access for women to healthcare, education and economic opportunities.

We must pay particular attention to the provision of adequate health services to every woman, child and adolescent. By doing so, we will fundamentally improve the health and well-being of all.

The empowerment of women must be central to the actions we now take towards the realisation of Agenda 2030.

The essential human qualities of innovation and adaptation must be evident in the actions we take to prevent the destruction of our planet.

Africa is warming faster than the rest of the world. Of the 20 climate hotspots in the world, 17 are in Africa.

Centuries after the end of the slave trade and decades after the end of the colonial exploitation of Africa's resources, the people of our continent are once again bearing the cost of the industrialisation and development

of the wealthy nations of the world. This is a price that the people of Africa are no longer prepared to pay.

We urge global leaders to accelerate global decarbonisation while pursuing equality and shared prosperity.

We need to advance all three pillars of the Paris Agreement – mitigation, adaptation and support – with equal ambition and urgency.

African countries, alongside other developing economy countries, need increased financial support to both implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve their climate change goals in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

We need to operationalise the Loss and Damage Fund for vulnerable countries hit hard by climate disasters, as agreed at COP27.

Africa has embraced this challenge

Africa is determined to deploy smart, digital and efficient green technologies to expand industrial production, boost agricultural yields, drive growth and create sustained employment for Africa's people.

As the global community, we must ensure the essential qualities that define our humanity are evident in the institutions that manage the conduct of international relations.

We require institutions that are inclusive, representative, democratic and advance the interests of all nations.

We require a renewed commitment to multilateralism, based on clear rules and supported by effective institutions.

This is the moment to proceed with the reform of the UN Security Council, to give meaning to the principle of the sovereign equality of nations and to enable the council to

respond more effectively to current geopolitical realities. We are pleased that the Common African Position on the reform of the Security Council is increasingly enjoying wide support.

This process must move to text-based negotiations, creating an opportunity for convergence between member states.

We must ensure that the voice of the African continent and the global South is strengthened in the UN and broader multilateral system.

All the peoples represented in this UN had their origins in Africa. In Africa, they developed the tools and capabilities to spread across the world and achieve remarkable feats of development and progress.

Despite its history, despite the legacy of exploitation and subjugation, despite the ongoing challenge of conflict and instability, Africa is determined to regain its position as a site of human progress.

Through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is creating a wider seamless trading area of low tariffs and accelerated interconnectivity, African countries are mobilising their collective means and resources to achieve shared prosperity.

Through the AfCFTA, African countries are establishing the foundation for a massive increase in trade, accelerated infrastructure development, regional integration and sustainable industrialisation.

As the global community, we have the means and we have the desire to confront and overcome the enormous challenges that face humanity today.

Let us demonstrate that we have both the will and the resolve to secure a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for our world and for the generations that will follow. U



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Science diplomacy: Reclaiming Africa's intellectual future

The African continent has made tremendous inroads in using scientific evidence in the formulation of public and foreign policy.

By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

This year marks 150 years of the existence of the University of South Africa (Unisa). It is a significant milestone not only for South Africa but for the continent as a whole. The university, through its innovative tuition offerings, research and development, has managed to overcome the barriers of borders, attracting students from across the continent and beyond. The over 900 Masters and 454 PhDs produced by Unisa are a resounding testimony to this Pan-African university.

The year 1946 saw Unisa become the first university in the world to adopt the open-distance education model, then called "learning by correspondence" through the Unisa Division of External Studies. This foresight and agility are what has seen Unisa adapting through its different iterations over the years, to remain standing 150 years later.

The COVID-19 pandemic and consequent accelerated developments in digital technologies

have shone a positive spotlight on long-distance education.

Therefore, we must ask ourselves, what will Unisa be like in 2063 or in 2173, which are 150 years from now? What kind of contribution do we want this university to make to the continent in terms of training future scholars and professionals and generating new knowledge? Will Unisa still be relevant in responding to new realities and innovations?

The phenomenon of countries advancing their scientific and technological developments is historic. However, it has found new expression in the 21st century in the form of advances pursued through international relations – hence the concept of science diplomacy. Science diplomacy, with its myriad definitions and context, can be described as a country's efforts to improve the intersection of science, technology and foreign policy. The global community acknowledges the work done by the American Association for the Advancement of Science to popularise courses

on science diplomacy. On its part, the African continent has made tremendous inroads in using scientific evidence in the formulation of public and foreign policy. In this regard, Unisa must leverage its presence across the continent by building partnerships and networks. These are important for drawing together the capabilities, interests and resources of different stakeholders to achieve Agenda 2063.

Science, technology and innovation (STI) are enablers for achieving our mutual socio-economic development goals, building on our vast existing ecosystems of bilateral and multilateral relationships driven by our shared values, common interests and policy imperatives.

If we are to achieve our goals as envisioned in Agenda 2063, the Research, Development and Innovation Agenda should be an axis of such partnerships, networks and collaborations. We believe that the Innovation Agenda will create huge growth potential for the innovation ecosystems within the continent and

The phenomenon of countries advancing their scientific and technological developments is historic. However, it has found new expression in the 21st century in the form of advances pursued through international relations – hence the concept of science diplomacy.

contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063; and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

Through the theme, *Science Diplomacy – Reclaiming Africa's Intellectual Futures into the Next 150 Years*, Unisa has committed to continue adapting its knowledge production modalities, research, innovation and community engagement approaches and to address the evolving needs of our African continent.

Accelerating sustainable economic growth is a priority for all of us. Developed countries have prioritised research development and innovation in science as part of their recovery plans for current and future global economic crises, including recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change.

Similarly, strong developing countries such as China, India and Brazil, are reaping the benefits of their investment in STI-driven policies over the past decades. Advances in scientific and technological knowledge made possible significant reductions in poverty and improved quality of life.

Governments have placed focus and resources towards expanded and strategic internationalisation in the form of joint research and innovative initiatives, building human capacity through international mobility and strengthening and growing research infrastructure capabilities. Science diplomacy has contributed towards socio-economic development and allowed us to firstly reinforce our foreign policy objectives through global solidarity, multilateralism, the African Agenda and South-South cooperation.

New developments such as the Square Kilometre Array and Artemis Programme present African countries with an opportunity to play a role in the world's leading radio telescopes and deep space monitoring

capacities. The Artemis Programme is a human and robotic Moon-exploration programme led by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, involving the European Union and Japanese and Canadian space programmes. The programme's long-term goal is to establish a permanent human base on the Moon and thereafter potentially on Mars.

International scientific cooperation has also led to a greater understanding of complex global crises such as climate change, the loss of biological diversity and pollution. Understanding these crises is the first step toward addressing them. We are pleased with the outcomes secured at the COP27 Summit on the shared threat to our environment, which was informed by science.

At a bilateral level, successful cooperation in the field of science between South Africa and Ethiopia includes joint endeavours in space science and technology. This project is implemented by the South African National Space Agency and the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute.

We must deepen dialogue and engagement between policymakers and innovators, remove barriers and close gaps that impede innovation and creativity. Innovation is a substantial economic opportunity for the continent's development. We must demand that our universities, science councils, think tanks, state-owned enterprises, industry private sector and innovation and tech hubs make use of initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Digital Transformation Strategy, among others, to realise the Africa we want.

As the African proverb says: "If you want to go fast go alone but if you want to go far go together". The same applies to the progress we need in the field of science. The solutions that science needs are borderless and require collective effort. The AU represents the ambition to reinforce STI capabilities on the continent. In turn, science will help reboot weakened

multilateral institutions, which are crucial in achieving our development aspirations. As a continent, we must utilise and leverage our membership of multilateral and minilateral partnerships to bridge the digital divide and secure access to technology, in order to create decent jobs and attract investment.

It is therefore essential to create a conducive environment that allows science to flourish in the countries of the South. The developing South is often seen as a "beggar" when asking for access to key technologies for its development. Developed countries place hefty requirements and unfair and discriminatory trade regimes, which limit our advances in science.

The recent COVID global pandemic has shown us that effective health solutions are science-based. Developed countries used their scientific research capabilities and were quicker to respond than the rest of us. On a positive note, South Africa has been part of the launching of the World Health Organisation mRNA Hub, led by Afrigen and the NantSA laboratory, which will collaborate with the mRNA hub by providing RNA enzymes required to produce vaccines. This is a tremendous contribution towards ensuring that Africa is not left behind if the world is faced with other debilitating pandemics in the future. This did not come easy. We had to fight for the temporary waiver of intellectual property rights by the World Trade Organisation, which allowed the continent to access much-needed COVID-19 vaccines at the time.

Going forward, we need fundamental transformation and modernisation of the global financial architecture and reform of the multilateral development banks to make them fit for purpose to assist developing countries with their sustainable development and just transition efforts. By addressing issues such as debt, risk aversion to investing in developing countries and creating markets in developing regions for new technologies such as green hydrogen, the full potential of STI can be unleashed.

The possibilities of science are limitless and as we forge ahead with groundbreaking research and innovation, it is inevitable that multilateralism will be strengthened as countries break through frontiers with far greater speed and effectiveness when working together. Our hope is that in rebooting multilateralism, science will also fortify the bonds of global solidarity on many of the pressing issues of our times. 🌍

The possibilities of science are limitless and as we forge ahead with groundbreaking research and innovation, it is inevitable that multilateralism will be strengthened as countries break through frontiers with far greater speed and effectiveness when working together.

G20: Ukraine war must not overshadow development talks

The themes that India has chosen for its presidency of the G20 this year place the global South at the centre of development planning.

By Dr GNM Pandor

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The G20 has become one of the pre-eminent global agenda-setting bodies in international relations outside of formal United Nations (UN) structures. Not only does it serve as the premier economic forum for international cooperation, but it is an important vehicle for advancing Africa's development priorities.

The themes that India has chosen for its presidency of the G20 this year placed the global South at the centre of development planning.

Accelerating progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a key priority of India's presidency and reflects South Africa's own policy goals, which are in harmony with this year's G20 action plan.

India's proposal of a green development pact for a sustainable future and reforms of multilateral institutions for the 21st century reflect our country's own foreign policy priorities.

India is committed to bridging the digital divide between technology transfer and digital transformation. South Africa believes that, if digital architecture were made widely accessible, it could bring about socio-economic transformation, and the use of digital technologies could become a force multiplier in the fight against poverty.

Harnessing data for development is critical for providing greater access to the Internet and improving digital skills. As India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, has observed:

"There are 400 million people who don't have a digital identity, 200 million people who don't have a bank account and 133 countries that don't even have fast payments. This is a massive opportunity to use technology to transform the world."

Fast-tracking the delivery of climate finance is a high priority for India's G20 presidency. It is both India's and South Africa's perspective that developing countries require substantial climate finance to meet their ambitious goals

– and developed countries need to lead the mobilisation of resources.

The G20 Summit in Bali last year agreed to expedite the delivery of climate finance to developing countries and work on an ambitious new collective quantified goal of climate finance from US\$100 billion (R1.9 trillion) per year to support such countries. The Bali Declaration urged developed countries to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025 to achieve a balance between mitigation and adaptation. There needs to be

concrete action from developed countries in terms of climate finance and strengthening the capacity of developing countries to combat climate change. We must also work with G20 countries to scale up the deployment of zero- and low-emission power generation, including renewable energy.

Under the Indian presidency, there is also a focus on enhancing food security and the need to mobilise the international community to maintain the supply of both fertilisers and grains. Given the non-renewal of the grain deal, whereby Russia was asked to extend



India's proposal of a green development pact for a sustainable future and reforms of multilateral institutions for the 21st century reflect our country's own foreign policy priorities.

the agreement that enabled Ukraine to export grain from its Black Sea ports, this issue is all the more urgent.

India has emphasised the fact that developed countries need to honour their financial commitments to the developing countries most in need. Through its laudable support of the debt service suspension initiative, the G20 attempted to provide relief to developing countries, but the results were below expectations. Not only have developed countries failed to meet their commitments to the developing world, but they repeatedly attempt to shift that responsibility to the global South.

We commend India for its numerous active ministerial meetings that have interrogated all of these issues and for the consistent contact among the G20 Sherpas.

India, as an emerging global power, is well placed to ensure that the core interests of the developing world, including Africa, are a priority during its presidency. Africa will look to India to

ensure that its socio-economic regeneration, as articulated in Agenda 2063, receives the attention it deserves within the group this year. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should be more representative to be relevant and developing countries need greater decision-making powers.

Multilateral institutions and international financing institutions, including development banks, must reform urgently, given the rise of emerging economies. A country like Ethiopia – which is home to more than 100 million people – controls only 0.09% of the votes in the IMF Fund, while the United States has a vote share of 16%. This must change. In recent times,

the agenda of the G20 has expanded beyond economic and financial matters and now encompasses issues of peace and security.

The group is not a substitute for the UN system and should remain an economic development forum and refrain from tackling peace and security issues.

This was the primary challenge that Indonesia faced throughout its presidency and at the summit itself. There is a need to bridge divides between countries that are polarised over the war, so that the G20 can focus on the challenges for which it was created – accelerating the SDGs, reviving economic growth and generating the much-needed climate finance.

The Johannesburg II Declaration adopted at the XV BRICS Summit underscored the importance of the G20 in continuing to act as the premier multilateral forum in international economic and financial cooperation in seeking solutions to global challenges. ►►

Africa will look to India to ensure that its socio-economic regeneration, as articulated in Agenda 2063, receives the attention it deserves within the group this year.





President Cyril Ramaphosa participated in the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi, Republic of India, from 9 to 10 September 2023.

The New Delhi G20 Summit was hosted under the theme *One Earth, One Family, One Future*.

On Sunday, 10 September 2023, President Ramaphosa joined heads of state and government at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Rajghat Memorial.

The President also, on the margins of the G20, had bilateral meetings with heads of state and government to strengthen South Africa's diplomatic, economic and cultural ties.

The New Delhi Summit focussed on the key pillars of the Indian G20 presidency, namely:

- Accelerated, Inclusive Sustainable and Resilient Growth
- Accelerating Progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Mainstreaming Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)
- Multilateral Institutions for the 21st Century
- Technological Transformation and Public Infrastructure
- Building Digital Public Infrastructure
- Safeguarding International Peace and Harmony
- Creating a More Inclusive World, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.

India holds the presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. The G20 Summit is held annually under the leadership of a rotating presidency.

The G20 has since expanded its agenda to include trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption.

South Africa is a member of the G20 and its participation seeks to provide a strategic foresight in establishing an economic and international policy platform that will drive and negotiate the best possible outcomes for the country, Africa and the developing world.

Following the summit in New Delhi, President Ramaphosa welcomed membership of the African Union (AU) in the G20.

President Ramaphosa addressed the G20 Leader's Summit, held under the theme *One Earth, One Family and One Future*. President Ramaphosa advocated for the AU's membership of the G20 during the 2022 Summit in Bali, Indonesia. The President appreciated India's presidency in hosting an inclusive summit and placing the interest of the global South firmly on the agenda. President Ramaphosa also acknowledged G20 member states who supported the AU's inclusion.

The participation of the AU will strengthen global economic governance and allow African countries to own and influence decisions on key issues.

On the margins of the New Delhi G20 Summit, South Africa participated in the European Union-African Leader's meeting attended by the presidents of the European Council and Commission; African heads of state invited to attend the G20 Summit; the AU Commission; and heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The purpose of the meeting was to, among others, discuss the AU's G20 membership; food security; grain and fertiliser supply; and the reform of the global financial architecture.

South Africa used the summit to advocate for an enhanced and expanded Global Partnership for Sustainable Development to meet climate-change commitments.

"South Africa welcomes the Indian presidency's efforts to accelerate progress on the SDGs. The achievement of the SDGs must remain at the centre of international financing discussions to ensure that finance is mobilised in sufficient quantities and of suitable quality to support development in low- and middle-income countries," said the President.

President Ramaphosa looks forward to working closely with President Lula da Silva as Brazil prepares to take over the presidency of the G20 in 2024 and to build on the foundation laid by India. South Africa will assume the G20 presidency in 2025. [U](#)



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BRICS

building a "pluriversal" world

A "pluriversal" world embraces knowledge from all sources and cultures and harnesses them to build a more humane community with a shared future. Such a world is the antithesis of the idea of unipolarity, espoused and practised by the major powers of the global North.

Busani Ngcaweni

Director-General of the National School of Government of South Africa

BRICS is emerging as a key bloc building towards a "pluriversal" world. "Pluriverse", a term believed to be coined by the Colombian American anthropologist, Arturo Escobar, in a 2018 book on design theory, refers to a world that is more multipolar, more inclusive, just and equitable, a world that respects the potential and contributions of all countries to human progress.

A "pluriversal" world embraces knowledge from all sources and cultures and harnesses them to build a more humane community with a shared future. Such a world is the antithesis of the idea of unipolarity, espoused and practised by the major powers of the global North.

The convergence of historical and contemporary geopolitical events has helped the BRICS member states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) gravitate towards the global centre stage, with some other countries of the global South following a similar path. But the statements and speeches of BRICS leaders suggest the grouping is not anti-global North and has no intention to "decouple" from it.

Nonetheless, BRICS has an agenda: to make the global governance system more inclusive and egalitarian, improve the global financial institutions and help build a multipolar order that more accurately represents the objectives and ambitions of the developing countries.

The BRICS members are playing an increasingly important role in global development cooperation and have strengthened their financial instruments while establishing distinct forms of South-South economic cooperation.

BRICS has increased its engagement with the global South, African countries in particular, based on its core values of solidarity, inclusivity and a shared future.

As a result, the global South believes BRICS will use its considerable economic weight to spread the benefits of economic development and help reduce their overreliance on former colonial powers.

Development that helps improve lives and livelihoods of the majority of the people in the world dominated the agenda of the XV BRICS Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2023. The discussions covered topics such as trade, development financing, infrastructure development, skills development, global peace, climate change, research and development, innovation and scientific advancement.

The success of this agenda has the potential to alter the global economy and lift millions of people around the world out of poverty, which the Chinese leadership has succeeded in doing within their country. Brazil, India, Russia and South Africa, too, have implemented poverty-alleviation policies, which have helped lift millions of people out of poverty and build a strong middle class.

Besides, in their pursuit of sustainable development, the BRICS members are moving towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development, and contributing their fair share to global emissions reduction, with

China having the most advanced adaptation and mitigation plans among the five BRICS members. At the same time, they ensure that global decisions made to reduce emissions do not harm the global South's development prospects.

By doing so, the BRICS countries stress the primacy of multilateralism in the global climate agenda and highlight the importance of adhering to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities outlined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

It is because of these factors that, despite BRICS facing geopolitical and economic hurdles since its formation in 2009, trade and investment among its members have significantly increased, with China being the bloc's main economic driver. For instance, in 2022, intra-BRICS trade reached US\$162 billion, in spite of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, soaring above inflation and other economic shocks.

According to the World Bank, BRICS represents 42% of the global population, and accounts for 31% of global gross domestic product (in purchasing power parity terms), more than the 30% of G7. No wonder BRICS is now considered one of the most important economic groupings in the world and all signs show it will keep expanding.

Also, the BRICS members have been working on creating a common BRICS

The BRICS members are playing an increasingly important role in global development cooperation and have strengthened their financial instruments while establishing distinct forms of South-South economic cooperation.

currency, so as to lessen their dependency on the US dollar and the euro.

But such endeavours will not be without challenges, such as obstacles created by existing global financial institutions. To overcome the challenges, the BRICS members have to make policies after serious deliberations and strategic manoeuvring.

The BRICS countries also need to accelerate technology transfer and transformation, because technology is one of the main factors driving development. The transfer of technology while protecting intellectual property rights can help more profitably apply research results to businesses, which can already be seen in the joint training programmes with South Africa, which began after it assumed the BRICS Chair in February 2023.

As some analysts and commentators have said, this year will likely see BRICS' biggest impact on the global economic and geopolitical landscape. A part of that impact will be the grouping's improved relationship with Africa as is evident from the theme of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg: *BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism*.

South Africa, as BRICS Chair, believes that no country can develop in isolation. The country's leadership has been consistent in this regard, taking advantage of every available opportunity such as at the G20 Summit to further the development of the entire African continent.

Other BRICS countries also recognise this fact and that's why they are working towards

inclusive development. In fact, the BRICS leaders need to be commended for keeping the grouping intact for 15 years, because despite the tectonic political shifts in the world, they have maintained the momentum of development. These leaders have not only managed the contradictions among the BRICS members well and handled geopolitical issues with aplomb, but also respect one another's vision for the organisation.

Developing on the firm foundation of multilateralism, BRICS looks set to be front and centre of the global quest to build a "pluriversal" world. [U](#)

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AU and G20:

Membership will give Africa more say on global issues – if it speaks with one voice

The AU hopes to use its G20 membership to give member states a greater voice on key global issues and to make a stronger contribution to the ongoing renegotiation of the global order.

By Ulf Engel

Professor, Institute of African Studies, University of Leipzig

After seven years of advocating for full membership, the African Union (AU) will join the Group of 20 “most important industrialised and developing economies”. It becomes the second regional bloc to join the group after the 27-member European Union (EU).

The G20 was established after the 1999 Asian financial crisis as an informal grouping of ministers of finance and central bank governors. It grew out of the G7, which was formed in 1975 to deal with another complex global financial and economic crisis.

Since 2008, the G20 has met at the level of heads of state and government. Its agenda has been broadened beyond finance and economics to include, among other issues, climate change, disaster risk reduction and health.

The G20 is currently made up of 19 member states (including South Africa) plus the EU. These members collectively account for about 85% of global economic output, more than 75% of global trade and about two-thirds of the world population. The AU's 55 member states, on the other hand, bring only about 3% of global economic output, but a population of 1.4 billion.

Based on my research on the AU, and my experience as an adviser to the African Union Commission (AUC) (the AU's secretariat) for 18 years, my view is that membership of the G20 is an important complement to the union's existing multilateral and bilateral strategic partnerships.

The AU hopes to use its G20 membership to give member states a greater voice on key global issues and to make a stronger contribution to the ongoing renegotiation of the global order. But a major challenge will be to find a structured way to arrive at common African positions and speak on behalf of member states.

Strategic partnership

The AU has developed its external relations primarily through multilateral and bilateral strategic partnerships.

Multilaterally, strategic partnerships with the United Nations (UN) and the EU are of key importance (the League of Arab States plays less of a role). Bilaterally, China, India,

G20



Japan, South Korea and Turkey are currently considered key strategic partners. And last year, the AUC participated in the United States-Africa Leaders' Summit.

There is no routine process through which states are categorised as strategic partners. And to date, the AU has struggled to develop a coherent policy for managing these partnerships. However, being a full member of the G20 now opens up the possibility to take collective African positions on strategic questions to the global table.

The continental concerns it can raise include debt relief, trade integration, financing the management of climate change and public health management.

The African Union and the global order

However, in the major global policymaking fora, member states of the AU don't speak with one voice. This holds true for the UN General Assembly (as the African vote on Russia's war against Ukraine demonstrates). And often also for the so-called A3 – the three African non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (SC) (Gabon, Ghana and Mozambique).

Yet, in a limited number of policy fields, the AU has managed to come up with what it refers to as "common positions". These have been created and legitimised in different ways and have a mostly diffuse legal binding effect on member states.

The most prominent of these common positions is the 2005 Ezulwini Consensus on reform of the UNSC to increase African representation in the council and provide the continent with two permanent seats with veto rights. But there are also common positions on other important global questions. These include mining, the post-2015 development agenda and asset recovery from illicit financial flows.

The AUC needs a clear definition of what "common positions" are, and how they can



Membership in the G20 represents a great opportunity. But Africa's attempts to speak with one voice must be strengthened.

be achieved politically and domesticated legally by member states.

To develop more common positions, the 55 AU member states would have to delegate more state sovereignty to the union. There are some lessons from the EU's experience. The EU has developed more than 300 common positions. These have been adopted by the EU Council and approved by the EU Parliament. In these cases, the union's member states have ceded real sovereignty to the EU Commission.

It will be interesting to see how the AU will prepare African positions to be tabled to the G20. They will likely be prepared by the continental body's ministerial specialised technical committees.

In the G20 realm, I expect the Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration to play a strong

role. This will likely be in cooperation with the Technical Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry and Mining.

However, the legal way in which member states can express their agreement or disagreement with common positions needs to be defined.

What next

Membership in the G20 represents a great opportunity. But Africa's attempts to speak with one voice must be strengthened. And coordination processes must be created at the level of finance ministers and central bank governors, among others. These will ensure that the AU makes use of its membership in a global negotiating and decision-making platform. [U](#)

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Africa needs its own credit-rating agency: Here's how it could work

Although it will have to overcome challenges to gain investors' support, there is a huge appetite for an alternative and complementary credit-rating institution in Africa.

By Misheck Mutize

Post-Doctoral Researcher, Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town

The credit-rating industry in Africa is dominated by the three international agencies: Moody's, S&P and Fitch. Together, they control an estimated 95% of the credit-rating business globally.

Credit-rating agencies are institutions that assess a borrower's creditworthiness in general terms, or with respect to a particular debt or financial obligation. A credit rating can be assigned to any entity that seeks to borrow money – an individual, a corporation, a state or provincial authority or a sovereign government. Investors use a credit rating to make decisions about risk and return. So, the rating is required if an institution wants to raise funds on financial markets.

South Africa was the first African country to receive a sovereign rating in 1994. To date, 32 African countries have received a

sovereign rating from at least one of the "big three" agencies.

But policymakers are increasingly dissatisfied with their approach and methodology. Some of the criticisms are that agencies are quick to downgrade African countries but slow when upgrades are due; that they fail to accurately account for risk perception; that they don't consult adequately with stakeholders; and that they lack independence and objectivity.

A recent study by the United Nations showed that subjective biases in credit ratings had cost African countries a combined US\$74.5 billion. This was through funding opportunities lost and excess interest paid on public debt.

Conditions are therefore ripe to advance the idea of establishing an African credit-rating agency as a partial solution. China has its own state-owned rating agency,

Dagong Global Credit Rating Company. The Arab countries are also calling for their own rating agency.

As a lead expert with the African Union (AU) on ratings agencies, I can explain the framework this agency would operate in and why it makes business sense.

African Union official decisions

In March 2019, AU ministers of finance and economy officially adopted a declaration that such an institution was needed. The AU also developed a proposal for the legal, financial and structural aspects of the rating agency. What's not yet agreed on is how the sustainability, credibility and independence of the agency will be achieved. But there is a way this could be achieved as I set out below.

The need for an African rating agency has been reiterated by the current Chair of



the AU, President Macky Sall of Senegal, and the Champion of the AU financial institutions, President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana. They highlighted it as an important step towards intra-continental integration. It would also enable AU member states to access capital and integrate the continent with global financial markets.

Institutional model

When the AU establishes a new institution, it can be either an organ of the union funded by its member states' contributions, or a self-funded autonomous specialised agency of the union.

Because the credit-rating business requires credibility and independence, the best option is the specialised agency. Examples already in operation are the African Export-Import Bank and Africa Risk Capacity agency.

As an independent specialised agency of the AU, the agency would have diverse classes of shareholders. African governments could own it either directly or through their designated public institutions. Shareholding could include other smaller African-owned rating agencies, multilateral

finance institutions and African national financial institutions.

As a financing structure, the agency would adopt the "issuer-pay" business model. The issuers of debt will pay the agency for rating its entity and products.

It would be fully funded by its shareholders and through loans from Pan-African financial institutions. Multilateral development banks would either encourage or make it mandatory for their clients to have a rating from the African rating agency. Once this is done, it should be able to sustain itself through revenue generated from its services.

As is the process in the AU, the African rating agency would be established through an agreement signed by at least 10 member states.

The business case

There are still 22 African countries that have no credit ratings from the "big three" agencies. This will be a clear niche for the AU rating agency.

There is also tremendous value in the alternative rating sector, which cannot afford the cost of maintaining a rating from the "big three". This includes small to medium enterprises, initial bond offerings and initial public offerings. The agency could also provide environmental, social

and governance scores and foreign direct investment ratings. These rating services are urgently needed on the continent to complement governments' efforts to support the development of domestic financial markets.

With the backing that comes from affiliation to the AU, the rating agency could secure substantial business in the ratings of domestic instruments that are aligned with the continent's goals.

It would have the advantage of understanding the domestic context of Africa. So, it could issue more informative and detailed ratings than those issued by the "big three".

Way forward

The AU is forging ahead with its plans to establish an African rating agency to complement the three dominant international agencies and support the development of domestic financial markets in Africa. Although it will have to overcome challenges to gain investors' support, there is a huge appetite for an alternative and complementary credit-rating institution in Africa. Its success will be in developing a comprehensive methodology adapted to the African context and resident analysts that understand the continent's dynamics. 

This article was first used on *The Conversation*.

With the backing that comes from affiliation to the AU, the rating agency could secure substantial business in the ratings of domestic instruments that are aligned with the continent's goals.



BRICS opening opportunities for Africa's youth

Bloc partners have been useful in terms of finding ways of linking young people with potential employers and investors.

By Clayson Monyela

Deputy Director-General: Public Diplomacy, Department of International Relations and Cooperation

Africa's large and burgeoning youth population is considered one of this continent's greatest assets, with a central role to play in shaping development.

The African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 states that: "The creativity, energy and innovation of Africa's youth shall be the driving force behind the continent's political transformation."

Multilateral platforms such as the AU, through its African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the BRICS bloc have what it takes to tackle the challenges faced by the continent's youth by creating more jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities. Youth unemployment is central in BRICS engagements and discussions this year, when South Africa occupies the BRICS chair.

BRICS countries have continued to strengthen their presence on the continent, and as such have increased opportunities for trade and industrial development. As a result, they have created employment opportunities for the youth.

Our BRICS partners have been particularly useful in terms of finding innovative ways of linking South African youth with potential employers and investors. For example, through the BRICS employment working group initiative a number of Indian companies operating in South Africa have taken concrete steps to transfer skills to our youth. India has been taking unemployed

IT graduates from South Africa to India for six-month internships, thereby giving them international work experience.

There are also initiatives between China and South Africa to cultivate future leading scientists through exchanges with research institutes and universities in China. The National Research Foundation runs the China-South Africa Young Scientist Exchange Programme in the areas of biotechnology, ICT, space science, astronomy and transport technology. China has also hosted a South Africa-China job fair to connect unemployed South African youth with Chinese companies such as Air China, Huawei and Hisense.

Within the context of the BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa organised the 11th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting under the theme, *BRICS and Africa: Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Development in a Changing World through Knowledge Partnerships*, on 4 August 2023. This was preceded by the Eighth BRICS Young Scientist Forum, which debated the role of science in responding to climate change and environmental sustainability.

South Africa also organised the Sixth BRICS Young Innovator Prize under the theme, *Modernising the Manufacturing, Agriculture and Mining Industries and Exploiting the Circular Economy*. The Young Scientist Forum and the Young Innovator



The AfCFTA promises to be a game-changer for the continent's economic and employment creation prospects, but its success and legacy will depend on across-the-board participation by the continent's youth.

Prize provided a valuable platform for the development of scientific, innovative, educational, cultural and friendship links.

There is a strong correlation between youth unemployment, the South African education system and the lack of skills development. We are working to reform our education system to prepare our young people for the jobs of the future. Through BRICS initiatives, South Africa has benefitted from investment in education, intra-BRICS exchange programmes, job creation, foreign investment and increased trade relations. BRICS has been working with the International Labour Organisation on improving skills for workers in the informal economy to promote decent work.

The full implementation of the BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation (2021 – 2024) is pivotal to promote technology transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship. Progress has been made by the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Entrepreneurship Partnership Working Group to provide support for the BRICS Incubation Training and Network, the BRICS Technology Transfer Training Programme and the BRICS Start-up Forum.

As part of the deliverables of South Africa's chairship, a BRICS centre of excellence in Africa will be established, which will evolve into a BRICS energy agency. The agency will drive increased collaboration, enhanced research and innovation in energy, the provision of skills development and capacity-building, the tracking of energy trends and collaboration with international organisations.

Today, African youth make up about 60% of the continent's population, and by 2030, they are expected to make up 42% of the world's youth population. Sixty-five per cent of the continent's population is under the age of 25. Yet, Africa's largest demographic remains one of the most underrepresented in decision-making roles in governance. For leadership to thrive and be responsive in a democracy, the inclusion of our youth is non-negotiable. It is for this reason that during our chairship, we have prioritised representation and participation of young people in the BRICS structures by ensuring that youth from the SA Youth Council and the National

Youth Development Agency addressed the BRICS leaders at the summit to share their perspectives.

Furthermore, one of the critical outcomes of the summit was the endorsement of the establishment of the BRICS Youth Council, a structure that aims to formalise youth participation across all three pillars. This builds on the success of the annual BRICS Youth Summit, which reports to the ministers of youth.

Our youth must be sensitised to the opportunities the AfCFTA offers and we must fortify youth networks and business support organisations, while boosting investment in education and skills development. African governments need to improve access to finance for young entrepreneurs so that we can grow and develop the small, medium and micro enterprises' sector. Increased capital investment towards youth development programmes can be used to create platforms to identify possible market linkages between young people and potential investors in the form of internships and jobs.

The AfCFTA promises to be a game-changer for the continent's economic and employment creation prospects, but its success and legacy will depend on across-the-board participation by the continent's youth. Manufacturing stands to benefit the most under the AfCFTA, creating up to 16 million new jobs, according to the Brookings Institution. Young Africans will benefit as growth in this sector will help bridge the youth unemployment gap.

South Africa is participating in the work on the finalisation of the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, aimed at integrating these demographics into the African market and realising their financial and economic inclusion, in line with the spirit and the aspirations of the Agenda 2063.

Youth have a great deal to say and contribute in terms of finding solutions to the challenges they face, including lack of access to finance, barriers for small businesses, and tensions arising from intraregional and international migration. It is imperative that our youth participate in such discussions and drive the agenda for the future. 🇺🇿





The importance of **ASEAN** for South Africa

With an estimated population of about 660 million, ASEAN is a potential market for South Africa in particular, and the African continent at large. It is a major global hub of manufacturing and trade, as well as one of the fastest-growing consumer markets in the world.

By Dave Malcomson

South Africa's High Commissioner to Malaysia

South Africa has a deep and long-term interest in and connection with the Southeast Asian region in general and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in particular. Strengthening cooperation and solidarity between South Africa and ASEAN has become ever more important given the magnitude and complexity of challenges facing the international community. A strong and cohesive ASEAN creates new opportunities for cooperation on regional and global challenges. We share a common destiny and we have common objectives, needs and concerns, making South-South cooperation

imperative in the new and changing world order.

Since its inception in 1967, ASEAN has cultivated a culture of cooperation, bringing together different countries and building regional trust, stability and development. The shared weight of ASEAN's now 10 members has allowed its influence to be felt across the region and beyond and has cemented its members' growing importance in evolving regional architecture, contributing to the security and socio-economic development of the ASEAN region.

Given the current global conditions, ASEAN countries have become attractive alternative destinations for foreign investors and trade.

With an estimated population of about 660 million, ASEAN is a potential market for South Africa in particular, and the African continent at large. It is a major global hub of manufacturing and trade, as well as one of the fastest-growing consumer markets in the world. It is a diverse and dynamic region, with different cultures, languages, religions and political systems, that seeks to deepen its ties and cooperation among its members and with other partners. Importantly, it has implemented the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement, which covers about 30% of the global population and gross domestic product. Four ASEAN members are also part of the Comprehensive and

South Africa can provide a gateway to Africa for Southeast Asian nations. South Africa provides an ideal climate for business and is the location of choice for multinationals, with 180 Fortune 500 companies located here.

Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. Equally, there are enormous mutually beneficial opportunities for ASEAN countries in Africa, a continent of 1.3 billion people and over 500 million Muslims, particularly, as we are integrating economically under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The future of food security lies in Africa, with 60% of the world's arable land and a growing, youthful population. It is in our mutual best interests, therefore, to engage vigorously with each other, forging a strong alliance between the African Union and ASEAN.

ASEAN is a dynamic regional organisation and Southeast Asia is a region looking outwards to the world. For South Africa, the ASEAN countries provide potential for the execution of our economic recovery initiatives, specifically by advancing cooperation in trade and investment; manufacturing; food production; agriculture and forestry; tourism; the defence industry; and in skills training opportunities, to name but a few.

The most significant opportunity lies in the Halal sector, with Indonesia alone having a population of 231 million Muslims and Malaysia being recognised as the central hub of the global Halal industry. It is estimated that the global Halal food industry, excluding other aspects of the Halal economy, will be worth US\$3.9 trillion by 2027. The demand for Halal products currently far exceeds supply. As an example of the potential for South Africa, Brazil's Halal food exports to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries are worth US\$16.5 billion annually, while India's are worth US\$15.4 billion. Australia makes US\$2.4 billion in Halal meat exports alone. The opportunities are also two-way, as South Africa can cooperate with a country like Malaysia to establish South Africa as a Halal hub into Africa and the Middle East.

It is for these reasons that South Africa signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) with ASEAN on 10 November 2020. Subsequently, we have welcomed the ASEAN decision of 11 July 2023 to grant South Africa Sectoral Dialogue Partner (SDP) status. This signified the culmination of a desire for institutionalised cooperation first laid out by former President Thabo Mbeki in November

2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, when he became the first non-ASEAN Head of State to ever address an ASEAN Summit.

While South Africa has strong diplomatic and economic relations with individual ASEAN members, our accession to the TAC is a historic milestone with ASEAN and contributes to fostering closer and more beneficial economic relations. This signifies a new chapter of engagement with ASEAN members to expand and strengthen existing institutional links, including technical cooperation. The partnership can help address bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Through accession, South Africa becomes part of a global network of alliances and dialogue partners, which provides an opportunity to further advance our foreign policy objectives and a platform to engage on emerging political, economic and security issues impacting the evolving geopolitical environment. This agreement with the Southeast Asia bloc thus opens a host of opportunities for South Africa, as well as ASEAN and its members.

South Africa supports the ASEAN vision of integration and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific region should be seen as a region of development and affluence for all. Through the coordination of our unique and complementary capacities, massive gains can be achieved through our cooperation to promote an enabling environment for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific to address common challenges, uphold the rules-based regional architecture and promote closer economic cooperation.

Further, there is scope for greater collaboration with ASEAN member countries across various multilateral and regional bodies, including in the Non-Aligned Movement, representing the spirit of South-South cooperation put forward at the 1955 Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung.

Our common objectives also can be taken forward within the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), where Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are members, together with South Africa. The IORA Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, adopted at the Council of Ministers in Dhaka in 2022,

complements the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, with a number of synergies that provide a further basis for cooperation for mutual benefit, especially in harnessing the opportunities in the ocean economy.

The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between IORA and ASEAN at the East Asia Summit in Indonesia has laid a firm basis for deepening cooperation between the two regional organisations for mutual benefit in the Indo-Pacific region, including advancing the AfCFTA.

We look forward to working with ASEAN in a mutually beneficial manner to fulfil our plans and those of the African continent. We will work together to achieve our common objectives, because a secure, integrated and prosperous Southeast Asia is good for South Africa, good for the African continent and good for the world.

South Africa can provide a gateway to Africa for Southeast Asian nations. South Africa provides an ideal climate for business and is the location of choice for multinationals, with 180 Fortune 500 companies located here. Global corporates enjoy various investment incentives, a supportive ecosystem for innovation, tech and fintech, and an extremely sophisticated banking and financial centre. We are the most diversified and technologically advanced country in Africa, with extensive infrastructure, retail and banking linkages across the continent.

Relations between South Africa and ASEAN, as well as the member states bilaterally, can only go from strength to strength, becoming ever closer and more diverse to our mutual interest and benefit.

As former President Nelson Mandela said in Malaysia in March 1997: "Many, many things make the common bond between us a natural one. In your company we feel we are among brothers and sisters – friends in need and friends indeed." 🌍

Relations between South Africa and ASEAN, as well as the member states bilaterally, can only go from strength to strength, becoming ever closer and more diverse to our mutual interest and benefit.

IBSA at 20 years:

The journey from revolutionary ideals to a 21st century developmental focus

The principles, norms and values underpinning IBSA are more pertinent in today's environment where constitutionalism, rights-based democracy and basic freedoms are under threat.

By Prof. Anil Sooklal

Ambassador-at-Large: Asia and BRICS and South Africa's BRICS Sherpa
Department of International Relations and Cooperation

On 13 September 2006, former President Thabo Mbeki stated in his remarks that: *IBSA is an idea whose time has arrived. It is a necessary response to the current state of play in the global economy and its purpose and objectives are even more relevant ...*

Seventeen years later, we can safely say that this comment holds true and may well be more applicable than it was in 2006. On 22 September 2022, the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Ministers Meeting on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York ... *underscored the importance of the principles, norms and values underpinning the IBSA Dialogue Forum, including participatory democracy, respect for human rights, respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity, peace, mutual respect, freedom and the Rule of Law.* This statement captures the need to establish stability in the current unsettled and seemingly anarchic world order.

IBSA emerged from the aftermath of the Cold War, characterised by the complex rivalries that played out on either side of the "iron curtain" that marked the divide between the then Eastern and Western powers.

The 1950s and 1960s witnessed a particular set of processes that was set to alter the course of humanity, for instance, the Africa-Asia Solidarity Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, and the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on 1 September 1961. On 25 May 1963, the Organisation of African Unity was formed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The common threads among these were that they were all newly liberated colonial states; that they created organisational platforms through which newly liberated states were able to interact with each other; and, that the prioritisation and pursual of the post-colonial development agenda had become part of the global rubric.

In 1966, Cuba played host to the Tricontinental Conference. This was a gathering of countries that focussed specifically on contemporary issues related to Africa, Asia and Latin America. The

Organisation of Solidarity with the People of Asia, Africa and Latin America was born out of this conference.

From the G8, Evian and the Brasilia Declaration of 6 June 2003

During the meeting of the Group of Eight Industrialised Nations in 2003, the stark reality of 20th Century Cold War imperialism would have been visible and manifested in a different form in what was now the post-Cold War era. Only months before, the United States had launched its attack on Iraq in the wake of the September 2001 Twin Towers attack and the emergence of a global paradigm marked by the threat of terrorism and violent extremism was becoming the new norm.

To the global South, the Bretton Woods financial architecture and the United Nations (UN) did not fully represent their aspirations and interests and developing countries were acutely aware of the fact that a small group of

President Thabo Mbeki stated in his remarks that:
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INDIA BRAZIL SOUTH AFRICA FORUM

unrepresentative developed countries decided their fates. The urgent need to implement a development agenda had become critical and the vision and foresight of South Africa's former President Mbeki, Brazil's Lula da Silva and India's Manmohan Singh of the need to organise a formation of the South that reflects the interests of the majority of the world's marginalised population was agreed to in Evian during the meeting of the G8 from 4 to 5 June 2003. Brazil, India and South Africa were the globe's leading developing country multi-ethnic democracies. The promise of the IBSA alliance was the idea of the countries not only pushing for fair global trade, institutions and rules, but also for democratic ones.

A few days after Evian, the IBSA foreign ministers met on 6 June 2003, where the Brasilia Declaration was agreed to.

IBSA and its unique characteristics in the 21st century: Africa, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global governance

Since its earliest inception, IBSA represented the diversity of the global South, reflecting the three major democracies on each continent; the complementarity on the economic and social levels; and the three leaders represented the original anti-imperialist approach advocated by the tricontinental movement. However, the realities of the 21st century had been pragmatically infused into the IBSA agenda, moving the global narrative away from rhetoric and closer to project-based implementation of the principles that are key to the IBSA success.

In 2005, the IBSA countries agreed to annually deposit money into an IBSA Fund, which would be used to assist developing countries. The fund, operational since 2006, is now managed by the UN Development Programme's office for South-South cooperation. The IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger, which is the most active cooperation mechanism between the three countries, is seen as a resilient and structurally

strong organisation that has impacted upon and advanced all 17 of the interlinked UN SDGs. The geopolitical character of IBSA and the merger of third-party countries through the IBSA Fund have consequently advanced South-South cooperation. The fund has the backing of 31 partner countries through 35 projects with the approximate value of US\$44 million. It has received numerous international awards and the work of the fund has been recognised by the UN as the pre-eminent South-South funding mechanism and a model for South-South cooperation for the international community to emulate. In our article, myself and Letlhogonolo Mashilo provide a comprehensive and detailed account of IBSA projects in Africa and they point out that these have been noticeably different from other donor entities with a focus on:

- peace and security
- election observer missions
- drought-relief
- humanitarian assistance
- good governance
- capacity-building.

In 2007, leaders from the IBSA countries mooted a plan to connect the three countries' markets to bring together the world's largest developing free trade area. The proposal was for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the regional customs unions aligned to South Africa and Brazil and between India.

Although that goal was never realised, the new free trade area between the Southern African Customs Unions and Southern Common Market (Mercosur), the Latin American regional grouping with Brazil at its centre, which came into an effect in 2017, was a partial outcome of that early ambition.

There have been five IBSA summits convened to date with South Africa (Africa) hosting two. The foreign ministers have continued to meet on the margins of the UNGA since 2003. At the more formal level, there have been nine IBSA trilateral ministerial

commissions (ITMCs) that, among others, review developments and forge a way ahead. During the first IBSA Foreign Ministers Meeting in 2003, the group emphasised the promotion of health in their respective countries. As an initial step, the ministers recommended that cooperation and the exchange of views on disease control and health-related matters must be adopted as a key priority sector.

The 2006 Brasilia Summit Declaration agreed on the creation of the IBSA Trilateral Working Group on Health and formulation of the IBSA Implementation Plan on Health, focussing on public health laboratories, health surveillance, traditional medicine and sanitary control regulation as well as managing major trade barriers to facilitate access to new affordable quality vaccines and medicines.

The Tshwane Declaration in 2011 reaffirmed the effective impact of intellectual property on health, access to drugs and prices that can best be tackled by enabling developing nations to scale up production of generic medicines through the full use of the flexibilities provided by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health, and, with the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO), through the Global Strategy on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.

Importantly, the fund's contribution to Africa's needs has been visible, with at least eight African countries with as many as 14 projects being implemented since 2003. With the global efforts to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, most recently, the WHO modelled its training programme for its healthcare workers on an IBSA funded project health e-learning platform developed for Vietnam's rural healthcare workers.

Several IBSA working groups, covering diverse issues such as tourism, human settlements, trade and investment and defence cooperation are currently operational. New areas of cooperation have been proposed that include traditional medicines, energy,



These values were reconfirmed in the IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation, issued in Pretoria on 4 June 2018, which confirmed that IBSA was bound together by a shared conviction in the universal values of democracy, plurality, diversity, human rights, rule of law and commitment to sustainable development, inclusivity of all communities and gender and respect for international law.

women empowerment and agriculture with a draft Memorandum of Understanding on Skills Development and Vocational Training that is being activated. It is clear that IBSA's role will emerge as being fundamental to the global recovery.

Global governance reform

During the IBSA Ministerial on the margins of the UNGA 77 in New York, the IBSA Dialogue Forum reaffirmed its long-held position on the comprehensive reform of the global governance architecture, including the UN and particularly the expansion of the UN Security Council (SC).

In a joint statement on 19 September 2022, IBSA stated that it was united in achieving a reformed and representative UNSC that is seen as legitimate and responsive to contemporary challenges and called for the expansion of the UNSC to include representation from Asia, Latin America and Africa, in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. Further to this, the IBSA member states indicated that this would achieve a representative, inclusive, equitable, responsive and effective UNSC that would be transparent and deemed as a legitimate body, able to fulfil its obligations and mandate.

IBSA, the G20 and sustainable development

IBSA sees the G20 as a crucial forum for international economic cooperation and for the implementation of the UN's SDGs. Crucial for the IBSA is that the G20 presidencies of 2023, 2024 and 2025 will see India, Brazil and South Africa respectively hosting and chairing the G20. These are seen as useful opportunities to shape the G20 agendas.

Climate change

IBSA supports the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and all other collective agreements, including the principle of "equity" and "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities". IBSA supports the adoption of a realistic

Global Biodiversity Framework that is cognisant of both developing nations and global economic interests, specifically also the idea of a Global Biodiversity Fund to mobilise new and additional resources for biodiversity.

Timelines to speed up the mitigation of the detrimental effects of greenhouse gas emissions must be formulated on the basis of equity and in the context of sustainable development and the urgent need for poverty reduction, bearing in mind that traditional polluters need to ensure that technological and financial resources are made available to developing countries in a timely manner to address climate change. To this end, the IBSA states have agreed to work together in the implementation of the UN Climate Change Conference meetings.

Financing for development and the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The role of the multilateral development banks are crucial in mobilising the international community to intensify efforts that support the realisation of the UN SDGs through the swift implementation of all seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the outcomes of the Monterrey and Doha International Conferences on Financing for Development.

To this end, the three countries fully support the idea of a rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system, in respect of the WTO and its role in upholding this.

Conclusion

The radicalism of the 1950s and 1960s, among the then third world nations, was critical in bringing to the fore the strategic significance of what we call the South. Although, having their roots in the preceding century, since 2003, blocs such as the African Union and its Agenda 2063; Association of Southeast Nations; the Indian Ocean Rim Association; African Continental Free Trade Area; and BRICS have rallied to the fore of international development. IBSA has

been steadily developing its agenda and has amassed a great deal of credibility as representing a world order underpinned by democracy and human-centred values.

The Evian meeting of the G8 was crucial. The convergence of multiple historical factors as well as the shifting sands of the global landscape prompted leaders to act.

It would have been clear to the IBSA leaders in 2003 that the agenda of the South was at risk. The UN and the global financial architecture faced potential threats in the coming years, thus as a unique voice for the global South, as the late former Minister of External Affairs of India, Ms Sushma Swaraj, stated during the Ninth ITMC, held on 27 September 2018 in New York: "We three have to ensure that our national, collective voice is heard clearly in BRICS and other groups on UN Security Council reforms, since, if we do not speak for our own interests, no-one else will".

These were the roots of the IBSA Dialogue Forum, and this is what sustained its success as a model for development and cooperation in the South. We need to continue our work in this direction.

These values were reconfirmed in the IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation, issued in Pretoria on 4 June 2018, which confirmed that IBSA was bound together by a shared conviction in the universal values of democracy, plurality, diversity, human rights, rule of law and commitment to sustainable development, inclusivity of all communities and gender and respect for international law.

The principles, norms and values underpinning IBSA are more pertinent in today's environment where constitutionalism, rights-based democracy and basic freedoms are under threat. There are signs of an erosion of fundamental freedoms in the aftermath of the pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the war between Israel and Hamas. Multilateralism is similarly under siege as evidenced by the inability of the world as a collective to find resolutions to conflicts and the ensuing devastation. 🌍





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- 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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LIBERATION HERITAGE:

Aziz Pahad

At the Ubuntu Awards, organised by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in February 2023, Pahad was awarded the OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his contribution to a South Africa that is free and democratic and a world that is fair and just.

By Dr GNM Pandor

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The late Aziz Pahad, who passed away on 27 September 2023, will be remembered for his outstanding contribution to the fight against apartheid in South Africa and for his lifelong commitment to the promotion of human rights on the international stage.

Pahad served as the Deputy Minister of the then Department of Foreign Affairs (now the Department of International Relations and Cooperation [DIRCO]) from 1994 to 2008. In this role, Pahad became one of the first people at the forefront of establishing relations with the international community after many countries had severed ties with South Africa during the apartheid years.

Pahad was a fierce proponent of an independent foreign policy for South Africa. He was a principled champion for human rights, especially of the oppressed and marginalised people. From Palestine to Western Sahara, he spoke for the voiceless and was unwavering in his implementation of South Africa's foreign policy, which recognises the right to self-determination of the aforementioned peoples.

In April 2021, the University of Pretoria conferred on him an *honoris causa* (honorary doctorate) in Literature. The university recognised Pahad for his "contributions to local and international peace, security, justice and international solidarity". The university said: "Pahad's contributions and approach to diplomacy bring strong moral convictions, careful judgement and, above all, a quiet, influential determination in the search for solutions to South Africa's challenges".

Years after relinquishing his role in government, Pahad remained active in civic affairs. In 2018, he chaired the Foreign Policy Review Panel appointed by Minister Lindiwe Sisulu. As a result of the report, DIRCO initiated a number of changes aimed at enhancing the implementation of South Africa's foreign policy. Post-retirement, Pahad also maintained close ties with those pursuing the Palestinian and Saharawi causes. These were causes he would remain dear to, for as long as he lived.

At the Ubuntu Awards, organised by DIRCO in February 2023, Pahad was awarded the OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award in

recognition of his contribution to a South Africa that is free and democratic and a world that is fair and just.

On behalf of all South African diplomats at home and abroad and all freedom-loving people of the world, we pass our deepest condolences to the Pahad family. May the indomitable spirit of Pahad continue to guide our country as we continue the search for a better South Africa and a better world. 🇿🇦

From Palestine to Western Sahara, he spoke for the voiceless and was unwavering in his implementation of South Africa's foreign policy, which recognises the right to self-determination of the aforementioned peoples.



May the indomitable spirit of Pahad continue to guide our country as we continue the search for a better South Africa and a better world.



Aziz Goolam Hoosein Pahad was born on 25 December 1940, Schweizer Reneke, North West province, (formerly a part of the old Transvaal). In 1959, he matriculated at the Central Indian High School, Johannesburg, and obtained a BA Degree with majors in Sociology and Afrikaans, in 1963, from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

The Pahad family was politically active in the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and later in the African National Congress (ANC). His father, Goolam Hoosein Ismail Pahad, was active in the preparations for the historic Congress of the People that took place in June 1955 in Kliptown, where the Freedom Charter was launched, calling for a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united South Africa. His brother, Essop Goolam Pahad, also an ANC member, was in exile in London and later a Cabinet Minister in the democratic South African Government.

As a student, Pahad was actively involved in politics, especially in the TIC.

In 1963, Pahad and his brother Essop were banned under the Suppression of Communism Act, which restricted their movement and prevented them from attending public gatherings. During this time, he was often detained for short periods for violating his banning order.

In 1964, following the Rivonia Trial, he left South Africa and went into exile. He lived in London and also spent time in Angola and Zimbabwe. In 1966, Pahad started working full-time for the ANC, developing the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the United Kingdom and Europe.

In 1966, he obtained a Diploma in International Relations from the University College of London and in 1968, Pahad graduated with a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Sussex, England.

At the ANC's Kabwe Conference in Zambia, in June 1985, Pahad was elected to the ANC's National Executive Committee.

Pahad was also part of the ANC's exiled leadership that started secret talks with leading Afrikaners in 1987.

In 1990, he returned to South Africa and in 1991, was appointed Deputy Head of the ANC's Department of International Affairs. Between 1991 and 1992, he was a member of the National Peace Executive Committee. In 1994, he served on the Transitional Executive Council's Sub-Council on Foreign Affairs.

After South Africa's democratic elections in 1994, Pahad was elected as a Member of Parliament and was appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs – a position he was re-appointed to in South Africa's elections in 1999 and 2004 and which post he continued to serve until 2008.

Pahad passed away on 27 September 2023 in Johannesburg, Gauteng.

Delivering the eulogy at Pahad's funeral service at Westpark Cemetery in Johannesburg, on 30 September 2023, President Cyril Ramaphosa described Pahad as a hardworking public servant.

"It is a sad day for the diplomatic community, particularly for the many men and women chosen to represent the country abroad, who had the privilege of being mentored, counselled and trained by our departed brother and comrade," President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa declared a Special Official Funeral Category 2 for Pahad and ordered that flags be flown at half-mast. Former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe; Gauteng Premier, Panyaza Lusufi; senior government officials; politicians; and members of the public attended the funeral.

"Over the past few years, we have had to bid farewell to many dear comrades, men and women who were giants of the liberation struggle," President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa said the departed stalwarts played an important role in the history of the country.

"They were there at all the high and low points in our struggle for liberation and remained on to shepherd us along the difficult road to democracy. At times such as this, when we lose another stalwart, we are shaken, as would a tree whose roots have been damaged or lost.

"These great men and women, of whom Aziz Pahad was one, were the roots that nourished the tree of our democracy. It feels as though a part of us has gone with them.

"And yet, such were the legacies they left behind that this great tree that is our democracy, abides. We may at times be battered by strong headwinds. Times can be hard."

President Ramaphosa said the democracy that Aziz Pahad and his generation worked so hard to achieve remained firm, steady, well-anchored and strong.

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JOHAAR MOSAVAL:

Remembering a cultural treasure

He was the first black South African to become a senior principal dancer at the Royal Ballet, which is the highest rank in the profession at one of the world's most prestigious classical ballet companies.



On 16 August 2023, the world-renowned ballet dancer, Johaar Mosaval, passed away at the age of 95. President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed his sadness at the passing of the retired, pioneering dancer and Esteemed Member of the National Order of Ikhamanga.

"The passing of Johaar Mosaval is a great loss to our nation's cultural treasury.

"Johaar Mosaval was an outstanding human being and creative who complemented his personal achievements with a deep interest in developing the communities in which he lived and performed.

"His life story is one that fills us at one level with pride and inspiration but which also reopens for us the inhumanity and hurt that apartheid inflicted on individuals and entire sectors of our society, including our cultural life and the performing arts.

"Under difficult conditions, Johaar Mosaval enjoyed and leveraged his life of celebrity to create a legacy of service to the people of Cape Town and our nation more broadly. May he rest in peace."

Mosaval, who was born on 8 January 1928 and the eldest of 10 children, had humble beginnings; his family lived in District Six, a former inner-city residential area in Cape Town.

He was the first black South African to become a senior principal dancer at the Royal Ballet, which is the highest rank in the profession at one of the world's most prestigious classical ballet companies.

His journey to the Royal Ballet at the height of apartheid saw him dancing for

Queen Elizabeth II and being the first black performer on the "whites-only" Nico Malan stage in the 1970s.

Mosaval performed, mostly as a soloist, all over the globe and shared the stage with the likes of prima ballerinas Margot Fonteyn, Elaine Fifield and Doreen Wells. He danced Jasper in Sir Arthur Sullivan's *Pineapple Poll* ballet, which premiered in 1951 at Sadler's Wells Theatre. He also played Bootface in *The Lady and the Fool* and Puck in *The Dream*.

He became revered for his wide-ranging styles and flawless technique and was chosen to dance in Benjamin Britten's opera *Gloriana*, the first performance presented at the Royal Opera House, London, in 1953, during the celebrations of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

He describes the experience as the highlight of his life because the event was attended by kings, queens and presidents, including then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. During the interval, he was taken to be presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Princess Margaret and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

After two years in London, Mosaval excelled at his studies and was preparing to return to South Africa, despite being told that he would never "make it" as a professional dancer. Mosaval returned home in 1976.

He started teaching in Mitchells Plain and Paarl in the Western Cape. While dancing in Michel Fokine's *Petrushka*, Mosaval's contract stated that he was not allowed to touch a white ballet dancer with his bare hands.

By 1975, the theatre allowed all races onto its premises, but black people required

a permit to enter. As a result, the boycott of the theatre lasted until the end of apartheid.

He opened his own ballet school in 1977 and was employed as the first black Inspector of Schools of Ballet under the then Administration of Coloured Affairs.

He resigned this position when he discovered that he could share his expertise only with a certain segment of the population.

Subsequently, the apartheid regime closed his school because it was multiracial. Following the principles of his mentor, Dulcie Howes, Mosaval wanted to share his knowledge and love of ballet with students of all races, so he continued to find ways to dance and to teach.

In 2019, President Ramaphosa bestowed the National Order of Ikhamanga (Gold) on Mosaval for his exceptional contribution to the performing arts, particularly ballet dancing. In 2020, the University of Cape Town awarded him with a Doctor of Music (*honoris causa*). Both honours recognise South Africans who have excelled in various

The world holds Mosaval's immense contribution to ballet in high regard. The fresh perspectives he contributed to the medium and the courage and fortitude he displayed to break colossal social barriers, today form part of the legacy he leaves behind.

fields, including arts, music, culture and sport, and who have made indelible contributions to the country, the continent and the world.

Mosaval received numerous awards in South Africa and the United Kingdom, which include the:

- Winston Churchill Award (1975)
- Queen Elizabeth II Gold Jubilee Medal (1977)
- Western Cape Arts, Culture and Heritage Award (1999)
- Western Cape Premier's Commendation Certificate (2003)
- Cape Tercentenary Foundation Molteno Gold Medal (2005)
- Arts and Culture Trust Lifetime Achievement Award for Dance (2016).

Two tribute shows were produced to celebrate and honour the incredible milestones in the life of Johaar Mosaval.

The first was in 2018, a full-length production with Cape Town City to mark the occasion of his 90th birthday. In March 2023, a second production reflecting on his life was staged by the District Six Museum and Artscape to commemorate a remarkable 95 years of a life well-lived.

What made these events truly special was that Mosaval graced the stage at all the performances, taking the moment to bask in the spotlight. The audience responded with rapturous applause and the standing ovations were testament to the admiration and respect that he has garnered over the years. This resounding display of appreciation further attests to the profound impact and enduring significance that he had on the audience, underscoring his enduring legacy.

The world holds Mosaval's immense contribution to ballet in high regard. The fresh perspectives he contributed to the medium and the courage and fortitude he displayed to break colossal social barriers, today form part of the legacy he leaves behind. 🇷🇺

www.artscape.co.za | www.news.uct.ac.za | National Orders 2019

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Katrina Esau – A living human gem

N|juu is the language of the San people, who were the first hunter-gatherers in southern Africa. The language has 112 distinct sounds, including 45 characteristic "clicks" and has been passed down orally for generations.



Xuu Esau, affectionately known as Ouma Katrina, is the only remaining fluent speaker of N|juu – a 25 000-year-old endangered indigenous South African language. Esau has made it her mission to teach the largely oral language and educate the youth on other unique traditions of the San people, an

indigenous tribe found mostly in the Northern Cape and in parts of Botswana and Namibia. Thought to be extinct until fairly recently, N|juu – an ancient San language from the Tuu family – re-emerged in the Northern Cape during the late 1990s when people who were able to speak the language fluently were encouraged to contribute to its survival and revival.

N|juu is the language of the San people, who were the first hunter-gatherers in southern Africa. The language has 112 distinct sounds, including 45 characteristic "clicks" and has been passed down orally for generations. Due to its critically endangered state, linguists are working with the last three living speakers of N|juu to design alphabet charts in an effort to preserve the ancient African language.



Thought to be extinct until fairly recently, N|juu – an ancient San language from the Tuu family – re-emerged in the Northern Cape during the late 1990s when people who were able to speak the language fluently were encouraged to contribute to its survival and revival.

children's book published in N|juu. It has been translated into both English and Afrikaans, making it widely accessible. Through her work over the years, Esau has highlighted the importance of preserving language as a scholarly, curatorial and human rights discipline. She has contributed significantly to the linguistic granary through publication, proliferation and direct engagement as forms of knowledge production, which include not only linguistic heritage, but the values, sounds, feelings and the tangible and intangible memories they carry. Her work has inspired linguists, scholars, archivists and language activists across the globe. In 2014, she also received the Order of The Baobab in

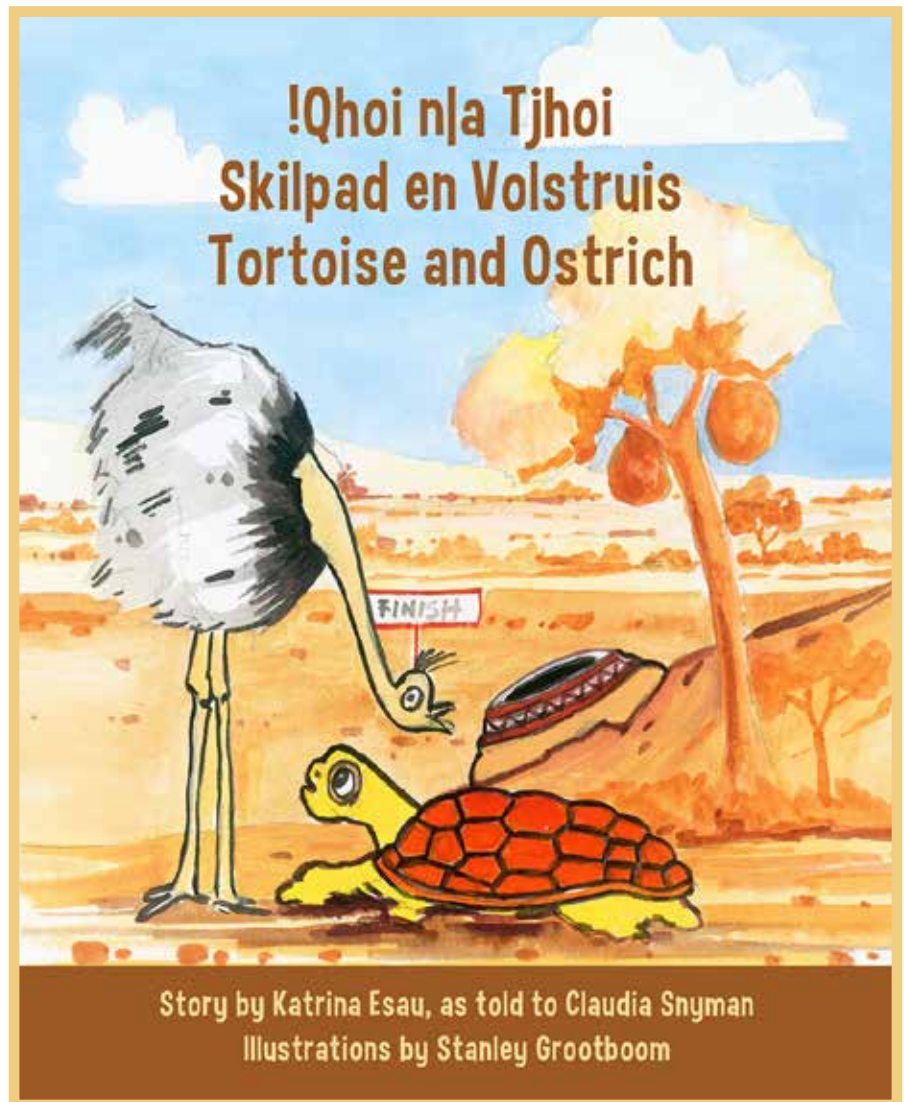
Silver from former President Jacob Zuma – a national honour awarded to esteemed South Africans for their service to the country in various fields. Esau's passion for identity and her commitment to preserving an indigenous language is indefatigable and led to her being a recipient of an honorary doctorate from the University of Cape Town (UCT), which she received in March 2023. UCT awards honorary doctorates to distinguished individuals in recognition of top-rated work in their respective fields, who have also made a significant contribution to the country, the continent and the globe. 🇺🇸

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www.language magazine.com

Ouma Katrina, aged 90, has made it her life's mission to preserve the language for the future by educating young people from her community in a tiny classroom at her house in Rosedale, near Upington in the Northern Cape. Her goal is to use her skills to transfer valuable knowledge to the youth, with the hope that the San people's language and cultural ways will prevail for generations to come. While she remains rooted in her culture, she uses advances in technology to enable her teaching methodology. As a result, she plans to produce educational CDs and DVDs so that people everywhere can learn the language.

Her school caters to pupils aged from three to 19 who learn basics such as greetings, animal names, short sentences and body parts. Esau, who was never taught to read or write, uses songs, images and play to teach the language. Until recently, there was no record of N|juu as a written language as it had been passed down orally over generations. Thanks to academics, Sheena Shah from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and Matthias Brezinger of the Centre for African Language Diversity in Cape Town, Esau was able to create a N|juu alphabet and basic rules of grammar for teaching purposes.

Her granddaughter, Claudia Snyman, is one of her keenest protégés and co-authored *Qhoi n|ja Tijho* (*Tortoise and Ostrich*), a N|juu children's book with her grandmother in 2021. Her book *Qhoi n|ja Tijho* remains the only





Africans in World War I:

Artist William Kentridge's epic theatre production restores forgotten histories

History is always a simplification, always an obscuring of the complexities and hidden histories that are in all retelling of events in the past.

By Fiona Ramsay

Head of the Department of Theatre and Performance and PhD candidate, University of the Witwatersrand

South African artist William Kentridge became world famous for his charcoal drawings and hand-drawn animated films, but his work continued to grow in scope and he began staging performances. Today, he also creates operas and collaborative stage productions combining numerous art forms.

One of his largest productions to date, *The Head & The Load*, tells the forgotten stories of Africans in World War I, who served mostly as porters for European armies on the continent.

The production was first performed in London in 2018; its South African premiere was delayed by three years because of the COVID pandemic. It features music by Philip Miller and Thuthuka Sibisi, choreography by Gregory Maqoma and an array of stand-out vocalists and musicians. Senior Lecturer in Theatre, Fiona Ramsay, asked Kentridge about creating the work.

How was the idea for the production hatched?

The production came from seeing a huge space in New York, the Park Avenue Armory, which I was invited to do a performance in. It's

an old military structure, 85 metres long – so the idea came for a processional piece using that length, connected to the military. And that brought us back to the idea of the First World War. I'd worked on the war on the opera *Wozzeck* and had worked with actors and dancers in Johannesburg thinking about this other production.

So, we came to the idea of the relationship of Europe to Africa with war, and the most interesting for me was the First World War. It was a war between France and Britain against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but it was also – and this was much less appreciated – a war between those European countries as to who would get to own which countries in Africa.

In 1884 at the Berlin Conference, the European countries had divided up all of Africa

between themselves and one can see the First World War as a battle to rearrange who got which colonies.

What did you find out about Africans in WWI?

Only 40 years after the war did the nationalist movements in the different African colonies come to a confidence and a strength to challenge Europe and gain their independence in the 1960s. So, the idea was to look at this hidden history of Africa in the First World War.

In this war, there are estimated now to have been over 150 000 African casualties and over a million African participants, some of them soldiers, some labourers carrying war material and some the civilians caught up in this disruption of their lives. And our piece is very much about the people who physically carried

South African artist William Kentridge became world famous for his charcoal drawings and hand-drawn animated films, but his work continued to grow in scope and he began staging performances. Today, he also creates operas and collaborative stage productions combining numerous art forms.

the guns, the cannons, even the dismantled ships from the Cape coast up to the lakes of central east Africa where the main battles were fought for the entire length of the First World War.

And it's a history that was hidden because the colonial powers did not want to acknowledge the validity and worth of their colonial subjects. So, an example from South Africa: African soldiers were never allowed to bear rifles, African soldiers did not get medals, African soldiers were not included in the victory parades at the end of the war.

South African writer and intellectual Sol Plaatje wrote: "Lest their behaviour should merit recognition; their heroic deeds and acts should not be recorded."

The Head & The Load is an attempt to note their actions and give recognition and record them. So, at the end, we have a list of names of the people that died, the names that were never written on any war memorial. They were not inscribed in stone in the way that so many European names are, both in Europe and in the former colonies.

How do you achieve the combination of so many art forms?

So, this was the raw material we worked with in order to make the piece. We had written histories like the censored letter of Malawian pastor and revolutionary, John Chilembwe, to the local newspaper opposing the recruitment of Africans into a war, which was not their war. We used that letter as part of our text. And there are dances done in the north of South Africa in skirts, based on the kilts of Scottish soldiers. This mixture of African dance and military drilling is still performed today, a remnant of the war. So, that comes into it and is performed in one moment.

There was a lot of material to do with languages not being understood, so we used the avant-garde European Dada art movement from the time of the First World War, to play with impossible languages – of Europe not hearing Africa, of Africa not understanding what Europe was saying, of an incomprehensibility of different worlds meeting.

So, some things are done with dance, some things are done with voice – with the voice for example we take a familiar song like the British national anthem *God Save the King*. It starts being sung as a straightforward anthem but bit by bit it is disintegrated and taken apart until the singers are saying, "Who is this king?", "What is this king over the seas?", "We have our own kings!" even as you hear remnants of *God Save the King*.

We used all these mediums to try to make a collage of experience for a viewer watching the play. The performance was constructed out of fragments and the final story gets constructed by the viewer in the same way history is made up of fragments ... this piece of information – not that piece of information ... this person's story – not that person's story ...

History is always a simplification, always an obscuring of the complexities and hidden histories that are in all retelling of events in the past.

Where did the title come from?

"The head and the load are the troubles of the neck" is a proverb from Ghana. It implies that there is both the physical load on the shoulders and a historical load of history, which is borne by people going through the world. And there is a psychic load – the sense of being ignored, of being silenced, of being invisible. All of these are pressures on people both at the time of the war and, in many cases, still continuing today. It is these weights and loads the production addresses. 🇵🇹

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.





William Kentridge (born in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1955) is internationally acclaimed for his drawings, films, theatre and opera productions.

His method combines drawing, writing, film, performance, music, theatre and collaborative practices to create works of art that are grounded in politics, science, literature and history, yet maintaining a space for contradiction and uncertainty.

Kentridge's work has been seen in museums and galleries around the world since the 1990s, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Albertina Museum in Vienna, *Musée du Louvre* in Paris, Whitechapel Gallery in London, Louisiana Museum in Copenhagen, the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid, the *Kunstmuseum* in Basel, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa and the Norval Foundation in Cape Town and the Royal Academy of Arts in London. He has participated a number of times in *Documenta* in Kassel (2012, 2002 and 1997) and the Venice Biennale (2015, 2013, 2005, 1999 and 1993).

Opera productions include Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Shostakovich's *The Nose* and Alban Berg's operas *Lulu* and *Wozzeck*, and have been seen at opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, *La Scala* in Milan, English National Opera in London, *Opera de Lyon*, Amsterdam, the Sydney Opera House and the Salzburg Festival.

Kentridge's theatrical productions, performed in theatres and at festivals across the globe, include *Refuse the Hour*, *Winterreise*, *Paper Music*, *The Head & the Load*, *Ursonate* and *Waiting for the Sibyl* and in collaboration with the Handspring Puppet Company, *Ubu & the Truth Commission*, *Faustus in Africa!*, *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse* and *Woyzeck on the Highveld*.

In 2016, Kentridge founded the Centre for the Less Good Idea in Johannesburg: a space for responsive thinking through experimental, collaborative and cross-disciplinary arts practices. The centre hosts an ongoing programme of workshops, public performances and mentorship activities.

Kentridge is the recipient of honorary doctorates from several universities, including Yale, London University and Columbia University. In 2007, Kentridge received The Order of Ikhamanga in Silver for his excellent contribution in the field of the arts and non-racial theatre in South Africa. In 2010, he received the Kyoto Prize. In 2012, he was awarded the *Commandeur dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres* in France and he presented the Charles Eliot Norton Lectures at Harvard University. In 2015, he was appointed an Honorary Academician of the Royal Academy in London. In 2017, he received the *Princesa de Asturias* Award for the arts, and in 2018, the Antonio Feltrinelli International Prize. In 2019, he received the *Praemium Imperiale* Award in painting in Tokyo. In 2021, he was made a Foreign Associate Member to the French *Académie des Beaux Arts*, Paris. In 2022, he was presented the Honour of the Order of the Star of Italy and in 2023, he received the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera for *Waiting for the Sibyl* in London.



MAKING WINE BETTER

The indigenous /Xam San people of southern Africa were the world's first environmentalists. They regulated their behaviour in harmony with plant and animal cycles, the movements of the stars and climatic phenomena.

They saw land as a source of life – a gift to mankind that nourishes, supports and teaches. In this tradition, South African producers have recognised that they now also have a responsibility to farm sustainably and act as custodians of the land, in order to preserve it for the use of our future generations.

About 95% of our wine is produced in the area known as the Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK).

One of six such plant kingdoms in the world, it is the smallest, yet richest, home to over 9 600 plant species, more than in the entire northern hemisphere. The CFK is one of 36 recognised biodiversity hotspots, with 70% of the plants found here not found anywhere else on earth.

Sustainable Wine South Africa (SWSA) is the alliance between the Wine and Spirit Board (WSB), the Integrated Production of Wine (IPW) scheme and Wines of South Africa (WoSA). Together these organisations are driving the South African wine industry's commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly production.

LEADING THE WORLD IN PRODUCTION INTEGRITY

For over two decades there has been a strong focus on sustainability in the South African wine industry. The WSB, which administers the Wine of Origin (WO) scheme, also administers a scheme known as IPW, which was introduced in 1998.

Producers farm according to independently audited IPW guidelines to prevent further loss of habitat. These guidelines cover minimising the use of sprays, monitoring water usage and recycling the maximum water possible, as well as protecting the natural habitat. These guidelines are constantly improved and independent auditors audit the farms and cellars.



In 2010, South Africa launched the world's first industry-wide sustainability seal. Issued by the WSB, it guarantees a certified wine's environmental credentials according to measurable, auditable criteria. It also makes it possible for consumers to verify information simply by entering each seal's unique number on the SWSA website. Today, some 94.3% of wines certified in accordance with the WO scheme are meeting the requirements to carry the sustainability seal.



www.wosa.co.za

South Africa's vibrant sports tourism: A field of dreams and opportunities

South Africa's sports culture is not just about the numbers or the games; it's about our people.

By Nomasonto Ndlovu
Acting Chief Executive Officer
South African Tourism

As Acting CEO of South African Tourism, I am often drawn to the vibrant blend of experiences that our beautiful country offers to both domestic and international visitors. Among these, sports tourism has emerged as an exciting frontier with boundless potential. I have witnessed firsthand the transformation of our sports tourism, a sub-sector that isn't merely a pastime but a vital part of our nation's identity and economy. South Africa's rich sports culture is more than just a game to us; it's a passion, a unifier and an economic powerhouse.

I recently posted on social platforms that I strongly believe that sports tourism has the potential to change the trajectory of our tourism industry and fast-track tourism recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. After that post, I received a flurry of messages and comments about this topic and this prompted me to expand here on my thoughts on this matter.

Domestic sports tourism: Building a united nation

South Africa's domestic sports tourism landscape is flourishing, spurred by our rich history and cultural diversity. From the vuvuzela-sounding Premier Soccer League games, the heart-pounding games of the Vodacom Super Rugby to the thrilling cricket battles at the Wanderers, marathons and cycling tours laced with the diverse and beautiful landscapes and the precision and majestic golf courses,

catering to upscale clientele. Our sports events reflect our national character.

According to Future Market Insights, the value of the South African sports tourism market was estimated at US\$3.67 million in 2022. Local communities, small businesses and the hospitality ecosystem are the real winners here, with substantial investments and opportunities cascading down to the grassroots level.

Our stadiums are not just arenas for games; they are melting pots of our Rainbow Nation, where our unity in diversity and the joy of freedom are celebrated.

International sports tourism: A global playing field

South Africa's sports culture isn't confined to our borders; it echoes around the globe. With the successful hosting of numerous significant sporting events in recent years, including prestigious competitions like the IRB Rugby World Cup, the 1996 African Cup of Nations, the 2003 Cricket World Cup, the 2007 World Twenty20 Championships, the 2009 Indian Premier League, the 2009 British and Irish Lions tour, the 2009 Confederations Cup, the 2009 ICC Champions Trophy, 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, the Cape Town ePrix and the 2023 Netball World Cup in Cape Town.

The Cape Town ePrix 2023, a Formula E racing sport, a street circuit race, showcasing the future of all-electric sport, which was successfully held in Cape Town, on 25 February 2023, was a first of its kind in South Africa and

played right into our sustainably proposition as a tourism destination.

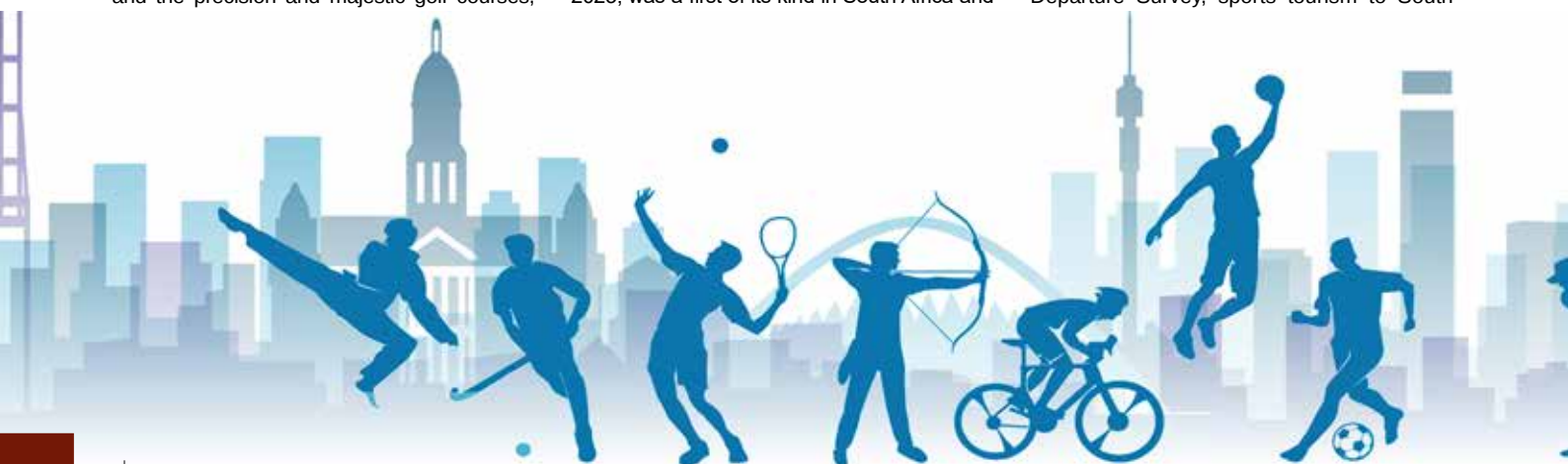
Successfully hosting these events has not only bolstered South Africa's tourism infrastructure but also enhanced its standing as a global tourist destination and contributed tremendously to the local economy in a broader scale and attracted international tourists, but most importantly, created much-needed jobs.

But it's not only about the numbers; it's about the international relationships and networks built. Stakeholders, ranging from government to private sector, worked collaboratively, in unison to place South Africa on the global sports map. Add to this, our exceptional sports talent, where various talented South African sports stars have done amazing work using their talent to place South Africa on the international stage. From Lucas Radebe, Benni McCarthy, Ernie Els, Chester Williams, Caster Semenya, Siya Kolisi ... the list is endless.

The economic impact: More than a game

Sports tourism is more than an industry; it's for many South Africans. Sport has proved itself to be a catalyst for economic development, an investment driver with a huge ability to create much-needed jobs. From the local tavern, taxis, e-hailing services and vendors outside stadiums, B&Bs, to the luxury hotels hosting international fans, the economic ecosystem of sports tourism is intricate and inclusive and the impact is far-reaching.

According to the South African Tourism's Departure Survey, sports tourism to South



We are a nation with dreams as vast as our landscapes and sports tourism is one field where those dreams are taking shape, one game at a time.

Africa has been a consistent mover of people. In 2010, South Africa welcomed 7.9 million tourists and more than 348 000 of those people were travelling primarily for sport chiefly driven by the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which was hosted in South Africa. The year before, almost 128 000 sports tourists arrived in South Africa primarily to attend the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup. Sports tourism has continued to positively contribute to our arrivals. In 2019 (pre-pandemic), South Africa received a total of 10.2 million arrivals of which 53 640 were tourists travelling primarily either to attend or participate in a sporting event. In 2023 for the first six months, we saw more than 29 000 people travelling to South Africa for the same reasons, contributing R0.6 billion to the country's economy.

Domestically, sports tourism can ignite regional development, drive local economies, and instil a sense of shared national identity. The Comrades Marathon Association estimated that the 2023 Comrades Marathon's economic impact on KwaZulu-Natal alone was R550 million.

Our sports culture: A mirror of our soul

South Africa's sports culture is not just about the numbers or the games; it's about our people. The Soweto Derby isn't merely a football match; it's a cultural festival. The Comrades Marathon isn't just a race; it's a symbol of human endurance. The blend of world-class golf courses with South Africa's scenic beauty has made golf tourism a significant part of the country's tourism industry. Our sports culture reflects our resilience, our hope and our united vision for a better South Africa.

Team players: The essential stakeholders

Undoubtedly, success in sports tourism is a collaborative effort and I firmly believe in the synergy between various stakeholders:

- Government agencies: Their role in infrastructure development, regulations and funding cannot be overstated.
- Private sector: From accommodation providers to travel agencies, their innovative packages and services enrich the tourist experience.
- Sporting bodies and federations: Aligning with them ensures standardisation, quality and attraction of world-class events. They are key in the bidding processes.
- Local communities: Engagement with local communities ensures that the benefits of sports tourism trickle down to the grassroots level.

The future: Endless opportunities

Looking towards the future, I see endless opportunities for sports tourism in South Africa. The future of sports tourism in South Africa shines with promise and potential. With a rich legacy of hosting world-class events, a diverse array of scenic landscapes and an enduring passion for sports that resonates nationwide, South Africa is poised to further solidify its position as a premier destination for sports enthusiasts. Governmental support, infrastructure development and community engagement will play vital roles in harnessing this potential. By embracing innovative strategies, fostering inclusivity and focussing on sustainability, South Africa can create a sports tourism model that not only elevates the economy but also inspires, unites and celebrates the unique cultural heritage of the nation. The path ahead is not without challenges, but the momentum is building and the opportunities are vast, laying the groundwork for a thriving and vibrant future in sports tourism.

In alignment to sports tourism, South African Tourism has announced Springbok captain, Siya Kolisi, as our new global

advocate. He is the perfect person to partner with South African Tourism in our marketing and promotional efforts as we seek to attract more travellers to come to visit our country.

The winning strategy: Enhancing sports tourism

To harness the full potential of sports tourism for both domestic and international appeal, we must:

- invest in infrastructure: developing modern, accessible sports facilities across urban and rural areas
- strengthen marketing efforts: showcasing South Africa's sporting prowess and natural beauty to targeted audiences
- promote accessibility: simplifying visa processes, enhancing transportation and providing affordable packages will make South Africa an attractive destination
- ensure sustainability: we must ensure that our pursuit of sports tourism aligns with responsible environmental stewardship
- prioritise safety and security: implementing rigorous safety measures will foster a sense of trust and well-being among visitors.

Conclusion: Our field of dreams

As a South African, the growth and impact of sports tourism in our nation are personal to me. It represents our potential, our creativity and our collective spirit. I see sports tourism as a conduit for social transformation, economic growth and international unity. It has the power to transcend boundaries and resonate with people from all walks of life. It's more than a game; it's a story of our people, our land and our future.

We are a nation with dreams as vast as our landscapes and sports tourism is one field where those dreams are taking shape, one game at a time.

The field is open, and the time is now. Let's play. 🏆



Health For All



South Africa's traditional medicines should be used in modern healthcare

Traditional medicine encompasses a number of healthcare practices aimed at either preventing or treating acute or chronic complaints through the application of indigenous knowledge, beliefs and approaches.

By Zelna Booth

Pharmacist and Academic Lecturer, Pharmacy Practice Division, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of the Witwatersrand

Traditional medicines are part of the cultural heritage of many Africans. About 80% of the African continent's population use these medicines for healthcare. Other reasons include affordability, accessibility, patient dissatisfaction with conventional medicine and the common misconception that "natural" is "safe". The growing recognition of traditional medicine resulted in the first World Health Organisation (WHO) global summit on the topic in August 2023, with the theme, *Health and Well-being for All*.

Traditional medicines are widely used in South Africa, with up to 60% of South Africans estimated to be reliant on traditional medicine as a primary source of healthcare. Conventional South African healthcare facilities struggle to cope with extremely high patient numbers.

The failure to meet the basic standards of healthcare, with increasing morbidity and mortality rates, poses a threat to the South African economy.

In my opinion, as a qualified pharmacist and academic with a research focus on traditional medicinal plant use in South Africa, integrating traditional medicine practices into modern healthcare systems can harness centuries of indigenous knowledge, increasing treatment options, and provide better healthcare.

Recognition of traditional medicine as an alternative or joint source of healthcare to that of standard, conventional medicine has proven challenging. This is due to the absence of scientific research establishing and documenting the safety and effectiveness of traditional medicines, along with the lack of regulatory controls.

What are traditional medicines?

Traditional medicine encompasses a number of healthcare practices aimed at either preventing or treating acute or chronic complaints through the application of indigenous knowledge, beliefs and approaches. It incorporates the use of plant, animal and mineral-based products. Plant-derived products form the majority of treatment

regimens. Traditional medicine practices also have a place in ritualistic activities and communicating with ancestors.

South Africa is rich in indigenous medicinal fauna and flora, with about 2 000 species of plants traded for medicinal purposes. In South Africa, the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo are trading "hotspots". The harvested plants are most often sold at traditional medicine *muthi* markets.

Uses of medicinal plants

Medicinal plants most popularly traded in South Africa include buchu, bitter aloe, African wormwood, honeybush, devil's claw, hoodia, African potato, fever tea, African geranium, African ginger, cancer bush, pepperbark tree, milk bush and the very commonly consumed South African beverage, Rooibos tea.

The most commonly traded medicinal plants in South Africa are listed below along with their traditional uses:

- buchu – urinary tract infections; skin infections; sexually transmitted infections;

- fever; respiratory tract infections; high blood pressure; gastrointestinal complaints
- bitter aloe – skin infections; skin inflammation; minor burns
- African wormwood – respiratory tract infections; diabetes; urinary tract disorders
- honeybush – cough; gastrointestinal issues; menopausal symptoms
- devil's claw – inflammation; arthritis; pain
- hoodia – appetite suppressant
- African potato – arthritis; diabetes; urinary tract disorders; tuberculosis; prostate disorders
- fever tea – respiratory tract infections; fever; headaches
- African geranium – respiratory tract infections
- African ginger – respiratory tract infections; asthma
- cancer bush – respiratory tract infections; menstrual pain
- pepperbark tree – respiratory tract infections; sexually transmitted infections
- milk bush – pain; ulcers; skin conditions
- Rooibos – inflammation; high cholesterol; high blood pressure.

There are many ways in which traditional medicine may be used. It can be a drop in the eye or the ear, a poultice applied to the skin, a boiled preparation for inhalation or a tea brewed for oral administration.

Roots, bulbs and bark are used most often, and leaves less frequently. Roots are available throughout the year. There's also a belief that the roots have the strongest concentration of "medicine". Harvesting of the roots, however, poses concerns about the conservation of these medicinal plants. The South African Government, with the draft policy on African traditional medicine Notice 906 of 2008, outlines considerations aimed at ensuring the conservation of these plants through counteracting unsustainable harvesting practices.

Obstacles to traditional medicine use

The limited research investigating interactions posed should a patient be making use of both traditional and conventional medicine is a concern. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many patients used traditional remedies for the prevention of infection or treatment.

Understanding which traditional medicines are being used and how, their therapeutic

effects in the human body, and how they interact with conventional medicines, would help determine safety of their combined use.

Certain combinations may have advantageous interactions, increasing the efficacy or potency of the medicines and allowing for reduced dosages, thereby reducing potential toxicity. These combinations could assist in the development of new pharmaceutical formulations.

Sharing information

The WHO in its Traditional Medicine Strategy for 2014 – 2023 report, emphasised the need for using traditional medicine to achieve increased healthcare. Key role-players from both systems of healthcare need to be able to share information freely.

The need for policy development is key. Both conventional and traditional medicine practitioners would need to be aware of, and engage with patients on all the medicines they are taking.

Understanding the whole patient

Patients often seek treatment from both conventional and traditional sources, which can lead to side effects or duplication in medications. A comprehensive understanding of a patient's health profile makes care easier. This could also prevent treatment failures, promote patient safety, prevent adverse interactions and minimise risks.

A harmonious healthcare landscape would combine the strengths of both systems to provide better healthcare for all. 🇺🇦

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

The growing recognition of traditional medicine resulted in the first World Health Organisation global summit on the topic, in August 2023, with the theme, *Health and Well-being for All*.



At the end of August 2023, South Africa joined forces with the rest of the continent to commemorate African Traditional Medicine Week.

From 26 to 31 August, Africa recognised the role of traditional medicine on the continent in providing accessible and affordable healthcare and its contribution to the development of healthcare globally.

This year's commemoration took place under the theme: *The Contribution of Traditional Medicine to Holistic Health and Well-being for All*.

Traditional medicine, the Department of Health said, was a holistic discipline involving the use of indigenous herbalism combined with aspects of African spirituality.

"In some cases, traditional medicine is the only healthcare service available, accessible and affordable to many people on the continent.

"Thus, the significant contribution of traditional medicine as a major provider of healthcare services in Africa cannot be underestimated."

According to the statement, traditional medicines have been used in many countries on the continent and globally over many centuries.

"Today, these medicines still represent an important part of healthcare in some countries.

"More than 100 countries have regulations for herbal medicines, but practices of traditional medicine vary greatly from country to country and from region to region, as they are influenced by factors such as culture, history, personal attitudes and philosophy."

The department hosted the first Traditional Medicine Summit in February 2023 to create a platform for stakeholders in the sector to meet and engage with the department to come up with recommendations aimed at advancing and formalising the sector.

"The summit was also meant to improve relations between the department and traditional health practitioners' formations and other stakeholders."

As part of the summit resolutions, the Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, appointed an interim Traditional Health Practitioners Council to coordinate the activities of traditional health practitioners.

Meanwhile, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority is developing guidelines for the registration of traditional medicine products.

The department believes that the regulations will contribute towards the industrialisation of traditional medicine products, which is an integral part of the value chain.

"The department is mandated to implement legislation pertaining to its sphere of work and the Traditional Health Practitioners Act is an example of such legislation," the department added.

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Distinguished Professor Jill Adler receives **Lifetime Achiever Award**

Introduced to the National Research Foundation Awards in 2004, the Lifetime Achiever Award recognises an individual who has demonstrably made extraordinary contributions to the development of science in and for South Africa over an extended period of time. These contributions must be of international standard and impact.

The National Research Foundation (NRF) has awarded the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) Distinguished Professor Jill Adler the Lifetime Achiever Award at the 2023 NRF Awards ceremony, held on 31 August 2023 in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. Introduced to the NRF Awards in 2004, the Lifetime Achiever Award recognises an individual who has demonstrably made extraordinary contributions to the development of science in and for South Africa over an extended period of time. These contributions must be of international standard and impact.

Professor Adler received her award in person and expressed her gratitude for the special recognition. She said, "This award for me gives recognition to the importance of educational research and educational research that is grounded in the realities of our Mathematics classrooms. It gives meaning to the NRF vision for science and service of society." A Distinguished Professor in the Wits School of Education, Prof. Adler was born

and raised in Johannesburg. She completed a BSc in Mathematics and Psychology at Wits in 1972 and her Secondary Teachers Diploma at the University of Cape Town in 1973 before taking up a teaching post at Harold Cressy High School in Cape Town. In 1977, she returned to Johannesburg and joined the South African Committee for Higher Education Trust, an educational non-governmental organisation (NGO) concerned with enriching the quality of education of those disadvantaged in apartheid South Africa, where she first taught O-level Mathematics to youth who were out of school following the Soweto Uprising in 1976.

Her work at the NGO over the next 10 years enabled her to further her social justice advocacy, seeking to address the educational inequalities in South Africa by improving Mathematics education through the development and evaluation of distance education courses. At the same time, she studied for her MEd at Wits, graduating cum laude in 1985. In 1987, she moved into academia, lecturing in the Department of

Professional Studies at the Johannesburg College of Education for two years before moving to the Education Department at Wits where she worked variously as a Lecturer, Head of Department, Professor, as well as the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair of Mathematics Education from 2010 to 2019. She holds an A1-rating from the NRF.

Prof. Adler completed her PhD in 1996 with a thesis that looked at the dynamics of teaching and learning Mathematics in multilingual classrooms, specifically examining secondary teachers' knowledge in this context. This was later published as a book as well as a range of papers in peer-reviewed journals. This seminal research has had a lasting impact on the broader field of Mathematics education, providing valuable



Working alongside a dedicated cohort of students, she spearheaded efforts to position Mathematics education as a robust research domain within the university and more broadly in the country. This collaborative and interdisciplinary approach fostered a rich and dynamic research environment where scholars and students alike could explore innovative approaches to Mathematics education and contribute to its advancement.

Prof. Adler is an Honorary Professor at Oxford University and University College London, both in the United Kingdom. She has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles and four books; co-edited two special journal issues and contributed 50 book chapters, achieving more than 7 000 citations and an H-index of 37. She has served on various editorial boards for leading publications such as the *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education* and *Educational Studies in Mathematics*. Over the course of her 45-year career in teaching and academia, she has garnered numerous

The NRF has been one of the most important institutions throughout Prof. Adler's academic journey, she said at the awards ceremony. "The NRF has been a bedrock of my research post my PhD, through multiple research grants over many years, supporting empirical work, graduate students as well as opportunities for international conference participation – because that is also important beyond publications for influencing research. I'm particularly grateful for the SARCHI Chair that I held from 2010 to 2019. This was a funding partnership with the FirstRand Foundation, and it was for research-linked development, not only research work. The goal to which you had to commit was to improve the teaching and learning of Mathematics in our country; not a small ask. The funding supported interventions with teachers in schools, research teams that included masters, doctorate and postdoctoral fellows as well as the empirical work then to investigate the impact of the interventions." 





HOW OUR ANCESTORS VIEWED THE SKY —

New film explores both indigenous and modern cosmology

In his new, award-winning documentary, *!Aitsa*, filmmaker Dane Dodds explores the intellectual background and science of the SKAO alongside indigenous conceptions of the cosmos held by ancient Xam San people and their Afrikaans-speaking descendants living in the Karoo today.

By Neil Rusch

Research Associate, University of the Witwatersrand

Something remarkable is happening in a remote part of South Africa's Northern Cape province, in a semi-desert area called the Karoo. In the past 15 years, 64 radio receiving dishes have appeared on the landscape. These constitute the MeerKAT telescope, a precursor to the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), which will – when it is completed and fully functional in 2030 – be the world's largest radio telescope.

The SKAO will receive signals emanating from the dark regions between the stars and galaxies.

This data, studied by radio astronomers, has the capacity to inform us about dark matter and could change our conception of the universe irrevocably.

In his new, award-winning documentary, *!Aitsa*, filmmaker Dane Dodds explores the intellectual background and science of the SKAO alongside indigenous conceptions of the cosmos held by ancient Xam San people and their Afrikaans-speaking descendants living in the Karoo today. As the film's adviser, I saw my task as bringing into focus the hidden assumptions that must be recognised in any encounter between knowledge, traditions and cosmology.

!Aitsa (a South African exclamation of praise or surprise) explores the SKAO's approach to understanding the universe through big data made comprehensible by the techniques of empirical science, machine learning, artificial intelligence and instrumentation. The film also examines Karoo starlore as it is shared and spread by an interwoven tapestry of

oral traditions. Conventional ideas about the nature of science are challenged and the dominant structures of knowledge creation are questioned as a result.

To the Xam and San people, being in the world as a person includes "the sky's things" – an understanding of and deep connection with the cosmos. In an age progressively dominated by digital and automated knowledge, it was important that the film hold space for this notion.

Inflected with starlore

Through my own research in the fields of archaeoacoustics, rock art and oral tradition, I have come to understand that there is a profound multiplicity of connections within the Xam knowledge tradition. In a Xam conception of the universe, there is no

alienating distance between inner and outer, person, stars and space. That's because their cultural understanding of reciprocities encourages ecological and cosmic connection.

!Aitsa strives to express astronomy as a lived-body experience. One person interviewed in the film says: "When I look up into the sky and look at how my star is positioned, and look up at the star's direction, I know which way to walk". Another describes the Milky Way as being "right at the centre of a person's spirituality".

Animism and animation

The instruments of modern science deliver facts, innovation and technical advancement. But all this comes with societal entanglements and colonial dynamics, a part of the intellectual history of scientific endeavour that assumes authority and stands aloof from the kinds of sensory perceptions and lived experience that are central to !Xam San cosmology.

!Aitsa investigates a modern predisposition that considers animistic knowledge and reasoning as inherently flawed. Animism is the notion that any living thing has a distinct spiritual essence. It's a mistake to dismiss !Xam cultural expression as a mythology that is intrinsically animistic and therefore quaint.

The !Xam and San people are known as "the people of the eland" and so, to illustrate the way their beliefs animate "things", an eland antelope is a key character in *!Aitsa*. The animal's presence compels the viewer to consider the importance of relationship and relatedness.

Soundscapes

Sound plays a crucial role in the film and was another opportunity to showcase an element of !Xam San culture. The soundtrack draws on composer Simon Kohler's musical creativity and the archaeoacoustic research I have done on lithophones, otherwise known as gong rocks, which produce sounds not dissimilar to that of a bell when it is struck.

Sound is the most ephemeral and transitory of presences but in the film, the gong rock sound is a thread linking voices and images, past and present. Collecting the sound required two trips into the Karoo. There we recorded a variety of rock sounds – deep bass vibrations through to light metallic tinkles. We brought these recordings back into the Cape Town sound studio where the sound was "composed" to create the soundtrack that viewers will hear throughout the film.

What next?

!Aitsa had its world premiere at CPH:DOX in Denmark in 2023, with sold-out screenings and rave reviews. The film won the Grand Prize at Estonia's Pärnu International Film Festival and was voted Best of the Fest at the Encounters Film Festival in Cape Town. *!Aitsa* was selected to screen in Canada at Planet in Focus and in October 2023 at the Prague Science Film Fest and is up for selection at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam in The Netherlands in November.

In 2024, *!Aitsa* will go on a road trip, visiting remote places in the Karoo where the film will be screened to audiences who do not have the means for, or access to cinemas. We also hope to take the film to Australia so that the Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal people can see, listen and connect with their counterparts in the Karoo. This is an important connection because the Wajarri Yamaji live in the Murchison region in Western Australia where the low-frequency component of the SKAO is currently under construction. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

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Milisuthando:

A powerful documentary that will get South Africans talking about identity

Milisuthando premiered to critical acclaim at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and is winning hearts on the international festival circuit.

By Julia Cain

Lecturer in Screen Production and Film Theory and Practice, University of Cape Town

Milisuthando is a debut feature length documentary film by Milisuthando Bongela. Taking the form of a personal essay, it's an intimate story about family and ancestors, about "inside apartheid's experiment" and negotiating the complex world of post-apartheid South Africa.

Bongela, born in 1985, offers a version of her life story in five parts organised poetically and thematically. The film is built on her experience of being born in the former Transkei "homeland" – one of the "independent states" designated by the racist apartheid government to institutionalise "separate development". It explores what it means to have grown up in this society.

The details of Bongela's life emerge largely in conversation with others – black school friends at previously white schools, current white friends and family, including her 90-year old grandmother. In the process, the film offers images of middle-class life beyond the much more familiar images of violence and unrest in black townships.

Milisuthando premiered to critical acclaim at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and is winning hearts on the international festival circuit.

As a lecturer and scholar who specialises in documentary film, my view is that *Milisuthando* defies conventional documentary storytelling to expand the canon of South African cinema. Its rich and challenging subject and audiovisual language offer an opportunity for

South Africans to talk to each other in a way that is transformational. I asked the filmmaker about her project.

Julia Cain: How would you describe your film for South African audiences?

Milisuthando Bongela: This is who we made the film for. It's extremely South African and very intentionally sewn together over many years in conversation with who we are as a people and who we've become as a result of our history. It's a meditative exploration of love and what it means to be human.

I found that there wasn't enough of a reference point for my homeland existence in the public discourse. When we talk about blackness and apartheid, I was always finding that, wait a minute, I didn't grow up in the



The only way out of making sure that my grandkids are not dealing with this in the same way that I'm dealing with it is: we have to figure out how to talk to each other.

township – I grew up in another expression of racial division.

Julia Cain: Your film strikes me as a collage. What's behind your formal choices?

Milisuthando Bongela: I had to drop the prose and pick up the poetry. We were like, let us rely on cinema, which uses images, light and sound. The approach was to do associative editing – put one image next to another and see what the viewers pick up. We want the audiences to go inside themselves. We knew we had to break with traditional form and invent our own.

Visually, we had such incredible material. I'm an aesthete. I believe in beauty as a way to enter into the world. A lot of times, documentaries rest on the laurel of their messages. I've worked in fashion and art, and I do believe that aesthetics – whether it's sound, whether it's visual – helps to hold people and deliver what one wants to say. Because, we are talking about ugly things; we're really engaging with painful histories. And not to gloss over that pain, but to help people enter and go quietly, deeply, because usually we look away.

The film is also commenting on what cinema has been to black people in Africa –

how we've been used as subjects and not necessarily as people with the power to take this technology and do with it what we wish.

Julia Cain: You've been very conscious of collaboration. Can you share how you worked with your old school friends, for example?

Milisuthando Bongela: We all had a collective experience of being the first generation of black kids to go to these white schools and I was trying to validate my own experience, which I've never really seen reflected in popular culture and discourse. There were all these tiny cuts that were made every day on our personhood.

It was a process that began in 2016 – I decided to sit down and do these interviews with about 10 of my friends. I touched on every subject I could think of, from very small things ... I would show them a space case (pencil case), for instance, and say, what comes to mind? And then the question of class and of our parents struggling to afford the stationery – and what it meant to have, like, the crappy Faber Castell crayons versus the Colleens crayons – and about your academic ability and your intelligence, and all the stuff that's laden inside. All these stories about bodies, about the ability of black people to engage water, about hair, about the ashiness of our skin, about Vaseline. About all these things that suddenly come up: taxis, transport, the school bell, Afrikaans, kissing! I interviewed them two by two, so that each person would have somebody that's listening to them and co-conspiring.

The only way out of making sure that my grandkids are not dealing with this in the same way that I'm dealing with it is: we have to figure out how to talk to each other. This is

not going to be solved by white people sitting alone together or by black people sitting alone together.

It goes down to the true meaning of (the African philosophy of) Ubuntu – which is that we fathom ourselves through each other.

Julia Cain: What would you like to leave with your audiences?

Milisuthando Bongela: The thing I want to leave the audience with is the thing that I'm constantly left with, which is thank God I exist and that I'm born at this time. The world right now ... it does feel like we are in free fall, because we are. I have to engage in white supremacy and capitalism and patriarchy. I can't take it down without understanding it. The way that the world has been, all those ideas have to die. It's no longer serving humanity. It's not even serving the people who created it.

We are in the next phase, where what's required are people who understand the feminine modalities of doing things, and the feminine in men and women, and the multiple expressions of gender that exist. Queer people, trans people, black people, people of colour all over the world, indigenous peoples – our wisdom, our knowledge, our ways of seeing the world, our sciences – this energy has been suppressed for a long time, and it's ready to rise and to reconstruct the world.

For me, I've learned in the last couple of years that the antidote to fascism is intimacy.

Milisuthando opened the Encounters South African International Documentary Festival in June 2023. 📺

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



Siya Kolisi:

The South African rugby star's story offers valuable lessons in resilience

Kolisi's story is not just about overcoming adversity but finding purpose and meaning in that adversity. He reminds us that no matter where we come from, we have the potential to rise above adversity, challenge the status quo and shape a brighter future. Resilience is the driving force that enables people to persevere, grow and ultimately shape their futures.

By Tinashe Timothy Harry

Senior Lecturer in Industrial and Organisational Psychology, Nelson Mandela University

In the world of sports, some stories transcend the boundaries of the game and become symbolic of something greater. Siya Kolisi's journey from an adverse upbringing to becoming captain of a World Cup-winning South African rugby team, the Springboks, is one such story.

Kolisi made history as the first black captain of the Springboks in a country where, because of apartheid and separate development, the professional sport was once an all-white affair.

Rugby was firmly associated with white national pride and now a black man from a humble background has become a national hero, reshaping the sport's image.

Despite being a democracy since 1994, South Africa continues to struggle to forge a unified and equitable society while acknowledging its diverse cultural heritage. Kolisi's appointment as captain in 2018 signalled a new chapter of inclusivity, diversity and unity.

As an industrial psychologist, I have a particular interest in psychobiographical studies. Psychobiographies provide insights into the lives and minds of historically significant individuals like Kolisi. Understanding their inner and external worlds helps us grasp their motivations and actions – and the broader context of their impact on society. This enriches our knowledge of history and human behaviour.

Kolisi's story defies the odds and highlights the power of resilience; the ability to bounce back from adversity, trauma or setbacks. It empowers other people to navigate and overcome life's challenges. With effective coping strategies and support systems, resilience can foster personal growth, adaptability and mental well-being. This ultimately shapes people into more resourceful individuals.

The early years

Siyamthanda Kolisi was born in 1991 in Zwide, in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. Although apartheid had all but

ended, social and economic inequalities persisted. Many black people continued living in disadvantaged settlements on the outskirts of cities and towns. They had limited employment opportunities and schools were under-resourced.

From the outset, Kolisi faced many challenges that could have derailed his dreams. He lived in a society plagued with poverty, malnutrition, crime, substance misuse and violence.

According to his autobiography, his parents were both teenagers when he was born. As a result, he was raised by his grandmother, who performed ad hoc jobs until she could no longer work. Kolisi had to look after her until her death. Losing his primary caregiver was one of his most significant early challenges. His grandmother died in his arms when he was 12. Kolisi wrote:

"The one person who'd loved me unconditionally had gone, and without her, Zwide could seem an even scarier place than before."

His upbringing reflects the resilience of countless South Africans striving for a better life. In 2002, he joined a local rugby team, which provided him with a crucial positive role model in headmaster and coach Eric Songwili. This new environment offered a structure that was missing in his life after the loss of his grandmother. The support from his coach and the responsibility he felt towards his teammates prompted a transformation in his coping strategies.

Coping strategies create resilience

Kolisi's story serves as a powerful testament to the concept of resilience: how individuals adapt and grow in response to challenges. Sometimes, people engage in socially unacceptable behaviours as coping mechanisms to survive their harsh realities.

In his early years, Kolisi engaged in substance misuse, violence, aggressiveness and self-destructive behaviour to cope with challenges and form an identity to fit in to his society. Playing rugby, attending school, spirituality and faith also helped him cope.

His journey encompasses socially acceptable and unacceptable behaviours, demonstrating that overcoming adversity is dynamic. Our backgrounds, life experiences

In the world of sports, some stories transcend the boundaries of the game and become symbolic of something greater. Siya Kolisi's journey from an adverse upbringing to becoming captain of a World Cup-winning South African rugby team, the Springboks, is one such story.

and the societies we belong to shape who we are and our lives' direction.

In a broader context, Kolisi's story highlights the importance of recognising diverse social and cultural influences on human development. I believe that psychologists need more inclusive and culturally sensitive approaches to understanding human development.

Our lives are like puzzles with many different pieces. Some of these might cause problems or risks, while others help keep us safe and secure. These risky and protective pieces all come together to shape our lives.

Rugby as a lifeline

Rugby played an important role in Kolisi's life, both on and off the field. In a team environment, he found solace and a nurturing environment that provided security, a sense of belonging. A refuge from his chaotic life at home and in society.

From this, we can see that our social and cultural context significantly shapes our lives. And while context can be a source of harmony and discord in human development, it's possible to get past adversity with resilience and determination.

One of the key takeaways from my study of Kolisi is the importance of viewing marginalised individuals holistically. Individuals are not defined solely by their circumstances. By understanding the multifaceted aspects of their lives, we can help them on their journey towards success and fulfilment.

Beyond rugby

Kolisi's resilience and success is not limited to rugby. He's used his platform to make a positive impact in his community and beyond. Through the Kolisi Foundation, he has provided opportunities and support to improve the lives of disadvantaged communities.

This includes providing safe spaces through sport and education, addressing gender-based violence and contributing to food security. His commitment to giving back reflects his belief in the Ubuntu philosophy of humanity towards others. The journey from adversity to triumph is not complete until others are uplifted.

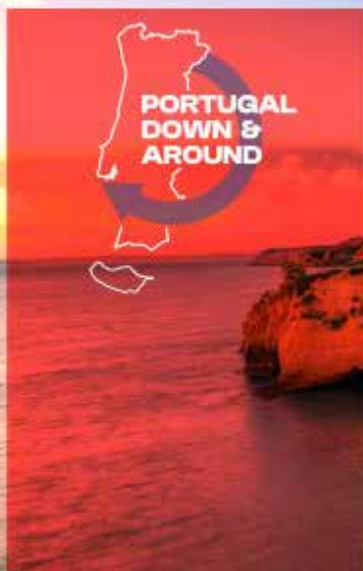
Resilience matters

Kolisi's story is not just about overcoming adversity but finding purpose and meaning in that adversity.

He reminds us that no matter where we come from, we have the potential to rise above adversity, challenge the status quo and shape a brighter future.

Resilience is the driving force that enables people to persevere, grow, and ultimately shape their futures. 🍀

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



A catalyst for change: Support Miles for Smiles

South African adventurers, David Grier and running partner Andrew Stuart, embarked on an incredible running journey of 1 500km down the entire coastline of Portugal and Madeira, from 26 June to 4 August 2023 in a bid to raise funds to help Operation Smile Mozambique provide safe surgery for children with clefts through the Cipla Miles for Smiles Foundation.



“It’s not about what you achieve that is important, it’s about the difference you make along the way”, David Grier.

South African adventurers, David Grier and running partner Andrew Stuart, embarked on an incredible running journey of 1 500km down the entire coastline of Portugal and Madeira, from 26 June to 4 August 2023 in a bid to raise funds to help Operation Smile Mozambique provide safe surgery for children with clefts through the Cipla Miles for Smiles Foundation.

Grier told *The Portugal News* that: “One in 750 children globally is born with a cleft and it is the biggest facial deformity no matter what country you are born in. The sad thing is that people think having a cleft is a cosmetic issue, however, one in 10 children born with this don’t reach their first birthday due to choking or suffocating as well as other issues. Ideally, corrective surgery should be carried out within the first 18 months of life. In many parts of South Africa and Africa, where the public health system is overburdened and under-resourced, safe surgery is not always freely available or accessible and a child may

have to wait years for the chance to live a normal life. Without surgery, children with clefts face serious and debilitating long-term health problems and will likely suffer from emotional abuse and isolation.”

Grier only had positive things to say about Portugal, warmly sharing that: “This journey has been incredible. Firstly, the Portuguese people are so friendly, it has been amazing – from old ladies giving us fruit and water, people offering to pay our bills when we buy something in a shop, restaurateurs discounting us on our meals and saying thank you for what you are doing.”

Why Portugal?

Grier said that: “We have identified 400 children that are ready for surgery in Northern Mozambique, which is where we can do the surgery. There is also the connection between Mozambique and Portugal; there is a long history between the countries; businesses from Portugal that operate in Mozambique; and it is a Portuguese-speaking country. We thought we could come to Portugal and raise that awareness, maybe even connect with some Portuguese companies that can assist us in fulfilling these surgeries.”



"It's not about what you achieve that is important, it's about the difference you make along the way."

David Grier

He went on to explain: "And then from our journeys to date, Andy and I have raised enough funding where we have put over 3 000 children through surgery so far through these adventures, so it has been massive what we have achieved."

Personal journey

Grier is a chef by profession, a humanitarian, extreme adventurer, bestselling author and inspirational speaker. Grier also became the first person to have run the length of the Great Wall of China in both directions (4 200km in each direction) in 2006 and 2019, and since then has gone on to run six more arduous, breathtaking adventures, all in support of Operation Smile.

He has also run the entire coastline of South Africa, completing 3 300km in 80 days; paddled from Africa to Madagascar, completing 500km in 12 days; ran the Island of Madagascar from South to North, completing 2 700km in 67 days; ran the entire length of India, completing 4 008 km in 93 days; and he just finished in Portugal.

Grier is a trustee of the Cipla Foundation and GiveAll foundation. As well as being an ambassador for both raising funds through adventure for Operation Smile South Africa, Grier has recently also been appointed as an ambassador for 54asOne, a foundation assisting with improving access to medical services and equipment, as well as upgrading medical infrastructure on the continent of Africa.

Grier has shaped the experiences of the last four challenges into a series of inspirational talks. His message is of hope and "making a difference" in people's lives through change, positivity, the right attitude, recognising opportunity and never giving up. The cause is an important one.

Funds raised through these endeavours go a long way in changing lives. 🇺🇦

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Augrabies Waterfall, Northern Cape

Flying the FLAG

Sundowns crowned first African Football League champions



Mamelodi Sundowns are the Inaugural African Football League (AFL) champions.

Sundowns beat Morocco's Wydad Casablanca 2-0 in the second leg of the final of the competition on Sunday, 12 November 2023, at the Loftus Versfeld stadium for a 3-2 aggregate victory.

Despite a challenging first leg away from home resulting in a 2-1 loss, Sundowns orchestrated a stunning comeback at Loftus, sealing a 3-2 aggregate victory.

Goals by the dynamic duo of Peter Shalulile, returning from injury, and Aubrey Modiba fuelled Sundowns' success on the day.

Shalulile's precise finish on the stroke of halftime shattered Wydad's resilience. This forced the Moroccans to alter their defensive strategy in the second half.

As the visitors sought to mount a comeback, Sundowns dealt a decisive blow with Modiba finding the net early in the second half.

The Brazilians effectively managed the game until the final whistle, securing not only the AFL title but also a hefty R76 million cash prize.

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) president, Gianni Infantino, said he was delighted to be on the African continent to witness football history.

Infantino was the guest of honour in the inaugural AFL final between Mamelodi Sundowns and Wydad Casablanca.

The president of FIFA and his Confederation of African Football counterpart, Patrice Motsepe, paid a courtesy visit to President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria ahead of the final.

Infantino said his main mission was to help grow and develop football on the African continent.

"To create more chances, more opportunities for clubs in Africa to compete at the top level, to have more competitive, passionate games to be able to generate more revenue, more attention; that's exactly what the African Football league does, has done and will do even more."

Motsepe hopes that the Springboks recent World Cup victory will inspire Bafana Bafana to do well in international football in the near future.

"But remember worldwide, the number sport in the world is football. The most popular sport in South Africa by far is football and that's why there's a huge focus on the development and growth of football. The Springboks have uplifted the spirit and the unity in this country, which is beautiful and we are confident that football is gonna do the same."

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SA Paralympic legend Ernst Van Dyk earns place in NYRR Hall of Fame



South African Paralympic legend Ernst van Dyk has been honoured by the New York Road Runners (NYRR) Hall of Fame.

As a two-time New York City Marathon Champion; eight-time Paralympic medallist; the winner of several *Union Cycliste*

Internationale world championship titles; and Boston Marathon wins, Van Dyk knows a thing or two about tearing up a road.

However, becoming one of the world's most iconic wheelchair marathon racers did not happen by chance. Van Dyk's determination to excel and reframe realms of possibility has been his real driving force for decades – a spirit of tenacity that echoes the essence of both South Africa and sportsmanship.

Born with the "congenital absence of both legs" to athletic parents, Van Dyk's talent in sports was easily spotted from his youth.

He has since gone on to wave the South African flag around the world at every Paralympics since 1992 as the NYRR recalls, reminding people from all walks, sittings and runs of life that pursuing dreams does not always have prerequisites of ability.

Of his recent induction into the NYRR Hall of Fame, he joins Deena Kastor; a marathon record-holder and three-time Olympian.

Kastor expressed that it was an honour to be inducted into the Hall of Fame alongside Van Dyk who she had long looked up to and admired.

Speaking of the induction, Van Dyk shared:

"This came as a total surprise and I'm profoundly honoured and deeply humbled.

"This induction isn't about me, it's about the spirit of perseverance and the belief that every obstacle is an opportunity to redefine what's possible. I accept this honour with immense gratitude, knowing that it is not an end, but a reminder to keep pushing boundaries and inspiring others to roll forward in the pursuit of their dreams."

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Black Coffee makes history at Madison Square Garden (MSG)

On Saturday, 7 October 2023, South African DJ Black Coffee made history with a groundbreaking performance at MSG in front of a sold-out crowd of over 20 700 music enthusiasts.

In a significant moment for South African music, world-renowned DJ Black Coffee achieved a remarkable milestone. He etched his name into the annals of history as the first South African DJ and producer to command the grand stage of New York's iconic MSG.

Black Coffee, whose real name is Nkosi Nathi Maphumulo, took to Instagram to share his exhilaration: "It's always been one of my biggest dreams to take this music and sound to the highest level possible and to expose it to the largest audience imaginable, and so I've dreamt of my Madison Square Garden debut for many years."

The occasion was a culmination of years of dedication, hard work and an unwavering commitment to his craft.

MSG, often referred to as "The World's Most Famous Arena", has witnessed some of the most iconic moments in music history. From Michael Jackson's electrifying *Bad* World Tour in 1988 to George Harrison's historic *The Concert for Bangladesh*, this



venue has provided a stage for musical legends to shine. Notably, it played a pivotal role in uniting a grieving city after the September 11 attacks with *The Concert for New York City*. John Lennon's final concert appearance during an Elton John concert in 1974, just before his tragic death in 1980, is etched in the memory of music enthusiasts. Even the legendary Elvis Presley graced MSG with four sold-out performances in

1972, marking his first and last shows in New York City.

Black Coffee's remarkable journey from his South African roots to the world stage is all due to the power of his talent, perseverance and passion. He has not only elevated South African music but has also bridged cultural gaps through his beats, captivating audiences worldwide.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Angela Yeung becomes the first South African to summit Mount Manaslu

In October 2023, Johannesburg-based jewellery designer and philanthropist, Angela Yeung made history as the first South African to climb Mount Manaslu at a height of 8 163 metres in the Nepalese Himalayas.

The climb, while successful on the ascent, encountered significant challenges on the descent and Yeung ended up enduring a harrowing experience requiring an emergency airlift.

"After reaching the top, I had an accident when I made my descent – due to the severe snowy conditions and ice on the rope, which required an emergency helicopter airlift," said Yeung upon her return to South Africa.

Some 339 climbers from 47 countries around the world made the trek, with Yeung being the only participant from South Africa in a smaller group of six, partnering with The Sherpa Legends.

After she made the summit on 25 September, Yeung was airlifted to HAMS Hospital in Kathmandu for X-rays and treatment, prior to returning to Johannesburg. She spent 630 hours training for the journey. The 47-year-old raised funds in 2018 and 2019

for the Imbumba Foundation and Caring4Girls, empowering girls through menstrual education programmes, providing sanitary pads and promoting positive body literacy.

In August 2022, Yeung's Impilo Collection Foundation set a record when 6 200 bras were displayed at Constitutional Hill in Johannesburg during International Women's Month, in her fight to support victims of Gender-Based Violence and build an educational centre.

This is her fourth fundraising climb, including summiting Island Peak and Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Climbing almost 2 000 metres higher than my last expedition, was a whole other ballgame," explained Yeung.

"Acclimatisation to a higher altitude was much more challenging than before, and that's why I injured my ankle on descent."

Despite her foot injury, Yeung said she would do it again and hopes to summit Mount Everest next.

"I'm hoping to collect 8 848 bras – that's the height of Mount Everest – which I hope to climb next. It just depends on my injury and recovery time."

Yeung is an ambassador of Brand South Africa and renowned jewellery designer who



presented her new collection of African-inspired pieces at the Paris Fashion Week in 2022.

The mountain's name, Manaslu, means "mountain of the spirit" and is derived from the Sanskrit word *manasa*, meaning "intellect" or "soul".

She continued, "Knowing my 'why' is the key ... you have to be clear on the reason and the goal for the climb, which keeps you concentrating on your mission. Focussing on my goal and my spirit, helped me get through and survive."

www.goodthingsguy.com

Two South African lodges make the *Condé Nast* 50 Best Resorts in the World List

The results for this year's Best Resorts in the World according to the *Condé Nast* 2023 Readers' Choice Awards were announced recently and two South African lodges made the top 50. The list features resorts from around the world



and was compiled from a survey, which was answered by 526 518 *Condé Nast* readers to paint a picture of the best in the world.

According to the travel gurus at *Condé Nast*, it appears as though people have spent the last year taking longer, more immersive trips to remote properties and destinations that have topped their readers' bucket lists for years.

Londolozi Game Reserve

The Sabi Sand Game Reserve is a popular choice among the *Condé Nast* readers. Londolozi, situated on the banks of the Sand River across six million acres of the reserve, clinched the sixth spot on this year's list. It has made the list consecutively since 2017 and is famed for its ability to deliver memorable leopard sightings, big five photographic game drives and a healing house. The lodge boasts five luxurious camps in the form of the Tree Camp, Pioneer Camp, Varty Camp, Founders Camp and the Private Granite Suites.

Rates per person sharing per night at Londolozi start from R19 950 in a chalet in the Varty Camp and reach upwards of

R37 450 in one of the private granite suites. Rates include accommodation, all meals, selected beverages, game drives and walks and one yoga class per day.

Ulusaba Private Game Reserve

Coming in at number 48 is Ulusaba Private Game Reserve, Sir Richard Branson's private game reserve in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve. With 20 rooms and suites straddling three lodges – Rock Lodge with its panoramic views of the Drakensberg escarpment, the opulent Cliff Lodge with expansive views of the reserve and Safari Lodge with its treehouse-type rooms – it's the views and wildlife sightings that have made this a popular spot. And popular it is: this is the eighth year it's made the list.

A night in Rock Lodge and Safari Lodge will set you back R13 800 per person sharing per night in the most basic rooms, while the "cheapest" night in Cliff Lodge will cost you R25 500 per person sharing. Rates include accommodation, all meals, selected beverages and game drives and walks.

www.timeslive.co.za

Western Cape shines at World Tourism Awards



A total of eight Western Cape-based tourism and hospitality brands were crowned winners at the World Travel Awards Africa, released on 16 October 2023.

Recognised as the gold-standard of awards, the World Travel Awards were established in 1993 to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all key sectors of the travel, tourism and hospitality industries.

Western Cape Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, Mireille Wenger, said, "I am delighted that so many of the incredible offerings we have in the Western Cape have been recognised on such a

prestigious world stage. The closer we get to our summer peak period, the more reasons we must expect a record-setting season. This is very exciting because the tourism and hospitality sector contributes significantly to our economy and especially to job creation in the Western Cape."

The Western Cape winners include:

- Africa's Leading Airport 2023: Cape Town International Airport
- Africa's Leading City Destination 2023: Cape Town
- Africa's Leading Cruise Port 2023: Port of Cape Town
- Africa's Leading Design Hotel 2023:

Labotessa Luxury Boutique Hotel, Cape Town

- Africa's Leading Luxury Hotel 2023: The Silo Hotel, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town
- Africa's Leading Luxury Hotel Villa 2023: Villa Two@Ellerman House, Cape Town
- Africa's Leading Luxury Resort 2023: One&Only Cape Town
- Africa's Leading Sports Resort 2023: Pezula Nature Hotel & Spa.

MEC Wenger continued, "I'd like to congratulate all our amazing winners for their contribution to ensuring that Cape Town and the Western Cape remain a destination of choice for visitors. I'd also like to recognise all our other impressive brands that were nominated, which is a great indication of the sector's commitment to and achievement of excellence."

"More tourists mean more jobs in our province and the flurry of tourism and hospitality accolades awarded to so many in the Western Cape tourism and hospitality sector give us hope that by working together to support and grow the industry, we can grow our economy and create many more jobs for residents." concluded MEC Wenger.

www.gov.za

Bryan Habana honoured in World Rugby Hall of Fame

South Africa's Bryan Habana was one of the five rugby stars from around the world inducted into the World Rugby Hall of Fame recently. Habana is a force of rugby to be reckoned with, and now, his incredibly successful rugby career is celebrated in the World Rugby Hall of Fame. Habana was inducted along with four other rugby legends around the world, including New Zealand's Dan Carter, France's Thierry Dusautoir, Australia's George Smith and Argentina's Juan Martín Hernández.

Habana's induction into the World Rugby Hall of Fame recognises many of the former Springbok's big contributions to the sport that enveloped South Africa in pride.

However, it recognised not only Habana's extraordinary place on World Cup fields (like his World Player of the Year winning efforts in the 2007 Rugby World Cup where he scored eight tries equalling the late Jonah Lomu) but the breadth of his contributions and achievements to and in the sport throughout his career, which ended with retirement in 2018.

At the same time, the honour commends his character-building values, including integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline and respect.

Reflecting on the honour, Habana shared: "Where does one even start ...

"Inspired by a group of men in '95 to play this beautiful game ... never in my wildest dreams did I comprehend how it would

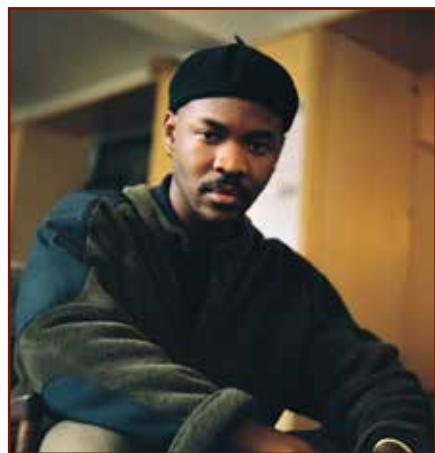


change my life!! To every family member, loved one, friend, teacher, coach, supporter, critic, administrator that was on my journey ... Thank you. Immensely grateful to have been blessed with a talent from God to live out my dream and to proudly represent my country for as long as I did ...

"Extremely humbled by the [World Rugby] committee that bestowed this incredible honour on me. Testimony that with hard work, sacrifice, discipline, dedication and perseverance (and a little luck) ... dreams do come true!!!"

www.goodthingsguy.com

Cape Town fashion designer wins coveted international award



Cape Town fashion designer, Lukhanyo Mdingi, beat designers from around the world to win a coveted international fashion prize.

After making fashion lovers around South Africa proud as the only South African picked for the AMIRI Prize Finalists list (a coveted,

international fashion award), Cape Town fashion designer Mdingi has gone on to win the award.

"We're incredibly proud to be the recipient winner of this season's AMIRI Prize 2023," Mdingi expressed.

The Cape Town fashion designer's eponymous label has, since 2015, been synonymous with community and creation with intention. As such, the international accolade is a reflection not only of remarkable talent but of community support.

"To be under the aegis of this institute is a true reflection of what it means to be of service and purpose to others ...

"To my LM Studio, cabinet of friends and collaborators, your continuous support, guidance and belief have been immeasurable; through the trajectory of establishing the foundation of the LM label, the experience has been unmatched. It's your continuous presence that has inspired and allowed me to

consistently persevere with the intentional work of our label, Lukhanyo Mdingi." – Lukhanyo Mdingi.

Mdingi was selected out of nine finalists representing countries around the world. However, the designer's relationship-centric, ethical design process and unique visualisation of local pride beat the world to earn Mdingi a moment that will inspire young creatives all over the country.

The AMIRI Prize is awarded to up-and-coming talent from diverse backgrounds and will grant Mdingi US\$100 000 as well as a mentorship set to span a year with Mike Amiri.

The prize announcement praised Mdingi as a label that "exists as a space that moves deeply into the very essence of human ingenuity and the preservation of craftsmanship", and the South African fashion community couldn't be prouder to see one of our own soaring at this level.

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Kirsten Landman wins first title in US at Red Bull Tennessee Knockout

Kirsten Landman, South Africa's top female rider, won her first title in the United States while competing at the Red Bull Tennessee Knockout (TKO) in August 2023.



In her first foray into racing Hard Enduro on the North American continent, Landman was victorious, winning the Red Bull TKO in the rocky and hilly Trials Training Centre terrain in Sequatchie, Tennessee. By winning the event, Landman also walked away with an American Motorcyclist Association National Championship and US\$1000 in prize money.

After having to pull out of the second day of action at Red Bull Romaniacs in July due to an injured shoulder, Landman went into the race managing her expectations.

"There were a lot of variables – different country, format, style of racing. This was all made worse by the fact that I wasn't even racing my own bike," said Landman.

"I would say that was the most difficult part of preparing for this race, I had to find a bike to rent and do my best to ensure that the bike was set up with the right parts, tyres and mousses.

After getting to Tennessee earlier in the week, Landman got her first taste of action on Friday, 1 September, during the Hot Lap. This

round established the start order among the amateurs and the Women's Pro field for the next day.

The Women's Pro class competed along with the top amateurs on the more difficult Saturday race two and Landman took the win over American Rachel Gutish with Nikki Russell rounding out the podium. Landman finished 40th overall among all the amateur riders.

"I knew the Women's Pro class wasn't going to be easy. I researched a bit but all I could do was go out there and ride my best. I was pretty nervous – I mainly race against the guys and after my injury at Red Bull Romaniacs I didn't want to let anyone down," said Landman.

"The vibe at Red Bull TKO was incredible as the spectators have a front-row seat to the action on the loop around the course. The USA is motorsport mad. I think Hard Enduro is still growing but the event was a blast. I can't wait to come back!"

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First South African to win the Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc OCC



In September 2023, Toni McCann became the queen of one of the world's toughest marathons and first South African to win the Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc OCC.

For McCann, becoming the queen of one of the world's toughest marathons took "just a little bit of bravery" coupled with a lot of support from her home on the other side of

the world. Winning the Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc OCC was a dream she hardly dared to dream and one that now sits in the history books of South Africa's reality.

McCann is the first South African to win the Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc OCC, which is over 50km in length with an elevation gain of over 3 200m.

It is a tough test of body and dedication alike, stretching through France and Switzerland.

According to *faces.africa*, McCann first tackled the marathon back in 2021 where she finished 14th. She tried again in 2022 where her fifth-place finish led her to consider really going for gold.

McCann placed first in an emotional finish in just five hours and 28 minutes. The race lends itself to a time extent of over 14 hours.

"This one was for back home," she shared in a nod to South Africa.

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Black Mambas Sergeant awarded as best field ranger in Africa



In incredible news for South African conservation efforts and women rangers, Nkateko Letti Mzimba, Sergeant of the Black Mambas Unit, was awarded the Field Rangers' "Oscar" in September 2023.

Sergeant Mzimba beat some of the continent's most dedicated and respected field rangers to earn the Best Field Ranger Award.

The African Conservation Awards combed through 60 nominations from 11 countries

across the African continent to spotlight finalists across several fields, including Best Game Ranger, Best Conservation Supporter, Best Conservation Team and Best Field Ranger.

The awards are a highlight on many nature heroes' calendars, not least because their tireless (and often unsung efforts) are seen and appreciated, but also because they remind our continent that for all the hard-hitting statistics we face in conservation news, there are everyday heroes on the path of protection.

Sergeant Mzimba's win is both a win for South African boots on the ground and women in the field quite literally. Having a female sergeant hold the coveted Best Field Ranger Award is a huge nod to progress in a predominantly male field and testament that field ranger work (and excellence) is not gender-restricted per outdated mindsets.

Of her efforts both in and beyond the field, the African Conservation Awards shared: "Nkateko Letti Mzimba is a shining example

of dedication and leadership in conservation. Her journey, beginning in 2014, reflects unwavering commitment and leadership that extends beyond routine patrols.

"Nkateko serves as a vigilant guardian of rhinos and other endangered species, diligently removing snares to protect wildlife. She also extends her caring hand to local communities, providing essential food and educational resources, and passionately [educates] the community's children about the importance of protecting nature."

This wasn't the only big win for South Africa with *Rhino Man* winning Best Conservation Supporter. *Rhino Man* is a feature-length documentary about the rangers in Mpumalanga, risking their lives to protect rhinos from being poached to extinction.

The documentary is a window into the lives of unsung heroes, including the late Anton Mzimba who dedicated his life to safeguarding the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve.

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South African artist creates visual symphony to inspire sustainability

Artist (artist and activist) Natania Botha is a force to be reckoned with in the meeting place between art and environmental goodness. Her recent *The Last Correspondent* was presented to the United Nations (UN) and has a big message for global leaders.

Botha presented her opus, *The Last Correspondent* (a mosaic torso sculpture with a story in each piece), to the esteemed halls of the UN in a handover during the Nelson Mandela Sustainable Development Goals book launch at the Nelson Mandela Foundation. But this was not just a transfer of gorgeous mosaic art.

Botha's recent opus (40 pieces in total) and spot-lit torso sculpture are the reflection of the time she spent documenting the wonders and woes of our natural world; something she's earned a fabulous reputation for, evident in her many recognitions from being one of the "100 South African Shining Stars" for Community Upliftment in 2020 to being part of the "200 Mail & Guardian Young South Africans" list in the Environment Category, 2021.

Her dedication to environmental preservation was also acknowledged in M&G's Greening the Future Awards in 2022; a culmination of the many hats of leadership the activist has worn in non-profit spaces focussed on conservation

and green entrepreneurship, including being the head of Membership for the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa.

From her numerous green journeys and insights, she became inspired to create *The Last Correspondent*, which has been described as a luminous testament to her deepest aspirations and unwavering dedication.

Of the recent catalyst that inspired her work, Botha shares: "In the latter half of 2022, I dedicated a significant portion of my time to documenting the impacts of climate change and profiling the work of the UN Development Programme in South Africa, particularly their contributions to South Africa's Climate Promise and Nationally Determined Contributions.

"This journey took me across thousands of miles of road, including remote areas like the Richtersveld near the Namibian border. Throughout this journey, I witnessed both the breathtaking wonders and devastating effects of climate change on my country, notably in the Northern Cape where iconic plant species like the quiver tree faces potential threats due to shifting climate conditions."

It was during these transformative experiences that the activist drew her inspiration to create art that stands not just as something for the eyes to behold, but for leaders to consider at all costs.



For Botha, her art is a plea to world leaders, urging them to heed the call for transformative change in climate action and the very urgent need for global sustainability.

"In my eyes, true sustainability can only be achieved by actively supporting and empowering the youth to innovate and create a world that aligns with our vision, transcending the boundaries set by international agreements like the Paris Agreement.

"I firmly believe that unlocking our collective imagination and taking bold actions are the keys to realising the world we want for our children and experiencing it ourselves in our lifetime." – Natania Botha

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From Cape Town to LA: First SA gallery to have permanent art space in the US



A local gallery is set to be the first South African Art Gallery to have a permanent home in the United States (US).

South African art galleries are making big and bold strides from New York City to Los

Angeles (LA). Earlier this month, South Africa celebrated Goodman Gallery's office space expansion to New York City. Now, Southern Guild has joined the artistic expansion, reportedly set to be the first South African gallery to have a permanent art space in the US.

According to the gallery, founded in 2008, the expansion to LA's Melrose Hill will embrace three large-scale exhibition spaces where works from African artists will find new residence and cultural appreciation.

Trevyn McGowan, Southern Guild's co-founder shares: "Over the past 16 years, Southern Guild has grown tremendously, from a single gallery in Cape Town and a small roster of artists to include numerous exhibition spaces, artists' studios, a residency programme and regular participation in art fairs around the world, but our expansion to

the US is truly a milestone. We are thrilled to broaden our reach by providing a permanent platform to showcase our artists' unparalleled work in the US."

Of the spotlight on African artists, Southern Guild's fellow co-founder Julian McGowan, adds: "Craft and design are rooted in Africa's cultural fabric, as the site of the very first toolmakers and artisans, the continent has a unique artistic legacy that exists at the intersection of those roots and a global artistic discourse. The art coming out of the region is thus unlike anything else and these are the pioneering creative voices we seek to champion."

Two exhibitions will anoint the gallery's expanded art space, including *Mother Tongues* and a solo exhibition by Zizipho Poswa.

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Cape Town voted as fourth-best city in the world by global travellers



Cape Town has been voted the fourth-best large city in the world by the discerning readers of *Condé Nast Traveller* in its 2023 Reader's Choice Awards.

With over 520 000 readers from across the globe sharing their travel experiences, this award is a tribute to Cape Town's enduring charm and appeal. The Mother City has once again proven that it has a special place in the hearts of travellers worldwide.

Enver Duminy, CEO at Cape Town Tourism, expressed his gratitude for this remarkable achievement.

He said, "We're honoured that *Condé Nast Traveller's* discerning readership voted our beautiful Mother City as the fourth-best large city in the world. This accolade is a recognition of our city's unique beauty, vibrant culture and warm hospitality."

Indeed, Cape Town has it all – from the iconic Table Mountain to the stunning coastline, rich history and diverse communities. Visitors are not only captivated by its natural beauty but also by the warmth of its people. It is this combination that makes Cape Town a truly exceptional destination. As Alderman James Vos, Mayoral Committee Member

for Economic Growth, rightly put it, "Your hospitality is the beating heart of our beautiful city."

Cape Town's recognition on the global stage is well-deserved. The city has worked tirelessly to remain an inclusive must-visit destination. It's not just about showcasing the beauty of the city but also ensuring that everyone, from locals to tourists, feels welcome and valued.

The competition was fierce, with cities like Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul and Sydney also making it to the top five but this only highlights the high standards of the cities that Cape Town was ranked against.

Condé Nast Traveller's Reader's Choice Awards are the travel industry's longest-running and most prestigious accolades. Each year, they gather the opinions of hundreds of thousands of readers to determine the winners, making this recognition truly significant.

"As we celebrate this achievement, we mustn't forget the communities that make Cape Town so special and the travellers who took the time to cast their votes. Together, they have made Cape Town's tourism experience an award-winning one."

Looking ahead, Cape Town eagerly anticipates welcoming visitors from around the world to experience its magic. With the announcement of this award, Cape Town's allure has undoubtedly grown stronger and we can't wait to share its beauty and hospitality with even more people.

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Caitlin Rooskrantz secures Paris 2024 Olympic spot as team makes history

Caitlin Rooskrantz has left an incredible mark at the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) Artistic Gymnastics World Championships. So much so, that she secured her Olympic spot for Paris 2024. This will be her second time representing South Africa at the Olympics.

The qualifying event, which took place in Antwerp, Belgium, from 30 September to 8 October 2023, saw the top artistic gymnasts from around the world competing for the coveted World Champs titles, as well as spots for the Olympic Games.

In a heartfelt message, Rooskrantz expressed her gratitude: "By God's grace, I have qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. It's been a long month of competing in three different countries, with its share of ups and downs. Not everything went exactly as planned, but we are coming home with an Olympic ticket, and that's all that matters! Thank you to my incredible team, and I'm blessed to be part of such a special group."

Ilser Pelser, national coach of the Senior Women's Artistic team, shared her pride and provided insight as to how long of a process earning an Olympic spot requires above and beyond talent:

"Gymnasts had to qualify through various international competitions over a three-year period, making it a challenging journey to secure a spot at the games and making it even more remarkable that Caitlin managed to secure a ticket, given the hurdles she overcame. This is Caitlin's highest total yet at



a World Championships and we are incredibly proud of her."

Don Jurgens, the President of Gymnastics South Africa, added:

"Words can hardly describe how immensely proud I am as President today. These girls and their coaches have worked very hard to achieve their dreams.

"Now it is up to us to make sure they get all the help they need to get to the next level.

"This is the second time that Caitlin has automatically qualified at a World Championship due to her outstanding performances over the previous three years. South Africa also has an opportunity to qualify one more South African gymnast at the African Championships that will be held next year."

In more good news, Team South Africa also achieved a historic 19th place finish at the World Championships – another moment

of history for artistic gymnasts following their crowning as the champs of the continent.

Under new qualification rules set by the FIG, only one team from Africa could qualify to compete as a team. Team South Africa's unity, hard work and clean routines propelled them to this remarkable achievement, with all gymnasts competing in their very first World Championships – one for the South African history books.

The South African Women's Artistic Gymnastics team that competed at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships consisted of:

- Caleigh Anders
- Naveen Daries
- Shante Koti
- Garcelle Napier
- Caitlin Rooskrantz.

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Grammy nominations for South African artists

Two South African artists are glowing at the news of their first-ever Grammy nominations.

As the 2024 Grammy nominations invite champagne-popping moments for artists mostly in the West, the African artists who have made their countries and fanbases ever so proud include South African names.

South Africa's Tyla and Musa Keys have received their first-ever Grammy nominations, leaving them and South Africa glowing in the light of yet another achievement in music from local artists this year.

Both in their twenties, the young artists scooped nominations under the Best African Music Performance Category, with Tyla nominated for her history-making hit *Water* and Musa Keys for his feature on *Unavailable*.

Tyla's music also earned another nomination, with Theron Thomas being nominated for the

Songwriter of the Year Category for the writing of *Been Thinking*.

While both South Africans have received a ton of praise for representing us on the Grammys roll-out, it's been an especially celebratory year for Tyla Seethal who, in the space of a few weeks, became a household name around the world thanks to the virality of *Water*.

The Joburg native broke not only TikTok but the Internet after earning her place on the Billboard Hot 100, breaking the record for the most monthly Spotify listeners and reaching one million views on YouTube in a day for *Water's* debut.

The two are joined by another local name, Trevor Noah, who is no stranger to the Grammys.

Noah's *I Wish You Would* made the nomination list for Best Comedy Album, for



which the Netflix Special also earned an Emmy Nomination, his first Emmy nomination outside of *The Daily Show*.

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DEAF POETRY: EXPANDING THE HORIZONS

"In SASL, we have praise poems, haiku and wonderful narrative poems. And now, South African deaf children can study and learn about our deaf culture, history, experiences, joys and pain."

Abram Moyaha is a prolific deaf poet who has not allowed being different stop him from creating beautiful poetry and teaching it to his young pupils.

"South African Sign Language (SASL) poetry is so vital now as deaf children are studying it at school. Before I joined Sign Language Education and Development (SLED), I knew nothing about SASL poetry. But I learnt not only about how a SASL poem is structured but also how important it is," he said.

Moyaha is an illustrator, storyteller, poet, teacher and manager at SLED, a non-profit organisation, which has been working to facilitate the deaf child's equal and democratic right to literacy and learning through the promotion of SASL for more than 20 years.

SLED was founded in 2001 by a team of deaf and hearing colleagues with many years of experience in deaf education, SASL literature, deaf theatre and deaf television. SASL is an indigenous South African language and is unrelated to English or any of the South African spoken languages.

SLED was established to work towards outstanding education for deaf learners through SASL. The organisation's vision is to see all South Africa's deaf children achieving their full potential. All SLED programmes aim to ensure that empowered deaf people play a continuous and integral part in all developments and policies regarding their education and language.

Moyaha, who is from the village of Gammasehlong in Limpopo, was born deaf like his two siblings and was taught sign language by his older brother. He said poetry in SASL helped deaf people understand their own history and culture in a time when they often feel left out of the hearing world.

"In SASL, we have praise poems, haiku and wonderful narrative poems. And now, South

African deaf children can study and learn about our deaf culture, history, experiences, joys and pain. Unfortunately, not all the poems they are studying in school are in SASL, some are in other signed languages, which don't reflect us," said Moyaha.

Creating a poem in SASL is not easy. "I need to create the story first and often do extensive research, especially if it is a poem based on someone like Gerard Sekoto. Then I start to get rid of the extra details and then I build the poem."

"As an artist, I use rough drawings as the inspiration for the poem. I will then send it to a SLED colleague like Kirsty Maclons (Deaf Education Programme Director at SLED) and we tweak it for days until it's right. The more poems I create, the more confident I become."

Moyaha is a big fan of Sekoto's art and penned a poem called *Mud to Magic* to celebrate the late artist's surrealist black urban work. He was deeply moved by the story of the artist. Moyaha felt empathy with Sekoto's experience, which prompted him to create the poem. His process involves sketching images and experimenting with their arrangement until the poem comes together. He never works with written text and especially enjoys working with other colleagues to find each poem's centre.

By its very nature, SASL poetry is a multidimensional performance. A page is a two-dimensional linear space unsuited to capturing and representing the nuance, power, range and creativity of SASL poetry. When written, most of its essence, intricacy and subtlety is lost in translation.

Maclons also explained the different structures of spoken and signed languages. English is structured according to how the sounds of speech are produced and transferred into written symbols that make up a linear text. Sign language differs dramatically from written text. It incorporates hand movements, direction, non-manual features like raised eyebrows, flared nostrils, a tilted head, dropped or jutting chin, slumped shoulders or sudden straight back. Everything is adapted to how the eye perceives linguistic information and concepts are often built one on top of the other, creating a more simultaneous text.

Moyaha's *Mud to Magic* is a powerful theatrical and dance-like performance on film, which is part of the SASL Home Language curriculum. Moyaha stands against a stage with an ochre background, wearing a plain lilac shirt. His dreadlocks are tied back, revealing each minute a shift of meaning on his face.

A self-portrait of Gerard Sekoto looks out of the frame, away from Moyaha, who is well lit and the poem begins.

Moyaha's eyes light up as he embodies the young Sekoto, playing with lumps of clay and pinching them to form animals. Next, he is drawing, one hand against the other, a brush across the canvas. The Eiffel Tower is an upward sweep of two fingers, creating a symmetrical pattern as Sekoto finds himself painting in Paris.

Moyaha's signs *Craft Create Capture/Conceive Create Compose/Conjure Create Construct* across his body, with a rhythmic energy conveying the rapture of artistic impulse and creative expression. Without being able to

Mud to Magic (A poem for Gerard Sekoto)

*Crumbling earth
I draw
Life
Undone
Flowing river
Gathering earth
Moulding cows
Craft Create Construct
Canvas waiting
I draw
Life
City life*





"read" SASL, many will recognise how inspiration and creativity spark and sparkle. So too, the gut-wrenching agony that was Sekoto's exile and isolation is painted in the set of Abram's jaw, the anguish in his brow.

The performance has no soundtrack, the film has no subtitles and is about three minutes long. It was created for deaf students to study it in the classroom, so most hearing people will never know or see its charm and beauty. Moyaha was astonished when he first saw his poem translated. He was amazed that written English could capture his SASL poem in such depth. Maclons did a translation of the poem for the McGregor Poetry Festival but emphasises that it doesn't capture a 10th of the complexity or creativity of Moyaha's *Mud to Magic*.

Even more exciting than creating and crafting the poems, which have formed part of the national curriculum since 2015, is participating in the weekly online teaching sessions of SASL poetry with deaf Matric students at an Eastern Cape school. "Kirsty teaches these lessons and I'm there as a student because I'm still learning so much about how SASL poetry works. Just because I've created some good SASL poems, doesn't mean I understand everything about SASL poetry. So, I'm very excited about these lessons. The Matric learners are so



enthusiastic and really incredible to teach and we want them to do well," signed Moyaha

All hearing poets will do well to take the time to learn more about this remarkable literature that enriches deaf people's lives with another avenue for self-expression, community-building and making sense of the world. Kirsty, Abram and others in the deaf community are building bridges that expand the world for deaf people. In July 2023, they were elated when SASL officially became the 12th official language in South Africa. 🇷🇺

www.sled.org.za | www.sowetanlive.co.za | www.avbobpoetry.co.za



A Young South Africa: Human Stories

Curator Kaia Charles says: "We are thrilled to feature exceptional South African talent in sharing their creativity through lived experiences. The show will reflect a fresh creative agency that embodies the evocative music culture, distinct sense of identity and political articulation of the young people of South Africa."

The NOW Gallery in London presented the 2023 edition of the gallery's annual *Human Stories* exhibition series, spotlighting some of the most exciting names in photography. *Human Stories* has cemented its reputation as one of the most exciting showcases of international photography talent in the world, having previously exhibited artists such as Stephen Tayo, Thandiwe Muriu, Nadine Ijewere, Charlotte Colbert and more.

Open to the public from 11 October to 19 November 2023, this year's *Human Stories* spotlighted South African photography, bringing together six photographers documenting the diverse culture of their home nation, framed by a complex and sometimes turbulent political, socio-economic and

cultural landscape. The artists included Bee Diamondhead, Fede Kortez, Aart Verrips, Nikki Zakkas, Anita Hlazo, Ben Moyo and Karabo Mooki.

The country's young generation *Ama2000s* are boldly and irreverently injecting a fresh creative energy into the global cultural scene through visual culture, music and fashion. Fifty years after the Soweto student uprisings and 30 years into the new South African democracy, NOW Gallery featured six photographic diegeses, surveying South African cities. The six chosen artists capture the creative empowerment through artistic provocation, individualism and authorship through a lens of youth-subcultural movements.

In *Afro Grunge*, fashion designer and stylist Anita Hlazo situates her lens in Nyanga, a township in Cape Town in the Western Cape.

Cross-cultural approaches characterise the *Ama2000s* (GenZ) aesthetic. Her evolving style and identity of a black "alternative" presenting girl mixes pop and grunge subcultures. Piercings, tattoos and platformed boots express the unapologetically creative "goth girl". Hlazo's portraits are contextualised by the built environment and communities of her township (*Ekasi*).

Island Gals by Karabo Mooki is a photo-documentation of the lives of "Island Gals", a skateboarding community made up of a tightly knit crew of black women and queer identities based in Johannesburg and Soweto. The young women in this series are pushing borders and gaining greater recognition within skateboarding by reclaiming their right to appear in the places they skate. The collective is declaring the right to protest to South Africa's tumultuous history of gender-based violence.





Fede Korte's *Cape Town Vibes* captures vibrant portraits imbued with saturated colour, typified by the Bo-Kaap and Woodstock neighbourhoods in Cape Town. The vibrant Bo-Kaap houses celebrate the district's Muslim identity and have been historically painted by the Cape Malays in celebration of Eid. Korte seeks to convey the aesthetic energies of these areas as well as capture a Pan-African pride and connection to people he photographs.

Johannesburg-based photographer Nikki Zakkas co-creates the narratives of the people she photographs. She captures a diverse cast of five young people within environments that are significant to those individuals. The images are populated by symbolic clues to their personalities and cultural backgrounds. Zakkas is keen to share cultural richness, diversity and pride through a vibrant tapestry of experiences.

The country's young generation Ama2000s are boldly and irreverently injecting a fresh creative energy into the global cultural scene through visual culture, music and fashion.

In *Back to the Soil*, Bee Diamondhead celebrates the beauty, softness and vulnerability of three queer male musicians, debunking cultural stereotypes of the South African music industry.

Her nudes are painted with elemental-coloured clays and earth. The sitters engage in "a ritual of remoulding" themselves, "channeling back with the soil or giving back to it". The portraits sit in dialogue with mirroring figurative sculptural forms.

For *My Liewe Land* [*My Great Land* (Afrikaans)] photographer Aart Verrips reimagines "the rainbow nation" through self-

expression, featuring a collective of individuals who are driving the culture. Verrips explores the intersection of music, performance and fashion through subcultural movements like *Amapiano* and vivid vogue nights.

Curator Kaia Charles says: "We are thrilled to feature exceptional South African talent in sharing their creativity through lived experiences. The show will reflect a fresh creative agency that embodies the evocative music culture, distinct sense of identity and political articulation of the young people of South Africa." www.nowgallery.co.uk

www.nowgallery.co.uk



2023: A breakthrough year for African animation

| Africa is certainly making its mark in the international animation arena.

By www.goodthingsguy.com

Entertainment in Africa is on the rise and animation is having a breakthrough year, seeing the development of relatable content for children.

In 2015, South African animation studio Triggerfish launched a Pan-African talent search for animated films and series. Supported by The Walt Disney Company, The Triggerfish Story Lab had nearly 1 400 entries from across the continent.

Fast forward eight years and all of the Triggerfish Story Lab's TV series winners have major animated series out this year. Marc Dey and Kelly Dillon are co-creators of the preschool series *Kiya & The Kimoja Heroes* on Disney Junior and Lucy Heavens is co-creator of *Kiff* on Disney Channel. Both shows were released in the United States in March 2023 with *Kiff* debuting on Disney Channel (DStv Channel 303) on 21 August 2023 and *Kiya & The Kimoja Heroes* on Disney Junior (DStv Channel 309) from 4 September 2023.

Malenga Mulendema's Zambian teen superhero series *Supa Team 4* premiered

on 20 July 2023 as Netflix's first original animated series from Africa and in August 2023, was streaming to 238 million subscribers in more than 190 countries around the world. Mike Scott is co-creator of a series launching soon across the continent on African streamer Showmax, produced by Braintrust and Mind's Eye Creative.

"Talent is everywhere; opportunity isn't," says Triggerfish creative director, Anthony Silverston. "So, when you're the first to open the door, there's a backlog of talent queuing up."

The year 2023 is becoming a breakthrough year for African animation. In addition to helping produce *Supa Team 4* and *Kiya & The Kimoja Heroes*, Triggerfish is the lead studio on the African sci-fi anthology *Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire* and produced *Aau's Song*, the final short film in Lucasfilms' *Star Wars: Visions Volume II*.

In August, both anthologies were streaming on Disney+ – with rare 100% critics' ratings on Rotten Tomatoes as two of the most acclaimed animation series of 2023 so far. Collider hailed *Kizazi Moto* as "one of the best-animated shows of the last

decade," while *Aau's Song* was ranked as "the best episode" of *Star Wars: Visions Volume II* by Screenrant and described as "gorgeous" by everyone from Empire to Polygon, who called it "a perfect note to end the season on".

Kizazi Moto screened on Disney Channel (DStv, Channel 303) across Africa, with a double bill of films broadcast from 28 August to 1 September 2023 and five film marathons airing early in September.

The team at Triggerfish is not the only African animators having a good year either. Directed by Triggerfish alumni Sarah Scrimgeour and Jac Hamman, the Julia Donaldson-Axel Scheffler adaptation *Superworm* won Best One-Off, Special or TV Movie at the 2023 Kidscreen Awards.

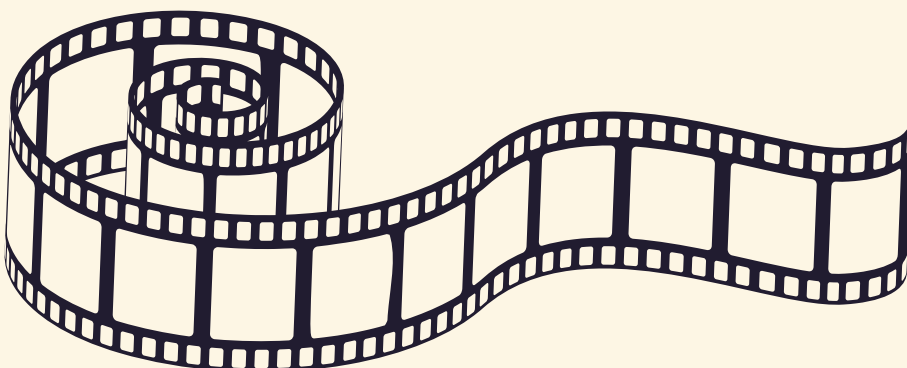
Triggerfish alumni Daniel Snaddon and Samantha Cutler directed *The Smeds and The Smoos*, which won the Audience Award for three- to six-year-olds at the New York International Children's Festival and Best Animation at the BANFF Rockie Awards this year.

Cartoon Network recently released its first Nigerian animation, Ridwan Moshood's *Garbage Boy and Trash Can*. On YouTube, *OmoBerry* topped 100 million views and Sunrise's *Jungle Beat* reached 10 million subscribers.

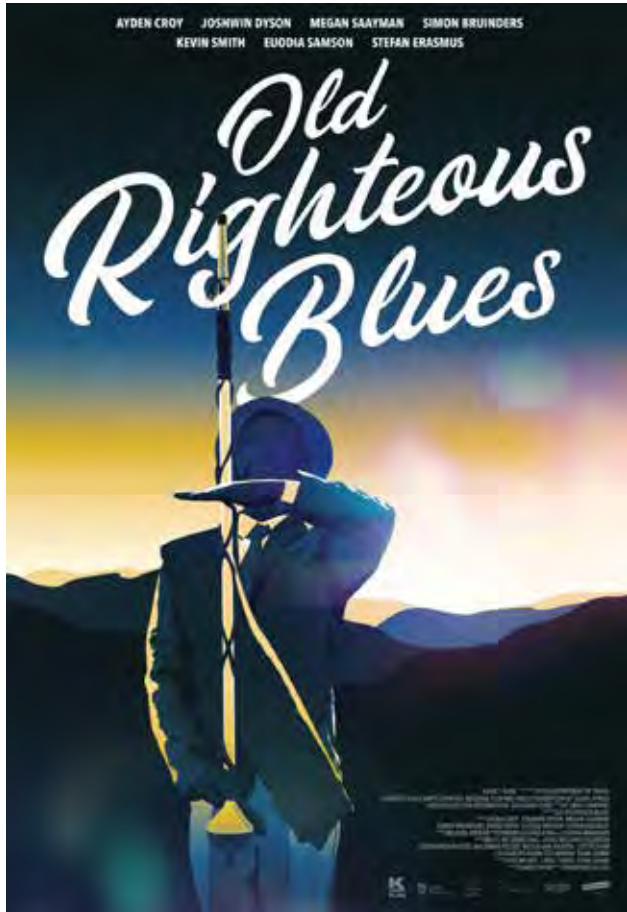
Two South Africans, Triggerfish alumnus Mogau Kekana and Leroy Le Roux, were among the co-directors responsible for the Sepedi-language *Thaba Ye*, which won the BAFTA Student Film Award for Animation. Feben Elias Woldehawariat (Ethiopia), Razahk Issaka (Ghana) and South African Celeste Jamneck, who worked with Triggerfish on both *Kizazi Moto* and *Aau's Song*, were among the co-directors of *The Soloists*, which was named Best Student Film at the 2023 Annie Awards.

Africa is certainly making its mark in the international animation arena. 

"Talent is everywhere; opportunity isn't," says Triggerfish creative director, Anthony Silverston. "So, when you're the first to open the door, there's a backlog of talent queuing up."







Old Righteous Blues

is a truly South African film rooted in the world of the Cape Christmas choir brigades

Old Righteous Blues is all the more special for the way it involved the people of Robertson – as extras, advisers or for behind-the-scenes assistance. It is not only a uniquely South African film; it's also Robertson's film.

It's a Romeo and Juliet story set in the Boland – a gripping drama about a community torn in two over an old feud and a truly South African film that shines the spotlight on a national cultural treasure: the Western Cape Christmas choirs. This is *Old Righteous Blues*, the must-see Silwerskerm Festival feature film, with a large and impressive cast that is set to have audiences around the world applauding.

Old Righteous Blues was filmed in beautiful Robertson and tells the story of Hantjie, an ambitious young man with a burning desire to become the drum major of his Christmas choir. Unfortunately, the choir's rigid leaders who cling to the past, do not approve. To further complicate matters, the love of Hantjie's life, Risi, is the daughter of the leader of the hated opposition choir.

Ayden Croy delivers a captivating performance as Hantjie and Megan Saayman shines as his beloved Risi. *Old Righteous Blues* also stars up-and-coming stars like Joshwin Dyson and Stefan Erasmus. The cast is rounded out by formidable veteran actors such as Kevin Smith, Simon Bruinders, Euodia Sampson and Ivan Abrahams.

Old Righteous Blues is all the more special for the way it involved the people of Robertson – as extras, advisers or for behind-the-scenes assistance. It is not only a uniquely South African film; it's also Robertson's film.

Screenwriter Carol Shore, ex head writer of the soap opera *Muhvango*, who now lives in Robertson, and the director of *Old Righteous Blues*, Muneera Sallies, shed more light on the film in a Q&A session.

When and how was the seed planted for *Old Righteous Blues*?

Carol: "I first became acquainted with the Christmas choirs when I moved from Johannesburg to the Western Cape a long time ago. The tradition of marching through the streets while making music on Christmas Eve was an exciting new experience for me. So are the choir competitions in the warm months of February and March. As a screenwriter and filmmaker, this stimulated me because I had never encountered this rich cultural tradition on the big or small screen.

"My research started with the idea that it would be an important documentary. This was in the time before Internet searches, when

in-person interviews were the only way. That's how I heard about a bitter old feud between choirs over leadership and musical styles. This affected Robertson's people deeply and drove a wedge between friends and family – people who were once united by the same choir.

A different story began to unfold, which was better suited to a film."

Tell us more about the people of Robertson

Carol: "I am privileged to have walked a long road with the Old Saints Christmas Choir. They are part of a community characterised by poverty and unemployment with few prospects for young people. Yet, the choir has been creating the opportunity to be part of something special since 1947."

How did you go about involving the people of Robertson in *Old Righteous Blues*?

Muneera: "When you tell the story of a specific community, it's important to present it as authentically as possible and my ethos is to always serve the community through it. Whether it's through job creation, skills transferal or just the energy that the film brings. "We had numerous discussions with the community

It's a Romeo and Juliet story set in the Boland – a gripping drama about a community torn in two over an old feud, and a truly South African film that shines the spotlight on a national cultural treasure: the Western Cape Christmas choirs.

beforehand in which I shared my vision. From the beginning, their contribution was enormous.

"The choir members in the area played a decisive role with the choreography of the marching and the choral skills needed for *Old Righteous Blues*.

Behind the scenes, Robertson's residents also took care of things like security and catering and some helped with lighting and other requirements on set.

"We had little rehearsal time and everyone was amazing. They sometimes found the language on set amusing. It was precious to see the children call out 'one, two three, action' and 'cut' at the end."

Carol: "It was an ambitious project in terms of scale and we certainly couldn't have done it without the cooperation of the locals. Ultimately, I believe it was an incredibly bonding and exciting experience for all, on both sides of the camera. There was a sense of pride in telling a story unique to the area."

With all the extras on set, you had to deal with a large group of people. How did you approach and manage it?

Muneera: "Goodness, it was challenging but also fantastic. To have such a big crowd with no film experience on set – who have no idea what it takes to shoot a scene – was a big deal. In retrospect, it was madness, but there's also so much power and magic in the raw honesty that this process delivers. You can't do it any other way.

"I strongly believe that treating each person with kindness and respect and ensuring they understand your goals, no matter how big or small their role, makes everything easier. We joked and laughed a lot on set."

What was your biggest challenge on set?

Muneera: "To make a film, you spend a lot of time problem-solving. Our biggest challenge was working closely with the choir. Remember, they're ordinary people with their own lives and routines – not actors or filmmakers. We were

outsiders who overturned their daily routines. If there was a big rugby match on a Friday night or Saturday morning, we had to – as it should – adjust our schedules. We frequently had to make new plans out of the blue and believe me, there was often a plan B and C. We actually went through the whole alphabet, all the way to Z. But it was worth it."

Old Righteous Blues was produced by The Ergo Company and Seashore Films with Dumi Gumbi, Cati Weinek and Carol Shore at the helm.

Director Muneera Sallies joined the industry at the age of 15 as an actor. Recent achievements include the popular drama series *Melody* and the feature film *Twisted Christmas*.

Old Righteous Blues was screened at the Silwerskerm Festival in August 2023. Keep an eye on the DStv website for future screenings on DStv BoxOffice. www.dstv.co.za/boxoffice

silwerskermfees.co.za



The kykNET Silwerskerm Film Festival is an esteemed South African and Afrikaans film festival that has nurtured, developed and empowered the local industry for more than a decade. It has proven to be a seminal platform for seasoned and emerging filmmakers alike. Alongside the world or South African premieres of the latest feature films, the Silwerskerm Film Festival showcases the work of young talent with a series of short films in a variety of genres. These short films are produced with the festival's financial backing and mentorship.

Besides the cinematic delights and shorts in the running for the coveted Silwerskerm Film Festival Awards, which honour outstanding performances in front and behind the scenes, the packed festival line-up includes panel discussions, workshops and industry-focussed masterclasses. These classes are presented by renowned local and international experts sharing their knowledge and experience.

The first Silwerskerm Festival, hosted in the Karoo town of Prince Albert, featured only one film with the apt title, *'n Saak van Geloof (A Question of Faith)*.

Since these humble beginnings, more than 170 short films and 50 prominent feature films have debuted at the festival. The list of success stories linked to the festival is impressive.

Apart from creating new job opportunities, Silwerskerm films have garnered several international accolades, and some of the country's most respected producers, directors and screenwriters entered the industry as winners of the short film project.





South Africa's hottest new export is *Amapiano*

In South Africa, Amapiano has become a culture with its own fashions and styles and its own speech and dance form gaining mainstream popularity during the global pandemic.

The distinctive sound of the log drum permeated the air as several musicians, producers and industry experts gathered recently to celebrate the burgeoning genre of Amapiano. With a sound best described as a hybrid of deep house and jazz with percussive loops reminiscent of lounge music coupled with soulful vocals, Amapiano is arguably South Africa's hottest new export and its infectious sound continues to attract new audiences as the genre spreads like wildfire.

South African Tourism presented an industry-focussed panel discussion in collaboration with Maphike Attorneys Inc., providing an opportunity for creators of this musical style to speak about the cultural impact of Amapiano and discuss the genre's future as it continues to gain popularity worldwide.

Taking place in May 2023, the panel discussion included artists Pabi Cooper

and DJ AYA who were joined by several industry executives, including: Yoel Kenan, CEO of Africori; Devon Peterson, Creative Director of Africori; Manaileng Maphike, Attorney at Maphike Attorneys Inc.; and Jerry Mpufane, President of South African Tourism North America. The discussion was moderated by Yolanda Sangweni, Vice President of Programming and New Content Development at NPR; with opening remarks by Justin Barnette, Head of Marketing and Communications of South African Tourism North America. The conversation dove into a wide range of topics, including the cultural significance of this new music genre, the impact of its growing popularity worldwide and the spotlight it has cast on South Africa and its people, fuelling industries such as tourism in growing source markets.

Amapiano was born out of the black townships of Gauteng province with a distinctive character that is rooted in another uniquely South African musical style,

Kwaito. The South African youth who grew up on the sounds of Kwaito have led the creation of Amapiano, a musical style that is distinctly characterised by its use of the log drum, which serves as the sound for the baseline. However, while Kwaito reflected the struggles of apartheid, Amapiano boasts a more optimistic tone of a young generation that strives to be unapologetically South African. In fact, in South Africa, Amapiano has become a culture with its own fashions and styles and its own speech and dance form gaining mainstream popularity during the global pandemic.

"As Amapiano makes its way around the world, it's another way in which South Africa's history and culture demonstrate its global influence," said Mpufane. "Amapiano is born out of the soul of South Africa and they say one of the best ways to experience it to its fullest is to be where the music is. So, as this genre continues to captivate global audiences, we hope it inspires them to visit



South Africa and learn about the history and culture that influenced the creation of Amapiano."

Today, Amapiano music can be found in clubs, bars and music venues across South Africa but there are certain places where one might come across the artists who have been instrumental in Amapiano's rapid rise to the world stage. Travellers arriving in Johannesburg can head south to Soweto, the birthplace of Kwaito, and also the former home of Nelson Mandela. While there, visitors can also take the opportunity to visit the Mandela House Museum, located at his former residence in Soweto and learn more about South African history and the era of apartheid. Several of the panelists emphasised that understanding South Africa's history allows one to better understand how South Africa's freedom became intertwined with the musical styles that gave the people a platform to express their experiences through sound, movement

and lyrics. In Soweto, there are plenty of venues to choose from where one can regularly hear the sounds, or even catch a performance by local Amapiano musicians, like Amapiano pioneer and record label owner, Kabza De Small, Njelic or Kamo Mphela, at venues such as Konka, Zone 6 or Disoufeng.

Roughly one hour north of Johannesburg, the administrative capital city of Pretoria, known as the birthplace of Amapiano, is home to a number of influential Amapiano musicians such as Pabi Cooper, Focalistic, Chicco, Mellow and Sleazy (who make up a collective called Pitori Super League) and the likes of Vigro Deep. In Pretoria, one can enjoy the latest and most popular new hits at high-end lounge/restaurant Ayepyep, which boasts two locations in the city (and a third in Cape Town) and night club, ZanZou. Visitors can experience the authentic sounds at festivals, including Straata Nation Address and Mamelodi's outdoor music festival at

Moretele Park that draws thousands of revellers annually.

While the best place to experience Amapiano is in its birthplace of South Africa, the genre has made its way to clubs, festivals and bars worldwide, testament to how infectious the sounds truly are.

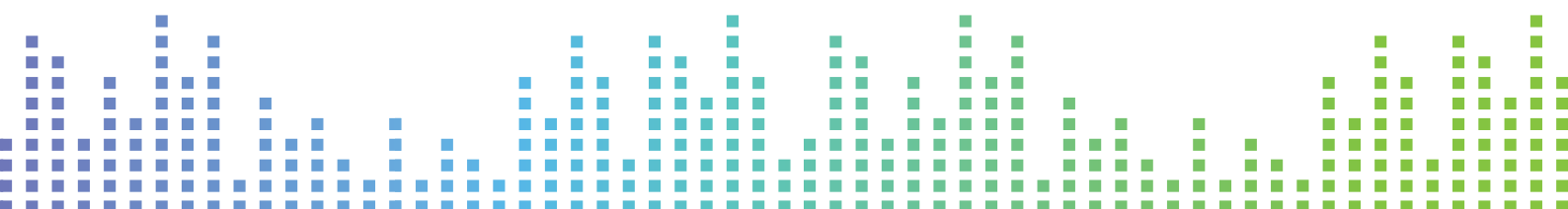
As a relatively young underground genre, Amapiano could have easily been stifled by the onset of the pandemic but instead it flourished. The artists noted that Amapiano originated in home studios, so it is faithfully poetic that the genre would reach audiences at home through social platforms while millions of people were on lockdown. Its popularity was largely driven by viral dance challenges, building an appetite for the genre internationally.

Amapiano boasts a unique representation of women with many of the genre's biggest names like Uncle Waffles, Pabi Cooper, TXC and Kamo Mphela, paving the way not only for South African women creators but creators from across the Diaspora. It's not enough to say the women are influencing Amapiano as they are in fact defining it through the connection of movement and energy in the dance styles performed.

The future of Amapiano is one full of possibilities as the young artists and creators continue to put their unique stamp on the genre and bring it to the world. 🎵

www.southafrica.net

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Netflix show made in South Africa a world favourite

One Piece is Netflix's biggest production project in Africa to date – both in terms of scale and budget, covering South African labour, infrastructure and suppliers.

In September 2023, Netflix announced that it had ordered a second season of *One Piece*, a show based on one of Japan's most beloved graphic novel franchises, after it became the most-watched show worldwide for two straight weeks.

This is potentially great news for South Africa's film industry, as *One Piece* was not only filmed at the Cape Town Film Studios but also extensively used local actors, stunt performers and production crew.

One Piece is Japan's best-selling graphic novel (manga) with over 500 million copies sold worldwide since 1997. It is also a wildly successful Japanese animated series (anime), which has run for 20 seasons since 1999. The anime spans over 1 000 episodes in total.

Live-action remakes of beloved animated shows and films have had a rocky history. Netflix and Disney's various attempts have been met with mixed reviews.

One Piece broke the so-called "live-action curse" and has received praise from critics and fans alike. Review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reports that 85% of 55 critics gave the series a positive review and its average audience score is 95%.

Its summary of the critical consensus is: "*One Piece* captures the essence of its beloved source material with a charmingly big-hearted adaptation that should entertain longtime fans as well as patient newcomers."

Overall, *One Piece* accumulated over 280 million hours watched by 37.8 million viewers in less than two weeks of its release.

Netflix said that *One Piece* was its biggest-ever production in Africa, spending over US\$48.7 million (R897 million) on local suppliers. This is according to Netflix's socio-economic impact report for South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya. Netflix said it used 625 local suppliers, mostly small, medium and micro enterprises. It estimated that *One Piece* created 1 000 full-time equivalent jobs in South Africa, of which 27% were for women.

Looking through the show's credits, it is apparent that South Africans were instrumental throughout the production. Although the show is based on a Japanese manga and may not have been written and directed by South Africans, it featured dozens of South African actors, stunt performers, crew and post-production services.



The Cape Town Film Studios have been the catalyst over the past 12 years for the Western Cape to benefit from the significant multiplier offered by the film industry, generating an estimated R7 billion per year and totalling more than R100 billion to the region over this period.

One Piece was created by Eiichiro Oda and fans credit the live-action remake's success to the fact that he was deeply involved with the production. Netflix executives said the live-action adaptation was a close collaboration between teams in the United States (US) and Japan, with Oda presiding over the cast and characters. The Japanese team ensured the production stuck to character narratives and nuances, while the US team worked on the storytelling. It was Oda's decision to do the show in English. Netflix hopes to execute a similar joint production with the second season.

Earlier this year, President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the location film site for *One Piece*, which was shot at the Cape Town Film Studios. The visit by the President allowed Netflix, as the world's leading global streaming service, and its local partners, Film Afrika, to showcase the production and its contribution to South Africa's creative industry.

In September 2021, Netflix announced a commitment of US\$400 000 (approximately R5.5 million) to support black creatives in the South African film and television industry. The Netflix Black Creatives Empowerment Fund was implemented in a two-pronged approach: the first being a grant of around R1.4 million to the Independent Black Filmmakers Collective and the second of more than R4 million

designated for fully-funded scholarships and student debt relief at higher education institutions in South Africa. The internationally renowned Cape Town Film Studios is the premier film production destination in the southern hemisphere.

The complex has enabled more than 100 productions, with a collective budget of over US\$2 billion to anchor their productions. These productions include blockbuster films and popular series on local and global platforms. The studios have had a positive impact on the economy since its opening, with more than 100 000 people being able to work on various productions over the years.

The 200-hectare studio, located about 30 kilometres from the centre of Cape Town, has been involved in the production of a number of blockbusters, including *Chronicle* (2012), *Safe House* (2012), *Dredd* (2012), *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), *Maze Runner: The Death Cure* (2018), *Tomb Raider* (2018), *The Red Sea Diving Resort* (2019), *Inside Man: Most Wanted* (2019), *Bloodshot* (2020) and *Monster Hunter* (2020).

It was also involved in the production of several television shows, including *Black Sails* (2014 – 2017) and *Good Omens* (2019), *The Great British Story: A People's History* (2012), *Labyrinth* (2012), *Saints & Strangers* (2015),

Blood Drive (2017), *Doctor Who* (series 11) (2018), *Good Omens* (2019), *Warrior* (2019 – 2020) and *Resident Evil* (2021).

The Cape Town Film Studios have been the catalyst over the past 12 years for the Western Cape to benefit from the significant multiplier offered by the film industry, generating an estimated R7 billion per year and totalling more than R100 billion to the region over this period. Similar facilities are envisaged with the development of eThekweni Film City in Durban.

The visit by President Ramaphosa highlighted the impact of this venture on the local economy. The President was guided on an interactive tour that included visual effects and stunt demonstrations and a conversation with four (of the more than 30) trainees who are part of the massive project.

The aim was to give President Ramaphosa a deeper understanding of the impact of Netflix's investments in the creative industries and adjacent industries, including tourism, small business and supply chain economies.

One Piece is Netflix's biggest production project in Africa to date – both in terms of scale and budget, covering South African labour, infrastructure and suppliers. www.goodthingsguy.com | www.sanews.gov



One Piece, which is set in Cape Town, involved more than 50 South African cast members, more than 1 000 crew member jobs (consisting of 67% previously disadvantaged individuals and 46% youth employees) as well as an Academy of Creative Excellence mentorship programme for more than 30 young creatives and technicians in collaboration with the SA Film Academy during production in 2022.

Several South African actors have recurring roles in the show such as: Aidan Scott, Langley Kirkwood, Kathleen Stephens, Armand Aucamp, Ntlanhla Morgan Kutu, Laudo Liebenberg, Celeste Loots, Alexander Maniatis, Bianca Oosthuizen, Albert Pretorius, Jandre le Roux, Brett Williams, Steven John Ward, Len-Barry Simons, Chioma Antoinette Umeala, Kylie Ashfield, Grant Ross and Rory Acton Burnell.

South African actors in guest roles include Ben Kgosimore, Nicole Fortuin, Chanté Grainger, Nathan Castle, Milton Schorr, Litha Bam and Genna Galloway.

One Piece is a live-action pirate adventure series, based on one of the best-selling manga series of all time. It is a legendary high-seas adventure unlike any other. Monkey D Luffy is a young adventurer who has longed for a life of freedom since he can remember. Luffy sets off from his small village on a perilous journey to find the legendary fabled treasure, One Piece, to become King of the Pirates. However, to find the ultimate prize, Luffy will need to assemble the crew he's always wanted before finding a ship to sail, searching every inch of the vast blue seas, outpacing the Marines and outwitting dangerous rivals at every turn.

Film Afrika is the African continent's leading producer of international films and television series, providing world-class production services to the international film and television community. The business brings together the country's most experienced and sought-after creative talent, production personnel, technical, legal, business and financial personnel to provide a fully integrated infrastructure on par with the best in the world. Film Afrika manages all local production, legal, corporate, compliance and financial matters for its international clients.

Netflix is the world's leading streaming entertainment service with 222 million paid memberships in over 190 countries enjoying TV series, documentaries, feature films and mobile games across a wide variety of genres and languages.

www.goodthingsguy.com



THE DAY THAT ROCK BEAT PAPER



On the 9th of August 1956, twenty thousand women of all races marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas Act, commonly known as the Pass Laws of 1950. The women stood together, arms raised

in the air in the clenched fist of the Congress Salute and sang 'You strike a woman, you strike a rock'. It is remembered as one of the major milestones in the struggle against the apartheid regime and the date is now commemorated as Women's Day.

Visit www.apartheidmuseum.org and learn more about our history.

APARTHEID MUSEUM



SculptX 2023:

The largest annual sculpture fair in the country

SculptX not only showcased the versatility of the traditional art medium but also highlighted the dedication of South African artists to sustainable practices.

From 1 September to 31 October 2023, The Melrose Gallery hosted the sixth instalment of SculptX, the largest sculptural fair of its kind in South Africa. This year, it presented over 200 works crafted from an array of eco-conscious materials, ranging from reclaimed wood and recycled glass to sustainable bronze and responsibly sourced stone. In an era where environmental consciousness is paramount, SculptX not only showcased the versatility of the traditional art medium but also highlighted the dedication of South African artists to sustainable practices. Additionally, the fair explored figurative works that celebrated the human body, paid homage to the natural world or delved into the built environment. In contrast, abstract sculptures captivated the viewer with their form, texture and lines, offering a sensory feast.

At its core, SculptX offered a platform for African sculptors to present their artistic narratives to a wider audience. It served as a dynamic stage where these artists explored

the boundaries of form, space and concept, reflecting their rich cultural backgrounds and individual artistic journeys.

The Melrose Gallery, known for its steadfast support of emerging and established artists, actively promotes and sells the exhibited works. Through the gallery, associated events, online platforms, newsletters and various activations, SculptX provided a remarkable opportunity for artists to connect with collectors, curators and fellow art professionals. SculptX 2023 was not an isolated event; it continued The Melrose Gallery's commitment to showcasing the finest contemporary art from Africa. Galleries are vital in fostering the growth of the art world by offering artists opportunities to exhibit their works and gain recognition.

SculptX 2023 embodied this spirit, cultivating new artistic voices and encouraging the diverse and inclusive landscape of the art world.

The following artists participated: Alan Ainslie, André Stead, André Prinsloo, Anita Finken, Annemie Odendaal, Arno Morland,

Ben Tuge, Bercia Roos, Bridget Modema, Bulumko Mbete, Candice Kramer, Carl Roberts, Carol Cauldwell, Cassian Robbertze, Cecilia Wilmot Ballam, Ciara Dunsby, Clive Sithole, Corne Du Plessis, Cornelia Stoop, David Hlongwane, Debbie Farnaby, Diana Miller, Dominique Albinski, Elizabeth Balcomb, Esther Mahlangu, Gill Glyn-Jones, Gordon Froud, Hannelie Coetzee, Heike Taschner Jeske, Heike Davies, Hendrien Horn, Ilana Seati, Irvin Nkwanyana, James Cook, Jenny Nijenhuis, Jo Rogge, Joanne Mcgilvray, Kathy Robins, Keith Zenda, Keith Calde, Kennth Shandu, Kganya Mogashoa, Landia Davies, Lebohlang Motaung, Louis Chanu, Luyanda Mkhize, Malebogo Molokoane, Marieke Prinsloo, Maritza Breitenbach, Mark Chapman, Mark Swart, Martli Jansen Van Rensburg, Mhlonishwa Chiliza, Nicola Roos, Nindya Bucktowar, Olwethu De Vos, Phahlo Mtangai, Philiswa Lila, Phillipah Rumano, Phumzile Buthelezi, Pierre Fourie, Pitika Ntuli, Rirhandzu Makhubele, Sahlah Davids, Samuel Allerton, Sandro Trapani, Sarah Richards, Simon Zitha, Siyabulela Ndodana, St John Fuller, Strijdom Van Der Merwe, Tamary Kudita, Tawanda Mcdonald, Tay Dall, Thato Kokwana, Theophilus Rikhotso, Uwe Pfaff, Willie Bester, Wilma Cruise and Zenande Mketeni. 🇷🇺

SculptX 2023 was not an isolated event; it continued The Melrose Gallery's commitment to showcasing the finest contemporary art from Africa.





SHO MADJOZI:

The pop star using traditional culture to shape a fresh identity for young South Africans

Sho Madjozi's colourful and iconic redesigns of Tsonga costume are signs of what it means to be Tsonga in southern Africa today.

By Owen Seda

Associate Professor in Performing Arts, Tshwane University of Technology

South African rapper Sho Madjozi is a bold and colourful presence in pop culture, as famous for her catchy lyrics as for using traditional clothing and dance in a fresh way.

The musician, actress and poet is also one of very few young South African artists working in a minority language, Xitsonga. With 12 official languages in South Africa, Xitsonga is the first language of only about 4.5% of the population, mostly in the rural Northern province of the country called Limpopo. The Tsonga people also live in neighbouring Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Eswatini.

Yet, in 2019, “village girl” Sho Madjozi burst onto the world stage with her hit song *John Cena*, winning a BET award in the United States for “Best International Newcomer”. By 2021, she had established herself as best female artist at the South African Music Awards.

But Sho Madjozi is about more than music. She’s also about setting trends – through reinventing Tsonga costume, hairstyles and dance. She’s done this in a way that helps shape her region’s cultural identity.

Cultural identity is not something that’s fixed. Identities change, transcending time, place and history. Sho Madjozi shows how

this happens when she mixes the authentic culture of the Tsonga people with popular global culture to produce a unique – or hybrid – identity and performance style.

We recently published a research paper that analyses this. We place her as an artist whose work demonstrates a fascinating interface between the “authentic” (Tsonga culture) and the “hybrid” (an innovative new voice, with innovation and novelty being central to the global culture industries).

We conclude that by merging popular and traditional cultures, Sho Madjozi is the latest in a long line of young African artists who help shape youth culture identity. In the process, she shines a light on a lesser-known ethnic group, keeping traditional knowledge alive so that others may learn from it and be inspired by it.

Who is Sho Madjozi?

Sho Madjozi was born Maya Christinah Xichavo Wegerif, from a biracial union between her Swedish father and Tsonga mother. This provides a further fascinating framework for the idea of authenticity and hybridity in her work.

In South Africa, colonialism and apartheid suppressed indigenous cultures. Apartheid, introduced by a white-minority government, was a policy based on separate development

for different racially categorised people. The law banned sexual relations between people categorised as black and white. Yet, people fell in love across the colour lines.

Sho Madjozi’s mixed parentage creates a hybrid form of identity because of historical processes of cultural contact, transformation and change among different peoples of the world.

As if to underscore the in-betweenness of her cultural heritage, a considerable part of her youth and childhood was spent in Senegal in West Africa. This also demonstrates the notion of circulation that characterises the contemporary Afropolitan (a generation that is both African and cosmopolitan).



Sho Madjozi's innovations around xibelani speak differently. Through her performances, social media image and public profile, she rises above conventional attitudes that often perceive minority ethnic groups as the conservative gatekeepers of unchanging cultures.

Sho Madjozi chose proudly to adopt a Tsonga signature style in her stage career. She says that, for her, blackness means "not erasing everything that I am ... and never accepting a form of beauty where it's as far away from me as possible".

She makes it clear that a pure native identity is simply no longer available. In its place comes a moving map of cultural images and an ever-changing sense of self.

Costume, hair and dance

Characteristically, Sho Madjozi adapts and reinterprets the Tsonga tinguvu skirt, commonly called the xibelani skirt as it's used to perform the traditional xibelani dance. The xibelani skirt is gathered in the waist, accentuated at the top of the hips and consists of many layers of fabric that create

a distinctive volume when the wearer dances in it. Sho Madjozi reinterprets this skirt. She pairs it with modern fashion items, sometimes shortening it or making it longer, reinventing its form. This contrasts and merges indigenous culture with fashion, tradition with modernity, and the local with the global.

She also incorporates vibrant Tsonga colours (pinks, yellows, purples, blues and greens) in her creative reinterpretations of costume. She does the same with her hair, weaving bright Tsonga colours into it, adorning it with beads, experimenting with traditional accessories in her cornrows.

The xibelani dance is also central to Sho Madjozi's act. It's native to Tsonga women, where girls learn it to celebrate their heritage and perform it on special occasions. Xibelani means "hitting to the rhythm". The dancer

shakes their hips, exaggerated by the skirt, with the whole body following. This is often accompanied by hand clapping and whistling.

Sho Madjozi's colourful and iconic redesigns of Tsonga costume are signs of what it means to be Tsonga in southern Africa today. She uses popular urban youth culture to spread Tsonga xibelani culture in a national space.

She does so in a time when young South Africans often find themselves grappling to retain traditional cultural values in an ever-changing and fast-paced globalising world.

Why this matters

Traditional costume often represents old ways that resist change. Sho Madjozi's innovations around xibelani speak differently. Through her performances, social media image and public profile, she rises above conventional attitudes that often perceive minority ethnic groups as the conservative gatekeepers of unchanging cultures.

She presents Tsonga tradition and culture at the cutting edge of positive identity formation. She does so in ways that inspire, attract and convince other young South Africans to embrace local cultures in their own construction of urban identities.

She acts as a cultural agent for the transmission of positive change and values across ethnic, national and international boundaries.

Sho Madjozi embodies the words of Taiye Selasi, the young British-born, United States writer, photographer and cultural activist of Nigerian and Ghanaian origin. Selasi says: "What distinguishes (Afropolitans) is a willingness to complicate Africa ... we seek to comprehend the cultural complexity, to honour the intellectual and spiritual legacy, and to sustain our parents' cultures." 

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



The five best *golf courses* in South Africa

The latest TSI data shows five African destinations are proving to be crowd favourites.

South Africa has half of the best golf courses in Africa, with the rich flocking to the sport as a pastime.

The latest TSI data shows five African destinations are proving to be crowd favourites.

According to New World Wealth, despite the popularity of golf dipping over the past decade among centi-millionaires – for those worth US\$100 million (R1.8 billion), it is still the most popular, followed by art and cycling.

Some 54% of the world's 25 490 centi-millionaires play golf, compared to the 28% who collect art and the 20% who cycle. New

World Wealth has ranked the best golf courses in Africa based on the following criteria:

- appeal to wealthy golfers
- location, views, nature and scenery
- memorability of the course
- condition and maintenance of the course
- clubhouse, change rooms and halfway house facilities.

From this, New World Wealth has stated the 10 best golf courses are as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

- Baobab Course at Vipingo Ridge – Kenya
- Fancourt Links – South Africa
- Heritage Golf Club – Mauritius

- Highland Gate – South Africa
- Ile Aux Cerfs Golf Club – Mauritius
- Lemuria Golf Course – Seychelles
- Leopard Creek – South Africa
- Steyn City – South Africa
- Tazegzout – Morocco
- Zimbali – South Africa.

Globally, the most popular golf courses for centi-millionaires are Cypress Point in the United States, St Andrews in Scotland, Tara Iti in New Zealand, Royal Melbourne in Australia and Hirono in Japan.

The five courses in South Africa named in the top 10 are:



Fancourt Links

The Fancourt Links is situated on the Fancourt Estate near George in the Western Cape and is best known for hosting the highly popular 2003 Presidents Cup.

The Links is the iconic golfing hallmark of the Fancourt estate. Golfing legend Gary Player described it as his greatest ever feat as a course designer.

Featuring an undulating, windswept terrain and dune-style landscape, the course is the collaborative handiwork of Player, course

designer Phil Jacobs; and Fancourt owner Dr Hasso Plattner. Once an airfield, today it is a living piece of environmental and golfing heritage.

The Links has hosted some of the most prestigious tournaments in the world, including the Presidents Cup (2003), the SA Open (2005) and the 2012 Volvo Golf Champions European Tour.

A detailed stroke saver provides distance measurements and images to assist players

to navigate the extensive rises and falls that characterise this world-class golfing challenge.

Apart from its distinctive design, The Links has been lauded for its vital role in environmental sustainability value that includes wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation and other environmental factors.



Highland Gate

The picturesque Highland Gate Golf Course is near Dullstroom in the Steenkampsberg mountain range.

Visitors to this magnificent golf course, rated by many to be one of the best in South

Africa, are in for a treat as the course is set among some of the most scenic mountainous terrains in Mpumalanga. Although the testing layout provides an equal challenge to both club player and tour professional, Highland

Gate's strength lies in its high-altitude charm, which makes for a scenic and truly memorable golf experience.



Steyn City

Steyn City Golf Course in Johannesburg is noted as being exceptionally well kept, with the fairways, dams and greens always seeming to be in near-perfect condition. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the championship

golf course has become a magnet for keen golfers from all areas of the country.

The course presents 75 bunkers and several water features lining the generously wide, immaculate fairways. Winter-hardy

grasses on the greens, tees, fairways and roughs guarantee a green surface, all year round. The course is fully navigable by golf cart and all carts are equipped with state-of-the-art GPS technology.

The Links is the iconic golfing hallmark of the Fancourt estate. Golfing legend Gary Player described it as his greatest ever feat as a course designer.



Leopard Creek

Situated near Malelane in the heart of Mpumalanga, Leopard Creek covers 360 hectares bordered to the north and west by the picturesque Crocodile River and the Kruger National Park (KNP). The elegant clubhouse is situated on the bank of the Crocodile River

where you can watch play on the ninth and 18th greens or enjoy a leisurely cocktail and a superb view of the animals in the KNP.

Innovative architectural and landscaping techniques ensure that the Leopard Creek golf course and living areas are naturally

protected from animals, while lakes and small streams have been diverted through the development to create scenic vistas and interesting golf strategies.



Zimbali

According to New World Wealth, Zimbali is the best premier golfing destination in KwaZulu-Natal.

Being an eco-conscious golf course and estate, Zimbali's tee boxes are often situated in slightly tricky positions to avoid environmental disturbances. The 11 holes take you over rolling hills, which present

ideal vantage points from which to enjoy the magnificent views. Thereafter, holes 12 to 18 explore the Zimbali indigenous forest.

The coastal forest and vegetation of the course have been noted as extremely impressive, while the estate is seen as a bird lover's paradise as it is home to the rare crowned eagle – one of Africa's Big 3 eagles.

The designer of the course is former South African PGA and British open champion Tom Weiskopf. 🇺🇸

www.businesstech.co.za | www.thelinks.fancourt.co.za
www.highlandgate.co.za | www.steyncity.co.za
www.leopardcreek.co.za | www.zimbalicc.co.za

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More than 60 million different voices
echoing in harmony from the southernmost part of the continent.

Where ordinary people have carved their names
in an extraordinary history by showing the world
that peace is always better than war.

Our reach is not limited by our borders,
bringing joy in people's hearts
and a spark of rhythm to their moves.

This is a welcoming home of opportunity,
inspiring millions to look here in search of a better life;
and sharing our best with the world.

We are home to undulating mountains, flowers, endless seas,
the beautiful animal kingdom and the ever-changing seasons
that colour our world.

We are the birthplace of humanity,
and a showcase of human excellence.

We believe in South Africa.

We are inspired by our victories of the past
and our strong institutions to overcome the challenges of today
and build a better tomorrow.

This is who we are – South African



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