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international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



UBUNTU

a Nguni word meaning humanity
The Department of International Relations
and Cooperation's quarterly magazine



ON THE COVER

"Through the irrefutable power of the ballot on 8 May, South Africans declared the dawn of a new era. They have chosen hope over hopelessness; they have opted for unity over conflict and divisions.

"Today, we declare that our progress as South Africa depends on – and cannot be separated from – the onward march of our beloved continent Africa.

"Africa is poised once again to rise, to assume its place among the free and equal nations of the world. We must use that innovative talent that originated in Africa to embrace and use the Fourth Industrial Revolution to develop Africa and create jobs for the youth and empower the women of our continent.

"Africa is poised to realise the vision of Pixley ka Isaka Seme more than a century ago, when he said: *The brighter day is rising upon Africa.*

"It is to this brighter day that we now turn our eyes, to a vista rich with the hues of hope and promise. It is you, the people of South Africa, who have spoken."

– President Cyril Ramaphosa, during his inauguration as the Sixth Democratically Elected President of the Republic of South Africa, 25 May 2019, Africa Day

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SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

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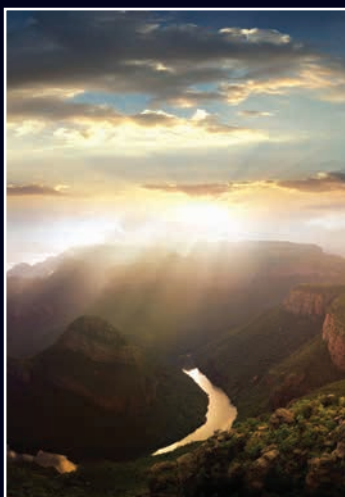
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This letter is the first of many that I am planning to pen down in my new role as the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. President Cyril Ramaphosa has reposed a great deal of trust in myself, in the Deputy Ministers, the Director-General, our top management, ambassadors and all staff in the department with the hope that our work will contribute to the ideal of a better South Africa, in a better and safer Africa, in a better world.

Let me begin by just saying a little bit about what I believe drives us as South Africans. We are driven to some degree by our history, by who we are, and what we seek to become. As we celebrate our 25th year of democracy,

it is important to reflect that as we waged the struggle for freedom, our leaders placed great reliance on the international dimension of the struggle.

They were the influencers that persuaded the international community that our struggle for freedom was one that the whole world should support. That we were a people who were experiencing a form of oppression that had to concern all humanity. And so, as part of the liberation movement, we were able to persuade almost the entire world to join in. Everywhere we laid our foot, we were able to persuade that an international dimension was key, strategic and imperative for us to win our place in history.

So, we must always remember that our history, the nature of the struggle we put in motion, is extremely important and is part of the armour that we bring into our role as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). It is part of what drives us.

We are also driven by our aspirations as a people, a government and a department. Our aspirations for the world to be a better place. Our aspiration that Africa can develop. Our aspiration that the fact that we are free, and the fact that so many were with us, side by side, as we walked to that freedom, means we must walk with others. So, our aspirations are always that we will have as a bastion, solidarity and interest in the condition of others.

Letter from the Minister

But our aspiration is not just for ourselves as South Africans. It is for those who are oppressed in Myanmar, it is for those who suffer in Palestine. It is for those who have no democracy, in a range of conditions in the world. Our aspiration is that we make the African Diaspora's cooperation a reality. That we will, as people who come from a community of the oppressed, use our numbers, our strength and our character to rise.

We have national ambitions as well. We want to see the condition of the people of South Africa change. And again, our department is strategically important to achieving that change. To securing again, international solidarity in support of changing the condition of the people of South Africa, and of the people of the continent of Africa.

Nothing we do, is for ourselves. So, when we travel, we are not just there for a visit. We are there to secure support for the aspiration. And we must always remember that. If our international work is not leading to ways of remediating our challenges, we are not succeeding in our work. If we are not securing more trade, more opportunities for human resource development for our young people, more infrastructure for our country and for countries on the continent and if our region is not thriving, our work is just international relations, it is not cooperation.

So, we have ambitions for our national aspirations. We have ambitions for our continent. We have a role to play in making

the African Union (AU) the best regional organisation in the world. It is our ambition, it's our aspiration. We must seek, in harmony with all the countries on the continent, to make this a reality. We cannot have a mediocre AU, we must have a quality AU, able to act on its mandate, able to execute our aspiration, our ambition.

We can't allow a unipolar world to emerge. Multilateralism got us where we are. A cooperating world got us where we are. And we must be advocates for alone we cannot succeed, together we make a difference. The emerging attempt to create the notion that there can be some nation that is dominant in all our international ideas must be one we reject with contempt and strength. Because institutions and nations must work together for the betterment of all.

We are confronted by a range of very challenging tasks that must be addressed by South Africa. We've got to ensure that we find ways of responding to inequality, which confronts so many of our people – women, young people and particular communities. We have to find responses to their concerns. We must address unemployment in our country. Our people cannot live in harmony if they have no livelihood, if they have no hope, if they have no opportunity. We must address poverty. All of this can only be done if we achieve growth in our economy.

We cannot for more than the number of decades we've had our freedom so far, keep

referring to inequality and unemployment, without us saying we have reduced it by such a proportion. We know that that change, that reduction, came from our international work. We must be results-orientated. And our country's problems are the issues we must address.

We must understand that we exist for a purpose. We are a strategic department, playing an extremely important role. We have the possibility of effecting fundamental change in many international situations. We also have the opportunity to use the spaces we occupy to ensure fundamental change in the condition of our people using our expertise in the international domain.

I hope that from time to time, we will see our stakeholders at DIRCO seminars where we can discuss, share ideas and refine our craft through exchange.

I like to work because I believe our country needs us to work. Our people need us to perform. It is possible for us to change our condition. It is possible for all of us to make a contribution. But to do it, we must work hard, diligently and with excellence in mind.

A better South Africa, in a better and safer Africa, in a better world.

Naledi Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation





South Africa has recorded major strides across the political, economic and social dimensions of its international relations.

Since the advent of democracy in 1994, South Africa has had to contend with domestic, regional as well as global expectations to be seen to be playing a key role in championing values of human rights, democracy, reconciliation and the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment.

Even the harshest critics cannot deny that South Africa has acquitted herself well, often under trying circumstances, to meet these expectations. Our country's leadership footprint is visible in the region, the continent and globally.

It is worth noting that from the very onset, post-apartheid South Africa had placed Africa at the centre of the country's foreign policy. South Africa continues to support continental initiatives and efforts whose quest is to forge continental integration.

The country has also been unrelenting in relation to fostering peace as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development in countries like the Democratic Republic of

Congo, Burundi and South Sudan. In essence, whether involved within the United Nations (UN) and/or its specialised agencies or, in bodies like the G20, G77, IBSA or BRICS, South Africa steadfastly advances the African Agenda.

Likewise, the current administration under President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa continues to display an unwavering commitment to the advancement of the African Agenda. President Ramaphosa underscored the centrality of Africa to the country's foreign relations trajectory when he addressed the South African Heads of Mission Conference in Tshwane on 23 October 2018. In this regard, the President stressed:

"We wholly identify with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU) and its vision of 'an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena'. South Africa and its fortunes are inextricably linked to those of the continent. When Africa falters, South Africa falters. And when Africa prospers, South Africa prospers."

Accordingly, South Africa is fully behind the African Agenda 2063 and its Action Plan, the recent signing of the Continental Free Trade Agreement in Kigali, Rwanda, and many other efforts that constitute seminal developments in the journey towards an integrated, united, peaceful and prosperous continent.

In the words of the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, from a recent interview with Ubuntu Radio:

"We would like to see all 54 African countries working for development, focussed on our people's condition and ensuring we end war and insecurity."

Involvement in the UN and its specialised agencies has afforded South Africa an opportunity as well as a platform to actualise its professed commitment to multilateralism and a rules-based international order. The country has been forthright in opposing any steps which, in its view, pose a threat to the rules-based system.

In January 2019, South Africa started serving its third term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (SC). The UNSC is the premier global body for maintaining international peace and security. And South Africa is sitting at that table.

South Africa has already signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thereby cementing the country's continued commitment towards the achievement of a world free from the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons and ensuring that nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes only. This is particularly important in respect of the noticeable trend where nuclear arsenals are being modernised in nuclear-weapon states, a process that has ushered in the revision of military doctrines and nuclear postures.

The country also has been responsive and vocal with regard to the current global challenge that pertains to often contentious issues like human rights, food security, sustainable development as well as climate change. As a result of successful deliberations between the World Food Programme and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, an agreement was reached for South Africa to host one of the largest UN Humanitarian Response Depots.

Over and above the foregoing, the fact that at the 2019 AU Summit, South Africa was elected to chair the AU in 2020 is not just a feather in the country's cap but is, more crucially, a huge responsibility in that it places the country at the coalface of overseeing the implementation of the continent's developmental agenda during its tenure. The AU has set 2020 as the target year for silencing the guns in Africa.

South Africa's foreign policy mandate has been characterised by the umbilical cord that not only drove and energised the struggle against apartheid but has continued to serve as a transcending link from former President Nelson Mandela's first administration to all successive post-apartheid administrations to date. The overarching propeller is still the creation of a better South Africa, a better and safer Africa and a better world for all. ☺
@Clayson Monyela

"We wholly identify with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and its vision of 'an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena'. South Africa and its fortunes are inextricably linked to those of the continent. When Africa falters, South Africa falters. And when Africa prospers, South Africa prospers."

– President Cyril Ramaphosa, Heads of Mission Conference, October 2018

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“A new era has dawned in our country”



It was symbolic that the inauguration took place on Africa Day, as it affirmed government's commitment to advancing the African Agenda and to strengthening ties between South Africa and its neighbours.

On Africa Day, 25 May 2019, President-elect Cyril Ramaphosa was inaugurated as South Africa's President during the sixth Presidential Inauguration under the theme “Together Celebrating Democracy: Renewal and Growth for a Better South Africa” at Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria.

“I, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa, and will obey, observe, uphold and maintain the Constitution and all law of the Republic. And I solemnly and sincerely promise that I will always promote all that will advance the Republic and oppose all that may harm it; protect and promote the rights of all South Africans,” he said.

President Ramaphosa, 66, also vowed to discharge all his duties with all his strength and

talent to the best of his abilities and be true to the dictates of his conscience, as he took the oath administered by Constitutional Court Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng.

The crowd, gathered at the stadium, erupted in loud cheer as the President said: “So help me God!”

Representatives from the continent, regional economic blocs, former liberation movements, fraternal countries, the African Union, United Nations, members of the Diplomatic Corps and eminent persons, as well as over 30 000 members of the public witnessed the inauguration.

Former presidents Thabo Mbeki, Kgalema Motlanthe and FW de Klerk were seated in the VIP area on stage, and the heads of state from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Uganda, Lesotho and eSwatini graced the ceremony,

which coincided with the continental Africa Day celebrations.

Before taking the oath, President Ramaphosa was honoured by a military salute from the South African National Defence Force who ushered the President to the sound of the National Anthem, a 21-gun salute and Air Force display.

In his inaugural address, President Ramaphosa said that through the irrefutable power of the ballot on 8 May, South Africans declared the dawn of a new era.

“They have chosen hope over hopelessness, they have opted for unity over conflict and divisions.

“As we give effect to their mandate, we draw comfort from the knowledge that that which unites us is far, far more powerful and enduring than that which divides us.

“Despite our differences, despite a past of conflict and division and bitterness, despite



the fierce political contestation among 48 political parties in recent months, we share the same hopes and fears, the same anxieties and aspirations.

"We all want our children to have lives that are better than our own, to have work that is dignified and rewarding.

"We are bound together by our determination that never again shall the adversities of our past be visited on the people of this land.

"This is a defining moment for our young nation.

"Today is the choice of history.

"It is a time for us to make the future we yearn for.

"It is through our actions now that we will determine our destiny."

In a departure from the tradition of holding the inauguration at the Union Buildings, the inauguration took place at Loftus Versfeld Stadium. Hosting the inauguration in a stadium, the largest in the City of Tshwane, allowed for greater public participation in this important national event.

It was symbolic that the inauguration took place on Africa Day, as it affirmed government's commitment to advancing the African Agenda and to strengthening ties between South Africa and its neighbours.

As African National Congress (ANC) leader, Mr Ramaphosa was elected as the President of the sixth democratic Parliament on Wednesday, 22 May 2019. He was the only candidate nominated for presidency.

The ruling ANC claimed victory in the 2019 elections, with 57.50% of the total national votes cast in the hotly contested polls. Over 17 million of the 26 779 025 registered South Africans took to the polls on Wednesday, 8 May 2019.

A record 48 political parties contested the elections, making it the most contested polls since the dawn of democracy.

The Democratic Alliance remained the official opposition party, as it gained 20.77% of the votes. In 2014, the party received 22.23% of the total votes cast in the national election. The Economic Freedom Fighters cemented their place in the leadership ranks by gaining 10.79% of the votes cast nationally. This was an increase for the five-year-old party, which managed to get 6.35% in the 2014 elections.

The top three were followed by the Inkatha Freedom Party at number four, which received 3.38%; the Freedom Front Plus with 2.38%; the African Christian Democratic Party with 0.84%; and the United Democratic Movement with 0.45%.

The top 10 was completed by newcomers African Transformation Movement with 0.44% of the votes, and GOOD with 0.40%, followed by the National Freedom Party, with 0.35% of the votes.

A new Cabinet

On 29 May 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the members of the National Executive who would give effect to the mandate

provided by South Africans during the elections to "accelerate inclusive economic growth, act with greater urgency to tackle poverty, improve government services, fight corruption and end state capture".

Speaking during the announcement at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, President Ramaphosa said that a capable, efficient and ethical government was needed to give effect to this mandate. The President also indicated that it was critical that the structure and size of the state were optimally suited to meet the needs of the people and ensured the most efficient allocation of public resources.

"In undertaking this review, we have been guided by the need to build a modern developmental state that has the means to drive economic and social transformation, to embrace innovation and to direct effort and resources towards where they will have the greatest impact.

"All South Africans are acutely aware of the great economic difficulties our country has been experiencing and the constraints this has placed on public finances.

"It is therefore imperative that in all areas and spheres of government, we place priority on revitalising our economy while exercising the greatest care in the use of public funds."





“In appointing a new National Executive, I have taken a number of considerations into account, including experience, continuity, competence, generational mix and demographic and regional diversity.”

To promote greater coherence, better coordination and improved efficiency, a number of portfolios were combined, reducing the number of ministers from 36 to 28:

- Trade and Industry was combined with Economic Development
- Higher Education and Training was combined with Science and Technology
- Environmental Affairs was combined with Forestry and Fisheries
- Agriculture was combined with Land Reform and Rural Development
- Mineral Resources was combined with Energy
- Human Settlements was combined with Water and Sanitation

- Sports and Recreation was combined with Arts and Culture
- Communications and Telecommunications and Postal Services had already been combined.

The President indicated that some portfolios received added responsibilities. Infrastructure was added to the Public Works portfolio and employment to the Labour portfolio.

“If we are to make effective progress in building the South Africa that we all want, it is important that we deploy into positions of responsibility people who are committed, capable and hard-working, and who have integrity.

“In appointing a new National Executive, I have taken a number of considerations into account, including experience, continuity, competence, generational mix and demographic and regional diversity.

“The people who I am appointing today must realise that the expectations of the South African people have never been greater and that they will shoulder a great responsibility.

“Their performance – individually and collectively – will be closely monitored against specific outcomes. Where implementation is unsatisfactory, action will be taken.”

The appointments to the National Executive are:

- Deputy President: David Mabuza.
- The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is Thoko Didiza. The deputy ministers are Sdumo Dlamini and Mcebisi Skwatsha.

- The Minister of Basic Education is Angie Motshekga. The Deputy Minister is Dr Reginah Mhaule.
- The Minister of Communications is Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams. The Deputy Minister is Pinky Kekana.
- The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. The deputy ministers are Parks Tau and Obed Bapela.
- The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans is Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula. The Deputy Minister is Thabang Makwetla.
- The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries is Barbara Creecy. The Deputy Minister is Maggie Sotyu.
- The Minister of Employment and Labour is Thulas Nxesi. The Deputy Minister is Boitumelo Moloji.
- The Minister of Finance is Tito Mboweni. The Deputy Minister is Dr David Maseko.
- The Minister of Health is Dr Zwelini Mkhize. The Deputy Minister is Dr Joe Phaahla.
- The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology is Dr Blade Nzimande. The Deputy Minister is Buti Manamela.
- The Minister of Home Affairs is Dr Aaron Motsoaledi. The Deputy Minister is Njabulo Nzuza.
- The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation is Lindiwe Sisulu. The deputy ministers are Pam Tshwete and David Mahlobo.
- The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is Dr Naledi Pandor. The



deputy ministers are Alvin Botes and Candith Mashego-Dlamini.

- The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services is Ronald Lamola. The deputy ministers are John Jeffery and Inkosi Phathekile Holomisa.
- The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy is Gwede Mantashe. The Deputy Minister is Bavelile Hlongwa.
- The Minister of Police is General Bheki Cele. The Deputy Minister is Cassel Mathale.
- The Minister in The Presidency is Jackson Mthembu. The Deputy Minister in The Presidency is Thembi Siweya.
- The Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. The Deputy Minister is Prof. Hlengiwe Mkhize.
- The Minister of Public Enterprises is Pravin Gordhan. The Deputy Minister is Phumulo Masualle.
- The Minister of Public Service and Administration is Senzo Mchunu. The Deputy Minister is Sindy Chikunga.
- The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure is Patricia De Lille. The Deputy Minister is Noxolo Kiviet.



- The Minister of Small Business Development is Khumbudzo Ntshavheni. The Deputy Minister is Rosemary Capa.
- The Minister of Social Development is Lindiwe Zulu. The Deputy Minister is Henrietta Bogopane-Zulu.
- The Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture is Nathi Mthethwa. The Deputy Minister is Nocawe Mafu.
- The Minister of State Security is Ayanda Dlodlo. The Deputy Minister is Zizi Kodwa.
- The Minister of Tourism is Nkhensani Kubayi-Ngubane. The Deputy Minister is Fish Mahlalela.
- The Minister of Trade and Industry is Ebrahim Patel. The deputy ministers are Fikile Majola and Nomalungelo Gina.
- The Minister of Transport is Fikile Mbalula. The Deputy Minister is Dikeledi Magadzi.

The President said that these men and women were drawn from all corners of the country. It was also for the first time in the history of the country that half of all ministers were women. A significant number of young people were also included. 🇿🇦

"The people who I am appointing today must realise that the expectations of the South African people have never been greater and that they will shoulder a great responsibility."



The Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum, situated in Orlando West, Soweto, commemorates the role of the country's students in the struggle against apartheid and in particular the role played by schoolchildren who participated in the Soweto protests of 1976, many of whom were shot by the apartheid police while protesting against the sub-standard of education in black schools in South Africa. Hector Pieterse, aged 12, was one of the first fatalities.





THE YOUTH WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY



BUILDING THE SOUTH AFRICA WE WANT

President Ramaphosa
announces seven priorities to
take SA forward

"We set these goals so that the decisions we take now are bolder and we act with greater urgency."



President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced seven priorities that will fast-track South Africa's path to prosperity.

Delivering his third State of the Nation Address in Parliament on Thursday evening, 20 June 2019, the President said the time for idle talk was now over – “everything comes down to implementation if the country is to realise the vision of the National Development Plan (NDP)”.

Announcing the seven bold priorities, he said the focus would be on:

- economic transformation and job creation
- education, skills and health
- consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
- spatial integration, human settlements and local government
- social cohesion and safe communities
- a capable, ethical and developmental state
- a better Africa and world.

The President said all the country's programmes and policies across all departments and

agencies would be directed in pursuit of these overarching tasks.

“At the same time, we must restore the NDP to its place at the centre of our national effort, to make it alive, to make it part of the lived experience of the South African people,” he said.

The South Africa we want

The President said as the country entered the next 25 years of democracy, there was a need to proclaim a bold and ambitious goal – a unifying purpose – to which everyone should dedicate their resources and energies.

“As we enter the last decade of Vision 2030, let us even more clearly define the South Africa we want and agree on the concrete actions we need to achieve them.

“To ensure that our efforts are directed, I am suggesting that within the priorities of this administration, we agree on five fundamental goals for the next decade,” he said.

The President said some of the goals, aimed at tackling poverty, inequality and unemployment, the pillars of the NDP, would mean that:

- no person in South Africa would go hungry
- the economy would grow at a much faster rate than the population
- two million more young people would be in employment
- schools would have better educational outcomes and every 10-year-old would be able to read for meaning
- violent crime would be halved.

“Let us make these commitments now – to ourselves and to each other – knowing that they will stretch our resources and capabilities, but understanding that if we achieve these five goals, we will have fundamentally transformed our society.

“We set these ambitious goals not despite the severe difficulties of the present, but because of them.

“We set these goals so that the decisions we take now are bolder and we act with greater urgency,” he said. 🇿🇦





Minister Pandor hosts Diplomatic Corps, appeals for closer ties in advancing South Africa's goals

"The assignment of serving as the President's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is both a privilege and a daunting challenge. I hope to respond successfully to these with your esteemed help and support.



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on Saturday, 22 June 2019, hosted a prestigious breakfast reception for the many ambassadors and high commissioners accredited to Pretoria – her first interaction with the Diplomatic Corps following her appointment to the critical ministry by President Cyril Ramaphosa after the 8 May general elections.

“I wish to begin by thanking you all for accepting our invitation and attending this breakfast. I sincerely look forward to working closely with all of you and to continue strengthening the strong bonds of friendship built by my predecessor, Minister Sisulu, and her team.

“The assignment of serving as the President’s Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is both a privilege and a daunting challenge. I hope to respond successfully to these with your esteemed help and support.

“I come into this office at a time when seismic changes continue to face world leaders – all of us have to develop effective responses to the dynamic changes that straddle domestic, regional and global domains.

“I know that I can rely on all of you to work closely with my department to advance the international relations goals of South Africa, the Southern African Development Community and our entire continent. After all, we enjoy freedom today due in large measure


to the support many of you gave us during our hard-fought struggle for freedom. The collaboration we secured then, the single-minded determination aimed at defeating apartheid is required even more as we confront the issues of ensuring increased African prosperity, the education and skilling of our youth population, the entrenching of quality for women, the creation of sustainable inclusive democracies and respect for diversity and inclusion globally.

“Our President Ramaphosa set out this government’s key priorities last night – it is my task to ensure our work as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) contributes to these and to especially give attention to our Agenda 2063 for the continent of Africa.

“As DIRCO, we are convinced that our focus must consistently be our priorities: action to advance the development of the African continent, support for advancing human rights, promotion of respectful cooperative relations between nations, and active participation in achieving peaceful resolution of conflicts and of course support for measures to achieve increased robust and inclusive economic development.

“These are tough aspirations in a world that seems determined to be fractured and tense. I am certain that all the excellencies gathered here share the noble ambitions of DIRCO and while I know we may not succeed in all of them, I am truly honoured that I have been

charged to work closely with you to really try to achieve these ideals and I sincerely look forward to working with you to get your support in achieving as many of them as possible.”

South Africa hosts the second-largest number of diplomatic missions after the United States. The event was attended by hundreds of diplomats, including Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Bene M’Poko of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Minister Pandor was accompanied by Deputy Ministers Candith Mashego-Dlamini and Alvin Botes. 

“As DIRCO, we are convinced that our focus must consistently be our priorities: action to advance the development of the African continent, support for advancing human rights, promotion of respectful cooperative relations between nations, and active participation in achieving peaceful resolution of conflicts and of course support for measures to achieve increased robust and inclusive economic development.”





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Africa is the next frontier of global growth

We draw strength and encouragement from our partners within the global business community who are keen to see South Africa succeed. We are heartened by the many companies – both local and international – who see South Africa as a country alive with opportunity.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

South Africa hosted the Young Presidents' Organisation (YPO) Global Leadership Conference at the International Convention Centre in Cape Town in March 2019. This important gathering of accomplished business leaders from across the globe represented a substantial portion of the world economy. Delegates from 95 countries attended the event.

The YPO held its conference at a time when the investment environment remained challenging and uncertain.

On the global scale, it is said that the key risk is that global gross domestic product (GDP) growth has peaked, with G7/Eurozone/Chinese growth expected to dip in 2020.

As global growth appears to be weakening; trade tensions continue between the United States and China; political risk is increasing in both developed and emerging markets; debt levels remain elevated across government, corporate and household sectors; and monetary conditions are tightening in the short term as central banks shift to more hawkish policies.

What about Africa?

The African Development Bank (AfDB) says that in the medium term, growth is projected to accelerate to 4% in 2019 and 4.1% in 2020.

And though lower than China's and India's growth, Africa's growth is projected to be higher than that of other emerging and developing countries.

The World Bank's report on the prospects of growth in Africa says that these numbers belie the enormous diversity that is to be found

on the African continent and that a number of countries are showing impressive growth prospects.

Ethiopia is on track to have nearly the highest GDP growth rate in the world, and several smaller economies like Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Ghana are growing at rates over 6%, a number on par or higher than China's expected growth.

These countries are Africa's torchbearers for economic growth as they are also successfully attracting global capital through progressive policies aimed at diversifying their economies and growing the middle class.

South Africa is emerging from a difficult period not only of poor economic performance but also of diminishing public trust in state institutions and low investor confidence.

We have been forthright in acknowledging the effects of corruption and what we describe as "state capture" of our economy, our institutions and our people.

We have taken decisive steps to end state capture, rebuild our law-enforcement agencies, end corruption and mismanagement at state-owned enterprises and to ensure greater policy coherence.

As we work to correct the mistakes and missteps of the past period, we are focussed on lifting economic growth and creating jobs.

We have embarked on an ambitious investment drive, with a target of US\$100 billion of new investment over five years.

As a result of these efforts, South Africa is firmly on a path of growth and renewal.

We draw strength and encouragement from our partners within the global business

community who are keen to see South Africa succeed. We are heartened by the many companies – both local and international – who see South Africa as a country alive with opportunity.

We are well aware of the deep social and economic challenges our country faces – including widespread poverty, unemployment and severe inequality. Yet, we are not daunted by these challenges, nor complacent about the difficult work that needs to be done to overcome them.

As we build a new future for the people of our country, we look to our past for both perspective and inspiration. South Africa is a diverse and beautiful country, with a resilient people and a proud history of struggle against injustice.

Even in the darkest days of apartheid, our people never gave up.

In part, they never gave up because they knew they had the support of many people from our continent and the world who abhorred the racist policies of apartheid.

They merely fought harder, with greater determination, to achieve a durable constitutional democracy.

Just as they defeated an iniquitous system of racial oppression 25 years ago, the people of South Africa are today acting in concert to address the social and economy legacy of that system.

They are working together to build an inclusive economy that benefits all South Africans, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

We invited the young global CEOs participating in the conference to become our



partners on this journey of inclusive growth, which will create employment, reduce inequality and offer business a meaningful opportunity to make a positive impact in society.

We invited them to invest in a South Africa that has world-class infrastructure, hosting the largest cluster of air and maritime transportation companies on the African continent.

We have the most advanced information and communications technology infrastructure in Africa, with Internet and personal computer penetration being the highest in the region.

Many companies are attracted by the relative cost of doing business in South Africa, underpinned by the availability of skilled labour, a supportive operating environment and a highly sophisticated banking system.

We are determined to further improve the ease of doing business in South Africa and have set ourselves the target of being within the top 50 countries ranked in the World Bank's *Doing Business Report* within three

years. South Africa is currently rated 82 out of 190 countries.

Within six years, we are determined to have caught up with Rwanda. It is wonderful to have a top performing country, like Rwanda, on our continent as it affords us an opportunity to emulate them but also inspires us to catch up. We realise that this will take an extraordinary effort by all social partners, from government departments and agencies through to business and trade unions.

Yet, extraordinary efforts will be required if we are to create jobs at a rate that our people need to lift themselves out of poverty.

One of the most important requirements for economic activity is the reliability and affordability of energy.

South Africa has been experiencing electricity shortages in recent years as our energy utility, Eskom, has faced severe financial and operational difficulties. We have therefore embarked on a series of immediate

measures to stabilise the electricity grid, ensure that Eskom can meet its financial obligations and restructure the utility to make it more efficient, transparent and accountable.

We are further seeking to benchmark it with other utilities across the world which have confronted and defeated similar challenges. Through these efforts, we are certain that we can ensure security of energy supply both in the short term and well into the future.

South Africa is working to drive growth both by expanding our export capacity and increasing local demand. We have established 10 special economic zones, located in strategic sites around the country, where companies can access preferential tax rates, allowances and incentives. Importantly, companies can benefit from the proximity of related value chains, and industrial and logistical infrastructure.

As a support mechanism to potential investors across the country, government has



Both government and business must join forces to provide workers with the skills and qualifications they need to participate in the digital economy, for instance, by being able to tap the opportunities created by Artificial Intelligence.

put in place an attractive package of incentives administered by Invest SA, our one-stop investment shop. Located in key economic centres, Invest SA offices assist investors to seamlessly enter the South African market.

They support an investment team that includes four presidential investment envoys, who engage with potential investors both locally and abroad.

We have compiled an investment book, which details investment opportunities in South Africa. There are wide variety of opportunities in sectors ranging from green energy, recycling and biofuels to water infrastructure, energy, mining and minerals beneficiation.

There are also great opportunities for growth in agriculture and agro-processing, tourism, shipbuilding, business process outsourcing, advanced manufacturing, fuel cell production, aerospace, defence and many others.

South Africa has extensive capabilities in science and technology, with research institutions doing pioneering work in a broad range of disciplines, and has constructed the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope.

We are working to develop the skills that our people need to harness the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to build a competitive economy.

Investment is crucial to enable us to access new technologies and approaches that merge the physical, digital and biological worlds.

One of the most exciting developments in recent years was the adoption by African leaders of the agreement to establish an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA). This will revolutionise economic development in Africa.

In the past decade, Africa has grown at a rate of two to three percentage points faster than the global GDP.

The growth of African economies has been supported by increasing foreign direct investment flows, public investment in infrastructure, higher agricultural production and a concerted programme of skills development.

The establishment of the CFTA will create a massive market for goods and services, enabling African countries to expand trade and industrialise.

AfDB experts say that regional integration is now more pertinent than ever in continuing the continent's economic growth.

This is in the context of the expectation that Africa's working age population is likely to double to one billion in the next 24 years, surpassing both China and India.

This is no doubt a matter of great interest to the YPO, which has expanded its presence in Africa in recent years, with over 700 members in 21 chapters across the continent.

Africa is the next frontier of global growth. It has vast untapped potential and a huge appetite for investment.

The *YPO Global Leadership Survey*, released in January, showed that an overwhelming 93% of YPO affiliate CEOs believed that business must play a far greater role in making a positive impact on society for the benefit of all people.

This perspective has led me to think of five tasks that I believe the YPO family needs to be preoccupied with.

I believe that business should adopt a contrarian posture to Milton Friedman's maxim – that the business of business is business. The business of business should not just be business.

Focus on profits alone should not be the yardstick.

Instead, we should make stakeholder value the benchmark of a company's performance.

This talks to focussing on recognising the challenges that the people of the world face and crafting a shared future in which their challenges are addressed.

The World Economic Forum theme of the 2018 meeting was quite relevant when it said "Creating A Shared Future in the Fractured World".

Today, stakeholders – customers, shareholders, suppliers, employees, community leaders, religious leaders, political leaders, traditional leaders (especially in traditional societies in places like Africa), in fact society as a whole – rightfully expect companies to assume greater responsibility, for example, by protecting the climate, fighting for social justice, aiding refugees and training and educating workers.

The business of business should be to create value for society. This is a task that business leaders cannot ignore.

Secondly, because the Fourth Industrial Revolution runs on knowledge, we need a concurrent revolution in training and education.

Both government and business must join forces to provide workers with the skills and qualifications they need to participate in the digital economy, for instance, by being able to tap the opportunities created by Artificial Intelligence.

I recently chaired, together with the Prime Minister of Sweden, the International Labour Organisation's Commission on the Future of Work where a clear task was issued to employers that they should assist working people on their journey of lifelong learning so that they are able to cope with the challenges that the Fourth Industrial Revolution is going to impose on the world.

Thirdly, we must encourage innovation to fuel economic growth on a continuous basis with new products and services.

Business needs to lead in this regard.

Fourthly, as leaders, we must summon the courage to address the tough issues and the tough questions. And there are plenty of them.

How can we secure the future of those whose jobs will be eliminated by machines? How do we create new sectors of the economy? How do we address the challenge of widespread unemployment?

Fifthly, business must remain engaged with all the key stakeholders and especially government.

Relationships between business and government are often fraught with conflict.

A business must always have the courage to engage government and collaborate with government even as it might seem difficult.

Business should, however, not seek to capture government because that always leads to disastrous ends. Part of this task means that business must never be found wanting when it comes to adherence to integrity and ethical behaviour.

In other words, business must rid itself of corrupt practices and be seen to be dealing with corruption effectively.

What is significant is that this perspective that encapsulates these five tasks is embraced by important players in global business. We all have a responsibility to work for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Let us all work together to make the world a better place for all the people who live in it. 🌍



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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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Tourism is the new gold

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

In May 2019, South Africa hosted the Africa Travel Indaba in Durban under the theme, "Africa's Stories, Your Success". The indaba, which is hosted in Durban annually, provides a platform for African countries to showcase and market themselves as tourist destinations.

The 2019 Africa Travel Indaba offered an opportunity for dialogue on the collective positioning of "Brand Africa" to attract more tourists and grow the African tourism market.

The Indaba featured exhibitions from countries, including Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Rwanda and Uganda.

As the global citizens that we all are, we are physically separated by borders, whichever part of the world we come from. We are, however, united by our affinity and our love for this great continent Africa, the cradle of humankind.

It is Africa's status as the Mother Continent, as home to some of the oldest hominid fossils and some of the world's most unique biodiversity, that makes this continent a prime tourist destination.

We have majestic mountains and smiling hills; pristine beaches; and abundant fauna and flora, some of which are found here and nowhere else on Earth.

We have world-class national parks that are at the forefront of the conservation of rare and endangered species.

Africa has vast expanses of majestic scenery, from Erg Chebbi in the ancient Sahara desert, to the mountain highlands of Virunga, to the savannah grasslands of the Masai-Mara, to the place at the southern tip of our continent where the Indian and Atlantic oceans meet.

A hundred and thirty five world heritage sites are in Africa, from Aksum in Ethiopia to the city of Timbuktu in Mali.

Visitors to the many countries on our continent are able to engage in a range of sporting, recreational and leisure activities.

We tend to think of tourism as being associated with pleasure motives such as visiting iconic sites and getting involved in recreational activities, but it can also embrace business, education, health or religion as a basis for travelling.

Tourism is the new gold

It is a sector that is thriving and that has tremendous potential for further growth and for the creation of jobs.

There is growing global consensus on the need for countries to pursue paths of sustainable development, to grow and transform our respective economies while minimising our impact on nature.

African countries are taking the lead in sustainable tourism and eco-tourism.

We need to expand tourism in our countries, contribute to economic growth, increase our foreign earnings, bring more people into the

mainstream of our economies and boost related industries.

Tourism is one of the most international of industries for it is an industry that tends to showcase a country's identity and offering to the world.

Tourism has an extensive value chain, stimulating economic activity in manufacturing, in the services sector and in the creative and cultural industries.

Most importantly, tourism holds great promise for the development of small businesses in our countries.

It is when you stay in small bed and breakfast establishments or small hotels, that you get to interact with the locals, listen to their stories about the area and get advice on the best, least-known places to go on site-seeing trips.

The influx of visitors means more people get employment as tour guides, drivers, caterers and producers of memorable artefacts, to name but just a few.

Local people are able to show off the attractions with pride for their history, their culture and traditions.

As part of our efforts to revitalise our economy, South Africa is focussing our energies on labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture, the Oceans Economy and tourism.

We have set ourselves a bold target to raise over US\$100 billion in new investment over five years.

Tourism plays a critical role in that strategy.

In South Africa, the annual growth rate of tourism is currently exceeding the goals in our National Tourism Strategy and it is expected to grow even further.

We are, however, acutely aware that we face competition from other tourism destinations around the globe. This is so because modern tourists are discerning.

They are spoiled for choice when it comes to where they choose to take themselves and their families, and spend their money.

We live in the age of AirBnB, CityMapper, SkyScanner and TripAdvisor.

It is an age where the end-to-end travel experience has been optimised through technology – where decisions on where to go and where to stay, and where not to go and where not to stay, are made on the basis of peer review.

This means that we have to marshal all the means at our disposal to show that we have what it takes to be that destination and to offer that experience that tourists want.

To do so, we must address and overcome a number of challenges:

- We must reduce the onerous and often unnecessary bureaucratic red tape that tourists who want to visit our countries face. This requires of us to streamline

our tourist visa regimes. As South Africa, we are committed to working towards the African Union's goal of visa-free travel and a single African air transport market. We are in the process of radically overhauling our visa dispensation for the rest of the world and introducing a world class e-visa system.

- We must deal with crime and counter the perception that Africa is an unsafe tourism destination. This means we have to devote more resources to tackling acts of criminality, particularly crimes against tourists. Initiatives like the Kenya Tourism Federation Safety and Communication Centre, the Tourism Police in Uganda and our own tourism safety monitors in South Africa are examples of measures that can be undertaken.
- We must be vigorous in promoting domestic tourism and get the citizens of our countries to travel and see the beauty of their own countries.
- As governments, we need to actively seek out private-sector partners for the establishment of new tourism products and offerings. To do this, we must forge stronger public-private partnerships.
- Tourism must be seen as each country's combined national effort where we must enhance intergovernmental cooperation between different departments and agencies. This will be key to ensuring that we meet our goals.
- Modern tourism requires organisational systems and the provision of a supporting infrastructure of facilities and personnel able to run the tourism business. This means that we should develop and upgrade our energy generation, clean water reticulation, roads, bridges, hotels, hospitals, telecommunications, our game parks and many other facilities.
- We need to consciously empower the youth and women by giving them pathways to participate effectively in the tourism industry as owners and managers of various offerings and businesses. This industry must be positioned as a key empowering sector of the economy whose power we should unleash and use to change the lives of people in our urban and rural areas.

- We need to be united in our aspiration to build and brand Africa as a continent of success and a continent that will shine as a tourist destination for the world and for our own people.
- We need to embrace technology in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Artificial Intelligence, blockchain and the Internet of Things require that our tourism offerings must be well aligned with enveloping technologies. In a few years, a tourist will land at our airports and have a self-driven car taking them to pre-programmed tourist destinations. We might soon have to design tourism offerings for robots. Let's get ready for the brave new world that is coming.
- We should be open to international benchmarks that we should use to drive-up the standards, competitiveness and the quality of our domestic tourism industry.

We need to position our respective countries and our continent at the forefront of progress, technological advance and innovation in the tourism sector. We want to double, triple and quadruple the number of visitors we receive in our countries every year.

We also want to boost domestic tourism, for we often lose sight of the imperative of getting our own citizens to explore what their countries have to offer.

We share a common goal, to offer a unique, one-of-a-kind and unforgettable consumer and business travel experience.

South Africa was proud to host the 2019 Indaba in the year that we mark 25 years since we attained our freedom.

Our liberation opened our ports of entry – and more importantly, our hearts and homes – to visitors and investors from all over the world.

This indaba, with all that it offered, was a testimony to the fact that Africa is a continent of innovation with a strong focus on the future.

We are a continent that is open and welcoming.

When it comes to tourism and many other areas of human endeavour, we are a continent on the move.

Let's build a brave new world that will attract the world to come back home to Africa. 🌍



Representing Africa in the World: Setting priorities for South Africa's third term on the UN Security Council

By Kgabo Mahoi
 Director-General, Department of International Relations and Cooperation

The increased number of votes for South Africa was a signal of confidence by the international community. This heralded a new dawn in South Africa's diplomacy; it provided an opportunity for a recalibrated engagement with other nations of the world.

South Africa began its two-year term as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 1 January 2019.

Our candidature was endorsed by the African Union (AU). This is a confidence boost that we do not take for granted. What this means is that we are constantly conscious of our responsibility towards the continent.

On 8 June 2018, South Africa was elected by 183 votes to serve in the UNSC Non-Permanent Seat from 2019 to 2020. The increased number of votes for South Africa was a signal of confidence by the international community. This heralded a new dawn in South Africa's diplomacy; it provided an opportunity for a recalibrated engagement with other nations of the world.

We took the opportunity in September 2018 to use our status as observers to attend meetings of the council, even though it was not necessary. We did it to introduce ourselves and to show that we have a hands-on approach to our work.

South Africa's position in the UNSC reflects our founding principles, values and pillars anchoring our foreign policy, including:

- our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, including political, economic, social and environmental rights
- promoting democracy as an important impetus to finding lasting solutions to the problems of humankind
- respect for international law that should guide the conduct of relations between states

- commitment to international peace and the utilisation of internationally agreed non-violent and non-interference mechanisms to resolve conflicts, which is also based on Article 2 of the UN Charter confirming that: "The Organisation is based on the principle of sovereign equality of all its members, and all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purpose of the United Nations"
- commitment to pursue economic development through regional and international economic cooperation in a just and interdependent world.

To cement the principles outlined above, South Africa's objectives for the two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC include:

- Continuing the legacy of Nelson Mandela – working for a just and peaceful world and a peaceful Africa, where all can live in liberty, protected by just laws.
- Upholding in the strongest terms the principles of the UN Charter without bias towards any country.
- We support the peaceful resolution of conflicts, with a focus on prevention, the utilisation of mediation approaches and the promotion of inclusive dialogue. As such, South Africa vociferously advocates for all parties at the negotiating table at any negotiating forum to ensure the participation of women.
- South Africa operates within a rules-based multilateral system. This is a key principle of our engagements and a fundamental



foundation of our tenure. It is important that the rules are upheld and applied to all and by all. In this regard, we are concerned about the increased threat to multilateralism.

- Our objectives are also deeply rooted in the AU's aspirations as we work towards the achievement of the AU silencing the guns on the African continent by 2020 and Agenda 2063.

This year marks the third time in 12 years that we have the privilege and opportunity to boldly serve the people of our country, Africa and the world on the premier international body tasked with the maintenance of international peace and security.

South Africa's first tenure on the UNSC

South Africa's first tenure as an elected member of the UNSC commenced on 1 January 2007 and ended on 31 December 2008. The candidacy of our country was endorsed by the Africa Group and South Africa was elected unopposed onto the council by the UN membership, securing the highest number of recorded votes during the election (186 votes

in favour). That should show the confidence the world has in us.

Our primary objective then was to contribute to the resolution of conflicts and stabilisation of post-conflict situations on the African continent. South Africa also actively engaged in all issues on the Security Council's agenda pursuant to the global mandate associated with council membership. Despite its lack of experience and institutional knowledge then, South Africa registered significant successes in this first tenure, both in terms of the substantive issues on the agenda of the Security Council and in refining its working methods. South Africa achieved leadership positions and also influenced a large number of council outcomes in diverse areas. We created the most active elected delegations in the Security Council on virtually all the issues on the council's agenda. That energy has been rekindled.

Like other elected members, we were sometimes powerless to help address the most serious challenges to the Security Council's credibility brought about by the double standards of its permanent members in responding, or failing to respond, to crises in different parts of the world as their own national interest defined. These experiences, which are not unique, have driven us to make the demand that the Security Council is an institution in urgent need of comprehensive reform that addresses both council expansion and representivity and reform of its working methods.

In 2005, a few months before the UN World Summit, Africans gathered in Ezulwini, a small

town in eSwatini, and adopted the Common African Position on the Proposed Reform of the United Nations – now commonly known as the Ezulwini Consensus. The Ezulwini Consensus was endorsed by the AU Summit in Sirte, Libya, which adopted the Sirte Declaration and [Draft] Resolution to the General Assembly on the Reform of the United Nations.

The Ezulwini Consensus is clear on the “demands” of Africa with regard to Security Council reform, which calls for a minimum of two seats in the permanent category to be given to Africa, and further for Africa to occupy five seats in the non-permanent category. Regarding the issue of the veto, the Ezulwini Consensus calls for its abolishment, but it goes on to say that in case that it is not possible, Africa demands that it should receive all privileges enjoyed by other permanent members.

The Ezulwini Consensus is informed by the need for Africa to claim its place in the permanent category of the Security Council as the principal structure of decision-making in the area of peace and security. When the Security Council was constituted in 1945, almost all of Africa was under the yoke of colonialism and oppression. Only a few member states from the continent were part of the San Francisco Conference namely, South Africa, Egypt and Liberia.

We have recently steadfastly moved to resolve this matter. We stand by this and use every avenue available to put our views and position across as we strive towards our ideals as encapsulated in the consensus.

We have learnt a great deal from our past – our successes and our failures. We have resolved many problems in this period with the power given to us in the UNSC. There has been a nagging negative commentary about our tenure, especially from the Western states and their media, and the commentary runs that in this period South Africa “squandered its moral authority” in the Security Council and undermined its human rights ethos. In their view, South Africa's positions on Zimbabwe and Myanmar seemed difficult to reconcile with the South African Constitution and the country's national values.

On Zimbabwe, South Africa believed that the Western countries, led by the UK wished to “undermine” regional efforts pursued by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the AU, including the South African-led facilitation process. Like in the case of Myanmar, the European members with the support of the United States of America favoured punitive measures against the Government in Zimbabwe and did not fully endorse constructive dialogue as a long-term solution.

The commentary also included our position on Myanmar, which was one of the most highly divisive subjects of the UNSC during 2007/08. South Africa voted against a resolution tabled by the Western countries in the council condemning the human rights situation in the country. South Africa's conviction and argument was that the resolution would have compromised the “good offices” of the ►►



Secretary-General who was charged with dealing with the sensitive matters of peace, security and human rights in that country. We also argued that the resolution put out on Myanmar dealt with issues that would be best left to the Human Rights Council. South Africa also argued that the resolution did not meet the Charter mandate conferred upon the Security Council, which is to deal with matters that are a threat to international peace and security.

The key success during South Africa's first term was that the country was particularly instrumental in helping to revitalise the debate on the relationship between the UN and regional organisations. Former President Thabo Mbeki hosted the Security Council Summit on the relationship between the AU and the UN on 16 April 2008, the result of which was the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1809 (2007). This resolution recognised the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organisations when they undertake peacekeeping under a UN mandate. The resolution called upon the Secretary-General to set up a high-level panel of UN and AU distinguished persons, to make specific proposals on how to improve the effectiveness of cooperation between the AU and the UN, including in matters of financing and training.

Other notable achievements by South Africa included:

- The co-leadership of the Security Council Mission to Africa with the UK (breaking the tradition that only developed countries could lead council delegations).
- Drawing attention to the role of women in peace and security. South Africa successfully proposed the first-ever Presidential Statement on the role of women in the maintenance of international peace and security to mark International Women's Day. South Africa also actively supported the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) on Women, Peace and Security, focussing on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.
- South Africa took the lead on the issue of addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and hosted a thematic debate on the issue during each of its two presidencies of the UNSC. South Africa also secured the adoption of a Presidential Statement on the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons

We are very proud of our achievements and our positions. It increased our international standing substantially and we still look back to the glory of that success. This was South Africa's golden age in foreign relations.

Second tenure

South Africa's second tenure in the UNSC (2011 to 2012) was building upon its experience during its previous term, aimed at contributing to achieving peace and stability on the African continent and in all the regions of the world.

South Africa influenced a large number of the council's outcomes and actively engaged in all issues on the Security Council's agenda pursuant to the global mandate associated with its membership. South Africa's leadership role made a significant contribution to the work of the council on African issues, particularly on Sudan/South Sudan, Sudan (Darfur), Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mali and its position on the Middle East and Western Sahara is well recognised.

Arguably the most controversial decision during South Africa's second tenure was the vote in favour of Resolution 1973 (2011). The vote was taken in the midst of the political uprisings in the Middle East (commonly referred to as the "Arab Spring"). The resolution authorised "all military means" to protect civilians in Libya and was adopted by 10 countries in favour, none against and five abstentions. All of the three African countries serving on the council – South Africa, Nigeria and Gabon – voted in favour of the resolution.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) instead used the resolution to legitimise a military bombing campaign in Libya. This unchecked use of force by NATO resulted in providing air support to a Libyan revolutionary movement on the ground as well as arming civilians and transforming them into combatants. This approach by NATO and the calls for regime change by Western capitals emboldened the revolutionaries to the extent that it prevented any viable chance for negotiations.

The subsequent bombing campaign by NATO ran contrary to the concerted efforts of the AU through its Ad-Hoc High-Level Committee (of which South Africa is part of). The resultant change of regime by the military campaign also undermined the AU's Constitutive Act, which sought to prevent the unconstitutional change of governments of its member states.

Third term

South Africa is now in its third term. We have learnt from our mistakes and our less publicised successes. The questions we are often asked are why have we chosen to put forward our candidature for the Security Council? What do we hope to achieve? What contribution can we make? The most common question that is posed is: why bother? Why bother expanding time and resources to serve on the UNSC?

Countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean who were formally under colonial occupation have become independent. We have seen the world been through the Cold War. We have seen the end of the brutal system of apartheid. We have seen the emergence of regional bodies such as the AU and the European Union. Throughout all this time, the UN has remained at the centre of global politics as the standard bearer for collective multilateral action to address changing global challenges.

I have elaborated on our contribution in the past two terms. We are determined to do better with the advantage of experience. We all know the value that the UN can bring. Almost from the beginning of its existence in 1945, the UN was at the forefront of highlighting the struggle of South Africans against racial segregation. This international solidarity greatly contributed to our freedom.

The world today faces even more pressing threats, including rising nationalist sentiments and growing unilateralism. International agreements are side-lined to pursue selfish national interests.

It has become all the more necessary for those countries that want to see a better world for all to work collectively to address contemporary challenges such as peace, security and development and all of those matters that affect all of us.

Since 1994, South Africa has committed itself to this collective ideal by working with and often leading multilateral organisations. We have chaired the AU, SADC, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and China and served on a myriad of multilateral bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the Security Council, to name a few. We do this, because we whole-heartedly believe in the value of nations working together for a common destiny.

We put forward our candidature to serve on the Security Council because we believe that due to our experience over the last 25 years in contributing to peace and security on the continent and globally, we can make a positive contribution to the work of the UNSC. We put forward our candidature because 60% of the matters discussed concern us as African countries or countries that are undergoing the same challenges we have experienced.

We also believe that South Africa's tenure at the UNSC will contribute to a better South Africa, and a better and safer Africa in a better world. South Africa's own history, its fight against colonialism and apartheid and the progress we have made to build a better South Africa remain important departure points for any South African contributions at the Security Council. The *Ibrahim Index of African Governance* ranks South Africa

first out of 54 African countries based on the following:

- representation of women in the judiciary
- protection against ethnic and religious discrimination
- capacity of election-monitoring agencies.

The *Good Country Index* of 2017, in terms of international peace and security, rated South Africa 15 out of 125 in 2014 and second out of 163 in 2017. We intend to do even better.

We have chosen for our tenure the theme: “Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World”. We will utilise our membership of the Security Council to emphasise and prioritise the importance of women, peace and security. We will pursue it vigorously, including holding a debate on the matter during our Presidency of the Security Council in October 2019.

Women, peace and security

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000), which was spearheaded by our neighbour Namibia, during its term on the Security Council in 2000. Through Resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions, the UN created a political framework that officially mandates a gender-responsive approach to all aspects of peace and security work. Despite the commitments in this resolution, women remain excluded within peace processes, including in the drafting of peace agreements, and their involvement in UN peacekeeping is limited.

In addition, the contribution of women and girls to peacebuilding processes remains undervalued and under-resourced, leaving a vital tool regarding transformative change and sustainable peace underutilised. Women and girls who continue to be disproportionately affected by conflict situations, especially with regard to sexual abuse and violence, would be a vital contribution in ensuring peace holds. It is clear that the effective implementation of the women, peace and security agenda directly contributes to the objective of long-term global peace and security. It is therefore of particular priority for us to mainstream issues related to women into all the issues on the agenda of the Security Council.

South Africa’s international contributions have been bolstered by our efforts at home. The International School of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Diplomatic Academy has capacitated more than 500 women (South African and African) in conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation, addressing the mistaken notion that there are no women with knowledge and experience to lead and participate in peace processes. We have also launched the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum, as a

policy vehicle on women, peace and security, for women to share their ideas and experience and to make inputs into local, regional and international policies related to peace and security. This idea and the network of women have been emulated by others to form the Nordic, Femwise (Africa), Mediterranean, Commonwealth and other women mediation networks.

In 2020, South Africa will chair the AU. Serving on the UNSC at the same time will allow us an opportunity to emphasise closer cooperation between the two organisations. As part of the May 2013 Solemn Declaration marking the AU’s 50th anniversary, the AU heads of state and government adopted the programme for silencing the guns by 2020. South Africa’s Chairship of the AU while serving on the UNSC will be an opportunity for us to work towards the achievement of this aspiration. We must silence the guns. There must be peace. Without that, everything else is compromised.

During the first three months in our current term on the UNSC, the council dealt with issues ranging from Somalia, the DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Western Sahara, Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Venezuela. South Africa participated in all these deliberations and engaged actively in the work of the council. We have perfected our systems and our presence is palpable. We might not have the power of veto, but our voice is strong and our moral authority is back.

Democratic Republic of Congo

On the situation in the DRC, South Africa welcomed the peaceful holding of the elections and we commended the Congolese people and political actors for the conduct of the elections, which saw broad and inclusive participation of political parties. We have called on the members of the Security Council to reiterate their continued support and commitment, in collaboration with regional actors and international partners, for the consolidation of peace, stability and development in the DRC. In this regard, we fully supported the mandate renewal of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), of which we are part of, to ensure long-term peace and stability in the country.

Venezuela

Regarding events in Venezuela, South Africa maintained its principled position of calling for non-interference in the internal processes of Venezuela. We have argued that interference in a sovereign state should not be used as a tool for unconstitutional regime changes. South Africa’s approach to Venezuela was premised on support for inclusive political dialogue to resolve the political crisis in

the country, and to support any legitimate efforts to provide humanitarian support to alleviate the hardship experienced by the people of Venezuela. In this regard, we have emphasised that humanitarian aid should be de-politicised to ensure that it reaches those in need and that the UN needs to take a lead in ensuring that the will of the people is guaranteed without interference.

Palestine

On the issue of Palestine, South Africa reiterated grave concern about the continued disregard for the prevailing and long-standing Middle East Peace Process and attempts to prejudge final status issues, particularly with regard to the borders and the status of Jerusalem through unilateral actions. The situation between Israel and Palestine is one of the oldest issues on the Security Council’s agenda. It is one of the only issues that the council has been meeting monthly on for several years. However, little or no action is taken by the council, primarily because of the United States veto.

The UNSC has over the years adopted several landmark resolutions on the matter, including under the “land for peace” formulation, resolutions 338 and 242 (upon which the Moribund Peace Process is based). These resolutions require that Israel should withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967 in exchange for comprehensive peace and recognition from its Arab neighbours.

Syria

On Syria, South Africa encourages dialogue, and has consistently called upon the parties to pursue a political solution and support a political settlement of the Syrian issue. South Africa thus believes that the only sustainable solution to the Syrian question remains the achievement of a political solution through an inclusive Syrian-led dialogue aimed at achieving a political transition reflective of the will of the Syrian people with guaranteed protection for all groups in Syrian society.

Myanmar

The issue of Myanmar is being dealt with by both the UNSC and the Human Rights Council. The conflict in Myanmar, a predominately Buddhist country, is characterised by sectarian violence between the Rakhine Buddhist and Rohingya Muslim communities. The Rohingya, who numbered around one million in Myanmar in 2017, are one of the many ethnic minorities in the country. Rohingya Muslims are the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in Rakhine state.

Current issues in Myanmar include the denial of citizenship to the Rohingya communities, viewing them as illegal ►►



immigrants from Bangladesh and they have previously been excluded from the 2014 census. The Rohingya have migrated across the region in significant numbers since the 1970s with their numbers estimated much higher than official figures. Prior to the current crisis, thousands of the Rohingya made perilous journeys out of Myanmar to escape communal violence and alleged abuses by the security forces.

In November 2018, South Africa abstained on a resolution on Myanmar in the Third Committee (which deals with human rights and humanitarian issues). This resolution condemned the Myanmar military for its atrocities against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority and demanded an independent investigation into these human rights abuses. A majority of 142 nations backed the resolution. Only 10 voted against and 26 abstained. A key stated justification for South Africa's position was that the matter should be dealt with by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva rather than the UN General Assembly in New York.

South Africa's abstention on the aforementioned Third Committee Resolution

was, however, reversed when the matter came up for a vote in the General Assembly in December 2018 and South Africa voted in favour of the resolution.

In investigating the matter, it was clear that South Africa's stance on the matter, that the "old principle" of automatically voting against country-specific human rights policies to guard against regime change was now obsolete and it was agreed that henceforth the Minister and her senior officials would review every vote of this nature before it was cast. South Africa remains on guard at all times to ensure that votes on country-specific human rights resolutions are not used to engage in regime changes and destabilise countries.

These are but a few of the issues we have dealt with in the last few months. South Africa's approach, while recognising the specificities of each individual conflict, has been to advocate for inclusive political dialogue leading to a lasting solution. It has been clear from conflicts that have festered for decades that short-term coercive measures that ignore elements of society will not lead to long-term peace.

Reform of the UNSC

South Africa's experience in the UNSC has once again proven to us the fundamental need for the reform of the council and the expansion of its membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories to ensure legitimacy and credibility of this vital UN organ.

In responding to an ever-changing world, the council cannot remain static and must adapt to ensure greater legitimacy and effectiveness. While reform is not discussed in the Security Council itself as it is a matter dealt with by the wider membership in the General Assembly, South Africa is determined to work towards the improvement of the working methods of the UNSC to ensure that it is transparent and accountable, thereby ensuring greater effectiveness and legitimacy for its work.

South Africa will not be a bystander in the council. Within the inherent constraints of the UNSC, we will strive to make a positive and significant contribution to the international community's efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts the world over based on our foreign policy objectives. 🇿🇦

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New Development Bank 4th Annual Meeting Partnership for Sustainable Development

March 31 - April 2, 2019, Cape Town, South Africa



NDB to increase lending to SA, plans to issue rand bonds

Going forward, we would like to embrace the concept of impact investing in our project portfolio. Impact investing aims to generate positive social and environmental benefits alongside financial and economic returns. It takes a more holistic approach to investments, incorporating positive and negative externalities in addition to a project's economic and financial returns.

By Kundapur Vaman Kamath

President of the New Development Bank

The year 2018 was productive and fruitful thanks to the support of the New Development Bank (NDB) governors, alternate governors, directors, alternate directors and representatives from other institutions.

The bank supports our members' commitment to sustainable development. This commitment is built on simple facts. The share of the Brazil, Russian, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) countries in world gross domestic product in purchasing power

parity terms has grown from 30% to 36% since 2010. This growth has put increased pressures on natural resources and the environment. Fortunately, however, our members have explicitly recognised these pressures and are increasingly investing in undoing some of the past damage. Our members are also focussing on implementing development strategies aimed at minimising adverse impacts in the future. In both these endeavours, the NDB is being called upon to assist.

We are responding. Since inception, the bank has based its lending on a long-term, broad assessment of economic, environmental, social and climate change impacts. The NDB now looks to go beyond the "do-no-harm" approach to incorporate a more transformative approach to development. We are focussing on the development impact of our lending through more robust monitoring frameworks and measurement of projects' contributions to our members' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) commitments.



Sustainability therefore remains at the core of everything we do.

Building on a base of 13 loans for US\$3.4 billion at the end of 2017, the NDB approved 17 loans totalling about US\$4.6 billion in 2018, bringing the total loan book of the bank to 30 projects, aggregating about US\$8 billion. Of this, in response to the need for non-sovereign lending in our member countries, the bank approved four non-sovereign loans aggregating about US\$1 billion in three countries in 2018, taking its total non-sovereign portfolio to about US\$1.4 billion. Nearly 80% of our lending is now in the transport, clean energy, and water and sanitation sectors, with urban development and environmental protection also forming a major part. We have also invested in building a strong and more diversified pipeline of projects for 2019.

During 2018, the NDB obtained an AA+ international rating, which provides it full access to global capital markets on favourable terms. We remain lean, efficient and fit-for-purpose in our staffing in all areas.

The NDB envisages an evolving role this year and beyond.

In 2019, the bank will build on the strong momentum in our operations and double its loan approval book to about US\$16 billion. The bank will ramp up its hard currency financing from the international capital markets. The NDB has made a second bond issue of RMB3 billion from the Chinese interbank bond market and plans to do local currency bond issuances in South Africa, India and Russia during the year. The NDB will also start making equity investments and operationalise the Project Preparation Fund.

We are well aware that our member countries have very different systems and processes for project origination. Some of them are centralised while others are decentralised. Since inception, we have invested in learning to work with these different systems, with country-specific approaches aimed at helping us improve our efficiency and effectiveness. This learning process continues. The regional office in Johannesburg that is fully operational has helped us make progress in South Africa. The regional offices in Brazil and Russia that we intend to open this year and the regional office in India that we aim to open in due course will help us in these three countries. Our staff will strive to further understand our client systems and work seamlessly in all our member countries.

Going forward, we would like to embrace the concept of impact investing in our project portfolio. Impact investing aims to generate positive social and environmental benefits alongside financial and economic returns. It takes a more holistic approach to investments, incorporating positive and negative externalities in addition to a project's economic and financial returns. We believe this offers a hopeful alternative path to the traditional approach. The industry, currently estimated at over US\$230 billion of assets under management, has grown more than fivefold since 2013. The NDB's current approach to its portfolio is largely in line with the practices of the impact investing community and we look forward to building on this.

Looking ahead, I am excited about developments in several areas that will influence our future work.

In 2018, I had touched upon the possibilities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and likely transformations that could be brought about by technology-led disruption. Some of

these changes are already visible. Artificial Intelligence and machine learning are now a growing reality in our everyday lives and their spheres of influence are expanding exponentially. 5G roll-outs have already begun and consequently, a ubiquitous Internet of Things is now a matter of when, not if. These technological developments are revolutionising finance, tele-medicine, education and public services. Innovations to further green the global economy such as highly energy-efficient and driverless automobiles are now beginning to reach the mass market.

In the near future, is it conceivable that the auto-insurance industry as we know it today will cease to exist? Or that a significant fraction of healthcare is delivered remotely? Or that children will have near-universal access to high-quality Internet-based education? Or that our infrastructure will become so smart that there is near zero-failure? Or that urban transport will be completely revolutionised? I believe it is.

These changes have far-reaching consequences and require a new way of thinking about the underlying infrastructure and our role in financing it. We need to take the opportunities presented by technological advances and make our infrastructure smarter, more sustainable and climate resilient. We will actively explore avenues through which we can support our members in these areas and contribute to thought-leadership on this issue.

As we increase focus on development impact as the cornerstone and key metric of our success, we will need to look differently at the projects that we finance. We will need a whole new set of skills in areas ranging from due diligence to project design to impact reporting. We will further strengthen these skills in our own staff and contribute to helping achieve scale through our investments. ►►

The bank should aim at making a significant contribution to societal well-being. This is a matter of existential importance. Our shareholders have given us a very clear mandate, which resonates with their own aspirations. We are committed to deliver on our mandate. We are on an exciting journey to contribute to making the world a better place for future generations and we look forward to partnering with other stakeholders in this journey.

We are well aware that even working together, multilateral development banks (MDBs) can directly offer only a small part of the total resources required to achieve the SDGs that our members have signed on to. Crowding-in other investors, particularly in the private sector, is critical if we are to make a significant contribution. To achieve this, designing new products that are appropriate for a broad spectrum of investors is essential. The creation of robust secondary markets in our member countries is imperative; they will help meet the current demand for projects that suit investors' needs. MDBs could act as originators of projects, play their important role in de-risking such projects and offer these projects to private investors, thereby enabling better use of their capital. Going forward, the

NDB will work with partners to contribute to this process.

The Africa Regional Centre (ARC) was launched in Johannesburg in August 2017. We are pleased to see that it is already bearing fruit. While the bank only approved three projects from South Africa aggregating US\$680 million, in the past three years, the ARC has enabled us to quickly identify six projects for 2019. Of these, three projects, aggregating US\$790 million, were approved by the Board of Directors at the Fourth Annual Meeting in Cape Town in April 2019. The NDB plans to end the year with total loan approvals of about US\$2.3 billion in South Africa.

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The Fourth Annual Meeting of the New Development Bank (NDB), which was held in Cape Town from 31 March to 2 April 2019, was a resounding success, with three of the five new projects approved for funding by the bank's Board of Directors being South African. The five projects bring the NDB's project portfolio to more than US\$9.2 billion.

The three South African projects are separate from the loan agreements that the NDB signed on 1 April 2019 with Eskom and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). Once the NDB's Board of Directors approves a project for funding, the bank's management and the entity to be funded enter into negotiations which culminate in the signing of a loan agreement.

The three new projects that were approved by the NDB board are for Eskom, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA).

Eskom: In line with its focus on supporting clean energy in South Africa, the NDB will provide a US\$480 million project loan to Eskom for environmental protection project for the Medupi Thermal Power Plant.

IDC: The proceeds of the bank's R1.150 billion (approximately US\$80 million) loan will be on-lent by the IDC to renewable energy subprojects contributing to the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, improvement of South Africa's energy sector mix, as well as the increase of energy efficiency of the economy.

TCTA: The NDB will provide a project loan of R3.2 billion (US\$220 million) to the TCTA for the implementation of Phase II of Lesotho Highlands Water Project and financing the construction of water transfer infrastructure. The project will augment the water supply in the Vaal River Basin, home to South Africa's most economically important province, Gauteng. Three other provinces (the North West, Mpumalanga and Free State provinces) will also directly benefit from an increased water supply.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project talks to the call by the Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni, that the NDB should consider funding more infrastructure projects in the southern Africa region. "The infrastructure in southern Africa is interconnected and therefore our approach to the funding of projects in southern Africa should take this into account. I urge the NDB to look, for example, at the possible devastating impact on the region if the wall of the Kariba dam were to collapse."

The NDB signed two loans agreements with Eskom and the DBSA. The loans are targeted for renewable energy projects. For Eskom, the loan will be used for the renewable energy integration and transmission augmentation project. Under the agreement, the NDB will provide a sovereign-guaranteed loan to Eskom amounting to US\$180 million. The project will integrate a total of 670 MW of renewable energy into the Eskom's grid.

A loan agreement signed between the NDB and the DBSA is for a greenhouse gas emissions reduction and energy sector development project. Under the agreement, the NDB will provide a loan without a sovereign guarantee to the tune of US\$300 million. The project is designed to support renewable energy projects in South Africa and help the economy to shift to a more sustainable energy path through structural transformation of the energy sector with emerging renewable technologies.

One of the other major outcomes of the annual meeting was an in-principle agreement to expand the membership of the NDB beyond the founding members. Negotiations in this regard are ongoing, with an announcement on the way forward expected by the end of the year. 🌍



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Increased relations between SA and GRULAC will better the lives of our people

We must boldly re-double our efforts in increasing trade between South Africa and Latin America and South Africa and the Caribbean to realise the potential of our respective countries. Our efforts should better the lives of our people through bilateral cooperation in mutually beneficial fields.

By Luwellyn Landers

Former Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The relations between South Africa and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group (GRULAC), etched in historical friendship, solidarity and struggle and informed by the common belief in human rights and justice, have increased since the establishment of our formal diplomatic relations with the respective GRULAC member countries.

Our shared values and beliefs must guide us in our common quest to liberate all our people from the remnants of colonialism and oppression in all its forms.

Nelson Mandela once said: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Economic freedom remains the key to total liberation. This is a sentiment that is cardinal in our thinking. We must boldly re-double our efforts in increasing trade between South Africa and Latin America and South Africa and the Caribbean to realise the potential of our respective countries. Our efforts should better the lives of our people through bilateral cooperation in mutually beneficial fields.

The knowledge gap between South Africa and Latin America presents an opportunity to bridge the gap through continued engagement between our countries. Furthermore, high-level visits between respective countries promote cultural exchange as well as political, social and economic interaction.

South Africa maintains strong relations with Brazil in terms of multilateral linkages as a result of our memberships in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) as well as bilateral investments and trade.

Our relations with Brazil need to be further strengthened with a bold new play of doubling trade and investment to ensure that we realise the fruits of our bilateral relations. This is also extended to our friends in the rest of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

South Africa and Venezuela have always maintained strong political relations. To this end, we remain deeply concerned about the current political challenges engulfing that country. We believe that the current social, political and economic challenges in Venezuela should be resolved in a peaceful manner through the proper mechanisms and processes without external influence. We strongly condemn any foreign interference in the domestic political matters of a country as it violates the principles of sovereignty and international law.

Together with the Republic of Cuba, we remain strategic partners as we explore various ways of enhancing our bilateral relations.

As relations between our countries within this region continue to grow, we continue to engage in efforts to bring our countries closer in the context of South-South cooperation. This will allow us to continuously share ideas in respect of local, regional and global political developments that affect our countries. The soft power presented by cultural cooperation should be strengthened to bring South Africa closer to GRULAC. Furthermore, our common position in the G77 should be utilised to bring us closer together.

This year, we celebrate 25 years of democracy in South Africa. We have come a long way in building our democracy and



ensuring a better life for all our citizens. Despite our many challenges that we have endured, including the triple challenges of poverty, inequality, unemployment, as well as corruption, most of the social and economic indicators do show that life has improved drastically for the majority of South Africans and in particular the historically oppressed black people.

To this end, we express our gratitude to the GRULAC member countries for their contribution to building our fledgling democracy. In this regard, I must pay tribute to the role that Cuba has played in both the fight against apartheid and in helping to build our democracy since 1994, despite their own challenges that they face due to the more than five decades of the United States economic blockade.

South Africa currently serves as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2019 to 2020 term. South Africa's tenure will be driven by



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the legacy of President Nelson Mandela and his undying commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world. South Africa thanks the GRULAC countries for their support and vote during the UNSC elections held on 8 June 2018. For its UNSC tenure, South Africa will count on the support of GRULAC members as we carry the voice of the global South on the global and multilateral platform. ☺



Africa Day



Africa tells a remarkable story but we dare not rest

We continue to see the role of media and communication as central to what we all are striving for on the continent.

By Phumla Williams

Acting CEO, Government Communication and Information System

We owe it to ourselves to make the continent a success story. The more we trust each other with direct investments, the more we are likely to grow and attract foreign direct investments to our continent.

There is something poetic in the fact that South Africa's Presidential Inauguration took place on 25 May 2019, which was also Africa

Day. On this day in 1963, all independent African states set aside their differences to form an organisation known as the Organisation of African Unity.

South Africa was one of the last nations to join this organisation, which then became the venue for the birth of the African Union (AU) in 2002.

In the midst of organising the Presidential inauguration, the Government Communication

and Information System hosted an African Press Attachés Roundtable on 22 May 2019 at Tshedimosetso House, the seat of government communication.

This gathering was in line with the resolutions of the AU Specialised Technical Committee on Communication and ICT which, among others, seek to promote the work and achievements of integration and intercontinental trading as Africans.



This engagement brought together Africa's press attachés and editors from across the African continent based in South Africa, as well as press officers under the AU banner. As we reflected on the continent's priorities, we noted how far we had come. The dramatic rise of African member states as a significant trading bloc to our country, overtaking Europe in 2013 and on par with Asia since 2014, is a clear indication that South Africa's prosperous future is intertwined with that of the continent.

The economic adviser to President Cyril Ramaphosa, Trudi Makhaya, illustrated how InvestSA was actively collaborating with investment-promotion agencies on the continent and had signed memoranda of understanding with the Kenyan Investment Authority, the Uganda Investment Authority and GAFI in Egypt. The intention is to foster closer collaboration between these agencies in attracting foreign direct investments to the continent.

Our commitments to the vision of Pan-Africanists, including Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Sekou Toure of Guinea and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, find voice in the growing partnerships between fellow nations on the continent. The implementation of this vision is well illustrated by a series of developments across Africa.

Ms Makhaya informed us that intra-Africa investments had been growing at a compound rate of 32.5%. This is impressive! Africa's rising population market of 1.2 billion people is compelling, our story of an integrated Africa with a gross domestic product of more than US\$3.4 trillion is remarkable.

We, as African communicators, ought to tell the stories and inform our youth of the vast opportunities that are available across Africa. Knowledge is power and this was reflected in the presentation of Thulani Mavuso, the Acting Director-General of Home Affairs, on innovations which promote and ensure that Africans have free movement to trade and study and live in South Africa. The web-based e-Home Affairs system is truly easy, efficient and secure. These interventions have now improved the facilitation of people, movement and goods, making it easier for African tourists, business and academia to come to South Africa.

During the interaction, discussions focussed on the important role that communicators, in partnership with the media, can play to shape perceptions of our continent. In today's world, perception has a price. What is perceived to be real, often takes on a life of its own and if we do not promote our continent, its virtues and



opportunities, we risk opening the door and allowing misperceptions to take hold.

As we commemorated Africa Day with President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, we should take pride in our achievements as a continent while bearing in mind that more needs to be done to realise the full vision of the founding fathers of the AU.

Since its formation, the AU has strived to build a better, more united and prosperous continent. The organisation has shifted its focus to ensure economic emancipation and socio-economic development in Africa. It currently leads the promotion of regional and market integration that will see the lowering of transport costs, enable the free movement of goods, services and people, and encourage the optimisation of resources.

We dare not rest until all who call Africa home are empowered to build a better tomorrow, free from injustice, inequality and unemployment. ☺

There is something poetic in the fact that South Africa's Presidential Inauguration took place on 25 May 2019, which was also Africa Day. On this day in 1963, all independent African states set aside their differences to form an organisation known as the Organisation of African Unity.

African Union



An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa



Belt and Road Initiative – Alternative development path for Africa

China's emphasis on infrastructure development is in line with Africa's Agenda 2063 as well as aspirations on the continent.

By **Amb Anil Sooklal**, Deputy Director-General: Asia and the Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO);
Dr Thokozani Simelani, Leader for Science and Technology at the Africa Institute for South Africa within the Human Sciences Research Council
and; **Jaimal Anand**, Assistant Director: Asia and the Middle East, DIRCO

Africa-Asia economic interaction is rooted in a network of historical interconnections, which date back to precolonial networks across the Indian Ocean, and between North Africa and the Middle East. Lebanese migrant communities in West Africa,

which took root during the colonial era, and relations with countries like Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) and many others, forged during the Cold War, also contribute to the connection.

Africa and Asia formed part of an expansive global trade and commercial network until the

medieval era. This global network peaked from the eighth century to the late 16th century, facilitated by a series of interactions, one of which was the Trans-Saharan trade route, one of four intercontinental routes (along with the Chinese Silk Route, the Spice Route and the Persian Royal Route). It brought trade from



North Africa, Europe and Asia (including the Middle East) to sub-Saharan Africa.

The current Africa-Asia footprint of networks and relations (which include economic, political and cultural ties, as well as social networks) build and expand on these interactions that were established during pre- and colonial era expansions.

China's peaceful rise, sometimes referred to as China's "peaceful development" is not a new notion in China's soft-power diplomacy, but it became official policy in China under the leadership of President Hu Jintao (2003 – 2013). The term was adopted in response to the "China threat theory". China wanted to assure other countries, especially regional partners, that its rise would not pose a threat to world peace and security, and that it would promote a peaceful international environment and friendly relations with other nations. The idea was further articulated in 300 reform measures adopted during the 18th Conference of the Communist Party of China in November 2012. The notion of "peripheral diplomacy" (zhoubian), or so-called "neighbourhood diplomacy", set a new tone for China's regional diplomatic strategy. It was based on the principle of virtuous interaction, and has had a significant impact on regional Asian dynamics.

When China's current President Xi Jinping visited central and southeast Asia in September and October 2013, he announced One Belt, One Road (OBOR) with a view to guaranteeing economic development by integrating a number of countries in Asia, Africa and Europe through two main components: the land-based "Silk Road Economic Belt" (SREB), and the ocean-going "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" (MSR), to which the Indian Ocean is central. This strategic initiative has since attracted close attention from all over the world.

The SREB strategy follows the route of the ancient Silk Road, extended into south and southeast Asia. The intention is to improve infrastructure, with the aim of increasing trade and cultural exchange in the region, in order to achieve greater economic and cultural cohesion. Countries which are included are members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), led by China. The overall strategy aims at investing in the infrastructure of, and fostering deeper collaboration with, southeast Asia and Africa (Figure 1.1), utilising contiguous bodies of water, such as the South China Sea, the South Pacific Ocean and the wider Indian Ocean bordering on the east Africa region. This region of Africa (particularly Kenya) will form part of 21st Century MSR, through the improvement of local ports and construction

of modern standard-gauge rail links between Nairobi and Mombasa.

As outlined in the vision and action plan published by the Chinese Government, the purpose of jointly building SREB and 21st Century MSR is to re-connect Asian, European and African countries more closely and promote mutually beneficial cooperation. This is emphasised by the fact that China has stressed from the outset that OBOR will be developed within the framework of "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence":

- mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty
- non-aggression
- non-interference in each other's internal affairs
- equality and mutual benefit
- peaceful coexistence.

In the context of the recent rise of protectionism and a corresponding possible compromise of world peace, these principles represent China's approach to international engagement and development.

In line with China's engagement with the world, OBOR does not need to be confined within the footprints of the ancient Silk Road. As such, Africa is one of the regions considered to be among the key global growth points, and China has increased its interaction with Africa through various means, which include the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). As OBOR and FOCAC strategies unfold, it is imperative that the African continent is fully incorporated into China's grand vision of OBOR so as to further cement historical bonds. To achieve this, it will be vital to determine how OBOR and FOCAC can complement Africa's Agenda 2063: the re-

industrialisation of the continental economy, improved connectivity and infrastructure, diversification of economies, technology transfer and skills development.

China's emphasis on infrastructure development is in line with Africa's Agenda 2063 as well as aspirations on the continent. As a result, both FOCAC and OBOR have received positive endorsement by African leaders. The visit by Premier Li Keqiang to some African countries during May 2014 served to further cement China-African cooperation, especially in the infrastructure domain. China's contribution to infrastructure development in Africa was further consolidated by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between China and the African Union on 27 January 2015. The prevailing trade, economic and development initiatives linked to the OBOR Strategy and Africa's blueprint outlined in Agenda 2063, seem to bring China-African cooperation closer.

This is supported by the fact that regional integration programmes in Africa also emphasise expanding and integrating trade and include the establishment of free trade areas, custom unions, monetary unions and common markets as well as infrastructure development projects in transport, information and communications technology and energy. The synergy between these initiatives and the intentions of FOCAC and OBOR, with regard to infrastructure development, present a compelling case for Africa to view OBOR and FOCAC as presenting opportunities for a beneficial relationship between China and Africa. ►►



Figure 1.1: Footprints of One Belt One Road

Africa’s role in OBOR should be underpinned by the following critical areas:

- industrialisation
- infrastructure development
- development of special economic zones and industrial parks
- development of the energy sector
- development of the Ocean Economy
- development finance
- human resource and skills development.

OBOR is important economically, given China’s financial resources. Three financial institutions have been set up to support its development, although this has been met with some resistance from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (the so-called Bretton Woods institutions), and the African Development Bank.

Launched in February 2014, the China-led US\$40-billion Silk Road Infrastructure Fund invests in OBOR infrastructure projects. The

fund is capitalised mainly by China’s forex reserves and is intended to be managed like China’s sovereign wealth fund. Jin Qi, who serves as the assistant to the People’s Bank of China Governor, has been nominated to be the fund’s chief executive. The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, founded in October 2014, aspires to be a global development bank with 21 Asian member countries and with capital of US\$100 billion. The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), established in July 2014, is also set to provide major support towards OBOR developmental projects. The bank has been seeded with US\$50 billion initial capital, with the intention to increase capital to US\$100 billion.

Going forward, financial integration is important for implementing the Belt and Road Initiative. Hence the common will to lend full support to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the BRICS NDB, and

fully operationalise the Silk Road Fund as soon as possible.

Discussions among African states and regional partners on how Africa as a continent can fully participate in the OBOR strategy are now open. This started with the One Belt One Road and Prosperous Africa Conference, held in Durban, South Africa, in November 2015, the first Belt and Road Conference to be held in Africa. The conference discussed synergies to be drawn between the OBOR strategy and AU Agenda 2063, and possibilities of how to merge these two were discussed. Acknowledging a need to analyse the prospects of OBOR and FOCAC from African perspectives, the publication *Belt and Road Initiative – Alternative Development Path for Africa* is a collection of papers presented at that conference. Its main objective is to help formulate a continental-wide response to the OBOR strategy. [↗](#)



This article is extracted from the publication *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – Alternative Development Path for Africa*, launched during a seminar, which was held at the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria on 25 April 2019. The seminar debated South Africa’s involvement in the BRI.

The BRI has received the support of many countries across the world. China has signed 174 cooperation documents on the initiative with 126 countries to date and invested more than US\$90 billion (R1.3 trillion) in related projects.

In his address to the local seminar, China’s Ambassador to South Africa, Lin Songtian, reiterated President Xi’s statements that the goal of the initiative was to achieve win-win cooperation for common development globally, through the building of connectivity in policy, infrastructure, trade, finance and people-to-people exchange.

The Chinese Embassy event was supported by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, and Deputy Director-General responsible for Asia and the Middle East, Ambassador Anil Sooklal, who was also on the panel of speakers, along with several South African think-tanks and academics. [↗](#)



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- We enhance global capital by positioning South Africa as a recognised global space citizen.
- We support intellectual capital through cutting-edge research, development, innovation, technology and its applications.
- We grow economic capital by participating competitively in the global space industry and development of space applications.



BRICS

Business Council

South Africa hands over BRICS Council Chairship

The South African Government has handed over the Chairship of the BRICS Business Council (BBC) following 12 successful months at the helm.

Speaking at the conclusion of a two-day mid-term BBC meeting in Johannesburg on 4 April 2019, the former Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, said South Africa welcomed the assurance from Brazil that the new Government was committed to BRICS and continuing the relationship.

BRICS is an acronym for the powerful grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Minister Sisulu assured the BBC of the country's support as it navigated its way around the continent.

"South Africa will chair the African Union (AU) in 2020 to usher in the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). A vibrant and energetic council is a very necessary partner for this.

"Yesterday, the 22nd country signed the AfCFTA, the minimum threshold for the agreement to come into effect. It bodes well for Africa, for South Africa and for the Business Council as it opens up Africa for new business opportunities."

Minister Sisulu said she was encouraged by the "exuberance" of the meeting.

"I hope you enjoyed your stay and hope you stay a little longer. We need you here for the long haul. The BRICS family is a



very important one to us and we'd like you make sure that you give the necessary underpinnings of this very important association," Minister Sisulu said.

Businessperson Busi Mabuza, who chaired the council for the past 12 months, said the South African council was confident Brazil would take the BBC to greater heights. Mabuza served in the council with Ayanda Ntsaluba, Bridgette Radebe, Stavros Nicolaou and Elias Monage.

She highlighted the inroads made in the enhancement of the relationship between the New Development Bank and the BBC, which she said was strengthened in the past year.

"We have started seeing the fruits of that on the ground in South Africa and we are very pleased. The Energy Dialogue that was held in November last year was a proud moment for us. We were pleased with the outcomes of the skills challenge and I believe it is the reason

our colleagues in the Skills Development Working Group continue to advocate for us to continue with it," she said.

Over the past year, she said the BBC had discussed infrastructure work that was being done.

"We are most excited about the opportunity that is often around maritime activities and we'd request that Brazil picks up on this issue," she said.

Mabuza expressed gratitude for the support received from Minister Sisulu; former Trade and Industry Minister, Rob Davies; and President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Incoming Chairperson, José Serrador, said his country recognised the excellent work done by its predecessors, "especially South Africa, for the strict cooperation in the process of handing over the Chairpersonship".

"We encourage the debate of measures that will make the demands of the Business

Council more efficient and more civil. We would like to emphasise the voice of the private sector with our governments. We count on all national sections to reach this goal," he said.

Initially, Serrador said, Brazil would propose three main issues for debate in 2019: investment facilitation, trade facilitation and innovation and digital economy.

"The presentations of the working groups show these topics are already a part of our discussions, many of which have been very robust, and proposals that will be highlighted in our recommendations to our heads of state at the 2019 summit."

Serrador announced that this year's BRICS Summit would be held on 13 and 14 November in Brasilia, under theme "Economic Growth and Innovative Future".

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: The challenges that await the UN

“... if international human rights law is particularly concrete and consistent, it must answer novel questions. New technologies in particular are challenging our relation to freedom and dignity.”

By **Olivier de Frouville**

Professeur de droit public (Paris-Assas), Institut Universitaire de France (IUF)

Seventy years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), we do not only have cause to complain, far from it. We must take stock of the distance we have already travelled. Before 1945 and the United Nations (UN) Charter, human rights simply did not exist in international law. An individual was only an “object” of international law and states, except in a few specific cases. Countries did not need to justify the way they treated their nationals: their sovereignty effectively granted them power of life or death over their citizens.

Since then, and using the declaration as its foundation, a complete and coherent

system of norms, widely accepted by states, has developed into what is often called “international human rights law”: nine fundamental UN conventions, of which two are the covenants on civil and political rights and on economic, social and cultural rights, and seven other treaties which enumerate states’ obligations regarding certain violations (torture, enforced disappearances, racial and gender-based discriminations) or towards certain categories of persons (children, people with disabilities, migrant workers); regional conventions such as the European Convention on Human Rights; and a multitude of texts, treaties and other instruments.

A legal basis for action

What is striking in this ensemble is its coherence: all these texts are grounded in the same principles, those asserted by the UDHR. To say that today human rights are not universally recognised in international law is absurd: over the last 70 years, a process of legal universalisation has occurred, and no state seriously disputes them anymore.

Of course, these norms are not enough to end all human rights violations, but they provide each and everyone with a legal basis to act and oppose them. And beyond the norms, there are also implementation mechanisms. Starting in 1948, an entire apparatus has progressively been established that

70 years ago, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UNSCOL celebrates

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

#standup4humanrights



Foreign policy priorities South Africa should pursue

South Africa continues to enjoy an unusual degree of international prominence normally accorded to states that are more powerful, prosperous, or strategically located than it.

By John J Stremlau

Visiting Professor of International Relations, University of the Witwatersrand

Following its first democratic election in 1994, South Africa quickly went from being an apartheid pariah state to one of the world's most active and leading multilateralists.

For example, it's the only African member of the G20. This international forum of governments and central banks is responsible for 90% of the gross world product and 80% of world trade. South Africa was also invited to join Brazil, Russia, India and China to form the BRICS group.

The pattern hasn't ended, yet. For the third time in 12 years, it has been elected a non-permanent member of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, for 2019 and 2020. Next year, it will concurrently chair the African Union.

South Africa's prominence may be partly explained as the afterglow of the country's generally peaceful democratic political transformation. Last July, former United States (US) President Barack Obama extolled the enduring virtues of this process in the first public lecture of his post-presidency, delivered in Johannesburg. Two months later, a Mandela Peace Summit was held in New York at the start of the UN General Assembly.

In my view, there are three urgent issues at the interplay of foreign and domestic affairs that will be of strategic long-term importance to South Africa and Africa.

These are what it should do to avoid being hurt by bilateral trade disputes between the US and China; mitigate and adapt to effects of climate change; and, defend South Africa's liberal values and policy of pressing for multilateral solutions – short of regime change – in countries where human rights abuses are rampant.

Trade

Expanding South African trade and attracting greater foreign investment for jobs and development was the only major international issue in President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address in February 2019.

The foreign policy and diplomatic aspects of trade have become more pronounced in the wake of the dispute between the US and China.

South Africa has already suffered collateral damage. For example, the US has unilaterally raised duties on steel and aluminium imports. There's also a potential collateral threat from brewing disputes over domination and regulation of the digital economy, use of robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

Another top long-term priority on the trade front must involve ensuring the World Trade Organisation is modernised and empowered to mediate these disputes by democratic consensus.

More immediately, South Africa is rightly pursuing economic integration with its neighbours. It's also celebrating the imminent establishment of an African Continental Free Trade Area. Such cooperation should benefit the country and strengthen Africa's position in global trading negotiations.

Climate change

South Africa's biggest and broadest long-term diplomatic challenge is climate change. It must engage in the politics of dealing collectively with climate issues regionally and globally. The aim must be to ensure secure resources for the benefit of the most seriously affected.

The recent Cyclone Idai was symptomatic of the extreme weather events linked to

global warming. It was close to home for South Africa. Both the Government as well as citizens responded quickly and effectively to help alleviate the suffering in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Preparing for – and dealing with – such disasters portends huge international political and diplomatic challenges for South Africa.

Responsibility to protect

A third strategic issue is whether, when and how to act in defence of what's known as the Responsibility to Protect. This is the obligation



Foreign policy controversies inevitably arise over how to redress the abuse of basic human rights within a sovereign state. A case in point was the world's response during the struggles to end apartheid.

states have to protect their own populations – and those in other countries – against the risk of genocide and other mass atrocities.

The approach stipulates three pillars of responsibility. First, every state must protect its populations from four mass atrocity crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. Secondly, the international community must encourage and assist individual states in meeting this responsibility. And finally, if a state manifestly fails to protect its population, the international community must be prepared to take appropriate collective action in accordance with the UN Charter.

Twenty-five years ago, UN members could celebrate their efforts to help end apartheid. But they also mourned their failure to prevent or halt the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Since then, when and how to invoke this responsibility have posed several daunting diplomatic challenges. This has been

particularly true for South Africa, given its history of domestic repression and prominent advocacy for human rights.

The former Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, explained earlier this year that Pretoria opposed regime change, especially if done unilaterally. An example was the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

South Africa hasn't always got its ducks in a row on this issue, as former Minister Sisulu candidly acknowledged. For example, it regrets initially backing a UN Security Council resolution to intervene to protect Libyan civilians. The reason for this was that the mission abruptly escalated. And it culminated in ending the regime of Muammar Qaddafi.

Another example cited by former Minister Sisulu was Myanmar. She admitted that South Africa was initially wrong not to back stronger UN action to defend human rights.

One recent and rare instance of unilateral diplomatic action was South Africa's decision to protest against Israel's extreme human rights abuses of Palestinians. It did so by withdrawing its ambassador and downgrading its embassy to a liaison office.

Foreign policy controversies inevitably arise over how to redress the abuse of basic human rights within a sovereign state. A case in point was the world's response during the struggles to end apartheid.

Now, democratic South Africa enjoys special respect for its political achievements. But it also carries an added burden in upholding these values locally and globally. Its history teaches us the wisdom – which can be applied to multilateral relations among states as much as to the well-being of people within them – of Rev Martin Luther King's statement that:

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.”

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.





Why Western Sahara remains one of Africa's most divisive political issues

South Africa and Namibia hosted a solidarity conference with Western Sahara, convened by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on 25 and 26 March 2019 in Pretoria.



The summit opened with a call for unity in “ensuring the right to freedom and self-determination of the people of the Western Sahara”. *The Conversation's* politics and society editor, Thabo Leshilo, asked Frank Mattheis, Senior Researcher in Global Studies, University of Pretoria, for some perspective.

What is the issue? Why did Western Sahara require a solidarity conference?

The Western Sahara is a disputed territory in Northwest Africa. It is sparsely populated and consists mainly of desert. Two parties

claim sovereignty of the territory. One is the Moroccan Government, which considers it a province with certain autonomous rights. The other is the Polisario Front, a political and military organisation that has proclaimed the area as the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

A referendum to choose between the two options was proposed as far back as 1991. But it's never happened. This is mainly because of disputes over who would be eligible to vote. Negotiations between Morocco's government and the Polisario Front have resulted in little



SADR was already an AU member (it remains so today).

Since Morocco joined, the AU has held back from playing a further role in the conflict. Previously, its Peace and Security Council had tried to intervene on the issue. This shows that most African countries prefer to circumvent the thorny issue of self-determination for Western Sahara; instead, these countries are pursuing closer ties with Morocco.

The SADC region, however, is home to countries like Zimbabwe and South Africa. They are among the Polisario Front's most faithful allies. They have sided with the SADR because of how Morocco has handled the Western Sahara's status, which reminds them of their own legacy of settler colonialism.

How long has the problem been brewing?

Since the late 19th century, when the territory was colonised by Spain. When Spain withdrew in 1975, a war broke out between Morocco, Mauritania and the Polisario Front over control of the Western Sahara.

Mauritania retreated after four years. But fights between Morocco and the Polisario Front (which was supported by Algeria) continued all the way until 1991. Back then, the UN established the Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara to oversee a truce. No solution has been implemented since. The current UN Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, former German President Horst Köhler, has struggled to make notable progress.

The longer the conflict continues, the more the power balance tilts in Morocco's favour. Economically and diplomatically, the Kingdom of Morocco has been on the rise on the continent. This offers tangible gains to its allies and makes it ever more powerful.

Meanwhile, the Western Sahara's inhabitants are suffering. Human rights

violations are reportedly common. Protest movements that support self-determination are restricted and oppressed.

The level of reported violence has diminished in recent years. That's why the issue of Western Sahara has gradually disappeared from the international agenda.

What's the significance of a declaration from SADC?

The declaration issued at the end of the conference confirms SADC's long-standing support for the Polisario Front.

While other African countries have abandoned this position in favour of closer ties with the economically strong Morocco, SADC (and other countries such as Algeria) still follow a value-driven foreign policy in this regard. The declaration confirms that the AU remains split on the matter.

However, the impact of the declaration is limited to maintaining the issue on the agenda. It is unlikely to have a direct impact on the intended referendum, and the UN remains the main body that can resolve the impasse.

It's also worth noting that Morocco hosted a parallel conference on the Western Sahara to undermine SADC's efforts. This just highlights the divisions.

What would success look like?

Success from a SADC and SADR point of view would entail the self-determination of the Sahrawi people. But, it would still count as a notable success if the SADC declaration marks a reversal of the current trend that favours Morocco's diplomacy in Africa.

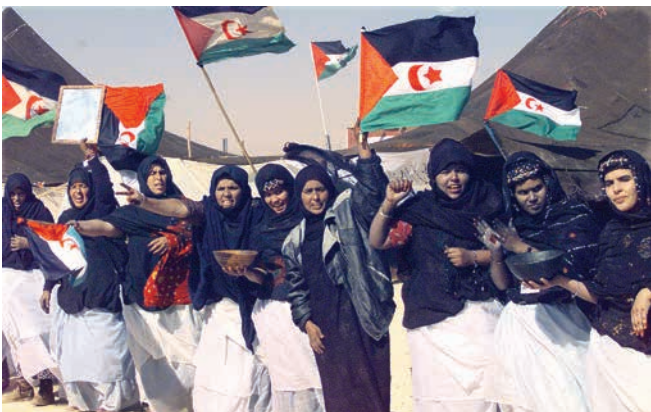
On a global level, success for the SADR people could also mean forging stronger alliances with other countries, such as the European Union, for their self-declared republic. 🇺🇳

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

progress since. The two parties officially ceased their military operations in 1991, but the situation remains fragile despite a United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission being deployed to the Western Sahara since that same year.

The solidarity conference hosted by SADC can be seen as a reaction to the gradual shift of power towards Morocco. In 2017, Morocco joined the African Union (AU) after a 33-year absence. It chose to stay away because the

The SADC region, however, is home to countries like Zimbabwe and South Africa. They are among the Polisario Front's most faithful allies. They have sided with the SADR because of how Morocco has handled the Western Sahara's status, which reminds them of their own legacy of settler colonialism.





It's a century since an international civil service came into being. Why it matters

This year marks a century since a formal international civil service was introduced into the world.

By Henning Melber

Extraordinary Professor, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria

The first time this particular breed of professionals came into existence was at the signing of the Versailles Peace Conference during 1919 and the subsequent establishment of the League of Nations in January 1920.

For global governance, an international civil service matters. Simply because it would be impossible to promote and maintain a rules-based world order without it.

An autonomous civil service is crucial for operations within the global governance system – an idea conceptualised a 100 years ago at the League of Nations. Already then, international civil servants were expected to be loyal to the aspirations of the international community and to remain neutral and independent of any authority outside their organisation.

Eric Drummond, a British diplomat involved in the drafting of the League of Nations Covenant and the first Secretary-General of the League of Nations (1919 – 1933), played a crucial and pioneering role in conceptualising an independent international civil service. But it was Dag Hammarskjöld, the United Nations' (UN) second Secretary-General (1953 – 1961), who elaborated the concept. He set lasting standards that survive to this day.

An independent civil service was a huge part of Hammarskjöld's arsenal. As his numerous statements and speeches document, his terms in office were guided by strong and coherent ethics concerning the independence of the international civil service.

At the core of his ethics were integrity, loyalty to the principles of the UN Charter, independence from any national or regional

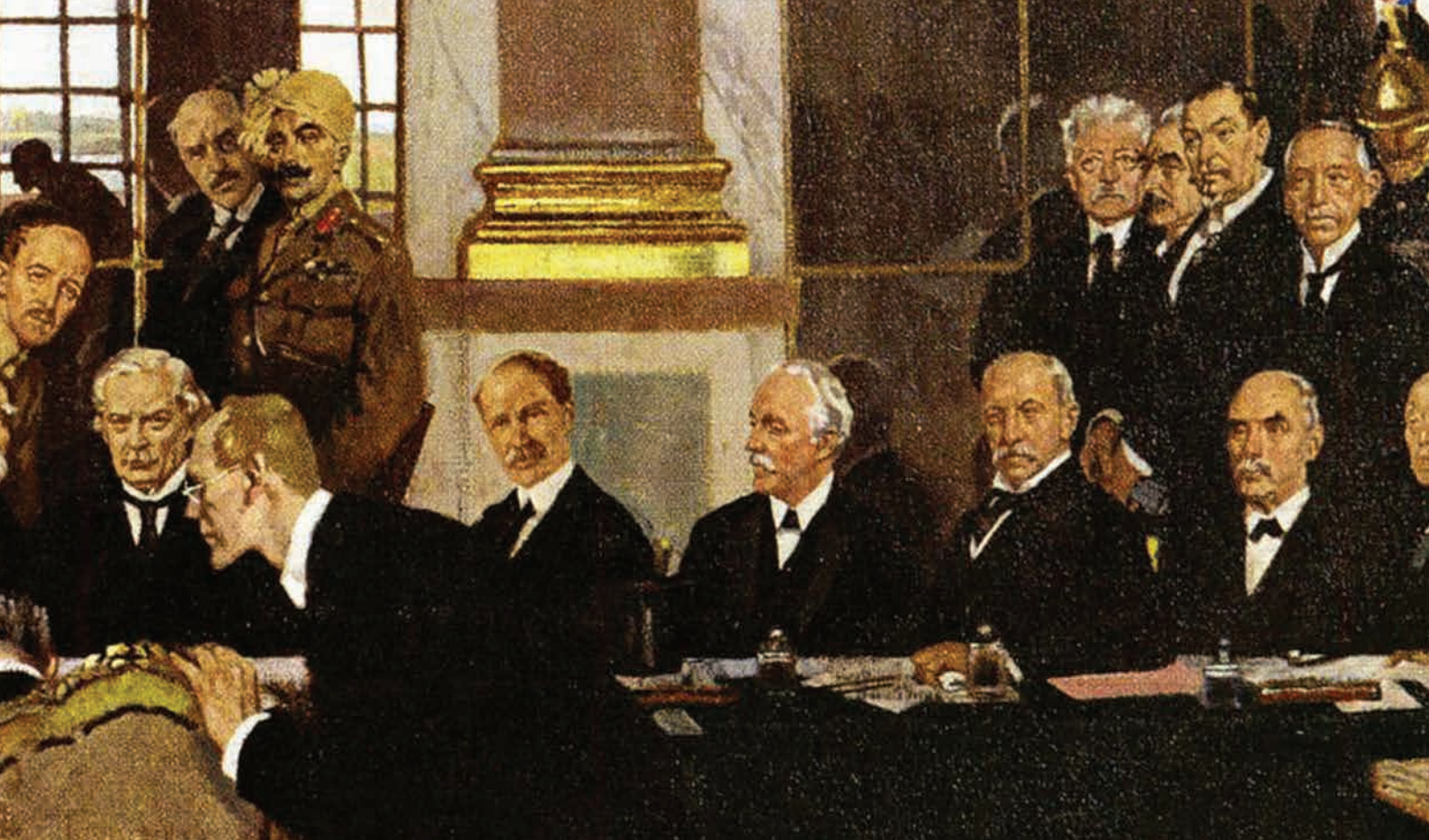
interests and the courage to uphold these values.

In my new book, I pay tribute to Hammarskjöld's commitment to these principles as they applied to self-determination on the African continent.

The main focus is on the interpretation and implementation of the principles adopted by the UN member states through his diplomacy during the Cold War era. I present arguments and evidence why frameworks for governance, their interpretation and implementation matter.

The UN and decolonisation

Decolonisation on the African continent gained momentum during the 1950s. The UN became an important forum for the growing demands for self-determination. As Secretary-General, Hammarskjöld played a prominent role as events unfolded. These culminated in the Congo crisis



An independent civil service was a huge part of Hammarskjöld's arsenal. As his numerous statements and speeches document, his terms in office were guided by strong and coherent ethics concerning the independence of the international civil service.

of 1960/61. Faced with the secession of the Katanga province and Belgian destabilisation threats soon after independence, the Congolese Government requested the UN to intervene. This resulted in one of the biggest UN interventions ever.

Hammarskjöld's role in the process is at the centre of the analysis. It examines the scope and limitations his office provided under the existing unequal power relations of the post-World-War-II order.

His support for the struggles for national sovereignty shows that individuals and their running of office do matter. This is true even though the policy of big powers imposes limitations on them.

When Hammarskjöld and 15 others in his company died in a plane crash near the Northern Rhodesian mining town of Ndola on the night of 17/18 September 1961, the adjacent white settler-minority regimes were visibly relieved. And despite the world-wide recognition and appraisal, the secret services of all big powers had closely followed his attempts to bring the Katanga province back into the Congolese territory. ►►




ORIGIN OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

January 8th, 1918. Fourteen Points laid down by President Wilson as the basis of world peace. (*)

January 25th, 1919. League accepted in principle.

April 28th, 1919. Covenant adopted.

January 10th, 1920. League came into being; Secretariat established in London.



Woodrow WILSON

January 16th, 1920. First meeting of Council at Paris.

November 1st, 1920. League Headquarters moved from London to Geneva.

November 15th, 1920. First Meeting of Assembly at Geneva.

(*) THE FOURTEENTH POINT :

"A General Association of Nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike."

Nevertheless, I argue, his term ended with his integrity intact. This was evident from the fact that towards the end of his time in office, he was portrayed through a lens of suspicion and mistrust in the West and open calls for resignation in the East.

Revealingly so, the newly independent states remained to a large extent supportive. For them, he was "their" Secretary-General.

A hundred years after the creation of an international civil service, Hammarskjöld deserves to be remembered for leading by example. 🇺🇳

This article first appeared on *The Conversation*.

Reassessing Hammarskjöld's anti-hegemonic stance suggests that there were more than enough parties satisfied that he could not bring his mission to the planned end. After all, the secessionist Katanga province was under firm control of Belgian and other Western mining companies. It was the biggest supplier of uranium for the United States nuclear arms race. As a mineral-rich resource of global relevance, it was of highest geo-strategic interest.

The hitherto unclarified causes for the plane crash remain a matter of renewed investigations. These were triggered by the book of Susan Williams, *Who Killed Hammarskjöld?*

Why global governance and leadership matter

My book argues that despite all the limitations, values matter for a global governance body seeking to solve – or at least contain – conflicts through multilateral diplomacy. It highlights the battles over the power of definition by different interest groups in the era of decolonisation and the East-West conflict as well as the potential role and influence of an individual in charge of the UN Secretariat.

It recognises Hammarskjöld as an outstanding international civil servant, who believed in the spirit and word of the UN Charter and the virtues of a service guided by loyalty to its values and principles.

Individual leadership is important. But I also emphasise the limitations such an office and its incumbent have. The study also critically reflects on some of the failures and flaws during Hammarskjöld's time as Secretary-General. After all, while he set the bar very high and remains widely respected, he was far from unflinching.

HENNING MELBER

DAG


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the UNITED NATIONS

and the

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The Women Peace and Security Agenda: Building bridges across the Global North and South

As South Africa takes up its seat as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for the period 2019 to 2020, the position presents a strategic opportunity for the country to build on its stated commitment to the WPS Agenda.

By Faith Mabera

Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue associated with UNISA

As the 20th anniversary of the landmark Resolution 1325 draws near, the discourse on the involvement of meaning in peace and security has shifted from the basic focus on the numbers of women included in peace processes to the degree of women's influence on peace negotiations and the inclusion of their contributions in decision-making and implementation processes. In other words, the discussion has shifted from *counting women to making women count*. This emphasis on meaningful participation of women has not only gained traction in policy processes at the level of the United Nations (UN) level, but has also trickled down to deliberations in member states, advocacy

groups and civil-society organisations. Looking at the seven UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions that make up the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda alongside Resolution 1325, the first six WPS resolutions (1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960 and 2106) emphasised "full and equal participation" while the two most recent WPS resolutions (2122 and 2242) underscored women's "meaningful participation".

A second key aspect of the progress of the WPS Agenda in the past 18 years is the alignment of the agenda with other transformative frameworks in the UN system. In 2015, the UN conducted a trio of high-level reviews: a review of UN peace operations, a review of the UN peacebuilding architecture

and a review of the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325. There are several common themes that cut across the reports of the three reviews, including: the evolving nature of conflict; the centrality of prevention; a focus on inclusive, people-centred processes; and the primacy of politics and more importantly, the importance of the WPS Agenda for the work of the UN in the sphere of peace and security. The three reports, the *Report of the High-Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations*, the *Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture* and the *Global Study on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325*, also came at a critical juncture of the UN's work around peace,

"We have the power to stop war and turn our upside down world right."

– Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

#UNSCR1325

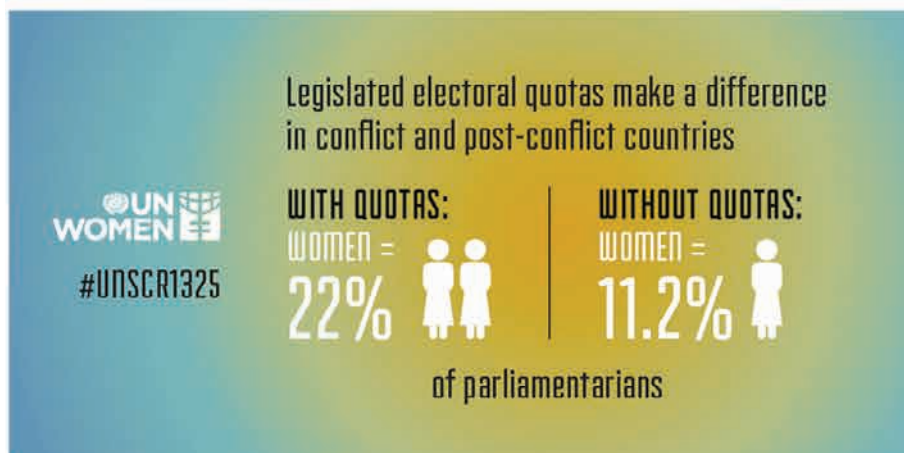
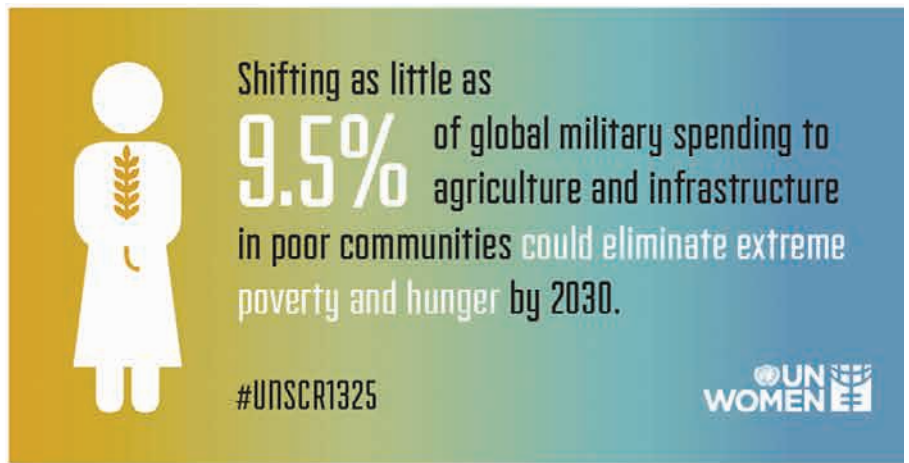


security and development. The reviews are a reflection of a paradigm shift within the UN towards sustaining peace, which encapsulates a conceptual and institutional shift towards comprehensive, coordinated and coherent approaches to peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

The sustaining peace agenda is embodied by twin resolutions adopted in 2015 – UNSC Resolution 2282 and UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/262 – elaborating on sustaining peace as both a goal and a process to build a common vision of society, reinforce the security-development nexus, build on local ownership and increase involvement of women and youth across all spheres of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Dovetailing the sustainment of the peace agenda, the Post-2015 Development Agenda, commonly known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, put forward 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at leaving no one behind in the eradication of poverty and realising social, economic and environmental well-being. SDG5 (Gender Equality) and SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) are the most relevant to the WPS Agenda given their focus on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building accountable and inclusive institutions, respectively. As such, the promotion of women’s rights towards the realisation of peace and sustainable development fundamentally hinges on interlinkages between the WPS Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including a focus on the themes of inclusion, justice and security.

Global diffusion of the WPS Agenda

Based on the fact that the WPS Agenda is a universal framework, the implementation of Resolution 1325 and its related UNSC resolutions is a responsibility for both the Global North and the Global South. Though the institutional home of Resolution 1325 is located in auspices located in the Global South, it is important to recall Namibia’s championing role in the lead-up to the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1325 in 2000. Namibia’s Minister of Women’s Affairs, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, initiated the resolution while Namibia was chairing the UNSC. Upon its tabling, the resolution garnered overwhelming support across the board, including the political support of other non-permanent UNSC members at the time such as Jamaica and Canada. The UN Development Fund for Women and the Non-Governmental Organisation Working Group on Women, Peace and Security were also instrumental in the eventual adoption ▶▶



of the resolution. The drafting and adoption of Resolution 1325 is a testament to the universal appeal and collective, multifaceted action central to its global diffusion and implementation.

In the aftermath of the adoption of Resolution 1325, national action plans (NAPs) were put forward as the main tools of implementation of the WPS Agenda. The NAPs are aimed at operationalising the international policy framework of the WPS Agenda, specifically Resolution 1325, and subsequent resolutions into tangible, domestic strategies with targeted national and local objectives. Furthermore, NAPs have taken different forms and modes across regions and countries. For instance, some countries stipulate gender commitments across different government departments while others prioritise the development of indicators monitoring various aspects of the WPS Agenda at national level. There are also regional action plans linked to regional and intergovernmental institutions such as the European Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the African Union (AU). Pertinent to the AU, a Continental Results-Based Framework not only tracks progress made by member states on commitments to gender equality and promotion of women’s rights, but also serves as an instrument for self-assessment of member states while providing for constructive engagement with a range of domestic stakeholders.

By December 2018, 79 countries had NAPs, of which 22 were African states. The adoption of NAPs as from 2005 onwards can be attributed to a number of factors such as:

- advocacy initiatives by transnational networks and civil-society groups
- the presence of women in key positions of authority such as Parliament and the Executive
- the alignment of national policies with regional initiatives in support of the WPS Agenda
- “period effects” which saw over 26 countries adopting NAPs around the 10th and 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325.

From a global diffusion perspective, NAPs have not been implemented by only countries of the Global North but have also been embraced by countries in the Global South, including conflict-affected and least developed countries.

In addition to the adoption of NAPs, the Global South has also demonstrated agency and ownership over Resolution 1325 by its contribution to UN peacekeeping. The top troop-contributing countries are located in the Global South, demonstrating the growing engagement and agency of these countries in the evolution and shaping of global policy and normative frameworks. Overall, the uptake of the WPS Agenda and its constitutive resolutions by countries across the global North-South divide is highly indicative of the collective, multidimensional impact and effectiveness of the rallying call for a gender-sensitive approach to peace and security and conflict prevention and resolution.

The 2015 *Global Study on the Implementation of Resolution 1325* revealed persistent implementation gaps and highly uneven progress of the WPS Agenda. The challenges include structural inequalities that impede the meaningful participation of women in decision-making and peace processes; a lack of resources; shrinking political space for women’s rights advocates; and the changing nature of conflict, becoming more protracted and taking on violent extremist and terrorist forms. These implementation obstacles mean accelerated action for the implementation of the WPS Agenda must include collective initiatives to disarm violence, break down persistent patriarchal power structures and leverage women’s leadership as crucial agents of positive peace and sustainable development.

South Africa’s role as champion of the WPS Agenda

As South Africa takes up its seat as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for the period 2019 to 2020, the position presents a strategic opportunity for the country to build on its stated commitment to the WPS Agenda. Accordingly, South Africa should work closely with the Informal Expert Group (IEG) on WPS, which is mandated to coordinate action on the WPS Agenda on the UNSC programme of work. Such systematic coordination involves collaboration with thematic experts and specific country-level analysis, highlighting the gender dimensions of country situations under debate. For instance, in 2018, the IEG reviewed the situations in the Lake Chad Basin, Libya, Yemen, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

What is Resolution 1325?



The United Nations Security Council has adopted eight resolutions on “Women, Peace and Security”, from 2000 till 2015. These resolutions are named with numbers: 1325; 1820; 1888; 1889; 1960; 2106; 2122 and 2242. Together, they make up the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

1325 is much more than a number or a resolution! It shows how women and a gender perspective are relevant to negotiating peace agreements, planning refugee camps and peacekeeping operations and reconstructing war-torn societies for sustainable peace!

Finally, heeding the call for sustained momentum in the political will and support for the WPS Agenda across all levels, South Africa should advance the work of the WPS Focal Points Network (WSP-FPN).

Launched in 2016 by the Government of Spain, the WSP-FPN is a cross-regional forum for member states and regional organisations, which collaborates with UN agencies and civil society to share experiences and best practices in advancing the implementation of UNSC resolutions on WPS.

UN Women serves as the secretariat of the network, which currently comprises over 80 members. Namibia took up the Chair of the FPN in 2019 under the theme: “Women, Peace and Security: Towards Full Participation” and the sub-theme: “Mainstreaming the WPS Agenda in the Programmes of Regional Economic Communities”.

South Africa’s commitment to the WPS Agenda is fully in tandem with its foreign policy priorities of promoting regional and multilateral initiatives as well as its rich history of engagement and peace diplomacy across the African continent, including peacemaking, multilateral peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction and development. ☰

Overall, the uptake of the WPS Agenda and its constitutive resolutions by countries across the global North-South divide is highly indicative of the collective, multidimensional impact and effectiveness of the rallying call for a gender-sensitive approach to peace and security and conflict prevention and resolution.



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Ordinary people,
forced to flee.



South Africans appointed UNHCR goodwill ambassadors

In January 2019, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) announced the appointment of South African actress and human rights activist, Nomzamo Mbatha, and media personality, Leanne Manas, as goodwill ambassadors.

Since 2017, Nomzamo Mbatha has worked in close cooperation with the UNHCR as a high-profile supporter and advocate for UNHCR's LuQuLuQu

Campaign, raising awareness for the forcibly displaced in Africa.

Mbatha's engagement includes visits to experience UNHCR's life-saving work in camps and settlements in Malawi, Kenya and South Sudan. She also hosted the 2018 Nansen Refugee Award Ceremony, which honoured South Sudanese humanitarian Dr Evan Atar, and spoke at TEDxKakumaCamp, the first-ever TEDx event to be hosted in a refugee camp. In her talk, she reflected on how her deep attachment to helping refugees, particularly women and children, is rooted in her personal life story of overcoming adversity.

"The strength of refugees, their ability to persevere and their ingenuity for making the best of a difficult situation is what I celebrate.

Being named a Goodwill Ambassador is an incredible honour and I can't wait to embark on this journey, learn more and use my voice to truly be an agent of change," said Mbatha.

"It is with great delight that we welcome Nomzamo Mbatha to the UNHCR family," UNHCR High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi, said. "She has shown tireless commitment to shining a light on refugee situations across Africa and I look forward to seeing her inspire many more people in this new role."

Mbatha's appointment came at a time when war, conflict and persecution had forced over 68 million people to flee their homes – the highest level of displacement ever recorded. Over 25 million of these are refugees, with Sub-Saharan Africa hosting over 31% of the global refugee population.

Leanne Manas is a renowned leader on the South African media circuit as the anchor of the South African Broadcasting Service's flagship news show, *Morning Live*. The show is broadcasted live every weekday morning to millions of viewers.



"The strength of refugees, their ability to persevere and their ingenuity for making the best of a difficult situation is what I celebrate. Being named a Goodwill Ambassador is an incredible honour and I can't wait to embark on this journey, learn more and use my voice to truly be an agent of change," said Mbatha.

In addition to being an award-winning TV presenter, Manas is also a radio host, MC and style icon. She was appointed as a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador in January 2019.

Manas is strongly committed to supporting UNHCR's work through the LuQuLuQu Campaign, and believes that we have a responsibility as members of the human race

to help those who have the greatest need. In her role as a high-profile supporter for the LuQuLuQu Campaign, Manas visited the largest refugee camps in Kenya and Malawi. Through both trips, she gained a better understanding of UNHCR and its partners' skills development programmes for refugees, and she conducted five live broadcasts from

the refugee camps to millions of *Morning Live* viewers. Refugee guests on the show included young coders from the Microsoft App Factory in Malawi's Dzaleka Refugee Camp, Jesuit Worldwide Learning degree candidates from the Arrupe Learning Centre as well as talented musicians and dancers from the camps' vibrant arts and culture scene. ☺



Actress and TV personality Nomzamo Mbatha bagged yet another international award in March 2019.

The International Women of Power (IWOP) Awards honoured *Isibaya* actress Mbatha with the Goddess Beauty Award for her contribution to the entertainment industry.

According to the Diaspora Dialogues, who are the organisers of the ceremony, the IWOP Awards seek to "honour and celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of global women who are trailblazers and trendsetters inspiring black girls and women".

Mbatha was the perfect candidate for this award because she is well-known for her humanitarian work as she took on the role as the newest Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in January 2019.

The actress attended the ceremony at the Marina del Rey Marriott in Los Angeles, California, on 9 March 2019.

She took to Instagram to express how surreal the whole experience felt.

"And so here she is with dust on her feet knowing both victory and defeat, still standing. Still here. There are moments in my life when I want to pinch myself. Is this real? Is this real? Oh my God ... it is. Yesterday I received an International Women of Power Award and I am so grateful and honoured. Thank you to Diaspora Dialogues for my Goddess Beauty Award," the 28-year-old actress said.

Other winners included comedienne Tiffany Haddish, who bagged the Entertainment Roar Award, as well as the first lady of Sierra Leone, Fatima Maada Bio, who walked away with the Warrior Award. ☺ www.news24.com

Manas is strongly committed to supporting UNHCR's work through the LuQuLuQu Campaign, and believes that we have a responsibility as members of the human race to help those who have the greatest need.

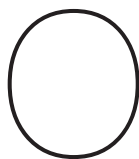


We must be proud of our past and confident about the future

Our youth must gain the right skills and expertise to grow and create a competitive and inclusive economy with shared prosperity. Youth must prepare themselves for the new world of work.

By Alvin Botes

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



On 16 June 2019, our country commemorated the 43rd anniversary of the 1976 Youth Uprising.

After the banning of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1960 and our leadership exiled and imprisoned, the anti-apartheid movement was on the backfoot after a decade of mass defiance.

Some historians argue that for the next decade an “interregnum of contest and paralysis” existed in the anti-apartheid

movement while it was left to President OR Tambo to pedantically rebuild the ANC.

Thus, the impact of 16 June 1976 was the culmination of more than a decade of frustration that exploded.

Since that fateful day, the defiance to apartheid was re-awoken and our fight became continuous, persistence and unbroken for the next 22 years with new generations joining the struggle until the dawn of democracy on 27 April 1994.

Youth participated in all four pillars of struggle, namely mass mobilisation, armed

struggle, the underground and international solidarity.

The youth of '76, like the generations before them, fully understood their generational mission, that “out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it”.

They developed the skills and expertise to fight the apartheid government and acted upon it with a clarity of purpose.

The generations of Solomon Mahlangu, Peter Mokaba, Ronnie Mamoepa, Collene Williams and Dipuo Peters continued with the struggle to end apartheid and build a



developmental democracy that is united, non-racial and non-sexist.

As we begin the journey of the next 25 years of our struggle, the youth of today must ask the question: What is there generational mission?

To answer this question, we first need to understand the challenges and opportunities that we have been confronted with over the past decade.

Today, our world is changing at a pace faster than ever before; the geopolitical, economic, environmental and technological space has undergone tectonic shifts.

We began the decade with the so-called "Arab Spring" that shook parts of North Africa and the Middle East.

Democratic euphoria swept across much of the developing South with peaceful transitions to democracy in countries such as the Comoros and Madagascar, among others. We have had numerous examples of peaceful resolution to conflicts both on the continent and beyond.

Equally, as we near the end of this decade, we are witnessing revolutions and counter-revolutions. Globally, there has been an increase in extremism terrorism, religious fundamentalism, populist right-wing nationalism, neo-fascism, xenophobia and racism in both the developed and developing world.

The era of coups, wars and super power interference in the sovereignty of nations as well as the rise of strong men and women has reared its ugly head again.

There are several high- and low-intensity wars taking place across several continents, including in the Middle East in Yemen, Syria and Iraq as well as in Africa.

Wars are being fought both along traditional lines as well as the newer asymmetrical tactics of war by proxy (such as in Syria), cyber wars and robust trade wars between the traditional superpowers such as the United States

and Russia (multipolarity) as well the newer emerging super power China (tripolarity).

As we near the end of this decade, our triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment are increasing globally, continentally and within South Africa. The historical multilateral international rules-based order is under threat.

Unemployment is at 27.6% in South Africa of which jobless youth account for 63.4% thereof (StatsSA, 2019). Ordinarily, South Africa was supposed to harvest the benefits from the continental youth bulge, in the context of a thriving African economy.

However, the World Bank (2011) indicated that intra-continental trade in Africa remained uninspiring at 11%, while between South Africa and the rest of the continent it was at 22%, with the balance of trade being mainly with the rest of the developed world. This is a complete antithesis of a development trajectory, which should underpin the economic outlook of Africa's 54 states.

What is to be done?

The best way to preserve the legacy of the class of '76 is for our youth of today to fully understand their generational mission of how to address all these aforementioned challenges in our country, region, continent and globally.

Our youth must gain the right skills and expertise to grow and create a competitive and inclusive economy with shared prosperity. Youth must prepare themselves for the new world of work.

Subjects such as Coding should become a compulsory third subject taught at primary school level rather than an individual subject at tertiary level.

As we rebuild Africa, we will require a nation of engineers, software programmers, builders, architects, quantity surveyors,

mechanics, plumbers, electricians, doctors and entrepreneurs to mention but few. Our youth need the skills to become "glocal" (global and local) citizens i.e. the ability to work both locally and abroad while remaining committed to our national democratic agenda.

Equally, the youth require not only the hard technical skills to make our country and continent a success but they must develop an understanding of and a commitment to becoming patriots, international solidarity activists, cadres and ambassadors for the developing world.

South Africa remains a shining example of peaceful transitions of divided nations and our youth must continue with this legacy.

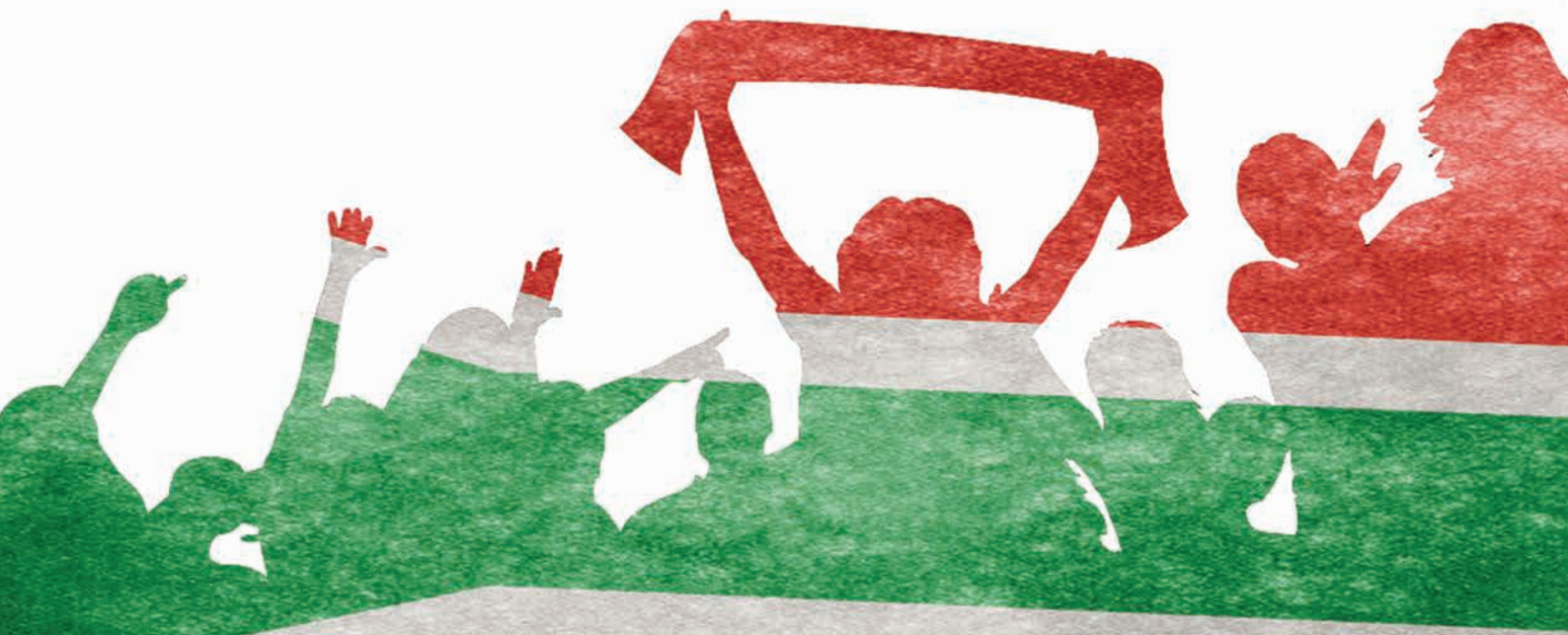
As a country, our youth must grasp the opportunities of continuous further education and training made available through our policies such as the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to attend tertiary institutions.

To undermine joblessness, implies that learning should become a lifelong experience.

Youth must also grasp the opportunities made available through the work of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, to further their studies by obtaining scholarships to study abroad and participate in international internships and exchange programmes.

This is a decisive intervention and we must toil tirelessly to ensure that we expose 20 000 South African young people to the international arena of solidarity, in which the acquisition of high skills will be possible, and a heightened "consciousness, as a product of development" (Engels).

President Cyril Ramaphosa has been instructive that "too many of our people do not work, especially the youth"; that we must maximise the value of the new, heightened technological innovations. 🇱🇱





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But we have never forgotten our roots.

South Africa is our birthplace and we are proud of our place in a country brimming with



imagination, creativity and innovation. Entrepreneurial spirit is at our heart, and runs deep in our people, wherever they are in the world.

Today, our endeavours attract global talent to build outstanding companies and products used across the world by millions of people every day to improve their lives.

We are committed to telling the stories that shape the world of South Africans, to connecting South Africans to each other and the wider world, to helping people around the world improve their daily lives, and to entertaining audiences with the best of local and global content.

The Naspers story

Naspers was established in 1915 to produce a Dutch-language newspaper. From that starting point, two pivotal moments – both leaps into brave new worlds – redefined the future of its business. Those moments in time triggered the evolution from a print media business into a global internet and entertainment group, and one of the largest technology investors in the world.

The first pivot came in 1985, when Naspers launched M-Net, Africa's first pay television channel. The M-Net vision was forged by a group of energetic young entrepreneurs with a dogged determination to transform the lives of South Africa's viewing public.

This vision would permanently change the face of local broadcasting. Launched at a turbulent time in South African history, many believed that the pivot into paid-for TV was a daring experiment, perhaps even doomed to failure. Decades later, MultiChoice produces and serves the best of local and international content to millions of customers across Africa. And continues to lead innovation in an increasingly digital world.

The second pivot came in 2001, with the truly transformational decision to invest in Tencent, a fledgling Chinese internet company. Tencent remains one of the very best enterprises in the world and we therefore remain firmly committed to the investment. Followed by an investment in Mail.ru in 2006, these early bets in the new world of online lead to a period of intense investment beyond the shores of Africa and into exciting markets as diverse as Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, and Asia.

Today, Naspers companies and investments improve the lives of hundreds of millions people in more than 120 countries and markets across the world. They operate across print and digital media, video entertainment (including the classic pay TV model, digital terrestrial TV, and digital streaming) and the internet, including marketplaces, online classifieds, e-tail, travel, entertainment, payments and fintech, education technology and food delivery. With nearly 20% of the world's population using the products and services of companies Naspers has built and invested in, and many of these customers using the products of more than one of its companies, the group continues to look for innovative and ambitious founders and businesses to back, particularly those that address big societal needs.



Innovating for a changing world

For over a century, Naspers has steadily grown from its humble beginnings as a small newspaper publisher, by investing in, acquiring and building leading companies with sustainable competitive advantages.

Today, Naspers is a global internet and entertainment group and one of the largest technology investors in the world. But the group stays true to its roots: it continues to back innovative founders and businesses that it believes have the potential to scale beyond their local market. Increasingly, they address big societal needs using technology.

Naspers holds entrepreneurship at its heart. The group constantly looks at the world around it, identifying the changes and shifting trends it believes will shape the needs and behaviours of both local communities and society at large. In recent years, rapid technology innovation has created and connected communities, enabled trade and broken down borders, removed friction and added speed, commoditised knowledge and delivered real-time news, and of course entertained. In short it has played a key role in empowering people and enriching communities. And in today's connected world, the way people think, influence, interact and live continues to evolve in unprecedented, transformational ways.



A commitment to contributing to the global communities in which we operate

Over the years, Naspers has witnessed countless examples where innovation and entrepreneurial spirit came together to solve unique local challenges and address big societal needs. And as a global company, it recognises the importance of making a positive economic and social contribution to communities in which we operate.

Enriching the lives of South Africans

Off screen, more than 90 000 black South Africans have benefitted from MultiChoice's broad-based black economic empowerment (BBBEE) share scheme, Phuthuma Nathi. A R2 000 investment at scheme launch was worth close to R25 000 in 2016, having yielded a total dividend of R10 000 over that period. The scheme has paid out almost R6.5 billion in dividends since inception, changing the lives of thousands of shareholders. Media24's BBBEE share scheme Welkom Yizani further affords thousands of black South Africans the opportunity to own 15% of the company.

For over 100 years Media24 has produced content through its newspapers, magazines, books, digital media and multimedia that has kept South Africans informed of the world around them. Voted the media company most graduates aspire to work by more than 2 000 graduates, Media24 remains committed to equality, diversity and transformation. And when you consider that Media24's digital platforms have over 12 million daily page views, it's clear this is a company looking ahead to the next 100 years.

MultiChoice is not only the provider of world class TV-programmes, movies, sport, news and documentaries across the African continent, it is also one of the biggest contributors to the growth of the South African film and television industry.

Together with M-Net, it include one the largest funders of local content in Africa and through SuperSport, the biggest funder of sport on the continent. MultiChoice believes in the youth of South Africa, and through its corporate social investment and skills development programmes, helps young people realize their potential in sport, broadcasting, and film-making. Through its flagship corporate social investment programme, Media24 equips young South Africans with digital skills by teaching them how to use digital technologies to research and produce news and information.

As part of its commitment to empowering women, MultiChoice has implemented a Leading Women programme with the Gordon Institute of Business to develop women at a middle to senior management level. Other initiatives include internal leadership development programs, a Women in Business Program (Wimbiz) and a Women Empowerment Program with the Lagos Business School.

A meaningful place to work

It can be tempting to think that only founders can be entrepreneurial. Over the years, Naspers has come to believe that entrepreneurial spirit is actually just a mindset, and anyone can have it. And sometimes you can't just simply cross your fingers and hope it happens, you have to give it a helping hand. Opening the lines of communication is a good first step. Ensuring everyone in the business understands the big picture is key – if teams don't know what they're trying to achieve, it's less likely they'll focus their creativity and efforts on the right things.

Giving people the freedom to think for themselves and challenge the status quo is important. Not just in terms of how things are done within the organisation, but also in terms of what the organisation is doing for its stakeholders and customers. Encouraging everyone to stay close to the people they serve and fully understand what they are trying to achieve can spark all sorts of innovative ideas. Encouraging and listening to ideas from across the organisation about every aspect of the organisation can open up new sources of innovation. In short, creativity is everyone's job.

Naspers has created a compelling place to work where people are engaged and motivated to achieve their full potential. The company employs nearly 25 000 people across the world in fully-owned and management-controlled businesses. In South Africa the company employs more than 15 000 people in MultiChoice, Media24 and Takealot, and thousands more indirectly through MultiChoice's network of more than 1200 accredited installers and 120 DStv agencies. MultiChoice also backs emerging entrepreneurs. Its enterprise and supplier development programme offers various forms of support to small businesses, including loans, favourable supplier payment terms and trading opportunities. This commitment to enterprise development creates jobs and delivers economic growth, which ultimately ensures social upliftment in local communities.



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NASPERS



Solving complex and challenging problems that face the world

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Increasing access to education

Recent investments by Naspers into education technologies like Codecademy, Udemy and Brainly are helping to redefine how education is accessed and delivered across the world. These innovative online platforms are opening the doors to learning for millions of people who previously did not have access to education around the world – people who face many barriers that prevent them from learning and developing their skills in traditional classroom or university environments.

Efficient transportation

Another example of how innovation and entrepreneurial spirit merge to solve unique local challenges and address a big societal need is redBus in India. This innovative transportation app keeps India moving by digitally

aggregating the nation's vast number of bus routes and timetables from a wide array of operators. Before redBus, travellers faced the near-impossible task of manually piecing together multistep journeys where some operators even lacked official bus stops. redBus helps people get to work on time, visit relatives, and enjoy pastimes with far less hassle. And that's not all.

In addition to timetable and route data, redBus also aggregates information on the experience delivered by each of the bus companies. Customers can use this information in their ticket purchase decisions, but by making this information visible in one place, redBus also enables India's various bus companies to see what their competitors offer. The result is that all the companies raise their game, ultimately benefiting society at large. Naspers is helping

redBus scale beyond India, with expansion into Latin America, Malaysia and Singapore – regions it believes can also benefit from the company’s leading-edge technology.

Giving youth access to the work place

SuperSport’s Let’s Play, part of MultiChoice, has benefitted millions of school children in South Africa through various physical education programmes for over 10 years. On top of this, the MultiChoice Diski Challenge – the Premier Soccer League reserve league – has opened up opportunities for young footballers aspiring to professional careers, while providing a learning platform for over 40 interns, who produce the broadcasting of the matches on SuperSport and community television stations.

Retraining workforce with new skills

Naspers launched its online and offline learning environment, MyAcademy, in September 2016 specifically

for its staff around the world. This year, more than 20 000 group employees accessed content on MyAcademy online. MyAcademy offers the very best online learning content from global providers such as Udemy, Big Think, Harvard Business School, Codecademy, Ready, Vado, and Rosetta Stone. Naspers’ MyAcademy classroom-based programmes offer its people the opportunity to grow their leadership skills regardless of where they are in the world. The company also focus on developing key functional skills in the areas of technology, sales and business development, finance, law and human resources. This year more than 1 500 people attended such programmes, and from around the group over 26 000 consumed online lectures and engaged in more than 43 000 hours of training on the platform.

The story of a company founded by Eddie Seane and Mafadi Mpuru in 2015

Eddie joined SuperSport as an intern cameraman and his training there prepared him for the broadcast industry. The company was started with the modest investment from their salaries and in 2010, they received an interest-free

loan that allowed them to purchase their first outside broadcast (OB) van. Today, the company owns three OB vans, a state of the art pre- and post-production facility, employs 70 people and produces a variety of programmes for SuperSport.



Opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs

Our formula for success

Fostering innovation

As a society, we need to recognise the importance of promoting innovation as a key driver of social change. As a company, Naspers understands its importance, and recognises and rewards the best examples from across the group. The Naspers Innovation Awards recognise people or teams who have made a significant, positive and measurable impact on their customers through a great innovation, usually product or technology based.

This year's prizes went to teams from OLX India for innovative solutions in intelligent messaging templates; MultiChoice for big data competency used for insights and recommendations by products like DStv Now, and designing a new advertising architecture, unique in the world, which allows MultiChoice to effectively monetise content; and Irdeto's research team who used machine learning (ML) to automatically process and identify streams distributed by pirate aggregation sites to our classifieds and ecommerce platforms. Their efforts, and the efforts of countless other dreamers, thinkers, entrepreneurs, innovators, developers and doers are transforming the lives we live every day. They are at the forefront of the charge to address big societal needs through innovation and Naspers celebrates their success.

Movile is the top mobile commerce platform in Latin America, with over 100 million users per month. Movile develops world-class mobile marketplaces and is a leader in B2C mobile app-based services in Latin America including iFood and Sympla. A leading self-service ticketing platform in Brazil, Sympla is a one-stop-shop for entertainment and events in Latin America. Movile is also ramping up its content distribution. It is one of the largest distributors of kids' content digitally in the world.

iFood, a subsidiary of Movile is a leading online food delivery platform in Latin America, fulfilling more than six million orders per month. In Brazil, iFood is the preferred destination for food delivery. Another way of bringing technology to a very important part of people's lives - eating at home and at work.

Competing globally

Naspers knew it had to respond to the rapidly changing television viewing habits seen elsewhere in the world. The associated rise of subscription video on demand (SVOD) was gathering pace and, with continued improvements in internet connectivity in Africa, it was only a matter of time before new entrants brought this service to our markets. It was a chance between being disrupted by others, or taking

the initiative and disrupting itself first. The company decided on the latter and built a leading-edge SVOD business in the full knowledge it could well cannibalise its existing pay TV interests. Naspers took ShowMax from idea to full launch in just six months.

ShowMax vouchers are now available in more than 500 different retail stores. South Africa's four main banks also allow the linking of ShowMax subscriptions with their customer loyalty programmes. ShowMax also works in partnership with mobile equipment manufacturers and internet service providers like Telkom, who offer an entertainment data bolt-on.

In its first 15 months, ShowMax achieved well over 10 million views or, put another way, more than 700 years of continuous viewing if watched back-to-back. Creating downloadable content, enabling customers to apply data usage caps, establish a cash voucher system, and implementing multiple user profiles are some of the tougher technical challenges that had to be solved. Our founders are role models for our people across the globe; they inspire us to not only have vision, but also innovate to take calculated risk, and to push hard to pursue our dreams.



Helping local entrepreneurs scale their businesses to compete in the global market

We identify, invest, and work with local entrepreneurs in order to scale their businesses to the global market



Entrepreneurial spirit is the foundation of success at Naspers. And while we believe entrepreneurial spirit is not the sole preserve of entrepreneurs – anyone can have it – it is true that founders embody that spirit. At Naspers we're fortunate that many of the founders of the businesses we have invested in over the years remain part of our family, leading their companies through the next waves of growth. Our founders are role models for our people across the globe; they inspire us to not only have vision, but also innovate to take calculated risks, and to push hard to pursue our dreams. It's why we encourage all our teams to act like founders. No founder embodies entrepreneurial spirit more than Alec Oxenford.

Alec is the Argentinian co-founder of OLX and, more recently, Letgo, two global classifieds businesses that we are proud to say are part of the Naspers family. Alec perfectly represents what it means to have entrepreneurial spirit, and has many unique views on pursuing dreams that we can all learn from.

How an Argentinian entrepreneur invested in India and is now leading a classified innovation in the U.S.

When Alec co-founded OLX, he took what he describes as the "Martian approach." Most entrepreneurs launch their business in their home country – and city – because that's what they know best. But imagine you are a Martian looking down on the world. As an unbiased extra-terrestrial, with no ties to any particular region, you would take a different course. You would look at the whole world and choose the optimal market to build your business. So despite being Argentinian, Alec started with India.

Alec believes that people are far more similar around the world than most realise: they may have different day-to-day priorities and habits but, in the main, virtually everyone is driven by the same motivations. Chief among them is the desire to make life better for themselves and their family. He believes OLX and let go help people do this by enabling "wealth creation", making it easy to monetise personal possessions that would otherwise sit unused, by selling them locally. But his vision is bigger than creating successful, local trading

economies on a global scale. Alec is passionate about the role that OLX and Letgo play in solving the world's number one problem – excessive resource consumption and pollution that have vastly negative effects on the sustainability of the environment and put life on the planet at risk.

We are inspired by Alec's thinking and drive, which is what led us to invest in him and OLX in 2010. Later in 2015, following the successful growth and expansion of OLX, Alec came to us with his idea for Letgo, a mobile-only classifieds business. We back him again and we're excited by the past progress let is already making in countries like the US, Turkey, Canada and Norway. In September 2015, Alec was awarded the inaugural Naspers Founder Award. He remains chairman of OLX, but spends his days focused on Letgo where, together with his partners – Jordi Castello and Enrique Linares – he guides the company's vision and oversees operations, fundraising, and key hires.

Our message is clear: If you want to promote entrepreneurial spirit in your organization, a great starting point in encouraging your people to act like founders. Or put simply, be more Alec.





Liberation heritage:

Billy Modise

In June 2018, South Africa's former Chief of State Protocol and recipient of the National Order of Luthuli, Ambassador Billy Modise, passed away in hospital after a long illness. He was 87.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "Our country and our people have suffered a great loss in the passing of Ambassador Billy Modise. He served his country selflessly and diligently. He was a distinguished gentleman and leader of our people who contributed exceptionally to the achievement of a South Africa free of racial oppression and to the building of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic country. We wish to convey our deepest words of condolence to his family, friends and relatives as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps. May his soul rest in peace."

President Ramaphosa declared a Special Official Funeral Category 1 for Ambassador Modise, which entailed elements of military

ceremonial honours and is proclaimed, in line with The Presidency's State, Official and Provincial Official Funeral Policy, for persons of extraordinary credentials specifically designated by the President of the Republic of South Africa.

Paying tribute to Ambassador Modise during a memorial service held at the OR Tambo Building in Pretoria, the former Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, said that as Chief of State Protocol, Ambassador Modise effortlessly enhanced the prestige and standing of South Africa to great eminence.

"In him, other countries saw a South Africa that was confident without being arrogant.

"A country that exhibited a true spirit of humanity and which was a natural ally for a world that must attain peace, stability, democracy and prosperity for all its citizens.

"Ambassador Modise's personality and character were well suited to his diplomatic

calling. A gentleman par excellence, who combined the rare traits of a skilful negotiator with those of an astute activist. A diligent man with the master's touch. A Picasso in the art of diplomacy with his gentle hand.

"A humanist, an internationalist, a devout father and a loving husband. He was an all-in-one, extremely gifted and yet so humble.

"Uncle Billy was one of a galaxy of stars who played a key role in the evolution of our foreign policy under the overall guidance of OR Tambo. Led by Johny Makhathini and later Thabo Mbeki, this team orchestrated the isolation of apartheid South Africa, its



expulsion from the United Nations (UN) and the declaration of apartheid as a crime against humanity. Even though, by his own admission, he struggled with the resort to arms, Uncle Billy was nonetheless at all times always guided by a firm understanding of the complex interaction and the mutually supportive nature of the four pillars of our struggle for liberation.”

Billy Modise was born on 8 December 1930 in Bloemfontein, Orange Free State (now Free State province). He received an Anglican scholarship, which enabled him to enrol for his secondary schooling in Modeerport. The racial discrimination imposed by apartheid and his personal experiences of racism served as a political awakening for Modise.

In January 1955, he enrolled at the University of Fort Hare to study Medicine. It was while he was on his way to Fort Hare that he resolved to join the African National Congress (ANC).

While at Fort Hare, he contracted tuberculosis and was admitted to hospital for six months. As a student at Fort Hare, he came into contact with Professor ZK Mathews and Govan Mbeki who inspired him to become politically active. He was elected as secretary of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) for the Fort Hare branch, and later served as secretary of the Student Representative Council. Modise also became a member of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), serving as an executive member.

In January 1960, he was asked by NUSAS to attend a conference in Switzerland. He declined, fearing that applying for a passport would result in his arrest. The ANC advised him to leave the country. At the same time,

the Lund University Students Union in Sweden offered him a scholarship to go abroad and study Medicine. Subsequently, a ticket for his travel from Accra, Ghana, to London was organised by the British Students Union. He then left the country for Bechuanaland (now Botswana), where he boarded a chartered flight that transported South African ANC refugees from the then-Bechuanaland to Accra. He missed his flight and had to find a way to Tanzania where met Barbro Johansson, a Swedish missionary who facilitated the transfer of his ticket from Ghana to Tanzania.

While studying at Lund in Sweden, he began mobilising university student formations against apartheid and networking on behalf of the ANC. He was a founder member of the South Africa Committee in Lund alongside Lars-Erik Johansson and Ulf Agrell. Due to the demands of political work, he gave up studying Medicine and switched to Sociology. Modise met students from other liberation movements in Africa who were also studying at Lund, resulting in his work extending to cover liberation movements from across southern Africa.

In 1966, the ANC Youth and Student Section (ANC YSS) was formed with Thabo Mbeki as leader in Britain. The ANC YSS had two main objectives: looking after the welfare of the ANC youth and mobilising youth against apartheid internationally. ANC YSS leaders would later play critical roles in the country's transition to a democracy.

In 1975, Modise went to New York to work for Habitat, the UN Conference on Human Settlements. His role was preparing policy papers on issues of resettlement.

Between 1976 and 1988, he worked as Assistant Director of the UN Institute for Namibia in Lusaka, Zambia, where he worked closely with Namibians, providing training in political science, sociology and education. In 1988, he left the UN to work fulltime for the ANC. Subsequently, he was deployed in Sweden where he served as the ANC's chief representative.

Modise returned to South Africa in 1991 and was deployed at Shell House, the ANC headquarters. He was tasked with heading the Matla Trust, which was established to prepare for the 1994 elections. After the first democratic elections, Modise was posted as South Africa's High Commissioner to Canada in 1995. He also served as the Chief of State Protocol from 1999 to 2006.

In 2008, Ambassador Modise received the Order of Luthuli – Silver Class from former President Mbeki for his excellent contribution to the achievement of a South Africa free of racial oppression and contributing to the building of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. He also received the Premier's Excellence Award from the Premier of the Free State for his contribution towards the liberation struggle and South Africa in general. In 2017, Modise was bestowed the Swedish Order of the Polar Star by the Swedish Ambassador to South Africa. Modise was a member of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes Board of Trustees from 2007 until his passing on 20 June 2018. 🇺🇸

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2019 National Orders reflect SA's silver jubilee

"A member of society merely exists. A citizen embraces the concept of civic virtue – of dedication to the common welfare of their community and their country."

These were the words of President Cyril Ramaphosa as he awarded the six National Orders to distinguished South Africans and eminent foreign nationals on Thursday, 25 April 2019.

The six National Orders are the Order of Mendi for Bravery, the Order of Ikhamanga, the Order of the Baobab, the Order of Luthuli, the Order of Mapungubwe and the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo.

The orders are the highest awards that the country, through the President, bestows on citizens and eminent foreign nationals who have contributed towards the advancement of democracy and who made a significant impact on improving the lives of South Africans.

The awards took place at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria in an investiture ceremony led by the President as the grand patron of the awards.

"We have among us today the very best of such citizens. You have gained recognition for your dedication to personal, professional and other improvement; to putting yourselves at the service of your country; and for your

willingness to do your part to make South Africa a better place," said President Ramaphosa.

The Order of Luthuli is awarded to South Africans who have made a meaningful contribution to the struggle for democracy, human rights, nation-building, peace and conflict resolution.

It symbolises the vision of the late Chief Albert Luthuli – the legendary liberation struggle leader and the first African recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1961.

The Order of Mapungubwe is awarded to South African citizens for achievements that have impacted internationally and served the interests of the Republic of South Africa.

The Order of the Baobab is awarded to South African citizens for distinguished service in the fields of business, the economy, science, technological innovation and community service.

South African citizens who have excelled in the fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport are awarded the Order of the Ikhamanga.

The Order of the Mendi is awarded to South Africans who have performed an extraordinary act of bravery that placed their lives in great

danger, or who lost their own lives in trying to save the life of another person, or by saving property.

Foreign nationals and other foreign dignitaries are also honoured through the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo.

The award is bestowed for friendship shown to South Africa. It is therefore an order of peace, cooperation and active expression of solidarity and support.

Each order is awarded either in Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze.

As 2019 marks the 25th investiture ceremony since the introduction of the new orders, Director-General (DG) Cassius Lubisi in The Presidency, who is the Chancellor of the National Orders, explained that the National Orders were not a new concept.

"The National Orders, are not new, even the apartheid regime had the orders but they might not have called them that but they did recognise citizens at that time," said DG Lubisi.

When President Nelson Mandela assumed office in 1994, he continued with the old orders such as the Order of Good Hope.

A decision was later taken to transform the National Orders from those old orders of apartheid to new orders.

"This then introduced the new orders that we give now such as the Order of Mendi, Ikhamanga, Mapungubuwe, Baobab, Luthuli and the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo," said DG Lubisi.

This year's investiture ceremony came as South Africa is celebrating 25 years of democracy.

"The significance this year of course is that a silver jubilee, which is what 25 years is, is a critical milestone for any celebration of periods of time.

"It is our first such big celebration and the National Orders hope to reflect such strides that we have made. If you look at the types of people who are being honoured," said DG Lubisi.

While the five National Orders recognise South African citizens, the Order of Companions of OR Tambo recognises foreign nationals and their contributions.

"South Africa like other countries is not an island. The importance of people-to-people relations is what makes the international relations system to tick.

"During our struggle, many of our people left our country and went into exile where they were supported with shelter, clothes, food and in some instances with arms.

"International friends made huge risks so the notion of the OR Tambo arises from that history.

"Oliver Tambo single-handedly led the international isolation of South Africa. He was the prime diplomat the Republic of South Africa has ever seen."

The Order of Companions of OR Tambo also recognises individuals who champion ideals that South Africa stands for.

"There will come a time when those of us who were in the struggle will no longer be around and that does not mean the Order of Companions of OR Tambo will cease to exist. It will exist but it will exist to recognise the friends who support South Africa in any manner," said DG Lubisi.

The 2019 recipients were:

The Order of Mendi for Bravery (Silver)

Thapelo Tambani (Posthumous): For his selfless act of saving another life, which led to his unfortunate demise. His courageous act remains as his legacy to all who knew him and got to know of him after his courageous sacrifice.

The Order of Ikhamanga (Silver)

Achmat Davids (Posthumous): For his excellent contribution to the field of literature and the preservation of history through storytelling. His body of works enriched our understanding of the Cape Muslims' contribution to the development of the Afrikaans language.

Jacques Henry Kallis: For his excellent contribution to the sport of cricket and for placing South Africa on the world sporting map with his brilliance. His stellar career and commitment to the sport inspired many young people to aim for excellence.

Yvonne Chaka Chaka Mhinga: For her excellent contribution to the field of music and her general contribution to social cohesion. Her melodic voice reverberated and found

resonance in many parts of our continent and the world.

Nomhle Nkonyeni: For her brilliant contribution to the performing arts. Over many decades, she has shown durability and adaptability. She has graced the national and international stages and her mastery of her craft has moved many audiences locally and around the world.

Benjamin Pogrand: For his excellent contribution to the field of journalism and to scholarship on the liberation struggle. His informative writing shone the light on our country during some of the darkest days in our history. He defied those who would deceive the world.

Mathatha Tsedu: For his excellent contribution to South African journalism and to journalism on the African continent, as well as his selfless contribution to the liberation of our country and continent. His mighty pen continues to be his weapon in the building of our democracy.

Mary Mhlongo Twala: For her excellent contribution to the performing arts and creatively raising awareness on women's health issues through storytelling. Her sense of humour and humility on and off stage have endeared her to the nation at large.

The Order of Ikhamanga (Gold)

Johaar Mosaval: For his exceptional contribution to the performing arts, particularly ballet dancing. His exceptional talent led him to be the first black South African to become a senior principal dancer at the Royal Ballet. ▶▶





The Order of the Baobab (Silver)

Braam Jordaan: For his brilliant efforts at raising awareness on the importance of Sign Language and the human rights of deaf people around the world through his colourful spectrum of films and books.

Constance Mirriam Thokozile Koza (Posthumous): For her excellent contribution and consistent commitment to education and community development. Her selfless giving to society enriched and empowered many lives.

Bongani Donald Mkhwanazi (Posthumous): For his excellent contribution to the upliftment of black business. He was a doyen of black business and one of the foremost champions of the economic transformation of post-apartheid South Africa. His efforts had a commendable effect on social cohesion.

Ray and Dora Phillips (Posthumous): For their excellent contribution to the creation of the first social work network designed to improve the terrible living conditions of the growing population of the oppressed that were being brought to the Rand to work in the mines in the early 20th century.

William Smith: For his superb contribution to the teaching and demystification of mathematics and science. Through the medium of television, he made mathematics and science accessible even to the most marginalised in our society.

The Order of Luthuli (Silver)

Velaphi Msane: For his excellent contribution to the liberation struggle and for his steadfast conviction in the equality of all. His courage allowed him to put his people first, with scant regard for his own safety. He left his loved ones behind to fight for not just South Africans, but for all of humanity.

Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe: For her excellent contribution to fight for the liberation of the people of South Africa. She did outstanding work in raising awareness on repression in South Africa and mobilised support for those who were facing the apartheid security forces inside South Africa on a daily basis.

Antony Andrew Trew: For his excellent contribution to the attainment of democracy and to the reconstruction of a post-apartheid society. His linguistic prowess and meticulous application of language are imprinted in many dossiers of government where he served tirelessly and loyally.

Moyisile Douglas Tyutyu: For his shining contribution to the fight for the freedom of all South Africans. As an underground operative of Umkhonto we Sizwe, he proved to be a man of courage, living by his conviction that all are equal. He continues to be the fount of wisdom for young activists.

Yosuf (Joe) Veriava: For his brilliant contribution to the medical profession in South Africa. He has consistently personified medical ethics and progressiveness. He also courageously pushed back the frontiers of the unjust and repressive laws of apartheid.

The Order of Mapungubwe (Bronze)

Thokozani Majazi: For his outstanding contribution to science, particularly the development of a novel mathematical technique for near-zero-effluent batch chemical facilities, which enables the re-use of wastewater. As a young scientist, more trailblazing is expected of him in the years ahead.

The Order of Mapungubwe (Silver)

Malik Maaza: For his outstanding contribution to the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. He is a pioneer on the African continent. His work has improved our knowledge and made headway in the development of cutting-edge modern technology.

Ari Sitas: For his excellent contribution to social science scholarship and progressive policymaking. He is also a renowned storyteller and poet. He is a multitalented social scientist who moves effortlessly between profound knowledge production and the arts.

The Order of Mapungubwe (Gold)

Bomo Edna Edith Molewa (Posthumous): For her exceptional contribution to the fight to save our planet. Having served her country during the liberation struggle, she immersed herself in the global efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change on the planet. Through her tireless efforts, South Africa is recognised as one of the global leaders in matters of environment of justice.

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo (Bronze)

Riccardo Sarra (Italy): For his consistent contribution to the fight for the liberation of the people of South Africa and the southern African region. He has nurtured and encouraged cooperation between Italian and South African institutions over a long period.

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo (Silver)

Klaas de Jonge (The Netherlands): For his excellent contribution to the fight for the liberation of the people of South Africa. With little regard for his own life, he became part of the armed resistance to apartheid. He demonstrated his commitment to South Africa by continuing to be part of the democratic project after the historic 1994 elections.

Khotso Makhulu (United Kingdom): For his courageous contribution to the fight for liberation. He followed his calling and lived the ideals of lending a helping hand to his fellow human beings. He provided refuge, comfort and family to young activists arriving in exile to join the South African liberation struggle.

Paulette Pierson-Mathy (Belgium): For her outstanding and insightful contributions to the struggle for liberation. She has been a prolific author of original reports and publications, providing deep insights into the realities of apartheid and the struggle for liberation in Africa and southern Africa in particular.

Amii Omara-Otunnu (Uganda): For his excellent contribution to the global fight for democracy and social justice. He has been a reliable tried and tested friend of South Africa. He is well-known for his efforts to build international partnerships between our academic institutions and those in other countries.

Lucia Raadschelders (Posthumous) (The Netherlands): For her outstanding contribution to the struggle against apartheid. Over many years, she was a reliable friend of our country and, post-liberation, she continued to play a critical role in supporting our democracy and archiving our history of the struggle.

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo (Gold)

His Excellency Admiral Didier Ignace Ratsiraka (Madagascar): For his outstanding contribution to the struggle for democracy in South Africa. He offered the liberation movement a national and international platform through his country's national television and radio station to operate Radio Freedom in the battle of ideas between apartheid propaganda and non-racial democratic values. 🇺🇸

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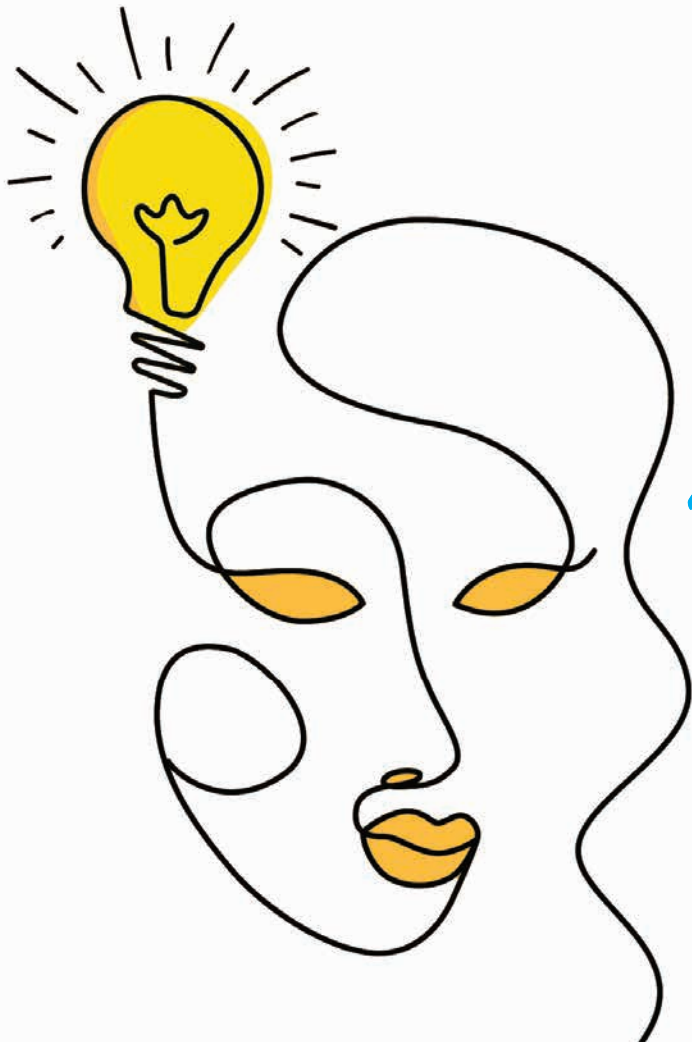
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*“Think Equal,
Build Smart,
Innovate for Change”*

This year’s theme for International Women’s Day, “Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change,” puts innovation at the centre of efforts to reflect the needs and viewpoints of women and girls and to resolve barriers to public services and opportunities.

By Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women

At a time when innovation is dominant, shaping and changing the way people live in every part of the world, we have to be intentional about its use to positively impact the lives of women and girls. That means making sure they are not only consumers of innovation, but take their place as innovators. With their engagement, both design and execution of solutions can address the unique needs of women and girls, from the creation of decent work to delivery of products, services and infrastructure for women in all walks of life. This year’s theme for International Women’s Day, “Think Equal, Build Smart,

Innovate for Change”, puts innovation at the centre of efforts to reflect the needs and viewpoints of women and girls and to resolve barriers to public services and opportunities.

Remoteness need no longer be an exclusion issue when mobile money technology and digital payments can deliver social benefits to even the most remote households. Lack of roads needs not prevent life-saving medication from reaching patients, with smart inventions like 15-year old Nigerian Eno Ekanem’s drone to make drops to rural areas, controlled by SMS messaging.

Lack of electric light did not stop midwife Lorina Karway from delivering babies at night

in remote parts of Liberia; she improvised using her phone light. Now however, simple, low-cost solar lamps made by women have brought a creative, sustainable solution to Lorina, and to multiple health centres and individual homes that previously lacked access to energy infrastructure. This important invention that jumpstarts access to modern renewable energy can be further developed to be even easier to handle and use.

Women’s fresh, relevant thinking also brings transformative change to large-scale infrastructure, both virtual and physical. Our Buy from Women Enterprise Platform uses mobile technology to connect women farmers

Women and girls must have opportunities to contribute to making real change, and help shape the policies, services and infrastructure that impact their lives. As we have seen from recent marches for climate action in Europe and elsewhere – they are ready to do so.

and cooperatives to information, finance and markets, optimising the supply chain for women.

The large "Senergy" solar-power project in Dakar, Senegal, drew on women's views in development, bringing shared benefits such as upgrades to the local school, the funding of a microcredit association to promote women's businesses in the local area, and premises for a maternity unit.

Syrian architect Marwa al-Sabouni's award-winning vision for the redevelopment of the razed district of Baba Amr, Homs, includes ways to restore cooperation, social cohesion and a sense of identity after the devastation of war.

Innovation and technology reflect their designers and makers.

Knowing that algorithms increasingly determine selection and response, we need to react to the growing evidence that women have been routinely left out of the data on which decisions are made.

"Big data" is only a reliable support for decision-making if it draws on a pool of unbiased information.

Groups that are underrepresented and marginalised based on their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or socio-economic status also need to have the opportunity to create and provide feedback on what is created by others. This might be urban planning that designs for commuter or pedestrian safety with simple measures like better lighting and walkways

that reflect crowd-sourced data on hotspot attack or harassment zones.

Or it could be toilet constructions that support women's period management needs.

Or the use of biometrics as ID to replace formal registration documents that many women may not have or control.

In any of these scenarios, innovation and technology with a gender perspective are crucial to remove barriers and accelerate progress for gender equality.

Our Global Innovation Coalition for Change brings representatives from the private sector, academia and non-profit institutions to develop the innovation market so as to work better for women and to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Women and girls must have opportunities to contribute to making real change, and help shape the policies, services and infrastructure that impact their lives.

As we have seen from recent marches for climate action in Europe and elsewhere – they are ready to do so.

When we put the focus on those who are least heard, and least visible – whether individuals, or those hundreds of millions of informal sector workers who currently have little or no presence in official planning, or financial protection that will sustain them in ill-health, child care or older age – we are tackling some of the deepest-reaching social problems and can make the progress we want to see. ☺



International Women's Day 2019

The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March 2019, "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change", puts innovation by women and girls, for women and girls, at the heart of efforts to achieve gender equality.

Achieving a gender-equal world requires social innovations that work for both women and men and leave no one behind. From urban planning that focusses on community safety to e-learning platforms that take classrooms to women and girls, affordable and quality childcare centres, and technology shaped by women, innovation can take the race for gender equality to its finishing line by 2030.

It begins with making sure that women's and girls' needs and experiences are integrated at the very inception of technology and innovations. It means building smart solutions that go beyond acknowledging the gender gaps to addressing the needs of men and women equally. And ultimately, it needs innovations that disrupt business as usual, paying attention to how and by whom technology is used and accessed, and ensuring that women and girls play a decisive role in emerging industries.



phase of AI will also signal a transition to the Age of Data. It is believed that this transition will be to China's advantage. China is collecting more data than any other country in the world. This means that China has all the ingredients required to dominate the current phase of AI. China's engineers are as good as their Western counterparts, though not as creative. Computing power is equitably distributed globally. It is the abundance of data in China that will give it the edge, enabling it to dominate.

Whether Dr Lee is correct in asserting that the golden age of algorithm discovery is behind us and that we have entered the implementation age, leading to the Age of Data, we will see in the fullness of time.

However, it is clear that whether his predictions are true or not, data will be the fuel of the 4IR. I recently participated in a forum on AI and information and records management at the South African Reserve Bank, and one of the speakers warned against using the phrase: "Data is the new oil". His view is that oil is not reusable; once you burn it, that's it, it cannot be used again. By contrast, data is reusable; data collected today can be used a thousand years from now.

With this in mind, the question that we need to be asking is: Are we as a country, and more broadly the African continent, sufficiently collecting data? More broadly, what is it that we are putting in place in our country to ensure that we are able to respond to the emergence of the 4IR?

South Africa has made substantial investments in cyber infrastructure, as well as in the acquisition and generation of data across a number of domains. Driven by initiatives such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), these commitments are set to greatly increase in the future, uniquely positioning the country to derive substantial benefits from big data. However, South Africa should not just be a collector of data; rather, the economic, social, scientific and industrial beneficiation potential of big data for the country must be realised.

Admittedly, a lot more still needs to be done to improve our data collection. This brings me to an important technology, which is one of the pillars of the 4IR, the Internet of Things (IoT). Technologies such as 5G, IoT sensors and platforms, edge computing, AI and analytics, robotics, blockchain, additive manufacturing and virtual reality are coalescing into a fertile environment for the Industrial IoT.

Enabling IoT will lead to an exponential increase in sensors capable of collecting vast amounts of data from every piece of equipment.

In this regard, we should all welcome the assurance made by the President in his State of the Nation Address in February 2019

and echoed by the Minister of Finance, that government would be issuing a policy directive to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa on the licensing of frequency spectrum. This will pave the way for investments in 5G technology that will completely change the IoT landscape.

With regard to 4IR, we are in the process of establishing an African 4IR centre, in the form of a South African affiliate to the World Economic Forum's Centre for the 4IR. The proposed centre, to be hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), will be aimed at creating an integrated and comprehensive response to the African and, specifically, South African, challenges highlighted in the National Development Plan as well as those that are new and emerging, by leveraging the new wave of technological revolution that is upon us. The centre will assist with the coordination of research, innovation and conformance standards testing to enable Africa to effectively tackle its socio-economic challenges and become a competitive participant in the global economy.

Another notable development in the 4IR space is the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research (CAIR), a distributed centre conducting foundational, directed and applied research into various aspects of AI. CAIR has nodes at five South African universities – the University of Cape Town, University of KwaZulu-Natal, North-West University, University of Pretoria and Stellenbosch University – and is coordinated and managed by the CSIR.

Similar platforms in nanotechnology, additive manufacturing, cybersecurity, unmanned aerial systems and biotechnology have developed and grown through funding and investment support from the Department of Science and Technology. Efforts are underway to support the development of platforms in blockchain, data science and analytics, quantum computing and the IoT.

The Global AI Council will provide strategic guidance to the international community on the priorities for AI and machine learning governance and cooperation, while helping to shape policy development and pilot implementation work undertaken in this regard across the centres in the network. The work will include the piloting of policies aimed at proactively mitigating the risks and exploiting the benefits of emerging technologies for society.

The Africa Tech Week, that was held recently, aimed to "show businesses how technology can be leveraged to make more money, save more money and become fully efficient in a sustainable way". Sustainability is a very important aspect that needs to be considered when introducing

new technologies. It is important that the sustainability that Africa Tech Week aims to promote extends beyond individual business sustainability. Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State and a controversial giant of American foreign policy, believes it may be a lot harder to control the development of AI weapons than nuclear ones. For this reason, it is also important to think about safety, the sustainability of jobs and the sustainability of democracy.

One of the biggest concerns that law makers, and members of the Global AI Council have is around the regulation of the technologies associated with the 4IR. Undoubtedly, AI is one of the exponential technologies that are rapidly altering the global business landscape. And I'm quite certain that a lot of money will be made from these technologies. My concern, and I think it should be a concern for all of us, is, at what cost? And what is it that we need to do to avoid this cost?

To help us answer some of these questions, we commissioned a baseline and literature survey study of 4IR in South Africa, the findings of which are expected to be presented by the Human Sciences Research Council. Further concepts such as a converging technologies platform and an inclusive development platform, both of which are directed at enhancing the country's ability to take advantage of the 4IR, are being refined.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has also established the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which will help the country to respond comprehensively to the new environment, including how AI can assist us in building a better country.

Together with all stakeholders, namely business, labour and civil society, we will work to develop policies and regulations that will assist us to reap the benefits of the new technologies, while averting the risks and dangers that may arise in the future because of these technologies. 🇿🇦

Are we as a country, and more broadly the African continent, sufficiently collecting data? More broadly, what is it that we are putting in place in our country to ensure that we are able to respond to the emergence of the 4IR?







Karoo project will unlock universe's mysteries

By Elsabé Brits

A new telescope that is being constructed in the Karoo will have one aim: to look at the cosmic dawn and find the first-ever signals of the birth of the first stars in the universe.

Nobody has yet detected a signal so far back in time. Not far from the already completed 64-dish MeerKAT radio telescope, on the same site as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), some 90 km from the small town of Carnarvon in the Northern Cape, another telescope is taking shape. In fact, it looks nothing like a telescope at all.

The Hydrogen Epoch of Reionisation Array (HERA) radio telescope will be instrumental in detecting the distinctive signature that would allow astronomers to understand the formation and evolution of the very first luminous sources: the first stars and galaxies in the universe. And even further back in time.

The HERA dishes themselves are nothing elaborate; they're made by using telephone poles, PVC pipes, wire mesh and bit of wiring here and there as well as metal reflectors.

The reason is that the dishes don't need to move. They have short lifespans and only one scientific objective, which is to look at the very early universe, just a few million years after the Big Bang, which occurred 13.7 billion years ago.

HERA will be the most sensitive radio telescope built to look as far back as 13.5 billion years ago. There are whispers among astronomers that this might bring the first-ever Nobel Prize in physics for the African continent in years to come.

It is an international collaboration between America, Britain and South Africa. The construction material comes from the Karoo region and the work is done by local people from Carnarvon, who also act as team leaders.

Carina Cheng, a graduate student working on HERA, explains that they are interested in a time called the Epoch of Reionisation (EoR). It is an era in cosmic history which occurred

about a million to a billion years after the Big Bang.

"Here's what happened: After the universe began with an explosion of energy, it expanded and cooled and neutral hydrogen atoms were eventually able to form." (The universe is mostly made of hydrogen.)

For a long time, the universe was dark and neutral, explains Cheng. But there were fluctuations (slight over-densities of matter), left over from the Big Bang. These slowly grew. Eventually the densest regions collapsed to form the first luminous structures. These were the first stars and galaxies.

"These stars and galaxies emit light, and their energies ionised the neutral hydrogen. This transition – from neutral hydrogen to ionised hydrogen – because of the first stars and galaxies, is called the EoR," explains Cheng. "It is thought to have begun a few million years after the Big Bang and end about



a billion years later. This era is particularly exciting because it is relatively unexplored.”

“As telescopes have become more and more sensitive, we’ve been able to look at galaxies further and further away [further and further back in time], but we’re only just beginning to be able to see these ‘first’ galaxies, now,” Cheng says.

“Instead, mapping the hydrogen itself – as it alters phase from neutral to ionised – using radio telescopes is a promising and complementary way to probe this era. If we can map out how the gas changes over time, we will learn about the properties of the first stars and galaxies that are responsible for the ionising. For example, whether the hydrogen gas was ionised quickly or slowly – or over large scales or small scales – will tell us about the characteristics of the first stars and galaxies,” Cheng says.

But there is currently a problem. Telescopes can receive signals from times very far back – and then they hit a “curtain”. It is called the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB) – at about 380 000 years after the Big Bang.

Prof. David de Boer, astronomer from the University of California at Berkeley, the university leading the scientific team, explains that HERA has been optimised to remove this “curtain” or signals which are very bright. We will be able to see through it.

How do astronomers distinguish between the very first stars and galaxies and the “noise and signals” in the foreground?

“This is the hardest part of it all, since the foreground material is about a million times brighter, so we need to get rid of it. They do have a different spectrum from what we are trying to find. So, the EoR would sound like

the static you heard when you dial between two radio stations, while the foreground would sound like someone whistling. We can filter that out and measure the static,” Prof. de Boer says.

Kathryn Rosie, project engineer of HERA, says the instrument will consist of 350 dishes. It will be finished this year and they hope to observe from September to March. Observations of this kind are better in summer because of the sunlight’s impact on the atmosphere and the galactic plane. Most of those strong foreground noises come from our own galaxy and these get weaker if most of them are below the horizon.

Rosie says they can get away with using mesh as a reflective surface because the wavelengths they are interested in (1.2 m – 6 m) are too long to pass through the small holes in the mesh (6.4 mm).

“This is the same reason that the screen in your microwave has holes in it the size that it does. Those holes are large enough to let light through, but small enough to not let the 12.2 cm microwaves pass through. So, you can see your food without microwaving your face.”

How do the dishes work?

The HERA telescope design is a parabolic dish, which focusses light rays to a centre point above the dish, where a feed hangs which collects the light. The dishes, which act as one telescope, are closely packed, pointing in the same direction. The signals travel from the telescope, through long cables, into a digital signal processing system.

Each dish is 14 m in diameter, and the reflector is about 2.5 m off the ground. The feeds are rigged 4.5 m above the bottom centre of the dish.

Rosie says: “We are proud of the fact that all of the build materials, items and labour involved in the construction of the reflector elements have been sourced from within South Africa, with most of our bulk materials being sourced from within the Karoo.”

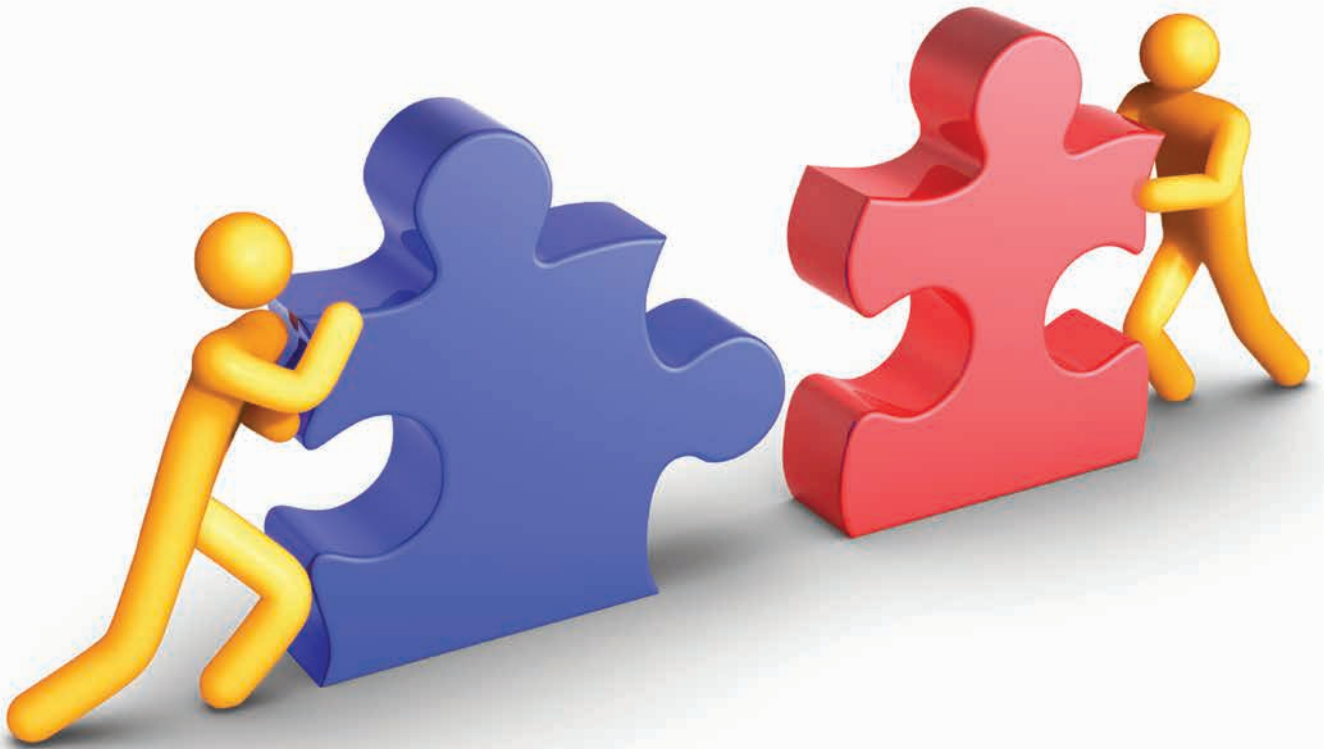
When you look at the moon on a clear night, you’re seeing it as it was 1.3 seconds ago, because it takes light 1.3 seconds to travel from the moon’s surface to our eyes.

When you look at Sirius, a bright star known as the “Dog Star”, which accompanies the constellation Orion, you’re seeing it as it was 8.6 years ago, because that’s how long it takes for its light to travel to us.

When you see the Large Magellanic Cloud, a nearby galaxy that you can see with your naked eye from South Africa on a really dark night, you’re seeing it as it was 160 thousand years ago.

“HERA employs this same profound principle – that light takes a finite time to travel the cosmos – to observe billions of years ago. The wealth of information that HERA will unlock about our early universe is exciting, but for me personally – the sheer fact that astronomers are able to piece together the history of our universe with observations spanning billions of years will always be a remarkable feat,” says Cheng. www.groundup.org.za

“As telescopes have become more and more sensitive, we’ve been able to look at galaxies further and further away [further and further back in time], but we’re only just beginning to be able to see these ‘first’ galaxies, now.”



Africa should be building private-public partnerships in education

By Professor Teboho Moja
New York University

Private-public partnerships have become a common strategy for countries all over the world to meet their development goals. In the global North, these partnerships – which bring capital and expertise together – tend to focus on developing infrastructure. That includes energy, ports, rail and fibre networks.

Such partnerships have also benefited some sectors of society in African countries and elsewhere in the global South.

In Africa's education sector, public-private partnerships have been largely limited to infrastructure developments and the provision of education. It's time for the continent's higher education sector to develop its own partnership models that deal

with a different currency: knowledge. Public-private partnerships should centre on the production, transfer and use of knowledge for social and economic development.

First, the sector must interrogate why strategic public-partnerships are important. What are the advantages? Who benefits? And, are there accrued benefits for those beyond the partners involved?

It's also vital to examine partnerships that already exist. Their successes and

failures must be interrogated. There is good work being done on the continent. Now the success stories must combine their efforts for greater impact.

The mechanics

Ideally, public-private partnerships in the higher education sector should involve a combination of several actors: the private sector, academic researchers and governments. Other scientific resources, such

Ideally, public-private partnerships in the higher education sector should involve a combination of several actors: the private sector, academic researchers and governments. Other scientific resources, such as science granting councils, have a role to play, too. The National Research Foundation in southern Africa, National Council for Science and Technology in Eastern Africa, and *Programme d'Appui Stratégique à la Recherche Scientifique* in Côte d'Ivoire are examples of such councils.

as science granting councils, have a role to play, too. The National Research Foundation in southern Africa, National Council for Science and Technology in Eastern Africa, and *Programme d'Appui Stratégique à la Recherche Scientifique* in Côte d'Ivoire are examples of such councils.

Higher education institutions and research groups must explore and create opportunities to connect researchers. This will allow them to establish collaborative projects with other scientists throughout the continent.

They must also support opportunities and activities that would link researchers with projects at national laboratories and research centres run by governments and the private sector. This would allow experts and leaders from academia, government agencies and national organisations to contribute knowledge to inform transformative science and policies.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that partnerships' power relations and dynamics must be carefully managed to ensure equal benefit for, for instance, those from the global South and those from the global North.

Who benefits, and how

Academic researchers, including students, get exposure by getting involved in real and immediately relevant research. Private-sector researchers are supported with an up-to-date base of literature to inform their work. This knowledge and skills exchange is beneficial for both parties. Of course, it also benefits governments and nations more broadly by producing solutions to problems or challenges.

International and regional academic partnerships have become the "overriding paradigm" for international development cooperation and policy. As a result, the partners stand to benefit through connecting with global networks and learning from each other.

In addition, African perspectives and those from other parts of the developing world would be included to inform global issues. We live in an interconnected world. Problems and solutions should be addressed together, rather than from one perspective.


Learning lessons

As I have said, there are already networks and partnerships that involve public and

private organisations in the research space, and from which lessons can be drawn and models developed.

A few examples include the Global University Network, which consists of 4 500 research institutions across 160 countries; the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance in South Africa; and the United States-based Improvement Science Research Network.

Governments can also be drawn into existing and new partnerships. They could either act as partners, or offer links to researchers through existing bilateral or multilateral agreements in other sectors.

These links can be used to create continent-to-continent partnerships; continent-to-country partnerships; partnerships on demand based on regional requests and requirements; and organisational partnerships. This mimics the partnership structures already prioritised by the African Union. 

This article is based on the author's keynote address at the Annual Forum and Global Research Council Africa Regional Meeting in Côte d'Ivoire during November 2018. It was first published on *The Conversation*.





Iconic Map of Africa opened at the southernmost tip of Africa

The Iconic Map of Africa Monument was unveiled at the southernmost tip of Africa in the Agulhas National Park in the Southern Overberg region of the Western Cape in March 2019.

The map pays homage to the mighty African continent and boasts a circumference of 30 metres.

The Iconic Map of Africa Monument was commissioned and developed at the Agulhas National Park by the Department of Tourism in collaboration with South African National Parks (SANParks) to enhance visitor experience and boost the local tourism economy.

The monument is a map of Africa which has been hand-sculpted out of concrete. It is raised with ridges, peaks and hills, showing the mountain ranges, valleys and more across the continent – in short, it is a 3D relief map. Visitors are encouraged to step onto the monument and “explore” the continent.

The Iconic Map has been aligned with the Earth compass, with the tip of the Africa monument pointing to the south.

The artists wanted the monument to show the differing landscapes across the continent.

Different metal powders were sprayed onto the monument that will, over time, react with chemicals from the environment and atmosphere and turn different colours. These will represent the different biomes and vegetation over different areas of the continent.

The southernmost tip of Africa personifies a quiet sense of calm. The monument design shows the direction of the compass and includes representation of several African



landmarks, according to the Department of Tourism.

It also lends itself to walking meditation or quiet contemplation while visitors admire the confluence of the two mighty oceans: the Atlantic and Indian oceans.

“South Africa’s rich biodiversity and natural heritage found in our national parks are key tourism drawcards. We can only enhance these amazing tourism offerings by adding features like the Iconic Map of Africa Monument to deliver memorable experiences to our visitors and ensure many happy returns,” the former Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom, said at the unveiling.

“The funding and supporting of infrastructure development projects are particularly important to us – it enables us to fulfil our mandate of creating inclusive economic opportunities for our people. Remember, through these initiatives, people get jobs and local small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) also generate income from the services they render.

“All South Africans should desire tourism growth as it translates into economic growth, jobs and opportunities for many,” said the Minister.

During the year-long construction of the R15-million project, employment was

provided for 79 local community members and involved seven SMMEs.

The project also included the construction of a 1-km road, realignment of the boardwalk and rehabilitation of the terrain. The construction presented training opportunities to beneficiaries in different skills programmes such as painting, plumbing, tiling and plastering, demonstrating the broad benefits of tourism and community beneficiation.

“Tourism is an industry that can readily deliver the jobs and sustainable economic growth that our country so urgently needs. Through partnerships and collaboration of this nature, we are able to ensure the sustainability of the sector’s growth,” said former Minister Hanekom.

The Chief Executive Officer of SANParks, Fundisile Mketeni, said the monument marked the geographical and spiritual significance of the southernmost tip of Africa to enhance the status of the area as a prime national and international tourist destination.

“We have earmarked this park in our tourism growth strategy as a necessary vehicle, particularly in attracting visitors to this part of the world,” Mketeni said.

Phase two of the project will be the development of the Lighthouse Precinct Project, which will include construction of a conference facility, a restaurant, interpretive centre, paving and walkways. 🇿🇦

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OFFICIAL SELECTION
SANTA CRUZ
FILM FESTIVAL
2018

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SAN FRANCISCO
GREEN FILM FESTIVAL
2018

WILDLIFE
FILM
FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL SELECTION
2018

journey into the rhino horn war

STROOP

**"THE
TELL-ALL
FILM."**

- THE DAILY MAIL

**"THIS FILM
WILL CHANGE
THINGS."**

- AFRICA GEOGRAPHIC

**"EXPOSING
THE
ATROCITIES"**

- SUNDAY TRIBUNE

SA's *Stroop* triumphs at International Wildlife Film Festival

South African film, *Stroop – Journey into the Rhino Horn War*, was awarded the sought-after Best of Festival Award as well as Best Independent or Feature Film at the International Wildlife Film Festival (IWFF) in April 2019 in the United States of America.

The annual festival celebrates wildlife, the environment and people's relationship to wildlife through film. This year saw over 300 films submitted from all over the world, of which 70 films were selected from 36 countries.

"Even if you think you already understand the rhino poaching crisis, *Stroop* must be seen. It is heartwarming and heartbreaking and the access is unprecedented. The filmmakers are endearing and courageous. It will stay with you long after you finish watching," stated IWFF judges after *Stroop's* double win.

The local film was up against big-budget films from the likes of National Geographic, the BBC, PBS and Netflix, which usually dominate the natural history filmmaking landscape. So, it was a surprise win for filmmakers Susan Scott and Bonné de Bod.

"*Stroop's* reception worldwide continues to amaze us! We had hoped the international community would take notice of our heartbreaking rhino issue in South Africa but they've reacted hugely to the film, and this is now our 17th win since the film's release just a few months ago," said a delighted de Bod.

Stroop was an independent undertaking by Scott and De Bod who self-funded and crowd-funded through the public and later received post-production grants to help them finish the film. Since its world premiere at the San Francisco Green Film Festival in September 2018, the film has been officially selected for 25 film festivals and has been picked up by

the London-based Journeyman Pictures for international distribution. These two accolades picked up at the IWFF marked the film's 16th and 17th awards.

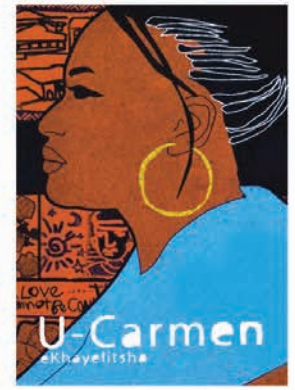
Scott, director of the film, adds: "The IWFF is known for looking at all aspects of wildlife filmmaking and we actually thought *Stroop* might stand a chance to get selected last year. In fact, we wanted to world premiere there and were aiming for it in our edit, but we just could not get *Stroop* finished in time. So, it's surreal for us that the film is being honoured this year by the prestigious festival for which we were just hoping to get selected. It's an incredible achievement for the film and once again this puts our rhinos firmly in the international spotlight."

The theme at this year's IWFF, held in Montana, was "adaptation", with the focus set on humans and animals struggling to adapt to a changing climate, as well as filmmakers who spend years on a story and find new ways to reach audiences. "The trend of embracing the responsibility of showing those kinds of stories is pretty real," said festival director, Carrie Richer.

The IWFF is attended by over 12 000 people and involves top wildlife filmmakers, producers, scientists and conservation leaders. The week-long festival is a juried event that recognises scientific accuracy, artistic appeal and technical excellence of films submitted from around the world. Past IWFF Best of Festival winner, *Chasing Coral*, went on to be shortlisted for an Academy Award after its win in 2017. www.bizcommunity.com

The local film was up against big-budget films from the likes of National Geographic, the BBC, PBS and Netflix, which usually dominate the natural history filmmaking landscape. So, it was a surprise win for filmmakers Susan Scott and Bonné de Bod.





How South Africans forged a path to making opera truly African

By Wayne Muller

Publications Editor / Research Fellow (Africa Open Institute for Music, Research and Innovation), Stellenbosch University

The transformation of the arts in South Africa has been on the cultural agenda since the dawn of democracy in 1994. Prior to that, the apartheid government was deeply vested in advancing and funding the performance of Western European art forms.

More inclusive performance arenas and funding models have emerged in the past 30 years. Arguably, opera has undergone the most significant changes. Once viewed as an elitist Eurocentric art form with little relevance in South Africa, opera has become an international export commodity eliciting pride among all South Africans. Opera used to be seen as a “white” art form. Today, most opera singers are black.

The country has produced star singers with busy international careers, such as soprano Pretty Yende and tenor Levy Sekgapane. And there’s also been a proliferation of indigenous operas being composed.

Standard European repertory operas are still the most performed. But they are usually given a distinctly South Africa spin. A fine example is the international award-winning film version of Bizet’s *Carmen*. It’s set in Khayelitsha, a black township outside Cape Town, and titled *U-Carmen eKhayelitsha*.

For my doctoral thesis, which will form part of an upcoming book, I charted the evolution of opera between 1985 and 2015. My focus was on the reception of opera performances in Cape Town, which I assessed by analysing newspaper reviews and articles on opera.

The study looked at how arts journalists and reviewers “negotiated” with their readers the changes in opera. Articles moved away from taking the European canon as the natural starting point, towards describing an operatic ideal that seemed to merge Western European operatic traditions and indigenous South African music.

The research also showed how canonic operas were adopted and how compositions of new indigenous South African operas emerged. Nonetheless, Western aesthetic values and standards have been kept in place.

I concluded that opera today in South Africa – in its staging and composition – seems to be a hybrid of European and local ideals of what the art form is. Over 30 years, a way has been charted towards creating a unique voice.

Relevant opera

For a long time, the standard repertoire was performed in English and Afrikaans translation while Italian, German and French operas continued to be staged in their original European settings. Adapting these operas so that they were relevant in a South African setting sparked the “Africanisation” of opera.

For example, the 1997 Cape Town interpretation of Puccini’s *La Bohème* was set in Soweto during the student uprising of 1976. Verdi’s *Macbeth* (2001) played off in the Democratic Republic of Congo amid a guerrilla war. Lehár’s popular *The Merry Widow* was transported from Vienna to an imaged African state called Malagawi (2015).

Besides new settings and translations, operatic music has also been “Africanised”. The music of Purcell’s 17th-century *Dido and Aeneas* was interjected with Africa rhythms and instruments in a 2002 performance at the Spier Amphitheatre in Stellenbosch. And for a 2007 production of Mozart’s evergreen *The*



Pretty Yende


a lay priest, Enoch Mgijima, and his church followers, called the Israelites, were killed by police after they had supposedly illegally occupied a farm. Playwright Athol Fugard's *Valley Song*, was transformed into an opera (2005) by Thomas Rajna. While these two examples were still written in the Western classical idiom, Hans Huyssen's *Masque* (2005) was hailed by a Cape Times reviewer as going beyond the adaptation of Western music.

As with *Enoch, Prophet of God*, historical characters have been popular. Mzilikazi Khumalo wrote an opera about the life of Magogo, the Zulu princess, poet and prophetess.

The 19th-century Xhosa prophetess Nongqawuse was a character in two operas: Mats Larsson Gothe's *Poet and Prophetess* (2008) and Neo Muyanga's *Heart of Redness* (2015). The latter was based on Zakes Mda's novel *The Heart of Redness*.

Realism and addressing pressing contemporary South African societal issues have clearly been the focus of local opera composition since 1995. It has been described by opera critics as a showcase of a musical and theatrical representation of local opera.

The study has shown that the "Africanisation" of opera through changing settings and musical scores have gone some way to establish what can be termed "South Africa opera".

This hybrid of European and local ideas of opera is not an ideal performance practice or aesthetics. It has merely forged a way towards making opera truly South African – a path that's still in need of further travel. 

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

Magic Flute, Western instruments made way for marimbas and African drums.

These are just a few examples of operas that have been made relevant for a contemporary South African audience.

Indigenous

The most significant change in the local operatic landscape has been the prolific composition of indigenous operas. Since 1995, 17 new local operas have been performed in Cape Town alone – the majority of them based on South African stories.

Relating the true events of the Bulhoek massacre in the Eastern Cape, the first of these new local operas was *Enoch, Prophet of God* (1995) by the late Roelof Temmingh (1946 – 2012). The Bulhoek massacre happened in 1921 when





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- Dr YK Hamied, Cipla chairman

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For more information or to get involved, visit www.ciplafoundation.co.za



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South Africa voted best safari experience in Africa

In May 2019, South Africa was named the best safari experience in Africa at the Safari Awards Africa 2019.

“The importance of this award is that it sets us apart from all the other safari destinations, as we have the unique advantage of being able to showcase our world-class ocean safaris with our incredible land safari offerings. Being awarded this prestigious accolade is a true honour,” said Bradley Brouwer, Head of Global Trade for SA Tourism.

The awards are endorsed by Safari Guild, a travel buyer organisation run by its travel professional members, which has 6 500 buyers into Africa, and generates US\$3.5 billion a year.

“The award is a massive endorsement for South Africa as it tells agents that the Safari Guild is saying they love the South African product and that the country is a great destination,” said Henry Hallward from Miranda Travel Group and non-executive director of travelexpo360.com – sponsor of the awards.

Entries were judged over a week, after agents and clients nominated and rated them online. “Only experiences with a rating over a set number become visible to the judges,” said Hallward.

The platform worked closely with SA Tourism on Africa’s Travel Indaba, promoting it before and during the show. Tourismupdate.co.za



Brand South Africa welcomes United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations

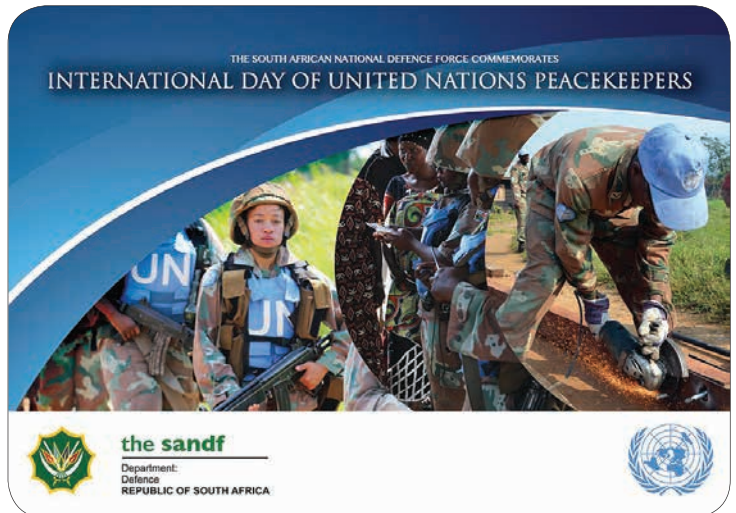
Brand South Africa has noted and welcomes the UN’s recognition and praise of South Africa’s role in peacekeeping missions on the African continent.

Speaking at the 2019 commemoration of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, held in Bloemfontein at the end of May 2019, the newly appointed UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, said that the country’s brave men and women should be celebrated for they put their lives at risk daily in their efforts to bring peace and security in the countries from which they operate. “Many other South African men and women have paid the ultimate price in the service for global peace,” added Bekele-Thomas.

Since the advent of democracy in 1994, domestic and international expectations have steadily grown regarding South Africa’s role as a responsible and respected member of the internationally community.

“South Africa has come a long way since the days when the sight of its armed forces used to instil fear among the peoples of neighbouring states. Since 1994, South Africa has transformed the South African National Defence Force into a symbol of hope and a defender of defenceless people. South Africa’s armed forces are celebrated today for their critical role in stabilising, reconstruction and development of infrastructure and the training of troops in war-torn countries,” said Brand South Africa Acting CEO, Thulisile Manzini.

With a total of more than 1 190 troops stationed in UN Peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and South Sudan, South Africa is considered as the 11th-biggest troop contributor to UN Peacekeeping in Africa and the 17th-biggest in the world.





SA to introduce 4IR Affiliate Centre in September

South Africa and the World Economic Forum (WEF) have signed a host government accord to establish an affiliate centre of the WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution Centre (C4IR).

South Africa will be joining China, India and Japan, which already have affiliate centres.

The C4IR, which is intended to be launched in September in South Africa, acts as a hub for global, multi-stakeholder cooperation to develop policy frameworks and advance collaborations that accelerate the benefits of science and technology.

It focusses on issues of local concern and contributes to the overall research and thought leadership processes of the C4IR network.

The South African Government, through the Department of Science and Technology, intends to establish its affiliate centre as a public-private partnership based at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Former Science and Technology Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, said the establishment of the South African C4IR would provide a platform for stakeholders in South Africa to work together on the evolution of new technologies.

The Minister said it was no longer possible to discuss economic development without factoring in the impact of the 4IR on the economy as a whole. "Any effort we make as a country to grow our economy will now largely be shaped by how quickly we are able to embrace and master the technologies associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution."

Head of the WEF's C4IR Network, Murat Sönmez, urged South Africa to make sure that 4IR technologies benefitted all communities, particularly the poor. This, he said, was important as technology in the 4IR environment was advancing rapidly.

"South Africa has the potential to contribute to all these developments in the global network and has a seat on the C4IR Advisory Board, helping to shape what we are intent on achieving. We are therefore looking forward to hosting this affiliate centre in South Africa," Sönmez said.

The CEO of the CSIR, Dr Thulani Dlamini, said the council was ready to partner with the private and public sectors to develop relevant technologies for the 4IR.

He said the CSIR's focus areas for 4IR included applying technologies for improved service delivery, training the future workforce and developing and implementing scalable 4IR infrastructure. SAnews.gov.za



SA wins big at the Africa and Indian Ocean Edition of the World Travel Awards

From luxury wine estates and gigantic tourist attractions, to the best ways to fly in the sky, the World Travel Awards are a grand achievement that tell travellers which are the most trusted brands.

On Saturday, 1 June 2019, the Africa and Indian Ocean edition of the awards was held at the swanky Sugar Beach Resort, Mauritius.

The nightly celebrations were welcomed by founder and president of the World Travel Awards, Graham Cooke, who started the event in 1993. Since then, it has grown into one of the industry's highest benchmarks.

Handed out by South Africa's Jo-Anne Strauss, there were some big winners from South Africa: Table Mountain won the continent's Leading Tourist Attraction, while Cape Town International won the Best Airport Category, as the city took home Best Events and Festivals Destination.

The Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa took home the Boutique Hotel Category, while Durban won in three categories: Best City, Best Meetings and Conference Destination and Best Cruise Port.

The Leading Wine Country Hotel in South Africa went to the rebuilt Lanzerac Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, while Shambala Private Game Reserve in Limpopo got Africa's Leading Private Game Reserve.

Kenya also won big with their airline taking home two awards for their Business and Economy classes. Nairobi was named the Top Business Travel Destination and then the ultimate Africa's Leading Destination. It was also announced that Kenya would be next year's host for the World Travel Awards.

This year's host, Mauritius, also raked in the wins. Besides scoring the coveted Indian Ocean's Leading Destination Award, it also took top honours in the cruise, airline, airport, resorts and wedding destination categories. traveller24





#a good story to tell



New R1.5-billion yacht club precinct unveiled in Cape Town

Privately owned property development company Amdec is optimistic about South Africa's future, and its new R1.5-billion Yacht Club precinct on the Foreshore in Cape Town was a sign of just that, CEO James Wilson told Fin24 at the official unveiling of the completed project on Tuesday, 16 April 2019.

The mixed-use development includes 170 luxury residential apartments, 6 000m² of premium-grade office space and the first AC Hotel by Marriott to open in Africa.

"We are very proud of what we produced here and honoured to be in partnership with Marriott. Our relationship is based on mutual respect and this is the third of the seven-hotel deal we have with them," said Wilson.

"I remain eternally optimistic about South Africa. It has great natural resources, including its people. We must all be more optimistic about our future. We put our money where our mouth is. This R1.5-billion investment in South Africa shows our optimism."

In Wilson's view, the gap the Yacht Club development fills, is the ability for people to live, work and play in the same precinct.

"I think it is an interesting place to live. You can pop down to a restaurant and if you work at one of the offices here, you can use the conference and board room facilities at the hotel as well as the catering," said Wilson.

"That makes it a unique and holistic offering with a focus on security. We are also proud to be neighbours of the V&A Waterfront as it offers our guests the opportunity to walk there or use a free water taxi service."

Wilson is proud that Amdec has aligned with Marriott and sees potential marketing value for Cape Town from tapping into the international hotel group's 73-million-member loyalty programme.

As a 4-star grading, the new hotel will complement all the 5-star hotels already dominating the Foreshore and Waterfront area. www.news24.com



Black industrialists projects attract R13.2 billion

The 131 projects that have been approved under the Black Industrialists Scheme have resulted in increased investments and job creation.

"The approval of these 131 projects of black entrepreneurs has leveraged over R13.2 billion of private-sector investment, about 9 500 new jobs created and 8 900 retained in a wide range of manufacturing sub-sectors," the former Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, said in February 2019. The Minister was responding to members of the Trade and Industry Portfolio Committee on issues relating to his department that emanated from the State of the Nation Address.

The Black Industrialists Scheme is the incentive programme of the Black Industrialists Policy, which aims to promote the participation of black industrialists as manufacturers in key sectors of the economy as identified in the Industrial Policy Action Plan.

Going forward, former Minister Davies said the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) would increase efforts of providing financial, market access, capacity-building and technical support to approved black industrialists in collaboration with state-owned companies, other government departments and the private sector.

Minister Davies further announced that in 2018, 22 trade missions and 20 national pavilions were undertaken across the world, where the dti supported companies to showcase their products and services.

Over 800 enterprises were assisted and approximately R4 billion export sales were recorded. Fifteen national pavilions are planned and 864 enterprises are expected to be supported in 2019.

With efforts to revitalise industrial parks to enable them to serve as catalysts for broader economic and industrial development in their host regions (townships and rural areas), Minister Davies said R300 million had been approved for the second phase of the industrial parks' revitalisation.

By February 2019, six industrial parks had been launched and funded to the value of R511 million and four will be ready to be launched this year.

The Industrial Parks Revitalisation Programme is one of the flagship programmes of government aimed at facilitating broad-based economic participation to achieve inclusive growth, as well as facilitating the transformation of the economy.

The Minister further mentioned that 2019 would see the launch of Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Northern Cape and the Free State InvestSA one stop shops, in addition to the operational offices in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and the Western Cape. These one-stop shops are critical to facilitating and increasing quality investments into the economy, he said. SAnews.gov.za





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Total discovers goldmine of gas off southern coast of South Africa

Total made a “significant” discovery 175 kilometres off the southern coast of South Africa.

French energy giant, Total, announced recently that it had found “significant” gas off the southern coast of South Africa.

“Total has made a significant gas condensate discovery on the Brulpadda prospects, in the Outeniqua Basin, 175 kilometres off the southern coast of South Africa,” it said in a statement.

Total’s CEO, Patrick Pouyanne, said the potential quantities “could be around one billion barrels of global resources, gas and condensate light oil”.

South Africa’s Mineral Resources Minister, Gwede Mantashe, welcomed the news of the discovery as “potentially a major boost” for the economy.

“It is exciting for our country. We welcome it as we continue to seek investment to grow our economy,” the Minister said. www.thesouthernafrican.com



Two South African hotels named in the world’s top 100 for 2019

Elite Traveler has recently named its top 100 hotels in the world for 2019.

The *Elite Traveler* magazine is aimed at ultra-high-net-worth individuals and is the only audited publication with worldwide distribution aboard private jets, first-class lounges and in fixed-base operations across over 100 countries.

The top 100 hotels list was curated by the magazine’s team of experts and features more than 34 countries.

Some of the factors considered when selecting a hotel include the resorts that go above and beyond to offer the most captivating atmosphere, extraordinary comfort, impeccable service and standout amenities.

While the majority of the luxury hotels are located across the United States and Europe, two South African hotels feature on the list – La Residence in Franschoek and Singita Ebony Lodge in Sabi Sand.

Elite Traveler noted that Singita celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018, with the camp winning a number of awards since its opening. “Ebony Lodge is our favourite camp and is perfect for a family safari vacation,” it said.

“Situated in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve and surrounded by ebony trees, the lodge has 12 gorgeous suites with private pools and open fireplaces.

“Each suite also has its own deck suspended above the riverbank that overlooks the bushveld – don’t be surprised if you spot animals drinking from the river.”

Elite Traveler noted that La Residence stood out for its location beneath the foothills of the Franschoek Mountains, surrounded by a 30-acre estate brimming with vines, fruit trees, flowers and herbs.

“It is flamboyantly decadent and one of a kind, especially for South Africa, where most hotels are a little more austere,” the magazine said.

“An eclectic mix of inspirations, from a Maharaja’s palace to the Palace of Versailles, means that no two guestrooms are the same, and there’s fine art and antiques wherever you look.

“The panoramic views from the swimming pool are to die for, and if you want to head out and explore, there’s a complementary vehicle on call to whisk you around – or hop on a bicycle to take it all in.” www.businessstech.co.za





#a good story to tell



Defy investment to boost SA economy

Former Trade and Industry Minister, Rob Davies, on Tuesday, 23 April 2019, launched Defy's R130-million investment in South Africa that will not only boost the country as an investment destination but also aid in creating much-needed jobs.

The investment will see the multinational produce six to seven and five to 10 kilogramme top loader washing machines for both the local and export market.

The investment is projected to produce a total of 75 new job opportunities that will manufacture 500 top loaders per shift.

Speaking at the announcement of the investment at Defy's factory in Jacobs, Durban, former Minister Davies said the manufacturing development was a much-needed boost to the local community.

It is important to note that even though statistics of this investment sound modest in nature, they will go a long way in unlocking job opportunities in the South African economy. They will also help us sustain our position, which has seen us continue increasing foreign direct investment into the country, while the rest of the continent has experienced a contraction," he said.

The Minister anticipated a significant increase in South African products to the African market.

"We are on the cusp of a very big change for Africa and the ratification of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, which was adopted by 22 members in Gambia on 22 April 2019, will open up the market for products manufactured from these countries. I hope also that this ratification will enable an expansion of South Africa's exports into Africa as well and commit to work with initiatives of this nature," said Minister Davies.

The multinational will also invest in new cooking products. In July, Defy will launch a new outlook for their 60 cm built-in ovens with an investment of approximately R7 million, which will be followed by a new free-standing stove investment of approximately R18 million, launching in the first quarter of 2020.

Defy has also signed an agreement with Wits University to start a cooperation for joint engineering studies, focussing on developing new technologies for some of its products.

The new satellite laboratory will be located in Midrand, Johannesburg, and will be operational by July 2019. The total investment for this project is R15.7 million with a total of 39 new employment opportunities created. SAnews.gov.za



Stamp marks 25 years of democracy

The South African Post Office (Sapo) has released a special stamp to mark 25 years of democracy.

"The stamp effectively puts a seal on the key democratic rights that the Post Office has delivered to South Africans over the past 25 years," Sapo CEO, Mark Barnes, said on Friday, 26 April 2019.

Designed by the post office's graphic designer, Rachel Ackermann, the artwork on the stamp uses a combination of watercolours and digital artwork, and features a man holding the South African flag, looking out over the ocean to a symbolic future for all. The stamp costs R31.80 – the rate for a registered letter and is available at all major post offices or from SA.Stamps@postoffice.co.za.

Since 1994, the Post Office has given formal addresses to seven million households in deep rural and informal settlements. Before that, they had no formal addresses at all. "This enables them to open a bank account and have a working cell phone. Financial Intelligence Centre Act requirements mean it is not possible to open a bank account without an address. The same requirement applies to SIM card requirements of the Regulation of Interception of Communications Act.

"Because the address includes GPS markers, citizens who use these new addresses can be found by an emergency service – no matter how informal their settlement," Sapo said.

Through the new South Africa Social Security Agency (Sassa) card issued by Postbank, the Post Office delivers the right to dignity and social security to more than 11 million South Africans.

In April 2019, the Sapo system disbursed close to R10 billion worth in Sassa grants.

The Post Office ensures the right of access to information for all through the digital terrestrial television project, where the Post Office registers needy households for a digital decoder. This allows them to continue watching television after the switch to digital broadcasts.

"In the immediate future, the Post Office intends to launch an online platform that will help SMMEs to become active in e-commerce.

"Postbank intends to play a central role in funding business expansion, particularly for small businesses and traders, in its determination to help bridge the economic divide in South Africa," Sapo said. SAnews.gov.za





Google Doodle celebrates SA's 2019 elections

Internet search engine Google has always been at the forefront of using its doodles to signify international matters of importance. South African milestones have also on occasion been depicted.

On Freedom Day, Google commemorated 25 years since South Africa's first democratic elections with a doodle depicting the South African flag, which was first hoisted on 27 April 1994.

On Wednesday, 8 May 2019, Google again replaced its usual logo with a doodle celebrating South Africa's sixth democratic elections since that historic day in 1994.

Depicting a ballot box with the South African flag, it clicked through to a number of links relating to the elections.

Google has in the past recognised South African events and people through its doodles.

On 4 April, Google celebrated jazz legend Hugh Masekela on what would have been his 80th birthday.

In January last year, Google paid tribute to South African author Alan Paton on what would have been his 115th birthday. www.news24.co.za



Luxury train hotel to be built at Kruger National Park (KNP)

A train hotel is being built at the iconic South African attraction, the KNP.

Thebe Tourism Group revealed the plans at Africa's Travel Indaba recently. The Kruger Shalati Train on a bridge is being hailed as a unique luxury accommodation experience that will open in December 2019. The new initiative pays tribute to the history of Kruger when visitors to park once arrived by train.

The project incorporates the iconic and still original old Selati railway bridge at Skukuza Camp, where the KNP's first warden, James Steven-Hamilton, welcomed visitors nearly 100 years ago. At night, these same guests would retreat into the train to sleep, before it moved on to its next destination the following day.

Looking to recreate the magic of these early visitor encounters, the project will see the restoration and upgrading of a train that will permanently rest on the original tracks running across the bridge, high above the waters of the Sabie River.

The train, in its stationary position with an external walkway attached to the bridge structure, allows the Kruger Shalati rooms to be much larger than the expected traditional train compartment-style room, complete with floor-to-ceiling windows welcoming the unsurpassed views from atop the Sabie River into the room.

An old block-house next to the bridge will be used as the base for an innovative pool deck designed with an overhanging pool metres above the river where travellers can, hopefully, catch a glimpse of the Big Five.

Immersing guests in the comfort of an Afro-chic boutique hotel experience, the train itself will offer 24 en-suite rooms able to sleep 48 guests, with another seven rooms in adjacent Kruger Shalati Bridge House accommodating 14 beds on land next to the bridge. All rooms will offer guests a high-star rating luxury experience and will be accompanied by fine dining and other leisure experiences on site.

Judiet Barnes, Concession General Manager of Kruger Shalati, said the project was an opportunity to revitalise and recapture an important part of Kruger's history.

"Not only have we not seen anything alike in our country, but neither is there anything similar in the world. This is a 'must experience' destination and will entice visitors locally and from across the globe to experience a very important part of our park's history," said Barnes.

She said the surrounding communities would be empowered through world-class training, skills development initiatives and job opportunities with the project. The Kruger Shalati team is working very closely with SANParks to ensure minimal disruption to the park. www.iol.co.za





#a good story to tell



Nissan announces expansion of investment in SA

President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday, 10 April 2019, officiated at a ceremony during which automotive group Nissan announced an expansion of its investment in South Africa. The investment ceremony took place at the Nissan production plant at Rosslyn in the City of Tshwane.

The Presidency said the development was a demonstration of confidence in South Africa as an investment destination. The investment was among several pledges presented at the inaugural South Africa Investment Conference, held in Johannesburg in October last year. The conference generated R290 billion in new investments, with the automotive sector accounting for R40 billion over the next five years.

“Nissan South Africa’s expansion is a culmination of collaborative work by the automotive industry, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Gauteng Provincial Government’s Gauteng Growth and Development Agency and the Automotive Industry Development Centre,” The Presidency said.

Projects to the value of R187 billion from the pledges committed at the South Africa Investment Conference are currently undergoing implementation. Projects worth another R26 billion are in the pre-implementation phase.

“These projects are reinforcing South Africa’s ambition to attract R1.4 trillion in domestic and international investment over a period of five years,” The Presidency said.

The automotive industry contributes 6.9% to gross domestic product, which accounts for 30.1% of manufacturing output and 13.9% of total exports.

The sector employs more than 110 000 people in the vehicle and component manufacturing and averages annual investment of R12.2 billion.

The Presidency said government remained committed to further support investment and development of the automotive industry in line with the National Industrial Policy Action Framework and the Industrial Policy Action Plan. SAnews.gov.za



SA investment efforts bear fruit

South Africa’s investment facilitation efforts have borne fruit, with the country taking home the Investment Promotion Award.

“South Africa’s investment mobilisation drive is gaining traction and the latest data from the South African Reserve Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development indicates a major increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) from previous years.

“We have turned the corner, improving our investment climate and investor facilitation service,” said former Trade and Industry Minister, Rob Davies.

South Africa took home the Investment Promotion Award at the 2019 Annual Investment Meeting (AIM), held in Dubai. AIM is the world’s leading FDI platform. AIM recognised Invest SA for facilitating the most innovative and digitally orientated investment projects for 2018.

The ninth annual meeting attracted invest-promotion agencies from around the world, delegates from 140 countries, government officials, practitioners and investors.

Minister Davies said the award reaffirmed the commitments announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation Address in February 2019 to align South Africa’s economic development priorities on securing innovative investment projects in the digital and technology fields to ensure the country was able to achieve Vision 2030 goals.

He said South Africa was a renowned investment destination that protected investor rights, was signatory to international treaties that reinforced trade in goods and services and safeguarded intellectual property.

“Policy certainty on [the] South African ICT landscape and noticeable improvements on FDI ranking indices have underpinned the strides South Africa has made in securing investment in digital, ICT and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), industries” he said.

The Minister said InvestSA would continue to lead efforts to improve the investment digital infrastructure environment, facilitation of digital skills development initiatives and with domestic stakeholders, it would address supply-side constraints to enhance the attractiveness of the sector.

InvestSA has held targeted investment drives geared at growing uptake and usage of digital services that will support ICT-enabled solutions across South African industrial sectors.

The award not only highlighted South Africa’s propensity to exploit opportunities offered by cloud computing, the Internet of Things and machine learning but supported South Africa’s endeavours in 4IR industries, said Minister Davies.



SAnews.gov.za



WTMA19 shakes up its responsible tourism programme as Grootbos takes top honours



The 2019 African Responsible Tourism Awards winners were announced on the opening day of World Travel Market Africa (WTMA), with overall winner Grootbos Private Nature Reserve seen as the benchmark of eco-tourism standards across the continent right now.

The African Responsible Tourism Awards, in its fifth year at WTMA, celebrate the commitment and efforts of individuals, organisations and destinations that use tourism to make Africa better.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, former Tourism Minister, Derek Hanekom, stated that the importance of being mindful of the power of tourism, to build as well as destroy, was crucial.

Minister Hanekom commended the winners, saying it does not work being “only a little bit responsible in our tourism principles, but requires organisations to place it at the heart of what the industry stands for”.

A total of 15 organisations were shortlisted:

- !Khwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre (South Africa) @KhwattuSan
- Anvil Bay (Mozambique) @Anvil_Bay
- Cape Town Marathon (South Africa) @ctmarathon
- Dorobo Tours and Safaris (Tanzania) @dorobosafari
- Events Greening Forum 2018 Conference & Master Class (South Africa) @EventGreening
- GCIP-SA Annual Awards 2017 (South Africa) @CleantechSA
- Great Plains Conservation Sapi Reserve (Zimbabwe) @GreatPlainsCons
- Grootbos Private Nature Reserve (South Africa) @Grootbos (Overall winner)
- Mdumbi Green Fair Festival (South Africa) @Mdumbi Green Fair
- Meetings Africa (South Africa) @SA_NCB
- Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary (South Africa) @PantheraAfrica
- Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company (South Africa) @TableMountainCa
- Two Oceans Aquarium (South Africa) @2OceansAquarium
- Ultimate Safaris' //HUAB Under Canvas (Namibia) @UltimateSafari1
- WOWZULU Isandlwana (South Africa) @wowzulu

As the main sponsor of the awards, Wesgro's Tim Harris highlighted the trend of a calculated world dominated by technology advancement, which indirectly made the untapped potential of Africa even more appealing. www.traveller24.co.za





Flying the flag

President Ramaphosa and Caster Semenya named on *Times 100 Most Influential List*



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa and record-breaking athlete Caster Semenya have been named among *TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2019*.

The annual prestigious list, published by the international magazine, includes *TIME's* "most

influential pioneers, leaders, titans, artists and icons of 2019".

President Ramaphosa was named in the Leaders Category alongside America's President Donald Trump and Swedish schoolgirl and climate activist, Greta Thunberg. Semenya was named in the Icons Category,

alongside America's former First Lady, Michelle Obama, and singer Lady Gaga.

Other inclusions from Africa include Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Egypt's football star Mohamed Salah.

www.sapeople.com

Saray Khumalo becomes first black South African woman to conquer Mount Everest



On 16 May 2019, South African Saray Khumalo reached the highest point on the planet, becoming the first black African woman to scale Mount Everest.

The business executive reached the summit in the early hours of the morning. This was her fourth attempt at climbing Mount Everest.

In a previous attempt in May 2017, Khumalo had to be rescued from Mount Everest by helicopter.

She was injured during inclement weather while trying to reach the summit, Netwerk24 reported. Her previous attempts were scuppered by an earthquake in Nepal and an avalanche.

Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay were the first people to reach the mountain's summit on 29 May 1953.

Since then, around 800 people have attempted to climb Mount Everest annually. More than 296 people have died trying to climb it.

Born in Zambia, with a Rwandan bloodline and now a South African, she has achieved her goal of becoming the first black woman from Africa to summit Mount Everest.

In 2012, Saray summited Mount Kilimanjaro and in the process, raised funds for the Lunchbox Fund.

The mountaineering passion took hold and she embarked on a journey to climb the highest peak on each continent, not for herself but the education of African children.

She summited Mount Elbrus in 2014 and Mount Aconcagua in 2015.

She became a Nelson Mandela Libraries Ambassador and raised nearly R1 million for school libraries. After being on Everest during both the Serac fall (2014) and the earthquake (2015), she reached the south summit in 2017.

Through pure perseverance, grit and courage she decided to return to Mount Everest in 2019. During this expedition, she supported the Dr Thandi Ndlovu Foundation.

www.news24.com

SA golf prodigy impresses at Kids Australian Open



South Africa's golf prodigy, Simthandile Tshabalala, ended the 2019 Australian Open at the Riverside Oaks Golf Resort with a top-5 finish on Sunday, 7 April 2019.

Tshabalala, who played in the Boys under-7 category, carded 39 and 38 to finish on 77, 5-over par and in fourth place.

The seven-year-old was the sole South African representative in the US Kids Golf

Partner Championship, which was played over two rounds of nine holes each.

Australian Jay Deoskar won the title after posting 35 and 32 to finish on 5-under, 67.

"I am so proud of you my son, well played and a top 5 finish is all I asked for and you did it. Very proud dad. Thank you South Africa for all your support." #SimTiger @tiger_sim pic. twitter.com/jOsa1VMFGP. www.sport24.co.za

SA kitesurfer wins 2019 Extreme Crown



South African kitesurfer, Ross-Dillon Player, came out on top in an extreme international competition on a wild day in Zandvoort, Netherlands, 9 June 2019.

After a two-year wait, wind and waves finally aligned to create perfect conditions for the extreme kitesurfing competition Red

Bull Megaloop, with the young South African claiming the 2019 crown.

The event was only confirmed on the Thursday before, when the weekend weather forecasts predicted winds of over 40 knots would hit the Dutch coast at Zandvoort. This gave the invited field of 16 international kiteboarders just 48 hours to make their way to the venue.

The participating athletes this year came from France, South Africa, Poland, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Over 8 000 fans defied force-nine gale conditions to turn out to watch the action, with riders boosting up to 15m vertically and 50m in distance.

The final heat saw two South Africans, Ross-Dillon Player and Oswald Smith, pitted against local favourite, Lasse Walker, and Spain-based Liam Whaley.

Player laid down a strong early marker and held on to top spot throughout what was an extremely close finale. He eventually finished with a 7.90, just 0.3 points ahead of compatriot Smith.

Speaking after the event, a clearly emotional Player said: "Coming from the first round I thought I was going home, but after that I won every heat. That's four heats. I can't believe it, it just went so well." www.sapeople.com

SA student shines in Germany at Future Leaders Forum



South African student Emilé Coetzee made her university and country proud on 22 May 2019 as she was crowned the winner of the Future Leaders Forum at the World Exhibition for Incentive Travel, Meetings and Events (IMEX) in Frankfurt, Germany, May 2019.

The North West University student beat five other international finalists to scoop the prize – a scholarship at the MPI Foundation/Maritz Global Events School, and a trip to New York to present her award-winning idea at a lavish gala dinner.

The competition was to present ideas that could ensure food security in the future.

Coetzee's concept – called "Forbidden Fruit" – was based on consuming wild plants, like nutritious weeds in the garden. According to South African Tourism, her concept was "simple yet so effective" and it blew the judges away.

"In the context of food, South Africa is very [diverse]. It is something unique we can give to the rest of world in terms of our conservation," she said.

Coetzee formulated her concept after realising that the other finalists would incorporate technology into their solutions, "like how meat will be produced in technological ways".

She then looked at South Africa as a whole and concluded: "All of us want to live more sustainably and do not want GMO in our foods. So, I thought of forbidden fruit, which goes back to where it all started, to [teach] people to harvest wild food. It can be more sustainable than technology-driven food."

As she says: "The weeds in your garden; not all of it is poisonous. It might just make a tasty salad." Coetzee believes South Africa is one of the "breadwinners" for Africa's tourism and meetings industries, and knows that by being at IMEX and representing Africa as a whole, it'll bring new visitors to the continent.

South African Tourism's Chief Convention Bureau Officer, Amanda Kotze-Nhlapo, was at the gala dinner where Coetzee received her award.

"This is an extremely proud moment for us to see such talent from the South African tourism industry shine on the global stage," said Kotze-Nhlapo. "Credit must also go to the Tourism Faculty at North West University as Emile is the third student from the university to have won this prestigious award in the last five years." www.sapeople.com



The beauty of South Africa is being represented on the worldwide stage with SA Tourism's heartwarming *Meet South Africa* promotional video.

It's ranking at number 10 on the International Committee of Tourism Film Festivals' (CIFFT) list of the world's best tourism films. Films receive points on how well they do at various tourism film festivals

SA entry ranks in Top 10 in the "Oscars" of tourism films

around the world, and at the end of the year, the number one film is honoured at an event in Vienna, Austria.

South Africa's inclusion was a sensational success when it came out in 2017 – following the story of a traditional South African dressmaker travelling the country to find inspiration for a wedding dress. Since it was released, the short version has been viewed 69 million times on YouTube, with the longer 10-minute film raking in two million views and the German version standing at 4.3 million views.

Another South African film that is on the ranking's list, sharing the 19th spot with a few other films, is called *Andrew Bona*. It was produced by Bruce Buttery of Panga, and follows a wildlife artist in his search for the perfect subjects in the bush.

CIFFT has been around since 1989 and provides support to festivals that focus on the

audiovisual aspect of tourism marketing. The Grand Prix CIFFT Circuit is made up of 19 festivals from around the world that contribute to a film's ranking.

One of the members is the International Tourism Film Festival Africa, which will be launching in South Africa in November, and entries are now open. Traveller24



19 Squadron Oryx pilot nominated for top UN Peacekeeping Medal



The phrases “remarkable courage” and “extraordinary threat” written by no less a person than the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General do not affect the man they were written for. Just the opposite, he was doing his job and that it meant coming under enemy fire was part of the package.

That in a nutshell sums up the approach and attitude of SA Air Force (SAAF) helicopter pilot Lieutenant Colonel Stefan King, second in command of 19 Squadron based at AFB Hoedspruit in Limpopo.

He was nominated for the Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage, the UN's highest peacekeeping award. This year, the medal was presented posthumously to Malawian peacekeeper private Chancy Chitete, who saved a wounded colleague's

life at the expense of his own during a firefight against militia in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

King has been flying military helicopters since 2003 and is current on both the Agusta A109 light utility helicopter and the Oryx medium transport, in service with the SAAF Combined Helicopter Unit in the DRC as part of the UN mission's Force Intervention Brigade (FIB).

He was commander of Oryx (tail number 1227), which had flown a routine ferry mission and landed at Goma just as dusk was settling on the night of 14 November last year. Before shutdown was complete, he was contacted via the external communications plug-in with Brigadier General Njabulo Dube, the South African FIB commander.

“It was explained that some of our forces involved in a major UN operation had come under heavy fire in a multipronged attack. Would I please go and assist in whatever way I could?”

An affirmative saw King and his flight crew – co-pilot lieutenant Ernest Hlongwane and flight engineer Warrant Officer Fanie Jiyane – take off with a British Army major as an observer also aboard.

“We were there because there were no attack helicopters that could be deployed in support and our job was to put up a show of force of some sort,” King explained.

This saw the flight crew don NVGs (night vision goggles) and head towards a point where, as he put it, “the action seemed thick”.

The Oryx does not have any armament fitted but carries well over a hundred flares for self-protection. This time around the flares were put into an offensive role and set off to distract militia attacking Guatemalans cut off from own forces while collecting water. This only came to light when the helicopter landed after the emergency sortie.

“We did numerous runs and each time set off flares to deter enemy fire. Each run saw the helicopter come under fire and at least two RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) passed close enough to make our NVGs useless for a while. After just over an hour of orbiting and flare runs, our fuel situation reached the stage where we had to abort.”

King was afterward told by some Guatemalans had the Oryx and its flares not arrived, they would have been “goners”.

www.defenceweb.co.za

SA's Sanesha Naicker named Leading Female Pioneer in Breast Cancer Research



Award-winning South African researcher Sanesha Naicker has been named Leading Female Pioneer in Breast Cancer Research 2019 by *GHP (Global Health and Pharma) Magazine*. Naicker is one of the awardees in the international magazine's Alternative Medicine and Holistic Health Awards.

GHP said that the renowned researcher, who hails from Chatsworth, is a “young independent breast cancer researcher driving change within the global oncology market and aiding in the understanding of cancer through her work”.

Winning prestigious awards is nothing new for Naicker who was honoured by the

International Journal of Palliative Nursing Awards in 2015 when she was a doctoral researcher undertaking a Master's/Doctorate project on young women with breast cancer. A task that entailed her venturing into remote villages in order to gain information from scratch.

Last year, Naicker won two awards at the Divas of Colour Awards: International Woman of the Year and Leading Woman of the Year for 2018.

According to the *Chatsworth Rising Sun*, Naicker is an “accomplished inspirational, spiritual and humble individual”.

She attributes her achievements to God, her relatives and “sheer hard work”. www.sapeople.com

University of Johannesburg Sports Director receives top African honour



University of Johannesburg (UJ) official, Nomsa Mahlangu, has been recognised for her contribution to varsity sport by being elected president of the Federation of African University Sports.

The Senior Director of Sport at UJ, Mahlangu won the election with a big majority when it was held in Entebbe, Uganda, in March 2019.

“There were four of us in line for the post, but Ibrahim Bangura from Sierra Leone withdrew on the morning of the election,” said Mahlangu, who became the first woman president of the continental body.

The federation is internationally known as *Fédération Africain du Sport Universitaire*, and is an associate member of the international body.

Mahlangu will hold office for four years and is looking forward to using the opportunity to improve the standard of university sport on the continent.

“I believe there are some important times ahead of us and our goals going forward are to unite the varsity sportsmen and women in Africa,” said Mahlangu.

“We feel that university sport needs to play a bigger role in using research to improve our overall performances.”

She added that she was honoured to be appointed the first female president of the federation.

“Hopefully, this can pave the way for future developments because there is a need to open doors for more women, to empower them and to encourage them to hold these sorts of positions of responsibility.”

The federation is the governing body of university sport in Africa and was founded in 1971 by 10 African countries to improve the development of university sport on the continent. www.sapeople.com

Rhodes students bag international accolade for employment creating business idea



Four Rhodes University PhD Chemistry students have bagged the top position in the 2019 Hult Prize Challenge for their business model for a waste management system that will result in the employment of more than 10 000 young people.

The four students, who go by the name “Team E-Smart” are Nobuhle Ndebele, 24; Lindokuhle Nene, 25; Reitumetse Nkhahle, 26; and Gauta Matlou, 29; and were the only students from a South African university

participating at the summit, held at the Brookhouse International School in Nairobi, Kenya.

Their business model aims to create job opportunities for the youth through the collection of electronic and electrical waste materials and further recycling, repairing or repurposing it into new market products.

“[This] so impressed the judges that they were awarded the top position against 45 other teams from across the world,” university

spokesperson, Velisile Bukula, said in a statement on Wednesday, 24 April 2019.

The Hult Prize was established in 2010 by its CEO Ahmad Ashkar and Bertil Hult to crowd-source start-up ideas from young people on how to sustainably solve the world’s most critical social issues such as food security, water access, energy and education.

“Today, the Hult Prize Foundation is the world’s biggest engine for the launch of for-good, for-profit start-ups emerging from universities with over 2 500 staff and volunteers around the world,” its site says.

“Training over one million youth in impact entrepreneurship over the past decade, the movement has deployed more than US\$50 million (over R700 million) of capital into the sector and mobilised and empowered millions of young people to re-think the future of business as it continues to breed disruptive innovation on college and university campuses across 100 plus countries.”

This year, university and college students from across the world were challenged to create a social-entrepreneurship start-up that would result in more than 10 000 jobs over the next decade. www.news24.com

SA designer Palesa Mokubung becomes first African to go global in H&M deal



Swedish multinational clothing retailer H&M recently announced its first African collaboration with South African designer Palesa Mokubung's *Mantsho* label.

Mantsho will be available in all South African stores, exclusive flagship stores in the United States (US), the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Belgium, Mexico, Chile and Israel, as well as all H&M online markets from 15 August.

Mantsho is known for its vibrant fabrics, bold and edgy designs with distinct silhouettes and structures.

H&M Assortment Manager for Collaborations and Special Collections, Pernilla Wohlfahrt, said Makubonga was an inspiring talent and personality.

Wohlfahrt said the diverse collection of women's wear and accessories would introduce a dose of fresh fun and uniquely South African aesthetic to H&M customers around the world.

"We love how she works with colour, print and silhouettes, enhancing the female shape in a flattering and playful way," Wohlfahrt said.

"At H&M, we value diversity of ideas and designs and draw inspiration from across our geographical footprint and we are so excited to share this collection with our customers across the globe."

Makubong said the collaboration was a dream come true and she was excited to work with H&M.

"This project has been a valuable journey so far and I cannot wait to share my passion and design with fashion lovers around the world. *Mantsho* prides itself as a ready-to-wear brand and this exclusive collection fulfils this promise," she said.

The *Mantsho* label, which means "black is beautiful" in the Sesotho language, was established in 2004 and has since graced numerous runways in Greece, India, the US, Jamaica, Nigeria, Botswana and Senegal.

African News Agency

South African artist Nelson Makamo invited to paint for *TIME* magazine cover



Makamo's work, which has for several years largely focussed on young children from rural South Africa.

When *TIME* first approached Makamo to contribute to the issue, he had never produced a magazine cover before. He was eager to create an image that would introduce his work to the world, he says. "It scared me because, even though I've been working for a long time, it felt like a debut."

The final piece, an oil painting on canvas, is titled "Vision of a Limitless Future."

Makamo had been in contact with *TIME* guest editor, DuVernay, since 2017, when the filmmaker bought one of his pieces at auction.

In December, she visited his studio in Johannesburg and purchased another.

The children (and few adults) that populate Makamo's award-winning charcoal drawings and colourful paintings are drawn from his interactions with Mapule and others in his life, he says.

Makamo grew up in a small town in South Africa's northern Limpopo province. His artistic impulse kicked in early. "I just had this urge to draw, to make marks," he says. That desire grew stronger when he got into comic books, and then works by Van Gogh and Picasso. But, it was discovering African artists that really made him fall in love with art, he says.

Visual artist Dumile Feni was a major influence and inspiration for Makamo. These days Makamo finds hope in contemporary African artists, including fellow South Africans Kemang Wa Lehulere, Sam Nhlengethwa, Dineo Bopape and Zwelethu Machepeha, and Nigerian visual artist, Toyin Ojih Odutole.

www.sapeople.com

For the best part of a decade, South African artist Nelson Makamo has had a deal with his 11 year-old cousin, Mapule Maoto. He pays for her studies, and she agrees to model for his colourful paintings. Today, with fans all over the world praising his work, including the likes

of Oprah Winfrey, it's turned out to be a pretty good deal.

The latest painting that Mapule has inspired is Makamo's cover for *TIME*'s 2019 *Optimists* issue, guest edited by filmmaker Ava DuVernay. Optimism is a natural fit for

Zulu ballet opens in London



A Zulu ballet called *Inala* featuring South Africa's Soweto Gospel Choir opened in London in May 2019.

Inala, which means “abundance of goodwill”, included world-class dancers and is centred on the values of community and the journey of life, conjuring up imagery of African landscapes through song as a backdrop to ballet and contemporary dance.

The Grammy Award-winning choir says performing in a theatre show has been an interesting experience.

“It’s not easy doing this whole production. We are actually out of our comfort zone as the Soweto Gospel Choir, because we normally just rehearse and we don’t count steps or whatever because it’s stuff that is natural.

“But something as technical as this production, it’s quite hectic,” said choir member Diniloxo Ndlakuse.

The show, first for the ballet, debuted close to five years ago at the Edinburgh festival and featured another South African music group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Producers for *Inala* say they now have plans to take the show to Asia. eNCA

Doctors in JHB perform a medical first in Africa

In a first for the continent, an expert team of doctors in Johannesburg has successfully performed spinal surgery on a foetus who has spina bifida, an abnormality in the development of the spine.

Specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist and specialist in Maternal and Foetal Medicine, Professor Ermos Nicolaou, and his team at Mediclinic Morningside worked with a team of international experts, led by Professor Mike Belfort from the United States, to perform the spinal surgery on the 25-week-old foetus on Saturday, 13 April 2019.

Spina bifida is an abnormality in the foetal spine where part of the vertebrae that form the neural tube fail to close properly. The defect and the subsequent “exposure” of the nerves that run inside the neural tube lead to damage of the nerves and neurological damage.

The delicate and complex operation requires considerable expertise and involves

a team of experienced clinicians ranging from maternal and foetal medicine to neurosurgery, anaesthesiologists, neonatologists and specialised neonatal ICU care.

Prof. Belfort and his team have been pioneers in the field of foetal surgery and in particular in the repair of spina bifida in utero.

As was the case of this particular patient, identifying the problem during the pregnancy empowered the prospective parents to inform themselves about the condition and enabled them to make an informed decision about the way forward.

Prof. Nicolaou said parents could choose to terminate the pregnancy or have the baby and have a number of surgeries after delivery to repair the defect on the spine, the brain and the feet, and take measures to improve the problem of incontinence. “The in-utero surgery will provide them with an additional option where a repair can be performed before the baby is born,” he said.

Prof. Nicolaou believes that the repair of spina bifida in utero may stop the inflammatory process that leads to the damage of the nerves and potential abnormalities.

As the operation is performed with tiny instruments through the uterine wall and by not cutting the uterus open, the recovery period is a lot faster and the patient may go on to have a normal vaginal delivery if she wishes. “This is a very delicate surgery and the success varies. In-utero laparoscopic repair can also have complications such as foetal death or premature labour. Careful evaluation and selection of these cases are very important,” Prof. Nicolaou said.

After the immediate post-operative period, close monitoring of both the mother and foetus until delivery is mandatory. Once the baby is born, the neurosurgeon who was a member of the operating team will assess the baby and decide if further corrective procedures will be required.

“The overall incidence of neural tube defects and spina bifida is around one in 1 000 pregnancies. We have around one million live births in South Africa every year, so we are looking at around 1 000 new cases of neural tube defects every year in our country.

“Our plan is to expand our foetal surgery service to other abnormalities as well,” Prof. Nicolaou said.

“A few examples of what the team would be able to offer are operations on the heart, lungs, abdomen, kidneys and bladder.

“One has to be very clear that operations on foetuses will only be considered if the foetal abnormality is so severe that it will lead to foetal death or severe handicap,” Prof. Nicolaou said.

Cape Times



South African Big Wave surfer Grant Twiggy Baker wins Ride of the Year Trophy



South African Grant “Twiggy” Baker took surfing’s Ride of the Year Trophy at the World Surf League’s Big Wave Awards, held at Redondo Beach near Los Angeles on Thursday, 2 May 2019.

Baker (46) received the trophy for his performance on a massive wave in Maui, Hawaii, last November and collected the Biggest Paddle Award for the same wave. The awards are not just about winners but also

highlight the bravery of the surfers taking on the big waves. This was marked by Makua Rothman of the United States being awarded the Wipeout of the Year for his spectacular crash in Fiji last May.

In March, Baker won the coveted Big Wave World Title. The humble champion told SurfLine.com afterwards that he’s “really not the best surfer out there” and that there were many incredible big wave surfers in South Africa and the rest of the southern hemisphere who just couldn’t afford to compete in the northern hemisphere.

He did concede that he was “seriously proud” of his win – his third in six years and all in his forties! He put it down to working hard at his mental and physical conditioning.

Baker said while he’s blessed to surf for a living, it’s tough being away from his wife, Kate, and daughter, Billi, and that heading home to South Africa to “soak up the love that comes with an amazing new family” is his best way to celebrate his wins. www.sapeople.com

South Africa’s Lindiwe Matlali receives award from the Queen



South Africa’s Lindiwe Matlali was recognised by the Queen of England for the awesome work she does as founder and CEO of Africa Teen Geeks, a non-profit organisation that teaches schoolchildren and unemployed youth how to code. Lindiwe is the latest recipient of a Points of Light Award for 2019.

Inspired by her experience of being orphaned at a young age, Lindiwe is inspiring Africa’s next generation of technology innovators.

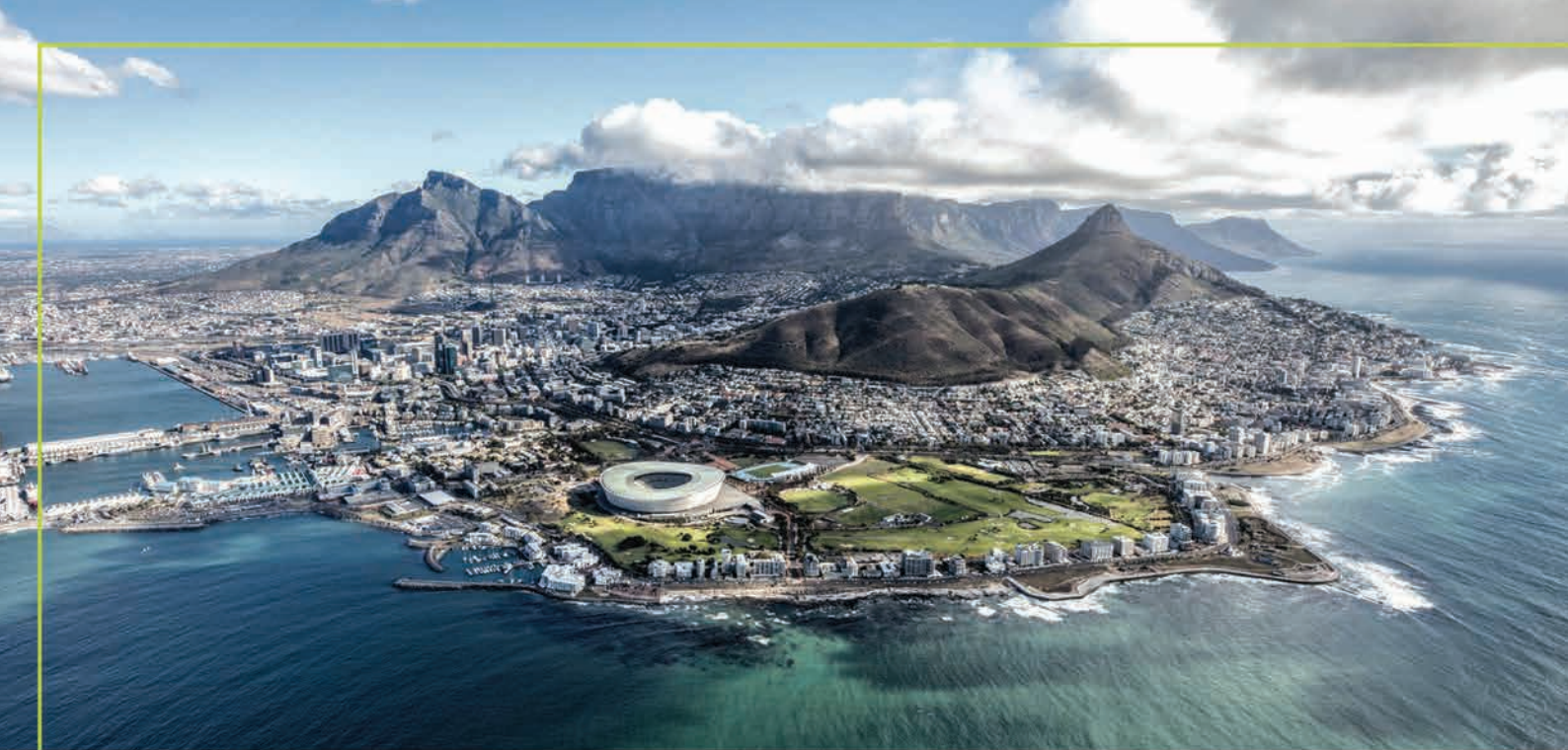
She works to eliminate the barriers faced by disadvantaged communities in pursuing science, technology, engineering and maths. Africa Teen Geeks has blossomed into one of Africa’s largest non-profit technology education organisations. Since 2014, the organisation has trained over 110 teachers from disadvantaged schools and provided computer science training to over 38 342 young people aged six and upwards in 30 schools across underprivileged communities.

Her numerous accolades include TechWomen Fellow 2017 and Innov8tive Magazine’s “Top 50 Visionary Women in Tech To Watch”.

Nigel Casey MVO, United Kingdom High Commissioner in South Africa, said: “Congratulations to Lindiwe on receiving this recognition for the wonderful work that she does. Through her passion for coding, she has reached disadvantaged schoolchildren and raised their aspirations.

“She has used her NGO, Africa Teen Geeks, to bridge the gap between affluent and rural schools in computing education. Well done Lindiwe on being South Africa’s 2019 Point of Light.”

Lindiwe said: “I’m excited and humbled to be awarded with the Point of Light. African Teen Geeks is a passion project, I often say that I have two jobs, one that pays the bills and one that feeds my soul. African Teen Geeks not only gives the children an opportunity to learn new skills but it also allows us to raise their aspirations, to dream bigger and do more.” www.sapeople.com



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

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

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

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

VISIT

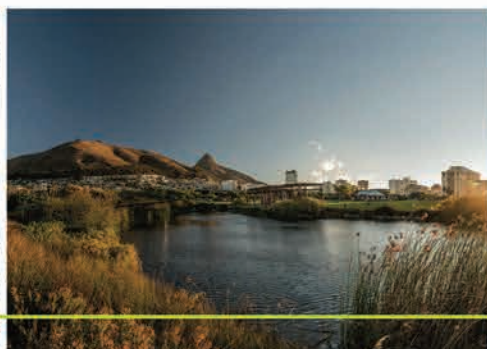
Cape Town is a must-visit destination. Cape Point, Groot Constantia, Kirstenbosch, Robben Island, the Table Mountain Cableway and the V&A Waterfront are the iconic destinations that form the core of the true Cape Town experience, and a trip to the city will not be complete without a visit to each Big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

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

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

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

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





LIVE

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

WORK

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

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

Cape Town is home to the only Hollywood style film studio complex in Africa. Coupled with exceptionally skilled film crew and post-production services, our facilities are winning awards and attracting a growing number of productions and stars to our shores. We also act as a gateway to Africa with several companies running their African operations from our city. The City of Cape Town is making sure that our infrastructure investments support key sectors, like the tech industry. An extensive open source fibre optic network has been installed with plans to extend the footprint over the forthcoming years.

PLAY

Cape Town hosts a wide range of local and international events – from concerts and community-based events to business conferences and international sports tournaments. The city is a creative hub with arts, heritage and cultural sites, activities and opportunities for all. We have a lively arts and culture scene where creativity and heritage are explored through theatre, live music, dance, visual arts and more. Both day and night in Cape Town offer you exciting cultural spaces to visit and events to be a part of. Explore galleries and museums, cultural precincts, attend signature events and explore our top cultural venues.

INVEST

Cape Town is South Africa's oldest city, its second-most populous and an important contributor to national employment. It is the legislative capital of South Africa, the administrative and economic centre of the Western Cape, and Africa's third biggest economic hub. The Mother City produces 9.8% of South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for more than 71% of the Western Cape's economic activity (Global Insight, 2016). The City has a diversified economy, and the three biggest sectors are: finance, insurance, property and business services. Cape Town is attracting thinkers, innovators and design led entrepreneurs who are helping to build an ecosystem that is strong in many aspects of the knowledge economy. The city is the leader on the African continent in the information technology sector, with more tech start-ups than anywhere else on the continent.

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

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

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AFRICA'S TOP FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS: WHAT'S TO CELEBRATE, AND LEARN

By Pier Paolo Frassinelli

Associate Professor, Communication Studies, University of Johannesburg

There is no better place to assess the state of “auteur” African cinema than at its premier showcase, the biennial film festival in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. Popularly known by its acronym, Fespaco, the *Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de la télévision de Ouagadougou* recently celebrated its 50th birthday.

Fespaco and the 1966 *Journées cinématographiques de Carthage* in Tunisia were the earliest concrete steps towards the idea of African cinema on African soil.

These two film festivals were the first major African events entirely dedicated to showcasing movies from across the continent.

In the words of former director of the Ouagadougou festival, Michel Ouédraogo, Fespaco was created in a context in which the African states had recently acquired their independence and they wanted to express their sovereignty and their identity.

To mark its half century, this year's edition was themed “The Memory and Future of African Cinema”. In addition to the competitions for the various prizes, the organisers curated a retrospective of classic African films that were shown at pop-up outdoor cinemas throughout the city.

Watched by festival goers and Burkinabés sitting on their scooters or plastic chairs, screenings included Souleymane Cissé's *Finye* (1979) and *Baara* (1983), Med Hondo's

Sarraounia (1987), Idrissa Ouédraogo's *Tilai* (1991) and Gaston Kaboré's *Buud Yam* (1997). More recent works such as Zola Maseko's *Drum* (2005) and Alain Gomis's *Tey* (2013) and *Felicite* (2017) were also shown.

But if the canonised past of African cinema was ripe for celebration, its present and future looked distinctly uncertain.

A special table

The Ouagadougou festival is the place historically associated with the African auteur filmmaker. The city is where Ousmane Sembène and the other doyens of African film used to congregate at a special table at the Hôtel Indépendance before it was set aflame in 2014.

But who are Sembène's heirs now?

Veteran Cameroonian filmmaker, Jean-Pierre Bekolo, was at Fespaco 2019 with *Les Armes Miraculeuses* (*Miraculous Weapons*). The film is set in the small Free State town of Vrede in 1960s apartheid South Africa. Two French women, the black female owner of a bed and breakfast and a political prisoner, discuss freedom, Sartre and the

poetry of Negritude under the watchful eye of apartheid state security. It won the Ecobank Foundation's Ousmane Sembène Prize.

Otherwise, it was emergent filmmakers who got the lion's share of awards and grabbed audience attention. The top prize, *L'Étalon d'or de Yennenga* for the best film, was deservedly awarded to young Rwandan director Joel Karekezi for *La miséricorde de la jungle* (*The Mercy of the Jungle*).

A beautifully shot, gripping story, it brings the audience deep into the jungle on the border of Rwanda and Congo where two soldiers battle for survival during the Second Congo War.

The film also clinched best actor for co-star Marc Zinga. The prize for best actress went to Samantha Mugatsia for her nuanced performance in Wanuri Kahui's Kenyan lesbian romance *Rafiki*, which has already made history for being selected at Cannes after being banned in its home country.

Young filmmakers

The fact that these young filmmakers and actors are bursting onto the scene no doubt



Ouagadougou | Panafrican Film and television Festival of Ouagadougou

bodes well for the future. But questions still linger about the future of the festival and its packaging of African cinema.

Is this the kind of venue where one comes to see what is new in film production across the continent? Is auteur cinema what African audiences are interested in? How about the videos eagerly consumed by Africans across the continent: from the phenomenon of Nollywood to the bongo movie industry in Tanzania? Are the tastes of their audiences catered for?

Perhaps a good way of answering these questions is by looking at how the Fespaco is changing.

Since 2015, films shot digitally have become eligible for the festival's main prize, which was previously reserved for celluloid films only. At the 2019 edition, the two movies that got the warmest reception among the screenings I attended were not the kind of film one normally associates with Fespaco. One was the Ivorian film *Resolution*, an earnest denunciation of gender violence that had the audience voicing its disapproval at the physical

brutality inflicted upon the female protagonist and cheering her resolution to finally stand up to her abusive husband.

The second was *Hakkunde (In between)*. It is the first Nigerian publicly crowd-funded movie by Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards (AMVCA) award-winning director and producer Oluseyi Asurf Abuwa. This Nollywood-style comic tale of a self-made man also got the audience laughing and applauding. The audible approval for both of these films was no doubt a sign of the times.

The other issue that stood out was the contestation surrounding how the festival's history and present are dominated by men. After 50 years, no woman director has won the festival's main prize.

This year, out of a selection of 124 films in competition for the various prizes and 79 not in competition, women represented a small portion of the directors participating: only 30 films in competition and nine not in competition. But even though they were outnumbered, women were not silent. Festival events included a meeting titled "Where are the women?" and a round table organised by the collective "Non-aligned filmmakers" on the place of women in African cinema.

A lack of focus

But perhaps the biggest challenge faced by Fespaco has to do with the forms of attention that the seventh art requires. The festival was very well attended. The main venue, Ciné Burkina, was usually packed. However, part of the audience seemed incapable of focussing on the film they had ostensibly come to watch instead of the tiny screens of their cell phones, which kept flickering and occasionally ringing.

I wondered why there were no pre-show announcements asking the audience to turn off their phones. It's possibly because these announcements don't work anyway.

Maybe, if it is to survive and thrive, African cinema must adapt to today's audiences, digital devices and forms of distraction. The Nigerian video industry has already started producing short films and clips that are easier and cheaper to stream on phones. As Nollywood scholar Jonathan Haynes commented at a recent seminar, the "future is on Android".

This article was first published on The Conversation.





South Africa's most *Beautiful object*

Houtlander's curvilinear *Interdependence II* bench was judged the Most Beautiful Object in South Africa and announced as the winner on Friday, 1 March 2019, at the annual Design Indaba Conference in Cape Town.

The transparent nomination and selection process encourages debate around the definition of beauty. For some, value lies in function and social relevance; for others, pure aesthetics are king.

"We want the public to decide what they think constitutes a 'beautiful object' – and it's not just about what something looks like, it's also about smart functionality, or a design's ability to enhance the quality of life for its user or effect

change. In the selection process itself, we want to foster a sense of appreciation, accessibility and engagement," explained Design Indaba festival manager, Bev Cupido.

The Most Beautiful Object in South Africa is a public-facing initiative that was propelled into being 12 years ago by the Design Indaba, which is itself heading into its 25th year in 2020.

Houtlander's winning seating design is punctuated by flowing lines and beautiful curves with an unexpected twist. Not to mention

statement-making colour – a strident blue that sits midway between Azure and Persian. The bench is typical of Houtlander's pared-back aesthetic, but with a decidedly playful and conceptual element.

Houtlander was started by two passionate furniture designers, Phillip Hollander and Stephen Wilson, who are concerned about the human principles of inclusivity, environment and legacy. Their aim is to create pieces that endure. They explain:

"We admire modernist design, especially the Scandinavian aesthetic, respect the tried-and-tested methods of centuries of traditional joinery and challenge ourselves to employ modern methods to create functional pieces with a future heritage."

As for heritage and collectability, *Interdependence II* has that in bounds.

The unusual bench evolved from the design duo's initial *Interdependence* bench, which was first launched at the exhibition *Extra Ordinary* by Southern Guild. Houtlander then went on to win the prize for South African Designer of the Year at 100% Design South Africa 2017. *Interdependence II* is the culmination of a process of development and refinement.

The bench was on exhibition at the Design Indaba from 27 February to 1 March 2019.

It was exhibited on the Artscape Piazza as part of an exhibition showcasing all the nominated objects and the display was open to the public. Each of the objects on show was nominated by a prominent public figure. *Interdependence II* was nominated by Nandi

Dlepu, the Managing Director of Johannesburg-based creative agency Mamakashaka.

Below is the full list of the nominees, as well as the nominators:

- *African Bridal Dress* by Mzukisi Mbane (nominated by TV presenter Bonnie Mbuli of SABC3's *Afternoon Express*)
- *Cancer Dojo* App by Conn Bertish (nominated by Tabatha King from King James Group)
- *Collective Amnesia* by author and playwright Koleka Putuma (nominated by Jay Pather from the Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre)
- *Copper & Glass Kettle* by Ebert Otto (nominated by Sumien Brink, Editor-in-Chief of *VISI*)
- *Interdependence II* by Houtlander (nominated by local entrepreneur Nandi Dlepu)
- *Nenzima Desk* by Mpho Vackier (nominated by interior designer Donald Nxumalo)
- *Okapi x Capsule – Yemasa* by OKAPI (nominated by style guru Felipe Mazibuko)

- *River Love Sofa* by Heino Schmitt Design (nominated by television personality Zuraida Jardine)
- *Sounds of Sibikwa* by artist Usha Seejarim (nominated by Market Theatre Foundation CEO, Ismail Mahomed)
- *Stellar Scintillation* by artist Chris Soal (nominated by Kaya FM Radio Presenter Bridget Masinga). 🇷🇺





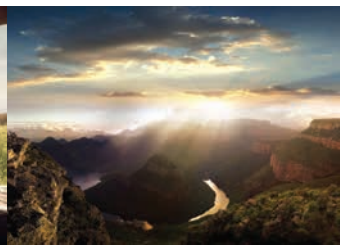
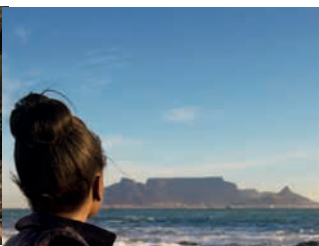
The top Instagram sites in South Africa

A beautiful photograph can be enough to inspire the trip of a lifetime, which is why travel-lovers are consistently heading to Instagram to seek out new and incredible destinations.

The Gig 7 Travel team recently announced the official list of the Top 50 Most Instagrammable Countries in The World 2019, and South Africa came in fifth place. Combining hashtag popularity, survey results of Big 7 readers and votes cast by a panel of travel experts, the world's most photogenic countries were revealed.

Carefully chosen by a team of travel experts, these are the 50 Most Instagrammable Spots In South Africa:

1. Bloubergstrand, Western Cape: Bloubergstrand is a suburb of Cape Town along the shores of Table Bay. The beach at Bloubergstrand is a popular location for a classic view of Table Mountain across the bay and is one of the world's top kitesurf destinations.
2. Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve, Mpumalanga: The Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve is the birthplace of sustainable wildlife tourism in southern Africa, and is the oldest of all the private reserves in South Africa. It has only ever been a wilderness area and is home to a vast wildlife population, including The Big Five, and a number of endangered species. Flanking the Kruger National Park, animals pass unhindered between the reserves.
3. Jacaranda trees, Pretoria, Gauteng: Each year, from late September to November, Jacaranda trees go into bloom in South Africa. These beautiful trees are especially abundant in Pretoria, draping the city in a magnificent display of colour.
4. Mandela Capture Site, KwaZulu-Natal: The Nelson Mandela Capture Site, near Howick, is a cultural and historical exhibition that is situated at the site at which Nelson Mandela was apprehended for his anti-apartheid activism acts in August 1952.
5. Orlando Towers, Gauteng: Once the site of a coal-fired power station, these iconic towers have been transformed with brightly coloured murals and offer bungee jumping and abseiling.
6. Blyde River Canyon, Mpumalanga: Officially known as Motlatse Canyon, this can be found at the northern end of the Drakensberg Escarpment – a remarkable 25 km in length.
7. Lion Sands Ivory Lodge, Mpumalanga: The lodge's eight one-bedroom villas, secluded at the confluence of the Sabie and Sand rivers, are the ultimate bush retreats.
8. Stellenbosch, Western Cape: The second-oldest town in South Africa, Stellenbosch is known for its natural beauty and oak-lined avenues, Cape Dutch architecture, history and culture, and its wine routes.
9. Lion's Head, Cape Town, Western Cape: Lion's Head is the distinctively shaped mountain slope found alongside Table Mountain. The proud lion overlooks the city and Table Bay on one side, and the scenic Atlantic Ocean coastline on the other.
10. Sani Pass, KwaZulu-Natal: Sani Pass is a mountain pass located in the west

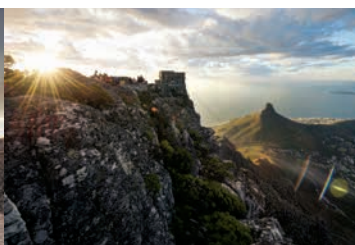


of KwaZulu-Natal, on the road between Underberg and Mokhotlong, Lesotho. The route up Sani Pass starts at 1 544 m, and climbs 1332 vertical metres to an altitude of 2 876 m.

The remainder of the sites are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Mapungubwe, Limpopo 12. Valley of Desolation, Camdeboo National Park, Eastern Cape 13. God's Window, Mpumalanga 14. De Hoop Nature Reserve, Western Cape 15. Bo-Kaap, Cape Town, Western Cape 16. Tsitsikamma National Park, Eastern Cape 17. Sodwana Bay, KwaZulu-Natal 18. Chapman's Peak Drive, Western Cape 19. Cape Vidal beach, KwaZulu-Natal 20. Diving Board, Table Mountain, Western Cape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Augrabies Falls National Park, Northern Cape 22. Hoyo Hoyo Safari Lodge, Mpumalanga 23. Bloukrans Bridge, Western Cape 24. Nourish'd café, Western Cape 25. Durban Natural Science Museum, KwaZulu-Natal 26. Union Buildings, Gauteng 27. Robben Island 28. Buffels Bay, Western Cape 29. Drakensberg Mountains 30. Father Coffee, Gauteng 31. Hole in the Wall, Eastern Cape 32. Cape of Good Hope, Western Cape 33. Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Northern Cape 34. Otter Hiking Trail, Eastern Cape 35. Inanda Mountain, KwaZulu-Natal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36. Elands River Falls, Mpumalanga 37. The Silo Hotel, Western Cape 38. The Richtersveld, Northern Cape 39. Namaqualand at spring-time 40. Muizenberg, Western Cape 41. Hermanus whale watching, Western Cape 42. Moses Mabhida Stadium, KwaZulu-Natal 43. Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, Gauteng 44. Babylonstoren, Western Cape 45. Boulders Beach, Western Cape 46. Knysna Elephant Park, Western Cape 47. Four Seasons Hotel, The Westcliff, Gauteng 48. Nelson Mandela Bridge, Gauteng 49. Umhlanga Lighthouse, KwaZulu-Natal 50. Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve, Western Cape. 🇷🇵 |
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<https://bigseventravel.com>





South Africa makes ballet history on the Bolshoi Stage in Moscow

By **Dirk Badenhorst**

CEO: South African International Ballet Competition, Director: Mzansi Ballet

The Kremlin, Red Square, St Basils and then, a dream come true, the Bolshoi Theatre. This is what I think of when I think of Moscow, even better, when I get to visit Moscow. I have loved Moscow since my first visit in 2006. I call it ballet heaven, as it is home to the Bolshoi Ballet Company and the Bolshoi Ballet School, where they house and train arguably the best dancers in the world.

The word Bolshoi is known in South Africa and associated with beautiful ballet. Even the most hardened non-theatre goers know about it and would even consider a visit to the theatre to see the Bolshoi Ballet Company. What many people don't know is that Moscow is home to many ballet companies and schools, and ballet is indeed a very popular art form. When I was sitting in the theatre, the appreciation from all,

young, old, male and female, so inspired me and showed me what we can achieve in South Africa. We are starting to hear about more support for classical ballet in South Africa. In the budget speech of the Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni, he mentioned that he would like to support a national ballet troupe – would that not be wonderful.

Moscow is such a beautiful city, with architectural masterpieces and a wonderful way of capturing their history in museums,

galleries, sculptures and wonderful works of art. Even when travelling in the metro, you experience some of the most beautiful works of art on the walls, great statues and even chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. Even the trains run in the light of the exquisite chandeliers.

A boat ride on the Moscow River is a great way to see more of the city and is one of the few things to do for young children. My son loved being on the boat, seeing the lush green



Andile Ndlovu

gardens, beautiful homes and other gorgeous constructions of the city. Sitting on the upper deck with friends, Michele Dames from South Africa and Olga Ostrovskaya from Moscow and having a lovely lunch was indeed a great way of getting to know Moscow.

Entering the Bolshoi Theatre is not easy, by identification and invitation only, but in the end, worth all the trouble. The Bolshoi was renovated in the first decade of the 2000s and is a true jewel in the Russian crown of celebrating and honouring the arts. The stage a dream to walk on, the seating glorious to sit on and the general decor throughout the theatre a beauty to behold.

I was so excited and honoured to be invited to Moscow to join the panel of judges that represent the biggest ballet companies in the world and some of the most impressive creatives in the fields of Ballet, Design, Composition and Choreography.

For the first time in the history of the Prix *Benois De La Danse* International Ballet Competition, there were two representatives from South Africa at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow: myself as the first-ever South African jury member, and Soweto-born dancer Andile Ndlovu, now US-based, who performed in the prestigious event gala on 22 May as one of this year's 27 nominees for the *Benois de la Danse* Award as Best Male Dancer for his role as "Mercutio" in Washington Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The *Benois de la Danse*, founded by the International Dance Association in Moscow in 1991, is one of the most prestigious ballet competitions in the world. The prestigious jury panel that changes every year, awards statuettes to the winners in the categories of Lifelong Achievement, Best Ballerina, Best Danseur, Best Choreographer, Best Composer and Best Designer.

It's like the Oscars of the ballet competition world, where the very best are considered for an uber prestigious and covered prize.

In 1992, the Prix *Benois De La Danse* International Ballet Competition succeeded in obtaining the patronage of the United



Dirk Badenhorst

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and French sculptor Igor Ustinov designed the award statuette. Ustinov is the son of the famous actor Peter Ustinov and a great-nephew of Alexandre Benois (1870–1960) after whom the competition and prize are named.

In 2002, Russia's Ministry of Culture included the project in the Cultural Heritage of Russia Federal Programme.

In 2009, *Benois de la Danse* was placed under patronage and granted the right to use the logo of the European Cultural Parliament as a programme of international importance.

Over 26 years of its existence, the prize was awarded in Moscow, in the Bolshoi Theatre and the State Kremlin Palace, in the UNESCO Palace in Paris, the National Theatre in Warsaw, the Unter den Linden State Opera in Berlin and the State Theatre in Stuttgart.

In 2002, the project, grown to the size of a world ballet festival, returned to the Bolshoi Theatre.

All proceeds from the festival's gala nights go towards personal assistance to ballet veterans of Moscow dance companies.

The jury for the this year comprised some of the most impressive leaders in the world of ballet: Ted Brandsen, the Director of Dutch National Ballet; Svetlana Zakharova from the Bolshoi ballet star; Ana Laguna an international ballet star and coach; Agnes Letestu of the Paris Opera ballet star and designer; Vladimir Malakov an international ballet star and choreographer; Rachel Moore the President and Executive Director of the Los Angeles Music Centre; and Dirk Badenhorst the Founder and CEO of the South African International Ballet Competition (SAIBC) and Artistic Director of Mzansi Ballet.

The *Benois de la Danse* dance nominees, 27 in total this year, included world ballet stars Amandine Albisson (Paris Opera Ballet); Ashley Boudier (New York City Ballet); Elisa Carrillo Cabrera (State Ballet of Berlin); Maia Makhateli (Dutch National Ballet); Anastasia Stashkevich (Bolshoi Theatre); Yuan Yuan Tan (San Francisco Ballet); Kaho Yanagisawa

(Royal Swedish Ballet); Audric Bezard (Paris Opera Ballet); Daniel Camargo (Dutch National Ballet); Vadim Muntigarov (Royal Ballet); Abel Rojo (Malpaso Company); Daniil Simpkin (American Ballet Theatre); and Andile Ndlovu (The Washington Ballet).

A gala concert starring *Benois-2019* nominees and the award ceremony took place on 21 May 2019, and on 22 May, dance lovers were treated to "Benois de la Danse to the Year of Theatre", a gala concert of ballet stars and *Benois* laureates of the previous years, as well as a performance by artists of the Vakhtangov Theatre, choreographed by Angelika Cholina.

Myself as the first South African jury member at competitions in Russia, China, Cuba, US and South Korea, also became the first South African jury member of the *Benois de la Danse* when I was recommended by the former director of the Paris Opera Ballet, Brigitte Lefevre.

Andile Ndlovu relocated to Washington, US, after being invited to a summer intensive by the then director of Washington Ballet, Septime Webre, who was a judge at the inaugural SAIBC in 2008. His time there was so successful that he progressed to the studio company before joining the main company where he is today.

Ndlovu returns to South Africa regularly and to dance in numerous ballet SAIBC and Mzansi Ballet performances and to work with local dancers and organisations to inspire passion and a love of ballet in young South African dancers.

In order to achieve the standard of dance and more of Andile Ndlovu, we hosted the first South African International Ballet Intensive at the National School of the Arts in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, from 23 June to 3 July with performances at the Lyric Theatre Gold Reef City on 4 and 5 July 2019.

We had the world-class faculty of ballet teachers from Cuba, China, Latvia, USA and Germany. We will also in future collaborate with the Bolshoi Academy to further the Cuban methodology of Ballet Training for our Teachers in the Townships Programme. This will be one of the direct outcomes of the visit to Moscow and my continued drive to ensure more young South Africans have access to the beautiful art of ballet, in particular those communities who previously were denied that privilege, while making it sustainable as small businesses.

Thanks Moscow for being such a beautiful host and for affirming your place as one of my favourite cities in the world. 🇷🇺







