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Acknowledgements

President Cyril Ramaphosa; Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women; Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, Minister of Tourism; Alvin Botes, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; Kgabo Mahoai, Director-General, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO); Phumla Williams, Acting Director-General, Government Communication and Information System; Ambassador Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director-General, DIRCO; David Coplan, Professor Emeritus, Social Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand; Moses John Bockarie, Honorary Chief Specialist Scientist, South African Medical Research Council; Tony Carnie, Groundup; UN Environment; Alison Kock, Marine Biologist, South African National Parks (SANParks), Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa, University of Cape Town, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity; Sarah Wurz, Professor, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Joshua Kumbani, PhD Student, Wits, Justin Bradfield, Senior lecturer, University of Johannesburg, and Neil Rusch, Research Associate, Wits; Ashraf Hendricks, Groundup; Nicholas Wolpe, Chief Executive Officer, Liliesleaf; Brand South Africa; and SANews.gov.za

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UBUNTU

a Nguni word meaning humanity

The Department of International Relations
and Cooperation's quarterly magazine



ON THE COVER

South Africa was celebrating as the Springboks brought home the Rugby World Cup after beating England 32-12 in the final in Japan. The victory under Siya Kolisi, the team's first black captain, was another symbolic moment for the Springboks. In 1995, former President Nelson Mandela famously celebrated on the podium with captain Francois Pienaar after their first World Cup win. This was the third time that the Springboks had won the trophy, equalling New Zealand's record.

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As we exchange views on how to strengthen implementation of the WPS Agenda, particularly as we move towards the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1325 next year, it is also imperative for the international community to take into account the findings, including recommendations, made in the 2015 global study on the implementation of Resolution 1325, commissioned by the UNSC. I believe that some of the recommendations are still relevant in terms of elaborating practical and attainable deliverables and it is for this reason that South Africa advocated for its inclusion to embolden the message on the full implementation of the agenda.

Our deliverables must be visible and discernible. They must be clearly aimed at ensuring the meaningful participation of women in all levels of peace processes; increasing the number of women in uniformed and civilian components of peacekeeping operations; investing in women as peacebuilders, such as in mediation and negotiation; protecting the human rights of women, particularly sexual and reproductive health rights; and advancing accountability for heinous crimes such as sexual violence.

South Africa has been a proponent of the WPS Agenda since its inception and we remain committed to implementing the agenda, so that it can also support and contribute to silencing the guns across the world, and work towards saving "succeeding generations from the scourge of war", as we committed to at the founding of the UN.

South Africa has been engaged in training women across all of these areas. We are therefore optimistic that the operationalisation of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediators Networks will advance some of these objectives.

On peacekeeping, South Africa will continue to ensure the meaningful participation of women in peace-support operations. The South African National Defence Force comprises 30% women. This has enabled South Africa, as a troop-contributing country to UN peacekeeping missions, to deploy more females in the frontlines of armed conflicts. The South African contingent of the Force Intervention Brigade to MONUSCO is composed of 14.5% women and the officer commanding the South African force is a woman.

On peacekeeping, South Africa will continue to ensure the meaningful participation of women in peace-support operations.

South Africa will continue to actively participate in existing global initiatives, such as the WPS Focal Points Network; the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations; and the UN Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping Initiative. These initiatives serve as instruments to raise awareness on the importance of the WPS Agenda.

We remain resolute in our commitment to advance the cause of the WPS Agenda through implementing the recommendations and guidelines emanating from the various resolutions adopted by the UNSC. ▣

Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



South Africa had the honour to hold the rotational Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of October 2019. As part of our Presidency, we put the issue of women's involvement in peace and security initiatives around the world firmly on the agenda.

We insisted on this because women from diverse contexts across the world continue to face obstacles and resistance; they continue to bear the brunt of armed conflict and their personal, economic, civil and political security is persistently undermined.

Women's efforts to ensure their participation in peace processes continue to be undermined and if we fail to address the barriers in the next

20 years and beyond, we must face the reality that we are falling short of our ambitions to realise the objectives we set as an international community. Together, the UN, member states, regional organisations, civil society and other actors supporting peace processes must hold each other accountable to maintain and go beyond the current progress in the area of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda by 2020 and beyond.

The myriad and complex conflicts in the world underscore the need to reinforce the implementation of the WPS Agenda.

UNSC Resolution 1325, which was passed 19 years ago, and its subsequent resolutions underpin the WPS international normative framework. South Africa views the WPS

Agenda as a means for women to mediate in conflict situations and as essential to end the use of force as a means of settling disputes.

A report from the UN Secretary-General provided a useful overview of the successes and gaps in the implementation of this agenda. The report provided concrete recommendations that should move us from rhetoric to action, so that we can effectively implement the commitments we have set ourselves.

It is within this context that South Africa saw it fit to present a resolution focussing on the full implementation of the WPS Agenda. The resolution recognises that although there has been great progress made, great opportunities still lie ahead of us.



In October 2019, South Africa served as President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in a rotating capacity following the Presidency in September of the Russian Federation. The theme of South Africa's tenure in the Security Council, including for its Presidency, is: "Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World". The theme focusses on the lessons from our late former President, Nelson Mandela, and is in recognition of his legacy of championing the resolution of conflicts through peaceful means.

As one of the principal organs of the UN, the Security Council is charged with the responsibility to maintain international peace and security. South Africa serves its two-year (2019 – 2020) tenure in the UNSC alongside nine non-permanent members. These are: Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru and Poland.

South Africa recognises the importance of cooperation among the non-permanent members as a way of leveraging their contribution to the work of the Security Council in the face of persistent divisions among the five permanent members, which are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

South Africa is using its tenure on the UNSC to promote the maintenance of international peace and security by advocating for the peaceful settlement of disputes through meaningful and inclusive dialogue. South Africa is also advocating for closer cooperation between the Security Council and other regional and sub-regional organisations, particularly the African Union (AU).

One of the key focus areas for South Africa is the security situation on the African continent. We have already drawn attention to the need to bring about lasting peace and security to the Great Lakes region, which includes, among other countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda. We have also been seized with the situation in Mali.

Regarding the Great Lakes, South Africa welcomes the normalisation of bilateral relations between Rwanda and Uganda, which was mediated by Angola with the support of the DRC. In the DRC, the security situation in the east of the country remains volatile, and this is being compounded by the outbreak of the Ebola virus. South Africa has underscored the need for the Government of the DRC to strengthen the capacity of state institutions, with the support of the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC, known as MONUSCO. South Africa is one of the largest contributors to MONUSCO with over 1 000 troops serving in that country.

South Africa believes that a stable Great Lakes region will serve as a foundation for regional economic integration. The persistent illicit exploitation and trade in natural resources in the region undermine the proper management of these resources and this reverses the efforts of the international community in restoring stability to this important region of the African continent.

Regarding the situation in Mali, South Africa has welcomed the launch of the inclusive national dialogue in September, urging stakeholders to participate in the national dialogue aimed at contributing to the creation of political and institutional reforms. These reforms will characterise the future State of Mali as well as address the situation in the northern and central parts of the country with a view to maintaining Mali's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

There is an urgent need to resolve the root causes of instability, inter-communal clashes, terrorism and violent extremism ravaging parts of Mali. In this regard, the decision taken by the Economic Community of West African States leaders at their recent extraordinary summit, which pledged resources to fighting terrorism in the region, is an indication of the willingness of countries on the continent to resolve and find home-grown solutions to Africa's problems.

As part of its contribution to the mandate of the UNSC to maintain international peace and security, South Africa will continue to advocate for the resolution of conflicts through peaceful means. Working closely with the two African non-permanent members (Ivory Coast

and Equatorial Guinea), South Africa will also seek to facilitate greater cooperation between the UNSC and the AU's Peace and Security Council.

We further emphasise the role of women in the resolution of conflict. In this regard, South Africa argues for a gender perspective to be mainstreamed into all UNSC resolutions in line with Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which was adopted at the initiative of our neighbour, Namibia.

Despite the commitments in Resolution 1325, 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.

Women and girls also continue to be severely affected by conflict situations, especially with regard to sexual abuse and violence.

During our Presidency, we presided over the Security Council's debate on this subject. The emphasis of the debate was to ensure implementation of the commitments we have made to fully implement the WPS Agenda.

As we have consistently stated, South Africa is supportive of the UN and a rules-based multilateral system.

However, the UN remains hamstrung by the fact that the organisation remains undemocratic and anachronistic. We remain gravely concerned that 74 years after the founding of the UN, key decisions on peace and security are de-facto the domain of only five countries.

Twenty years of discussions on reform of the Security Council have yielded no movement towards a more representative and inclusive Security Council.

We believe that the time has come for the broader UN membership to heed the overwhelming call for Africa to obtain at least two permanent seats, with all the prerogatives of permanent membership, as well as five non-permanent seats, as embodied in the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus on the comprehensive reform of the UNSC.

In this regard, UN member states must invigorate the negotiations on reform at the Intergovernmental Negotiations, including by initiating text-based negotiations. @ClaysonMonyela

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"We can achieve anything if we work together as one"

At a time when South Africa is experiencing profound challenges, we have rallied around the victory in Japan. The outpouring of support for the Springboks on the road to the final once again showed the immense potential of sport to unite us as a people.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

The sight of Springbok captain Siyamthanda Kolisi lifting the cup at the Yokohama Stadium on Saturday, 2 November 2019, filled me with great pride. I could see the undisguised emotion on the face of his father, Fezakele Raymond Kolisi, watching from the stands. There was his son, the first black captain of the Springboks, making history.

Siya Kolisi was born on a day of profound significance in our country, 16 June, when we remember the valiant students who lit the path for our freedom. Siya's captaincy not only epitomises the transformation of a sport that was once racially segregated; it is the power of a dream fulfilled. This is the dream of a young man of humble circumstances to one day wear the green and gold jersey, and of a country that has enabled him to see it realised.

At a time when South Africa is experiencing profound challenges, we have rallied around the victory in Japan. The outpouring of support for the Springboks on the road to the final once again showed the immense potential of sport to unite us as a people.

When Caster Semenya crosses the finish line, when Banyana Banyana find the back of the net, when Chad le Clos lifts his gold medal, when our national netball team, the Proteas, are crowned Africa champions, all of South Africa is cheering on the sidelines. After generations of division, we have become a people with a great sense of national pride.

But we are not only united by the achievements of our sports stars or internationally acclaimed performers, like the Ndlovu Youth Choir. We are also united by a shared desire for a country where all can live

in peace and comfort, where all have an equal chance to achieve their potential.

We are united by the vision of a country where the divisions of the past can be overcome, a nation of equality, dignity and respect for human rights. Over the past 25 years, we have been working together to build that nation. And while this is still very much work in progress, we are firmly on the path to unite, renew and transform our society.

The spectre of racism, sexism, tribalism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance has on occasion taken root in our society and has blindsided us as we strive towards our national objective of creating a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, prosperous and tolerant society.

But, we have always come back, even when we stood at the brink of tipping over.

The World Cup final was a triumphant day as it confirmed what we are as a nation, firm in its resolve to find unity in its diversity, as exemplified in our national rugby team, which is transforming beautifully, being presented to the world with its first black captain.

We often fail to appreciate just how far we have come since that iconic moment in 1995, when a South African first held aloft the Rugby World Cup Trophy, in building a society that offers equal opportunity to all regardless of race, gender or social circumstances.

I recently attended a businesswomen's summit in Johannesburg and was in awe of the breadth of occupations and ventures our country's women have entered. We had among us shipping company CEOs, tech entrepreneurs, DNA specialists and production company owners. This has been made possible by the progressive policies of this government and the opportunities it has afforded its people.

We are proud of South Africa and what it has become. But, there is much more that we need to do to make this a country where the black child and the white child can attain the heights they always dream of.

We must do more to foster social cohesion in our society. Our national broadcaster – indeed all broadcasters – should commission more content that reflects the values of tolerance and multiculturalism. Leaders of faith organisations, traditional bodies, political parties, cultural organisations, sports organisations and business bodies should all work together to foster a more inclusive and cohesive society.

Public sports and recreation facilities must be better resourced, especially in rural areas, so that young men and women who cherish dreams of sporting success attain their

goals. The youth should be able to explore and appreciate their history, traditions and languages.

South Africa recently hosted the second Investment Conference as part of our ambitious drive to set our country on a path of faster growth and to create the many jobs that our people need.

To mobilise the investment we need requires a massive effort from us all. More than ever, we need to be single-minded in our determination to build an economy that can benefit all our people. So let each of us, wherever we find ourselves, become part of the campaign to build a better South Africa.

As we held our breath on Saturday, 2 November 2019, and awaited the final whistle, we momentarily forgot our woes. And now, our sails swelled by the wind of victory, our pride must not deflate, our euphoria must not dissipate and our optimism must endure.

Let the goodwill brought by our success at Yokohama inspire us to put our collective shoulder to the wheel as we confront our economic, political and social challenges together – and overcome them.

As Siya Kolisi said: "We can achieve anything if we work together as one".





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Our success story will be a shared one

Those who have been watching developments in Africa over recent years would have seen the emergence of a common vision for peace, growth and development.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

It was my privilege to open the *Financial Times Africa Summit 2019* in London on 14 October 2019. Over the years, this summit has built a reputation for attracting key decision-makers, financiers, investors and development partners from Africa and across the world.

It has become a valued platform for African voices and for a frank engagement on the many challenges and opportunities on the continent.

Those who have been watching developments in Africa over recent years would have seen the emergence of a common vision for peace, growth and development.

The continent has undergone profound changes since the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 and even since the African Union (AU) was formed in 2002.

While our founding forebears had to end colonialism, free their countries and establish independent nation states, the recent

generations of leaders have been forging an ambitious programme to fundamentally transform Africa's fortunes.

This ambitious programme for the continent is outlined in the AU's Agenda 2063, which envisages a continent that is at peace, stable and well-governed, and a continent where its substantial natural endowment is used for the benefit of all its people and not just a few elites.

In pursuance of achieving these bold objectives of changing our continent, new

imaginative initiatives are embarked upon, the type that would have made Pliny the Elder, the Roman Empire era author and philosopher, continue to observe: "There is always something new out of Africa".

This could not have been more true than with the award of this year's Nobel Peace Prize to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia.

This award is a worthy recognition of the work of Prime Minister Abiy in forging peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea. But this award is much bigger, in that it is a major boost for the project of silencing the guns on our continent and installing the peace that will enable us as a continent to achieve our bold ambitions.

The new generation of leaders of Ahmed Abiy's ilk are bold, courageous and are focussed on creating an Africa that is at peace with itself and growing the economies of African countries through innovation, infrastructure development and trade.

Their interest extends beyond the borders of their countries to promoting greater economic development within the respective economic regions on the continent.

As we pursue economic integration, these regions are taking on a greater significance.

The East African Community, for example, is far advanced in many respects, as it has committed itself to gradually establish a Customs Union, a Common Market, a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation of the East African States.

This is a continent that despite its challenges is young, dynamic, has vast potential and has great promise.

Africa is ready for the great leapfrog on many fronts, including in attracting investment, displaying its innovative talent and capability and catapulting itself to greater heights of human development.

Africa is ready to partner with investors and the private sector because it has been proven many times over and in numerous countries that discerning investors who have the foresight to invest in Africa can earn good returns.

We have reached a moment in our history where Africa needs investment more than it needs foreign aid.

The countdown has begun to the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It will bring together into a single market 54 nations of some 1.2 billion people and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of over US\$3 trillion.

Just as the signing of the Maastricht Treaty in 1992 represented a new era of European cooperation and integration, the AfCFTA is the realisation of the dream of the founders of the OAU 56 years ago.

We are on the cusp of a new era.

We share a common vision to see greater levels of investment directed into Africa and to see higher volumes of intra-African trade.

Trade among countries in Africa is currently at 15%, compared to 47% in the Americas, 61% in Asia and 67% in Europe.

By some estimates, the new free trade area could increase the value of intra-African trade by 15% to 25% by 2040.

In addition to its economic impact, the AfCFTA will have far-reaching political, social, physical and international effects.

On the economic front, it will improve access to existing markets and lead to the creation of new ones. The free flow of goods and services will enable African businesses and entrepreneurs to expand their horizons. It will lead to the creation of a huge number of both big and small businesses.

This treaty will unleash the manufacturing and industrial capability of the continent as companies will seek to make products for the burgeoning African market.

The removal of trade barriers will lower prices and benefit consumers. Business costs will be reduced and business efficiency will be raised.

African governments are hard at work putting regulations and mechanisms in place to ensure that the free trade area is a success.

These include easing customs controls, developing regulations on the cross-border movement of people, reforming taxation and intellectual property regimes and improving anti-corruption legislation.

On the political front, the AfCFTA will help to consolidate the union among all African states. It will reduce the potential for conflict because there is no benefit in waging wars with countries that you trade with.

From a social perspective, it is likely to result in a more cosmopolitan Africa as the greater movement of people and skills brings more people of diverse backgrounds and nationalities together.

As African countries become more connected to each other through highways and railway lines, through regional power grids and water infrastructure, the continent will undergo an infrastructural transformation.

The borders drawn up in the palaces of Europe will gradually become less significant than the infrastructure matrix that will link African economies together.

The AfCFTA will also have a broader international impact as Africa will be able to deal with other trade blocs from a position of greater strength, able to demonstrate economies of scale.

As the incoming Chair of the AU next year, South Africa will put great emphasis on giving effect to the agreement on the AfCFTA.

There is much work that needs to be done and many obstacles that need to be overcome, but we are determined that Africa should seize this moment.

The convergence of economies and the integration of markets under the AfCFTA will make the case for investing in the African continent even stronger.

This is a continent with abundant natural resources such as minerals, oil and natural gas, but also vast tracts of arable land and water, as well as wind and sunshine – the drivers of the renewable energy revolution.

Africa is the continent with the youngest population in the world, and which is expected to have a working age population of 1.8 billion by 2035.

It is a rapidly urbanising continent. By 2030, Africa will host more than 41 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants each.

This growth in urban populations is contributing to raised standards of living and rising affluence.

Africa has become a sophisticated consumer market with increasing spending power, and increased demand for products and services.

Over the last two decades, Africa has become more stable as democracy has spread. This year alone, elections have been held in, among other countries, Nigeria, South Africa, Malawi, Mauritania, Tunisia, ►►

Mozambique, Ghana, Cameroon, Botswana, Namibia and Algeria.

These aren't just political milestones for the respective countries. They are a signal of growing political stability.

National elections on the African continent have become the norm rather than an exception.

Across Africa, countries are enacting reforms to improve business confidence.

Public institutions are being reformed and laws around corruption and bribery are being strengthened.

Because of these cumulative reforms, five of the 10 most improved countries in this year's *World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index* are from Africa. This should bolster and increase investor confidence.

Between 2017 and 2018, global foreign direct investment (FDI) to Africa rose by 11% at a time when global FDI flows fell by 13%.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies, six are in Africa.

These countries are industrialising, diversifying and attracting new investment. Their economies are becoming increasingly sophisticated as investors seek returns in industries from renewable energy to ICT, from telecoms to agribusiness.

This is not to make light of our challenges.

Unemployment, especially among young people, is still high. Poverty is widespread and inequality is growing.

Millions do not have access to proper healthcare or decent education.

The IMF estimates that Africa needs to create 20 million jobs a year over the next two decades.

The average debt-to-GDP ratio on the continent has risen to 57%, with debt servicing costs increasing sharply.

Policy and regulatory uncertainty, weak implementation and corruption are deterring investors.

These are challenges we recognise and are working to overcome.

Like many other countries on the continent, South Africa is positioning itself as an investment destination of choice.

At the core of these efforts are good governance, growth enhancing reforms and macro-economic stability.

We have vast mineral and natural resources, and the third-largest coastline in Africa.

We have world-class infrastructure, a sophisticated and well-regulated banking and financial services sector, an independent judiciary, strong institutions, an efficient revenue service, a diverse manufacturing base and an able workforce. Since last year, we have been implementing key structural

reforms to address perennially weak growth, ignite economic activity, restore investor confidence and create jobs.

We have taken steps to provide greater policy certainty in areas such as mining, oil and gas and telecoms as part of efforts to create a stable environment for investment.

We are finalising our energy roadmap – called the Integrated Resource Plan – which includes a diversified portfolio of technologies, including more efficient and lower-emission coal technologies, nuclear, hydropower, gas, renewables and battery storage.

We have initiated the release of the high-demand broadband spectrum, which will bring down data costs and encourage investment.

As part of attracting skilled professionals and growing tourism, we have prioritised immigration reform and changes to the visa regime.

We are undertaking a process of accelerated land reform guided by the recommendations of an expert panel. It has presented a comprehensive package of measures to resolve what is not only one of the great injustices of our colonial and apartheid history, but is also an impediment to faster, more inclusive growth.

We are undertaking this work in line with the precepts of our Constitution, committed not only to safeguard property rights, but also to ensure that all our people have an equal opportunity to exercise such rights.

We are keen to take advantage of the appetite for diversification among investors.

We are therefore developing plans for industries with high growth potential, such as automotive, clothing and textiles, gas, chemicals and plastics, renewable energy, oceans economy, agriculture and the high-tech industries.

Our focus is on expanding trade and investment links with the rest of the southern African region and the continent at large.

As the largest manufacturing economy in sub-Saharan Africa, the AfCFTA presents immense opportunities for South Africa.

For example, we are the largest exporter of trucks to the rest of Africa, and the fourth-largest exporter of cars.

Exports to other African countries directly support about 250 000 South African jobs.

We are also strengthening trade ties with other regions of the world.

Most recently, South Africa and five other countries in the southern African region concluded a new trade agreement with the United Kingdom (UK) in the event of a "no-deal Brexit".

The new agreement will effectively replicate the terms of trade present in the existing Southern African Development Community-

European Union Economic Partnership Agreement in respect of tariffs, quotas, rules of origin, and health and safety regulations.

This agreement is important for the thousands of South African workers whose jobs are dependent on bilateral trade with Britain, and for the investors who have utilised South Africa as an export base to the UK and the rest of the world.

South Africa hosted the second South Africa Investment Conference early in November 2019, as part of our national drive to attract US\$100 billion in new investment over a five-year period.

The inaugural conference last year raised around US\$20 billion in investment commitments.

Our focus at this year's conference was on moving beyond commitments to bankable projects that are ready to be implemented.

It is through building social compacts among all partners – government, labour, business and civil society – that we will be able to overcome our economic and social challenges.

I have monthly meetings with leaders of business, labour and community organisations on detailed measures to address the unemployment crisis in our country.

We are scaling up initiatives to promote youth employment and small business development.

South Africa recognises that to grow our economy, create jobs and support investment, we have to pursue prudent fiscal policies coupled with sound macro-economic management.

At a time when our fiscus is under great pressure, we are committed to ensuring debt sustainability, improving the composition of spending and reducing risks arising from contingent liabilities, especially of our state-owned enterprises.

One of the greatest challenges to our economy is the dire state of our electricity utility, Eskom, which has huge debt, severe liquidity problems and extensive operational challenges.

We have embarked on a process to strengthen governance, cut costs, improve revenue collection and increase energy availability and plant performance.

This is part of a longer term plan for the company that will see it unbundled into three separate entities responsible for generation, transmission and distribution.

By acknowledging, confronting and addressing such challenges, we are certain that South Africa will be well-positioned to take full advantage of the many opportunities on the African continent. We are a continent of entrepreneurs, a critical ingredient for growth.

African governments, companies and citizens are embracing innovation and technology to overcome the developmental constraints Africa has long faced.

One needs only look at the exponential growth of mobile money transactions since M-Pesa entered the East African market over a decade ago.

Twenty-one per cent of adults in sub-Saharan Africa now have a mobile money account – the highest of any region in the world.

In Ethiopia, drones are being used to deliver medication and even blood supplies to remote areas of the country.

Across cities in Nigeria, solar-powered phone-charging kiosks have become a familiar sight.

But Africans aren't just consumers of technology.

They are inventing, adapting and customising it for their needs.

Africa's need for infrastructure is a major investment opportunity as we strive to meet our industrialisation goals. We need more dams, power plants, fibre optic cables and ports.

We also need more social infrastructure like roads, schools, public housing and clinics.

The African Development Bank estimates that Africa's infrastructure needs amount to some US\$130 billion to US\$170 billion a year.

This need will not be met without significant private funding.

For its part, South Africa is in the process of setting up an Infrastructure Fund to leverage investments from financial institutions, multilateral development banks, asset managers and commercial banks.

With the global move towards cleaner energy sources, Africa is perfectly situated for investment in wind, solar, bioenergy, hydro and natural gas.

South Africa's renewable energy Independent Power Producer Programme, for example, has attracted approximately US\$14 billion in private-sector investment in 102 projects and created around 40 000 jobs.

Africa's success will lie in collaboration, in cooperation and in partnerships for mutual benefit.

It also depends on African countries working to advance the interests of their people, seeking African solutions to African problems.

Africa wants to deal with the rest of the world on its own terms. It wants to see an end to outside interference, particularly from those countries that continue to fuel conflict in African countries.

The continent cannot develop fully for as long as parts of Africa remain theatres of war to advance the interests of powers beyond our shores.

Foreign money that buys the weapons that are used in theatres of war on the African continent should instead be building bridges,

ports and rail lines, schools, hospitals and clinics.

As governments, we are committed to create the necessary enabling environment for business to flourish.

I call on the investor community to harness the climate of reform that is sweeping the continent and take advantage of its momentum.

There has never been a better time to invest in Africa. As the continent grows and develops, the benefits will continue to be reaped in years and decades to come.

As African nations, there has never been a better time to deepen our collaboration to ensure the AfCFTA, our most ambitious collective venture yet, is a success.

As Kwame Nkrumah famously said: "Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world."

This is an opportunity to grow our economies, but also to use our considerable collective resources to uplift our people and improve their condition.

We may come from different parts of the world, we may speak different languages and have different cultures.

But our fortunes are intertwined. Our destinies intersect.

And ultimately, our success story will be a shared one. ▣

Africa wants to deal with the rest of the world on its own terms. It wants to see an end to outside interference, particularly from those countries that continue to fuel conflict in African countries.





Economic integration key to SADC industrialisation

The summit took place under the theme: "A Conducive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development".

President Cyril Ramaphosa has highlighted the importance of regional economic integration as envisaged by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Strategy.

The President made this point at the conclusion of the 39th Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government.

President Ramaphosa led the South African delegation comprising the Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor; Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula; Tourism, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane; and Finance, Tito Mboweni.

The summit was held from 17 to 18 August 2019 at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in the Tanzanian capital, Dar es Salaam.

The summit took place under the theme: "A Conducive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development".

The theme was in line with previous SADC Summit decisions that endorsed industrialisation as the overarching priority for the region based on the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015 – 2063).

The summit provided an opportunity for heads of state and government to be briefed on the overall implementation of the SADC work programme, including the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2015 – 2020) and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

Heads of government were also updated on the status of the region's economy, health and food security and provided policy direction about future strategic work of SADC and the SADC post-2020 Agenda.

During the SADC Troika Summit of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Ramaphosa presented a final report on the Lesotho facilitation process to the SADC Heads of State. The President is the SADC facilitator to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

"Presenting his report, the President noted with great appreciation progress made towards the implementation of the reforms required for transformation in the mountain kingdom.

"He commended the passing of enabling legislation for the establishment of the National Reforms Authority, which is entrusted with implementing the decisions of the National Dialogue and the reform processes," said Presidency spokesperson, Khusela Diko.

President Ramaphosa was supported by retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke.

The President further expressed gratitude to international partners for their support and assistance provided to him, notably the European Union Delegation Office to Lesotho, the United Nations Development Programme in Maseru and Tanzania retired Justice Frederick Werema, the Chairperson of the SADC Oversight Committee on Lesotho.

President Ramaphosa congratulated President John Pombe Magufuli on assuming the Chairship of SADC.

"Under his leadership, our regional organisation and our region will continue to prosper," said the President.

The President also congratulated President Magufuli on Kiswahili being adopted as the fourth official language of communication of SADC in addition to English, French and Portuguese.

The next SADC Summit will take place in Maputo, Mozambique, in August 2020.



Meanwhile, President Ramaphosa congratulated Sasha Maria Schwendenwein, a producer of the TV show *Carte Blanche*, for her SADC Media Awards entry, which won second prize in the TV category.

South Africa received an award during the SADC Summit on a story called *Follow the Guns*, which depicts the illegal trade of weapons used for the poaching of endangered rhinos. [SAnews.gov.za](https://www.sanews.gov.za)



South Africa and Tanzania commit to greater economic cooperation

President Cyril Ramaphosa undertook his first State Visit since being elected President in May 2019 to the United Republic of Tanzania from 14 to 15 August 2019.

The Republic of South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania committed to deepen and strengthen economic ties through expanded trade and investment with a goal of achieving decent livelihoods in both countries.

President Ramaphosa and his Tanzanian counterpart, President John Pombe Magufuli, agreed to work together to ensure economic growth and advance peace and stability in the two countries.

During their bilateral discussions, the presidents exchanged views on bilateral, continental and global issues. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate more closely on multilateral issues.

On bilateral economic relations, President Ramaphosa said: "I firmly believe that much can still be achieved to further expand our cooperation, particularly in sectors such as energy, mining development, mineral beneficiation, economic infrastructure, tourism, agro-processing, education and healthcare."

He also encouraged the enhancement of cultural exchanges in order to promote people-to-people relations.

The heads of state agreed that the Second Session of the South Africa-Tanzania Binational Commission would be hosted in South Africa on a date to be agreed.

The leaders also noted with satisfaction the coming into effect of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area – an ambitious initiative to accelerate intracontinental trade and advance economic integration.

Addressing the South Africa-Tanzania Business Forum, the two leaders called on their respective business communities to work together to achieve inclusive growth and development.

To promote rapid industrialisation and development, they agreed on the need to enhance the ease of doing business in the two countries.

President Ramaphosa said: "South Africa is ready and prepared to craft a new partnership model with Tanzania, where government and business work together to clear the way for more investment to flow between our two countries".

During his State Visit, President Ramaphosa also undertook a visit to Morogoro where he visited and toured the Soikone University of Agriculture's Solomon Mahlangu Campus (formerly known as the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College [SOMAFCO]).

The college, situated in Mazimbu, was established by the exiled African National Congress (ANC) in 1978 and provided educational and vocational skills to young South Africans who had fled South Africa after the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

The President's visit to Morogoro was the first by a sitting President of the Republic of South Africa and coincided with the 50th anniversary of the ANC's Morogoro Consultative Conference convened under the stewardship of President Oliver Tambo. It was this Consultative Conference that adopted the *Strategy and Tactics* document, which determined the direction of the ANC's struggle against the apartheid regime for several decades.

President Ramaphosa said: "We return here because we desire – like the people of this area and all the people of Tanzania – to see this as a place of development, of commerce, of learning and of prosperity. We want this place to have a future that is as glorious as its past. That is why we are greatly encouraged by initiatives like the SOMAFCO Future Africa Precinct, which aims to remember and celebrate our past while investing in infrastructure and economic opportunities that make a tangible difference in the lives of the people of this area." [SAnews.gov.za](https://www.sanews.gov.za)



Accelerating Economic Diplomacy towards a better South Africa, Africa and world

By Dr Naledi Pandor

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Many African countries are achieving positive economic growth and developing social and economic infrastructure that expands the likelihood of national development, higher growth levels and social development for all.

On 11 July 2019, I presented the Budget Vote of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in the National Assembly, providing me with an opportunity to outline how DIRCO plans to utilise the budget allocated to the department to support progress on the priorities set out by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the State of the Nation Address (SONA).

In the previous financial year, DIRCO was allocated R6 552.7 billion to be utilised to advance our agenda for global cooperation, and the development of our region and our continent. In the current financial year, we were allocated R6 508.5 billion and as with all departments, we were confronted by

the limitations of budget reductions, currency fluctuations and the inadequacy of our compensation budget. Given these challenges, we have to use our resources wisely and strategically. The reduced budget severely impacts on our ability to support government in reaching our national priorities. Fortunately, we have an excellent team in DIRCO and we shall do our best.

Debates on the international relations budget and programme are incomplete if they are not associated with the tremendous role the international community played in supporting us to achieve freedom. We have in many ways sought to honour these solidarity-based contributions through reciprocating in

creating a just world order that has a humane face – a face of empowered women and girls, of men and boys, free from war, living with human security. I have been pleased that our statements and voting pattern in Geneva and New York reflect our support for a more just world.

Our work must always reflect this commitment to return the privilege of international solidarity with attention to the plight of those who seek refuge, democracy, freedom and peace.

The world has improved vastly from the world in which racial domination could thrive, yet Palestine is still occupied and not free, South Sudan has internal conflict, Western

Sahara is still occupied and not free, Cuba remains blockaded and extremism and terrorism destabilise the world. Powerful forces of economic bullying seek to alter the established multilateral world order. Africa too continues to have many development challenges. We have to promote our relations in this challenging context. We have to use our extensive network and limited resources to support the emergence of a world where all enjoy freedom and democracy, increased human security and peace. Our relationships with the world must be centred on achieving these outcomes.

This year, we celebrate 25 years of freedom. Even though we are young adults in democracy, we can as President Ramaphosa said in SONA “move forward together towards achieving a stronger, greater, more compassionate, more united and harmonious South Africa” and we add Africa.

We recall too that Rwanda is commemorating 25 years since the genocide of 1994. We reaffirm our friendship and solidarity with the people and Government of Rwanda and salute them for their determined efforts to achieve reconciliation and a nation at peace with itself. The search for social cohesion and reconciliation have been put to good effect in both our countries and we should use this common experience to forge greater links.

The work we do will advance such links and also actively contribute to the seven priorities announced by the President:

- 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.

These priorities are global, they are in the National Development Plan (NDP), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Agenda 2030) and in our Africa Agenda 2063. We will promote action to realise them for our country and our continent.

We pursue the priorities in a period in which Africa has entered a phase that holds much promise for genuine sustainable development. We plan to use our diplomacy to build stronger links with Nigeria, Egypt and Kenya as anchor countries that should advance these goals.

Many African countries are achieving positive economic growth and developing social and economic infrastructure that expands the likelihood of national development, higher growth levels and social development for all. It is noteworthy that democracy has also taken root in much of the continent with free, fair and regular elections on the rise.

We are very encouraged by the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. Now that the AfCFTA has come into force, immense opportunity for trade within Africa has come into being. South Africa must ensure it is ready to take advantage of the potential offered by this expanded market access. Once the agreement is fully operationalised, Africa will be one of the world's largest single markets encompassing 55 countries, a population of 1.2 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of US\$3.2 trillion. The development of the necessary infrastructure is going to gather speed and we must be ready to play a key role.

In addition, our capacity for research and innovation could play a critical role in enhancing our industrial development ambitions.

Minerals beneficiation, advanced manufacturing and wider use of digital technologies could place us at the leading edge of economic innovation support in Africa.

South Africa has excellent research universities, trains a large number of African postgraduate students and absorbs only a small number of them. We also have very competent research councils; imagine the contributions we could make to Africa if we multiply this capacity. The development in potential of a vibrant Africa-based knowledge economy would become a genuine reality. Our capacity for innovation must become part of our diplomatic interactions and be utilised to advance our continent's interests.

We should promote the creation of hundreds of research institutes all over Africa and support them to be innovative, productive and responsive. We have the capacity, let us use it strategically.

One of our major cooperation successes is our regional economic community that has established a strong platform for greater integration and growth. We must consolidate and expand trade and investment in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and give effect to the President's assertion that: “Within the SADC region, we should prioritise development of cross-border value chains in key sectors such as energy, mining and mineral beneficiation, industrialisation and enhancing manufacturing capacity, infrastructure development as well as agro-processing”.

We will, therefore, intensify several related SADC initiatives.

I am pleased with the progress that was achieved during South Africa's tenure as SADC Chair.

Progress on regional trade has been increased by the operationalisation of the Integrated Real Time Gross Settlement System (SADC-RTGS), which is hosted by the South African Reserve Bank. A total of 81 banks (central banks and commercial banks) are participating in the system. The

system aims at establishing a firm platform for increased intra-SADC trade and investment to further strengthen regional financial integration. The SADC-RTGS has performed impressively since July 2013 when the system went live, with a total of 1 275 591 transactions settled as at end 2018, representing R5.21 trillion. The benefits of the cross-border payment system are its efficiency and the reduction in transaction costs. This experience is going to be a valuable contribution to the development of the payment system announced at the African Union (AU) Summit in Niger in July 2019.

A second example is the completion and adoption of the SADC Energy Foresight and Assessment Study for Renewable Energy Value Chains.

Member states are going to use the recommendations to develop SADC renewable energy capacities. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was tasked to conduct a mapping exercise of potential renewable energy value chains for use by member states. A progress report will be presented to ministers in June 2020.

Thirdly, the SADC Engineering Needs and Numbers Study has been concluded. It will assist member states to implement programmes for developing enhanced engineering training at national or regional platforms to enable career development through the sharing of experience and expertise. Furthermore, member states were also urged to introduce Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects at early stages in the education systems to increase the number of students able to take up studies in engineering fields.

The Common Market for East Africa (COMESA)-East African Community (EAC)-SADC Tripartite Summit agreed in October 2008 to accelerate the programme to harmonise trade arrangements among the three regional economic communities (RECs), with a view to establishing a single free trade area (TFTA) encompassing all member states of the three RECs.

Our country appended her signature on the Agreement establishing the TFTA on 7 July 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. To date, the agreement has been signed by 23 member countries and requires 14 ratifications to enter into force. By July 2019, only Kenya, Egypt, Uganda and South Africa had signed and ratified the agreement.

South Africa will intensify its diplomatic efforts aimed at urging other TFTA members to sign and ratify this important trade facilitation instrument in order for it to become operational. To this end, a TFTA Summit is scheduled to take place in January 2020 in Rwanda, and we hope that the ratification threshold would have been achieved by that date.

The recent report of Africa's regional bodies at the AU's Extra-Ordinary Summit confirmed

the critical role regional bodies are playing in our development programmes.

Our commitment to Agenda 2063 remains steadfast. We are honoured to have been selected as the 2020 AU Chair. We are cognisant of the huge responsibility this places on South Africa, particularly the pursuit of the ambitious goal of silencing the guns by the end of 2020 on the continent.

We had a rare opportunity to place this goal on top of the Agenda of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) when we assumed the Presidency of the council in October 2019. The theme for our Council Presidency was "Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World". It is important to use our tenures at the UNSC and as Chair of the AU to implement the Enhanced Cooperation Agreement on Peace and Security as it foregrounds commitment to conflict prevention and to addressing the root causes of conflict.

This is the embodiment of the legacy of Nelson Mandela who, during his tenure as President of our country, worked tirelessly to advance peace and stability on the continent and globally, through mediation and preventative diplomacy.

The continued existence of conflict in Africa diverts us away from our goal of peace and development. In this regard, we repeat our call for a total ceasefire in Libya and the pursuit of an inclusive national dialogue led by the AU. On Sudan, we deplore the recent violence and deaths in that country and welcome the agreement reached by the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change. This is an opportunity for the people of Sudan to begin entrenching peace and stability. We applaud the mediation efforts of the AU and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). As South Africa, we stand ready to assist where we can. Our experience in conflict resolution and in drafting a progressive Constitution, make us a partner genuinely able to resolve complex national problems.

President Ramaphosa has done much to assist the Kingdom of Lesotho to achieve political stability. While appreciating progress reported recently, we implore all the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho to work diligently on the finalisation of the necessary constitutional and security sector reforms. We thank former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke for his work as the Presidential Envoy.

A peaceful and stable as well as economically integrated Africa will contribute towards transforming the world to ensure that people of the global South are not marginalised. We have partnered with like-minded countries to improve our condition and that of our partners. Work in Africa's partnership with China in the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation and with Japan in the International Conference for

Africa's Development can make a significant contribution to our development.

The Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) is also a formation which has the potential to change the global political and economic outlook. The work of the New Development Bank (NDB), its Africa Regional Centre (ARC) and the Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA) are concrete examples of the effectiveness of BRICS.

The ARC is focussed on providing financial and project preparation support and funding for infrastructure and sustainable development in South Africa, Africa and in future to developing countries at the global level.

In April this year, the NDB approved around US\$790 million of loans for three projects in South Africa. Over half the funding is for Eskom to stabilise our national electricity grid. The NDB and Eskom signed a separate agreement for a US\$180-million loan to implement an integrated renewable energy project. This is evidence of the use of diplomacy to address national imperatives.

The NDB will also provide infrastructure and sustainable development project funding to countries that are not members of the BRICS. It has confirmed that part of the US\$790 million will fund the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The implementation of the second phase of this project is important for both South Africa and Lesotho as it provides water to the Gauteng province and hydro-energy for Lesotho's electricity needs.

We continue to enhance our cooperation with institutions and countries of the North. Our partners continue to play a constructive role in bridging the global development divide.

President Ramaphosa has been consistent in using platforms like the G20 and the G7 to argue for support for Africa and for a fair, inclusive and balanced world trade environment. We believe in multilateralism and reject attempts at unipolarity and neglect of the poor and marginalised. We believe much more must be done for shared growth, for the empowerment of women and the eradication of poverty and reduction of inequality.

Success in pursuing these objectives means leadership, hard work, consistency and commitment. We, as Africans, must rise and act in our interest, and must execute our own agenda.

The United States of America is our strategic partner in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

They have been instrumental in supporting our national HIV interventions and American businesses continue to invest in South Africa to create employment and reverse the frontiers of poverty. We have excellent trade relationships and are determined to expand them for increased growth and job creation.

We will affirm these links while also working to support measures for peace in South Sudan, freedom and justice for the people of Saharawi and freedom, security and democracy for the people of Palestine. We will also continue to strive for the end of the unilateral economic blockade against Cuba and continue to strengthen our collaboration.

We have been closely monitoring developments regarding the United Kingdom's (UK) planned exit from the European Union (EU). South Africa remains strongly committed to our Strategic Partnership with the EU, which has created a platform for engagement at various levels, not only on bilateral matters, but also on matters pertaining to regional, continental and global challenges. The EU (as a bloc) is South Africa's largest trading partner with total trade having increased from R497 billion in 2014 to R620 billion in 2018. While there remains a significant trade deficit, South African exports to the EU increased from R197 billion in 2014 to R268 billion in 2018. The R1.4 trillion in foreign investment from Europe (representing approximately 77% of total foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country) has made a significant contribution towards job creation and industrialisation in South Africa.

We will work with greater energy to increase our cooperation with India, Russia and Brazil. Our partnership with the People's Republic of China continues to grow. The recent conclusion of 90 trade and export contracts will enhance our partnership even further.

In the SONA, the President referred to the need for us to increase tourist arrivals to support our economy. Europe and Africa are among leading continents in terms of tourist arrivals in South Africa.

I have tasked all our missions abroad with the responsibility to help manage and brand South Africa to attract more tourists. Similarly, they have the huge task of assisting us in securing more FDI, while identifying and leveraging trade and Cultural Diplomacy opportunities in their host countries. ☺

A peaceful and stable as well as economically integrated Africa will contribute towards transforming the world to ensure that people of the global South are not marginalised.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WINE INDUSTRY

A NEW ERA FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN WINE

It's been over two decades since South Africa became a democracy. In that time our wine industry, which celebrated 360 years of winemaking in 2019, has taken quantum leaps forward. Plant improvement programmes have been accelerated, and we are establishing vineyards with clones and varieties carefully chosen to suit our specific climatic conditions, some in new cooler climate areas. Older heritage vineyards have been found and restored. We are building vineyard skills and continually improving levels of excellence in soil management, in viticulture and in managing both limited and non-renewable resources.

Our exports more than doubled since 2005. This growth has been driven by an exponential increase in quality, with each year delivering exciting new wineries, more innovative young winemakers and even better wines.

Today, South African wines, which offer an abundance of choice across style and price, have achieved international recognition and been deemed among the most exciting in the world, with adjectives like 'rule-breaking', 'trailblazing', 'captivating', 'daring', 'original' and 'superb' increasingly linked to them by influential critics and sommeliers. The industry is also drawing praise for its icon offerings, made by highly regarded producers with a longstanding reputation for consistency and excellence.

Delegates attending CapeWine 2018, the industry showcase presented by Wines of South Africa (WoSA), were given the opportunity to experience the range and depth of South Africa's vinous dexterity, strengthened by new approaches to winegrowing and winemaking that have resulted in bold, unique and unmistakably local wines.

"The overriding impression among guests was that South African wine has assumed a new level of quality and a

clearly differentiated and distinctive voice. Returning visitors who have been following our progress over the years could see the impact of the extensive innovation in winegrowing and winemaking that has been taking place. They consistently remarked on how this has been translating into greater confidence among exhibitors, who are now more readily expressing what is uniquely South African in their wines," according to WoSA's chief executive officer, Siobhan Thompson.

It was a view that resonated with many of the delegates who attended what is the largest and most successful national wine trade show in the Southern Hemisphere.

Of course, the South African wine industry could not have come this far without very serious, detailed work over the past number of years, at both a research and an operational level. In her opening address at CapeWine 2018, WoSA chair Carina Gous highlighted the importance of raising the price to meet the incredible quality of our wine offering, especially when we compare ourselves to our international counterparts.

As UK wine writer and judge Tim Atkin MW remarked in his South Africa 2018 Special Report: "...the wines, the places and especially the people inspire me. There's something happening in South Africa that is unique in the wine world. Call it energy, call it creativity, call it optimism, call it all three. But it's apparent to anyone who visits the Cape."





UNGA74: "Through our differences, we should find strength and not division"

By Dr Naledi Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

We strongly believe that a purposive system of multilateralism is necessary to deal with the global challenges we face. We are all interdependent in an ever-globalising world and can ill afford the pursuit of narrow self-interests.

The General Debate of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA74) was held in New York in September 2019.

This debate held special significance for South Africa as it coincided with the 25th anniversary of South Africa's freedom and democracy. Our anniversary is due in large measure to the solidarity we enjoyed from most UN member states and it is because of this history that South Africa is also vested in the ideal of a robust and coherent UN as it is

this organisation that has the ability to ensure that all who yearn for freedom achieve it.

We know from our experience and history that it will only be through the determined efforts of the UN family that freedom for the people of Palestine can be achieved and only through the UN that the people of Saharawi can enjoy freedom.

As early as 1946, shortly after the creation of the UN, the issue of apartheid South Africa's discriminatory policies was included as an agenda item in the first session of the UNGA. It was therefore with no great surprise that a

democratic South Africa eagerly pursued its new international role, and enthusiastically took up its responsibilities as an active member of the UN.

We have sought to participate in all aspects of the UN, including by serving in its principal organs. The principles that motivate our action derive from a firm belief in multilateralism – especially a global governance system that is fair, equitable and representative; the promotion of peace and security through global disarmament; the pacific settlement of disputes and the promotion of good governance; the

promotion of human rights; and the fight against poverty through the promotion of sustainable development. We strongly believe that a purposive system of multilateralism is necessary to deal with the global challenges we face. We are all interdependent in an ever-globalising world and can ill afford the pursuit of narrow self-interests.

Today, South Africa is able to partner with the UN in addressing the injustice and imbalances that are a legacy of our past. As government and civil society, in South Africa, we respect and act on the decisions of the UN. This includes actions in response to the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are a transformative global development agenda. South Africa's National Development Plan is the policy we have adopted to execute our commitment to achieve the SDGs. Our plan complements our efforts to support peace, development and security on our continent and the aspirations of our African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063.

We believe that in order to achieve these goals, all member states should establish partnerships, primarily with the private sector and civil-society organisations, to ensure a joint commitment aimed at realising a world free of poverty and underdevelopment.

Intolerance an obstacle

One of the biggest obstacles to building a world free from poverty and inequality is intolerance. This includes intolerance of other nations, intolerance of our fellow human beings as well as inadequate care for the natural environment that sustains us all.

Intolerance is exhibited most gruesomely by the evidence of gender-based violence (GBV) and exclusion of women from many sectors in society. South Africa is taking urgent steps to address the scars of GBV. All of us need to act urgently to ensure that we all enjoy full access to human rights and bodily security. We also face an existential threat due to our intolerance, disrespect and veritable violence we inflict on the planet, which we all depend on.

This organisation, however, is a manifestation of the rejection of intolerance. It was created in the aftermath of a devastating world war as a global forum where nations of the world could address differences and work together for the common good of all people. Our annual gathering should provide us an opportunity to recommit to these values.

I firmly believe that we were all at UNGA74 because we are committed to the ideal of multilateral solutions to the world's problems, which draws on strength through diversity – diversity of perspective born from differences in upbringing and culture. By being there, we recognised that we needed each other and we needed to work together.

We must rally against intolerance of any kind so that nations can live in peace and respect each other irrespective of nationality, religion, ethnic or social origin, gender or any other status. Through our differences, we should find strength and not division.

South Africa has not been immune from evidence of intolerance and division in some parts of our nation. The incidents of violence and looting that erupted in parts of our provinces of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal were regrettable and shameful for a nation with such a proud history of struggle and international solidarity support.

The Government of South Africa strongly condemned these tragic actions and is working hard at ensuring that we address the security lapses and intolerance that led to this violence. We are working tirelessly to tackle crime and lawlessness and to ensure that the arrested criminals face the full might of the law.

We are also committed to addressing the inadequacy of our immigration administration in order to curb illegal migration and to make sure everyone who comes to South Africa is documented and safe. We plan to work with all countries of the continent to ensure that we implement our development strategies and use them to create increased economic opportunities for all our people so that we diminish feelings of resentment and antipathy. Working with civil society, we will build bridges that allow all who live in South Africa to reach out to each other to build bonds of friendship and Pan-Africanism.

An unwavering commitment to Africa

South Africa has an unwavering commitment to our continent Africa. We have made dedicated efforts to contribute positively in support of peace and development and we will continue these activities even as we work to address the inadequacies I have referred to.

South Africa has enjoyed democracy for 25 years and in that time, the leaders and the people of South Africa have consistently acknowledged the immeasurable contribution the people of Africa rendered in support of the struggle against apartheid. Our neighbouring states in particular and the rest of the countries in Africa made great sacrifices in support of the liberation movements and the oppressed citizens of South Africa.

We wish to reiterate that South Africa does not condone any forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances. In fact, South Africa has embraced millions of migrants and refugees from all over the continent of Africa, and the majority of our people have warmly embraced their brothers and sisters from Africa. We are determined to ensure it becomes a national embrace and not one limited to some communities.

Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace

It was an honour for South Africa to address the UNGA in the first year of the Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace, which the assembly last year agreed to declare from 2019 to 2028. This is a decade in which we have been called upon to intensify our efforts to pursue international peace and security, development and human rights. South Africa thus commits to use the Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace to promote the strengthening of multilateralism and diplomacy as effective tools for addressing the challenges facing the world today.

We cannot decisively deal with the threats of poverty, unless we transform the current structure of the global economy, which continues to perpetuate divisions between the global North and global South. While a few enjoy the benefits of globalisation, the majority of the people of the world have not reaped its benefits. It is necessary for us all to work together and spare no effort in addressing the challenges brought by the impact of globalisation and by the untransformed structure of global economy.

The issues of global peace and security continue to be one of our foremost priorities within the UN. In that regard, we welcome the UN's efforts to address the plethora of challenges to peace and security that continue to be a major obstacle to the development and prosperity of our continent.

South Africa is serving as an elected member of the UN Security Council (SC). The theme for our term is: "Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World". This is the embodiment of the legacy of Nelson Mandela and furthers the objective of silencing the guns on the African continent by 2020. South Africa is using its tenure on the UNSC to promote the maintenance of international peace and security by advocating for the peaceful settlement of disputes and inclusive dialogue. We continue to encourage closer cooperation between the UNSC and other regional and sub-regional organisations, particularly the AU. ►►





We further emphasise the role of women in the resolution of conflict. In this regard, South Africa argues for a gender perspective to be mainstreamed into all UNSC resolutions in line with UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which was adopted at the initiative of our neighbour, Namibia. Despite the commitments in Resolution 1325, 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. Women and girls also continue to be severely affected by conflict situations, especially with regard to sexual abuse and violence.

In October 2019, South Africa presided over the UNSC's debate on this subject. The emphasis of the debate was to ensure implementation of the commitments we have made to fully implement the WPS Agenda.

South Africa supports the UN and rules-based multilateralism

South Africa is supportive of the UN and a rules-based multilateral system. However, the UN remains hamstrung by the fact that the organisation remains undemocratic and anachronistic. We remain gravely concerned

that 74 years after the founding of the UN, key decisions on peace and security are de facto the domain of only five countries. Twenty years of discussions on reform of the UNSC have yielded no movement towards a more representative and inclusive security council.

We believe that the time has come for the broader membership to heed the overwhelming call for Africa to obtain at least two permanent seats, with all the prerogatives of permanent membership, as well as five non-permanent seats, as embodied in the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus on the comprehensive reform of the UNSC. In this regard, we must invigorate the negotiations on reform at the Intergovernmental Negotiations, including by initiating text-based negotiations.

Furthermore, we believe that the ongoing work being undertaken on the revitalisation of the UNGA is key to strengthening its role and authority as the most representative and democratic political organ of the UN, while ensuring its effectiveness.

African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA)

Africa has reached an important milestone with the adoption and launch of the AfCFTA. The agreement entered into force on 30 May 2019 and we are confident that it will unleash

Africa's economic potential and consolidate its position as a new frontier of economic growth and development. As a flagship programme of the AU's Agenda 2063, the trade opportunities brought by this agreement will contribute to peace, stability, development and prosperity on the continent.

South Africa is ready to engage on the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The AU Commission is currently developing a comprehensive Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa that will provide a common, coordinated response to realise the digitisation of the continent. This will lay the basis for the development of infrastructure and the institutions we need to maximise our opportunities. It will also unleash the African spirit of enterprise and creativity and will generate more home-grown digital solutions and content.

Africa's development goals cannot be achieved without addressing the issue of illicit financial flows. This poses a serious challenge to the development trajectory and economic stability of the continent, as it has a debilitating effect on our efforts of domestic resource mobilisation. We propose that we work together as the international community to establish an intergovernmental framework that will have a universal political mandate, which will, among others, serve as a basis to

address these illicit flows, including speeding up the return of assets.

Devastating changes in global climate

Together with all the nations of the world, South Africa is confronted by the most devastating changes in global climate in human history.

Those living under conditions of poverty and vulnerability will be hardest hit by drought, floods and extreme temperatures. These people will also have the least capacity to adapt to climate change. As part of South Africa's commitment to the ratification of the 2015 Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change, we have championed the low-carbon transition to tackle poverty, unemployment and to increase economic efficiencies across the value chain.

Our natural assets are under unprecedented threat from climate change, environmental degradation and the loss of our biodiversity. We require a coordinated and integrated response to climate change for the effective management of the inevitable impact of climate change. We must all make a fair contribution to the global effort to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations so that economic and social development can proceed in an environmentally sustainable manner.

A global partnership for development

Building strategic cooperative global partnerships, in view of current challenges, will assist our countries, regions and the world

in making advancements in the mobilisation of both human and financial resources. Developing countries have fully embraced the primary responsibility for their development, but this does not absolve developed countries from their responsibility to complement these efforts.

Developed countries must continue to honour their historic obligations and responsibilities, as part of the commitments made in the context of the global partnership for development. We urge the developed countries to deliver on their official development assistance commitments of 0.7% of their gross national income. The means of implementation is fundamental to the success of countries meeting their developmental needs, and achieving the SDGs, yet it is the one area that has received neither the appropriate attention, nor the requisite priority.

Nuclear disarmament

The international community is at a unique crossroads, where the shifting international order has the ability to shape international peace and security for decades to come. It is thus a great disappointment that we witnessed the demise of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in August.

Furthermore, in the prevailing international climate, successes in the field of disarmament – particularly nuclear disarmament – are few and far between. The threats posed by these

weapons are too great for the international community to ignore. We believe that only the complete, transparent, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of such weapons and their means of delivery can prevent their use in an escalating conflict.

Palestine, Western Sahara, Cuba and Zimbabwe

For over 70 years, the people of Palestine have lived under occupation. In the last year, this occupation has worsened with continued illegal settlement activity and further insecurity for the peoples of Palestine and Israel. As the international community, we must continue to urge for a negotiated settlement to this long-standing conflict.

The UN must remain seized with this issue of Western Sahara, for the benefit of her people and African aspirations of an integrated continent living in peaceful co-existence.

South Africa also reiterates its steadfast solidarity with the Government and People of Cuba and Zimbabwe while condemning the continuation of unilateral sanctions against these countries.

South Africa stands ready to work with all member states to promote the UN and its objectives of promoting international peace and security, development and human rights so that all our people can live together in the larger freedom the founders sought. ¶

The issues of global peace and security continue to be one of our foremost priorities within the UN. In that regard, we welcome the UN's efforts to address the plethora of challenges to peace and security that continue to be a major obstacle to the development and prosperity of our continent.



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, led the South African delegation to the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA74) in September 2019.

This marked Minister Pandor's inaugural participation in UNGA as Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. Minister Pandor participated in the annual General Debate, which is the occasion for world leaders to gather at the UN Headquarters to discuss global issues.

This year's UNGA was scheduled for 23 to 30 September 2019 under the theme: "Galvanising Multilateral Efforts for Poverty Eradication, Quality Education, Climate Action and Inclusion". The theme was announced by the President of the General Assembly, Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria.

In her address to the UNGA, Minister Pandor outlined South Africa's domestic and foreign policy goals and priorities. These included South Africa's objectives as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from 2019 to 2020 and the country's commitment to multilateralism in addressing current challenges facing the international community, including in the areas of peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and the reform of global governance.

Minister Pandor attended several high-level meetings, side events and summits taking place on the margins of UNGA. The Minister and other members of the delegation also participated in various bilateral meetings with counterparts.

Other members of the South African delegation included the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize; the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Barbara Creecy; Minister in The Presidency, Jackson Mthembu; and Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula. ¶

African business network and the South African position



South African position

We are determined that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, and all who reside here must be free to participate in social and economic activities.

By Phumla Williams

Acting Director-General, Government Communication and Information System

We live in a globally connected world where the fortunes of nations are interlinked. This is particularly true for African countries which are all interconnected on a people-to-people, social, trade and economic level.

Since the start of our democracy in 1994, South Africa has actively sought to strengthen ties with countries on the African continent. These partnerships not only seek to expand the continent's economic base but also positively impact the daily lives of ordinary citizens.

Today, these strong ties are being expanded across the continent in various ways, and most recently, was further strengthened by Toyota South Africa exporting Hilux kits for reassembly in Kenya. The reassembly kits emanate from Toyota's manufacturing plant in Durban, which already builds completed vehicles for markets in Europe.

The first reassembled vehicles went on sale in October 2019 and local consumers can expect better prices as they are now deemed locally manufactured and void of any import duties. Furthermore, job creation, skills development and technology transfer that often accompany such transactions will be strengthened.

The time is now for a new era of intra-African trade, where African countries no longer look abroad for the products and services. In supporting each other, we can establish new industries, create jobs and open up new markets in Africa.

While Toyota SA will initially supply all parts for the Hilux reassembly, it is expected that over time, local content such as batteries and glass for vehicles will be sourced from Kenyan companies themselves.

Importantly, the move deepens automotive manufacturing capabilities and expands the

sector's value chain for the East African region and the continent at large. Over the longer term, it can build Kenya's vehicle assembly industry into a formidable sector.

South Africa supports these continental forays into vehicle manufacturing and envisions a series of regional industries across sub-Saharan Africa. Similar advances to develop the vehicle manufacturing industry in Nigeria, Ghana and Ethiopia are already underway.

South Africa looks forward to share its expertise with African nations and from it successfully attracting a number of multinational automotive producers as part of our Automotive Production and Development Programme. It promoted the country as an automotive manufacturing hub and South Africa is committed to use the strong relationship it has built to create manufacturing hubs across Africa.

We see South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria as central in their regions with neighbouring countries supporting the value chain with components, technology and services.

It is indisputable that our destiny as African nations are intrinsically linked and we must work together to grow business, trade and investment on the continent. The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) will go a long way in building a united economic and trade front as it creates the world's largest free trade area once operational.

South Africa, along with Kenya, ratified the agreement because we appreciate the potential it has to act as a catalyst to Africa's economic growth. Through AfCFTA, African nations can expect to benefit from an increase in foreign direct investment, while also gaining access to a broader range of expertise. Together, we can tap into the many opportunities created by a single market of goods and services for 1.2 billion people.

In the spirit of advancing the AfCFTA, South Africa invites Kenyan businesses and investors to invest in the country.

South Africa's imports from Kenya include tobacco, textile fibres, tea, plastic products and copper.

There are also a number of South African companies already operating in Kenya in the pharmaceutical, banking, engineering and retail sectors.

South Africa is open for business and we are increasing our efforts to increase trade with African countries.

The recent attacks on foreign nationals in our country have been of great concern to our government. The criminal actions by a handful of perpetrators are in no way a reflection of the true state of relations between foreign nationals living and working within our communities.

South Africa is a multicultural society that promotes interaction among people of different backgrounds. In response, our law-enforcement agencies have increased visibility in volatile hotspots, while the South African Police Service will continue to act against any acts of lawlessness.

There will also be ongoing continuous joint inspections by the different law-enforcement agencies countrywide to ensure compliance with the laws of the country. These anti-crime operations have been implemented to create the space for South Africans and foreign nationals to go about their daily lives unhindered.

We are determined that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, and all who reside here must be free to participate in social and economic activities.

In advancing Africa, let us take hands with each other and Africans elsewhere on the continent to encourage greater social cohesion, trade and investment, nation-building and African unity.



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SA's first six months on the UNSC

We must recognise that states are interdependent and even the most powerful countries cannot achieve security, nor maintain prosperity and ensure sustainable development for their people by acting unilaterally or in isolation.

By Kgabo Mahoai

Director-General, Department of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa completed the first six months of its 24-month term as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at the end of June 2019. Our election, by an overwhelming number of member states, followed the endorsement of our candidature by the Southern African Group at the UN and the African Union (AU).

We are serving on the council for the third time in 12 years – one of the few countries that have been afforded the privilege of serving on the council so often in quick succession. This is testament to the confidence that the international community and countries on the African continent have in our ability to play a meaningful role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

South Africa entered the Security Council during a period in which the global environment was undergoing complex and uncharted changes. These included concerted challenges to multilateralism and a rules-based international order. Key global players have pursued a stronger domestic focus and with less of an appetite for dealing with global peace and security, development or human rights matters unless it is linked to their own self-interest.

We have seen a move by some to undermine collective multilateral action aimed at improving our world. Hard-fought gains that we have made in the last few years on peace and security and development are being threatened.

This has made it more difficult to respond to transnational challenges. We must recognise

that states are interdependent and even the most powerful countries cannot achieve security, nor maintain prosperity and ensure sustainable development for their people by acting unilaterally or in isolation.

The Security Council, as the international body entrusted with global peace and security, has become a theatre where geopolitical tensions manifest themselves. As a result, the council has not been able to act in cases where it should, such as in Palestine or effectively in Syria.

During the first six months of South Africa's term, the agenda of the council has included contentious and complex issues, such as the outcome of the first democratic handover of power in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the complicated internal situation in

Venezuela. The council has also been seized with long-standing issues such as the situation in Western Sahara and Palestine; protracted and deadly conflicts in Syria and Yemen; the drawdown of the AU/UN Mission in Darfur; as well as the UN authorised AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). We also had to grapple with the complications arising from new crises such as in Khartoum and the flaring up of military conflict in Libya.

South Africa's theme for its term on the council is: "Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World". This resonates with the legacy of President Nelson Mandela whose values and commitment to peace were commemorated in 2018 during the centenary of his birth.

We have been using our time on the council to emphasise the importance of a more proactive approach to the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly in the form of drawing greater attention to preventative diplomacy mechanisms, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development.

We are also emphasising the role of women in the resolution of conflict. South Africa is thus promoting the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all Security Council resolutions in line with Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security.

The AU committed to ending conflicts and silencing the guns on the continent by the year 2020. Serving on the UNSC also affords South Africa an opportunity to meaningfully contribute towards this goal. In this regard, South Africa is continuing to work towards strengthening the cooperation between the UNSC and regional organisations in terms of Chapter 8 of the UN Charter. South Africa's efforts can be bolstered by the fact that the country will be chairing the AU in 2020.

The questions that we must consider are whether:

- we are leveraging our role in the council, as a country that has undergone our own transition and as a country that has and continues to play a role in conflict resolution?
- we are able to make a meaningful contribution to the work of the council, despite the constraints of being an elected member?
- we are able to maintain our values in carrying out our mandate?

This is our third time on the council. Have we taken on board the lessons learnt from our past experiences and are we able to improve on our past performance and be a responsible member of the council that is actively contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security?



We have about a year left of our term. The global landscape is becoming even more complex. The spectre of devastating war, as tensions escalate in some parts of the world, looms over us. How we react when we are confronted with these challenges at the council will be the test of our resolve to make a meaningful contribution to global peace.

We presided over the council in October 2019 and will again late next year. We must consider the opportunities that these presidencies can bring.

One of the recommendations emanating from the reviews of our experience in the first two terms we served on the council was to increase our engagement with civil society, academia and the media. In this context, we have made a concerted effort during this term

to ensure that we do just that. Thus, over the last few months, we have increased this engagement, including sharing our statements and positions so as to explain our approach to issues on the council's agenda.

Nelson Mandela eloquently articulated South Africa's post-apartheid foreign policy in his seminal paper in 1993, namely that "South Africa's future foreign relations will be based on our belief that human rights should be the core concern of international relations, and we are ready to play a role in fostering peace and prosperity in the world we share with the community of nations".

In pursuit of the theme informing of South Africa's current term on the council, these sentiments must guide our activities and interventions for the remainder of our term on the council. ▢





South Africa occupies the most southern tip of Africa with its long coastline stretching more than 3 000 km from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic coast southwards around the tip of Africa and then north to the border of subtropical Mozambique on the Indian Ocean.



discussions on the sharing of good practices and regulatory frameworks.

Looking ahead, the leaders of the G20 committed to implementing the anti-corruption action plan for 2019 to 2021, which strengthens synergies among related international instruments.

There was also a strong will among the majority of the member countries to pursue the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement's goals of dealing with climate change.

These will be in addition to their efforts to curbing illicit financial flows.

President Ramaphosa used the summit to solidify relations with several countries. Among them were the standing trilateral meeting with the AU Chair, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt, and New Partnership for Africa's Development Chair, President Macky Sall of Senegal.

The Presidency said these discussions made it possible for these leaders to consolidate Africa's position around the summit's agenda. President Ramaphosa was also invited to

participate in the China-Africa Leaders' Meeting which exchanged views on the priorities for G20, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and Africa's Development Agenda.

The President also participated in the standing informal BRICS, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Leaders' Meeting that was chaired by Brazil, which reflected on the current geopolitical environment and sought collaboration and synergies among BRICS members in preparation for the G20 Leaders' Summit.

President Ramaphosa also had numerous bilateral meetings to strengthen relations with Russia, China, Japan and Saudi Arabia and the President of the World Bank.

The President concluded his Osaka programme by engaging with business during the Japan-South Africa CEO Business Roundtable, which was led by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Ebrahim Patel.

This meeting was also attended by more than 20 Japanese business representatives and a South African business contingent who



explored business opportunities as well as opportunities to build partnerships in South Africa and Japan.

President Ramaphosa described the Working Visit as a success. 🇿🇦

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There was also a strong will among the majority of the member countries to pursue the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement's goals of dealing with climate change.

G20 Summit a success

In the interest of advancing African development, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

President Cyril Ramaphosa conducted a Working Visit to Japan from 28 to 29 June 2019, as well as led a South African delegation to the annual G20 Leaders' Summit, his first international engagement since his inauguration in May 2019.

This was the first time Japan hosted the G20 Summit as well as the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, the Foreign Ministers' Meeting and other ministerial meetings.

The Leaders' Summit was held in the city of Osaka, while other meetings were hosted at eight different locations throughout Japan.

The G20 was established in 1999 to increase multilateral cooperation for the recovery of the global economy, bring stability to the global financial system, promote long-

term sustainable growth and strengthen growth and global governance.

The 2019 Summit focussed on eight key themes spanning the global economy, trade and investment, innovation, environment and energy, employment, women's empowerment, development and health.

These themes reflected, to a large degree, South Africa's own national priorities, as set out in President Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address on 20 June 2019.

The summit was attended by the heads of state and government of the G20 member countries which collectively account for 85% of global economic activity and two-thirds of the world's population.

In the interest of advancing African development, the leaders reaffirmed their

commitment to the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

"There are also enhanced roles for the World Bank, African Development Bank and International Monetary Fund to implement the Compact with Africa. This initiative will contribute to the realisation of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063," The Presidency said in a statement.

On trade and investment, the summit committed to working towards a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, stable and open market environment.

On digitalisation, global leaders agreed that to harness the full potential of data, there needed to be a data flow with trust to be enabled through international policy





Substantive gender equality: breakthrough change that lasts

By Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women

The fight to protect the planet, combat the effects of climate change and to position women as fighters in that protection must have a gender lens.

In her book, *Fascism: A Warning*, Madeleine Albright, former United States (US) Secretary of State, urges us all to stay engaged, and to fight monsters without turning into monsters ourselves. Let me respond by saying that these words of warning are not falling on deaf ears.

Every part of the world needs fighters for justice in the face of attacks on human rights and on human rights defenders. There is a critical need for many more people to focus on delivering solutions without becoming part of the problem.

Have there been breakthroughs in gender equality? Do we have opportunities for targeted action, and investments that will bring us closer to substantive equality and change that will last?

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Let me start with the extraordinary moment in China in 1995, when 189 countries agreed on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

This was the first-ever solid pledge by so many nations to agree to advance gender equality to such an extent. It became the blueprint for gender equality and an agenda for women's empowerment across the world for the next 25 years.

It became for the women's movement what the United Nations (UN) Charter is to UN member states: a place of historic, consensual agreement that we can lean on in the face of disagreements and changing administrations. It instigated a global network of gender activists that formed across every corner of the world on every issue.

It set out 12 critical areas of concern for women globally that have shaped thinking and global policymaking, with women making sure that they are not victims but are leaders, taking control of their own destiny.

It set us on a path to separating out women's issues distinctly, at the same time as affirming them as fully-fledged human rights. It was agreed that "women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights". That helped to change the way some parts of the world saw gender equality. Women's rights gained respect in more nations and that enabled breakthroughs with continuing impact.

For example, it was after 1995 that we began to see that we should understand "the girl child" as having importantly different needs and concerns from boys. All children have rights, but girls were denied many rights just because they were girls. That is when the world began to strongly champion the end of

child marriage which affects girl children in a unique way, and the end of other harmful practices like female genital mutilation.

After 1995, we were much stronger in pinpointing the abnormality of underrepresentation of women and girls in important sectors of work and in leadership positions. We initiated targeted empowerment interventions everywhere; including in academia, in sports and in politics. And because women did so well, one woman looked like she was 10 people. That's why sometimes there's an illusion that there are too many women who have succeeded. But we still have a long way to go.

After 1995, we began to question the framing of laws and to see that they do not always impact everyone equally. In some cases, laws are prejudicial to women's rights, such as inequality between men and women in matrimony in some countries and in some laws. We have been on a drive to eliminate these discriminatory laws and enact enabling laws, but we are not yet done.

After 1995, we created institutions in society such as women's ministries and gender commissions. In the US, you also had a global ambassador for women and girls, who did a great job there and around the world to

facilitate the drive for women's empowerment. UN Women was born in that era of creating these institutions.

We developed new vocabulary like "affirmative action" and "minority rights" as critical areas to be considered when taking decisions. We began to differentiate between equality and equity. We targeted and addressed women's health and sexual and reproductive rights in a particular way.

We exposed and questioned unequal pay and the place of women in economies. Data was generated to illustrate the cost of discrimination. The World Economic Forum predicted that it could take over two centuries at the current pace of change to reach pay parity at work – not under our watch! We're now asking more women to call for equal pay in every sector as we've not achieved yet what needs to be achieved on this issue.

We also drew attention to the burden of household care that disproportionately falls on women and showed how this stopped women from enjoying a full work life with full rewards. We were able to convince countries to address the participation of men in the care economy, leading to countries passing laws on parental and paternity leave. Not enough men are taking advantage of these opportunities even when it is paid leave, so the work is not finished.

Across the world, even the poorest countries have seen acceptance of the importance of girls' education. Two-thirds of countries have now reached gender parity in primary school enrolment. This is not enough yet, because we started at a very low base in some countries, but it's important to mention. And 13 million more girls enrolled in lower secondary school in 2014 than in 2002.

More work is needed to address the quality of education and the representation of girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects. We've also seen girls

graduate from college in much higher numbers in many countries, and outperform their male counterparts.

In the past 25 years, we have exposed and fought against gender-based violence and sexual violence; we have argued for the notion of consent to be recognised in law and exposed the harm that gender-based violence inflicts on women's health and well-being, as well as on society.

Thank you to #MeToo for driving this point home. Back in 1995, domestic violence, frequently committed and rarely punished, was not a crime in many countries. Just in the last decade, 47 countries have introduced laws to criminalise domestic violence. We now have 145 countries that have some form of legislation against domestic violence. But we're not done yet in this area because there are about 40 countries still remaining to address this.

The fight to protect the planet, combat the effects of climate change and to position women as fighters in that protection must have a gender lens.

We have also worked for women to control their bodies. At the Aspen Institute, I was part of the team that worked in Malawi in order to support the work there to entrench women's reproductive rights and health.

In June 2019, the International Labour Organisation adopted the landmark Convention 190 on violence and harassment at work after many years of trying. We are not done here either, but we have definitely been moving forward.

Some of the gains made have been reversed, and change is painfully slow.

Agenda 2030

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are fully aligned with the aspirations that we have as women and the need to move faster. UN Women helped to ensure

that gender equality is front and centre in the 2030 Agenda. The biggest deliverables of that agenda, which will benefit all nations, depend on making substantive progress on gender equality.

We realise that collective thinking that is not shaped by an embrace of gender equality in all nations will be a setback for both the Beijing Platform for Action and to the SDGs.

The state of the world

The world today is certainly not an easy global environment in which to be fostering gender equality. If we were to convene today in the same way as countries did in Beijing almost 25 years ago, we would not get 189 countries agreeing to entrench gender equality. As a result, we are not opening that document for anyone to touch. The risks are just too high.

We also know that, just as we have these challenges and pushback, we also are seeing progress – with women and an increasing number of men pushing back against the pushback.

The 2019 report by Civicus on the *State of Civil Society* says that only 4% of the world's population in 2018 lived in countries where the fundamental civil-society freedoms – of association, peaceful assembly and expression – are respected.

The same report also reminds us of some of the wins, where rights were claimed, for example, abortion rights in Ireland and LGBTI rights in India last year; laws to end early, forced marriage in about a dozen countries; and removal of laws that are lenient to perpetrators of rape and honour killing.

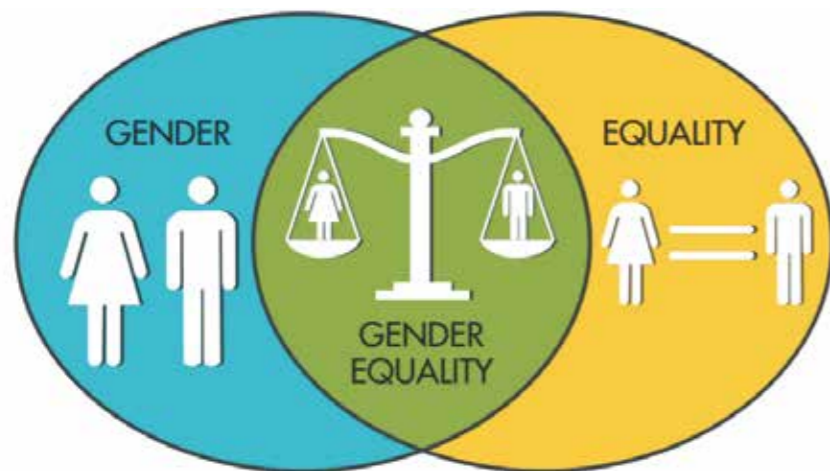
These are some of the gains in the midst of pushback.

Trust deficit

The *2019 Edelman Trust Barometer* reveals that trust has changed profoundly in the past year. Most people trust their employers above



Planet 50-50 by 2030 Step It Up for Gender Equality



all institutions. It has not always been the case that workers trust bosses, but this is the way the world is today. What has happened to public-sector institutions? This makes employers and private sector key partners for change.

The UN is a body that is responsible for forging global consensus among diverse players and setting standards for the world on various matters of national and global interest. The UN also has to earn the trust of nations.

We were therefore relieved that Edleman reported that trust in the UN had increased in 19 of the 26 markets surveyed. People with the harshest lives need to see that we work for them and that we have continuously earned their trust. Women, especially, need to feel that we are working for them and that we are serving their needs.

However, to achieve the necessary extent to drive forward gender equality, we need diverse allies who were not there in Beijing. We need young people, we need men and boys, we definitely need the private sector, and we need religious bodies and traditional authorities and leaders.

Men and boys

Men and boys are a key constituency to be engaged for gender equality and I have dedicated part of my term to cultivating these relationships.

Commitment of men with power and privilege could be a major game-changer, for example on equal pay, parity and inclusion of women in all areas where women are under-represented, and ensuring that the rights of the disabled, and people of different sexual orientations are also respected.

Men are key to ending violence against women, and to the recognition, redistribution and rewarding of unpaid care. Men are key to ending harmful practices that impact women and girls such as forced marriages, as well as stereotypes and norms that are harmful to women and girls.

The anti-slavery movement did not only have slaves fighting for themselves. The fight

to end colonisation and racism, or apartheid in South Africa, did not depend only on the people who were affected. It was a broad front, where the insiders and anyone who cared to make the world better took a stand. We need more people to do that for gender equality. We are not there yet; there just are not enough people on the right side of the fight.

Men with influence can choose to make bold changes about who sits on corporate boards, who are in the political parties where there are political bosses. They can also choose to make sure that representation of women in institutions is institutionalised.

In UN Women, we have launched the HeForShe movement, aimed at mobilising men to play a significant role to change the world for the better. These champions for change include CEOs, heads of state, and presidents of universities, who must step forward and do their job. And we will not reward them because we will not reward fishes for swimming. This is their responsibility.

Discriminatory laws

Discriminatory laws, which are institutionalised discrimination, are still a big challenge that we face. We have recognised that these laws go a long way towards robbing women of a lifetime of possibilities.

There are over 2.5 billion women and girls around the world who are affected by discriminatory laws, who live in jurisdictions where not all their rights are protected. We have a fast-track initiative (Equality in Law for Women and Girls by 2030) to make sure that we have changed this by 2023 in 100 countries that are willing. We should not arrive in 2030 in a world in which we still have these laws.

Over the past 25 years, there has been some progress, but gaps in legal protection remain worldwide, leaving women without protection or legal basis to claim their rights, and to share development.

Ending violence against women

Ending violence against women is another important area that needs all of us to work together.

In particular, we are targeting the police, as protectors, as preventers of violence against women, and as the people who are responsible to make sure that perpetrators are brought to book. Women are fighting every day for themselves. We want law enforcement also to do their job.

Parity and inclusion

On parity and inclusion, we are also fighting very hard to ensure that we move away from the current scenario where 75% of parliamentarians in the world are men. These men make laws that affect all of us. Surely this is a lot of work for them, while we are available, and able to do the work. We know what we want for ourselves and for our nations. We therefore see this as another broad front for change in order to make sure that we support women and that we create the possibility for women to take their rightful place.

Coalition-building

As we implement the SDGs and as we push forward with the implementation of the unfinished business of the Beijing Platform, we are also consolidating all of these big changes and taking them forward. We are calling on young people to be part of this. We are calling on everybody to join us in what we are calling “coalitions for change”. These are coalitions that will make sure that we focus on the remaining hardcore issues for the achievement of gender equality.

We are reviewing scientifically what the issues are that need to be pushed forward. We already have 140 countries that have presented us their reviews and their reports where they pinpoint the areas that need a big push in their different countries.

We want to make sure that we use these reports and this information to take the world forward.

As Secretary Albright says in her book, Presidents Mandela and Lincoln “each fought with monsters; neither of them became one”.

Gender inequality is a monster that we can defeat together, without becoming monsters ourselves, but by unleashing the Mandela and the Lincoln in us. ☺

Ending violence against women is another important area that needs all of us to work together.

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CUBA, SA AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

By Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Despite different ideologies and degrees of development, Cuba and South Africa share aspects of a historical legacy of colonisation, racism, slavery, liberation struggle, revolution and post-colonial reconstruction and development.

On 26 July 1953, the Moncada military barracks in Santiago de Cuba was the site of an armed attack by a group of 135 revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro.

This attack is widely accepted as the spark that ignited the Cuban revolution. Castro was charged and ended his legal defence with the now-famous closing argument: "History will absolve me".

This resonates with Nelson Mandela's statement from the dock that ended: "It is an ideal for which I hope to live and see realised ... but if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die".

Cuba's relations with African liberation movements began in 1963, soon after the struggle's triumph over the Batista dictatorship in Cuba. Members of the Cuban leadership travelled to Algiers to build formal relations with the Algerian National Liberation Front, and Che Guevara's trip around Africa in 1963 was a significant turning point in strengthening Cuba's relationship with liberation movements around the continent.

Thus, from 1963 until 1991, Cuba supported interventions in 17 African countries involving

hundreds of thousands of Cuban soldiers, doctors and social workers.

Another aspect of Cuba's foreign policy was its strong stance against the apartheid regime at international fora. Cuba's support for United Nations (UN) Resolution 435, as well as direct support to Angola's struggle to defend its independence from 1975 until 1988 against apartheid military incursions, formed the centrepiece of Cuban policy towards southern African liberation movements.

Indeed, history did absolve Fidel Castro and continues to absolve him. The evidence indicates that the Cuban revolution created a better life for all its citizens, which included wiping out illiteracy; free, quality education from early childhood development to tertiary level; returning the land and houses to the people; and free healthcare and social services, which increased the quality of life and life expectancy, thus giving back dignity to the ordinary people of Cuba.

Despite different ideologies and degrees of development, Cuba and South Africa share aspects of a historical legacy of colonisation, racism, slavery, liberation struggle, revolution

and post-colonial reconstruction and development.

As South Africa proceeds through another decade of transformation and post-apartheid rule, her relationship with Cuba is bound by our mutual developmental agenda as the country balances its internal needs with competitiveness in the global arena.

Equally, born more than half a century ago, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) embodied the collective identity and aspirations of newly independent nations in Africa and Asia.

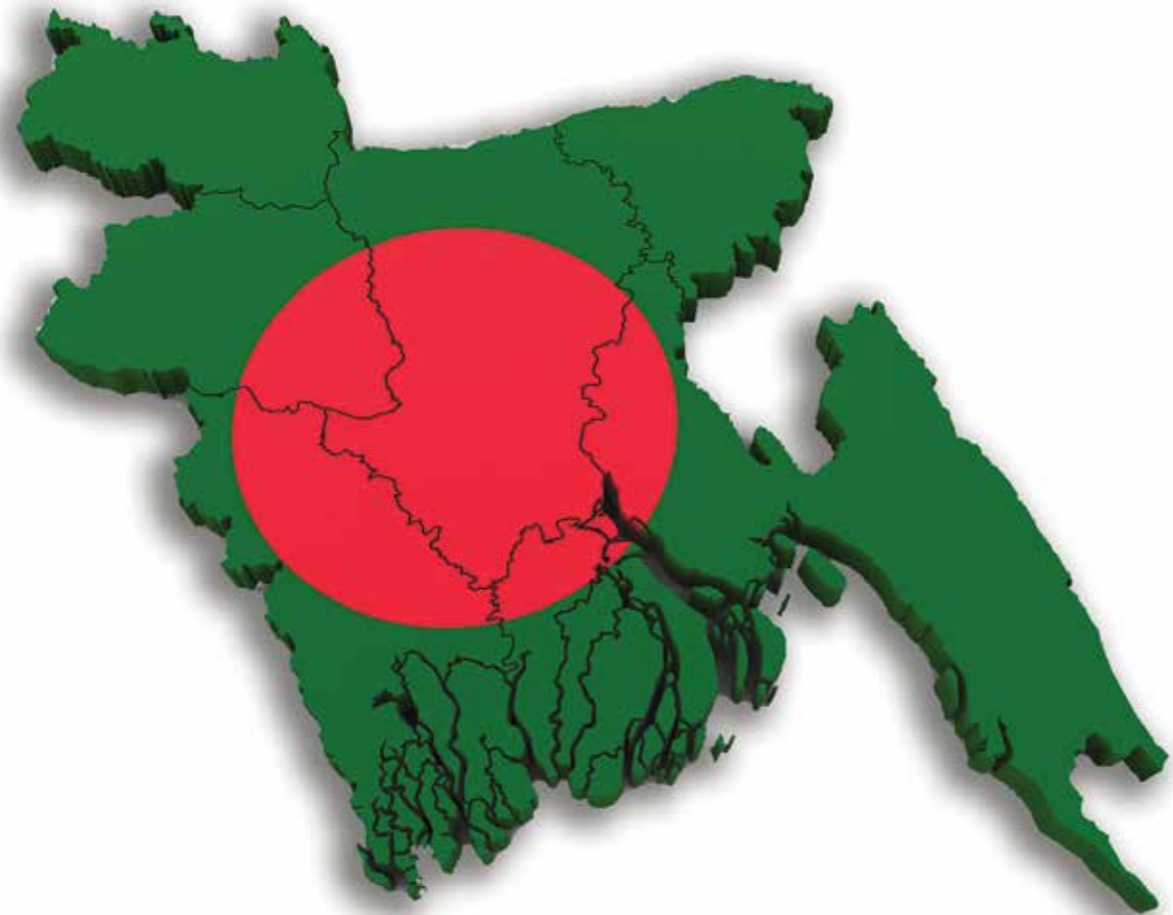
The genesis of NAM is relevant as a voice advocating for the poor, less-developed countries and highly indebted countries. Deepening South-South solidarity and using NAM as a pivotal instrument to build bridges with the North and highly industrialised countries of the world may present the best interlocutor for international diplomacy.

As we begin our next 25 years of democracy, we will continue to support our friends such as Cuba, Iran, Venezuela, Palestine, Nicaragua, Western Sahara and every other country which suffers from unilateral economic blockades, violations of international law and territorial sovereignty. 🇺🇦

sansa

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY





Commemorating 25 years of bilateral relations between South Africa and Bangladesh

The struggle for freedom against the apartheid oppressors in South Africa mirrored Bangladesh's struggle for nationhood.

By Ambassador Anil Sooklal

Deputy Director-General, Department of International Relations and Cooperation

Twenty-five years ago, on 10 September 1994, Bangladesh and South Africa formalised diplomatic relations. This year, we celebrate 25 years of a free democratic republic.

South Africa wishes to express its gratitude to Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi people for their contribution to our fight for freedom, liberation and democracy. Bangladesh, since its own independence, has remained a most principled supporter in our struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination, and consistently called on the international community to take action against the apartheid regime. It is therefore befitting that we celebrate with our esteemed friends our freedom as well

the warm bonds of friendship and solidarity that bind our two countries together.

We recall with pride the visit to Bangladesh in 1997 by President Nelson Mandela, to participate in the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Bangladesh's independence. In his speech at a public rally in Dhaka on 26 March 1997, he thanked the people of Bangladesh by stating:

"The long distance between our countries did not make you care less for our needs. You all know that none can be free until all are free. For your selfless support, for making our cause your own, we thank you."

South Africa's relations with Bangladesh are based on the vision of President Mandela. He was committed to social justice and

freedom for all and he worked tirelessly for the promotion and protection of human rights internationally. Nelson Mandela was a symbol of hope for the oppressed and marginalised across the globe. He dedicated his life in service of humanity and contributed immensely to the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

We therefore pay tribute to the dynamic and visionary leadership of former President Mandela and Sheikh Mujibar Rahman, whose commitment and sacrifice enabled us to enjoy the freedom and democracy both our countries have today.

Madiba and Bangabandhu, both respected as the "Father of the Nation", were far ahead

of their time and history. Both ventured to do what their contemporaries would not have dared to do. They fought colonialism, followed by a war against an oppressor. They took unpopular, but courageous, decisions. Both were imprisoned for extended periods but their legacies are encapsulated in a life committed to reconciliation and nation-building.

Bangabandhu stated that: "To do anything great, one has to be ready to sacrifice and show one's devotion. I believe that those who are not ready to sacrifice are not capable of doing anything worthy."

Sheikh Mujib dedicated his life to fighting for the just causes of East Bengal, demanded for Bengali to be made one of the state languages, free the Muslim League leadership from the clutches of a few aristocrats, establish East Bengal's rightful place in the administrative hierarchy in Pakistan, and the fair and equitable allocation of the country's resources between the two wings of the country.

Bangladesh attained its independence on 26 March 1971 as the culmination of decades of struggle for freedom and statehood under his inspiring and resolute leadership. At his call, the Bengali people rose in resistance and waged an epic war for the liberation of their land.

Upon taking office, the Government under his leadership had to deal with the countless problems of a war-ravaged country. Law and order had to be restored, infrastructure developed and, most importantly, the Government had to address the most immediate needs of underdevelopment and large-scale poverty.

The struggle for freedom against the apartheid oppressors in South Africa mirrored Bangladesh's struggle for nationhood.

We also therefore celebrate Madiba and Bangabandhu's dedication to forge a close partnership between our two sub-continent to fight colonialism in any form and emancipate the people of the Global South from poverty and underdevelopment, in their common struggle for a fairer world.

The 1955 Bandung Conference that gave rise to the "Bandung Spirit" of South-South cooperation, underscored the principles of mutual interest, solidarity and respect for national sovereignty. These principles continue to play an important role in shaping and guiding our relations.

Committed to the pursuit of global peace and prosperity through cooperation and partnership

South Africa prides itself for being a progressive society and part of a progressive humanity that observes and respects the equality of all people and of all sovereign

states. We are firmly committed as one of the cornerstones of our foreign policy to the pursuit of global peace and prosperity through cooperation and partnership, through multilateralism and through the consistent and fair application of a rules-based global architecture.

We maintain this position at a very uncertain time internationally, a time when unilateral action is threatening to undermine this multilateral architecture. The emergence of unilateralism is taking place against the backdrop of rising nationalism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. It takes place at a time when the problems facing the world – from climate change to terrorism, from migration to poverty – require ever-closer collaboration among the countries of the world.

It is important to emphasise that we should not abandon the institutions that have been set up over the last 70 years to mediate and manage international relations. Rather, we should strengthen them and, where necessary, reform them to become more effective and inclusive.

This approach is reinforced by a number of disturbing recent global developments. The resurgence of geopolitical rivalry, which has not been experienced since the Cold War era, has a severely negative implication for international peace and security.

There is a growing challenge to many multilateral arrangements, such as the withdrawal from commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on climate change, financing for development and in nuclear non-proliferation.

The rise of trade protectionism threatens the multilateral trading system we agreed upon in Marrakech in 1994 and Doha in 2001.

While globalisation has brought many opportunities and much progress, it has also contributed to rising inequality among states and within states. These challenges are by no means insurmountable. However, they do require a return to a cooperative and inclusive approach to international relations.

A "Development Miracle"

South Africa values its relations with Bangladesh and recognises that there is much for us to learn from this country in achieving socio-economic goals within set time frames. Bangladesh has made enormous strides in addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by not only the people of Bangladesh but the wider region. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is well on its way to achieving Vision 2021 and 2041 as it strives to transform into a "Sonar Bangla", having already attained the status of a low middle-income country and crossed the thresholds for graduating out of

Least Developed Country category. Due to the socio-economic achievements of the present Government, Bangladesh is now recognised worldwide as a "Development Miracle".

The World Bank in an April 2019 report ranks Bangladesh among the top five fastest-growing economies in the world. The economy has grown at an astounding rate of more than 6% for seven consecutive years, and lifted many of Bangladesh's poorest citizens out of destitution. According to the World Bank, the number of people living in extreme poverty has shrunk from about 19% of the population to about 9% over the same period. Development in social indices has also shown positive results due to human capital development. The literacy rate has increased by 72% and life expectancy increased to 72 compared to India's 68.

Within South Asia, Bangladesh ranks first in gender equality, second in foreign exchange earnings and third in life expectancy and peacefulness.

Bangladesh also plays a key role in advancing South-South cooperation and we congratulate the country for the establishment of the South-South Centre for Knowledge and Innovation to promote closer cooperation among developing nations as we address challenges arising from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Pursuing the African Agenda

Turning to South Africa's foreign policy objectives, our foreign policy is an extension of our national policy and is based on our national interests and objectives. The development of South Africa is inextricably linked to that of the African regeneration; to this end, the African Agenda is central to South Africa's foreign policy aims and objectives. Consequently, we have defined and continue to pursue an African Agenda, which is predicated on the entrenchment of democracy, equality, respect for human rights, peace and security, and acceleration of economic growth for the betterment of all African citizens.

South Africa's foreign policy prioritises the development of our immediate neighbours in the southern Africa region. As members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), we are committed to pursuing regional integration and industrialisation. It is our belief that the development of regional value chains and industrialisation in the region will not only assist in addressing South Africa's own domestic socio-economic challenges, but those of the region as well. South Africa's vision is that a fully integrated and industrialised and prosperous southern African region can attract investment in our region. ►►

Beyond our immediate region, South Africa remains committed to taking the African Agenda forward, including Africa's development and its place in world affairs. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which came into effect in May 2019, will promote intra-Africa trade and offer an opportunity to create larger economies of scale, a bigger market and improve the prospects of the continent to attract investment. The AfCFTA will see a market of over one billion people with a combined gross domestic product of approximately US\$3.3 trillion. It will comprise 55 African countries and will become the largest free trade area globally. We invite Bangladesh to therefore use South Africa as a springboard into the continent to leverage these opportunities available.

South Africa is further involved in conflict resolution, prevention, and mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding on the African continent. Our involvement has been informed by our drive to ensure an Africa's Renaissance for all of Africa with the goal of the continent being at peace with itself. This goal is in line with our understanding that you cannot have peace without development and development without peace.

The advancement of the African continent in turn is also itself intricately connected to that of the developing countries of the Global South, and Agenda 2063 emphasises the value of the strategic partnerships as we strive for prosperity and peace on the continent. Hence, the second pillar of our foreign policy, namely: South-South cooperation. It is under this pillar that our close cooperation with Bangladesh occurs in a host of international groupings and also forms the basis of our bilateral relations.

South Africa and the UNSC

In January 2019, South Africa took its non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) under the theme: "Continuing the Legacy. Working for a Just and Peaceful World", which is guided by the legacy of President Mandela. We will promote the maintenance of international peace and

security through advocating for the peaceful settlement of disputes and inclusive dialogue. We share Bangladesh's concern on the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in occupied Palestine territory, and note with concern the humanitarian disaster unfolding on its borders with Myanmar. South Africa commends the efforts of the Bangladesh Government for assisting these vulnerable persons and call for a peaceful and sustainable resolution to this matter.

South Africa recognises the impressive contribution of Bangladesh as one of the largest troop and police contributors to UN peacekeeping operations, and the current participation in six missions on the African continent. A stated ambition of Agenda 2063 is the silencing of the guns by 2020. As South Africa prepares to take over the Chairship of the African Union (AU) in 2020, we are acutely aware of this responsibility, and rely on the partnerships forged with the countries of the Global South. We recognise that we have a partner in Bangladesh in achieving this noble ambition. Guided by the philosophy of "friendship to all and malice to none", Bangladesh initiated the UN General Assembly Resolution on Culture of Peace and Non-Violence and South Africa joined the international community in celebrating the 20th anniversary of this resolution in September 2019.

During our tenure, we will also seek to ensure that the work of the UNSC mainstreams a gender perspective, including in its resolutions. Peace cannot be achieved without the participation of women in peace negotiations, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. The promotion of women, peace and security in the resolution of conflict was on the agenda when South Africa took over the Presidency of the UNSC in October this year.

Both South Africa and Bangladesh are long-standing members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth, the G77 plus China and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

IORA is very important to South Africa, as we consider it a result of the vision of President Mandela where during a visit to India in 1995 he acknowledged that:

"The natural urge of the facts of history and geography ... should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic cooperation and other peaceful endeavours. Recent changes in the international system demand that the countries of the Indian Ocean shall become a single platform."

The theme of South Africa's IORA Chairship (2017 to 2019), "IORA – Uniting the Peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through Enhanced Cooperation for Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development", acknowledged and stressed the importance of the Indian Ocean becoming a zone of peace and stability for cooperation and development.

The Indian Ocean Rim region is at the crossroads of global economic powerhouses where greater trade and economic connectivity are being developed.

Within this shifting global economic and geopolitical landscape of the 21st century, the "Indo-Pacific" has been identified as the new area of interest. This contributes also to the perception that the Indian Ocean Rim region is becoming an increasingly contested space. It is within this myriad of security and socio-economic challenges facing the Indian Ocean Rim region that it will be critically important that we have a strong IORA at its core. South Africa joins IORA members in expressing our gratitude to the Bangladesh Government for making a special contribution to support the strengthening of the IORA Secretariat.

South Africa congratulated Bangladesh for hosting the Third IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference (BEC-III) under the theme: "Promoting Sustainable Blue Economy: Making the Best Use of Opportunities from the Indian Ocean" from 4 to 5 September 2019.

South Africa is particularly pleased that Bangladesh assumed the position of Vice-Chair of the association at the IORA Council

of Ministers Meeting, which took place in the United Arab Emirates from 3 to 7 November 2019. We are also looking forward to supporting Bangladesh when assuming the IORA Chair at the end of 2021, specifically as Bangladesh will be presiding over the association during IORA's 25th anniversary commemoration.

During the visit by President Mandela to Bangladesh in March 1997, he signed a Declaration of Intent together with Sheikh Hasina to promote diplomatic relations between the two countries. This declaration was formalised in January 2019 to a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Regular Bilateral Consultations.

The fifth round of the bilateral structured mechanism under which we advance and manage bilateral relations, the South Africa-Bangladesh Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), took place on 3 September 2019. The SOM sought to emphasise the growing importance of strengthening the coordination of our relations. The meeting sought to focus on time-bound delivery and implementation of identified projects emanating from various departments in the respective two governments.

Both sides noted the enormous potential to expand economic relations between South

Africa and Bangladesh, considering that bilateral trade grew from a mere US\$1.9 million in 1994 to US\$337 million in 2018.

South Africa and Bangladesh have complementarities and comparative advantages, which can be exploited for mutual benefit, particularly in the trade, investment, technical exchanges in information and communications technology, and skills development fields.

It is remarkable that it was only 25 years ago that South Africa assumed its rightful place in the community of nations as a free and democratic country. In 1994, we set ourselves the task of building a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society, including building a better Africa, in a better world. Successive governments have made strides to ensure that we realise this vision, through initiatives and programmes aimed at addressing our socio-economic challenges.

South Africa is reviewing its National Development Plan – Vision 2030 in order to tackle South Africa's triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. President Cyril Ramaphosa has identified five fundamental goals the Government aims to achieve to transform the South African society by 2030. The goals are:

- no person in South Africa will go hungry
- the economy will grow at a much faster rate than the population

- two million more young people will be in employment
- schools will have better educational outcomes and every 10-year-old will be able to read for meaning
- violent crime will be halved.

Like most emerging markets economies, South Africa has not been immune to the challenges in the global environment posed by narrow nationalism and the rise of protectionism. We entered a technical recession in the first half of 2018. The Government responded with an economic stimulus and recovery package aimed at reigniting growth and promoting greater job creation. We have also been decisive in ensuring policy certainty. These and other interventions have set us firmly on the path of recovery.

South Africa's future economic prospects are favourable and we are indeed an attractive investment destination.

South Africa is mindful of the importance to keep the values of the Bandung Spirit alive as we move forward to secure economic freedom and development for the people of our countries, regions and sub-continent. The South Africa Bangladesh partnership is securely anchored in common values and a shared vision of social and economic emancipation for all our people. 🇺



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, officially handed over the role of Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) to her United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterpart, Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at the 19th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting on 7 November 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The meeting was held under the theme: "Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean".

Minister Pandor also presented a copy of the "Handing Over Report". The report outlines the progress that South Africa has made as Chair of IORA, particularly in the areas identified as priorities, which include enhancing trade and investment, maximising opportunities in line with South Africa's Operation Phakisa, advancing women's empowerment and gender equality and establishing the Core Group on Tourism.

South Africa assumed the role of Chair of the 22-member intergovernmental organisation in October 2017, guided by the Cabinet-approved overarching theme: "IORA – Uniting the Peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through Enhanced Cooperation for Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development". IORA is an economic cooperative community of countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

It was established through the vision of former President Nelson Mandela when 14 member states founded the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in March 1997. During Australia's Chair (2013 – 2015), the association changed its name from the IOR-ARC to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), signifying the renewed vigour in the work of the association.

South Africa will remain part of the IORA Troika for the next two years, which will be constituted as follows: UAE (Chair), Bangladesh (Vice-Chair) and South Africa (Past-Chair). 🇺



10 REASONS

WHY YOU SHOULD INVEST IN SOUTH AFRICA



1.

VIBRANT EMERGING MARKET

Growing middle class, affluent consumer base, excellent returns on investment.



2.

MOST DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY IN AFRICA

South Africa (SA) has the most industrialised economy in Africa. It is the region's principal manufacturing hub and a leading services destination.



3.

LARGEST PRESENCE OF MULTINATIONALS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

SA is the location of choice for multinationals in Africa. Global corporates reap the benefits of doing business in SA, which has a supportive and growing ecosystem as a hub for innovation, technology and fintech.



4.

PROGRESSIVE CONSTITUTION & INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

SA has a progressive Constitution and an independent judiciary. The country has a mature and accessible legal system, providing certainty and respect for the rule of law.



5.

FAVOURABLE ACCESS TO GLOBAL MARKETS

The African Continental Free Trade Area will boost intra-African trade and create a market of around 1.3-billion people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of USD2.3-trillion that will unlock industrial development. SA has several trade agreements in place, creating an export platform into global markets.



6.

ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES

SA is endowed with an abundance of natural resources. It is the leading producer of platinum-group metals (PGMs) globally. Numerous listed mining companies operate in SA, which also has world-renowned underground mining expertise.



7.

ADVANCED FINANCIAL SERVICES & BANKING SECTOR

SA has a sophisticated banking sector with a major footprint in Africa. It is the continent's financial hub, with the JSE being Africa's largest stock exchange by market capitalisation.



8.

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE & LOGISTICS

A massive governmental investment programme in infrastructure development has been under way for several years. SA has the largest air- and sea-ports, as well as logistics networks in Africa, and is ranked number one in Africa in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index.



9.

YOUNG, EAGER LABOUR FORCE

SA has a number of world-class universities and colleges producing a skilled, talented and capable workforce. The country boasts a diversified skills set, emerging talent, a large pool of prospective workers and government support for training and skills development.



10.

EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE

SA offers a favourable cost of living, with a diversified cultural, cuisine and sports offering, generally superb weather all year round and a world-renowned hospitality sector.



THE CASE FOR INVESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACCELERATING ECONOMIC GROWTH BY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS





Let's all be tourists

In 2018, South Africa recorded a total arrivals figure of 7.8 million from within the African continent, which represents the largest percentage of international arrivals to South Africa.

By Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane
Minister of Tourism

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.

Twenty-five years ago, the people of our beautiful country and the world celebrated the birth of South Africa's constitutional democracy. The ascendance of our icon Nelson Mandela to the position of President of the democratic South Africa inspired hope not only for our country but for the rest of the world that indeed good can triumph over evil.

We need to overcome the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality that beset our country. Hence, we are making a call that says working together, we can grow the economy through tourism.

Tourism has an important role to play in placing our economy on a sustainable inclusive growth trajectory. Globally, tourism

has demonstrated a higher growth rate than any other sector, with arrivals in emerging economies up to 2030 projected to grow at double the rate of advanced economies. Locally, the growth of the tourism sector has been a boon for our economy.

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the 2018 contribution of the tourism sector in South Africa directly accounted for 2.8% of real gross domestic product (GDP), which amounts to R139 billion and this is projected to grow to R145.3 billion for 2019.

The indirect contribution of the tourism sector to our economy's GDP in 2018 stood at an even higher 8.2%, which captures the strong economic links to the demand and supply side that the sector has with other sectors of the South African economy. In addition, the tourism sectors' direct employment accounted for 4.2% of total employment in the South African economy in 2018 and this is projected to increase to 709 000 jobs in 2019, while tourism's indirect contribution to total employment stood at 9.2% for 2018.

A sustainable tourism economy requires balanced performance in respect of both international and domestic tourism.

In his state of the Nation Address in June 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined an ambitious target of more than doubling our international arrivals to 21 million by 2030. To achieve this international arrival target, the growth rate of international arrivals needs to increase to over 4% in the short run and be consistently maintained in excess of 6% until 2030.

While our international arrivals have grown over the last two decades, our share of the global 1.4 billion international tourism arrivals in 2018 leaves room for significant international market growth.

Our current share of large outbound markets such as China, Indian and Nigeria is low. Stats SA reports that South Africa attracted an estimated 96 000 tourists from China in 2018 and managed to attract 93 000 tourists from India during the same period. Similarly, we managed to attract about 53 000 tourists from Nigeria.

This gives us a great opportunity to increase our market penetration in these large outbound tourist markets globally, with great prospects for growing the number of international tourists.

With our renewed focus in this market, we project that our efforts will generate an increase in the share of international arrivals to South Africa from China to over 9% of our total international tourist composition.

We also project an increase of the share of international arrivals from India to over 7% of our total international tourist composition.

To achieve this, we will position South Africa as a China- and India-friendly tourism destination through relevant content-reviewed platforms and a comprehensive China and India Readiness Programme, developed in close partnership with the private sector. We plan to use technological platforms such as WeChat and Alipay, for ease of access to the Chinese market.

Establishing an air transport link between South Africa and India will receive our utmost attention. We will be engaging with various airlines to explore this possibility.

In 2018, South Africa recorded a total arrivals figure of 7.8 million from within the African continent, which represents the largest percentage of international arrivals to South Africa.

We will create and share first-hand information to promote South Africa so that we become a destination of choice for the African continent and the Diaspora.

Initiatives will include partnering with online travel agencies, targeting the "leisure" market, partnerships with South African product owners to drive affordable family packages and delegate boosting at exhibitions, association meetings and business chambers.

The European market remains an important market for our tourism sector. Visitors from Europe can easily get visas that allow them to stay for 90 days. The closeness of the time zone between South African and European countries and our pleasant weather position South Africa as a preferred destination for both business and leisure tourism for many Europeans. As for Americans, we have seen growth in the number of visitors, and we expect the growth trend to continue.

We shall do our very best to ensure that we remove all obstacles for tourists to enjoy their journey to South Africa. In this regard, we are happy to report that recent visa waiver for Russia and Angola had a positive impact on the number of international travellers who graced our shores. We are also encouraged that South Africa's new e-visa system is expected to launch within this financial year. This demonstrates that close collaboration between the two departments can lead to a positive economic impact which augurs well with the priority of the Sixth Administration of working together to grow our economy.

As we anticipate an increase in foreign tourist arrivals, we are aware that their primary concerns are safety and security. We are at an advanced stage of developing the National Tourism Safety Strategy, working with the South African Police Service, provinces, local government and members of the sector.

In response to some of the issues raised by tourists on social media platforms and other interactions, we are also engaging the private sector to work with us to make our country an attractive destination. For an example, access to broadband connectivity has become a basic need for the world's population and in light of some challenges in this area, we are engaging with mobile network operators to make broadband access ubiquitous and to make sim cards easily accessible to those who do not wish to roam while enjoying their holiday in our country.

Domestic tourism remains under strain and its potential is yet to be fully exploited. This is because of several challenges on both the supply side and the demand side. On the supply side, challenges include inflexible product offerings and competitive pricing. The poor performance of our economy and rising cost of living have had a negative impact on the demand side of domestic travel. Equally, our relatively poor contribution of domestic tourism relates to a history where unrestricted mobility and travel were the privilege of a few.

We shall be aggressive in our strategy, working with provinces, municipalities, communities and industry to get South Africans to travel their country. We are saying to South Africans: you are not fated to labour

without rest. We would like to say to them that the beauty of the landscapes, our rich cultural diversity and our heritage, from the ancient city of Mapungubwe to Robben Island, from the Kgalagadi to Makhonjwa Mountains, are our common property from which all of us must feed to nurture our humanity. Simply put, let's all be tourists.

We will be collaborating with the private sector to create programmes to market a diversity of travel packages for South Africans of all ages and from all walks of life. In due course, we will be announcing a partnership with the retail sector that is aimed at creating opportunities for South Africans to travel their country.

We invite the financial services sector to support the tourism sector by creating financial products such as travel "stokvels" that will enable South Africans to save for travel and to make available travel packages that will make travelling more affordable for lower- to middle-income groups.

We also intend establishing a national tourism visitor and information management system that will, among other things, provide an affordable booking and transaction system and market access for a range of tourist facilities.

The Department of Tourism will continue to implement programmes aimed at growing our economy and developing the capabilities of South Africans across the tourism value chain.

Work is underway to develop a comprehensive tourism infrastructure plan ►►



in anticipation of future growth of the sector. Under this project, four tourism master plans will be developed in the following areas:

- Port St Johns to Coffee Bay
- Hondeklipbaai to Port Nolloth
- Sutherland to Carnarvon
- Orange River Mouth to Vioolsdrift.

We will intensify our efforts to accelerate economic transformation and job creation through the development of tourism enterprises. In this regard, the department implements enterprise development programmes to transform the sector and provide developmental support to rural tourism enterprises over the medium term.

The programme comprises hub-based tourism incubation support and offsite national support for small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs).

The establishment of the Tourism Incubation Programme has been identified as one of the elements of the Enterprise Development and Support Programme.

In 2017, four incubators were established in the following areas:

- Piliangesberg in the Bojanala District Municipality in the North West
- Manyeleti in Ehlanzeni District Municipality in Mpumalanga
- Phalaborwa under Mopani District Municipality in Limpopo
- Mier under ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape.

We will also implement the SANParks Contractor Incubator in the following national parks:

- Kruger National Park
- Addo National Park
- Marakele National Park
- Golden Gate National Park
- Kgalagadi National Park.

SMMEs and cooperatives from communities surrounding the parks will be incubated to enable them to set up sustainable businesses while implementing a maintenance programme in the five national parks as part of a job summit commitment from the sector.

Through the Green Tourism Incentive Programme, we aim to encourage tourism enterprises to move towards sustainable management of water and energy resources as part of responsible tourism practices. Overall, we are steadily increasing activities in the tourism sector aimed at mitigating climate change, which is a clear demonstration of our commitment to maintaining a sustainable destination.

The Tourism Transformation Fund, in collaboration with the National Empowerment Fund, was introduced in 2016 with the aim to improve transformation through access finance.

We have identified some weaknesses with this programme with regard to the accessibility of the funds and we will work towards reconfiguring the fund so that it can produce desirable results.

The department will continue to implement the Working for Tourism Programme through Expanded Public Works Programme funding. The programme focusses on job creation linked to the development of tourism infrastructure and skills development within the tourism sector.

We are also mindful of the fact that the disruptive technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution will have an impact on the tourism industry. In this regard, we will work closely with the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which has been tasked by President Ramaphosa to develop South Africa's strategy around this phenomenon, the impact of the technological advancements associated with it, and how to leverage from the opportunities it provides. In addition, the

Department of Tourism will host a conference on innovation in tourism so that all stakeholders can come together to give due consideration to the impact of innovation on the sector. This will help us prepare the tourism sector for this inevitable revolution.

Transformation in the sector remains a big challenge and it is an area that will continue to receive our attention.

Transformation programmes will focus on five priority areas, namely: ownership, management control, skills development, enterprise and supplier development, as well as socio-economic development.

We are going to scale up on the implementation of our flagship Women in Tourism Programme, which supports the development and empowerment of women in the tourism sector. It is our belief that transformational efforts must be deliberate and they should be consciously driven.

The department will work on the development of a five-year strategic plan that will inform the overall tourism agenda for the Sixth Administration. SA Tourism will continue to implement its marketing activities to promote South Africa as a preferred leisure and business events destination in line with the priorities of the Sixth Administration and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework.

The journey to economic recovery will not be easy but working together, we can grow our economy.

In the words of the former Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah: "Countrymen, the task ahead is great indeed, and heavy is the responsibility; and yet it is a noble and glorious challenge – a challenge which calls for the courage to dream, the courage to believe, the courage to dare, the courage to do, the courage to envision, the courage to fight, the courage to work, the courage to achieve – to achieve the highest excellencies and the fullest greatness of man. Dare we ask for more in life?" [U](#)



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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



milesforsmiles

Miles for Smiles creates awareness and raises funds for Operation Smile to facilitate corrective surgery on children born with cleft lip and cleft palates.

2,500 smiles

R8.7 million raised since 2006



ajuga

Ajuga creates a safe environment where young children can learn, grow and thrive.

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3 crèches since 2012**



Sha'p Left is a nurse-driven primary healthcare service that treats people close to home in their communities.

8 urban nurse surgeries

3 rural nurse surgeries since 2014



owethu

Owethu focuses on providing access to a broad range of primary healthcare services to communities most in need.

2 clinics since 2014



South Africa House: Testament to the solid relationship between SA and UK

South Africa House was opened in 1933 and has been the centre of South Africa's diplomatic presence in the United Kingdom (UK) ever since.

The South African Embassy in London, known as South Africa House, is a prominent landmark building on Trafalgar Square. It not only houses the offices of the High Commissioner, but is also home to the South African Consulate.

South Africa House was designed by Sir Herbert Baker and built by Holland, Hannen & Cubitts in the 1930s. Sir Herbert Baker was an English architect who is remembered for being a dominant force in South African architecture, having designed many of South Africa's iconic buildings, including Groote Schuur Hospital and Wynberg Boys' High School in Cape Town; St Andrew's College in Grahamstown; and the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

South Africa House was opened in 1933 and has been the centre of South Africa's diplomatic presence in the United Kingdom (UK) ever since. It even housed Prime Minister Jan Smuts, when he lived in London arranging South Africa's World War II plans.

When South Africa became a Republic in 1961, South Africa House officially became an Embassy rather than a High Commission and became a focal point for protests during

the 1980s, when protesters gathered outside its famous façade to protest against South Africa's policy of apartheid. South Africa House was even set alight, but not badly damaged, during the 1990 Poll Tax Riots in London.

African National Congress (ANC) President Oliver Tambo addressed a crowd outside South Africa House soon after the Rivonia Trial to maintain international pressure on apartheid South Africa.

London was home for many years to many of Nelson Mandela's exiled ANC comrades while he was in prison, and it was in 1960 that the hugely influential Anti-Apartheid Movement was formally launched at a rally at Trafalgar Square, under the initial name of the Boycott Movement.

The London-based organisation was instrumental in applying pressure for the decades of economic, cultural and sporting sanctions that so damaged the apartheid regime, while South Africa House was a regular venue for protests and rallies. In 1985, a Polish artist famously projected a swastika on the top of the building's portico, an image that enraged South Africa's government at the time.

About a mile down Whitehall is a symbol of a very different moment in South African history – the bronze statue of Mandela at Parliament Square, unveiled in 2007 at a ceremony attended by Mandela himself.

When South Africa held its first free democratic elections on 27 April 1994, it marked a change in South Africa's political relations with London and four days later, South Africa rejoined the Commonwealth and the building once again became a High Commission – 33 years to the day it had withdrawn and become a Republic.

South Africans can be proud of their prominent landmark in London. South Africa House is no longer a focal point of unrest but rather a beautiful building that is a testament to the solid relationship between South Africa and the United Kingdom.

In 1996, Nelson Mandela first appeared on the balcony of South Africa House when he visited the UK on his official State Visit. This famous moment was repeated when he appeared once again on the balcony in 2001 to commemorate the seventh anniversary of Freedom Day – the day when apartheid officially came to an end. U Finglobal / The Guardian / SA History



South Africa House is no longer a focal point of unrest but rather a beautiful building that is a testament to the solid relationship between South Africa and the United Kingdom.



SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

The meeting noted that the MeerKAT telescope, the most sensitive telescope of its kind in the world, was performing important science and making significant discoveries.

Senior officials and experts concluded the Sixth Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Africa Partner Countries Meeting in Pretoria on 14 October 2019.

The officials in their discussions noted progress in the SKA, African Very Long Baseline Interferometry Network (AVN) and other astronomy initiatives aimed at the development of astronomy in the nine African SKA partner countries.

The SKA/AVN partners – Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia – meet annually to provide strategic leadership on matters relating to SKA/AVN projects, as well as other relevant radio astronomy initiatives.

The AVN Project aims to establish a network of self-sufficient radio telescopes in Africa through the conversion of redundant telecommunications antennas into radio telescopes, “new-build” telescopes or training facilities with training telescopes. This network will strengthen the science that the international VLBI community can do.

The meeting received updates on the progress made in each partner country and found the work done to be satisfactory, with significant advances in human capacity development initiatives, the strengthening of relevant institutional capacities, the formulation of new academic programmes around physics and astronomy, the roll-out of high-performance computing capability and big data

training interventions and science engagement and outreach.

SA's Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC)

Progress in the roll-out of high-performance computing infrastructure and training was also noted by the meeting, with delegates commending South Africa's CHPC for its good work in building skills and capacity in partner countries.

The meeting noted that research groups from partner countries used the CHPC infrastructure not only for astronomy, but also in the fields of material science, chemistry, bioinformatics and earth sciences.

In order to encourage collaboration among researchers, the meeting agreed that the CHPC would convene a science workshop for the different research groups using high-performance computing applications in the SKA Africa partner countries to showcase their work and share experiences.

It was also agreed that the CHPC would bring together relevant stakeholders within partner countries to investigate the possibility of institutionalising and standardising training related to high-performance computing and big data.

This would support accreditation at country-level institutions of higher education and training.

DARA Project

Partner countries were unanimous in their appreciation of the partnership opportunities

made available under the United Kingdom-South Africa Newton Fund cooperation framework, which had resulted in initiatives such as the Development in Africa with Radio Astronomy (DARA) and DARA big data training programmes.

Since 2013, 123 students have received training under the DARA Project.

The meeting also noted that DARA, the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) and the CHPC, in consultation with partner countries, would be working together to develop long-term sustainable plans that would include interventions such as internships and employment for trainees and graduating students.

Several initiatives have been proposed to take affordable steps in the development of radio astronomy capacity in each partner country, such as two-dish interferometry and colocation.

The two-dish interferometer concept involves the provision of a small-scale AVN instrument to universities in partner countries to build capacity in radio astronomy.

This instrument will be capable of performing very-long-baseline interferometry (VLBI) experiments and useful for both teaching and outreach purposes.

The interferometers will be funded by SARAO, the partner countries, universities and the DARA initiative.

The funding will cover single dish science training, basic science, interferometry training,

and a VLBI training network across all nine partner countries.

Kenya is considering using its 7.2-metre two-dish interferometer to be part of this initiative.

Colocation Initiative

The meeting was given a progress report on the Colocation Initiative, which looks at the placement of astronomy telescopes, satellite ground stations, data-processing infrastructure and other science instruments on one site in order to make operations sustainable in the long term through cost-sharing (fibre and electricity) and generating revenue.

A colocation pilot phase is underway at the Ghana Radio Astronomy Observatory. The meeting expressed appreciation for the progress in the development of the AVN Project, particularly with Ghana being the first of the partner countries of the AVN to complete the conversion of a communications antenna into a functioning radio telescope two years ago.

In Kenya, which has acquired two 7.2-metre dishes, talks with telecommunications companies about acquiring a site in Longonot earmarked for conversion are at an advanced stage.

In Zambia, the Government is engaging further on funding to relocate a telecommunications mast on their Mwembeshi site.

In Madagascar, the observatory that will administer the Arivonimamo site, which has an old antenna earmarked for the conversion, has been established.

The refurbishment of the rooms and facilities to accommodate the engineers and technicians is almost complete and a



memorandum of agreement is ready to be signed by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

Mauritius is offering the Mauritius-Africa Scholarship Scheme, which offers 50 scholarships a year to resident citizens of member states of the African Union in undergraduate and postgraduate studies in astrophysics and other fields (except medicine).

Doppler

Mozambique has a DARA equivalent programme called Doppler, which is a collaboration between Portugal and Mozambique's astronomy communities. Mozambique now has four astronomers at Eduardo Mondlane University.

In Namibia, the development of a national space science and technology policy and strategy is at an advanced stage. Discussions on Namibia's collaboration in the Africa Millimetre Telescope Project are underway. The country is also in the process of establishing a satellite ground receiving station.

In Botswana, the Government is in the process of appointing a project manager for the AVN Programme and has also finalised a space science strategy which incorporates the AVN.

The meeting noted that the MeerKAT telescope, the most sensitive telescope of its kind in the world, was performing important science and making significant discoveries.

One notable scientific achievement was the production of the clearest view of the centre of the Milky Way so far.

The meeting concluded with a visit to the SKA site near Carnarvon. SAnews.gov.za

One notable scientific achievement was the production of the clearest view of the centre of the Milky Way so far.



SKA SA's investment impact on the Northern Cape



R220
MILLION



The total amount of money spent in the Northern Cape through KAT-7 and MeerKAT

this includes:

This information includes figures up until November 2016.

R134
MILLION



Amount spent at local suppliers for the construction of MeerKAT and other related projects

R1
MILLION



The amount spent on training 351 people from Northern Cape communities

R1.7
MILLION



Amount spent on material sourced from local suppliers for equipment for the building of the Hydrogen Epoch of Reionisation Array (HERA)

7284



Total number of employment opportunities created through the construction of KAT-7, MeerKAT and other related projects

72



The number of FET students funded by SKA in the Northern Cape since 2011

9



Number of SKA funded students from local communities enrolled at universities

8



Number of schools where structured Human Capital Development programmes are conducted. These include Carnarvon High School, Carnarvon Primary School, Williston High School, Nico Bekker Primary School, Loxton Primary School, Vosburg Primary School, Brandvlei Primary School and Brandvlei High School, involving more than 4 000 learners

120 000
HA



Nature reserve to be declared and protected for future generations

219



Farmers and farmworkers provided with fixed broadband connectivity via satellite (V-SAT) since December 2015



The SKA SA project has invested heavily in the Northern Cape province, from upgrading knowledge centres to creating jobs and providing deserving students with much-needed academic funding. With its partners, SKA SA has contributed towards social and technological development in areas such as Carnarvon, Vosburg, Williston, Van Wyksvlei and Brandvlei.

SKA SA has five focus investment areas in the Northern Cape:



Investing in the youth



Supporting community upliftment programmes



Developing small to medium enterprises



Nurturing learners' talent



Ensuring communication connectivity

CONTACT US:

SKA SA, 3rd Floor, The Park, Park Road
Pinelands, Cape Town, 7405
Tel: +27 (0) 21 506-7300

www.ska.ac.za



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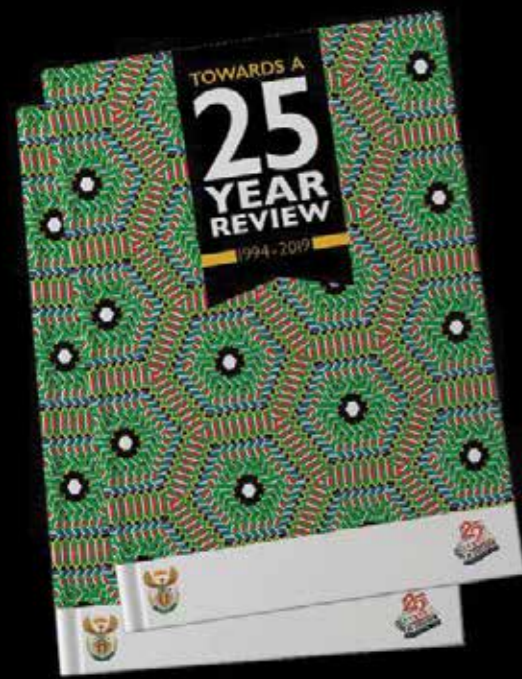
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Diverse terrain together with an ideal climate for outdoor activities make South Africa a rich hunting ground for adrenaline seekers. The country offers unique adventure tourism opportunities, from world-class climbing, surfing, diving, hiking, horseback safaris, mountain biking and river rafting, and all supported by dedicated and authorised operators.



Towards a 25 YEAR REVIEW 1994-2019

Reflecting on 25 years of democracy

This is a government that is not afraid of new ideas, and of new ways of thinking.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

The Presidency, in partnership with Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, an independent research institution, and the University of Johannesburg, working in concert with other stakeholders, hosted the 25 Years of Democracy Conference from 23 to 24 July 2019. The conference formed part of a broader social dialogue to enrich our understanding of the last 25 years and to contribute to a common vision and programme for the next 25 years. Such engagement is essential if we are to forge durable and lasting social compacts across society to attain our developmental objectives.

A conference such as that one fulfilled a dual purpose. Firstly, it was an opportunity to assess progress towards the achievement of our vision of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, prosperous and free society.

Secondly, it was a platform to identify the challenges, opportunities and tasks of the present and the future.

In reflecting on these issues, it was important to give consideration to the priorities, tasks and recommendations contained in the National Development Plan (NDP). Based on an extensive diagnostic report, which provided a frank assessment of the state of the nation, the NDP set out a vision to 2030.

Through the State of the Nation Address and departmental budget votes, government has described the measures that will define our developmental pathway for the next five years and beyond.

Research and academic institutions have a critical role to play in advising government in providing the necessary data that informs our planning models.

This is a government that is not afraid of new ideas, and of new ways of thinking.

In his famous Reith Lecture series on *Representations of the Intellectual*, Edward Said posited the role of the public intellectual against what he termed “the insiders”. It is these insiders, he said, “who mold public opinion, make it conformist, and encourage reliance on a superior little band of all-knowing men in power”.

The public intellectual, by contrast, does not promote special interests, but is at the forefront of questioning patriotic nationalism, corporate thinking and a sense of class, racial and gender privilege. The role of the public intellectual goes beyond speaking truth to power, important as that may be.

It is about providing social analysis that challenges the status quo, that interrogates the influence of vested interests in public life, and that is concerned with the production and dissemination of knowledge that is interventionist by nature.

Today, we ask that such critical analysis be directed at our experience of 25 years of nation-building. There is very little contestation of the assertion that South Africa is a vastly different place to what it was in 1994.

As a 2018 report published by the South African Institute of Race Relations notes, we are sometimes too modest about our achievements.

Titled *Life in South Africa: Reasons for Hope*, it highlights the remarkable progress we have made in providing basic services and assets to the poor, in reviving and transforming our economy, in opening the doors to education and learning, in advancing non-racialism and non-sexism and in cementing a democratic Constitutional order.

This is similarly borne out by government’s *25 Year Review*, which was released in November 2019.

In the very first years of democracy, we were called upon to address an immediate economic crisis, characterised by a substantial fiscal deficit, a huge apartheid debt bill and stagnant growth. These challenges were underpinned by an economy that was in its design and structure simply unable to satisfy the needs of the South African people.

Through sound macro-economic management and, to some extent, the benefits of a democratic dividend, we succeeded in turning around public finances and setting the country on an improved growth path.

Over the course of the last 25 years, however, we have been less successful in addressing the structural faults in our economy. Thus, despite significant economic progress in the years leading up to the global financial crisis, unemployment has increased over the last decade, poverty levels have begun to rise again and millions of South Africans remain excluded through a lack of assets, skills and networks.

The substantial investment we have made in economic and social infrastructure, in providing houses, water and electricity, in expanding access to education and healthcare has undoubtedly improved people’s lives.

There are several indicators of social progress, from the growth in the size of the black middle class to an improvement in educational attainment, from a massive improvement in access to basic services to a decline in levels of poverty.

However, this progress has been undermined, particularly since the global financial crisis, by stagnant growth, declining investment, maladministration and corruption, among others. These material conditions have had an impact of the formation of a common national identity.

While we are bound together by a shared acceptance of the fundamental values of our Constitutional democracy, while we share an allegiance to the symbols of a united and free South Africa, the schisms of race, gender, class, language and ethnicity continue to run through our society.

The process of nation-building – which is by definition multifaceted and multilayered – is therefore very much work in progress.

Nation-building has economic, political, cultural and social dimensions that are inter-related and dynamic. Yet, fundamental to the task of nation-building is the removal of race, gender and class as determinants of economic and social advancement.

It is about substantially reducing inequality and creating a more fair and just society.

As we mark 25 years of democracy, as we recognise the work that has been done to establish such a society, we must acknowledge that current conditions militate against rapid progress in these areas.

Once again, our economy is in a crisis. The optimism that characterised the early years of our democracy has been steadily eroded by disaffection and disillusionment. The pressures of urbanisation, uneven development, the contest for resources and widespread joblessness and poverty have contributed to an increase in community protests and have weakened social cohesion. Violence and crime continue to undermine the rights of citizens and their sense of personal security. Corruption has steadily eroded the State’s capacity to meet people’s needs and is worsening a trust deficit between government and the citizenry. Local government, the coalface of service delivery, is debilitated by inefficiency, mismanagement and poor resource allocation and management.

We find ourselves at a tipping point, where worsening economic conditions threaten to erode our hard-won gains.

As Professor Steven Friedman notes in a recently published paper, although we have exceeded expectations insofar as democratic consolidation is concerned, we have yet to transform the economic patterns that exclude millions from the economy’s benefits, and the cultural patterns that preserve the power relationships created by colonisation.

So long as they are not remedied, poverty and inequality will continue to deepen. It is our actions now that will determine the path the country takes. If democracy is to mean more than just securing the franchise, if it is to make a material difference in people’s lives, we have to arrest the decline.

We have to ask ourselves very profound and tough questions about our democracy

beyond holding regular, free and fair elections and strengthening public institutions. We have to reflect as government, particularly on whether our implementation model in affordable, quality healthcare, safe and reliable public transport, early childhood development and other services is fundamental to a better quality of life.

Progress requires that we make choices. As the new democratic Government took office in 1994, it was faced with a number of stark and difficult decisions. It needed to give practical expression to the vision of the Freedom Charter while ensuring that our new country was integrated into the global economy. It needed to respond to the legitimate expectations of our people within a global reality – and under local circumstances – that were not conducive to a rapid improvement in the conditions of the majority of our people.

While our objective was clear, to build a country with equal rights and opportunities for all, there were sharp points of divergence on how to achieve it.

Today, 25 years later, we are reaping the consequences, both good and not so good, of those choices.

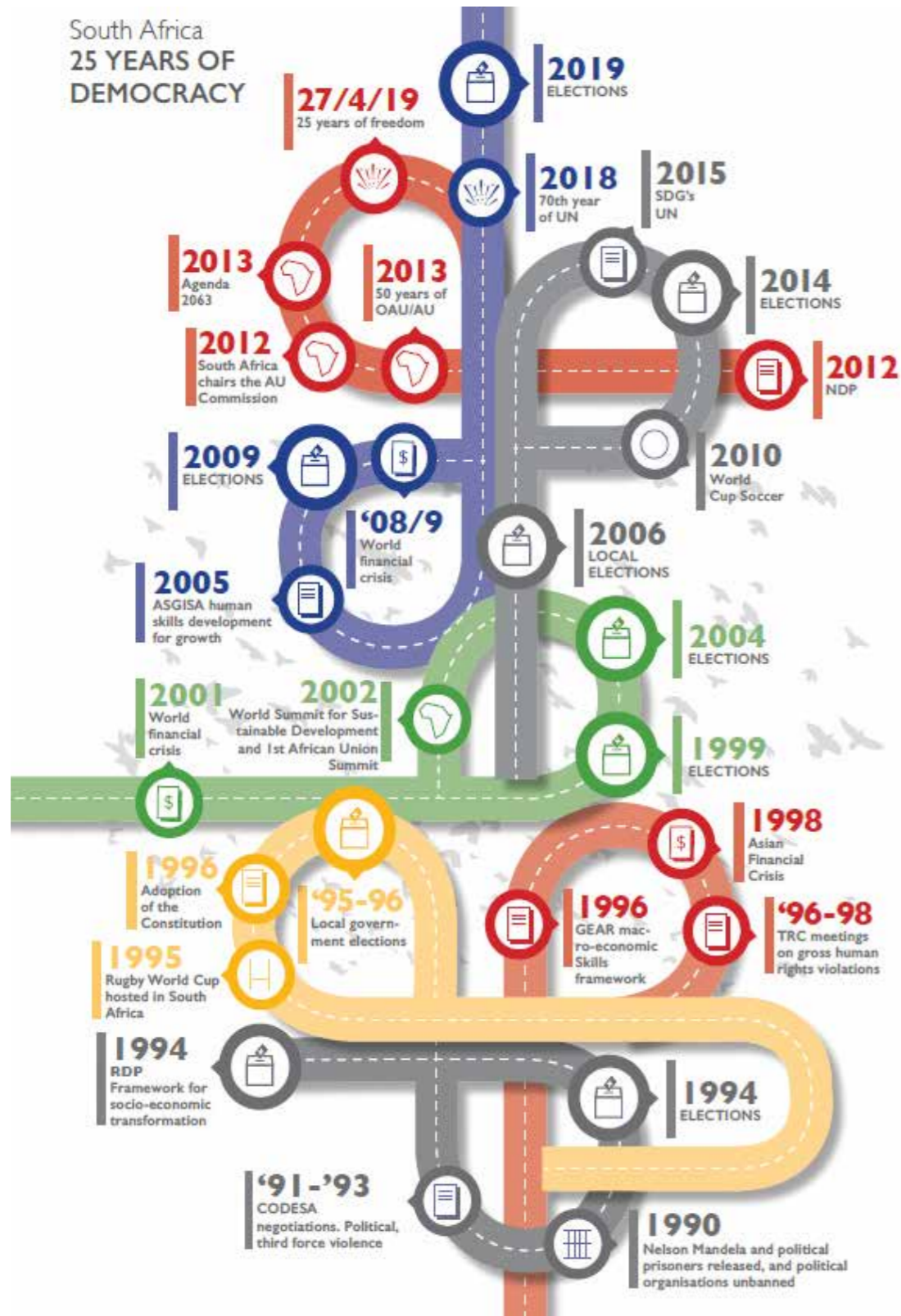
In driving this country’s development over the past quarter century, we have made policy decisions and choices that have made a real difference. We have pursued an economic path of growth, of redress and of transformation. This has resulted in millions more of our people being brought into the economy – and we will continue to advance policies such as Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, employment equity and the Black Industrialists Programme as key levers of transformation.

However, crucial policy missteps have taken place. There are instances where we failed to implement coherent policy or delayed doing so. That is why we have decided to re-establish a Policy Unit in The Presidency to ensure that policy coordination across government is aligned.

As part of ensuring that public policy is both coordinated and evidence-based, the new unit will be working with think-tanks and research institutions.

In order to rebuild our public service, to make it more professional, and to have a corps of men and women who are ethical and skilled, our academic institutions have a similarly important role to play in the provision of training programmes and courses, working with the National School of Government.

We are alive to a host of challenges our country faces. We need to engage with each other on finding durable solutions. In the end, we all have a stake in the stability and prosperity of our country. ►►



Our elected representatives must be held to account, yes, but true nation-building requires collaboration across society. It necessitates active and ongoing engagement.

We are first and foremost citizens, and the national interest demands that we each do our part. We need to work together to improve the current state of affairs, to aid in nation-

building and the forging of a common national identity. We need to ensure, in this context, that our academic output helps us sharpen our response to some of our most pressing challenges.

This, as Edward Said writes, is not always a matter of being a critic of government policy, but "rather of thinking of the intellectual vocation as

maintaining a state of constant alertness, of a perpetual willingness not to let half-truths or received ideas steer one along.

We looked to the 25 Years of Democracy Conference to challenge received ideas, to critically interrogate our experience of democracy over 25 years, while demonstrating a determination to be an active and interested part of charting a new path for our country. ☺

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Johnny Clegg: South Africa's universal man of uncommon passion

By David Coplan
Professor Emeritus, Social Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand

I've never known of a performer in his prime, not one merely famous long ago, who could get away with so much talking and retain the rapt, wide-eyed attention of his audiences. Who returned, show after show, tour after tour.

Universal Man: Jonathan Clegg "Sikeyi" (1953 – 2019). "Sikeyi" is a Zulu dance praise name: "The peg through a yoke that secures oxen in position, from Afrikaans juskei (juk: yoke), referring to the capacity of a formidable dancer to hold his stand."

In my mind, like a Zulu ngoma (drum) dancer completing his turn, I somersaulted backwards landing on my back, exhausted and helpless. Abstractly I had known the odds, and that this dark day could not be delayed. But, as I could not imagine the world as a place

that didn't have Johnny in it, the shock was still like an unpulled punch; disorienting. This super-human energy, this great soul: forever flown away, leaving a huge, unfillable hole in the universe. I cried; for myself.

Since his passing on 16 July 2019, the tributes from journalists – snappy, thoughtful, reflective, celebratory – have poured onto the pages of news outlets. I have read as many as I could access, and wonder what remains for me to say.

In addition, I don't like obituaries. Like funerals, they stand as a kind of forerunner for one's own, though I have written a few, for

people I hadn't known so personally and for so long, which was easier.

Yet mournful as it is, I have a duty.

I met Jonathan Clegg in 1975. I was still a graduate student in Ethnomusicology at Indiana University and was on my first visit to South Africa as a researcher for a documentary on "township music".

Like me, Johnny was a devotee of African music and dance and a senior student in Anthropology. There, unlike in the music department at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), interest and research in African culture were entertained, indeed

Johnny was not a teacher; he was an experience, even for his mentors such as bandmate Sipho Mchunu.

central. Always in need of, and open to kindred spirits, Johnny spoke to me for hours about his passion for isiZulu, the true north of his life's compass since he was 15.

Over the rest of his life I met up and "grazed" with Johnny. Backstage after concerts, at his home, anywhere we crossed paths, including in Africa, America and Europe during my enforced "exile". In the early 1990s, I returned as a professor at Cape Town and Wits. I attended his concerts in Johannesburg as faithfully as a lifelong follower of a prophet. For a prophet he was, even if the ideal future he prophesied has not yet come to pass.

The intellectual and the teacher

Jonathan Clegg was a man of many parts, and the intellectual and pedagogical parts are what I wish to touch on.

As Johnny was taught by Zulu migrant musicians, so did he more deeply explore and enhance his learning in enveloping his students, who were not only those whom he lectured in class, but performed for in concert.

Johnny was not a teacher; he was an experience, even for his mentors such as bandmate Sipho Mchunu.

We have the record of this in the many televised and published interviews and presentations he delivered, including his acceptance address when awarded an honorary doctorate in Music in 2013 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The address was a complex analysis of indigenous isiZulu aesthetics, as when explaining how modernising migrants used Western instruments and values to modify and bring the traditional tribal world view into line with the forces of social change.

Or his own methods of composition in performance:

"It is this underlying idea of crossing boundaries and mixing competing approaches that forms the background, influence, and the crossing over of musical forms in most of the music I have composed."

Interviews ranged beyond performance studies to rural Zulu semiotics, social organisation and conflict, responses to colonial conquest and apartheid hegemony, the effects of the migrant labour system on

Zulu people, and the very character and condition of the nation.

In the field of political economy, he was a student of the martyred anti-apartheid activist Professor David Webster. With uncommon passion and analytical brilliance, he passed on to his own students at Wits how the "infernal machine" of racial capitalism operated on African workers over the decades of violent legalised compulsion. That is, when he wasn't singing and dancing and exploring the sometimes heroic, sometimes tragic imperatives and paradoxes of Zulu migrant masculinities.

It was in this period, the late 1970s and early 1980s, that he wrote a series of detailed ethnographic studies, in particular for the conferences on Ethnomusicology organised at the International Library of African Music at Rhodes University, on the aesthetics and practice of rural Zulu music and dance.

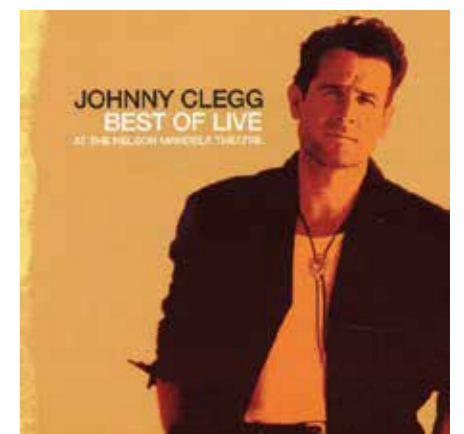
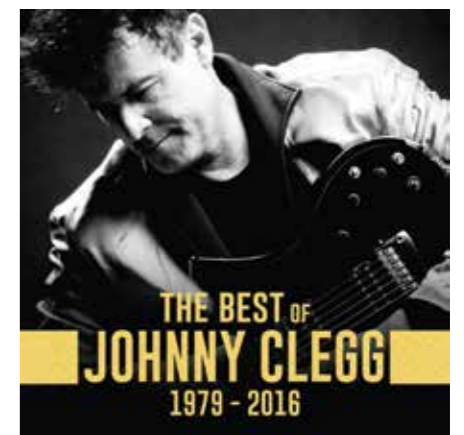
After giving up the lecture theatre for the theatre of global musical stardom, he continued his teaching career on the stage, interspersing songs with five-minute mini-lectures on *les choses chez les Zulus* and the peculiarities of African life in South Africa in general.

I've never known of a performer in his prime, not one merely famous long ago, who could get away with so much talking and retain the rapt, wide-eyed attention of his audiences. Who returned, show after show, tour after tour.

I would dearly wish to illustrate the evocative, musical-literary depth and meaning of his song lyrics, but copyright and its holders forbid. These are in any case evident in his best-known compositions, *Impi* (1986), *Scatterlings of Africa* (1986) and *Asimbonanga* (1994). While keeping it magnificently simple, he rivalled the songsmithing abilities of Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, John Lennon and other luminaries of popular musical poetics of his era.

Nor was this even all: his conceptualisation and articulate hosting of the documentary series *A Country Imagined* (Curious Pictures 2010), a travelogue of the byways of the South African landscape of creative cultural history, produced a now neglected landmark in national television.

It is embarrassing to confront the oeuvre of a man who so far surpassed my own contribution to African performance studies as a Professor at two of our distinguished universities. The only responses available to me are egocentric disparagement or love. Like Johnny then, let me make it love. 🍷





EMPOWERING WOMEN MEANS DEALING WITH THE PAST

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

The empowerment of women is about dealing with the legacy of apartheid and the transformation of society, particularly of power relations between women, men, institutions and laws.

Sixty-five years ago, our nation was a very different place to what it is today. Oppression occurred on a daily basis and women enjoyed almost no rights. It was a society characterised by repression, subjugation and tyranny.

Notions of a free society were unheard of and those who dared to stand up against apartheid tyranny were met with brutal and unrelenting force. These were the circumstances which faced the brave and patriotic women who devised the Women's Charter in 1954.

The 1954 Women's Charter called for a single society that recognises that "women do not form a society separate from the men" and therefore "share in the problems and anxieties of our men, and join hands with them to remove social evils and obstacles to progress".

The charter was adopted a year before the historic Freedom Charter of 1955, and helped to set the tone for today's democratic order. It was further reviewed in 1994 under the Women's National Coalition, which adopted the Women's Charter for Effective Equality.

Both the 1954 and 1994 women's charters called for a society where women are free from discrimination and prejudice. They called for a

society which respects women and enforces their rights and inherent human dignity.

Our democratic breakthrough in 1994 represented the start of our journey to an inclusive society that cares for all. Since 1994, successive democratic administrations have committed to a progressive legislative framework and a human rights agenda that is strongly informed by the principles of gender equality, women's emancipation and empowerment.

Although we have made progress, we are mindful that we must do more to substantially transform society and the economy. We are committed to speed up transformation across society by strengthening partnerships with

civil society to ensure that we address the many challenges faced by women and girls.

The empowerment of women in South Africa is about dealing with the legacy of apartheid and the transformation of society, particularly the transformation of power relations between women, men, institutions and laws. It is also about addressing gender oppression, patriarchy, sexism and structural oppression.

Without doubt, our society has undergone a sea change since 1994, however, as we commemorate 25 years of freedom, more still needs to be done to create a conducive environment which enables women to take control of their lives.

It remains a sad fact that many women are still confined by both their circumstances and the prevailing patriarchy in society. Therefore, we must continue to fight the stark gender disparities that are evident across the many areas of national life.

Education remains essential and so is ensuring that girls and women have greater

access to basic and higher education. There is also a pressing need to ensure that our economy is inclusive and offers women a chance at success.

Currently, many women still find themselves excluded from the formal economy and in low-paying jobs and economic sectors, while those who are lucky enough to find a job never make it to the middle and top management echelons, particularly in the private sector.

By growing an inclusive economy, we will begin to transform the power relations between women and men. By doing so, we will build a society where women are free to make choices and not be hampered by economic and social pressures.

Achieving this new future relies on the combined will of all in society; government cannot do it alone and the voices of men in building a new compact are especially important. Together, we have the power to overcome all our challenges and build a better tomorrow.

Just as the women of 1954 knew that they had to take a stand to bring about change, it

is up to us now to ensure that we create an economy that works for everyone.

When women are empowered, we see that families thrive, communities are safer, and economies grow. Through the inclusion of more women in the economy, we can also stop generational poverty and in the process stimulate economic growth.

We must do more to encourage women to become entrepreneurs and to start their own businesses. Women entrepreneurs are known to use profits from their business to improve their families' living conditions and lifestyle. More critically, they also invest in their children's education, which ensures that the cycle of poverty is broken.

It is up to all of us to ensure that women empowerment becomes a lived reality. We dare not be happy with the status quo which excludes many women from the social and economic mainstream. By working together, we can ensure a societal shift so that women can take their rightful place and contribute to the country's socio-economic growth and development. ☺





Sharing data can help prevent public health emergencies in Africa

By Moses John Bockarie
Honorary Chief Specialist Scientist, South African Medical Research Council

Allowing researchers to freely access data generated by global academic counterparts is critical for rapidly informing disease-control strategies in public health emergencies.

Global collaboration and sharing data on public health emergencies is important to fight the spread of infectious diseases. If scientists and health workers can openly share their data across regions and organisations, countries can be better prepared and respond faster to disease outbreaks. This was the case with the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Close to 100 scientists, clinicians, health workers and

data analysts from around the world worked together to help contain the spread of the disease. But there's a lack of trust when it comes to sharing data in North-South collaborations. African researchers are suspicious that their northern partners could publish data without acknowledging the input from the less resourced southern institutions where the data was first generated. Until recently, the authorship of key scientific publications, based

on collaborative work in Africa, was dominated by scientists from outside Africa. The Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness, an international network of major research funding organisations, recently published a road map to data-sharing. This may go some way to address the data-sharing challenges. Members of the network are expected to encourage their grantees to be inclusive and publish their results in open access journals. The network

includes major funders of research in Africa like the European Commission, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wellcome Trust. The road map provides a guide on how funders can accelerate research data-sharing by the scientists they fund. It recommends that research funding institutions make real-time, external data-sharing a requirement. And that research needs to be part of a multidisciplinary disease network to advance public health emergencies responses. In addition, funding should focus on strengthening institutions' capacity on a number of fronts. This includes data management, improving data policies, building trust and aligning tools for data-sharing. Allowing researchers to freely access data generated by global academic counterparts is critical for rapidly informing disease-control strategies in public health emergencies.

Why share data

Mounting appropriate and timely responses to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases requires global cooperation on data analysis across disciplines. Examples include Ebola, Lassa fever and Yellow fever. During the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, field and laboratory data collected in real-time were shared between scientists from different countries. These data revealed how the Ebola virus was evolving and spreading in the region. The information was then used to contain the spread of the virus in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Ninety-six individual investigators, including clinicians and scientists, from 60 institutions in 18 countries worked together. They collected

and analysed data by sequencing 1 610 Ebola virus genomes. The data informed policy decisions in West Africa because government ministers from Sierra Leone and Liberia were part of the investigators. The work done in West Africa shows that global data-sharing can work. This North-South collaboration is the research partnership model that the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership uses on the continent. This is a partnership between the European Union and national institutions in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. It was initially created in response to the global health crisis caused by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Now it includes research and responses to neglected and emerging infections. It currently supports several institutions that were involved in the West African study. As the regional director for Africa, I promote global collaborations that acknowledge inputs from Africa researchers and institutions.

Collaborations

Our North-South partnership is also making strides to improve the capacity for collaboration and data sharing. The global research collaboration includes a number of members such as the African Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology in Egypt and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). There are several initiatives under way. For one, the African Academy of Sciences is in the early stages of building a Coalition for African Research and Innovation. This

platform will foster collaboration on research and innovation in Africa. It will also address the under-investment in scientific talent and research infrastructure. Another example is the Pan-African Clinical Trials Registry. This is hosted by the SAMRC. The registry provides access to contacts for researchers as well as trial sites. It also provides information on which organisation or institution funds various research projects. This data can be used to map clinical trial activity in several disease conditions relevant to the continent such as Ebola. In 2017, for example, two public health emergencies networks and four regional networks of excellence were funded. This was to ensure that African countries are better prepared to prevent, respond to and minimise the impact of infectious disease outbreaks.

Building partnerships

Collaboration and data-sharing have become a serious focus in the fight against public health emergencies. Funding agencies, ethics and regulatory bodies in Africa, reviewers and grant recipients have been looking for ways to consolidate efforts for collaboration and data sharing. Among the issues that need to be addressed are big data, the way that databases can be managed and the implementation of systemic reviews. This is critical to prevent the next epidemic. What the Ebola crisis in West Africa has shown us is that wide-scale collaboration is helpful and works. The Global Research Collaboration road map instils confidence for such inclusiveness. ☺

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.





Ambitious plans underway for homegrown South African climate change model

By Tony Carnie

“We should not just sit and wait for others to bring us solutions. We should be part of the solution.”

Developing South Africa’s capacity to predict and adapt to the global climate crisis is critical, and local scientists have an ambitious plan to develop the country’s first “homegrown” weather and climate change modelling system.

Put in simple terms, a “numerical climate modelling system” involves using mathematical models of the atmosphere, land surface and oceans to simulate future climate scenarios. It makes use of supercomputers, parallel computing, satellites, radiosondes and other technology. It depends on people with highly-specialised skills in areas such as mathematics, physics, numerical modelling and computer programming.

Such a project, led by a group of specialists from the South African Weather Service

(SAWS), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the universities of Witwatersrand, Pretoria and Cape Town, has just received a major financial boost with a US\$100,000 (R1.4 million) grant in a research scheme, which involves the African Academy of Sciences, the United Nations, World Meteorological Organisation and other partners.

Dr Mary-Jane Bopape, SAWS chief scientist for weather research, expects it could take 10 years, largely because there are currently not enough suitably-skilled climate boffins in South Africa – less than 10 she estimates – “who really understand how [climate] models work” and are able to make a clear contribution.

Bopape was one of 21 African scientists awarded funding in June through the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative, which aims to improve weather and climate early warnings over southern Africa.

A big chunk of these funds will be used to run a series of workshops on high-performance computing systems in southern Africa, model development and new products for the agriculture, water, health, energy and disaster risk reduction sectors.

The push to improve climate simulation skills comes at a time when local climatologists are warning that temperatures in Africa are rising faster compared to the global average. In sub-tropical Africa, they suggest temperatures are rising about 1.5 times faster – so if the average global temperature goes up by 2°C, this could translate to about 3°C over sub-tropical Africa.

According to research by leading South African climatologist Prof. Francois Engelbrecht and colleagues, this has major ramifications for a continent where tens of millions of subsistence farmers depend on rainfed agriculture rather than irrigation.

That’s one of the reasons why the team wants to get a clearer picture of how climate change will impact South Africa in particular.

Writing in the *South African Journal of Science*, Bopape and eight local colleagues outlined ambitions to develop local capacity in climate modelling skills and to become an independent developer of weather and climate models.

“The big international centres that have experience in developing models usually plan for a period of about 10 years when they want to replace a model with a completely new one,” she said in an email interview.

However, model developers tended to focus on their own countries.

“In order for us to see increased effort on improving simulations over South Africa, we need to be involved. We should not just sit and wait for others to bring us solutions, we should be part of the solution.”

She also believes that in some cases, South African weather and climate researchers have the benefit of specialised local expertise, including knowledge of local thunderstorms and ocean processes in the seas adjacent to South Africa.

Bopape says computers have dramatically reduced the amount of time needed to generate weather and climate forecasts compared to the first numerically-modelled forecasts that were manually computed by Lewis Fry Richardson in the early 1920s.

Remote sensing using satellites has also helped to improve predictions on a continent that has fewer ground-based weather observation stations compared to Europe or the United States.

“Before the use of satellites as an input to numerical models, there was a large gap in skill over the Northern Hemisphere vs the Southern Hemisphere, which is covered by a large ocean area, and also has limited observations over land.”

Other major improvements have been made possible by supercomputers and the introduction of parallel computing. “In parallel computing, a simulation that would otherwise run on one computer is split up so that it runs on a number of computers at a time and therefore produces simulations faster than when using only one. Parallel computing has also resulted in increased resolution and models getting more sophisticated to represent the atmosphere better.”

Bopape believes machine learning will lead to further improvements in forecasting and, over time, the contribution of human forecasters is likely to decrease.

In South Africa, the Department of Science and Technology has invested in the Centre for High-Performance Computing, which houses a high-performance computing (HPC) system that is on the top 500 list of the biggest computers in the world.

“This system is available for South African scientists to conduct research that is on par with the international community – and the majority of the simulations will rely on this system,” she said.

The SAWS and some universities also have HPC systems that can be used for research purposes, but because the SAWS system is needed to produce operational forecasts, opportunities for research remain very limited.

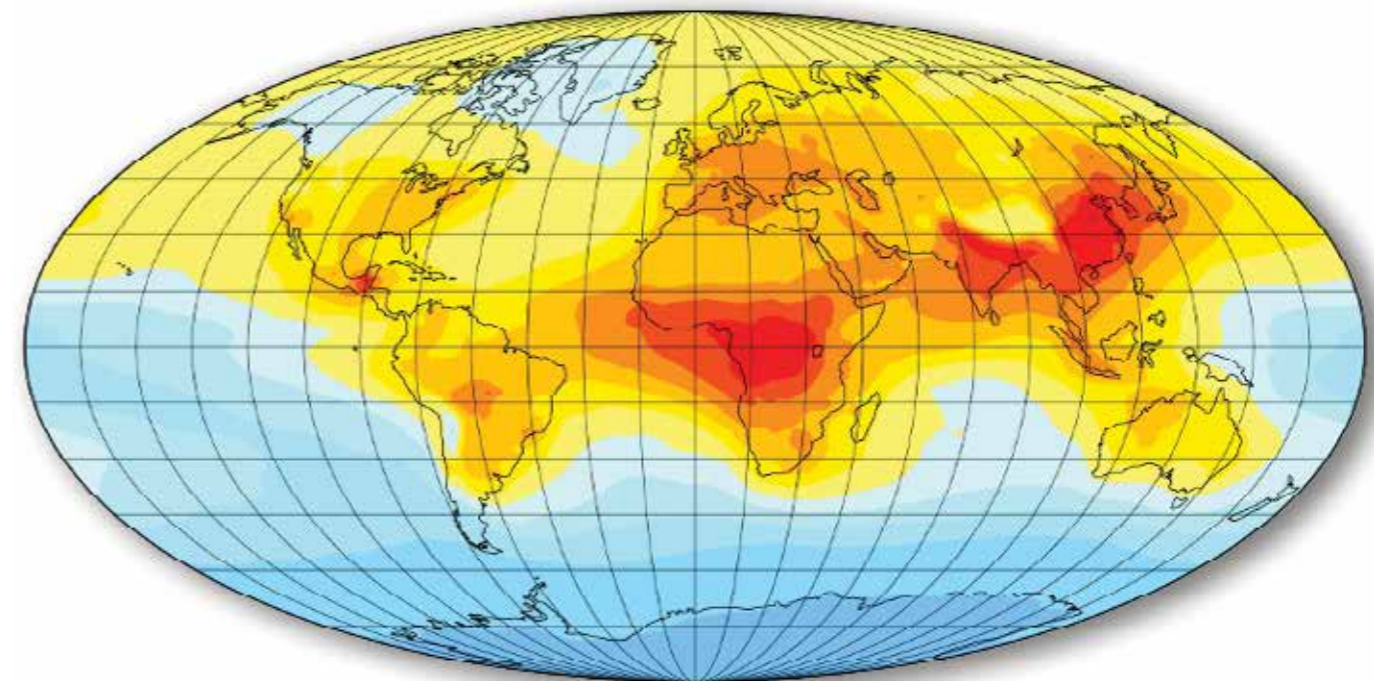
Bopape also sees a need for significantly increased funding from the public and private sector to support locally-developed models.

“There have been some investments towards the model development work that has already taken place. For example, support has in the past come from the the Water Research Commission, CSIR Parliamentary Grant, SAWS and the National Research Foundation’s Thuthuka Programme.

“However, the current funding is not nearly enough to put us in a position where we can work on par with nations that have been working on model development for decades. Also, the modellers we have in South Africa are usually multi-hatted and are working on other areas of research due to limited funding for model development.”

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In South Africa, the Department of Science and Technology has invested in the Centre for High Performance Computing, which houses a high-performance computing system that is on the top 500 list of the biggest computers in the world.





Win-win for people and planet: smart shepherding in South Africa

By UN Environment

A new pilot initiative covering about 25 000 hectares and using shepherds, has succeeded in increasing production of rangeland lamb and beef while simultaneously restoring vegetation and fostering biodiversity.

The Karoo, in South Africa, is a harsh environment in which to make a living out of agriculture – the area is mostly devoid of surface water. Its name is derived from the Khoisan word meaning “land of thirst”.

The land was traditionally used by pastoralists but drought, overgrazing and predation by wild animals made this activity precarious. Predators were kept in check by fencing, traps, poisons and hunting. South Africa is one of the most fenced places on Earth, with huge impacts on biodiversity and animal movements.

Now, a new pilot initiative covering about 25 000 hectares and using shepherds,

has succeeded in increasing production of rangeland lamb and beef while simultaneously restoring vegetation and fostering biodiversity.

Fair Game is a partnership between the Landmark Foundation, the national Department of Environmental Affairs and the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme, funded by the Global Environment Facility, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and a local philanthropist. It is unique in using human herders on large commercial livestock farms.

One of the shepherds' tasks is to set up portable kraals, or livestock enclosures, to protect sheep and cattle from predators, predominantly black-backed jackal and caracal.

The kraals, made of cargo netting held up by metal stakes, are established in highly degraded areas and are used at night. Nutrients from animal excrement and hoof action breaking up the surface in the kraals help restore degraded land. To prevent overgrazing during the day, the kraals are moved every week.

“In the presence of shepherds and kraaling for the last 30 months, despite a severe regional drought, livestock numbers have increased from 1 000 ewes to 2 000 sheep, and from 250 to 360 cattle,” says Bool Smuts, Environmental Manager, medical doctor and Director of the Landmark Foundation.

“Within this same period, there have been no recorded stock losses attributed

to predators, effectively eliminating human/predator conflict. During the recent severe drought we were able to maintain the condition of the livestock and veld [field] and also minimised feed supplementation,” he adds.

Fair Game is a payment-for-ecosystems scheme involving careful monitoring and evaluation that ensures wildlife-friendly livestock production practices that adhere to animal welfare and social responsibility standards. The scheme is audited and accredited by the South Africa Meat Industry Corporation, promotes biodiversity and provides financial incentives to compliant producers engaging in ecologically sensitive land management.

Predators hunt their natural prey

A biodiversity consequence of shepherding has been that free-roaming predators have established territories and hunt their

natural prey without targeting livestock. And a management and flock health benefit of shepherding is the daily audit and monitoring of livestock which permits early diagnosis of injury and disease. While weaning success of sheep was around 70% prior to human herding, this has now increased dramatically, says Smuts.

“We wanted to implement an alternative livestock husbandry model that addresses overgrazing, desertification and negative biodiversity impacts and excludes lethal predator control, and we’ve drawn on more than a decade of the Landmark Foundation’s leopard research and small predator livestock conflict studies,” he adds.

Herders work a six-day cycle: two 24-hour shifts, two eight hour shifts with 48 hours off. They are paid 70% above the ordinary farm labour wage and their jobs are seen as elevated positions on the farms.

“The Fair Game farms have helped prevent veld degradation and also enhanced drought resistance, which has allowed Fair Game farmers not only to increase livestock numbers during the drought, but also sell lambs and cattle at premium prices,” says UN Environment Global Environment Facility Task Manager, Jane Nimpamya. “The project is replicable in other dryland areas where predation is a problem for livestock farmers,” she adds.

In May 2019, the Landmark Foundation’s Shepherding Back Biodiversity Project (of which Fair Game is a part) was recognised at the annual Eco-Logic Awards for providing services that support and protect the planet. [U](#)





Rhino conservation heroes honoured

Prince Albert stressed that “biodiversity and its preservation represent one of the greatest challenges of our time” and further mobilisation was needed urgently.

The heroic actions of those that fight for the conservation of the rhino were acknowledged, celebrated and rewarded at the Rhino Conservation Awards. The gala-dinner awards ceremony was held on 27 July 2019 at the Montecasino Ballroom, Johannesburg. Prince Albert II of Monaco, Patron of the Awards, delivered the keynote address at the event, congratulated the winners for their exemplary efforts and was presented with the Grand Patron Award.

The award finalists were joined at the event by high-level dignitaries, South African government officials, foreign diplomats, media, sponsors and other significant NGOs supporting rhino conservation.

Prince Albert stressed that “biodiversity and its preservation represent one of the greatest challenges of our time” and further mobilisation was needed urgently.

“You know how much your project is dear to me, more importantly how much admiration I have for the individuals being honoured tonight, as well as all the rangers of course, the true heroes of biodiversity. Biodiversity and its preservation represent one of the greatest challenges of our time. Allow me to

point out a few figures, which I believe speak for themselves: figures from IPBES, which is commonly known as the IPCC of biodiversity. Its latest report, published in the spring, elicited a wave of fear.

“It announced that one million animal and plant species from the Earth’s surface and the ocean floor were in danger of extinction in the near future. One million from a total of 8.1 million animal and plant species described to date; this means that one species in eight is critically endangered ... In vertebrates, this represents 25% of mammals – one in four – 19% of reptiles and 13% of birds, but more importantly 39% of marine mammals and 41% of amphibians, i.e. nearly one in two species within these families!

“Moreover, only a fraction of living species has been discovered so far, and many of them are lost or have already been lost without our being able to measure the loss. Most importantly, the mechanics of destruction is spiraling out of control: if nothing is done to prevent it, IPBES experts herald further acceleration in the global rate of extinction. These figures have naturally prompted a reaction. As we approach key deadlines, such as the IUCN World Congress in June 2020 in Marseille and COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in China in 2020, strong responses are called for.

“However, apart from the emotion lasting a few days or a few weeks, we have to accept that there is insufficient mobilisation. Of course, progress is being made.

“The UN has engaged in important international negotiations on these issues, in which Monaco is actively involved. Many countries have developed protection mechanisms for certain sensitive areas and species, both on and offshore.

“And private initiatives are being developed around the world, by responsible businesses, as well as NGOs. For instance, my foundation has committed to and supported dozens of biodiversity conservation projects since it was established in 2006.

“From the Canadian beluga whale to the Chinese tiger, from the monk seal to the Mediterranean bluefin tuna, we have made a commitment to ensure the protection of many species – with a certain degree of success.

“But all these initiatives, as relevant and useful as they are, are not enough to counter the dreadful movement of destruction caused by humanity. They are overmatched by the challenge looming ahead: the sixth wave of mass extinction of species, which is likely to upset the equilibrium of our Planet definitively. That is why it is important to engage our contemporaries more effectively, to make

them aware of what is at stake today, for our common future. In this respect, the rhino situation is a particularly good example.

“It is useful because it is a positive representation of all the species we are destroying. While our contemporaries may find it hard sometimes to get upset about the disappearance of an insect or an amphibian, the rhinoceros has an unparalleled ability to raise awareness, which should be a precious ally for us. The rhino situation is also a good example in that it reveals the mechanisms of destruction: globalised circuits, based on selfishness and ignorance, criminally fuelled by the thirst for profit, whatever the cost.

“It is useful because it maps out concrete and effective solutions to combat a decline which has often seemed inexorable. You are proof of this, and the awards presented tonight are testimony of this fact: it is possible to fight destruction, provided we have the will, and more importantly the courage to do so. That is above all why the rhino situation strikes me as exemplary, and it is also why I am here: to pay tribute to the determination and the exceptional courage, of those who are fighting, often putting their own lives at risk, to save, to give hope to our children and to enable the species under threat today to continue to contribute to the necessary diversity of nature. By embodying this fight, by giving it a face, a voice, a story, by being true heroes of biodiversity, you are doing far more than saving the rhino: you are helping to save the honour of human beings, faced with the huge responsibility we bear of leaving future generations a habitable Planet.

“Some of you may have seen or read the famous play written shortly after the Second World War by the French-Romanian writer Eugene Ionesco, entitled *Rhinoceros*. The play describes a town whose inhabitants gradually turn into rhinoceroses. The book, unravelling like a tale, talks about the rise of totalitarianism and the resigned behaviour that makes it possible. Of course, Ionesco randomly chose the rhinoceros as an image. But I cannot help but seeing it today as a veiled message: this animal, which was for him the symbol of resignation, is now for us, thanks to you, the symbol of resistance.

“Resistance, in the face of resignation, in the face of impending disaster. Resistance in which you are the heroes, and for which I am delighted to pay tribute to you today.”

The Rhino Conservation Awards were founded by Dr Larry Hansen and Xiaoyang Yu in 2011 and have been hosted annually in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Game Rangers’ Association of Africa.

The winners, selected by evaluation of the work done over the last 12 months, starting in July 2018, were:

- Field Ranger Award: First place was a tie between Lance Corporal Samuel Ndlovu from the Kruger National Park and Senior Sergeant Nderu Loomuyeni from Chyulu Hills in Kenya. Second Place went to Francis Mpigwa from Uganda.
- Conservation Practitioner Award: First place went to Markus Hofmeyer for his work on the Rhino Without Borders initiative in Botswana, second place went to the Southern African Wildlife College K9 Unit and third place was awarded to Endri Steyn from the Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve.
- Rhino Conservation Supporter Award: First place was awarded to Rhino 911 for their work supporting rhino conservation

in the North West province, second place to Nicholas Duncan from Save the African Rhino Foundation and third place went to the SANParks Project Embrace.

- Political/ Judicial/ Investigative Support Award: First place was awarded to SANParks Environmental Crime Investigators for fighting against organised wildlife crime in South Africa, second place to the investigative rhino poaching documentary *Stroop* and third place went to Oscar Mabuyane, the Premier of the Eastern Cape.
- Endangered Species Award: First place was awarded to Amos Gwema for his work combatting wildlife crime in Zimbabwe, second place went to the Rare and Endangered Species Trust in Namibia and third place to Craig Reid from Liwonde National Park in Malawi. ☺





Sweeping the bush, protecting the land – the women quashing poaching

By UN Environment

The black mamba is the most venomous snake in sub-Saharan Africa. One bite can kill a person in just a few hours. It is also the namesake of the all-female anti-poaching unit that operates in the 56 000-acre private Balule Nature Reserve at Kruger National Park in South Africa.

The name choice represents “the strength of the mambas, and their quick reactions,” said Valeria van der Westhuizen, Communications Manager for the Mambas. “Strength of the woman in South Africa, strength of the Mamba.”

The Black Mambas were founded in 2013 and comprise more than 20 women largely from the Phalaborwa community who reside near the park. Prior to the group’s formation, poaching for rhino horn and bushmeat in the reserve was rampant, with poachers – many who came from the local communities – fetching up to US\$26 000 for one horn.

Leitah Mkhabela, the supervisor Mamba, said that a reason for the nearby communities’ involvement was that they didn’t feel the wildlife belonged to them, as most had never had a chance to even see the animals. Poaching was a way to make a lot of money, quickly.

This is why one of the Mambas’ mandates is to educate on the importance of conservation as well as gather information from locals about poachers.

“The community needs to benefit from the reserves that are near,” said Mkhabela, highlighting a wider ongoing discussion across Africa on protected areas. “If the game reserves can benefit the local communities by providing freshwater sources or giving bursaries for higher education, we are going to see a decrease in rhino and bushmeat poaching.”

Through the Bush Babies Environmental Education Programme, the Mambas take members, especially children, from the communities to the reserve to see the wild animals. “There are some people who live just 10 km from the reserve, but have never seen a rhino, lion or elephant in their life,” said Mkhabela.

Aside from educating the local communities, the Black Mambas track 126 km of the park’s border every day, looking for snare traps, inspecting the electric border fence and searching cars. Their work has reduced poaching in the reserve by 75%.

“In 2013, when this project started, we used to come back from sweeps with 80 fresh snares,” said Mkhabela. “Today, if we sweep

the whole area, we might come back with just five, some of which are old.”

Cecilia Njenga, head of United Nations (UN) Environment Programme South Africa, said that the Black Mambas highlighted the importance and effectiveness of local knowledge and commitment, crucial to combatting the illegal wildlife trade.

“The Black Mambas are an inspiration not only locally, but across the world to all those working to eliminate the scourge of the illegal wildlife trade,” said Njenga. “We recognise the rapid and impressive impact they have made, and the courage required to accomplish it.”

While the rewards of protecting wild animals are unparalleled, Mkhabela says the job isn’t for everyone. With salaries being minimal, at roughly US\$224 per month, living conditions rough, and the dangers from poachers always present, it takes guts to be a ranger.

“I have to put my life at risk every day, making sure that South Africa’s iconic wildlife is safe,” said Mkhabela.

For example, in 2017, Mkhabela and two other Mambas were staging an ambush in Balule when three poachers, whom they were pursuing, spotted them due to a full moon that evening. The women – who patrol unarmed – were lucky enough to escape unscathed

after finding a blown-out section of the park’s electric fence, which an elephant had brought down earlier that day.

But for Mkhabela the risks are worth it. She says that being women and mothers, the Mambas understand what it means to care and protect.

“We need to speak for the animals because if we don’t speak for them, nobody will speak for them. We have to fight for them, because if we don’t fight for them, there’s nobody that will fight for them. We know what love is,” she said.

In 2015, the Black Mambas were bestowed with the UN Environment’s Champion of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award. Since winning, Mkhabela says that the anti-poaching unit has received even more admiration from the communities than previously, and this has given the Mambas confidence in the value of what they are doing.

Mkhabela said that there were more women in training to become Mambas and she hoped the project would grow further and receive more funding.

“I’d like to see many more girls from the community getting jobs as rangers,” she said. “We need the Black Mambas project to continue. We cannot let the poachers win.”

www.unenvironment.org

“I’d like to see many more girls from the community getting jobs as rangers. We need the Black Mambas project to continue. We cannot let the poachers win.”





Robben Island joins list of protected marine sites in South Africa

By Alison Kock
 Marine Biologist, South African National Parks (SANParks); Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa, University of Cape Town, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

South Africa's Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries recently declared 20 marine sites as protected areas. One of them is Robben Island, the site of the prison where anti-apartheid activists, including Nelson Mandela, were jailed for decades.

Marine protected areas are geographically distinct regions of the ocean that are given special protection under law. They are used worldwide to address over-exploitation of marine resources and safeguard them for future generations.

In the context of South Africa, marine protected areas are used to protect marine species, habitats and cultural heritage. They're also designed to restore over-exploited

marine stocks, promote research and eco-tourism and protect coastal and offshore habitats. South Africa has 136 coastal and marine habitat types, from the coastal nesting grounds of leatherback and loggerhead turtles of iSimangaliso, to the unique coral and gravel habitats of the Amathole Offshore marine protected area. The addition of the new protected area network means that 90% of these habitat types are now protected.

South African marine experts combined the best available scientific information, strategic thinking and a strong participatory process to

create a network of marine protected areas that conserves ecosystems, rather than individual species.

South Africa already has 23 marine protected areas. It has nearly doubled this by adding a new network of 20 under an initiative to unlock the country's blue economy, known as Operation Phakisa. This means that 5.4% of South Africa's territorial waters are now conserved, compared to 0.4% before the new network was proclaimed.

It falls short of the 10% goal by 2020 that is promoted by the United Nations' Sustainable

South African marine experts combined the best available scientific information, strategic thinking and a strong participatory process to create a network of marine protected areas that conserves ecosystems, rather than individual species.

Development Goals. The goal is a global call to action to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems. Despite the country's short fall, it's better than the global average of 3.6%.

Furthermore, a global review of 144 scientific studies found that for marine wildlife to be adequately conserved and for people to continue to benefit from the ocean, 30% of the ocean needs to be protected by 2030.

Marine protected areas should have ecological, social and economic goals. The way these protected areas are identified and managed has improved over the years. In the past, marine protected areas were often declared using only environmental criteria. There was little or no contribution from local communities and other stakeholders. This led to conflict between people who depended on the regions to make a living and those trying to enforce the protected area status. Ultimately, this had a negative impact on the effectiveness of trying to protect areas.

But that's changing. Now the process of declaring a new marine protected area network involves extensive consultations between various industries. These include fisheries, mining, aquaculture, tourism industries and local communities.

The impact on communities – economically and socially – differs as each marine protected area has its own set of priority objectives. Take Robben Island, located in Table Bay adjacent to the City of Cape Town, which is on the latest list. It has three priority objectives: to protect the breeding and feeding area of endangered seabirds like African penguins, to help rebuild important abalone and west coast rock lobster stocks and to promote the area for tourism and protect the area's cultural heritage.

There's a real danger that the protections won't be enforced – or become paper parks. This is when marine protected areas only exist on maps and in legislation, but offer little real protection.

To avoid this happening, marine protected areas have to be adequately funded, staffed and have community support. In addition, monitoring programmes must be put in place. These must measure whether marine protected areas meet their ecological, economic and social objectives.

This needs to be coupled with an effective compliance and enforcement strategy.

Generally speaking, marine conservation and protection are underfunded in South Africa and sustainable funding models haven't yet been developed. But with the support of other

government departments, South African Police Service, industries and NGOs, the country has managed to implement compliance and long-term monitoring programmes.

An example of an effective, long-term monitoring programme is the multidisciplinary and multi-institutional project in Algoa Bay that monitors ecosystem change. The project is important because it generates essential knowledge for site management and sustainable development.

But more needs to be done. New innovative technologies such as vessel monitoring systems, remote cameras and drones should be used for better surveillance and effective compliance. In addition, marine protected area management has to take a more human-centred approach and the benefits of protected areas have to be shared more equitably.

The Betty's Bay marine protected area recently employed local community members to help scientists and managers monitor fish populations. This has led to a greater understanding of the goals of the protected area and improved the relationship between the community and management authority.

This article was first published on *The Conversation* following an interview conducted by *The Conversation's* Nontobeko Mtshali.





Africa yet to unleash full potential of its nature-based tourism

By UN Environment

Countries in Africa can do more to develop tourism in protected areas, which would in turn create jobs in rural places, diversify and grow their economies and improve environmental resilience in the face of growing pressures.

Africa's biodiversity could "transform" the continent's economy, but at present, many governments are scaling back on protection because of limited budgets needed for other pressing public needs, a report produced by conservation organisation Space for Giants Club and the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme said. To preserve their wildlife and wild places, governments should look at protected areas not only as environmental assets but economic ones as well, with the

continent's 8 400 protected areas producing US\$48 billion in revenue.

"Africa's unique diversity of wildlife and habitat has the potential to radically transform the continent's economy," said the report. Yet, "at present, few of Africa's protected areas are meeting their potential as engines for tourism growth and are underfunded by up to 10 times the required level."

According to the paper, nature-based tourism could improve the livelihoods of many people as it generates 40% more full-time employment than agriculture and provides greater opportunities for women than other sectors.

Oliver Poole, Executive Director of Space for Giants Club, said the organisation "strongly believed" that the right type of nature-based tourism done in a sustainable way was a powerful conservation tool.

"That's because it creates jobs for the local community, and it brings visitors to the national parks, creating money for wildlife services, that often have limited budgets," he said. "But, it also starts building a nature-based tourism sector that pays taxes and builds economies, making them of national importance and therefore more likely to be protected."

Wildlife is the single biggest revenue for Africa's tourism, with the UN World Tourism

Organisation stating 80% of annual trips to Africa were for wildlife watching. And as projections point to a doubling of visitors to the continent by 2030 from the current 62 million, the report argues that additional revenue is attainable.

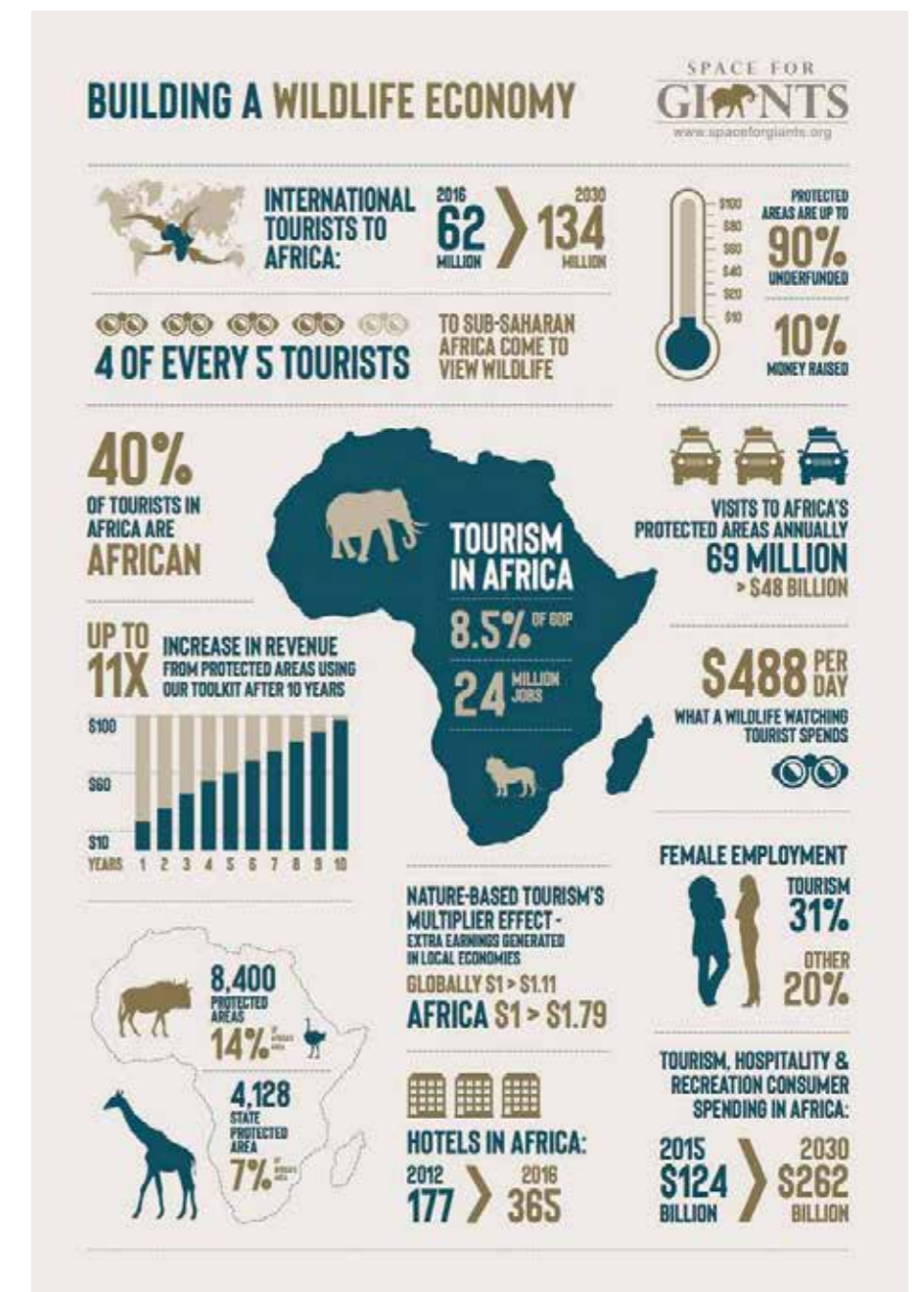
Ethiopia, which boasts nine UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation world heritage sites, wasn't able to attract more than 50 000 visitors to each one in 2016. To improve these numbers, the report says the country would need to invest in better infrastructure for national parks and capitalise on its unique features, like being home to 835 bird species – a potential birdwatcher's paradise rivalling Costa Rica or South Africa.

As the continent grapples with a growing population, poverty, climate change and a booming illegal wildlife trade, the report says important ecological areas could be lost before their value is utilised. Several places in Africa have already developed parks in ways that could threaten their natural capital, while others are planning to extract oil, minerals and other activities.

Doreen Robinson, wildlife expert at UN Environment said it was important for governments to develop partnerships with private, community and non-profit organisations to realise the full capacity of nature-based tourism in Africa and thus ensure wildlife for future generations.

"Private investment and know-how are needed to develop attractive tourism services and products, while good public management must ensure equitable business practices and reinvestment of profits into conservation of wildlife," she said. "Ultimately, this formula grows the economy, protects nature and supports human development."

The report states only four African countries – Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe – are top nature tourism destinations, each attracting between two to five million visitors a year. But there is a lot of room for improvement, particularly in western Africa that has tropical



forests and beaches, yet due to poor marketing, hasn't tapped its full tourism potential.

For governments to gain the most of protected areas, they should create national

tourism plans for protected areas and integrate them into the economic plans of the country

– that way, wild places will finally get the resources they deserve. www.spaceforgiants.org



Space for Giants is an international conservation organisation that protects the great wildlife landscapes that Africa's remaining elephants need to thrive. These landscapes give homes to giants, but they also bring great value to people and nations: biodiversity, livelihoods and enterprise, new medicines, carbon storage, even the very oxygen we breathe. But they are under threat. Criminals kill endangered animals for tusks, horns, scales and skins. Farmers needing more land to feed their families expand into wildlife habitat. When wild animals then damage their crops, they retaliate.

Space for Giants grew out of pioneering research in the early 2000s into how to encourage the co-existence of people and wildlife in modernising Africa. Since then, it has spent close to two decades working in these landscapes, studying how people and wild animals live together, and how that relationship is changing. Space for Giants understands that to survive, these landscapes and their wildlife must prove that they bring value now and long into the future. Then they become assets people and governments fight to protect. We also understand that time is short.

"While we work to demonstrate this value, we must also act now to preserve these landscapes so that they don't disappear before it's too late."

www.spaceforgiants.org



Firefighters lauded for bravery

This was the third successful deployment between Canada and South Africa, bespeaking the importance of heightened cooperation and resource-sharing agreements put in place by the international fire-fighting community.

On 30 July 2019, Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Minister, Barbara Creecy, welcomed back a group of 45 Working on Fire (WoF) crew and their senior managers, who spent almost 30 days fighting fires in the province of Alberta in Western Canada.

The team was deployed to assist in combating the huge Chuckegg fire, which had burnt over 350 000 ha since May 2019, following a request by the Canadian Inter-Agency Forest Fire Centre.

“What is most heartening to hear, is that because of your efforts, the boundary line remained unbreached by the fire. You stood with 1 180 firefighters from all over Canada, Mexico and the United States of America,” Minister Creecy said.

“The camaraderie built through your morning WoF parade, will stand you in good stead in years to come. Almost all of you have reported benefitting greatly from the exposure to new techniques, approaches, equipment and the novelty of fighting underground fires,” she said.

The team left South Africa on 24 June to assist the Canadian province of Alberta in combatting its wildland fires.

“The situation was so severe that evacuation was effected in high level and surrounding hamlets. Seven homes were lost in the fire and fortunately, there was no loss of life. This was a mammoth operation that the Canadians could not handle on their own, hence we lent a hand,” the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) said.

The DEFF has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Department of Natural Resources, in terms of which either country may request urgent support from the other with regard to wildfire management.

This was the third successful deployment between Canada and South Africa, bespeaking the importance of heightened cooperation and resource-sharing agreements put in place by the international fire-fighting community.

“Subsequent to the receipt of the request, WoF identified two 20-person Type 1 fire-fighting teams (based on experience, fitness and disciplinary record within the programme).

“The selections included firefighters who had experience in overseas deployment and those who had not yet had an opportunity to serve on overseas assignments. The 40 firefighters, of whom 12 (30%) were women, came from all nine provinces in South Africa,” the department said.

WoF is an internationally renowned programme for its Integrated Fire Management

services, which include creating fire awareness, proactively putting fire-preventative measures in place (such as prescribed burns and fuel-load reduction), veld and forest fire suppression, and rehabilitation of burnt areas.

The programme was launched in 2003 as part of government’s drive to create jobs and alleviate poverty.

It is one of several programmes in the DEFF that is implemented through government’s Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The EPWP has been the primary vehicle through which the department has delivered on its job creation mandate while protecting the environment.

“It is through the WoF Programme that government continues to protect both plantation and indigenous forests. It is the same programme that played a significant role in putting down devastating fires on the Garden Route over the past two years,” the department said.

The firefighters are recruited from marginalised communities and trained in fire awareness and education, prevention and fire suppression skills.

They are trained as veld and forest fire-fighters and are stationed in more than 200 teams throughout South Africa. SAnews.gov.za



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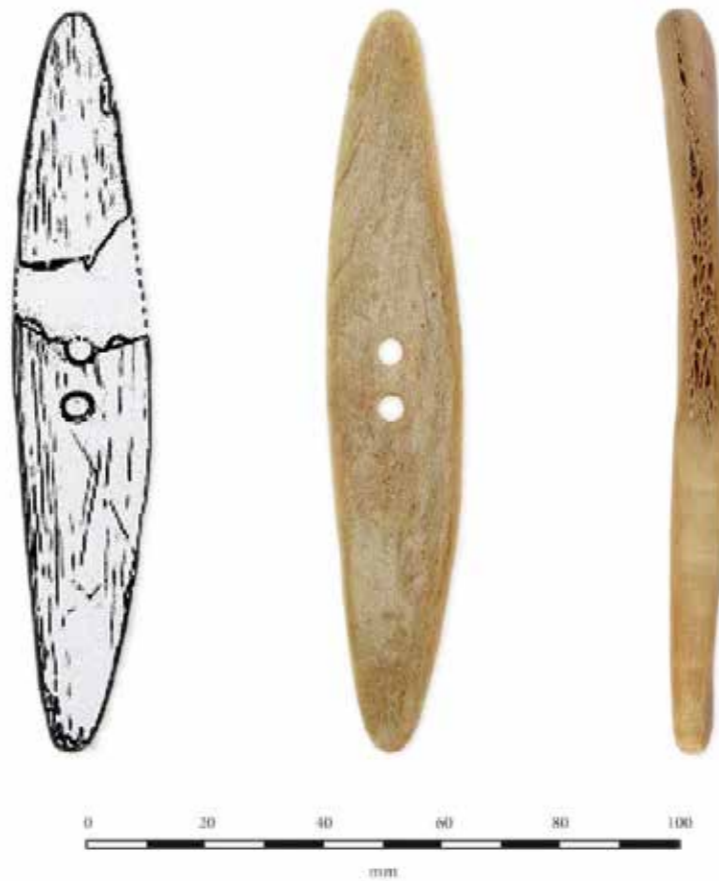
Department: Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



How our African ancestors made sound in the Stone Age

By Sarah Wurz

Professor, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); **Joshua Kumbani**, PhD Student, Wits; **Justin Bradfield**, Senior Lecturer, University of Johannesburg; and **Neil Rusch**, Research Associate, Wits



Working with bone artefacts from archaeological sites in South Africa's southern Cape region, we've been able to show that some implements might have been used for sound production in the past.

The Middle and Later Stone Age, which lasted from about 300 000 to 300 years ago in South Africa, was an important time for the African continent. During this period, humans developed many different strategies to produce a variety of stone tools. They used fire as an engineering tool and to cook. As expert hunter gatherers, they successfully inhabited many parts of Africa.

But one thing that's been missing from our understanding of this epoch is sound, noise or music. There's been very little research on the role of sound production during the Stone Age. That's very surprising since we know that the latter part of this period was an important one for the development of complex cognition, symbolic expression and social dynamics among human ancestors. So it stands to reason that groups, which were communicating in complex ways, might also explore sound for expression.

One reason to account for this lack of research may be that sound-producing instruments are usually made of organic materials which typically don't survive well, archaeologically.

We wanted to address this gap in the research. So, we've established a working group to map and investigate Stone Age musical activities within Africa, incorporating ethnographic perspectives, and knowledge gained from the in-depth study of various cultural groups.

One of our first projects has been to examine ancient versions of the strange disc-shaped object that South Africans colloquially know as a "woer woer". The "woer woer" can be wound up between two pieces of string and released to produce the same kind of sound as a howling wind or a swarm of bees. Different versions exist in various parts of the world, known by different names.

Working with bone artefacts from archaeological sites in South Africa's southern Cape region, we've been able to show that some implements might have been used for sound production in the past.

This sort of research is important because it can shed light on human behaviour and the use of space. Some spaces may have been specifically selected for how well sound resonates and amplifies, perhaps to

form part of rituals to induce altered states of consciousness or enhanced states of association.

Bullroarers and woer woers

The "woer woer" works on the same principle as another instrument, the bullroarer. This has been used for centuries in many societies to produce sound, chiefly during ceremonial occasions. When it's spun through the air, it produces audible vibrations that travel for some distance.

At least two examples of woer woers made from perforated pieces of bone have been recovered from archaeological sites along the southern Cape coast, at Klasies River and Matjes River. Both date back between 5 000 and 10 000 years.

The Matjes River woer woer was recovered together with perforated bone pendants. Some of these "pendants" bear a striking resemblance to bullroarers from other parts of the world. Bullroarers are used by the Bushmen and Aboriginal people and are also found in Late Palaeolithic sites in Denmark, Germany and Norway.

But how could we be sure what the southern Cape artefacts were or what they were used for?

Simple: we headed to a recording studio.

Using the actual bone artefacts wasn't possible – they are protected by heritage legislation – so we made modern bone replicas and spun them mechanically for a total of 15 hours. The resulting sounds were recorded in the Field Sound Studio, Cape Town. We also recorded where evidence of wear from use occurred.

The sound frequency of the objects we assumed were woer woers ranged from 52 to 200 Hz. These are bass sounds, resembling those in nature such as bees humming.

The frequency range across the sample of pendant replicas varied from 55.5 to 250 Hz, which is comparable to that produced by bullroarers. The replicas produced a sustained pulsing sound that may be likened to the breaking of ocean waves, thunder or breathing. If played in a cave, such as the sites where the original artefacts were found, the aural affect would have been impressively magnified.

Armed with these data, we conducted a few more experiments. Our interpretation of these results is that one of the decorative pendants was used to produce sound, in the same manner as a bullroarer.

If this interpretation is correct, it means that aerophones were used in the distant past in southern Africa. Aerophones produce sound by creating vibrations in the air when they are spun around their axes. They are known as some of the earliest musical instruments in the archaeological record.

Buzzing as ritual gateway

So, why were these ancient bullroarers used?

It's possible that sound may be associated with burying the dead. The artefacts we tested from both sites were associated with human remains.

Matjes River has yielded the remains of 120 individuals. The site was certainly a sacred one within the landscape: it was a burial ground for thousands of years.

There are other possible uses, based on ethnographic knowledge from southern Africa.

The Jul'-hoansi San of Namibia associate the sound of the bullroarer, which they use in male initiation ceremonies, with mythical creators. /Xam Bushmen in the 19th century reported how they would use the bullroarer to manipulate bees.

Interestingly, people entering an altered state of consciousness report hearing a buzzing sound as part of their hallucinatory experience. Bees are also depicted in San rock art. These are believed to be associated with the altered state of consciousness shamans induced to enter the spirit world. When a woer woer or bullroarer is spun quickly, a stroboscopic effect is produced, which may add to the hallucinatory experience.

This work not only aids our understanding of our ancestors' behaviour. It also suggests that it may be worth re-examining other bone artefacts whose true function may not yet be known.

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



PENDANT MR 40 replica – organic string





Township Youths build exquisite sculpture

By Ashraf Hendricks

The art project is a collaboration with Mexican street artist Libre Gutierrez and the Sozo Foundation. Gutierrez creates artwork across the globe sometimes involving migrants and incarcerated people.

It doesn't make all the violence stop but it reminds people that there is beauty in the world.

These are the words of a volunteer who, together with over 40 youth from Vrygrond, Capricorn and Overcome Heights in Cape Town and volunteers from San Francisco in the United States (US), built a sculpture which now stands three metres tall on the corner of Prince George Drive and Capricorn Boulevard near Muizenberg.

Over a four-week period earlier this year, the group built the sculpture from recycled materials such as wooden pallets and steel. Titled, "The Ship of Ubuntu", the sculpture has a boat shape with the face of a man in front and a collection of houses on top. According to a press statement, the hull of the boat pays homage to Vrygrond's history of being a fishermen's village, while the houses on top symbolise the unity of the community.

"This represents a start to something greater," says Vrygrond resident, Anteenoo Hendericks, who participated in the project. For him, the sculpture represents a community that "can go anywhere". "If we stand together as a community, we can do anything," he says.

Hendericks has been living in Vrygrond for five years and says that it has been a "struggle". Vrygrond has been hit hard by gang violence and housing problems. Gangsters try to recruit children, he says. Through the art work they are trying to show that there are better options than gangsterism in this world. "There is something better than selling yourself short or going to prison for somebody else," he says.

The art project is a collaboration with Mexican street artist Libre Gutierrez and the Sozo Foundation. Gutierrez creates artwork across the globe sometimes involving migrants and incarcerated people. Last year, he facilitated and painted a colourful mural on the Vrygrond

Community Centre's walls. The sculpture was also supported by the Vrygrond Community Development Forum.

Lygia Stebbing from San Francisco said that a lot of people had ideas of what Vrygrond was about: that "it's full of gangsters and drugs", but "really the community is beautiful". Stebbing is one of the art work organisers from EDvance, a teachers preparation programme at San Francisco State University in California.

"People should challenge themselves beyond the stereotypes," says Stebbing. "People may look one way but it doesn't necessarily mean that they are people to be afraid of or "that they don't care about their community".

Since 2012, Stebbing and her students have been running programmes in Vrygrond which include bringing in pre-school teachers from the US.

Keemo Mowers says that he is trying to change the perspective of Vrygrond with this

sculpture. "Vrygrond is not all bad. Something nice can come out of Vrygrond". He says that he has always been positive. Even though it can be difficult living here, Mowers says: "You learn. You get streetwise."

One of the exchange students is Noelle Owusu. Owusu teaches children in the Bay View area in San Francisco and says that communities there face similar struggles to those in Vrygrond, including gang violence, poverty and inequality. She describes it as a "forgotten community within a very affluent resource-filled area".

Owusu says that when you see beauty in a neighbourhood like this, it doesn't make all the violence stop or take the trauma away "but it gives people a reminder that there is beauty in the world".

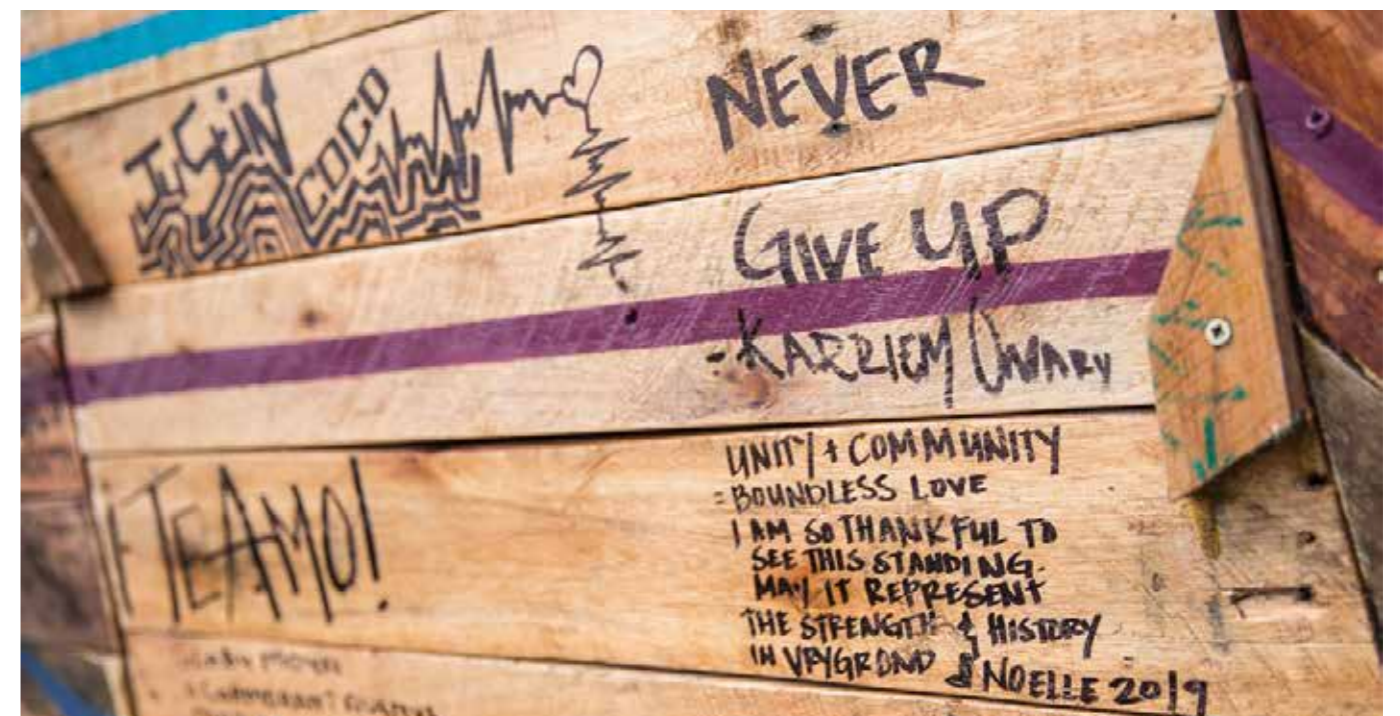
For Randall Daniels, this artwork is a way of him giving back to the community. He says that when you search for Vrygrond online all you see is "poor people", but when you're inside the community "you see rainbows".

He says that this sculpture is the community coming together with one mindset. He says they

are showing people that "there is something good coming out of this place".

Daniels, 26, has been staying in Vrygrond his entire life. He says that at one point he was doing all the "bad stuff". But he started working with a different group of people. "The people I was involved with didn't allow me to be the person that I was," he says. "They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself."

In the future, Stebbing hopes to take youth from Vrygrond to the US for programmes in San Francisco. www.groundup.org.za



"There exists no they
and we, only us.
Solidarity is and has
to be indivisible."

Reaffirming the importance of rebuilding international solidarity

By Nicholas Wolpe
Chief Executive Officer, Liliesleaf

"The ability to harness and galvanise the international community and build a solid and cohesive support base was a unique feature of the struggle against apartheid.

As Ahmed Kathrada remarked: "It would be a wrong interpretation of history if we ignored the role of the international community in our struggle".

This quote by the late struggle icon vividly captures the important role played by the international community in the struggle to attain democracy and human rights.

The struggle against apartheid stimulated and harnessed international support that transcended geopolitical fault lines, which at the time were pronounced and rigid.

It inspired countries and their people to unify and stand shoulder to shoulder against

a repugnant ideology that defined a person's position and status based on the colour of their skin and not the content of their character.

As the world rose in unison against apartheid, we witnessed what could be achieved when the world came together as one voice, bound together by a common bond and purpose. The essence of international solidarity lay in the singularity of purpose of countries. The fight against the injustices of apartheid was a clear articulation of this singularity of purpose.

The African National Congress (ANC) as early as 1958 predicted that it would only be a matter of time before it succumbed to the brutal anti-democratic racist policies of the apartheid

regime. They would be forced to conduct the struggle against apartheid from underground and outside the borders of the country, which would require a broader perspective, strategy and approach.

The turning point for the ANC was the Sharpeville Massacre of March 1960, after which the organisation was banned and forced underground. Following 48 years of attempted peaceful dialogue and engagement, the ANC was left with no option but to turn to armed struggle to countenance the brutal actions and repression of the apartheid regime. On 16 December 1961, the ANC launched its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).

The formation of MK signalled a decisive shift in the focus and tactics of the liberation movement. The ANC's move was a response to the only language the apartheid government knew and understood, and that was the language of violence.

Though the move to armed struggle marked a fundamental shift in the liberation movement's emphasis, it occurred within a clearly defined and articulated political context and framework. The military wing was expected to operate within moral boundaries which defined the struggle as a legitimate and just cause.

Despite the ANC having turned to armed struggle, the bestowing of the Nobel Peace Prize on Chief Albert Luthuli, then President of the ANC, and the first African to receive this prestigious award, signalled an acknowledgement that this armed struggle was a necessary and justifiable response to the brutal repression of the apartheid regime.

The move to armed struggle should not be seen in isolation, but as part of a two-pronged strategy, which recognised that armed struggle alone could not bring about a transfer of political power.

There was a sanguine acceptance that success depended also on galvanising broad-based international support. To this end, in 1960, the movement instructed Oliver Tambo to go into exile and mobilise the support of the international community for the liberation

movement and in particular for the shift to armed struggle.

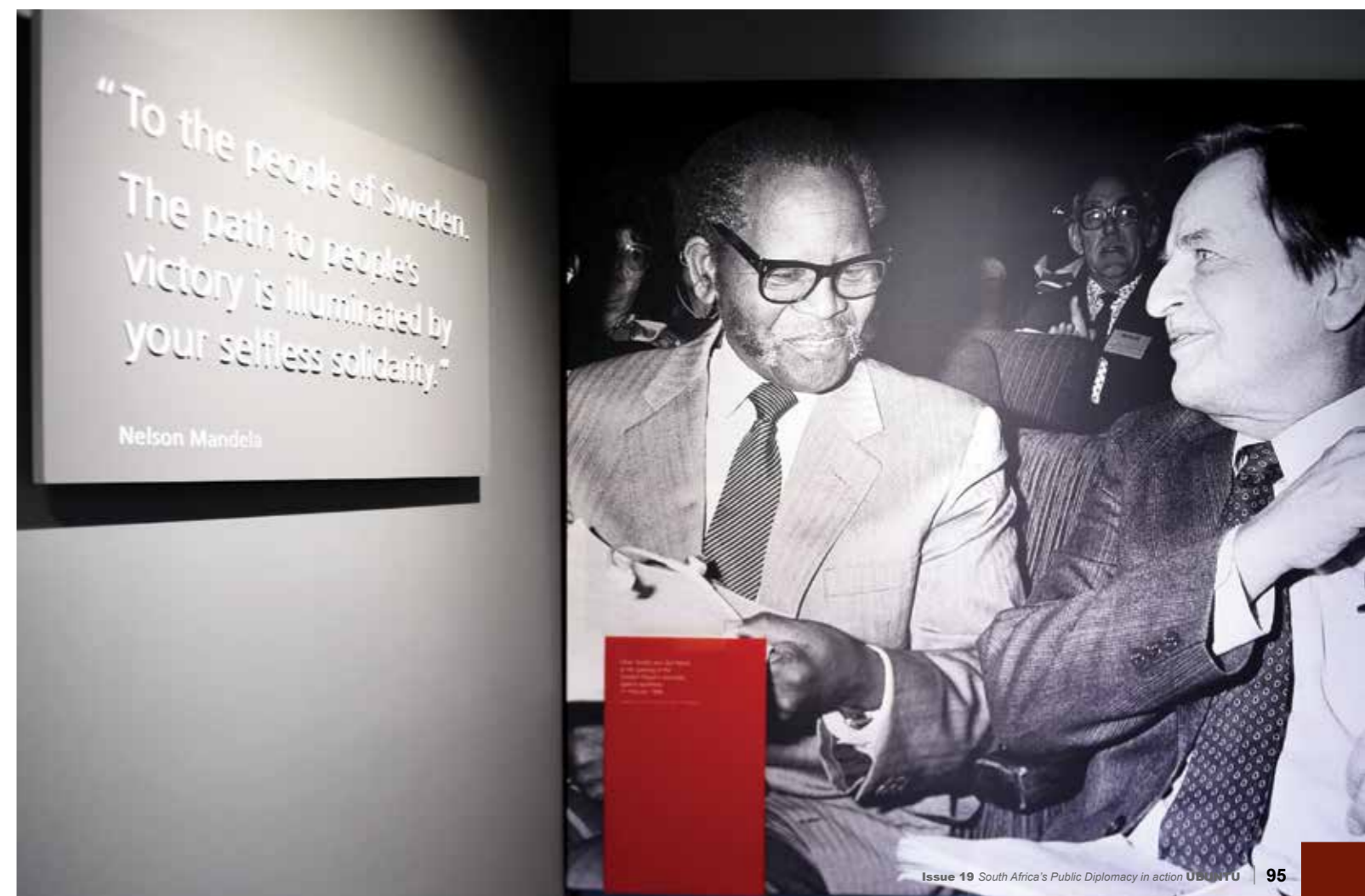
Oliver Tambo was an astute politician who undoubtedly grasped the nuances of international opinion, sentiment and concerns, and successfully navigated complicated Cold War politics to build an international coalition and secure backing for the move to armed struggle.

As already highlighted, there was a recognition that the armed struggle alone could not achieve political victory. Consequently, the establishment of a broad base of support found acceptance within the movement and

was formalised at the Morogoro Conference of 1969.

Building international support was adopted as a key feature of ANC policy – the Fourth Pillar of the struggle. This resolution, adopted at the conference, is critical to understanding why international solidarity became a mission critical focus for the ANC. The ability to harness and galvanise the international community and build a solid and cohesive support base was a unique feature of the struggle against apartheid.

While there is general acknowledgment and recognition that international solidarity played





a critical role in bringing down the apartheid state, we are today confronted by the stark reality that the notion of solidarity, of building a common bond to counter the erosion of human rights and dignities, has all but disappeared from the political lexicon and in many quarters, holds little or no meaning or significance.

Thus, in keeping with Liliesleaf's commitment to preserve and keep the beacon of international solidarity alive, we have developed a number of permanent exhibitions depicting the support provided by individual countries, and which highlight the significant role played by the international community in overthrowing apartheid.

The aim of these permanent exhibitions is to highlight and articulate what international

solidarity was, and how it was articulated and expressed. The voices that so eloquently speak of the bonds of friendship convey and express what solidarity meant. It was much more than just unified political beliefs, ideals, purpose and opposition to a repugnant ideology. Solidarity transcended politics and went into the realm of friendship, which was most vividly exemplified by the relationship between ANC President OR Tambo and Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Gandhi remarked that humanity was an ocean, that we collectively shared the same sea and all that was contained within it. However, today the geopolitical order is characterised not by the bonds that define and shape solidarity, but by an inward looking, protectionist view defined by "I" and not "us".

As Olof Palme remarked: "There exists no *they* and we, only *us*. Solidarity is and has to be indivisible". This notion has unfortunately faded from realpolitik. The political discourse today is about a return to preserving own borders and keeping the "other" out.

The world is in disarray. Climate change is threatening the most vulnerable and the future of our youth; social inequality is on the rise (again); intolerance is fracturing what threads of solidarity exist; and right-wing movements and leaders are shaping and defining the political agenda and, in the process, sowing the seeds of fracture.

The reality is that our response to global conflicts, challenges and problems is no longer being shaped and defined by a common focus

and purpose, but, unfortunately, by self-interest and self-preservation.

The shift in sentiment away from "us" has seen a rise in global strife, which has manifested in various forms, and an inherent unwillingness to collectively address and solve the growing conflicts which have come to shape global relations.

Highlighting the crucial role played by the international community in breaking the shackles of colonialism and the evil political edifice of apartheid forms part of Liliesleaf's programme of memory against forgetting. Thus, through our focus on international solidarity, we hope to rekindle the flames and bonds of international solidarity, which Liliesleaf feels is an essential imperative if we are to meaningfully address the current-day geopolitical conflicts that have become far too common a feature of our global landscape.

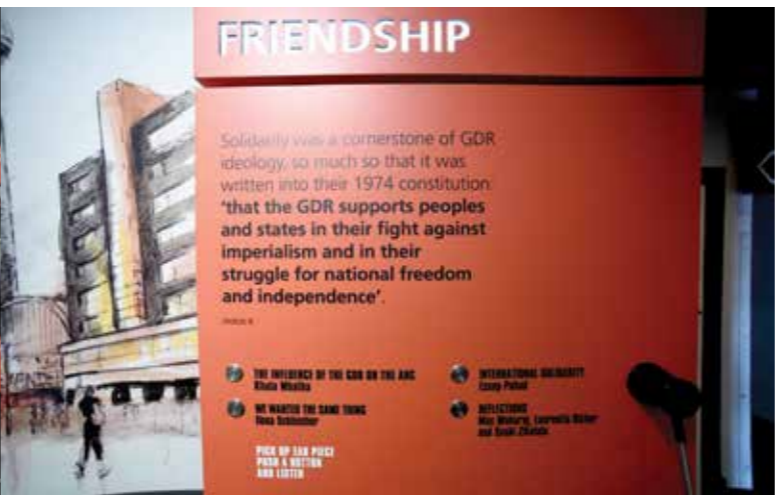
Thus, the permanent exhibitions at Liliesleaf, as well as our mobile exhibitions, depict the long tradition of commitment and dedication to solidarity shown by such countries as Sweden, Norway and the former German Democratic Republic. We hope these exhibitions will play some part in reigniting the flames of solidarity.

As Rudi Muhammad, in a report to the United Nations Human Rights Council, stated in 2010:

"International solidarity is a precondition to human dignity, the basis of all human rights and a human-centred approach to development and has a bridge-building function across all divides and distinctions.

"It encompasses the values of social justice and equity; goodwill among peoples and nations, and integrity of the international community; sovereignty and sovereign equality of all states, and friendly relations among them."

Oliver Tambo was an astute politician who undoubtedly grasped the nuances of international opinion, sentiment and concerns, and successfully navigated complicated Cold War politics to build an international coalition and secure backing for the move to armed struggle.



Flying the flag

Dominant Boks win Rugby Championship



Handre Pollard scored 31 points as the Springboks thrashed Argentina 46-13 in Salta on Saturday, 10 August 2019, to win the Rugby Championship for the first time.

The Springboks last won a competition in 2009 when they finished first in the Tri Nations, the forerunner of the Rugby Championship.

Flyhalf Pollard notched two tries and kicked three conversions and five penalties in a

bonus-point victory for South Africa, who led 24-13 at half-time.

South Africa finished with 12 points in a competition reduced to one round from the traditional two because of the World Cup in Japan from 2 September to 20 November 2019.

Australia, who stunned world champions New Zealand 47-26 earlier on the day, came

second with eight points followed by the All Blacks with six and the Pumas with two.

Argentina collapsed in the second half after holding their own during the opening 40 minutes until a Pollard try gave South Africa an 11-point lead at the break.

www.news24.com

Top South African AIDS scientist Salim Abdool Karim becomes Fellow of prestigious Royal Society



Top South African epidemiologist, Professor Salim S Abdool Karim, has officially become a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society, the world's oldest science academy, over three decades after he first

made it his goal as a student while studying at the London School of Economics.

Professor Karim joins the ranks of the most "eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth" – according to the society's website – a group that has included people like Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

Each Fellow is elected for life through a peer review process.

The Centre for the AIDS Research Programme of SA (Caprisa) – of which Professor Karim is Director – explained that to qualify for Royal Society Fellowship, an individual must have made a "substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge, including mathematics, engineering science and medical science". Prof. Karim has achieved this excellence.

The Royal Society said that Prof. Karim "has made seminal contributions to HIV prevention and treatment globally. His clinical research showed that antiretrovirals prevent sexually transmitted HIV infection and genital herpes in women. He is an inventor

of patents used in HIV vaccine candidates and antibody-based passive immunisation strategies. His TB-HIV treatment studies have shaped international guidelines on the clinical management of co-infected patients."

According to the Royal Society, there are about 1 600 Fellows and Foreign Members, including approximately 80 Nobel Laureates.

Each year, up to 52 Fellows and up to 10 Foreign Members are elected from a group of around 700 candidates who are proposed by the existing Fellowship, says the society.

The Royal Society was established in 1660, according to Caprisa.

Professor Karim has won multiple awards, including The World Academy of Sciences' Prize in Medical Science and the African Union's Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award (the continent's most prestigious scientific award). Together with his wife, he has won a Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service from the Institute for Human Virology in America, and both inspiring researchers are featured in the Academy of Science SA's book, *Legends of South African Science*.

www.sapeople.com

Banyana Banyana crowned Cosafa Cup champions



Banyana Banyana won the Cosafa Cup, downing Zambia 1-0 in the final played at Wolfson Stadium in Port Elizabeth on Saturday, 10 August 2019.

South Africa scored their winning goal through Tisetso Makhubela in the 22nd minute, her second of the tournament.

Despite Zambia's best efforts to find an equaliser, Desiree Ellis' charges held on for victory.

The win sees Banyana to a hat-trick of Cosafa Cup wins.

www.news24.com

Giniel de Villiers wins 2019 Moroccan Rally

South Africa's Giniel de Villiers won the 2019 Rallye du Maroc in a Toyota vehicle, in what was crucial preparation for the 2020 Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia.

The 47-year-old South African ensured that he goes into the world's toughest off-road race in January on a big high with a comprehensive victory margin of 17 minutes and 42 seconds

over Spaniard Carlos Sainz who was last year's winner.

De Villiers, the 2009 Dakar Rally champion, said after the victory: "A big thank you to the team for their hard work this week and also to Alex Haro for the navigation! This was one tough rally!"

The Moroccan rally-raid race was over five desert stages. www.sapeople.com



Hout Bay pizzeria named the best in Africa



A local Hout Bay pizzeria called Massimo's has been named the "Best Pizzeria in Africa" by 50 Top Pizza – the ultimate in pizza awards.

The awards took place in the very birthplace of pizza itself, Naples, Italy. What makes this award so significant is that for the first time since the 50 Top Pizza awards were established three years ago, it recognised an African pizzeria as one of the world's top 50.

The pizzeria has a cosy, authentic feel and caters for carnivores, veggies and children and even has a doggy menu.

Opened in 2009 by owner Massimo Orione, the wood-fired, authentic Italian-style pizzas have high ratings of 4 and 5 out of 5 stars on reviewer websites like TripAdvisor.

But there's even more to this little pizzeria. They invest a lot in their local community.

In 2015, Massimo's started a Pay-it-Forward Campaign. When dining at Massimo's, you can decide to pre-buy a R10 slice of pizza when you settle your bill. That is, if you buy a virtual slice of pizza for someone, Massimo's will "bank" it and for every six slices sold, Massimo's will deliver an entire pizza to a local charity or institution.

Traveller24

Actress Thembi Mtshali-Jones receives Living Legends Award at US Festival



Veteran actress Thembi Mtshali-Jones was honoured with the Living Legend Award at the National Black Theatre Festival in North Carolina.

Taking to Twitter, President Cyril Ramaphos, congratulated the "legend and veteran". The President explained that the *Imbewu* actress was "being recognised for her extraordinary talent & lifelong contribution to the arts".

The actress made sure to share moments of her trip in the United States on social media,

which included meeting actors such as Keith David, Lamman Rucker and Andre De Shields.

Thembi also shared an image of herself with her award and caption, reminding followers to remain strong.

"When I look back on my life, I see pain, mistakes and heartache. When I look in the mirror, I see strength, learned lessons and pride in myself," wrote the actress.

www.sabreakingnews.co.za

SASCOC congratulates SA Para Athletics Team



The South Africa Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) congratulated the South African team who participated in the 2019 World Para Athletics Junior Championships, held in Nottwil, Switzerland, from 1 to 4 August 2019.

The triumphant athletes made South Africa proud by obtaining 22 medals (seven gold, 10 silver and five bronze) and placing fifth in the world on the medal table. Further, Team South Africa broke four world records and a number of African records.

The President of SASCOC, Gideon Sam, congratulated the team: "Congratulations to the team and to the South African Sports Association for the Physically Disabled on your great achievements at the World Para Athletics Junior Championships."

"You performed exceptionally and all your hard work has paid off. You have raised the national flag high by placing fifth position on the medal table. This boards well for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Well done!", Sam concluded.

Lira becomes first African to get own 60th Anniversary Barbie Doll



South African musician and businesswoman Lerato "Lira" Molapo has become the first African to have an official 60th anniversary Barbie doll made in her likeness.

The Lira doll was made as part of the 60th Anniversary Barbie Shero Campaign in an effort to inspire more girls.

Other role models from around the globe include tennis star Naomi Osaka, artist Frida Kahlo as well as National Aeronautics and Space Administration mathematician and physicist Katherine Johnson.

"I am the very first African to be bestowed with this honour and I'm simply thrilled to be honoured in this way", Lira announced on her social media pages. www.ewn.co.za

Cape Town's La Colombe names 12th-best Fine Dining Restaurant in the World



Cape Town's La Colombe has been announced as the 12th Best Fine Dining Restaurant in the World by the acclaimed TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice® Awards 2019.

TripAdvisor® is the world's largest travel platform with nearly 795 million reviews and opinions from travellers worldwide.

La Colombe, with its seasonally-driven, globally inspired modern cuisine, is also the only restaurant in Africa to be selected in the Top 25 in the World, with La Colombe also no. 1 on the dedicated African list.

This announcement came fresh off the heels of the local JHP Gourmet Guide Awards, where La Colombe was awarded the highest accolade of three plates.

This year's awards recognised 584 restaurants globally, including the Top 25 in the World, plus dedicated lists for Asia, Africa, Europe, India, Canada, Mexico, Australia, South America, South Pacific, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Award winners were selected using an algorithm that took into account the quantity and quality of reviews for restaurants around the world, gathered over a 12-month period.

Chef proprietor, Scot Kirton, and executive chef, James Gaag, said: "The unique fact about this recognition, is that it is the 'people's choice' – an unsolicited review by diners from all over the world. Our team is absolutely delighted with this award!" sapeople.com

Sun City wins big at World Travel Awards



Sun International is celebrating another feather in its cap after the Sun City resort in the North West province received two awards at the annual World Travel Awards™ programme.

The resort scooped the awards for Africa's Leading Resort and Africa's Leading Casino Resort for 2019, trumping top destinations from across the African continent in these categories.

The World Travel Awards were established in 1993 to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all key sectors of the travel tourism and hospitality industry.

Today, it's recognised globally as the ultimate hallmark of quality, with winners setting the benchmark to which all others aspire.

Sun City's Marketing Manager, Thapelo Modise, says: "We are honoured that Sun City has claimed awards in two categories in the regional World Travel Awards Programme.

To still be recognised as among the best on the continent after 40 years is a source of tremendous pride."

"These awards show that we are indeed succeeding in creating the types of experiences that live long in the memories and hearts of our guests. It is, after all, the guest experience which is the key differentiator.

"We will continue to focus on ensuring that our guests' experiences are always exceptional."

It has been 40 years since Sun International's legendary Sun City opened its doors, marking the start of a new era in leisure and entertainment for South Africa.

Over time, Sun City has evolved into one of the most all-encompassing entertainment and leisure destinations in the country. www.iol.co.za

South Africa's Vergelegen voted Best Wine Estate in Africa

The World's Best Vineyard 2019 competition, held in London recently, announced that the Vergelegen wine estate in Somerset West, in the Western Cape province of South Africa, was Africa's top winery.

"We are absolutely delighted by this award," said Vergelegen CEO, Don Tooth.

"The Vergelegen team is committed to building South Africa's reputation as a producer of world-class wines and this win is an acknowledgment of that passion.

"Tourism is a vital part of our economy, outperforming many key industries in job creation, so this is not only a proud moment for Vergelegen, but for the South African wine and tourism sectors overall."

In the prestigious World's Best Vineyard 2019 Competition, a voting panel from around the world analysed 1 500 wineries from 17 countries.

Vergelegen was named the best winery in Africa, and number 34 overall. The top estate in the world was named as Zuccardi Valle de Uco in Argentina.

Vergelegen is renowned for its wine, food, exquisite gardens (including its rose garden with 80 different varieties of roses), historic buildings and sustainable biodiversity ... but is sure to attract even more local and international visitors with this latest accolade.

The estate, which is an hour's drive from Cape Town, welcomes about 100 000 visitors annually ... half local, and half foreign tourists.

Thanks to an initiative at the estate, bontebok, one of the rarest species of antelope in the world, are now thriving at Vergelegen where nine newborn bontebok were welcomed earlier this year.

Vergelegen's previous accolades include the International Best of Wine Tourism, Cape Winelands, awarded in 2016 for an unprecedented fifth time. The estate was also the first Biodiversity and Wine Initiative Champion in 2005. www.sapeople.com



Two South African restaurants named on World's Best Restaurants 2019 list



A restaurant in South Africa's Khayelitsha township in Cape Town, 4Roomed The Restaurant, and Le Wine Chambre in Johannesburg have been named as two of the world's best restaurants of 2019.

The list was compiled for the first time ever in a partnership between two prestigious global magazines – *Food & Wine* and *Travel + Leisure*.

It includes 30 restaurants from around the world and was curated by one award-winning writer, Beshia Rodell, who travelled anonymously to 81 restaurants in 24 countries to find the best of the best, based on recommendations from a panel of worldwide experts.

What Rodell loved most about both restaurants selected in South Africa was that they honoured South African taste and delivered an authentic African experience.

Rodell says while some of the wonderful wineries and restaurants in Cape Town can lead you to believe you're in California or France, "Cape Town is not in America or Europe. It's in Africa. 4Roomed The Restaurant makes no secret of that fact – what's celebrated here is the food and culture of Africa, and South Africa in particular."

The restaurant – popular with tourists and locals – is named after the four-roomed house that its chef Abigail Mbalo-Mokoena grew up in.

Rodell says the restaurant's eight-course shareable feast (which includes pap, chicken with fennel, *umngqusho* and more) is fantastic and incredible value at just US\$18.

Le Wine Chambre in Johannesburg also made it to the top Restaurants in the World 2019 list. Rodell says the restaurant exudes magic, excitement, hospitality and delivers great food and wine.

"There are many places where you can explore the exciting world of South African wines, but I'm not sure there is any that deliver as much magic as this place," she says.

Rodell says: "For all the wealth of restaurants and wineries in South Africa, there actually aren't that many places that find a way to match the food of the region with the wines now being produced there. Le Wine Chambre does that and so much more – it provides a place where wine, food, and culture bloom into a specifically South African experience."

www.sapeople.com

SA interior design firm again named one of the world's best

For the sixth time, Cape Town-based interior design firm ARRCC has been named one of the top 100 designers in the world.

This year, it was again selected by the Andrew Martin Interior Design Review in the United Kingdom for the "Oscars of the interior design world".

The Andrew Martin Interior Design Review showcases the top international projects every year. It is now in its 23rd year. ARCC was the only South African firm among the top 100.

The firm specialises in luxury residential interiors, and describes itself as "humble yet brutally honest". Working from Cape Town, its more than 50 designers do interiors across the world, including in Europe, Australia and the United States.

A spokesperson told *Business Insider SA* there was currently "a hunger for African design" in other countries as contemporary African art and fashion are "having a profound effect on global tastes". There is a global



realisation that Africa is not only a source of inspiration for luxury goods but is a creator of them too, according to ARRCC.

"African designers are drawing on the continent's diverse aesthetics and artisanal

traditions to help craft a new, modern luxury that is becoming increasingly more appreciated and sought-after globally." *Business Insider SA*

SA star named Player of 2019 Netball World Cup

Despite the Proteas falling short of a podium finish at the 2019 Netball World Cup in Liverpool, they were given some consolation with the news that their wing defence, Karla Pretorius, was named Player of the Tournament.

Pretorius was honoured during the medal ceremony in front of a packed M&S Bank Arena in Liverpool.

"I feel very honoured to have been named the best player of the World Cup. You are only as good as those around you and the team did so well at this World Cup, and even though we won't return home to South Africa with a medal, I know that we all put our hearts and souls into each and every game in Liverpool and can hold our heads high. This good run obviously was what inspired me to play as well as I did and I am grateful to have been recognised by the tournament and given this very special award," said Pretorius.

The last South African to win the same award was Erin Burger and ironically was the touring roommate of Pretorius who was given player of the 2011 Netball World Cup in Singapore.



"When Erin won the award eight years ago, it really inspired me. I have always believed that we can compete with the best in the world even though we don't play as often as we would like against the top nations. Me

winning this award shows that South Africa has the talent, players and team to go to the top. I am excited about the future of the Proteas," continued Pretorius. www.sport24.co.za

Tigers rescued in Germany begin new life in South Africa

Two big cats rescued from Germany recently arrived in South Africa to start a new life.

Tigers, Bela and Sharuk, were rescued from an inappropriate private facility and have been transferred to Lionsrock Big Cat Sanctuary in Bethlehem, Free State.

Bela and Sharuk were born in 2014, while a third sibling, Imara, did not survive.

Before their transfer to South Africa, Four Paws took the tigers to their Tierart centre in the Rhineland-Palatinate state in western Germany.

"We took intensive care of the two siblings for more than four years. They have always been fixated on each other and spend a lot of time together cuddling on their platform or

playing," said Florian Eiserlo, site manager at Tierart.

But, she said that the tigers needed more space than the 14-ha property could provide.

The decision was made to move them to the 1 250-ha Lionsrock site.

"It became clear to us that these tigers, especially shy Bela, need more space and less interference from humans to make further progress. We are convinced that they will find this in their new home," said Eiserlo.

The tigers were checked by the state vet in Johannesburg and given the all-clear to travel to the Lionsrock sanctuary.

"Although it has been a very long journey, both tigers are doing well considering the



conditions and have already had some species appropriate food," said Hildegard Pirker, head of the animal welfare department at Lionsrock. www.news24.com

Terry Pheto wins Best Actress Award In London

The South African flag continues to fly high with leading lady Terry Pheto.

The star took home the Best Actress Award at the fifth annual British Urban Film Festival Awards, which took place in London in September 2019.

Faces, the movie for which she took home an award, also won Best Feature Film.

In absentia due to her obligations as a jury member for the 92nd Annual Academy Awards (Oscars) for Best Foreign Film, Pheto

said it was a surreal feeling to win the nod. "I'm elated that my talent not only continues to cross borders but is recognised among the best on international platforms."

The actress also thanked the *Faces* team for an amazing experience.

"It's an honour to be part of such an important and celebrated project."

Pheto's latest Best Actress win forms part of her already impressive catalogue of international awards. www.iol.co.za



Brad Binder claims awesome victory in Malaysia



South African motorcycle-racing sensation Brad Binder claimed his fourth victory of the year at the Malaysian Grand Prix.

Binder had already demonstrated that he was one of the fastest riders in free practice and took the lead at the very first corner. The South African set an extremely strong pace, riding quicker than the previous race lap record at Sepang.

In spite of dropping to third place on lap six, the Red Bull KTM Ajo rider did not lose his focus and he soon regained the lead, a position he would defend to the finish line, to secure the 14th Grand Prix victory of his career. The result saw Brad move into second

place in the general standings, with 234 points.

The Red Bull KTM Ajo team concluded the 2019 season at the Valencia GP, which was held at the Ricardo Tormo Circuit from 15 to 17 November 2019.

Binder will become the first South African to race MotoGP in the four-stroke era and the first to compete in the premier class since 2000. www.goodthingsguy.com

Endangered Wildlife Trust wins prestigious international award



The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) recently announced that two of its programmes, the Wildlife and Energy and Wildlife and Transport programmes, were recipients of the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation International Stewardship Award for their innovative and holistic approach to tackling the impacts of linear infrastructures, such as roads and power lines, on wildlife in Africa.

"The EWT has worked tirelessly for over 45 years to save wildlife and habitats, with our

vision being a world in which both humans and wildlife prosper in harmony with nature. From the smallest frog, to the majestic rhino; from sweeping grasslands to arid drylands; from our shorelines to winding rivers: the EWT is working with you, to protect our world."

The International Stewardship Award is presented to agencies or organisations that demonstrate, through the results of their actions, a cooperative effort to maintain or restore ecological function amid transportation above the regulatory requirements.

www.goodthingsguy.co.za

SA gymnast set for historic Olympic Games performance

South African gymnast Caitlin Rooskrantz has qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the recent 2019 Artistic World Championships in Stuttgart.

Rooskrantz will be the first South African woman to qualify for the Games in artistic gymnastics since the end of isolation

Rooskrantz, Naveen Daries and Mammule Rankoe flew the flag at the Olympic qualification competition in Stuttgart.

The Johannesburg-based gymnast scored 49.466 finishing narrowly ahead of Naveen (49.399) who performed cleanly on all apparatus.

Caitlin finished ahead of gymnasts from Sweden, Chile, Israel, Norway, Azerbaijan and Olympic medalist Oksana Chusovitina of Uzbekistan.

Only one gymnast per country is allowed to qualify at these championships, which meant Naveen would get a shot at the 2020

African Championships that will be hosted in Pretoria in April.

Rooskrantz, a Grade-12 learner from Parktown Girls' High in Johannesburg, made history in September by becoming the first South African to win a gold medal at an international gymnastics competition. She finished first in the uneven bars at the FIG Challenge Cup in Szombathely, Hungary.

SA Gymnastics Federation acting president, Donovan Jurgens, commented that the three women's performances were the best South Africa had seen in years.

"It is the first time a South African Artistic Woman has qualified at the World Championships for the Olympics without utilising the African Continental birth," Jurgens said.

"And to have two gymnasts' neck on neck in this race is even more encouraging. Should Naveen qualify at the African Championships,

this will be the first time in South African Gymnastics history that two gymnasts from the same discipline have qualified for an Olympic Games." www.iol.co.za





VISIT
WORK LIVE
PLAY INVEST

CAPE TOWN WELCOMES YOU

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

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

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

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

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

VISIT

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



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

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

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

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

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

LIVE

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

WORK

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

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

Cape Town is home to the only Hollywood style film studio complex in Africa. Coupled with exceptionally skilled film crew and post-production services, our facilities are winning awards and attracting a growing number of productions and stars to our shores. We also act as a gateway to Africa with several companies running their African operations from our city. The City of Cape Town is making sure that our infrastructure investments support key sectors, like the tech industry. An extensive open source fibre optic network has been installed with plans to extend the footprint over the forthcoming years.

PLAY

Cape Town hosts a wide range of local and international events - from concerts and community-based events to business conferences and international sports tournaments. The city is a creative hub with arts, heritage and cultural sites, activities and opportunities for all. We have a lively arts and culture scene where creativity and heritage are explored through theatre, live music, dance, visual arts and more. Both day and night in Cape Town offer you exciting cultural spaces to visit and events to be a part of. Explore galleries and museums, cultural precincts, attend signature events and explore our top cultural venues.

INVEST

Cape Town is South Africa's oldest city, its second-most populous and an important contributor to national employment. It is the legislative capital of South Africa, the administrative and economic centre of the Western Cape, and Africa's third biggest economic hub. The Mother City produces 9.8% of South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for more than 71% of the Western Cape's economic activity (Global Insight, 2016). The City has a diversified economy, and the three biggest sectors are: finance, insurance, property and business services. Cape Town is attracting thinkers, innovators and design led entrepreneurs who are helping to build an ecosystem that is strong in many aspects of the knowledge economy. The city is the leader on the African continent in the information technology sector, with more tech start-ups than anywhere else on the continent.

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

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

www.capetown.gov.za/visit
www.investcapetown.com
www.capetown.travel





Underberg is a charming little farming town at the foothills of the Southern Drakensberg, KwaZulu-Natal. The town is a popular stopover for travellers using the Sani Pass to and from Lesotho and boasts a charismatic blend of dusty roads, mountain streams and sandstone mountains.



NDLOVU YOUTH CHOIR WINS AMERICA'S HEARTS

These young singers and dancers are committed to making their audiences smile, clap, sing and feel the warmth of the Limpopo sun in their hearts.

In September 2019, the proudly South African Ndlovu Youth Choir made their way to the final of *America's Got Talent (AGT) 2019*.

Since its inception in January 2009, the choir has profoundly affected the lives of the choristers and demonstrates the potential of any human being to achieve excellence no matter their background, education or place of birth. From its humble beginnings as an after-school activity, the choir has evolved into a truly outstanding professional ensemble.

The choir forms part of a more significant project which started in 1994. The Ndlovu Care Group was founded by a Dutch doctor named Dr Hugo Templeman, in the rural village of Moutse, Limpopo. The care group provides innovative healthcare, childcare, education and community development. The Ndlovu Youth Choir was subsequently created in 2009.

Choristers who have been part of the music programme at Ndlovu have said that the chance to be part of a world-class extramural developmental programme offers them hope,

not only for enhanced opportunities but as a diversion from the challenges that come from living in disadvantaged communities. The risk of alcohol, drugs, teenage pregnancy and other problems are practically eliminated because choral music requires such a time investment.

The Ndlovu Care Group aims to create a place of comfort and care and strive to nurture values such as self-discipline, self-confidence, tolerance, respect and leadership in the choristers.

The choir performs an impressive assortment of South African music ranging from Afro-Pop classics to traditional South African music and original compositions. These young singers and dancers are committed to making their audiences smile, clap, sing and feel the warmth of the Limpopo sun in their hearts.

The choir is vibrant, exuberant and colourful, and delivers a toe-tapping and energetic South African musical performance irresistibly combined with mesmerising choreography.

The contagious joy that the Ndlovu singers pour into their music cannot be faked. As their youthful smiles light up their faces, they remind one of the very best South Africa has to offer.

In 2018, the choir released its third album, which was produced by multiple Grammy Award-winning producers Rachel Faro and Jimmy Douglas.

In 2018, the Ndlovu Youth Choir performed an isiZulu cover of Ed Sheeran's *Shape of You* during an interview on Jacaranda's *Breakfast Show*. Since then, they have been doing some incredible things.

Most recently, they travelled to America to audition for AGT 2019 and breezed through to the next rounds while filling South Africa and the world with pride.

They have an inspiring message for people across the globe. They hope to inspire every child to follow their dreams. "The sky is the limit. Just because you're born in poverty doesn't mean you are poverty."

These were the powerful words of the Ndlovu Youth Choir choirmaster, Ralf Schmitt, after the Limpopo-based group knocked the socks off the judges at AGT.

Schmitt is renowned as an African choral music specialist. His arrangements and compositions are regularly aired on television and radio and have been performed both locally and abroad. He has a passion for the preservation of traditional South African folk music and has arranged and recorded several traditional South African songs.

He has presented lively interactive workshops on South African music at schools, universities and festivals in Argentina, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada and the United States of America (USA). Schmitt has conducted the National Youth Choir of South Africa on two occasions, and holds the position of artistic director at the Mzansi Youth Choir. Performance highlights include extensive concert tours of Argentina, Canada, USA, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, France and Austria as well as performances at the Zim Riya Choral Festival (Jerusalem, Israel), the New Orleans Jazz Festival (USA) and as the conductor for the opening of Andrea Bocelli's concert in South Africa.

Schmitt started his musical career as a chorister. He was in the Drakensberg Boys Choir, after which he followed his passion and continued to study music and choral conducting under Christian Ashley Botha at the University of Pretoria.

This ebullient and talented young choral conductor also leads the choirs of Roedean Girls School Johannesburg, St Albans Boys Choir, Pretoria, and the Rustenburg High School Choir.

In the semi-final of AGT on 3 September 2019, the Ndlovu Youth Choir garnered international attention for their performances and this time they put their spin on *Higher Love* by Whitney Houston and Kygo's Steve Winwood.

For their final performance on AGT, the Ndlovu Youth Choir gave a tribute to Africa. Closing off the show the choir shined on the stage with their spin on *Africa*, by Toto.

The choir shared a moving post on Twitter about their performance saying:

"Tonight we were proud young ambassadors of a united Africa. Africa has the world's youngest population, and our hope is that our performance reflected the talent, opportunity and potential of millions of young people. One nation, one continent."

Although they weren't placed in the top five, there is no doubt they will keep on inspiring and making South Africa and Africa proud. 🇿🇦

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The *Lazy Makoti's* Guide to the Kitchen

Mogau Seshoene has recently returned from Macao, China, after attending the Gourmand International Awards ceremony for Best Cookbooks of the Year. Her book, *The Lazy Makoti's Guide to the Kitchen*, was nominated in two categories, namely: Best First Book and Best Photography.

Seshoene became a recipient of the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in the category First Book, placing second in the world for 2019. Since its launch in October last year, it is still the number one cookbook in South Africa, and is now in its fifth print run. It is a proudly South African moment that the book has proved to be more popular than both Jamie Oliver and Ottolenghi.

"The entire experience was amazing!" says Seshoene. "More than I could put into words. And Macau is absolutely breathtaking. Meeting industry peers who write so passionately about the food of their own countries inspired me a million times over. I'm so proud of the book we produced – the full cycle, from writing to shooting to launching it, for it to have become a bestseller in South Africa, and now to have this world recognition. I'm truly proud and grateful."

Key indicators set by the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards for what they consider a

world-class cookbook include: the increasing influence of social media and television in expanding the food culture market; the importance of reflecting the wide diversity of world food culture; the significance of trying to save local food culture and the sharing of this knowledge; focussing on quick and easy comfort food; and health and nutrition.

The Lazy Makoti's Guide to the Kitchen combines every one of these factors. In being an advocate of traditional South African heritage

and culture, Seshoene has become an Instagram sensation, with over 100 000 followers. Her no-nonsense recipes, using simple unpretentious ingredients likely to be in everyone's pantry or fridge, are quick and easy to make.

"I wanted to take the intimidating aspect – those Instagram-perfect presentations delivered on TV by sophisticated chefs – out of cooking and create a cookbook for inexperienced people, one that is as visually appealing as it is useful. Turn every *makoti* (daughter-in-law) into a kitchen goddess," says Seshoene.

Her book is user-friendly, from the kitchen basics to clever tips and fresh ideas. She shows beginners how to transform pantry staples or leftovers into simple but delicious meals but also takes them through show-stopper seven-colour Sunday lunches. Her chapter on traditional and township dishes reimagines African favourites, just like gogo would make them.

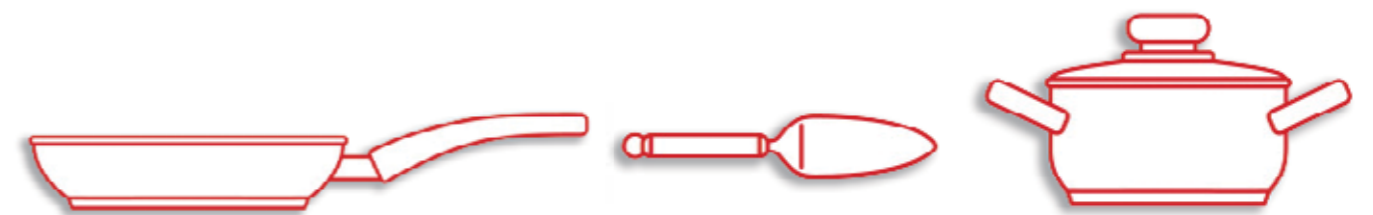
According to chef, food writer and cookery-book author Dorah Sithole: "Mogau ensures that African food gets the respect and global exposure it deserves."

Libby Doyle, the co-founder of Quivertree Publications, says: "Mogau came to us with a strong concept, one that is humorous and true to her



heritage in a way that so many can relate to. She followed that up, as she does, with her own personal campaign that included making a round of the bookshops and shaking managers' hands. Mogau has that star quality, with great charisma and authenticity. She is to be commended for her clever, hard work, which has resulted in such incredible sales and a swift rise in social media. Congratulations, Mogau, we are so proud."

Brand South Africa



This book was written with YOU in mind and, with its compilation of dishes that are favourites in many South African homes, it takes into account a range of occasions you might have to cater for. The recipes use simple ingredients that are probably already in your pantry or fridge, and if not, they're readily available in all our favourite grocery stores.

The straightforward recipes take you through breakfast basics, show-stopper seven-colour Sunday lunches, heart-warming soups and stews, sweet treats and even traditional African favourites, just like gogos used to make them. Oh, and how to whip up amazing meals from leftovers (shhh... don't tell the family)! No more excuses – it's time to step into those domestic goddess slippers.



ROVOS RAIL CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Rovos Rail, often described as the most luxurious train in the world, celebrated three decades in South Africa in April 2019.

Since its first overnight journey with a seven-coach train to what was then the Eastern Transvaal, Rovos Rail has expanded exponentially and now offers eight trips around southern Africa with more trains that can accommodate 72 passengers. Journeys range from 48 hours to 15 days with the newest route, *Trail of Two Oceans*, departing for its maiden voyage in July this year from Dar es Salaam to Lobito in Angola. It was the first time in history that a passenger train travelled the east-to-west copper trail.

"Our new route coincides nicely with our 30th birthday. I'd like to say it was planned but I can't take credit for the serendipitous timing," says Rohan Vos, owner and CEO of Rovos Rail Tours.

Also in the Rovos fleet is the Shongololo Express that was purchased and renovated in 2016. Three journeys are on offer, ranging from 12 to 15 days with the train travelling for over 300 days of the year. "That train just goes and goes with very few issues – mostly I think due

to the relaxed itineraries. It's quite amazing," comments Vos.

Asked if he ever thought Rovos Rail would progress this far, Vos responds: "Not at all. We lost so much money in the early days and we knew nothing about hospitality. In my naivety I believed what we were offering was so unique that tickets would sell easily. Boy, was I mistaken."

With his wife Anthea at his side, Vos travelled the world attending travel shows and calling on leading travel agents and tour operators. "It was both invigorating and exhausting," says Anthea. "We were starting out at the same time as the Vartys from Londolozi and the late Liz McGrath as well as a few others. We all used to lose our voices from punting our offerings so vigorously!"

It took a decade for the company to break-even. "We managed to side-step bankruptcy more than once," says Vos. "I was inexperienced and had no idea just how expensive trains would be to operate."

An auspicious moment arrived in 1993 when Vos formed a relationship with Phillip

Morrell from Jules Verne in the United Kingdom. Together, they plotted a route from Cape Town to Victoria Falls. "We had no money at the time for any advertising but we placed an ad in the *Sunday Telegraph* nonetheless. It was December and I didn't hold much hope." However, much to his surprise, the advertisement worked and the maiden voyage sold out. When Phillip called to share the good news, Vos' words to him were: "Send cash!" The new Victoria Falls journey proved successful.

When Rovos Rail did eventually start making some headway, the company – like many others – was impacted by events such as a volcanic ash cloud, airline strikes, the Ebola outbreak and a crippling global recession.

"It's certainly been a challenging and interesting ride but one has to play to one's strengths and luckily I thrive under pressure and I'm a good crisis manager. I also don't like being told I can't do something," he smiles.

The business now employs 440 staff members at Rovos Rail Station, the impressive private railway station and headquarters in

Pretoria. In 1999, the derelict 60-acre property was rehabilitated and renovated to become the home of everything from the on-site laundry and kitchen to the locomotive and coach maintenance workshops, reservations and the finance department. "We also have our own little museum that pays homage to our 30 years of operation and also South Africa's railway history," says Vos.

A sixth train set is in production with completion aimed for December 2019. This means that the company will be able to have five Rovos Rail trains out at once on any of the eight journeys it offers along with Shongololo Express running on one of its three trips.

What's next for Rovos Rail? "Consolidation," says Vos. "Once we've launched our sixth train we need to focus on maintaining all the coaches, training staff and persevering in our pursuit to be independent," he adds. "Our daughters are also actively involved in the business and I imagine there will be significant change over the next few years as they work with me to propel us forward."

The company also has long-standing, amicable and prosperous relationships with many travel agents and tour operators around the world. "Without them we would not be here, so I feel this is as much their celebration as it is ours," says Vos.

Like many in the hospitality industry, Rovos Rail has had to weather its fair share of turbulence and even though the company has grown substantially, the determined and family-orientated spirit that started the business 30 years ago is still very much at its core. "We have staff members here who have been with us since the beginning and over 100 employees who've been here for over 20 years," says Vos. "It's quite incredible and unheard of these days, so for this I am truly thankful," he smiles. ☺

www.rovos.co.za





FIMA 2019 a reason for African pride

The 2019 edition of FIMA brought together many African designers and more than 2 000 personalities from more than 40 nationalities.

The 12th International Fashion Festival in Africa (FIMA) was held between 4 and 7 July 2019 in Niamey, Niger. This edition was entitled: "Industry and Creativity, A New Dynamic toward African Integration" and organised by Alphadi, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Artist for Peace and President-Founder of the FIMA.

This edition took place in an unprecedented context, as it occurred at the same time as the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. It represented the consecration of more than 20 years of actions


in favour of a recognition and a promotion of African knowledge by Alphadi. Hadja Aissata Issoufou, President of the foundation, "Guri Vie Meilleure", and the First Lady of Niger sponsored the festival, which focussed on a special topic each day.

After the inauguration day, the second day was dedicated to Niger, the third to Africa and the last to the youth. Furthermore, participants could attend many events, including conferences, workshops, selling exhibitions of handmade products and other meetings between cultural figures, tourism professionals, artists and agents of the economic world.

The FIMA seeks to promote the emergence of a fashion and arts industry dedicated to the development of Africa, capitalise on traditional

expertise and make Africa a hub of the fashion, arts and culture industry.

The first edition of the FIMA was organised in 1998 at Tigidit in the desert of Ténéré (north of Niger). Alphadi's idea was to create a festival in order to present and promote, in Africa, African creators' work to representatives of the artistic world and to journalists from all around the world, offering them international visibility. Moreover, Alphadi seeks to materialise his work into sustainable projects in favour of peace and the development of Niger, including the reopening of Agadez Airport, road construction and the electrification of villages.

The 2019 edition of FIMA brought together many African designers and more than 2 000 personalities from more than 40 nationalities. 

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South Africa's most beautiful streets

Traveller24 recently featured its list of the most scenic streets in South Africa, filled with beautiful architecture, stunning trees and colourful haunts.

The best way to experience a city or town is by walking it, immersing yourself in the noise (or lack thereof) for a fully authentic experience. This walking culture has given rise to streets becoming tourist destinations themselves, may it be for the plethora of restaurants and shops, stunning buildings or just general small-town vibe that lets you disappear into your beautiful surroundings.

Traveller24 recently featured its list of the most scenic streets in South Africa, filled with beautiful architecture, stunning trees and colourful haunts.



Church Street, Tulbagh

This small Western Cape town has become a popular dorpie escape among South Africans, and most notably for its Church Street, where you'll find the largest concentration of national monuments in the country.

Wale Street, Cape Town

Wale Street is home to the city's iconic colourful Bo-Kaap houses. But when visiting, always remember these are people's homes and their privacy should be respected.

Herbert Baker Street, Pretoria

When in Pretoria during springtime, everyone's looking for the best Jacaranda spots, but Herbert Baker Street in Groenkloof takes the prize for the most beautiful display, including the rarer white Jacarandas!

Baakens Street, Port Elizabeth

If you're an architecture fan, a stroll through Baakens Street in Port Elizabeth is a must-do. Here you'll find the city's main library and city hall, and it's right in the middle of Route 67, a historical walk that highlights Nelson Mandela's struggle for freedom.





Church Street, Victoria West

This Northern Cape Town makes one feel like you got stuck in time and boasts a classic Dutch Reformed church and the last art deco cinema in the country, the Apollo Theatre.



Main Street, Pilgrim's Rest

This old mining town in Mpumalanga is genuinely stuck in the past, with its original buildings from the heydays of the gold rush turned into a museum complex on its Main Street.

Anton Lembede Street, Durban

While the street is very long and right in the hustle and bustle of Durban, there's a section between Samora Machel and Dorothy Nyembe streets with beautiful buildings that will make you feel like you've been transported to Europe. Highlights include the Albany Hotel, The Playhouse Company theatre, the Old Court House Museum and the Durban City Hall and Harbour Park.



Rissik Street, Haenertsburg

Nestled on the edge of Limpopo's Great Escarpment, this village is the epitome of a quiet escape in nature. The tree-lined Rissik is just the right spot to walk down and is the starting point for wilder hikes into the mountains.

Murray Street, Graaff-Reinet

Located in another famous dorp in South Africa, and the oldest, Murray Street offers the best route through the town, with the original homes of settlers all the way to the Sundays River.



Oak Avenue, Cullinan

This town on the Diamond Route has a picturesque main road filled with heritage buildings, cute coffee shops, galleries and museums to tell you more about the town's mining history. [U](#)

Traveller 24



JOHANNESBURG PRIDE
26.10.2019

JHB PRIDE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH PRIDE OF AFRICA LAUNCH

To “capture the intention, collaboration, and strength of Pride of Africa”, the organisation created a new flag inspired by all 54 African countries.

After 30 years of advocacy, Johannesburg Pride has become the most established and well-attended pride event in South Africa, attracting an ever-growing number of supporters each year.

With the 2019 parade taking place in October, JHB Pride announced the launch of Pride of Africa – an umbrella organisation which will house Johannesburg Pride, as well

as other events aimed at the LGBTQ+ME community.

“Pride of Africa will officially be launched in 2019 as a unified platform and voice for a diverse community. The platform will see the introduction of a lifestyle conference and youth shelter, in addition to supporting events being hosted across Africa,” a press statement explained.

To “capture the intention, collaboration, and strength of Pride of Africa”, the organisation

created a new flag inspired by all 54 African countries.

“A flag that helps to create a positive stance for a continent where the community faces such overwhelming negativity. A flag that says you are accepted, you are welcome, and you are safe where this flag flies,” the statement went on to say.

The 30th Johannesburg Pride Parade and Festival took place on 26 October in Sandton, Johannesburg. 🌈



AFRICA'S TOP POLO PLAYERS TAKE ON THE WORLD AT "AFRICAN ASCOT" IN LONDON

South African polo players took part in the second annual Lux Afrique Polo Day in Richmond, London, on Saturday, 3 August 2019, to celebrate polo – the Sport of Kings – and African culture, alongside Kenyan and Nigerian players.

The second Lux Afrique Polo Day, an event to celebrate African polo players, was held in London and highlighted African dress, music and talent.

“We like to think this is our African Ascot where you can come every year, wear your best outfits with beautiful colours, (and) represent the different countries you’re from,” founder Alexander Amosu told Reuters.

The British-Nigerian entrepreneur opened the match between Africa’s finest vs The Rest of the World, the only African polo event of its kind in Europe.

Held at the prestigious Ham Polo Club, it was a day of glamour and festivities with eminent Africans and polo aficionados, and

prizes for the best-dressed. The dress code was *African Boldness: Polo Chic*.

According to Lux Afrique, polo is a “rapidly growing sport in Africa” and the polo tournament in London provided “a platform for young and emerging African talent to compete on prestigious, British ground”.

Team Africa (Upendo) was narrowly defeated by Team Rudo (The Rest of the World), but it was still a fantastic day with great music provided by Afrobeats and Fela Kuti and an after-party with DJs to dance the night away.

The super-glam day also included a luxury shopping lounge and a supercar parade of iconic vehicles, presenting on the lawns for guests’ enjoyment.



Lux Afrique, a lifestyle and concierge company, said all proceeds would go directly to an African charity. 🌈 www.sapeople.com / <http://luxafriquepolo.com>

