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South Africa's Public Diplomacy in action 



Gender equality
DETERMINATION
Peacebuilders Rights
Women, peace and security
FREEDOM





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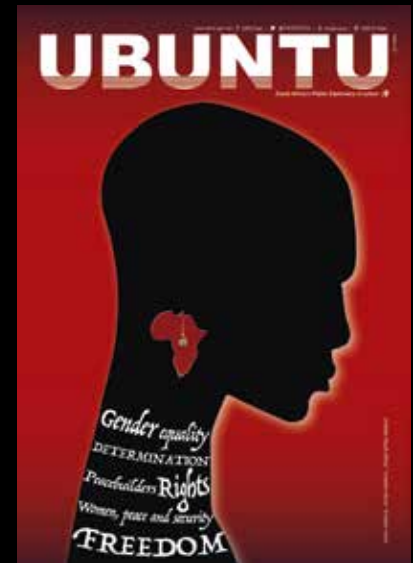
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UBUNTU

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



ON THE COVER

This year marks numerous milestones in the struggles for gender equality. These include the end of the Decade of African Women; the 25th anniversary of the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the fifth anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals; and significantly, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

All these milestones provide an ideal historical background that should further strengthen our determination and give impetus to our efforts to put the gender agenda at the centre of international awareness.



THE AFRICA WE WANT

Our Aspirations for the Africa We Want

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

Agenda 2063 is gaining momentum. It is time for action.
Be part of the transformation!



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LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

This year marks numerous milestones in the struggles for gender equality. These include the end of the Decade of African Women; the 25th anniversary of the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the fifth anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals; and significantly, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

All these milestones provide an ideal historical background that should further strengthen our determination and give impetus to our efforts to put the gender agenda at the centre of international awareness.

The African Union (AU) has declared the year 2020 theme as: "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development". This theme highlights the challenge of peace in Africa and serves as a call to action. It also links Africa's development to sustainable peace, since there can be no development without durable conditions of peace and stability.

It is against this background that the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, in partnership with the Special Envoy at the AU and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, virtually hosted the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum from 27 – 28 August 2020.

This forum is named after a stalwart, a revolutionary and one of the pioneering gender activists of South Africa, Gertrude Shope. This compelling figure, who turned 95 a week before the conference, whose

legendary contribution to the fight against the denial of women's rights has bequeathed to us a rich and illuminating legacy, continues to inspire gender struggles in South Africa more than 66 years after her tenacious struggle to expand the contours of the meaning of freedom.

Our dialogue this year took place under the unusual circumstances of a virtual portal platform because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, which has redefined the normal way of doing business for much of the world. This was also reflected in the theme: "The Role of Women in Silencing the Guns: Building Architectures for Peace during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond".

The theme echoes the confluence of current conditions shaping the experience faced by women all over the world. It is now common knowledge that both on the continent of Africa and the world over, women and children are disproportionately affected by violent conflict both in terms of social violence, civil wars and terrorism. Our intention is to devise ways for women to lead in securing peace and security.

Under the current socially restrictive circumstances of COVID-19, which include safety measures such as stay-at-home and lockdowns, violence against women has notably increased, not least in our own country, South Africa. The increasing violence against women due to the COVID-19 conditions tests our resilience to the limit, and calls for urgent action.

The overlaps between the AU theme and the theme of the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum is of significance in terms

of the WPS programmes. The Gertrude Shope Annual Forum has boldly stressed the role of women in the intersection of these two themes, in addition to inserting the contemporaneous context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects.


Crises have a negative effect on women. Civil conflict, political conflict and natural disasters result in the disruption of communities and women disproportionately bear their brunt at multiple levels. Foregrounding the connections between women and peace through emphasising the active role of women as mediators and peacebuilders is an antidote to the false narrative that depicts women as helpless or passive recipients. As this forum showed, women at all levels of society are very capable of taking the initiative to contribute to an elevated human agenda.

As the outbreak of COVID-19 has reconfigured the conventional modes of social engagement, including the ongoing efforts to correct and improve gender relations as well as put an end to violent conditions faced by women, there is a need to take stock of the impact of the global emergency with the aim of rethinking our traditional approach to the challenge of violence against women to ensure that our efforts are adaptive and thereby fit for purpose.

With this imperative in mind, our focus should engender reflection on three key areas. The first should be to ensure that the continent does not suffer reversal of fortunes on progress made so far on WPS because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under these abnormal conditions, history calls on us to find different ways of doing things better.

The second aim revolves on how we silence the guns in Africa, given the continued violence in different flashpoints across our continent.

Lastly, we should be able to both acknowledge, support and build on the difference women are making in local communities at their own initiative. There are many women peacebuilders on the ground working extremely hard for peace, with or without the presence of the State. The remarkable resilience women are demonstrating in local communities deserves recognition so that we can keep building on it. South Africa is a good example of this resilience of women, especially with regard to peacebuilding.

All of us should persist in advocating for the implementation of the WPS Agenda with the aim of expanding the avenues for women to continue to contribute to a conflict-free Africa. 

The Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum

2020

"The Role of Women in Silencing the Guns: Building Architectures for Peace during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond"



international relations
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the need for closer international cooperation at a time when multilateralism is under strain. Disturbing patterns have emerged in recent years, resulting in some countries taking unilateral decisions, pointing to some worrying disregard of international legal instruments and agreements.

As a country that has had a long and complicated relationship with the UN, South Africa has since 1994 remained steadfast in its defence of the UN institution, at all times calling for adherence to the UN Charter and other supplementary international legal instruments.

The UN has gone through both noble and turbulent moments since its establishment. It has witnessed phenomenal growth in its membership and fewer violent inter-state conflicts and has established several subsidiary institutions that support its work.

South Africa remains an active participant in the UN system, for example in the UN Human Rights Council and the World Health Organisation.

The UN has demonstrated an ability to adapt to new trends while remaining stubbornly rigid in some areas, especially in relation to the demands for the reform of the UN Security Council (SC).

In his address to the recent UN General Assembly, President Cyril Ramaphosa repeated the call made by the African Union (AU) that the UNSC be reformed when he said: "It is only through a reformed and inclusive UN Security Council that we will be able to collectively resolve some of the world's most protracted conflicts."

Some of those "protracted conflicts", said President Ramaphosa, included the occupation of Palestine and Western Sahara. "We repeat our call for an end to the illegal occupation of Western Sahara and for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination", he added.

As an elected member of the UNSC, South Africa has remained steadfast in calling for the implementation of numerous UN decisions relating to Palestine and Western Sahara.

South Africa will also hold the Presidency of the UNSC in December 2020, the last month of its two-year non-permanent membership.

With more than 50 member states, the AU remains one of the UN's largest regional blocs. It would be a travesty if a fair representation of the AU in key decision-making bodies of the UN was to remain an unfulfilled dream in the next 75 years of the existence of the UN.☹

@ClaysonMonyela

This year, the world marks 75 years since the establishment of the United Nations (UN). Like in 1945, when the UN was formed following the devastation caused by the Second World War, the world is again in a crisis – albeit of a different nature.



PEACE IS FAR MORE PREFERABLE TO WAR. I BELIEVE THAT PEACE IS THE ONLY PATH TO TRUE SECURITY. AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE ONLY PATH TO PEACE IS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

Barack Obama

2020

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Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development

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Together confronting a world in crisis



South Africa reaffirms its commitment to the ideals and the spirit of the UN Charter, and to sparing no effort to bring about a more just, peaceful and equitable world.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

Seventy-five years ago, the United Nations (UN) was established to introduce a new world order to achieve peace in the world. It was the dawn of a new era of global cooperation, forged in the aftermath of one of the darkest periods in the history of humankind.

In 1945, the world was in crisis. It was counting the devastation wrought by war, devastation and plunder.

Today, we are in the throes of another crisis – the Coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has cost nearly a million lives. It has deepened human suffering and uprooted communities, destroyed livelihoods and plunged economies into turmoil.

But just as the founders of the UN once stood united for the greater good, so too do we stand together to confront this grave threat.

In this crisis, people across the world have extended the hand of solidarity to people in other nations. From the North to the South, humanity has been galvanised into action.

We have formed international partnerships to ensure there is equitable access to medical



equipment and supplies. Many nations have set up extensive social support systems to protect citizens whose jobs, businesses and livelihoods have been threatened.

Our response to the COVID pandemic has demonstrated the heights that can be attained when we work in the spirit of friendship and solidarity. If we are to build a common and inclusive future in the aftermath of COVID-19, it is this solidarity that must endure.

In the words of Nelson Mandela:

“It is human solidarity, the concern for the other, that must be at the centre of the values by which we all live.”

As the African continent, our response to the Coronavirus has been swift and effective. We have a continental strategy to fight the pandemic being driven by the regional economic communities.

The African Union (AU) has established a COVID-19 Response Fund and launched a groundbreaking African Medical Supplies Platform to ensure all countries have access to the necessary equipment and supplies.

Nonetheless, the pandemic will inevitably set back our developmental aspirations. The resources we have had to redirect to fighting the pandemic has set back our efforts to provide housing, healthcare, water and sanitation and education to our people.

When Secretary-General António Guterres delivered the 18th Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture in July 2020, he called on the nations of the world to forge a New Social Contract and a New Global Deal.

He said we must create equal opportunities for all, that we must advance a more inclusive and balanced multilateral trading system, that debt architecture must be reformed, and that there should be greater access to affordable credit for developing countries.

It is a call we as South Africa wholly endorse.

It is in the spirit of this New Global Deal, that we call on the international community and our international partners to support the roll-out of a comprehensive stimulus package for African countries.

This will enable African countries to not only mitigate the health impacts of COVID-19 but to aid us in the immense task of rebuilding our shattered economies.

To ensure that no country is left behind, we reiterate our position as the AU that economic sanctions against Zimbabwe and Sudan should be lifted to allow their governments to respond adequately to the pandemic.

We also call for the suspension of interest payments on Africa’s external and public debt.

As the AU, we are encouraged by the collaboration of the G20, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the UN towards finding solutions to debt sustainability in developing countries.

This pandemic has highlighted the urgency with which we must strive to meet all the Sustainable Development Goals, but more importantly Goal One – to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. For until we eradicate global poverty, we will always fall short of realising the vision of the founders of the UN.

We must expand economic opportunities to all people around the world, but most especially to the young, women and the vulnerable people in the world.

We must boldly pursue avenues of redistribution and redress as a means of advancing shared prosperity. We must deal decisively with the rot of corruption that is robbing our people of the opportunities and services that are their right.

Together, we must raise our level of ambition to ensure that every man, every woman and every child has an equal chance at a better future.

It is a future free of hunger, disease, insecurity and war. It is a world that affirms the dignity and worth of all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation or social circumstances.

The year 2020 will be remembered for the massive groundswell to push back the frontiers of racism under the umbrella of the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

As a country that has known too well the anguish of institutionalised racism, South Africa supports the demands for swift action against racism, whether committed by individuals, companies, officials or a state.

South Africa calls on the UN to spare no effort to end prejudice and intolerance in all its forms and wherever it may be found.

In the words of Dr Martin Luther King Jnr: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

As we mark the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, we must intensify our efforts to empower women and girls.

It is the right of women and girls to be full and equal participants in the workplace, in political life and decision-making, in the economy, in obtaining an education and in society as a whole.

South Africa is proud to be a member of the UN’s Generation Equality Campaign and has prioritised the eradication of gender-based violence and femicide.

At a continental level, we are working to finalise and adopt an AU Convention on Violence against Women during the course of this year.

AU member states are engaging on measures to promote financial inclusion, preferential procurement and preferential trade agreements for women. ►►

When history faithfully records the global response to the worst health emergency of this century, let it be said that we stood and acted as one, that we provided leadership, and that we gave the peoples of all nations hope and courage.

As African countries, we continue with our effort to “silence the guns” once and for all through conflict resolution and peace-building.

Cooperation between the UN Security Council (SC) and the AU Peace and Security Council has contributed to improved peace and security in the Darfur region of Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Mali and the Central African Republic.

It is imperative that this collaboration is institutionalised and that the financing of AU peacekeeping operations is addressed and resolved.

South Africa is currently serving its second year as an elected non-permanent member of the UNSC.

We have used our tenure to promote international peace and security by advocating for the peaceful settlement of disputes and inclusive dialogue.

The current composition of the UNSC does not reflect the world in which we live. On the 75th anniversary of the UN, we repeat our call for greater representation of African countries on the Security Council, and that this be taken up with urgency at the intergovernmental negotiations.

It is only through a reformed and inclusive UNSC that we will be able to collectively resolve some of the world’s most protracted conflicts.

As we celebrate the founding of an organisation dedicated to freedom and equality, the people of Palestine and Western Sahara continue to live under occupation. We repeat our call for an end to the illegal occupation of Western Sahara and for the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination.

We further call for the lifting of the economic embargo and blockade of Cuba.

Climate change

We have no choice but to work together to address the climate change crisis. As we rebuild in the aftermath of this pandemic, we have an opportunity to place the global economy on a low-carbon, climate-resilient developmental path.

We must advance the principles of the green and circular economies, not just for the sake of environmental sustainability but because of the opportunities for job creation and economic growth.

The global recovery effort must place climate change adaptation, mitigation and support at its centre – in line with the Paris Agreement and other multilateral environmental commitments.

As the founders of the UN stood at a crossroads in 1945, so do we 75 years later. They answered history’s call to craft a new order for a world in crisis.

Today, we battle the fires of a deadly pandemic, of racism and prejudice, of violence, war and extremism and, above all, of poverty and inequality. The order we seek to build must be rooted in solidarity, equality and unity of purpose.

The Coronavirus pandemic has presented us with a choice. It is a choice between the global cooperation envisaged in the UN Charter or the pursuit of narrow self-interest and unilateralism.

It is a choice between tolerance or prejudice. It is also a choice between economic justice or growing inequality. The path we choose now will determine our collective destiny.

Though we face the most daunting of prospects, we have at our disposal the most potent force. It is the solidarity and friendship upon which the UN was founded.

When history faithfully records the global response to the worst health emergency of this century, let it be said that we stood and acted as one, that we provided leadership, and that we gave the peoples of all nations hope and courage.

The best, and most fitting, legacy of this 75th Session will be that through our actions we gave true meaning to the term “United Nations”.

South Africa reaffirms its commitment to the ideals and the spirit of the UN Charter, and to sparing no effort to bring about a more just, peaceful and equitable world.

May our cooperation deepen and may our solidarity endure. Let us make sure that all our efforts leave no woman, no child and no man behind, and that no nation is left behind.¶

On the 75th anniversary of the UN, we repeat our call for greater representation of African countries on the Security Council, and that this be taken up with urgency at the intergovernmental negotiations.





South Africa commemorates the signing of the Charter of the United Nations (UN)

South Africa joined the international community on 26 June 2020 in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the UN.

In a statement, South Africa reaffirmed its commitment to the UN Charter and its support for the primacy of the UN as a system of global governance through which current challenges facing the international community, including in the areas of peace and security, sustainable development and human rights, could be resolved.

In recognising this historical milestone, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, stated: "The United Nations, as a system of global governance, has made an immense contribution in maintaining international peace and security, fostering cooperation among states, promoting development, the adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights. It has also played a pivotal role in educating and informing the global community about challenges the world currently faces. The contribution that the UN has made to the people of South Africa, through its role in the dismantling of the inhumane and oppressive system of apartheid, will always be hailed and appreciated.

The signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco on 26 June 1945 was a seminal moment in the relations between states and invoked a sense of unity for a common cause for humanity. The UN Charter remains the basis for the creation of a rules-based international system with multilateralism at its core.

Today, the world faces new global challenges, which warrant a renewed commitment by the international community to uphold and defend the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles of international law with a view to establishing a peaceful and prosperous world, as well as a just and equitable world order. South Africa remains concerned at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed coercive measures that undermine the UN Charter and international law and threaten cooperation, peace and stability.

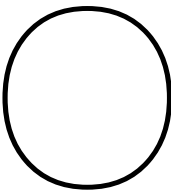
The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN Charter comes at a time when the world is faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic reminds us once more of the vital importance of collective action through the multilateral system with the UN and its agencies at the core.



Reinforcing global solidarity through science diplomacy

South Africa continues to benefit from various international partnerships in the fight against COVID-19, including the BRICS alliance, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa



On 31 July 2020, I had the honour of addressing the Inaugural National COVID-19 Conference on harnessing science, technology and innova-

tion (STI) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was just over six months since the first case of the Coronavirus was reported and the death toll continued to climb across the world. A number of countries, including South Africa,

were experiencing significant surges in new infections. South Africa has stepped up collaboration and solidarity. In the global race for solutions, we are pushing the frontiers of scientific research and health innovation.

This is not limited to product and technology development. It also extends to the development and improvement of policies, systems, services and delivery methods.

The work of the African Union (AU) Commission in response to COVID-19 has been impressive, especially its support for the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

South Africa continues to benefit from various international partnerships in the fight against COVID-19, including the BRICS alliance, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.

In May 2020, South Africa, as Chair of the AU, participated in the European Union Commission's global Coronavirus pledging event.

We made a commitment to co-invest in the development of diagnostics and therapeutics and in the search for a COVID-19 vaccine.

We are finalising a R25-million investment to boost pan-African vaccine manufacturing capabilities through the African Renaissance Fund.

This pandemic has put countries to the test and severely challenged the capabilities of our healthcare systems.

As the international community, we have been unanimous that services, supplies, products and technologies for prevention, treatment and care of COVID-19 must be available to all. No country must be left behind.

Resource constraints pose a very real barrier to the ability of vulnerable countries to effectively manage the pandemic.

And it is here that scientific innovation will play an increasingly prominent role.

STI has proven to be an important tool for generating valuable insights and for the delivery of effective solutions.

A platform such as this one enables scientists, governments, business and civil society to engage in open discussion, to share experiences and best practice, and to chart the way ahead.

We know that every strategy to manage COVID-19 must focus on behavioural change, and that social distancing and proper hygiene are our safest and best bets at this time.

By equal measure, we must continue to work tirelessly to develop technological solutions that meet our most pressing challenge, and that is resource scarcity.

One looks, for instance, at the advances in ventilator development and production in developing countries.

Soon, we will witness the very first ventilators produced by the South African National Ventilator Project coming off the

assembly line at a factory in Cape Town. These locally produced ventilators will complement existing stock in the public and private health system and those purchased from or donated by other countries.

A number of South African innovators have taken up the challenge of addressing the need for COVID-19 solutions – bulk-producing hand sanitisers, developing self-screening assessment tools in local languages and pioneering contact-tracing applications.

This pandemic must be a clarion call for African nations to invest in what is already a vibrant pan-African science and innovation ecosystem.

Investment in research and innovation has enabled South Africa to respond effectively to the pandemic.

We have been able to support the national COVID-19 response in critical areas, including the development and provision of diagnostic tools, ventilators and personal protective equipment, and in epidemiological modelling and data analytics.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, we have been able to harness innovations like telemedicine to protect patients and healthcare workers from exposure.

The introduction of COVID Connect has enabled over six million citizens and healthcare workers to access information on the pandemic through mobile messaging platforms.

South African researchers are working in collaboration with international vaccine developers around a potential COVID-19 vaccine.

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the Department of Science and Innovation have provided R10 million in funding for the first South African COVID-19 vaccine trial.

Our researchers and scientists have the expertise to develop human vaccines, having been involved in the development of several other vaccines.

But it isn't just in the research space that we have demonstrated capability.

We also have important laboratory infrastructure. The National Health Laboratory Service has contracted with a number of universities and government-funded platforms to assist with additional capacity to conduct COVID-19 testing.

We have also developed a pathway for the potential production of COVID-19 vaccines locally.

South Africa is part of a traditional medicine panel set up in partnership with the World Health Organisation to assist in developing protocols for various aspects of traditional medicine usage.

The SAMRC has also brought together a number of government, academic and industry partners to support the development and local production of diagnostic kits and reagents for COVID-19.

Harnessing the potential of STI for vaccine and other manufacturing is not just about security of supply. It is also about boosting local capabilities, supporting local industries and creating jobs.

Strategic partnerships in STI will play an important role in our economic recovery.

As we strive to rebuild and repurpose our economies, we will need to explore opportunities in sectors such as low-carbon energy, the circular and green economies, smart manufacturing and big data.

There is immense potential for kick-starting economic growth in the uptake of innovation and in driving technological solutions for the delivery of services.


It is crucial that we maintain the momentum of international cooperation and solidarity to ensure inclusivity not just in the provision of life-saving therapeutics for COVID-19 but also in sustainable economic recovery.

STI is key to healthier populations, productivity and progress. It is of the utmost importance that they remain a public good.

As we collectively strive to overcome this pandemic, we must share experience and expertise.

We must pool resources through joint investments, data-sharing and reciprocal access to research infrastructure.

We must reinforce global solidarity through science diplomacy.

The conference provided a valuable platform to advance these efforts and to affirm the absolute necessity of health innovation as a vital resource for the common good. 

Harnessing the potential of STI for vaccine and other manufacturing is not just about security of supply. It is also about boosting local capabilities, supporting local industries and creating jobs.



40th
Anniversary
1980 - 2020

40th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held virtually – a first in history

The 40th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government was held virtually for the first time in the history of SADC. A face-to-face summit will take place in Maputo, Mozambique, in March 2021, if the COVID-19 pandemic situation is contained.

The 40th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was held virtually on 17 August 2020.

The summit elected Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, as Chairperson of SADC and Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, as Incoming Chairperson of SADC.

The summit also elected Dr Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, as Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, as Incoming Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The leaders received a report on SADC integration from the Outgoing Chairperson of SADC, President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, and on the implementation of the theme of the 39th Summit of Heads of State and Government, and commended

the Outgoing Chairperson of SADC for his principled and exemplary leadership during his tenure, notwithstanding the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

They also congratulated the people and the governments of the republics of Mozambique, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia and Malawi for conducting successful elections, and congratulated Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, Hage Geingob, Pravin Jugnauth and Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera for winning the elections. The summit also congratulated Moeketsi Majoro for his appointment as the new Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The summit received a report on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on SADC economies, noted its effects across sectors and approved the proposed measures that are to address the sectoral effects.

It endorsed an enhanced Macro-Economic Convergence Surveillance Mechanism that includes high-frequency data to complement, but not replace, the existing Macro-Economic Convergence Mechanism.

The summit approved the SADC Vision 2050, which was based on a firm foundation of peace, security and democratic governance, and premised on three interrelated pillars, namely:

- Industrial Development and Market Integration
- Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration
- Social and Human Capital Development.

The three pillars also recognise gender, youth, environment and climate change, and disaster risk management as important cross-cutting components. The summit also approved the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020 – 2030 to operationalise Vision 2050.

The leaders endorsed the theme of the 40th Summit of Heads of State and Government, “SADC 40 Years Building Peace and Security, and Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges”.

It also approved the Mechanism in Honour of the Founders of SADC and urged member states to operationalise the mechanism.

The leaders endorsed a Five-Year Sustainable Self-Financing Plan for SADC

electoral observation missions covering the years 2021 to 2025.

They re-emphasised the need to fully implement the SADC Protocol on Gender, and put in place concrete measures to improve the representation of women and youth in elected political positions.

The summit received a report of the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, and commended him for his outstanding leadership during his tenure.

It also received an Assessment Report on Emerging Security Threats in the Region, commended the Secretariat for the detailed report, and directed the Secretariat to prepare an action plan for its implementation, which will, among others, prioritise measures to combat terrorism, violent attacks and cybercrime; and to address the adverse effects of climate change.

The summit welcomed the decision by the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to bring to the attention of SADC the violent attacks situation in the country, and commended the country for its continued efforts towards combatting terrorism and violent attacks. It expressed SADC solidarity and commitment to support Mozambique in addressing the terrorism and violent attacks,

and condemned all acts of terrorism and armed attacks.

The SADC leaders urged member states to take proactive measures to mitigate external interference, the impact of fake news and the abuse of social media, especially in electoral processes.

The summit reiterated SADC's position on the reconfiguration of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General, which, among others, emphasises that the FIB should not be tampered with. It also expressed its gratitude to the FIB troop-contributing countries for the continued support to peace and security in the eastern DRC, and reiterated SADC's continued support to the DRC.

The leaders received a progress report on the political and security situation in the Kingdom of Lesotho by the SADC Facilitator to the Kingdom of Lesotho, President Ramaphosa, and commended the Government and people of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the smooth and peaceful transition of power. They welcomed the commitment of the new Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to ensure the full and comprehensive implementation of the reforms process, and encouraged the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to keep the momentum in the

implementation of the SADC decisions, and submit a progress report to the next summit in August 2021.

The summit received a report on the DRC-Zambia border issue, and commended the governments of the DRC and the Republic of Zambia for their commitment to resolve the border issue amicably.

The summit approved an Agreement amending the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

It also approved an Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the SADC Regarding the Status of the SADC Standby Force and its Components Deployed within the Region for Purposes of Training, Peace Support Operations, Exercises and Humanitarian Assistance.

The SADC leaders approved the development of a new Protocol on Employment and Labour, and to this effect, approved the withdrawal of the existing Protocol on Employment and Labour.

The 40th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government was held virtually for the first time in the history of SADC. A face-to-face summit will take place in Maputo, Mozambique, in March 2021, if the COVID-19 pandemic situation is contained.☺



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COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE CHANGE

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As we start a new decade, the imperative to align on common issues like poverty, inequality, inclusion and the environment is more urgent than ever. With just a decade

to go to the deadline for achieving both the Sustainable Development Goals and South Africa’s National Development Plan, greater collaboration between stakeholders to achieve actual outcomes that result in real change is critical.

“At Old Mutual, we’re figuring out how to scale-up the work we are already doing with a wide range of stakeholders, so that it creates



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growth for our business, while at the same time helping to solve the socio-economic challenges we face as a continent,” says Iain Williamson, Interim CEO.

Old Mutual strengthened its focus on Africa during mid-2018, a move that signalled a renewed confidence in the growth opportunities the continent holds. To unlock its full potential, the business is committed to working more closely with key stakeholders to better deliver shared value and growth.

The Group has already committed US \$ 8,3 billion towards creating inclusive and sustainable economies on behalf of its clients and is working with its stakeholders across the continent to achieve SMART objectives. Partnerships that are enhancing the lives of not only its customers, but also the communities across the 14 countries in which it operates, include:

US \$ 92,3 million committed to providing access to quality education in conjunction with National, Provincial and Local Departments of Education. The Group’s Education Flagship Project in South Africa, for example, forged strong partnerships with local education authorities across four provinces over seven years to improve maths and science skills among matric learners. It also ran an extensive school leadership programme for teachers and principals which has further helped to improve performance in these pilot schools.

US \$ 845 million committed to affordable housing projects across Africa, in conjunction with a range of partners, including government. A core aspect of this approach is gap housing, which seeks to address the

challenge of those considered “too rich” to receive free-government subsidised houses, yet “too poor” to fall within the normal mortgage lending stream with financial institutions.

US \$ 2,4 billion has been committed to clean energy projects across Africa, enough to sustainably power more than 800 000 homes.

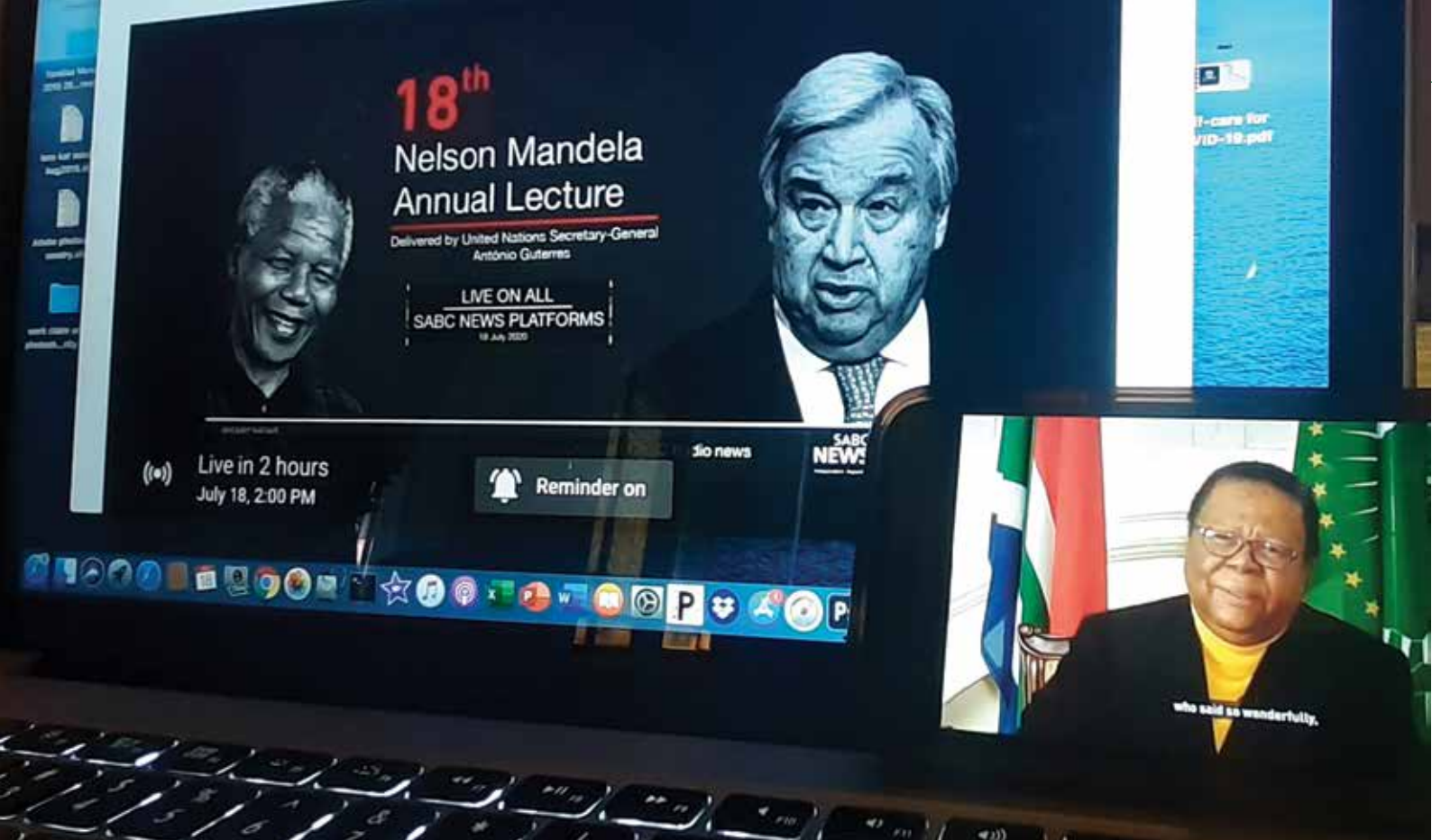
US \$ 35 million committed to enterprise and supplier development projects that support small, medium, youth, women and black-owned business. Working in conjunction with key stakeholders in both government and business, the core focus is to create access to funding, markets, as well as the technical support necessary for these businesses to succeed.

Despite persistent challenges, alignment between stakeholders around common goals makes it significantly easier to achieve progress.

“We are as invested in driving change as all our partners are. We’re thinking about tomorrow by acting today and our stakeholders play an integral part in this journey. We are inspired by the African proverb that says: If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together,” concludes Iain.

Over the next decade, the Old Mutual Group will be demonstrating its strengthened resolve to activate actual outcomes to ensure our commitments bear fruit. Working with stakeholders to achieve this remains a priority!

More at www.oldmutual.com



Let's work together to create a just global order that radiates the values of Nelson Mandela

It is indeed in the hands of the international community to make a difference by building meaningful and lasting partnerships for a developmental agenda that will enable the world to stand as one against global pandemics, poverty, inequality and injustice.

By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused mass destruction of an already brittle global socio-economic landscape. In re-imagining President Nelson Mandela, we should be re-emboldened to create a new vision, based on a moral and ethical foundation of our current international system.

This year, we observed Nelson Mandela International Day under the theme: "A New Social Contract between Nations: Reducing Inequality at a Global Level".

This calls for a re-evaluation of the current global structures that the COVID-19 global pandemic has torn apart in many instances.

COVID-19 is creating untold economic, social and psychological destruction in its wake.

Its sheer scale of rack and ruin is all too overwhelming for any one country to manage on its own. It is in this spirit that we decided to initiate global dialogue around building a new social contract between nations in order to reduce inequality.

As this pandemic continues to wreak havoc across the world, it has begun to transform global consciousness by forcing large sections of the international community to rethink traditional approaches to fighting poverty, global inequality and underdevelopment. Its debilitating effects are drawing the world's attention, much more closely, to the vision of

President Mandela that "we can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your and our hands to make a difference".

It is indeed in the hands of the international community to make a difference by building meaningful and lasting partnerships for a developmental agenda that will enable the world to stand as one against global pandemics, poverty, inequality and injustice.

We believe that the outbreak of this pandemic has forced on to the global agenda the imperative of re-imagining a new social contract between nations to reduce inequality and poverty at a global level.

Failure or inadequacy to withstand the effects of this pandemic by countries in

both the Global North and the Global South underscores the reality of global and national inequality as well as the need to re-evaluate current global social, economic and health structures, which have been rendered very weak by the unrelenting waves of the pandemic. In the spirit of President Mandela, partnerships within a multilateral framework are our best foot forward.

While both the developed and the developing worlds have suffered COVID-19's dreadful effects, the developing world has unequally borne the brunt due to its fragile economies, weak institutions and in particular, inadequate public health systems.

With the pandemic's destruction of this already brittle global socio-economic landscape, this moment of re-imagining President Mandela should re-embolden us to create a new vision, based on a moral and ethical foundation of our current international system.

As we celebrate the legacy of President Mandela, the world needs to take seriously the core principles which define his vision. He would expect that we look to a human vision, one that revolves around the good of all as we determine responses to the pandemic.

President Mandela's legacy echoes these noble visions, which he so distinctly embodied. As part of this embodiment of Mandela's core legacy are principles such as equality for all, both within and between nations, upholding social justice, promotion of social equity and the utilisation of solidarity as a momentum intended to eliminate communicable diseases and poverty. All of these as pre-conditions for a sustainable world conducive to human dignity.

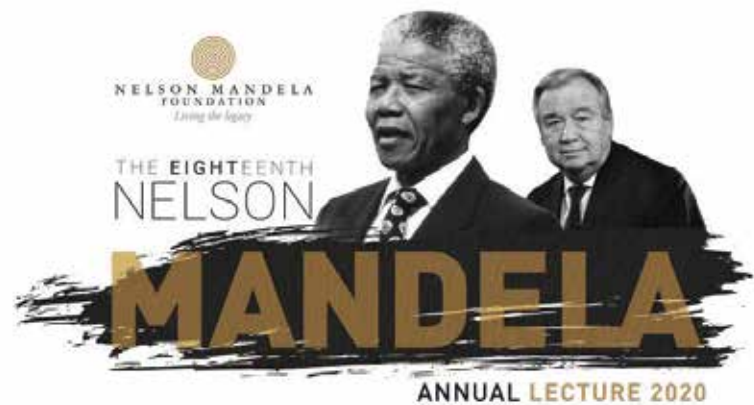
COVID-19 has shown us that while its impact is indiscriminate, resilience to withstand and mitigate its dire consequences hinges on developed public health systems, robust economic institutions as well as the state of social development which empowers citizens.

Happily, we have seen humane responses to emerging needs. We wish to see more. Those who have the means must share with the less privileged.

Everyone has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better. In Madiba's words:

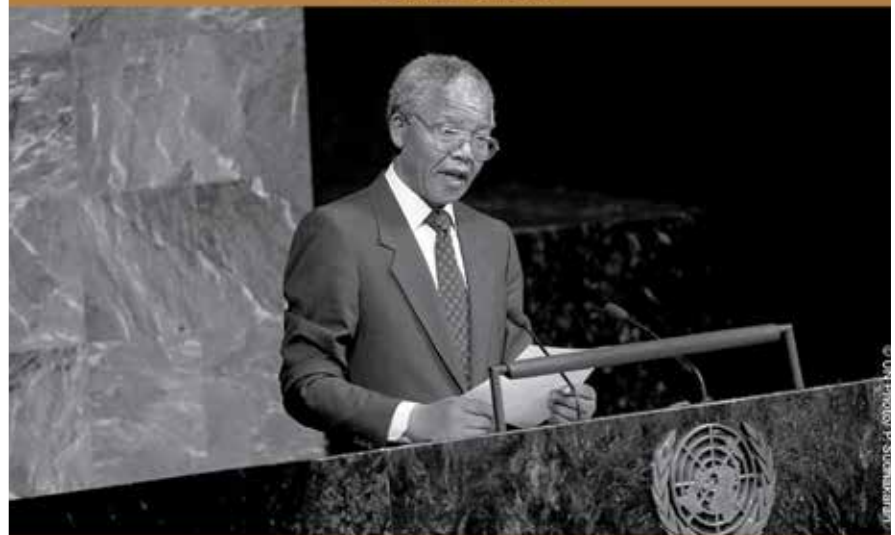
"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

We should work towards the elimination of both national and global inequality, for the creation of a just global order as well as a humane world whose values Nelson Mandela radiated during his lifetime.🇿🇦



"Peace is not just the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish."

— Nelson Mandela





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Saluting strong women: A profile of Minister Naledi Pandor

“I hope we as South Africa will continue to give support to the AU. I believe it is the institution that will help Africa to advance its development goals.”

Stern, strong women, with an aversion to any form of childhood nonsense, have raised many good men and women, often in times of great difficulties, with the hope that their children will make a difference in an ever-evolving world.

“Our parents played a very important role, especially our mother. Our father was very active in politics, in the struggle and so our mother was the one who was at home,” International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Dr Naledi Pandor, recently told SAnews.

While raised by both parents, activists Joe and Fikile Matthews, Minister Pandor specifically remembers the role her mother played, in her obtaining her education despite living in exile.

“I remember that London can be a very cold place, but I remember that even in winter, she would walk us to school to make sure we go into the school gates and go to class,” she recalled.

Her mother, she remembered, was very determined that she got her education in whichever country the family found itself in at the time.

“She was very determined that we would be educated and wherever we landed – be it Botswana, Lesotho [or] Zambia. She insisted that education was the most important thing and of course our dad, when he was there, would support her in that regard,” she said.

Minister Pandor did not disappoint her parents and went on to obtain several qualifications, including a Master’s degree in Education from the University of London.

Befittingly in April 2019, while serving as Minister of Higher Education and Training, Minister Pandor obtained her PhD in Education from the University of Pretoria.

While she has no immediate plans of going back to the lecture room, she is a firm advocate of continuous learning.

“Well I don’t know about studying again. I hope to continue being a student by reading and learning as much as I can.

“But, as to going back in the classroom and having young people wonder why I’m there I’m not too sure. I remember the looks I got when I started the PhD,” she said as she paused for a hearty laugh.

Dr Pandor, who continues to have a keen interest in education and linguistics, believes the future of education and a “lot of life activity” is closely associated with information technology (IT).

She said the use of virtual means of education and communication was going to become increasingly important.

“I think we are going to see many more online courses, some of our universities and colleges were not able to continue offering students teaching programmes because of the inadequacy of their IT capabilities.

“I believe that once we are all freed of this current COVID-19 crisis, you’re going to see much more attention towards online learning.”

With the world continuing to evolve and being more inclusive of women in various fields, South Africa has also been striving to have more women voices heard.



With the country recently celebrating Women's Day under lockdown, government has made advances in achieving gender transformation, which includes legal protection, increased access to basic services such as water, electricity, housing and free healthcare to the poor.

One of the most significant has been the advancement of women representation and gender equality across the State machinery.

Representation of female ministers in Cabinet increased from 11% in April 1994 to 50% following the April 2019 national elections.

However, the notion of the first woman to do this or the other, continues to have a bearing on life today.

This is despite the fact that following the 2019 elections, 46.1% of women held seats in Parliament, up from the 11% seen in the first democratic elections in 1994.

"There has been a great deal of progress made, particularly in democratic South Africa, and we should celebrate that, however, there's still a great deal to be done. The level of inequality that we have, not just in our country but worldwide, means there's a great deal of work to be done to ensure gender equality," she said.

Minister Pandor was the first woman to become Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces in 1999.

"I think that this thing of first woman, first black, almost suggests that you're in that position because of gender or colour and it denies recognition of the talent that those individuals have, the skills and the experience that they've built up over a long time," said the Minister.

She cautioned that while it was good to celebrate the achievements of women, one should be weary of falling into the trap of diminishing women's achievements.

"So, we should be careful when we celebrate that we don't diminish the capabilities of the individuals that are appointed. I think we have talent but we have been denied the opportunity. It is not that we did not have talented people before; it is just that they were not allowed into the room. Now they are, and we are beginning to see what is possible."

She also pointed out that there were still areas of resistance that require attention.

In March 2019, Cabinet adopted a Gender-Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework to ensure the mainstreaming of gender priorities.

In addition to obtaining their education, the Minister has urged young women to forge healthy friendships as part of their toolbox to reaching their dreams.

"Friends are important, the circle you build are important and don't give up on education, it's absolutely the greatest empowerment that you would have," she said.

Families also formed an integral part of one achieving their dreams, she said.

"Being in international relations, I've learned that being in contact with other people helps to stop your prejudices and the perspectives you have of others, which are often uninformed perspectives. So, widen your circle as that stops you from being threatened by the presence of others," said the Minister.

Minister Pandor, who first became a Member of Parliament in democratic South Africa in 1994, has held various ministerial positions.

Asked about which has been her favourite portfolio, Minister Pandor refers to education as the love of her life.

She has, however, also discovered that science and technology is her other love.

"I believe that we as Africa should do much more than we are doing now to invest in science, research and innovation. I believe there's a future for that. Through education, I think that we have so many talented young people and what I loved in [the Department of] Education was meeting that talent and in [the Department of] Science and Technology, I saw how education and science could help to advance a nation," she said.

Dr Pandor, who has served as Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation for over a year now, reflected on her current work, which had allowed her to know the different political and developmental thinking around the world.

"There still continues to be many divides in our world. We haven't yet arrived at a common humane philosophy and I have been somewhat appalled by the level of division between the wealthy nations and the poor nations. I think we need to build a stronger basis of collaboration for development because we can't have so many people left behind," she said.

The Minister has also been pleased to see that the African Union (AU) is beginning to position itself as a significant continental body.

"I hope we as South Africa will continue to give support to the AU. I believe it is the institution that will help Africa to advance its development goals."

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister Pandor has continued to hold virtual meetings with other ministers of international relations around the world during which experiences with the pandemic are shared.▶▶

With the world continuing to evolve and being more inclusive of women in various fields, South Africa has also been striving to have more women voices heard. With the country recently celebrating Women's Day under lockdown, government has made advances in achieving gender transformation, which includes legal protection, increased access to basic services such as water, electricity, housing and free healthcare to the poor.

“So, we are spending over 80% of our day in front of a computer having virtual exchanges. We remain very active internationally but it is virtual so we’ve all learned to utilise ICT to a very good effect.”

With COVID-19 having disrupted daily life and forcing the world to adapt to a new normal, Minister Pandor, like many around the country, has had to adjust to life with the wearing of a cloth facemask when heading out in public.

“Well, you have to be more careful. I don’t like wearing masks but I have to because I have to protect myself and the people around me. I suppose it also makes you much more nervous plus you don’t have much human interaction and I’m a ‘hugger’ by nature,” she smiled.

The new normal has also posed challenges for the field of diplomacy.

“Diplomacy is also about friendships, so we shake hands and we hug. It’s been quite terrible because if you meet colleagues you want to rush forward but then you remember that oops you can’t do that! Instead of that welcoming look, people look horrified [as if to say] don’t touch me!”

The pandemic, she said, had made people more nervous about interacting with others.

COVID-19 lockdown regulations resulted in many South Africans not seeing their loved ones.

“Of course, we didn’t see our children because of no family visits. But, since we were the ones who were putting the restrictions in place, I think we had an important role in ensuring that we observe all the restrictions as a an example to the rest of our community,” said the mother of two sons and two daughters.

With citizens forced to move most of their lives onto digital platforms to get groceries or to conduct meetings with their work colleagues, among others, Minister Pandor admitted to having had to sharpen her technological skills.

“I’ve had to learn how to use virtual means. I constantly forget to unmute as I talk away, and it has been a very good learning experience. I’m a better user of technology because of COVID-19,” she giggled.

We live in a constantly changing world where women struggle with developing self-confidence due to the surrounding environments they may find themselves in, such as abusive relationships, gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide.

As the country commemorates the 64th anniversary of the 1956 women’s protest march to the Union Buildings, government has taken steps to address the upsurge of violence against women and children.

Cabinet has recently approved a collection of laws in response to President Cyril Ramaphosa’s September 2019 commitment to address the scourge of GBV and femicide.

These include the approval for submission to Parliament of the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill, which strengthens application of the Domestic Violence Act.

Among others, the amendments enhance penalties and recognise repeat or serial offenders with regard to sentencing.

While the country wages war against GBV and femicide, Minister Pandor also spoke about the importance of empowering women in the economy.

“One of the lessons we have noted during the COVID-19 pandemic and in particular as a result of the restrictions and

lockdowns that governments put in place, is that women continue to be in vulnerable economic situations. We have to attend to the empowerment, economically of women. We have to ensure that they have access to financial support for their businesses.”

She said women, as the bedrock of society, must be supported in their business ventures so that they could run businesses that earn them and their families’ decent livelihoods.

“We need to empower women to play their full role in society,” she said.

Minister Pandor also paid homage to women health workers who find themselves at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic.

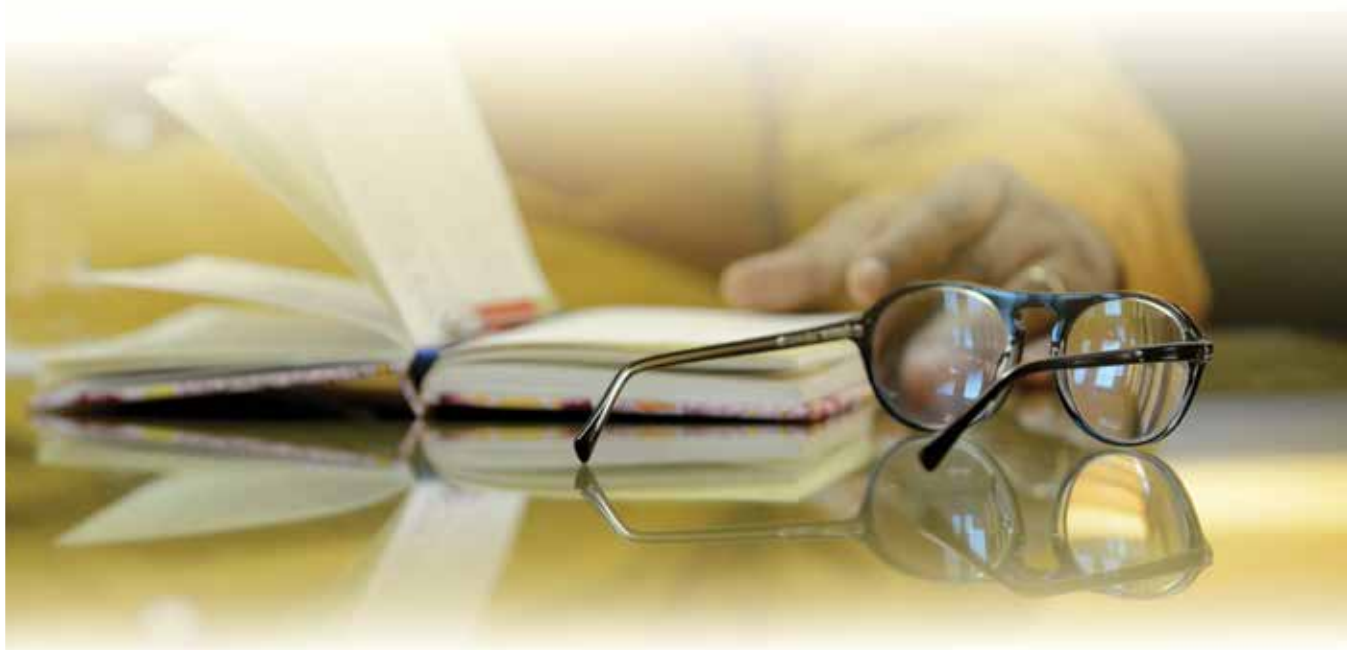
“I must say that it has been women as health workers, and as members of the family who have saved many lives during this crisis and we salute those women, particularly our health workers for the incredible role that they’ve played.”

Asked about what she wishes her younger self knew today, Minister Pandor said she would have taken better care of her health.

“That she should not become fat, that is my one regret in life. I’ve not watched my weight properly. I was a very slim young person and I think I let myself go. Not that I’m prejudiced against people my size, but I don’t think it’s a good thing to allow yourself to become that and it’s my fault, not anybody else’s. I tell my daughters all the time to keep their shape,” she said as she laughed.

In her spare time, the Minister who refers to herself as “just Naledi, the daughter of Joe and Fikile Matthews, a teacher by profession” and as someone who is hard-working and loves to learn and is a patriot, loves reading and listening to music.📖

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Ambassador John Nkadimeng: Champion for a just and humane society

With the passing of Ntate Nkadimeng, yet another light in a glorious generation has been extinguished.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

The former Ambassador to Cuba, John Nkadimeng, passed away on 6 August 2020 at the age of 93.

Over the past few months, we have lost a number of our veterans, most recently Ambassador Ntate Andrew Mlangeni, his fellow Rivonia triallist Denis Goldberg, Mme Martha Mmola, Mme Mirriam Setshego Martin, Ms Zindzi Mandela, Mama Thoko Msimang, George du Plessis and others.

With the passing of Ntate Nkadimeng, yet another light in a glorious generation has been extinguished.

Ntate Nkadimeng was accorded a Special Official Funeral in recognition of the incredible contribution that he made to the freedom of our country.

He suffered for the freedoms that we enjoy today, he sacrificed, he fought, he led, and he was led.

Like so many of the great leaders of our country, he was witness to the poverty and deprivation of rural South Africa.

Growing up in Sekhukhune, he felt with every day the bitter pain of colonial dispossession, of livelihoods so callously destroyed just so that the riches of our soil may be exploited for the benefit of others.

Like so many of the people he would come to lead, Ntate Nkadimeng left his rural home to seek a living in the big city.

He came to Johannesburg, first finding employment as a domestic worker and then as a factory worker.

Apartheid had determined that he should live a life of servitude, toiling each day for the comfort and security of a white master.

Ntate Nkadimeng, however, had different plans.

Yes, he would endure a life of service, but not to any master other than the struggling masses of South Africa, not to any cause other than the cause of freedom and equality.

At a young age, he became a shopsteward and full-time organiser, certain that it was only through effective organisation that the workers of this country could improve the conditions under which they were forced to work and live.

This was a dangerous time to be a trade-union organiser, risking arrest, harassment and even violence. But he would not be deterred.

He was there when the South African Congress of Trade Unions was formed in 1955, and 30 years later, was an influential figure in the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Ntate Nkadameng was an unwavering champion of the unity of workers and the working class in general.

To his dying day, he shared the vision of uniting all trade unions under one federation.

He firmly believed that this would make trade unions stronger and more impactful in improving the lives of working people.

As a young man, he joined the liberation movement because he believed that the struggle for national liberation was essential to the struggle to end class exploitation.

As a volunteer in the Defiance Campaign in 1952 and as a leading organiser of the Congress of the People in 1955, as a member of the Transvaal African National Congress (ANC) Executive and later the ANC National Executive, Ntate Nkadameng was a vital part of the generation that transformed the ANC into a militant, mass movement – and thereby changed the course of our history.

He paid the price for his convictions.

He was arrested on a number of occasions, detained as a suspected saboteur and banned.

He was one of the 156 Congress leaders arrested in pre-dawn raids in December 1956 and tried for high treason. He remained an accused until the end of the trial in 1961, when all remaining defendants were found not guilty.

These brave men and women – through the ordeals they endured, through their defiance, through their courage at one of the darkest moments in our history – endure in our memories and continue to inspire our actions.

Ntate Nkadameng was a human rights activist and worked with the Human Rights Welfare Committee, established to make contact with banished people throughout South Africa and to find those banished after the Sekhukhune trials in the late 1950s.

He did this in a country that did not know or respect human rights.

It was due to his work and the work of many others like him that we are today a country founded on human rights and dignity for all.

His life stood as an example of how we should each conduct ourselves as we seek to build a more just and humane society.

As it has been written, when a good man or woman dies, their light lies upon the paths of others. The example they set and the values they lived by are a guide to those that follow.

Each time one of our veterans passes away, a part of history dies with them. And as much as we mourn them, it is our solemn task to ensure that what they stood for does not die.

The role played by Ntate Nkadameng in the conception of a free and democratic South Africa will never be forgotten. He lived and understood the daily struggles of working people.

He suffered the oppression and exploitation of apartheid capitalism and dedicated his life to ensuring that workers should enjoy the results of their labour.

He believed in the unalienable right to dignity for all South Africans, but especially for those who bore the brunt of economic marginalisation.

It is that commitment and determination that we need today as the workers of this country face perhaps their greatest challenge since the advent of democracy.

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact not just on public health, but on livelihoods.

Many people have lost their jobs and their incomes. Our already fragile economy has been significantly damaged and the task of recovery will be immense.

Drawing on the spirit of Ntate Nkadameng, we must unite as social partners in government, business, labour and civil society to do everything within our means to rebuild our economy.

More than that, we must transform our economy, so that it resembles less of where we were before the pandemic and more of where we want to be.

We must ensure that the world of work, which emerges from this crisis, is one in which

the conditions of workers are dramatically improved in all respects.

John Kgoana Nkadameng became an activist with no expectation of recognition or reward.

He was not a person who liked the limelight. He was humble, despite his considerable stature and standing in his community.

He was not one for accolades, despite being a recipient of the Order of Luthuli in Gold and Isithwalandwe Seaparankoe, which is the highest honour bestowed by the ANC.

To him, such recognition was secondary to his commitment to serving his people.

He endured immense personal hardships, including numerous arrests, banning orders and exile. But the difficult conditions did not discourage him and his comrades.

On the contrary, they only sharpened his resolve.

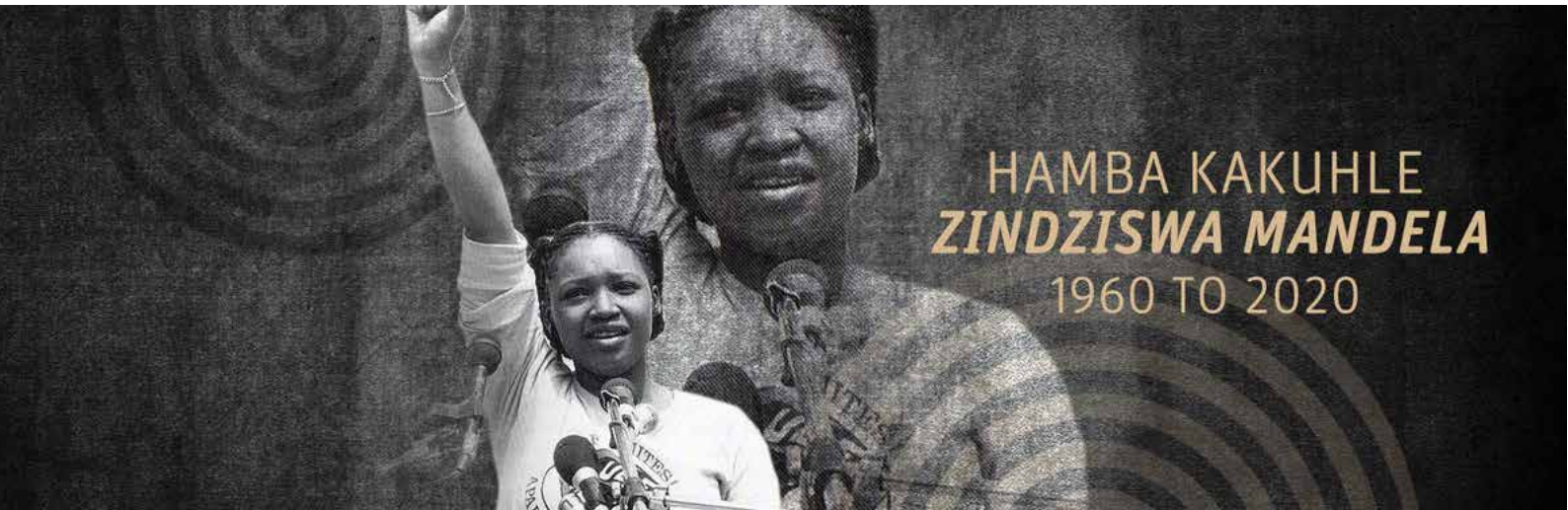
Now, more than ever, we have to stand united in our quest to restore our country to its founding values – values that Ntate Nkadameng lived by. 🇷🇵

Each time one of our veterans passes away, a part of history dies with them. And as much as we mourn them, it is our solemn task to ensure that what they stood for does not die.





The Apartheid Museum, in Johannesburg, Gauteng, opened in 2001 and is acknowledged as the pre-eminent museum in the world dealing with 20th century South Africa, at the heart of which is the apartheid story. The Apartheid Museum, the first of its kind, illustrates the rise and fall of apartheid.



A tribute to Ambassador Zindzi Mandela

Ambassador Mandela knew that South Africa could not afford to be an island of peace and development, surrounded by a sea of instability and underdevelopment. She understood very well that the future of South Africa was intrinsically linked to that of the continent.



By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Zindzi Mandela, who met her untimely demise on 13 July 2020 aged 59, will be remembered for her bravery during the dark days of apartheid rule and for the role she played as a diplomatic representative of a democratic South Africa.

Born on 23 December 1960 to Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Zindzi, as she was fondly known, would be raised in a highly charged environment, characterised by routine harassment by the security forces.

With her father’s arrest and imprisonment in 1962 and her mother’s banishment in 1977, Zindzi and her siblings endured at close range the wrath of the apartheid state, becoming focal points in South Africa’s violent path towards freedom and democracy.

When Madikizela-Mandela was banished to the Free State, she took Zindzi along with her. She was only 18 months when her father was imprisoned. She would often relate how she only knew him from photographs.

Zindzi was aged 15 on the occasion of her first visit to Robben Island, Cape Town, where she saw her father in person. This “first” meeting with a hitherto “mythical” figure was emotional for young Zindzi, who related how apartheid prison wardens kept a close watch.

In a way, the success of the apartheid state at tearing apart the Mandela household was a microcosm of the apartheid grand scheme, part of which was to destroy the social fabric of black families.

Perhaps her most memorable stance, in the eyes of the nation and the world, was on 10 February 1985 when she took to the podium in a packed Jabulani Stadium in Soweto, Johannesburg, to read out a speech by her father in which he rejected the offer by apartheid President PW Botha to release him from jail on certain conditions.

Defiant and unmoved, she said: “The prison authorities attempted to stop this statement being made.” To chants of “amandla (power)”, she denounced the conditions under which the apartheid government was prepared to release Mandela, saying the unconditional

release of political prisoners and the unbanning of anti-apartheid organisations were non-negotiable.

A freedom fighter in her own right, Zindzi served as deputy president of the Soweto Youth Congress and was a member of the Release Mandela Campaign. She was also recruited as an underground operative of uMkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress.

At the time of her demise, Zindzi had just concluded her tour of duty as our Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, based in the capital Copenhagen. South Africa and Denmark enjoy strong bilateral relations dating back to the time of the struggle against apartheid. Denmark is also an important partner with regard to overseas development assistance.

The Danish Anti-Apartheid Movement (DAAM), founded in 1978 by a number of Danish political organisations and trade unions, played a key role in the fight against apartheid. For example, DAAM organised boycotts of South African products, demanded



that the liberation movement be recognised and that Mandela and other political prisoners be released. Upon her arrival in Denmark, she rekindled the fraternal bonds between South Africa and anti-apartheid activists in that country, many of whom are now active in supporting our democratically elected government.

Ambassador Mandela was due to take up her new assignment as our Ambassador to Liberia. She accepted this deployment moved by the understanding that Africa is the centre piece of our country's foreign policy. What we want for our country, we wish to see in the rest of the continent. Ambassador Mandela knew that South Africa could not afford to be an

island of peace and development, surrounded by a sea of instability and underdevelopment. She understood very well that the future of South Africa was intrinsically linked to that of the continent.

Zindzi was a passionate, dedicated and patriotic diplomat who pursued South Africa's national interests with vigour and at every available opportunity.

Much more was still expected from her, as someone who cherished freedom and knew from personal experience exactly what it meant to be unfree. We are saddened by her untimely demise and we once again send our condolences to the Mandela family. 🙏



A freedom fighter in her own right, Zindzi served as deputy president of the Soweto Youth Congress and was a member of the Release Mandela Campaign. She was also recruited as an underground operative of uMkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress.





The elimination of nuclear weapons: All of us must play our part

“Disarmament is not an option for governments to take up or ignore. It is a moral duty owed by them to their own citizens, and to humanity as a whole. We must not await another Hiroshima or Nagasaki before finally mustering the political will to banish these weapons from global arsenals.”

By Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

During 2020, we are commemorating a number of milestones, including the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN), the 50th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the 25th anniversary of its indefinite extension. This year also marks 75 years since the first use of nuclear weapons when we witnessed the catastrophic consequences of these weapons.

The very first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946 called for the elimination of atomic weapons from national armaments. Consequently, we developed the NPT, whose preamble emphasises the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to avert the danger.

South Africa continues to view the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. The treaty represents a historical bargain between the nuclear-weapon states and the non-nuclear-weapon states, in terms of which the former has undertaken to eliminate their nuclear weapons based on the reciprocal undertaking by the latter not to pursue the nuclear weapons option.

However, while non-proliferation measures have been strengthened, similar concrete progress has not yet been realised in the area of nuclear disarmament. We believe that efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons should be matched by a concurrent effort to eliminate all nuclear weapons, in a verifiable and irreversible manner.

We likewise remain seriously concerned about the apparent lack of urgency

and seriousness with which the solemn undertakings, particularly in respect to nuclear disarmament, continue to be approached. Still more concerning are attempts to negate or reinterpret the nuclear disarmament undertakings made since the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

While reductions are important, they do not substitute for concrete, transparent, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament measures. Ongoing modernisation programmes, including in relation to delivery systems, make it clear that some states still wish to indefinitely retain these instruments of destruction, contrary to their legal obligations and political commitments. This undermines the NPT bargain and also the non-proliferation norms established by the treaty.

As we move towards the 2020 NPT Review Conference, it is imperative that we

take stock of the progress made towards the implementation of all treaty provisions and the solemn commitments made in this regard. In South Africa's view, a starting point of the Review Conference needs to be a reaffirmation of the unequivocal undertaking towards nuclear disarmament and the principles emanating from previous review conferences, including that the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability should apply to all nuclear disarmament, nuclear arms reduction and arms control measures. Any future outcome should not roll back or reinterpret the agreements reached during the 1995, 2000 and 2010 review conferences, which remain valid until fully implemented. Concrete progress on these agreements will be essential to the success of the 2020 review cycle. We should not become complacent about the threat posed by nuclear weapons and the lack of full implementation of the disarmament obligations flowing from Article VI. The provisions of the NPT and the outcomes of its review conferences must be respected to maintain the continued vitality of this important legal instrument.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was but one piece of work to lead us towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. The TPNW complements other international instruments by contributing towards fulfilling the nuclear disarmament obligations under the NPT, the objectives of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the various nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, such as the Pelindaba Treaty that already banned nuclear weapons in Africa. The TPNW includes different pathways for states possessing or hosting nuclear weapons to join when they are ready through a time-bound, verifiable and irreversible process of nuclear disarmament. The TPNW does not spell out all the details of such a process, but rather allows for further negotiations on these arrangements to be agreed upon when states possessing or hosting nuclear weapons are ready to accede to it. While the doors into this treaty have always been open, some chose to abdicate leadership and not participate in it. However, it must be noted that the manner in which the TPNW was drafted was sensitive to their needs and anticipated what they would require when they join.

The First Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD-I) considered the significant role that can be played by appropriate international machinery designed to deal with the problems of disarmament. In this regard, we participated in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), which was established as the "single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum" of the international community. It is regrettable that even though

we have a body that is mandated to negotiate multilateral disarmament instruments, it has not discharged its basic mandate for 24 years.

In South Africa's view, there are several items on the CD's agenda that are ready for negotiations, including a fissile material treaty, a treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space as well as other effective measures towards nuclear disarmament. The discussions in and reports of Groups of Governmental Experts on these issues have displayed a positive inclination to negotiations. There is therefore no reason why any or all of these issues cannot be subjected to negotiations in the CD, especially given the complexities of each of these areas, which may take time to resolve. We do not believe that the conclusion of such instruments could in any way jeopardise the national security interests of any state. To the contrary, new norms in these areas can only serve to strengthen international and regional peace and security. In addition, the mere act of negotiation can also help to rebuild trust among states, something that is desperately needed.

While we regret that the CD has not been able to fulfil its mandate for the last 24 years, it is our hope that the efforts on reaching consensus on a Programme of Work and starting negotiations continue. We have no doubt that this will require increased flexibility by all CD members and a willingness to move beyond narrow interests. Though at the same time, we must guard against conferring on the CD a "deliberative mandate" as opposed to a "negotiating mandate", noting that SSOD-I made a clear distinction between the machinery for deliberation and the machinery for negotiation. Reinterpretation of past agreements such as SSOD-I is contributing to the impasse in the CD, due to the inflexibility of members to reflect the mandate in line with the outcome of SSOD-I.

As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said: "Disarmament is not an option for governments to take up or ignore. It is a moral duty owed by them to their own citizens, and to humanity as a whole. We must not await another Hiroshima or Nagasaki before finally mustering the political will to banish these weapons from global arsenals". The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons must spur disarmament efforts and make any use of nuclear weapons unthinkable. The credibility of multilateral bodies and the sanctity of agreements and commitments from multilateral processes have to be respected and protected to preserve the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.

While the primary responsibility for undertaking the necessary steps for the elimination of nuclear weapons lies with the

nuclear-weapon states, all of us must play our part to achieve our common goal. It is therefore incumbent upon all states to engage, without further delay, in an accelerated process of negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.☺

South Africa continues to view the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. The treaty represents a historical bargain between the nuclear-weapon states and the non-nuclear-weapon states, in terms of which the former has undertaken to eliminate their nuclear weapons based on the reciprocal undertaking by the latter not to pursue the nuclear weapons option.



Middle East peace plan must guarantee sovereign equality between Palestine and Israel



We have to ask ourselves, what is the *raison d'être* of the UNSC, if it continues to look the other way, adopt hollow resolutions, ignore current resolutions and fail to act against those that so arrogantly defy the very principles upon which the Security Council has been founded?

By Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa, as a member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), will continue to support all efforts aimed at the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state, existing side-by-side and in peace with Israel, within internationally recognised borders.

Seventy-two-years ago, we spoke of a “catastrophe”, a period in Palestinian history known as the “Al-Naqba”, when more than 700 000 Palestinians were forced to

abandon their homeland and seek refuge in neighbouring countries and abroad as a Jewish state came into being on Palestinian soil.

Today, it would appear Palestinians are facing another imminent “catastrophe”, with Israel seemingly determined to annex parts of the West Bank and Jordan Valley. The threats and pronouncements of annexation are in stark violation of international law, disregard international humanitarian law and UNSC resolutions, including resolutions 446 (1979)

and 2334 (2016) – agreed-upon parameters for peace – and further undermine any prospect of peace between the parties.

For more than half a century, the world has stood by and watched as Palestinian land, olive grove by olive grove, village by village and town by town have been lost. We have witnessed the daily suffering of Palestinians as they are being subjected to the continued construction and expansion of illegal Israeli settlements on their rightful land. We have watched as Palestinians

1947 ▶



have endured systematic discrimination as opposed to settlers who are provided services and allowed civil liberties such as freedom of movement and the issuance of building permits – a right denied to Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Moreover, we have observed as Palestinian land and property were seized and livelihoods snatched away and destroyed, despite being on the right side of the law, as determined by international law and numerous UN General Assembly and UNSC resolutions.

We have borne witness as violence, riots and civil disobedience campaigns have swept across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as Palestinians have engaged in the struggle for their inalienable right to freedom and self-determination. We have looked on as men, women, the elderly and children have been victimised, assaulted and detained.

We have looked on as the humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate in the Gaza Strip with Palestinians continuing to live in unacceptable, precarious circumstances, where their movement has been restricted, where they have been given limited access to water and electricity, and deprived of the basic human rights we take for granted on a daily basis. We have also witnessed the occupying power restricting access to educational and economic opportunities.

Additionally, at a time when the world is facing a global pandemic with the spread of COVID-19, the Palestinians have to contend with a severely overburdened and fragile healthcare system. We have also unfortunately seen the reduction of contributions to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which for decades has been providing basic social and humanitarian services to Palestinians.

It is said that history has a way of repeating itself, yet it would appear that we do not learn from these turbulent and painfully unjust historical events, which continue to shape

our present. South Africa has in its past not been spared these injustices, where one people are assigned a higher value above another. This, unfortunately, runs at the core of the occupation of Palestine. It threatens peace, stability and security, a collective value that is at the very core of the UN, which is commemorating its 75th anniversary this year.

We have to ask ourselves, what is the *raison d'être* of the UNSC, if it continues to look the other way, adopt hollow resolutions, ignore current resolutions and fail to act against those that so arrogantly defy the very principles upon which the Security Council has been founded ?

Israel, the occupying power in Palestine, has consistently illustrated through its actions a disrespect for legality and justice. This is, once again, evident in the UN Secretary-General's 14th quarterly report on the implementation of Resolution 2334 of 2016, in which there are detailed accounts of continuous settlement activity by the occupying power, despite the intentions set out by adopted Security Council resolutions, such as Resolution 2334. In this regard, South Africa concurs with the observation by the Secretary-General that "the establishment and expansion of settlements fuel resentment, hopelessness and disillusionment among Palestinians and are key drivers of human rights violations, and significantly heighten Israeli-Palestinian tensions".

Therefore, the intention to annex more Palestinian land should be regarded as the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. It is time that Israel, as the occupying power, be held accountable for its illegal actions and consistent violations of international law and resolutions of the Security Council.

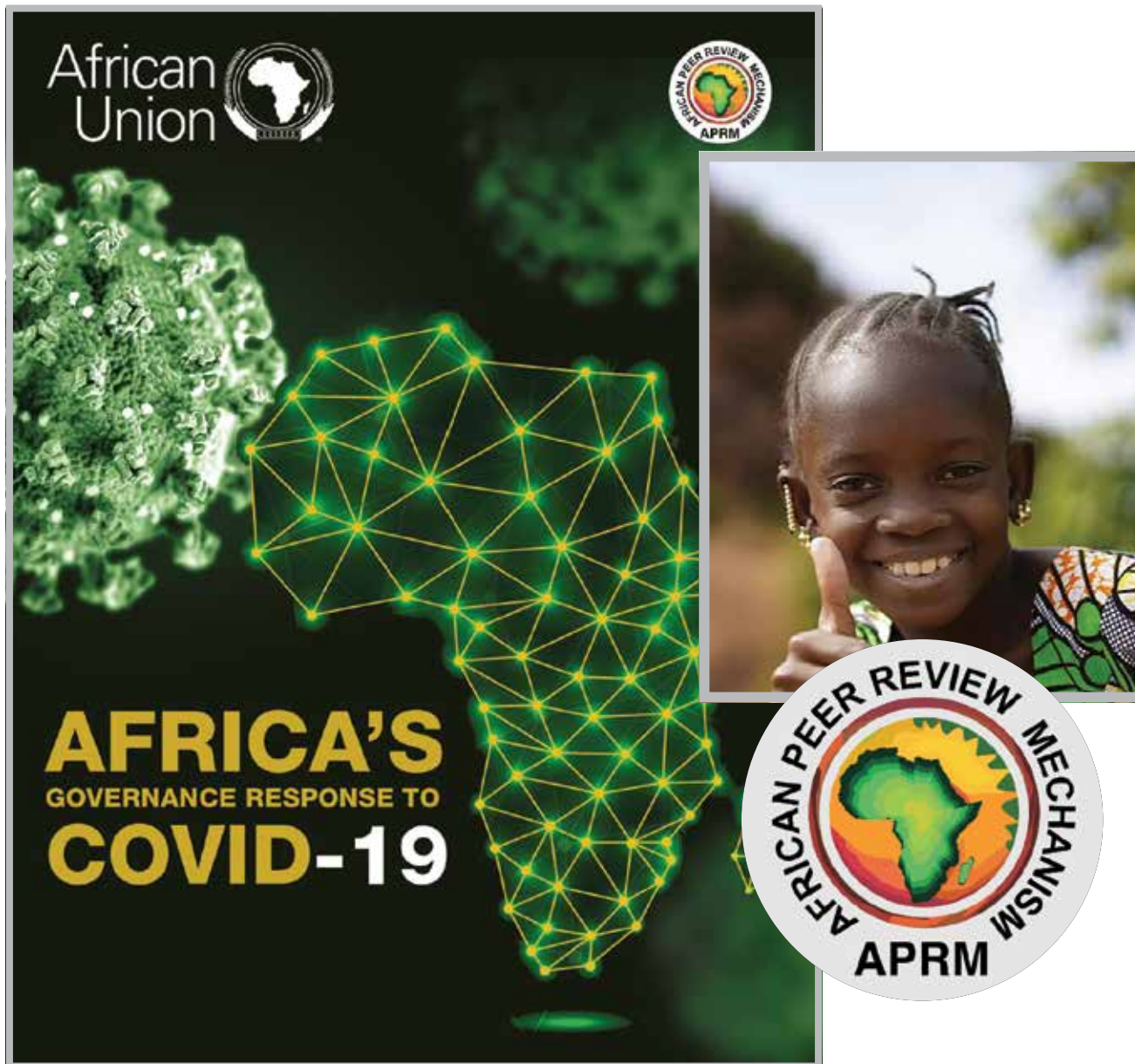
To date, the UNSC has taken no action to stop the building of settlements on illegally occupied land; to stop the confiscation and destruction of Palestinian land and property; and to stop the illegal blockade of Gaza. The Security Council's inaction has failed the people of Palestine.

South Africa, as a current member of the Security Council, will continue to support all efforts aimed at the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state, existing side-by-side and in peace with Israel, within internationally recognised borders, based on those of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with all relevant UN resolutions, international law and internationally agreed parameters.

In this regard, peace can only prevail once both parties engage in inclusive dialogue and constructive negotiations without preconditions as this is the only means to ensure lasting peace, security and stability. Additionally, there must be an accountability mechanism in place to ensure that commitments are implemented. To this end, a viable and sustainable peace plan for the Middle East must ensure that Palestine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic viability are guaranteed, with sovereign equality between Palestine and Israel.☹

To date, the UNSC has taken no action to stop the building of settlements on illegally occupied land; to stop the confiscation and destruction of Palestinian land and property; and to stop the illegal blockade of Gaza. The Security Council's inaction has failed the people of Palestine.





Charter of South African Peer Review Mechanism National Governing Council adopted

South Africa is committed to the ideals of the APRM of promoting good governance and economic development. Poor governance can critically undermine national development and therefore, good governance is critical in ensuring that both the citizens and the country benefit from what may ultimately be realised.

By Senzo Mchunu

African Peer Review Mechanism Focal Point for South Africa and the Minister for Public Service and Administration

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which was mutually and voluntarily acceded to by member states of the African Union (AU), was initiated in 2002 and established in 2003.

South Africa was one of the first countries to accede to the APRM in March 2003 in Abuja, Nigeria. Out of the total 55 AU member states, by the end of July 2020, 40 member states participated in the APRM; with the Republic of the Seychelles and Zimbabwe having acceded at the 32nd APR Forum, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2020. The APRM is aiming for universal accession by all African states by 2023.

President Cyril Ramaphosa assumed the Chairship of the APR Forum early in 2020, taking over from the Republic of Chad. South Africa is also currently the Chairperson of the Committee of Focal Points of the APRM Programme, a continental ministerial platform for all 40 APRM participating member states.

The APRM is a mechanism envisaged to promote good governance and socio-economic development through the adoption of policies, standards and good practices that will lead to political stability, economic growth and sustainable development on the African continent. The APRM uses a holistic review process that distinguishes the mechanism from other institutions through inclusive dialogue, independent and objective reviews, peer-learning and compliance monitoring.

The APRM's focus areas are:

- Corporate Governance
- Socio-Economic Development
- Democracy and Political Governance
- Economic Governance and Management.

At the meeting held on 1 February 2020, the structure of the South African National Governing Council (NGC) was unveiled, which would see to the realisation of the APRM goals. The formation of the NGC will pave the way in the preparation of South Africa's Second Generation Review that is about to be undertaken. The structure is expected to lead this process of country self-assessment, ensure its credibility and ultimately produce the Country Self-Assessment Report.

The NGC structure is at the core of the functioning and success of the country's APRM, as its key role is to mobilise and ensure participation of all stakeholders and citizens in general in the APRM processes.

Cabinet approved the formation of the NGC, which comprises the three spheres of government, civil-society groups, the private sector and labour, in line with the APRM principle of broad-based participation.

The following ministers form part of the NGC:

- Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Minister in The Presidency
- Minister of International Relations and Cooperation
- Minister of Finance
- Minister for Public Service and Administration.

Since its appointment, the NGC has convened meetings in order to formulate its charter, which is in accordance with the Statute of the APRM and further provides insight as to, among others, the objectives of the NGC, the structure of the various national structures to be appointed as well as the functions of the various structures.

Through a virtual meeting, which was held on Wednesday, 22 July 2020, the NGC adopted the Charter of the South African APRM NGC, which essentially governs its constitution.

Following the adoption of its charter, the NGC will be inducted on the processes of the APRM, which are technical in nature. This is to ensure that all representatives understand what is required of them as a structure in respect of the country's Second Generation Review process. Furthermore, the NGC will engage on the National Road Map, which is currently in draft form. The National Road Map details the activities to be undertaken in the NGC's 2020/21 financial year with the aim of producing the first draft of the National Country Review Report.

Following the adoption of its charter, the NGC proceeded to appoint its Chairperson as well as its Deputy Chairperson to lead the structure of 32 representatives plus the nine provinces.

Thulani Tshfuta was elected and appointed as the NGC Chairperson. Tshfuta holds a number of postgraduate qualifications from Wits University, GIBS and Crammer Graduate School of Business at Rollins University, United States of America. He is currently studying towards a Master's Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation at Wits University.

Magdalene Moonsamy, an admitted attorney, the founder of the Women's Justice Foundation and an activist for human, women's as well as LGBTI rights, was appointed as the Deputy Chairperson.

With the adoption of the NGC Charter as well as the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, the NGC now has a vital role to play in achieving the aspirations captured in its Road Map.

The vision of the APRM is the full actualisation of transformative leadership and practice for the Africa we all want. South

Africa's involvement and participation in the APRM is of great benefit to the country as a whole. The activities conducted within the APRM and the investigations, which will be carried out, will assist South Africa in attaining the goals as per the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP) in the elimination of poverty, the creation of employment opportunities through faster economic growth as well as the building of a capable and ethical state, to name a few.

In repositioning the APRM in South Africa, an alignment between the APRM National Action Plan, NDP and the performance management and planning instruments, including annual performance plans of departments, will be effected. The APRM, via the NGC, is essentially a vibrant and dynamic platform through which civil society can ensure accountability, integrity, ethical conduct and delivery of services on the part of all three spheres of government and its departments, including state-owned entities.

The APRM is therefore a platform, which will champion the interests of the people of South Africa as a whole.

South Africa is committed to the ideals of the APRM of promoting good governance, and economic development. Poor governance can critically undermine national development and therefore, good governance is critical in ensuring that both the citizens and the country benefit from what may ultimately be realised. As such, transparency, accountability and an effective and efficient government are some of the principles that South Africa should strive to maintain at all times.🇿🇦

The formation of the NGC will pave the way in the preparation of South Africa's Second Generation Review that is about to be undertaken. The structure is expected to lead this process of country self-assessment, ensure its credibility and ultimately produce the Country Self-Assessment Report.



Can diplomacy survive the digital disruption?

As for diplomacy, it is hard enough in a dynamic world but it will become more challenging in a state of constant flux. The cutting-edge technology leap of the last two decades has made the system a cauldron of persistent insecurity and incessant life-altering change.

By Anesh Maistry
South Africa's Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros



The world is a very volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) environment; to borrow the conceptualisation of the United States Army, which views its operational mode in this dynamic state. Recently, an Australian consultant, Janine Daniels, submitted that this VUCA world should be expanded to recognise the digital age upon us. She elaborates on the VUCA world as including Artificial Intelligence and Disruption; thus expanding the acronym to VUCA-AID. The impact of technology and innovation has become key drivers of global business and development but significantly they have become also disruptors of the traditional socio-economic life as we knew it.

None more so, than during this challenging and tragic battle with the COVID-19 pandemic,

where the impact on traditional notions of geopolitical, geostrategic and geo-economic levels of engagement are being challenged in the international system through the impact of technology and the need for science and innovation. A search for a vaccine has become a global imperative and the continual spread of this virus is rapidly becoming an existential threat to the key foundations of the nation state.

As for diplomacy, it is hard enough in a dynamic world but it will become more challenging in a state of constant flux. The cutting-edge technology leap of the last two decades has made the system a cauldron of persistent insecurity and incessant life-altering change.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), the giant leap to machine learning, AI and big data, has become a defining moment in the history of mankind; the use of revolutionary technology and the frontiers opened up by innovation have an impact never before witnessed globally. As with previous revolutions, the 4IR and its technologies will come with unprecedented forces of disruption that will have momentous economic, political and social implications.

Ambassador Tom Fletcher in his trailblazing book, *The Naked Diplomat: Power and Politics in the Digital Age*, provides unique insight into diplomacy in the digital age. He observes that the digital age will put many industries, ideas and states out of business, and shift power away from governments. It will make it harder to marshal the coalitions needed to confront growing global challenges, from migration to poverty to terrorism. There will be winners and losers. How can diplomacy regain its mojo, and play its part in helping citizens use the superpower at their disposal?

This mojo, as Fletcher puts it, which has stood the test of centuries, needs to be renewed to render diplomats relevant. No more apt in the phrase “Science for Diplomacy and Diplomacy for Science”.

As part of the work of diplomats in this dynamic technology-driven world, science, technology and innovation diplomacy becomes an integral diplomatic tool to build bilateral and expand multilateral relations.

Understanding the place of African states and the various opportunities and challenges that will arise in this endeavour needs critical reflection. It is an important element of operating effectively in the 4IR context.

According to Erik Segal, a conflict-management expert, “the Fourth Industrial Revolution will have an immense impact on how humans communicate with each other – for better and for worse. Conflict resolution professionals should re-evaluate their theories and practices to address new

challenges through the convergence of the physical, digital, and biological dimensions.”

He notes that state-state negotiations will be most influenced by the way decision-makers understand, believe, and can manipulate technology to negotiate their interests.

He goes on to argue that the professional key-stakeholder level allows for more flexibility, as non-state actors can take advantage of technology as a platform to perform the process, use other technologies to help in technical problem-solving and also create new products. An example would be applications such as *Skype*, *Slack*, *Teams* and *Zoom*, which are optimal for the conducting of task-oriented processes that can complement face-to-face meetings.

Similarly, technology holds many opportunities that can revolutionise people-to-people dialogue. Online dialogue on a social media platform can assist in managing common challenges such as power imbalance, continuity, scalable impact and evaluation.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has reported that in the context of the 4IR and its disruptive effect on all economies, there are three things for Africa to consider within the “Africa rising” narrative:

- the development of digital skills is paramount
- all industries are being digitally disrupted, which presents an opportunity for a growing digital economy
- public-private partnerships are powerful levers for change.

For a continent with an increasingly young population, productivity growth matters because it drives innovation, it can increase real wages and it can enable the economy to grow. The WEF argues that the 4IR is synonymous with uncharted growth in digitisation and Internet connectivity for the ►►

As part of the work of diplomats in this dynamic technology-driven world, science, technology and innovation diplomacy becomes an integral diplomatic tool to build bilateral and expand multilateral relations.

continent. It has the potential to drive Africa forward like never before, enabling innovation, spurring new business models and improving the delivery of public service.

Building a digital society that has evolved out of the information society, requires the economic inclusion of all of society; a critical challenge facing Africa today. Economic inclusion is fundamentally predicated on improving digital fluency to bring jobs to Africa's youth. We need to teach young Africans coding like we teach other languages. We need to have a deep focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as key to African success. Education needs to be recalibrated in this period of global uncertainty to build the generation of the future. The rise of big data has made it more than apparent that success will hinge on how a nation harnesses and processes data; and will impact all facets of their well-being.

The future of work is evolving every day and we need to adapt our productivity factors into this mindset. The future is a labour-light economy and this needs to be integrated into a broader African context in order to develop a strategy that accounts for adaptation but recognition that unemployment remains a perilous challenge for most African states. It is forward-thinking that will recognise that Industry 4.0 requires a unique skill-set as a factor of production.

In South Africa, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has identified the following six key enabling technologies to drive African economic development and have a significant influence on societal advancement on the continent:

- i. Photonics
- ii. Industrial biotechnology
- iii. Nanotechnology
- iv. Advanced materials
- v. Micro-nano electronics
- vi. Advanced manufacturing systems.

On the economic front, traditional financing and lending through the banking systems have gone virtual. Platform Capitalism is a reality! Algorithms are decision-making tools and economic predictions are based on coded functions created to augment human thinking and intuition.

The currency market is driven by BlockChain and African economic diplomacy will have to understand this system and how it will influence future transacting globally. Experts rightfully contend that "BlockChain is not just one thing, but rather a collaboration of a multitude of systems working together to create a cryptocurrency platform, which can ensure the financial inclusion of everyone

within the African context" (Department of Science and Technology).

Closer to our current global reality, the COVID-19 global pandemic has illustrated the dire need for expertise and innovation in biotechnology but also a critical need for biosecurity in nation states. Instead of shunning existing global structures with global reach, states need to fund and capacitate agencies such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) to be on the cutting edge of health innovation rather than alienate them. They have global reach, they work with contexts that are both grim but information dense, which can support innovation and ensure biosecurity, however, it must be global remedies not national self-interest.

The frontiers of human scientific innovation can be redefined through strict moral values that appreciate advances in synthetic biology, genetic engineering and epidemiological surveillance support, all of which have the potential to save lives and secure the well-being of all global citizens.

That said, Africa will not only struggle with access to these technologies but also face the challenge of integrating its political, economic and social lives into the digital age. We as diplomats need to step up and build these relationships, look for access to technology transfer but more so, bring technology infrastructure and investments to our shores. In this digital age, a country cannot fail in its quest to develop intimate partnerships with the private sector; they have become key drivers and financial partners in innovation to grow innovation and technology hubs to make the nation more competitive.

With all the above developments have come pushback. Tom Nichols in an incredible book, *The Death of Expertise*, outlines the campaign against established knowledge. He argues that the information flow is more than an overload; much of it is disinformation that is not creating a more educated public but online mobs of ill-informed people, which is threatening the core system of democracy, something which the famous futurist Isaac Asimov called the "cult of ignorance". This world will not wait for nations to play catch-up; it will not be deferred by theories of development and traditional economic notions

of prosperity.

So what is it that we, diplomats, must realise and make sure of?

It must from the outset be understood, that science diplomacy is a competency of foreign service. Like many new areas of diplomacy, it needs to be embraced quickly and a strategy to pursue effective engagement needs to form part of our core foreign-service mandate. My personal shopping list of key activities for science diplomacy is listed below:

- It is more than apparent that all ministries of foreign affairs need chief science advisers or science officers. Their expertise is vital to guide effective science diplomacy and such critical appointments have been made by many nations within their foreign-service structures, including a few Africa counterpart states.
- Create an interface for science cooperation as a key element of our political and economic bilateral cooperation in a cross-cutting sectoral approach.
- Link science diplomacy to both economic and development priorities.
- Protect and nurture our intellectual property on both a multilateral and bilateral level.
- Commercialise and market indigenous knowledge as part of value-addition in our economic diplomacy.
- Create a global environment and develop norms and the legal framework for cybersecurity that protect the most vulnerable states and citizens.
- Encourage the democratisation on all information platforms, which respects knowledge and intellectual integrity but also recognises the need for expertise and truth in the global interface.
- Utilise new media and technologies to create brand awareness and global public advocacy for the country's image and international positions as a key element of a country's public diplomacy.

In the final analysis, the question is, will the 4IR be a disruptor or an enabler to African states and their diplomats? How ready are African diplomats to integrate the culture, these systems and technologies into their societies? 🇵🇹





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Fitting Artificial Intelligence into South Africa's international priorities

Artificial Intelligence (AI) specialists can play a crucial role in advancing the country's science diplomacy. In the same vein, the definition of diplomacy needs to expand and include, for example, representation of South Africa to leading technology companies and globally leading research centres.

By Dr Bhaso Ndzendze, Research Director, Centre for Africa-China Studies and Lecturer on Tech Dynamics in International Relations at the University of Johannesburg (UJ); and Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, UJ Vice-Chancellor and Principal and Deputy Chairperson of the South African Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Given rapid developments in AI, South Africa's foreign policy should have its strategic and equitable attainment as one of the guiding pillars.

A global game changer

In his 2018 bestselling book, *AI Superpowers*, Kai-fu Lee describes a 2017 incident that has since come to be referred to as "China's Sputnik moment". In May of that year, in a moment seen as emblematic of Western innovation outplaying China at its own game, the computer program *AlphaGo*, developed by Google's DeepMind Technologies, defeated the world's top player of the Chinese

game *Go*, the then 19-year old Ke Jie. Based on AI, the program is renowned for its use of machine learning (ML). The program is able to continuously learn, like a human brain, through trial and error and can thus accumulate more capabilities than initially programmed into it. Soon after Ke Jie's defeat, the Chinese Government set in motion the formulation of an AI strategy. This was in recognition of the critical role the technology is to play in the future and the global competition among countries and their respective private sectors for early development and therefore, ownership of AI applications.

Because of its applications to robotics and the Internet of Things (IoT), as well as its use of big data, AI has been seen as a central

foundation of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), which is the age of ubiquity of new forms of technology and the convergence of the physical and the digital spheres. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) observes that AI has been among the fastest-growing technology sectors in the past five years in terms of new patents and investment, with massive inflows of funding coming from governments and (even more) from the private sector.

Many recognise that AI will be a game-changer. Already, developments in today's international relations are increasingly impacted by AI. By PricewaterhouseCoopers' recent estimates, AI contributes about US\$2 trillion to today's global economy and

is predicted to reach some US\$16 trillion by 2030 (roughly 10% of current world gross domestic product). Trade and security, the two main facets of international interaction, have respectively seen transformations in advanced manufacturing in smart factories and the growing deployment of drones along with investments in AI-based robotic surgical systems, unmanned aerial vehicles and target-recognition programs.

Responding to AI

In recognition of the centrality of AI, many countries have proactively formed bilateral and multi-party memoranda of understanding on AI cooperation and mutual development.

A private-sector-led "Digital Geneva Convention" has sought to establish guiding ethical frameworks for applying AI and averting cyber attacks on civilians. Observes a 2019 report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: "Given AI's economic and geopolitical significance, they're also increasingly being considered strategic assets".

This requires a new foreign policy outlook for South Africa. Today's global AI landscape is dominated by the traditional players, perpetuating the present patterns of inequality in the 4IR. Indeed, China's 2017 plan came in the wake of an earlier published Canadian AI Strategy and was soon followed by the publication of AI strategies by other countries in rapid succession: Denmark, the European Union (EU), Finland, France, India, Italy, Japan (the second country to do so), Mexico (interestingly commissioned by the British Embassy in Mexico, and funded by the United Kingdom's [UK] Prosperity Fund), countries in the Nordic-Baltic region, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates and the UK. These countries also account for most of the world's hyperscale data centres and likely have more such centres between them than the rest of the developing world combined. Indeed, about 40% of these centres are located in the United States (US) or owned by US companies, whereas China, Japan and the UK together account for 20%. Australia, Germany, Singapore, Canada, India and Brazil form between 3% and 5% per country.

In other words, the majority of the countries that were at the forefront of the development of the steam engine, the telegraph, semiconductors, the telephone, aerial satellites and the Internet, or the previous three industrial revolutions, now look set to define the global AI landscape once again. Despite being 17% of the planet's population and having the fastest-growing rate of mobile subscriptions, Africa represents only 3% of the world's mobile app developers (compared to 29.7% and 29.4% for Europe and North America). Nevertheless, the presence of China, India and Singapore in

the preceding list of leaders in data centres is encouraging as they are countries, which were on the backfoot in the inception of the first three industrial revolutions but have become technology leaders in time for the fourth. Indeed, the present-day Asia-Pacific region represents some 34.4% of the world's software developers.

For a country that has as its foreign policy tenets the boosting of its domestic economy as well as achieving prosperity and stability on the African continent and helping realise an equitable global order, South Africa cannot escape the global developmental implications of AI, and the new scenarios they bring about.

AI specialists can play a crucial role in advancing the country's science diplomacy. In the same vein, the definition of diplomacy needs to expand and include, for example, representation of South Africa to leading technology companies and globally leading research centres. The domestic and the foreign contexts are very thinly divided, and as such, the South African Government should see to the attraction of leading AI talent from the world and within the continent, while also avoiding a brain drain. Incentives can include optimisation of the electric infrastructure, research support for AI-related patents, fostering of collaboration and introducing a new class of scarce skills visas. South Africa's energy issues are a potential deterrent in the development of AI as hyperscale data centres require significant amounts of energy to operate. Brazil, a budding AI development hub, has particularly used its energy self-sustainability and low electricity costs to its comparative advantage. On the other hand, the influx of foreign technologies into the country should be within a framework that gives due consideration to infant AI industries, avoids bias and preserves South African data. The regulatory stance taken towards *Facebook* and *Google* by the EU is exemplary. The supranational body has moved to fine the former some US\$1.63 billion for data-privacy violations and had already successfully fined the latter US\$9.5 billion for breaking antitrust laws in 2017.

These cases indicate that governments can play a role in protecting their constituencies and that multinational corporations working in technology ought to be subject to special regimes determined by local circumstances to achieve optimal and mutually beneficial results. Similar steps have been taken by the governments of Canada, Singapore and Canada against the use of these platforms for spreading false news with the introduction of fines varying from US\$1 to US\$6.6 million per incident. Such regulatory mechanisms have been made possible by the work of watchdogs, including Italy's Competition and Markets Authority, Ireland's Data Protection

Commission and the German group VZBV, which brought the matter to their local courts. Thus, a regional body, state and non-state actors, as well as domestic institutions all cooperated in ensuring a fair and regulated ecosystem that curtails exploitation.

Distressingly, in Africa, there is a growing gap in access to the Internet. According to United Nations data from the International Telecommunications Union, men were on the advantageous end of a 20.7% disparity in 2013. By 2017, the number was at 25.3%. Regional and continental commitments to gender equality such as the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development, signed in 2008, need to live up to the Internet and AI age.

Given the multi-stakeholder nature of regulating technologies and rolling it out as efficiently and equitably as possible (as the EU, Canadian and Singaporean cases demonstrate), South Africa will need to involve actors from different sectors in order to inform its domestic setting as well as shape its foreign policy on AI. The recommendation of the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution to establish the National AI Institute as well as the newly launched AI Dialogue will be an important base for us to position South Africa as an important centre of AI. These initiatives will make South Africa use AI to drive economic growth, social development and safety. This is an important step in positioning South Africa as a contributing member of the global AI community. Without a strategy that informs policy and dialogues in place, we risk falling behind once again. 

For a country that has as its foreign policy tenets the boosting of its domestic economy as well as achieving prosperity and stability on the African continent and helping realise an equitable global order, South Africa cannot escape the global developmental implications of AI, and the new scenarios they bring about.



South Africa would gain from cooperation among BRICS countries on beneficiation

South Africa would benefit greatly from exchanging knowledge and skills with the other BRICS countries. Engagements that seek to do this could enhance cooperation among member countries. They could result in South Africa benefitting from what has worked – and what hasn't worked – elsewhere.

By Byelongo Elisée Isheloke
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Cape Town

South Africa needs a sounder mineral beneficiation policy to tackle the challenges the country faces, particularly rising unemployment. Its beneficiation policy is not very demanding and isn't pursued with any vigour.

For example, South Africa should be pursuing trade cooperation with Brazil, Russia, India and China. Together with South

Africa, they make up the BRICS grouping, which was formed in 2010 with the purpose of pursuing economic development.

China and India are resource-rich economies. But, they still need additional raw materials to supplement their production amid a faster industrialisation agenda.

In addition, BRICS has a rich history of beneficiation. Beneficiation activities in China and Russia have had a positive bearing on the economy and industrialisation. Both countries have developed strong military and ammunition capabilities. For its part, India has focussed on information technology and Brazil on the transport industry.

South Africa would benefit greatly from exchanging knowledge and skills with the other BRICS countries. Engagements that seek to do this could enhance cooperation among member countries. They could result in South Africa benefitting from what has worked – and what hasn't worked – elsewhere.

There has been research on how China has used beneficiation to drive economic development. But little has been done on how

the BRICS member countries can collectively drive beneficiation and how it could benefit South Africa.

The BRICS countries have never jointly agreed to a beneficiation policy. But, work has been done on how BRICS collaboration could be improved. These opportunities have included skills transfer, information-sharing and investment in both downstream and upstream beneficiation activities.

For my previous research, I explored the effects of the BRICS partnership on mineral beneficiation in South Africa by investigating a partnership approach in beneficiation cooperation and commodity trade.

The aim of my study was to explore the effects of the BRICS partnership on mineral beneficiation in South Africa. I concluded by recommending a model, which called for gradual beneficiation and experiments in South Africa with the support of BRICS.

Findings

South Africa leads in mining of platinum-group metals and gold. In addition, the production

South Africa can boast 90% of platinum metals produced in the world, 80% of manganese, 73% of chrome, 45% of vanadium and 41% of the gold extracted on earth.

of ferrous metals such as manganese and chrome is of world-class standard. The iron ore exports in the country have been reported to be incremental.

South Africa can boast 90% of platinum metals produced in the world, 80% of manganese, 73% of chrome, 45% of vanadium and 41% of the gold extracted on earth. I conducted a survey among mining companies as part of my research. Around 80% were based in Gauteng (Johannesburg and Pretoria). Just under 60% of the companies involved were in the business of mining strategic minerals such as coal, diamonds, gold and platinum.

Skills transfer emerged as a major theme, with 90% of the participants stating that skills training was needed for downstream beneficiation. This pointed to the need for skills transfer among the BRICS countries. Examples included cutting and polishing of minerals and making craft jewellery.

It was also established that BRICS activities could be improved by collaborative synergies, financial resources provision and a favourable fiscal policy.

The study called for a conversation among stakeholders on the current Mining Charter and the National Mineral Beneficiation Policy of South Africa. As BRICS countries are interested in commodity trade and mining

activities, South Africa could tap into the knowledge of counterparts on beneficiation issues where success stories are visible. A diversification strategy is increasingly being adopted by the biggest South American conglomerates.

My research found that South Africa was outperformed by its counterparts within the partnership on economic grounds. However, it scored higher on democratic institutions and performance of the banking sector.

Next steps

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is not in favour of a country forcing local beneficiation onto the market (a participant stated this during the interview). This points to

the need for South Africa to take a gradual approach.

It first needs to ensure steady economic growth, identify regional market opportunities and lobby the international partners in the BRICS to improve its chances of having the WTO and other stakeholders support its national beneficiation policy.

Other hurdles that need to be cleared include the supply of water and power.

BRICS countries should encourage synergies among them towards a more responsible beneficiation practice. The synergies can be used in a form of "aggregate power" exerted to change and transform the global economy.¹²³



BRICS countries should encourage synergies among them towards a more responsible beneficiation practice. The synergies can be used in a form of "aggregate power" exerted to change and transform the global economy.



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Can we stop the rise of para-diplomacy?

The reality is that other entities, whether sub-national or non-state, have a role to play in international relations practice. However, whether this role falls into the realm of diplomatic practice is a question we should ponder.

By Anesh Maistry
South Africa's Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros

What is para-, multilayered- or sub-national diplomacy? These terms have recently been bandied about, but many diplomats, international relations practitioners and politicians do not seem to have universal understanding of what it means and if it really is an international-relations construct or an actual tool of statecraft.

Several commentators have attempted to conceptualise this endeavour as a type of diplomatic practice that is evolving, as the power of states diminish, and sub-national entities become powerful stakeholders in the international system.

Thomas Jackson opines that "para-diplomacy must be seen as an 'alternative diplomatic' practice with its own actors, cultures, and sites which transcend traditional state-centric modalities". While Panayotis Soldatos goes further and argues that we must view para-diplomacy as "direct and, in various instances, autonomous involvement in external-relations activities of federated states".

As a keen scholar of diplomacy, I will contend that traditional non-state actors involved in different tracks of diplomacy are obscuring its traditional notions of the centrist state narrative in the practice of diplomacy. This is complicated even further as local government and federal and confederate entities pursue their own international relations. One must pause and wonder if the traditional mandate of foreign ministries is under pressure or being usurped.

Sadly, the complications arise from terminology that is floating around, which are being utilised interchangeably to posit some sort of understanding of para-diplomacy. These terms include constituent diplomacy, regional diplomacy, sub-state diplomacy, micro-diplomacy, multilayered diplomacy, catalytic diplomacy, proto-diplomacy, and post-diplomacy. I was just as confused as you were when I first encountered the myriad of invented concepts that are sometimes difficult to locate, even in a liberal interpretation of the traditional notion of diplomacy.

To assuage the fears of my fellow diplomats, let me frontload this contention. The reality is that other entities, whether sub-national or non-state, have a role to play in international-relations practice. However, whether this role falls into the realm of diplomatic practice is a question we should ponder.

The "foreign policy" of sub-national government entities is generally built upon their domestic competencies. Most cities, provinces or states deal only with issues such as health, education, transportation, culture, tourism or public safety, demanding that they are handled within the local-global spectrum. Hence the concept of Thinking Globally & Acting Locally (Being GLOCAL).

To best conceptualise this endeavour, I will use the terms, para- or multilayered-diplomacy. It seems to be the established narrative to describe this evolving classification of local and regional entities' engagement in international-relations

practice, to support both local priorities and the nation's foreign policy objectives on the international stage. I will not touch on the complicated issue of international-relations practice by non-state entities, as an intense debate on whether this is an actual traditional form of national diplomacy or even diplomacy, is highly contested.

As a problematic practice, many regions, municipalities or cities are being represented by their leadership – governors, premiers, mayors and officials on the world stage; where they engage in external relationships, not only with their counterparts, but unfortunately with other nation states, non-governmental organisations, corporate actors and more. A critical point to note is that globalisation and market changes have made foreign policy-making a more inclusive and multilayered process but such actions are most often not synergised to national objectives.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown us how cities and regions have become drivers for health responses to a global pandemic. The United States, for one, has exposed the fissures in its ideal union, as states have chosen to walk their own path. They have chosen to engage other nation states to procure medical equipment and essential items. It is clear that this pandemic will see the rise of more "independent" policy formulations, which are unfortunately characteristic of the American system. Is this the case in other countries? In South Africa, the response was national, and it left little room for policy



space or independent action, even though provincial responsibility still resided with the devolved entities.

That said, it is inevitable that we recognise that some cities and regions are economic and political powerhouses. One must be acutely aware of their economic potential, and faced with potential gridlock in national capitals, mayors and governors have gone a long way towards exercising political and economic power globally. The international activism of cities and states is rapidly growing across the world, discreetly transforming diplomatic practices and the delivery of public services.

Why have these other entities become so interested in diplomatic work? Can we reel them in or prevent a proliferation of international interaction that may sometimes be counterproductive to national priorities? Well, that is a question that begs the response of how national government can create an environment for both a “whole-of-government approach”, as well as devolving it to other levels of interaction.

In order to give a considered response to the question that we as diplomats pose about para-diplomacy, the undermentioned are some reasons that have been identified for this relative proliferation of international interface on this sub-state level, which is dominated by the city narrative:

- The 21st century is considered the Age of Cities – a vision of creating cities of opportunity.
- The United Nations’ (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have an entire goal dedicated to sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).
- One billion people live in 60 global cities. The UN is expecting 75% of the world’s population to live in cities by 2050.
- Cities account for 55% of the world’s population, 80% of the world’s gross domestic product and 70% of greenhouse emissions.
- Of the top 100 affluent economic actors, 42 are cities.
- They are important elements in localised economic growth and development.

Urbanised areas, especially cities, have a critical mass of globally connected, networked

and competitive private-sector entities. Some of the big technology companies such as Uber and Airbnb require the locus of cities and towns in their business models. City entities for one, encompass the following:

- megacities are becoming affluent players – especially in climate change and immigration discourse
- hubs for social development, immigration and cross-cultural creativity
- loci for culture, sport and entertainment
- loci for innovation and technology
- loci for big data – driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

As the adage goes, with a slight revision, if you can’t beat them, let them join you. In light of this inclusive partial surrender of diplomatic practice to other sub-national entities, I propose the following in working with them:

- have a clearly defined mandate with an acute recognition of international law competence
- define clear strategies and coordinated approaches for attracting investments, extenuating national policies imperatives
- identify an enhanced deployment of resources towards managing relationships and strategies at international level that complements our international relations rather than competes with it
- prioritise engagements to avoid both over-commitment and opportunistic, short-term ventures
- measure the impact and value of provincial/municipal/city diplomacy
- integrate local priorities and demands with international agendas of the national State
- strategically support regional and national objectives – not acting independently, but rather in a complementary manner that supports South Africa’s foreign policy and international relations.

The main concern should remain securing integrated and coordinated responses to international challenges. In essence, singing from the same hymn sheet; the latter seems to have eluded South African international relations for more than two decades.

National government needs to better coordinate the spheres of government to be better prepared and alive to the environment

that is called the global stage, while making sure they “stay in their lane”.

We need an international-relations playbook that provides the guidelines for all levels of international engagement. Not just a guide to international visits, but an acute understanding of the environment of diplomacy. The Intergovernmental Relations structure at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) needs to be a point of entry for this. Budget permitting, the past Canadian model of having small DIRCO offices in provinces will go a long way to enhancing integrated operations.

Understanding national priorities as a framework and not a prescriptive obstacle is required. Appreciating the dynamic and intricacies of foreign policy positions will spare diplomatic pain for national governments when missteps occur. We can allow others into our world of professional diplomacy, but its needs to be a “Team South Africa” approach, or else it is bound to lead to more confusion, which ultimately weakens the national State. [↗](#)

This paper is based on a presentation given by the author at the Second Forum for African Diplomacy, held in South Africa in March 2018

One must be acutely aware of their economic potential, and faced with potential gridlock in national capitals, mayors and governors have gone a long way towards exercising political and economic power globally. The international activism of cities and states is rapidly growing across the world, discreetly transforming diplomatic practices and the delivery of public services.



Tourists kayaking down Storms River in the Eastern Cape.
The river mouth is located in the Tsitsikamma National Park.



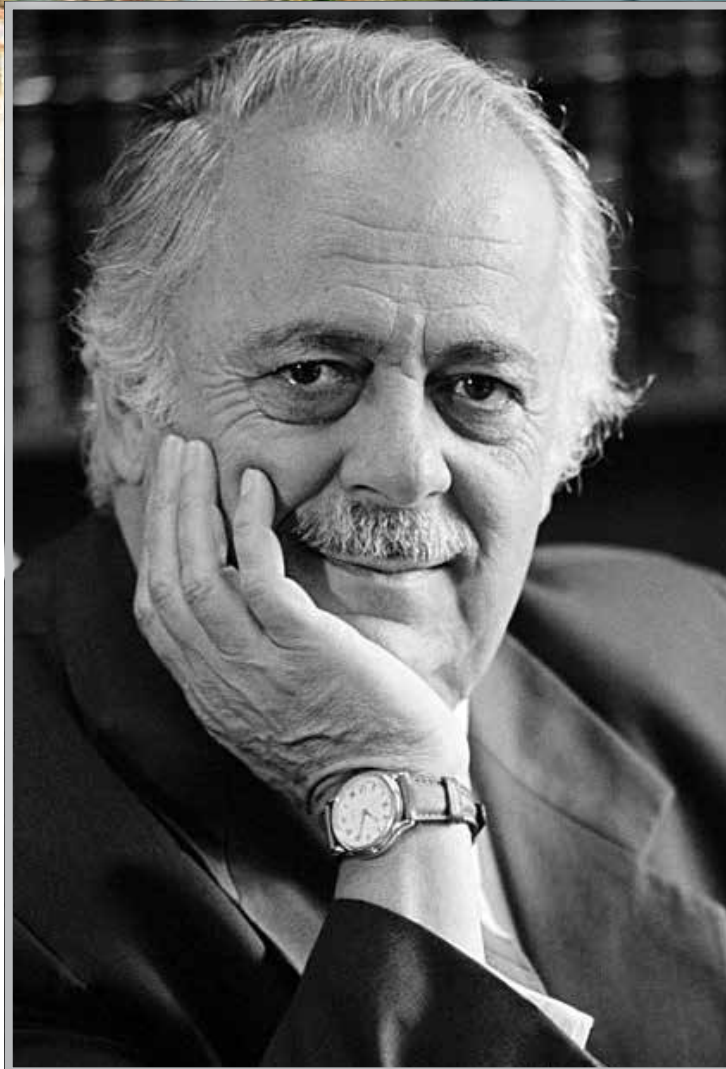
George Bizos



Heroic South African human rights lawyer with a macabre duty to represent the dead

His example will stand as a light – an example of the role one can play, and the difference to be made, even in the darkest of days.

By Keith Gottschalk
Political Scientist, University of the Western Cape



Advocate George Bizos, who died at the age of 92 on 9 September 2020, stands in the pantheon of South African human rights lawyers and anti-apartheid activists.

Throughout his lengthy lifetime, he doggedly used the courts as his chosen terrain to fight back against a police state that blatantly violated the rule of law. His lifelong commitment to human rights left a legacy in South Africa's Constitution and Bill of Rights. He knew that democracy was not a destination but a lifelong quest: eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

Bizos was among a number of young white people who arrived in South Africa as refugees from Europe, only to find themselves forced to align themselves with the oppressed black

majority against apartheid. This company includes Joe Slovo, Lithuanian by birth, and also an advocate by training, who became leader of the South African Communist Party.

Bizos was born in 1927 in the Greek seashore village of Kirani. During the Nazi occupation of World War II, when 13 years old, he and his father helped seven New Zealand soldiers try to escape to Crete (at that time still under Allied rule). Adrift at sea in a boat, they were rescued by a British destroyer, and he and his father arrived as refugees in Johannesburg.

Bizos graduated in 1950 with a Law degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, where he also served on the Student Representative Council. The university described him as one of its greatest alumni, adding that: "We remember him as a man of

courage who always sided with the truth and who spent his lifetime fighting injustice and prejudice."

Bizos became aware of the racism in the country early on, and after 1948, the apartheid system. However, he focussed his support for the liberation movement on serving as their lawyer in court, not himself becoming involved in political party actions.

Legal practice

Bizos practised as an advocate from 1954 to 1990.

He was soon advising Father Trevor Huddleston, the anti-apartheid Anglican missionary, and defending the leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) and allied organisations, among them Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, during the Treason Trial that ran from 1956 to 1961.

Among the charges was that they had conspired to draw up the Freedom Charter, the ANC's blueprint for a free, non-racial South Africa. All the accused were eventually acquitted after the judges agreed the State had failed to show that the charter was a communist document. It was the longest treason trial in the country's history.

Bizos also defended Mandela, Sisulu and eight others who were charged with sabotage in the Rivonia Trial of 1963 to 1964. He advised Mandela on the wording of his famous statement from the dock. Mandela stated that a non-racial South Africa was an ideal he hoped to live for, but if necessary, was prepared to die for.

Eight of the 10 accused were eventually sentenced to life in prison. All but Denis Goldberg, who was white, were sent to Robben Island. Goldberg went to Pretoria Central prison. The apartheid laws of the time prohibited "inter-racial" mixing, even in jail.

Bizos outlived the longest-surviving of the trialists, Goldberg and Andrew Mlangeni, who passed away earlier this year.

Macabre duty

In a police state such as apartheid South Africa, a lawyer will all too often have the macabre duty of representing the dead. On behalf of their families, Bizos represented at inquests and at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, several government opponents who died at the hands of the apartheid regime – either in its prisons or outside. Among them were Ahmed Timol, Neil Aggett, Chris Hani, Ruth First, Steve Biko, Matthew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Sparrow Mkonto and Sicelo Mhlauli.

He also defended the 22 accused in the Delmas Treason Trial, which ran from 1985 to 1989.

Bizos was a life-long campaigner against the death penalty. He also took part in the negotiations to release Mandela. In 1990, he joined the ANC legal and constitutional team, which helped draft the interim Constitution. He was an adviser through the negotiations to end apartheid (Convention for a Democratic South Africa) and helped write laws such as the Truth and Reconciliation Act.

Life of activism

He helped found the Legal Resources Centre in 1978 and joined its constitutional litigation team in 1991: he led its team at the Marikana Commission of Inquiry in 2013. The commission, headed by Judge Ian Farlam, investigated the tragic incidents that culminated in the killing of 44 people, and injury to 250, in August 2012.

Also, during 2008, he represented the Chinese Association of South Africa in winning a ruling that Chinese people living in South Africa before 1990 must be designated as "previously disadvantaged" in terms of

Affirmative Action and Black Economic Empowerment proceedings.

Bizos helped found the National Council of Lawyers for Human Rights in 1979. He served on the Judicial Service Commission between 1994 and 2009. The commission interviews candidates for judicial positions, makes recommendations for appointment to the bench and handles complaints brought against the judges.

He was an acting judge of the High Court in South Africa, and a judge in the Botswana Appeal Court from 1985 to 1993. He also defended Morgan Tsvangirai, the Zimbabwean opposition leader, in a Zimbabwe trial in 2003.

Bizos authored three books: *No One to Blame? In Pursuit of Justice in South Africa* (1998); *Odyssey to Freedom* (2011); and *Sixty-Five Years of Friendship* (2017).

Post-apartheid

George Bizos remained steadfast in his commitment to human rights after South Africa became a democracy in 1994. His appearance on behalf of the families of mine workers shot by the police at the Marikana Commission of Inquiry was merely the most high-profile of his efforts to seek justice for the poor and marginalised.

According to Nicole Fritz, CEO of Freedom Under Law, Bizos represented what law could and should be: essentially humane, principled, decent and just.

The evocation of the rule of law upheld by Bizos and those like Mandela, Sisulu and Arthur Chaskalson, as expansive and merciful, a means to secure equal rights for all, ultimately defeated the law of the apartheid state: cruel, merciless and oppressive.

While Bizos helped usher in a new constitutional democracy, he showed in

the aftermath that the struggle to perfect justice continued, that it is the work of a lifetime, says Fritz:

His commitment to justice was inexhaustible. He continued to work and serve justice even when he could, with every good reason, have sought a well-deserved and restful retirement. And that commitment to justice extended beyond South Africa.

She recalls how, travelling with him to Harare a few years back, at both OR Tambo International Airport and at Harare Airport, he was virtually mobbed by fellow travellers: "There's George Bizos!", "There's Madiba's lawyer!" And later in a Harare magistrate's court, the reception was similar: and not just from the accused facing politically motivated charges and whom he had come to support and stand with in solidarity. He got the same reception from the court officials.

That huge affection in which he was held by so many, not just in this country but across the region, is testimony to the enormous contribution he made: to his unceasing commitment to justice. His example will stand as a light – an example of the role one can play, and the difference to be made, even in the darkest of days.

Accolades

His awards include the Order for Meritorious Service (1999); the International Trial Lawyer of the Year (2001) from the International Academy of Trial Lawyers; and in 2004, the International Bar Association honoured him with the Barnard Simons Memorial Award.

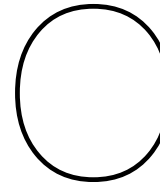
He married Arethe Daflos in 1948, who passed away in 2017. George Bizos is survived by three sons and seven grandchildren.

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



Liberation Heritage:

Andrew Mlangeni



On 21 July 2020, Andrew Mlangeni, the last surviving anti-apartheid activist convicted with Nelson Mandela at South Africa's infamous Rivonia Trial, died at the age of 95.

President Cyril Ramaphosa described the late Mlangeni as not only a great patriot but a strident moral voice in the country.

President Ramaphosa said: "The passing of Andrew Mekete Mlangeni signifies the end of a generational history and places our future squarely in our hands.

"Until recently, we were able to sit at Bab' Mlangeni's feet and draw on his wealth of wisdom and his unflinching commitment – even at his very advanced age – to a better life for all South Africans," he said.

"Bab' Mlangeni's dramatic life was a unique example of heroism and humility inhabiting the same person and throughout his long life he remained a beacon of ethical leadership and care for humanity in our own country and around the globe."

President Ramaphosa said with his passing as the last remaining Rivonia trialist, Mlangeni had indeed passed the baton to his compatriots to build the South Africa he fought to liberate and to reconstruct during our democratic dispensation.

The President also described him as a champion and exemplar of the values we all need to build for a South Africa that provides dignity and opportunity for all and takes its rightful place in the global community of nations.

Andrew Mokete Moeti Mlangeni was born on 6 June 1925 at Matoding (later renamed Maynhartfontein farm) outside Bethlehem in the then boer republic of the Orange Free State (now the Free State). He was the ninth of 12 children of Matia and Aletta Mlangeni and belonged to one of the three sets of twins

"Bab' Mlangeni's dramatic life was a unique example of heroism and humility inhabiting the same person and throughout his long life he remained a beacon of ethical leadership and care for humanity in our own country and around the globe."

by the couple. His parents were farm labour tenants. His father passed away when he was six years old and he was brought up by his mother with the assistance of his elder brothers. In 1934, his family moved from the farm to a rented accommodation in the Bethlehem town. He moved to Johannesburg in 1941 when his mother permanently relocated there.

In Johannesburg, Andrew stayed with his elder brother, Sekila, in Pimville and later at a makeshift settlement in the present-day Orlando township before he found his current house in Dube in 1954, which became his home until his death.

He met June Johanna Ledwaba in 1948 and they married in 1950. They were blessed with four children, two girls, Maureen and Sylvia, and two boys, Sello and Aubrey, who predeceased him.

Education

He started school at the age of 11 in Bethlehem, when he enrolled himself at a local church-run school and passed Standard 4 in 1941. He later enrolled for Standard 5 at Pimville Government School in 1942 and passed Standard 6 in 1943. In 1944, he enrolled at St Peter's Secondary School in Rosettenville where he passed Form 3 in 1946. He could not proceed beyond junior certificate because of financial constraints.

He later managed to complete Matric through correspondence from Robben Island

through Rapid Results College as well as a BA (Public Administration) in 1979 and BA (Hons) in Political Science in 1983 with the University of South Africa, obtaining the latter *cum laude*. His Law degree studies were disrupted by the negotiations at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa.

Employment

Mlangeni took employment at Jeffery & Gallion from 1947 to 1955 as a printing assistant. This position benefitted the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the African National Congress' (ANC) communication units because he would sneak in on weekends to print their posters, banners and fliers.

From 1955 to 1958, he joined Putco as a bus driver – a position he left because of his left-wing views against exploitation.

Political life

Mlangeni was recruited to the Young Communist League by Ruth First in 1944 where he worked with the likes of Elisa Watts and Joe Slovo. From 1959, he became a full-time "functionary" of the SACP as well as its secretary of the Johannesburg region responsible for black groups alongside Esther Barsel who was responsible for white groups.

He also participated in the activities of the ANC Youth League (YL) Rosettenville branch from 1944 where he worked with the likes of Joe Matthews, Duma Nokwe, Fats Ngakane and Henry Makgothi. However, he

formally joined the ANCYL in 1951 and the ANC itself in 1954 and became the longest-serving secretary of the ANC Dube branch, which he also represented as a delegate at the Congress of the People in Kliptown where the Freedom Charter was adopted.

He served in the SACP and ANC leadership structures of the Johannesburg Area Committee where he worked with the likes of Nelson Mandela, Elias Motsoaledi, Alfred Kgasago, Arthur Hlapane, John and



Obed Motshabi, Dan Tloome and Andrew Kunene. He also worked with Ruth First to support the mineworkers' strike of 1946, spearheaded by the Communist Party's aligned African Miners Union under the leadership of JB Marks and Dan Tloome.

When peaceful means of expressing dissatisfaction with political marginalisation and economic deprivation by the apartheid minority regime were barred to the majority, Andrew was recruited by Nelson Mandela as the first Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) foot soldier in 1961. Later that year, he, together with Joe Gqabi, Abel Mthembu, Raymond Mhlaba, Steve Naidoo and Wilton Mkwayi became the first MK members to be sent for sophisticated military training in China. Here, he and Naidoo were specifically selected for advanced military communication techniques and manufacturing of explosives due to their advanced level of Mathematics. During this time, he met one of his heroes, Mao Tse Tung, who gave him a message to relay to the ANC leadership that the ANC should bring a bigger number for training than it had done with their group.

On his return in early 1963, he joined the underground unit of MK and became a member of its High Command. His

major responsibilities at the time were the recruitment of people and dispatching them for military training outside the country. It was during these activities that he disguised as a priest under the pseudo-names Rev Percy Mokoena and Percy Mbatha. Among the people he dispatched to exile included Joe Modise and Chris Hani.

He was arrested with Motsoaledi on 24 June 1963 on the national raid day and charged with the Zeerust group, which had been intercepted by the security forces in Zeerust after Andrew tried to dispatch them for military training outside the country. However, he and Motsoaledi were acquitted from the Zeerust Trial because of lack of evidence against them.

But their acquittal was shortlived because they were again charged in the Rivonia Treason Trial, together with many other leaders who were arrested during a raid at Liliesleaf Farm on 11 July 1963, as well as Mandela who was serving a five-year sentence following his trial in 1962.

Before the court passed judgment on him, Mlangeni told the court that:

"Though leaders of many countries throughout the world have tried to persuade the Government to abandon its apartheid policy, and although resolutions have been passed in the United Nations against South Africa, this has met with no result. All that the Government has done is to reply to the people's demands by putting their political leaders in gaol, and breaking up families."

He was found guilty alongside Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Raymond

Mhlaba, Ahmed Kathrada, Denis Goldberg, Mkwayi and Motsoaledi and sentenced on 12 June 1964 to life imprisonment. With the exception of Goldberg who was detained inland, the rest were sent to Robben Island. He was prisoner 46764.

He was released from prison after 26 years in October 1989 with the likes of Sisulu, Kathrada, Mkwayi, Mhlaba and Oscar Mpetha. He immediately became a member of the internal ANC structure led by Sisulu. He also served as Transport Head at the ANC's Shell House after his election into the National Executive Committee in 1991.

After the first democratic elections in 1994, he became an ANC Member of Parliament in Cape Town until he retired in 2014. In 2012, he became Chairperson of the ANC's Integrity Commission because of his integrity and ethical conduct.

Mlangeni was passionate about the sport of golf through which he made many friends. He founded the June and Andrew Mlangeni Foundation in 2009 to continue with the community charity work that his wife had started while he was in prison.

Honours and decorations

Mlangeni received, among many others, the following honours:

- Isitwalandwe/ Seaparankwe (1992) – the highest award by the ANC to those who made an outstanding contribution and sacrifice to the liberation struggle
- Presidential Order for Meritorious Service: Class 1 Gold from President Mandela (1999). 🇿🇦

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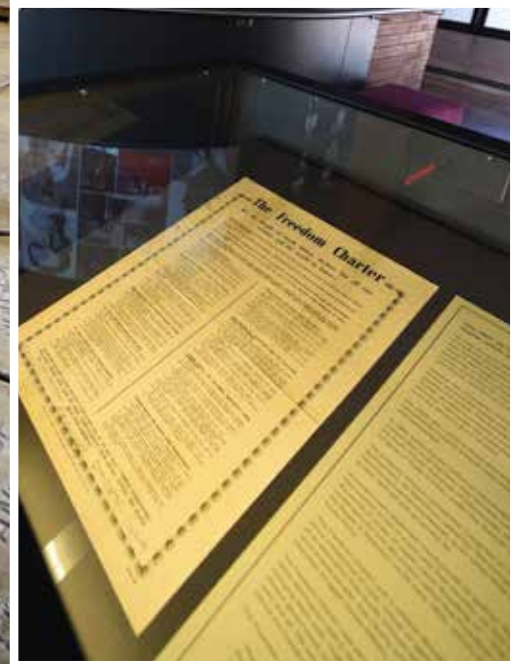
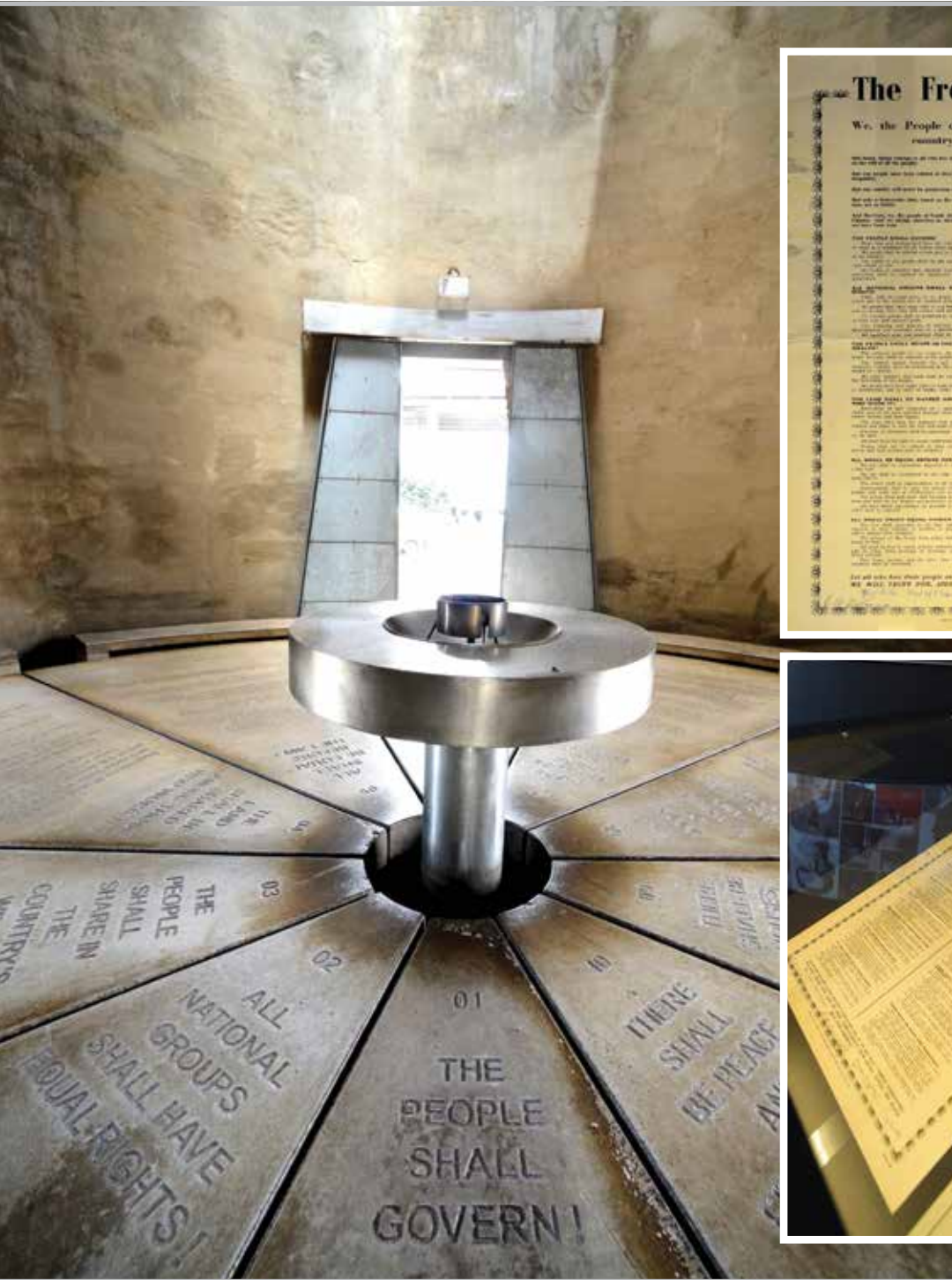
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South Africa's Freedom Charter campaign holds lessons for the pursuit of a fairer society

It was ahead of its time: not just from a human rights perspective, but also in capturing the concerns and hopes of the public, and using this to inspire and mobilise for progressive change.

By Benjamin Roberts

Chief Research Specialist: Developmental, Capable and Ethical State Research Division, and Coordinator of the South African Social Attitudes Survey, Human Sciences Research Council

The Freedom Charter, the document that became the blueprint for a free South Africa, turns 65 this year.

It was adopted by the Congress of the People (COP) in Kliptown, Soweto, on 26 June 1955. The meeting brought together several organisations and individuals allied to the liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC).

Much has been written about the enduring significance of the document. This includes its vision for a just social and economic order, its influence on South Africa's widely celebrated Constitution and the degree to which changes in the country since the end of apartheid in 1994 have lived up to the ideals of the charter.

Less attention has been devoted to the underlying process of collecting, collating and representing the voices of ordinary South Africans in preparing the Freedom Charter. This article briefly reflects on this process.

It argues that this exercise remains a pioneering effort directed at capturing mass opinion and using it as a broad framework to inform public policy. Every generation of South Africans has its own "Freedom Charter moment", when fundamental questions are asked about the type of society desired, and the true meaning of freedom.

Today, the Freedom Charter campaign process holds lessons concerning the importance of inclusive, bottom-up governance and active citizenship as the basis for addressing the challenges, needs and aspirations of South Africans across gender, class, generational and other lines.

Genesis of a vision

The COP idea was put forward by Professor ZK Matthews, President of the ANC in the Cape, at a provincial conference of the organisation in August 1953. He maintained that the time had come for "convening a national convention, a congress of the people, representing all the people of this country, irrespective of race or colour, to draw up a Freedom Charter for the democratic South Africa of the future".

This proposal was adopted, and subsequently endorsed by the ANC National Conference in December 1953.

Planning of the congress campaign was organised through the Congress Alliance, comprising the National Action Council of the ANC, South African Indian Congress, South African Coloured People's Organisation and the South African Congress of Democrats.

The COP campaign process was mapped out at a meeting of the alliance in March 1954. This entailed the establishment of provincial committees, followed by committees at workplaces, villages and black urban residential areas, known as townships.

At the heart of the process was the recruitment of a vast corps of "freedom volunteers" to inspire awareness of the congress and to collect demands for incorporation into the charter.

The will of all the people

In the months that followed, a tide of rallies, meetings and door-to-door canvassing took place. This led to thousands of public demands flooding into COP headquarters, on sheets torn from school exercise books, on little dog-eared scraps of paper and on slips torn from COP leaflets.

The demands were written in multiple languages, and varied in style from pithy one-liners to wordier contributions, including the odd essay. Sadly, only a small set of the individual demands have been preserved in archives.

In April 1955, while final logistics for the Kliptown event were under way, the subcommittees of the National Action Committee sorted the multiplicity of demands thematically. A small drafting committee eventually used these materials to prepare the charter.

This document text was hurriedly prepared, primarily by Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein of the South African Congress of Democrats, with the ANC leadership seeing it only on the eve of the COP. Around 3 000 delegates assembled at the two-day congress, approving each clause in the charter with a show of hands. The charter was adopted before the apartheid police halted the proceedings.

The Freedom Charter campaign and document have been the subject of wide-ranging, ongoing theoretical and political debate. This has touched on organisational and ideological foundations, interpretive differences on content, as well as the degree to which the public demands are reflected in the final drafting process.

It led to fierce debates between "Africanists" (African nationalists) in the ANC Youth League and "Charterists". The former rejected the ANC's non-racialism and the Freedom Charter, with its assertion that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white.

This precipitated the breakaway that culminated in the formation of the Pan Africanist Congress, led by Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe.

The Freedom Charter, nonetheless, remained a programmatic vision for the ANC for more than 30 years, and continues to have a broad influence on the policies of government, such as those aimed at addressing past injustices and promoting equity.

Abiding relevance

The Freedom Charter process was an imperfect but impressive attempt at capturing


the will of the people and articulating an alternative vision to apartheid South Africa. The approach, scale and reach of the undertaking during exceptionally fraught times have relevance to contemporary debates about liberal democracy, public opinion and public policy.

From a democratic theory perspective, the Freedom Charter process has abiding relevance. It showcases the importance of ascertaining the pressing needs of citizens, as well as holding the elected to account in responding to the priorities inherent in this "public agenda".

It was ahead of its time: not just from a human rights perspective, but also in capturing the concerns and hopes of the public, and using this to inspire and mobilise for progressive change.

As the late anti-apartheid activist Denis Goldberg said in *Freedom Fighter and Humanist*:

"The Freedom Charter was drawn up after about 10 000 meetings with the people of South Africa. It is special because it was not drawn up by a small group of visionaries seeking to impose their ideals. It is an authentic reflection of the views of the mass of the people who wrote down and submitted their wishes for the future of their country..."

The process of preparing the charter resonates well with the unprecedented times South Africans find themselves in. The COVID-19 pandemic will worsen poverty, unemployment, inequality and indebtedness in the country. Now, more than ever, an urgent need exists for robust public engagement and debate around a vision and social compact that will shape the post-COVID society in South Africa. 

Today, the Freedom Charter campaign process holds lessons concerning the importance of inclusive, bottom-up governance and active citizenship as the basis for addressing the challenges, needs and aspirations of South Africans across gender, class, generational and other lines.



We must continue to **develop our own solutions** to inspire and energise Africans

Africans have made decisions based on solid scientific evidence, medical advice and the work of bodies such as the World Health Organisation. The discussions at the webinar also showed that communication had played a vital role in educating, dealing with stigma and reassuring people that their individual actions are key to stopping the spread of the virus.

By Phumla Williams

Director-General of the Government Communication and Information System and Government Spokesperson



The unique challenges posed by COVID-19 have called on humanity to remain apart through social distancing. This has caused untold anguish as people have been forced to adapt to a new way of life, which has now become our new normal.

Yet, even in this period of extreme uncertainty, people have found new ways to maintain connections and communicate. We might be miles or even continents apart but through technology, we can share our experiences, best practice and help each other through this turbulent period.

Africans have always found ways to work together to find solutions for our continent and our people. During the recently held Africa's Webinar on COVID-19 and South Africa's communication endeavours, which took the form of a virtual engagement, communicators from the continent shared their experiences and knowledge on the collective fight against COVID-19.

What emerged was that while there were challenges, Africa had largely followed best practice in fighting this pandemic. To a large

extent, there has not been the contestation about the wearing of masks, observing social distancing or washing hands that have characterised the debate around COVID-19 in other parts of the world.

Africans have made decisions based on solid scientific evidence, medical advice and the work of bodies such as the World Health Organisation. The discussions at the webinar also showed that communication had played a vital role in educating, dealing with stigma and reassuring people that their individual actions are key to stopping the spread of the virus.

What has been notable about the African response is that the African Union, in tandem with regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), had spearheaded efforts to fight the virus.

Speaker after speaker at the webinar spoke of the importance of a coordinated regional and continent-wide response as a means to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to mitigate its socio-economic impact on the continent.

Barbara Lopi, the Head of Communication and Public Relations of SADC, said that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SADC had been at the forefront in coordinating the regional response to the pandemic, by putting in place measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to mitigate its socio-economic impact in the SADC region. She further stressed that regional measures were not taken in isolation, but instead complemented national actions and efforts undertaken by various member states in response to the pandemic.

Winston Mwale from *AfricaBrief*, an innovate digital news platform, emphasised that the pandemic had unleashed a desire for content, and that publications such as *AfricaBrief* were essential in telling the African story through their own eyes. They have also been quick to use innovative ways to get their content across, and have used *WhatsApp* as a platform to reach their readers wherever they were.

One thing that the pandemic has done is to force nations, organisations and people to change their ideas about what can and cannot be done. It has driven innovation and new thinking and Africa has in many ways been at the forefront of this revolution.

Tshelp Ikaneng, a journalist from the South African Broadcasting Corporation, said that technology and its smart use had been a game changer in how we communicate and relay messages. He emphasised that technology could be used to showcase African excellence, and that as Africans we had a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with the world.

All the participants in the webinar agreed that the virus knew no boundaries, and

that the need for enhanced regional and continental efforts was essential.

What has, however, been clear from the start is the vital role played by communication and communicators. Using a variety of platforms, communicators have ensured that the message of promoting solidarity, cooperation and harmonisation of procedures was adopted.

Once again, the issue of ensuring that communication during COVID-19 was also aimed at facilitating information-sharing among nations on the continent was emphasised, along with that of the sharing of best practices, advisories and recommendations.

What also became clear during the interactions was that the pandemic was constantly changing and so too were the problems and challenges associated with it. This resulted in nations and communicators continually having to adjust approaches to better suit the needs of their nations and people.

It was also abundantly clear from the interactions that nations on the continent faced similar experiences and challenges. A common theme which emerged was that it was incumbent on governments, and by implication communicators, to inform, educate and reassure citizens through this turbulent period.

Similarly, nations on the continent have found that communication and sharing knowledge have been an essential tool in their mitigating strategy to combat the spread of the virus.

It was wonderful to share these experiences with our friends and colleagues on the continent. These discussions have strengthened our resolve that we must continue to develop our own solutions to inspire and energise Africans. We also agreed that we would continue to assert a narrative of hope rather than hopelessness.

The Africa I know is one of unlimited potential, and I am confident that the continent will rise to even greater heights and meet any challenge. 🇵🇹

What has been notable about the African response is that the African Union, in tandem with regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community, had spearheaded efforts to fight the virus.



Journalism of *Drum's* heyday remains cause for celebration – 70 years later

As the magazine's circulation grew, iconic names in South African literature joined. These included Casey Motsisi, Bloke Modisane, Es'kia Mphahlele, Lewis Nkosi and Nat Nakasa.

By Lesley Cowling
Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism, University of the Witwatersrand

Drum recently became an online-only magazine, almost 70 years after it was first launched as an African print publication.

The magazine is now a celebrity-focussed human interest magazine. But, it played a very different role in the 1950s and 1960s, when it was widely considered to have created new possibilities for identity for black South Africans. It was also crucial to the development of South African literature.

"The *Drum* boys", a group of young writers employed by the magazine in its early years,

Their inventive style of using fictional tactics to tell non-fiction stories pre-dated the New Journalism of America – touted by Tom Wolfe as a brand new approach to journalism – by a decade.

served an emerging urban black readership in the first decade of apartheid, which came into force in 1948. Their lively chronicles of urban adventures made them popular characters, as well as contributing to *Drum's* commercial success.

The magazine grew to be the largest circulation publication for black readers in South Africa, and expanded to include East and West African editions.

The "*Drum* era" of the 1950s has been romanticised as "the fabulous decade" through posters, photographs, film and exhibitions. The *Drum* look has found its way into fashion (T-shirts printed with *Drum* covers), décor and television, commercials and game shows such as *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Despite the nostalgia, many South Africans are not familiar with the journalism of early *Drum*. But magazines, as media academic Tim Holmes notes, are crucial to the construction of identities because of their intense focus on readers and reader communities.

Such journalism, despite its lightweight appearance, tells us complex stories about culture. Magazines also provide a space for creative forms of journalism.

Through their use of storytelling, personal narrative, local lingo and vivid scenes of

everyday life, the *Drum* writers engaged in an ongoing construction of cosmopolitan identity for Johannesburg city dwellers. Literature scholar Michael Titlestad has called this process "improvisation", comparing the writing in *Drum* with the improvisation in local jazz that took place in the 1950s.

The beginning

While countries throughout Africa were heading to independence in the 1950s, in South Africa, the National Party was introducing draconian apartheid laws. There was also increased migration to cities. Africans could not own property, but were able to obtain freehold rights in certain areas, such as Sophiatown, on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Sophiatown was a place where people could mingle across the colour bar. Its shebeens (informal taverns), music, celebrities and gangsters were the source of many *Drum* stories.

The African *Drum* was launched in 1951. After a lacklustre three months, the owner, Jim Bailey, brought a friend out from England, Anthony Sampson, to edit the magazine. They did some informal research and were told that black readers wanted sport, jazz, celebrities and "hot dames".

"Tell us what's happening right here, man, on the Reef!"

Henry Nxumalo, an ex-serviceman with some experience as a journalist, was highly influential in developing *Drum's* style as the magazine sought to attract black readers. Writers came from diverse backgrounds.

Todd Matshikiza was a musician (and went on to compose the musical *King Kong*). Can Themba, a teacher, won a fiction contest held by the magazine in 1952. Arthur Maimane was a schoolboy from St Peter's Secondary School in Sophiatown with a passion for American crime writing. A young German, Jürgen Schadeberg, took the pictures, later joined by Bob Gosani and Peter Magubane.

As the magazine's circulation grew, iconic names in South African literature joined. These included Casey Motsisi, Bloke Modisane, Es'kia Mphahlele, Lewis Nkosi and Nat Nakasa.

Mostly without journalism training, the *Drum* writers began experimenting with tales of everyday life in the black townships. Nxumalo and Matshikiza, as the earliest writers on *Drum*, were influential in creating inventiveness in both reporting and writing.

Matshikiza developed a lively style to write about jazz, which was dubbed "Matshikese". He was described as hammering on his typewriter like a musician playing a keyboard.

Maimane wrote serialised fiction in the mode of American hard-boiled detective stories. Others recounted first-person adventures in the shebeens and clubs, wrote confessional stories on behalf of characters they interviewed, or offered their own opinions.

In their stories, they used the styles of fiction writing more than news reporting, as many of the *Drum* writers also wrote short stories and novels. As John Matshikiza, Todd's son, noted years later in the preface to a collection of *Drum* articles:

"The startling thing is that there is no real dividing line between the two styles of writing: the journalistic and the fictional."

Investigative journalism

At first, circulation was slow to pick up. Then Nxumalo pitched a story about the abuse of labourers on the farms of Bethal. Nxumalo and photographer Schadeberg posed as a visiting journalist and his servant to gain access to the farms. The magazine published an eight-page article outlining the abuses, bylined *Mr Drum*.

The edition sold out, and public response reached Parliament.

After this, *Drum* carried regular investigations, mostly driven by Nxumalo. He got himself arrested so that he could write about prison conditions and took a job at a farm where a worker had been killed.



Mr Drum became a celebrity, and his feats of investigative journalism have rarely been matched in South Africa.

Drum sales hit 73 657 in 1955, making it the largest circulation magazine in Africa in any language. The devil-may-care spirit of the *Drum* writers, however, was difficult to sustain as the apartheid structures bore down on them.

By 1956, Sophiatown's black residents were being removed, to make way for an exclusively white suburb, in line with the apartheid policies that prohibited the mixing of "races".

In December 1956, Nxumalo was stabbed to death while out on an investigation. His death deeply affected his fellow writers.

The increasing repression of the 1960s destroyed the journalists of the "Drum school". Most went into exile. *Drum* was banned and stopped publishing for some years. The title was eventually revived, and sold in 1984 to Nasionale Pers, an Afrikaans media company with close ties to the apartheid government.

The 1980s

In the 1980s, many of the early *Drum* writers were unbanned, releasing their writing back into South Africa's public domain. Mike Nicol, who wrote a book on 1950s *Drum*, describes the impact of this moment as history shifting beneath one's feet, revealing a "lost country". There was a surge of interest by literature scholars. Michael Chapman, in the 1980s, argued that: "the stories in *Drum* mark the substantial beginning, in South Africa, of the modern black short story."

Lewis Nkosi, on the other hand, regretted the short-lived potential of the *Drum* generation and the production of what he called "journalism of an insubstantial kind". Es'kia Mphahlele felt that *Drum* did not deal

seriously with social issues. Others argued that *Drum* was not explicitly committed to the liberation struggle.

Many scholars argue that the *Drum* writers, in detailing everyday experience, showed quite powerfully the violent impact of the apartheid system on black South Africans. Nkosi noted: "No newspaper report ... could ever convey significantly the deep sense of entrapment that the black people experience under apartheid rule."

Their inventive style of using fictional tactics to tell non-fiction stories pre-dated the New Journalism of America – touted by Tom Wolfe as a brand new approach to journalism – by a decade. 🇷🇺

This edited extract is adapted from *Echoes of an African Drum: The Lost Literary Journalism of 1950s South Africa*, in *Literary Journalism Studies*.

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

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Cape Town is also a proud recipient of a number of international awards and accolades. In 2018, the city was named one of the Top 10 Surf Cities in the world by Surfer Magazine and crowned the number one city in Africa for business tourism events by the International Congress and Convention Association. Cape Town has also been voted one of the Top 10 Cities in the World for Travellers by Lonely Planet in 2017, Skytrax voted our airport the Best in Africa and international real estate company Savills ranked the Cape Town amongst the world's Top Tech Cities in a 2017 report.

VISIT

Cape Town is a must-visit destination. Cape Point, Groot Constantia, Kirstenbosch, Robben Island, the Table Mountain Cableway and the V&A Waterfront are the iconic destinations that form the core of the true Cape Town experience, and a trip to the city will not be complete without a visit to each Big 6 attractions. Cape Town also has the highest number of Blue Flag beaches in South Africa. Seven of the city's most popular beaches and three Cape Town marinas have been recognised for meeting the globally-acclaimed Blue Flag standards.

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

Cape Town has a number of world class museums that offer up a treasure trove to the past. A number of these museums are located in the city centre - all within walking distance of each other - and together offer a view as diverse and entertaining as the city itself.

The state-of-the-art Zeitz MOCAA - recently voted the world's top cultural destination - is the latest addition to the Cape Town landscape and the first major museum in Africa dedicated to contemporary art. The museum, housed in the historic Grain Silo at the V&A Waterfront, comprises over 9,500 square meters (102,000 square feet) placing it among leading contemporary art museums worldwide.

Zeitz MOCAA is spread over nine floors, of which 6,000 square meters (65,000 square feet) is dedicated to exhibition space. Through an entire floor dedicated to education, the museum aims to develop a new art-loving, museum-going audience.





LIVE

Cape Town has a terrific mixture of areas to live, from vibrant city-living to quiet, leafy residential suburbs. The city is known for its successful property market. In recent years Cape Town's property values and sales transactions have exceeded Johannesburg's and continue to attract international property investors. The city and surrounds is also home to four public universities, two globally recognised business schools and a number of trustworthy private and public institutions. Educational institutions situated in the city include the University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape and the Cape Town University of Technology. Cape Town is also fast becoming the most digitally connected city in Africa. The City's public Wi-Fi service and other digital inclusion projects are part of a broader Digital City Strategy, which aims to make Cape Town the most digitally connected city in Africa. Other elements of the strategy include investment in digital infrastructure, digital business initiatives, and a focus on digital government.

WORK

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

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

Cape Town is home to the only Hollywood style film studio complex in Africa. Coupled with exceptionally skilled film crew and post-production services, our facilities are winning awards and attracting a growing number of productions and stars to our shores. We also act as a gateway to Africa with several companies running their African operations from our city. The City of Cape Town is making sure that our infrastructure investments support key sectors, like the tech industry. An extensive open source fibre optic network has been installed with plans to extend the footprint over the forthcoming years.

PLAY

Cape Town hosts a wide range of local and international events – from concerts and community-based events to business conferences and international sports tournaments. The city is a creative hub with arts, heritage and cultural sites, activities and opportunities for all. We have a lively arts and culture scene where creativity and heritage are explored through theatre, live music, dance, visual arts and more. Both day and night in Cape Town offer you exciting cultural spaces to visit and events to be a part of. Explore galleries and museums, cultural precincts, attend signature events and explore our top cultural venues.

INVEST

Cape Town is South Africa's oldest city, its second-most populous and an important contributor to national employment. It is the legislative capital of South Africa, the administrative and economic centre of the Western Cape, and Africa's third biggest economic hub. The Mother City produces 9.8% of South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for more than 71% of the Western Cape's economic activity (Global Insight, 2016). The City has a diversified economy, and the three biggest sectors are: finance, insurance, property and business services. Cape Town is attracting thinkers, innovators and design led entrepreneurs who are helping to build an ecosystem that is strong in many aspects of the knowledge economy. The city is the leader on the African continent in the information technology sector, with more tech start-ups than anywhere else on the continent.

Cape Town has been chosen as the African headquarters of innovation by companies such as Barclay Rise and Thomson Reuters. The city is also the home to many of South Africa and Africa's financial institutions and, coupled with the national headquarters of many legal and consultancy firms, offer all the services needed to underpin a global drive into Africa.

One of the fastest growing sectors in Cape Town's economy is the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, with many global call centres and online retailers like Amazon choosing to conduct their operations from our shores.

www.capetown.gov.za/visit
www.investcapetown.com
www.capetown.travel



Why the African free trade area could be the game-changer for the continent's economies

The African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should get the free trade area working as soon as possible. It has the potential to make a big difference to structural transformation and could be the game-changer for Africa.

By Muazu Ibrahim

Lecturer, Department of Banking and Finance, University for Development Studies

Most economists see structural transformation as one of the main routes to Africa's sustainable development. What it means is changing the share of agriculture, manufacturing and services in an economy. It is a central aim of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063.

With this aim in mind, economists and policymakers need to know what determines structural transformation. They have flagged factors like demand for goods and services, trade policies, financial development, institutional quality and economic integration.

But researchers haven't closely examined the way economic integration through trade and finance influences structural transformation.

I therefore set out to study African countries' integration with the rest of the world and the effect of that integration on their structural transformation. This study provides fresh evidence about whether integration is good for Africa. It also unearths the right levels of integration necessary to increase structural transformation.

Trade and financial integration are both about countries exporting to and importing from each other. The two are often referred to as economic integration. Opening national borders to trade has a number of potential benefits, which can promote development. For example, it creates comparative advantage, access to external finance and opportunities for risk-sharing. It also enables technology transfer. Local firms serving larger foreign and domestic corporations can acquire knowledge and skills and transfer them to the rest of the economy.

All these benefits are essential for structural transformation. But excessive openness and integration may also come at a cost, largely from distortions around trade policy. For instance, if certain local industries have been protected, local firms may not be fit enough to compete with foreign counterparts. Opening these industries to competition may harm them.

Balancing the potential benefits and dangers of integration is a pressing policy issue now that African countries have signed the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, which aims to foster integration.

Policymakers need to know whether there is an ideal level of trade and financial integration that will change economies in the desired ways.

The study: findings and implications

With this background, I examined the effects of economic integration on structural transformation in 32 African countries from 1985 to 2015. The time period and choice of countries were based on data availability.

I created an index of structural transformation that incorporates changes in sectoral value addition and demographic characteristics. The index ranges between 0 (low transformation) and 1 (high transformation). I found that structural transformation on the continent was low, with an average value of 0.419, but varied across countries.

The majority of the countries' indices were lower, suggesting that structural transformation is only just beginning.

I also found that African countries were less integrated in terms of trade and finance than other developing economies.

I measured trade integration as the ratio of countries' imports and exports to gross

domestic product (GDP). This shows the degree of openness. I found that the optimal level for trade integration was 73.29% of GDP. By this, I mean the level of trade integration that produces an improved effect on structural transformation.

The data suggested that trade integration encourages the reallocation of resources to more productive sectors.

To measure financial integration, I used the ratio of countries' total foreign liabilities and assets to GDP. This shows the degree of restriction of capital flows. The optimal level for financial integration was 137.5% of GDP. Ten African countries were above these levels and 22 were below.

The 10 countries that are above this financial integration threshold are Botswana, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan and Togo. Similarly, the 10 countries above the trade integration threshold are Botswana, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Seychelles, eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), Togo and Tunisia.

I observed that structural transformation increased more in countries that were below these levels of integration compared to countries that were above the thresholds. Integration increases structural transformation, but too much integration slows that process, producing undesired effects.

The positive effect of integration on transformation occurs through enhanced efficiency, comparative advantage, external finance and risk diversification. Countries can have these features despite being less integrated and operating below the thresholds. The benefits of integration come



from efficiency of integration rather than unbridled integration.

A key implication is that efficiency in both trade and financial integration is critical to driving structural transformation in Africa. This explains the urgent need for African countries to simultaneously deepen trade and financial integration. Economies that embark on economic integration along both lines can expect to have improved transformation for sustainable development.


The role of the free trade area

The study shows that Africa has opportunities to integrate further. The African Free Trade Area has the potential to defragment the continent and bring its economies into the global economy.

The free trade area aims to progressively eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and to liberalise trade in services. It will establish a single continental market for goods and services: a bigger and more competitive market.

A bigger free trade area will not only boost intra-regional trade, it will also hasten the development of regional supply chains. These have driven structural transformation in other regions, for example Asia. It is also necessary for policy to address the non-tariff barriers to trade. Among these are poor logistics and infrastructure (such as roads, rail, ports, power and digital connectivity).

Countries should be focussing on removing such bottlenecks. The AU, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should get the free trade area working as soon as possible.

It has the potential to make a big difference to structural transformation and could be the game-changer for Africa. 

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

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In July 2020, the Red Carnation Hotel Collection's The Oyster Box received a prestigious accolade at the Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards. Durban's beloved hotel hit the No1 spot in the Top Resort Hotels in Africa Category. Furthermore, Red Carnation Hotels was listed as number four in the Top 25 Hotel Brands in the World.



How the *Grand Renaissance Dam* might spark basin-wide water cooperation

The last 10 years have also seen significant economic and political changes in the Blue Nile basin. These have included the birth of a new state (South Sudan), the Arab Spring in Egypt and impressive economic growth in Ethiopia with large-scale foreign investments in agriculture.

By Ashok Swain
Professor of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

Ethiopia's ongoing construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile River has attracted speculation that it could lead to a "water war".

There is no doubt that the dam has become a source of serious tension among Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan. But in my view, a war is very unlikely. In fact, the dam has helped to shift longstanding power relationships and could pave the way for more cooperation among all the countries that depend on the Nile.

Although some claim the Amazon River is longer, the Nile has historically been known as the world's longest international river. It passes through 11 countries. The current distribution of its waters is limited to only two – Egypt and Sudan – under the 1959 Nile Agreement. Out of the total annual flow of the Nile, measured at Egypt's Aswan Dam as 84 billion m³, Egypt takes 66% of the water and Sudan 22%, and the remaining 12% goes to evaporation.

The Nile River has two main tributaries. The White Nile originates from the Nile equatorial lakes region and the source of the Blue Nile is from the highlands in Ethiopia. The intensity of rainfall in these two sub-basins varies considerably.

Almost 86% of the water reaching Egypt originates from Ethiopia. This can rise to almost 95% in rainy seasons. Despite Ethiopia's massive contribution to the Nile River flow, its use of the water from the river system is almost nothing. It also still rankles that Egypt opposed external funding being sought, which thwarted Ethiopia's past attempts to develop water storage facilities and use the Blue Nile water for hydropower generation and irrigation.

The last 10 years have also seen significant economic and political changes in the Blue Nile basin. These have included the birth of a new state (South Sudan), the Arab Spring in Egypt and impressive economic growth in Ethiopia with large-scale foreign investments in agriculture.

Taking advantage of this changing environment, Ethiopia officially launched its long-planned and its largest-ever engineering project in April 2011. This dam, with a budget of U\$4.8 billion and an installed capacity of 6 450 megawatts, is situated about 15 km from the Sudanese border. The project will create a reservoir with a volume of more than 74 billion m³.

The fall-out

Ethiopia's motives to build this massive hydropower dam are quite obvious. Only 10% of its hydropower potential is tapped while only 25% of the population has access to electricity.

The Ethiopian Government plans to supply electricity to more of its population. It also intends to sell surplus energy to neighbouring countries.

Egypt, which has been in virtual control of the Nile water for centuries, is alarmed by Ethiopia's challenge to its domination in the basin. Egypt is almost completely dependent

on the Nile for its water supply and irrigation. There is no doubt that large-scale water diversions upstream would have a severe impact on Egypt's food production and public health. The dam is meant to generate hydropower, which means it will only store the water, not divert it for irrigation. Still, Egypt is seriously concerned about losing its historical control of Nile water.

For its part, Ethiopia sees the dam as a matter of national pride and a symbol of its economic success. It has received some support from Sudan, which hopes to buy cheap hydropower. The dam may also help to prevent seasonal floods, regulate the river flows and extend the life span of Sudan's dams by preventing silting.

Several other White Nile riparian countries like Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda also support Ethiopia's right to build the dam as they don't want Egypt to be seen as owning the river.

Several attempts at building a basin-based water management framework, particularly through the World Bank-initiated Nile Basin Initiative, have failed. The sticking point was Egypt's stance on protecting its historical rights.

Egypt's initial unequivocal opposition to the project has been diluted to a large extent in recent years. This was particularly true after technical negotiations were initiated between water officials from Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan in 2013.

Egypt has now accepted the dam as *fait accompli* – it's already more than 70% complete. But it wants to have a say in its operation.

The nitty gritty

Last year, tripartite negotiations between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt failed to get an agreement over the filling and operation of the dam. The result was that, for the first time, an outside party – the United States (USA) – got involved. But the strong-arm tactics of the USA to force an agreement failed in March 2020 as Ethiopia refused to accept the conditions.

The African Union is now facilitating talks among the three riparian countries. They are still trying to:

- find a formula for how to operate the dam if there is a prolonged period of dry years
- establish what mechanisms should be in place to manage disputes.

Even as the talks continue, Ethiopia has declared it has achieved its target for the first year of filling the dam.

Egypt cannot do much except put diplomatic pressure on Ethiopia to agree to an acceptable deal. Its attempts to get the support of the Arab countries, and even

asking the United Nations Security Council to intervene, have not been successful in restricting Ethiopia's construction of the dam, or starting to fill up the reservoir.

Why war doesn't seem likely

Despite previous threats by Egypt of military action, I don't believe this is a serious possibility, for a number of reasons.

To date, no country has fought a war over water resources. There is no reason why this case is different.

Also, Egypt does not have overwhelming military superiority over Ethiopia. In addition, waging a war would be logistically tough because it has no contiguous border with Ethiopia. This means it would need Sudan to join the war.

What about the option of simply bombing the dam? Unlikely, as this would make Egyptian dams and water projects legitimate targets for Ethiopian forces.

Another major factor is that Ethiopia has much greater support than Egypt among the other Eastern African riparian countries of the

Nile basin. All would like to develop the Nile water resources for hydropower generation and irrigation without being restricted by Egypt's historical rights.

The dam has increased the urgency of reaching an agreement among the Blue Nile countries. This could open the way for basin-based cooperation among all the Nile countries, a process that's been blocked by rivalry between Egypt and Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian dam project has the huge potential to be not only a massive source of hydropower production for energy-starved, under-developed Ethiopia, but it will also help to facilitate economic integration in the region. It has certainly created tension in the region but at the same time, it has helped to break the centuries-old stalemate of Egyptian domination in the basin.

An agreement over the filling and operation of the dam among Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan will build a strong foundation for the future transboundary water cooperation in the Nile basin. [📖](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



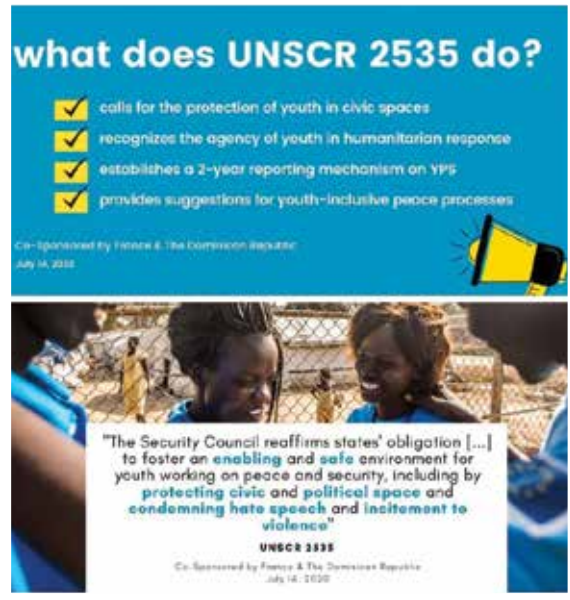
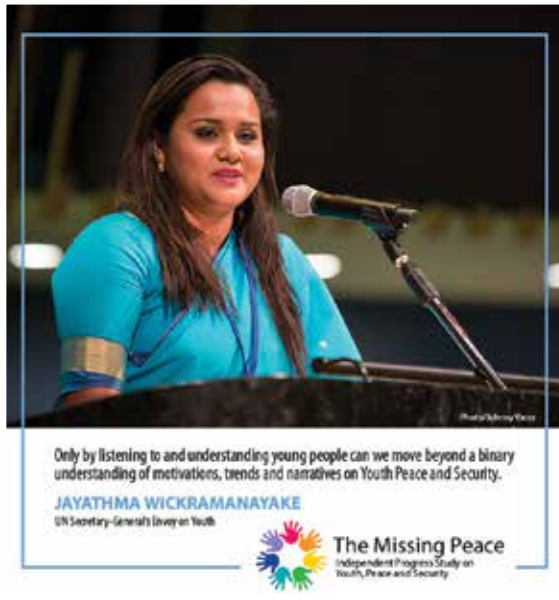
President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as African Union (AU) Chairperson, on 21 July 2020, chaired a virtual meeting of the AU Bureau of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The meeting was a follow-up to the bureau's meeting on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which was held on 26 June 2020.

The meeting considered progress made in the trilateral negotiations between the GERD parties, namely, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan.

The meeting took place within the context of the AU's efforts to strengthen the negotiations and to infuse new momentum towards the resolution of all the outstanding legal and technical matters, including (but not limited to) the issue of the future development on the Blue Nile upstream, as well as a future dispute-resolution mechanism. [SAnews.gov.za](https://www.sanews.gov.za)





A comprehensive and meaningful Implementation of the YPS and WPS agendas in Africa: An international perspective

Young people are key actors in building peace and preventing violent conflicts. They are not only the leaders of tomorrow. We are already the leaders of today – and it is critical that the global community and the decision-makers – in Africa and beyond – recognise it.

By Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos
Programme Coordinator, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

In most societies, young women face double discrimination – as women; and as young people. They are often the last to eat, the last ones to be sent to school and the first ones to be removed from school if the parents cannot afford it. They are expected to obey, and speak only when spoken to. This is true across the globe – in many countries in Africa, where I have had the honour to work, as well as in my own country, Poland.

Because of this marginalisation, young women are disproportionately affected by armed conflict. They are exposed to sexual violence, sexual slavery and kidnapping. They are victims of early and child marriage – often perceived by the families as a way to protect themselves and their daughters. Recent

research conducted by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), with support from the Swiss Department of International Law, has shown that in internally displaced persons camps in Nigeria, families often offer their daughters as wives to military men for protection, and in exchange for dowry, to lift them out of extreme poverty.

However, despite the violence and discrimination that young women face, they are far from being helpless victims. Young women play a range of diverse roles in conflict and peacebuilding. They increasingly take roles within armed groups – either voluntarily or through coercion. They are also at the forefront of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and – more recently – of addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through my work to implement Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) resolutions, I have had the privilege to meet many inspiring young women working towards a more equal and peaceful world. For example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the young women who participated in the GNWP's Young Women Leaders for Peace Programme, have used the skills they learned through the project to challenge negative stereotypes about sexual violence survivors. They produced a radio show on community radio, which reached over 5 000 people in North and South Kivu. The young women have also started their own micro-businesses to become more financially independent.

Having their own income has made them more respected in their own families and communities, and allowed them to be a part of decision-making. They then reinvested their small profits into literacy classes for other young women and girls, and other projects to advance their community.

During COVID-19, they have used their knowledge of community media and their entrepreneurial skills to create rapid information-sharing and -dissemination platforms to raise awareness on preventative measures, coordinate efforts and fight misinformation.

This is just one example of many. Yet, young women are often forgotten when it comes to policy and action on preventing conflict and building peace.

Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

The YPS resolutions were important steps towards recognising the leadership of young people in preventing violence and building sustainable peace. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2419 – the second YPS Resolution, adopted in 2018 – was particularly important because it urged the Secretary-General and his special envoys to facilitate equal and meaningful participation of young women in decision-making processes about peace and security.

The latest YPS Resolution – Resolution 2535, passed in July 2020 – further built on this recognition. At GNWP, we were pleased to see the resolution calling for greater funding for youth peacebuilders and their protection from attacks and harassment – both in real life and online. The resolution also recognises the need of closing the “digital gap” and acknowledges that not all young people have equal access to technology. Moreover, it called for including young women and men in humanitarian planning, and in response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution 2535 is the most specific and action-oriented YPS Resolution to date. The GNWP and its Young Women Leaders for Peace Programme members around the world have welcomed the resolution. However, what we need to see now is its effective implementation.

To this end, I want to highlight three key recommendations for the effective implementation of the YPS resolutions:

Recommendation 1: Strengthen the synergies between YPS and WPS

Recognising and promoting young women’s leadership is a shared concern of the two powerful agendas – WPS (which celebrates its 20 anniversary in 2020), and YPS.

There is no doubt that gender stereotypes and inequality negatively affect young women and men, and hinder their ability to fulfil their

potential as leaders and peacebuilders. The Progress Study on YPS, released in 2018, notes that negative stereotypes about youth are fuelled by gendered narratives, as young men are viewed as dangerous perpetrators, while young women are perceived as passive victims.

As a result, young women are often perceived as less capable, and have less access to educational and economic opportunities. Moreover, they are stigmatised as victims, and the work they do to promote peace in their communities is unrecognised and unsupported.

To tackle this challenge, the GNWP launched the Young Women Leaders for Peace Programme in 2014. The programme now operates in Bangladesh, DRC, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Sudan and Ukraine. Under the programme, young women are trained in literacy and numeracy education, leadership skills, peacebuilding and WPS and YPS resolutions, economic empowerment, and the use of theatre, media and social media to prevent conflict and promote peace. Following the training, the GNWP supports the young women to apply their skills in their communities. They address the root causes of conflict, which is essential to building sustainable peace.

In order to “silence the guns” on the African continent for good, we need to provide education and economic opportunities, build true equality and foster a culture of peace. This is where the young women are an unstoppable force.

For example, in Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s bazaar, young Bangladeshi women have been providing literacy classes to Rohingya refugee women. This not only gives refugee women better access to information, services and decision-making spaces, but it also helps strengthen social cohesion between refugee and host communities by dispelling negative stereotypes the two sides hold against each other. We are currently starting a similar programme in South Sudanese refugee camps in Uganda, and plan to replicate it in Syrian and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon as well.

Recommendation 2: Invest in young women and men peacebuilders

Youth-led peacebuilding is chronically underfunded. According to the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, nearly half of youth-led organisations operate on under US\$5 000 per year. Young people are resourceful and innovative, and can achieve amazing results on a shoe-string. However, to be able to generate truly transformative, sustainable change, they need both political and financial support for their work.


This is particularly true for women peacebuilders, who – once again – are subject to double marginalisation, since only 0.2% of bilateral aid goes directly to women-led organisations. It is time to rethink our financing systems for peacebuilding, to make sure that women- and youth-led initiatives receive adequate support.

Recommendation 3: Meaningfully include women and youth in decision-making on peace and security and economic recovery

Meaningful inclusion means going beyond consulting with young people. Enabling conditions and opportunities must be created in order for them to participate in decision-making and influence policies and programmes that affect their communities and societies.

For donors and humanitarian, peacebuilding and development organisations, it means including young people – especially young women – in the design of their activities, as well as in the implementation and monitoring. This means inviting them to donor conferences, where priorities are defined, and to cluster meetings, where humanitarian actors discuss and coordinate their work.

For governments, it means creating more spaces for young people to speak directly to decision-makers and present their views. It means creating youth advisory boards, with at least 50% of young women’s representation.

This is particularly important as we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis. The pandemic is far from over, but its social and economic impacts are already painfully clear, and will remain with us for many years. We do have an opportunity to build back better. But, we can only do it if young women and men have a real say in decisions about humanitarian response and economic recovery from the crisis. 

In order to “silence the guns” on the African continent for good, we need to provide education and economic opportunities, build true equality and foster a culture of peace.

This is where the young women are an unstoppable force.



Pan-African solidarity required in the fight against COVID-19

International cooperation plays a crucial role to complement our national efforts. South Africa is, for example, co-investing with the European Union as part of the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership and with China will be launching a joint traditional medicine research programme.

By Buti Manamela
Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

Science, technology and innovation continue to be at the heart of South Africa's efforts to prevent the spread of, and detect, treat and defeat COVID-19. Government's strategy and decisions continue to be based on the best possible scientific advice, which we access through dedicated advisory structures on which leading experts from various disciplines serve. South Africa's social scientists, for example, play a crucial role to advise on the socio-economic impact of different measures. Working with the

country's data scientists and drawing on our capabilities to collect and analyse big data, we also ensure our policy-making is robustly evidence-based.

Through various funding and cooperation instruments, we continue to mobilise the collective capability of the National System of Innovation in the fight against COVID-19. Flagship programmes, for example, include:

- Expanding our national COVID-19 testing network, by adding the capabilities of various technology platforms and laboratories, such as the Centre for Proteomic and Genomic Research and

the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

- Boosting South Africa's bio-manufacturing capacities, especially with regard to molecular biology enzymes, reagents and testing kits, to ensure national security of supply for COVID-19 testing.
- Increasing the domestic production of personal protective equipment, and leveraging investments in capabilities such as advanced and additive manufacturing technologies.
- Contributing to the National Ventilator Project, the systems engineering skills

Africa's scientists set out their **COVID-19** research priorities

As further work is undertaken and we start to understand some research areas better in various contexts, priorities may shift again. Those shifts will need to be based on various communities' needs and on what interventions are available.

By Moses Alobo
Programme Manager for Grand Challenges Africa, African Academy of Sciences

In April 2020, about two months after the African continent recorded its first case of COVID-19, the African Academy of Sciences undertook an extensive survey of its members. This allowed hundreds of scientists in African countries to identify COVID-19-related research priorities across a range of disciplines. *The Conversation Africa's* Natasha Joseph asked Dr Moses Alobo, who is heading the academy's COVID-19 response efforts, to explain the survey's findings and how they can be applied.

What was the purpose of the survey, and who took part?

The COVID-19 crisis is global and scientists are still trying to understand this SARS-CoV-2 virus. The African Academy of Sciences recognised there was an urgent need to help scientists, researchers and practitioners on the continent in pharmaceutical and non-

pharmaceutical mitigation efforts. We need to provide guidance and resources that will help address COVID-19 by shifting the focus to specific needs that may be unique to the African continent. This is part of our work in providing advisory and think-tank functions to, among other things, consolidate the continent's scientific research efforts.

The survey helped to develop a prioritisation list for research and development for the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. Most of those priorities were based on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Research Roadmap. We asked researchers to rank the priorities listed by the WHO to get an understanding of how Africa's scientists are thinking about the pandemic. The academy also hosted a webinar with nearly 300 participants before launching the survey, and some priorities not identified by the WHO were discussed there.

There have been several public health methods to combat COVID-19. Social distancing, movement restrictions and wearing protective clothing like masks are all important, practical steps.

This report focussed on another element of the "what next" around the virus: quite simply, we're going to need a lot of research. And that research will need to be multidisciplinary. That's where the variety of our members' research interests are so important: we had respondents from the biomedical sciences, clinical and epidemiological research, social sciences, policy-making and management sciences, among others.

In total, 845 respondents from 56 countries globally took part – 39 of those were African countries. Seventy-nine per cent of all respondents were based at an African institution and working in Africa; while 12% reported being affiliated with an institution



outside Africa but working in Africa at the time of the survey. The remaining respondents did not identify themselves geographically.

Which priorities topped the list for most respondents?

Most thought there should be a greater focus on clinical management. On this point, they particularly identified the need to develop protocols for managing severe disease in places that lack intensive care facilities. Another important point they made was the need to determine interventions that improve clinical outcomes for patients infected with COVID-19.

Infection prevention and control emerged as another key area. Respondents wanted to understand how effective movement-control strategies are in preventing secondary transmission in both healthcare settings and communities.

Most respondents also felt that understanding the virus' natural history, transmission and diagnostics were important. This, they explained, could be used to support work to develop cheaper, faster and easier antigen tests for detecting the virus while out

in the field. Essentially, they are calling for work towards cost-effective diagnostic tools that can accurately and efficiently pick out viral particles from infected people.

There was a call for epidemiological studies that help describe COVID-19's transmission dynamics. These studies can be used to understand the spread of the virus nationally, regionally and globally.

So what happens next? How can these findings be applied?

The findings will be vital in streamlining research efforts. Some are based on the WHO Roadmap. Other priority areas – like waste management, mental health, food and nutritional security, and the indirect effects of the pandemic in areas such as maternal and newborn health and management of other chronic conditions – were added by researchers in Africa. This is key: these new, emerging priorities may become more important with time, both on the continent and elsewhere.

Of course, the flip side is also true. As further work is undertaken and we start to

understand some research areas better in various contexts, priorities may shift again. Those shifts will need to be based on various communities' needs and on what interventions are available.

The report can also help to inform governments' investments in research and development. Ministers of education, science and technology from several African countries have met to prepare a response to COVID-19 in terms of interventions in education, science and technology. After their deliberations, the ministers recommended that research and development funds should be set up specifically for fighting pandemics.

But there was no clarity as to what kind of research should be funded. Our priority-setting work represents a step towards addressing this issue and ensuring that governments know what scientists believe is important when it comes to funding research and development into COVID-19 and other pandemics. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

We need to provide guidance and resources that will help address COVID-19 by shifting the focus to specific needs that may be unique to the African continent. This is part of our work in providing advisory and think-tank functions to, among other things, consolidate the continent's scientific research efforts.



**The African
Academy of Sciences**

*Driving Scientific and Technological
Development in Africa*





Africa's research capacity is growing.

That's good news for pandemic response efforts

The African Research Coalition for Health is an umbrella network of 11 African-led consortia largely funded by the DELTAS-Scheme of the African Academy of Science. It covers 54 African research institutions and universities across 17 sub-Saharan countries. The coalition aims to build high-quality research capacity across the continent.

By Sam Kinyanjui, Head of Training and Director, IDeAL, KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme; and Sharon Fonn, Professor of Public Health, Co-Director Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa and Panel Member, Private Healthcare Market Inquiry, University of the Witwatersrand

The COVID-19 pandemic has put global emergency preparedness under sharp scrutiny. It's also placed national health systems' capacity to predict and respond to major emergencies under the microscope.

Much of the response to the pandemic is focussed on testing, case management and control measures such as personal hygiene, quarantine and social distancing. But in most African countries, these measures are not backed by reliable context-specific data. Instead, they depend largely on epidemic curves from China and Europe; and these appear to differ from those in sub-Saharan Africa.

Governments and other stakeholders are desperate for accurate, real-time data on the pandemic's progress to inform intervention strategies. The scarcity of medical and laboratory resources because of increased global demand, along with international travel restrictions, has also forced countries to look inwards. African countries, for instance, are seeking local innovations and adaptations in COVID-19 testing options and interventions, as well as personal protective equipment.

All of this has turned attention to the contribution that local researchers can make in responding to the pandemic. This centres on the concept of science preparedness. Some commentators define science preparedness as a collaborative effort to establish and

sustain a scientific research framework that can inform and enable emergency planners, responders and the whole community to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from major public health emergencies and disasters.

Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have low research capacities. This has led to some anxiety and fear about the ability of the research community to provide scientific backup to COVID-19 response. However, the last decade or so has seen a significant increase in funding for research capacity in Africa. But has this investment impacted on the continent's science preparedness?

We set out to address this question by reflecting on how research expertise,



infrastructure and resources established under one of the largest networks for research capacity-building in Africa has been mobilised for pandemic response. Four months into the pandemic, we surveyed members of a massive African coalition. This revealed just how extensively the continent's researchers have mobilised their expertise and resources towards the COVID-19 response.

At the forefront

The African Research Coalition for Health (ARCH) is an umbrella network of 11 African-led consortia largely funded by the DELTAS-Scheme of the African Academy of Science. It covers 54 African research institutions and universities across 17 sub-Saharan countries. The coalition aims to build high-quality research capacity across the continent.

By the end of 2021, ARCH will have supported training for more than 1 000 high-quality PhD and postdoctoral researchers. The numbers will be similar for Master's training and graduate research internships, across most spheres of health research.

Responding to our survey, many ARCH partner institutions indicated that they were among the first COVID-19 testing and diagnostics training nodes in their respective countries. Beyond testing, the institutions have also deployed their surveillance systems. And they've used their expertise in epidemiology, modelling and pathogen sequencing to help. A significant proportion of this expertise was developed under the ARCH framework.

Many ARCH-trained researchers are currently launching immunology and pathogenesis studies to inform COVID-19 drug and vaccine development. Clinical trials capacity in sub-Saharan Africa is limited. But ARCH has supported the development of some of the best capacity for trials in the region. At least four consortia are preparing to

support clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines and drugs.

The global response to COVID-19 requires a multi-sectoral, multi-agency approach. More than 30 ARCH-affiliated scientists and training fellows have been formally appointed to their respective national COVID-19 response teams. They are advising on all elements of the pandemic, including aspects like mental health. This builds on the links that ARCH consortia have established with their local state health agencies.

Several ARCH ethics researchers have also been involved in developing guidelines for expedited ethics review and approval for COVID-19 studies.

Prolific African researchers

The results of our study suggest that investment in research capacity-building is paying dividends in sub-Saharan Africa.

ARCH's model is underpinned by a theory of change that encompasses four domains of scientific leadership. These are research training, scientific excellence, scientific citizenship and research management. The coalition also strongly emphasises retaining and nurturing researchers beyond training.

This broad view of research capacity-building has generated a cohort of prolific African researchers. Many of them lead their own research programmes. They are also fostering strong collaborations between the consortia and local ministries of health and other key health stakeholders to translate and implement research output.

All of this is illustrated by the fact that when COVID-19 reached Africa, the consortia were able to rapidly deploy and redirect their expertise, research resources, infrastructures and links with health agencies to support the response.

Work to be done

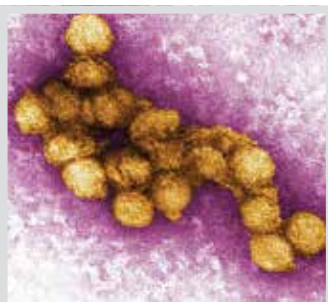
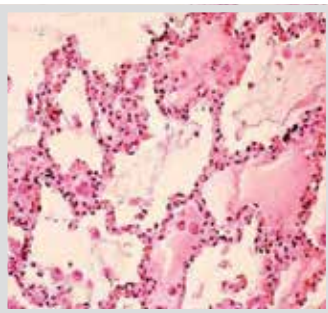
This isn't to suggest the continent's research capacity is fully developed. Much work remains to be done. The number of African researchers still falls far short of critical mass. Many countries are still excluded from coalitions like ARCH because their governments and other research funders will not invest. The pandemic is an opportunity for African governments to seriously reflect on their efforts to build science capacity.

It's also important to point out that despite the expertise, infrastructure and resources that ARCH and other African institutions have mobilised for COVID-19 responses, critical gaps remain in Africa's science preparedness.

Many institutions are hamstrung by an inability to procure key reagents, goods and services for laboratory and field-based research for COVID-19 and other diseases due to lockdown and travel restrictions. Such issues highlight the urgent need to strengthen institutional and national business continuity plans for research during major crises. ^{1,2,3}

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

The global response to COVID-19 requires a multi-sectoral, multi-agency approach. More than 30 ARCH-affiliated scientists and training fellows have been formally appointed to their respective national COVID-19 response teams.



Unite human, animal and environmental health to prevent the next pandemic – UN Report

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take lives and disrupt economies across the world, a new report warns that further outbreaks will emerge unless governments take active measures to prevent other zoonotic diseases from crossing into the human population, and sets out 10 recommendations to prevent future pandemics.

By the United Nations Environment Programme

C COVID-19 is just one example of the rising trend of diseases – from Ebola to MERS to West Nile and Rift Valley fevers – caused by viruses that have jumped from animal hosts into the human population.

A new assessment offers 10 recommendations, and identifies One Health as the optimal way to prevent and respond to future pandemics.

The rising trend in zoonotic diseases is driven by the degradation of our natural environment – through land degradation, wildlife exploitation, resource extraction, climate change and other stresses.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take lives and disrupt economies across the world, a new report warns that further outbreaks will emerge unless governments take active measures to prevent other zoonotic diseases from crossing into the human population, and sets out 10 recommendations to prevent future pandemics.

The report, *Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic Diseases and How to Break the Chain of Transmission*, is a joint effort by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

It identifies seven trends driving the increasing emergence of zoonotic diseases, including increased demand for animal protein; a rise in intense and unsustainable farming; the increased use and exploitation of wildlife; and the climate crisis. The report finds that Africa in particular, which has experienced and responded to a number of zoonotic epidemics, including most recently, to Ebola outbreaks, could be a source of important solutions to quell future outbreaks.

“The science is clear that if we keep exploiting wildlife and destroying our ecosystems, then we can expect to see a steady stream of these diseases jumping from animals to humans in the years ahead,” said UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen. “Pandemics are devastating to our lives and our economies, and as we have seen over the past months, it is the poorest and the most vulnerable who suffer the most. To prevent future outbreaks, we must become much more deliberate about protecting our natural environment.”

A “zoonotic disease” or “zoonosis” is a disease that has passed into the human population from an animal source. COVID-19, which has already caused more than half a million deaths around the world, most likely originated in bats. But COVID-19 is only the latest in a growing number of diseases – including Ebola, MERS, West Nile fever and Rift Valley fever – whose spread from animal

hosts into human populations has been intensified by anthropogenic pressures.

Every year, some two million people, mostly in low- and middle-income countries, die from neglected zoonotic diseases. The same outbreaks can cause severe illness, deaths, and productivity losses among livestock populations in the developing world, a major problem that keeps hundreds of millions of small-scale farmers in severe poverty. In the last two decades alone, zoonotic diseases have caused economic losses of more than US\$100 billion, not including the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is expected to reach US\$9 trillion over the next few years.

African countries have an opportunity to lead pandemic prevention efforts

Zoonotic diseases are on the rise everywhere on the planet, and African countries – a number of which have successfully managed deadly zoonotic outbreaks – have the potential to leverage this experience to tackle future outbreaks through approaches that incorporate human, animal and environmental health. The continent is home to a large portion of the world’s remaining intact rain forests and other wild lands. Africa is also home to the world’s fastest-growing human population, leading to an increase in encounters between livestock and wildlife and in turn, the risk of zoonotic diseases.

“The situation on the continent today is ripe for intensifying existing zoonotic diseases and facilitating the emergence and spread of new ones,” said ILRI Director-General, Jimmy Smith. “But with their experiences with Ebola and other emerging diseases, African countries are demonstrating proactive ways to manage disease outbreaks. They are applying, for example, novel risk-based rather than rule-based approaches to disease control, which are best suited to resource-poor settings, and they are joining up human, animal and environment expertise in proactive One Health initiatives.”

The report’s authors identify the One Health approach, which unites public health, veterinary and environmental expertise, as the optimal method for preventing as well as responding to zoonotic disease outbreaks and pandemics.

10 recommendations

The report identifies 10 practical steps that governments can take to prevent future zoonotic outbreaks:

- investing in interdisciplinary approaches, including One Health
- expanding scientific enquiry into zoonotic diseases
- improving cost-benefit analyses of interventions to include full-cost accounting of societal impacts of disease

- raising awareness of zoonotic diseases
- strengthening monitoring and regulation practices associated with zoonotic diseases, including food systems
- incentivising sustainable land-management practices and developing alternatives for food security and livelihoods that do not rely on the destruction of habitats and biodiversity
- improving biosecurity and control, identifying key drivers of emerging diseases in animal husbandry and encouraging proven management and zoonotic disease-control measures
- supporting the sustainable management of landscapes and seascapes that enhance sustainable co-existence of agriculture and wildlife
- strengthening capacities among health stakeholders in all countries
- operationalising the One Health approach in land-use and sustainable development planning, implementation and monitoring, among other fields.

The report was launched on World Zoonoses Day, observed by research institutions and non-governmental entities on 6 July, which commemorates the work of French biologist Louis Pasteur. On 6 July 1885, Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against rabies, a zoonotic disease.

UNEP is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. [UNEP](#)

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The AU's Peace and Security Architecture: Filling the gaps

The success of the African Peace and Security Architecture is paramount for Africa's development and human security. Its value in the continent's peace and security agenda should not be underestimated.

By **Dominique Mystris**
Senior Researcher, SA SDG Hub, University of Pretoria

Since its inception in 2002, the African Union (AU) has been under pressure to resolve the extensive peace and security challenges facing the continent. In particular, it has tried to address the limitations faced by its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity's (OAU), in this area.

The biggest change has been the shift away from the OAU's so-called non-interference stance to the AU's more interventionist approach. This is most explicitly found in Article 4 of the AU Constitutive Act.

The AU's African Peace and Security Architecture (PSA) was established when the organisation adopted the Protocol on the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council in July 2002. It is guided by the AU's mandate and its interventionist approach.

The architecture, which has five pillars composed of AU organs and bodies, drives the AU's peace and security work. Its aim is to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts by working collaboratively with the regional economic communities and mechanisms. Therefore, the PSA has a role to play from the early-warning and conflict-prevention stages to that of post-conflict development.

The five pillars are: the Peace and Security Council, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, the Standby Force and the Peace Fund.

While not all pillars function as intended, there have nevertheless been a number of success stories in which the architecture was instrumental.

Peace and Security Council

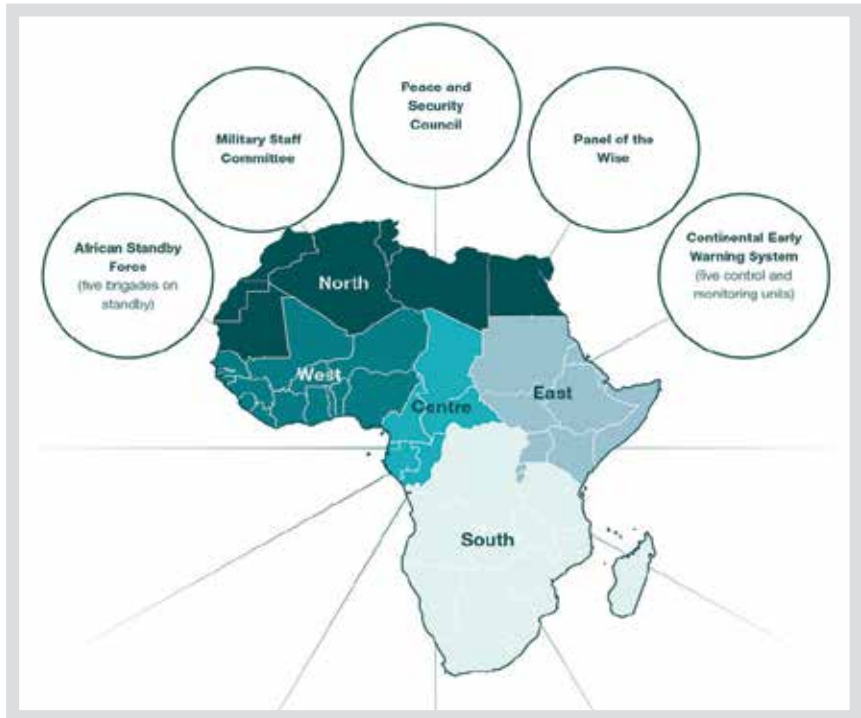
The Peace and Security Council is the main decision-making body of the PSA and can

take decisions on a number of fronts. These include:

- implementing the AU's common defence policy
- performing peacemaking and peace-building functions
- authorising and overseeing peace-support missions
- recommending Article 4(h) interventions for situations of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity
- imposing sanctions for unconstitutional changes of government, to name a few.

As such, it has issued a plethora of decisions since its inception with varying degrees of success. Most recently, it suspended Mali from the AU after the coup that ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta.

Yet, the council does not always respond, or is sometimes slow to respond, to developing



situations and conflicts. Cameroon has proved to be one such situation where the council has remained largely quiet on over the years.

There are a number of reasons for these shortcomings.

First, despite only requiring a majority vote, it is subject to political constraints that hamper its decisions. This is despite the provision that disallows countries that are being discussed from participating in council meetings concerning them. Such countries are only allowed to make a statement.

There are also financial and personnel constraints. For example, mustering enough troops to fulfil a mandate can be a challenge. And then there's the question of financing, training and equipping them. This is a common problem for the AU's Mission in Somalia.

In addition, there has been external influence and undermining of the council's attempts at conflict resolution. A case in point was the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's intervention in Libya, which was parallel to the AU's mediation efforts.

Panel of the Wise

The Panel of the Wise acts as the advisory body to the Peace and Security Council. It has a mediation and preventative diplomacy role.

The panel's five elders are chosen based on their contributions to peace, security and development. They work either at the request of the Peace and Security Council, or on the panel's own initiative.

The panel has successfully undertaken various roles, including when there's been need for a neutral, respected diplomatic intervention. Examples of their work include interventions in Kenya's post-election

violence in 2008, and their reports regarding the Arab Spring.

Continental Early Warning System

The mandate of the Continental Early Warning System is conflict prevention and anticipating events.

Both are notoriously difficult. Prevention and anticipation rely on accurate data and political will to act, yet the Peace and Security Council tends to react more to conflicts rather than preempt them.

Reports from the Early Warning System inform the council and remain one of the ways it is prompted to meet. To be more effective, the Early Warning System needs to work more collaboratively with non-governmental and international organisations, academic institutions and research centres.

While this system continues to suffer from staff and funding shortages, building capacity is ongoing.

African Standby Force

Composed of contingents from the five regions, the African Standby Force's job is to implement decisions made by the Peace and Security Council. These include authorised interventions, conflict and dispute prevention, observation, monitoring and any type of peace-support mission, humanitarian assistance and peace-building.

But there were delays in getting it off the ground. Mobilising a standby force from across the 55 states was never going to be easy because the appetite for involvement in peace-support operations differs. Second is the diverse states of readiness and

capabilities of military, police and civilians across countries and regions.

Despite the 2003 decision to establish the force, it was only in 2016 that the force was officially considered to have obtained full operational capacity. Since then, it has yet to be deployed.

Peace Fund

The Peace Fund is tasked with the mammoth role of ensuring availability of funds.

The vast majority of AU members struggle to meet their membership dues, and self-financing of the AU has yet to prove possible. This means that the fund struggles to secure support from African states.

The fund is financed from the AU's budget, fundraising and voluntary contributions from AU members, individuals, civil society, international partners and the private sector.

While US\$164 million has been raised to date, it is well below the target of US\$400 million.

Overall, the success of the African PSA is paramount for Africa's development and human security. Its value in the continent's peace and security agenda should not be underestimated. [↗](#)

While not all pillars function as intended, there have nevertheless been a number of success stories in which the architecture was instrumental.



The importance of **LEADING COMMUNICATION** during epidemics

Communication that provides accurate, useful and up-to-date information has become an essential tool in a country's mitigating strategy. The pandemic has, however, changed the way that many governments engage with their citizens as face-to-face interactions are limited due to the nature of the virus.

By Phumla Williams

Director-General of the Government Communication and Information System and Government Spokesperson

The absence of a COVID-19 vaccine elevates prevention measures as a country's first line of defence against the onslaught of the virus. To create awareness of these measures and effect behaviour change, reliable information needs to be shared with citizens so that they can make informed decisions on protecting themselves and their families.

Communication that provides accurate, useful and up-to-date information has become an essential tool in a country's mitigating strategy. The pandemic has, however, changed the way that many governments engage with their citizens as face-to-face

interactions are limited due to the nature of the virus.

At the recent Africa Webinar on Leading through Communications during Epidemics in Africa and the Role of Media, convened by South Africa's central communication agency, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), communicators and media professionals from across the continent exchanged best communication practices.

While it is recognised as a difficult period for many African nations, it was also an important time of learning, particularly around public health communication. The new social distancing regulations present an opportunity

to explore creative ways to communicate with citizens.

In order for communication to be effective, the panellists highlighted that technical health issues should be conveyed in a way that made sense and reassured citizens. Communication should also be truthful and credible to overcome any mistrust that typically follows a pandemic.

During the webinar, Ebba Kalondo, the Spokesperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, shared the importance of collaboration and communication among African nations to limit the spread of the virus. She noted that the continental response, coordinated by the Africa Centres for Disease

Control and Prevention (AfricaCDC), has been implemented across Africa since the first case of COVID-19 was recorded on 14 February 2020 in Egypt.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his opening remarks as the AU Chairperson at the Conference on Africa's Leadership Role in COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Access, stated how Africa had been innovative in addressing resource constraints through the establishment of the AU COVID-19 Response Fund, the Africa Medical Suppliers Platform and the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing.

Africa is on par with the rest of the world in responding to pandemics, and was a leading player in the development of a vaccine in response to the 2015 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Furthermore, Africa is a significant vaccine manufacturer and has developed innovative ways to deliver vaccines to areas on the continent that have no cold chains.

While many countries are learning how to deal with a pandemic, Africa has had meaningful lessons from dealing with Ebola, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and Yellow Fever. Jessica Ilunga, the former Communications Director for the Department of Health in the Democratic Republic of Congo during the Ebola outbreak, affirmed that communicating in a timely and a transparent manner had helped to mitigate the impact of the Ebola virus on the economy.

She added that in a pandemic, information gaps usually created the space for misinformation, which is often taken at face value and therefore difficult to correct. While a combination of traditional and new media platforms are useful in communicating, technology platforms such as *WhatsApp* and social media helped disseminate information quickly.

While technology has helped drive communication, its limited availability to access online learning in east and southern Africa has curtailed learning during the pandemic. New research by the United Nations Children Fund shows that more than half of the children in the region do not have the tools when it comes to online learning. There is, however, a commitment in South Africa and across the continent to close the technology learning gap.

Media was identified as an integral part of disseminating information, conveying to citizens the risks but also measures of prevention. Dr Oscar Van Heerden, the International Relations Scholar at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, highlighted that communicators should continuously build relationships with media rather than wait for a crisis to foster these relations.

In South Africa, our response to the pandemic was through a comprehensive communication campaign to inform the nation about measures to curb the spread of the virus. It focussed on media engagement, paid-for advertisement in electronic broadcasting, print, face-to-face engagement and digital media platforms.

Transparency and constant communication became key tools to empower communities in understanding the virus and how to protect themselves against it. We remained focussed on the key principles of keeping our messages clear, concise and consistent, with the aim of effecting behavioural change in our communities.

Our research also assisted us to obtain feedback on the impact of our messages, which helped to identify gaps requiring intervention. According to the research, over 90% of South Africans know and understand the basic health protocols that they need to adhere to.

In South Africa, our response to the pandemic was through a comprehensive communication campaign to inform the nation about measures to curb the spread of the virus. It focussed on media engagement, paid-for advertisement in electronic broadcasting, print, face-to-face engagement and digital media platforms.

We also amplified our interventions by building partnerships with the private sector and various community-based and faith-based organisations. They were provided information packages, which were shared with their respective audiences. The GCIS also used community-based media to reach various communities at grassroots level.

As the continent deals with the fall-out from the COVID-19 pandemic in the coming months, communication will play an even more critical role in ensuring that our citizens have access to information and are empowered to make decisions in Africa's recovery. Through the power of communication, we can also convey hope to the people of our continent that we shall emerge stronger and more resilient. 🇿🇦





Jürgen Schadeberg:

Chronicler of life across
apartheid's divides

Schadeberg took what he considered his first "real" photograph in an air-raid shelter in Berlin in 1941, at the tender age of 10, and went on to produce iconic images of many of the most important individuals and events in South African history.

By Kylie Thomas

Research Fellow, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies

read about Jürgen Schadeberg's death while listening to Abdullah Ibrahim's song *Threshold* and thought about how, in the last two years, so many of the great photographers whose work helped us to see not only apartheid's divides, but also beyond them, have crossed the threshold from life to death.

David Goldblatt and Sam Nzima died in 2018; Cloete Breytenbach, Tracey Derrick and Herbert Mabuza in 2019; and Santu Mofokeng, John Liebenberg, George Hallett and Schadeberg in 2020. Collectively, their work provides us with a critical mirror with which to interrogate the catastrophe that was apartheid, and the long struggle to bring about its end.

And their photographs also make it possible to see the magic in this place, and to marvel at how hope and beauty persist in South Africa, even in the darkest of times. As historian John Edwin Mason writes of the group of photographers that Schadeberg mentored at the iconic *Drum* magazine – a team that included Ernest Cole, Bob Gosani, Alf Kumalo and Peter Magubane – “It's impossible to imagine South African photography without them”. The International Centre for Photography awarded the Cornell Capa Lifetime Achievement Award to Schadeberg in 2014 for his career, which spanned over six decades.

Striking images

I cannot look at Schadeberg's startling photograph of Hans Prignitz performing a handstand with just one hand, precariously balanced on a rain-slicked ledge high above the city of Hamburg, half obliterated by mist, without a shiver going through me. It was taken three years after the end of the Second World War and two years before Schadeberg left Germany for South Africa, where the photographer was to play a key role in documenting the first two decades of apartheid.

Schadeberg's photograph of Constance Molefe, bounding over a tennis net, racket suspended in mid-air, gives me a corresponding shudder. This time not only because she appears so close to catching her foot in the net and falling painfully to the ground, but because of the knowledge that her hopes for a career as a professional athlete would soon be dashed.

The Group Areas Development Act was made law in 1955, the same year the photograph was taken, and the ruinous Bantu Education Act was passed two years before.

The caption that accompanied the image of the tennis player in the June 1955 issue of *Drum* reads as follows:

“Transvaal's little Mo – Constance Molefe, junior tennis star, who aims to take the senior title. Few African women ever reach the tennis limelight, even if they do, it's usually at a late age. But there is today a steady flow of girl learners, under expert guidance, and we can expect a tennis boom for our ladies in the near future. Topping Transvaal's junior is pretty Constance Molefe, a 16-year-old primary schooler from Orlando. She's fresh and young, energetic, a glutton for hard court practice, and shows remarkable ability for a girl of her age.”

Constance Molefe's joyful leap towards the freedom that lay outside the ever-tightening restrictions of the apartheid state was not to be realised for 40 years. In Schadeberg's image, she is fixed in flight, reaching for the future.

Schadeberg took what he considered his first “real” photograph in an air-raid shelter in Berlin in 1941, at the tender age of 10, and went on to produce iconic images of many of the most important individuals and events in South African history.

He is sometimes, incorrectly and in a manner that is somewhat patronising towards the photographers he worked alongside, referred to as “the father of South African photography”.

In truth, he was not much older than the photographers he trained and who, in turn, inducted him into South African life. Schadeberg was just 20 when he took up the position of Chief Photographer and Photo Editor at the newly established *Drum*. He was also one among many photographers who left Europe as a result of the war.

Many of those who arrived in South Africa before him, during the 1930s and early 1940s, were Jewish refugees who had no choice but to flee. They, like Schadeberg, brought along new techniques and ways of seeing that coincided with the advent of popular “picture magazines”, like *Life*, *Look* and *Picture Post* in the United States and the United Kingdom, and *Drum* and *Zonk! African People's Pictorial* in South Africa, which published photo essays and provided photographers with regular work.

The *Drum* years

As curator and documentarian Candice Jansen has noted, *Drum* was just as central to the making of Schadeberg as a photojournalist as he was to the making of South African visual history. The magazine's photographers captured images of famous and not-yet-famous people, immortalised life in Sophiatown and resistance to forced removals, and recorded the new forms of popular culture – fashion, jazz and dancing – that defined what has come to be known as the “*Drum* decade”.

Schadeberg worked alongside Magubane and documented the Defiance Campaign and the famous Women's March to protest against being forced to carry passes in 1956. They were both arrested (Schadeberg once and Magubane four times) for taking photographs of the Treason Trial, which took place between 1956 and 1961.

Schadeberg and Magubane were among the photographers who documented the aftermath of the Sharpeville Massacre on 21 March 1960, when police opened fire on a gathering of approximately 7 000 unarmed people who were protesting against pass laws. In just two minutes, the police shot 13 000 bullets into the crowd and 69 people were killed, most shot in the back as they were running away, and more than 300 wounded.

Schadeberg chartered a plane to photograph the mass funeral and took a chilling image of hundreds of mourners watching as flatbed trucks carried the coffins of those who were murdered across a field in the Phelindaba cemetery at Sharpeville. In the foreground of the image is a row of priests standing before the dark, symmetrical, empty graves. The photographer donated this photograph to the art collection of the South African Constitutional Court.

Schadeberg is justifiably best known for his portraits of Nelson Mandela, and of jazz greats like Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela, but his oeuvre includes many images of everyday people whose stories would otherwise have gone untold.

The gift of the work that he created alongside his compatriots lies in their depiction of the social worlds that apartheid sought to destroy, but that live on through their photographs. *Hamba kahle* (go well), Jürgen Schadeberg, 1931 – 2020. 🇷🇵

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Freedom[®] PARK

a heritage destination

an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Freedom Park

THE VOICE OF OUR NATION

Inspiring a love of Culture and Heritage



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

The message that Freedom Park sends to every South African is this: look at where we come from, look what we have lived through – if we can do that and survive then our future must hold infinite possibilities. Let Freedom Park open your mind to these possibilities.

Everything at Freedom Park is representative of our history, heritage, culture, spirituality and indigenous knowledge. Even the 360° view of the capital city from Salvokop Hill symbolises a link between the past, present and future. From here you can see the Voortrekker Monument – a reflection of the past; the Union Buildings – our current governance; and UNISA's Centre of Knowledge – engendering a sense of knowledge and development for the future.

Freedom Park is a one-stop heritage destination because we narrate the history, heritage, culture, spirituality and indigenous knowledge systems of our nation.

Freedom Park honours those who took a stand and sacrificed for a better South Africa. We want our youth to know that there is a place that recognises such heroes and heroines. Our youth's contributions mattered so much in the history of our nation. It is, however, time for today's youth to take their lead from those who have gone before and take a stand to build this nation even further."

EDUCATING OUR NATION'S YOUTH

We have a fully-equipped education unit that arranges activities that bring together youth from diverse backgrounds to talk about culture and heritage. We also have specific programmes for basic and tertiary education and a special Youth out of School programme that teaches young people about where they come from and assists them to develop a sense of pride in their own identity. We teach young people about tolerance and acceptance, and to understand and respect each other. We believe that racism and intolerance often result from ignorance and misconceptions about who you are.'

Freedom Park also focuses on school tours but is aware that accessibility becomes an acute challenge; hence the outreach programmes that aim to take Freedom Park to the people.

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

For a tour please contact us on 012 336 4020. Our prices: Adults R60, children R40 and international tourists R150.

AWARD-WINNING LOCATION

Besides visiting Freedom Park for a tour, or to spend time learning, reflecting and praying, it is also the perfect location for corporate functions and retreats, picnics, and even concerts. This beautiful and inspiring venue offers state-of-the-art technology and facilities, as well as a peaceful space for walking, hiking and bird watching. 'When you're at Freedom Park you'll forget that you're in the city centre. Last year, Freedom Park was voted among the top 10 architecturally outstanding museums in the world and Pretoria's best heritage destination. We believe these are testaments to the beauty and uniqueness of Freedom Park.

This December sees us celebrating the Day of Reconciliation with an Interfaith and Dialogue (16 December) Mandela Peace Walk (5 December), A three day festival celebrating the Pan African Cultural Experience (11-13 December).

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Groundbreaking study maps and values South Africa's wild spaces

The new study was commissioned by UNEP and produced as part of the South African component of the European Union-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Project. The effort, which also involves Brazil, China, India and Mexico, is jointly implemented with the UN Statistics Division.

By the United Nations Environment Programme

From its vast savanna to its rugged coastlines, to its flower-rich montane grasslands, South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province is rich in natural beauty.

But those ecosystems are more than just alluring – they provide services to people by trapping carbon, filtering water and performing a host of other essential functions. Now, for the first time, a study has mapped a suite of the services provided by KwaZulu-Natal's natural systems and placed a monetary value on them. It's a key step, experts say, in helping to protect the province's wild spaces.

"The services provided to humanity by nature are often undervalued, or not valued at all," said Salman Hussain, the Coordinator of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity initiative, which is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). "But by showcasing the services that natural systems provide to our economies and societies, we can further the argument for protecting habitats and restoring ecosystems that have already been impacted by development."

KwaZulu-Natal has the second-largest economy of South Africa's provinces, contributing around 15% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). It also has a broad array of ecosystems and a wealth of biodiversity. The new report found those ecosystems played an important role in storing carbon, retaining soil, preventing floods, improving water quality, promoting pollination, and providing recreational value. In 2011, the combined value of those "essential ecosystem services" was R33.4 billion, equivalent to 7.4% of the province's economic output. But values of many of the services have decreased over time, particularly in the grassland and savanna biomes, partly as a

result of their conversion to intensive land uses, such as cultivation.

The report's findings are based on what's known as natural capital accounting, which measures the often hidden services that ecosystems provide to the economy and society. This allows governments and businesses to take into account the benefits of these services when making decisions about things like where to locate industry, what agricultural systems to emphasise and which areas to protect.

"Natural capital accounting helps decision-makers to go beyond GDP and traditional economic measures, to gain a finer perspective on the environmental impacts of development and the implicit trade-offs being made," says Hussain.

South Africa has long been at the forefront of this movement. The country held its first National Natural Capital Accounting Forum in July 2019. An array of decision-makers discussed how natural capital accounting could support South Africa's move towards a green economy, one in line with the country's National Development Plan and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

The new study was commissioned by UNEP and produced as part of the South African component of the European Union-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Project. The effort, which also involves Brazil, China, India and Mexico, is jointly implemented with the UN Statistics Division. In South Africa, Statistics South Africa and the South African National Biodiversity Institute are leading the project while collaborating with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and other partners.

Jane Turpie of Anchor Environmental, lead author of the report, says the project demonstrates that it is possible for countries

to develop accounts for a range of ecosystem services in both physical and monetary terms, consistent with a form of natural capital accounting known as the System of Environmental Economic Accounting Experimental Ecosystem Accounting Framework. In follow-up work, the results from KwaZulu-Natal would contribute to national and global discussions about the use of accounting approaches for informing complex challenges such as land degradation neutrality by 2030, she added.

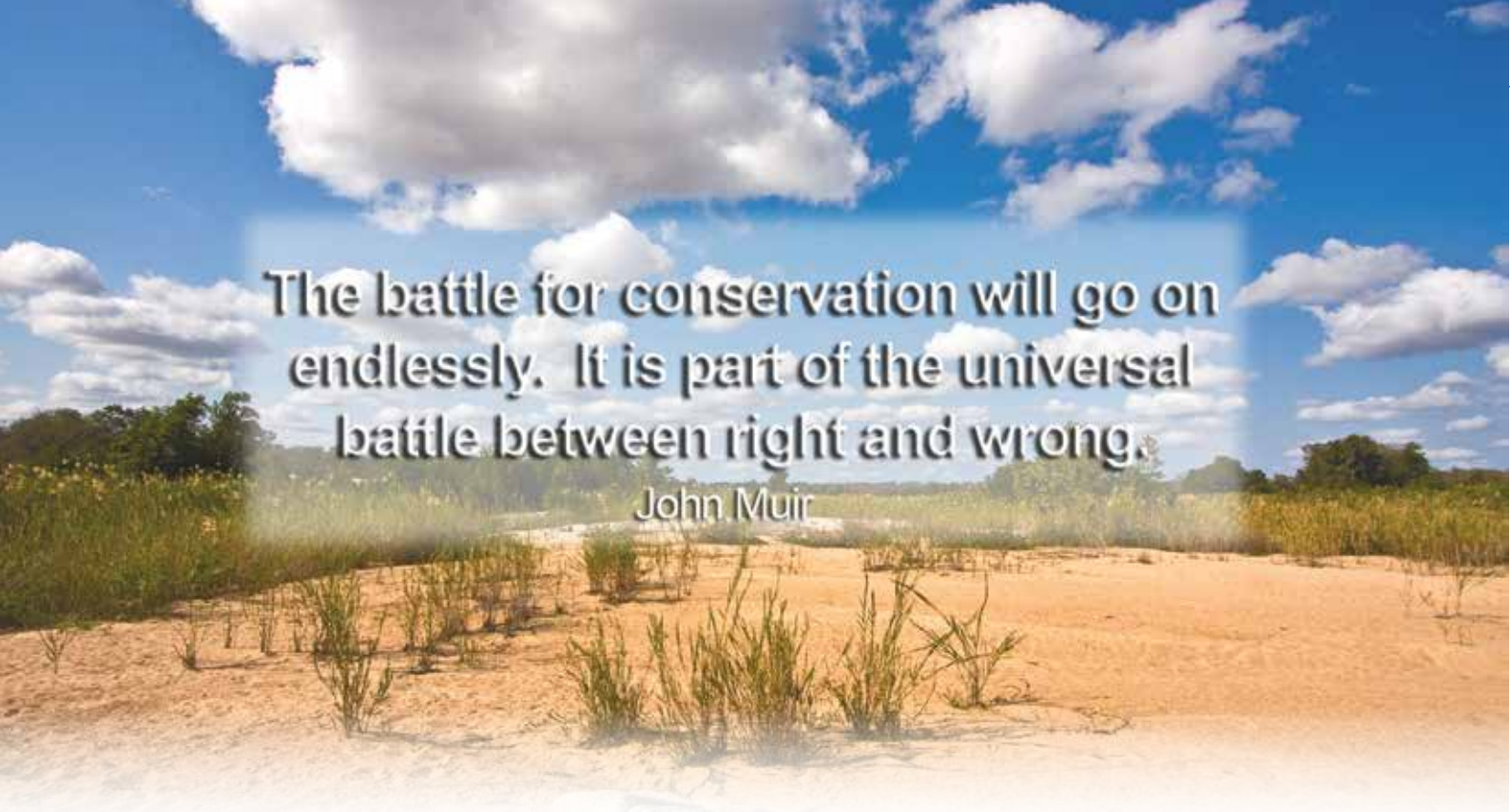
The project will also serve as an example for conservation efforts in other countries as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

"This study serves as a shining example of how measuring what matters could lead to better policymaking," says Hussain. "As the international community negotiates a post-2020 biodiversity framework, such research could hardly be more timely."

The report's findings are based on what's known as natural capital accounting, which measures the often hidden services that ecosystems provide to the economy and society.







The battle for conservation will go on endlessly. It is part of the universal battle between right and wrong.

John Muir

Meet the *women on the frontlines* of the conservation battle

The world has been graced with fearless female stalwarts who lead the way in wildlife conservation; battling trafficking, poaching and habitat destruction.

By Tyler Leigh Vivier
Goodthingsguy

Women are known for never taking a backseat when it comes to conservation. The world has been graced with many fearless stalwarts who have led in the way of wildlife conservation. Every day, these heroes put it all on the line in a concerted effort to battle wildlife trafficking, poaching and the destruction of the habitat of at-risk species, preventing the decimation of our wildlife populations.

A few of these women include the iconic zoologist Dian Fossey, primatologist Dame Jane Goodall, and South Africa's very own Ann van Dyk, who is known for her care of our cheetah population. Undoubtedly, women the world over, are tenacious and unrelenting in their efforts to safeguard nature.

Three other notably heroic women are Esther Matthew, Specialist Conservation Officer at the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Drylands Conservation Programme; Southern

African Wildlife College's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Theresa Sowry; and Vicki Hudson, Conservation Intelligence Manager at the CapeNature Conservation Detection Dog Project.

This field of "canine conservation detection" is highly specialised and is a novel approach locally. In fact, the CapeNature Conservation Detection Dog Project is one of the first live target conservation-detection programmes operational in South Africa. This means these clever and unique hounds are trained to help track living endangered species to ensure their future population growth in a safe and secure environment unaffected by human activities.

Leading the way as a fearless female and trusty canine

Esther and her trusty female partner, Jessie, a Border Collie and scent-detection dog, are on a mission to save some of South Africa's critically endangered species. Their Drylands programme operates in the vast Karoo, and

they work collaboratively with landowners and communities to promote, sustain, secure and restore the ecological integrity of this area's biodiversity.

Trained by Esther to assist the team, Jessie has been instrumental in locating rare African Giant Bullfrogs underground, and the critically endangered Riverine Rabbit, helping to ensure their long-term survival.

Commenting on challenges in her field, Esther believes that one of the biggest challenges women face in this field is being underestimated. There is a perception that women are not tough enough for the fieldwork required to do conservation work. However, Esther believes that the best way to overcome this is to change others' perceptions by proving them wrong and taking up challenges when some say it can't be done!

Providing the fuel to help keep the pioneering pooches in shape

ORIJEN sponsors the Drylands initiative's detection dogs with its Biologically Appropriate

dog food, featuring an unmatched 85% meat content. This meat-based diet provides everything these valiant scent-detection dogs need to thrive and do a sterling job in identifying and saving vulnerable species.

Another project, which is supported by ORIJEN pet food through the sponsorship of nutritious food, is the Southern African Wildlife College's counter-poaching K9 unit, which sees these furry heroes being used in the fight against rhino poaching. The college's free tracking (off-leash) dogs had by August 2020, in conjunction with the on-lead dogs, saved approximately 47 rhinos, which had in turn, led to 152 poacher arrests and 65 rifles recovered since the project's inception in February 2019.

"The free-tracking hounds have been the game-changer. The hounds' 'noses', speed and stamina allow them to track much faster than a human or on-leash dog can, often across rough terrain," said Theresa Sowry.

In her role as CEO, she is a stand-out conservationist and businesswoman, leading efforts to save South Africa's rhinos, securing great global support and funding for her efforts.

Not only are these persistent canines tracking poachers and the country's famous larger mammals, the CapeNature Conservation Detection Dog Project sees dogs being trained to find no less than five species of tortoises, each of which has their own unique scent. Vicki Hudson, in her role at CapeNature, sees to it that their four-legged conservation heroes locate cryptic and camouflaged species of conservation concern such as the critically endangered Rose's Mountain Toadlet.

Together with their fearless female human companions, the dogs have participated in numerous search- and-rescue operations, salvaging tortoises from death by fire, lack of food and water from the drought and even bulldozers when a piece of land they live on is being developed.

ORIJEN salutes the work being done by these remarkable two and four-legged conservation heroes.

"South Africa's natural heritage and remarkable wildlife are being saved while endangered species are preserved for generations to come. We are grateful that we are able to support these remarkable efforts and salute these female conservationists."

www.goodthingsguy.com

The CapeNature Conservation Detection Dog Project is one of the first live target conservation-detection programmes operational in South Africa. This means these clever and unique hounds are trained to help track living endangered species to ensure their future population growth in a safe and secure environment unaffected by human activities.



Ann van Dyk



Jessie en Esther Matthew



Theresa Sowry



Vicki Hudson





Table Mountain is South Africa's best-known landmark and arguably one of the most well-known mountains in the world. It is home to the richest, yet smallest floral kingdom on earth and was voted one of the New 7 Wonders of the World in 2011.



RHINO CONSERVATION AWARDS

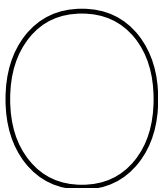
2020



Africa's 2020 Rhino Conservation Awards acknowledge courageous game rangers

Africa's 2020 Rhino Conservation Awards remind us that everyday many endangered animals and plants are protected thanks to the blood, sweat and tears of dedicated conservationists and rangers.

By Tyler Leigh Vivier
Goodthingsguy



On World Ranger Day, 31 July 2020, the winners of the prestigious Rhino Conservation Awards were officially announced during an online event to celebrate the people and organisations who work constantly to reduce the threats and increase the sustainability of conservation efforts in Africa.

This year, the Rhino Conservation Awards broadened their focus to include those working in endangered species conservation. The primary objective of the awards is to give recognition to the leading role players in endangered species conservation and in doing so, bring their crucial work to the world's attention.

"What better way to celebrate World Ranger Day than recognising the incredible efforts of these rangers and those who support them. Well done to those nominated, the finalists and of course the winners. You all continue to inspire us!", said Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, of the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA).

Every finalist is a deserved winner and the judges' task is not an enviable one. Each individual and organisation nominated deserves recognition and acknowledgement for the incredible work they do to save Africa's natural heritage. The Rhino Conservation Awards provide the platform to celebrate these committed, selfless and courageous individuals and organisations who are making a difference.

"This year has seen an incredible list of worthy candidates and having been involved since the inception of the awards; this has been the hardest to adjudicate on so far. Thanks to all those who took the time to write-up the nominations of these special people who deserve recognition as in most cases, they themselves would not have done so as the work that they do is passion-driven and for a greater good", said Chris Galliers, President of the International Ranger Federation and a judge of the 2020 awards.

The winners, selected by evaluation of the work done over the last 12 months, starting in July 2019, were announced as follows:



Best Field Ranger

Winner: Samuel Loware of Uganda Wildlife Authority. Because of his effective monitoring and data-collection skills, Samuel has made a significant impact on the increase of both giraffe and lion populations in the Kidepo Valley National Park. He is now conducting habitat assessments for the reintroduction of rhino into Kidepo, and other translocations of wildlife to ensure the conservation of these key species.

First runner-up: Julius Kaputo of Conservation Lower Zambezi, Zambia.

Second runner-up: Losas Lanamunyi of Northern Rangelands Trust, Kenya.



Best Game Ranger

Winner: Don English of South African National Parks (SANParks) for his outstanding leadership in the Kruger National Park (KNP) where against all odds, through sheer tenacity and persistence and with the support of his ranger teams, he has managed to lower rhino poaching activities year on year in the Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ).

First runner-up: Benson Kanyembo of Conservation South Luangwa, Zambia.

Second runner-up: Albert Smith of SANParks, South Africa.

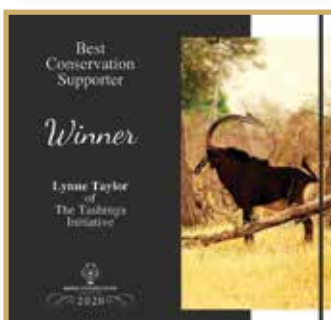


Best Conservation Practitioner

Winner: SANParks KNP Airwing – This dedicated team of committed professionals works tirelessly to support rangers, veterinarians and researchers in protecting, saving, conserving and monitoring endangered species within the KNP and neighbouring protected areas. These pilots and their support staff are instrumental in many of the counter-poaching successes in the area.

First runner-up: SANParks Marula South (IPZ) Rangers, South Africa.

Second runner-up: Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Green Scorpions, South Africa.



Best Conservation Supporter

Winner: Lynne Taylor – The Tashinga Initiative. Lynne's targeted initiatives, ensuring rangers receive the support necessary to perform optimally, have transformed the well-being and operational capabilities of the rangers in the Zambezi Valley. This enables them to function effectively and supports their extraordinary work in conservation and ongoing protection of threatened species in Zimbabwe.

First runner up: SANParks Environmental Crime Investigators, South Africa.

Second runner-up: WWF South Africa – Wildlife Programme, Southern Africa.

This year, the Rhino Conservation Awards will be sponsoring over 250 rangers with Ranger Protect insurance cover. This vital policy provides rangers with the necessary protection they need to comfortably and confidently perform their duties in the field and ensures the well-being of Africa's rangers and their families is improved through the provision of adequate insurance cover in the event of injury or death.

These awards are hosted annually in collaboration with the GRAA and are made possible with the generous support of sponsors ZEISS and Chinese New Enterprise Investment and are endorsed by the Department of Environmental Affairs. His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, who is committed to the protection of endangered species through the support of his foundation, is the Patron of the Rhino Conservation Awards.

"I'd like to say how deeply grateful I am to all these men and women. And I would also like to say that your work goes beyond the individual animals you protect and save. You are defending the rights of nature faced with humanity's destructive and irresponsible greed." – HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco

Sources: Rhino Conservation Awards | Love Africa Marketing | www.goodthingsguy.com



Where the pangolin has not roamed for over 70 years

The rehabilitation of the Temminck's pangolin is an intensive programme as the animals require around-the-clock monitoring to ensure they acclimatise, find suitable food and gain weight.

By Nicola Gerrard
Goodthingsguy

The Temminck's ground pangolin is being reintroduced into Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), after 70 years, thanks to the collaboration of some incredible organisations.

In a world-first for the endangered Temminck's ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*), a reintroduction programme has been launched to release this species into an area where they became locally extinct decades ago – KZN, South Africa.

Manyoni Private Game Reserve in Zululand, KZN, is working closely with the African Pangolin Working Group (APWG), HSI Africa and Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital (JWVH) to rehome Temminck's ground pangolins that were rescued from the wildlife trade. With hardened scales made of keratin to protect their soft bodies, and the ability to roll up into a tight ball when threatened, the pangolin is an incredibly prehistoric-looking creature. Much like the

rhino horn, the pangolin scales are highly sought after in the illegal wildlife trade.

The individuals in this programme were poached from the wild and eventually rescued on sting operations conducted by the South African Police Service and Green Scorpions. Pangolins do not have vocal cords and their only defence is to roll into a ball and lie very still. Sadly, these defensive mechanisms make them extremely vulnerable to poachers and very easy to conceal. While in the hands of poachers, these pangolins deteriorate due to stress, dehydration and lack of food. But, there are people fighting against this trade and each animal rescued is given a second chance at life.

When survivors arrive at the JWVH, they receive intensive care and are nursed back to health by a dedicated team and once they are strong enough, the pangolins are taken to a suitable reserve (Manyoni being one of the sites) where the "soft-release" process begins. With staggering poaching statistics

severely threatening the species, pangolins have been dubbed the world's most trafficked mammal. It is for this reason that the Zululand Conservation Trust (ZCT) has dedicated a large number of its conservation funds towards the protection, rehabilitation and monitoring of these incredible animals.

"Reintroducing a species back into their historical range is bittersweet for me. It is great to be part of such an amazing conservation programme but so sad that they became locally extinct in the first place," said Karen Odendaal, Manyoni Managing Director.

As with many conservation projects, the need for resources is one of the major factors for this programme to continue and succeed.

"We need a number of resources such as vehicles, and personal and specialised equipment. Once an individual arrives on site, they undergo a multistage soft-release process, which is tailored for each animal and can last up to four months before the final release phase. Thereafter, they are monitored



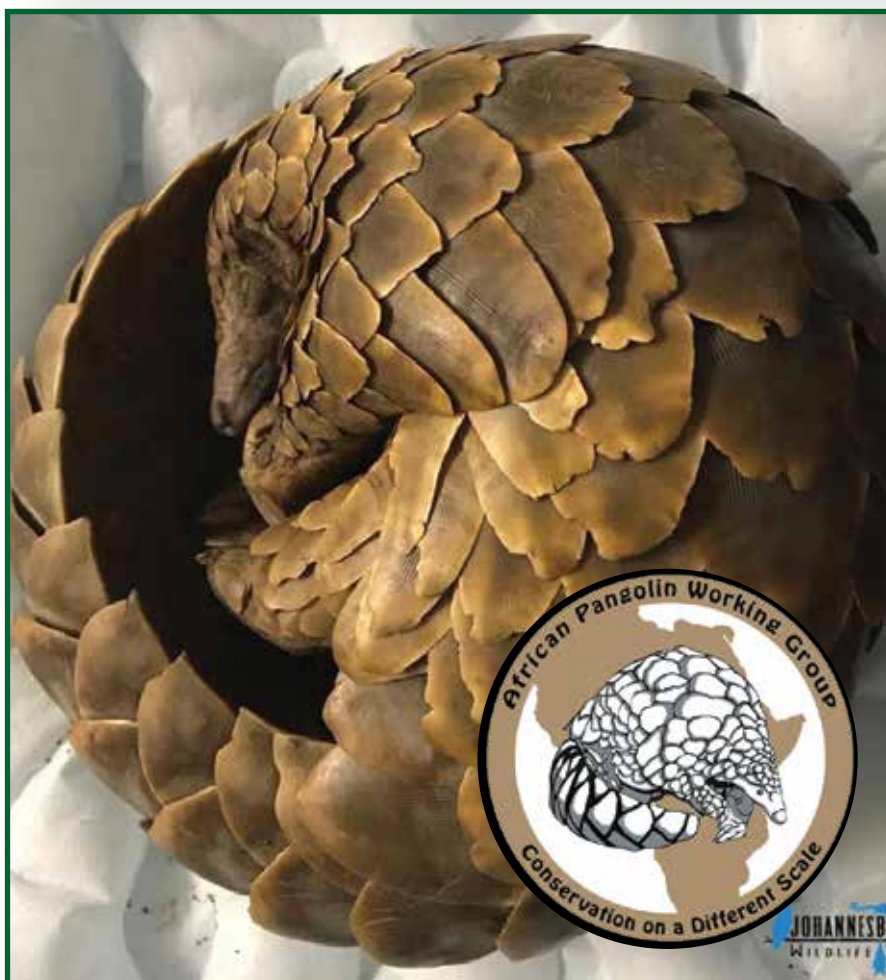
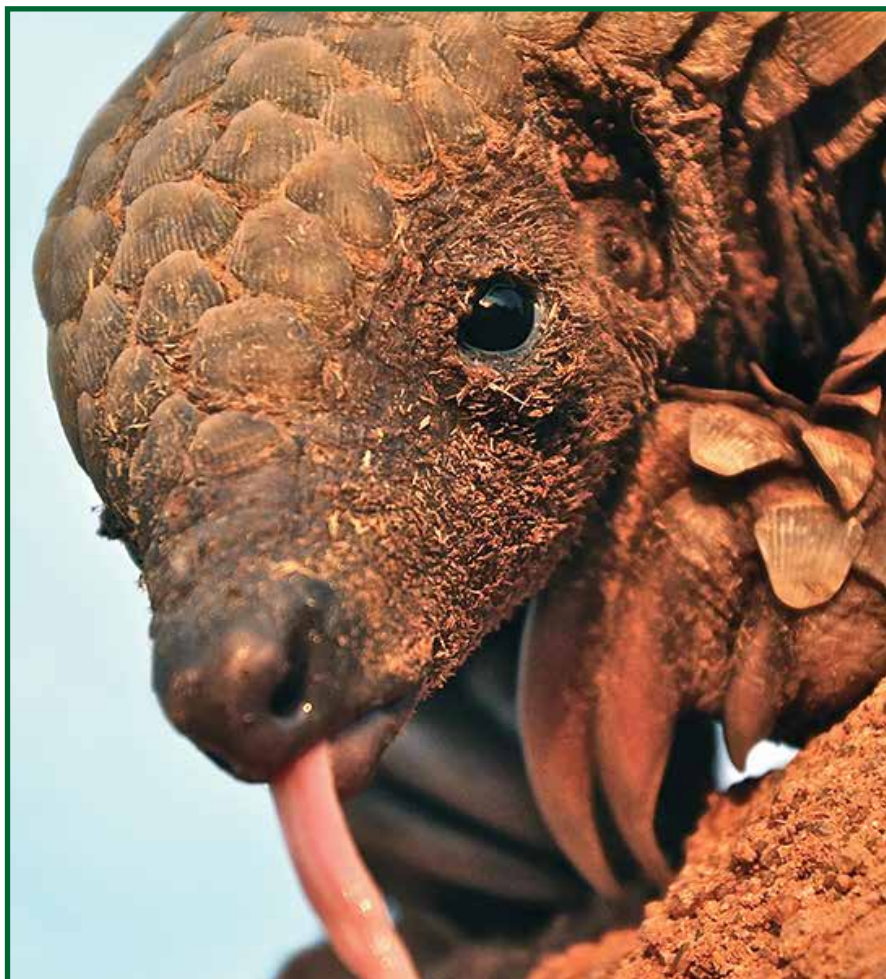
very closely, using specialised satellite-tracking devices to track their movements and locate them daily to check their weight, tick load and general condition. Currently, we are working with 'Cory,' a two-year-old pangolin, who I take out into the reserve every single day for up to four hours, to forage and feed in a wild space until she is of the correct weight to release," said Leno Seirra, Zululand Field Manager for APWG.

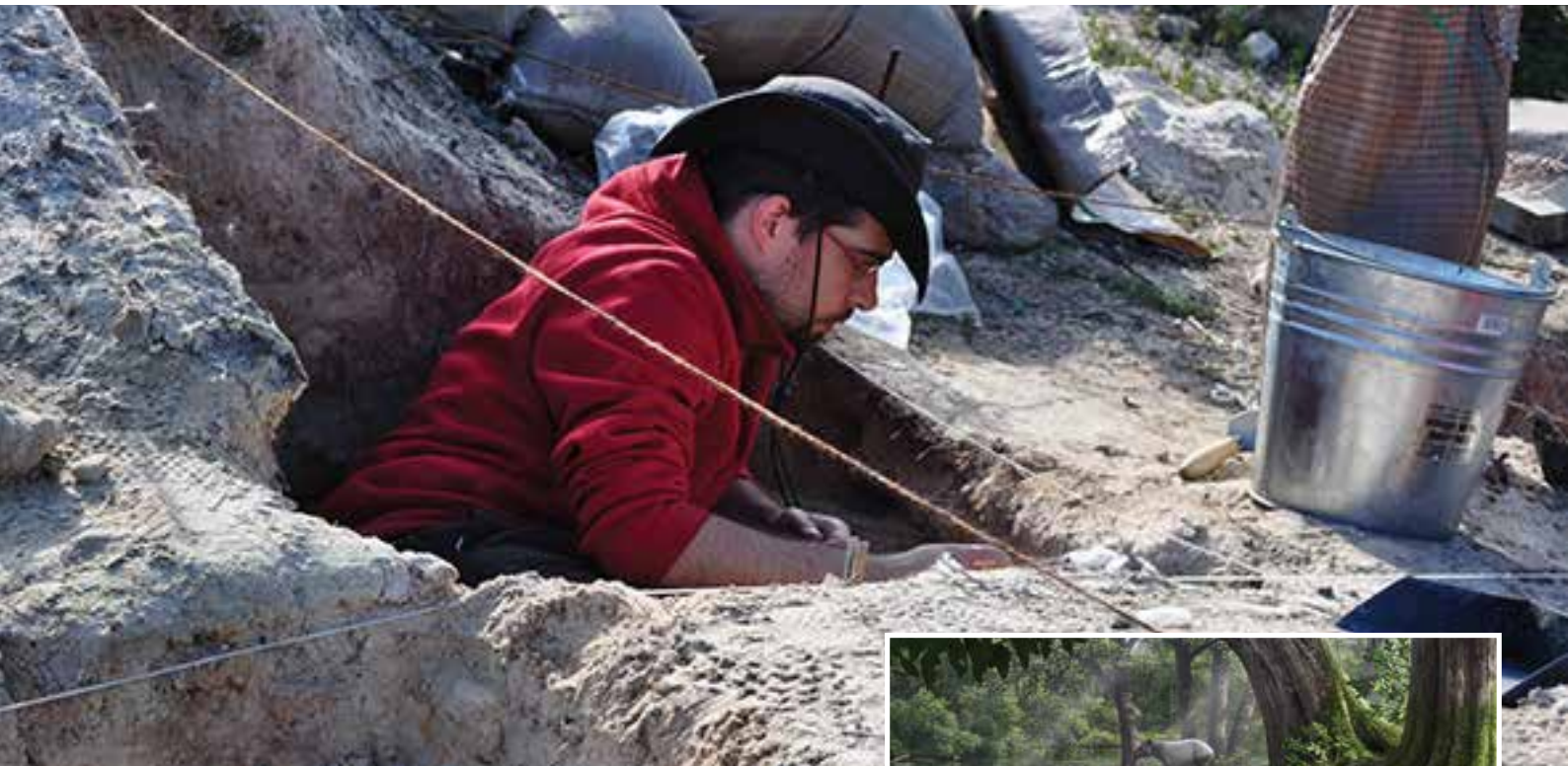
The rehabilitation of the Temminck's pangolin is an intensive programme as the animals require around-the-clock monitoring to ensure they acclimatise, find suitable food and gain weight.

"The ZCT has been involved in the hands-on monitoring and soft-release process, and has funded the equipment needed to ensure reliable monitoring. The Temminck pangolin has not roamed Zululand for nearly 70 years and so this is a historic moment for us and an incredible project of proactive conservation of an extremely endangered species," said Frances Hannah, ZCT Project Coordinator. 🇺🇲

Sources: Love Africa Marketing | www.goodthingsguy.com

The Temminck's ground pangolin is being reintroduced into Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal, after 70 years, thanks to the collaboration of some incredible organisations.

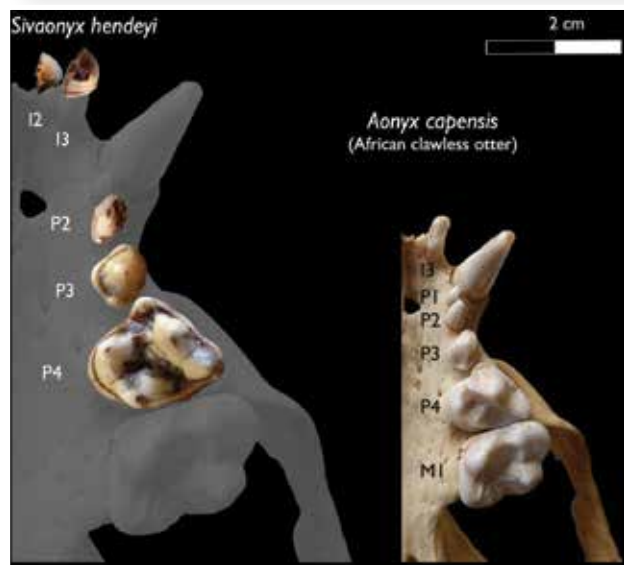




Gigantic wolverines, otters the size of wolves: Fossils offer fresh insights into the past

There is much more to be learned from both the fossils that haven't yet been unearthed at Langebaanweg and those which have already been collected and are held in the Iziko South African Museum's collection.

By Alberto Valenciano Vaquero, PhD Vertebrate Paleontology, University of Cape Town; and Romala Govender, Curator of Cenozoic Palaeontology, Research and Exhibitions, Iziko Museums of South Africa and Honorary Research Associate, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Town



About 120 km north of Cape Town and less than 2° north of the southern tip of Africa lies a quarry that, to the untrained eye, has nothing interesting to offer.

In reality, Langebaanweg “E” Quarry is a palaeontological wonderland dating back five million years. It has yielded one of the richest and best-preserved vertebrate fossils of the Neogene (a geological era dating from 23 million to 2.5 million years ago) to be found anywhere in Africa.

Back then, the weather was about 2-3 degrees warmer and the sea level was 30-m higher. An array of terrestrial and marine wildlife occupied different ecosystems: riverine forests, open grasslands and tidal zones. Primitive fauna were transitioning into more modern animals we’d recognise today: there were hyenas; sabretooth cats; small felines; a giant relative of bears; giant civets; small mongoose; three different relatives of elephants, including the earliest mammoth; rhinoceroses; and hippopotamus.

There were also 90 bird species, ranging from penguins to parrots, reptiles, frogs, a variety of sharks, seals, whales and dolphins.

There were mustelids, a modern family of small to medium carnivores that includes weasels, otters and badgers. Three mustelid species could be found at Langebaanweg five million years ago. Two of them were gigantic: *Sivaonyx hendeyi* was an otter the size of a wolf (around 40kg) and *Plesiogulo aff. monspesulanus* was a leopard-size (about 65kg) relative of living wolverines. Both are extinct. Today, the largest living land mustelid is the *Gulo gulo* wolverine, which is around 20kg.

Our latest study focussed on fossil finds from Langebaanweg that shed more light on these massive mustelids. The teeth and limb bones that we studied help to understand the role and lifestyle of these species in extinct ecosystems. We are now able to hypothesise that the *Sivaonyx hendeyi* was a more semi-aquatic mustelid compared with older *Sivaonyx* species from Africa (specifically, Chad), and that it moved through the water and on land differently to the Chad species.

Our work also confirms that Langebaanweg’s wolverine was a different species to another huge wolverine, *Plesiogulo botori* from Kenya and Ethiopia. That means there were two very large species of what we’d recognise today as wolverines on the continent at the end the Miocene era and the beginning of the Pliocene era, between five and six million years ago.

An ancient otter

All the fossils we studied were previously

excavated at the West Coast Fossil Park, where Langebaanweg is located, and are currently housed in the Cenozoic Collections at the Iziko South African Museum.

The last excavations there happened in the 1990s and 2000s. One of us (Romala Govender) has undertaken new excavations at the West Coast Fossil Park since 2016, which have centred on growing the marine fauna in the Langebaanweg collection. Another, ongoing excavation started at the site in 2019.

The fossils we examined for this study come from the earlier excavations. *Sivaonyx hendeyi* is a giant, bunodont otter that has high and round cusps on the premolars and low and round molars. Fossil remains of the species have been found in Africa, specifically in Chad, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa, India and western Eurasia (Germany, Greece and Turkey); and these date back to between about 11 million and 2.5 million years.

Our study suggests that *Sivaonyx hendeyi* at Langebaanweg was more semi-aquatic than the oldest identified African species, from Chad, which has been interpreted as being fully terrestrial.

Its robust dentition also suggests a diet based on very hard items such as armoured catfishes, molluscs, crustaceans and bones. In contrast, the much smaller clawless otter (*Aonyx capensis*) eats mainly fish, but also crab, abalone and Cape rock lobsters as well as birds, molluscs, amphibians and rodents. These and other modern otter species didn’t evolve directly from the *Sivaonyx* – they are cousins with a common ancestor. Many more giant otter fossils will need to be studied to clarify just how they are related to the otters we know and see today.

Giant wolverines

The other species we focussed on, *Plesiogulo aff. monspesulanus*, was a gigantic wolverine. Our work confirms that it is a different species to the very large *Plesiogulo botori*, fossils of which have been found in Kenya and Ethiopia.

This means there were two very large species of what we’d recognise today as wolverines in Africa at the end of the Miocene and the beginning of the Pliocene.

The skeleton of the South African species is like the modern, living wolverine, though the limb, feet and hand bones are less elongated and more stoutly proportioned. The robust forelimb in particular suggests the animal was an ambush predator, which would surprise and subdue its prey rather than chase them down. Its robust and massive dentition shows the animal could process the carcass and bones of its prey, although not as well as living hyenas do.

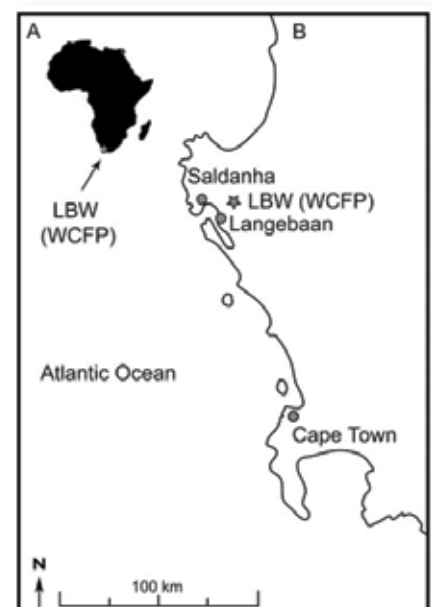
In fact, this group was replaced in the late Pliocene by other families of carnivores such as hyenas, canids and felids. We’re not sure why the large wolverines went extinct, though it was likely through a combination of shifts in climate and competition with other carnivores.

Other species

There is much more to be learned from both the fossils that haven’t yet been unearthed at Langebaanweg and those which have already been collected and are held in the Iziko South African Museum’s collection. These fossils include carnivores related to the living honey badgers, jackals, seals and even sabretooth cats. [↗](#)

This article first appeared on *The Conversation*.

In reality, Langebaanweg “E” Quarry is a palaeontological wonderland dating back five million years. It has yielded one of the richest and best-preserved vertebrate fossils of the Neogene (a geological era dating from 23 million to 2.5 million years ago) to be found anywhere in Africa.





Flying the *Flag*

Minister Pandor among 11 SA names on 2020
100 Most Influential African Women List



Leading African PR & rating firm, Avance Media, announced in August 2020 its second annual publication on Africa's most prominent women, dubbed the 2020 *100 Most Influential African Women*.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, is among the list of the most influential women in Africa.

The list, which has a representation of the most powerful African women from 34

countries, was chosen from various career backgrounds, including diplomacy, politics, activism, entrepreneurship, business leadership and entertainment. Nigeria, South Africa and Ghana recorded the highest number of women with 20, 11 and nine representatives respectively.

The 2020 list features a record of 75 new entrants with some of the leading names such as Halima Dangote; Ugandan activist, Stella Nyanzi; Olympic Committee Member, Lydia Nsekera; and the only two

female finance ministers in Africa, Vera Daves De Sousa (Angola) and Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed (Nigeria).

The youngest African to make the 2020 list is 24-year-old Namibia's Deputy Minister of Information, Communication and Technology, Emma Theofelus.

According to Prince Akpah, Managing Director of Avance Media, the list is focussed on women who are leading various initiatives across the continent and seeks to present them as role models for the younger generation.

He further noted that they were selected because of their incredible achievements as women and they deserved high recommendations among other female trailblazers in Africa.

Criteria for selection included: Excellence in Leadership and Performance, Personal Accomplishments, Commitment to Sharing Knowledge, Breaking the Status Quo, and Being an Accomplished African Woman.

Profiles of the 2020 100 Most Influential African Women are published on 100women.avancemedia.org.

African Eye Report | ANA

UFS lecturer becomes third African to win international nursing award



A University of the Free State (UFS) lecturer has become the third African to win a prestigious international nursing award.

The purpose of the award is to recognise nurses whose research and scholarship have impacted the profession and the people it serves.

The prestigious Sigma Emerging Nurse Researcher/Scholar Award was presented online at the International Nursing Research Congress, making him the third African to achieve this.

"I was overwhelmed to be honoured with this award as the third African to have won it in the history of the awards. To me, this is an indication that the quality of our work in the School of Nursing is top-notch and meets international standards, and that our contribution to nursing science and nursing education is outstanding," says a

proud Dr Champion N Nyoni on his latest achievement.

Sigma Theta Tau International (Sigma) is a global honour society for nurses that recognises and advances nursing through research and scholarship. Membership of this society includes a minimum of a Master's qualification and nomination from current members based on the nominee's contribution and the potential thereof for nursing at a national and global scale.

The Emerging Nurse Researcher/Scholar Award, with the purpose of recognising nurses whose research and scholarship have impacted the profession and the people it serves, was introduced in 2015.

www.news24.com

These are the best restaurants in the world – including one in South Africa



The list was dominated by European restaurants, with the Auberge du Vieux Puits in France taking home the grand prize. Notably, La Colombe in Constantia, Cape Town, also made it into the final list at 13th – the only African restaurant to do so.

La Colombe has won both international and local awards for its dishes – most recently, the 2019 Eat Out Mercedes-Benz Restaurant Awards.

However, even the best restaurant in the country was not able to dodge the impact of the Coronavirus lockdown.

“We’re having to rethink the way we do a few things to be able to offer the same standard of food and service. It’s different for us, but hopefully still an exceptional experience for our guests,” chef James Gaag told Eat Out at the start of July.

“Everyone is made to feel very comfortable and safe and allowed to just enjoy the experience. The feedback we’ve gotten is very positive and I think people are also just glad to be getting out and back to some sort of normality and allowed to enjoy the finer things again.”

www.businessstech.co.za

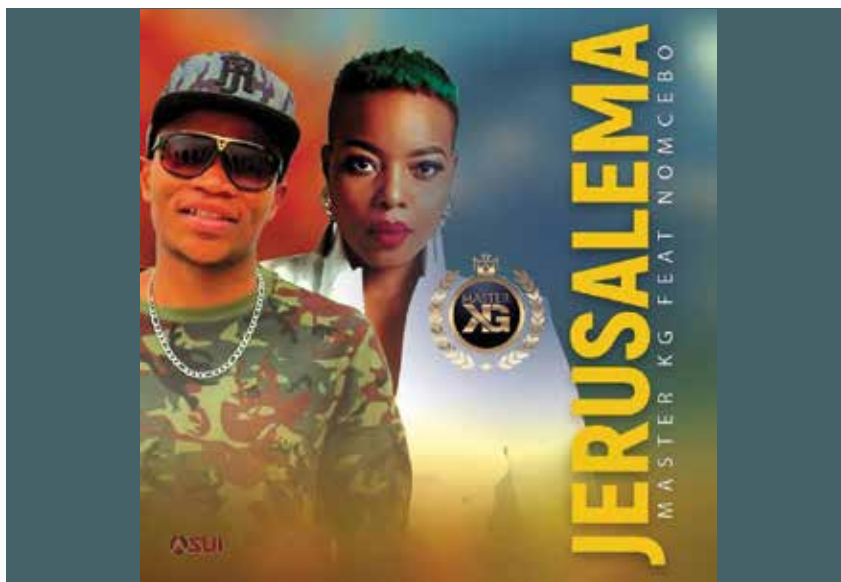
TripAdvisor has published its Traveller’s Choice Awards for 2020, detailing the best restaurants in the world in 2020

Winners are calculated based on the millions of reviews and opinions collected in 2019 from diners around the world. The

awards take into account the quality and quantity of TripAdvisor reviews and ratings specific to each award category.

The hallmark of winners continued to be remarkable service and quality experiences for travellers and diners, TripAdvisor said.

Minister congratulates Master KG on hit song



Government’s programme of strengthening our ties on the continent,” the Minister said.

Master KG also did a remix of the song with Burna Boy, a Nigerian musician.

The Minister on Tuesday, 27 July 2020, hosted a virtual meeting with Master KG and Zikode to celebrate the success of the song.

Master KG said he was surprised when the song, released in December, reached one million views on YouTube after one week.

“I believe in my music, which I started way back in Tzaneen, Limpopo. That’s where I started to make beats and producing music. We’ve been getting a lot of international calls from people who want us to perform the song. We need our government to help us to make this possible,” he said.

Zikode said she had been trying to get a breakthrough in the music industry for the past 15 years.

“Things were not happening. God blessed me with this song. I had goosebumps when I listened to it,” she said.

SAnews.gov.za

The Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, has congratulated Master KG and Nomcebo Zikode on their global success for the hit song *Jerusalem*.

The song, with more than 50 million views on YouTube by the end of July 2020, has people from all over the world dancing

to it on social media with the hashtag #JerusalemDanceChallenge.

“We are happy that you have put our country on the global map. You have used song and dance to unite the whole world. We note the collaboration with Burna Boy, a move that augers very well with the



Cheslin Kolbe joins Siya Kolisi by signing for rapper Jay-Z's sports management company



Star Springbok wing, Cheslin Kolbe, has signed with rapper and producer Jay-Z's prestigious Roc Nation Sports.

Kolbe follows in the footsteps of Springbok captain, Siya Kolisi, who signed with the company after South Africa won the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

"Cheslin's desire to prove wrong all those who told him that it would be impossible to succeed in rugby because of his size led him to the top," Roc Nation Sports boss, Michael Yormark, told French sports' daily *L'Equipe*.

"It is an example of what you can achieve through desire and fits our spirit perfectly."

Kolbe, who stands just 1,71 m and weighs 80kg, has played 14 tests for the Springboks and scored eight tries, including one in the 32-12 Rugby World Cup final win over England in Yokohama.

The 26-year-old, who plies his trade at French club Toulouse, said he learned about Jay-Z's vision and philosophy for Roc Nation Sports.

"It's to improve the lives of people, especially those of athletes who often earn a lot of money at a very young age and then have no one, or not the right people, to guide them and help them invest in the future. Roc Nation is really there to create a context of success for the sportsman and his family," Kolbe said.

www.sport24.co.za

South Africa receives globally recognised "Safe Travels" Stamp



South Africa has received the World Travel and Tourism Council's (WTTTC) Global Safety Stamp of Approval as a destination based on industry-designed protocols.

The approval gives the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA) the right to issue the WTTTC Safe Travels stamp to tourism suppliers within South Africa.

"The specially designed stamp will allow travellers to recognise businesses in South Africa that have adopted world-class health and hygiene protocols for safe travel," said TBCSA CEO, Tshifhiwa Tshivhengwa.

The globally recognised protocols provide consistency to destinations

and countries, as well as guidance to travel providers and travellers about the new approach to health, hygiene, deep cleansing and physical distancing in the post-COVID-19 world, according to Gloria Guevara, WTTTC President and CEO.

Emphasising the need for South Africa – and indeed any destination – to ensure confidence among global travellers, SA Tourism CEO, Sisa Ntshona, said: "The South African tourism sector has done a great job of putting in place health and safety protocols, in a move that goes a long way to boost traveller confidence."

To aid in the safe reopening of the industry, the TBCSA – through a multi-

stakeholder partnership – has launched a tourism and hospitality industry application, *Opus4business*.

The new app – made available to the industry through a sponsorship by food-service distributor, Bidfood – will aid in the safe reopening of the industry by enabling business owners to register and implement the COVID-19 tourism safety protocols.

The *Opus4business* app is a quick, easy and paperless way to show full understanding of the importance of safe industry operating protocols and record compliance with them for tourism industry business owners.

The linked Travel Safe – Eat Safe Certification provides evidence that health screening, distancing and cleaning procedures are in place and helps businesses seamlessly manage COVID-19 health screening for employees, suppliers, delivery agents and customers in full compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act. The app can facilitate contact tracing if needed.

"The app is yet another way the industry is demonstrating self-regulation and a readiness to open for domestic and international travel in the country. We are encouraging businesses to download the app and take their teams through the training to increase compliance in the industry and to keep staff and customers in the sector safe," said Tshivhengwa.

www.tourismupdate.co.za

NBA picks Standard Bank exec to lead African expansion



America's National Basketball Association (NBA) has appointed Victor Williams as its new Africa CEO.

Based in Johannesburg, the ex-Standard Bank exec is tasked with growing the sport on the continent.

Williams started on 17 August 2020. He was previously Head of Corporate and Investment Banking for African Markets (excluding South Africa) at Standard Bank.

"In this newly-created role, Williams will oversee the league's basketball and business development initiatives in Africa," said the NBA, with the goal of "[growing] the popularity of basketball and the NBA across the continent through grassroots development, media distribution, corporate partnerships and more."

Williams, who holds citizenships from both the United States and Sierra Leone, previously worked at Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo Securities before joining Standard Bank. He says that the new position will "allow me to blend my professional experience building

businesses in Africa with my passion for the sport of basketball."

The NBA has had an office in South Africa since 2010, and last year formed a new Africa regional league in collaboration with the International Basketball Federation.

Qualifying rounds were held in October 2019, but the inaugural season, which was due to start in March 2020, was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2017, the NBA opened a new basketball training facility, the NBA Academy Africa, in Senegal. It's one of six academies across the world.

The US basketball league is hugely popular outside its home country, most notably in China. According to CNBC, more than 640 million people in China watched the 2017/18 NBA season.

www.businessinsider.co.za

Minister Pandor congratulates Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng following her appointment to the UNHRC



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, has congratulated Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, following her appointment to an important position at the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Dr Mofokeng was appointed by consensus on 17 July 2020 as the

UNHRC's Special Rapporteur for the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Care.

Dr Mofokeng is a Commissioner at the Commission for Gender Equality. She worked as a medical director at the private practice, DISA Clinic, and as an independent medical consultant. She also

worked as a senior medical officer at the Gauteng Department of Health.

She was previously an adviser to the Technical Committee for the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Framework Strategy in South Africa. She has collaborated with the UN Population Fund, the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS on health-related human rights matters in South Africa.

The Consultative Group of the UNHRC, which made the appointment, noted Dr Mofokeng's solid knowledge and expertise in the area of the mandate. It also noted her legal expertise, knowledge of the UN system and experience at regional level, ability to work with a variety of stakeholders, proven advocacy skills, commitment and expertise in gender equality.

Minister Pandor wished Dr Mofokeng well in her new position and offered South Africa's support to her role as Special Rapporteur for the UNHRC.



Meerkat telescope to be expanded by 20 dishes



Higher Education, Science and Innovation Minister, Dr Blade Nzimande, said the 64-dish MeerKAT, the pre-cursor to the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), would be expanded by 20 dishes at a cost of R800 million.

The Minister said this when he outlined the department's spending priorities during a virtual sitting of the National Assembly on Friday, 24 July 2020.

Minister Nzimande said that astronomy in South Africa remained important to its socio-economic landscape and that the heritage would further be strengthened through the MeerKAT, which had already

been able to give the world a glimpse into the star-formation history of the universe.

"To extend its research area reach, the MeerKAT is to be expanded by 20 dishes at a cost of R800 million. The expansion will be a partnership between South Africa, Germany and China.

"The MeerKAT will further be integrated into SKA Phase one (2019 – 2024) with an additional 133 antennas in the Karoo up to 80-km baseline from the core to make it a 197-dish array mid-frequency telescope."

The Minister said the MeerKAT, located in the Karoo, continued to perform great science and had contributed to several discoveries.

The benefits of hosting these telescopes include a 75% local content component, direct investment of more than R300 million in the Northern Cape alone, the development of technical skills and big data capabilities, strengthening of university research programmes, opportunities for SMMEs and industry, community upliftment programmes and investment in the youth.

"South Africa also participates in the African Very Long Baseline Interferometry Network project that aims to establish self-sufficient radio telescopes in Africa through the conversion of redundant telecommunications antennae into radio telescopes, 'new-build' telescopes or training facilities with training telescopes.

"Countries which participate in this initiative are Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia," he said.

The Minister said that government was also collaborating with the Department of Tourism, the Northern Cape Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, and the Kareeberg Municipality to establish the SKA Exploratorium in Carnarvon.

"This envisaged R60-million multi-purpose science tourism visitor centre will create jobs and boost tourism in the area, and also serve as an outreach hub.

"A funding agreement is being finalised for signature by the relevant parties in order to kick-start the project," he said. SAnews.gov.za

Oyster Box named Top Resort Hotel in Africa



The Oyster Box was recently named the best hotel in Africa at the 2020 *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards.

The Red Carnation Hotel Collection's The Oyster Box recently received top honours at the *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards.

It is reported that the hotel, which is considered to be one of Durban's most beloved hotels, hit the No1 spot in the Top Resort Hotels in Africa Category. Furthermore, Red Carnation Hotels was listed as number four in the Top 25 Hotel Brands in the World.

The awards, voted for by readers of *Travel + Leisure*, judge hotels on a variety of characteristics, including their rooms and facilities, location, service, food and value. "*Travel + Leisure* readers are some of the most seasoned explorers in the world, so it follows that their choices in hotels and resorts are a reflection of their breadth of knowledge and taste. In other words, this is a selective bunch."

About The Oyster Box, which stands majestically on Umhlanga's beachfront, judges said that:

"You can watch dolphins frolic and surfers riding waves from the colourful rooms at this beachfront hotel on the Indian Ocean. The design scheme is colourful and locally inspired, with work from KwaZulu-Natal artists on the walls."

The 86-room The Oyster Box is further said to be the "epitome of modern elegance and comfort". The hotel also offers a variety of unique experiences like high tea and spice masterclasses. Renowned for exceptional cuisine and the hottest spots in town for sundowners, the hotel's facilities include an award-winning spa, two swimming pools and a 24-seater movie theatre.

www.thesouthafrican.com

Tuks is top university In South Africa and Africa, says global ranking



UniRank listing puts the University of Pretoria (UP) on top in South Africa and the rest of the continent. The University of Cape Town (UCT) and University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) are next on the list.

The UP, also commonly known as Tuks, is basking in several recent successes on global ranking lists for academic institutions.

A media statement released by Tuks recently says it has been ranked as number one in South Africa and the rest of Africa by UniRank, a prominent international higher

education directory and search engine that features reviews and rankings of over 13 000 universities and colleges in 200 countries.

UP is also ranked at number 183 on the list of the top universities around the world.

According to UniRank, the top five institutions in South Africa, in order of ranking, are: UP; UCT; Wits; University of Johannesburg; and University of KwaZulu-Natal.

"Our aim is to provide a non-academic league table of the top South African universities based on valid, unbiased

and non-influenceable web metrics provided by independent web-intelligence sources, rather than data submitted by the universities themselves," UniRank says.

The highest-ranked African universities, which are not South African are: University of Nairobi in Kenya (seventh in Africa); University of Lagos in Nigeria (eighth); and University of Cairo in Egypt (10th).

In its media statement, UP said it also featured in the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy's recently released 2020 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS). UP came in first in South Africa in three subject areas and joint first in five others.

"UP is also ranked in the top 500 universities globally in the GRAS, which assesses over 4 000 universities globally in 54 subject areas," UP notes.

According to these rankings, UP is tops in South Africa in the subjects of Computer Science and Engineering, Veterinary Science and Finance. UP is tied for first place in South Africa in the subject areas of Energy Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Biotechnology, Economics and Law.

www.thesouthafrican.com

Jacques Kallis inducted into Cricket's Hall Of Fame



Jacques Kallis was inducted alongside Lisa Sthaleka and Zaheer Abbas in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame on Sunday, 23 August 2020

Former South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis is among the latest inductees into the ICC Hall of Fame.

The 44-year-old called time on his international career in 2013, finishing as the only player to accumulate over 10 000 Test runs and 200 wickets in history, as well as South Africa's all-time leading run-scorer in both the longest format and one-day internationals.

"Kallis was a brilliant batsman, a penetrative fast bowler and one of the safest slip fielders the game has ever seen," the ICC wrote of the former all-rounder. "In an illustrious career spanning 19 years, he breached several statistical milestones and set the benchmark high for all-rounders."

Kallis follows in the footsteps of former Proteas fast bowler, Allan Donald, who was inducted in July 2019.

The pair are the only South Africans in the Hall of Fame, who played post-isolation.

Other South Africans on the list of greats include Barry Richards, who was inducted in 2009, alongside his former teammate, Graeme Pollock.

www.thesouthafrican.com



Delaire Graff named Best Winery in Africa



South Africans are spoilt for choice with amazing wineries across the country. The Delaire Graff Estate in Stellenbosch has won international recognition by being named the Best Winery in Africa in the 2020 World's Best Vineyards Awards.

The World's Best Vineyard Awards honour the best in modern wine tourism across the globe. The nominees are chosen by a voting academy representing more than 500 wine experts from around the world. While there are no predetermined criteria, judges consider all aspects connected to a vineyard visit like the tour, the tasting, the architecture, the view, the food and, of course, the wine. "The 2020 list covers five continents and 18 countries,

with 17 new names featuring. Some are famous – the must-visit places in the world's best-loved wine regions. Some, on the other hand, will inspire you to explore a new region. New destinations on the list include Japan, Bulgaria and India!" reads the awards website.

"The diversity of the Top 50 is incredible. There are modern architectural wonders, UNESCO-protected ancient cellars, Michelin-starred restaurants and small, family-run wineries where the owners conduct the tours.

"Many of the wineries on the list also offer something a little different – such as a horse-drawn vintage carriage tour through the vineyard, tapas amid a collection of beautifully restored classic cars, art from

the likes of Pablo Picasso and lessons in cooking on an open fire. The choice is yours.

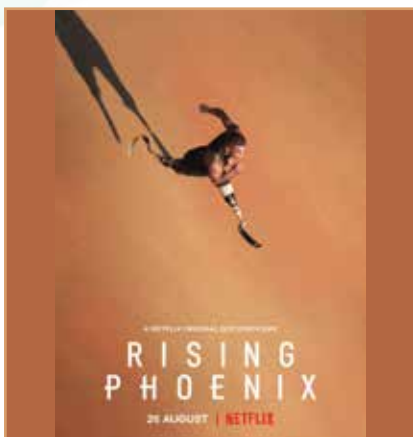
"Delaire Graff came out top in the continent, and is also ranked 14th in the world. Stand out points include the flawless views across the Banghoek Valley and the flavour-packed Asian tapas at Indochine restaurant.

"They really know how to do idyllic landscapes in the Cape Winelands. South Africa's leading wine, hospitality and art destination, Delaire Graff Estate – aka 'the Jewel' of said Winelands – is almost too perfect. Situated under the peak of the Botmaskop mountain between Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, the estate boasts unparalleled views of the Banghoek Valley, Stellenbosch vineyards and Table Mountain – and plenty more besides," write the judges.

"Delaire Graff Estate has been named the best winery in Africa, and number 14 within the world, in the 2020 World's Best Vineyards Awards," the estate wrote on Instagram. "We are proud to play a leading role in the creation of world-class experiences for our local and international visitors. Indochine received special mention for the 'dazzling and sophisticated experience' offered."

www.capetownetc.com

South Africa's Ntando Mahlangu features in new Netflix film *Rising Phoenix*



The inspirational story of South Africa's young Paralympic star, Ntando Mahlangu, is featured in the Netflix documentary *Rising Phoenix*, which launched on 26 August 2020.

Rising Phoenix is a ground-breaking movie about the Paralympic Movement, which will showcase in over 190 countries on Netflix. Featuring Paralympians from across the world, *Rising Phoenix* tells

the extraordinary story of the Paralympic Games and inspiring athletes who show us what is possible when we push the limits of human movement, emphasising that disability is not inability.

The film's release was planned to coincide with the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Due to the postponement of the Games, it now forms part of the one-year-to-go celebrations. 24 August marked the year-to-go milestone before the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympic Games in Japan.

Born with a condition known as congenital hemimelia, Mahlangu spent a large portion of his young life in a wheelchair. At the age of 10, also the year of the London Paralympic Games, things changed.

The decision was made to amputate both of Ntando's legs through the knee. When the London Paralympics were on TV and the other South African amputees were stars on the big stage, he was learning how to walk. Two weeks later and he could run on his feet. He was fitted with his first set of prosthetic blades in September 2012.

By 2016, Mahlangu had developed into a world-class para athlete, winning T42 200m silver for South Africa at the Rio 2016 Paralympics while only 14 years, setting a new African record of 23.77 seconds in the process.

Mahlangu is inspiring more children to dream big and go for their goals, despite the challenges, by being a good example of what is possible with access to prosthetics, mainstream education and sport. It is his goal and passion to help create opportunities for more kids, facing challenges similar to his own, by equipping them; not only on the sports field, but also in the classroom and in their day-to-day lives; to handle all of life's issues and to be strong.

Other athletes featured in the film include Bebe Vio (Italy), Ellie Cole (Australia), Jean-Baptiste Alaize (France), Matt Stutzman (United States of America [USA]), Jonnie Peacock (United Kingdom), Cui Zhe (China), Ryley Batt (Australia) and Tatyana McFadden (USA).

www.sapeople.com

Trevor Noah makes prestigious *Fortune 40 Under 40 List*



There is just no stopping Trevor Noah's success. The South African comedian continues to make strides in his career and this time, it's making it onto the *Fortune 40 Under 40 List* of the most influential people in the world.

The prestigious list was released recently and highlights some of the world's most powerful emerging leaders

in the categories of finance, technology, healthcare, government and politics, and media and entertainment.

The entertainment category mixes established stars with some of the brightest emerging talents and includes the likes of *Black Panther* director Ryan Coogler, actress Zendaya, *Insecure* star Issa Rae, Beyoncé and Mzansi's very own Trevor Noah.

Reflecting on Noah's career, the publication hailed him as "one of the most visible comedians in the US and beyond".

"Since 2015, South African Trevor Noah has become one of the most visible comedians in the US and beyond as the host of *The Daily Show* on *Comedy Central*, succeeding the wildly popular Jon Stewart.

"Noah is also an actor, writer, producer and political commentator. He began his career in SA, where he was born to a black mother and white father, whose interracial relationship was illegal under apartheid. His childhood is the subject of No. 1 *New York Times* best-seller *Born a Crime*, which will be adapted for film with Lupita Nyong'o starring as his mother," Fortune said.

They also highlighted his nine Emmy nominations and one win and celebrated his nine comedy specials and multi-year deal with Viacom, giving them first rights to all his future projects.

It is the first time that Noah has featured on the list. The star also made his debut on the Forbes list of richest people last year, after he banked an estimated R430 million in 2018.

Independent Online

George Coetzee wins Portugal Masters for fifth European Tour title



South African George Coetzee shot a 5-under 66 to win the Portugal Masters by two strokes on Sunday, 13 September 2020.

Coetzee finished at 16 under par after birdies on two of the last three holes to seal the victory over Englishman Laurie Canter, who also shot a 66.

Tommy Fleetwood (64) ended another shot back after making a late charge with four birdies in his last seven holes, including the final two.

The Englishman was tied for third with Swede Joakim Lagergren (65), who also finished strongly with birdies on 14, 16 and 17.

The 34-year-old Coetzee clinched his fifth European Tour title with a bogey-free round that included some key par saves at the Dom Pedro Victoria Golf Course in Vilamoura. He also won the previous week on the Sunshine Tour.

Coetzee carried a one-shot lead into the final round. He had entered the weekend eight shots behind Julien Guerrier (72), who finished in a tie for eighth, seven shots off the lead.

www.golfchannel.com



South Africa's National Animal is the springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*). Typical of this species is the *pronk* (jumping display), which led to its common name. Both sexes have horns but those of the ram are thicker and rougher. This species has adapted to the dry, barren areas and open grass plains and is thus found especially in the Free State, North West province and in the Karoo up to the west coast.







Pitika Ntuli's

online exhibition drew praise from the highest echelons

"This is one of highest of artistic achievements in the history of solo exhibitions in our country," observed Dr Naledi Pandor, South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, during the virtual opening of the exhibition.

The online launch of the exhibition *Return to the Source (Azibuyele Emasisweni)*, by The Melrose Art Gallery, presented a landmark on the African continent. The 45 sculptures that feature in it, are not only extraordinary – made from animal bones teased into human features and a first for a contemporary festival – but are presented online with poems, songs and words created by the artist, Pitika Ntuli, as well as some renowned academics and creative producers such as Homi K Bhabha, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, Kwesi Owusu and Shaheen Merali. The result is a rich visual, audio, intellectual

experience. African knowledge, spiritualism, creativity and art have never intermingled in this way before in the digital sphere.

As such the exhibition has drawn praise in Ntuli's native South Africa.

"This is one of highest of artistic achievements in the history of solo exhibitions in our country," observed Dr Naledi Pandor, South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, during the virtual opening of the exhibition.

"The uniqueness of Ntuli's work, arises from a deep pool of indigenous knowledge and wisdom and centuries-old cultural tradition. From this angle, one could argue that this exhibition affirms the significance of

African value systems, which gives a sense of pride and hope to our people's culture that has often been denigrated and marginalised by Colonialism and thus through this exhibition we are opening channels for healing," added Minister Pandor.

Ntuli could not have conceived of the COVID-19 pandemic or the 15-day protests following George Floyd's murder ahead of working on this new body of work, which also premiered at the country's annual National Art Festival in July 2020. Yet, his unusual and haunting sculptures made from animal bones, seem an apt response or antidote to the social and political upheaval of our times.

"This exhibition comes at the right time. The emphasis on healing has particular

significance in the midst of the COVID pandemic and the uncertainty it has brought with it, which have given us an opportunity to reflect on our value systems and what we call the normal way of doing things," said Minister Pandor.

As the exhibition title, *Return to the Source (Azibuyele Emasisweni)*, suggests Ntuli advocates a return to the "source" of African spiritualism and knowledge as a way to reconnect with human ethics, the essence of existence, and, of course, nature.

At the age of 80, Ntuli, who is a nationally celebrated figure, having been a political prisoner during the apartheid era, and served in leadership positions at various universities and institutions dedicated to tackling racism and cultural renewal, may be in a good position to guide society through his artistic expression.

As a *sangoma* (a healer guided by African traditions), it is no surprise he has turned to animal bones as the medium, for this new body of work – 45 bone sculptures all paired with praise songs. This makes for an unexpected contemporary art exhibition; African spiritualism and contemporary art are rarely bedfellows and his use of animal bones (elephant, rhino, giraffe and horses), which are gently coaxed into anthropomorphic sculptures, make for haunting, though comforting imagery.

"In indigenous communities (in South Africa), diviners identify fault lines in the community, families, and/or in people, using bones. In Nguni culture specifically, to 'throw bones' means to divine the state of things, to help in the healing process. As a *sangoma*/healer I see divination bones as sculptures imbued with multiple meanings. I believe that bones have spirits and consciousness, and it is that, that I seek to reveal in this exhibition," said the Johannesburg-based artist.

Despite the local specificity of his practice and approach, Ntuli views bones as symbolically rich from a universal perspective.

"Bones are the evidence that we were alive 3.5 million years ago, and they are carriers of our memories," he observed.

Ntuli is also interested in bones of those African people who drowned in the Middle Passage during the era of slavery, that lie deep in the Atlantic Ocean

The exhibition also sought to honour this veritable bridge of bones, and all those who survived the atrocity of the slave trade, and whose descendants are now the so-called "Diaspora".

"Once slaves had served their purpose they were discarded. The incorporation of discarded objects into my bone sculptures speaks to this horror, and the need to recycle our value systems and re-humanise our souls," said Ntuli.

Return to the Source (Azibuyele Emasisweni) didn't only lead viewers back in time but through a unique and original use of material, form and symbolism reflecting on the spiritual wasteland that might define this era, it challenged those hard lines that were thought to divide ancient and contemporary concerns and art.

Ntuli was born in 1940 in Springs and grew up in Witbank in Mpumalanga, South Africa. During the apartheid era, Ntuli was arrested and made a political prisoner until 1978, when international pressure forced his release. He embarked on a prodigious career in exile. He completed a Master's of Fine Art at Pratt Institute in New York and an MA at Brunel University in London and lectured art at various international and South African universities, including Central St Martin's College of Art and the University of the Witwatersrand. He is primarily a sculptor. His stark skeletal structures are created in any physical medium he can find: metal, wood, stone and bone and can range from small to monumental works in granite that weigh in excess of 19 tonnes. He has held numerous solo exhibitions and participated in a myriad of group exhibitions, mostly in London. His works are held in numerous important public, private and corporate collections.

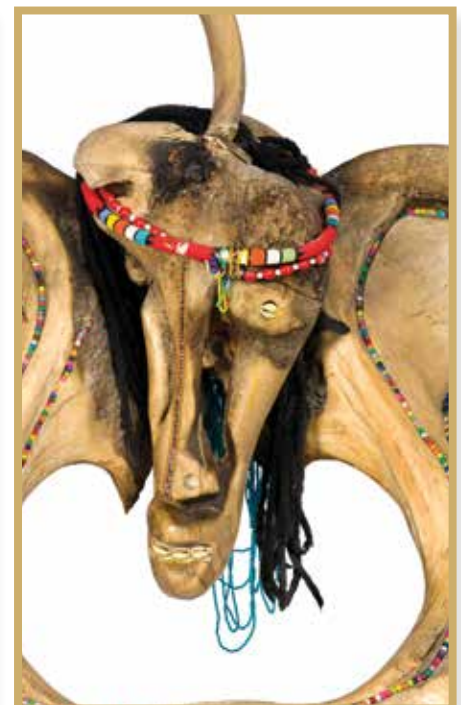
Dubbed "The Gallery of the People", The Melrose Gallery is a leading pan-African contemporary space located in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Passionate about African culture and traditions, the gallery has become a home in which artists, collectors and the public gather as a community to present and celebrate their stories, lives and creative practices in contemporary ways.

Their spaces are dynamic, constantly adapting and challenging preconceived ideas and limitations to creative practice and encouraging lively discourse around issues of pertinence to pan-African art.

They represent iconic artists such as Dr Esther Mahlangu, Dr Willie Bester, Mam Noria Mabasa and Pitika Ntuli and an exciting group of young guards from the continent of Africa.🇺🇸

Dubbed "The Gallery of the People", The Melrose Gallery is a leading pan-African contemporary space located in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Passionate about African culture and traditions, the gallery has become a home in which artists, collectors and the public gather as a community to present and celebrate their stories, lives and creative practices in contemporary ways.





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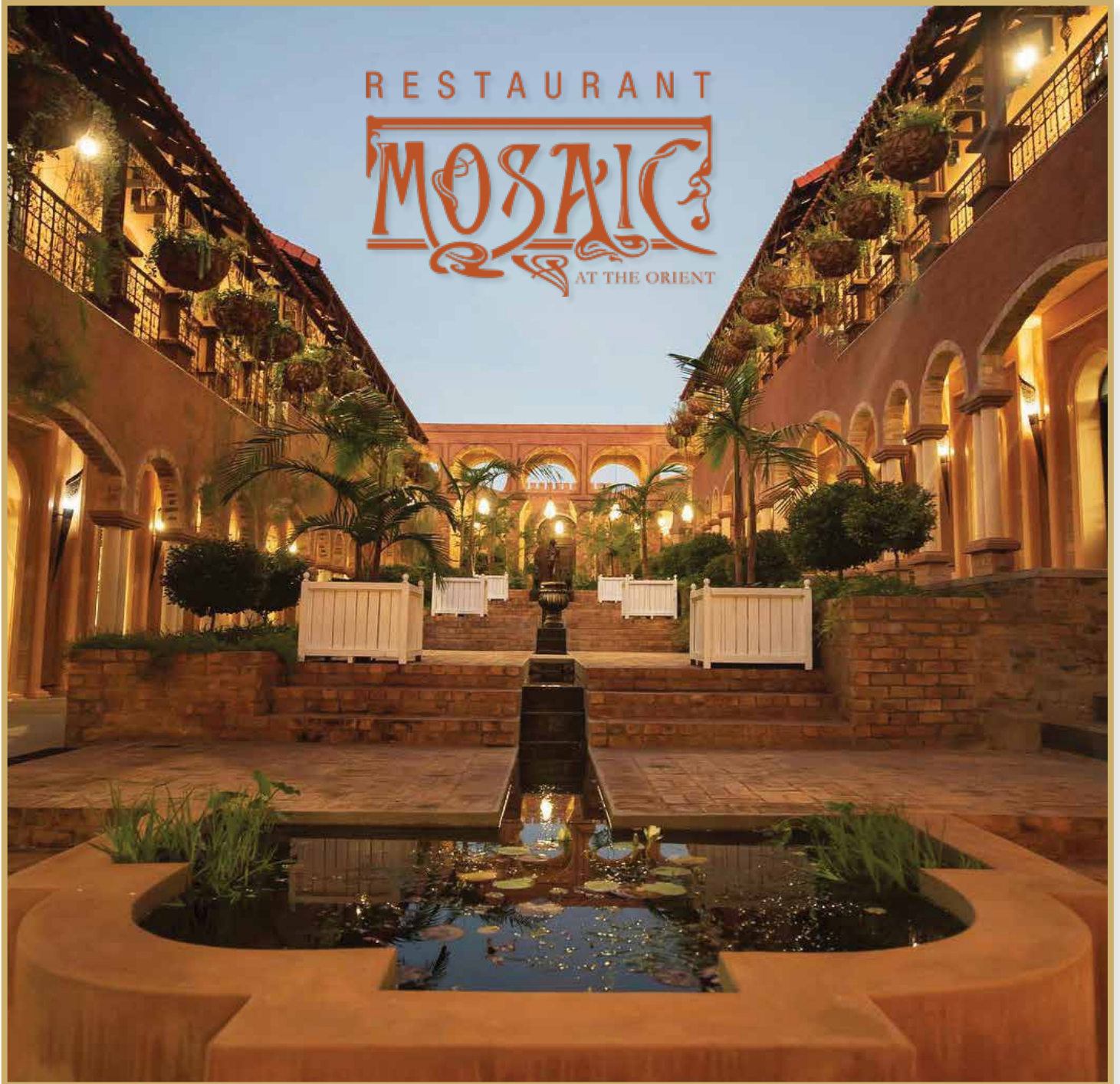


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Brand South Africa



Inspiring new ways



South African restaurant recognised in *the world's top 100*

Along with exceptional wine lists, Grand Award winners offer the ultimate dining experience, with extraordinary cuisine and flawless service, whether formal or casual in style.

By Brent Lindeque
Goodthingsguy

Restaurant Mosaic at The Orient has once again been awarded the prestigious Wine Spectator Grand Award 2020.

Restaurant Mosaic is one of only 100 restaurants in the world, and the only one on the African continent, to have received this coveted award for their exceptional wine lists and cellar. This is the third year running that the restaurant has been honoured with a Grand Award.

Restaurant Mosaic at The Orient Private Hotel is South Africa's finest destination restaurant and private hotel. Award-winning South African Chef Chantel Dartnall is known for presenting the art of nature on her plates through her botanical cuisine to take you on a culinary tour of pure indulgence. Dartnall has enhanced South Africa's status as a gourmet destination on the international culinary map, thanks to her meticulous approach to modern fine dining. She draws her inspiration from fresh, seasonal produce to create dishes which taste as wonderful as they look. The restaurant is decorated in the Belle Epoque style and has an intimate feel with booth-type seats and two private dining rooms.

Having travelled the world, filling several passports in the process, Dartnall found her second home in Paris where she fell in love with the Belle Epoque restaurants such as Le Grand Colbert, Vaganende and La Fermette Marbeuf. When asked how she wanted to decorate Restaurant Mosaic, her choice was easy – in the Art Nouveau style. Renowned South African Impressionist artists and interior decorators were commissioned to step back in time to the romantic early 1900s to create a restaurant that is both romantic and unique. It has an intimate feel with booth-type seats and two private dining rooms.

When the restaurant is open, award-winning chef Dartnall is always in attendance and always meets the diners to present her menu and answer questions.

Launched in 1981, the Restaurant Awards are judged on three levels: the Award of Excellence, the Best of Award of Excellence and the Grand Award. *Wine Spectator* has recognised the achievements of nearly 3 800 restaurants, hailing from all 50 states and 80 countries and territories that have demonstrated the passion and devoted the resources to create outstanding wine programmes in 2020.

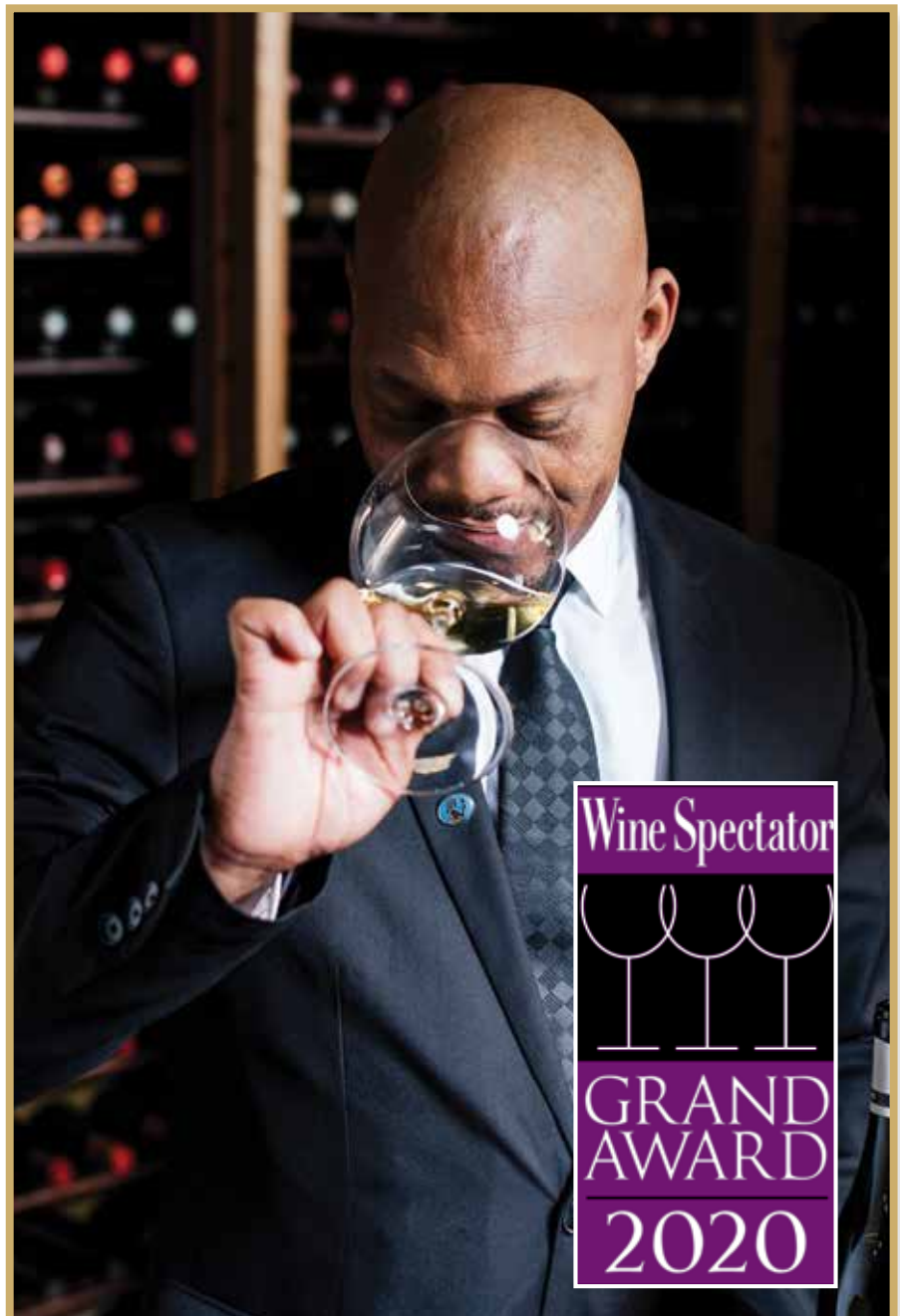
The Grand Award is *Wine Spectator's* most prestigious honour, given to the world's elite wine programmes. This award is a reflection of steadfast dedication and unwavering passion for both building and growing an

exceptional wine programme year after year. These lists generally have 1 000 selections or more, present diners with a depth of vintages from some of the most well-known producers and include multiple bottle formats.

Along with exceptional wine lists, Grand Award winners offer the ultimate dining experience, with extraordinary cuisine and flawless service, whether formal or casual in style. Candidates for the Grand Award are required to undergo a rigorous inspection by one of *Wine Spectator's* judges.

"We are extremely proud of this global recognition and raise our glasses, to say a great big thank you to our Cellar Master for his passion, dedication and continued hard work to ensure that we have all these beautiful wine gems available for our guests to enjoy", says Patron Chef Dartnall. 🍷

Restaurant Mosaic is one of only 100 restaurants in the world, and the only one on the African continent, to have received this coveted award for their exceptional wine lists and cellar. This is the third year running that the restaurant has been honoured with a Grand Award.



Despite the paused tourism industry, SA ranks in top spots for 2020



The winners of the 2020 Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Awards have been announced and South African businesses got some top titles.

By Tyler Leigh Vivier
Goodthingsguy

2020 has not been kind to travellers who had plans to travel the world. In fact, it hasn't been kind to anyone in the tourism industry. Thankfully, Tripadvisor still published their Travellers' Choice Awards.

Every year, the Travellers' Choice Awards highlight the very best of tourism across the globe. From the best hotels and airlines to the best experiences and destinations, you name it, you will be able to find the best of the best.

www.goodthingsguy.com took a look at each category and saw there were quite a few proudly South African winners this year despite the country's tourism industry being on lockdown.



Top 10 Hop-On Hop-Off Experiences

South Africa placed 10th on this list for its one-or-two-day Cape Town Hop-on Hop-off Sightseeing Bus Tour. The bus tour offers a choice of four different bus routes to attractions such as Camps Bay, Table Mountain and the Cape Winelands.



Top 10 Multi-Day Tours

South Africa placed ninth on this list for the six-day Garden Route and Addo South African Adventure from Cape Town by Earthstompers Adventures.



Top 10 Wine Experiences

South Africa placed seventh on the list for full-day South African wine tours, with the winning company being African Story Wine Tours. It is no surprise that South African wine tours are a win when as the country's wine industry is a big global winner regularly.



Best Fine-Dining Restaurants

South Africa's beautiful La Colombe in Constantia, Western Cape, placed 13th on this list out of 25. The fine-dining restaurant went up against some of the world's very best.



Emerging Destinations

Franschoek was ranked as the 13th best-emerging destination in the world by travellers. They list the area with 110 things you can do for the day.

"The village of Franschoek (French Corner), tucked into the Cape Winelands of South Africa, is known as the country's food and wine capital. Galleries and antique shops fill the tree-lined streets, and vineyards established more than 300 years ago cascade over the hills just outside town. Local activities range from wine-tasting tours to trout fishing and hiking. The Huguenot Memorial Museum honours the town's early settlers, who fled religious persecution in France."





BRAD BINDER

– The first South African to win at MotoGP

President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "Brad Binder made all South Africans proud today with his historic victory. We share in his elation and look forward to his long and successful career at the top of his sport."

By Tyler Leigh Vivier
Goodthingsguy

Brad Binder has gone on to make history in MotoGP by becoming the first South African to win; a proudly South African moment that sent cheers across the country.

On 9 August 2020, history was made by 24-year-old South African Binder, when the rookie became the first South African to win the MotoGP.

The rising star has worked his way through the ranks of Moto3, Moto2 and is now proving

his best in the MotoGP. Binder is the first South African to race MotoGP in the four-stroke era and the first to compete in the premier class since 2000.

He came in to win from a start at seventh, keeping fans on the edge of their seats as he made daring moves for first. Once he made his way to the front of the race, he pushed forward and put more than four seconds between him and his opponents.

While Binder celebrated his win without his family nearby, South Africans were

waving their flags in celebration with the talented racer.

The South African national anthem rang through the Automotodrom in Brno, Czech Republic and it had everyone one who watched, in tears.

Binder was born on 11 August 1995, in Potchefstroom, North-West province, began his motorsport career in karts and was national champion aged just eight. Looking for a new challenge, he moved on to two wheels at 10 years old, and hasn't looked back since.



After rapid progress on motorcycles in his native South Africa, Brad was accepted into the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup for 2009, and his talent shone over the next few seasons.

President Cyril Ramaphosa congratulated Binder on flying the South African flag high with his first win in the MotoGP premier class.

President Ramaphosa said: "Brad Binder made all South Africans proud today with his historic victory. We share in his elation and look forward to his long and successful career at the top of his sport.

"Coming as it did on Women's Day, which brings us together as a nation, Brad's victory in the Czech Grand Prix provides us with inspiration, hope and pride and lifts our spirits at a time we need this."

This was only Binder's third race of the year, and still his debut season.

Binder has been called a national star and a KTM legend by the commentators. He has been a Moto3 championship winner, impressed in Moto2 and now made history by winning his first race for the team in MotoGP.

Binder said after the race: "This is the day I have dreamt about since I was a little boy, and gosh, today it came true. It's amazing to win my first grand prix, I really wish my parents were here because they were the ones who backed me from the beginning." 🇺🇦

www.news24.com | SAGovnews Sources: MotoGP | Twitter





Towards Wakanda – **Chadwick Boseman's** passing and the power and limits of Afrofuturism

In *Black Panther*, Chadwick Boseman – along with a host of other wonderful actors, and director and screenwriters Ryan Coogler and Joe Robert Cole – brought to life a “splendidly black” utopian vision. The film, which reverses stereotypes about Africa, delighted many African American fans.

By Clare Corbould
Associate Professor, Deakin University, Australia

If you're not a comics fan, you may have been surprised at the extent of the heartfelt grief expressed following the death of actor Chadwick Boseman.

One explanation lies in the extraordinary power of the 2018 movie *Black Panther*, in which Boseman starred as T'Challa/Black Panther, to address racist stereotypes about Africa and Africans.

Boseman's character was heir to the hidden kingdom of Wakanda, a mythical African nation free of European colonisation. The film's subtext explores African Americans' varying identifications, past and present, with Africa and a global black Diaspora.

Dark continent

Westerners' ideas about Africa are steeped in myth. The United States (USA), wrote German philosopher Georg Hegel in 1830, was “the land of the future”. Africa, by contrast, was “the land of childhood” where history was meaningless. European powers dubbed it the “Dark Continent”, as if its people could never make progress.

Fields of science emerged to classify human beings, relying on simplistic notions of evolution and psychology. They all agreed “black” people inhabited the ladder's bottom rung.

From explorer Henry Morton Stanley's tales of impenetrable jungles to the Tarzan novels and early “talkie” films, entertainment portrayed Africa as irredeemably backward.

These (pseudo) scientific and cultural stereotypes underpinned colonisation. They served Western extraction of Africa's natural resources, enslavement of Africans and of their descendants all over the Americas.

Breaking chains and forging links

Such ideas meant that when black Americans broke slavery's chains, starting in the 1820s in northern US and ending in 1865, it was

not straightforward to claim African allegiance. The Atlantic and internal slave trades had devastated ties between families and communities on either side of the Atlantic Ocean.

Black Americans had, instead, forged ties between themselves in the USA. This meant few people (roughly 12 000) were keen to migrate to Liberia, established by the American Colonisation Society in 1816.

By the 1920s, with memories of enslavement the preserve of older people, black Americans began once again to forge links to Africa. Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association suggested a global black USA. When Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935, African Americans were incensed.

In the 1960s to 1970s era of Black Power, accelerated by film and television, ties to Africa became more prominent again.

Activists changed their names: Stokely Carmichael became Kwame Ture; Cassius Clay chose Muhammad Ali; and JoAnne Byron's rebirth was as Assata Shakur. More widespread was the adoption of dashikis and "natural" hairstyles.

Interest in Africa spiked dramatically with Alex Haley's *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*. The book (1976) and the miniseries (1977) told the story of Haley's "furthest-back ancestor", Kunta Kinte, and his generations of American descendants.

In more recent decades, black American tourism to Africa has soared as people seek out their own roots.

A different world

In *Black Panther*, Chadwick Boseman – along with a host of other wonderful actors, and director and screenwriters Ryan Coogler and Joe Robert Cole – brought to life a "splendidly black" utopian vision. The film, which reverses stereotypes about Africa, delighted many African American fans.

In Wakanda, the fictional metal vibranium is the bedrock of a society in which wealth is distributed so justly that both men and women thrive and King T'Challa can stroll the city streets unnoticed.

Vibranium represents the resources of the 54 countries of Africa, whose extraction has not, on the whole, benefitted Africans. It is mahogany, ivory, rubber, diamonds, salt, gold, copper and uranium.

Black Panther draws on an artistic movement known as Afrofuturism, in which knowledge about past violence and injustice inform an imagined future built on equality. Afrofuturists have included novelists Sutton E Griggs and George Schuyler in the early days; and later Octavia Butler, Samuel Delaney and Ishmael Reed; and now NK Jemisin and Colson Whitehead.

Afrofuturist musicians include Sun Ra, George Clinton and P-Funk, and recently Janelle Monáe.

Black is King

Beyoncé's new visual album *Black Is King* also draws on the Afrofuturist tradition.

It has been criticised for prioritising aesthetics over politics. In particular, Beyoncé's effort to reclaim colonial stereotypes linking Africans to flora and fauna by donning couture animal prints has drawn mixed responses.

Dedicated to her son, *Black Is King* falls into a long tradition of romanticising black ancestors as kings and queens. Criticising this tendency, historian Clarence Walker has asked: "If everybody was a king, who built the pyramids?"

But kingship is also a metaphor for the power of history, properly told. "History is your future," Beyoncé tells the film's young king. An exchange following the track *Brown Skinned Girl* starts with a male voice saying, "Systematically, we've had so much taken from us". A second voice responds:

"Being a king is taking what's yours. But not just for selfish reasons, but to actually build up your community."

King T'Challa comes to the same realisation and at the end of *Black Panther*, we see him leave his tech-whizz sister at the helm of a new Wakandan outreach centre in Oakland, California.

In both *Black Is King* and *Black Panther*, global connections underpin a reimagined future universe – a marvellous one, even – where disadvantage and injustice stemming from racism are overcome. Wakanda forever. 🇺🇸

This article first appeared on *The Conversation*.

Black Panther draws on an artistic movement known as Afrofuturism, in which knowledge about past violence and injustice inform an imagined future built on equality.





A Bushman making weapons at the Bushman Cultural Village, near Xaus Lodge, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Northern Cape.



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