

UBUNTU



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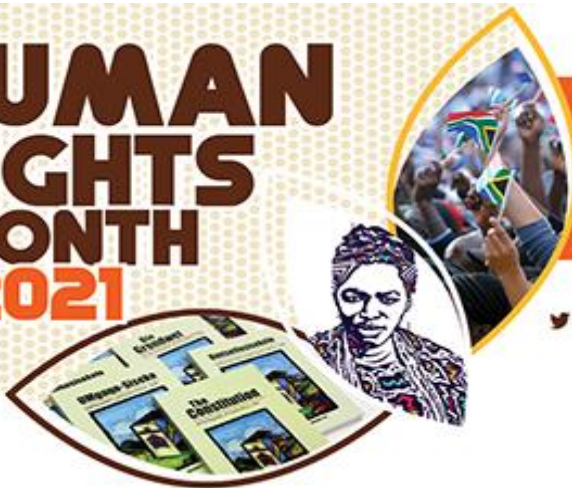
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HUMAN
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2021



The Year of Charlotte Maxeke:
Promoting Human Rights in the Age of
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PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA CHAIR APR MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), chaired the 30th African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government meeting on Thursday, 25 March 2021.

President Ramaphosa assumed the Chair of the APRM in February 2020.

The APR Forum is a Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government of the member states of the African Union (AU) who have voluntarily chosen to accede to the APRM. This authority is the highest decision-making body in the APRM.

The APR Forum has ultimate responsibility for oversight of the APRM organisation and processes, for mutual learning and capacity-building and for exercising constructive peer dialogue and persuasion.

These programmes are in place to make the APRM effective, credible and acceptable.

The 30th summit of the forum, among others, welcomed the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as the newest member state to accede to the APRM.

“The summit is also expected to conduct the peer review of Liberia; discuss reports on targeted reviews of Sierra Leone and Zambia; receive a briefing on Sudan’s governance gap analysis; and receive an update on progress in Nigeria’s second review process.



“Kenya and Mozambique will also make presentations on implementation of their national programmes of action. President Ramaphosa will also use the opportunity of the 30th Summit of the APR Forum to apprise his counterparts about the progress of the 2nd Generation Review in South Africa,” The Presidency said in a statement.

The APRM was established in 2003 as a specialised agency of the AU that serves as a platform for sharing experiences and reinforcing best practices towards political stability, accelerated economic growth and regional and continental integration as well as sustainable development.

It further seeks to foster change in underlying deficiencies in governance and socioeconomic development processes among member states.

The mechanism uses a holistic review process that distinguishes it from other institutions through inclusive dialogue, independent and objective reviews, peer learning and compliance monitoring. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA ATTENDS FUNERAL OF LATE PRESIDENT MAGUFULI OF TANZANIA

President Magufuli passed away on Wednesday, 17 March 2021, in a Dar es Salaam hospital at the age of 61.

President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday, 22 March 2020, undertook a visit to Dodoma, the national capital of the United Republic of Tanzania, to attend the funeral of the late Tanzanian President, His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli.

Her Excellency Former Vice-President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been inaugurated as President Magufuli’s successor.

Paying tribute to the late President, President Ramaphosa said: “The family of nations of Africa are today mourning the passing of one their own, an esteemed leader of his people and a tireless champion of the cause of African progress.



“On behalf of the Government and the people of South Africa, please accept our deepest sympathies and condolences. This is a moment of sadness that is felt across the region and the continent.”

“As we lay our dear brother to rest, we should resolve to pursue that vision, to build an Africa of peace, justice, progress and inclusive prosperity.

“As South Africans, we will forever regard Tanzania as our home away from home.”

Shifting his focus to the darkest moments of the struggle against apartheid, President Ramaphosa said Tanzania gave South Africans shelter, sustenance and support.

“We owe so much of our freedom to the generosity and the sacrifices of the people of Tanzania. It is this shared past that makes us, as South Africans, feel the loss of President Magufuli all the more deeply and all the more personally.”

The President said the East African country had lost a father and brother, while Africa had lost a visionary leader, and South Africa a dear friend.

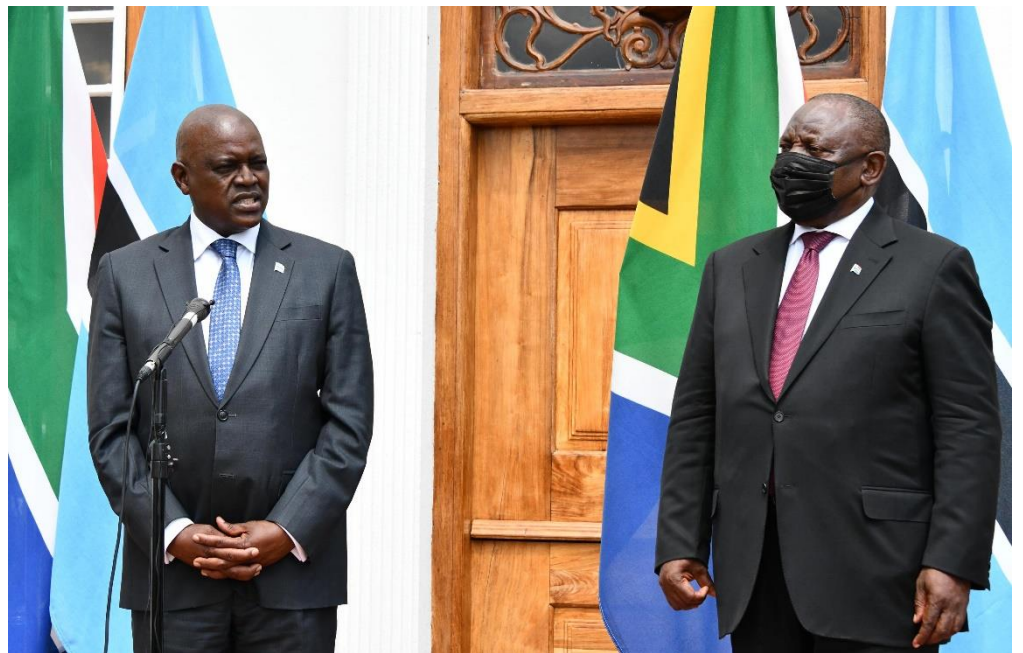
“May the people of this wonderful land find peace and comfort in the difficult days ahead. May the legacy of John Pombe Magufuli live on,” said President Ramaphosa.

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA HOSTS BOTSWANA PRESIDENT

On Friday, 19 March 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa received Botswana President, Eric Mokoetsi Masisi, on a Working Visit.

President Ramaphosa accepted the request from President Masisi to undertake a Working Visit to South Africa to discuss bilateral issues and to exchange views on regional developments.

The President was joined in the meeting by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, as well as designated senior government officials.



South Africa and Botswana enjoy historic and fraternal relations, which were cemented during the struggle against colonialism and apartheid.

Bilateral cooperation between the two countries takes place within the rubric of the South Africa-Botswana Bi-National Commission (BNC), which was established in 2010.

The BNC remains a very important structured mechanism to streamline and coordinate cooperation between the two countries at the highest level and it consists of the following clusters: diplomatic, economic, social, defence and security.

There is a need for enhanced cooperation between the two countries in order to rebuild national and regional economies in the era of COVID-19, which has disrupted economic activities and the livelihoods of people.

The meeting provided an opportunity not only to share views on regional developments but also to discuss continental and global issues of mutual interest. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

HUMAN RIGHTS NOT NEGOTIABLE

President Cyril Ramaphosa says over the past year, government, working in partnership with social partners and civil society, has given effect to the principle that human rights are not negotiable.

HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2021



The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: Promoting Human Rights in the Age of COVID-19

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“We have strived to meet our many obligations under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights that is the cornerstone of our democracy. Through the provision of care to the sick and social support to the vulnerable, we have worked together to give effect to the most important rights of our people – the right to life, to health and to dignity,” President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa made the remarks when he was delivering a national message during the virtual commemoration of Human Rights Day on Sunday, 21 March 2021.

Human Rights Month 2021 is commemorated under the theme: “The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: Promoting Human Rights in the Age of COVID-19”. The theme pays tribute to the 150th anniversary of the birth of liberation struggle heroine and human rights campaigner, Charlotte Maxeke.

Response to COVID-19 pandemic

The President said that, in recognition of the severe impact of the pandemic on people’s livelihoods, government had implemented social and income-support measures to support struggling households, workers and businesses.

He said the next phase of the response to the pandemic was to ensure that the COVID-19 vaccine was available to every person in the country.

“We have been able to weather the Coronavirus storm in large part because of the strong culture of human rights in our country. Human rights that were hard-won by the heroes and heroines of Sharpeville and the countless heroes and heroines of our struggle for liberation broadly.

“They were firm in their conviction that freedom for some is freedom for none; and that nobody must be left behind. It was at Sharpeville that President Nelson Mandela signed our democratic Constitution into law 25 years ago. The Constitution is a shade and a shelter for all.

“The Constitution is one law for one nation. It commits not just government but every one of us to the values that were disregarded in the past – of human rights, of fair and decent treatment, of tolerance of difference, and of appreciation of our common basic humanity,” President Ramaphosa said.

Phase of reconstruction and recovery

The President noted that the country was currently in the phase of reconstruction and recovery, and government was working to build a new economy that promises “equal opportunity for all”.

In doing so, he reminded the citizens that this was a struggle for all.

“It is not a fight not for our own piece of bread, for our own job to be saved, or for our own health and safety. It is a fight to preserve our common humanity.

“It is a fight to preserve our common humanity, and it means that we must all work together, whether as government, labour, business or communities,” he said.

“As we work to rebuild our economy and our society, we must strive to make the promise of the country’s Constitution a reality in the lives of our people.

“As we work to rebuild our economy and our society, we must strive to make this promise a reality in the lives of our people. Advancing human rights is the responsibility of us all.

“Though we may have our differences on a number of issues, we have far more in common. We share a common goal: to defeat the pandemic. We have a common vision: of a better, more inclusive society.

“Above all, we have a common cause: that of a South Africa of equality, prosperity, freedom and human rights for all,” President Ramaphosa said.

He wished all South African citizens, and people who call this great beautiful country their home, a “healthy, happy and peaceful Human Rights Day”. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



DEPUTY PRESIDENT MABUZA VISITS BIOVAC MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN WESTERN CAPE

Deputy President David Mabuza on Thursday, 18 March 2021, visited the Biovac manufacturing facility in the Western Cape. The visit followed a similar visit to the institute in Gauteng. He was accompanied by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor.



The purpose of the visit was to provide the Deputy President, in line with his responsibility as Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines, an opportunity to witness the country's scientific capabilities, biotechnology infrastructure and the investments made to support vaccine manufacturing and development efforts.

The manufacturing facility, located in Cape Town, performs product development, formulation and filling of vaccines, packaging, labelling as well as cold chain and distribution.

The visit also served as an opportunity to further explore the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines in South Africa.

BIOVAC TO SIGN COVID-19 VACCINE PRODUCTION DEAL

Higher Education, Science and Innovation Minister, Dr Blade Nzimande, says South Africa is in talks to sign a groundbreaking vaccine production contract with ImmunityBio, a United States (US)-based firm owned by a South African-born billionaire.

The Minister said this on the sidelines of Deputy President David Mabuza's visit to the Biovac Institute in Pinelands in Cape Town on Thursday, 18 March 2021.

"We are expecting that by the end of next month, we will be signing a contract with a company called ImmunityBio, which is owned by an ex-South African," said the Deputy President.

Born in Port Elizabeth, Patrick Soon Shiong obtained his qualification as a medical doctor from the University of Witwatersrand at the age of 23 before moving to the US at the height of apartheid.

Shiong, who was born in South Africa to Chinese immigrant parents, later became a board-certified surgeon graduating from the University of California in 1984.

In his later years, Sooh Shiong has been involved in research and development and is known for inventing Abraxane, which became a groundbreaking drug for its efficacy in the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

"He has actually been in the industry of manufacturing products to treat cancer and so on but ... he is now moving into the production of a new vaccine for COVID-19. He is doing the first phase of the test[s]. He is very keen now. We are having discussions with him to invest in South Africa," he said.

ImmunityBio is currently conducting clinical trials with an aim to produce a COVID-19 vaccine in Khayelitsha in the Western Cape. "We are participating by virtue of having this clinical trial in Khayelitsha."

Meanwhile, after touring and receiving a briefing about the Biovac facility, the Deputy President said processes were afoot to move Biovac into a space where it would begin to fulfil the State's intention to produce and manufacture vaccines locally.

"We are pleased to say that there are already steps that have been taken in the process."

He said they currently formulated vaccines and then filled the small vials.



“The only missing link that we must work on is to manufacture the mix itself. We want to produce our own vaccines here. Yes, we are producing but we are just doing the formulation and the filling. We want to do the last step now.”

Minister Nzimande said the Biovac Institute was the only facility of its kind in the whole of the African continent in terms of its capacity.

“It started way back in 2003 just doing packaging. Vaccines would be imported here, finished and just packaged, but it has been moving up the value chain.

“What it is doing now is actually filling and finishing. But the plan is to move even higher up the value chain so that we are able to produce, invest ... in our own research and development so that we can produce and manufacture our own vaccines, hopefully starting with COVID-19 but also in developing other vaccines.”

He said the development with regard to signing a contract with ImmunityBio was good news for research and development.

“That is very good news ... from the standpoint of the President’s campaign for more investment in South Africa, but much more importantly, that we begin to make a big difference in terms of taking this facility to higher levels to be able to move up the value chain to produce much more vaccines than we are doing right now.” – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SA PREPARING FOR SECOND GENERATION COUNTRY REVIEW PROCESS

Public Service and Administration Minister, Senzo Mchunu, says South Africa is currently preparing to undergo its second Generation Country Review process.

“As a country, we have already adopted the roadmap, setting out clear timelines for conducting the Country Review Process and stakeholder consultations,” Minister Mchunu said, addressing the media in Pretoria on Thursday, 18 March 2021.

South Africa is one of the founding member states of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

The APRM is a tool for sharing experiences, reinforcing best practices, identifying deficiencies and assessing capacity-building needs to foster policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration.



“The mechanism is further aimed at fostering good governance on the continent, through systematic peer learning and self-assessment,” Minister Mchunu said.

He said 40 countries had voluntarily acceded to the APRM over the years.

“Great milestones have to date been achieved on a continental level as well as here at home,” he said.

Twenty-three countries have undergone the APRM Country Review process and two more countries will join the group of governance reformers by the end of 2021.

The APRM, formed in 2003, is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by African Union member states.

Its primary purpose is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated subregional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity-building.

In 2020, Cabinet declared the readiness of the country to undertake the APRM Second Generation Review Process.

This was followed by the establishment of APRM national structures and commencing with the substantive work of the second generation review in earnest. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

WATER AND SANITATION RECEIVES A MULTI-MILLION RAND WATER TRAINING CENTRE FROM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

Minister Sisulu received a multi-million rand water training centre by the Japanese Government



The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu, took ownership of the Training Yard on Non-Revenue Water Management, built by the Government of Japan, from Maruyama Norio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of South Africa.

The event took place on Monday, 22 March 2021, World Water Day 2021, which was the last day of South Africa's National Water Week commemoration.

The Japanese Government, through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), funded the construction of the training facility at the Roodeplaats Training Centre of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The Training Yard covers the basics of training artisans to deal with water losses in communities. The designs of the training yard were conducted by DWS engineers with technical support from JICA.

A South African company was contracted by JICA to construct the Training Yard. DWS engineers will handle all the activities, including the maintenance of the Training Yard to ensure sustainability of the programme.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES CRITICAL TO SA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Trade, Industry and Competition Deputy Minister, Fikile Majola, says the special economic zones (SEZ) programme will play a critical role in supporting the implementation of South Africa's economic reconstruction and recovery plan.

"The SEZ programme is at the core of the reimagined industrial strategy, which is purposefully structured to stimulate local and foreign direct investments. The SEZs are also going to play an important role in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement as we position our country to become a vibrant manufacturing hub of the African continent," Deputy Minister Majola said.

Deputy Minister Majola was addressing the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Small Business Development, Tourism, Employment and Labour on Tuesday, 16 March 2021.

The Deputy Minister briefed Parliament on progress of the implementation of the SEZ and the Industrial Parks Revitalisation Programmes, which are both driven by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

Deputy Minister Majola also noted that the implementation process of the SEZ programme required collaborative efforts from all spheres of government to ensure that the roll-out of the programme was efficient, integrated and well-coordinated.

"It is only through cooperation at national, provincial and local government levels that we can successfully build an inclusive economy. Intergovernmental relations, both horizontally and vertically, are important in us achieving the set objectives of the reimagined industrial strategy.

"The efforts of pursuing a coordinated framework through the District Development Model approach has presented an opportunity for the creation of a balance ecosystem for integrated development," Deputy Minister Majola said.

The Deputy Minister further commended the implementation of the new integrated approach of ensuring that national, provincial and local government work together and share responsibility for the implementation of the SEZ programme.

He said the Tshwane Automotive SEZ clearly illustrated the positive impact of the implementation of this approach.

"The success of the Tshwane Automotive SEZ has reignited the desire and the vision to turn the Gauteng city region into a single multi-tier and integrated SEZ. This is one of our recent shining examples of successful SEZs, joining the likes of Coega, Dube Trade Port and East London SEZ," he said.

The department's presentation to the committee showed that, despite the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economies throughout the world, the value of private investments in South African SEZs increased by R1.8 billion in March 2019 to R17.7 billion in March 2020.



It is expected that the number and value of operational investments will also increase by almost R10 billion when the next financial year ends.

SEZs offer various incentives such as reduced corporate tax rates, VAT and customs relief, building allowances and an employment tax incentive.

SEZs are defined as a geographically designated area of a country set aside for specifically targeted economic activities, which are then supported through special arrangements and support systems to promote industrial development. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

WATER PROVISION MILESTONES IN SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY PROJECT

The Department of Water and Sanitation in the Northern Cape has reflected on the milestones achieved in the provision of water towards the development of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project, located near Carnarvon, a small town in the Northern Cape.



This came as South Africa commemorated National Water Week from 15 to 22 March 2021.

The idea of hosting the SKA in the Northern Cape started in 1991, when five sites around the world were identified to host the project – the most powerful radio telescope in the world.

To improve the chances of securing the bid to host the SKA in South Africa, in 2009, two projects were initiated in the Northern Cape, namely the MeerKat Project and the Kat-7 Project.

The MeerKat Project saw 64 dishes successfully constructed and the Kat-7 Project is an engineering prototype to demonstrate to the world the capacity of South Africa, in particular, the Northern Cape, as an ideal destination with the capacity to build the infrastructure for the SKA Project.

“To achieve these projects, water became an absolute necessity, a catalyst for the successful implementation of the MeerKat and KAT-7.

“Water was required for the construction of roads leading to where the dishes would be erected, the construction for the foundation of the SKA dishes and antennas. Furthermore, water was also needed on site for drinking and ablution facilities for the people that would be working on the project,” the department said.

In 2011, the department started with groundwater exploration to ensure water availability and sustainability and to determine the impact on groundwater resources.

“It was concluded that water abstraction would not compromise the water table. Consequently, 21 water provisioning boreholes were drilled from which 12 gave sufficient water,” the department said.

In August 2012, the department received, processed and granted a 20-year water-use licence, with conditions to be reviewed after every five-year period to ensure compliance with all water-use regulations.

One of these regulations relates to culverts being erected on the road to avoid disturbing the natural flow of water when it rains.

“In the year after the commencement of the construction of the SKA, the project had used only 82% of the water allocated for use, an indication that the water was used within the conditions of the water-use licence.

“Quarterly monitoring is being done on the site to make sure that groundwater is being managed properly,” the department said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

The South African Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Act is the only one of its kind in the world. It provides for the protection of the IK system, traditional cultural expressions and natural resources associated with IK.

The IK Act, signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2019, aims to prevent the unauthorised use and misappropriation of knowledge developed over time by South Africa's indigenous communities.

The Act was the topic of conversation during an international webinar hosted by the Department of Science and Innovation on Thursday, 18 March 2020.

The webinar aimed to inspire researchers, academics, businesses and policymakers to work in an integrated manner to contribute to food security, agriculture, conservation of the environment, sustainable development, education and cultural and biological diversity.

The Act aims to place indigenous communities in South Africa at the centre of efforts to commercialise IK products and processes.

The event was addressed by several notable speakers, including Prof. Yonah Seleti, Acting Deputy Director-General: Research Development and Support at the Department of Science and Innovation; Prof. Vhonani Netshandama, Director for Community Engagement at the University of Venda; and Chief Mavhungu Ramabulana, renowned herbalist, who shared their insights with local and international stakeholders on the unique features of the IK Act, as well as innovation and product development for the commercial use of products, services and processes, among other things.

In the national interest, the use of IK is encouraged in the development of innovative, socially and economically relevant products and services.



CAIRO, CAPE TOWN TAKE TOP HONOURS ON “BEST PLACES TO VISIT IN AFRICA” LIST

Cairo has been named the number one travel destination in Africa by “Travel US News”, followed by Cape Town and Victoria Falls coming in third.

“Africa may not always register on the average traveler’s radar, but those who visit have the chance to experience the perfect blend of ancient and modern, of wild and urban, of East and West,” the publication writes.

They proceeded to rank the best places to visit in Africa based on accessibility, affordability and variety of things to do, as well as user votes and expert opinions.

#1 CAIRO



“The desert heat, the noisy streets and the sheer size of Cairo will leave even the most adaptable traveler with a serious case of culture shock.

“But be patient. Take some time to relax over a cup of tea, to wander the ancient streets and to watch the sun lower over the mighty Nile River. It won’t take long for the city’s treasures to reveal themselves.

“Most visitors flock to Egypt’s capital to explore the wonders of the ancient world, following the footsteps of the pharaohs. But there are two sides to Cairo; the city’s residents embrace their history and rejoice in their progress.

The ancient pyramids of Giza, Dahshur and Saqqara fight with the trendy bars of the Zamalek and Heliopolis neighbourhoods for spotlight.”

#2 CAPE TOWN



“With numerous hiking trails, miles of dramatic scenery and stunning beaches (including one with wild penguins), Cape Town caters to both adventurous types and laid-back travelers. In Cape Town, it is said to be possible to find convenient, budget-friendly lodging.”

#3 VICTORIA FALLS

“Outdoorsy types travel far and wide to admire this breathtaking Unesco World Heritage Site. Straddling the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls is roughly twice as deep and wide as Niagara Falls, making it one of the world’s most impressive waterfalls. To see the natural wonder at its prime, plan a visit here in April when the area’s rainy season has concluded.”

Zanzibar, Tanzania, Serengeti National Park, Mauritius, Kruger National Park, Seychelles and Marrakech conclude the top 10.
– Source: www.thesouthafrican.com

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA NAMED TOP DESIGN INSTITUTION IN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

The University of Pretoria has been named as the Top Design Institution in Africa and the Middle East.

The Information Design division at the University of Pretoria’s (UP) School of the Arts has been ranked the number one design education institution in Africa and the Middle East by the Loeries. The ranking is based on the 2020 Loerie Awards, the winners of which were recently announced.

The Loerie Awards and its rankings are an independent measure of the most innovative brands, agencies, organisations and individuals in Africa and the Middle East in the brand communication space.



Apart from clinching the Top Educational Institution Award, UP made an impressive showing in various other categories, with Information Design lecturer Kyle Rath being named Best Lecturer and design students Dian Labuschagne and Tumi Mamabolo taking the top spots in the Student Category.

“The Loeries are arguably the most prestigious design body in Africa, and of the Middle East more recently, and is comparable to the Oscars of design in Africa,” Rath says. “This win is particularly rewarding as it comes amid the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The Faculty of Humanities is delighted that our Information Design programme is ranked as the Loeries’ top design institution for 2020,” says Humanities Faculty Dean, Professor Vasu Reddy. “We are especially thrilled to have the year’s top lecturer, Kyle Rath, as part of our formidable team of designers. He and his colleagues have helped the programme produce some of the country’s top talent for many years. These are well-deserved honours, and congratulations to Kyle, his colleagues and our award-winning students!” – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SA STUDENT BREAKS AFRICAN #PIDAY RECORD, RECITES 3 004 DIGITS FROM MEMORY



Doug Brown from St John's College spent his high school career working towards this amazing day; he recited 3 004 digits of Pi, breaking the African record.

Every year on 14 March, the world celebrates Pi Day to recognise the mathematical constant, Pi. It defines as the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, and the value for Pi is 3.14.

Pi, however, has thousands of decimal points beyond 3.14. Computers have calculated that there are more than 22 trillion digits. There are thousands of people around the world that have attempted to commit the number to memory. It is a challenge that many people struggle with, and few succeed at.

One of the latest people to take on this challenge is South African Doug Brown.

Doug Brown, a Grade 12 student at St John's College, successfully recited 3 004 digits of Pi from memory on #PiDay. The endeavour took about 45 minutes of deep concentration, not only breaking the South African record of 1 500 digits but also the African record of 2 086 digits.

Since Grade 8, Doug has steadily added about 600 digits to his list each year. Four adjudicators were in attendance, and the recitation was recorded. His achievement will be submitted for official recognition, and he will be added to the list of people who have been able to list the digits correctly.

Doug will most likely earn his place on the list at around the ± 70 mark. James Smith from Australia is ranked 72nd for reciting 3 001 digits from memory in 2014. There are over 3 000 people on the list at the moment. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

www.goodthingsguy.com

JOHANNESBURG WILDLIFE VETERINARY HOSPITAL CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY AND ALL THE RESCUES

The Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital is celebrating its fourth birthday and surviving the lockdowns during the pandemic.

The Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital is celebrating their fourth year since opening their doors, and so many lives have been saved.

In the last four years, the wildlife vet specialising in caring for smaller indigenous wildlife has become experts in saving and rehabilitating pangolins. They have raised aardwolves, rehabilitated porcupettes, stitched up snakes and taught us about mole rats and every tiny creature under our African sun.

Each animal that is brought in has a story worth sharing, from being abandoned or falling out of a tree to being caught in snares and rescued from poachers.

The wildlife vet has created a platform that raises awareness for these animals and provides education to the public about the dangers of poaching.

Wildlife rescue is hard work. It takes long hours of feeding, cleaning and treating patients. The general day-to-day running of the hospital is overseen by a small team of staff that work overtime to ensure that every patient is getting the best care.

The Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital treats indigenous for free, so they rely on donations to keep doing the good work they do. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



NETFLIX INVESTS R14 MILLION TO FUND “MICRO” MOVIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Netflix and the National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF) have announced a new partnership aimed at funding the production of South African “micro-budget” feature films.



national film and video foundation
SOUTH AFRICA
an agency of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

The agreement will see both partners contributing R14 million each in support of the production of local films, which will include exclusive debuts on Netflix.

The partnership will see six local films funded, categorised into two streams: four feature films with a budget of R4 million each, and two feature films with a budget of R6 million each.

The NFVF said that the funding for the films would alleviate the pressure filmmakers face to raise additional funding and boost recovery of the creative industry from the pandemic, while ensuring job creation.

All six films created from this fund will premiere on Netflix first.

“The past year has been incredibly difficult with the pandemic hitting so many industries around the world.

“The creative community, that we are a part of, has supported us through the good times so we want to help them continue to create the stories our members love through the US\$1-million COVID Relief Fund contribution we started last year in collaboration with SASFED and IPO to help below-the-line workers in South Africa’s creative industry.

“Now, we’re excited to take this a step further with this joint fund with NFVF for above-the-line talent,” said Netflix’s Director of Content in Africa, Ben Amadasun.

The NFVF announced that the submission portal for funding would go live on 1 April 2021.

“We encourage all filmmakers in accordance with the eligibility criteria to apply by visiting <https://nfvf.praxisgms.co.za/> from 1 April 2021,” the organisation said. – Source: www.businessstech.co.za

MASTER KG AND NDLOVU YOUTH CHOIR SET TO PERFORM LIVE FROM ROBBERN ISLAND FOR FREE LIVE-STREAM CONCERT

On Sunday, 25 April, “Jerusalema” hitmaker, Master KG, and the soul-stirring Ndlovu Youth Choir will be performing live on Robben Island for Africa Rising and the Live Love non-profit, along with personality Maps Maponyane as master of ceremonies.



The performance will be live-streamed for free and audiences will have the opportunity to win an exclusive VIP experience at the event on Robben Island by making an online donation of at least R30, benefitting the music and events industry, and charities in sustainability, education and conservation.

Africa Rising was born out of the desire to continue bringing music and travel to the world after these industries were decimated during the pandemic.

Master KG is a South African musician and record producer and his album, *Skeleton Move*, achieved acclaim, including an AFRIMMA Award for Best Artist/Group in the African Electro Category. He is also known as the pioneer of “Bolobedu” dance.

In 2020, his song, *Jerusalema*, featuring Nomcebo Zikode, went viral online, garnering international success.

The mastermind behind the infectious *Jerusalema* song beat fellow African performers like Burna Boy, Rema, Sheebah, Gaz Mawete, Kabza De Small and DJ Maphorisa to win the title of Best African Act at the MTV European Music Awards.

The Ndlovu Youth Choir’s incredible run on *America’s Got Talent* (AGT) (Season 14) made them the first choir in the history of either AGT or *Britain’s Got Talent* to reach the final.

Their soul-stirring performances won hearts and minds around the world.

After their final AGT performance, legendary music producer and record executive Simon Cowell labelled the performance, “The best final I have ever sat on in my life”.

He went on to sign the choir and together with SYCO and Sony Music they released their first album, which debuted at number one on iTunes.

During the Coronavirus crisis, the choir continued to offer hope and inspiration with their enthusiastic COVID-19 musical public service messages. which were shared by the World Health Organisation and the United Nations.

They joined many of the world’s top A-list performers on a virtual stage when they were featured during the “Global Citizens One World: Together at Home” virtual concert.

As the Ndlovu Youth Choir’s meteoric rise continues, they strive to push the creative boundaries of song and dance to reach and touch audiences of all ages across the globe.

“We would like to honour all the theatres, venues, technical providers and events companies that ensure every show is a magical experience. We trust that our performance at Africa Rising will encourage you and give you hope that we will rise!”, says Ralf Schmitt, Musical Director of the Ndlovu Youth Choir. – Source: www.sundayworld.co.za



THE ARTSCAPE TURNS 50: TUNE IN FOR A WHOLE YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate 50 golden years of arts and entertainment with the Artscape Festival, which kicked off with a free Jubilee concert on 20 March 2021.

The Artscape Theatre in Cape Town is 50 years old and will celebrate this milestone birthday with a year of celebrations that will include theatre performances, dance and drama, jazz, African music and acrobatic exhibitions depicting unforgettable moments from its history.



The Artscape Festival started on 20 March 2021 with a grand opening concert to celebrate Human Rights Day and featured Artscape Theatre’s associated companies and a host of iconic Cape Town performers.

Produced by Basil Appollis, the spectacular included performances by Dizu Plaatjies, Vicky Sampson, Hilton Schilder, Zinzi Nogavu, Sylvia Mdunyelwa, Dianne Ferrus and Nicola Hanekom, among others. They were accompanied by the Cape Town Opera, JazzArt, Unmute Dance Company, Cape Town City Ballet, the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra and Zip-Zap Circus.

The Jubilee concert was recorded at the Artscape Opera House and delivered to audiences through the Artscape YouTube channel, free of charge.

Birthday celebrations will continue throughout the year with an array of fantastic shows and activities, such as an outdoor community concert on the piazza in front of the building, and a mass choir presentation in celebration of choirs from the Western Cape, titled *Joyous Choirs*.

A R T S C A P E



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

The rich history of the building itself and the journey from the Nico Malan Theatre to Artscape will be permanently documented with virtual (audiovisual) exhibitions throughout the theatre, and visitors can enjoy tours of the building and learn more about the heritage of the iconic structure and its highs and lows over the past five decades.

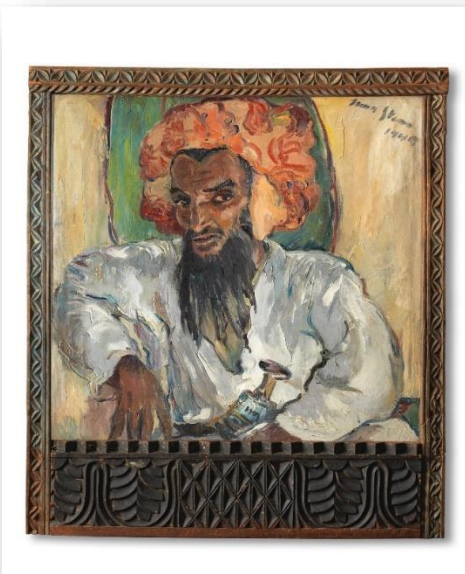
Artscape CEO, Marlene le Roux, said in an article on *BizCommunity* that the theme of the festivities aimed to celebrate the building's golden jubilee and its fascinating history. She believes the building not only represents the evolution of a species and the struggles of stalwarts, but also the wherewithal of those that helped to bring us to this point in our history.

In 1994, all performing arts boards were transformed into playhouses and the centre was renamed the Artscape.

Today, the Artscape is an agency of the National Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture and welcomes all art genres and performers and patrons from all walks of life.– Source: www.thesouthafrican.com

BONHAMS SELLS IRMA STERN PAINTING FOR R18 MILLION

An iconic portrait by South African artist Irma Stern has set a new record at the Bonhams Modern and Contemporary African Art sale.



The Bonhams' Modern and Contemporary African Art sale once again listed a South African piece as its highest selling lot, with Irma Stern's *Arab with Dagger* selling for an astounding £922,750 (R18.9 million) in London on Wednesday night, 17 March 2021.

Bonhams' Modern and Contemporary African Art sale once more proved very successful, this despite COVID uncertainty and less opportunity for buyers to view the works in person. The majority of sales were secured via telephone and online bidding.

In the African heritage space, a decent Irma Stern has proven to have the same high-ticket reliability that a Van Gogh or Picasso might have in the European space. The famous South African artist's work had a pre-auction estimate of between £700 000 to £1million (R14.3 million to R20.5 million), so the final hammer price established her enduring collectability.

Arab with Dagger, the sale's flagship item, was painted during the second of two trips Stern took to Zanzibar, the first in 1939 and then again in 1945. These two visits inspired a body of work, which has come to be seen as definitive. As Stern herself wrote, she was: "conquering new ground for my work and my development".

Arab with Dagger is one of several key works Stern, who died in 1966, executed of members of Zanzibar's Arab community. She was particularly fascinated by the older men in whose faces she saw, in her own words:

"Depths of suffering, profound wisdom and full understanding of all the pleasures of life – faces alive with life's experiences." – Source: www.thesouthafrican.com

SA SWIMMER BREAKS WORLD RECORD FOR 33-KM FALSE BAY CROSSING

Cape Town extreme open water swimmer and motivational speaker Ryan Stramrood (46) has broken a world record for a False Bay crossing, completing the 33-km swim solo in just eight hours and 39 minutes on Thursday, 18 March

More than 25 people have attempted the gruelling swim – across shark-infested waters – but Stramrood is only the sixth to succeed. He's also the first to ever do it from Millers Point to Rooi-Els rather than the other way around.

The mindset trainer told *SAPeople* he had many scary and amazing experiences along the way.

"False Bay is a breeding ground for the great white shark and is reputed to hold one of the world's largest white shark populations," says Ryan. "That's bound to cross one's mind. I hit a horrible number of blue bottles whose sting is brutal; I am scared and had to just dig deep to get through."



“There was a large swell whipped up by the wind making swimming very difficult. But, as this is a mental game, I made sure I stayed positive and found positive thoughts.” (He estimates the swim was about 80% mental and 20% physical.)

Stramrood’s preparation for the extremely challenging swim – which is just 1km less than the English Channel crossing (something he has also accomplished) – took years of hard training in the pool and ocean, he says.

Nominated for the 2020 World Open Water Swimming Man of the Year Award, Stramrood has several accomplishments under his belt – including the Antarctica and English Channel swims, breaking the Robben island crossing record (and swimming it a further five times!), and swimming twice from the Straits of Gibraltar from Europe to Africa.

He says Cape Town is fast becoming a popular destination for extreme swimming. Speaking to the SABC, Ryan said: “We’ve got some really really good swims here, some scary swims, some icy waters, it’s an incredible physical and mental challenge...”

Thanking his friends on social media, Ryan said: “Such incredible support, I am blown away, humbled and emotional. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH”. – Source: www.sapeople.com

CSA CONGRATULATES PROTEAS WOMEN AFTER HISTORIC WHITE-BALL CLEAN SWEEP IN INDIA

Cricket South Africa (CSA) was delighted after the women’s Proteas sealed an historic ODI and T20 series double win in India after taking hold of the latter 2-0 with victory on Sunday, 22 March 2021.



After winning the ODI series 4-1, the Proteas took an unassailable 2-0 series lead in the three-match T20 series when they won the second match at Lucknow by six wickets in a thriller that went down to the final ball.

It is the first time the Proteas have beaten India in a T20 series and to do it on the sub-continent made it even sweeter.

“Our ladies continue to go from strength to strength,” said CSA acting chief executive Pholetshi Moseki gleefully.

“Winning the series with a match to spare and making it five wins in a row across the two white ball formats is a huge achievement and reflects well on everybody involved.

“What has really stood out on this tour is the way we are building our depth which has enabled us to keep winning against one of the strongest teams in world cricket in spite of being without such stalwarts as our captain, Dane van Niekerk, and Chloe Tryon.

“Many of our players have become household names around the women’s cricket world and they are much in demand for domestic T20 tournaments abroad.

“Equally impressive has been the way that Sune Luus and Laura Wolvaardt have stepped into the main leadership role in Dane’s absence.

“Our head coach, Hilton Moreeng, is clearly running a very good ship at the moment that is riding the crest of the wave.

“We extend our heartiest congratulations to all our players, our coaches and support staff and also to all those at the Powerade High Performance Centre who have got them up and running again after the long delay caused by the COVID lockdown.

“It has been a real team effort both on and off the field.” – Source: www.screenlately.com

SA'S JUSTIN HARDING CAPTURES 2ND EUROPEAN TOUR TITLE AT KENYA OPEN

South African golfer Justin Harding has sealed his second European Tour title by winning the Kenya Open at Karen Country Club on Sunday, 22 March 2021



Heading into the final round with a two-stroke advantage, Harding maintained his lead as he carded a bogey-free final round, which included an eagle and three birdies.

The 35-year-old carded a five-under-par 66 to finish the week on 21-under par and claim a two-shot win over American Kurt Kitayama.

This is Harding's first win since his maiden European Tour title, which came in March 2019 at the Qatar Masters.

Harding became the sixth South African to win the Kenya Open, and the fourth South African in the last 10 years: this is more wins than any other nation during the last decade.

This is the first South African victory on the European Tour since Christiaan Bezuidenhout won the South African Open in December 2020.

The win sees Harding move to 14th on the 2021 Race to Dubai rankings. – Source: News24

LLOYD HARRIS SURGES TO CAREER-HIGH ATP RANKING



South African tennis ace Lloyd Harris has surged to a career-high world ranking of 52.

This follows the 24-year-old's heroics at last week's Dubai Championships, where he reached his first final at ATP 500-level.

Harris lost 6-3, 6-2 red-hot Russian Aslan Karatsev in the final but it was nevertheless a successful week for the Capetonian, who became the first qualifier in history to reach the championship match in Dubai.

En route, Harris claimed some notable scalps, including top-seed and world No 4 Dominic Thiem and former world No 4 from Japan, Kei Nishikori.

It saw the South African jump 29 spots, from 81st to 52nd, in the latest ATP rankings.

It's the highest Harris has been ranked, with his previous best being 72nd, achieved in January last year after a run to the ATP 250-level final in Adelaide.

"There are so many positives to take from this week, coming through seven matches," Harris said after losing to Karatsev.

"Aslan was just too good today, and sometimes it happens like that, but I'm going to take all the big ups from this week, move forward and take it into the next tournament." – Source: News24

CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)



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