

UBUNTU NEWSFLASH



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WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER * THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION

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DISTRESSED SA CITIZENS IN MOZAMBIQUE ACCOUNTED FOR AS SA REINFORCES ITS MISSION IN THE WAKE OF ATTACKS

The Government of the Republic of South Africa has noted with concern the recent attacks in Palma, northern Mozambique, against foreign nationals, which took place on Friday, 26 March 2021.

It was with grave concern to note that South Africans were also affected by these attacks.

In this regard, South Africa, through its Mission in Maputo, is working with the local authorities on verifications, as well as providing the necessary consular services.

The Mission in Mozambique was re-enforced with additional staff in order to handle the work at hand of locating, identifying and responding to the respective needs of the affected. By 29 March, the South African High Commission managed to account for a total of 43 South Africans affected by the attacks.



GOOGLE MAPS

The citizens were in the area known as Afungi. These included the two men who fled into the bush during the attacks on the Amarula Hotel convoy on 26 March, and a young South African who hid away and was found by search-and-rescue helicopters. Some of these nationals were already back home while others were moved to safe areas within Mozambique.

The services provided by the High Commission include assisting South African citizens with emergency medical evacuation, obtaining emergency travel documentation and securing international flight transfers.

On 30 March 2021, in a statement, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation thanked the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for the assistance provided to South African citizens affected by the terrorist attacks in that country.

This followed the successful evacuation of six more South African nationals and the repatriation of the mortal remains of the South African man who perished in the attacks.

The evacuation was carried out by the South African Air Force (SAAF). The SAAF plane flew from Mozambique to KwaZulu-Natal and thereafter to Gauteng.

Officials from the Department of Health conducted COVID-19 tests on the passengers on their arrival in KwaZulu-Natal.

The South African High Commission in Maputo remains seized with the situation in northern Mozambique and will continue to render consular services to any more distressed South Africans needing assistance.

Minister Naledi Pandor has commended staff at the South African High Commission in Maputo for their prompt efforts at reaching out to fellow South Africans in distress in Mozambique. The Minister has conveyed a message of condolences to the family of the man killed in the attack.

PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT UNDERTAKE EASTERN CAPE VISIT

President Cyril Ramaphosa and Deputy President David Mabuza on Monday, 29 March 2021, led an oversight visit to the Aspen Pharmacare sterile manufacturing facility and Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape.



President Cyril Ramaphosa and Deputy President David Mabuza lead an oversight visit to the Aspen Pharmacare sterile manufacturing facility in the Eastern Cape to review progress in vaccine production as part of the partnership between Government and the private sector.

MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021

#WeAreVaccination • #GrowSouthAfrica

Deputy President Mabuza undertook the visit in his capacity as Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines.

The President and Deputy President were accompanied by the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize; Acting Minister in The Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni; Eastern Cape Premier, Oscar Mabuyane; and the Mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, Mzwenzaba Bhangana.

The visit to the Aspen Pharmacare COVID-19 sterile manufacturing facility focussed on progress in vaccine production as part of the partnership between government and the private sector in the national vaccination programme.

In November 2020, Aspen Pharmacare collaborated with Johnson & Johnson to establish the capacity required for the manufacturing of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at Aspen's sterile facility in Gqeberha.

This new sterile manufacturing facility contains high-technology equipment and systems that will be used to manufacture state-of-the-art sterile drugs and vaccines. The facility packages these products into vials, ampoules and pre-filled syringes.

Aspen has invested more than R3 billion in the facility, which will further provide lifesaving medicines for the domestic and export markets.

President Ramaphosa and Deputy President Mabuza toured the internationally accredited facility, which has the capacity to produce up to 300 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine per annum.

Following the visit to Aspen Pharmacare, the delegation paid a brief visit to the Coega SEZ.

As South Africa accelerates its Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, Coega is an improvement catalyst for investment and local development.

The Coega SEZ, while offering global competitiveness through world-class infrastructure, tax incentives, rebates and a duty-free zone, is purpose-built for manufacturing, beneficiation of export goods, skills development and job creation, which benefit the local and national economy.

Following the Coega visit, the delegation stopped over at the nearby BAIC SA (Beijing Automotive International Corporation) auto manufacturing plant, which constitutes a significant investment and demonstration of confidence in South Africa as an investment destination.

PRESIDENT SADDENED BY PASSING OF FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER ELIZABETH THABETHE

President Cyril Ramaphosa has expressed his sincere condolences at the passing of former Deputy Minister and Special Envoy on Investment, Elizabeth Thabethe.



Thabethe was also recently appointed as a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Investment.

The former Deputy Minister of Small Business Development, Trade and Industry and Tourism passed away on Friday, 26 March 2021, at the age of 62 following a period of hospitalisation after a road accident.

President Ramaphosa said: “As government and the nation, we mourn the passing of a leader and campaigner who served her political movement, the Gauteng legislature, the National Assembly and various economic portfolios in government with distinction and determination.

“She was a champion of economic transformation and equity, who worked tirelessly in our country and internationally in pursuit of economic inclusion and shared prosperity.

“Elizabeth Thabethe’s contribution to our society will endure in the networks she built and unlocked in support of our economic objectives. It also lives on in the work opportunities,

new enterprises and growing investment flows that are making a difference in the lives of millions of South Africans.

“She will be greatly missed by the many structures on which she brought her passion and wisdom to bear during a lifetime devoted to the betterment of the lives of all South Africans.”

PEER REVIEW MECHANISM REMAINS A PRIORITY

While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused great suffering on the African continent and around the world, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) remains as a priority for countries on the continent, says President Cyril Ramaphosa.

“It has claimed the lives of millions of people, devastated economies and destroyed livelihoods,” President Ramaphosa said.

Chairing the 30th African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government, President Ramaphosa said the pandemic had placed systems of governance and service provision under significant strain, pushing resources and capabilities to the limit.

“Under these conditions, and as we work to rebuild in the wake of COVID-19, the APRM takes on even greater significance. The APRM mission to promote the African Union’s (AU) shared values of democratic governance and inclusive development remains a priority,” President Ramaphosa said.



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

In his virtual address on Thursday, 25 March 2021, the President said the APRM was a firm statement of the resolve of African countries to strengthen effective governance, democratic practice, the rule of law and social and economic development.

“It is an important part of our effort – as individual states and as a continent – to tackle instability, conflict, corruption and maladministration. The APRM team, in collaboration with members of the African Governance Architecture Platform, produced the Africa Governance Report 2021 on African Governance Futures to 2063,” said the President.

The National Governance Report team validated a toolkit for producing national governance reports with member states.

The team worked with the Kenya APRM National Secretariat on virtual training and preparatory activities for the first pilot National Governance Report.

The development phase of the pilot Kenya National Governance Report was launched virtually on 9 October 2020.

Meanwhile, the APRM Monitoring and Evaluation team held a virtual capacity-building workshop and developed a continental training programme on the integration of the APRM National Programmes of Action into national development plans.

Member states that participated included South Africa, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Mauritius, Nigeria, Djibouti and Egypt.

The Research and Monitoring and Evaluation teams completed 55 country profiles for the Governance Atlas, using the APRM Electronic Questionnaire tool.

The APR Forum is a committee of participating heads of state and government of member states of the 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.

The 30th summit of the forum has, among other items, welcomed the Democratic Republic of Congo as the newest member state to accede to the APRM.

The summit also conducted the peer review of Liberia, discussed reports on targeted reviews of Sierra Leone and Zambia, received a briefing on Sudan’s governance gap analysis and received an update on progress in Nigeria’s second review process.

Kenya and Mozambique made presentations on the implementation of their national programmes of action.

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 socio-economic development processes among member states. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

MINISTER PANDOR VISITS THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE STATE OF KUWAIT

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, is undertaking an Official Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait from 29 March to 1 April 2021.



Minister Pandor has accepted an invitation from her Saudi Arabian counterpart, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan al Saud, to attend the inaugural meeting of the Bilateral Political Consultations between South Africa and Saudi Arabia on 29 March 2021 in Riyadh.

During her visit, the Minister also met with current and potential investors in the South African economy.

Following the successful State Visit of President Cyril Ramaphosa to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 12 July 2018, relations between the two countries have intensified significantly, with a strong focus on trade and investment.

Total trade between the two countries amounted to R40 billion in 2020.

Most recently, the Saudi private sector has invested over R15 billion in the renewable energy sector in the Northern Cape, as part of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme. The growth in bilateral cooperation has also begun to open further opportunities for South African companies in the engineering, hospitality as well as healthcare professions.

Following the visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Minister Pandor proceeded to the State of Kuwait, where she met with her counterpart, Sheikh Dr Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, on 1 April 2021 for bilateral discussions.

The two ministers also used the opportunity to sign the draft Agreement on Cooperation for the Establishment of a Joint Commission of Cooperation between South Africa and Kuwait. This agreement will form the cornerstone of the creation of a bilateral mechanism that will further drive relations between the two countries towards a strategic partnership. The Minister also met with current and potential Kuwaiti investors to encourage increased investments in the South African economy.

Kuwait maintains a positive role as an investor with significant investment through its Sovereign Wealth Fund in South Africa's capital and financial markets.

Despite the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, two-way trade between South Africa and Kuwait witnessed an increase from R1.4 billion in 2019 to R2 004 935 760 in 2020.

Minister Pandor reiterated to both countries, which play an important leadership role in the Middle East, South Africa's commitment to continued cooperation and strengthening of bilateral political and economic relations.

DEPUTY MINISTER MASHEGO-DLAMINI EMBARKS ON A BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN IN LIMPOPO

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Candith Mashego-Dlamini, on Friday, 26 March 2021, embarked on a “back-to-school” campaign at Mokhutjisa High School Mookgophong, Limpopo.

The event took place under the theme: “New Way of Learning under COVID-19”. The Deputy Minister donated a variety of goods, including learning materials.

The aim of the campaign was to encourage learners to stay focussed on their education.

Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini said South Africa's success in global political and economic affairs was dependent on its ability to produce an educated and skilled workforce.



SOUTH AFRICA AND CANADA HOLD ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS

On 25 March 2021, Ambassador Nonceba Losi, Acting Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, and Deputy Minister Marta Morgan of Global Affairs Canada co-chaired a virtual meeting of the 13th South Africa-Canada Annual Consultations.



The meeting recalled the historical relations and fraternal bonds between the two countries, which were forged during the struggle for liberation in South Africa, for example, the historic visit to Canada by former President Nelson Mandela in 1990 and his address to the Parliament of Canada, as well as Canada's valuable contribution to the establishment of a new Constitution in South Africa based on human rights, equality, democracy and respect for diversity.

The meeting further exchanged views about a variety of continental and international developments of mutual concern and underscored the need for the two countries to continue their close collaboration in advancing multilateralism and to support the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) in addressing regional and global challenges, including peace and security, climate change and human rights, and to promote shared and inclusive growth. The two countries discussed peace and security matters, including South Africa's recent term on the UN Security Council (SC) as well as Canada and South Africa's current term on the UN Peacebuilding Commission. They also acknowledged their shared support for the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and agreed to work with other member states on the roadmap to strengthen the implementation of the WPS Agenda.

The two countries agreed to continue using platforms such as the G7 and G20 to advocate for increased support to spur global economic recovery and build on the G20 Support to COVID-19 Response and Recovery in Developing Countries in Africa and LIC and Small Island States.

The meeting further took note of the ongoing cooperation in areas such as strengthening democratic governance in South Africa, mining and minerals, environment, green technologies, arts and culture, and agreed on new areas of cooperation, focussing on combatting violence against women and girls, ensuring women's economic and financial inclusion and support for women entrepreneurs.

The meeting further noted progress in the finalisation of the Modernised Audio-Visual Co-Production Treaty, which has great potential for enhanced cooperation in the film industry. In the area of the environment, the parties looked forward to the finalisation of the implementation plan for the Memorandum of Understanding to enhance Environmental Cooperation and agreed on close consultation in preparation for the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26). Note was also taken of the potential for enhanced cooperation in the mining and mineral processing sector, including geoscience, joint exploration initiatives and the participation of junior and mid-tier miners.

The parties also took note of the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the Fourth Industrial Revolution and agreed to strengthen cooperation in e-commerce and the digital economy.

South Africa expressed interest in pursuing partnerships with Canada to strengthen capacity for vocational training and institutional partnerships to support the University Capacity Development Programme.

The next meeting of the Annual Consultations will be hosted by Canada.

SOUTH AFRICA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) ELECTED CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Ambassador Mathu Joyini has been elected as the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for the 66th and 67th session, 2022 and 2023.

Ambassador Joyini, currently serving as South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, has worked extensively on women empowerment, peace and security projects.

"I consider it a singular honour to be elected in this august hall to be the Chairperson of the 66th and 67th sessions of the CSW. I congratulate the vice chairpersons representing different regions with whom I will form the bureau.

"In his first State of the Nation Address in 1994 as President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela said, 'Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. Our endeavors must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child'."

Ambassador Joyini presented her credentials as the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN in New York to Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN on 3 February 2021.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Ambassador Mathu Joyini has been elected as the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women for the 66th and 67th session, 2022 and 2023.



MINISTER PATEL CALLS FOR PARTNERSHIPS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Trade, Industry and Competition Minister, Ebrahim Patel, says South Africa must rebuild its manufacturing strength to be able to fully benefit from the opportunities in the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) markets.



"This needs to be done through deeper partnerships and careful use of both demand and supply-side measures," Minister Patel said.

He was speaking at the BRICS Business Council Meeting.

The conference, which attracted small and large industrialists, was a hybrid event, with attendance in Sandton and through virtual platforms.

Minister Patel highlighted the crucial role of manufacturing in strong and dynamic economies.

"Over a number of years, manufacturing was seen as a sunset industry, a relic of an age that was passing and

policymakers were urged to abandon efforts to support the industry and seek opportunity in other sectors of the economy.

"In the case of South Africa, the country rapidly opened its trade-exposed sectors to what was described as the bracing effects of global competition, but without supporting local firms to become stronger and more dynamic. The results were painful to see – we lost critical manufacturing capacity," Minister Patel said.

"It led to a wave of de-industrialisation pressures, and as core feeder-factories were closed down, they impacted on other parts of supply chains.

"Our localisation project is about working with the business community to rebuild the foundations of manufacturing, to strengthen industrial capacity that can supply both the domestic and export markets," the Minister said.

Minister Patel said manufacturing was a big driver of employment with the strongest employment multiplier.

“IDC research shows that for every one manufacturing job, another three jobs are created across the economy, in both supplier industries and services sectors.

“It is an earner of foreign exchange and a driver of innovation, of research and development and in times like the COVID-19 crisis, countries with capacity relied on their industries to produce food, personal protective equipment and medical supplies,” he said.

South Africa’s reimagined industrialisation agenda

Minister Patel noted that the country’s reimagined industrialisation agenda was based on building dynamic firms and economic inclusion, which included:

- to retain and modernise traditional sectors, like steel, textiles and clothing
- to expand advanced-manufacturing sectors such as autos and chemicals
- to develop national resilience through expanding sectors in food and healthcare
- to nurture new industries such as the green economy and the digital economy.

Master plans

Sector partnership agreements, known as master plans, have now been put in place in five sectors, with another one in the furniture industry close to conclusion.

These initiatives have positively impacted on sentiment and investment, and Minister Patel pointed to the recent R16-billion investment announcement by the Ford Motor Company and the R1-billion investment in the poultry industry.

Opening export opportunities

Minister Patel called on the manufacturing sector to work on opening export opportunities in BRICS countries through three measures.

First, to produce detailed export-opportunity studies for each BRICS country, identifying the products that can be exported and the support infrastructure needed.

Second, to build greater cohesion within South African manufacturing, with sharing of ideas between industrialists on how to penetrate export markets; and greater use of manufacturing networking to address issues of technology innovation and marketing, among others.

Third, to develop an innovation project to bring together product development and manufacturing to identify new opportunities where South Africa may not yet have capacity, but for which there are significant markets in BRICS and indeed beyond it.

He also called on the manufacturing sector to work on attracting bright young people who could bring energy and new ideas to the making of products. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION INVESTS R18,9 MILLION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NANOSATELLITES FOR THE MARITIME INDUSTRY

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) has invested about R18,9 million in the development of two nanosatellites, towards increased maritime domain awareness in South Africa. It is the first such initiative for the country to provide communication services to the maritime industry.

The funding was channelled through the Technology Innovation Agency, an entity of the DSI, to the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), an institution that is playing a leading role in growing space science and technology in South Africa. The university has developed cutting-edge nanosatellites and cube satellites (CubeSats) over the years, demonstrating advanced technological capabilities in the country’s space industry.

The two maritime industry nanosatellites will be powered by "M2MSat" technology, in the form of cutting-edge VHD Data Exchange System software-defined radios for machine-to-machine (M2M) communication.



The innovative SDR technology will provide emerging M2M and Internet of things applications capable of delivering complex analytics and ubiquitous positioning of high-value assets, as well as mission-critical services, at a lower cost than the deployment of traditional satellite systems.

In the South African context, the space industry ecosystem – including supporting space engineering programmes, human capacity development, infrastructure investments and technological innovations – is part of the high-end infrastructure sectors that are critical to the country's economic recovery.

The development and commercialisation of the M2MSat platform will position South Africa as a key contributor of innovation in the space sector globally, feeding into the space value chain, growing partnerships with industry and fast-tracking the creation and exploitation of space knowledge and innovation.

Meanwhile, plans are underway to develop Denel's Overberg Test Range (OTR) in the Western Cape as a facility to launch future CubeSats developed by the CPUT.

Already the OTR has proven the capacity to function as a launch pad. Earlier this month, researchers and students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Aerospace Systems Research Group successfully launched two hybrid rockets as part of the Phoenix Hybrid Sounding Rocket Programme.

The successful launch saw one of the test rockets travel 17,9 km into the air achieving a new African hybrid rocket altitude record, a significantly huge success for South African engineering and the development of African satellite rocket launch capability. The second rocket made more than 10 km altitude with a payload from CPUT.

SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST WINS PRESTIGIOUS GLOBAL AWARD

S'bu Innocent Zikode, a human rights activist in South Africa, has been awarded the Per Anger Prize for 2021.



The prize was awarded to S'bu Zikode for his work which centres on the right to home, land and survival for the most impoverished inhabitants of the country's shack settlements.

The prestigious prize from the Swedish Government will be awarded by The Living History Forum on 21 April.

This year's Per Anger Prize winner works for the rights of the poor in South Africa. He fights for the right to home and land for society's most marginalised members, highlighting the difficult living conditions for shack dwellers.

"A shack without water, electricity, and sanitation is not worth calling a home.

On the contrary, it means life-threatening circumstances that are particularly harsh towards women, children and minority groups. The injustice is even more apparent now that the pandemic affects those who are already disadvantaged," says Zikode.

Zikode organises his struggle for the poor through the movement Abahlali baseMjondolo, which he co-founded 15 years ago when he himself lived in a shack settlement in Durban. Today, the movement has 82 000 members. They all help to shine a light on corruption, power structures and violence against those living in shacks, for example, by initiating legal action and reaching out through media. Zikode has been subjected to threats and violence because of his struggle.

"This year, the Per Anger Prize goes to a man who revolts against poverty. He fights for the most vulnerable in South Africa's shack settlements and for their rights to a home and a dignified life. He is a true human rights defender," says Ingrid Lomfors, Superintendent of The Living History Forum.

The Per Anger Prize is the Swedish Government's international prize for human rights and democracy. The prize was established in 2004 in recognition of diplomat Per Anger's efforts during the Second World War when he saved Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust. The Living History Forum is commissioned by the Swedish Government to award the annual prize.

This year's prizewinner was nominated by the organisation Afrikagrupperna. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SA TEENS EARN 2ND AT IMAGINE CUP JUNIOR VIRTUAL AI HACKATHON GIRLS EDITION

Tsakane Koko and her team flew the South African flag high at the Imagine Cup Junior Virtual Artificial Intelligence Hackathon, Girls Edition 2021 and came in second.



Known by some as the “Olympics of Technology”, the Imagine Cup Junior Virtual Artificial Intelligence Hackathon, Girls Edition 2021, provides learners with a platform to bring their ideas to life. Curro Academy Pretoria’s Grade 11 learner, Tsakane Koko and her team, made our country proud by finishing in second place.

Sponsored by Microsoft and in partnership with UNESCO, the Hackathon challenge is a live international event where teams (of two to five individuals) compete by trying to solve real-world problems through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Tsakane’s team competed against 21 other countries, including Egypt, Canada, England and Croatia, among others.

This particular challenge is exclusively for high school girls between 14 to 18 years who excel at Mathematics and Computer Science and are interested in pursuing a career in AI.

During the challenge, which took place in mid-March 2021, the girls were taken on a practical journey into the heart of AI to help them develop widely applicable machine learning skills in the context of sustainability, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Charlotte Jooste, phase head at Curro Academy Pretoria, described Tsakane as a top learner and assisted her in preparation for the challenge.

“The school was informed of the challenge, and decided to put Tsakane forward as a viable candidate – for which she was selected to take part,” she said.

Chosen just a few days before the challenge weekend, Tsakane had to quickly meet her new teammates from different Curro schools around the country. The team, called “Cognition”, consisted of Tsakane Koko, Hesme Cronje (Grade 12, Curro Heritage House), Humbulani Mudziwa (Grade 12, Curro Academy Soshanguve), Anamika Beethasi (Grade 11, Curro Waterfall) and Tahlia Bell (Grade 10, Curro Mossel Bay).

For the challenge, the team prepared a presentation with ideas to help trace and locate African Wild Dogs using AI.

Tsakane’s father, Sello Koko, said the challenge helped learners to tackle some of the world’s toughest challenges by thinking outside the box.

“Tsakane did very well, and we thank the teachers for helping her prepare for the challenge. As a father, I am very proud of her, she is a top learner – she’s smart and works hard. This challenge was a great platform for her to challenge herself with the best learners around the globe,” he said. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SOUTH AFRICA STARS IN NEW NETFLIX SA AND SA TOURISM COLLABORATION

In a partnership that can best be described as aiming for the stars, South African Tourism (SA Tourism) and Netflix have agreed to explore joint opportunities that will benefit both organisations to showcase stories made in South Africa, and watched by the world.

The agreement will allow for exploration and collaboration on projects both in South Africa and in key source markets that drive international arrivals to the country.

Since Netflix's launch in South Africa in 2016, the company has dedicated itself to investing in productions that are made in South Africa and bringing these unique stories to the world. Currently, the service is available to 204 million members in 190 countries around the world and continues to showcase South African culture, fashion, music, art, scenery and languages through stories made in South Africa by local and international creators.



Netflix stories provide a global platform to showcase South Africa to the world through content made in South Africa, to be watched by the world. To date, the streaming service has released a diverse slate of content from South Africa across different genres including; Netflix original series like *Queen Sono*, *Blood & Water*, *How To Ruin Christmas: The Wedding*, *Kings of Joburg*; films like *Seriously Single*, *Catching Feelings*, *Santana*, *Baby Mamas*, *Keeping up with the Kandasamys* and most recently; the Oscar-nominated nature documentary *My Octopus Teacher* and Netflix's first original stand-up show, *Loyiso Gola's Unlearning* (which premiered on 23 March).

Netflix has also brought stories from other parts of the world that were filmed in South Africa, like the films *Holiday in the Wild* and *Last Days of American Crime* as well as global Netflix series, *Sacred Games*, *The Crown*, *Black Mirror* and *Kissing Booth (1 & 2)*. Through these stories that transcend beyond Mzansi borders, the local creative industry has benefitted, on and off screen, from the opportunity to showcase their art and talent on a global stage.

"As we continue to lure the world to our beautiful country in these trying times, we have to look at non-traditional tourism partnerships as a source of driving arrivals," explains Sisa Ntshona, CEO at SA Tourism.

"Netflix reaches millions of eyeballs globally, and by working closely with Netflix, we are able to latch onto a massive opportunity to influence the audience to think more closely about South Africa and thus convincing them to visit our country."

The partnership will also see SA Tourism working closely with Netflix in promoting the country's must-visit sights through its locally-produced series into international markets.

"We have 11 global country offices and there will always be opportunities for our international offices in key source markets to latch onto opportunities to showcase South Africa through the title Netflix launch," adds Ntshona.

Ben Amadasun, Netflix Director of Content in Africa, says: "We value this important collaboration with SA Tourism as it will help us create more opportunities to support local creatives as they showcase the beauty of South Africa through their stories delivered to millions of entertainment fans around the world on Netflix."

Going forward, the partnership will explore various opportunities and initiatives that will go towards showcasing South Africa, not only to South African audiences but also to global members of Netflix. – Source: www.sapeople.com

SA TO HOST INTERNATIONAL PHILATELY EXHIBITION (IPEX)

Cabinet recently approved the hosting of the IPEX, also known as the stamps exhibition, in Cape Town from 9 to 19 December 2021 under the theme: "Road to Democracy".



Your chance to visit Cape Town. Participate in the International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX) in Cape Town in March, 2021. See Gerhard Kamffer's award-winning exhibit 'The Road to Democracy' featuring letters written by Nelson Mandela from Robben Island. IPEX (Cape Town) will be a 2000 frame specialised international exhibition under F.I.P. patronage.

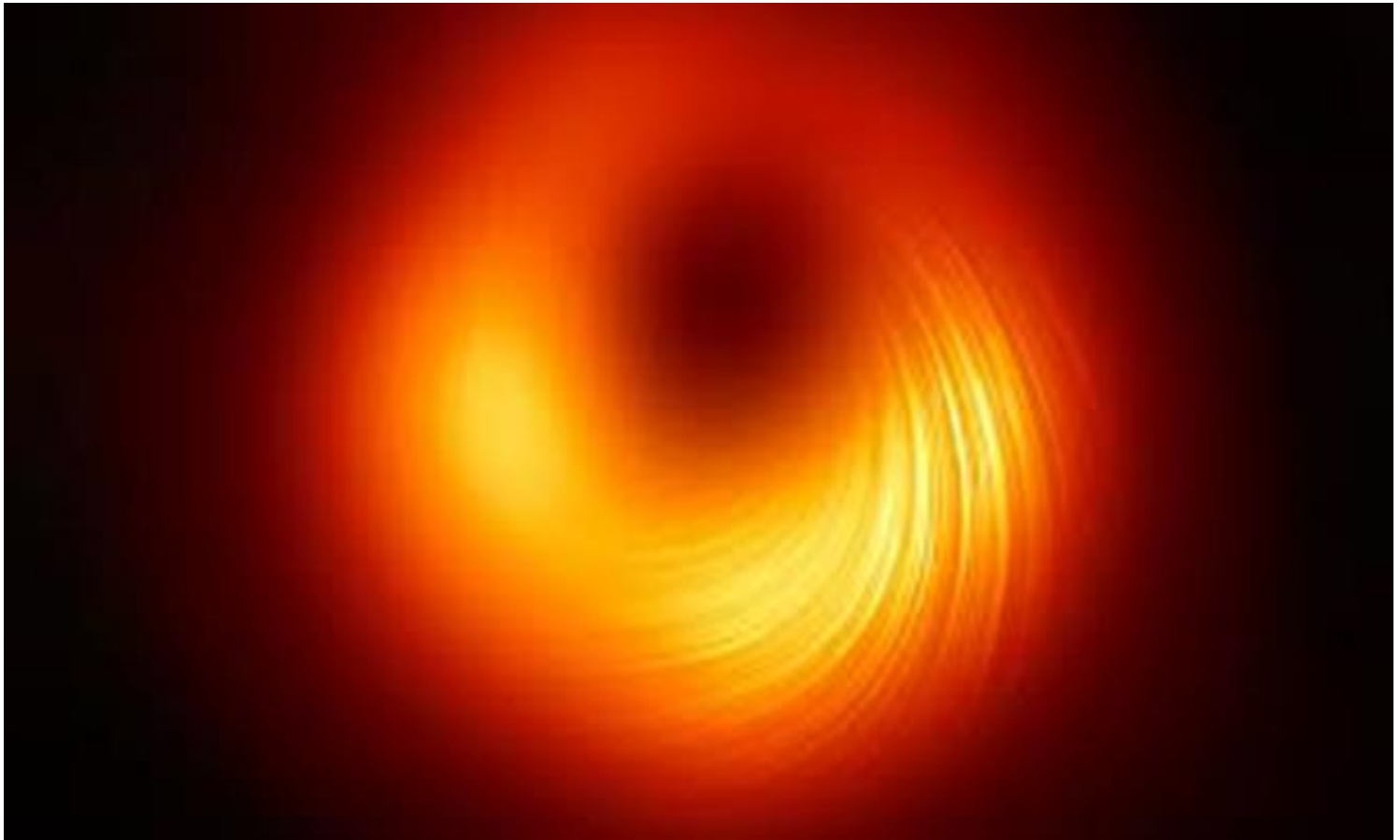
The *Federation of International de Philatelie* (FIP) initially planned to stage the event in Cape Town from 17 to 20 March 2021 but it was moved to the later date due to COVID-19.

The Department of Communications and Digital Technologies will organise and host the event in collaboration with the FIP organising committee.

Stamps collected will display historic moments, individuals and events that contributed in enhancing democracy in South Africa. The anticipated visitors will contribute towards the country's tourism, boost local economy and promote culture and social cohesion.

SOUTH AFRICANS JOIN GLOBAL TEAM TO REVEAL BEHAVIOUR OF MAGNETIC FIELDS AROUND BLACK HOLES

This is the first time that astronomers have been able to measure polarisation, a signature trait of magnetic fields, this close to the edge of a black hole.



The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) collaboration – which produced the first-ever image of a black hole and of which the University of Pretoria (UP) is an associate institute – has revealed a new view of the massive object at the centre of the M87 galaxy: what it looks like in polarised light.

This is the first time that astronomers have been able to measure polarisation, a signature trait of magnetic fields, this close to the edge of a black hole. The observations are key to explaining how the M87 galaxy, which is located 55 million light-years away, is able to launch energetic jets from its core.

The research involved more than 300 researchers from multiple organisations and universities worldwide, and the findings were published recently by the EHT collaboration in two separate papers in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

With the new EHT image of the black hole and its shadow in polarised light, astronomers have been able to look into the region just outside the black hole where this interplay between matter flowing in and being ejected is happening.

“UP has been proud to be an associate institute of the EHT collaboration since 2018, forming part of an international collaboration that creates the sharpest images in astronomy,” explains Professor Roger Deane, founder of the UP Radio Astronomy Research Group and UP Extraordinary Professor.

“This globe-spanning team and network of telescopes work in concert to reveal previously unseen features of black holes. It’s wonderful to build up UP postgraduate student expertise in this exciting, cutting-edge scientific endeavour within which southern Africa has a unique role to play.” – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

TREVOR NOAH WINS AGAIN AT 2021 NAACP IMAGE AWARDS

Trevor Noah has picked up a National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) Image award this week. The award was handed out as part of the NAACP's week-long Image Awards ceremonies.

The NAACP Image Awards are billed by the NAACP as "A celebration of our stories and excellence in entertainment".

The Image Awards are an annual event that celebrates and rewards talented individuals who have contributed to media and entertainment in meaningful ways.

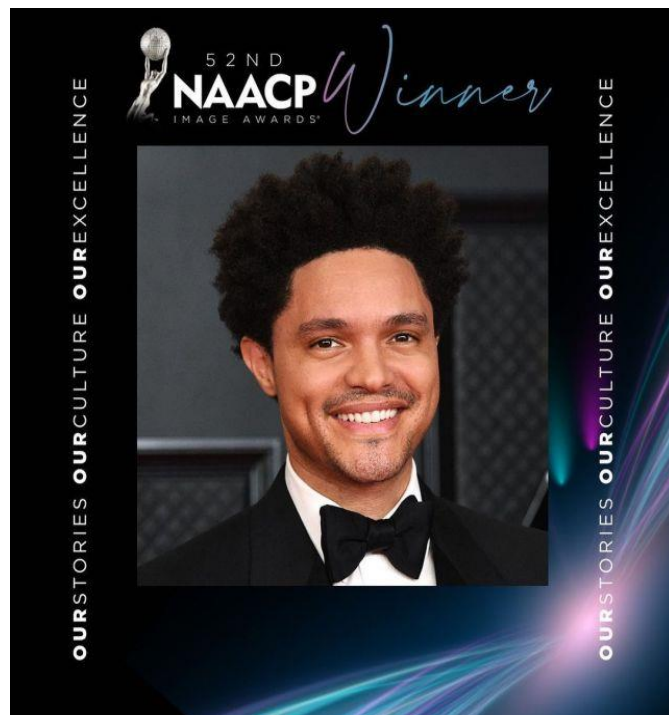
Noah has also been nominated for this year's Entertainer of the Year along with industry heavyweights like Viola Davis, Tyler Perry, Regina King, and D-Nice.

"I am surrounded by such an incredible team. Thank you, @naacpimageaward, for shining a light on them! Big congrats to @TheDailyShow on two award wins!" Trevor wrote on Instagram.

In addition to this, his show, *The Daily Show*, also won Outstanding Short Form Series – Reality/Non-Fiction.

Noah has previously won NAACP awards for his autobiography, *Born a Crime*. The book won for Literary Work – Biography/Auto-Biography as well for Literary Work – Debut Author.

Noah picked up the Image Award in the Outstanding Host in a Talk or News/Information (Series or Special) – Individual or Ensemble Category. – Source: www.thesouthafrican.com



WORLD CELEBRATES AIRLINE INDUSTRY WITH “WE WILL TRAVEL AGAIN JERUSALEMA” COMPILATION

The world is standing united behind the global airline industry, saying, “We Will Travel Again”, and sharing a compilation of airline “Jerusalem” challenges.



A video compilation of every airline doing the *Jerusalem* challenge is going viral as travellers around the world commit to the “We Will Travel Again” promise.

While *Jerusalem* was the uplifting song of 2020, it still carries as much power and joy into 2021. The last time we reported on the song, Austrian Airlines had used the challenge to kick off their 2021.

Jerusalem – a song by South African DJ and record producer Master KG featuring South African vocalist Nomcebo – became the hope that 2020 needed and united the world in a dance that has continued straight into 2021!

The upbeat gospel-influenced South African house song reached number one in Belgium, Netherlands, Romania and Switzerland while peaking in the top 10 of multiple other European countries. Still, it was the viral dancing that really made our hearts sing!

It was the top song on Apple for a few weeks and landed Master KG with five award nominations for the African Muzik Magazine Awards (Afrimma).

The song also earned the proudly South African artist an international nomination for the Best African Act Award at the 2020 MTV Europe Music Awards. The award ceremony took place on 8 November 2020, and Master KG earned himself the award.

The *Jerusalem Challenge*, which has been compared to the *Macarena*, spawned thousands of dance videos worldwide.

In January 2021, ML Videography created a compilation video of all the *Jerusalem* challenges done by the airline industry. The video is currently being shared on Facebook along with the slogan “We Will Travel Again”. The video is being shared by people standing in solidarity with the global airline industry that was hard-hit by the pandemic. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

RUGBY PLAYERS TURNED BEST FRIENDS OPEN HONG KONG'S FIRST BILTONG BAR

Three professional rugby players have opened Hong Kong's first biltong bar ... bringing a uniquely South African experience to Wan Chai.

Hong Kong's first dedicated biltong bar brings a South African flavour to Wan Chai, but the story of “Chief's Blend” spans over many years, many cities and many rugby matches.

Matt Rosslee, Dylan Rogers and Jonny Rees joined forces while playing rugby at different stages of their careers, and after many years of working together on the field, the three professional athletes have collectively created Hong Kong's hottest new café.

Rosslee and Rogers grew up in South Africa and met while playing rugby at the University of Cape Town. Rees, who is originally from England, met them on the pitch playing for the Hong Kong national 15s squad, and the three have been good friends ever since.



The new café, called Chief's Blend, is a collaboration between Biltong Chief (owned by Rosslee and Rogers) and Blend & Grind (owned by Rees), which the trio call an upmarket South African farm-style café and deli. It has the first and only dedicated biltong bar in Hong Kong, bringing a uniquely South African experience and atmosphere to the city ... which locals are loving.

Biltong is a South African staple and traditionally made from sliced beef that is air-dried and then cured with seasonings and herbs, and the cafe teamed up with a local biltong butcher in the heart of South Africa to bring the delicious snack to Hong Kong, but the cafe also sells other home-grown favourites.

“Along with farm-style delicacies, speciality coffee, craft beer, small-batch South African wines and delicious grab-and-go hot foods, making this a unique Hong Kong offering.

“We work with a small group of trusted vendors and distributors; mostly, we procure the products directly from the farmers and suppliers to bring the finest products with full traceability to our growing community of shoppers.”

The *South China Morning Post* first reported on the new business venture, which officially opened in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, but social media across the globe is abuzz with the vibey home-grown street cafe that serves South African deliciousness to a whole new market. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

PROTEAS WOMEN HONoured WITH SPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Proteas women have been honoured with the Recognition of Sport Excellence Award by South Africa Sports Minister, Nathi Mthethwa.

Along with the recognition, the Proteas women were given a R500 000 cash bonus.

The award and money were given to the national women's team after they came back from their record-breaking tour of India where they achieved success in the ODI and T20 series.

The Proteas women romped to a 4-1 win the five-match ODI series while they won the first two matches of three T20 Internationals.

Cricket South Africa (CSA) congratulated the national women's after being recognised by the Sports Minister.

CSA acting chief executive, Pholetsi Moseki, said: "This is a wonderful and most deserved award to our ladies who continue to go from strength to strength and serve as a source of inspiration and pride to all of us.



"In the past 15 months, the Proteas have produced one highlight after another, including an historic clean sweep ODI series victory over New Zealand 'down under' and reaching the semi-final of the ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup in Australia and now they have had their most successful ever tour to India that included victory in both white ball series."

Moseki added: "They thoroughly deserve every accolade that has come their way and they are playing a major role in fulfilling our vision of excellence and accessibility to all, of which gender equality is an important component.

"Our heartfelt congratulations go to our head coach Hilton Moreeng, our captain, Dane van Niekerk, her two most able stand-ins, Sune Luus and Laura Wolvaardt, and all our players, management and support staff.

"We also express our appreciation to Minister Mthethwa for this recognition." – Source: www.thesouthafrican.com

VAN TONDER SEALS STATUS WITH KENYA SAVANNAH CLASSIC WIN

"I've been working hard on my game and everything and I'm just overwhelmed, you know. I'm very happy," said the winner after four holes of sudden-death.



It took a three-hole sudden-death play-off for Daniel van Tonder to emerge victorious in the European Tour's Kenya Savannah Classic at Karen Country Club on Friday, 26 March 2021, as he took an eighth career title and his first on the European Tour.

He defeated Jazz Janewattananond with a birdie on the 18th as the duo were playing it for the fourth time on the day, after he rifled a precision approach shot to inside a metre, and made the putt. He was engulfed by fellow-South African players who doused him and his wife, Abigail, who doubles as his caddie, with champagne.

In his characteristically phlegmatic way, he drank in his success. "I've been playing well," he said. "I've been working hard on my game and everything and I'm just overwhelmed, you know. I'm very happy." – Source: www.citizen.co.za

FOUR RELAY SWIMMERS BREAK RECORD FOR FALSE BAY CROSSING

Four relay swimmers, Anthony Pearse, Mark Chamberlin, Brad Gale and Barend Nortje, have broken the record for crossing False Bay.

The Everest of Cape swims is the crossing of False Bay itself from Rooi-Els to Miller's Point, a distance of 35km. The difficulty of the swim can be attributed to strong and unpredictable currents and winds, icy and often inconsistent water temperatures, and the fact that False Bay has one of the highest populations of Great White sharks in the world.

The swim has only been attempted about 20 times, and to date only five swimmers have completed it: Annemie Landmeters in 1989, Steven Klugman in 2004, Carina Bruwer in 2006 and Barend Nortje in 2007. Ned Denison, who lives in Cork, Ireland, completed the swim on New Year's Eve in 2012. Sadly due to danger of shark attacks most swimming events in False Bay have been discontinued.



On Friday morning, 26 March 2021, Barend Nortje kicked off the race from Miller's Point to Rooi-Els.

Together with Anthony Pearse, Mark Chamberlin and Brad Gale, they broke the record for crossing False Bay, setting a new time of 7 hours and 29 minutes.

The crossing of False Bay is considered one of the most challenging marathon swims in the world.

The swimmers faced strong westerly winds, strong currents, sea sickness and a hammerhead shark sighting just in front of one of the swimmers on their arduous crossing from Miller's Point to Rooi-Els.

The swimmers raised funds for the JAG Foundation that utilises sport to impart life skills and offers children an alternative lifepath away from gangsterism, drugs and abuse.

Already received is R41 780 via Givengain, R32 000 direct to the foundation and a further R10 000 in pledges. – Source: www.thesouthafrican.com

LIONS SERIES TO GO AHEAD IN SOUTH AFRICA AS SCHEDULED

SA Rugby and the British & Irish Lions confirmed in a recent joint statement that they were confident this year's series would be contested in South Africa within the scheduled playing window.

1 **DHL STORMERS**
SATURDAY 3 JULY | CAPE TOWN STADIUM | CAPE TOWN

2 **SOUTH AFRICA INVITATIONAL**
WEDNESDAY 7 JULY | NMB STADIUM | PORT ELIZABETH

3 **CELL C SHARKS**
SATURDAY 10 JULY | JONSSON KINGS PARK | DURBAN

4 **SOUTH AFRICA 'A'**
WEDNESDAY 14 JULY | MBOMBELA STADIUM | NELSPRUIT

5 **VODACOM BULLS**
SATURDAY 17 JULY | LOFTUS VERSFELD | PRETORIA

6 **SPRINGBOKS**
SATURDAY 24 JULY | FNB NATIONAL STADIUM | JOHANNESBURG

7 **SPRINGBOKS**
SATURDAY 31 JULY | CAPE TOWN STADIUM | CAPE TOWN

8 **SPRINGBOKS**
SATURDAY 7 AUGUST | EMIRATES AIRLINE PARK | JOHANNESBURG

SA 2021

lionsrugby.com

“After reviewing information relating to the various contingency scenarios being considered, I can confirm that the board’s intended position is for the tour to go ahead as scheduled in South Africa in 2021,” said Jason Leonard, Chairperson of the British & Irish Lions.

“We acknowledge that there is a significant amount of work still to be undertaken to deliver a robust COVID-19 countermeasure plan to ensure a successful, safe and uninterrupted tour. SA Rugby will have our full support to help

implement this plan.”

Mark Alexander, president of the SA Rugby Union, admitted they were relieved by the decision after there had been talk of the series potentially moving to the United Kingdom or Australia.

“We appreciate the Lions’ faith and share their desire to see a safe and successful tour,” Alexander said.

“We have been in regular contact with our government to make that a reality against the backdrop of the pandemic and its predicted progression over the coming months.

“There are serious financial implications for SA Rugby, should the event take place without any supporters in attendance, and we cannot ignore that in our considerations, but we are determined that the eventual outcome will deliver the best occasion and experience for players, supporters and our commercial partners.” – Source: <https://citizen.co.za>

CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)



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