



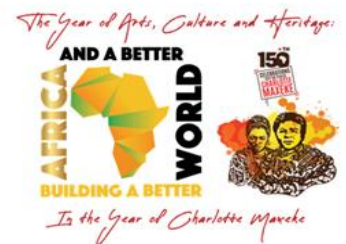
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## HAPPY AFRICA MONTH



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## PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA PARTICIPATES IN ROUNDTABLE ON PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

On Tuesday, 4 May 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa participated in the Friends of Multilateralism's roundtable on the work of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. This virtual gathering of heads of state was co-chaired by the Helen Clark and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.



The panel was established in July 2020 by the World Health Organisation's Director-General. It is charged with understanding the chronology of the pandemic, national and international actions and responses to alerts and transmission warnings, distilling lessons and making evidence-based recommendations.

The panel has since its first meeting in September 2020 been collecting and analysing evidence to build upon the lessons from previous epidemics and pandemics; establishing an authoritative chronology of how COVID-19 became a global pandemic; understanding the wider health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and identifying gaps in the international system that need to be filled to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response.

The panel has largely concluded the analysis phase, and is currently in the stage of developing and refining recommendations. These recommendations aim to stop outbreaks before they become pandemics; and should that not be possible, ensure a pandemic does not cause a global socio-economic crisis.

Addressing the panel, President Ramaphosa said: "While the pandemic has highlighted the value of partnership, it has also demonstrated the damaging effects of unilateral action and unequal access to resources.

We cannot hope to overcome this pandemic for as long as richer countries have most of the world's supply of vaccines to the exclusion and the detriment of poorer countries. As we prepare for future pandemics, we need to accelerate efforts to realise Universal Health Coverage. We need to ensure that vaccines and other life-saving treatments are considered a public good.

"For this reason, earlier this year, the African Union resolved to support the call for a temporary TRIPS waiver at the World Trade Organisation for COVID-19. Such a waiver will enable more countries to produce COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and treatments to make them more accessible and affordable for poorer countries.

“This is about saving human lives. Not sometime in the future, but right now. We look forward to engaging further on the recommendations of the panel, which will enable all countries to strengthen pandemic preparedness. For more than a year, we have fought this global pandemic together as an international community.

“Let us now work together, with even greater resolve and focus, to not only prepare for the next pandemic but to build a fairer, healthier and more equitable world.”

## CELEBRATING AFRICA MONTH

**The month of May is recognised as Africa month – a time when the continent of Africa commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).**

With the establishment of the OAU in 1963, the African continent became a pioneer in being the first continent to focus on continental unity and to encourage nation-building through unity and freedom from oppression. It is in celebration of this milestone of the OAU and its successor, the African Union, that the Department of Arts and Culture will host a series of events to celebrate Africa Day on 25 May and throughout May for Africa Month.

**HAPPY  
AFRICA  
MONTH**



Yet, even before 1963, many initiatives were taken by Africans – both from the continent and in its Diaspora – for Africa to regain its rightful place in the world. South Africans are also found among those earlier generations who made enormous contributions towards this effort. The speech of Pixley Ka Isaka Seme in 1906, on the “Regeneration of Africa”, would be echoed by the generations that followed, and enhanced through a number of initiatives aimed at the decolonisation and regeneration of the continent.

Africa Month also seeks to increase the appreciation and demand for arts and culture goods and services, and to stimulate competitive markets for trade among African countries.

## SA MOURNS QUEEN SHIYIWE MANTFOMBI DLAMINI ZULU

**President Cyril Ramaphosa has extended his sincerest condolences to the royal family and the Zulu nation at large following the unexpected passing of Her Majesty Queen Shiyiwe Mantfombi Dlamini Zulu, Regent of the Zulu nation.**

The Regent’s passing on Thursday, 29 April 2021, followed that of King Goodwill Zwelithini ka Bhekuzulu on 12 March 2021. His Majesty passed away in hospital at the age of 72.

“Personally and on behalf of government and all South Africans, I offer my sincerest condolences to the royal family and the Zulu nation.

“We extend our thoughts, prayers and hearts once more to the royal family who, in the midst of mourning the passing of the beloved King, are now called upon to bid farewell to the Regent in sadly short succession.

“We stand by the royal family and the nation in this hour of compounded grief,” the President said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



## MINISTER PANDOR ATTENDS THE GROUP OF SEVEN (G7) FOREIGN AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LONDON

**The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministerial Meeting in London, United Kingdom (UK), from 4 to 5 May 2021.**

Minister Pandor attended the meeting at the invitation of Dominic Raab, the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Developmental Affairs of the UK.

The meeting was held in preparation for the G7 Leaders' Summit, scheduled to take place in Cornwall, South-West England, from 11 to 13 June 2021. Minister Pandor attended alongside the ministers of Australia and South Korea as guests. The G7 Foreign and Development Meeting is one of seven ministerial tracks of the G7 and in the context of the current global health crisis, the meeting focussed on building back from the COVID-19 pandemic.



The meeting also discussed the following proposed policy goals for the G7:

- promoting and defending open societies
- leading a sustainable recovery through championing action on climate change
- famine prevention
- girls' education
- renewing global partnerships based on shared values.

On the margins of the G7 meeting, Minister Pandor had several bilateral meeting with her counterparts.



## PFIZER VACCINE HITS SA SHORES

The country's vaccination programme on Sunday, 2 May 2021, reached a welcomed milestone with Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize, announcing the arrival of the first batch of the Pfizer vaccination doses.



The 325 260 doses arrived at the OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) at 11.45pm.

"The National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) has considered all the security arrangements from when the vaccine lands at ORTIA to when it is transported to the vaccination sites," the Minister said in a statement.

He said the NATJOINTS had engaged all security agencies to ensure all necessary security procedures were in place for safe delivery of the vaccines and made the necessary arrangements with the police.

Upon arrival, he said, the entire batch would be transported initially to a central warehouse.

"Samples will be sent to the National Control Laboratory for quality assurance and, after release, will be distributed to the provinces," he said.

Following this initial delivery of the Pfizer vaccines, Minister Mkhize said government was expecting approximately the same number of doses to arrive on a weekly basis to a total of over 1.3 million doses by the end of May.

"Thereafter, the vaccine supply will increase to an average of 636 480 per week from 31 May, which will see us accumulating close to 4.5 million doses by the end of June," he said.

With regard to the Johnson and Johnson vaccines, Minister Mkhize said the department had received communication that the doses awaiting dispatch in Gqeberha were expected to be released around the middle of May. He said this was due to a protracted safety verification process with international regulatory agencies.

“This is a precautionary measure following the adverse findings during inspection of Emergent BioSolutions Bayview facility in the USA, one of the manufacturing partners of the Johnson and Johnson, which prompted authorities to extend their assessments of all the Johnson and Johnson stock worldwide,” he said, adding that the assessments were still underway.

He said the department was confident that the final outcome would be positive and that, provided that there were no further disruptions, the doses would be in a position to be released by Aspen.

“In the meantime, we will continue to vaccinate our healthcare workers with the remaining early access doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccines,” he said.

The Minister called on all healthcare workers, traditional healers and all citizens above the age of 60 to register on the Electronic Vaccination Data System. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## GIFT OF THE GIVERS TO ASSIST INDIA AS THE COVID-19 CRISIS WORSENS

**Imitiaz Sooliman, Director of local relief organisation, Gift of the Givers, said they would be rendering assistance to India as the country faces a COVID-19 crisis, with infections topping the 18 million mark by Thursday, 29 April 2021.**

“The world is watching a catastrophe unfolding in India; a COVID-19 tsunami has struck the country and the official figures nowhere near the real tragedy, insiders affirm,” Sooliman said.

He said they were in discussions with the Indian Government and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to intervene decisively, practically and effectively. “The request is simple: We need oxygen and oxygen delivery devices, we have everything else.”

Sooliman said, however, oxygen provision was complicated and in reality “a government-to-government responsibility”. “The public can play a role in the purchase of oxygen concentrators, which Gift of the Givers is busy procuring.

“But the most critical, life-saving intervention is the CPAP machines that Gift of the Givers delivered during South Africa's second wave.

“Healthcare workers named it the life saver” Sooliman said they needed humanity to respond.

“The pictures, as graphic as they are, can never adequately convey the emotion, pain, suffering and desperation.

“Living inside a disaster is very different to observing it from a distance. If observing it from a distance is horrific, imagine living in it.

“Healthcare workers and the population are on edge, exhausted and burnt out.”

Gift of the Givers invites those who want to participate in assisting India to make contributions.

Gift of the Givers is the largest disaster-response non-governmental organisation in Africa, which provides R3.2 billion in aid to over 40 countries and spanning a 28-year-old and counting legacy. The essence of the Gift of the Givers Foundation’s presence is to bring hope and restore dignity to the most vulnerable. – Source: www. iol.co.za



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## SA MONITORING COVID-19 SPREAD

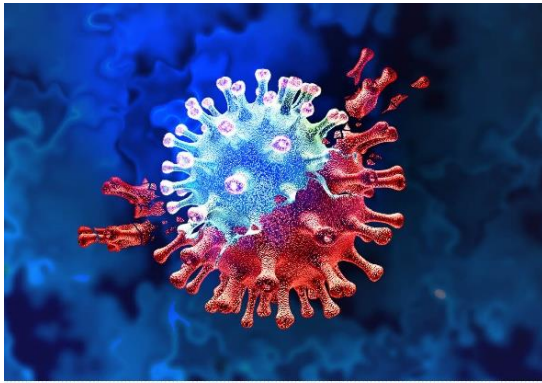
**South Africa’s teams remain on high alert to survey, detect and contain the spread of COVID-19 in general, with heightened awareness of travellers from countries where variants of concern (VOCs) are dominating.**

“We confirm that the B.1.617 variant, circulating widely in India, has not been detected; however, the genomics teams are working on some samples and we will need to allow the time it takes to sequence before we get an answer,” Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, said on Tuesday, 4 May 2021.

Minister Mkhize has noted the concern expressed by South Africans over the possible recent importation of VOCs.

“This has been a difficult area during the COVID-19 pandemic, which can often drive exclusion, mistrust and sometimes even racist rhetoric. We share our people’s concerns but wish to reassure South Africans that we are a very capable nation that

knows how to deal with the burden of a variant of concern,” he said.



# B.1.617

during these challenging times.

“Government will be determining the next steps to follow and announcements will be made on the state of variants of concern in our context and what measures will be implemented to mitigate the importation of COVID-19 in general,” the Minister said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

The Minister reminded South Africans that the variant B.1.351 (or 501Y.V2) remained the most dominant in South Africa.

One of the samples taken from a traveller from India is the 501Y.V2.

“We remain mindful of the advice from the World Health Organisation that all variants are managed the same: prevention by adhering to non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), early detection, contact tracing and testing, and quarantine or isolation.

“These all form part of the regulations that govern the management of COVID-19, and it has been through adherence to these regulations that we have detected and contained COVID-19 cases at ports of entry,” the Minister said.

He expressed concern at the increase in detection of cases at ports of entry.

“We have consulted the Ministerial Advisory Committee, as well as the genomics team to guide us on the management of travellers at ports of entry

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## GOVERNMENT HONOURS CHARLOTTE MANNYA-MAXEKE

**On Friday, 30 April 2021, government launched the “Year of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke,” as declared by Cabinet in March 2021.**

Friday’s launch allowed government to unveil its Programme of Action for 2021, as a way to memorialise the struggle icon and trailblazer.

The launch was led by Sport, Arts and Culture Minister, Nathi Mthethwa; Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane; and Social Development Minister, Lindiwe Zulu.

uMama Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke is the second woman to be memorialised and honoured in this way since 2018 when struggle icon Albertina Sisulu was honoured.



“This, the 150th year since the birthday of uMama Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke is an important year for South Africa as we recognise women of courage and fortitude who pursued the same cause as struggle icons like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo, to name but a few,” said the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in a statement.

Maxeke made an indelible impact in many areas, including education, faith and politics and has been described as a woman of many “firsts”.

She was the first black woman in southern Africa to graduate and obtain a BSc Degree in 1901.

She was also the first woman to participate in the Kings Court under King Sabata Dalindyebo of AbaThembu and they started a school under this Royal Family and for all her efforts, she was given the name “Nogozo” as a salutation of honour.

She then established a school in Evaton, Gauteng, in 1908 (Wilberforce Institute), having been inspired by her experience at Wilberforce in Ohio.

History books attest that she was the only woman that attended the first African National Congress (ANC) conference in 1912 as well as the first President of Bantu Women’s League in 1918, which later became the ANC Women’s League.

All government departments and entities are expected to have memorialisation activations that accord with the Government’s 2021 declaration of “The Year of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke”.

Civil society is also being encouraged to do the same to honour Maxeke. Activities can be shared under the #YearofCharlotteMaxeke hashtag. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

## PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP) HOLDS THE FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT

The Fourth Ordinary Session of the fifth Parliament of the PAP will take place from 21 May to 4 June 2021 at the PAP precincts in Midrand. Deliberations of this session will be guided by the African Union (AU) theme for 2021: “Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want”.

In addition to a workshop on the AU theme of the year, the session will consider and adopt several reports of the Permanent Committees. The activity report of the PAP as well as discussions on the budget and modifications of the PAP Rules of Procedure will also take centre stage.

The Clerk of Parliament, Vipya Harawa says this will be a unique session as it ushers in new leadership.

“The term of the Bureau of the fifth Parliament will come to an end in May 2021. As a result, election of the new members of the Bureau of the PAP will take place on 31 May 2021 on the sidelines of the Session. The leadership of other structures of the Parliament, including the Permanent Committees and regional and thematic caucuses, will also be renewed.”



Harawa stresses that the election of the new Bureau of the PAP promotes good governance and positions the PAP as an efficient, citizen-oriented, transparent and accountable Pan-African institution that has the concerns and aspirations of African people at heart.

At least 120 new delegates from different countries will be sworn in as members of the PAP following elections in a number of African states and rotation within delegations.

This Ordinary Session follows the recently concluded virtual Sitting of the Permanent Committees.

## UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA TO HOST FIRST NOBEL PRIZE DIALOGUE IN AFRICA

The University of Pretoria (UP) is due to host the first Nobel Prize Dialogue in Africa next month.



The May 18 event, organised by the university and Nobel Prize Outreach, will discuss what working life will be like in the future as the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced many people to work from home, UP said on Sunday, 2 May 2021.

“COVID-19 has meant a change in the way we work, with mental health issues on the rise,” Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor, Tawana Kupe, said.

“The workplace is also changing in the face of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.”

Economic Sciences laureates Christopher Pissarides, Joseph Stiglitz and Abhijit Banerjee will be joined by Physics laureate Brian Schmidt as well as Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus at the forum

The panel discussion will also include former Chief Executive of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Nicky Newton-King, and President of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina.

The Nobel Prize dialogues were inspired by the Nobel Week Dialogue, which has been taking place in Sweden since 2012 on the day preceding the Nobel Prize award ceremony.

Since then, the dialogues have been organised in many countries across the world, but this will be the first time one takes place in Africa.

UP is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, and one of the top five in the country according to the 2019 – 2020 rankings by the Centre for World University Rankings. – Source: African News Agency

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## STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL FOR CLIMATE STUDIES TO OPEN IN JUNE

**Higher Education, Science and Innovation Minister, Dr Blade Nzimande, has welcomed the establishment of a new School of Climate Studies at Stellenbosch University, which will be officially launched in June this year.**



Minister Nzimande said the establishment of an academic school focussing on climate change was a potentially promising step to enable the country's academics and students to build a well-rounded body of scientific knowledge and skills to enable not only a better understanding of the problems, but also sustainable responses to various new challenges facing humanity.

“Global humanity is currently faced with the fourfold crises of COVID-19; deepening economic crises; the crisis of families, household and communities to make ends meet and climate change,” Minister Nzimande said in a statement.

He said the economic destruction of the Earth's biosphere and ecological systems in turn had created a crisis in human sustainability, with its most devastating effects felt by the working people and poor across the globe.

More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as an accelerant on the widening gulf between rich and poor.

“I hope this will set a trend for our other universities and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to establish similar initiatives, focussing on various aspects of the multisectoral and multidimensional challenges and opportunities presented by climate change, and its interconnectedness with other social and natural phenomena.

“Government hopes that the university will collaborate with other higher education institutions, especially historically disadvantaged institutions, in promoting new scholarships to face new problems confronting current and future generations. Such collaboration is crucial as no single institution could possibly achieve this task on its own,” the Minister said.

He said all South African universities and TVET colleges must urgently plan their differentiated and collective contributions to help not only better understand climate change dynamics, but also to work towards changing the world for a better and more equal humanity. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## PROFESSOR KARIM APPOINTED TO WHO SCIENCE COUNCIL

**Professor Salim Abdool Karim has been appointed to the newly formed World Health Organisation (WHO) Science Council.**

According to the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), the science council was established earlier this month to guide WHO's science research.

The nine-member team comprises internationally renowned experts from around the world, who represent a broad range of disciplines encompassing many aspects of science – from basic research to public health implementation science.

The science council will “act as the voice of scientific leadership”, providing advice to the WHO to respond to health problems such as global health threats, interpret the latest scientific and medical knowledge and identify the latest advances in technology to improve health globally.

Prof. Karim will guide the advancement of the organisation's mission, including the identification of current and new science and technology issues that WHO needs to address for direct or indirect impact on global health.

He presided over the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) on COVID-19 before he stepped down in March.



The MAC positioned South Africa as one of the leading nations in the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Karim is a Director and co-founder of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa, former President and CEO of the SAMRC and now Director of the HIV-TB Pathogenesis and Treatment Research Unit.

He has been recognised for his immense scientific contributions to HIV prevention and treatment, and his COVID-19 research in South Africa and abroad.

Prof. Karim said pandemics such as AIDS and COVID-19 had highlighted the important role of science in global health.

“I am looking forward to participating in this council, providing scientific advice to the WHO on future developments in health that the world needs to be better prepared for,” said Prof. Karim.

WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said: “A key part of the transformation has been to strengthen WHO’s scientific work, so that we are not just keeping up with the latest scientific developments but staying ahead of the curve, and harnessing the best science for global health.”

With the advent of COVID-19, Dr Ghebreyesus said science had never been so critical to addressing challenges to global health.

SAMRC President and CEO, Prof. Glenda Gray, who also co-served with Prof. Karim on the MAC, congratulated him on his appointment.

“This global recognition of the hard-working Prof. Abdool Karim is testimony yet again of the calibre of health professionals and the high level of expertise that we have in South Africa. As the SAMRC and the broader scientific community in the country, we are very proud and will continue supporting him in this venture for the improvement of the lives of people,” said Prof. Gray. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## LOCAL FURNITURE PRODUCTION UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

**An online furniture portal, which will showcase the sector’s capabilities, has been launched.**



The portal, which is hosted on Proudly South African’s website, [www.proudlysa.co.za](http://www.proudlysa.co.za), is a collaboration between the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) and Proudly South African.

This, according to Proudly South African, is in response to the growing demand for locally manufactured furniture items and this is in order to make the sourcing of genuine local producers easier.

The site is currently being populated with qualifying local furniture companies and will be a listing where retailers, architects, property developers and consumers can find what they are looking for.

Speaking at the virtual launch, the dtic’s Tsholofelo Motaung said the department had developed policy and programmes to enhance the furniture industry. This, said Motaung, was to raise and nurture design capabilities as well as raise the image of South Africa in the furniture industry.

“This is to address the skills shortage in the industry and attract designers to the furniture industry and promote use of local products. This is also to provide solutions to consumer’s changing needs,” Motaung said.

Motaung also said this was to ensure market access and competitiveness.

Twenty years ago, the furniture sector in South Africa was an employer of 50 000 people in 3 500 manufacturing plants. Today, it supports around 20 000 direct jobs in just over 1 000 factories.

Raw material inputs provide indirect jobs to many more thousands of people, from fabrics, wood, steel, paint and much more. Eustace Mashimbye, Chief Executive Officer of Proudly South African, said the success of the portals that were introduced in 2020 primarily in response to COVID-19 requirements of masks and personal protective equipment, highlighted the importance of having one central database of suppliers and how this could make buying local much easier.

“The value of the furniture industry in South Africa is enormous, and we want to tap into the procurement of furniture, especially by corporate South Africa, and this portal will be a place to which we can drive demand,” Mashimbye said.

“It is evident that selling and shopping online have been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and have now changed consumer behaviour. What we saw in 2020 is only going to continue post-pandemic,” said dtic Deputy Minister, Nomalumgelo



Gina.

“These changes aren’t a way simply to make it through, they’re permanent and are redefining what a meaningful retail experience could look like,” she said.

The furniture industry is set to benefit from the Furniture Industry Master Plan, which was launched recently. The plan was established to set clear guidelines and targets for the furniture manufacturing industry as well as guide public-sector procurement as part of government’s efforts to support and stimulate the industry. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## SANPARKS WELCOMES REPORT ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

**The South African National Parks (SANParks) has welcomed the report of a High Level Panel into the management, breeding, hunting, trade and handling of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros.**

The panel was appointed by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, to review policies, regulatory measures, practices and policy positions that are related to the hunting, trade, captive keeping, management and handling of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros.

SANParks Chief Executive Officer, Fundisile Mketeni, said as the body tasked with the conservation of the country’s natural heritage, SANParks saw the release of the report as a historic moment that will assist in enforcing responsible management of wildlife in the country.

“This report will assist in building capacity for key decision-makers to understand wildlife legislation and to support responsible wildlife management and environmental sustainability,” Mketeni said.

Minister Creecy released the report on Sunday, 2 May 2021.

The panel recommended that South Africa halts the captive breeding of lions, keeping lions in captivity and using captive lions or their derivatives commercially.

SANParks welcomed the prohibition set on canned-lion hunting.

“This paves a positive trajectory for South Africa considering the damaging view many tourists and conservation bodies held against these kinds of activities.

“However, SANParks hopes that the anticipated resultant growth in tourism will not only save jobs but will create new opportunities for those who depended on values chains linked to canned-lion hunting,” said Mketeni.

He said the country had found itself on a collision course with many partners in conservation, including environmental non-governmental organisations, other member states in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and nature lovers who found activities such as captive breeding, of wild animals’ problematic in various ways.

“I have no doubt that this is a step in the right direction. Hopefully, we will work hard as a collective to achieve the recommendations of the High Level Panel report,” he said.

In addition, SANParks will play a critical role in supporting the implementation of the recommendations for the protection of iconic species, which were the focus of the report such as rhino, elephant, leopard and lion.

“SANParks will do everything within its power to support the transformation of the wildlife sector. The wildlife economy can play an important role in community development, particularly those communities living adjacent national parks.

“If we are to hand over a better future to our next generation, it is imperative to enhance the responsible management of our protected areas and the conservation of these four iconic species.

“We take note of the great work done by the panel and we support the key recommendations which, in our view, will go a long way towards aligning our country’s protected areas with international best practice by giving effect to our national legislation,” Mketeni said. Source – SAnews.gov.za



# INGULA NATURE RESERVE DECLARED WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

**Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Minister, Barbara Creecy, has welcomed the declaration of the Ingula Nature Reserve as a wetland of international importance by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.**

The nature reserve sits along the northernmost part of the Drakensberg mountain range, between the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal.

The site falls within the Northern Drakensberg Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) and a National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area and is made up of hillslope wetlands, pans/depressions and floodplains.



This addition brings the number of South Africa's Ramsar Sites to 27, covering a surface area of 571.089 hectares.

The Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

“Wetlands are indispensable for the countless benefits or ‘ecosystem services’ that they provide, ranging from freshwater supply, food and building materials, and biodiversity, to flood control, groundwater recharge, and climate-change mitigation, despite managing them being a global challenge,” the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment said on Tuesday, 4 May 2021.

In pursuit of continued efforts to conserve the wetland ecosystems, the department has invested more than R83 million in the rehabilitation and maintenance of at least 75 wetlands in the current financial year.

The rehabilitation and maintenance of wetlands are coordinated through the Working for Wetlands Programme, an Expanded Public Works Programme that focusses on remedial interventions for maintaining healthy wetlands.

Since its inception in 2004, the Working for Wetlands Programme has rehabilitated over 1 749 wetlands countrywide, thereby contributing to increased healthier water supplies and improving the economic benefits of natural and agricultural habitats. This has created more than 40 274 jobs and skills development opportunities for South Africans. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## KFC TURNS 50 IN SA THIS YEAR. HERE'S HOW IT STARTED – WITH A SAFARI VISIT

**KFC in South Africa turns 50 this year. With 960 outlets across the country, the fast-food chain is the largest franchise in South Africa. It also has 215 outlets in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.**

Globally, the fried chicken chain has over 23 000 restaurants in 140 countries around the world.

For its “Golden” anniversary, KFC South Africa turned its first-ever restaurant gold overnight. It has also created a Golden Bucket scavenger hunt, which has South African fans hunting for up to R50 million in real gold tokens.

The company recently revamped its Grayston Drive branch in Sandton. The new look concept restaurant boasts self-service kiosks, dedicated click-and-collect parking bays for customers who order online and specially demarcated collection bays for delivery partners, as well as free wifi and wireless charging ports for all customers.

That is a very, very long way from the original Kentucky Fried Chicken experience in South Africa, half a century ago.

It all started in the late 1960s, when the then CEO of KFC's holding company visited South Africa on a safari with his family.

KFC opened its first branch in the country in Orange Grove, Johannesburg, in 1971. The KFC Add Hope programme feeds 150 000 children every day, and its mini-cricket programme is the largest sports development initiative in the country. Only chicken sourced in South Africa is used at local outlets. – Source: Business Insider SA



## SA SURF BRAND MAMI WATA CROWDFUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION

South African surf brand, Mami Wata, is raising growth capital through European equity crowdfunding platform Crowdcube to scale the business abroad. The investment raised will be used to launch the business internationally with an initial focus on the United States.



As a premium apparel brand that celebrates Africa's diverse and expressive surf culture, Mami Wata, whose name means "Mother Water" is challenging the global surf industry's image of what it means to be a surfer, and to redefine surfing globally.

"We're on a mission to connect the world to the power of African surf culture," says Mami Wata co-founder Selema Masekela.

"Much of the last 60 years has told us you need to emulate being from Southern California, or the south coast of Australia to fit the description of being a surfer. African surf culture will redefine the manner in which people will perceive the activity known as surfing and the lifestyle that comes with it."

Mami Wata's ambition is to become the world's first global African surf lifestyle brand. "We're challenging what we believe is a stagnant US\$9bn global industry, ready for disruption. Through our partnership with Crowdcube, we're looking for investors who believe in the power of purpose, brand and design to create an exciting, meaningful global business," says Nick Dutton, co-founder and CEO.

"Since our launch in Cape Town in 2017, we've proven the concept by generating over US\$500,000 sales to date and extensive global PR. We are now primed to launch internationally and scale the business," adds Dutton.

Working in conjunction with Crowdcube, Mami Wata will give investors the opportunity to join its mission and invest alongside entrepreneurial investors, including Simon Mottram of Rapha, Tom Singh OBE of Rianta Capital and Pollyking & Co.

Mami Wata manufactures its full range of premium products in Africa to create jobs and build skills. The brand says its mission is to make the term 'Made in Africa' synonymous with quality. Mami Wata supports African surf therapy organisations that directly improve lives and advocates for responsible surf tourism to the African continent. This in turn supports local surf communities and their economies.

"Mami Wata has a deep purpose to be a creative force for good in Africa," says Luke Lang, Crowdcube co-founder and CMO. "It's a purpose which will resonate with many of our investors. As a brand, they're challenging an industry, and this also aligns with our mission to help nurture the growth of innovative businesses. We've no doubt the campaign will be a real success." – Source: [www.bizcommunity.com](http://www.bizcommunity.com)

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## SEVEN LIONS HELD CAPTIVE IN UKRAINE HAVE BEEN SET FREE IN SOUTH AFRICA

**A group of captive lions will now get to live out their days on vast, open plains across South Africa.**

Thanks to some exceptional work from two charities, a total of seven lions were set free for the first time in South Africa last week.

All of the lions, who will be heading to game reserves in Free State and Gqeberha respectively, had been experiencing a torturous time in captivity, at various locations in Ukraine.

Some were exhibited in zoos, whereas others were kept as pets. Their inhumane treatment riled local interest groups, and sure enough, the rescue work began in earnest.



The Warriors of Wildlife is welcoming four lions to its sprawling estate, and they have an even mix of boys and girls. Alex and

Caesar will no doubt settle into their role as local trouble causers very soon, and Akera and Nala will be sure to keep the boys in check as they begin their new lives together in the Eastern Cape.

Elsewhere, the Love Lions Alive Project is also welcoming a trio of feisty felines to its vast grounds. Cecil, Joy and Xanda have already got to grips with their new surroundings, tasting and feeling freedom for the first time in their lives.

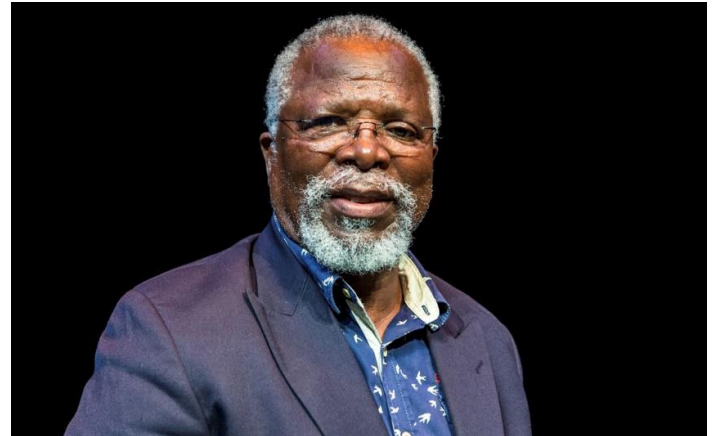
All seven of the beautiful beasts had to endure a 15-hour flight via Doha, landing in Johannesburg, to reach their new forever homes. – Source: [www.thesouthafrican.co.za](http://www.thesouthafrican.co.za)

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## DR JOHN KANI HONOURED WITH AN INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE AWARD

**Proudly South African actor Dr Bonisile John Kani has been honoured with the highly acclaimed Pragnell Shakespeare Award for his original play “Kunene and the King”.**

With the wisdom of Rafiki and the power of a Black Panther King, South African actor Dr Bonisile John Kani is also a director and playwright, who has now been honoured with the Shakespeare Award.



Dr Kani was born in New Brighton, Eastern Cape, and has gone on to inspire hopeful South Africans, proving that dreams can come true. His most recent international roles include Rafiki from the *Lion King Live* action movie and King T’Chaka in the Marvel Studios blockbuster *Captain America: Civil War* and *Black Panther*.

The role which has earned his latest accolade is the lead in *Kunene and the King*, his original play, which premiered on the London stage two years ago.

*Kunene and the King* was also recently honoured by being selected as one of the Royal Shakespeare Company’s top 10 theatre productions. The play is set in post-apartheid South Africa, 25 years after the first democratic elections. It showcases the relationship between a sickly white man and his black male nurse. Antony Sher, a British actor plays the white man while Dr Kani plays the black male nurse. The play focusses on the complexities of the relationship between the two men who come from very different backgrounds and have to navigate the uncomfortable closeness they need to share during all the care provided by Dr Kani’s character.

Dr Kani’s personal love of Shakespeare is featured in the play through both the characters’ passion for his works. It is this passion that knits their relationship. Sher and Kani recite the funeral speech from Caesar with Dr Kani completing the work in isiXhosa.

The highly acclaimed Pragnell Shakespeare Award was founded in 1990 by Pragnell the Jeweller of Stratford-upon-Avon. It is presented annually on the occasion of Shakespeare’s birthday celebrations. This is the same day as World Book Day, which was also based on Shakespeare’s birthday. The award recognises “outstanding achievement in extending the appreciation and enjoyment of the works of William Shakespeare and in the general advancement of Shakespearian knowledge and understanding”.

This high honour was awarded to Dr John Kani and he took to Twitter to share his thanks for being considered and awarded by saying, “I am humbled by this honour. It is Afrika’s time Elder”. – Source: [www.goodthngsguy.com](http://www.goodthngsguy.com)

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## JAZZ LEGEND ABDULLAH IBRAHIM AND GENERATIONS CREATOR MFUNDI VUNDLA RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATES

**The University of Pretoria’s (UP) Faculty of Humanities conferred honorary doctorates on internationally renowned jazz musician Abdullah Ibrahim and playwright/ television producer Mfundu Vundla during a virtual ceremony on 3 May as part of its autumn 2021 graduation session.**

“The arts play a vital role in holding a mirror up to society,” said Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe.

“Mfundu Vundla and Abdullah Ibrahim have been trailblazers in their respective fields and have told uniquely South African stories. I am pleased that we are able to bestow these honours on two giants of the arts in recognition of their service and contribution to the country and the world. Congratulations to them both.”

Distinguished jazz pianist Abdullah Ibrahim had an honorary doctorate in Music conferred on him. Over the course of more than

25 years, he has toured the world extensively and appeared at major concert halls, clubs and festivals, giving sell-out performances as a solo artist and as a collaborator.



His collaborations with orchestras resulted in acclaimed recordings such as *African Suite* (1999) and the Munich Radio Philharmonic Orchestra's symphonic version, *African Symphony* (2001). His discography runs to well over 100 album credits.

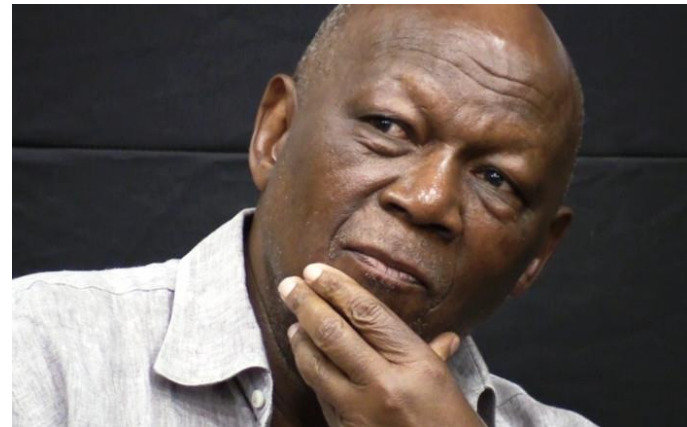
"We are proud to recognise Dr Ibrahim's immense contributions to music through the awarding of this honorary doctorate, and are truly honoured to have South Africa's iconic jazz artist associated with Jazz Studies in the School of the Arts at UP," said Professor Alexander Johnson, Head of the School of the Arts.

Professor Vasu Reddy, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, hailed Ibrahim as a South African legend.

"Abdullah Ibrahim is South Africa's most distinguished jazz pianists and a world-respected master musician. Out of a blend of the secular and religious, the traditional and modern, he developed the distinctive style, harmonies and musical vocabulary that are inimitably his own. The award recognises the significant contributions of a South African legend."

Playwright and television producer Mfundu Vundla had an honorary doctorate in Literature conferred on him.

He is the founder and chair of Morula Pictures. Over five decades, he has created a legacy as a titan of the South African entertainment industry. His contributions run across the visual and performing arts landscape of South Africa, from film to television and theatre.



His work reflects his political consciousness and commitment to social change in South Africa. – [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

## MASTER KG AND NDLOVU YOUTH CHOIR LIVESTREAM WITH OVER ONE MILLION VIEWS

**Master KG and Ndlovu Youth Choir performed live from Robben Island for the Africa Rising global live stream.**

On Sunday, 25 April, *Jerusalema* hitmaker Master KG, and the soul-stirring Ndlovu Youth Choir performed live from Robben Island for the Africa Rising global Livestream and the Live Love non-profit in aid of #FeedOurCrew and Bridges For Music.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the live events community and those behind the scenes that are a big part of concerts, theatres and live productions. The performance was live-streamed globally for free, breaking Africa streaming records with over one million views on Facebook.

Ryan Christian, show director of Africa Rising added, "What a privilege it is to work again, the last event of this magnitude was in February 2020, pre lockdown. I could not think of a better way to emerge from our hiatus and kick off our industry than be part of an event with this calibre of talent. We can't wait to showcase Africa Rising to the rest of the continent, and bring the work of African artists to life in iconic Africa spaces. Most importantly, it is an honour to bring event crew back to work."



In the build-up, audiences had 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 live events industry, and charities in sustainability, education and conservation. The best part is that their donations will continue to assist in making life better for a community in crisis! The public can still donate and support the industry which is in peril.

Africa Rising managed to raise R50 000 in food vouchers, which will be handed over to #FeedOurCrew and Bridges For Music to help live events professionals struggling to make ends meet in light of the nationwide event restrictions. In addition, our partner African Grower built 6 vegetable gardens for the Ndlovu Care Group in Limpopo.

Adding comment in appreciation, 'We would like to thank our friends at Africa Rising for remembering the plight of live event Freelancers across South Africa and we wish them well on their amazing Africa Rising events that help us all in these times!', says Kagiso Moima Wa Masimini – #FeedOurCrew recipient.

Join us in celebrating African talent through music and dance from this historical site. The full edited HD video of the show will be posted on Africa Rising's Youtube channel in the coming weeks. – [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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## SOUTH AFRICA'S THUSO MBEDU LANDS ROLE IN NEW STAR-STUDED MOVIE

### Meet the first South African actress to lead an American series: Thuso Mbedu



Thuso Mbedu is an award-winning South African actress who is making a name for herself on the international stage and recently landed a massive role alongside Oscar-winning Viola Davis.

Thuso was born in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal in 1991. Sadly, she lost both her parents at a young age but was taken in by her grandmother, who supported her through school and encouraged all her dreams. When Thuso graduated from high school, she enrolled at the University of Witwatersrand, studying Physical Theatre and Performing Arts Management. Thuso later graduated with honours and, before launching her career, took some time to further her experience at an acting school in New York.

Thuso's standout role in South Africa was as Winnie Bhengu in *Is'Thunzi*. She was nominated for four local awards for this role and won the Best Actress TV Drama at the 12th South African Film and Television Awards in 2018.

Hollywood was calling, and in 2019, she landed a leading role for an international series. Thuso will feature as the lead in a series adapted from Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Underground Railroad*.

*The Underground Railroad* was published in 2016 and is the sixth novel by American author Colson Whitehead.

The alternate history novel tells the story of Cora and Caesar, two slaves in the southeastern United States during the 19th century, who make a bid for freedom from their Georgia plantations by following the Underground Railroad, which the novel depicts as primarily a rail transport system in addition to a series of safe houses and secret routes.

Amazon is making a limited drama series based on the book written and directed by Barry Jenkins, who co-wrote and directed the Oscar-winning film *Moonlight*.

It will be released on 14 May 2021.

*The Woman King* is set to be an incredible Hollywood movie that celebrates African history from the 18th and 19th century. Thuso will be starring alongside Viola Davis, an Oscar-winning actress who is known for her roles in *How to Get Away with Murder*, *The Help* (for which she won an Oscar) and *Suicide Squad*.

Viola only had good things to say about Thuso when the news of the role broke. It seems that 2021 will be our proudly South African star's breakout year, and her career will quickly rise. Thuso says the role is a dream come true. – Source: [www.goodthingsguy.com](http://www.goodthingsguy.com)

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## SOUTH AFRICA WINS WORLD RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

### South Africa's men's 4x100m sprinters raced to victory in an incredible nail-biting finish, crossing the line just one-hundredth of a second ahead of Brazil.

It was so close that from where they were sitting the commentators thought that Brazil had just won by a short measure ... but once they saw the board, they were full of praise for the South African runners.

The male commentator paid tribute to South Africa for making every centimetre count, while a female commentator pointed out just how quickly Akani Simbine ran.



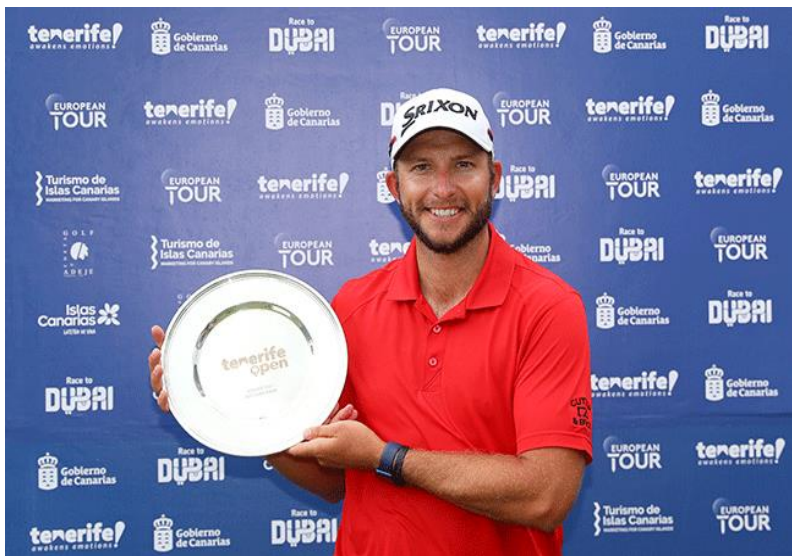
Tuks-based athlete Simbine provided the exciting final 100 metres at this weekend's World Relay Championships in Silesia, Poland.

The South African team went into the champs with a genuine ambition to win a medal ... and they pulled it off spectacularly.

In the lead-up to the race, Simbine said: "We have done what needs to be done during training. It is now about seeing how fast we are going to be during a race. The fact that the USA and Jamaica won't be competing does not change anything. Relay running is about doing the job, passing the baton making no mistakes. If nothing goes wrong, we could medal. Even win!" – Source: www.sapeople.com

## SA'S DEAN BURMESTER SEALS SECOND EUROPEAN TOUR TITLE AT TENERIFE OPEN

South Africa's Dean Burmester turned on the magic on Sunday, 2 May 2021, as he carded a stunning nine-under-par 62 to win the European Tour's Tenerife Open on the Canary Islands by five strokes.



It was a majestic round of golf as he sailed his way to a nine-under-par 62, not dropping a shot while he pulverised drives off the tees, and showed deft touches around the greens. He matched it all with some superb putting, perhaps most significantly when he saved par on the ninth.

"That was probably the moment when I figured that I believe that there is something there," he said.

"I struck the putt and it rolled straight over my spot. I couldn't believe I had hit such a perfect putt. It went in, and then there was a crucial par-save on 10, with a nice birdie on 11."

Burmester is a player who thrives on positive momentum, and those three holes just kept things going after he had made five birdies in the first seven holes.

He had a tap-in birdie to finish at 25-under-par, and savour his first win outside South Africa, his first in four years after his Tshwane Open win in March 2017.

"There's no words that can describe it," he said.

"It's four years of struggle, hard work ... you know, my caddie and I have been together for three years. He's never won. This is his first one, and he deserves it – he's been with me through thick and thin. It starts at home – family and everyone there. And then coaches ... the whole team. It's incredible."

Next best of the South Africans was last week's winner Garrick Higgo, who overcame three bogeys to close with a 69 and a share of eighth. – Source: newsdome.co.za

## FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE SHARKS

Former United States President Bill Clinton was an unlikely voice of support for the Sharks ahead of their Rainbow Cup clash against the Stormers on Saturday, 1 May 2021.

The Durbanites won the match 33-30 at Cape Town Stadium and, before kick-off, the franchise released a video of support coming in from high-profile celebrities all around the globe.

Sports agency Roc Nation is now heavily involved at the Sharks and also operates with clubs in the NBA and English Premier League.



"I want to send my very best wishes to the Sharks rugby team for Durban, South Africa for much success in the Rainbow Cup tournament," Clinton said.

"I wish you a winning season."

Footballers Wilfred Zaha and Tyrone Mings and NBA stars Jrue Holiday and Khris Middleton also gave their support to the Sharks. – Source: News24

## SOUTH AFRICA TO BID FOR 2027 CRICKET WORLD CUP CRICKET

**"We will be bidding for both men's and women's world cups, an Under-19 World Cup and a T20 World Cup," Acting President of Cricket South Africa (CSA) Rihan Richards said.**

CSA will bid to host the 2027 men's Cricket World Cup, Acting President, Rihan Richards, said on Friday, 30 April 2021.

Richards made the announcement at a press conference at which details of a new governance model for CSA were revealed.

He said agreement on the composition of a new board, with a majority of independent directors, would enable CSA to put the focus firmly back on cricket matters.

Richards said South Africa would take part in a bidding process for International Cricket Council events over a new eight-year cycle. Bidding is expected to open within the next few months.



"We will be bidding for both men's and women's World Cups, an Under-19 World Cup and a T20 World Cup," said Richards. "But our focus will be on the 2027 men's World Cup. We believe it is an ideal opportunity as it will be 24 years since we last hosted it."

South Africa staged the 2003 men's World Cup and the 2005 women's World Cup as well as the inaugural 2007 World T20 and the 2009 Champions Trophy. It also has staged two Under-19 tournaments. – Source: [www.timesnownews.com](http://www.timesnownews.com)



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