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humankind. This is where
our collective umbilical cord
lies buried

Situated within easy reach of Johannesburg and Pretoria, Maropeng is the official visitor centre of the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site. Maropeng, which is a Setswana word meaning "returning to the place of our origins", takes visitors on a fun and informative journey of discovery using spectacular methods to tell stories of the evolution of life and the origins of humankind. It denotes the universal relevance of the Cradle of Humankind as the ancestral home of all.

credits

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Acknowledgements

Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; Nomaindiya Mfeketo, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; Luwellyn Landers, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs; Tokozile Xasa, Minister of Tourism; Ayanda Dlodlo, Minister of Home Affairs; Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi, Deputy Director-General: Global Governance and Continental Affairs, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO); Dr Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director-General: Asia and the Middle East, DIRCO; Xolisa Makaya, Deputy Director-General: Africa, DIRCO; Masimba Tafirenyika, Director: United Nations Information Centre; Peter Shivute, World Food Programme; Patric Tariq Mellet, South Africa-Thailand Heritage Reflection Centre; and Mary Alexander, Brand South Africa.

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international relations
& cooperation

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International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



UBUNTU

a Nguni word meaning humanity

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's quarterly magazine

ON THE COVER

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee has inscribed South Africa's #Khomani Cultural Landscape in the Northern Cape as a world heritage site.

The #Khomani Cultural Landscape is located at South Africa's border with Botswana and Namibia in the northern part of the country. It falls within the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park. The landscape covers an area of 959 100 ha and has changed minimally since the Stone Age. The #Khomani Cultural Landscape had been home to people who learned to survive in the extreme desert because of their knowledge of the land.

"They [the #Khomani San] developed a specific ethnobotanical knowledge, cultural practices and a worldview related to the geographical features of their environment," said UNESCO. "The #Khomani Cultural Landscape bears testimony to the way of life that prevailed in the region and shaped the site over thousands of years."

South Africa now has nine heritage sites.

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The global environment in which the Department of International Relations and Cooperation's (DIRCO) programmes are implemented remains characterised by insecurity, a rise in terrorism, growing political volatility and populism. This is compounded by the continued hardships felt by the populace due to slow economic growth and lack of sufficient opportunities. Consequently, we continue to tactically navigate this terrain guided by our national interests in all our international engagements.

The National Development Plan (NDP) serves as an overarching vision that guides our foreign policy imperatives and our international relations programme. This ensures that we are on the right trajectory in meeting our own development needs.

It is for this reason that our efforts have been aimed at propelling initiatives aimed at regional integration. Furthermore, we did this cognisant of the fact that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is our biggest trade partner within the continent. In 2016, South Africa's trade with the region amounted to R336 billion, which is estimated to be more than 70% of the total trade with Africa.

At the Official Opening Ceremony of the 37th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of SADC in Pretoria on 19 August 2017, King Mswati III of Swaziland handed over the Chairship of the summit to President Jacob Zuma. South Africa will chair SADC until August 2018.

Our objectives of regional integration within SADC are intertwined with our objectives within the African Union (AU) and enhancing the African Agenda. South Africa continues to support the AU Commission as well as its new leadership, who was elected in January 2017, in order to continue with our continental journey towards the Africa we aspire by 2063.

Our partnerships and formations within South-South relations continue to provide complementary mechanisms to further our economic imperatives, among others. The Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) countries continue to be the leading sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) among emerging investor countries; flows from these five economies rose from US\$7 billion in 2000 to US\$145 billion in 2012, accounting for 10% of the world total. Total bilateral trade between South Africa and other BRICS countries amounted to US\$29 billion in 2016. South Africa's biggest export destination within BRICS remains China,

followed by India, Brazil and Russia. The same pattern is also evident in imports, with China remaining the biggest source of South African imports.

The Ninth BRICS Summit was held in Xiamen, China, from 3 to 5 September 2017 under the theme: "BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future", setting an important milestone towards building stronger solidarity and cooperation among emerging markets.

South Africa's partnership in BRICS is premised on advancing the country's national interests, promoting regional integration and advocating a more inclusive global governance system. The adoption of the BRICS Xiamen Declaration and Action Plan highlighted the strong foundation that BRICS has made in terms of establishing institutional mechanisms for tangible cooperation.

South Africa will assume the Chairship of BRICS on 1 January and will host the 10th BRICS Summit in 2018. We aim to build on the BRICS programme of development and prosperity for partner countries.

South Africa took over the Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in October 2017. We expect great dividends from linking the IORA Blue Economy initiative to our domestic Operation Phakisa, which is in line with the goals outlined in the NDP, and aims to promote economic growth and boost job creation.

The African Agenda is a prominent feature of South Africa's foreign policy, and we will make funds available for the IORA Special Fund (US\$100 000) for pilot development projects aimed at improving the lives of IORA's poorest people. Half of this amount (US\$50 000) will be allocated to projects in Africa in support of African oceans economy projects under the 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy.

We congratulate Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, South Africa's former High Commissioner to Mauritius, who was elected as the next Secretary General of the association. Dr Nokwe will succeed Ambassador KV Bhagirath, who will conclude his term as Secretary-General of the association at the end of the year.

We also congratulate Ambassador Tebogo Seokolo and the team in Vienna for their extraordinary work and achievements during South Africa's Chairship of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Ambassador Seokolo, South Africa's Permanent Representative to the IAEA, served as the Chairperson from October 2016 to the end of September 2017.

South Africa is one of the founding members of the IAEA, which is a multilateral body with the responsibility to promote the safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology for peace, security and development.

The Board of Governors is the major policy-making organ of the IAEA between its annual general conferences. It is made up of 35 member states, with South Africa serving as one of its designated members. South Africa presided over the IAEA Board of Governors at a time when the global peace and security environment was characterised by heightened tensions and uncertainties. Although the conclusion of the historic nuclear agreement in 2015 between the five permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council plus Germany (P5 +1) promised to de-escalate tensions between Western countries and Iran over its nuclear programme, the unequivocal commitment of all signatories to its effective implementation has become all the more important. This is especially necessary given that the IAEA has verified over the past year that Iran has continued to implement its obligations under the agreement.

Similarly, the instability in the Korean Peninsula and concerns with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) nuclear programme have continued to be some of the key topics on the agenda of the IAEA Board of Governors during South Africa's tenure. In this regard, South Africa joined the international community in expressing concern at the DPRK's nuclear weapons programme. Further, South Africa urged the DPRK and all parties involved to refrain from any actions that would further escalate tensions and exacerbate the volatile situation in the region.

Other important achievements by the board under South Africa's leadership included the appointment of the Director-General of the IAEA; the Medium Term Strategic Framework, which is a five-year planning and guidance document for the work of the IAEA; the Programme and Budget and Technical Cooperation Fund Target, which will enable the IAEA to support member states, especially developing countries, in utilising nuclear science and technology to meet their developmental needs; and the five-year Nuclear Security Plan, which guides the IAEA's role in coordinating international cooperation and supporting member states to strengthen their respective nuclear security regimes.

In discharging its mandate as Chairperson of the Board of Governors, South Africa always

sought to ensure that the decisions taken by the board were adopted by consensus in order to create an opportunity for all IAEA member states, from across all regions of the world, to participate on an equal footing when deliberating on matters of global significance. This principled approach resonates with South Africa's call for the transformation and reform of the global system of governance and is at the core of our identity as a nation.

During its tenure, South Africa was also pleased that the IAEA Board of Governors emphasised the developmental role of the IAEA through its activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications. As part of this process, the IAEA provides support, among others, to countries on the African continent to meet their national and regional developmental needs and priorities. Of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the IAEA, through nuclear science and technology, directly contributes to the attainment of nine of these goals.

South Africa has also benefitted immensely from the IAEA's scientific and technological support. Cooperation in this regard includes the eradication of moths – which negatively affected the citrus industry in the Western and Eastern Cape provinces – resulting in the significant increase of citrus production without using chemicals. The IAEA also assisted in strengthening the clinical management of oncological, neurological and cardiovascular diseases; supported South Africa in the development of the Sterile Insect Technique to help control malaria; and supported South African laboratories (iThemba Labs) in strengthening and expanding their capacities in accelerator-based sciences in order to provide training and analytical services for water resource management and climate change studies.

South Africa is highly regarded by the IAEA due to the development of its peaceful nuclear programme. Through the power plant in Koeberg, the country generates 5% of total electricity supply from nuclear. South Africa is the second-largest producer of medical isotopes, which are used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Through its research reactor, SAFARI-1, which has for over 50 years operated safely, securely and reliably, South Africa exports this life-saving treatment to over 60 countries worldwide.

Having successfully concluded its term as Chair of the IAEA Board of Governors, South

Africa remains convinced now more than ever, that the IAEA has an important role to play in global efforts to promote international peace, security and development. It is in this context that South Africa used its leadership of the board to promote a balanced approach in implementing the IAEA's legal mandate in line with its motto "Atoms for Peace and Development".

South Africa's bilateral relations with countries of the North continue to grow and strengthen within the difficult economic climate. Our bilateral relations have served as a key driver of economic diplomacy are yielding tangible dividends for the South African economy.

Western Europe accounted for about 25% of South Africa's total global trade in 2016 and remained South Africa's largest source of FDI.

The United States of America (USA) and Canada continued to be important trade and investment partners for South Africa, with 863 companies from the region trading in South Africa, creating over 120 000 employment opportunities. South Africa is also the USA and Canada's most important commercial partner in Africa.

South Africa's presence in Asia and the Middle East consisted of six missions in 1994. In 2014, South Africa had diplomatic relations with all 57 countries in the region, with 32 missions. Consequently, in 1994, South Africa's total trade in the region stood at approximately R5 billion for the Middle East and R40 billion for Asia. In 2014, this figure grew rapidly and substantially to R760 billion for Asia and R116 billion for the Middle East.

DIRCO continues to accelerate economic diplomacy through diligent work done at South Africa's missions abroad, contributing to the growing of the country's regional, continental and global trade and investment. South Africa's missions play an important role in opening new markets and gaining market access for new product categories in support of expanding trade and investment. Scholarship and training opportunities secured from various countries through our bilateral engagements and our missions representations abroad resulted in more than 2 000 opportunities.

As we strive to give full effect to the NDP that requires that we "retain an influential space for the country in key multilateral institutions" South Africa will continue to play a key role on the international stage. ♪

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation
Maite Nkoana-Mashabane



After fruitful discussions and consultations, led by the heritage institutions, the National Heritage Council of South Africa, South African Heritage Resource Agency, Freedom Park and the main stakeholder, the Department of Arts and Culture, the Zambian Government declared the home of the African hero, Oliver Reginald Tambo, in Lusaka, Zambia, a national monument. Tambo spent 22 years of his 33 years in exile in "Phiri", which was a nickname for his Lusaka residence at the time. The African National Congress' headquarters were based in Lusaka where he was president of the movement from 1969 – 1991.



- South Africa served as Vice Chair of IORA in preparation for its Chairship from 2017 to 2019.
- South Africa chaired and hosted the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES-COP17) and through intensive negotiations and lobbying, it achieved success in having all its proposals and working documents adopted by the COP.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) continues to accelerate economic diplomacy through diligent work done at South Africa's missions abroad, contributing to the growing of the country's regional, continental and global trade and investment, resulting in:

- increased sales of manufactured value exports for the year to R4,167 billion
- total potential foreign direct investment (FDI) of R50 232 billion, particularly in the energy and chemicals sectors
- a total of 10 044 163 international tourist arrivals and about R75,6 billion in foreign tourist direct spending.

South Africa's missions play an important role in opening new markets and gaining market access for new product categories in support of expanding trade and investment. South African producers will be able to export beef to China following the conclusion of negotiations and efforts continue to meet the sanitary and phytosanitary requirements to export different types of fruit to new markets in Southeast Asia.

Contribution to national priorities

Scholarship and training opportunities secured from various countries through our bilateral engagements and our mission representations abroad resulted in more than 2 000 opportunities:

- at different levels, ranging from short-term skills programmes, undergraduate degrees, postgraduate degrees, including Master's and PhD
- covering various fields such as medicine, maritime economy, tourism, agriculture, energy, public policy management, environment, mining, astronomy, engineering, aquaculture, astronomy, science and technology, manufacturing, telecommunications, banking, economics, accounting, human resource management, management and business, food science and nutrition, climate change, rural development and sustainability, food science and food

engineering, bio-resources technology, accounting, public health, health, economics and others.

Development assistance and support were secured for various health projects, including:

- United States (US) contributions in support of the fight against HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis in the country and on the African continent under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
- the flagship cooperation programme between South Africa and Cuba with 3 000 South African students currently receiving medical training in Cuba and 520 South African graduates providing primary healthcare services to their local communities
- the Canadian Government providing development assistance to fund developmental projects, such as the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital.

DIRCO's economic diplomacy activities/efforts at the missions and our strengthened bilateral relations resulted in increased investment in South Africa that contributed to job creation in the following ways:

- Indian investment is often found in the manufacturing sector and contributes to job creation. Between 2003 and 2016, R62 billion was invested by Indian companies, creating 10 660 jobs.
- Total trade with the Western Europe region showed positive signs as it increased by 9% year on year in 2016, while bilateral FDI into South Africa has grown five-fold and created over 350 000 direct jobs since 2004.
- The USA and Canada continue to be important trade and investment partners to South Africa, with 863 companies from the region trading in South Africa, creating over 120 000 employment opportunities.
- China agreed to collaborate on the identified six job drivers: infrastructure development, agriculture, mining and beneficiation, manufacturing, green economy and tourism.
- The Beijing Automotive International Corporation committed to build a historic R11-billion (\$759-million) auto plant in South Africa. This will contribute positively to job creation in the country.
- The Japanese company, Toyota, expanded its existing production capacity in South Africa following a R6,1-billion investment in its production capacity.

Is South Africa's role in the international arena diminishing?

You decide. 🗳️
@ClaysonMonyela

South Africa is on a firm footing internationally and its role is not diminishing, contrary to what analysts are saying. It is unprecedented that a single country will be at the helm of four multilateral organisations at the same time.

South Africa took over as the Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) from August 2017 until August 2018. The country took over the Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) from October 2017 until October 2019. South Africa is the Co-Chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. South Africa will, for the second time, take the helm of the BRICS grouping consisting of Brazil, Russian, India, China and South Africa on 1 January 2018 and subsequently host the summit later that year.

Over the past two years, South Africa also realised other high-level achievements:

- South Africa concluded a successful term as the African Union (AU) Chair.
- South Africa served a second consecutive term at the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC).
- The election of three South African international experts in Human Rights Law to the UN Human Rights Treaty Monitoring System.
- South Africa's Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was elected as the Chair of the Board of Governors from October 2016 to October 2017.

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South Africa commits to implementation of the SADC Strategy as Chair

By Xolisa Makaya

Deputy Director-General: Africa

Department of International Relations and Cooperation

"The key activities during our Chairship will be the development of a high-impact Annual Operation Plan with targeted interventions and public policy tools to foster the development of regional value chains in agro-processing, pharmaceuticals and mineral beneficiation".





South Africa hosted the 37th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the SADC in August in Pretoria under the theme, “Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains”.

The theme was developed to address two key issues contained in the SADC Industrialisation Action Plan, which was approved by the Extraordinary SADC Summit in March 2017. The two issues speak to the need for industrialisation and the move from a commodity-driven region to a value-adding region. In working towards achieving these two issues, South Africa will focus on partnering and supporting private-sector led investments in prioritised industries to achieve regional value chains.

South Africa is mindful of the barriers that exist within the region, which have a negative bearing on its goals as Chair of SADC. The main obstacles relate to infrastructure development and trade barriers. In the SADC region, there is generally a lack of adequate infrastructure interconnections which hinders accelerated regional trade. To industrialise the region, there is a need to improve rail, technology, water and air infrastructure.

Partnerships with the private sector are thus important to break the barriers and add to a conducive environment for business opportunities.

Despite the challenges, the region is working hard to improve and has made significant progress in regional infrastructure development. The SADC Protocol on Trade has been instrumental in reducing the barriers between SADC countries, stimulating production and economic development. This has also led to the private sector benefiting from the elimination of tariff barriers and export and import duties as part of the SADC Free Trade Area.

The One-Stop Border Post Initiative has also proved a viable development in eliminating trade barriers through the reduction of clearance time and cost, with benefits extending to consumers further afield. Infrastructure development therefore remains crucial in promoting and sustaining regional economic development, industrialisation, trade and investment.

In his acceptance speech as Chair of SADC, President Jacob Zuma said: “The key activities during our Chairship will be the development of a high-impact Annual Operation Plan with targeted interventions and public policy tools to foster the development of regional value

chains in agro-processing, pharmaceuticals and mineral beneficiation”.

This will include activities such as facilitating the identification of cross-border projects that will strengthen regional value chains and contribute to the development of the region; introducing a new programme to develop capacity in industrial policymaking and implementation for senior officials in the SADC region (this in addition to the initiative started by Swaziland on the establishment of the University of Transformation); developing and rolling out a model, in terms of prevention and surveillance, in dealing with destructive invasive species; continuing to promote region-wide integrated energy planning; and cooperation in the development of priority energy infrastructure and maintenance projects.

As a new initiative, South Africa proposed the establishment of an Interstate Natural Gas Committee to share learning for regional gas development, to prepare for the development of the wider gas economy and prioritise the conclusion of the trade in services negotiations in SADC.

With regard to the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the summit noted a number of challenges that had made it unrealistic for the

country to hold elections in December 2017 as originally planned and urged the Independent National Electoral Commission to publicise the revised electoral calendar in consultation with the Government and the National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the Agreement of 31 December 2016. The summit called on the international community and all stakeholders to continue supporting the implementation of the 31 December 2016 Agreement and respecting the wishes of the Congolese people with a view to ensuring sustainable peace, security and stability in the DRC.

The summit approved the appointment of a Special Envoy to the DRC in light of the political and security dynamics, particularly in preparation for the elections and mandated the SADC Chairperson, President Zuma, and the Outgoing Chairperson, King Mswati III, to finalise consultations and the appointment of the Special Envoy.

The South African Government will move with speed to implement this decision, in consultation with His Majesty King Mswati III.

It is important that the SADC remains seized with the DRC situation.

The DRC is an integral part of the SADC, and it is very important that SADC walks this difficult path with the people of the DRC.

The summit admitted the Union of Comoros as a new member of SADC and noted that the assessment of the Republic of Burundi was work in progress.

The decision to grow the SADC family is very significant. On the one hand, it shows that states outside SADC are attracted to the manner in which our regional organisation operates.

The benefits of membership will come with certain obligations, including the obligation to ratify our various legal instruments in order for the full benefits of membership to accrue to the people.

SADC member states acknowledge the critical need for both industrial and infrastructure development in the region, which aspires towards enhancing intra-regional trade and market integration.

It must be noted that these initiatives are geared towards creating employment, improving manufacturing, enhancing development and addressing poverty alleviation in the SADC region.

As the current Chair for SADC, South Africa, working together with the SADC Secretariat and member states, will host several sectoral meetings aimed at implementing outlined plans as informed by the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and Road Map. [U](#)

... member states acknowledge the critical need for both industrial and infrastructure development in the region, which aspires towards enhancing intra-regional trade and market integration. It must be noted that these initiatives are geared towards creating employment, improving manufacturing, enhancing development and addressing poverty alleviation in the SADC region.



Free trade agreements in Africa present an opportunity for African countries to improve intra-regional trade.

The Director of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development at the Department of Trade and Industry, Claudia Furriel, said the continent’s free trade agreements, particularly the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement and the envisaged Continental Free Trade Area presented an opportunity for African countries to improve intra-regional trade and diversify Africa’s current trade model of exporting raw materials and importing finished products.

Furriel was speaking at a session on trade agreements on the fourth day of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Week which took place in Sunninghill, Johannesburg.

“The free trade negotiations launched in June 2011 between the SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East Africa countries would open up a market of US\$1,3 trillion in terms of gross domestic product (GDP).”

“In addition, the continental free trade that is to be established with 55 countries and a GDP of US\$2,6 trillion presents an opportunity to access greater markets. On this free trade agreement, we are not only looking at trade in goods but also trade in services. Market integration, supported by infrastructure development and industrial development, will enable Africa to become competitive and benefit from other trade agreements with other partners,” said Furriel.

Furriel told delegates at the conference that the continent’s full potential would remain unfulfilled unless challenges of poor infrastructure, small and fragmented markets, underdeveloped production structures and inadequate economic transformation were addressed.

“Regional integration is an important aspiration of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and remains a critical component of the continent’s efforts to ensure sustainable economic development and inclusive growth through the creation of a larger regional market and improving Africa’s integration in the global economy,” she said.

In addition, South Africa promotes a development integration approach, based on the three pillars of market integration, infrastructure development and industrial development. The country, she said, remained committed to a coordinated strategy to boost intra-Africa trade and build an integrated market in Africa.

She stressed that regional free trade agreements had a potential for attracting investment to larger markets and transform African economies.

The Trade and Investment Officer at the United States of America (USA) Embassy in South Africa, Juan Cammarano, said the extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was an indication that the US’ job was not complete in Africa.

Cammarano said the extension presented an opportunity for businesses to continue to grow and build capacity and commercial relations and urged them to look beyond 2025.

AGOA is a unilateral US trade preference programme that provides duty-free, quota-free treatment for over 6 400 tariff lines into the US market. Former US President Barack Obama signed into law the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 that contained the AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act, which extended AGOA for 10 years until 2025 – with South Africa included.

The theme of the week-long conference was: “Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains”. [SAnews.gov.za](#)

Building a better Africa and a better world

The genesis of the Pan-Africanist ideology and movement was in response to the colonisation of the African continent and our resolve to work towards a shared future as Africans.

Professor Adekeye Adebajo, Director of the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation at the University of Johannesburg, describes Pan-Africanism as follows:

“Pan-Africanism can be defined as the efforts to promote the political, socio-economic and cultural unity and self-reliance of Africa and its Diaspora.”

Pan-Africanism can also be described as a worldwide intellectual movement that aims to encourage and strengthen bonds of solidarity between all people of African descent and extends beyond continental Africans, with a substantial support base among the African Diaspora.

It is based on the belief that unity is vital to economic, social and political progress and aims to “unify and uplift” people of African descent. It asserts that the fate of all African peoples and countries are intertwined. At its core, Pan-Africanism is “a belief that African peoples, both on the continent and in the

Our Pan-Africanist outlook as a country is therefore a post-democratic vision grounded in our historical struggle against colonialism, imperialism and apartheid.

By Luwellyn Landers

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Diaspora, share not merely a common history, but a common destiny”.

This vision of African unity found expression in the writings and pronouncements of many African descendants across the globe such as Sylvester Williams, WEB Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Sol Plaatje and Pixley Ka Isama Seke, to name but a few. Our founding fathers such as Julius Nyerere, Kwame Nkrumah and OR Tambo, among others, built on this ideological platform and also developed concrete programmes to implement Pan-Africanism, both in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid and in our post-colonial and apartheid era.

It is evident that we have subscribed to this ideology and its values from the onset of our struggle for liberation from colonialism and apartheid. The founding fathers of our

liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC), such as Seme and Plaatje were from the outset Pan-Africanist in their intellectual, revolutionary and ideological outlook. The establishment of the ANC in 1912 was in fact a direct Pan-Africanist liberation response to colonialism and apartheid in Africa in general and South Africa in particular. The ANC’s founding fathers infused the principles and ideology of progressive Pan-Africanism into the liberation movement.

Since then, both during our struggle against apartheid and colonialism and since our democracy, every generation of our leadership has continued to build upon these ideals in both policy and practice. Our Pan-Africanist outlook as a country is therefore a post-democratic vision grounded in our historical struggle against colonialism, imperialism and apartheid.

We have always believed that we are Africans and share a common history and destiny with our brothers and sisters on the continent and the Diaspora.

We will continue to contribute towards the rebirth of our continent and ushering in of a new era; an era where Africa will be free from the bondage of colonialism and apartheid. To this end, I am reminded of the famous words of Seme in 1909 when he articulated the kind of Africa we aspired to when he said: “The regeneration of Africa means that a new and

unique civilisation is soon to be added to the world.”

Leaders such as Félix Houphouët-Boigny of Côte d’Ivoire, Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, Patrice Lumumba of the Congo, Ahmed Sékou Touré of Guinea, General Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Amilcar Cabral of Guinea Bissau, Thomas Sankarra of Burkina Faso, Modibo Kéita of Mali and OR Tambo, among others, all embodied the ideal of Pan-Africanism as a necessary political and ideological response to addressing the legacy of colonialism and the fight against apartheid.

While we have acknowledged the role fellow Africans and the global anti-colonial movements have played in our struggle, it is equally important to emphasise that our own destiny and future can never be divorced from that of the continent. Our own icon, President Nelson Mandela, through an article in *Foreign Affairs* magazine in 1993, reminded the world that South Africa “cannot escape its African destiny” and emphasised our role in the pursuit of Africa unity.

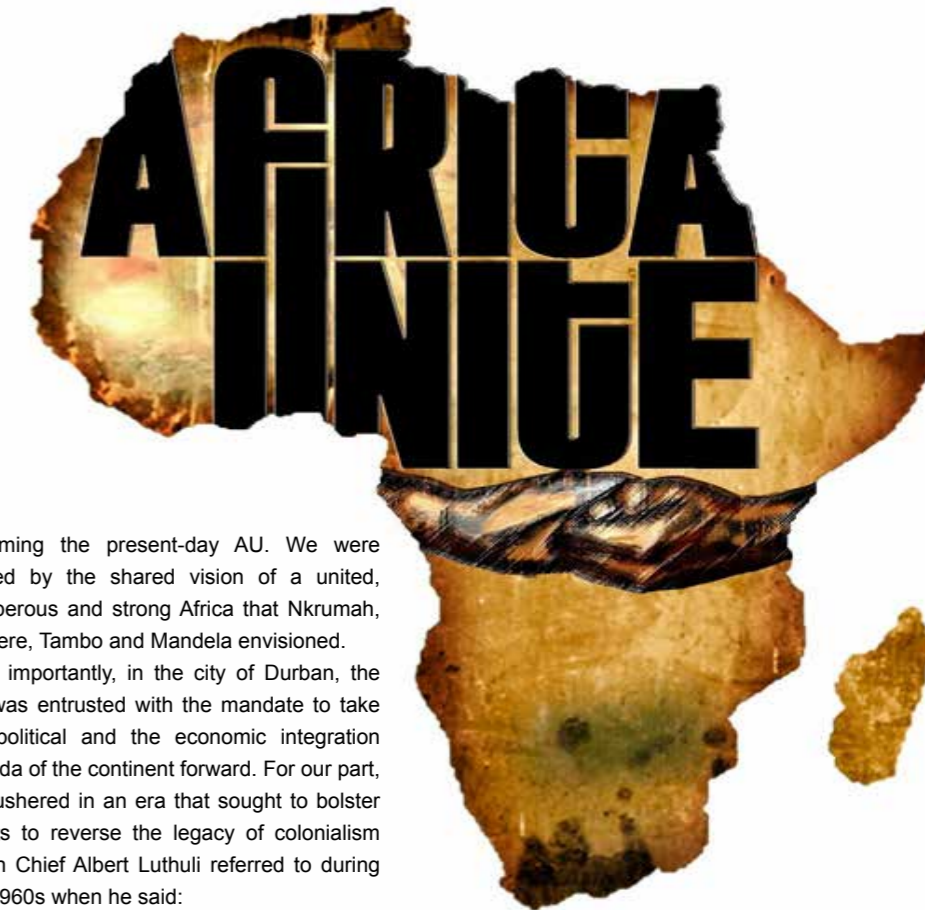
In the final analysis, it must be deduced that we are not Africans by mere geographical location, we are Africans by birth. We recognise that for South Africa to prosper, Africa as a whole needs to prosper as it is unsustainable to be an island of wealth surrounded by a sea of poverty.

Democratic South Africa has therefore taken its rightful place on the continent and has contributed immensely towards Africa’s peace and prosperity in line with our Pan-African ideals.

We have played a central role in the transformation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU) and from the outset, we have played an integral role in shaping its vision, policies, legal architecture, systems and institutions. We have continued to support conflict resolution, peacekeeping and post-reconstruction and development across our continent in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Comoros, Madagascar and Lesotho, to mention but a few. We remain committed to building economic integration and infrastructure development to address the challenges of intra-Africa trade.

We have been honoured with various leadership roles in Africa. African leaders have entrusted us with leading the continent in many international fora. Certainly, this will continue as we work within the collective of the Africa leadership going forward.

In 2002, South Africa hosted the landmark summit, which culminated in the OAU



becoming the present-day AU. We were guided by the shared vision of a united, prosperous and strong Africa that Nkrumah, Nyerere, Tambo and Mandela envisioned. Most importantly, in the city of Durban, the AU was entrusted with the mandate to take the political and the economic integration agenda of the continent forward. For our part, this ushered in an era that sought to bolster efforts to reverse the legacy of colonialism which Chief Albert Luthuli referred to during the 1960s when he said:

“Our continent has been carved up by great powers ... human skills and energy have been harnessed for the advantage of our conquerors.”

It is against this background that we availed Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma for the position of AU Commission Chair. She made us proud by, among others, leading the adoption of a revised shared vision of the “Africa we Want” in the form of Agenda 2063. Most notably, Dr Dlamini Zuma played a leading role in women empowerment on the continent and as such made gender equality central to the pursuit of Pan-Africanism and in fostering unity of purpose.

The African Heads of State and Government declared 2017 as the year of “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”.

On 2 June 2017, President Jacob Zuma formally launched Youth Month under the theme: “The Year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment”. These two initiatives have enabled us to have focussed debates on how best we can accelerate youth empowerment in our country and on our continent.

In moving forward, South Africa should work hard on the improvement of cultural exchanges and the promotion of cultural diplomacy. We also need to be proactive and remind our citizens of the role the continent played in pursuit of the freedoms we enjoy today.

We recognise that for South Africa to prosper, Africa as a whole needs to prosper as it is unsustainable to be an island of wealth surrounded by a sea of poverty.

Informed by the foundations laid by our forebears, the ideals and values of Pan-Africanism will propel us to realise the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Our fellow Ghanaian patriots celebrate 60 years of freedom this year. Ghana’s independence served as a thrust for the independence of many other African states and for that we remain grateful to their leadership, particularly Dr Nkrumah who once said:

“If we are to remain free, if we are to enjoy the full benefits of Africa’s rich resources, we must unite to plan for our total defence and the full exploitation of our material and human means, in the full interests of all our peoples. ‘To go it alone’ will limit our horizons, curtail our expectations and threaten our liberty.”

In moving forward, South Africa should work hard on the improvement of cultural exchanges and the promotion of cultural diplomacy.





South Africa and Africa are open for business

By Ayanda Dlodlo
Minister of Home Affairs

We maintain good relations even with countries we differ with politically and ideologically because we remain respectful of their sovereignty.

South Africa's foreign policy outlook has been inspired by our history of struggle and the international solidarity we enjoyed, which led to the destruction of the apartheid regime. We have sought to advance the principles of human rights in pursuit of a better South Africa, contributing to a safer Africa and a better world.

This has informed our investment in peacekeeping missions and post-conflict

reconstruction and development on the African continent. At times, we have done this at the expense of our own national interests. For a country that continues to experience high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality, we have often been criticised by many for punching above our weight.

We, however, remain steadfast in our belief that our future is intrinsically linked to that of the continent and the world and it is our responsibility to provide support and continue to pursue a continental solidarity agenda

that seeks to ensure development for all the people of the African continent.

We believe that continental economic integration is the goal that will ensure that Africa rises. As a country, we utilise all international platforms and fora to advance a continental agenda. Be that the G20; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS); and all other important international groupings. We use these opportunities to sell Africa to the world, in the true spirit of our diplomatic principles of Ubuntu, which loosely translated means humanity – "I am who I am because of or through other people". These principles promote a culture of serving others for the good of all.

International solidarity is the cornerstone of our foreign policy. That is why the African National Congress-led Government continues to pledge solidary with the people of Palestine in their quest for freedom. We do so given our experience in our liberation struggle.

We also continue to pledge our support and solidarity to the people of the Western Sahara in their quest for liberation as the last colony in Africa.

South Africa continues to have good relations with many nations in the world. We are the second country in the world to host the highest number of foreign diplomatic missions after the United States of America (USA). We maintain good relations even with countries we differ with politically and ideologically because we remain respectful of their sovereignty.

Beyond the continent, we have many friends, especially those countries who were with us through our liberation struggle such as Cuba. Cuba supported South Africa and other African liberation movements under the leadership of Fidel Castro, renowned internationalist and anti-imperialist, who selflessly supported the struggle of the oppressed and the exploited, including those needing humanitarian relief and aid.

While many in the USA referred to Castro as a dictator, Rev Jesse Jackson characterised him as a "freedom fighter" and the "poor people's hero".

Castro and the Cuban people stood in solidarity with liberation movements in Africa, supporting our struggle for independence and the international campaign to isolate the apartheid regime.

After we achieved our freedom, Cuba was one of the first to offer material and human resource support. Since then, almost 3 000 South African students have received medical training in Cuba. Meanwhile, Cuban engineers are working in South Africa. The Government of South Africa has in the past

We stand on the cusp of a new age which could benefit all of humanity, but we must ensure that this technological dividend benefits everyone. If we fail to do this, we risk creating a new divide between those with access to information and technology and those without.

offered an economic assistance package to Cuba in the form of solidarity grants and credit lines and also financial assistance to boost the agricultural sector.

We will continue to provide support to Cuba and other countries like Western Sahara and Palestine, expecting nothing in return except to reciprocate the goodwill they showed to South Africa through international solidarity. As beneficiaries of world solidarity, we know too well what it is to want support and the joy of receiving it.

The prophetic words of Oliver Tambo said all those years ago, still bare striking relevance today: "The fight for freedom must go on until it is won; until our country is free and happy and peaceful as part of the community of man, we cannot rest".

This is indeed a noble and just cause and one that all progressive forces must strive to achieve. We live in a fractured world where power and influence reside in the hands of a few. We live in a world beset by injustices.

A world where the downtrodden and powerless yearn for a foothold, and a chance at bettering themselves and their communities.

The role of the Diaspora in making this a reality is a crucial one. The many critical voices and thinkers throughout the Diaspora have often been at the forefront of bringing about societal change within their various spheres of influence.

African luminaries such as Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Thomas Sankara, Oliver Tambo and countless others gave rise to generations of critical thinkers who continue to espouse the vision of a united, inclusive and more equitable world.

Every generation in the Diaspora has of course faced varying challenges based on the prevailing circumstances at the time. But what has remained constant is their desire to make a difference to the lived realities of people both in their country of birth and their ancestral homelands.

Africa is now experiencing a renewed spirit of Pan-Africanism, based on the desire to collectively push for continental integration and economic freedom. I have noticed that the

conversation has become intergenerational, and in many instances the youth are taking the lead in the battle of ideas.

It would be naïve of us to think that the world will change without us giving it a giant nudge. The change we all crave will have to be fought for, we must therefore be organised and resolute in making our voices heard. We should also be mindful that the clock is ticking. It is therefore incumbent on us to lead the charge and create the change we want to see.

It is clear that investments and capital are essential ingredients for greater social and cultural change to occur. This must go hand in hand with utilising the technology dividend and ensuring that it benefits everyone.

The Ministry of Communications is actively focussing on ensuring that we empower people to use technology to improve their lives. Technology has invaded every facet of our lives and continues to shape the world of tomorrow.

We stand on the cusp of a new age which could benefit all of humanity, but we must ensure that this technological dividend benefits everyone. If we fail to do this, we risk creating a new divide between those with access to information and technology and those without. South Africa is pushing ahead to ensure our obligation to shift from analogue to digital broadcasting, which will benefit the country.

This will release limited radio frequency spectrum which is used for the purposes of both broadcasting and telecommunications.

It will also lead to a more efficient use of available spectrum since digital broadcasts only require a fraction of the spectrum required by analogue broadcasts.

This will allow for more channels and more content to be broadcast on the same bandwidth. It will connect rural and urban, rich and poor, thereby ensuring that South African citizens transact and communicate more effectively with the use of technology.

In the South African and in the African context, it will be a game changer.

It will ensure that even the most isolated communities are connected to the globe and can benefit from technology along with everyone else.

The push towards digitalisation goes hand in hand with government's plan to expand broadband access. Broadband is changing the way we live, conduct business and how South Africans interact with each other and their government.

The African continent and South Africa offer many opportunities for investment and growth.

Despite a slowing global economy and the recent downgrade, South Africa remains one of the most promising emerging markets, especially for those who are risk averse.

South Africa is Africa's most sophisticated and diverse economy – offering a unique combination of highly developed first-world economic infrastructure with a vibrant emerging market economy and a young population, ripe for skills development and training. South Africa is open for business. There are many reasons why global partners should invest in South Africa, including:

- sound economic policies
- a favourable legal and business environment
- world-class infrastructure, including a modern transport network, sophisticated telecommunications and superb tourism facilities
- access to markets with our position at the southern tip of the continent
- its trade reform and strategic alliances mean that South Africa has trading relationships with more than 200 countries and territories
- the cost of doing business in South Africa is significantly lower
- the ease of doing business in South Africa
- industrial capability and cutting-edge technology
- global competitiveness.

The Department of Trade and Industry also provides a one-stop shop for investors, offering a variety of services to those interested in conducting business in South Africa – ranging from details on how to do business in the country to the different forms that businesses can take.

- Services for international investors include:
- investment information: opportunities, incentives, regulations, policies and strategic sectors

Africa is changing and the world too has amended its outdated and myopic view of our continent. The emergence of the "Africa rising" narrative is long overdue and is a validation that Africa is changing economically, politically and socially.

It is important to give hope to the downtrodden and overlooked in the world. We must therefore be at the forefront of driving societal change, whether it be in spurring greater investment into Africa and the developing world or in ensuring that the voice of developed nations holds greater sway at international decision-making bodies such as the United Nations.

- investment marketing: local and foreign marketing initiatives
- business facilitation: visas, investment missions, intergovernmental coordination, relocations, business introductions, black economic partnerships, financing and incentives
- outward investment: connections to other African investment promotion agencies, project financing and deal structuring.

South Africa also has a thriving tourism sector. Our hospitality is world renowned, with nine United Nations (UN) world heritage sites. Our cultural diversity is unparalleled.

Similar prudent policies are in place all over Africa. Africa is also open for business.

Africa is changing and the world too has amended its outdated and myopic view of our continent. The emergence of the "Africa rising" narrative is long overdue and is a validation that Africa is changing economically, politically and socially.

As a continent, Africa has made integrated and shared growth a priority.

Through Agenda 2063, we aim to drive social, economic and political rejuvenation on the continent.

It envisions that in 50 years, Africa will be a world leader, setting the standard for inclusive economic development, democratic governance and a just social order.

Through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African leaders are championing the view that regional integration is the best way for Africa to realise its growth potential, participate effectively in the global economy and share the benefits of globalisation.

The objective of NEPAD is to consolidate democracy and sound economic management on the continent. Through the programme, African leaders make a commitment to African people and the world to work together in revitalising the continent. It is a pledge to promote peace and stability, democracy, sound economic management and people-centred development, and to hold each other accountable in terms of the agreements outlined in NEPAD.

The NEPAD programme has a number of sectoral initiatives, namely:

- natural resources, governance and food security
- regional integration, infrastructure (energy, water, information and communications technology) and trade
- industrialisation, science, technology and innovation
- human capital development (skills, youth, employment and women empowerment).

Through this initiative, a number of opportunities exist for doing business on the continent such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development, which facilitates the implementation of construction projects aimed at transforming Africa into an interconnected and integrated continent.

Within all of us lies the power to drive a new narrative around Africa; one of unlimited potential and a renewed hope for a better future.

It is important to give hope to the downtrodden and overlooked in the world.

We must therefore be at the forefront of driving societal change, whether it be in spurring greater investment into Africa and the developing world or in ensuring that the voice of developed nations holds greater sway at international decision-making bodies such as the UN.

We must be the vanguard of change movement that exists across borders, and ultimately begins to achieve meaningful social, economic and societal change.



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Salient perspectives in respect of the core outcomes of the Ninth BRICS Summit

By Maite Nkoana-Mashabane
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The BRICS leaders recalled the original rationale for BRICS, namely: "... it is the overarching objective and our desire for peace, security, development and cooperation that brought us together 10 years ago".

President Jacob Zuma participated in the Ninth BRICS Summit, which was hosted by President Xi Jinping from China from 4 to 5 September 2017 in Xiamen, under the theme "BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future". The President was accompanied by a South African delegation comprising Cabinet ministers, senior government officials and various business leaders, including the Chairperson of the South African Chapter of the BRICS Business Council, Dr Iqbal Survé, and members of the council.

The BRICS leaders recalled the original rationale for BRICS, namely: "... it is the overarching objective and our desire for peace, security, development and cooperation that brought us together 10 years ago". The leaders also reconfirmed the key principles of the partnership, namely that they had pushed for economic, political and

people-to-people cooperation in an open, inclusive and win-win spirit; and had worked in unison with other emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs) to uphold international justice and equity and foster a sound external environment.

BRICS cooperation has grown in importance. People within those countries expect the formation to jointly boost development and improve their well-being. The international community expects BRICS countries to contribute to world peace and common development. BRICS leaders committed to redouble efforts to comprehensively deepen the BRICS partnership and usher in the second "Golden Decade" of BRICS cooperation.

BRICS countries should increase cooperation in sectors such as trade and investment, monetary and financial areas, connectivity, sustainable development, innovation and industrial cooperation.

The summit adopted an outcomes declaration, which sought to reaffirm the

cooperation of BRICS over the last 10 years as well as the consensus of previous summits and build on those towards:

- further developing practical cooperation: facilitate market interlinkages as well as infrastructure development and financial integration
- fostering a just and equitable world order: work to enhance the voice and representation of EMDCs' emerging economies and developing countries in global economic governance
- pursuing fairness, justice and an equitable world order: uphold a fair and equitable world order, based on the central role of the United Nations (UN), democracy and the rule of law
- fostering stronger people-to-people ties through the promotion of BRICS cultural diversity: leaders committed to expand the people-to-people exchanges to promote mutual learning among the cultures and people of BRICS.

The BRICS leaders committed to expedite the industrialisation processes of BRICS countries and to seize the potential opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, through enhanced industrial cooperation and the development of collaboration among BRICS small, micro and medium enterprises. BRICS leaders further recommitted their strong support to the pursuit of multilateralism and echoed the long-held sentiments among BRICS countries of the central role of the UN in international relations.

President Zuma pointed out that the BRICS' "gold content" had been rising continuously in recent years along with measures such as boosting service trade, facilitating investment, initiating e-commerce cooperation and strengthening ties in innovation.

I am citing these agreed positions to respond to the various commentaries about the state of political cohesion of BRICS, and to demonstrate that the shared resolve of its leadership is stronger than ever. This forum, as any other, comprises members with

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national, regional, South-South as well as global interests and positions on the various issues of discussion. It is this amplified voice that the forum projects in calling for cooperation with EMDCs to ensure common development for all and to address historic global imbalances.

From a national interest point of view, President Zuma stated unequivocally to the BRICS Business Forum that "the difficulties we face can be in part attributed to our status as commodity exporters. We are thus affected by the decline in the demand for

our raw materials and negative resultant price decreases. Hence, our own domestic growth patterns have displayed growth that unfortunately does not accurately reflect our true growth potential".

In this vein, it should be recalled that South Africa's in situ mineral wealth is estimated at US\$2,5 trillion by Citibank (2010). We have held frank discussions with our BRICS partners to obtain their increased support for our domestic priorities in the economic context, also to ensure that the growth of our economic cooperation is spread more





equitably. It is because we are equal partners that we can speak to our partners on such matters without fear or prejudice.

The declaration also amply reflects the ever-growing spectrum of sectoral engagements with tangible benefits accrued not only through peer learning and policy exchanges, but also joint project collaboration and financing of research and other programmes. The BRICS leaders noted the Chinese proposal for the establishment of a BRICS research fund and further efforts under the banner of BRICS people-to-people cooperation.

The BRICS leaders welcomed the announcement of China's contribution of 500 million yuan (US\$76 million) for economic and technological cooperation and exchanges among BRICS countries. Furthermore, BRICS leaders noted the agreement by the finance ministers and central bank governors to undertake cooperation on a public-private partnership (PPP) and the exploration of a PPP project fund. This positive expansion in terms of our BRICS "Architecture" is also indicative of the value that our stakeholders attach, on all levels, to this forum to further enhance their core business.

On regional level, the leaders welcomed the launch of the New Development Bank's (NDB) Africa Regional Centre (ARC) on 17 August 2017 in Johannesburg. They further noted positive developments in this context, such as the setting up of the Project Preparation Fund and loans being issued on



The Africa Regional Centre will supplement existing efforts of identifying and preparing bankable projects for the country initially and later the region, to be financed by the New Development Bank, yielding a direct financial benefit for the country.

a regular basis in respect of the countries' project pipelines. China will contribute US\$4 million to the NDB Project Preparation Facility to support the business operation and long-term development of the bank. The ARC will supplement existing efforts of identifying and preparing bankable projects

for the country initially and later the region, to be financed by the NDB, yielding a direct financial benefit for the country.

The NDB will further interact and indeed collaborate with domestic and regional players in the development finance space (such as the Development Bank of Southern

Africa), with the objective of unlocking funds for infrastructure projects in South Africa.

Through this function, the office will serve as a node for knowledge generation and sharing.

The office will mainly employ young South African professionals; thus facilitating capacity-building and contributing to the development of specialised skills in project preparation and finance in the host country.

The leaders also reaffirmed their strong support for the African Union's (AU) implementation of its various programmes under Agenda 2063 in pursuit of its continental agenda for peace and socio-economic development. They also emphasised once more the importance of collaboration between the UN and the AU in accordance with the Charter of the UN.

In respect of South-South cooperation, the intent has always been to share the outcomes of our practical cooperation with EMDCs to benefit the world at large. The BRICS Plus engagement focussed on the theme: "Strengthening Mutually Beneficial Cooperation for Common Development" and the BRICS leaders exchanged views on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the building of broad partnerships for development.

On a global level, a foremost priority on the agenda of the leaders is to ensure the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and to render optimal support for its implementation.

The BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to ensure full implementation

South Africa is honoured to host this august forum next year and we are already in the midst of preparations to ensure that we provide further impetus and momentum to the sterling record of the Chinese and other previous chairships.

and enforcement of existing World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules and their determination to work together to further strengthen the WTO.

The role of the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation was appreciated as well as the continued commitment to implement the outcomes of G20 summits, including the Hamburg and Hangzhou summits.

The various multilateral environmental regimes were supported by the leaders, notably the call upon all countries to fully implement the Paris Agreement adopted under the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

They also urged developed countries to provide financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries to enhance their capability in mitigation and adaptation.

The leaders appreciated the ever-growing and strengthening of ties of solidarity between the peoples of the respective countries as

these serve to promote development and enhance mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation among BRICS peoples. The value of cultural diversity was highlighted in promoting sustainable development. Various initiatives in the educational, cultural and sports domains were also noted and appreciated.

President Zuma was afforded the opportunity at the conclusion of the summit to announce South Africa's readiness to assume the BRICS Chairship and host the 10th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg in 2018.

South Africa is honoured to host this august forum next year and we are already in the midst of preparations to ensure that we provide further impetus and momentum to the sterling record of the Chinese and other previous chairships. We will endeavour to provide the required synergy and follow-up in respect of initiatives that were launched and proposed for further consideration. We are proud to invite our partners once more to the African continent to showcase our continent's steadfast progress and appetite for economic cooperation and growth. 🇿🇦



BRICS Bank places developmental agenda as priority for nations of the South

By Luwellyn Landers

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

As the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) heads of state and government gathered recently in Xiamen, China, for the Ninth BRICS Summit, one of the major discussion points was to review progress achieved in respect of the operations of the New Development Bank (NDB), also known as the BRICS Bank.

The BRICS Bank was originally intended by the BRICS leaders to “supplement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development”. However, the expectations for this bank have clearly outweighed its modest origins and it has now evolved to become a symbol of a new-generation financial institution that will serve the developmental needs of the Global South.

The President of the NDB, KV Kamath, has explained that to provide effect to the notion of “new”, its management would introduce a more streamlined approach to its operations by reducing the duration of the traditional project cycle approval. Secondly, loans will be issued without setting conditionalities as is the case in the established Western multilateral development banks.

The NDB comes at an opportune moment, as we transition from a unipolar world order with a declining power to a multipolar world order, challenging the previous order's hegemon(s). The BRICS Bank therefore provides emerging markets and developing countries with an alternative global financial and institutional architecture. It also provides the Global South with an amplified voice to articulate our core needs and set new agendas according to shared rule-formulation practices.

To this end, the NDB has indicated a number of innovative measures that will

The New Development Bank comes at an opportune moment, as we transition from a unipolar world order with a declining power to a multipolar world order, challenging the previous order's hegemon(s).

ultimately challenge the pre-eminence that the Washington Consensus has cultivated since the post-Second World War era. For example, the NDB is embarking on facilitating loans in the local currency of its members, which indirectly challenges the role of previous dominant currencies. As a result, countries requesting a loan no longer need to absorb the uncertainty inherent in fluctuations of currency in respect of their repayments. This in itself will provide new certainty for lenders as well as borrowers, indicative of the type of qualitative paradigm shift intended with these initiatives.

Like the Bretton Woods Institutions, established primarily to rebuild Europe after the Second World War, the NDB places much emphasis on infrastructure development and sustainable development for developing countries. Although the bank underscores in its strategy that it intends to complement existing development financial institutions, it provides alternative options for developing countries, thus creating more competition.

This may also have the unintended consequence of forcing the traditional banks such as the World Bank to reform its lending and payment policies. BRICS partners also have various other complementary spatial development initiatives, which will further interact with and support the bank. Currently, the main loan beneficiaries are the NDB's founding member countries.

When the bank was established in Fortaleza, Brazil, in 2014, it envisaged having an authorised initial capital base of US\$100 billion. The initial subscribed capital was earmarked at US\$50 billion, shared equally among founding members. The paid-in contributions of its members amounted to US\$2 billion per member over seven tranches (years) with the rest of the capital being callable as may be required.

The bank indicates that it has already granted loans for development to member countries estimated at US\$1,5 billion. The NDB purposefully sent a strong message by prioritising renewable energy for its first tranche of disbursements. South Africa received a first loan allocation of US\$180 million. South Africa will continue to submit further project proposals through its dedicated project pipeline.

The launch of the NDB's Africa Regional Centre (ARC) on 17 August 2017 by President Jacob Zuma in Sandton will also strengthen this project pipeline.

The leaders also noted in Xiamen further positive developments, such as the establishment of the Project Preparation Fund and loans being issued on a regular basis in respect of the countries' project pipelines. The NDB will further interact and indeed collaborate with domestic and regional players in the development finance space such as the Development Bank of Southern

Africa, with the objective of unlocking funds for infrastructure projects in South Africa.

The ARC will also serve to cultivate a next generation of financiers through knowledge generation and sharing. It will mainly employ young South African professionals, thus facilitating capacity-building and contributing to the development of specialised skills in project preparation and finance in the host country and region in the longer term.

Another significant shift in international finance will entail the consideration of establishing a market-oriented rating agency by member countries, which will be linked to the NDB. Currently, the bank works with the Chinese rating agencies of China Cheng Xin International Credit Rating Company and the Lianhe Credit Rating Company. This rating agency will be tailored for its members and their needs as well as provide a niche approach. In addition, it has the potential to challenge the traditional hegemony enjoyed by Standard and Poor's, Fitch and Moody's rating agencies in the global financial markets.

A paradigm shift in terms of the politics of financial institutions will also occur; a shift which should decisively benefit developing countries. China, the NDB's largest stakeholder in terms of the size of its economy, has long held the approach and policy of non-interference. Criticised by the West for this policy, China has often maintained that, just

The African Regional Centre will also serve to cultivate a next generation of financiers through knowledge generation and sharing.

as it views Chinese solutions for Chinese problems, so too should there be domestic solutions to domestic challenges. It will not impose its demands on the country needing assistance. This constitutes the fundamental difference between Chinese cooperation versus official development assistance (ODA) from the West/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The West has pursued, through its ODA programmes, a form of relationship which has been perceived as that of neo-colonialism. There is no doubt therefore that China will maintain this policy of non-interference in the way it interacts with other countries through the NDB. South Africa and the rest of the BRICS countries also have a similar approach.

Instead, the NDB will be guided strictly by the developmental and infrastructural goals that it has set for the bank and for those who wish to gain cooperation from the bank.

By hosting the first regional office of the NDB outside Shanghai, South Africa has been able to strategically position Africa.

This illustrates the leadership role that South Africa exercises in BRICS in ensuring that the concerns of Africa and the Global South are taken into account. It is also a well-established practice for BRICS leaders to meet prior to the G20 Summit to exchange views and forge common positions where possible on core developmental issues in particular.

What is of importance is that South Africa optimally utilises its partnerships with these emerging global players to meet its own needs and those of Africa and the Global South.

For example, South Africa's in situ mineral wealth has been estimated at US\$2,5 trillion by Citibank (2010). These partnerships will help to benefitiate this wealth and unlock the kind of inclusive development that is needed. South Africa can partner with relevant and strategic partners to learn lessons from – not only of different economic models, but more importantly, how state assets can be utilised positively and strategically to promote development.

History has many valuable lessons and it is incumbent on this generation not to repeat the cycles of the past, but to bring innovative practices and paradigms to the table in service of its people. ▀



South Africa takes IORA reigns, makes donation towards Africa's maritime development

By Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa's Operation Phakisa, which is modelled on a Singaporean initiative, is in line with the goals outlined in the National Development Plan, and its overriding purpose is to promote economic growth and to boost job creation.

One of our duties as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation is to promote and defend South Africa's national interests, and our work in international fora is geared towards forging partnerships with like-minded countries to achieve our national goals.

A country's foreign policy is firmly premised on its domestic priorities. Therefore, as South Africa, we expect great dividends from linking the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Blue Economy initiative to our domestic Operation Phakisa.



The current membership of IORA consists of 21 states: Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. IORA is also supported by seven dialogue partners: the

United States of America, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, Egypt, China and Germany. IORA has observer status at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, UN Conference on Trade and Development and the African Union (AU).

As is the tradition when assuming the role of Chair of IORA, South Africa will make a financial contribution of US\$250 000 in the form of US\$150 000 to assist in the implementation of the IORA Action Plan 2017 – 2021.

The African Agenda is a prominent feature of South Africa's foreign policy, and we will make funds available for the IORA Special



Fund (US\$100 000) for pilot development projects aimed at improving the lives of IORA's poorest people. Half of this amount (US\$ 50 000) will be allocated to projects in Africa in support of African oceans economy projects under the 2050 African Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy.

A highlight of the IORA meeting was a tour of the South African research vessel, the *Agulhas II*, which is participating in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition. This is the first African-led research cruise that is multidisciplinary and comprising scientists and students from South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria and Egypt. We also have scientists and students joining us from India, Belgium and Italy.

South Africa is a responsible member of the international community. We seek to advance peace and security globally, including in the Indian Ocean Region. For this reason, the theme we have chosen for our tenure as Chair of the organisation is "IORA – Uniting the Peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through Enhanced Cooperation for Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development".

This theme encompasses our view that the Indian Ocean Region should be characterised as a region of peace, stability and development within which to pursue the goal of promoting socio-economic cooperation for the well-being and development of the countries and peoples of the Indian Ocean Rim.

In contributing towards promoting the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, stability and development, South Africa will work with member states, dialogue partners and the international community to further advance this vision.

Three priorities will be pursued, namely:

- maritime safety and security in the region, including prioritising the establishment of



"IORA – Uniting the Peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through Enhanced Cooperation for Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development".

the Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security

- improving resilience and responses for disaster risk management, including prioritising the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Search and Rescue
- sustainable and responsible fisheries management and development, including dealing with the important issue of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The African Agenda is an important pillar in South Africa's foreign policy. To this end, the AU has declared 2015 to 2025 as the Decade of African Seas and Oceans. The strategic context of this initiative is Agenda 2063, and the 2050 AIM Strategy, which South Africa will seek to align to IORA's Blue Economy strategy

through a proposed IORA-AU Memorandum of Understanding.

As a country, South Africa is faced with the considerable challenge of youth unemployment, which is a challenge we share with other developing country member states within the association. It is therefore our view that empowerment of the youth also needs to be mainstreamed across IORA's work alongside the Blue Economy and Women's Economic Empowerment.

At the end of its meeting, IORA elected Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, South Africa's former High Commissioner to Mauritius, as the next Secretary General of the association. Dr Nokwe will succeed Ambassador KV Bhagirath, who will conclude his term as Secretary General of the association at the end of the year. 🇺🇹



In September 2017, South African contemporary artist, Esther Mahlangu, was honoured with a mural commemorating her bold and bright work in New York City. It was part of a month-long partnership with Citi Bike, which saw South Africa's unique art and culture taking to the streets of the city. The partnership showcased the variety of safari, adventure and cultural experiences holidaymakers could have in South Africa, while the pièce de résistance was an original art mural dedicated to Mahlangu. The mural, which spanned a two-lane road and featured Ndebele symbols, was located on Franklin Street and the West Broadway Citi Bike station in Tribeca.

With Africa beset by the double scourge of illicit financial outflows and the disparity of the global economy, President Jacob Zuma says the United Nations (UN) must play a central role in tackling both issues.

The current structure of the global economy continues to deepen the divide between the North and South, President Zuma told the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA72) in New York on 20 September.

UNGA, which took place between 19 and 25 September 2017, was held under the theme "Focussing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for all on a Sustainable Planet".

It was the first General Debate for the newly appointed Secretary General, António Guterres, who started his term on 1 January 2017.

"While a few enjoy the benefits of globalisation, the majority of the people of the world still live in abject poverty and hunger, with no hope of ever improving their living conditions."

These unequal and unjust economic power relations manifest themselves sharply in Africa. President Zuma said while Africa was endowed with mineral resources, it still had the highest number of the least developed countries.

"Many of the developed countries in the world continue to fuel their development from the resources of the African continent."

What is needed, the President, said was political will and commitment from global leaders to address the challenges and obstacles posed by this untransformed structure of the global economy.

President Zuma said Africa continued to lose a significant chunk of its resources through illicit financial outflows – billions of dollars which would otherwise be used to develop the continent and provide education, healthcare, housing and other critical basic needs.

The continent loses money through money laundering, tax evasion and tax avoidance, corruption and transfer pricing by multinational companies.

"[This undermines] the integrity of the global financial system, efficient tax collection and equitable allocation of resources. We appeal for the cooperation and commitment of every member state of the UN, and the international community at large to address this phenomenon," President Zuma told the General Assembly.

He said developed countries, in particular, had a historic and moral obligation to contribute to achieving a fair global economic environment and to eradicate the scourge of illicit financial flows from the continent.

SA seeks bigger benefits for Africa in global economy

By Maite Nkoana-Mashabane
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

With Africa beset by the double scourge of illicit financial outflows and the disparity of the global economy, President Jacob Zuma says the United Nations (UN) must play a central role in tackling both issues.



Nuclear for peaceful means

President Zuma used his address to call on UN member states to dismantle their nuclear weapons and instead use them for peaceful means.

"It can no longer be acceptable that a few countries keep arsenals and stockpiles of nuclear weapons as part of their strategic defence and security doctrine, while expecting others to remain at their mercy. We are concerned that any possible accidental detonation would lead to a disaster of epic proportions."

The President's call came hot on the heels of him signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on Tuesday, 19 September.

International relations

President Zuma reiterated that South Africa stood with the people of Cuba and Palestine, and called for the end of the war in Syria and Libya.

The war in Libya contributes a great deal to the destabilisation of the Sahel region and all the way to Central Africa, creating a corridor for illicit trafficking in arms as well as terrorist activities.

President Zuma said had South Africa's warning been heeded that the supply of arms to civilians in Libya and the arming of civilians in Syria would cause loss of life, great instability and mayhem, the world would be more peaceful today.



"In both instances of Libya and Syria, we strongly cautioned against seeking to resolve internal challenges of sovereign states by imposing foreign solutions through military means."

Pretoria echoed its stance on the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination.

"The UN must remain seized with this issue for the benefit of the people of Western Sahara and the African aspirations of integration and peaceful co-existence," President Zuma said.

President Zuma also expressed South Africa's disappointment at the June 2017 decision of the United States Administration to reverse the progress that was registered in the past two years towards ending the Cuban blockade.

President Zuma ended his address by reinforcing South Africa's readiness to work with the UN to promote peace, human rights and sustainable development.

SAnews.gov.za

President Jacob Zuma celebrated the life and times of former African National Congress (ANC) president Oliver Tambo by hosting a gala dinner in New York on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72).

Government declared 2017 "The Year of OR Tambo", which coincided with the stalwart's centenary birthday.

President Zuma said the dinner was a befitting honour of a man who dedicated his life to the liberation, freedom and equal opportunity of all South Africans.

"It is appropriate that we are holding this celebration here at the Headquarters of the UN, because a significant part of OR's contribution to our democratic, non-racial, free South Africa, was through his mobilisation of international solidarity against apartheid."

Tambo was synonymous to the corridors of the world body at a time while he was campaigning for the liberation of South Africa from the apartheid regime.

In his toast remarks at the dinner, President Zuma, who recalled Tambo's life, said he left a lasting legacy, not only for the ANC, but for South Africa, and the world at large.

"Comrade OR's exemplary leadership as an international statesman and consummate diplomat shaped the vision of a post-apartheid democratic South Africa and the country's foreign policy, and the principles on which it is grounded. These are patriotism, loyalty, dedication, ubuntu, equity, integrity and Batho Pele meaning putting people first."

President Zuma also thanked the international community for its support during the liberation struggle.

"As we celebrate his life, we thank all of you, the international community, because of your support and solidarity during that most difficult period in the history of South Africa. We thank you because you chose to care, as Madiba said on his release." SAnews.gov.za

How to finance the sustainable development goals?

Africa's experience with development partners over the past decades has produced mixed results that now require a rethinking of partnerships.

By Masimba Tafirenyika

Director: United Nations Information Centre, Pretoria

For the next 13 years, the world will need a whopping US\$1.2 trillion a year to end global poverty, tackle inequalities and combat climate change as agreed to by world leaders in order to attain the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030. This is an enormous amount of money. It immediately raises the question: Where will the money come from?

In the past, Africa relied heavily on donors to finance its development needs. However, experience has shown that foreign aid alone is not enough to move the needle. A recent analysis by the Addis Ababa-based United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), one of the leading Pan-African institutions on the continent's development, argues that despite its benefits over the years, foreign aid "is not only insufficient to meet Africa's development needs, but also it will not be the route to Africa's transformation". In its publication, *Innovative Financing for the Economic Transformation of Africa**, UNECA says Africa must cut its ties with the past and instead mobilise internal resources for sustainable solutions to its development needs.

This sounds easier said than done. But fortunately, there are many ways to finance Africa's development needs as outlined in Agenda 2063, the African Union's (AU) economic blueprint, and the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development. According to UNECA, the sources of finance include strengthening the manner in which countries mobilise domestic resources, reducing illicit financial flows and convincing rich countries that it's also in their interest to provide the money needed to attain the SDGs.

Despite its natural wealth and currently having the fastest economic growth globally, Africa still remains the world's poorest region. To reverse the trend, it has to face the challenge of mobilising domestic funds for investments in social and economic infrastructure such as health, education, transport and electricity. Right now, it relies on a narrow tax base to finance its budget, often from the few – mostly public employees – who hold formal jobs. Its capacity to collect even such measly income taxes is weak and fraught with corruption and inefficiency. Another barrier to raising internal resources is low national savings – both private and public.

Even in African countries where disposable incomes are reasonably high, there are no incentives for workers to save part of their salaries. The commission's report says other root causes of lack of internal finance include tax evasion, corruption, unjust giveaways to foreign investors and discrimination by banks against individuals and small businesses in favour of big multinationals.

As a remedy, the commission recommends specific measures to help Africa marshal domestic resources. Firstly, it urges African leaders to take strong and effective measures to enlarge their tax base and raise savings by "reducing tax exemptions or tax holidays for foreign investors". Secondly, it says governments must craft innovative

financial services for low-income groups and improve access and the cost of credit to small businesses.

Thirdly, the commission advises African countries to address capital markets' failure to attract foreign investors and suggests setting up effective regulatory and legal frameworks to make it easy for capital markets to raise investment funds. And finally, it calls on Africa to adopt strategies that help them to identify and pioneer other innovative domestic sources of finance such as public-private partnerships, sovereign wealth funds and Diaspora bonds.

Illicit financial outflows

Surprisingly, one of the major sources of funds for SDGs in Africa lies in an unlikely quarter: money saved from curtailing illicit financial flows from the continent. Critics insist there is a direct link between these outflows and Africa's failed efforts to marshal internal resources for investments. Illicit financial flows are money earned illegally and transferred for use elsewhere.

This money is generated from criminal activities, corruption, tax evasion, bribes and transactions from cross-border smuggling or trafficking in persons, drugs and guns.

A report by Global Financial Integrity, a Washington-based advocacy group, revealed that about US\$1.4 trillion left Africa in illicit financial flows between 1980 and 2009, which was roughly equal to Africa's current gross domestic product. Experts estimate that if Africa stops illicit financial outflows, it would not need money from donors. The loss, which averages US\$50 billion per year, exceeds by far the money Africa receives in foreign aid each year.

Worse still, the figure is probably much higher because the number did not capture money lost through drug trafficking and smuggling.

The *Innovative Financing for the Economic Transformation of Africa* publication makes the case "that the curtailment of illicit financial flows constitutes an important but unexplored source for mobilising domestic resources" for Africa to attain the SDGs.

It reckons that the estimated loss from illicit outflows "may fall short of the true situation as there are no accurate data for all transactions and for all African countries".

UNECA asserts that illicit outflows have thwarted Africa's development agenda because they are hidden from African tax authorities, undermine the continent's income base and deny it additional tax revenues.

These outflows also severely affect the continent's savings, denying local investors access to financial resources for investments,

job creation and economic growth. Moreover, declares the commission, the outflows are a serious threat to Africa and require a global and political solution.

In response to the illicit outflows scourge, the African Union set up a High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, chaired by former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, to gauge their magnitude and to recommend measures to curtail them. Its 2015 report, *Illicit Financial Flows: Report of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa*, concluded that despite foreign aid, Africa was a net creditor to the world. These outflows reduce Africa's tax revenues, undermine trade and investment and worsen poverty.

Track it ... stop it ... get it

Given the magnitude of the problem and its damaging effect on African economies, the question that comes to mind is: "What can be done to track, stop and get back the more than US\$50 billion Africa is losing every year?"

Raymond Baker, the president of Global Financial Integrity, proposes five steps to curb illicit outflows. Firstly, he calls for laws that would require financial institutions to know the identity of their customers.

Secondly, he wants the global financial system to adopt consistent anti-money laundering policies that curtail money flows at the source, not when they have already bolted out of the gate.

Thirdly, he says all countries should be involved in the automatic sharing of tax information.

Fourthly, he wants trade mispricing curtailed. And finally, Mr Baker says the world should adopt country-by-country reporting so that companies do not continue losing money where they are in business and making money where they are not in business.

Experts agree that if fully implemented, these measures could go a long way towards curtailing illicit financial flows and generate about US\$50 billion per year in financing SDGs.

Rethinking partnerships

Identifying sources of funds for SDGs should be the responsibility of all stakeholders – governments, the private sector and civil society – to come together through smart partnerships to ensure no one is left behind.

Africa's experience with development partners over the past decades has produced mixed results that now require a rethinking of partnerships.

There is now a recognition that since SDGs are meant to benefit both rich and poor countries, it's also in the interest of developed countries to fulfil their commitments to provide

the much-needed finance for development. The analysis by UNECA reveals the flaws from the current relations between donors and beneficiaries, which include lack of accountability and minimal progress in changing current global trade rules largely viewed as unfair by poor countries.

Other weaknesses are "the inability of current partnerships to deal with global challenges, such as climate change and financial instability" and the failure by rich countries to fulfil their promised official development assistance target of 0.7% of their gross national incomes.

UNECA argues that these failings reinforce pleas for new types of partnerships that generate innovative sources of finance. This is supported by SDG 17, which calls for a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation to achieve the development goals in the areas of finance, information and communications technology, capacity-building, trade as well as data, monitoring and accountability.


However, the commission notes that there are limitations in existing partnerships on global challenges such as climate change or financial stability. As a remedy, it calls for the application of the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities".

Under this principle, there is a recognition that industrialised countries have caused more damage to the environment than developing countries and therefore bear greater responsibilities in the fight against climate change.

To this end, and to avoid repeating past mistakes, the commission recommends a new approach to development finance.

This new form of partnership should stress the expanding global economic and political role being played by emerging and developing countries, including Brazil, China, India and South Africa, while respecting Africa's moves to integrate its regional economic blocs.

It calls for a new type of partnership in four critical areas: boosting intra-African trade; South-South cooperation; regional and South-South initiatives to enhance resource mobilisation such as curtailing illicit financial flows, cutting remittance costs and harnessing official flows; and South-South coalitions to reform multilateral trade and financial systems.

If African countries and their partners implement these policies, they would provide the resources required to finance Africa's development agenda without having to rely on foreign aid. 

* This article is based on the publication, *Innovative Financing for the Economic Transformation of Africa*, by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and from an article published by Africa Renewal on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa.





Our oceans, our future: Partnering for the implementation of SDG 14

By Edna Molewa
Minister of Environmental Affairs

South Africa has earmarked the ocean to promote economic growth and boost job creation in line with the National Development Plan. >>

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 commits world leaders to “conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

There is high accelerated economic activity in and around oceans, growing populations moving towards the oceans, increasing consumption of marine resources, as well as a growing need for new resources, energy and minerals.

South Africa has earmarked the ocean to promote economic growth and boost job creation in line with the National Development Plan.

South Africa has an ocean space that is greater than its land territory, with a land size of 1,2 million km² and an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of 1,5 million km². The extended continental shelf claim will double the size of this ocean geographic extent.

The implementation of SDG 14 is key in addressing these ever-increasing global environmental challenges of our times and re-commits the international community to a strengthened global partnership, given the necessary means of implementation, to secure a sustainable future.

South Africa has an advantage by virtue of its geographical positioning. It is bordered by the cold Benguela Current in the west.

Along the east is the warm Agulhas Current. Globally, the Agulhas Current provides a key pathway of heat and salt from the Indian Ocean into the South Atlantic, which is then transported equator ward. This distribution of heat and salt in the oceans due to the thermohaline circulation, is what regulates our climate, both locally and globally.

Between the Agulhas and Benguela current regions is the Agulhas bank, which is a diverse marine area where these two currents meet and interact – indeed a unique oceanographic position. This presents an excellent opportunity for marine scientific research in the region.

These bases are serviced by our state-of-the-art polar research and supply vessel, *SA Agulhas II*. Research undertaken from that vessel and from our two bases, enables us to better understand, among others, the process and impacts of climate change, and thus to meet our obligation to protect and conserve fauna and flora around the Prince Edward Islands, and provide infrastructural support for South Africa's Antarctica Treaty commitments.

The Government of South Africa initiated Operation Phakisa, which aims to implement priority programmes better, faster and more effectively. The first implementation of Operation Phakisa is led by the Department

South Africa has an ocean space that is greater than its land territory, with a land size of 1,2 million km² and an exclusive economic zone of 1,5 million km². The extended continental shelf claim will double the size of this ocean geographic extent.

of Environmental Affairs and focusses on unlocking the economic potential of South Africa's oceans, which are estimated to have the potential to contribute up to R177 billion to gross domestic product by 2033 compared to R54 billion in 2010, and increase the number of jobs from 316 000 to just over one million.

Operation Phakisa has brought together all stakeholders (government, state-owned companies, civil society, industry, labour and academia) to develop detailed delivery plans in four focus areas. These are Marine Transport and Manufacturing; Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration; Aquaculture and Marine Protection Services; and Ocean Governance.

In the short period of implementation, we have already seen some success. The programme has demonstrated that we have to work together as different government departments and all relevant stakeholders to realise the aspirations of economic growth, yet balance the economic opportunities which our ocean space affords while maintaining and securing its environmental integrity.

Maintaining this integrity means applying high environmental standards when undertaking activities such as fishing and mineral exploration, but also identifying and formally protecting key habitats to ensure ecosystem sustainability.

South Africa ceded to the call by Agenda 2030 for mobilising regional and global partnerships in implementing the SDGs. We are party to and is actively involved in the activities of these regional conventions (Nairobi, Abidjan and Benguela Current as well as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Sub-Commission for Africa and Adjacent Island States) whose main purpose is to advance the objectives of SDG 14.

At global level, South Africa is party to a number of multilateral environmental instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with their objectives in advancing the objective of the SDG 14.

South Africa has put much effort in implementing the SDG14 under the lead of the Department of Environmental Affairs, namely:

Reducing marine pollution

Considering the target of reducing marine pollution, we realised that tackling land-based

sources of marine pollution will require the challenging but necessary collaboration with a variety of sectors and user groups, including, among others, sewage-disposal entities, the agricultural sector, water management authorities, urban developers, and extractive industries such as mining, port and harbour developments etc.

In South Africa, we have certainly learned that problems around coastal pollution and coastal water quality cannot be solved by one government sector alone, and requires a willingness and commitment to work across sectors in an integrated manner.

We have also optimised our efforts to handle this important matter through our regional partnerships such as the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region's efforts to address land-based sources and activities and preparations are currently being made by the United Nations Environment Programme to roll out the implementation of a project that seeks to implement the WIO Strategic Action Programme, with key focus on the protection of the WIO from land-based sources and activities, adopted under the Nairobi Convention. The key focus areas of the WIO-Strategic Action Programme Project will be to:

- Improve coastal water quality so that it meets international standards by 2035.
- Ensure that rivers are sustainably managed, and that the management of the coastal zone and river basins are fully integrated. This focus area will include the building of technical capacity on, and the application of, environmental flow assessment as a tool for wise river basin management.

Within the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, shared by Angola, Namibia and South Africa, and which covers South Africa's west coast and part of our south coast, efforts are underway to identify hotspots of coastal pollution, under the Benguela Current Convention.

Coupled with this, a regional monitoring programme is being developed to monitor water-quality trends at the identified hotspots. Initiatives such as these will provide us with an indication of which land-based areas and adjacent river basins need to be investigated as sources of marine pollution.

The Abidjan Convention is also currently finalising protocols providing regional direction



on coastal zone management, environmental standards for the oil and gas industry and the protection of coastal mangrove ecosystems.

Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems

We are negotiating interdepartmentally and with our stakeholders for marine protected areas (MPAs) that will bring our ocean protection within the South African EEZ to at least 5% of this area.

This is being done in a representative and well-focussed manner, so that this network of MPAs covering 5% of our EEZ will provide some protection to over 90% of all habitat types. South Africa is also developing marine spatial planning legislation, which seeks to integrate all sector activities, protecting sensitive areas and achieving certainty for investors.

South Africa has achieved this through its bilateral agreement with the Government of Norway and technical support from a German-funded project to develop the Benguela Current Commission Regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). To inform MSP from a conservation perspective, South Africa is in the process of revising descriptions for its ecologically or biologically significant areas following the successful worldwide interventions undertaken by the CBD in this regard from 2010 to 2015.

Minimising and addressing ocean acidification

South Africa initiated a research programme to monitor, among other parameters, long-term changes in the levels and distribution of the pH mainly along the west coast of South Africa.

The South African ocean region is globally recognised as unique and a hotspot of biodiversity with over 10 000 marine species. The region is at a unique crossroads. The Atlantic, Southern and Indian oceans' fishing grounds are among the healthiest worldwide, and coastal tourism is among the biggest income earners for many countries.

Increase scientific knowledge

South Africa will be participating in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. We developed a National Science Plan, which will be implemented through the environmental cruises by our research vessels, the *SA Agulhas II* and the *RV Algoa*.

This expedition was launched during the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, which South Africa hosted in October 2017.

Data analyses from these cruises will close the existing information gaps, particularly in the Indian Ocean, and guide our policy direction to improve our ocean health and better understand global climate.

The South African ocean region is globally recognised as unique and a hotspot of biodiversity with over 10 000 marine species. The region is at a unique crossroads. The Atlantic, Southern and Indian oceans' fishing grounds are among the healthiest worldwide, and coastal tourism is among the biggest income earners for many countries.

Ports and other coastal infrastructure are growing in importance and the region is crossed by some of the world's main shipping lanes. Emerging prospects of oil and gas development offer unprecedented opportunities for growth.

However, the accompanying challenges are great with a high risk of environmental and socio-economic impacts. Nevertheless, the prospect for a vibrant sustainable blue economy is on our doorstep and the framing of the SDGs provides both a vision and focussed goals and targets for balancing economic, social and environmental aims, to bring benefits to the people of the region.

South Africa also has a Sub-Antarctic island in the Southern Ocean, which is a unique marine environment – the only African country with its presence in the Antarctic.

This presents opportunity for global partnerships in areas covered by deep ocean, Southern Ocean and Antarctic science programmes. South Africa is also at a point where it is open to new partnerships, and as such calls for mobilising global partnerships to advance the objectives of the SDG 14. [U](#)



The G20 was founded in 1999 in response to the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s and the subsequent impact of that crisis on the global financial architecture. The primary purpose of the G20 was to bring together finance ministers and central bank governors of advanced and developing economies of the world to discuss policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability as well as articulate ways and means of strengthening the global economy and the improved governance of that economy.

Since the first G20 meeting convened by the finance ministers of Germany and Canada in Berlin in December 1999, finance ministers and central bank governors have met annually. However, following the global financial crisis of 2007, the G20 leaders met in Washington DC in November 2008 in a summit format for the first time, not only as a response to the financial crisis but also acknowledging a growing recognition that key emerging market economies were not adequately included in the core of the global economic governance discussions.

Following the third summit, held in September 2009 in Pittsburg, the G20 was elevated to a premier forum for international economic cooperation, which brought together all countries that were strategically critical from all regions of the world to build a stronger global economy, reform the international financial system and effectively address issues of poverty and underdevelopment.

The G20 membership comprises 19 industrialised countries plus the European

The G20: A strategic platform for South Africa and Africa

By Professor Anil Sooklal

Deputy Director-General: Asia and the Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation

The G20 economies account for almost two thirds of the world's population and approximately half of the world's land area and these countries account for approximately 85% of global gross domestic product and 80% of world trade.

Union (EU). Currently, the G20 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America. The EU is represented by the European Commission and the EU Presidency. The G20 economies

account for almost two thirds of the world's population and approximately half of the world's land area and these countries account for approximately 85% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and 80% of world trade.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), all 19 countries are among the top 30 economies as measured by GDP

at Purchasing Power Parity rates. Several participants that are not permanent members of the G20 are invited to participate in the annual summits as well as preparatory meetings; included among these are the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU).

Several key international organisations are also permanent invitees to the G20. These include the United Nations (UN), IMF, World Bank, International Labour Organisation, World Trade Organisation, Financial Stability Board and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The initial G20 Agenda conceived by policymakers focussed on the sustainability of sovereign debt and global financial stability in an inclusive manner. However, given the interlinkages between geopolitics and geo-economics, the agenda of the G20 continues to evolve. Following the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015, more issues of global significance continue to be added to the G20 Agenda.

In this regard, the discourse now includes climate change, migration, digitalisation, global health, anti-corruption, employment, energy, food security, terrorism, economic empowerment of women and youth and development cooperation.

Furthermore, with each new presidency of the G20, new issues are introduced to the agenda each year, prompting several countries to raise concerns around the issue of "agenda creep", indicating that the G20 is diverting attention from the international mandate entrusted with leading on key global

issues which is an integral part of the G20 agenda.

South Africa is mindful of this criticism and is of the firm view that its membership of the G20 is an important platform to further reinforce the centrality of the UN and multilateralism through its activate participation in the G20.

G20 and South Africa

South Africa's participation in the G20 is guided by the key pillars of its foreign policy, namely:

- advancing national interests to attain domestic objectives
- enhancing the AU's African Agenda





delivering freight reliably



and promoting Africa's sustainable development

- working with the South in addressing shared challenges of underdevelopment, equity and social justice
- working with the North to develop true and effective partnerships for a better and more equitable world
- transforming and strengthening the multilateral system to better reflect global diversity and its centrality in global governance.

In advancing national interests to attain domestic objectives, South Africa's engagement in all G20 fora, such as ministerial meetings and working groups, is underpinned by its national priorities, including reducing inequality, eradicating poverty and addressing unemployment driven by the national imperative of radical socio-economic transformation. Engagement is therefore grounded by the key targets of the National Development Plan, also giving due consideration to the Nine-Point Plan.

South Africa's participation in the G20 is focussed on the two established work tracks, namely the Sherpa track and the Finance track. The Sherpa track, led by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, focusses on promoting sustainable development and includes issues related to trade, energy, agriculture and food security, employment, health, anti-corruption, counter-terrorism and climate change.

The Finance track, led by National Treasury and the Governor of the Reserve Bank, includes the promotion of strong sustainable

and balanced growth, financial regulation, the international financial architecture, tax reform, anti-terrorist financing, promotion of investment in infrastructure, green finance and climate finance.

G20 and Africa

To enhance the African Agenda and promote Africa's sustainable development, South Africa effectively utilises its position as the sole African country in the G20 to promote and improve coordination with Africa observers in G20 meetings such as the AU and NEPAD to strengthen the voice of Africa within the G20.

The G20 Presidency under China in 2016 included a specific focus on Africa under the theme: "G20 Support for Industrialisation in Africa and LDCs". This provided an important opportunity to firmly place Africa's development trajectory on the G20 Agenda, thereby ensuring G20 support in advancing Africa's industrial development agenda. Having firmly placed Africa's development on the G20 Agenda, South Africa in 2016 lobbied the incoming German Presidency to continue the G20 focus on Africa as introduced by China during its Presidency.

As one of the priority areas during its G20 Presidency, Germany launched the G20 Africa Partnership initiative in recognition of the opportunities and challenges in Africa as well as assisting Africa in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The partnership seeks to foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development in response to the needs and aspirations of African countries, including contributing to the creation of decent employment, particularly for women

and youth. The partnership includes initiatives such as rural youth employment, e-skills for girls, Africa renewable energy, infrastructure and investment compacts. South Africa was instrumental in ensuring that the "Partnership with Africa" was aligned to the AU's Agenda 2063, its First 10-Year Implementation Plan and the various flagship programmes of the AU and NEPAD.

In addition to advancing the African Agenda, South Africa plays an important role within the Development Working Group (DWG) in ensuring that development is at the centre of G20 initiatives. South Africa has been Co-Chair of the DWG since 2010 and has effectively used the DWG to advance issues that are key to fast-tracking the development of Africa and the South.

South Africa's membership of the G20 provides it with a strategic platform to champion not only its national interest but also more broadly the African Agenda as well as the Agenda of the South as the G20 continues to evolve and exert greater influence on the global geopolitical and geo-economic agendas. South Africa must continue to ensure that the Agenda of the G20 is focussed on people-centred development in order to create a more just and equitable global community. The G20 Hamburg Summit was witness to mass protests from various civil-society formations. It is important for the G20 not to be seen as an "exclusive club" but rather as an inclusive G20 focussed on critical global economic, financial, socio-political and developmental challenges to positively impact on the lives of the most marginalised and disadvantaged. For South Africa, this is fundamental to its G20 membership. 🇿🇦



creating jobs
across South Africa



On 8 August, 50 years ago, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

ASEAN's achievements during the last 50 years include the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025, which was the result of ASEAN's collective resolve to further integrate ASEAN's three community pillars, namely: the ASEAN Political Security Community, AEC and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

The Grand Celebrations of the 50th anniversary were held in Manila recently, highlighting the association's successes and achievements under the theme: "50 Years of Peace, Progress and Solidarity".

South Africa and the Southeast Asian region enjoy cordial relations that date back to the 1955 Bandung Conference, and ultimately, to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961. The historical importance of the Bandung Conference on Asian-African relations was emphasised by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa when he addressed the Asia-Africa Business Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 21 April 2015, during the 60 years celebrations, and said:

"Sixty years ago, some of the most outstanding leaders of our two continents, Africa and Asia, congregated in Bandung, driven by a desire to build a free, just and peaceful world. Many of those leaders came from countries that had just attained independence. The conference resolved to 'condemn colonialism in all of its manifestations' and promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural ties. The Bandung Conference helped to shape the post-colonial world. It has a rich and enduring legacy, binding our two continents together in solidarity and cooperation."

It is fitting that in the year when we celebrate the centenary of the birth of Oliver Reginald Tambo, one of the most outstanding leaders of the liberation struggle, who mobilised international solidarity against apartheid and contributed to shaping the vision of a post-apartheid democratic South Africa, we remember his statement, titled: "The Spirit of Bandung" at the international conference in support of the liberation movements of southern Africa and in support of the frontline states on 10 April 1977 in Lusaka, Zambia, when he on that occasion referred to African-



50 years of peace, progress and solidarity

By Professor Anil Sooklal

Deputy Director-General: Asia and the Middle East
Department of International Relations and Cooperation

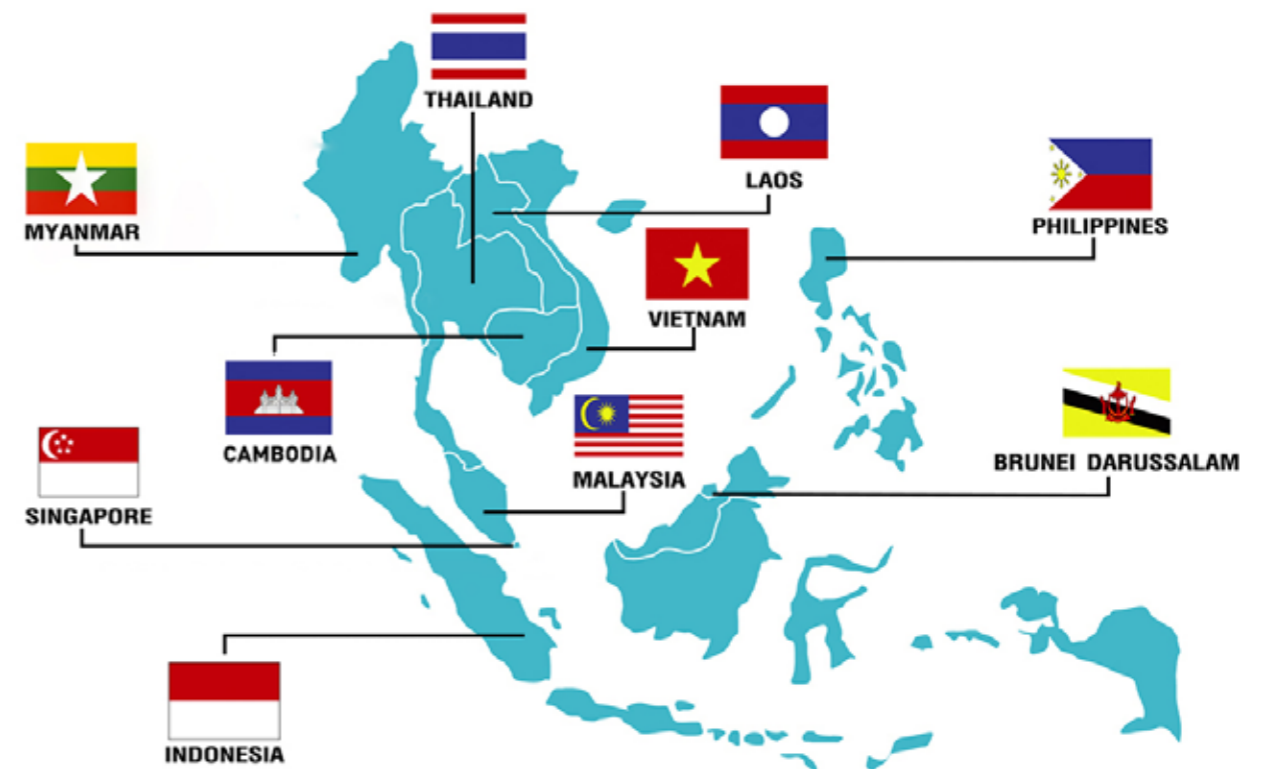
As a result of the strong bonds of friendship established all those years ago, South Africa is represented diplomatically in all the 10 Southeast Asian countries with embassies or high commissions in six of the 10 countries.

Asian solidarity and said: "The Afro-Asian solidarity movement has traversed a long and complicated but glorious path since the days, 25 years ago, when a delegation of the African National Congress travelled from Johannesburg to Bandung in Indonesia to join hands with representatives of the peoples of the rest of Africa and Asia to bring into being what has proved itself as a steadfast friend of all peoples fighting for national and social emancipation, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation."

As a result of the strong bonds of friendship established all those years ago, South Africa is represented diplomatically in all the 10

Southeast Asian countries with embassies or high commissions in six of the 10 countries.

Another milestone in our relations was when former President Thabo Mbeki, in his capacity as President of South Africa and as Chairperson of the African Union, became the first foreign leader to address the ASEAN Summit. On 5 November 2002, he addressed the Eighth ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, further endorsing the close cooperation between our continents. Former President Mbeki committed to ensure cooperation between Africa and ASEAN when he stated: "Our continent deeply admires the progress made by the ASEAN countries



in the effort to achieve regional economic integration, driven by the common objectives to intensify solidarity, peace and friendship among themselves and to act jointly to provide a better life for their peoples".

In April 2005, Asian and African countries renewed their long-standing solidarity at the 2005 Asian African Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia. The summit yielded, among others, the Declaration on the New Asia African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and the Joint Ministerial Statement on the NAASP of Action. This was a further manifestation of intra-regional bridge-building forming a new strategic partnership commitment between Asia and Africa, standing on three pillars, namely: political solidarity, economic cooperation and socio-cultural relations, within which governments, regional/subregional organisations, as well as peoples of Asian and African nations interact.

The 30th ASEAN Summit was hosted by the Philippines in April 2017 under the theme: "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World". Taking this theme forward, I wish to reiterate the previous proposal that South Africa and ASEAN should look at strengthening Africa-ASEAN relations. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) would be the most appropriate partner for ASEAN, and with South Africa being the SADC Chair, we should develop the contact established in 1997 between the two regional formations.

ASEAN has emerged as the pivot of Pan-Asian economic regionalism, especially through its mechanisms for engaging its regional neighbourhood. It remains at the centre of the drive for Asian cooperation and regional integration, which corresponds to Africa's vision of strengthening regional integration and increased connectivity through our own Agenda 2063.

Accordingly, it would be important that ASEAN and SADC initiate a process of systematic exchanges as we share a common vision on a range of global issues and domestic challenges. Democracy, human rights, sustainable development and challenging the prevailing global system and power structures, as well as the global financial architecture, are pivotal in the foreign and domestic policies of our countries.

A specific area where cooperation between South Africa and the member countries of ASEAN has been especially beneficial is in skills development and training in areas identified in South Africa's Nine-Point Plan and the five government priorities with a view to boost economic growth and create jobs.

If South Africa were to succeed in executing its plan of growing an inclusive economy, some of the models used by some of the Southeast Asian countries should be studied to assist this initiative.

Both South Africa and ASEAN are developing economies, and are both in dire need of foreign direct investment. In the case of ASEAN, there is potential for

outward investment in physical and financial infrastructure. South Africa has a proven record in infrastructure development and stable financial services sectors. There is also significant scope for expanding our cooperation to collectively build the Blue Economy to the advantage of our citizens in the decades to come. The Africa-ASEAN Business Expo that took place in South Africa during November 2017 was a further important building bloc in strengthening our relations.

ASEAN, with its more than 600 million people, offers huge tourism potential to South Africa and the historic links between us and the countries of Southeast Asia provide a mix of socio-cultural dynamics that should be explored. It is my expressed hope that our two regions will move closer in the years to come as I firmly believe that our future cooperation and collaboration is an integral part of our collective development.

I wish to conclude with the words of former President Nelson Mandela during his visit to Manila, Philippines, in 1997, when he addressed closer cooperation between ASEAN and SADC, and stated:

"The will is there. The geographic and political conditions make this opportune. The social and economic challenges dictate it."

Let us collectively start to realise this vision and formulate practical mechanisms towards future cooperation, in our common endeavour to achieve collective peace and prosperity for the people of our continents. 🇺🇦



On 10 June 2017, South Africa became one of 115 countries and 22 international organisations to participate in Expo 2017, which was hosted in Astana until 10 September 2017.

Held under the theme, “Future Energy”, the Expo 2017 global gathering showcased developments from around the world in the field of green, renewable and sustainable energy.

During the world-class event, Kazakhstan hosted delegations from over 100 countries and highlighted cutting-edge green energy and sustainability technologies that could provide solutions to energy issues around the world. It drew between three to five million visitors, which made it the largest international gathering of its kind in both Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

South Africa’s exhibition focussed on achievements with regard to the SKA. The SKA exhibition, which showcased the largest science project in the world, illustrated how renewable energy technologies would support this project in the future. South Africa’s exhibition also had a component focussing on hydrogen energy, which included the dissemination of information on the work done by Hydrogen South Africa in relation to infrastructure, systems, catalysis as well as public awareness.

SA shines in Astana

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) exhibition, which showcased the largest science project in the world, illustrated how renewable energy technologies would support this project in the future.

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Nomaindiya Mfeketo, undertook an Official Visit to Astana, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 20 July 2017.

As 18 July was International Nelson Mandela Day, South Africa’s exhibition highlighted the life and legacy of former President Nelson Mandela as well as the 67 years he devoted to the people of South Africa and the oppressed people around the world.

South Africa and Kazakhstan enjoy cordial relations. The two countries share similar views on a number of issues in various multilateral fora.

The visit by Deputy Minister Mfeketo not only placed emphasis on South Africa’s achievements in the fields of science and renewable energy, but was also utilised to further expand relations in the run-up to the Sixth Round of Bilateral Consultations

between South Africa and Kazakhstan, which are expected to take place during the course of 2018 in Pretoria.

Addressing the South African National Day at Expo 2017, Deputy Minister Mfeketo congratulated the Government and people of Kazakhstan for an outstanding Expo 2017 that was not only colourful and exciting, but spoke directly to one of the major challenges that the world faced, namely energy.

“Kazakhstan has taken significant strides in promoting alternative energy sources and, in so doing, is setting an example for the rest of the world. South Africa considers it an honour to be partnering with Kazakhstan and to participate in this historic event. South Africa has also embarked on the SKA programme, which is a radio telescope to collect useful data that will work as a catalyst for science, technology and engineering business opportunities, jobs

and innovation, and will certainly put Africa on the world map in science, technology and innovation. It is going to be the world’s biggest telescope and an asset for all in better understanding space science.

“It is good to bear all these things in mind today, 18 July, as it is a day with special significance to all South Africans, and to an ever-growing number of citizens of the world. On this day, we celebrate the life of South Africa’s greatest icon, former President Nelson Mandela. For 67 years, Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of his people and indeed, to the service of humanity as a whole. In November 2009, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly therefore declared 18 July as International Nelson Mandela Day, in recognition of Mr Mandela’s contribution to the international culture of peace and freedom. We urge all on this day, to heed the call to action, and for people to recognise their individual power to make an imprint and change the world around them.

“It is therefore, befitting that the South African Government under His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma dedicated 2017 to commemorate the centenary of another South African icon and stalwart, Oliver Reginald Tambo, one of the most outstanding leaders of the liberation struggle, who mobilised international solidarity against apartheid and contributed to shaping the vision of a post-apartheid democratic South Africa.

“Kazakhstan was one of the countries that showed great solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle, and I am therefore honoured to participate in this event where we are further celebrating the significant milestone of 25 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

“In 1992, the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations. This achievement took place at a critical moment in South Africa’s



“This binds our solidarity as African countries and we invite Kazakhstan and Central Asia partners to assist us in implementing this vision.”

history, as we stood at the doorstep of transition that was realised with the holding of the first democratic elections on 27 April 1994, which finally ended an inhumane system of racial segregation, called apartheid.

“South Africa and Kazakhstan share many commonalities, including our histories, and this has served to shape our relationship into the strategic partnership that it is today. We know that this strategic partnership with Kazakhstan extends beyond the South African borders to include the rest of the African continent.

“The regional body, the African Union, has adopted Agenda 2063 as our continental vision and roadmap.

“Our continental efforts on peace and stability have improved greatly. This provides

an environment for investment into the continent and we once again invite the Central Asia region to play its role in this regard. Our peace and stability efforts go hand in hand with global peace and stability.

“With Kazakhstan assuming a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (SC) from January 2017 to 2018, we are confident that our mutual efforts to reform the UN, particularly the SC, will be greatly supported in line with our continental position declared in the Ezulwini Consensus. South Africa has already expressed its appreciation to Kazakhstan for its principled position on the calls for the reform of the UNSC.

“Going forward, we only have to look at some of Kazakhstan’s most recent achievements to realise the value of continuing to nurture and develop the affiliation.

“Notwithstanding the great strides that have been made over the past 25 years, I am convinced that the future South Africa-Kazakhstan relationship will be even more dynamic with, particularly the economic component of our relationship, showing great potential for further expansion.”

“Our region, the African continent, is well represented here and it pleases me to warmly acknowledge the participation of sister African countries and the African Diaspora in this very important event.

Deputy Minister Mfeketo concluded by thanking the Kazakh Government for the opportunity to enjoy some of the offerings the two cultures had to offer and, in doing so, to celebrate 25 years of friendship and cooperation while looking forward to excellent relations in the next 25 years.

The programme included performances of the Soweto String Quartet and drummers from South Africa, Danny and Daniel Petersen (father and son), holders of the Outstanding Achievement Award from former United States President, Barack Obama. 🇺🇸



30th anniversary of 1987 Dakar Conference



This year, we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the historic Dakar Conference. The conference, organised by the Institute for Democratic Alternatives for South Africa (IDASA), took place in Dakar, Senegal, from 9 to 12 July, 1987. The participants comprised 61 South Africans, of whom the majority were Afrikaans-speaking persons who had come from South Africa, and a 17-person delegation from the African National Congress (ANC).

The Dakar Conference is firmly engraved in the annals of our history. It represents a day when citizens who were concerned with the future direction of apartheid South Africa took the initiative to recognise the centrality of the then banned and exiled ANC in determining a post-apartheid South Africa.

Significantly, the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Dakar Conference take place during the Year of Oliver Tambo, our struggle stalwart and the longest-serving president of the ANC who would have been 100 years old this year. Oliver Tambo's legacy is celebrated as he was South Africa's chief diplomat in exile. OR Tambo laid the foundation for our foreign policy and was passionate

Oliver Tambo understood that the Dakar talks were an outstanding moment which broke with the past in the history of the struggle against apartheid.

By Nomaindiya Mfeketo
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

about our solidarity with oppressed masses. Indeed, before this significant moment in history, it was none other than Oliver Tambo, who had been driving the message that dialogue and peaceful engagement, not war, with the adversaries was the most sustainable means to achieve franchise for the oppressed.

This message had always been the clarion call of his forebears who understood that parties in conflict must, at some point, come to the table and resolve their problems through dialogue and not through armed conflict. Indeed, it was as an acknowledgement of this commitment to peaceful transition through dialogue that Chief Albert Luthuli was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on 10 December 1961.

What stands out about this historic moment is that these Afrikaner intellectuals, professionals, religious leaders, students and other civil-society figureheads were themselves beneficiaries of the apartheid system. The time had come for them to recognise the ANC as a legitimate voice of the people, which stood for dialogue as a means of achieving democracy, peace, justice and reconciliation for all South Africans. Oliver Tambo understood that the Dakar talks were an outstanding moment which broke with the past in the history of the struggle against apartheid. That is why he described Professor Van Zyl Slabbert, the leader of the Afrikaner delegation who was also a former leader of the Progressive Federal Party (PFP), as a "New Voortrekker".

Tambo went on to say that to get out of the PFP and join such extra-parliamentary forces of change was a "very correct move", and he called on the rest of the members of the PFP to leave Parliament to work for real change.

Such talks about talks would not have been possible were it not for the unloosening of the process of contact with the ANC initiated by key individuals and organisations.

There can be no better testimony for the value of constructive political dialogue than that which the example of the Dakar Talks of 1987 provides us with.

Unfortunately, on their return back to South Africa, the IDASA delegation was at the time, however, crudely charged with being unpatriotic and disloyal to the country, and demonstrators demanded that they be charged with high treason.

And yet, the only crime that these compatriots had committed was that they had engaged fellow South Africans, who happened to be in exile, in an extensive debate about how to bring about democracy in our country.

Indicative of the kind of intimidation and condemnation that the IDASA delegates had to face and endure when they returned, were the recriminations faced by Dr Theuns

Eloff. At the time, he was the Chairperson of the Student's Representative Council at Potchefstroom University and a Reformed Church minister.

However, after Dakar, his own church and some of his congregants, as well as former President PW Botha, singled Dr Eloff out as a target. Former President Botha even attacked him by name in Parliament. When the real talks between the National Party and the ANC started in 1991, Dr Eloff, however, became the head of administration and an active facilitator at the multiparty talks that resulted in a new Constitution for South Africa.

As South Africa celebrates 23 years of freedom this year, we should re-acknowledge the important role of constructive political dialogue in our societies.

This is of course especially true in societies that are today still busy transitioning towards democracy, where such critical political dialogue remains a crucial feature.

However, constructive dialogue and its practical outcomes are also imperative for the long-term maintenance and deepening of democracy and the nurturing and broadening of constitutionalism.

So many of our current challenges would be better addressed if we were to recognise the importance of engaging more constructively with each other, thereby increasing understanding and striving to bridge the gaps in differences of opinion.

Numerous lessons can be taken from the 1987 Dakar Meeting that can inspire our youth who are facing multiple challenges today.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation will steadfastly continue its efforts to institutionalise dialogue support through our research, training and mediation support efforts. Success in all the elements of the peace-building process is ultimately linked to the ability and capability of political rivals to engage in constructive political dialogue.

And such efforts remain invaluable, globally.

The following statement was made by Isithwalandwe Chief Albert Luthuli upon receiving his Nobel Peace Prize: "May the day come soon when peoples of the world will rouse themselves and effectively stamp out any threat to peace, in whatever quarter of the world it may be found.

"When that day comes, there shall be peace on earth and goodwill between men".



As part of the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Dakar 1987 talks and celebration activities around the twinning of Robben and Goree islands, Brand South Africa, in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture, the National Arts Council, South African Embassy in Senegal, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and Senegalese Ministry of Arts and Culture, hosted a series of activities from 10 to 14 July 2017.

In the context of South Africa's liberation, political dialogue played a significant role in the nation's transition to democracy.

In this regard, the 1987 meeting in Dakar between the African National Congress and an Institute for Democratic Alternatives for South Africa delegation, stands out as a significant moment in the history of South Africa's journey towards democracy.

Brand South Africa's CEO, Dr Kingsley Makhubela said: "The Dakar Conference would not have been possible were it not for the assistance of countries like Senegal and then President Abdou Diouf, who paved the way for delegates to meet during a period when liberation movements were still banned internally, and the apartheid regime still presided over a pariah state sanctioned and internationally isolated."

"Likewise, the assistance that came from governments and individuals who contributed material resources to make the conference possible further attests to the fact that the liberation movement was not alone in its struggle against apartheid South Africa."

Contemporary developments in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent indicate that political dialogue is not a once-off.

It remains a crucial feature of societies transitioning towards democracy and transforming an unequal socio-economic environment.

In global terms, and particularly on the African continent, the success of conflict management and mediation, conflict prevention and resolution as well as intervention, are all linked to the ability and capability of political rivals to engage in constructive political dialogue.

As part of the week-long activities, Brand South Africa in partnership with the Dakar-based CODESRIA hosted a colloquium on Thursday, 13 July 2017, under the theme, "The Power of Dialogue – Past, Present and Future".

During the week, the two countries also signed a Twinning Agreement between Robben and Goree islands. This was a



In the context of South Africa's liberation, political dialogue played a significant role in the nation's transition to democracy.

significant moment not only to reflect on the past, but to celebrate what Senegal and South Africa have in common.

Dr Makhubela added: "The colloquium brought together experts on conflict mediation and resolution from government, civil society and academia to discuss the role of political dialogue in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution on the African continent and beyond."

"The session also focussed on drawing the youth into the dialogue – the goal being not only to impart knowledge but also to provide

a platform for them to share their views on the power of dialogue."

The colloquium covered three sessions, where delegates from the South African and Senegalese governments and other role players shared their experiences and insights with attendees.

This provided the background for further reflections in the second panel discussion between Dakarites from Senegal and South Africa, with the final session focussing on political dialogue in Africa today. www.brandsouthafrica.com

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South Africa and Ghana celebrate success of African network of telescopes

Ghana is the first partner country of the African VLBI Network (AVN) to complete the conversion of a communications antenna into a functioning radio telescope.

The science and technology ministries of Ghana and South Africa recently announced the combination of "first light" science observations, which confirm the successful conversion of the Ghana communications antenna from a redundant telecoms instrument into a functioning Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) radio telescope.

Ghana is the first partner country of the AVN to complete the conversion of a communications antenna into a functioning radio telescope. The 32-metre converted telecommunications antenna at the Ghana Intelsat Satellite Earth Station at Kutunse will be integrated into the African VLBI AVN in preparation for the second phase construction of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) across the African continent.

Ghanaian President, Nana Akufo-Addo, launched the Ghana Radio Astronomy Observatory in Kuntunse in Ghana on 25 August 2017.

The combination "first light" science observations included Methanol Maser detections, VLBI fringe testing and Pulsar observations. Reaching these three objectives



confirm that the instrument can operate as a single dish radio telescope and also as part of global VLBI network observations, such as the European VLBI network. Following the initial "first light" observations, the research teams from Ghana and South Africa together with other international research partners, continue to do more observations and are

analysing the data generated with the aim to characterise the system and improve its accuracy for future experiments.

"The Ghanaian Government warmly embraces the prospect of radio astronomy in the country and our radio astronomy development plan forms part of the broader Ghana Science, Technology and Innovation

Development Plan," says Professor Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, the Ghana Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI).

As an SKA Africa partner country, Ghana welcomed and collaborated with the SKA South Africa (SKA SA)/ HartRAO (Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomical Observatory) group to harness the radio astronomy potential of the redundant satellite communications antenna at Kutunse.

A team of scientists and engineers from SKA SA/HartRAO and the Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute (GSSTI), which is under MESTI, has been working since 2011 on the astronomy instrument upgrade to make it radio-astronomy ready. In 2012, Ghana launched the GSSTI as the vehicle through which to grow its astrophysics programme.

The South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation has been funding a large part of the conversion project through the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARF).

The South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, says: "The ARF is aimed at strengthening cooperation between South Africa and other African countries and to support the development of skills and build institutional capacity on the continent."

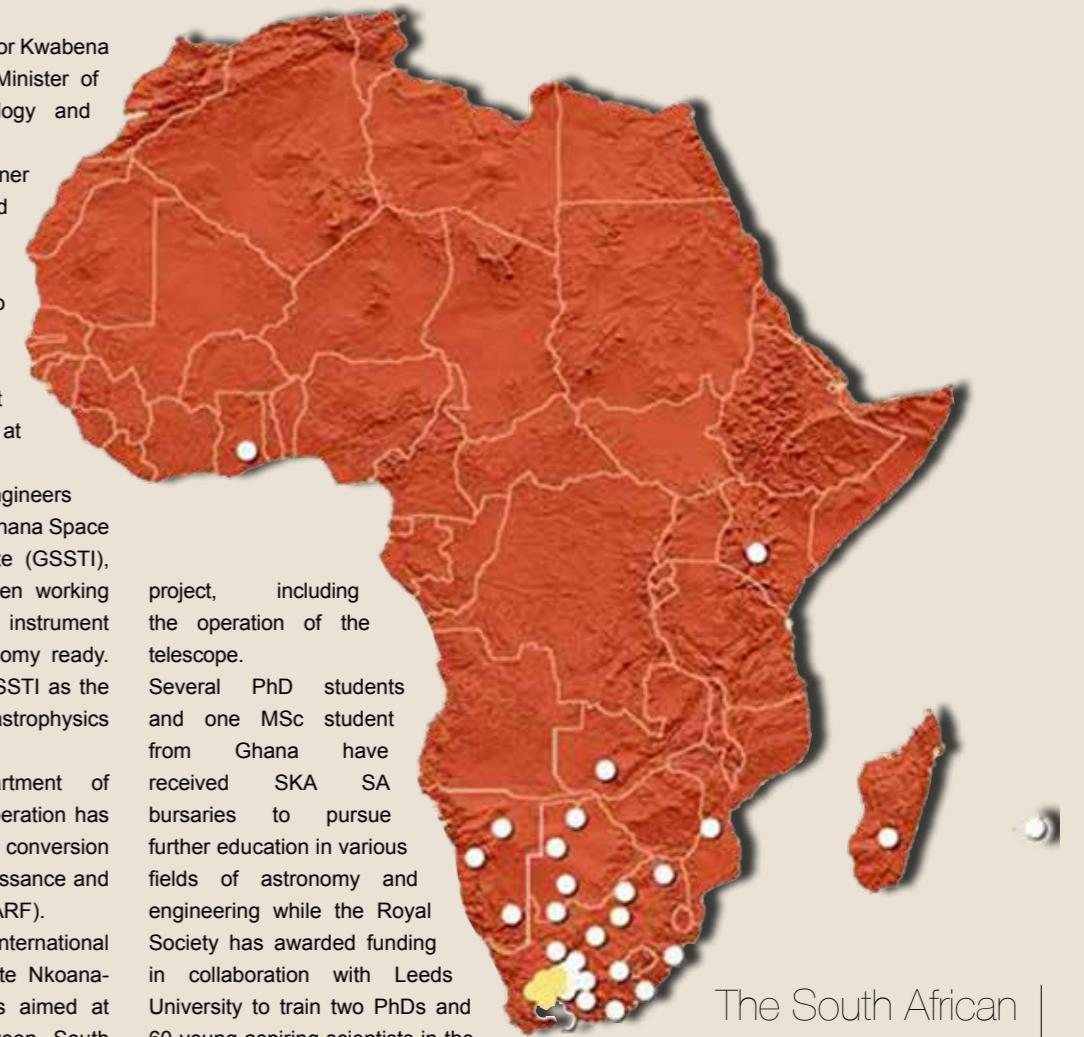
Nine African partner countries are members of the SKA AVN, including Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

"A vital part of the efforts towards building the SKA on the African continent over the next decade is to develop the skills, regulations and institutional capacity needed in SKA partner countries to optimise African participation in the SKA," says the South African Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor.

The AVN programme is aimed at transferring skills and knowledge in African partner countries to build, maintain, operate and use radio telescopes.

Minister Pandor continued by saying: "It will bring new science opportunities to Africa on a relatively short time scale and develop radio astronomy science communities in SKA partner countries."

The Leverhulme-Royal Society Trust and Newton Fund in the United Kingdom (UK) are co-funding extensive human capital development programmes in the SKA AVN partner countries. A seven-member Ghanaian team has undergone training in South Africa and has been trained in all aspects of the



project, including the operation of the telescope. Several PhD students and one MSc student from Ghana have received SKA SA bursaries to pursue further education in various fields of astronomy and engineering while the Royal Society has awarded funding in collaboration with Leeds University to train two PhDs and 60 young aspiring scientists in the field of astrophysics.

Based on the success of the Leverhulme-Royal Society Programme, a joint UK-South Africa Newton Fund intervention (the Development in Africa with Radio Astronomy) has since been initiated in other partner countries to grow high-technology skills that could lead to broader economic development in Africa.

This Newton Fund Programme is providing a pool of talented young people who have been inspired by astronomy ultimately play a leading role in the emergence of new economies.

A ministerial forum comprising ministers from the nine SKA AVN partner countries convenes on an annual basis to provide strategic and political leadership on the cooperation with the SKA and AVN projects, and on other relevant radio astronomy programmes and initiatives.

An SKA AVN Ministerial Forum was held in Accra, Ghana, in August when the Kutunse radio telescope was officially launched.

Minister Pandor said the launch of a 32-metre radio telescope in Ghana would help improve collaboration between African and European astronomers.

The Minister said this when she chaired the SKA African Ministerial Forum at the

The South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation has been funding a large part of the conversion project through the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund.

Kempinski Hotel in Accra ahead of the launch of the Ghana Radio Astronomy Observatory.

The Minister said as part of the work of the AVN, South Africa, along with the eight member countries that were part of the SKA Project, would add to the science that could be conducted by a global network of radio telescopes.

"As you know, the 26-metre dish at one of our National Research Foundation's key national facilities, the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory ... is part of this network.

"The science being done by this global AVN is frontier astronomy," she said. U



The Russian satellite ranging system, Sazhen-TM+OWS, at the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO). HartRAO is located west of Johannesburg and operates as a national research facility under the auspices of the National Research Foundation. Sazhen-TM+OWS has become the second laser and radio ranging system of the foreign segment of the Roscosmos network of stations developed in support of GLONASS (the Russian GLObal NAVigation Satellite System). The first Sazhen-TM+OWS system was commissioned on 14 July 2014 in the city of Brasilia, Brazil. This system is designed to perform precision orbital measurements of spacecraft – those equipped with laser retro-reflectors. The system can range to satellites with an orbital altitude of up to 25 000 km, do continuous tracking of navigation signals of the GLONASS and GPS satellites, perform measurement of the current navigation parameters and receive navigation messages transmitted from the satellites.



South Africa's international engagements in a rapidly changing world

By Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi

Deputy Director-General: Global Governance and Continental Affairs
Department of International Relations and Cooperation

The South African Government has correctly dedicated the year 2017 to the memory of Oliver Reginald Tambo, the 10th and longest-serving President of the African National Congress (ANC). Had OR, as he was affectionately known, been alive, he would have been 100 years old this year. In a moving eulogy on the occasion of his funeral on 2 May 1993, then President of the ANC, Nelson Mandela, said of the demise of OR: "A great giant who strode the globe like a colossus has fallen. "A mind whose thoughts have opened the doors to our liberty has ceased to function. "A heart whose dreams gave hope to the despoiled has for ever lost its beat.

South Africa is firmly committed to the ideals of Pan-Africanism, namely unity, peace and development of the African continent and its Diaspora.

"The gentle voice who's measured words of reason shook the thrones of tyrants has been silenced.

"Peoples of the world!
"Here lies before you the body of a man who is tied to me by an umbilical cord which cannot be broken."

His selfless life was an embodiment of humility, honesty, compassion, self-sacrifice, human solidarity, integrity and self-discipline. In exile, he laid the foundation for a future

foreign policy of a free and democratic South Africa. During his address to the first Congress of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola in Luanda, Angola, on 12 December 1977, Oliver Tambo defined the thrusts of South Africa's foreign policy when he stated:

"We seek to live in peace with our neighbours and the peoples of the world in conditions of equality, mutual respect and equal advantage".

Since the democratic breakthrough of 1994, we have been true to this vision by promoting peace, friendship and cooperation among nations, and taking an active part in the resolution of conflicts on our continent and beyond.

As we celebrate the centenary of OR Tambo, we draw inspiration from his exemplary leadership and vision, which accorded him international status of a statesman and an astute and consummate diplomat.

This year, we also mark the 60th anniversary of the independence of Ghana, the diamond jubilee. Ghana was the first African country south of the Sahara to gain independence from colonial rule. As we forge ahead with the project of our continent's integration, it is fitting that we pay tribute to Ghana's founding President, Nkwame Nkrumah, for championing the decolonisation project and inspiring us with the vision of African unity. As a pioneer republic, Ghana was the epicentre of the wave of decolonisation that swept through the continent, leading to the freeing of Africa from the bonds of slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism. South Africa is firmly committed to the ideals of Pan-Africanism, namely unity, peace and development of the African continent and its Diaspora.

In 2017, we also commemorate 50 years of the occupation of the Palestinian lands, Gaza and the West Bank. The struggles of the Palestinian people against oppression, discrimination and for self-determination and statehood has been synonymous with those of our own against apartheid, hence the solidarity the Palestinian people continue to enjoy from our people and government. We reaffirm our support for a free, independent Palestine, based on the 1967 borders, co-existing with the State of Israel, within the framework of the two-State solution.

Current global context

The world we live in is characterised by an interplay between power, influence, vested interests and the expression of strategic interests of states through military means and economic power. Increasingly, the conduct of states is informed by the international relations theory of realism, which finds concrete expression in the projection of hard power to preserve, promote and protect geographic, territorial, security and economic interests. This world of geopolitics poses a major threat to international peace and security and people-centered development.

Complicating this global state of insecurity is the earlier onset of the VUCA phenomenon: volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity, as evidenced by the surge in

nationalism, populism and anti-immigration sentiment. It is heartening though to note that there has been a reversal of this trend following its emphatic repudiation by the recent electorate in The Netherlands and France.

The global economy has now entered its sixth year of stagnation, and the growth outlook for 2017 shows a continuation of this trend. A projected stabilisation (and even strengthening) in energy and commodity prices may provide a small tailwind for resource-rich economies in 2017, but the medium-term trend continues to be dominated by weaker growth in key inputs, notably investment and labour supply. Global growth for 2017 is projected at 2,7%, 0,1 percentage point lower than the June 2016 forecast, and 0,4 percentage points higher than the estimate for 2016. Going forward, global growth is projected to pick up modestly, reaching 2,9% by 2018.

The consolidation of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) group and the continued shift of the centre of global economic gravity from the West, to the East and the South has introduced a new, welcome dynamic in the structure of the global economy. Representing over 40% of the world's population and 30% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), BRICS growth rates have helped counterbalance the effects of low advanced-country growth on overall global growth.

China's growth rate is expected to be around 6,5% in 2017, and inflation will remain low at around 3%. China has adopted measures to rebalance its economy away from an over-reliance on investment spending and exports in favour of greater consumption spending, and its transition from a manufacturing economy to one with a significant services sector. Indeed, the anticipated benefits from this transition have allowed China to remain a top destination for future foreign direct investment. China therefore also provides potential for value-added exports.

Africa's growth remained higher than world growth despite strong headwinds from the international economy. Despite its slowdown, the African continent remained the second fastest-growing economy in the world. Several African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania) were among the fastest-growing countries in the world with growth between 6% and around 10%.

Fourth Industrial Revolution

We stand on the brink of a technological revolution that, in the words of Klaus Schwab,

the Founder and Executive Chairperson of the World Economic Forum, "will fundamentally alter the way we live, work and relate to one another. In its scale, scope and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before. We do not yet know just how it will unfold, but one thing is clear: the response to it must be integrated and comprehensive, involving all stakeholders of the global polity, from the public and private sectors to academia and civil society".

Whereas the First Industrial Revolution used water and steam power to mechanise production, the second used electric power to create mass production. The third used electronics and information technology to automate production. Now, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is building on the third; the digital revolution that has been occurring since the middle of the last century. It is characterised by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres.

There are three reasons why today's transformations represent not merely a prolongation of the Third Industrial Revolution but rather the arrival of a fourth and distinct one: velocity, scope and systems impact. The speed of current breakthroughs has no historical precedent. When compared with previous industrial revolutions, the fourth is evolving at an exponential rather than a linear pace. Moreover, it is disrupting almost every industry in every country. And the breadth and depth of these changes herald the transformation of entire systems of production, management and governance.

While this development poses real risks and threats to the status quo, it creates enormous, unimaginable potential for technology to be used not only to provide business solutions, but to address a myriad of contemporary development challenges, including but not limited to access to clean/renewable energy, education and healthcare.

As a country, we need to catch this wave by investing in research, development and innovation: we should embrace the digital age by modernising our systems and work process, while taking deliberate measures to mitigate its negative effects.

Key milestones in the evolution of South Africa's foreign policy

South Africa's current foreign policy has been shaped by various epochs of history, starting with our African identity that was eloquently articulated by Pixley ka Isaka Seme who distinguished himself as an orator of note and published the timeless essay, entitled: *The Regeneration of Africa in 1906*. The seminal



piece was the first real conceptualisation of the African Renaissance.

The next phase in the evolution of our foreign policy took place in 1955, with the late Moses Kotane and Maulvi Cachalia attending, on behalf of the South African liberation movement, the Bandung Conference in April 1955. At this historic conference, representatives from 29 governments of Asian and African nations gathered in Indonesia to discuss peace and the role of the global South in the Cold War, economic development and decolonisation. South-South solidarity, as a canon of the future South African foreign policy, crystallised during this conference.

The third phase in the evolution of South Africa's foreign policy can be traced to the period when then ANC President, OR Tambo, was mandated to establish an international mission in 1960 following the unbanning of the ANC. It was in this third phase that the ANC mobilised the largest movement of anti-apartheid forces across the globe, the iconic Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM), which contributed immensely to the democratic breakthrough of 1994. The AAM brought two key elements that were to conclude the quartet of pillars of democratic South Africa, namely: South-North cooperation and multilateralism. Pan-Africanism, South-South solidarity, South-North cooperation and reform of the multilateral system of global governance (multilateralism) have been consistent themes in South Africa's foreign policy since 1994.

The African Agenda remains a cornerstone of our foreign policy and as such South Africa's own development is inextricably linked to the development of the African continent. Consequently, we have defined and continue to pursue an African Agenda which is predicated on the entrenchment of democracy, peace and security, and acceleration of economic growth for the betterment of all Africans citizens.

In essence, this commitment encapsulates our Pan-Africanist foreign policy configuration referred to earlier in the article.

Southern Africa

Firstly, colonialism and apartheid had destructive effects on the entire southern Africa and left a legacy of a disintegrated region. The leadership of democratic South Africa undertook to rebuild our country and contribute to peace and development in Africa and the world. The South Africa reconstruction agenda was linked to that of the entire region in order to achieve sustainable development as clearly articulated in the apex national policy document, the *Reconstruction and*

Development Programme (RDP). The RDP envisioned a southern African regional economy that is sustainable and contributes to shared prosperity.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is the fourth most advanced regional economic community (REC) in Africa, having grown its intra-regional growth from US\$20 billion in 2004 to US\$72 billion in 2014. SADC has attained the following achievements.

The SADC Free Trade Area (FTA), as envisioned in the 2005 SADC Protocol on Trade, entered into force in August, 2008, when the REC attained the minimum conditions of having zero duty on 85% of intra-regional trade. The maximum tariff liberalisation was attained in January 2012, when the tariff phase-down process for sensitive products was completed.

In 2003, SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) set out for the REC to become an FTA by 2008, a Customs Union (CU) by 2010, a Common Market by 2015 and a Monetary Union by 2016, with a single currency by 2018. However, we have been unable to establish a CU due to several challenges, including: multiple membership of SADC countries to several overlapping regional integration arrangements (RIAs) and the African Union's (AU) RECs and the subsequent challenge of having to meet multiple obligations; complex and divergent trade policies and revenue constraints; differences in the levels of development of member states; complicated rules of origin; poor infrastructure; and trade facilitation systems.

The RISDP, which covers the period from 2005 to 2020, underwent review and the revised document was adopted by the SADC Summit in April 2015. We are committed to achieving the outstanding milestone set in the RISDP.

South Africa assumed the Chairpersonship of SADC from August 2017, and will use its position to drive the acceleration of the regional integration agenda with a specific focus on creating a framework for industrialisation.

The broader African continent

Our experiences during the anti-apartheid struggle, including the period leading up to the democratic breakthrough of 1994, guide and inform our foreign policy approaches and strategies on the African continent. We have always sought, and continue to seek, a peaceful resolution of conflicts based on an inclusive political framework. This we believe, is the only guarantee for durable solutions rather than non-inclusive, zero-

sum impositions. Guided by this template, we have significantly contributed to peace-making efforts in, among others, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, South Sudan, Ivory Coast, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

Currently, our efforts are directed at contributing to the realisation of the AU's Agenda 2063 Vision and the implementation of its first 10-year plan. We are conscious that strong structures are required to effectively implement AU decisions as well as the realisation of the aspirations of Agenda 2063. In this regard, RECs are essential building blocs for the continent's eventual integration within the framework of the Lagos Plan and the Abuja Treaty. As a build-up towards continental economic integration, a key advance was that representatives of most of the 26 member states of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community and SADC, with a combined GDP of US\$1.2 trillion, signed the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement on 10 June 2015 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. It aims to liberalise 100% of tariff lines. Sixty per cent to 85% of tariff lines are to be liberalised upon entry into force of the agreement, while the remaining 15% to 40% will be negotiated over five to eight years.

A key prerequisite to the continent's development is the expansion and rehabilitation of infrastructure, particularly in the transport, energy and communications sectors. Work in this regard is currently being undertaken within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which is a core element of our development agenda.

Global South and emerging economies

In October 2017, South Africa assumed the Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which brings together 28 countries from the East and South Coast of Africa, South and Southeast Asia, the Gulf region and Indian Ocean islands. Unlocking the potential presented by the Blue Economy, including the sustainable exploitation of marine resources, the creation of value chains as well as maritime security will be a major priority for South Africa. The goals set in Operation Phakisa will guide our engagement in this regard.

At the Fifth BRICS Summit, South Africa hosted the first outreach dialogue session of BRICS in 2013, during which the AU leadership was invited to dialogue with the BRICS leaders regarding the continent's infrastructure development agenda.

A pertinent outcome of the summit was the decision of BRICS leaders to establish the New Development Bank, which has its

regional office in Johannesburg. This office will serve as a catalytic institution to fast-track our continental infrastructure development programmes. The regional office will focus initially on project preparation and facilitation.

The BRICS-Africa's trade engagement continues to show exponential growth, reaching approximately US\$300 billion by 2015. This success was driven not only by the industrialisation and innovation trajectories of BRICS partners, but also by the expansion of South African business into the markets of our BRICS and African partners, creating an unprecedented consumer demand for our goods and services.

In 2018, South Africa will be honoured to assume the Chairship of BRICS. The intensification of intra-BRICS cooperation in diverse fields, as well as its consolidation as a significant player in shaping a new global political and economic order, will, among others, be our strategic focuses.

Mutually beneficial relations with countries of the North

Our cooperative relations with the developed countries of the North are based on our shared commitment to build mutual beneficial partnerships to address the needs and aspirations of our people. Our mutual beneficial cooperation takes place at both bilateral and multilateral levels. It is our continued commitment to leverage the opportunities presented by these relations in an effort to close the widening gap between the prosperous North and the deprived developing South.

We will continue to prioritise consolidating the Strategic Partnership with the European Union (EU). We are conscious of the development in relation to Brexit and as such, we will negotiate a bilateral trade regime with the United Kingdom while maintaining our relations with the EU as a bloc.

Multilateral relations

Since our readmission and acceptance to the family of nations, our efforts have been focussed on contributing to a just, fair and equitable world order. We have consistently advocated for people-centred development that takes into consideration all dimensions of development. This multifaceted approach to sustainable development got traction at the historic United Nations (UN) Millennium Summit, which adopted the Millennium Declaration in 2000. This summit represented a high watermark in global efforts to place development at the centre of the global agenda.

The three dimensions of sustainable development, namely the promotion of

Africa's growth remained higher than world growth despite strong headwinds from the international economy. Despite its slowdown, the African continent remained the second fastest-growing economy in the world. Several African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania) were among the fastest-growing countries in the world with growth between 6% and around 10%.

economic development, social development and environmental sustainability, are the plank on which the recently adopted sustainable development goals are built. The outcome document of the 2015 UN Summit has given renewed hope to millions in the global South as it affirms the resolve of the international community to remain engaged in continuing the unfinished business of the millennium development goals. We consider this as a major achievement for the developing world at a time when the world's preoccupation with security issues could have pushed development issues to the back burner.

Another landmark development in the multilateral system was the 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which adopted a historic agreement in Paris to address greenhouse gas emission for the post-2020 period. The watershed Paris Conference constitutes a successful conclusion of the mandate agreed to by consensus at the Durban conference in 2011 to enhance the implementation of the Climate Change Convention.

The agreement represents a big step forward in committing all countries to act decisively against climate change. Through this agreement, hope has been restored for a safe and prosperous future, where climate change will be adequately addressed.

South Africa's approach to peace and security on the continent has been magnified in the UN Security Council (UNSC), where we have championed the prioritisation of African conflicts and at the same time advocated for closer collaboration between the UNSC and the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC).

We have also focussed on defending the integrity of the UN Charter and the Rule of Law as the foundation for multilateral cooperation.

A highlight of our term on the UNSC was our Presidency of the council in January 2012,

which had as its theme the strengthening of the partnership between the UN and the AU. Building on the success of South Africa's 2007/08 UNSC term in promoting closer cooperation between the UNSC and the AUPSC, South Africa promoted greater coordination between the two bodies in order to increase the effectiveness of the UNSC in addressing African conflict situations. President Jacob Zuma presided over a meeting, which resulted in the unanimous adoption of Resolution 2033 (2012). This resolution formalises cooperation between the UN and AU as a permanent part of the council's work and focusses on achieving coherence between the two bodies in dealing with African conflicts.

While we have been vocal proponents for the reform of the UNSC long before our stint in the non-permanent category, our tenure on the UNSC has convinced us that the reform of this premier organ of global peace and security is more urgent than ever before.

We are of the firm view that the enlargement of the UNSC to reflect current realities will ensure that it is representative and democratic and enjoys legitimacy. In addition, internal reforms will have to be undertaken to improve the working methods of the UNSC to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness.

In conclusion, we remain convinced that the path and role history has determined for us is the correct one. It defines where we come from, who we are, the exigencies of the moment and our future aspirations as a nation.

It is encapsulated in the apex policy statement of government, the National Development Plan Vision 2030, that enjoins us to assume our role as a responsible global citizen in the community of nations, and develop partnerships that advance our national interests and values, thus contributing to a better South Africa, in a better Africa, in a better and just world. 🇿🇦



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From South African smallholder farmers to children in Swaziland

By Peter Shivute
World Food Programme

Swaziland – a landlocked country almost entirely contained within the north-eastern corner of South Africa – faces challenges of poverty, chronic food insecurity and HIV and AIDS. Like other countries in the region, it is only now emerging from the shadow of two successive years of drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Following a contribution of R180 million by South Africa in 2013 to provide assistance to more than a quarter of a million vulnerable women and children in Lesotho, South Africa, through the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARF), announced in March 2017 the contribution of US\$3 million (R40 million) to support the WFP's work in reaching some 52 000 orphaned and other vulnerable children with food assistance in neighbouring Swaziland's NCPs.

Food assistance through the NCPs is required to meet young, orphaned and vulnerable children's basic nutritional needs in the absence of other safety nets for this target population. Swaziland has a number of social protection initiatives in place, however, there is a gap in the services available to the youngest children (aged two to eight years) who are not yet in school.

"The food really helps the children," says one of the volunteer caregivers. "You can see the difference – after a few weeks of receiving a hot meal, they are healthier and energetic."

Due to a lack of resources, the WFP was forced to halt support to children at NCPs since May 2016. However, now the children of Swaziland will once again receive nutritious meals at the NCPs and continue to grow, learn and play.

An innovative approach, with a dual development outcome, has been adopted by DIRCO and the ARF to meet the requirements of the NCPs. The WFP will endeavour to source 40% of the maize and 100% of the

beans directly from smallholder farmers in South Africa. Maize is transformed into maize meal by using emerging millers before being transported into neighbouring Swaziland for delivery to thousands of vulnerable children.

Further to this, South Africa, which has recently assumed the Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) after Swaziland Chairship, is pushing boundaries in line with the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015 – 2063, the African Union Agenda 2063 and in line with the timeframe of the sustainable development goals and Agenda 2030. This approach serves to achieve the demographic transformation of South Africa, as outlined in the Industrial Policy Action Plan and the objectives of national development



as articulated in the National Development Plan (NDP), in order to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality characterised by increased participation of previously marginalised citizens and regions of the country.

This example shows the commitment by South Africa in furthering major economic and technological transformation at national and regional level within the context of deeper regional integration; therefore, accelerating the growth momentum and enhancing the comparative and competitive advantage of the economies of the region.

Operational aspects of the project are currently underway. Smallholder farmers have been trained on WFP registration and operational modalities, and informed of the project as an alternative marketing channel

for maize and sugar beans, thus it is possible to trace which smallholder farmers have benefitted from the project. Most smallholder farmers already identified are presently working together as cooperatives. The main capacity-building activities include financial literacy, organisation management, post-harvest handling and loss training, as well as quality and quantity control training for emerging millers. This will ease the work of the WFP, especially when it comes to capacity-building and farmer access. There is an emphasis on women smallholder farmers too.

Tebalo Elias Makubo, 34 years old, is one of the smallholder farmers who are supplying the WFP with sugar beans for the Swaziland project. His relationship with the WFP began in 2014 when he supplied sugar beans for the Lesotho initiative and he has continued his relationship with the WFP by supplying sugar beans for the Swaziland project. Since 2014, Mr Makubo has reinvested his profits back into his farm by increasing the number of his staff from 24 to 54 people and purchasing new machinery.

Learning from experience, particularly the Lesotho initiative, as well as discussions with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, capacity-building within the Swaziland project aims to build on the learning generated through earlier activities and assessments of capacity-building activities as well as utilise existing resources in an effective and cost-efficient way. As such and in line with the South African NDP, capacity-building under the Swazi Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project will fall under three key areas:

- quality and quantity control for smallholder farmers (post-harvest handling and storage)
- financial literacy training for female smallholder farmers
- food safety and quality handling for emerging industrialists (millers).

The WFP is committed to the implementation of a Food Safety and Quality Management System and continuously strives to improve food safety and quality along the whole WFP supply chain. As such, technical guidance to emerging millers is presently taking place. The longer-term effect of contributions such as those made by South Africa, serves an important role in reaching the goals of sustainable development both in South Africa and the region.

The first distributions to the NCPs have begun, and the children are now receiving much-needed food and nutrition. These ongoing activities place emphasis on strategic and collaborative partnerships that

are based around the achievement of jointly defined objectives, and will leverage on synergies and complementarity of resources.

The WFP aligns this activity with the national priorities of South Africa, the Development Assistance Framework of the United Nations and Swaziland's development priorities.

The South African Government, WFP and the Government of Swaziland, which through declaring a national emergency in February 2016 for the El Niño induced drought, facilitated this much-needed assistance, and will ensure the food assistance project complements other social safety net initiatives.

The expected outcomes of this development project are to increase equitable access to education and strengthen the capacity of the Government of Swaziland to provide assistance to children while investigating innovative approaches to procuring smallholder farmer produce in striving to achieve zero hunger and encouraging further South-South cooperation.

On the South African side of the border, the development project seeks to empower smallholder farmers in South Africa with greater access to markets for their products, while ensuring that small business and emerging millers form part of the entire value chain. ▢

World Food Programme (WFP)
WFP school meals are beneficial in many ways and can be tailored to address specific needs:

- Safety nets: School meals are the most prevalent safety net worldwide. They can help families support their children's education while protecting their food security. They help break the "cycle of hunger and poverty" by increasing the chances of children becoming healthy and productive adults.
- Education: A daily school meal allows children to focus on their studies rather than their stomachs. It helps to increase enrolment and attendance, reduce drop-out rates and improve cognitive abilities. Where there is a gender gap in key, education-related areas, school meals can be complemented with take-home rations to provide further incentive.
- Nutrition: In poor countries, school meals are often the only regular and nutritious meal a child receives. Without them, hunger and micronutrient deficiencies can cause irreversible damage to children's growing bodies.

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The Diplomacy of Ubuntu in Action

On 14 August 2017, the Republic of Sierra Leone was affected by devastating torrential rains that triggered a mudslide 32 kilometres east of Freetown.

The devastation was dreadful with reports of over 500 people killed in the tragedy, thousands left homeless and hard and soft infrastructure devastated. As a consequence thereof, the President of Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma, made a humanitarian appeal for emergency relief to the thousands affected.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, responded to the appeal on behalf of the Government in line with South Africa's spirit of solidarity with the rest of the continent, underpinned by the philosophy of Ubuntu and its advancement of humanitarian diplomacy. South Africa rose to the challenge and responded promptly and positively to Sierra Leone's humanitarian appeal for emergency relief in order to save human lives and alleviate suffering.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane made an initial contribution of an amount of R8 million towards food aid and medical supplies through the World Food Programme to Sierra Leone. Furthermore, the Minister initiated the launch of a nationwide public appeal in order to allow all South Africans to show solidarity and support to the people of Sierra Leone during their most difficult and trying times.

South Africa's humanitarian gesture, which is aimed at restoring human dignity, is made within the context of the United Nations Agenda for Humanity, calling on global leaders to stand up for common humanity.

The Official Handover Ceremony was held on 8 September 2017 in Freetown, Sierra Leone, with South Africa's High Commissioner to Ghana, Lulama Xingwana (accredited to Sierra Leone), handing over the humanitarian aid to the Government of Sierra Leone.



SA and USA combine forces

Shared Accord (formerly Southern Accord) 2017 is an annual, combined, joint military exercise that brings together United States forces and partner nations to foster security cooperation while improving operational planning and mission command capabilities.



The United States (US) military, in partnership with the South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF), conducted Exercise Shared Accord 2017, a command post and company-level field training exercise, from 17 July to 3 August, at Lohatla in the Northern Cape.

Shared Accord 17 was a US Africa Command directed and US Army Africa-led exercise designed to assess the capacity and capability of participating staff and forces in peacekeeping operations. Over 1 000 military personnel from the USA and South Africa participate in the annual, combined, joint military exercise.

"We are very pleased to be in South Africa for the Shared Accord exercise," said Brigadier-General William Prendergast, Deputy Commander, US Army Africa. "We could not have asked for a better training environment and our soldiers are ready for tough, realistic training, which increases readiness for both organisations. I would like to thank the South African team for hosting this outstanding event."

The participating soldiers gained valuable combat experience during the final, live fire, portion of Exercise Shared Accord.

More than 230 American soldiers from the 327th Infantry Regiment participated in Shared Accord 2017 at the South African Army

Combat Training Centre at Lohatla, which at 610 square miles is the largest training area of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, giving troops a unique training ground dominated with thorny bushland and unforgiving, rocky hills. They were supported by a company from 2 SA Infantry Battalion and a platoon from the SA Navy Maritime Reaction Squadron with 21 SAI the enemy – in total 300 SA Army soldiers, 100 US and South African marines and 50 soldiers from US Army Africa headquarters participated.

During the live fire portion of the exercise, soldiers used explosives to breach an obstacle and fired at pop-up silhouette targets. Packing more of a punch, the anti-armour weapons were then used on stationary vehicle targets – all while soldiers cleared buildings and supplied cover fire.

Before the live fire exercise, soldiers went through situational training exercise lanes, learned bushcraft skills and fought against a South African-led opposing force. They even practised protecting defenceless people from a notional rebel group.

The field training exercise was based on a United Nations Chapter 7 Peace Support Operation and focussed on scenarios within such operations.

The operations were supported by laser guided force-on-force electronic equipment. This enabled the controlling staff to give

Shared Accord returns to South Africa every three years and will be held in Rwanda in 2018.

feedback to the soldiers on their performance in the actual execution of the tasks at hand. Events such as riotous crowd control, area domination patrols, cordon and search operations as well as key leader engagement were executed, with soldiers from both forces participating in these activities.

Shared Accord (formerly Southern Accord) 2017 is an annual, combined, joint military exercise that brings together US forces and partner nations to foster security cooperation while improving operational planning and mission command capabilities.

Shared Accord promotes regional relationships, increases capacity, trains US and South African forces and furthers cross-training and interoperability.

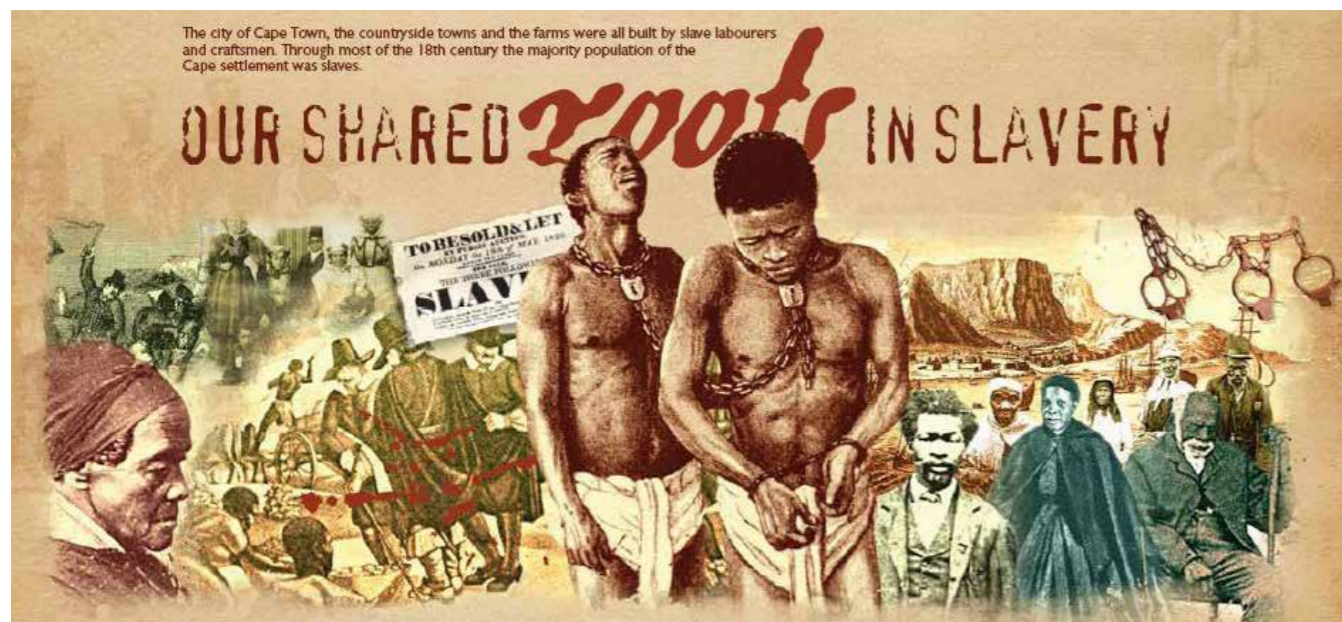
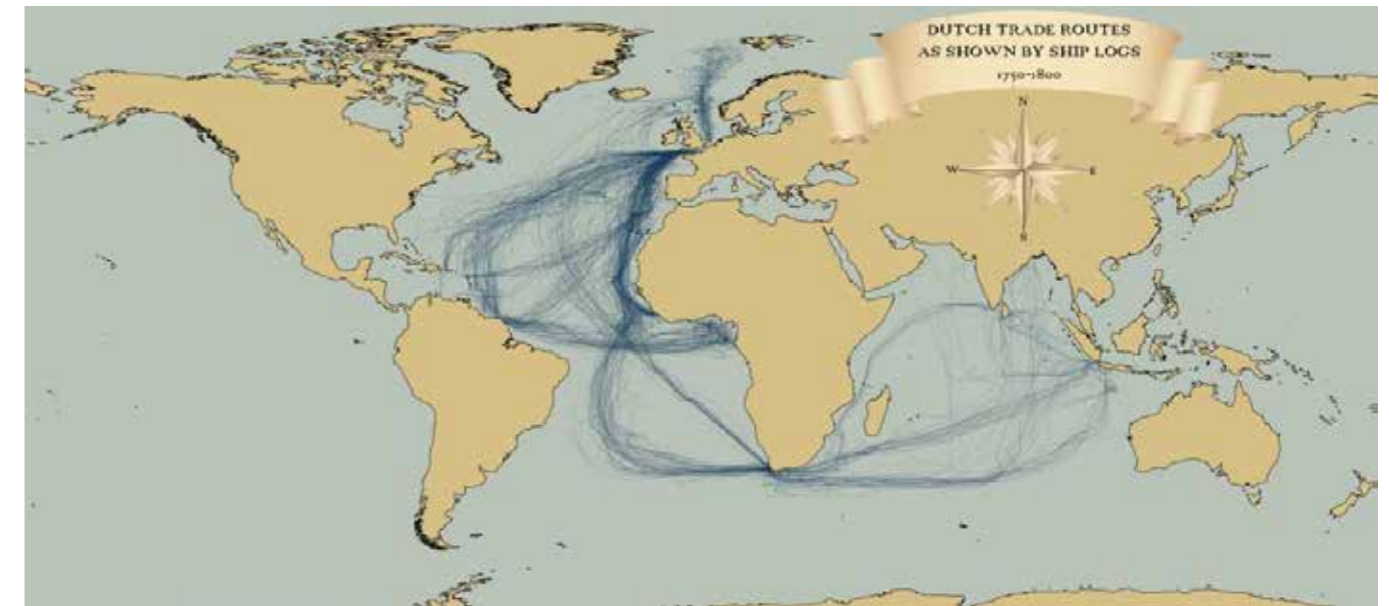
This exercise helped provide participating military forces with the skills required to enable readiness in support of peacekeeping operations.

Shared Accord returns to South Africa every three years and will be held in Rwanda in 2018. [u](#)

Thailand and South Africa share 400 years of ties that bind us

By Patric Tariq Mellet

Today, a large percentage of Cape Town's population has Southeast Asian, Indian, Malagasy and African roots from outside of the boundaries of South Africa due to the slave trade.



When Ambassador Robina Marks was South African Ambassador to Thailand, she sparked my interest to explore South Africa-Thai relations. This provided an anchor for explaining 400 years of ties that bind our two countries, resulting from the European use of Cape Town as a halfway refreshment station for sea traffic bound for Ayutthaya in Siam. It was also a fact that our people shared slave ancestors.

Furthermore, it's rooted in a Thai diplomatic mission, which was shipwrecked in 1686 at Cape Agulhas with survivors recuperating at the Cape of Good Hope settlement.

Southeast Asia has loomed large in South African history ever since European economic interests opened up in that region after the Dutch in 1602 established the United

Dutch East India Company (VOC) as the first multinational company. By 1605, King Ekathotsarot of Siam allowed the Dutch a trade mission at Baan Hollanda, in Ayutthaya – 17th century Southeast Asia's Paris.

Table Bay became a compulsory stop-over for all English shipping from 1615 – followed by the Dutch, Portuguese, French and Danish. All were serviced by the local indigene community, some of whom had travelled to London and Java and returned.

By 1652, the Dutch displaced the indigene Goringhaicona trading community at the Camissa settlement in Table Bay led by Chief Autshumao – servicing 1 071 ships before 1652. The Dutch built a fort and then quickly edged out the indigenes servicing the sea traffic.

The first South Africa-Thai diplomatic relations took place in 1686 by accident, as a result of a shipwreck wherein the Thai Royal

Ambassador of King Narai, His Excellency, Ok-Khun Chamnan Chaichong, thereafter recuperated in Cape Town. His host was the first Governor of the Cape who had spent time in Batavia (Jakarta), Simon van der Stel, and had the appearance of a Southeast Asian due to the fact that his mother was the daughter of an East Asian slave who had married the Dutch Governor of Mauritius.

Today, a large percentage of Cape Town's population has Southeast Asian, Indian, Malagasy and African roots from outside of the boundaries of South Africa due to the slave trade. Over 13 300 slaves came from Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Borneo, Philippines and Southern China and, around 17 500 slaves from India, Bengal and Sri Lanka; with a further 48 000 slaves who came from Africa and Madagascar.

Research identifies slaves with toponyms "Van Siam", confirming the Thai origin of some slaves. As an example, archive records show the presence Achilles of Siam in Cape Town in 1759, and Leonora of Siam in 1790.

Their Thai first names were changed by slave traders when they found difficulty pronouncing the Thai names. Slavery was only abolished by law in Siam in 1905, due to the relentless abolitionist efforts of King Chulalongkorn Rama V against the nobility who enslaved one third of the Thai population and gained powers that rivalled and threatened those of the monarchy and Siam's social cohesion. Therefore, many from Cape Town share ancestors from Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.

Siam's King had astute foreign policies of opening up to the world to counter any attempt by one superpower to colonise it.

The King's very active international relations policy played on the rivalries of Dutch, French, English and Portuguese and he sent emissaries abroad to strengthen his status as a free and powerful monarch in the region.

It was during the rule of King Narai the Great in Siam from 1656 to 1688, that the King dispatched a party of ambassadors and support staff to see the kings of Portugal and France and then the Pope at the Vatican. His Excellency, the Ambassador Ok-Khun Chamnan Chaichong, after leaving Siam on his way to Portugal, spent one year at Goa in India, learning Portuguese before making his way via the Cape of Good Hope to Portugal in January 1686.

Disaster struck with the shipwreck off Cape Agulhas in April 1686. The party of Siamese was made up of three ambassadors and 20

support staff and interpreters. They were a subset of 200 passengers and African slaves aboard the ship. Many drowned with the wrecking but seven Siamese survived and began the long march from Agulhas to the Fort de Goede Hoop in Table Bay, after the Portuguese survivors abandoned them to the wilds.

The Thai party had no rations, but they managed to stay alive on edible leaves, flowers, lizards, snakes, frogs and grasshoppers and by collecting rainwater. By the time they were rescued by the Hessequa indigene Khoena people who led them to safely and into the custody of the Dutch.

Governor van der Stel, the Africa-born head of the Cape VOC settlement, a man of Asian slave heritage, received the Royal credentials and hosted Ambassador Ok-Khun Chamnan Chaichong for four months while he and the other Thai survivors recuperated. The Governor was later handsomely reimbursed by King Narai for all the expenditure incurred, when the Ambassador came on a return visit. It is these engagements in Cape Town that began the ambassadorial relations between South Africa and a free, non-colonial Siam power 331 years ago – the first diplomatic relationship of its kind.

Siam changed its name to Thailand in 1939, which loosely translated means the "Land of the Free" and this has great significance to the descendants of slaves in Thailand and their distant relatives in the Western Cape today. The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of slaves imported into Cape Town were born into slavery. Although formal slavery was abolished and gradually phased out over 20 years after 1834, South Africa would only, after the resistance struggle

against apartheid, become the "Land of the Free" in 1994, under our late great President Nelson Mandela.

In 1997, President Mandela visited Thailand and met with the now late Great King Bhumibol Adulyadej Rama the IX, who passed away in 2016 year after 65 years on the Thai throne. Madiba conveyed his deep respect for the Thai King and the Thai people, saying: "The name of your country, Prathet Thai, embodies the very essence of what has become our dearest possession; namely our freedom. You are the only country in this region which has never come under the yoke of colonisation. This is a history of which you can be justifiably proud".

The South Africa-Thailand Heritage Reflection Centre in Cape Town, run by a South Africa Thai family, is a celebration of this deep heritage and a place of visitation for both South Africans of distant Southeast Asian heritage and of new generations of families where South Africans and Thai nationals have married.

Business, cultural and academic ties between the two nations are thriving and South African diplomatic relations have greatly advanced, particularly through the sterling work of our ambassadors during the last decade.

The Baan Hollanda site at the ruins of the 17th century capital Ayutthaya, now also has a museum of the VOC and its impact in Thailand and, Ayutthaya is a sister World Heritage Site to Robben Island. There are so many ties that bind South Africa and Thailand that can be celebrated. [u](#)

Patric Tariq Mellet is a descendent of slaves from Myanmar, Sulawesi, Makassar, India and Africa; and also of indigenous Khoena, and Europeans who with his Thai wife Asirawan Deeying Mellet, now runs Asirawan Siam Healing House and the South Africa-Thailand Heritage Reflection Centre in Cape Town, as promoters of goodwill between our two peoples.



DIRCO hosts SA's young leaders

Southern Africa's brightest young minds recently presented their recommendations on harnessing the potential of young people and the emerging youth demographic in Africa.

Seventy delegates, aged 15 to 23 years from across the region, participated in this event as the culmination of the fifth South African Institute of International Affairs' (SAIIA) Young Leaders Conference. During the conference, delegates hosted their own negotiation sessions under the theme: "African Potential: Creating a Youth Dividend for the Continent", which took place between 10 and 13 July at Maropeng, Cradle of Humankind.

Outstanding participants from the South African Institute of International Affairs' (SAIIA) youth programmes were also named SAIIA Young Ambassadors.

Representatives from government, the United Nations (UN), various diplomatic missions and civil society joined the conference as speakers, mentors and observers.

The negotiations culminated in the presentation of the 2017 Young Leaders Declaration at a special event hosted by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Nomaindiya Mfeketo, at the department's OR Tambo Building in Pretoria.

SAIIA has been running an annual Young Leaders Conference since 2012. Delegates for the conference are chosen from top-performing learners in the SAIIA Model UN Programme, the SAIIA Environmental Sustainability Project and the SAIIA Schools' Quiz.

Outstanding participants from SAIIA's youth programmes were also named SAIIA Young Ambassadors and attended the conference in this capacity. [u](#)



Using diplomatic relations to create opportunities for the youth

By Maite Nkoana-Mashabane
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

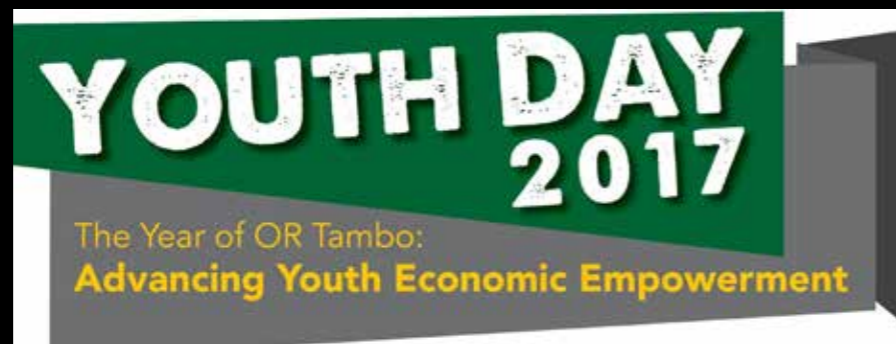
One of the strategic priorities that we pursue in the implementation of our foreign policy is to ensure that, through bilateral and multilateral interactions, we protect and promote South African national interests and values.

This year, South Africa commemorated the 41st anniversary of the 16 June 1976 Student Uprising. It is important that government uses all available means, including working closer with our international partners, to progressively reverse the legacy of apartheid, particularly in the areas of skills development, job creation and poverty eradication.

Our skills development challenges must be placed within the broader continental context. Africa is predominantly a youthful continent.

It is estimated that over 40% of Africa's working age population is between the ages of 15 and 24. This makes Africa the youngest continent in the world. Africa's youth are its greatest asset.

Our National Development Plan (NDP) says government must place emphasis on capacitating the youth in the areas of research and development. According to the NDP, research and development play an important role in helping middle-income countries to advance to high-income status.



It is important that government uses all available means, including working closer with our international partners, to progressively reverse the legacy of apartheid, particularly in the areas of skills development, job creation and poverty eradication.

In South Africa, the skills shortage phenomenon bears certain peculiarities, which are consistent with our apartheid past. Black people make up the largest percentage of the unskilled population.

The apartheid government tailored the Bantu education system deliberately to achieve this outcome.

We have, however, made significant inroads in the past 23 years of democracy to undermine the apartheid education legacy. According to the last *General Household Survey*, released by Statistics South Africa in 2016, the percentage of individuals with some post-school education increased from 9,3%

to 14%. At the same time, the percentage of individuals without any schooling decreased from 10,6% in 2002 to 4,9% in 2016.

According to the United Nations (UN), global unemployment increased from 170 million in 2007 to nearly 202 million in 2012, of which about 75 million are young women and men. The UN says 470 million jobs are needed globally for new entrants into the labour market between 2016 and 2030.

It is clear that skills shortages and the resultant unemployment situation affect not only South Africa, but other economies as well. Developing economies need to work closer to address the challenge.

This is why South Africa uses its diplomatic ties to address our domestic challenges, in particular through signing agreements in education and training as well as skills development and research.

The bilateral agreements that we have with countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, Cuba, India, Russia, Azerbaijan and Sweden provide our youth with opportunities to acquire skills in areas such as medicine, statistics and nuclear science. Those skills have become invaluable in the socio-economic development of our country.

Within multilateral institutions such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), South Africa also uses its membership to champion the need to train and skill our youth. At the BRICS Summit, held in Goa, India, in October 2016, the BRICS leaders expressed their commitment to take steps to establish a network of leading labour research and training institutes, "so as to encourage capacity-building, information exchange and sharing of best practices among BRICS countries".

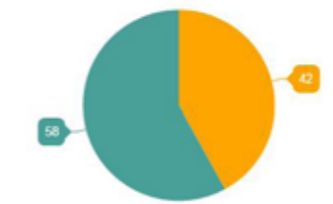
Youth unemployment and poverty can breed instability. President Jacob Zuma recognised this challenge when he told the last UN General Assembly that: "Global inequality and economic exclusion have become a serious threat to global peace and stability. Inclusive growth is thus a peace, security and prosperity imperative".

In its 50-year vision document, Agenda 2063, the African Union has identified seven aspirations, one of which is: "Ensuring well-educated citizens and a skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation". South Africa stands ready to lead in youth empowerment, working with our African and global partners.

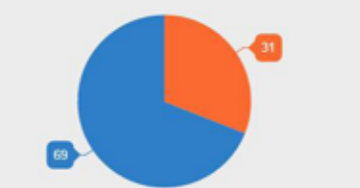
The National Development Plan and Youth Development in SA

The state of youth in South Africa

42% of young people between the ages of 15 and 35 are unemployed.



31% of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are not in employment, education and training.



Young people without matric = 65%

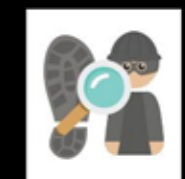


Young Africans remain largely unskilled compared to white youth.

Unacceptably high levels of teenage pregnancy.



8.7% of young people between 15 and 24 years are living with HIV.



One in five young people (2 million) have been victims of theft.



High levels of alcohol and drug abuse, as well as violent behaviour.



Fewer young people participating in elections.

National Development Plan Vision 2030

No one in SA will live in poverty.

The unemployment rate will only be 6%

Per capita income will increase from R50 000 (in 2010) to R120 000 in 2030

Cabinet adopted the NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (NYP) 2020 on 27 May 2015 as part of the NDP.

The objective: To foster a sense of national cohesion, acknowledge youth diversity, and provide opportunities. The policy commits to:



Economic transformation



Education & skills development



Healthcare & healthy lifestyles



National unity & social cohesion

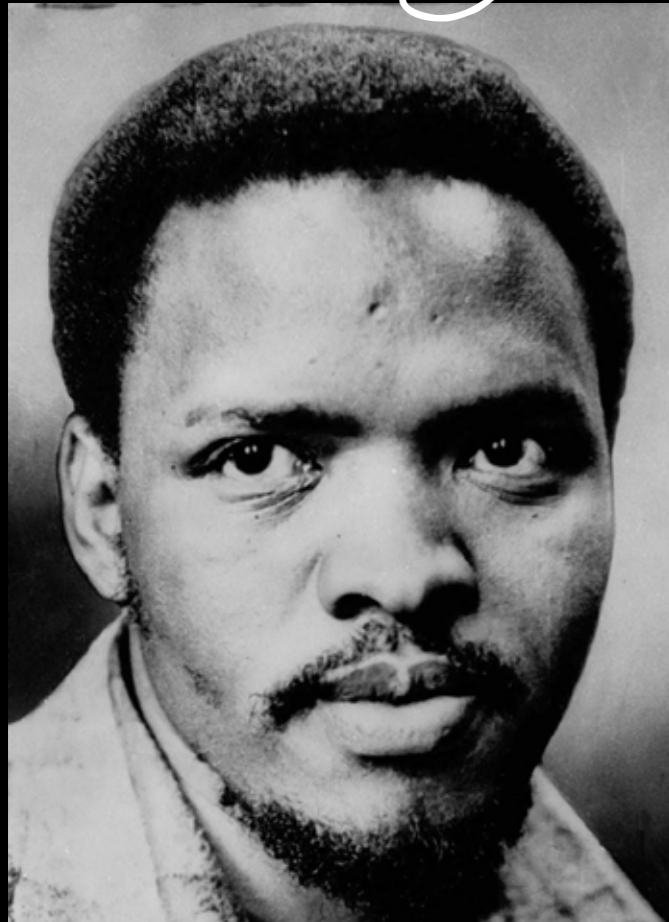


Optimisation of the youth development strategy

Source: "Youth Development and the National Development Plan" - The Presidency, 29 July 2015.

LIBERATION HERITAGE

Steve Biko



This year is the 40th commemoration of the death of Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko. On 21 March 2017, Human Rights Day, the official celebrations were held at the slain liberation fighter's gravesite in Ginsberg in the Eastern Cape where President Jacob Zuma, along with Biko's wife, Nontsikilelo, unveiled a memorial.

Bantu Stephen Biko was born in Tylden on 18 December 1946, the third child of the late Matthew Mzingaye and Alice Nokuzola "Mamcethe" Biko. He attended primary school in King William's Town and secondary school at Marianhill, a missionary school situated in the town of the same name in KwaZulu-Natal.

Steve Biko went on to register for a degree in Medicine at the Black Section of the Medical School of the University of Natal in 1966. Very early in his academic programme, Biko

showed an expansive search for knowledge that far exceeded the realm of the medical profession, ending up as one of the most prominent student leaders.

In 1968, Biko and his colleagues founded the South African Students' Organisation (SASO). He was elected the first President of the organisation at its inaugural congress held at Turfloop in 1969. This organisation was borne out of the frustrations black students encountered within the liberal and multiracial National Union of South African Students (NUSAS).

In the eyes of Biko and his colleagues, NUSAS showed signs of an organisation unwilling to adopt radical policy positions and comfortable with playing safe politics. SASO was founded, therefore, as a call on black students to refrain from being spectators in a game in which they should be participants. It was not long before it became the most

formidable political force spreading to campuses across the country and beyond. After serving as the organisation's President, Biko was elected publications director for SASO where he wrote prolifically under the pseudonym, Frank Talk.

With the seed of Black Consciousness having been sown outside of student campuses, Biko and his colleagues argued for a broader-based black political organisation in the country. In July 1972, the Black People's Convention (BPC) was founded and inaugurated in December the same year.

Inspired by Biko's growing legacy, the youth of the country at high-school level mobilised themselves in a movement that became known as the South African Students' Movement. This movement played a pivotal role in the 1976 Soweto Uprising, which accelerated the course of the liberation struggle. The National Association of Youth

Organisations was also formed to cater for the youth more generally.

Biko was instrumental in the development and formation of a core SASO project – the Black Workers' Project (BWP), which was co-sponsored by the Black Community Programmes (BCP) for which Biko worked at the time.

The BCP addressed the problems of black workers whose unions were not yet recognised by the law. After being expelled from medical school in 1972, Biko joined the BCP at their Durban offices. The BCP engaged in a number of community-based projects and published a yearly journal, called the *Black Review*, which provided an analysis of political trends in the country.

In March 1973, Biko was banned and restricted to King William's Town. There he set up a BCP office and served as branch executive. It was not long before his banning order was amended to restrict him from any association with the BCP.

Despite his banning, Biko was instrumental in the founding of the Zimele Trust Fund in 1975, which was set up to assist political prisoners and their families. He continued his work, setting up the Ginsberg Trust to assist black students.

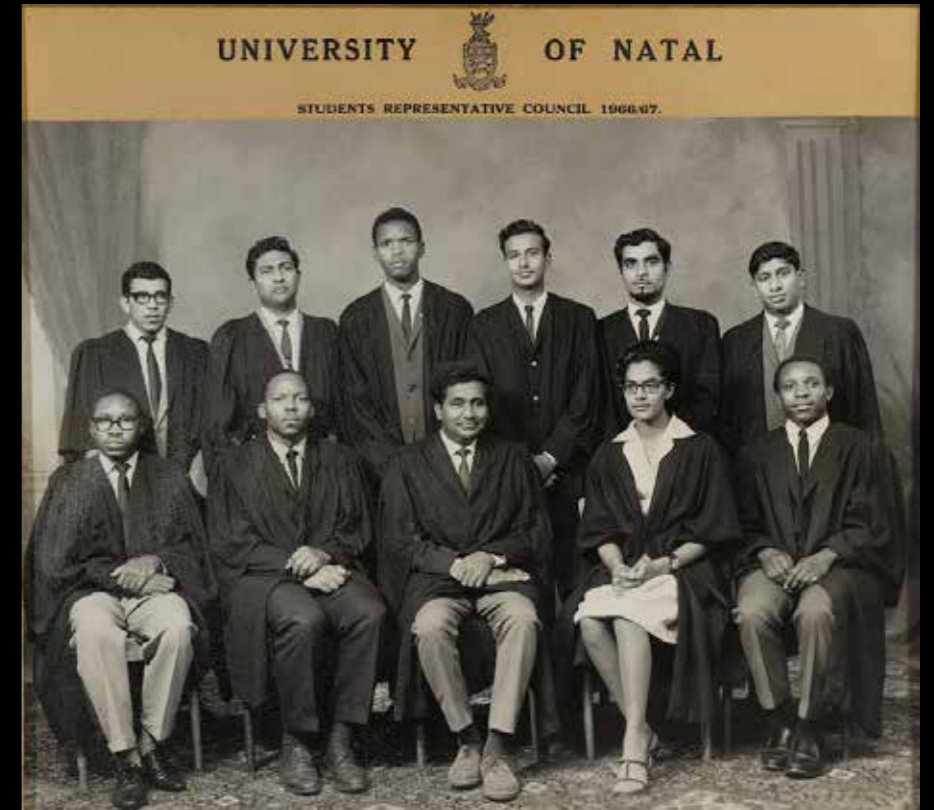
In his short but remarkable life, Biko was frequently harassed and detained under the country's notorious security legislation. This interrogation culminated in his arrest, together with his colleague and comrade, Peter Cyril Jones, at a police roadblock outside King William's Town on 18 August 1977.

Biko and Jones were tortured at the headquarters of the Security Division housed in what was then known as the Sanlam building in Port Elizabeth. It was during this period that Biko sustained massive brain haemorrhage.

On 11 September 1977, Biko was transported to Pretoria Central Prison – a 12-hour journey, naked, without medical escort, in the back of a police Land Rover. Biko died on the floor of an empty cell in Pretoria Central Prison on 12 September. It was in this way that South Africa was robbed of one of its foremost political thinkers.

Biko became officially the 46th victim of torture and death under the State Security Laws. His death helped highlight the brutality of South African security laws to the international community and the general plight of South Africans. It led directly to the decision by Western countries to support the United Nations Security Council vote to ban arms sales to South Africa (Resolution 418 of 4 November 1977).

Although Biko is often regarded as the father of Black Consciousness, his political




On 30 November 2012, the Steve Biko Foundation officially opened the Steve Biko Centre. Located in the Ginsberg Township of King William's Town in the Eastern Cape, the centre focusses on translating global interest in the legacy of anti-apartheid activist Bantu Stephen Biko into a developmental resource for the region.

The centre is central to the Steve Biko Heritage Trail, which comprises various sites in the Eastern Cape. Some of the sites were declared national monuments in 1997 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the death of Steve Biko. These sites have been declared national heritage sites and consistently garner both local and international attention. They include the:

- Steve Biko Monument in the Ginsberg Township, which falls in the King William's Town/ Bisho tourism node
- Biko Statue in East London
- Steve Biko's office in King William's Town
- Zanempilo Clinic outside King William's Town
- Garden of Remembrance in King William's Town
- Steve Biko Bridge, East London Harbour.

contribution extends well beyond black society and its consciousness. By abandoning politics of comfort, Biko challenged liberal white society to revisit its own consciousness. In this way, he contributed significantly to white consciousness and thus to ploughing the ingredients of mutual respect and non-racialism.

Before he died, Bantu Stephen Biko wrote these words:

"We have set out on a quest for true humanity and somewhere in the distance we can see the glittering prize. Let us march forth drawing strength from our common plight and brotherhood. In time we shall be in a position to bestow upon Africa the greatest gift possible, a more human face." 



Steve Biko Foundation



Mandela and Tambo: A lifetime as comrades

By Mary Alexander
Brand South Africa

Born in the Transkei a year apart, Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo were friends for more than 60 years; from their student days through a partnership in a law firm, the darkest days of resistance, imprisonment and exile, until the final victory over apartheid.

"Mandela and Tambo" read the brass plate on the door of the attorneys' shabby offices in downtown Johannesburg. It was late 1952, four years after the National Party (NP) victory, and the two young partners of South Africa's first black-owned law firm were busy.

"Mandela and Tambo were besieged with clients," Nelson Mandela wrote in his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, published in 1994. "We were not the only

"We were not the only African lawyers in South Africa, but we were the only firm of African lawyers."

African lawyers in South Africa, but we were the only firm of African lawyers."

"For Africans, we were the firm of first choice and last resort. To reach our offices each morning, we had to move through a crowd of people in the hallways, on the stairs and in our small waiting room."

Oliver Tambo's memories presaged Mandela's. "For years, we worked side by side in our offices near the courts," he wrote in his 1965 introduction to Ruth First's *No Easy Road to Freedom*. "To reach our desks each morning, Nelson and I ran the gauntlet of

patient queues of people overflowing from the chairs in the waiting room into the corridors."

Tambo and Mandela were highly educated young men, the products of independent missionary schools and the University of Fort Hare. They thought they knew what racial injustice was all about. But their experience of overflowing human misery in their cramped lawyers' offices opened their eyes to the real suffering of ordinary people.

Tambo wrote: "South Africa has the dubious reputation of boasting one of the highest prison populations in the world.

"Jails are jam-packed with Africans imprisoned for serious offences – and crimes of violence are ever on the increase in apartheid society – but also for petty infringements of statutory law that no really civilised society would punish with imprisonment.

"To be unemployed is a crime ... To be landless can be a crime ... To brew African beer, to drink it or to use the proceeds to supplement the meagre family income is a crime ... To cheek a white man can be a crime. To live in the 'wrong' area – an area declared white or Indian or coloured – is a crime for Africans."

Beginnings

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Oliver Reginald Tambo met at Fort Hare in the 1930s. The institution was renowned for producing leading African intellectuals for more than 40 years until its proud academic standards were gutted by the apartheid government in 1959. Govan Mbeki was a graduate, as was Robert Sobukwe, Dennis Brutus and Can Themba.

Fort Hare was the start of a partnership – as friends, attorneys and comrades – that would last 60 years. Mandela would become South Africa's most famous political prisoner and first democratically elected President, while Tambo joined the struggle in exile and served as president of the African National Congress (ANC) from 1967 to 1991.

The two had different memories of their first meeting. Mandela, always the sportsman, recalled it being on a football field. Tambo, a studious young man, remembered it as at a campus protest.

On Sundays, Mandela would venture out to teach bible classes at rural villages near Fort Hare.

"One of my comrades on these expeditions was a serious young Science scholar whom I had met on the soccer field," he wrote.

"He came from Pondoland, in the Transkei, and his name was Oliver Tambo. From the start, I saw that Oliver's intelligence was diamond-edged; he was a keen debater and did not accept the platitudes that so many of us automatically subscribed to ... It was easy to see that he was destined for great things."

In 1965, Tambo wrote: "At the age of 16, Nelson went to Fort Hare and there we first met: in the thick of a student strike". Tambo recalled that he and Mandela were "both born in the Transkei, he one year after me. We were students together at Fort Hare University College. With others, we had founded the ANC Youth League (ANCYL).

We went together into the Defiance Campaign of 1952, into general strikes against the government and sat in the same Treason Trial dock".

Life in Johannesburg

After Fort Hare, Tambo went on to teach Mathematics at St Peter's School in Johannesburg.

The school was eventually shut by the Nationalist government because, like Fort Hare, it gave its black students a quality education.

"From this school, killed by the government in later years because it refused to bow its head to government-dictated principles of a special education for 'inferior' Africans," Tambo wrote, "graduated successive series of young men drawn inexorably into the ANC, because it was the head of our patriotic, national movement for our rights."

Mandela, meanwhile, fled to Johannesburg from his Transkei home to escape an arranged marriage.

In the city, Tambo wrote: "Mandela had his first encounter with the lot of the urban African in a teeming African township: overcrowding, incessant raids for passes, arrests, poverty, the pinpricks and frustrations of the white rule".

In Johannesburg, both joined the ANC. They became part of a group of young ANC members who increasingly thought the organisation was not taking strong enough action to fight white rule.

The ANCYL

Mandela wrote: "Many felt, perhaps unfairly, that the ANC as a whole had become the preserve of a tired, unmilitant, privileged African elite more concerned with protecting their own rights than those of the masses".

They proposed forming a youth league "as a way of lighting a fire under the leadership of the ANC".

In 1943, a delegation, including Mandela, Tambo, Anton Lembede, Peter Mda and Walter Sisulu visited AB Xuma, the head of the ANC.

"At our meeting, we told him that we intended to organise a youth league and a campaign of action designed to mobilise mass support," Mandela wrote.

"We told Dr Xuma that the ANC was in danger of becoming marginalised unless it stirred itself and took up new methods."

The ANCYL was formed in 1944 with Lembede as President and Tambo as Secretary. Sisulu became the Treasurer and Mandela was part of the Executive Committee.

The Defiance Campaign

The NP victory in the white elections of 1948 came as a surprise to many – including Mandela. The stated election manifesto was overtly apartheid: cementing legislating and extending black repression and white minority rule.

"The victory was a shock," Mandela wrote. "I was stunned and dismayed, but Oliver took a more considered line. 'I like this,' he said. 'I like this.' I could not imagine why. He explained, 'Now we will know exactly who our enemies are and where we stand'."

The battle lines were drawn. The softer policies of negotiation and compliance with white leadership had achieved nothing. The next year, 1949, there saw a jump in ANC membership, which previously had lingered at around 5 000. It began to establish a firm presence in South African society.

In 1952, Mandela and Tambo were key in organising the Defiance Campaign. The ANC joined other anti-apartheid organisations in defiance against the restriction of political,





labour and residential rights, during which protesters deliberately violated oppressive laws. The campaign was called off in April 1953 after the apartheid Parliament voted in new laws prohibiting protest meetings.

Arrest and exile

In June 1955, the Congress of the People, organised by the ANC and Indian, coloured and white organisations at Kliptown near Johannesburg, adopted the Freedom Charter. This became the fundamental document of the struggle. In the same year, Tambo became Secretary-General of the ANC after Sisulu was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act, 1950.

In December 1956, Mandela and Tambo were among 156 leaders, key members of the Congress Alliance, arrested and charged with treason. They included almost all of the Executive Committee of the ANC, as well as the South African Communist Party, the South African Indian Congress and the Congress of Democrats. A total of 105 African, 21 Indian, 23 white and seven coloured leaders were arrested.

The trial was to last until 1961, with the State gradually reducing the number of accused until all charges were eventually dismissed.

In 1958, Tambo became deputy president of the ANC. However, in 1959, he was served with a five-year banning order. Tambo was sent abroad by the ANC to mobilise opposition

to apartheid. In 1967, he became president of the ANC after the death of Chief Albert Luthuli.

In the year after Tambo's exile, 1960, came the Sharpeville Massacre. The ANC leadership concluded that non-violence was no longer the answer to the struggle against apartheid.

In 1961, the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), was formed. Mandela was its first leader. MK operations in the 1960s mostly targeted government facilities. Mandela was arrested in 1962, convicted of sabotage, and in 1964, sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island.

Endings

"Nelson Mandela is on Robben Island today," Tambo wrote in 1965.

"His inspiration lives on in the heart of every African patriot. He is the symbol of the self-sacrificing leadership our struggle has thrown up and our people need. He is unrelenting, yet capable of flexibility and delicate judgement.

"He is an outstanding individual, but he knows that he derives his strength from the great masses of people, who make up the freedom struggle in our country."

Tambo died in April 1993, a year short of South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. South Africa's future was still uncertain.

Mandela gave the eulogy at Tambo's funeral.

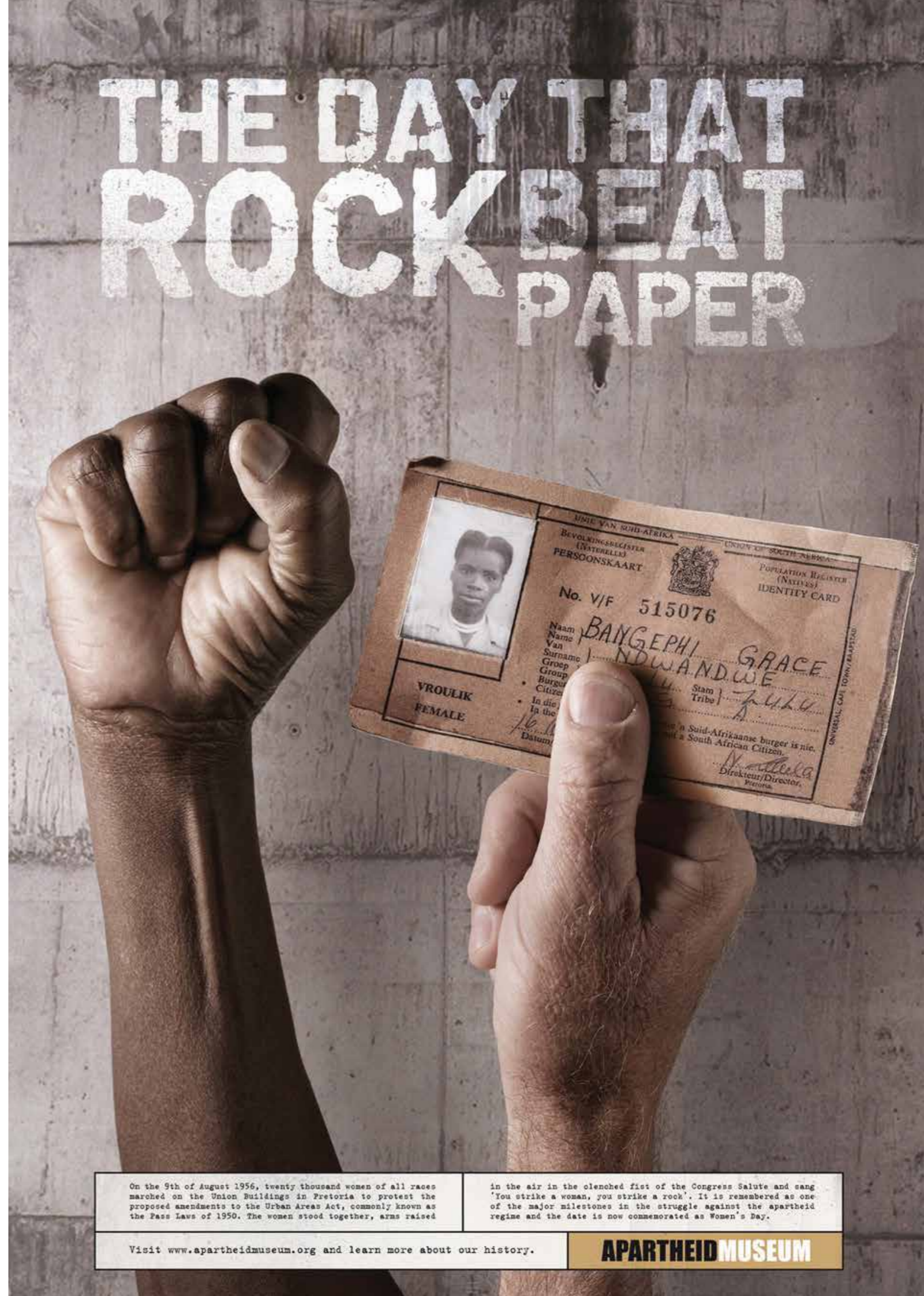
"Go well, my brother, and farewell, dear friend," he said.

"As you directed, we will bring freedom to the oppressed and liberation to the oppressor. As you strived, we will restore the dignity of the dehumanised. As you commanded, we will defend the option of a peaceful resolution of our problems. As you prayed, we will respond to the cries of the wretched of the Earth."

"As you instructed, we will bring peace to our tormented land.

"As you directed, we will bring freedom to the oppressed and liberation to the oppressor. As you strived, we will restore the dignity of the dehumanised. As you commanded, we will defend the option of a peaceful resolution of our problems. As you prayed, we will respond to the cries of the wretched of the Earth.

"In all this, we will not fail you." U



On the 9th of August 1956, twenty thousand women of all races marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas Act, commonly known as the Pass Laws of 1950. The women stood together, arms raised

in the air in the clenched fist of the Congress Salute and sang 'You strike a woman, you strike a rock'. It is remembered as one of the major milestones in the struggle against the apartheid regime and the date is now commemorated as Women's Day.

Visit www.apartheidmuseum.org and learn more about our history.

APARTHEIDMUSEUM

Madiba's story is a journey across our land

By Tokozile Xasa
Minister of Tourism

Places like these are not just about picturesque hills and sparse dwellings. They reveal layer upon layer of our history and heritage. They reflect the thoughts and values of leaders like Nelson Mandela, and convey the collective consciousness of our people. ▶▶





Join me on a journey to some very special places in our country, places that tell a remarkable story for the whole world.

Let's start our tour among the rolling hills around Qunu in the Eastern Cape. Scattered homesteads are sometimes clustered into little villages reached only by dusty, bumpy roads.

The cattle that you can see dotted around the landscape would have been tended by a young Rolihlahla Mandela as they grazed all day long, nearly a century ago. There would have been a small school in this area, where a teacher bestowed the name "Nelson" upon a young man, little knowing that he was to become a universal symbol of the spirit of humanity and reconciliation among people. Places like these are not just about picturesque hills and sparse dwellings. They reveal layer upon layer of our history and heritage. They reflect the thoughts and values of leaders like Nelson Mandela, and convey the collective consciousness of our people.

You can have an authentic interaction by living in private homes and local lodges in many rural communities like these. Here, you can gain first-hand insight into how traditional beliefs and cultural practices intermingle with modern life. You can understand how the

history and hardships of our people guide our aspirations to transform our economy and bring marginalised communities into the tourism mainstream.

This place was so important to former President Mandela that he chose to return there to retire, after leading a divided nation striving to reconcile itself, and serving our country as the world's most revered statesman.

Let's leave the quiet rural countryside of Qunu for now, we will return later.

Let's head north to Gauteng, to Soweto in Johannesburg. It was here, in Vilakazi Street, that Mandela lived in a small red brick house typical of apartheid's townships. Further down the road, lived Desmond Tutu.

Together with church colleagues and comrades in arms, Tutu and Mandela led the long struggle to tear down the policies that confined their people to live within their tiny boxes.

Vilakazi Street became the heart of the struggle against apartheid.

Today, the precinct is bustling with restaurants and street vendors who depend on the busloads of visiting tourists for trade. It is the only street in the world that was once home to two Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

Most visitors are international tourists, but more and more of our people are starting to

experience the benefits of exploring their own country as our domestic marketing and promotional campaigns take root.

More tourist traffic through Vilakazi Street means better prospects for the economy of the precinct. Here, the layer of our historic social struggle is interweaved with many economic dimensions: the precinct supports jobs, small businesses and many entrepreneurs. Tourist guides, transport operators and vendors of memorabilia all benefit from tourism.

The former home of Mandela, and the Vilakazi Street precinct that developed around it, demonstrate the power of tourism to convert cultural heritage assets into tangible benefits for communities today.

We leave the city of Johannesburg and head for the quiet town of Howick in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. It was here, along a winding back road, that Mandela was captured by security police, leading to the Treason Trial, his imprisonment on Robben Island and the remarkable transformation in our country following his release.

The capture site is marked by an iconic sculpture which gives visitors a sense of the important historic event which changed the course of our history so dramatically. The tourism economy around the site is not as well developed as that of Vilakazi Street, but it has

become a must-see site for passing tourists. That single moment in time, when a policeman stopped a car driven by a man disguised as a chauffeur, was to become a defining moment in South Africa's history.

Standing at the capture site, you feel the full significance of that momentous event along this very ordinary road.

From here, our journey follows Nelson Mandela to the prison cell he occupied for over two decades on Robben Island. A short ferry ride from Cape Town takes you to the island's small harbour.

A tour of the prison conveys the hardship its occupants were subjected to.

Standing in the cell that held Mandela captive is an extraordinary, life-changing experience. You cannot stop thinking about how someone who was confined to the brutality of this place can emerge with such humanity, even towards his captors.

This experience forces all of us to look deep within ourselves, and to question our own sense of humanity towards others. It forces us to discover the Mandela within each of us, and to express the values he espoused in whatever ways we can.

The penultimate leg of our trip once again follows the footsteps of Nelson Mandela, this time from Robben Island to the Union Buildings in Pretoria, where the prisoner became the President.

On the front lawns, an imposing statue of a smiling Nelson Mandela stretches out his arms, protecting his people with the warmth it exudes. It is a fitting tribute to Mandela the man, the statesman and the father of our democratic nation.

From here, we will make one more stop before our journey ends. We return to a traditional family gravesite at Qunu, to Nelson Mandela's final resting place.

As his family and comrades gathered here to return his body to the very soil that sustained his early life, the nation resumed life without one of the greatest sons of Africa.

But the story is far from over: Nelson Mandela will be with us forever, through the political legacy that brought freedom and democracy for all in our country, and through the many sites that continue to reflect on momentous events in his life.

From Qunu to Vilakazi Street, from Howick to Robben Island and Pretoria, and, finally back to Qunu, a journey through these sites brings our history and heritage to life.

I hope that many more South Africans will be able to make this remarkable journey.

And I wish that corporate South Africa, philanthropic foundations and others join hands and work together to make the trip possible for those who cannot afford to travel, especially

our youth. They will also return home with a renewed sense of what these sites mean for all of us in South Africa, and for humanity all around the world. Experiencing the story of Nelson Mandela, and understanding the values and principles it reveals, makes each

one of us a better person, and this is what makes the world a better place for all of us.

We end our journey as changed people, with a deeper understanding of ourselves and each other, fulfilling the ultimate purpose of tourism.

In a coup for South Africa, the Minister of Tourism, Tokozile Xasa, was elected one of two deputy chairpersons of the Regional Commission for Africa (CAF) during the 22nd General Assembly of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in China recently.

On the sidelines of the UNWTO General Assembly in Chengdu, held from 11 to 16 September 2017, Minister Xasa was appointed Deputy Chair of the CAF for a two-year term alongside her counterpart from the Gambia, Amat Bah. Kenya's Najib Balala was elected to chair the regional commission, succeeding Zimbabwe's Walter Mzembe.

The regional tourism commissions enable member states to meet once a year to discuss concerns and formulate proposals to submit to the UNWTO for consideration.

"We extend our warm congratulations to Minister Xasa on this significant appointment. It's a vote of confidence in the vision and leadership shown by South Africa as a major tourism player on the African continent and, indeed, on the world stage," said South African Tourism's Chief Executive Officer, Sisa Ntshona.

"Furthermore, to be voted into this important position by her peers on the African continent is an endorsement of Minister Xasa's zeal in pushing the agenda of the African Union in multilateral engagements, and her passion for championing women and small businesses in the tourism sector. African tourism faces its own distinct opportunities and challenges, and we have every confidence in her ability to articulate these on the global stage," he said.

Minister Xasa is also the convener of tourism ministers in the Southern African Development Community, after South Africa took over the revolving Chairship of the regional body in August 2017.



South Africa welcomes another world heritage site

The Khomani Cultural Landscape is located at South Africa's border with Botswana and Namibia in the northern part of the country. It falls within the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park.

South Africa's #Khomani Cultural Landscape in the Northern Cape has been inscribed as a world heritage site.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee also inscribed two other sites from Africa – in Eritrea and Angola – during its 41st Session in Krakow, Poland, recently.

"The decision that was taken today marks a long-awaited historical moment for us, the #Khomani San, and all other San/Bushman communities," said Dirk Pienaar, a #Khomani community member, addressing the session. He said it was an acknowledgement of universal value and importance. "This listing will thus provide a foundation for us to continue to preserve, protect and practise our ancient culture and

traditions with minimum threat of extinction within the current society."

The #Khomani Cultural Landscape is located at South Africa's border with Botswana and Namibia in the northern part of the country. It falls within the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park.

The landscape covers an area of 959 100 ha, according to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

"The #Khomani and related San people are unique in that they descend directly from an ancient population that existed in southern Africa some 150 000 years ago," said the department. "[They are] the ancestors of the entire human race."

This area, with its abundance of red dunes, had changed minimally since the Stone Age. The #Khomani Cultural Landscape had been home to people who learned to survive in the extreme desert

because of their knowledge of the land, said the department.

"They [the #Khomani San] developed a specific ethnobotanical knowledge, cultural practices and a worldview related to the geographical features of their environment," said UNESCO. "The #Khomani Cultural Landscape bears testimony to the way of life that prevailed in the region and shaped the site over thousands of years."

Angola's Mbanza Kongo and Eritrea's Asmara were the other African sites inscribed as world heritage sites.

Mbanza Kongo, said UNESCO, was the political and spiritual capital of the Kingdom of Kongo, one of the largest states in southern Africa from the 14th century to the 19th century.

When the Portuguese arrived, stone buildings were added. "Mbanza Kongo illustrates, more than anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa, the profound changes caused

by the introduction of Christianity and the arrival of the Portuguese into Central Africa." Asmara, 2 000 metres above sea level and the capital of Eritrea, became a military outpost for Italy, its colonial power.

After 1935, the city went through a massive construction project.

"It is an exceptional example of early modernist urbanism at the beginning of the 20th century and its application in an African context."

Before the announcement, South Africa already had eight world heritage sites: Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa, Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Transboundary with Lesotho), Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape, Vredefort Dome, Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape, Robben Island Museum, iSimangaliso Wetland Park and the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas.

In her acceptance speech, the Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Nosipho Ngcaba, said South Africa was committed to supporting efforts of economic development in the area, contributing to job creation, enhancing tourism experiences and contributing to skills development.

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Pienaar said the community would continue to respect their culture and pass it

on. "Conservation for us is not a planned action or a buzzword to use to impress when needed," he said. "It is [not] a choice but a way of life that is instilled within all San people from a very tender age."

He also gave thanks to the elder community members, including "Oupa Dawid Kruiper and Ouma Una Rooi, who died sadly while fighting for our cause".

UNESCO / Department of Environmental Affairs / Brand South Africa





Put Foot is putting African children on the road to success with new shoes

The organisation believes that shoes are symbolic of pride and give confidence to young people so that they can walk to school in comfort.

A South African charity is taking on the challenge of making sure underprivileged children across the continent have at least one good pair of shoes.

The Put Foot Foundation donates shoes to underprivileged children in South Africa and across Africa.

The foundation, a proudly South African public beneficiary organisation and non-profit charity, was founded by former Springbok rugby player, Bob Skinstad. It is dedicated to giving hope, pride and dignity to

underprivileged rural children through owning their own pair of new, quality school shoes.

The organisation believes that shoes are symbolic of pride and give confidence to young people so that they can walk to school in comfort.

The Put Foot Foundation donates shoes to underprivileged children in South Africa and across Africa.

In its Mission Statement, the organisation explains that "shoes are also a vital protection barrier between our children's tiny soles and Africa's rough and unforgiving terrain".

Together with his co-founders, social entrepreneur, Daryn Hillhouse, and digital communications expert, Mike Sharman, Skinstad says the organisation is focussed on addressing the needs of rural areas in South Africa and across the rest of Africa that have been overlooked by other charities and non-governmental organisations.

"We believe that there is no greater experience than providing our donors with the opportunity to experience the impact that their donations have made possible. That is why we invite and strongly encourage our donors



to take part in the life-changing experience of gifting a brand-new pair of school shoes to a young, underprivileged child," Skinstad writes on the Put Foot website.

During its annual Put Foot Rally across southern Africa, volunteers deliver thousands of shoes to rural schoolchildren. In June 2017, the rally visited communities in South Africa, Namibia and Zambia, delivering over 2 000 pairs of shoes; while 500 children in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, each received a pair of unique Shoes That Grow footwear.

Shoes That Grow, invented by American Kenton Lee, is a sandal-type shoe that can be adjusted for size and comfort, and grow with the children's feet, lasting up to five years. Lee works with a number of international charities to distribute shoe donations to Ecuador, Haiti and countries across Africa.

Meanwhile, Put Foot is also edging closer to its 2017 goal of raising R1 million, which will mean more rallies around Africa and more shoes for the continent's children.

Put Foot volunteer, Brent Lindeque, took part in a recent Put Foot Rally in Zambia:

"I met Audrey, an eight-year-old who had never owned a new pair of shoes.

"Every single piece of clothing she had ever worn was a hand-me-down or second-hand donation that had been given to her ... [we] got to give Audrey her first pair of new shoes ever.

"Fighting back the tears she smiled and told me that one day she would make enough money to give underprivileged kids the things that she hasn't been able to afford in her life."

Cliff Central radio personality, Lindeque, runs the feel-good news website, Good Things

During its annual Put Foot Rally across southern Africa, volunteers deliver thousands of shoes to rural schoolchildren.

Guy. "Those who can afford it," Lindque writes on his website, "take shoes for granted ... but these kids don't have that choice and to see the joy they get from a simple act of kindness is too good not to share."

In addition to their shoe donations, Put Foot is involved in wildlife conservation, particularly rhino protection.

The group has donated more than R500 000 for the protection of Africa's most endangered animals, including rhinos, the Hartmann's mountain zebra and the African wild cat.

Put Foot also helps other Section 18A organisations with similar objectives, including Habitat for Humanity and corporate fundraising.

But, the main focus is on getting those shoes on feet, and the organisation is continually seeking out donations and volunteers to help sustain its success. No contribution is too small, says Put Foot, which welcomes individual and organisation donations.

Put Foot Foundation / Good Things Guy / Brand South Africa





The value of travel and related services consumed by organs of state annually is estimated at about R10 billion. This presents a transformation lever through state procurement.

Tourism is a significant and critical sector in South Africa's economy as it contributes positively to the trade balance through foreign exchange receipts, sustains 700 000 direct jobs and is performing stronger than the other five growth sectors.

Globally, we recorded our seventh year of sustained growth despite the economic slowdown. In the past year, South Africa recorded 13% growth in international tourist arrivals. Africa as a whole received 8%. This presents tourism as key in diversifying Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) income stream. With the world record of 1,2 billion tourists in 2016, Africa only enjoys a market share of 5%.

This sector deserves more support and recognition in our country because it provides more opportunities and has lower barriers to entry.

The sector is already contributing to our economy by supporting over 1,5 million jobs in total and bringing in about 9% to our GDP. Growth in tourism means that the prospects for growing and transforming our economy are significantly enhanced, not only for the tourism sector but for the entire value chain that is supported by tourism. This presents a greater opportunity for integration with other nine-point plan sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and transport, among others. We recognise this potential and are working with our partners to maximise the social and economic benefits of tourism beyond just the sector.

To build on this growth, we have revised our 2020 strategy. The new strategy aims to achieve over 200% growth in our direct contribution to the 2015 GDP figure of R118 billion to R302 billion in 2026. The indirect contribution to GDP will be just under a trillion rand at R941 billion from the 2015 figure of R375 billion. We will also add 300 000 more jobs to bring direct employment to one million from the 2015 figure of 700 000. This will bring the indirect employment to tourism figures to about 2,26 million. Building from South Africa known as a safari and business events destination, we added culture and heritage.

The value of travel and related services consumed by organs of state annually

is estimated at about R10 billion. This presents a transformation lever through state procurement. Furthermore, government controls the allocation of other opportunities such as licensing of tour operators, gaming operations (including casinos), duty-free stores, car rental parking bays at strategic hubs, accommodation and retail facilities at state-owned facilities that are concessioned to operators. These areas further present opportunity for accelerating radical economic transformation and we will work with partner departments to pursue this goal.

Tourism in South Africa is on the rise. The Department of Tourism is using its budget of R2,1 billion to ensure that, as tourism rises, the people of South Africa rise with it. We will deploy this modest budget to pursue the following strategic areas for tourism growth.

Marketing takes the largest component of this budget at 53% or R1,1 billion. The remaining R1 billion is largely distributed among tourism incentives, the Expanded Public Works Programme (including skills development), destination development and enterprise development.

With SA Tourism's budget at 53%, it is our strategic intent to drive government imperatives through our entity. These include contribution to job creation and radical economic transformation. A targeted approach to positioning black enterprises in SA Tourism marketing efforts is a critical part of fulfilment of that mandate.

This R1,1 billion will be deployed towards increasing our global market share and growing the domestic tourism market in a manner that promotes inclusive growth. Our goal is to attract five million additional tourists to South Africa within the next five years. Simply put, the 5 in 5 strategy, brings four million additional international tourist arrivals and one million additional domestic holiday trips. The growth in the international market will be driven through establishment of a "Bidding Fund" to a tune of R90 million over the medium-term period, strengthening our marketing and conversion mechanisms in traditional markets, and expanding to new markets which include Asia, Iran, the Middle East, the African continent and its Diaspora.

Some R110 million is allocated for attracting more businesses and delegates to South Africa and R224 million for infrastructure investment.

It is our approach moving forward that all our strategic events should find their respective homes, which would allow the host city, provincial and industry partners to plan their investments with greater levels of certainty. There are opportunities for partnerships and investments in this area.

South Africa plays a strategic role as one of seven founding members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

Intra Africa travel and trade account for around 12% of Africa's total trade. This illustrates the deficiency we also have in the movement of people and goods across the continent but also presents an opportunity. Improvements in infrastructure linkages to improve connectivity and flow of people also mean discussions and resolutions around immigration regulations such as issuing of visas and the efficiency and care in that undertaking.

Following the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immigration Regulations, which was tasked with finding a balance between ease of travel facilitation for tourists and security needs, significant progress was made in implementing the Cabinet decisions. These include long-term multiple entry visas for frequent business travellers, use of accredited travel companies to apply for their clients' visas, visa waivers in some cases and expansion of the network of visa facilitation centres.

It is only through continuous strategic and constructive dialogue between the public and private sectors that we will be able to achieve meaningful results. In the end, South Africa must remain the winner.

Marine and coastal tourism

Our approach to the implementation of the Marine and Coastal Tourism Strategy seeks to promote the integration of associated industries such as agriculture, fisheries, creative arts, environmental management, small harbours development, cruise terminal development etc. We are also taking a nodal approach in all identified projects to tackle the entire value chain and product development. The plan will also seek to integrate coastal developments with existing inland experiences with the view to maximise participation opportunities. It will form a greater part of our destination development efforts. South Africa plays a strategic role as one of seven founding members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, and this opens opportunities beyond our South African coastal marine and tourism and extends opportunities to one third of the world's coastline.

Transformation

In pursuit of our transformation agenda, we will be implementing our transformation plan,

which was developed under the guidance of the Tourism Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEEE) Charter Council. The plan includes but is not limited to:

- putting together a framework for maximising empowerment of black people through concessions in state-owned facilities
- partnerships to bring in existing black operators to serve as management companies for state-owned facilities
- partnership with industry to scale up enterprise and supplier development
- effective use of state procurement levers in partnership with National Treasury to empower black suppliers of tourism products and services
- strengthening market access for black-owned enterprises in terms of government-driven marketing initiatives
- enhanced mechanisms for access to funding for new initiatives and expansion projects.

The ultimate goal is to participate in the Black Industrialist Programme. Access to funding for small and medium enterprises in the tourism space has been a challenge for some time. This restricts growth of small enterprises, expansion of their existing products and participation by communities as it is difficult to obtain operational finance. In recognition of this challenge and with the support of National Treasury, we have entered into a partnership with the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) to establish a Transformation Fund.

A combination of grant funding and debt financing will be used to drive sector transformation and unlock capital investment in tourism. The fund is currently capitalised to an amount of R120 million with the aim of building it to R360 million in the medium term. Every rand from the department is matched by R2 from the NEF. The fund includes NEF equity, debt and National Department of Tourism grant funding. The grant funding will be capped at R5 million.

In October 2017, the Tourism B-BBEE Charter Council in partnership with the National Department of Tourism hosted a Tourism Transformation Summit in Gauteng. The aim of the summit was to create dialogue and exchange tourism sector transformation strategies as well as investment opportunities towards radically growing and sustaining black and women participation across the tourism value chain.

Domestic tourism

Our Domestic Tourism Strategy puts equal emphasis on supporting strategic product development and enhancement with the aim of broadening the product base to accommodate the needs of our diverse domestic tourism



Attracting investors and tourists to South Africa

By Tokozile Xasa
Minister of Tourism

market. This will also broaden our product offering for the international market.

The initiative includes some of the over 700 state-owned products such as provincial and municipal resorts, some of which already attract international visitors but require refurbishment.

Our enterprise development programme will also facilitate the development of a new breed of tour operator for the domestic tourism market, which will work with small, medium and micro enterprise tourism product owners and service providers to take advantage of the growing diverse market needs.

We will also be creating travel schemes for social clubs and strengthening the role of events in growing domestic tourism. We will work with key national and provincial attractions such as parks, cultural and heritage sites to expose underprivileged South Africans to the country's tourism offering.

Through SA Tourism, we will also form strategic partnerships to enhance conversion based on our domestic tourism marketing drive.

Destination development

We are developing a framework for precinct development, with the emphasis on township and rural tourism. Initial efforts will be focussed on Vilakazi Street in Soweto with a view to replicate the model in other viable

We are developing a framework for precinct development, with the emphasis on township and rural tourism. Initial efforts will be focussed on Vilakazi Street in Soweto with a view to replicate the model in other viable townships across the country.

A combination of Vilakazi street residents' entrepreneurship spirit and the uniqueness of this very special place, once a home to two Nobel Peace laureates and one of the kind in the world, has created a vibrant and globally sought-after tourism attraction. This amplifies the need for a targeted approach to precinct development.

Incentives

The department has made significant progress on the implementation of solar photovoltaic energy-generating systems at strategic tourism attractions as part of greening our destination.

This includes the completion of a solar power plant on Robben Island, which is already supplying solar energy to the island. This project was made possible by close cooperation between the Department of

Tourism, Department of Arts and Culture, Department of Public Works and the Robben Island Museum.

This is yet another example of the power of collaboration and the benefits of taking a whole-of-government approach to tourism development.

The department has also collaborated with the Industrial Development Corporation to introduce a Green Tourism Incentive Programme.

This programme will support qualifying tourism enterprises to retrofit their facilities with more energy-efficient technologies. This will not only save costs for small and medium black-owned enterprises and contribute to a greener destination, but the programme will also create employment and local content promotion through retro-fitment of products.



A NEW ERA FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN WINE

It's been over two decades since South Africa became a democracy. In that time our wine industry has taken quantum leaps forward. Plant improvement programmes have been accelerated, and we are establishing vineyards with clones and varieties carefully chosen to suit our specific climatic conditions, some in new cooler climate areas. Older heritage vineyards have been found and restored.

Our exports more than doubled between 2005 and 2015. This growth has been driven by an exponential increase in quality, with each year delivering exciting new wineries, more innovative young winemakers and even better wines.

Today, South African wines have achieved international recognition and been deemed among the most exciting in the world, with adjectives like 'rule-breaking', 'trailblazing', 'captivating', 'daring' and 'original' increasingly linked to them by influential critics and sommeliers.

As UK wine writer and judge Tim Atkin MW remarked in his South Africa 2015 Special Report: "South Africa - with its diverse terroirs, old vines and pure winemaking talent - is one of the most dynamic and exciting winemaking countries in the New World."



W11 Punt | Peartree Photography

Mapungubwe: South Africa's lost city of gold

Mapungubwe was home to an advanced culture of people at the time – the ancestors of the Shona people of Zimbabwe. They traded with China and India, had a flourishing agricultural industry and grew to a population of around 5 000.

One thousand years ago, Mapungubwe in the Limpopo province was the centre of the largest kingdom on the subcontinent, where a highly sophisticated people traded gold and ivory with China, India and Egypt.

The Iron Age site, discovered in 1932 but hidden from public attention until only recently, was declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in July 2003.

Mapungubwe is an area of open savannah at the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashe rivers and abutting the northern border of South Africa and the borders of Zimbabwe and Botswana. It thrived as a sophisticated trading centre from around 1220 to 1300.

In its statement on the listing, UNESCO describes Mapungubwe as the centre of the largest kingdom in the subcontinent before it was abandoned in the 14th century.

"What survives are the almost untouched remains of the palace sites and also the entire settlement area dependent upon them, as well as two earlier capital sites, the whole presenting an unrivalled picture of the development of social and political structures over some 400 years," UNESCO said.

Mapungubwe was home to an advanced culture of people at the time – the ancestors of the Shona people of Zimbabwe. They traded with China and India, had a flourishing agricultural industry and grew to a population of around 5 000.

Mapungubwe is probably the earliest known site in southern Africa where evidence of a class-based society existed (Mapungubwe's

leaders were separated from the rest of the inhabitants).

The site was discovered in 1932 and has been excavated by the University of Pretoria ever since. The findings were kept quiet at the time, since they provided contrary evidence to the racist ideology of black inferiority underpinning apartheid.

Nevertheless, the university now has a rich collection of artefacts made of gold and other materials, as well as human remains, discovered there. According to the University of Pretoria's Mapungubwe website, "Subsequent excavations revealed a court sheltered in a natural amphitheatre at the bottom of the hill, and an elite graveyard at the top – with a spectacular view of the region.

"Twenty-three graves have been excavated from this hilltop site", the website continues.

"The bodies in three of these graves were buried in the upright seated position associated with royalty, with a variety of gold and copper items, exotic glass beads and other prestigious objects.

"These finds provide evidence not only of the early smelting of gold in southern Africa, but of the extensive wealth and social differentiation of the people of Mapungubwe."

The most spectacular of the gold discoveries is a little gold rhinoceros, made of gold foil and tacked with minute pins around a wooden core. The rhino, featured in one of South Africa's national orders – the Order of Mapungubwe – has come to symbolise the high culture of Mapungubwe. The rhino is also a symbol of leadership among the Shona people of Zimbabwe.

Other artefacts made in similar fashion include the Golden Sceptre and the



Golden Bowl, found in the same grave on Mapungubwe Hill.

Evidence of complex social formations

What is so fascinating about Mapungubwe is that it is testimony to the existence of an African civilisation that flourished before colonisation. According to Professor Thomas Huffman of the Archaeology Department at the University of the Witwatersrand, Mapungubwe represents "the most complex society in southern Africa and is the root of the origins of Zimbabwean culture".

Between 1200 and 1300 AD, the Mapungubwe region was the centre of trade in southern Africa. Wealth came to the region from ivory and later from gold deposits that were found in Zimbabwe. The area was also agriculturally rich because of large-scale

flooding in the area. The wealth in the area led to differences between rich and poor.

In the village neighbouring Mapungubwe, called K2, an ancient refuse site has provided archaeologists with plenty of information about the lifestyles of the people of Mapungubwe.

According to the University of Pretoria's website: "People were prosperous, and kept domesticated cattle, sheep, goats and dogs.

The charred remains of storage huts have also been found, showing that millet, sorghum and cotton were cultivated.

"Findings in the area are typical of the Iron Age. Smiths created objects of iron, copper and gold for practical and decorative purposes – both for local use and for trade. Pottery, wood, ivory, bone, ostrich eggshells and the shells of snails and freshwater mussels, indicate that many other materials were used

and traded with cultures as far away as East Africa, Persia, Egypt, India and China."

Mapungubwe's fortune only lasted until about 1300, after which time climate changes, resulting in the area becoming colder and drier, led to migrations further north to Great Zimbabwe.

Mapungubwe National Park

In 2004, South African National Parks (SANParks) opened Mapungubwe National Park, incorporating the UNESCO-designated Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape in an area covering well over 28 000 hectares.


The park forms part of an ambitious project to develop a major transfrontier conservation area, the Limpopo/Shashe Transfrontier Park, which will cross the borders of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe,

linking Mapungubwe National Park with Botswana's Tuli Block and Zimbabwe's Tuli Safari area.

Besides the rich cultural heritage of Mapungubwe National Park, most of the continent's big game roam here.

There is also a tremendous diversity of plant and animal life.

Sandstone formations, mopane woodlands and unique riverine forest and baobab trees form an astounding scenic backdrop for a rich variety of animal life.

Elephant, giraffe, white rhino, eland, gemsbok and numerous other antelope species occur naturally in the area, while visitors can spot predators like lions, leopards and hyenas, and birders can tick off 400 species, including kori bustard, tropical boubou and pel's fishing owl.  Brand South Africa



Vredefort Dome – the world's biggest meteor crater

By Mary Alexander
Brand South Africa

The Vredefort Dome Conservancy, as it is now known, is not just of scientific value. It also has great scenic beauty, making it an ideal tourist destination. ▶▶

Two billion years ago, a meteorite 10 kilometres wide, hit the earth near what is today the town of Vredefort in the Free State, 100 kilometres south of Johannesburg. The impact created a massive crater that can still be seen from space – the Vredefort Dome.

The meteorite was a piece of rock bigger than Table Mountain. When it hit the earth, it exploded with a thousand-megaton blast of energy equivalent to a bomb fired by a trillion tons of dynamite.

The impact was so powerful, it turned in a single moment 70 cubic kilometres of solid rock into dust. The turmoil it caused to our planet’s climate may have increased oxygen levels in the atmosphere, allowing multicellular life to flourish.

The oldest visible crater

The world has about 130 crater structures of possible impact origin. The Vredefort Dome is the oldest and largest of these, clearly visible from space.

At two-billion years old, Vredefort is far older than the Chixculub meteor impact site in Mexico. This meteor strike, 65 million years ago, is thought to be the event that led to the extinction of dinosaurs.

Vredefort’s original impact scar measures 380 km across and is made up of three concentric circles of raised rock. They were created by the rebound of rock below the impact site when the asteroid hit. Most of these structures have eroded away and are no longer clearly visible.

The inner circle, measuring 180 km, is still visible and can be seen in the beautiful range of hills near Parys and the town of Vredefort.

In 2005, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) named this inner circle the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site.

Internationally, there are 1 073 world heritage sites, in 141 countries. Africa has 77 sites and South Africa a total of nine – five cultural, three natural and one of mixed cultural and natural heritage. The Vredefort Dome is a natural heritage site.

Internationally, there are 1 073 world heritage sites, in 141 countries. Africa has 77 sites and South Africa a total of nine – five cultural, three natural and one of mixed cultural and natural heritage.

The Vredefort Dome is a natural heritage site.

The Vredefort Conservancy

In 1937, earth scientists John Boon and Claude Albritton Boon were the first to suggest that the Vredefort structure was the scar of an ancient meteorite impact. Since

then, the site has been studied extensively by earth scientists from around the world.

The Vredefort Dome Conservancy, as it is now known, is not just of scientific value. It also has great scenic beauty, making it an ideal tourist destination.

The Dome Conservancy contains a finely balanced ecosystem made up of open plains, bushveld, mountains and ravines with abundant plants and wildlife.

At least 99 plant species have already been identified, of which the world’s largest olive wood tree forest is probably the best known.

It is also an important birding area, with over 450 species already identified. It also has as many identified butterflies as the whole of Great Britain, and is home to rare animals such as the rookkat, aardwolf, leopard and the endangered rock dassie.

The Vredefort Dome site fulfils all the criteria set by UNESCO for a world heritage site.

It is of outstanding universal value from a scientific point of view, and is remarkable evidence of an important moment in the earth’s geologic history. 🇿🇦



SA Mint celebrates SA's marine protected areas



This theme concludes in 2017 with South Africa's first offshore Marine Protected Area (MPA), namely the Prince Edward Islands MPA, consisting of Prince Edward and Marion Islands located in the southern Indian Ocean, halfway between South Africa and Antarctica.



The South African Government has established a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) to conserve South Africa's offshore biodiversity and ensure the sustainable use of its marine resources.

In 2013, a four-coin sterling-silver series featured the iSimangaliso MPA in the Delagoa bio-region, followed by the KwaZulu-Natal MPAs in 2014. In 2015, the MPAs in the Agulhas bio-region were denoted and in 2016, aspects of the south-western Cape bio-region were portrayed. This theme concludes in 2017 with South Africa's first offshore MPA, namely the Prince Edward Islands MPA, consisting of Prince Edward and Marion Islands located in the southern Indian Ocean, halfway between South Africa and Antarctica.

The reverse of the 50c features the king penguin (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*), one of the four penguin species which breed on the islands. In 2008, there were approximately 2 000 pairs on Prince Edward Island and about 6 500 pairs incubating eggs on Marion Island. The coin depicts an adult pair and

Prince Edward Island supports about 40% of the world's wandering albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) population.

their chick standing among a colony of king penguins.

The Marion Island Killer Whale Programme was established as a dedicated research wing of the Marine Mammal Programme to observe, obtain tissue samples and track the killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) visiting the island's rocky shores. Most of the research is done inshore due to the proximity of the visiting killer whales which feed on elephant seals, fur seals and penguins. About 60 individuals have been catalogued. The 20c (1 oz) shows two killer whales leaping from the sea.

Prince Edward Island supports about 40% of the world's wandering albatross

(*Diomedea exulans*) population. An adult albatross landing in the ocean is shown on the 10c. It has a circumpolar range in the Southern Ocean and can travel great distances in search of food.

Ranging from 2,5 m to 3,5 m, its wingspan is the largest of any bird, allowing it to remain airborne for many hours without having to flap its wings.

The southern elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*), featured on the reverse of the 5c, spends most of its life out at sea. These seals haul themselves on to land during the breeding season or when they moult in summer and autumn. The males are instantly recognisable by their large, inflatable proboscis and large size.

From late August, the males arrive at the breeding grounds before the pregnant females congregate into groups called "harems". Each group is dominated by a male called a "beach master". The competition among the males is fierce, as depicted on the coin.

The common obverse depicts the national Coat of Arms, the year of issue "2017" and "South Africa".



WFP/Claudia Altorrey/Lesotho

Every year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition, provide school meals and build resilience.

To learn more about our work, visit wfp.org

Fighting Hunger Worldwide



Join us @WorldFoodProgramme
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From Big Five to Little Five

While the big game is magnificent – and includes other giants such as giraffe, hippo, whale and dolphin – there's much more to South Africa's wildlife. The country has some of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots, with remarkable birdlife, abundant buck, small game and bizarre insects.

are known for aggressive behaviour, using the horns to fight rivals. The horns are also used to dig, climb and mate.

Leopard tortoise

The leopard tortoise (*Geochelone pardalis*) is a striking feature of the bushveld landscape, getting its name from its black and yellow spotted shell. The animal is one of the largest breeds of tortoise in this part of the world; a mature leopard tortoise can weigh over 23 kilograms, with a shell circumference of up to one metre. The males are larger than the females.

Younger tortoises have dark brown patterns, while adult shells take on shades of yellow with somewhat smaller spots.

Leopard tortoises live in savannah and grassland areas, close to water.

Elephant shrew

This tiny insectivore lives in arid lowlands, rocky outcrops and savannah grasslands, getting its name from its elongated snout.

Elephant shrews (*Elephantulus myurus*) are found all over South Africa, and only grow to a length of 250 mm, with an average weight of 60 grams.

They feed on insects, fruit, seeds and nuts. They in turn are food for snakes and raptors, making them extremely shy and wary.

The chances of spotting them are slim indeed, so if you manage to see an elephant shrew before an actual elephant, you can count your safari a real success!

The Little Five is based on the "Small 5005" concept developed by South African wildlife author and scientist Rael Loon.

For more information, read *Hidden Wonders: Southern Africa's Small 5005*.

Brand South Africa

Visitors to South Africa are always keen to catch a glimpse and a photo of the country's celebrated Big Five: elephant, lion, rhinoceros, buffalo and leopard.

While the big game is magnificent – and includes other giants such as giraffe, hippo, whale and dolphin – there's much more to South Africa's wildlife. The country has some of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots, with remarkable birdlife, abundant buck, small game and bizarre insects.

To promote these, some clever people came up with another must-see list: the Little Five. They are the elephant shrew, ant lion, rhinoceros beetle, buffalo weaver and leopard tortoise. Here's the lowdown on some of Africa's finest little creatures.

Ant lion

The ant lion (*Myrmeleontidae*) is an odd, yet familiar feature of the bushveld, digging

conical depressions in dry, soft sand with which to trap its prey – ants. In advanced stages, this larvae-like creature has wings and sometimes resembles a dragonfly, although it's not well-adapted for flight.

Buffalo weaver

Red-billed buffalo weavers (*Bubalornis niger*) are social birds that build their nests in the forked branches of tall trees.

They nest in open colonies and are a rather noisy and busy lot.

The weavers' nests can be recognised by their rather bedraggled state, made from coarse grasses and with untidy twig structures.

Rhinoceros beetle

The rhinoceros beetle (*Scarabaeinae dynastinae*) is one of the largest beetles in southern Africa, with horns on its head much like those of its larger namesake. Both males and females are horned, but only the males





Discover small-town South Africa

Often a haven for artists and creative people who need peace and quiet to flourish, small towns give travellers the opportunity to meet colourful local characters who still have the time to talk and settings that can take your breath away. >>

South Africa is known for its gold and diamonds, but if you want to discover its real gems, head for the small towns and villages that lie just off the beaten track – the country's heartland.

Often a haven for artists and creative people who need peace and quiet to flourish, small towns give travellers the opportunity to meet colourful local characters who still have the time to talk and settings that can take your breath away.

Western Cape

Knysna

Lying on the Garden Route in the Western Cape, the coastal town of Knysna offers incredible vistas of the lagoon and the ocean and a famous forest that shelters elusive elephants.

At the Knysna Heads, the ocean crashes through a narrow rocky outcrop to feed the waters of the lagoon – a nursery for all manner of sea life, such as the tiny Knysna seahorse. Voted South Africa's best small town in a recent competition, Knysna is rich in art galleries and offers great coffee shops and restaurants. Then there's the feast of oysters, both cultivated in the lagoon and harvested in the wild.

Knysna's people are by far its most colourful attraction, ranging from the obviously arty to Rastafarians – a whole settlement – as well as fisherfolk and the wealthy, who have found their paradise along South Africa's Garden Route.

Despite the extensive fires experienced on the Garden Route earlier this year, the Knysna Tourism Board has given the reassurance that the town has resumed its normal business activities and is welcoming visitors.

In July 2017, the Knysna Oyster Festival, one of the most popular annual events in the Western Cape, was held. It is an annual celebration of the good life, with sport and oysters as its focus points. The festival has taken place every year since 1983, where it began as the Knysna Winter Festival – a combination of sport that drew people to Knysna during the quiet winter season. The year 2017 was the 35th celebration of the Pick n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival.

Franschhoek

In the heart of the Cape Winelands, Franschhoek is a little bit of France in Africa. Settled by French Huguenots who fled religious persecution in the 1700s, it is known for its restaurants, five-star guesthouses and excellent wineries. This area is second to Cape Town as the culinary heart of South



Nieu Bethesda



Groot Marico



Clarens

Africa. Home-made cheeses, preserves, chocolates, baked goods and breads are on show in all the local shops, and the town has a wealth of art galleries.

Simonstown

Simonstown near Cape Town is founded on naval tradition. From the early days, this town functioned as the principal South Atlantic Base for the Royal Navy before it became the home of the South African Navy. Visitors can explore the fascinating Naval Museum,

walk the streets to soak up the atmosphere and relax in one of the many ocean-side restaurants and bars following a naval theme. Whales and great white sharks patrol these waters and sightings are common.

Darling

The little town of Darling, lying between the West Coast and the Swartland in the Western Cape, is one of South Africa's foremost artist colonies. Easily accessible from Cape Town, it first attracted attention from the carpets of wild



Franschhoek

flowers that blossom in the springtime. Quaint restaurants and coffee shops, a theatre, a number of B&Bs and a myriad of shops have since sprung up in this scenic setting. The town also has a famous ambassador, Mrs Evita Bezuidenhout – otherwise known as South African actor and satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys.

Paternoster

Visiting the West Coast town of Paternoster, north of Cape Town, is like walking into a living painting, with colourful fishing boats, fisherfolk's houses, holiday homes and huge boulders overlooking the bay. Everyone meets at the local hotel to swap stories, and a beach braai of lobster and fresh local fish is tradition, with the sunset over the ocean providing the perfect setting.

Oudtshoorn

The home of the local ostrich industry and the annual Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn, lies in an arid but spectacular setting in the shadow of the Western Cape's Swartberg Mountains.

The mansions built by ostrich feather farmers of yesteryear are a must-see, as are the spectacular Cango Caves, often a venue for choral performances. Enjoy ostrich dishes in local restaurants and shop for ostrich leather products.

Matjiesfontein

Today a testament to Victorian splendour, this railway stop became a small town thanks to one man – James Logan. An official with the Cape Government Railways, he suffered from a chest complaint. A transfer to the Karoo proved so beneficial that he decided to stay, farm and acquire land there, among which was the area around the Matjiesfontein Station.

He realised locomotives travelling inland were thirsty for water – and so were their passengers.

He pumped water from his farm's boreholes to the station and while the locomotives tanked up, he served the passengers food and drink in his restaurant. The restaurant gave way to the majestic Lord Milner Hotel

he built in the elegant Victorian style. It is as fashionable today as it was way back then.

Eastern Cape

Nieu Bethesda

A Hollywood movie has even been made in this tiny Karoo hamlet to celebrate its most famous inhabitant – Helen Martins – an eccentric artist and recluse who created fantasy creatures out of glass and cement.

Her home, known as the Owl House, is a museum where huge camel sculptures, wise men and owls stand testament to her vision and passion. It has become a place of pilgrimage for artists and travellers alike.

The Ibis Gallery on the main road of Nieu Bethesda boasts contemporary South African art, while the local watering hole is home to some of the area's more colourful inhabitants.

Port St Johns

Port St Johns is a swashbuckling village of legend on the Pondo side of the Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape. It is also one of the highlights on any international backpacker's world itinerary because of its natural setting, frontier atmosphere and appeal to more adventurous younger travellers.

From one of the most interesting airstrips in Africa, one can see the famed Gates of St Johns (Mounts Thesiger and Sullivan) on either side of the river.

Three good beaches, excellent fishing and a general atmosphere of live and let live have made this coastal village a hotspot for young tourists looking for adventure on the wild side of Africa.

Mpumalanga

Dullstroom

The trout-fishing capital of South Africa and only two hours from Johannesburg, Dullstroom offers city dwellers the perfect weekend getaway.

Founded by Dutch settler Wolterus Dull 120 years ago, the town has beautiful scenery, great bird life, delightful decor and antique shops and lots of local colour. Trout fishing is a popular pastime in the area.

Don't miss the pancake parlour in the middle of town or some of the more lively pubs and bars. There are some superb restaurants in the area and accommodation ranges from rustic to fabulous and five-star.

Kaapschehoop

Kaapschehoop is a haven for the last wild horses of South Africa that roam the town freely. Harem, a young artist, is the town's most famous son after Richard Branson of Virgin Airlines' fame discovered his work. Many artists live here permanently, and there are a number of beautiful guesthouses in town, plus other accommodation to suit all pockets.

Free State

Clarens

Home to potters, actors, artists and a number of community-based art projects, this little town offers the visitor a relaxed but vibrant atmosphere. The road between Clarens and Fouriesburg is one of the most scenic in the country. Just beyond the town lies the Golden Gate National Park, which has incredible mountain outcrops, clear streams and wildlife. Clarens also boasts farm-stay accommodation, giving visitors an authentic farm experience – Free State style. "The Free State landscape gladdens my heart, no matter what my mood," former President Nelson Mandela said once. "When I am here I feel that nothing can shut me in and that my thoughts can roam as far as the horizons."

North West

Groot Marico

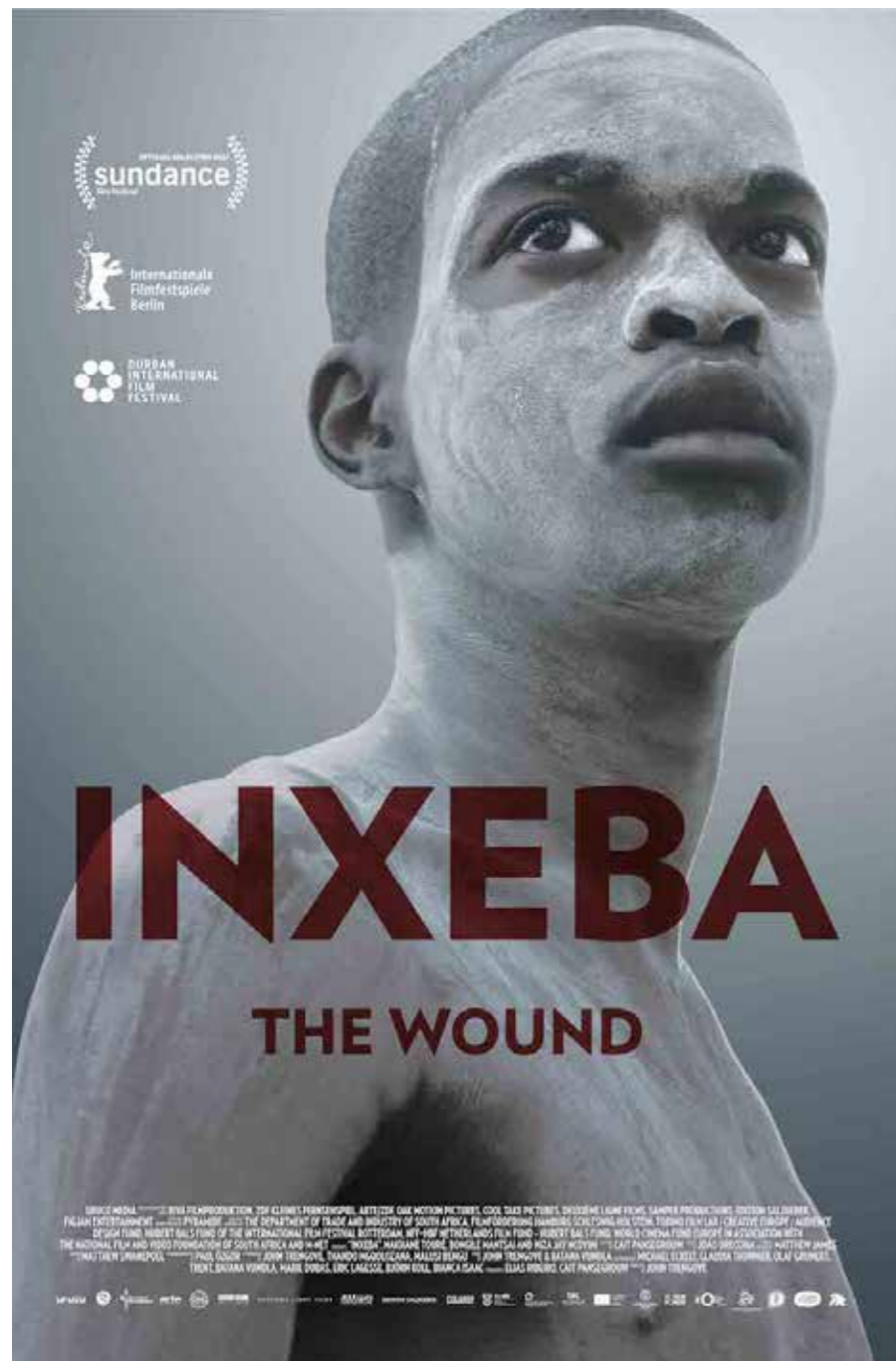
Groot Marico in North West is known for its *mampoer* – a distilled and potent alcohol made from peaches – and its most famous citizen, author Herman Charles Bosman, who set many of his works in the district.

The town hosts the annual Herman Charles Bosman Literary Weekend every October, with visitors from all over the country visiting the Marico area to celebrate some of South Africa's best-loved tales.

South African Tourism / Brand South Africa

Durban International Film Festival: Longest-running in Africa

It is one of the biggest festivals of its kind and the longest-running film festival in Africa. Organisers of the festival believe the film festival brings together different filmmakers and industry experts from around the globe who come and share their expertise with developing local artists.



The 38th Durban International Film Festival (DIFF) was held from 13 to 23 July.

A total of 225 short films and documentaries were shown during the festival – more than half of which were proudly African. There was a total of 74 South African-made films and 40 production pieces from other parts of Africa.

Ethekwini Municipality's Director in Durban Film Office, Toni Monty, said the line-up included filmmakers and arts and entertainment industry stakeholders from more than 30 countries across the world.

In a world in which people find themselves displaced and seeking refuge in foreign lands, the theme for the festival was "Transit Tales", with a number of films capturing the emotive stories of human displacement as result of war and catastrophic events. It was the vision of the DIFF's newly appointed Festival Manager, Chipu Zhou, for the festival to reinvent what it was to be a film festival within the African context, and to set an industry standard for the inclusion of women and women-led films. As such, the festival had a special focus on African content and women-led films.

"We have to redefine what and who tells the tales in society as that has a significant role in how people learn and understand the world, particularly the African continent," said Zhou.

The 38th DIFF was organised by the Centre for Creative Arts at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission, the National Film and Video Foundation, German Embassy and others.

It is one of the biggest festivals of its kind and the longest-running film festival in Africa. Organisers of the festival believe the film festival brings together different filmmakers and industry experts from around the globe who come and share their expertise with



38th Durban International Film Festival Award Winners - 2017

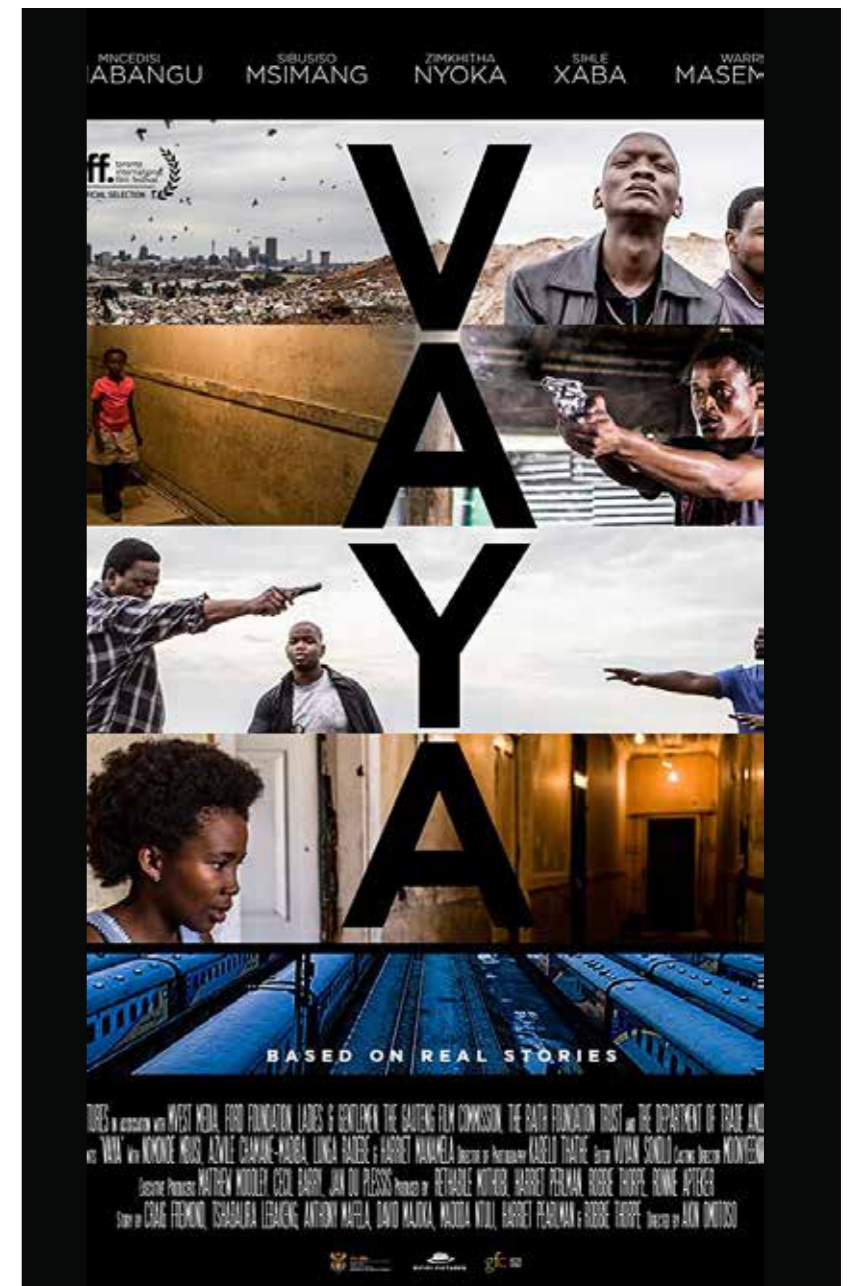
- Best Feature Film: *A Father's Will*
- Best South African Feature: *Vaya*
- Best Director for a South African Film: John Trentgrove, *The Wound*
- Best Direction: *A Father's Will* (Bakyt Mukul, Dastan Zhapar Uulu)
- Best Screenplay: *La Soledad* (Jorge Thielen Armand, Rodrigo Michelangeli)
- Best Actor: Nakhane Touré, *The Wound*
- Best Actress: Mariam Al Ferjani, *Beauty and the Dogs*
- Best International Short Film: *Witnesses*
- Best African Short Film: *All of Us*
- Best South African Short: *The Hangman*
- Best South African Documentary Film: *Strike a Rock*
- Best International Documentary Film: *Dusk Chorus*.

developing local artists. Filmmakers say the festival is a breeding ground for growth within the film industry.

Serpent was the opening film at the festival, written by Amanda Evans. The thriller is about a married couple whose supposedly romantic escape into the African forests turns ugly when an uninvited serpent shows up in their camp tent.

In closing was the South African film, *Asinamali*, by renowned author and director Mbongeni Ngema. The springboard for their play is the events that surrounded a 1983 rent strike by black people in the Lamontville township in Durban, led by the martyred activist Msizi Dube, in which the rallying cry was "Asinamali!".

www.kznztopbusiness.co.za / www.sabc.com



Flying the SA flag

Johnny Clegg bids fans goodbye

After nearly four decades of foot-stomping music that challenged South Africa's apartheid regime and promoted racial reconciliation, Johnny Clegg – aka “the White Zulu” – is heading out on his final tour.

On Saturday, 1 July, Clegg started his global farewell tour with a concert in Cape Town before playing other South Africa venues and then on to London, France, Dubai, the United States and Canada.

The 64-year-old, who is famed for his multi-ethnic collaborations, told AFP that the decision to bring down the curtain on live performing came after he was diagnosed with cancer in 2015.

“It has been a rewarding career in so many aspects ... to be able to unite people through

song, especially at a time where it seemed impossible,” he said. “I want to give my fans some kind of conclusion ... (showing) that the journey I started when I was 14-years-old is coming to an end now.

“My shows are very physical, a lot of dancing, and I have to be strong to do that.”

“I would like to present a final farewell while I am still capable of doing it,” he added during an interview in Johannesburg.

Clegg said that the “Final Journey Tour” would be an autobiographical trip through his musical career since he was a boy. It is a journey that saw him endure harassment from apartheid police under white-minority rule, when he was targeted for playing with black musicians.



In contrast, his music – and activism – attracted a worldwide fanbase that packed venues such as the Royal Albert Hall in London and across France, where he remains a huge national star.

He credits the 1982 song, *Scatterlings of Africa*, as the tune that catapulted him and his band to stardom as it topped charts in France and England. www.enca.com

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka gets second term as UN Women Director

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, António Guterres, has announced that Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka would stay on for a second term as Executive Director of UN Women.

Mlambo-Ngcuka joined the organisation, which is tasked with empowering women and encouraging gender equality, four years ago.

Under her, UN Women established the much-publicised HeForShe Campaign that engages men and boys on issues of gender equality. UN Women has played a significant

role in ensuring that women are put front and centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the responsibility of ending gender inequality becomes everyone's responsibility.

She said she wanted to use the next four years to build on the momentum already achieved to put the new Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2021 into practice, as well as work towards implementing the 2030 Agenda with gender equality and women's empowerment at its heart. www.enca.com



SA juniors return with 17 medals from CAA champs

The national Under-20 team ended their four-day campaign with a total of 17 medals (12 gold, four silver and one bronze) at the CAA African Junior Championships in Tlemcen, Algeria, recently.

Sprinter Clarence Munyai stormed to a spectacular victory in the Men's 200-m final, clocking 20.22 for the second-fastest time of his career.

Munyai shattered the 22-year-old championship record of 20.76, held by Ibrahim Meite of the Ivory Coast, finishing well ahead of Zimbabwean silver medallist Kundai Maguranyanga who crossed the line in 21.11.

In the Men's Discus Throw, the South African squad bagged the one-two positions, with Werner Dames launching a best effort of 72.75 m to edge out countryman Hernu van Vuuren by just one centimetre.

Mpho Tladi was also in fine form, charging to a commanding win in the Men's 110-m Hurdles final in 13.78, albeit with the benefit of a +2.4m/s tailwind. Among the women,



Discus thrower Yolandi Stander secured gold with a best effort of 49.13 m, adding to her silver medal in the Shot Put earlier in the week.

Jana Steinmann, the Shot Put gold medallist, settled for fourth place in the Discus Throw, delivering a best attempt of 34.93 m.

Versatile athlete Jone Kruger won the Heptathlon with 4 850 points, holding off a challenge from Afaf Benhadja of Algeria, who took second place with 4 552 points in front of her home crowd.

The SA team finished second on the overall medals table behind Ethiopia, which bagged 38 medals, including 13 gold.

“We are very proud of the Junior National Team for the hard work they have put up and the medals they have brought home,” said Aleck Skhosana, the president of Athletics South Africa. www.sport24.co.za

Corné Krige named latest Laureus Ambassador



Former Springbok captain, Corné Krige, has been named the latest Laureus Sport for Good Foundation Ambassador, joining an illustrious list of sports icons who are part of the Laureus family.

The announcement was made during a special Laureus surfing-themed road show at the new Laureus-funded Waves for Change Project in East London.

Krige made his Western Province debut in 1996 and eventually went on to captain the side, leading the team to back-to-back Currie Cup titles in 2000 and 2001. He was clearly a man destined to lead, as he captained his high school First XV, every single WP representative side from Under-13 to senior level, as well as the Stormers and finally the pinnacle of his career, the Springboks. Krige's Test debut came in 1999 after recovering from

career-threatening knee and hand injuries. He captained the Springboks on his test debut in a 101-0 victory over Italy in Durban.

Krige appeared in 39 tests for South Africa, became the full-time captain in 2002 and captained the Boks 18 times in all, before his international retirement in January 2004.

“It's a massive honour for me to join the Laureus family. I look forward to assisting them in the great work they do to uplift the youth in South Africa and around the world.

“I am truly humbled that they have chosen me to join such an illustrious group of ambassadors,” said an elated Krige.

Krige joins a remarkable list of current and former sportsmen and women around the world who support and promote the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

www.news24.com

South African boys crowned world champions in literary competition

South Africa – represented by St John's Preparatory – won the Kids' Lit Quiz (KLQ) World Final 2017 in Canada in July and was crowned the best from over 1 000 schools around the world which competed in the annual competition.

The National Champion teams, all keen readers between the ages of 10 and 13, hailed from eight countries: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA).

The winning team from each country met for the international finals in the Sport of Reading in Oakville on 3 July. South Africa's St John's College won with 40 points, with the USA

(Woodrow Wilson Middle School) trailing in second position with 27 points, and the UK (Kingston Grammar School) third.

The four St John's Prep boys – Khelan Desai, Hongjae Noh, Sahaj Mooji and Joshua Bruwer – led the competition from rounds one to 10 before being crowned world champions for 2017.

Teams answer 100 questions over 10 categories, based on any children's book published in English. The last time South Africa won was in 2013.

www.sapeople.com



Team SA tops final medal table at U18 World Champs

The South African youth team closed out their campaign in fine style on Sunday, 16 July, bagging three more medals on the final day of the IAAF World U18 Championships in Nairobi, Kenya. The squad achieved the nation's best-ever medal haul at a major global athletics championship, earning 11 podium places to finish top of the table. They returned home with five gold, three silver and three bronze medals.

In the Boys 200-m final, Retshidisitwe Mlenga (21.03) and Tshenolo Lema (21.12) charged to another one-two finish, swapping places after they had also earned gold and silver in the 100-m contest earlier in the week.

“I came in very focussed, having made a mistake in the 100-m final, which is my favourite race,” Mlenga said. “I followed my coach's instructions and I'm very happy to have won a gold medal.”



Lema was also pleased with his performance, despite playing second fiddle to his compatriot over the half-lap distance.

In the last event of the five-day championships, the SA Mixed 4x400-m Relay Team scooped the bronze medal, with

Mlenga, Gontse Morake and 400-m Hurdles champions, Soks Zazini and Zeney van der Walt, completing the race in 3:24.45.

High jumper Breyton Poole made South Africa proud as he clinched the gold medal in the Boys' High Jump final. Despite being a full head shorter than his opponents at just 1.72 m, the 17-year-old Capetonian cleared an impressive 2.24 m to win gold.

He cleared 2.20 m with his second attempt, 2.22 m with his first jump and 2.24 m with his third, according to the IAAF. “What we have achieved is beyond expression. We are very much excited with what our youth team has achieved,” said Athletics South Africa president Aleck Skhosana. “It's not every day you top the world.

“We are world champions and if feels to be perched at the top. We would like to get used to this going forward.” www.sport24.co.za

Flying the SA flag

SA captain Van Niekerk top wicket-taker at Women's World Cup

South Africa captain, Dane van Niekerk, finished as the leading wicket-taker in the Women's World Cup, which ended on Sunday, 23 July.

While England beat India by nine runs to claim the World Cup title at Lord's, it was the performance of legspinner Van Niekerk who claimed 15 wickets at an astounding average of 10 which really stood out.

The South African captain was part of the Proteas team that suffered a heartbreaking two-wicket semi-final loss to England on 18 July in Bristol.

Though the 24-year-old was unable to weave her magic against England in the knock-out encounter with 0/25 from five overs, it was her performances throughout the tournament that led her side to the last four.

Van Niekerk claimed four scalps on two occasions with 4/22 against India before returning 4/24 against Sri Lanka, which



helped South Africa qualify for the semi-finals with a match to spare.

Van Niekerk though, was ably assisted by her teammates who boasted arguably the most impressive bowling attack in the World Cup. Marizanne Kapp was just behind Van

Niekerk in the wicket-taking charts with 13 scalps at an average of 19.4.

Shabnim Ismail ended 11th with 10 wickets for an average of 26.4, and was closely followed by Sune Luus also with 10 wickets in 13th position with a bowling average of 17.4. Opening batters Laura Wolvaardt and Lizelle Lee were the standout performers for South Africa with the willow.

Wolvaardt plundered 324 runs in seven innings at an average of 46.2, boasting a top score of 67 against England in the group stage. The hugely talented 18-year-old scored four half-centuries in seven games, which bodes well for the future of South African cricket. Wolvaardt ended 11th on the run-scoring table.

Lee scored 269 runs in seven knocks at an average of 38.4 with a highest score of 92 against India. Lee for her efforts, ended 13th in the run-scoring department. African News Agency

SA'S KVV scoops 2017 worldwide brandy trophy

Paarl-based KVV has been awarded the Worldwide Trophy and numerous gold awards for its brandies in two separate global wine and spirits competitions recently.

KVV's 15-year-old Potstill Brandy achieved an Outstanding Gold (a score of 93/100 or



more) as well as the Worldwide Trophy for Brandy at the International Wine and Spirits Competition (IWSC).

This competition, which aims to set the international benchmark for quality in wine and spirits, receives entries from nearly 90 countries, with their submissions scrutinised by over 400 global experts. Proving that quality is evidenced throughout its ranks, KVV's Worldwide Trophy for Brandy is flanked by a handful of gold awards for its other potstill brandies, from the same competition.

In addition to its global award, KVV was also awarded gold awards (a score of 90 to 92.9/100) for the KVV 20-year-old and 12-year-old potstills. KVV also received gold for its Heritage XO Cognac, made in partnership with French House of Charpentier, from a blend of cognacs from the Petit Champagne region in France.

The quality of KVV's brandies was also recognised by judges in the International Spirits Challenge (ISC) – a separate competition but equally influential – where KVV mirrored its IWSC performance by also claiming gold for its Potstill 12-year-old and its 20-year-old.

Over the years, KVV has established itself as a key competitor at international spirit competitions.

"Last year, KVV's 15-year-old claimed Best Brandy in the World, at the ISC, after claiming the same title for KVV 20-year-old the year before. Collectively, KVV's brandies have secured the ISC trophy eight times, and the IWSC trophy 10 times – far more than any other producer, making KVV brandy one of the most awarded brandy brands in the world," said KVV master distiller, Pieter de Bod. www.bizzcommunity.com

SA's Levy Sekgapane wins global opera competition

South Africa's golden voice Levy Sekgapane's win at a prestigious global competition will be a boost for the country's opera scene.

Sekgapane, who hails from Kroonstad, beat hundreds of talented opera singers from around the world. Sekgapane has followed

in the footsteps of Pretty Yende by clinching the top prize at the Operalia World Opera Competition, held in Kazakhstan this year.

His singing teacher, Hanna van Schalkwyk, said, "Pretty Yende won the Operalia a few years ago and to now have two people from South Africa win is amazing." www.ewn.co.za



Durbanite one of the 25 most influential people in the international meetings industry

Nina Freysen-Pretorius has been included in the United States-based *Successful Meetings* magazine's annual list of 25 outstanding professionals who have had a significant impact on the meetings industry.

Freysen-Pretorius is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Conference Company, which has offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg and celebrates 20 years in business this year.

Vince Alonzo, Editor-in-Chief of *Successful Meetings*, says the 25 individuals have been chosen because they have either contributed to the business of meetings, made it easier for meeting professionals to do their jobs, helped raise awareness of the industry, or through their actions, have had a significant impact on meeting professionals.



Potential honorees were suggested by key members of the meeting industry, recipients from previous years and through open nominations.

Named one of the top strategists in the meetings industry, Freysen-Pretorius is serving a second term as president of the International Congress and Convention

Association, the first South African to fill the position.

Sisa Ntshona, CEO of South African Tourism, says this is a huge achievement – not only for Freysen-Pretorius as an individual but for the South African meetings industry as a whole. "Thank you, Nina, for making a real contribution to the industry on a global level and for being an outstanding ambassador for South Africa at the same time. Congratulations from South African Tourism and the entire industry."

"Being included in this list of industry achievers is truly humbling.

"I believe in the meetings industry and how it can contribute to successful economies across the world, including South Africa," says Freysen-Pretorius. www.bizzcommunity.com

Le Clos humbled to reclaim 200-m Butterfly gold

Chad le Clos won the men's 200-m Butterfly gold medal at the World Championships recently after defeating home favourite Laszlo Cseh, the defending champion, in Budapest.

South Africa's Le Clos, the 2012 Olympic champion, clocked one minute 53.33 seconds with Hungary's Cseh 0.39 sec behind, taking silver and Japan's Daiya Seto earning bronze at 0.88 sec.

"It was an emotional race, before, during and after it," said a teary-eyed Le Clos, who had braced himself for a raucous atmosphere at the Duna Arena. The noise was near-deafening as the crowd roared on Cseh and Tamas Kenderesi, who finished fourth.

"I knew it was going to be difficult with everyone cheering for the two Hungarians," said Le Clos.



"I'm very humbled to have come out on top and reclaim the gold medal that I lost last year," he added, referring to his fourth-placed finish in the 2016 Olympic final. www.sport24.co.za

Photojournalist Phando Jikelo wins top international prize



Former Independent Media photojournalist, Phando Jikelo, was recently named a co-winner in the Top News Category of the prestigious Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest.

Jikelo, who now works for Independent Media's sister company, ANA Pictures, won the prize for his photo series, entitled: *Grabouw Housing Protest*.

He shares the prize with Alejandro Martinez Velez from Spain who won for his heart-wrenching series, *Migrants in Belgrade*, the

Rossiya Segodnya media group said recently. Jikelo, 33, said he had not expected to win the category. He said the award was confirmation that excellence came with passion and hard work.

The Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest aims to support young photographers and draw public attention to the challenges of photojournalism in today's world.

It is a platform for young photographers who draw our attention to the people and events around us. www.iol.co.za

SA actor John Kani joins cast of "Lion King" remake

South African actor John Kani is joining the cast of Jon Favreau's live action remake of *Lion King*.

The actor – who will be reprising his role as King T'Chaka in *Black Panther* – is said to be joining as Rafiki, the wise baboon who acts as Mufasa's royal adviser.

Other cast members who have been confirmed for the remake include Donald Glover as Simba, Seth Rogen as Pumbaa, James Earl Jones reprising his role as Mufasa and John Oliver as Zazu and Billy Eichner as Timon.

In addition, *Entertainment Weekly* has also confirmed *Captain America: Civil War*'s Alfre Woodard will be joining as Sarabi, Mufasa's wife and Simba's mother.

The film is set to release in United States theatres on 19 July 2019. Channel24



Flying the SA flag

Semenya smashes Women's 600-m world record



South Africa's Caster Semenya brought her glittering season to an end by smashing the world record in the rarely-run 600 m.

The 26-year-old, Olympic gold medallist and three times world champion over 800 m, clocked a stunning 1 min 21.77 sec over the unusual distance at the ISTAF meet in Berlin, Germany, in August.

She took 0.86 sec off the previous best set by Cuba's Ana Fidelia Quirot in 1997.

Semenya said she was delighted to end her season in the German capital where she won world gold eight years ago.

"I feel at home here, always welcomed and loved. I won my first world title here, so this city is special for me," beamed the South African.

"I wanted to deliver (the world record) to make the people here happy."

www.sport24.co.za

Young South African choirs bring chills to the world stage

Two young South African choirs have brought chills to the world stage recently with Tuks Camerata bringing the house down in Spain, and the Drakensberg Boys Choir doing the same in Japan.

Tuks Camerata's performance – at the 11th World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona – was so brilliant that Choral Stream has pinned it to the top of their Facebook page, and said: "The University of Pretoria's Tuks Camerata absolutely brought the house



down with this glorious performance of Schmidt and Barrett's arrangement of *Indodana*".

Meanwhile in Japan, the Drakensberg Boys Choir School made South Africans very proud with their tour of the country.

KwaZulu-Natal teacher Pamela Couzyn said: "The Drakensberg Boys Choir School is in the final week of a six week tour of Japan."

"The tour has been a phenomenal success and the Japanese have been all embracing of our unique and truly South African brand.

"The Drakie boys are brilliant brand ambassadors." www.sapeople.com

Teenager Mahlangu dashes to world record

Paralympian Ntando Mahlangu has broken a world record.

The teenager was competing at the 2017 World Para Athletics Junior Championships in Nottwil, Switzerland.

The men's 200-m silver medallist at the Rio Paralympics, Mahlangu set a new world mark in the T42 (amputees) 100-m event.

His winning time of 12.01 seconds meant he improved on a four-year-old record, which belonged to Germany's Heinrich Popow.

Mahlangu clipped 0.10 sec off the old mark.

It was 15-year-old Mahlangu's second gold medal of the championships, having won 200-m gold earlier.

"I'm very happy about the world record," said Mahlangu. "I'm here to do my best."

"I wasn't expecting a world record, but definitely a fast time.

"I wanted to run below 12 seconds, but I cannot complain; it's wonderful for me to achieve this at such a young age." www.sport24.co.za



Terry Pheto scoops two awards in London

South African actress Terry Pheto won two awards at the annual International Achievement Recognition Awards in London.

Pheto won Best Actress for her portrayal of Naledi Khama in the true-life romance *A United Kingdom*. She also scooped Best Actress for TV or Drama for portraying Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in the BET Nelson Mandela mini-series *Madiba*.

The actress first came to international attention playing a lead in the Oscar-winning film, *Tsotsi*.

Later, she starred in the American soap opera, *The Bold and The Beautiful*, and the feature film, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, featuring Idris Elba in the title role. www.enca.com

Agenda 2063



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SA banks rated strongest in the world

The rise of Capitec Bank Holdings [JSE:CPI] as South Africa's leading bank seems to have no end with the bank now regarded as the Best Bank in the World.

This is according to the Lafferty Group's 2017 *Global Bank Quality Benchmarking Study*. It ranks 100 major quoted banks across 32 countries for their longer-term sustainability and gives its highest ratings to banks that focus on serving their clients' needs in retail and corporate banking.

It found that South Africa's banks achieved the highest rankings for the second year in a row. The Lafferty Group's ratings are based on information available in the public domain, such as each bank's business model, assessed in terms of factors such as strategy, culture and management.

Capitec was awarded Lafferty Group's highest five-star rating; Absa achieved four stars; and FirstRand, Standard and Nedbank were given three stars.

"Capitec is a remarkable bank in that it is the only bank anywhere in the world among those we have rated that qualifies for a five-star rating," Lafferty group CEO, Michael Lafferty, told Fin24.

"It has very high financial ratios and also scores very high in qualitative criteria like strategy, culture, customer satisfaction, management experience and living the brand. Most of all it is a highly focussed bank." www.fin24.co.za



Launch of Musina Terminal a boost to regional economic integration

The launch of the Musina Intermodal Terminal (MIT) was a huge boost to the regional economic integration and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Programme, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, said.

Minister Davies, who was speaking during the launch of the MIT in Musina in Limpopo, said the MIT would contribute immensely to the regional economic integration that South Africa, the Southern African Development Community region and the continent at large were working hard for. According to Minister Davies, the MIT addressed a number of policies of government and the promotion of regional economic integration.

The terminal, which is aimed at the containerised cargo market and the transportation of mineral ores such as coal, iron ore, chrome, copper and sulphur, is a stepping stone to bigger projects within and around the newly-designated Musina-Makhado SEZ. The SEZ will significantly increase industrial production in the region.

This will include steel and related inputs for producing steel and stainless steel, as well as increasing mining development and production. The SEZ will thus increase trade between South Africa and its neighbours. "Regional integration will also be deepened," added Minister Davies. He said that the project was designed to improve trade, which was key to the regional integration agenda.

Once fully implemented, the zone is expected to create total employment of more than 20 000. MIT would also award 10 bursaries in logistics and transport to deserving students with Matric from the area. [African News Agency](#)



Two Joburg restaurants make it onto shortlist for Restaurant and Bar Design Awards

In its ninth year, the Restaurant and Bar Design Awards have shortlisted its list of 239 restaurants. Considering that submissions come from across the globe, this figure would've been significantly reduced, after processing hundreds of entries.

Two Johannesburg restaurants made their way onto the shortlist this year; Urbanologi, the industrial-styled restaurant attached to Mad Giant Brewery, headed by Chef Jack Coetzee, serving refined dishes inspired by street food culture; and Midrand restaurant Nostimo by Mythos, a grand space that follows their Mediterranean theme, with blue hues and a long golden yellow booth.

The awards ceremony took place in October this year, with an impressive array of judges from different corners of the culinary and design worlds, as well as creative industry leaders in media. The judges this year included George Calombaris, a favourite on South African TV screens for his role as one of the judges in Australian *Masterchef*.

Urbanologi won the title in the Middle East and African Category for 2017. www.food24.com



SA joins forces with EU and Brazil on ocean research

South Africa has signed an agreement with the European Union (EU) and Brazil to boost investment in research and expand scientific knowledge of marine ecosystems.

The agreement was signed in Portugal, where the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, attended a three-day high-level ministerial meeting on Atlantic research and innovation cooperation, from 12 to 14 July.

Minister Pandor signed the agreement with Gilberto Kassab, Brazil's Minister of State for Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication; and Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science.

Known as the Belém Statement, the agreement outlines ways in which countries can deepen scientific knowledge of marine ecosystems and the interrelations between oceans and climate change, oceans and food, and oceans and energy systems, as well as the dynamics of the Atlantic Ocean and its interconnected circulation systems from Antarctica to the Arctic.

The statement build on previous agreements, such as the signing of bilateral declarations of intent on marine research and innovation cooperation between the EU and Brazil, and the EU and South Africa, and the development of the South-South Framework for Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the South and Tropical Atlantic and Southern Oceans.

Speaking at the signing in Portugal, Minister Pandor said that shared global challenges like climate change, food security, poverty and inequality demanded a united global response. She emphasised that international cooperation was imperative for science to advance and to improve the quality of living of all on our planet.

The minister said South Africa was well equipped to contribute to the partnership and to add significant value to the investments of our partners.



Travel and Leisure's 2017 World's Best Cities List sees Cape Town ranked eighth

Cape Town, home to the most incredible sights and landmarks on earth, is doing South Africa proud, flying the flag higher once again

This time, for being voted by *Travel and Leisure's* readers in their World's Best Awards as the eighth top city in the World for 2017.

The readers, globally, rated the cities for their sights and landmarks, culture, cuisine, friendliness, shopping and overall value as well as shared their opinions on the top cities, islands, cruise ships, spas and airlines, to name a few.

Mexico's San Miguel de Allende, according to *Travel and Leisure* readers, takes the crown jewels this year for the first time ever in the World's Best Awards' 22-year history.

Charleston, South Carolina, comes in second place while Hoi An in Vietnam surpasses South Africa with just one spot to claim the seventh spot.

The Mother City, officially home to one of the New 7 Wonder of Nature, continues to fly the South African flag in a big way.

www.traveller24.com



Coega awards nine contracts worth R30 million to SMMEs in Eastern Cape

The Coega Development Corporation (CDC) has invested R30 million in nine small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in the Eastern Cape to complete various construction projects in the Coega Special Economic Zone.

SMMEs benefiting from Coega projects include Nandi Mpopo, Agnew Cabinets; Nolan Mathura, Ascon Civil Engineering; Laeeq Dolley, Rulasaga Plumbing; Shaheed Nordien, YKW Projects; Thembisa Doda, Mothiscore; Luleka Ncomanzi, Ingakuhle Trading Enterprise; and Nonyameko Maya, Ibhayi Achuma Trading.

"As an empowerment-driven organisation, the CDC is conscious of the important role that the small business sector plays in unlocking economic growth in Nelson Mandela Bay and South Africa. Our dedicated SMME Unit was specifically established to support SMMEs, in line with our vision to be a catalyst for championing socio-economic development," says Dr Ayanda Vilakazi, Head of Marketing and Communication at CDC.

The contracts to SMMEs from the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro were awarded over a time period of 12 months and include three projects, namely CCA Fencing, MM Engineering and Custom Control Area – building in zone one. The construction work on these projects includes brickwork, electrical, structural steel, civil works and landscaping, among others. www.bizzcommunity.com





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Lufthansa group making the most of Cape Town potential

In the past, Lufthansa only had a seasonal direct flight between Munich and Cape Town from about October to April, during the European winter. This was mainly due to German tourists coming to the Cape during that period.

"We saw the potential for a year-round direct flight and, therefore, started with three weekly direct flights between Cape Town and Frankfurt," Dr Andre Schulz, General Manager of Lufthansa for Southern Africa, told Fin24 recently.

"Usually, it was mostly inbound traffic over that period, but now we see a balance with outbound sales from Cape Town and we see a nice potential out of Cape Town. So, as from 17 October, we will have five weekly direct flights between Cape Town and Frankfurt as well."

Lufthansa also introduced a new brand on the route with its Eurowings airline starting with direct flights between Cologne and Cape Town once a week from November. This came hot on the heels of the newly introduced Eurowings direct flight between Cologne and Windhoek.

"Eurowings is our premium low-cost airline. It provides quality at a low cost where you pay only for the options you choose to take," explained Schulz. "Therefore, it is targeting a more price-sensitive customer."

He said German tourists were increasingly looking for new destinations and Namibia could prove to be popular due to the value for money it offered and its historic link with Germany.

"With our new Eurowings offer to Cape Town, we are opening up the market also for people who might not have travelled before. We are seeing both Namibia and the Western Cape picking up as destinations. And on top of that, our seasonal three times weekly direct flights on Edelweiss will again run from October to April," said Schulz.

Austrian Airlines is also set to return to the Cape Town market with twice weekly direct flights.

At the same time, Johannesburg still forms the backbone of the Lufthansa group's operations in South Africa and the airline has just celebrated its 55th year of presence in South Africa.

"We have a long-term commitment in South Africa and our direct flights from Johannesburg to Zurich and to Frankfurt remain very popular," said Schulz. www.fin24.co.za



SA still a choice investment destination

South Africa continues to attract investment, despite global challenges, with foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country increasing.

In a recent statement, the International Cooperation, Trade and Security (ICTS) Cluster said South Africa's total trade with the East African region amounted to R25,5 billion in 2016, up from R23,6 billion in 2015 – representing a 7,92% increase.

The cluster was reporting on work done in the first quarter of 2017.

Through several bilateral engagements, South Africa continues to see growth in regional, continental and global trade and investment. This has resulted in increased sales of manufactured value-added exports from the Industrial Policy Action Plan priority sectors by R62,2 million. This has brought total sales for the year to R4,2 billion.

"The ICTS Cluster's work of targeting emerging and traditional markets and our product and market diversification strategy have led to an increase in FDI inflows of R15,3 billion during the fourth quarter (January to March 2017), particularly in the energy and chemicals sectors. This brings the total investment pipeline to R50,2 billion," said the cluster.

The investment pipeline consists of investment projects that have been committed to by project owners. Every year, a target amount is determined. The target amount for this year is R45 billion.

InvestSA, which was launched by President Jacob Zuma earlier this year, will engage in a range of activities to identify potential investment opportunities, targeting potential investors and assisting and supporting them until the potential projects are turned into investment commitments. The amounts will then be added to the investment pipeline.

"These figures follow the recent announcement by the United Nations that global FDI has fallen by less than previously thought in 2016, and is expected to grow again this year and for 2018. This implies that, contrary to challenges often referred to around the world, as investment risk in the developing world, we continue to attract foreign investment," said the cluster.

The cluster said work was continuing to advance the country along a development trajectory that was sustainable and prioritised integration.

"Continental integration is the foundation for Africa's socio-economic development and a prerequisite for building stability, prosperity, peace and unity," the cluster said.

A key element of the Implementation Plan of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Action Plan is the development of regional value chains, which will contribute to SADC-wide industrialisation and investment.

SADC countries continue to collaborate on several issues, including food security and agriculture. South Africa is actively involved in the Tripartite Free Trade Area negotiations and the Continental Free Trade Area. These negotiations are aimed at promoting a developmental integration agenda that combines market integration with industrial and infrastructure



development. These arrangements will ensure an integrated regional market and address the challenges of small and fragmented markets, improving Africa's proposition as a viable destination for investment.

Work is also underway to promote active participation of the private sector in the regional integration agenda in order to promote intra-Africa investment and the development of regional value chains. SAnews.gov.za



New R40-million glass lift gets underway in exciting new Mpumalanga tourism project

Excitement is in the air as Graskop Gorge Lift Company started work on the glass elevator project – a first for Africa – that's set to boost tourism in Mpumalanga.

The glass elevator that "will cost in excess of R40 million to construct", is situated near the Panorama Route.

Graskop Gorge Lift Company, that is heading the operation, says that people travelling on the R533 between Graskop and Hazyview in Mpumalanga can already see the machinery and construction in place, adjacent to the Graskop Big Swing.

"Work is going full steam ahead on a project that will add to the tourism offering of Graskop," says Graskop Gorge Lift Company, adding that the lift should be open by December 2017.

The elevator will allow tourists improved access to Graskop Gorge and waterfall, all while providing scenic views and giving visitors an adrenaline-fuelled experience.

"The development includes a glass lift that will transport guests down into the gorge where they can experience the forest via a 500-m elevated boardwalk and interpretation stations." www.traveller24.co.za



New R1,2-billion gas facility to boost SA's supply

A R1,2-billion facility near Saldanha Bay is set to alleviate South Africa's gas shortage and broaden its energy mix.

Sunrise Energy recently revealed its new Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) import and storage facility in a move that is likely to boost the gas' availability in South Africa. The facility received its first load from a LPG ship in May and facility manager, William Bopape, said his port had been busy ever since.

The facility is in many ways a pioneer in the gas sector, with South Africa owning only one significant other import facility in Richards Bay. Pieter Coetzee, CEO of Sunrise Energy, said establishing the plant was not an easy venture, because the industry was still in its infancy. He said Sunrise had to take full market risk, but he believed the facility would open up the LPG market, especially in the Western Cape.

Worldwide, countries use an average of 20% of gas for their energy needs, but in South Africa, it is only 3%. Energy Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi, said at the unveiling of the facility that LPG was underutilised in South Africa.

She said unlike other years, there had been no emergency briefing this year due to a shortage of LPG. "I believe this facility contributed to that."

She said LPG should be promoted to the same level of other energy sources, adding that government was investigating the deregulation of LPG pricing as infrastructure such as Sunrise develops.

Sunrise's significant enhancement of the market will bring competition to the gas market and bring prices down, said the Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel. He said gas was cleaner and cheaper. "Potentially, this facility could bring down cost of production of business and household spend." www.fin24.co.za



Marine Tourism Plan to grow economy

Cabinet has approved the Coastal and Marine Tourism Implementation Plan, which is set to grow the economy and boost tourism.

Developed under the auspices of the Operation Phakisa Ocean Economy, the plan will also seek to integrate coastal developments with existing inland experiences, with the view to maximise participation opportunities.

"The plan will uplift tourism in the Ocean Economy. It will grow a world-class and sustainable coastal and marine tourism destination that leverages South Africa's competitive advantages in nature, culture and heritage," said the former Minister of Communications, Ayanda Dlodlo, who briefed the media on Thursday, 17 August, on Cabinet decisions.

The South African Maritime Safety Authority says marine tourism ranks among the top four subsectors of the country's maritime economic sector projected for phenomenal growth in the next two decades. According to the authority, it contributed R19 billion to the country's gross domestic product in 2013, with projections currently indicating yields as high as R44 billion in 2020 and rising rapidly to R134 billion in 2033, generating between 800 000 and one million jobs.

Cabinet has also approved South Africa's participation in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition for 2017 – 2020.





The participation will support South Africa's chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in 2017/18.

South Africa plays a strategic role as one of seven founding members of the IORA. This opens opportunities beyond South Africa's coastal marine and tourism, and extends opportunities to one third of the world's coastline.

Minister Dlodlo said South Africa would use its research vessel, *SA Agulhas II*, to conduct marine research, while training and building scientific capacity for South Africa and East Africa. [SAnews.gov.za](#)



South Africa contributes to the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2)

Cabinet has approved South Africa's participation in the IIOE-2 taking place between 2017 and 2020. The IIOE-2 is a multinational programme related to the collection of basic long-term marine environmental data in the Indian Ocean for the period 2016 – 2020.

The gathering of basic long-term marine data and information will place the developing nations of the Indian Ocean Rim in a better position to conserve the integrity of its ocean and to find ways to unlock their potential ocean economies. As part of this marine expedition, South Africa will be deploying the *SA Agulhas II* to conduct marine research while training and building scientific capacity for South Africa and East Africa. This science cruise will be led by scientists based in the Department of Environmental Affairs, who will coordinate research activities with other national departments and East African countries.



In 2015, during its Assembly, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission adopted a resolution to undertake the IIOE-2.

The first version of the IIOE occurred from 1960 to 1965 and benefitted only a few countries, hence the main objective for South Africa's participation is to ensure that the African continent and the region at large benefit from various proposed initiatives.

In order to get a buy-in from all interested stakeholders such as research agencies, non-governmental organisations, universities and government departments, the Department of Environmental Affairs-led National Planning Committee was established to consolidate a proposal for South Africa's participation.

Cabinet's endorsement allows South Africa to participate in the IIOE-2 between 2017 and 2020 through availing research vessels, namely the *SA Agulhas II* and *RV Algoa*, as well as other platforms to conduct oceanic research and collect relevant data and information of national and regional socio-economic interest.



18 African countries meet for the first Global Youth in Biodiversity Network in Africa

In August 2017, youth from 18 African countries working towards conservation and protection of biodiversity attended the first Global Youth in Biodiversity Network (GYBN) in Africa workshop in Muldersdrift, Gauteng, to exchange ideas and find possible solutions to preventing biodiversity loss.

Established in 2010, the GYBN is an international network of youth organisations and individuals, representing 343 000 members from 107 countries worldwide.

The network, which is the official youth coordination platform in the negotiations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, "raises awareness among young people on the values of biodiversity," said the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The network "connects individuals and youth organisations to build a global coalition to halt the effects of climate change on the environment", added the DEA.

Co-founder of the GYBN, Christian Schwarzer, said: "I hope that this workshop will help the youth to go back to their communities and to become the agents of change that we need in support of the conservation of biodiversity."

"We hope that we show to governments that young people can make a difference and can become partners for biodiversity conservation," added Schwarzer. The week-long workshop brought together youth from Morocco, Sudan, Kenya, Ghana, Togo and South Africa, and aimed to empower young people to become "change agents in support of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the mainstreaming of biodiversity".

"The choice of South Africa as the venue for the first GYBN in Africa underscored the country's position among the most biodiverse in the world, as is the case in most countries in Africa," said the DEA.



Ndebele-flavoured BMW 7 Series back in SA

Esther Mahlangu's uniquely South-African flavoured BMW 7 Series is back in South Africa and will be used to preserve the Ndebele cultural heritage of her people.

Mahlangu (aged 82) is a South African Ndebele artist and was the first woman to create artwork on a BMW 525i Sedan, turning it into a unique and colourful BMW Art Car. In 2016, Esther was once again commissioned by the BMW Group to refine a BMW 7 Series.

The vehicle was on display at the Frieze Art Fair, which took place in London in 2016. Simultaneously, the original BMW 525i Art Car was part of the exhibition, "South Africa: The Art of a Nation", at the British Museum, functioning as a significant piece and highlighting Mahlangu's key role in South African art.

BMW Group South Africa is now the owner of Esther's specially commissioned BMW panels painted in Ndebele art, which have been installed into a new BMW 750Li Individual. The vehicle will form part of BMW Group South Africa's Heritage Collection and will be utilised as a display vehicle at various arts and cultural events with the blessing of Mahlangu in order to preserve her cultural heritage for the people of South Africa.

"I am so glad that BMW brought my art back to South Africa, it is a beautiful car to be shared with the people of South Africa for many years to come," says Mahlangu.

"The patterns I have used on the BMW panels marry tradition to the essence of BMW. When BMW sent me the panels to paint, I could see the design in my head and I just wanted to get started! I started by painting the small ones first to get the feel of the surface and then it was easy as the design follows the lines of the panels," she adds.

Tim Abbott, CEO of BMW Group South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, is proud that Esther's work will now be preserved in her home country. "We are delighted to share Esther's legacy with the people of South Africa. Esther embraces her traditional heritage passionately and has dedicated her entire life to the development and promotion of Ndebele art". [www.enca.com](#)



Cape Town, New York join forces to boost tourism

Cape Town's tourism sector is set to get a major boost from a bilateral partnership with New York.

NYC & Company has signed a deal with Cape Town Tourism that will see the two cities market each other as tourist destinations.

It's the first accord NYC & Company has signed with a destination marketing body on the African continent.

Sixty million tourists visit New York City annually, while the Mother City welcomes five million visitors per annum.

The cities' destination marketing organisations have now collaborated to share best practice in tourism marketing and exchange marketing tools to boost these figures even more.

Cape Town Tourism CEO, Enver Duminy, says the two-year partnership holds the promise of amplifying the city's holiday destination appeal.

"They have bus shelters across their five barrels where they'll give Cape Town Tourism to run our campaigns on the bus shelters, not only speaking to the international tourists that are coming to New York but also the 10 million citizens living in New York."

It has the potential of reaching an estimated 17,6 million media impressions.

In return, Cape Town offers equivalent marketing opportunities for NYC & Company. [www.ewn.co.za](#)



SA shines at mining convention

South Africa has won the Best International Exhibition Award at the recently concluded 2017 Perumin Mining Convention in Peru.

The Department of Trade and Industry (dti) led a delegation of South African companies to the week-long exhibition through its Export Marketing and Investment Assistance scheme. The objective of the scheme is to develop export markets for South African products and services and to recruit new foreign direct investment into the country.

The convention took place from 18 to 25 September 2017 in Arequipa, Peru.

"The convention takes place biannually and brings together the world's leading technology and services in the mining and metals sector. South Africa's participation focussed on machinery, equipment, technologies, services and supplies for the mining sector," said the dti in a statement.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, described trade relations between South Africa and Peru as very important.

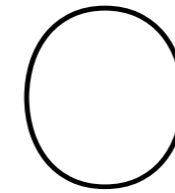
Minister Davies said South Africa recognised the huge potential of the Latin American group of countries and was cognisant of the fact that Peru was one of the fastest-growing economies in the region. [SAnews.gov.za](#)



Sensational international galas for ballet lovers

| "I've always believed in the role that arts and in particular ballet can play in bringing South Africans and the world together ..." ▶▶





Outstanding ballet once again graced South African stages when the much anticipated South African International Ballet Competition

(SAIBC) International Ballet Gala took place from 2 to 9 September 2017 in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Presented by Dirk Badenhorst, the CEO and founder of the biennial SAIBC, in association with Artscape and supported by South African Tourism, the highly anticipated SAIBC galas in Cape Town and Johannesburg and once-off *Ballet in the Bush* performance in Limpopo showcased thrilling ballet variations, pas de deux and neoclassical works. These were performed by a stellar company of top professional dancers from South Africa, Russia, Spain, Mongolia, Armenia, the United States of America, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt and Mexico. Stars performing included ballerina Maria Rudenko partnered by Artemiy Pyzhov, Monier Javier Jouve, Anujin Otgontugs, Hassan Eltabie, Mariam Karapetyan, Jonhal Fernandez, Lissi Baez, Dzianis Klimuk and South Africa's Angela Malan and Andile Ndlovu.

Highlights included pas de deux and solos from *Giselle*, *Swan Lake* (Black Swan and White Swan pas de deux), *Paquita*



and *Le Corsaire*. Renowned South African choreographer, Adele Blank, also created a new piece that enjoyed its world premiere at Artscape on 2 September 2017.

Dirk Badenhorst says: "I've always believed in the role that arts and in particular ballet can play in bringing South Africans and the

world together, and started calling it Ballet Diplomacy, but in this exciting partnership with SA Tourism, we are taking it one step further and now it also becomes Ballet Tourism, with outstanding dancers from around the world becoming ambassadors for this beautiful country".





KING KONG

THE ICONIC
SOUTH AFRICAN
HIT MUSICAL

LEGEND OF A BOXER | CAPE TOWN JULY 2017 | JOBURG SEPTEMBER 2017

"King Kong" back on South African stages

"The original production united audiences of all colours, launched careers and put South African talent firmly on the international map. We are excited to be recreating the world of the Back of the Moon shebeen with an all-South African cast and superb creative team."

The massively successful *King Kong* musical is back on South African stages. More than half a century ago, it helped to launch the careers of Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela.

Combining jazz sounds from Sophiatown, a love story, a tragedy and the fall of a sporting hero, *King Kong*, the musical, returned to South African stages on 25 July 2017.

When *King Kong*, the musical, opened at the Great Hall at the University of the

Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in 1959, it broke new ground.

Firstly, it had an all-black cast with a story set in Sophiatown; secondly, it was seen by a record-breaking 200 000 people in South Africa, comprising all races. The performers received standing ovations.

Fast-forward to the present day, and the musical has made a comeback. First on stage in Cape Town, at the Fugard Theatre, it moved to Johannesburg in September.

"We are thrilled that this long-awaited production of this iconic and first South African musical of *King Kong*, is a Fugard Theatre production which [showcases] the very best of South African talent," said Daniel Galloway the executive director of the Fugard Theatre.

"The original production united audiences of all colours, launched careers and put South African talent firmly on the international map.

"We are excited to be recreating the world of the Back of the Moon shebeen with an all-South African cast and superb creative team.

"While remaining true to the original production, our Fugard Theatre *King Kong* will refresh the musical for the 21st century."

The story

The musical is based on the tragic life of local heavyweight boxer Ezekiel Dlamini, who allegedly committed suicide in 1957. But his life was not always so difficult.

Dlamini's formidable size and strength gave birth to the nickname, "King Kong". His boxing brought him fame and fortune, but he eventually lost it all.

He went on to work as a bouncer at a club in Sophiatown, but it led him down a path paved with gangsterism, drugs and crime. He killed his girlfriend during a fight, for which he was sentenced to 12 years of hard labour. However, three months later, he drowned.

"It's a very human story," said Charl-Johan Lingenfelder, the music director of the modern show.

"Anyone, anywhere, can relate to the story. But obviously, there is this cloud of politics that hangs over it and it never gets addressed.

"I think it is quite genius the way it was written and how they attempted to tell the story and especially seeing it is a true story as well."

A legend goes to stage

The original production featured music from composer and journalist Todd Matshikiza, and lyrics by Pat Williams. It launched the careers of the young Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. Today, the two are international legends.

Eric Abraham, producer of the relaunched show, said the music was magical. "There is



something magical about *King Kong*," he told the BBC. "It happened in a moment in time when this desperate group of people, who somehow came together, and produced a show that I think probably changed a lot of people's lives."

The soundtrack, Lingenfelder said, remained fresh. "That is why this production is so exciting – because people will rediscover it now and hopefully also rediscover the original recordings and appreciate it for what it was at the time – an extraordinary achievement."

The setting

Abigail Kubeka was Makeba's understudy in the original play. She recalled the atmosphere in Sophiatown back then. "Sophiatown was a country in another country," she told the BBC.

"There were strict laws and a 9-pm curfew in the city, and authorities watched with whom you mingled," Kubeka said.

"And then you get to Sophiatown. It's a different world. You get all colours of people, rainbow nation and everyone is minding his or her own business, free, getting together and enjoying each other's company.

"It was beautiful. It was life beyond apartheid. We just cut that out, you know. We just lived our lives, we became ourselves, and did what we could do, and what we wanted to do."

Kubeka said *King Kong* was the first big musical to go overseas. "We performed at the Princess Theatre in London and people loved what they saw."

The cast

Cast in the title role of *King Kong* is South African star – actor, singer and dancer Andile

The original production featured music from composer and journalist Todd Matshikiza and lyrics by Pat Williams. It launched the careers of the young Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. Today, the two are international legends.

Gumbi. Gumbi made his Broadway debut as Simba in Disney's *The Lion King* and has starred in productions of this musical in London, Sydney, Melbourne, Shanghai and South Africa.

Multiple award-winning actress and singer-songwriter Nondumiso Tembe is recreating the role of Joyce, which propelled Miriam Makeba to international fame in the original production of *King Kong*. Tembe's extensive list of credits include HBO's Golden Globe and Emmy-award winning *True Blood*, SABC's *Generations*, the military drama *SIX* on the History Channel and *Zulu Wedding* opposite Darrin Dewitt Henson.

A live nine-piece band, under the direction of Sipumzo Lucwaba, accompanies the action at every performance.

The reviews

The 1959 show received rave reviews. In 1961, *Time* Magazine described it as a "a big event in theatrical history".

"The audience was mixed," noted the *Central African Examiner*, "and for a short time at least, the laws of apartheid were suspended with their applause."

A reviewer for the *Golden City Post* wrote: "Tears of exultation as I feel that a new era in non-white entertainment has been born with the production of *King Kong*."

"I became breathless with the splendour of the production.

"Today, the praise mirrors the reviews of more than 50 years ago."

King Kong ran at the Mandela Theatre in Johannesburg from 12 September until 8 October 2017. [U](#)

BBC / King Kong / Brand South Africa





from Turkey. Van Niekerk ran 20.11, slightly slower than his personal best, but the medal was his first IAAF trophy outside his signature 400-m event, as he builds up his confidence to perhaps master the 100 m in the future.

Gold

Wayde van Niekerk – 400m

There was no stopping South Africa's golden boy Van Niekerk, following his Olympic and 2015 Championship win in the 400 m. He took the gold in London with a time of 43.98, ahead of Steve Gardiner from the Bahamas and Qatar's Abdalelah Haroun. "Wayde is too good to be stopped," Gardiner said after the race. "South Africa has found itself a superstar. He seems to be here to dominate for a long time, too."

Luvo Manyonga – long jump

Following his silver medal win at the Rio Olympics in 2016, Manyonga shone in London, winning the gold with an 8.48-m jump, ahead of American Jarrion Lawson and fellow South African Rushwal Samaai.

Showing much confidence after his London win, Manyonga made it clear he wanted to dominate the long jump over the next few years, with the ultimate goal being a gold at the next Olympics, in Tokyo.

Caster Semenya – 800m

Semenya, the popular defending Olympic champion, won her third world championship title in the women's 800 m on the final day of the Championship.

Her time was 1:55.16, the fastest time of 2017 for the event.

Semenya was followed by Burundi's Francine Niyonsaba with silver and American Ajee Wilson taking bronze.

Once again, in her signature move, Semenya stood back in the pack before the final lap bell, and then took advantage of a waning Wilson and Niyonsaba to comfortably take the lead and the win in the final 200 m.

President Jacob Zuma congratulated Team South Africa on its achievements.

"We wish to heartily congratulate our Team South Africa for their sterling performances on the track and a job well done at the IAAF World Championships 2017 in London.

"The country is extremely thrilled and proud of our athletes, especially those who won the six medals for this remarkable achievement and excellent performance that earned South Africa a third place in the medals table, trouncing the most advanced countries in the tournament."

The President also thanked all South Africans, technical teams and management of Team SA for their continued support to all South African athletes. 🇷🇺

Sources: Sport24 / IAAF / Brand South Africa

The Summer of World Athletics



Team South Africa shines at IAAF World Athletics Championships

South African athletes have made the country proud at the 2017 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships, held in London in August 2017. Golds for Caster Semenya and Wayde van Niekerk helped South

Africa place third on the final medal tally, behind the United States of America (USA) and Kenya. South Africa won six medals in total, two bronze, one silver and three golds.

Bronze

Caster Semenya – 1 500 m
Semenya began this year's championship

with a third place in an event that is not always her strongest. Slightly off the pace of her personal best for the 1 500 m (4:01.99 in Sasolburg in 2016), Semenya came in behind Jennifer Simpson (USA) and gold medal winner Faith Chepngetich Kipyegon from Kenya, to record South Africa's first medal for the championship.

"We wish to heartily congratulate our Team South Africa for their sterling performances on the track and a job well done at the IAAF World Championships 2017 in London."

Ruswahl Samaai – long jump

While fellow South African Luvo Manyonga took gold for the long jump final, Samaai fought hard and long during the heats to earn his bronze for the event.

Hovering at fifth place for most of his jumps, which included two failed attempts, the 25-year-old Capetonian made his last two jumps count, leaping 8.27 m and 8.32 m respectively to claim third place, behind American Jarrion Lawson.

"I've been working towards this medal, so there are a lot of emotions going through my mind, going through my body," Samaai told AP after the medals ceremony. "I'm just embracing this journey. This medal represents the struggle I've been through, and I'm just grateful to get to stand on the podium and represent my country."

Silver

Wayde van Niekerk – 200m

Van Niekerk began the week in London with a second place in the 200 m, behind Ramil Guliyev



Commenting on the victory, headmaster, Elwyn van den Aardweg, said: "We're extremely proud of the choir's achievements in Singapore. The boys' colourful exuberance, energy and vigour, matched with top-notch musical performances, highlight all that can be achieved if differences are put aside and a common goal is sought.

"The pride in African culture, the passion with which it is presented, and the obvious teamwork are inspiring. Their unity and harmony is shown in and out of performance".

According to its website: "Being a multi-faceted and multicultural entity within our college, the choir is an important ambassador for our school, but also for the Zulu Kingdom and South Africa.

"Our commitment to perform and promote the indigenous music of our country and the

"Our commitment to perform and promote the indigenous music of our country and the rest of the continent is a clear indication of the passion and pride we have for our African heritage."

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www.news24.co.za / www.kearsney.com

Kearsney Choir scores gold in Singapore

With its signature blend of classical, pop and indigenous music, the choir has built up a large international following of appreciative supporters. And they have done it yet again.

The Kearsney College Choir has become synonymous with vibrant, energetic performances and slick, professional productions. With its signature blend of classical, pop and indigenous music, the choir has built up a large international following of appreciative supporters. And they have done it yet again.

The choir won the Folklore Category at the 10th Orientale Concentus International

Choral Festival in Singapore recently. The choir achieved a score of 92.2, with no other choir having yet earned a Grade 1 Gold in any category at this year's competition. They came second in the Equal Voices Youth Category with a score of 81.3, earning their second gold at the event.

The Kearsney Choir is the world's second most highly decorated choir. They have been awarded 13 gold and six silver medals at the World Choir Games between 2000 and 2014, the Prize of the City of Vienna at the

33rd International Youth and Music Festival and were invited to represent Africa at the "Rhythms of One World" Music Festival in New York and Geneva.

The choir has a distinctly African element in each performance and the multicultural group work cohesively, producing an award-winning sound.

Kearsney's 125-acre estate is set in a country atmosphere on the edge of the Valley of a Thousand Hills, midway between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, in KwaZulu-Natal.





20 thrilling adventures
for adrenaline junkies ▶▶

South Africa's diverse terrain together with an ideal climate for outdoor activities, makes the country a rich hunting ground for adventure seekers. South Africa offers 3 000 kilometers of coastline along with breathtaking mountains presenting ample opportunity for world-class climbing, surfing, diving, hiking, horseback safaris, mountain biking, river rafting – and just about any other extreme activity one can name.

Traveller24 recently named its Top 20 adventure sites in South Africa:

1. Abseiling at Lion's Head or Signal Hill, Cape Town

With the Atlantic ocean below you and stunning views of Lions Head, Camps Bay and Robben Island around you, it is hard to beat the 112-m abseil of Table Mountain.

It is one of the largest commercial abseils in the world and a must for adrenaline junkies. Since the overall experience only takes about an hour to complete, it still leaves plenty of time in the day to experience the other thrills available in the mother city.

2. Bungee jump at Bloukrans

The 216-metre Bloukrans Bungy is the world's highest commercial bungy bridge. It is also the highest commercial natural bungy jump in the world.

Situated along the Garden Route, the view from Africa's highest bridge captures all the



majesty and tranquility of the Bloukrans River Valley.

The Bloukrans Bungy uses pendulum bungee technology to ensure the smoothest, most comfortable bungee jump possible.

3. Shark cage dive at Gansbaai or Mossel Bay

There are a number of shark cage diving companies operating mainly in the Great White waters of Gansbaai and Mossel Bay along the southern coast of South Africa. These places – because of their proximity to

islands which host prey – have some of the highest concentrations of sharks in the world.

4. Kite-surfing up the West Coast

Shark bay, a lagoon located at Langebaan on the West Coast, got its name from the small sand sharks that kite surfers will every now and then, step on. The lagoon is a beautiful flat water spot, absolutely perfect for kite-surfing.

5. Ceres ziplining

There are many ziplining offerings in South Africa, but the one in Ceres is thrilling beyond.



The slides aren't the highest in the country, nor are they the longest, but they're certainly some of the steepest – which makes for ultra-fast ziplining action over the rocky Ceres Mountain slopes.

The slides vary from 328 feet to 951 feet in length. The tour will take you through the Schurweberg Mountains, about an hour-and-a-half drive away from Cape Town. Since the Town of Ceres is often called the "Eden of The Cape" it is certainly worth the trip.

6. Helicopter rides

The best way to see South Africa's amazing cities is undoubtedly from the sky, which means helicopter rides are highly recommended. There are many operators in South Africa, offering tourists the opportunity to discover and explore the country's beauty.

5. The Cango Caves

Caving provides a real adrenaline rush and the Cango Caves are no exception. Head to the Swartberg Mountains, 30 kilometres north of Oudtshoorn, to explore the hidden chambers of these 20-million-year-old caves, cut deeply into the solid limestone rock layer.

6. Augrabies Falls, Orange River

To understand why the Khoisan people referred to the Augrabies Falls as "the place of great noise", you need to come and experience them for yourself. Particularly when there has been plenty of rain and

the Orange River is overflowing, you will experience the full might of the water as it thunders down the 56-m high falls.

There are also plenty of other attractions to explore nearby, including a wide variety of flowers and animals, and the inimitable views from the Moon Rock.

7. Sterkfontein Caves

The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, near Maropeng, is filled with fascinating discoveries and going caving in these limestone caves, means you can explore the places where the likes of "Mrs Ples" and "Little Foot" were first discovered.

It's the world's richest hominin site, home to around 40% of the world's human ancestor fossils. The area is also home to a diversity of birds, animals and plants, some of which are rare or endangered.

8. Hartbeespoort Aerial Cableway

Take the "Harties Cableway" for an exhilarating ride on the longest mono-cableway in Africa and some fabulous views of the Hartbeespoort Dam and Magaliesberg Mountain range.

Great for nature lovers who will enjoy hiking the area. The educational KidsZone and walkway ensure a fun experience for the whole family.

9. Zip 2000, Sun City

If you want to experience the zipline that

started it all, you will have to make the journey down to Sun City for the Zip 2000. While no longer the holder of the longest or highest zip line title, this 2,4-km ride has average speeds of 120 km per hour and can even reach speeds of up to 160 km per hour.

10. Bill Harrop's Original Balloon Safaris

Soar above the Cradle of Humankind, the Magalies River Valley and the Hartbeespoort Dam during this chilled balloon safaris.

Passengers assemble at dawn in the Skeerpoort balloon launch area for a snack of hot drinks and biscuits before embarking on the hour-long ride.

11. Blyde River Canyon

The Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve is the world's third-largest canyon and exceptionally beautiful. Home to the aptly named God's Window, this wonder is situated near the Kruger National Park and the Mpumalanga Nature Reserve. Adventurers can opt to go hiking, biking, fishing and abseiling, white-water rafting and much more.

12. Iconic Otter Trail

The Otter Hiking Trail found in the Tsitsikamma Coastal National Park, Eastern Cape, is undoubtedly South Africa's most sought-after endurance trail. It is a five-day trail, commencing at the Storms River Mouth Rest Camp and stretching westward as far as the Groot River estuary at Nature's Valley,



a distance of about 43 km. Accommodation is provided in four beautifully appointed overnight camps. The first hike took place in 1968, making it the oldest official hiking trail in South Africa.

13. Tsitsikamma tree top canopy tours

The Tsitsikamma Canopy Tour takes place in the magnificent Tsitsikamma indigenous rainforest. Many of the platforms are built around giant Outeniqua Yellowwood trees that are up to 700 years old. Standing within the crown of these giants and looking down at the lush forest floor 30 metres below is an experience of a lifetime. The scenery and birdlife are spectacular and if you are fortunate enough, you will spot a pair of Knysna Loeries or the brilliant red plumage of the elusive Narina Trogon.

14. Sani Pass 4x4 – the route to the highest pub in Africa

Sani Pass is the mother of all South African mountain passes. Statistically and in every sense, it outdistances, outclimbs and outperforms all its competitors with consummate ease to have become the most iconic gravel pass in South Africa. It's a challenging drive in a 4X4 vehicle with all the drama, scenery, bad weather and treacherous conditions expected of a pass with a summit altitude of 2 876 metre above sea level.

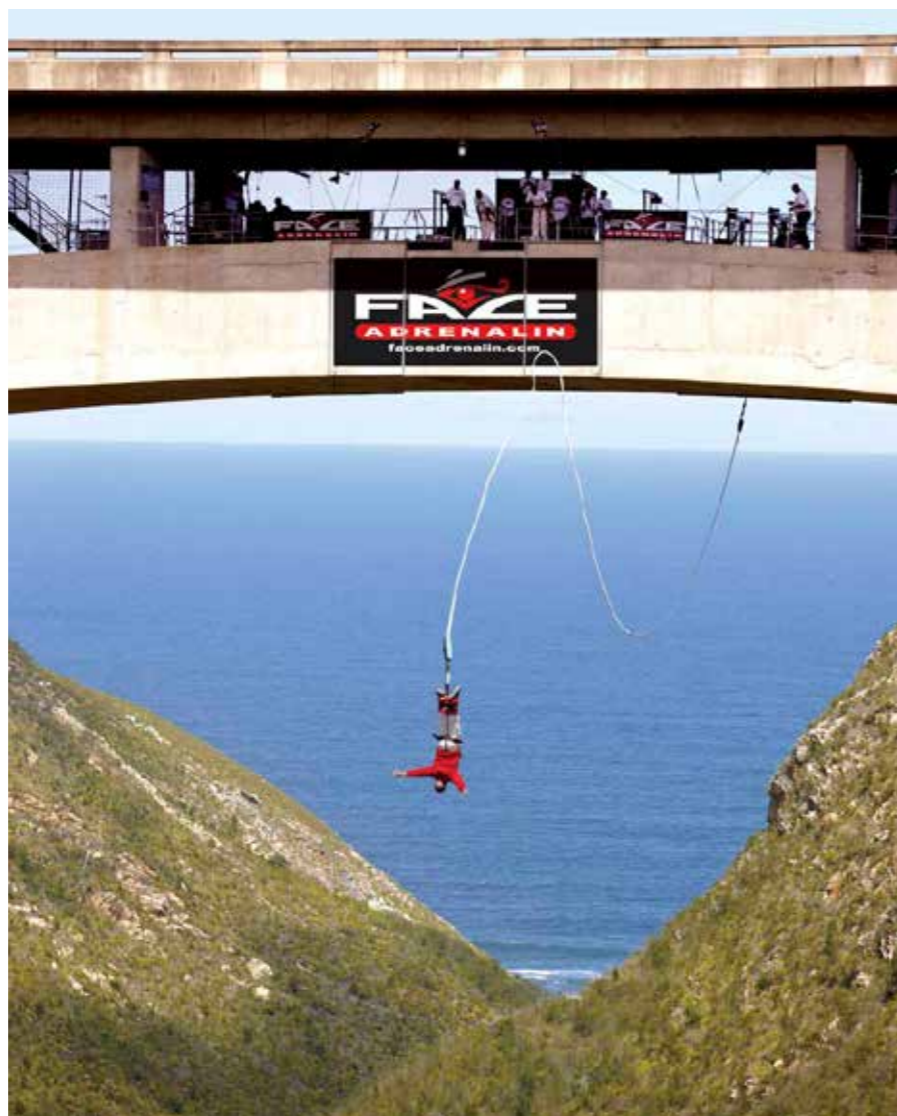
15. Motorbiking in the Baviaanskloof

Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve in the Eastern Cape is considered the number one adventure motorcycle route in southern Africa. The route is an easy ride for most levels of riders. It covers an estimated 175 km from gate to gate, with loose gravel, steep passes and several river crossings, giving this adventure playground its sought-after character. It's best to do the route over three days and explore the area to its full potential – from the Patensie side to the Makadaat Caves and Nuwekloof Pass on the Willowmore side.

16. Abseil at Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve

The Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve is a wonderfully scenic area offering excellent hiking opportunities. Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve lies 21 kilometres inland of Port Shepstone in KwaZulu-Natal. When it comes to abseiling in South Africa, few sites can match the rush offered by Oribi Gorge's Wild Abseil.

At 110-m high, it's one of the world's premier natural commercial abseils. Abseilers are lowered over the edge of the gorge, right next to the spectacular Lehrs Falls, to drop the hundred-odd metres into the valley below. The first 45 m is a cliff abseil and the remaining 65 m a free abseil.



17. Surfing at Jeffrey's Bay

Discovered by longboarders during the early 1960s, Jefferys Bay, or J-Bay, has the kind of waves that attract surfers from around the world

Halfway between the Gamtoos and Krom rivers, J-Bay stretches from Cape Recife in the east to Cape St Francis in the west.

What makes J-Bay special is that a wave can run for up to 800 m, offering surfers an unbeatable and everlasting ride. J-Bay features a number of surf breaks that harness the approaching swell as it meets the offshore reef.

The most famous of these are Supertubes or "Supers" where, on good days, a 4-ft to 8-ft wave runs from the point along the reef and includes a classic barrelling section, before closing out at a spot called Impossibles.

18. Drakensberg Amphitheatre Heritage Trail and Chain Ladder via Sentinel Climb

This popular trail to the Amphitheater escarpment at the Drakensberg is extremely rewarding. The hike involves a chain ladder which ascends the final 30 m of cliff face in two sections. The Tugela Falls, the world's

second-tallest falls – and the highest in Africa – plunge 948 m over the basalt face of the Amphitheatre as well as the highest point on the escarpment. The Mont-Aux-Sources at 3 283 m are just some of the highlights of this extraordinary adventure spot in South Africa.

19. Moses Mabhida Stadium

Built to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup soccer matches in Durban, this stadium not only enthralled local sports fans but it has its own SkyCar and a 550-step walk to the top of its arch for a fantastic view of Durban. The Big Rush swing is a must for all thrill seekers.

20. iSimangaliso Wetland Park

It is South Africa's first World Heritage Site and home to approximately 800 hippopotami, 1 200 Nile crocodiles and many other animals, including black rhinos, leopards, greater kudu and abundant invertebrates. Go kayaking on the estuary, or take a day self or night guided game drive around the iSimangaliso Wetland Park to get a taste of the diversity offered by the special part of the country. 🇿🇦

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Inspiring new ways



A view of Table Mountain from Blouberg Strand in the Western Cape. Table Mountain is one of the official New7Wonders of Nature, and the only one to be located in an urban area, making it highly accessible. The mountain is situated in the Table Mountain National Park, part of the Cape Floristic Region World Heritage Site, and encompasses the incredibly scenic Peninsula mountain chain stretching from Signal Hill in the north to Cape Point in the south – a distance of approximately 60 km.