



## CALL FOR PUBLIC TO VOTE FOR FINALISTS IN THE 2017 UBUNTU AWARDS' PUBLIC VOTE CATEGORIES

*The awards celebrate South African citizens who, through their integrity, passion, patriotism and humility, have raised the South African flag high on the international stage.*



### THE ANNUAL UBUNTU AWARDS

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN  
DIPLOMACY

VOTE NOW 

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) will host the third Annual Ubuntu Awards on 11 February 2017 in Cape Town. The awards will be held under the theme: "OR Tambo ... in his footsteps".

Last year, the department called on the public to nominate distinguished persons on the Ubuntu Awards website [www.ubuntuawards.co.za](http://www.ubuntuawards.co.za) in the following categories:

- Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Africa)
- Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Global)
- Ubuntu Social Responsibility Award
- Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Veteran)
- Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Youth)
- Ubuntu Sport Diplomacy Award
- OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement in Diplomacy Award
- OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award.

As from midday from Friday, 20 January, until 6 February 2017, the public can further vote online on [www.ubuntuawards.co.za](http://www.ubuntuawards.co.za) for one of the finalists in the following two categories as chosen by the Ubuntu Awards Panel of Judges (please see the website for the profiles of the judges).

### Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Veteran)

- **Esther Mahlangu**, an Ndebele artist whose art is often exhibited internationally. She is known for her bold large-scale contemporary paintings that reference her Ndebele heritage, or
- **Johnny Clegg**, an award-winning singer songwriter, anthropologist and a musical activist who has recorded and performed with his bands Juluka and Savuka, and as a solo act. His music, a blend of Western pop and African Zulu rhythms has exploded onto the international scene and broken through all the barriers in South Africa.

### Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Youth)

- **Pretty Yende**, an operatic soprano. She has performed leading roles at opera houses internationally, including La Scala and the Metropolitan Opera, or
- **Laduma Ngxokolo**, a textile and knitwear designer, best known for his men's knitwear range inspired by traditional Xhosa beadwork. His designs have also gained recognition internationally, including in London, Paris, Milan, Amsterdam, Oslo, Berlin and New York.

All Award winners, except in the aforementioned two categories, are determined by the Panel of Judges for the Ubuntu Awards.



AUC Leadership Elections scheduled to be held in January 2017 @ the

## 28<sup>th</sup> AU Summit

Five candidates Contesting for the Position of the African Union Commission Chairperson



**BOTSWANA**

Hon. Pelonomi Venson Moitoi



**CHAD**

Hon. Moussa Faki Mahamat



**EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Hon. Agapito Mba Mokuy



**KENYA**

Hon. Dr. Amina C. Mohammed



**SENEGAL**

Dr. Abdoulaye Bathily

**#28thAUSummit**

**[www.au.int/summit/28](http://www.au.int/summit/28)**

## AFRICAN AMBASSADORS MEET AHEAD OF AU SUMMIT

***Ambassadors of the 54 member states of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) of the African Union (AU) recently met at the headquarters in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.***

The 33rd session of the PRC is in the framework of the 28th AU Summit scheduled between January 30 and 31 under the theme "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth".

The three-day PRC meeting prepared the agenda of the AU Summit with recommendations for consideration by the AU Executive Council, which includes the foreign ministers of AU member states.

In her opening remarks at the meeting, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the chairperson of the AU Commission, noted that the 28th AU Summit would again deal with matters concerning Africans and the future of the continent.

She said Africa, under the framework of Agenda 2063, had recorded progress in modernising agriculture and agro-processing, tackling backlogs in energy, transport, water and sanitation and in making sure that Africa is not bypassed on the information highway and knowledge economy via investing in ICT.

Dlamini Zuma said the Pan-African bloc had a major task of adopting the African Continental Free Trade Area this year.

The chairperson said a lot still needed to be done, despite the achievements on the continent.

"We must espouse and uphold the values of Pan-Africanism, which include putting Africa first, commitment to the African people, their dignity and aspirations, and our passion for democracy, peace, integration and development," she said.

In addition to electing new officials of the AU Commission, the summit will elect Dlamini Zuma's successor, and consider important issues related to the financing and institutional reforms of the AU. – Sources: SAnews.gov.za-Xinhua

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## SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CONVEYS CONDOLENCES TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN FOLLOWING THE PLASCO BUILDING COLLAPSE

***The South African Government extends its condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this tragic incident and further wishes the injured a speedy recovery.***

The Government and people of South Africa convey their deepest sympathies and condolences to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the collapse of the historic high-rise Plasco Building in Iran's capital, Tehran, which caught fire on Thursday, 19 January 2017, leaving over 70 people dead and scores injured.



# MINISTER NKOANA-MASHABANE EMBARKS ON BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGNS IN FREE STATE AND GAUTENG



***Government has identified education and skills development among its apex priorities, and the support of schools and learners, particularly those in rural and underprivileged communities, is of utmost importance.***

On 19 and 20 January, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation embarked on Back-to-School campaigns in Thaba Nchu, Free State, and Winterveldt, Gauteng, respectively.

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane addressed parents, teachers and learners to offer them encouragement and donated several necessities.

In Thaba Nchu, the minister visited St Paul and Tshipinare primary schools. Due to the decline in formal employment and consequent increase in unemployment, most learners in the area are from disadvantaged families.

In Winterveldt, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane donated school shoes to the Ntaba and Nkadimeng primary schools and visited the four best performing secondary schools, namely Winterveldt, Holy Trinity, IR Lesolang, and Abel Motshoane. The Minister addressed Grade 11 and 12 pupils after which she held a meeting with provincial governance stakeholders and regional and provincial political leadership to address challenges facing Winterveldt.

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## MINISTER RADEBE APPOINTED TO WEF STEWARDSHIP BOARD

***Minister Radebe was invited to join the board which comprises 20 to 40 global leaders drawn from the public and private sectors.***



The Minister in The Presidency responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Jeff Radebe, has been appointed to the Stewardship Board of the World Economic Forum (WEF) System Initiative on the Future of Education, Gender and Work.

According to the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, this opportunity comes along the lines of South Africa's trusted partnership with WEF. He will be expected to provide leadership on selected issues relating to education, gender and work.

"I am pleased to be part of a board that seeks to cultivate collective leadership on public-private initiatives, with the objective of ensuring that eight billion people worldwide can live up to their full potential by developing and deploying their talent for maximum benefit to the economy and society," said Minister Radebe.

The WEF annual meeting gathers leaders from all sectors of society to discuss the global economy and look for solutions to challenges through public-private cooperation. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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## FESTIVE SEASON STATS RISE: SA A SAFE HAVEN IN THE GLOBAL TRAVEL SPHERE

***The top 10 nationalities that arrived in South Africa during the festive season were from Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Namibia, Germany and Zambia.***

South Africa's tourism saw an impressive improvement during the 2016/17 holiday period, with a total of 5 504 022 people moving through South Africa's ports of entry between the period of 9 December 2016 and 14 January 2017. This marked an increase of 3,78%, or 200 467 people more compared to the 5 303 555 recorded for the same time last year, the Department of Home Affairs confirmed.

Speaking at a press conference in Pretoria, the Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba, said that movements for OR Tambo International Airport alone, from 9 December last year to 14 January 2017, reached a total of 977 961, up from the 948 477 recorded for the same time in the previous festive season.

The figures showed that "South Africa remains a continual attraction to our immediate neighbours," Gigaba says. Apart from the beautiful and affordable tourist destination South Africa was, Minister Gigaba also said that South Africa offered a safe travel destination for international visitors, especially.

"People feel safe when they come here," he said. "Besides what South Africa offers as a tourism destination, it remains relatively isolated from the global turbulence that have occurred in other countries in the past year," the minister said, referring specifically to a terror attack in Germany in December last year, when a lorry ploughed into a Christmas market in Berlin.

Gigaba said that "South Africa has remained relatively isolated from incidents like the tragedy in Germany, and a lot of other countries that have also experienced terrorism". – Source: Traveller24

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## SOUTH AFRICA AND CHAD SIGN BILATERAL AGREEMENT



***The Minister of Transport, Dipuo Peters, and Minister of Civil Aviation and National Meteorology of Chad, Haoua Acyl Ahmat Aghabach, signed a Bilateral Air Services Agreement on Friday, 20 January 2017, in Pretoria.***

Minister Ahmat Aghabach further undertook courtesy visits to the entities of the department, namely Air Traffic Navigation Services and Airports Company South Africa to explore matters of common interest to both South Africa and Chad. She also visited the South African Weather Services.

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## UN WORLD DATA FORUM WRAPS UP WITH LAUNCH OF CAPE TOWN GLOBAL ACTION PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DATA



## **United Arab Emirates selected to host next forum.**

The inaugural United Nations (UN) World Data Forum concluded recently with the launch of a global plan for better data to improve people's lives, and new ideas and solutions to boost the collaboration, resources and policies needed to put it into action.

The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, which will be adopted by countries at the UN Statistical Commission when it meets in March of this year, was prepared with inputs from the global statistical community and data experts from a wider range of stakeholders.

"The UN World Data Forum is the perfect place to launch the Action Plan and get all the major players behind it," said UN Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo at a press conference. "To implement the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and build a better future for people everywhere, it is essential to have accurate, reliable, timely and disaggregated data."

The plan, which sets out a global vision and "to do" list for better data, calls for a commitment by governments, policy leaders and the international community to undertake key actions in six strategic areas, including: innovation and modernisation of national statistical systems; dissemination of data on sustainable development; building partnerships; and mobilising resources.

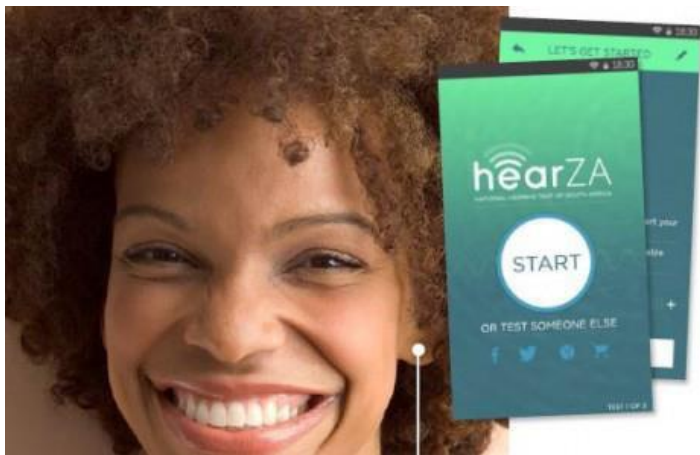
Currently, there are large data gaps that hinder policymakers from making informed decisions. Over 100 countries do not keep accurate birth and death records, and only 41% of countries regularly produce data on violence against women.

The unprecedented scope of the UN's 2030 Agenda, with its 17 sustainable development goals, has magnified the challenge to track progress and inform policies. "We cannot achieve what we cannot measure," said Pali Lehohla, South Africa's Statistician-General and head of Statistics South Africa.

Over 1 400 data experts from more than 100 countries held discussions, data labs and interactive presentations at the forum from 15 to 18 January, with participants from governments, national statistical offices, the private sector and academia, international organisations and civil-society groups. The forum was hosted by the South African Government and Statistics South Africa in partnership with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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## **SOUTH AFRICAN HEARING APP GROWS ITS REACH**



***It's a world first – a smartphone app that enables people to test their hearing, says lead researcher Prof. De Wet Swanepoel. The app was created by a South African research team and it is being tried all over the world.***

More than 40 000 hearing tests have been done with a hearing app created by a South African team of researchers. The hearScreen app, provided on a smartphone, is being used in 25 countries worldwide, including Ethiopia, Australia and Guatemala.

Because of its success, the South African public can now use the hearing detecting app, hearZA. Speaking on talk radio station CapeTalk, Prof. De Wet Swanepoel of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at the University of Pretoria called the hearZA app "a super computer you have in your pocket". It helps anyone who is 16 or older to test their hearing.

Swanepoel explains the hearScreen app is provided on a smartphone with a calibrated headphone. This is to allow an accurate hearing test from an Android smartphone according to international standards. "It is not a consumer app but is provided preloaded on specific smartphones with a headphone."

The hearScreen project started in 2013 but its beta launch was on World Hearing Day on 3 March 2016, he says. "By beta launch we mean that it is not the final product launch. We have launched to interested parties but based on experiences are still refining it for a final product launch in 2017."

The app is used in various settings from screenings in schools, early childhood development centres and primary healthcare clinics, to monitoring TB patients for drug-induced hearing loss and monitoring hearing status in occupational health settings, Swanepoel explains. – Source: [www.brandssouthafrica.com](http://www.brandssouthafrica.com)

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## CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CELEBRATES GUINNESS WORLD RECORD'S RECOGNITION OF CREATING WORLD'S BIGGEST BLANKET



*The 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Campaign encouraged people from all over the world, including offenders from across the country, to contribute handmade blankets towards creating a giant world record-breaking blanket, while contributing to a good cause.*

On Monday, 23 January, the Department of Correctional Services, in partnership with 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela, celebrated the Guinness World Record's recognition of creating the world's biggest blanket, and the certification of offenders and officials who contributed to this success, in Drakenstein, Western Cape.

The campaign for blanket-making in correctional centres was introduced in August 2015 as part of the offenders' rehabilitation programme. The initiative offered an opportunity for inmates across the country to give back to society while empowering them with skills to function effectively in society upon their release.

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## CAPE TOWN TO HONOUR PIONEERING MEDICAL RESEARCHER HAMILTON NAKI

*A posthumous honour is in the pipeline for the late Hamilton Naki, the medical research specialist who helped the team that performed the world's first successful human heart transplant.*



The world's first adult human heart transplant was performed by South African cardiac surgeon Dr Chris Barnard on 3 December 1967, in Cape Town. Hamilton Naki was part of the research team that helped doctors achieve this pioneering medical success.

The city of Cape Town's Naming and Nomination Committee announced on 10 January 2017 that it was considering re-naming Salazar Plain in the CBD after Naki.

Appropriately, Salazar Plain is located on the city's foreshore, opposite the Christiaan Barnard Hospital, named after the chief surgeon in the ground-breaking 1967 heart transplant operation, and with whom Naki worked closely to make the procedure a success. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the historic medical moment.

Naki was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe, one of South Africa's highest honours, for his outstanding contribution to medical science. He died in 2005, aged 78. Naki's legacy continues to inspire. The National Research Foundation's Hamilton Naki Award has, since 2015, honoured outstanding individuals who have achieved world-class research performance despite considerable challenges.

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## NEW FOOD SHOW EXPLORES SOUTH AFRICA'S ENTICING DISHES

***“A Taste of South Africa” is a new show about food, being filmed with British chef Matt Tebbutt. It explores local favourites and the fascinating history behind them, and is set to air during the second half of the year.***

“This is the show that I’ve always wanted to make,” said British chef Matt Tebbutt about the filming of his new foodie show, *A Taste of South Africa*.

“To explore, learn, taste and understand such a totally diverse country such as South Africa is a really exciting prospect for me. I want to meet the people behind the food, to learn about the history of the dishes and to cook alongside them and expand my own knowledge of the local cuisine.”

The first leg of shooting wrapped on 16 January, and the crew will head to Cape Town in March.

South Africa provides a culturally diverse, exciting, engaging, and exquisite environment in which to pursue the love of food,” said show producer Rebecca Fuller-Campbell.



“The fascinating history of this country and the sheer variety of cultures means that every episode will offer a fresh and different look at the rich gastronomic traditions of the country.”

Tebbutt traverses South Africa in the 10-part show, sampling different dishes and regional specialities, and digging into the history of local cuisine. The show features food such as sorghum, maize, chisa nyama, bunny chow, umphokoqo, koeksisters and waterblommetjie bredie. Along the way, he features local chefs, among them Nelson Mandela’s former personal chef, Xoliswa Ndoyiya, and Mpho Tshukudu, co-author of the cookbook *Eat-Ting*. – Source: [www.brandsouthafrica.com](http://www.brandsouthafrica.com)

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## TABLE MOUNTAIN CABLEWAY WELCOMES ITS 26 MILLIONTH VISITOR IN RECORD TIME



***Table Mountain Cableway recently welcomed its 26 millionth visitor to the mountain, with the latest million visitors having taken a record-breaking 11 months to reach!***

On a busy morning at the Lower Station Ticket Office, Elbie Mattheus from Cradock, Eastern Cape, stood unsuspecting as the numbers ticked closer to the million mark.

Surprised by fanfare and balloons, Elbie (accompanied by boyfriend Morne Viljoen) received a prize from the Cableway, including Cableway tickets, a Table Mountain Café voucher, Shop at the Top merchandise, a Monopoly Cape Town set and a Jiva Grande Spa signature treatment followed by a delicious

Afternoon Tea for two at the prestigious Taj Cape Town Hotel.

“This is my first time going up the mountain, so what an amazing surprise to be Cableway’s 26 millionth visitor,” said Elbie. “With limited time in Cape Town, this is definitely a must-do experience. I cannot wait to take in the views from the top.”

Cableway Managing Director Wahida Parker said it had taken 28 years for the Cableway to record its first millionth visitor – in 1957. But thanks to consistent visitor numbers throughout 2016 and an increase in visitors during the usually quiet, colder months of winter, the Cableway was able to celebrate reaching the latest million visits in just 11 months.

“As proud custodians of South Africa’s New7Wonder of Nature we not only look forward to welcoming many more visitors to the Cableway but aim to showcase this magnificent attraction with continued excitement, respect and passion,” said Parker. – Source: [www.sapeople.com](http://www.sapeople.com)



***Cape Town is on the map for tourism, and with the help of the Cape's official tourism, trade and investment promotion agency, Wesgro, the Mother City has grown to become a world-class contender for conference and business travel too.***

Events and conferences secured by Wesgro last year alone contributed a total of R374,1 million to the Cape's economy. Additionally, the Cape Town and Western Cape Convention Bureau supported 48 events and secured 17 conference bids with an estimated value of R185 million, which was attended by approximately 28 280 delegates around the world. In recognition of this achievement, among others, Wesgro was also recently named first runner-up in SATOA's Best Tourist Board Award Division.

SATOA is a leading professional non-profit travel and tourism association managed by a committee based in the United Kingdom with decades of experience. Hosted by SATOA Chair, Tessa Bott, and sponsored by Tourism Kwazulu-Natal, the awards were based on votes from both trade and the general public. They, therefore, provide an excellent barometer of each winner's performance and popularity built over the last year.

Wesgro was particularly commended for their Cape Town Air Access initiative, a collaboration between the Western Cape Provincial Government, the City of Cape Town, Airports Company South Africa and Cape Town Tourism aimed at increasing international air route development in the Western Cape.

Cape Town Air Access has already secured five new international routes and four expansions since its establishment in 2015, and has a number scheduled to launch soon. While the R374-million injection from the past year is a welcomed one, international events and conferences in Cape Town are expected to increase even more with the extensive R832 million expansion of the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), which is currently underway.

The upgrade will see the centre grow with 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> of a multi-purpose conference and exhibition space, and 3 000 m<sup>2</sup> of formal and informal meeting space. The improvement hopes to see even more business travellers flock to the Cape Town City Centre for conferences, which has seen a major cash injection into the city over the past year. According to the Cape Town CCID figures, the CTICC contributed R3,4 billion to the national gross domestic product over the 2014/15 period and R1,20 billion of total foreign exchange earnings. It creates 8 058 direct and indirect jobs for South Africans. – Source: [www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com)

## **FEELING AT HOME AT JAMIE'S ITALIAN IN SOUTH AFRICA**

***Famed British chef Jamie Oliver has made another addition to his Jamie's Italian restaurant chain. The newest branch, in Johannesburg, opened to diners in December.***



The spacious setting can seat up to 300 people, but it is easy to feel at home with the warm, earthy tones of the décor, the wooden tables, the rustic chandeliers in the private dining area, and the assortment of pictures hanging on the walls. Jack de Wet, head of design and development for the Jamie Oliver Restaurant Group in the United Kingdom, has drawn influence from South Africa's heritage for the design. Originally from the Western Cape, De Wet has a postgraduate degree in Architecture from the University of Cape Town.

"South Africa has an abundance of material to work with," he says. "The centre of it all, Joburg, is known as the city of gold

with a nod to the industrialisation of the gold-mining industry.

"We have used these elements in the materials, patterns and detailing of the design, without it being too obvious. This can be seen in the intricate metalwork balustrade and screen details."

Leanne van Wyk, the marketing manager, says the Jamie's Italian restaurants all over the world incorporate regional touches into their design. "By drawing inspiration from indigenous prints, national colours and key industries, Jamie's Italian aims to become part of the culture and vibe of South Africa but also contribute to it," she says.

Its doors officially opened on 15 December 2016 after months of hype and anticipation, Van Wyk says.

“The opening was an incredible moment for staff and guests alike, with the brand being warmly received by locals (as is our culture as a nation, to be welcoming) and this is something which continues to this day.”

In keeping with Oliver’s well-known cooking style, only the freshest ingredients are bought and used in the restaurant, and fresh pasta is made daily on the premises. – Source: [www.brandsouthafrica.com](http://www.brandsouthafrica.com)

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## SA FILM “THE WOUND” MAKES ITS WORLD PREMIERE AT PRESTIGIOUS SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL



**Entertainer Nakhane Toure flew the South African flag high when a film he is starring in recently premiered at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in America.**

Nakhane, who has a celebrated music and writing career, announced late last year that he had been cast in the lead role in John Trengove's film *The Wound*.

The film depicts the story of Kwanda, a gay factory worker, who travels from the city to the rural area of his family's origin to be circumcised in a traditional rites-of-passage ceremony.

It is directed and co-written by John Trengove, who has worked on a number of TV series in South Africa.

Nakhane joined the rest of the film's cast when *The Wound* made its international premiere at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival recently.

The film festival will also see the world premiere of a documentary based on the life of South African struggle icon Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, by French director Pascale Lamche.

The Sundance Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Utah, USA. This year's festival will run from 19 to 29 January and will showcase 122 feature-length films and 71 short films from 32 countries.

The festival is the largest independent film festival in the United States and this year drew 13 782 total submissions, including 4 068 feature-length films and 8 985 short films.

*The Wound* is expected to be released to local cinemas later this year. – Source: [www.timeslive.com](http://www.timeslive.com)

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## “ESSENCE US” DECLARES PEARL THUSI "ONE TO WATCH"



**Local actress Pearl Thusi is quickly winning over American audiences and recently had United States publication “Essence” magazine gushing over her.**

Pearl, who is currently based in America while shooting for the hit US drama series *Quantico*, was recently named as "one to watch" by the prestigious beauty and lifestyle magazine.

In an interview with the magazine, Pearl spoke about cutting her teeth in the South African entertainment industry, and also explained how her role in *Quantico* was a victory for both her and the African continent.

"It's my first time as a series regular outside of South Africa. I really hope to represent all the people of my continent well. This is the role that may just decide what happens to the rest of my life," she said.

Pearl made her debut in *Quantico* in September last year and saw her name trend locally on social media site Twitter. She took to Twitter after the show to thank fans for their support and added that if she has inspired one person to believe in their dreams then her mission has been accomplished. – Source: [www.timeslive.com](http://www.timeslive.com)

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## SA FASHIONISTA ASANDA SIZANI HANDPICKS HIGH-STYLE COLLECTION FOR TOPSHOP



**Fashion editor and style maven Asanda Sizani has collaborated with international fast fashion retailer Topshop with a capsule collection, titled: "Edited By. Topshop X Asanda Sizani", that launched recently.**

Topshop has teamed up in the past with celebrities like Beyoncé Knowles and Kate Moss to create memorable collections. Now the brand has decided to go the African route, selecting a South African style mover and shaker to be its inspiration.

Sizani is known for her impeccable sense of style, so it was no surprise that she was asked by the international fashion chain to help put together a capsule collection reflecting her taste.

Topshop South Africa approached me to curate a range for their brand. The retailer is known for their international collaborations with various style influencers

under their banner." Sizani handpicked the collection for Topshop: "My role for this project was essentially that of a curator, a guest editor and a style adviser.

"My task was to put together an edit of hero items that reflects my own fashion choices and highlighting specific essentials to customers. The aim was to bring a diverse range of Topshop pieces together for people to mix and match. It's possible to wear head-to-toe retail items but still look like an individual. With events such as the Sun Met coming up, shoppers will find various pieces to play with for the perfect race-day outfit, and of course, everyday life," she said.

African styles are gaining attention with international brands, who are now aligning themselves with the continent's fashion influencers, creating a further boost for Africa's fashion economy.

"When international retailers see value in aligning with locals, it's a good thing," said Sizani. "We represent the local market and customers can relate to us. We're able to speak to the customer in an accessible way. Customers can enter a store, and see an African name, a local face they recognise."

Sizani said she was honoured to have been chosen as a local influencer. "I hope that more locals are given a platform to cooperate with globally recognised retailers." – Source: [www.timeslive.com](http://www.timeslive.com)

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## ICONIC SA WILDLIFE SHINE AS OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2016 WINNERS

**Two photographs shot in two of South Africa's esteemed wildlife sanctuaries have been announced category winners in the Outdoor Photographer of the Year 2016 competition.**

With over 17 000 images entered from over 50 countries around the world and a staggeringly high-quality bar being set this year, the two photographs depict two of South Africa's most iconic wild species – the elephant and the leopard.

American Photographer David Rosenzweig shot this image in the Timbavati Game Reserve in Mpumalanga. His image won the Young Outdoor Photographer of the Year category.

Dutch photographer Alice van Kempen took this photograph in the Kruger National Park. Her image won in the Wildlife Insight category. – Source: [www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com)

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## SA SARDINE RUN SHOT WINS 2016 “NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC” NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER TITLE



**Selected from thousands of entries, an underwater photo of sardine predation off the Wild Coast of South Africa was selected as the winning image for the 2016 National Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year contest.**

The photo, titled "Sardine Run", was captured by Greg Lecoeur of Nice, France. Lecoeur took the photo in June 2015 after waiting two weeks to witness the natural predation on sardines captured in the photo.

“During the sardine migration along the Wild Coast of South Africa, millions of sardines are preyed upon by marine predators such as dolphins, marine birds, sharks, whales, penguins, sailfishes and sea lions. The

hunt begins with common dolphins that have developed special hunting techniques to create and drive bait balls to the surface,” Lecoeur told *NatGeo*. – Source: [www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com)

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## SOUTH AFRICAN BOAT TAKES THIRD AT CAPE2RIO

**South African entrant Lion of Africa Vulcan has finished third in the 2017 Cape2Rio presented by Maserati.**

*Vulcan* completed the Atlantic crossing on 16 January, and is the first South African boat to complete the 2017 edition of the prestigious and iconic event.

The Cape Town-based yacht, co-owned and co-skipped by Hylton Hale, finished seven hours after second yacht over the line, *Black Pearl*.

“We are elated to see our local friends and heroes finishing third at the Cape2Rio,” said Vitor Medina, Commodore of the Royal Cape Yacht Club, hosts of the Cape2Rio and home base to the *Lion of Africa Vulcan* Yacht.

“Hylton and his crew have sailed impressively and we can’t wait to share in their triumph once they are back in Cape Town.”



*Lion of Africa Vulcan's* result is particularly impressive when you consider that the yacht is not designed for ocean crossings.

Leading up to the Cape2Rio, the yacht had to be fitted with numerous components to ensure its safety on the open ocean; these changes included new safety equipment, the installation of water makers and waterproofing the boat more extensively. That made the challenge of competing in the Cape2Rio all the more thrilling.

"It was a great race," said co-skipper, Francois Kuttel.

"It was an epic sail from start to finish; better than some of the other Cape2Rio's I have participated in. This year was 15 days of great sailing and great fun." – Source: [www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com)

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## KLAASEN HEADLINES SA DAVIS CUP SQUAD

***The tie, to be played from 3 to 5 February, will see South Africa and Estonia doing battle for the first time in Davis Cup competition.***

Tennis South Africa recently announced its best possible Davis Cup squad, including the country's top doubles player, Raven Klaasen, to play Estonia in the upcoming Euro/Africa Group 2 tie at Irene Country Club.

South African captain Marcos Ondruska named Klaasen, Lloyd Harris, Nik Scholtz, Tucker Vorster and Ruan Roelofse in his five-man squad. Ondruska also confirmed that Dean O'Brien would join the squad as a practice partner for the week at Irene.

Ten days ahead of the tie, Ondruska will have to nominate a four-man team from his squad. After naming that four-man team, the captain may make changes to the team originally nominated up to one hour before the draw on Thursday, 2 February.

Klaasen, South Africa's most celebrated doubles player in recent years, broke into the world's top 10 in July 2016. Together with his partner Rajeev Ram of the USA, Klaasen reached the final of the ATP World Tour Masters in London in November of last year. Klaasen is presently ranked 11 and with Ram are the 11th-ranked team in world tennis in the race to London.

"I am very excited about the 2017 Davis Cup campaign" said Ondruska. "There are a lot of items that were worked on last year that are starting to come together this year. The team is strong and the guys in the team are better players this year than they were last year. The goal is to work our way this year into the Euro/Africa Zone Group 1 section for 2018, and then into the World Group." – Source: [www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com)



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