

UBUNTU NEWSFLASH



Issue 256 | 3 February 2017

WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER * THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION

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MAGAZINE

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28th AU SUMMIT

22 - 31 January, 2017 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend
through investments in Youth



PRESIDENT ZUMA ATTENDS AFRICAN UNION (AU) SUMMIT IN ETHIOPIA

President Jacob Zuma travelled to Addis Ababa, in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, to attend the 28th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) from 28 to 31 January 2017 under the theme "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in the Youth".



The AU Assembly was preceded, on 29 January 2017, by a retreat of AU heads of state and government, where the leaders considered a report presented by the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, on institutional reforms of the AU aimed at enhancing the continental body's governance systems.

The report was commissioned at the last AU Summit, held in Kigali, Rwanda. The former Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, Tito Mboweni, was appointed by President Kagame as one of the experts who assisted him with the project.

Among other things, the Assembly considered and deliberated on reports focussing on the state of peace and security on the continent, the African Peer Review Mechanism and climate change. The Assembly also considered the 2016 Annual Report of the AU Commission, which was expected to focus on the implementation and domestication of Agenda 2063, economic integration, the continental passport as well as peace support and peace-keeping missions.

Chad's Foreign Minister, Moussa Faki Mahamat, was elected as the next AU Commission chairperson. He is also Chad's former Prime Minister and is known as a veteran statesman and diplomat, as well as a pan-Africanist who speaks French, English and Arabic.

The Assembly approved the application by the Kingdom of Morocco to become the AU's 55th member state. "Morocco is now a full member of the AU. There was a very long debate but 39 of our 54 states approved the return of Morocco, even if the Western Sahara question remains," Senegalese President Macky Sall told journalists. "As we have said, if the family grows bigger, we can find solutions as a family," he added.

Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf confirmed that "the majority of the member states have accepted Morocco's application to rejoin the AU". "Africa wants to speak in one voice. We need all African countries to be a part of that voice."

President Zuma was accompanied by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane; Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula; Minister of State Security, David Mahlobo; Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Jeff Radebe; Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ngoako Ramathodi; Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ayanda Dlodlo; and Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Buti Manamela.

MINISTER NKOANA-MASHABANE PAYS TRIBUTE TO OUTGOING AU COMMISSION CHAIR DLAMINI ZUMA

Outgoing African Union Commission (AUC) chairperson, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, on 28 January, received a vote of thanks from the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, for her "sterling" work during her term of office, especially regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women.



In a wide-ranging interview with the African News Agency, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane said: "On behalf of South Africa and on behalf of all the women of the continent ... leaders on the continent have four-and-a-half years ago elected one of the best who happened to be the first female in more than 50 years to lead this very important institution".

In June 2016, African heads of state and government extended Dlamini Zuma's tenure by six months because elections to replace her in Kigali, Rwanda, were inconclusive.

Nkoana-Mashabane said Dlamini Zuma had introduced new ways of doing things at the AU, such as the retreat for foreign affairs ministers before every AU summit, which allowed for better preparation.

Agenda 2063, which is the AU's 50-year plan to create the "Africa we want" and includes the free movement of people and goods and the creation of a continent-wide free trade area, was formulated during Dlamini Zuma's tenure.

Another milestone was the launch of the campaign to end child marriages in Africa.

African has a population of about one billion people and the majority are young.

“Almost 60% of our people are less than 35 years old. If we empower them, if we skill them, and therefore (they) become their own liberators,” she said in apparent reference to the high number of unemployed youths who cannot find jobs in their own countries.

Under the theme “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youths”, the AU believed that providing quality education and appropriate skills to the youth would enable them to take advantage of opportunities available in Africa, Nkoana-Mashabane said. – Source: AFP

NEW ENVOYS TOLD TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS, EXPLORE SA

The countries that handed their credence letters included: Myanmar, Egypt, El Salvador, Tunisia, Romania, Vietnam, Mauritius, Bulgaria, Djibouti, Saharawi, Seychelles, Qatar, New Zealand, Senegal and France.



President Jacob Zuma recently received letters of credence from 15 ambassadors and high commissioners-designate. His message to them was simple: “Continue strengthening relations that exist between the respective countries and explore South Africa”.

Addressing the new envoys at a ceremony held at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria, President Zuma urged them to explore areas of cooperation despite the difficult global economic conditions.

“We are the most sought-after investment destination on the continent and indeed a gateway to Africa. We believe that the conducive environment that exists in our country will enable us to attract more investment into our shores and the continent at large.

“In this regard, I would like to encourage you to explore more areas of cooperation for mutual benefit, between South Africa and your respective countries.”

He assured them that South Africa enjoyed a robust and stable democracy defined by a strong Constitution and an abiding rule of law.

With the fourth industrial revolution upon us, President Zuma said this provided numerous opportunities.

“We need to mitigate possible negative impacts of this revolution to developing economies. We must ensure that it contributes to the betterment of lives of our people, particularly the poor, marginalised and the youth,” the President said.

He also encouraged them not only to explore the capital but other provinces.

“Explore and enjoy. We have the beautiful Cape Town, Durban as well as many other towns. We have a range of mountains that behave differently in climate, we have good games with the Big Five – please don’t leave South Africa without realising that there are actually more than five.”

The new envoys, who brought greetings from their respective presidents, committed to strengthening bilateral relations. French Ambassador-Designate Christophe Farnaud said South Africa and France had strategic relations based on mutual trust friendship. He vowed he would use his tenure to continue on this path.

“France supports the transformation process of South Africa; be it political, economic or social. We have a lot of French companies that have already invested here but we now intend to develop more people-to-people initiatives like in sport,” he said.

New Zealand like Bulgaria looked forward to blossomed trade relations and deepened cooperation.

Senegal’s Ambassador-Designate came bearing thanks from his President Macky Sall for South Africa’s support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and Economic Community of West African States during the Gambian political crisis. “Senegal has declared 2017 as a year of culture. We have a plan to pair Goree Island and Robben Island. The project is part of efforts to understand the history and culture of Senegal. This is part of our history,” the Ambassador said, hoping to enforce cultural relations.

President Zuma congratulates United States (US) President

President Zuma used the opportunity to welcome the new administration of the USA under President Donald Trump. “We wish President Trump well in his tenure. We hope for more improved relations with the international community, especially with the developing world. At the same time, we trust that former President Barack Obama’s contribution will not be lost to the international community,” said President Zuma.

Trump, was sworn in as the 45th US President on Friday, 21 January 2017, with commitment to put "America first" as well as to seek "friendship" but cautioned all decisions and all relations would continue to be judged by what was best for Americans, regardless of the consequences. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

DIRCO HOSTS SEMINAR ON SOUTH AFRICA AND THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY MONITORING SYSTEM

The seminar was titled: “Reinvigorating South Africa’s Leadership Role in the International Human Rights Treaty Monitoring System: Possibilities for Enhanced Impact”.



On 26 January 2017, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation hosted a seminar on South Africa and the international human rights Treaty Monitoring System at the OR Tambo Building in Pretoria.

Speaking at the seminar, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Luwellyn Landers, said that South Africa actively participated in both the African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) mechanisms, proving our commitment to the global human rights agenda.

“The Department of International Relations and Cooperation decided on the convening of this important seminar primarily for the following reasons:

- to provide a unique opportunity for government to interact, in a less formal setting, with the South African experts to the Treaty System, with the aim of reflecting on the role played by South African nationals in the global human rights system and how this can contribute to the enhancing of the country’s international human rights image
- to obtain insights into the working methods of these bodies and learn how the country can best improve on its reporting obligations to these important bodies, as well as deal with the cumulative backlog in this regard

- to enhance professional relations between experts and government officials to ensure that South Africa is better positioned within the human right rights framework, while bearing in mind the imperative need for the independence of our experts
- to imbibe on the vast knowledge and experience of our own experts gained over the years, through interaction with other governments and their performance in terms of Treaty obligations.

Deputy Minister Landers aid that the South African Government believed in the active involvement and participation of civil society.

“However, South Africa has, in recent times, come under criticism, both at home and internationally, for its performance on the international human rights stage. This seminar provides an opportunity to reflect on our challenges and to chart a way forward in an effort to reverse the negative perceptions about our commitment to human rights.”

“South Africa takes pride at the calibre of the independent experts that have served and are currently serving in the various human rights structures at international level. We consider you to be South African ambassadors within these important structures and we salute your contribution to profiling our country on the human rights front. I am hopeful that this engagement fosters a mutually reinforcing relationship with you so that we can better impact on the human rights system.

“In closing, ladies and gentlemen, we see this important seminar as an ideal opportunity for government officials to gain insight into the work of the various human rights treaty bodies. Beyond this seminar, it is within our power as government, to be more impactful in the human rights system. It is, therefore, important for us to work collaboratively, through a focussed, coordinated approach as we strive to protect, promote and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

“I am confident that this seminar will come with innovative proposals in terms of how we can impact, influence and provide leadership to the AU and UN human rights treaty monitoring system.”

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BILL SET TO IMPROVE SA’S FOREIGN SERVICE

A number of stakeholders in the international affairs sector have given their inputs into the Foreign Service Bill, which is aimed at enhancing South Africa’s standing in the global arena.

Former ambassadors, think-tanks, academics, experts in the field, non-governmental organisations and business representatives, among others, met at a seminar organised by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation in Pretoria on 24 January 2017.

The Foreign Service Bill is crafted to improve the efficiency, accountability and cost-effectiveness of exploring and developing the opportunities that exist abroad to advance South Africa’s foreign policy and developmental agenda.

It provides for a single Foreign Service system and creates an enabling legislative framework through which the current Foreign Service will be managed and regulated by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). The bill will be operationalised in the context of the Constitution, existing legislation applicable to the Public Service, security services and departments that work with DIRCO. The bill is also aligned to the National Development Plan to enhance service delivery.

Participants at the seminar alerted the committee to a number of issues that the bill needed to address, including the calibre of diplomats, role of youth and overlapping roles with other departments.

The chair of the South African Council on International Relations and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aziz Pahad – who gave the keynote address at the seminar – described the bill as “an important instrument for effectively implementing South Africa’s foreign policy, whose success hinges on the ability of the department [of International Relations and Cooperation] to enhance public diplomacy, economic and trade diplomacy and ensure that South Africa continues to be an influential global player”.

The chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee, Siphosizwe Masango, said consultations on the bill would continue. “The committee is extremely satisfied with the work that has been done so far, especially that the bill is the first of its kind since the democratic dispensation.

“The work now will be taken to sister departments that the bill will impact on, like Economic Development, Trade and Industry, and Home Affairs,” said Masango. – Source: SAnews.gov.za


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KZN PREPARES TO HOST AFRICA WEF IN MAY

The gathering will convene regional and global leaders from business, government and civil society to explore solutions to create economic opportunities for all on the continent.

World Economic Forum on Africa

3-5 May 2017 · Durban, South Africa

Watch the overview 

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The City of eThekweni will from 3 to 5 May host the African leg of the World Economic Forum (WEF) with the KwaZulu-Natal province standing to benefit to the value of R155 million and 512 jobs expected to be sustained or created from the event.

Sihle Zikalala, KwaZulu-Natal's Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs MEC, said recently that the province had lobbied to host the event to enhance the brand equity of both the city and the province.

“The attraction of foreign direct investment is a viable strategy for growing the economy and for solving such challenges as unemployment, the acquisition of skills and technology transfer,” Zikalala said.

WEF Africa will come four months after the conclusion of the 47th WEF annual meeting, held in Davos in January 2017, where world leaders and business leaders gathered to address problems facing the global community.

Zikalala said hosting WEF Africa formed part of the province's Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (Mice) Strategy.

The Mice Strategy was expected to generate the province R1,1 billion in direct investment, which it expects it to translate into R2,2 billion in macro-economic impact over three years. – Source: www.iol.co.za

JAPANESE SEMINAR LOOKS AT SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



The Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan in South Africa and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industries in South Africa on Tuesday, 31 January 2017, hosted the Fourth Japan Seminar under the theme “Proudly South African”.

Brand South Africa was a partner to this initiative, which aimed to celebrate South Africa's strengths and opportunities for Japanese businesses to grow and invest in the country.

The Executive Managing Director of the Institute for International Trade and Investment, Japan, Saburo Yuzawa, was joined by senior representatives from various organisations, including the Department of Trade and Industry, in looking at the competitive strengths of the South African Nation Brand.

The seminar aimed to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen collaborative relations between the businesses and public entities of both nations.

JETRO is a non-profit parastatal organisation under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. Its activities are dedicated to promoting trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. – Source: www.brandsouthafrica.com

SA EXPORT COMPANIES INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE WORLD FOOD TRADE FAIR

The Department of Trade and Industry (dti) has called on export companies to sign up to participate in the World Food Warsaw trade fair in Poland.



“The dti invites companies to apply for participation in the World Food Warsaw trade fair in Poland. Companies that would like to participate should submit their applications on or before 6 February 2017,” said the department recently.

The trade fair, which will take place from 11 to 13 April 2017, is targeted at South African exporters and potential exporters of products from the agro-food and beverage sectors.

Participating companies will be assisted through the dti’s Export Marketing and Investment Assistance Individual Scheme, which will cover costs for the return economy class airfare and exhibition costs.

South Africa’s participation in the fair is part of the department’s objective to diversify and create market access for South African products in new high-growth markets.

“Since joining the European Union (EU), Poland has been one of the EU’s best performers. The gross domestic product doubled in the past decade.

“Under the recently implemented Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the EU has partially removed customs duties on 98,7% of imports coming from South Africa and this is beneficial to our exporters,” said the Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies.

Minister Davies added that Poland’s growing market of over 38,5 million consumers was expanding its tastes nationwide, so new products, flavours and varieties were in high demand across the country.

According to Minister Davies, this presents an opportunity for the South African exporters. The Minister has urged exporters to capitalise on the opportunities presented within the current South African Development Community-EPA environment. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SA TEAMS UP WITH UK INVESTORS

Stakeholders in the business process services (BPS) sector in the United Kingdom (UK) have agreed to set up a technical working group with the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) to enhance South Africa's value proposition.

The decision was taken in a meeting that the Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, hosted with BPS investors in London, the dti said recently.

The meeting formed part of the Minister's recent two-day visit to the UK. Minister Davies was in the UK to engage the Government on Brexit transactions and showcase opportunities for investment in some of South Africa's priority sectors.



A number of companies that attended the meeting were pleased with South Africa's service offerings.

Minister Davies launched the revised BPS incentive at South Africa House in the UK in October 2014 to promote investor retention and expansion. As a follow-up, the Minister hosted a roundtable discussion with BPS investors during the visit, which facilitated a fruitful discussion with companies on the future outlook for South Africa.

Minister Davies also met with Chatham House on the Trade and Investment Policy, including South Africa's economic outlook. Government, he said, was encouraging private-sector investment with the establishment of InvestSA, a one-stop shop to boost investment.

"The aim is to remove administrative barriers, reduce regulatory inefficiencies, improve turnaround times and coordinate and fast-track investment enquiries," said Minister Davies. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

MINISTER PATEL SIGNS MOU TO BOOST SOCIAL ECONOMY SECTOR WITH FLANDERS

The Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Flanders and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to help boost job creation in the social economy.

The Government of Flanders has committed Euros 1 324 367 (around R19 million) towards the initiative, which is aimed at creating and supporting decent jobs in a sustainable and inclusive social economy.

The Economic Development Department's in-kind contribution is R4,8 million, bringing the total project cost to around R23,7 million. The ILO will give technical support in the implementation of this project. The initiative is aimed at supporting the development of policies and practices to grow the social economy and create jobs.

SA, THAILAND TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC TIES



South Africa this week signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is aimed at advancing the country's economic agenda with Thailand.

South Africa's investment promotion agency, Invest South Africa, signed the memorandum with the Board of Investment Thailand, in Bangkok, on Tuesday, 31 January, said the Department of Trade and Industry (dti).

"One of InvestSA's objectives is to identify potential foreign investors and attract them to invest in the country, in an effort to grow the economy and create employment opportunities," said the agency's acting head Yunus Hoosen.

"The MoU that we will be signing with Thailand is aimed at promoting and facilitating cooperation between the two countries on investments in the automotive, agro-processing and electronics sectors. It will also enhance our collaborative efforts to attract investments into our countries," said Hoosen.

Invest SA is optimistic that the implementation of the MoU will see Thai investors setting up manufacturing plants in South Africa, which will result in job creation.

Total trade between South Africa and Thailand in the first three quarters of 2016 reached R29,9 billion, which is a 24,3% increase from R24 billion achieved in the same period of 2015.

Officials from the KwaZulu-Natal-based Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ) will be part of the delegation. They will be on a mission to attract Thailand automotive component manufacturers to invest in the RBIDZ.

InvestSA is South Africa's national investment promotion agency, providing a one-stop-shop services to investors. This includes investment promotion, facilitation and aftercare, all of which are geared at fast-tracking projects and reducing government red-tape. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

DTI TO SPEND R216 MILLION ON UPGRADING INDUSTRIAL PARKS



the dti

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The department said in a statement that it had identified a need to revitalise industrial parks around the country, mainly in the former homelands, as part of efforts to promote industrialisation, manufacturing and job creation.

A R216-million upgrade of five industrial parks, which was about to get under way, would have a positive impact immediately with most of the labour and construction materials being procured from those areas, the Department of Trade and Industry said recently.

The first phase of revitalisation of the Nkowankowa, Ekandustria, Bodirelo, Phuthaditjhaba and Garankuwa industrial parks had been approved late last year. The department said the programme would be implemented in four phases, with the first being the upgrading of security infrastructure.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, said: "We would like to see these parks operating as centres of excellence and beehives of economic activity, contributing to the growth and diversification of our economy".

"The revitalisation process will ensure that the upgraded parks appeal to private investors, provide a conducive environment and attract investments that will create jobs and assist in promoting economic transformation," Minister Davies added. – Source: Africa News Agency

AU HONOURS WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA

The African Union (AU) Commission recently honoured South African anti-apartheid struggle stalwart Winnie Madikizela-Mandela at a gala dinner hosted for gender and equality activists.



Although Madikizela-Mandela did not attend the function, the mention of her name drew loud cheers and handclapping, and some guests, who were apparently expecting to see her take the podium to accept her accolade, stood up spontaneously.

African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) president, Bathabile Dlamini, who attended the function with other senior party members, said Madikizela-Mandela was a very brave woman who kept the "fire blazing" and did so much to keep the name of the ANC relevant when it was banned and many of its leaders, including her then husband late former President Nelson Mandela, had been arrested.

"Struggle was not a fashion, it was a commitment," said the ANCWL leader. She said the AU Commission had made South Africans proud by honouring "the mother of the nation".

Dlamini said Madikizela-Mandela, whose award was accepted by her granddaughter, was an inspiration to all women in the world who were fighting for gender equality and women's empowerment. She added that the award was a fitting 80th birthday present for Madikizela-Mandela.

Most of the guests who attended the gala dinner were women. They included outgoing AU Chairperson, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

Madikizela-Mandela's granddaughter thanked those in attendance for acknowledging her grandmother's selfless sacrifices and saluting her courage during the struggle, as well as for celebrating her achievements, even though many in the past tried to tarnish her name. – Source: Africa News Agency

“QUEEN MARY” 2'S FIRST STOP IS CAPE TOWN ON 118-NIGHT WORLD VOYAGE

“QM2” – launched in 2004 – is the oldest and most famous of Cunard ships, which also include the “Queen Victoria” and “Queen Elizabeth”.



The Western Cape Government recently welcomed the *Queen Mary 2* luxury liner into Table Bay. *QM2* set sail from Southampton 16 days before on a 118-night world voyage. She docked in Cape Town for two nights, the first stop on her grand tour.

Last year, she underwent renovations costing around £100 million. According to Cunard's website, her figures include being 345 metres long, 40 metres high, reaching a speed of 28.00 knots, and being able to carry 2 691 passengers, with a staff of 1 292.

Cape Town Harbour is being visited by several cruise ships, including the *MSC Sinfonia*, which set off from Cape Town to Durban recently. After Cape Town, the *Queen Mary 2* made her way to Port Elizabeth and Mauritius.

The Western Cape Government said that over 100 000 tourists visited Cape Town via ship during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 cruise season.

Queen Mary 2's facilities reportedly include 15 restaurants and bars, five swimming pools, a casino, a ballroom, a theatre, kennels, a nursery and the first planetarium at sea. – Source: www.sapeople.com

SOUTH AFRICAN WRITER SHORTLISTED FOR LITERARY AWARD

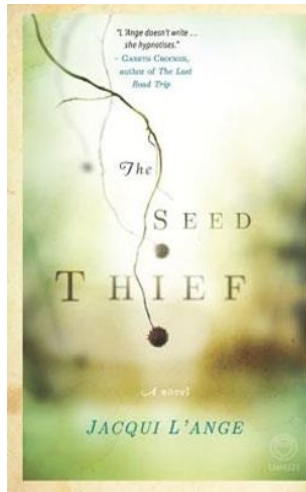
The Pan-African literary prize, the Etisalat Prize for Literature, has shortlisted three authors for the 2016 award. A South African and two Nigerian writers have made the cut. The winner will be announced in March.

The Etisalat Prize for Literature shortlists three authors for the 2016 award, including South African writer Jacqui L'Ange for *The Seed Thief*.

They are:

- L'Ange from South Africa for *The Seed Thief* (Umuzi Publishers, South Africa)
- Jowhor Ile from Nigeria for *And After Many Days* (Kachifo Limited, Nigeria)
- Julie Iromuanya from Nigeria for *Mr & Mrs Doctor* (Coffee House Press, United States of America).

L'Ange congratulated Ile and Iromuanya on her website. "I am beyond honoured to be on this list with you," she wrote.



"In addition to originality of voice and literary excellence, our purpose was to also select a work that portrays an 'African sensibility'," said chair of the judges Helon Habila, the Nigerian poet and novelist.

The literary award is given by the telecommunications company, Etisalat Nigeria. – Source: www.brandsouthafrica.com

SYLVESTER POISED TO BE ADDO'S NEW LION KING



Sylvester, the escaping lion, is finally free to roam over the entire 15 000 hectares of his new home in Addo Elephant National Park.

Sylvester achieved international fame for escaping twice from the Karoo National Park, and last year he was moved to Addo, near Port Elizabeth, and confined to a 200-hectare area. Sylvester and another male were recently freed, a day after two lionesses.

"Sylvester is already showing signs of being the pride leader, chasing the females off their kill," said Addo conservation manager John Adendorff, adding that he had followed that up by killing an adult black wildebeest the day after.

“Now that it appears he finally has a place where he belongs, without threat, and the fact that he has bonded so closely with the younger male, we are confident that Sylvester will have no need to ever stray again. His satellite tracking collar location is monitored regularly and easily provides us with an accurate assessment of where the two are.”

Sylvester escaped by going under an electric fence in 2015 and went on to kill 28 sheep, a cow and a kudu. He was recaptured after three weeks but escaped again last year, sparking fears that he would be put down. After a public outcry, he was instead relocated to Addo. – Source: TMG Digital/The Times

LEGENDARY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER HEADS TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR RHINO PORTFOLIO

One of the most prolific nature photographers of our time, Thomas Mangelsen – who is as much an artist as he is a conservationist – is collaborating with Saving the Wild’s Jamie Joseph in a world exclusive to produce his first rhino portfolio.

Tom’s numerous accolades include being chosen as one of Dr Jane Goodall’s Heroes of the Animal Planet and profiled in the television series of the same name. Mangelsen was named one of the 100 Most Important People in Photography by *American Photo* magazine and honoured with Nikon’s Legend Behind the Lens recognition.



This is the first time Thomas Mangelsen will be releasing a rhino portfolio, a world exclusive in collaboration with writer Jamie Joseph, founder of Saving the Wild.

The mission to create The Rhino Portfolio is taking place from 30 January to 10 February 2017, and will be followed by a major international launch in Los Angeles.

In the relentless rhino wars, world news is often consumed with what is not working. Tom and Jamie will be flipping that on its head and focussing the lens on what is working, and what still needs to be done.

They’ll visit the best of the best – including andBeyond Phinda Private Game Reserve – to document and share success stories on what it takes to protect rhinos. – Source: www.sapeople.com

JOBURG ZOO GETS WORLD ACCREDITATION



Midrand's Lory Park Animal and Owl Sanctuary has received its Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria accreditation, making it one of only six institutions in Africa to be accredited.

“By being an accredited member, we go through a gruelling auditing process where absolutely everything is scrutinised. Auditors look at all aspects of the work done at the zoo.

“This includes, but is not limited to, safety, veterinary care provided for the animals, diets, husbandry, enrichment practices and all procedures put in place by the facility,” said the assistant park manager, Kara Heynis.

Lory Park did not only attain accreditation but has also been given a spot with the International Zoological Educators, of which there are only four on the continent.

The park was founded by Edward van Eck, who retired from his construction company to start a bird park in Midrand. It was launched in April 2000, and many people began bringing injured and trapped animals, which eventually turned it into a sanctuary and not just a bird park.

“We are truly so proud and honoured to have achieved this for the second time and look so forward to continuing to build on this success,” said Heynis. – Source: Caxton News Service

BLITZBOKS CLINCHES HSBC WELLINGTON SEVENS TOURNAMENT

The Blitzboks on Sunday, 29 January, clinched the HSBC Wellington Sevens tournament and extended their lead on the overall HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series log.

A thrilling 26-6 win over Fiji secured only their second-ever tournament win in New Zealand.

The victory, their second in the current 2016/17 series, also gave them a 12-point lead on the overall log. They started the Wellington tournament two points ahead of England and now leads Fiji, who moved into second, by 12 points.

The weekend in Wellington was a celebration of the team's good form and consistency and did not only resulted in a 24th tournament win for South Africa, but also some personal milestones being achieved.

Seabelo Senatla, named HSBC Player of the Final, scored a decisive try, his 180th in his career and moved past Fabian Juries (179) as the leading South African try-scorer of all time.

Branco du Preez (951 points) also moved past Juries (925) in career points and is now second behind injured team mate, Cecil Afrika (1167).

Springbok Sevens coach Neil Powell also recorded his first win at this venue as coach after claiming the previous Wellington win, in 2002, as a player.

The Blitzboks scored 26 unanswered points in the final against Fiji, the current HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series title holders. The Fijians scored first, but a try just before the break by Senatla gave the momentum back to South Africa. This try moved Senatla pass the Juries mark. – Source: www.sport24.co.za



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