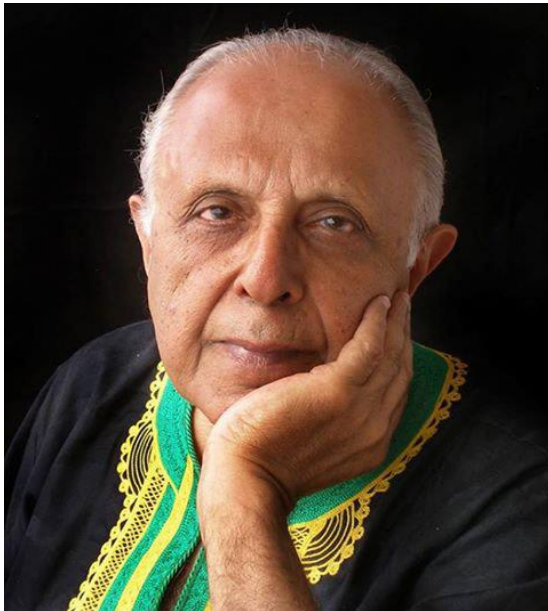




TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR AHMED KATHRADA

South Africa mourns the death of struggle veteran Ahmed Kathrada.



Kathrada (87) passed away peacefully on 28 March, at the Donald Gordon Medical Centre in Johannesburg after a short illness. He was admitted to hospital for surgery related to blood clotting in the brain earlier this month.

Neeshan Balton, the Executive Director of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, confirmed just before 6 am that the anti-apartheid struggle veteran “breathed his last today”.

“This is great loss to the African National Congress (ANC), the broader liberation movement and South Africa as a whole. Internationally, he was staunch in his support for the Palestinian struggle. ‘Kathy’ was an inspiration to millions in different parts of the world,” said Balton.

Fellow Robben Island prisoner, Laloo “Isu” Chiba (86), said Kathrada’s death had left a deep vacuum in his life.

“I have worked with Kathy for over 60 years. He has been my strength in prison, my guide in political life and my pillar of strength in the most difficult moments of my life. Now he is gone,” said Chiba.

Uncle Kathy was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island prison along former President Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu. He was one of the longest-serving political prisoners in the country. The ANC bestowed its highest honour, Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe, on Kathrada in 1992 for his selfless dedication to the struggle for a free democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

INVESTMENT MISSION TO GHANA, NIGERIA A SUCCESS

The 20-member delegation of local companies, which took part in the trade and investment mission organised by the Department of Trade and Industry (dti), is optimistic of tangible results in the near future.

The South African companies that recently participated in a week-long trade and investment mission to Ghana and Nigeria have expressed satisfaction with the mission. The mission took place from 20 to 25 March 2017.

Olivia Fuka of GET Mining Services said she had successful meetings with big, credible companies from both Ghana and Nigeria. Fuka said there was a market for her products in both countries and setting up a plant was in their future plans. Speaking about Nigeria, Fuka said the West African country’s market was massive. She is positive that the mission will yield positive results for her company.

The Marketing Manager of Tarch Chemical (distributors of cosmetics, food and pharmaceutical ingredients), Getrude Makamure, said Ghana was the main highlight of the mission.



“As a company, we have been trying to enter the West African market with no success. I got to meet a potential client that I have been trying to contact on my own with no success. The client is a big player in the market in Ghana and has showed huge interest in working with us. We will do follow-ups to make sure that the deal is signed and sealed,” said Makamure.

Meanwhile, Vaughn Duke of Sound Mining Solutions, said the mission was a success, as it provided the companies an opportunity to meet with their potential partners.

The Director of Export Promotions at the dti, Seema Sardha, said she was pleased with the overwhelming response received during the business forum, business-to-business meetings and site visits from both Ghana and Nigeria.

She said this demonstrated the enthusiasm from both sides towards building partnerships and value-chains across Africa.

“We came here with an objective to promote South African products and service offerings, and to create business partnerships between business communities of the respective countries and we have done exactly that,” said Sardha.

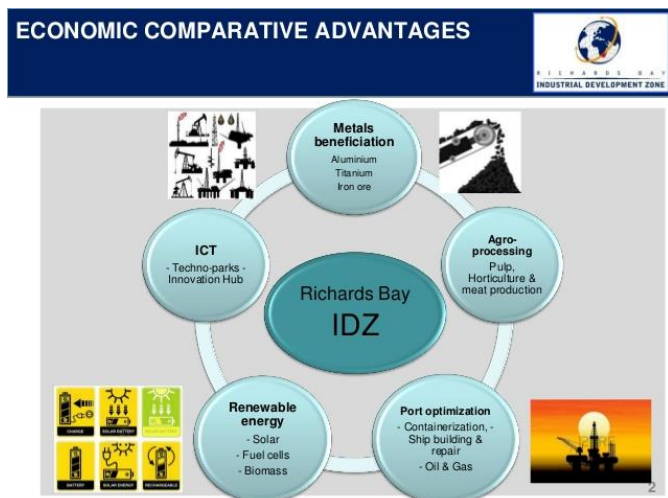
The programme of the mission included trade and investment seminars, business-to-business meetings and site visits. Sectors targeted for the mission were agro-processing, electro-technical, infrastructure, mining, services and capital equipment.

South Africa’s exports to Nigeria increased from R6,4 billion in 2012 to R8,3 billion in 2015, slightly declining to R6,4 billion in 2016.

In 2016, South Africa’s total exports to Ghana were valued at R4,9 billion, while imports were valued at R192 million. South Africa registered a trade surplus of R4,7 billion with Ghana in 2016. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

R4-BILLION TITANIUM BENEFICIATION A MILESTONE FOR SA

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, says the R4-billion titanium beneficiation project for the manufacturing of titanium pigment at the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) is a milestone for South Africa’s mineral beneficiation.



Minister Davies said the project, which would be launched next month, was a significant and commendable milestone in South Africa’s mineral beneficiation and industrialisation paths.

The project will see Nyanza Light Metals, a South African company, extracting titanium from the waste steel slag and beneficiating it to produce titanium dioxide pigment, which is a critical ingredient in paint manufacturing.

“As government, we are delighted that our investment, both in terms of human and financial resources, will come to fruition when the titanium beneficiation project is launched in one of South Africa’s industrial zones.

This is a significant milestone in the implementation of the country’s Industrial Policy Action Plan and the National Beneficiation Strategy.

“The dti pulled out all the stops to make sure that the project was a success because we realised the huge impact that it would have on the country’s economy,” said Minister Davies.

In a statement, Minister Davies said the R4-billion investment by Nyanza was good news not only for the country but for the Richards Bay IDZ in particular.

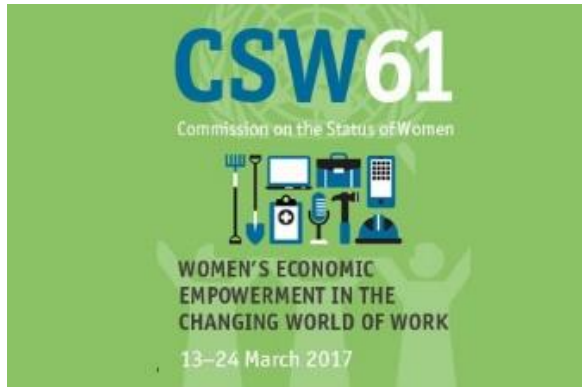
The project will be the largest single investment in the Richards Bay IDZ. About 550 permanent jobs will be created when the plant is operational, while 1 200 indirect and 800 direct jobs will be created during the construction phase of the plant. The construction of the plant will commence next year, while production is expected to begin in late 2019.

The Department of Trade and Industry extended a grant of R17,1 million to the company for feasibility studies from its Special Economic Zones Fund. It has also approved an investment allowance of R900 million and training allowance of more than R10 million from its 12i Tax Allowance Programme.

South Africa has the second-largest titanium reserves in the world and produces approximately 19,5% of global titanium slag. The country exports most of the titanium in the form of titanium dioxide or slag to Australia and Europe, where the value addition happens and then reimports the final finished product. South Africa consumes 35 000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of titanium pigment, mainly in paint manufacturing. The Nyanza project will produce 50 000 tpa of titanium dioxide pigment, which it will sell locally and export to the rest of Africa and the Middle East. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN PARTICIPATES IN UNITED NATIONS (UN) COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN

The 61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women recently convened under the priority theme: “Women Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work”.



The sub-themes focussed on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the millennium development goals for women and girls – with more emphasis on the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The session was preceded by the second sitting of the UN Youth Forum, which focussed on issues relating to education and skills development; access to finance and economic opportunities; combating alcohol and substance abuse; and dealing with issues of HIV and AIDS.

The Minister in The Presidency Responsible for Women, Susan Shabangu, who led the South African delegation, delivered the Country Statement at the opening of the session.

In the Country Statement, Minister Shabangu focussed on the centrality of women in shaping South Africa's progress in the international community through their contribution in the world of work. She acknowledged the potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to narrow gender gaps as jobs become automated.

The Country Statement reiterated that all the challenges brought by the Fourth Industrial Revolution were taking place at a time when scientific studies continued to show correlations between full participation of women in the economy, growing family incomes and economic growth.

MINISTER PANDOR LAUNCHES BIOENERGY ATLAS

The first Bioenergy Atlas for South Africa was launched by the Department of Science and Technology in Pretoria on Friday, 24 March.



In support of efforts to increase national energy generation capacity, the atlas provides information on potential bioenergy resources and their geographic spread, proximity to infrastructure and socio-economic impact, as well as relevant conversion technologies and feasible end-use applications.

It also gives a scientific understanding of their potential to be converted into transport fuels in support of the biofuel industries.

The Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, unveiled a web portal and the accompanying synopsis report at a launch attended by industry organisations like Eskom, independent power producers, research institutions, local authorities, and government officials from the departments of energy, environmental affairs and cooperative governance and traditional affairs.

MINISTER MAPISA-NQAKULA VISITS PAKISTAN TO SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula's maiden trip to Pakistan marked the first Official Visit by a South African Minister of Defence and Military Veterans in democratic South Africa.



The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, visited the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 27 March to 29 March 2017. The objective of the trip was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Defence between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Furthermore, the MoU will seek to promote collaboration and exchange between the two countries in line with the latest Defence Review.

Due to sanctions and embargoes imposed against South Africa, the two countries did not officially initiate bilateral relations only until the end of apartheid in 1994. However, since then, the Pakistan-South Africa relationship has been gaining momentum.

“The importance of continuous cementing of relations in an effort to share knowledge and ideas can never be overemphasised. As the South African National Defence Force, we believe in empowering ourselves and others through collaborative partnerships and agreements”, said Minister Mapisa-Nqakula.

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ESKOM, NAMIBIA SIGN POWER AGREEMENT

The sales agreement was signed by the two entities at the 42nd Southern African Power Pool Executive Committee Meeting in Maseru, Lesotho, recently.

Eskom has signed a five-year electricity sales agreement with Namibia’s national electricity utility, NamPower, which will supplement generation capacity for South Africa’s neighbour.

“Eskom has turned around and we are now open for business, with surplus capacity available to empower economic growth. This agreement provides energy security to Namibia and allows for economic development and growth in that country without electricity availability concerns,” Eskom Interim Chief Executive, Matshela Koko, said.

The new agreement is testimony to the long, noble history of power trading between the sister utilities and also illustrates Eskom’s commitment to powering the development of the Southern African Development Community region.

NamPower and Eskom have enjoyed a healthy, cordial trade relationship through their bilateral agreements over the years.
– Source: SAnews.gov.za



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2017 LOCAL GOVERNMENT TOURISM CONFERENCE TO INSPIRE NEW WAYS OF MOVING TOURISM FORWARD

The Department of Tourism, in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), will host the 2017 Local Government Tourism Conference at Emperors Palace, Kempton Park, from 3 to 4 April.

Themed, “Tourism Planning is Everybody’s Business,” the conference will provide a platform for public and private-sector stakeholders to deliberate on how integrated tourism planning can lead to a sustainable and inclusive sector that creates employment opportunities and contributes to poverty alleviation as espoused in the National Development Plan.

Minister Derek Hanekom will open the conference, which will reflect on the progress of the 2015 Local Government Tourism Conference; highlight the state of tourism at local government level, including integrated planning; deliberate on various policies, legislation and strategies at local government and their impact on tourism planning; share working models, leveraging on other opportunities at local government; reflect on destination development and sustainable tourism development in the context of local government; and deliberate on programmes and tools supporting tourism planning at local government.

COGTA Minister, Des Van Rooyen, will share insight on how the Back to Basics Programme, through the provision of catalytic infrastructure, can stimulate the local tourism economy.

RUSSIAN SATELLITE LASER AND RADIO RANGING SYSTEM OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's space technology relationship with Russia has deepened with the inauguration of a Russian satellite ranging system at Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) recently. HartRAO, located west of Johannesburg, is managed by the National Research Foundation, an entity of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).



The DST's Deputy Director-General: Research Development and Support, Thomas Auf der Heyde, and Deputy Director-General on International Cooperation of the Russian State Space Corporation (Roscosmos), Sergey Saveliev, officiated at the ceremony.

Saveliev said the launch reflected the long history of the two countries in space technology. "The history of the relationship between South Africa and Russia spans more than 25 years of mutually beneficial and successful cooperation and friendship. The launch of a new high-tech space system, produced by Russia and installed in South Africa, is not only another confirmation of our friendly relations but also a solid ground for further development of the scientific cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of South Africa."

The Director-General of the Russian Research and Production Corporation and Precision Systems and Instruments, Dr Yury Roy, who also attended the event, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the project.

"We are happy to see the result of our collaborative work and feel optimistic about future endeavours – we express our readiness to take part in potential new projects in collaboration with South Africa."

Speaking at the event, Dr Auf de Heyde commended the relationship South Africa had with Russia. "Our science and technology cooperation is an important aspect of diplomacy. Thanks for your confidence you have shown to South Africa as a nation and today's event is another step forward in the field of science and technology for both countries", he said

The Russian satellite ranging system installed in South Africa is 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 system was commissioned on 14 July 2014 in Brasilia, Brazil. – Source: www.dst.gov.za

SA SCIENTIST RECOGNISED AT 19TH L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS

The 19th edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Awards International Rising Talent gala dinner recently took place in Paris. Dr Stephanie Fanucchi was one of 15 young female scientists recognised for her innovative research in cancer and autoimmune diseases.

The Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, recently congratulated Dr Stephanie Fanucchi, a young South African scientist, on being one of 15 young female scientists to receive an International Rising Talent Grant at the 19th L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Awards event, held in Paris recently.

Dr Fanucchi was recognised for her innovative research in cancer and autoimmune diseases. She is a postdoctoral researcher at the Biomedical Translational Research Initiative, an initiative of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the University of Cape Town.



"Winning this award has been surreal," said Dr Fanucchi, "and being exposed to such great scientific talent has been a life-changing experience. Having the platform to discuss the importance of having more women in science has been a highlight for me. In addition, we get to celebrate phenomenal female scientific achievements, which can inspire young girls who want to enter science."

In congratulating Dr Fanucchi, Minister Pandor said: "It is pleasing to see our young scientists being recognised internationally for the sterling research they do. This is proof that we are as good as anybody else in the world, if not even better". – Source: www.dst.gov.za

CAPE TOWN RANKED AS GLOBAL LEADER IN CLIMATE DISCLOSURE

The City of Cape Town has been ranked as one of the top five cities in the world out of 533 cities for demonstrating leadership in climate disclosure where it measures and discloses energy and climate action data annually to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), Mayor Patricia de Lille said recently.

This achievement saw Cape Town joining over 500 cities, 100 state and regional governments and 5 800 companies now measuring and disclosing climate action data on an annual basis to manage emissions, build resilience and protect themselves from the growing impacts of climate change.



"We are indeed proud that our work is playing a part in the global efforts to address climate change and to be placed alongside other leading cities like Mexico City, Paris, Sydney and Vancouver as one of the top five reporting cities," she said.

"These results and our work to map our progress in addressing climate change is in line with the city's organisational development and transformation plan (ODTP) and it aims to create an organisation that is more dynamic, more progressive and more customer-centric.

"Our results and reporting to the CDP also underscore one of our 11 transformational priorities as part of the ODTP to position Cape Town as a forward-thinking, globally competitive business city," De Lille said. – Source: African News Agency

JB MARKS STATUE UNVEILED IN VENTERSDORP

Marks is considered by many as a hero of the working class and the country's liberation struggle.



A six-metre-tall bronze statue of John Marks has been unveiled at Ventersdorp in the North West province.

His remains were reburied in Ventersdorp in 2015.

Marks died in 1972 in Moscow after suffering a heart attack.

He served as chairperson of the South African Communist Party and was a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress.

The site on which Marks' remains were reburied and his statue have been declared a heritage site. – Source: eNCA

NATGEO NAMES SOUTH AFRICA'S GARDEN ROUTE THE WORLD'S BEST SPRING TRIP FOR 2017

National Geographic has advised Northern Hemispherians to head to South Africa's Garden Route if they're after the very best spring trips in 2017.

This Cape-to-Cape trip of beautiful South Africa tops NatGeo's list of 12 global destinations, which includes Australia's Great Barrier Reef, New York City's Central Park and the Balkan express through Eastern Europe.

"South Africa's southern N2 highway from Cape Town in the Western Cape to Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape was designed for detours," NatGeo's Maryellen Kennedy Duckett writes. Suggesting that travellers shouldn't drive straight through, but rather "pull off frequently — particularly on the spectacularly scenic Garden Route section — to explore lagoons, lakes, forests, mountains, beaches and bays".



SA MAKES TOP 20 CHEAPEST GLOBAL DESTINATIONS LIST - TWICE!

The Economist Intelligence Unit's bi-annual report of the world's most and least expensive cities to live in has just been revealed and for South Africans, the news is twice as good.



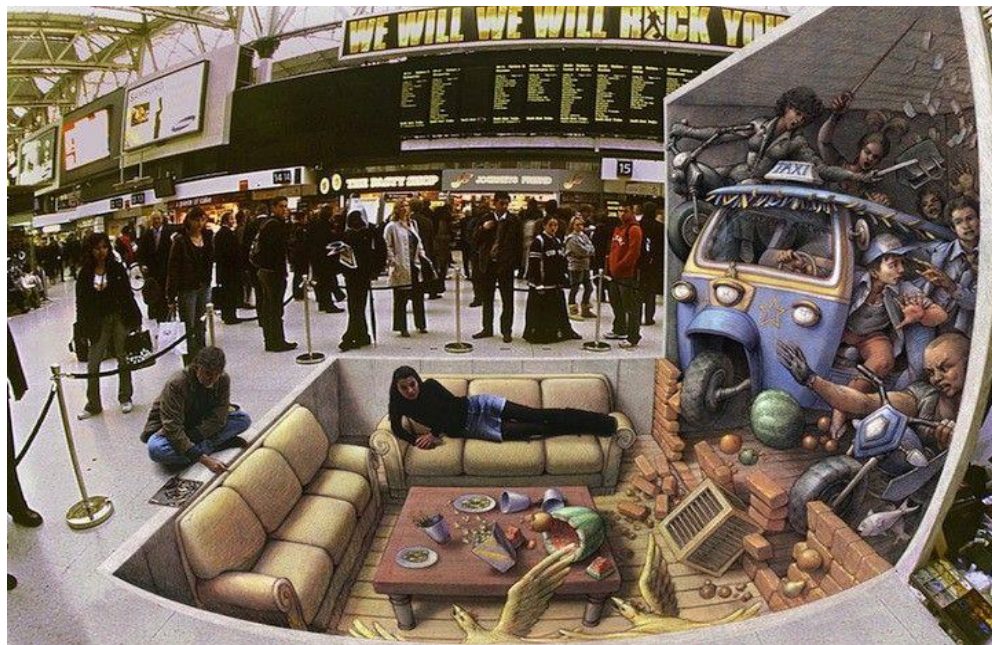
Both Johannesburg and Pretoria in Gauteng are listed as the world's least expensive cities to live in, ranking in 16th and 11th place respectively. Joburg's 16th place is tied with two other cities, namely Asunción in Paraguay and Kathmandu in Nepal.

Singapore topped the list as the world's most expensive destination, while Almaty in Kazakhstan sits at the other end of the spectrum.

The report says South Africa's Joburg and Pretoria certainly have their dark sides, but overall these proudly South African hubs are bursting with tourism opportunities and rich South African culture. – Source: Traveller24

RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL 3D ARTIST TO EXHIBIT IN SA

The exhibition will be on display at the V&A Waterfront Watershed in the Jubilee Hall from 4 April to 23 July.



The artist and inventor behind the epic viral 3D pavement art pieces artwork, Kurt Wenner, is bringing it to Cape Town in a special exhibition, titled *Incredible Illusions*.

The 3D pavement art is interactive and educational and the best part is one will get the unique opportunity to actually interact with the work and share some epic selfies on social media. – Source: www.channel24.co.za

LONDONERS GET A TASTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD

South African cuisine takes centre stage at a restaurant in London. Situated near Buckingham Palace, bbar serves everything from boerewors to bunny chow.



A hop and a skip away from Buckingham Palace in London lies bbar, a cocktail bar and restaurant offering an array of South African dishes such as bobotie springrolls, biltong, chakalaka, boerewors and Cape Malay curries.

It is owned by South African hotelier Beatrice Tollman, whose expertise, along with that of her husband, Stanley, extends to the Red Carnation Group of 17 luxurious hotels across South Africa, the United Kingdom and United States of America. It includes Durban's The Oyster Box and The Twelve Apostles in Cape Town.

Stanley named the restaurant bbar as a tribute to Beatrice's love for home-grown recipes. Her passion for the kitchen is also documented in her cook book, *A Life in Food*. It contains recipes passed down through the family as well as creations inspired by her travels.

"There seems to be a demand for South African cuisine in London," said general manager Ian Powrie, speaking to the *Sunday Times*. "At the bbar, there is a huge demand for bobotie, South African style Cape Malay curries, biltong, boerewors and avocado-based salads."

Afternoon tea, usually quintessentially British, is given a South African twist with the inclusion of mini bunny chows.

– Source: sapeople.com

AUSSIE MASTERCHEF CHAMP'S SA ADVENTURES TO FEATURE ON HIS OWN FOOD SHOW

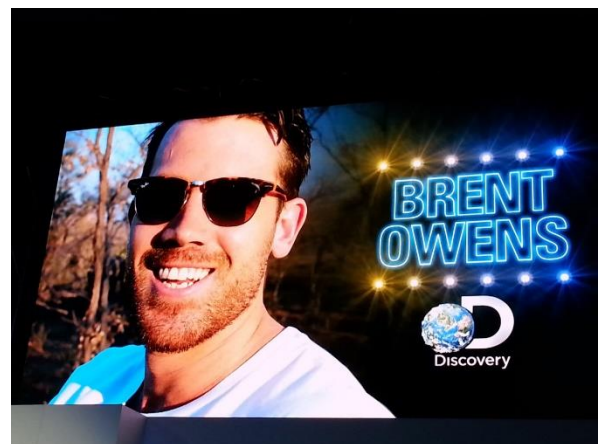
Masterchef Australia winner, Brent Owens, is set to showcase cuisine and extreme activities peculiar to South Africa in a new television series.

Shot entirely on location, the series captures the *Masterchef Australia* 2014 winner on his travels through South Africa, sampling local cuisine, learning recipes from seasoned home cooks and delving into little known areas of the country.

"And, because Brent loves adventure, he also gets to experience some of South Africa's adrenaline activities while overcoming some very real fears at the same time," said Rebecca Fuller-Campbell, the show's executive producer.

"Brent is so natural in front of the camera and he really brings his personality to the forefront. I think the show's unique concept and amazing content make it a fascinating, informative and entertaining series for both local and international viewers," she added.

– Source: TMG Digital/The Times



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