



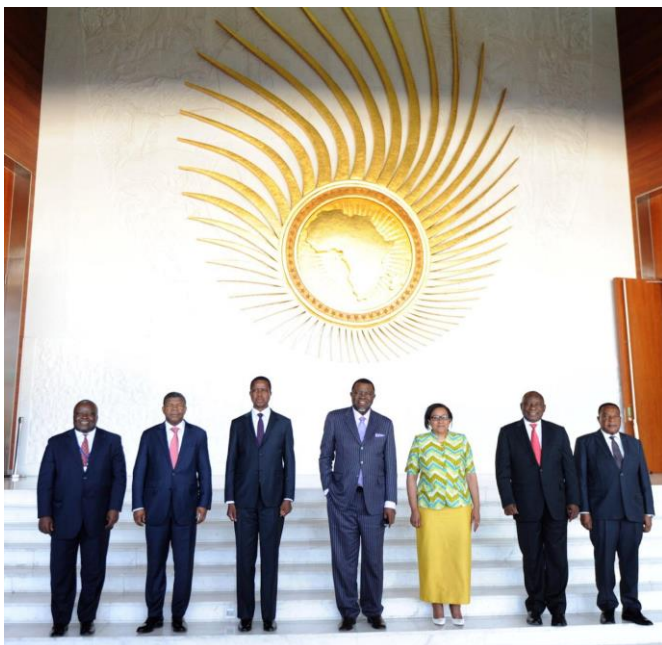
PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA ATTENDS SADC DOUBLE TROIKA SUMMIT IN ETHIOPIA

President Cyril Ramaphosa on 16 January 2019 undertook a Working Visit to Addis Ababa in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to attend a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Double Troika Summit.

The summit, which took place on 17 January 2019, reviewed and assessed the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo following the recently held elections.

The summit was followed by a consultative meeting of heads of state and government of SADC Double Troika members, International Conference of Great Lakes Region; African Union (AU) Troika and the AU Commission Chairperson.

President Ramaphosa was accompanied by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, and Minister of State Security, Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba.



From left to right: Zimbabwean Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mr Raphael Faranisi; President of the Republic of Angola, HE João Lourenço; President of the Republic of Zambia and SADC Chair of Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, HE Edgar Lungu; President of the Republic of Namibia and SADC Chair, HE Hage Geingob; SADC Secretary-General Stergomena Lawrence Tax; President of the Republic of South Africa, HE Cyril Ramaphosa; and Foreign Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Augustine Mahiga (Photo: GCIS)



President Cyril Ramaphosa and President João Lourenço of the Republic of Angola at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, ahead of the SADC Double Troika Summit (Photo: GCIS)



PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA ADDRESSES PRE-WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM BREAKFAST

President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed a Team South Africa pre-World Economic Forum (WEF) breakfast meeting in Johannesburg on Wednesday, 16 January 2019.

Team South Africa comprises a diversity of stakeholders in the South African society and economy and will participate in the WEF Davos Annual Meetings in Switzerland from 22 to 26 January 2019.

The 2019 theme for this international gathering is “Globalisation 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution”.

The pre-WEF breakfast was an opportunity for Team South Africa to develop an integrated approach to South Africa’s input into the WEF deliberations and to identify areas of emphasis in presenting South Africa as a desired investment destination and trade partner.

The Davos delegation, led by President Ramaphosa will be coordinated by Finance Minister, Tito Mboweni, and will include leadership of government, business and labour.

Government will be represented by the Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation; Economic Development; Trade and Industry; Public Enterprises; Health; Energy; and Communications.



PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA CONDEMNS ATTACKS IN KENYA

South Africa has noted with concern terrorists attacks in Kenya on Tuesday, 15 January 2019.

South Africa condemns in the strongest possible terms the attacks on the Government and the people of Kenya extends its condolences to the bereaved and wishes those injured a speedy recovery.

The South African High Commission in Nairobi is monitoring the situation and interacting with authorities.

“On behalf of the Government and the people of South Africa, we send a message of support to the Government and the people of Kenya.”



PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA UNDERTAKES WORKING VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

On 14 January 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa undertook a Working Visit to Maputo in the Republic of Mozambique, where he held bilateral talks with his counterpart, President Filipe Nyusi, to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues of common interest.



South Africa and Mozambique enjoy very good economic, political and cultural relations dating back to the days of struggle against apartheid.

Mozambique was among the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries that President Ramaphosa visited soon after he assumed Presidency in 2018; therefore this was a continuation of cordial high-level talks.

President Ramaphosa was accompanied by the Minister of Defence, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula; Minister of Police, Bheki Cele; and Minister of State Security, Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba.

The two heads of state expressed satisfaction at the excellent and ever-growing bilateral cooperation between the two countries, which is managed under the framework of the Bi-National Commission (BNC).

The two countries have over 70 bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding in place, which cover a wide range of areas, including energy, agriculture, arts and culture, defence and security, education and environment, science and technology, immigration, tourism, trade and investment.

The two presidents reiterated the need to reform the United Nations (UN) system, in particular the UN Security Council (SC), to better represent the interests of developing countries.

President Nyusi congratulated South Africa for being elected as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for the next two years.

President Ramaphosa extended an invitation to President Nyusi to the next session of the BNC, to be held on a date to be mutually agreed through diplomatic channels.

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA FOLLOWING HIS INAUGURATION

President Cyril Ramaphosa has congratulated Nicolas Maduro Moros of Venezuela following his inauguration for a second term on Thursday, 10 January 2019.

The National Electoral Council of Venezuela announced the outcome of the election that took place on 23 May 2018, in accordance with Venezuela's national laws.

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA CONGRATULATES NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MADAGASCAR

President Cyril Ramaphosa has congratulated Madagascar for running a successful peaceful run-off presidential election, which has seen Andry Rajoelina emerging as the President of the country.



President Ramaphosa wished President Elect Mr Rajoelina well in his term as the President of Madagascar. He also praised both leaders, Mr Rajoelina and Marc Ravalomanana, who were running for the run-off presidential election for working together in ensuring that the interests of the people of Madagascar came first by accepting the run-off results.

The South African Government noted with satisfaction a report by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Election Observer Mission comprising observers from South Africa that the election was “conducted orderly, professionally and within the requirements of the legal framework of the Republic of Madagascar”. According to President Ramaphosa, this confirms that SADC is committed to democratic processes within the region.

“South Africa strongly supports national reconciliation, socio-economic development and a lasting political solution in Madagascar. Flowing from our history of struggle to achieve an inclusive and democratic constitutional order, we will continue to work within SADC and with other international partners to support the people and Government of Madagascar”, said President Ramaphosa.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT MABUZA PUSHES FOR PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN



Deputy President David Mabuza was on a Working Visit to Ethiopia earlier this week to meet some of the role players who are working towards achieving lasting peace, stability and development in the Republic of South Sudan.

In his capacity as the Special Envoy to South Sudan, Deputy President Mabuza met with Ethiopia’s Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed Ali, to push for the full implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement on South Sudan. Abiy is also the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

“The Working Visit to Ethiopia by Deputy President Mabuza takes place in the context of strengthening the ongoing political efforts geared towards finding lasting peace and development for the people of South Sudan,”

The Presidency said on Monday, 14 January 2019.

In December, Deputy President Mabuza held various bilateral political consultations with heads of state and government within the member states of IGAD on the implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement on South Sudan. These bilateral consultations saw Deputy President Mabuza visiting the republics of Uganda, Kenya and Sudan where all leaders and other relevant stakeholders have expressed the urgent need for the full implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Last September, South Sudanese parties and key stakeholders signed the Revitalised Peace Agreement on South Sudan that charts a roadmap towards the cessation of hostilities, provision of humanitarian assistance and building democracy as well as lasting peace and stability in South Sudan. The country, which gained independence from Sudan in July 2011, has for several years been trapped in an unending civil war that has seen thousands killed and maimed, with millions more fleeing and displaced. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT ON THE UNFOLDING ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE DRC

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation has noted misleading headlines in the media on South African position on the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

South Africa would like to restate and emphasise the following position:

- South Africa commends the Congolese people, the Government of the DRC and all political actors for their commitment to ensuring a peaceful, independent and credible electoral process despite serious challenges.
- Given the vast size of the DRC and the security and logistical challenges that exist, coupled with the impediments brought about by the devastating Ebola outbreak, the DRC authorities, particularly the Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) should be congratulated for their efforts in organising a peaceful election.
- South Africa commends the DRC Government, supported by the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission (MONUSCO), for ensuring that the elections were conducted in a relatively peaceful environment.
- South Africa calls on all parties to preserve the generally peaceful climate of the elections and we take note of grievances that have been raised through the proper constitutional mechanisms and processes. In this regard, we call on the international community to respect these internal legal processes and to refrain from pre-judging the outcome.
- Any outside interference in these sovereign processes may provoke violence and risk, undermining the generally peaceful climate following the elections.
- Any outcome to the election process remains the sovereign right of the DRC. South Africa thus calls on all parties in the DRC as well as the international community to allow the internal constitutional mechanisms and legal processes to follow its due course.
- South Africa will therefore not pre-empt this internal process by calling for a recount, prescribe a form of government or presuppose an outcome of the elections process.
- South African strongly believes that those issues are best left to political parties and the people of the DRC to lead and South Africa and the international community must support.
- President Cyril Ramaphosa issued a statement on 9 January 2019 in which he congratulates “all parties and stakeholders in the DRC for ensuring peace and stability during the election process and urges all regional, international and the interested parties to refrain from speculation and allow CENI to complete the process”. The President also “urges all political parties and their supporters to allow CENI to perform its legal and constitutional duties without interference and pressure”.
- South Africa expects the international community to do all it can to support the Congolese authorities to maintain a peaceful and stable environment following these landmark elections. This is necessary in order to facilitate the historic outcome of the first-ever democratic transfer of power in the DRC.



South Africa stands ready to support the DRC during this process.

MINISTER SISULU BRIEFS MEDIA ON RECENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, engaged the media on recent international developments, including the recent Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) elections, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) agenda and upcoming international engagements for South Africa during a media briefing on Sunday, 23 January 2019.



Among others, Minister Sisulu congratulated the newly elected President of Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, for winning the election.

On the detention of South African national Andre Mayer Hanekom on terror-related charges in Mozambique, Minister Sisulu said her department was in talks with the neighbouring country and Hanekom to offer the necessary consular assistance.

With South Africa having taken up its non-permanent seat at the UNSC as of 1 January 2019, Minister Sisulu said Pretoria would aim to represent Africa at the UNSC.

“We will do our best to represent Africa at the council. We would like to see the UNSC restructure itself so we have regional representatives. We believe that Africa needs to be there to solve those problems that affect our continent,” she said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

ALGERIAN, SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS BILATERAL COOPERATION

On 13 and 14 January 2019, Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, received Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, on a Working Visit to Algeria.



This visit was in follow-up to the Working Visit of Minister Messahel to South Africa on 28 and 29 August 2018 and illustrated the deep historical and fraternal bonds between South Africa and Algeria.

The two ministers held extensive and fruitful discussions on a wide range of bilateral, continental and international issues of mutual concern. The ministers expressed satisfaction with the quality and depth of bilateral cooperation between the two countries which continues to show growing dynamism.

They noted the strategic importance of the Bi-National Commission (BNC) as a structured bilateral mechanism to coordinate and forge bilateral cooperation and partnership between the two countries. In this regard, both ministers agreed on the need to hold the seventh session

of the BNC on a mutually agreed date and venue. They noted that regular meetings of the BNC supporting mechanisms provided an occasion for comprehensive evaluation of progress and forums to identify further opportunities to enhance the relationship in various fields.

The two ministers also agreed to reinforce the institutional framework of cooperation by launching a Strategic Algeria-South Africa Dialogue, the first session of which will take place at a mutually agreed date and venue.

The two ministers condemned in the strongest possible terms all forms of terrorism and extremism. They reaffirmed the need to reinforce international cooperation against international crime which profits from terrorism.

The ministers recognised the centrality of the African Union (AU) in addressing crises and conflicts on the African continent. They welcomed the convergence of positions and views between Algeria and South Africa in conflict management and resolution on the continent by fostering, in particular, dialogue and peaceful solutions. The two ministers further called for the implementation of the AU's Agenda 2063 and its Action Plan, as well as the urgent need to pursue Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Minister Messahel reiterated the congratulations of Algeria on South Africa's assumption, as a non-permanent member for the period 2019 – 2020, of the United Nations Security Council seat.

SOUTH AFRICA STATEMENT ON PROTESTS IN ZIMBABWE

The South African Government has noted protest action in Zimbabwe and is monitoring the situation.

Consultations are taking place between diplomats and we are confident that the measures being taken by the Zimbabwean Government will resolve the situation.

SOUTH AFRICA ASSUMES NON-PERMANENT SEAT ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

On 1 January 2019, South Africa officially assumed its seat as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for the period 2019 to 2020.



South Africa was overwhelmingly elected to serve on the council by the United Nations General Assembly on 8 June 2018. As President Cyril Ramaphosa reflected at the time: "This will be the third time that South Africa will be serving in the Security Council since the dawn of democracy in 1994. We are humbled and honoured by the confidence the international community has demonstrated in our capability to contribute to the resolution of global challenges."

South Africa's tenure in the Security Council will be dedicated to the legacy of President Nelson Mandela whose values and commitment to peace were commemorated last year during the centenary of his birth.

South Africa's term will also be an opportunity for the country to work towards the African Union's

goal of "Silencing the Guns" on the continent by 2020.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, stated that: "The world is facing huge challenges, including rising unilateralism and widening geopolitical divisions. These challenges threaten our collective resolve to address global challenges of peace, security and development.

"South Africa will thus utilise its tenure on the Security Council to promote the maintenance of international peace and security through advocating for the peaceful settlement of disputes and inclusive dialogue. We will continue to encourage closer cooperation between the UN Security Council and other regional and subregional organisations, particularly the African Union. We would further wish to emphasise the role of women in the resolution of conflict. This, during our time on the council, South Africa will ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all Security Council resolutions in line with UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security."

The Minister concluded that: "South Africa looks forward to collaborating with all other members of the Security Council in promoting the maintenance of international peace and security and the social well-being and advancement of all the peoples of the world."

DEPUTY MINISTER MHAULE PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Reginah Mhaule, paid an Official Visit to India from 6 to 10 January 2019. Deputy Minister Mhaule also attended the Raisina Dialogue, taking place in New Delhi from 8 to 10 January 2019.



The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference of geopolitics and geo-economics and annually attracts high-level participants from all over the world. The theme for the 2019 edition of the conference was: "A World Reorder: New Geometries, Fluid Partnerships, Uncertain Outcomes".

The African continent received significant focus during the conference and Deputy Minister Mhaule utilised the platform of the conference to highlight key issues at the heart of South Africa's foreign policy, including advancing the African Agenda, regional integration and conflict prevention and peace-building.

During the visit, Deputy Minister Mhaule also had an opportunity to engage with her Indian counterpart, the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, General Dr VK Singh. The meeting focussed on issues of mutual interest such as further enhancing the trade and

commercial relationship between South Africa and India, growing foreign direct investment and partnering in areas beneficial for both countries, such as skills exchange. Also in the international arena, the two countries share a common vision on a range of global issues and closely cooperate in various multilateral fora, such as BRICS, IBSA, G20 and IORA.

Deputy Minister Mhaule also had high-level meetings with business-sector representatives and think-tanks in Mumbai to promote South Africa as a destination for trade, investment and tourism and to advance our foreign policy objectives.

South Africa and India enjoy a Strategic Partnership and bilateral relations are anchored by a deep and shared history of friendship and solidarity. During 2018, the two countries celebrated 25 years of diplomatic relations and the meeting between President Cyril Ramaphosa and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the margins of the BRICS Summit in July 2018 served to further emphasise the important nature of the relationship in enhancing the national objectives of both countries. President Ramaphosa is also expected to pay a State Visit to India later this month.

SPACE SCIENCE CAPABILITIES EARN SOUTH AFRICA GLOBAL RECOGNITION



South Africa has won an extraordinary victory in space science, with the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) being selected by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to become the designated regional provider of space weather information to the entire aviation sector using African airspace.

This means that every aircraft flying in the continent's airspace will rely on SANSA for the space weather information it needs to submit as part of its flight plan.

Space weather, which can influence the performance and reliability of aviation and other technological systems, is caused by the Sun, the nature of the Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere, and the Earth's location in the solar system.

SANSA, an entity of the Department of Science and Technology, underwent an extensive assessment to earn the distinction of becoming one of two ICAO-designated regional space weather centres – the other being a joint Russia-China centre.

SANSA will partner with one of the ICAO's three global space weather centres, PECASUS, the Pan-European Consortium for Aviation Space Weather User Services, to provide ICAO with space weather information for the African region.

PECASUS is a consortium of nine European countries, and partnering with it will provide South Africa with better access to international models and expertise.

This victory comes shortly after the launch of the continent's most advanced nanosatellite so far, the ZACube-2, in December 2018.

The use of space science and technology for the good of the nation is the aim of South Africa's National Space Policy and National Space Strategy, and space weather information has both national and international benefits.

South Africa's designation as a regional space weather information provider will grow the science, engineering, technology and innovation sector, offering opportunities to develop scarce skills and increase national research output, while ensuring that usable products are generated from the knowledge.

South Africa's international reputation has also been enhanced, with the country now seen as a leading player in the space science sector.

SANSA's designation by the ICAO presents an opportunity to further use the newly revamped space weather centre at Hermanus in the Western Cape. The centre's monitoring of the Sun and its activity has been providing the country with vital early warnings and forecasts on space weather conditions, and these benefits will now be extended to the international aviation community.

The upgraded centre was unveiled by the Minister of Science and Technology, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, on 20 April 2018, and processes are currently underway to secure additional funding to further capacitate the centre for the huge task that lies ahead.

The international community has supported South Africa's ICAO designation, and has demonstrated confidence in SANSA's ability to provide the services required. The process that SANSA underwent to achieve this designation has already enhanced South Africa's reputation in the space science and technology field.

While South Africa is the only African country with operational space weather capabilities, it will engage with other countries on the continent on data sharing, infrastructure hosting, training, product development and research collaboration opportunities.

The country's space science programme is feeding the knowledge economy and placing the national system of innovation at the centre of South Africa's developmental agenda.

.....

INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER NUMBERS AT CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL GROW BY 9,6% IN 2018

In 2018, 2,6 million international passengers were recorded by Cape Town International Airport, representing a 9,6% growth from 2017, despite the drought and other challenges experienced by the region. This growth came from long-haul carriers from outside the southern African region.

Overall passenger numbers grew from 10 693 063 in 2017 to 10 777 524 in 2018, equating to an increase of 84 000 additional passengers passing through the airport, at a growth rate of 0,8%.

There was a slight decline of 1,4% in domestic passengers for the year. In the month of December 2018, international passenger numbers grew by 3,7%, while domestic passenger numbers declined by 0,8%, year-on-year.

These numbers include all traffic through the domestic and international terminals (arrivals and departures) and may include repeat travellers throughout the year.



“The City of Cape Town is delighted at the growth in international passenger numbers for 2018. Busy peak season and tourism growth to the region is encouraging in terms of sustainability, especially following what has been a challenging time for the tourism sector. More visitors mean increased benefits for the city and its residents,” said the City’s newly appointed Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Opportunities and Asset Management, Alderman James Vos.

Western Cape Minister of Economic Opportunities, Beverley Schäfer, said: “It’s no secret that the tourism industry was hard hit by the drought last year, but reports from many of our tourist offices have been largely positive, and we look forward to working with the industry in 2019 to ensure that this sector continues to grow as it is an important creator of jobs in the province.”

“The growth in international traffic at Cape Town International Airport, despite the drought factor, is testament to the good work of the Air Access partnership. International traffic numbers at Cape Town International for the whole of 2018 reflect solid growth, which can be attributed to the launch of several new routes throughout the year, and our sustained focus on ensuring growth in our tourism industry”, continued Minister Schäfer.

“Events like the Rugby Sevens held in Cape Town in December and the Queen’s Plate in January helped to stimulate the city’s tourism and hospitality sector. Looking ahead, the city will host the SunMet event later this month, which draws large crowds each year, and has several major conferences lined up in the coming months, including the YPO leadership conference which will see around 2 500 delegates from around the world descending on the city in March.”

Cape Town International Airport, once again, won the award for Africa’s Leading Airport in 2018.

GOVERNMENT OFFERS CONDOLENCES AFTER PHIL MASINGA PASSES AWAY

South Africa, the sporting fraternity and football in particular are poorer after the passing of soccer legend Philemon “Chippa Phil” Masinga, says President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The international football star passed away on Sunday at a Parktown hospital due to ill health.

Masinga is renowned for his performance as a striker for the famous side that claimed Bafana Bafana’s first and only Africa Cup of Nations trophy in 1996, as well as his goal that booked Bafana Bafana a ticket to the FIFA World Cup held in 1998 in France.

“We shall forever be grateful to Philemon “Chippa” Masinga, as he was affectionately known, for being part of a collective in his deserved call-ups to Bafana Bafana. A collective that helped put South Africa back



on the international stage when he scored the 1998 FIFA World Cup qualifier goal,” said the President.

Masinga, a former Bafana Bafana striker, originates from Khuma, Stilfontein, in the North West. He was admitted to Tshepong Hospital in Klerksdorp last month, before being transferred to a Parktown Hospital in Johannesburg. North West Premier, Tebogo Job Mokgoro, also paid tribute to Masinga. He had earlier visited him in hospital.

He said Masinga’s passing was unexpected, and that it was a great loss to not only the North West province, but the international football fraternity as well.

“He was one of our soccer development ambassadors who contributed selfishly and significantly to the success of one of the province’s flagship soccer project, the annual Maize Cup Challenge,” said the Premier.

Masinga continued to put South Africa on an international stage when he played for teams in the English Premier League and Italian Serie A League. Premier Mokgoro said while his words could not take away the pain of losing this extraordinary star, his prayer was for all to find solace in knowing that someone so special will never be forgotten. “May those loving memories ease our pain and bring us comfort. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time, and may his soul rest in peace,” Premier Mokgoro said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PROTEAS WHITEWASH PAKISTAN AFTER WANDERERS WIN

The Proteas have secured a series whitewash against Pakistan by winning the third Test at the Wanderers on Monday morning, 14 January 2019, by 107 runs.

Starting the day needing 228 runs with seven wickets in hand, Pakistan were blown away once more by the Proteas speedsters with Duanne Olivier (3/74) and Kagiso Rabada (3/75) doing the bulk of the damage as the hosts got the job done on the opening session of day four.



In the end, Pakistan was bowled out for 273 in their second innings as the South Africans secured a 3-0 series win.

Attention will now shift to the five-match ODI series, which gets underway at St Georges Park in Port Elizabeth on Saturday, 19 January 2019.

South Africa won by 107 runs and win the three-match series 3-0. – Source: www.news24.com

BANYANA’S THEMBI KGATLANA AND DESIREE ELLIS WIN CAF AWARDS

It was a great night for South African football in Dakar, Senegal, recently when Banyana Banyana’s Thembi Kgatlana won the CAF Women’s Player of the Year and Goal of the Year and Desiree Ellis won Coach of the Year at the annual awards ceremony.

As expected, Mohamed Salah (Egypt & Liverpool) walked off with the Player of the Year for the second year after yet more goal-scoring exploits for his club and country.

Meanwhile, Uganda and Mamelodi Sundowns goalkeeper, Dennis Onyango, was named the best goalkeeper in Africa.

The list of CAF Awards 2018 winners:

- Player of the Year: Mohamed Salah (Egypt & Liverpool)
- Women's Player of the Year: Chrestinah Thembi Kgatlana (South Africa & Houston Dash)
- Youth Player of the Year: Achraf Hakimi (Morocco & Borussia Dortmund)
- Men's Coach of the Year: Herve Renard (Morocco)
- Women's Coach of the Year: Desiree Ellis (South Africa)
- Men's National Team of the Year: Mauritania
- Women's National Team of the Year: Nigeria
- Platinum Award: His Excellency Macky Sall (President of the Republic of Senegal)
- Federation President of the Year: Fouzi Lekjaa
- Goal of the Year: Chrestinah Thembi Kgatlana (South Africa & Houston Dash). – Source: www.citizen.co.za



DURBAN TEEN SET FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN UAE

The new year has kicked off to an exciting start for Special Olympics participant Asisipho Sosibo from Durban.

In November, GroundUp reported that Sosibo, 15, was one of 50 athletes selected to represent South Africa at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in March.

But her hopes of competing abroad were dampened after her family and school battled for months to get her a passport. It was determined that she needed a valid birth certificate.

Recently, Home Affairs confirmed that it was able to assist Sosibo just in time for the games.

Team coach Nana Mazibuko says, “Before we got the news, [Asisipho’s] status updates on social media were very sad. But when I called to give her the news, she immediately changed her status. She’s very happy.”



Asisipho Sosibo (front right) and her seven teammates from Ningizimu Special School in Montclair

Mazibuko says once Sosibo gets her passport, the team will finalise plans for the trip.

Home Affairs spokesperson, David Hlabane, says: “We’re delighted Asisipho received the help she required from Home Affairs ahead of the [games].”

The Special Olympics will be held from 14 to 21 March in Abu Dhabi, with 174 countries participating. South Africa will send a delegation of 98 people, including coaches, media and team leaders.

Sosibo will be competing in the soccer category for teen girls with seven teammates from Ningizimu Special School in Montclair. The team is expected to depart to Johannesburg on 8 March. – Source: www.sapeople.com

BWF CERTIFICATED REFEREE: GRETHA PRINSLOO

Badminton South Africa recently congratulated Gretha Prinsloo on this achievement and thanked her for her support to the game.



Badminton South Africa would like congratulate Gretha Prinsloo on being awarded the first-ever African Women in Badminton Award by the Badminton Confederation Africa (BCA) for the year 2018.

The award has been introduced by the BCA Women in Badminton Commission in 2018 to celebrate outstanding women who have contributed to the development of badminton in Africa by demonstrating irreproachable attitude and dedication to the sport in the respective field.

Gretha was chosen for her lifelong contribution to badminton in her role as a player and umpire and especially a world-renowned referee.

“Gretha serves as brilliant role model for hundreds and thousands of young girls across the continent to take part in our sport” said Michel Bau, President of BCA.

Gretha was recently awarded the qualification of BWF Referee Assessor, the highest level one can achieve in the officiating space in badminton. BWF Referee Assessors are responsible for the assessment of referees to reach the BWF Accredited and Certificated levels for each role, the appraisals of current BWF Referees.

Gretha is the first person and women in Africa to achieved this level of success and we are proud to have her as part of BSA. She has worked as a Referee at all major events in the world, including the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia, 2018 BWF World Championships in China and the BWF World Tour Super 1000 in Indonesia. She will be travelling to England in March for the Yonex All England where BWF has invited her to participate as an observer to shadow the assigned BWF Referee Assessors for practical orientation experience at the event.

**Continuing the Legacy:
Working for a Just and Peaceful World**
South Africa – Member of the United Nations
Security Council 2019 – 2020





Stay Connected with us



For back issues of Newsflash, visit: <http://www.dirco.gov.za/department/newsflash.html>