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SA to chair AU in 2020

President Cyril Ramaphosa has been announced as the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) for 2020, taking over from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

The announcement was made on Sunday, 10 February 2019, at the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

President Cyril Ramaphosa led the South African delegation to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the 32nd Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU).

The four-day summit, which started on Friday, 8 February 2019, was held under the theme: "The Year of Refugees, Returnees and International Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa".



The theme presented an opportunity to reflect on and address the root causes of forced displacement in Africa, The Presidency said.

The summit also deliberated on the institutional reform and financing of the continental body, peace and security on the continent and developments related to the African Continental Free Trade Area. Negotiations for a new cooperation agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific developing countries and the European Union Post-2020 also featured on the meeting's agenda.

There was the election of five members of the AU Peace and Security Council; the appointment of one member of

the AU Commission on International Law; and of one member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.



Important meetings preceding the heads of state meetings were the 28th Forum of Heads of State Participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism, the meeting of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change and the meeting of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee of the AU Development Agency/NEPAD.

A meeting of the AU High-Level Committee of Heads of State and Government on Libya was convened on Sunday, 10 February 2019.

President Ramaphosa was accompanied by a delegation of ministers. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

President's economic interventions a step in the right direction

Trade and Industry Minister, Rob Davies, says President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcements on measures to expand exports and fix state-owned entities are a step in the right direction.

Minister Davies said the package of interventions the President announced in the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) would go a long way in boosting economic growth.

President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the SoNA during a Joint Sitting of the two Houses of Parliament (National Assembly and National Council of Provinces) on 7 February 2019. The theme for this year's event was: "Following up on our Commitments: Making Your Future Work Better".



The SoNA is a Joint Sitting of the two Houses of Parliament called by the President of the Republic of South Africa, in terms of the Constitution to account to the people and also outline a way forward in broader government efforts to ensure a better life for all people in South Africa.

SoNA is one of the rare occasions where the three arms of State, namely the Executive represented by the President, Deputy President and Ministers; the Judiciary, represented by the country's Chief Justice and the Judge Presidents; and the Legislature, represented by the Members of Parliament, gather in one place. The provincial and local spheres of government are also represented.

I think the President gave a very comprehensive account ... and direction of the movement of the economy. The Investment Summit that was held last year was a very good boost and on the basis of that, there has also been a lot of [work done to address] a number of challenges in the economy.



“[The President] identified that in the medium-term, our growth will have to be focussed on high-level evaluated exports...”

“About a third of our total exports go to the African continent and two thirds of that are evaluated products. I think this is the direction we need to be moving in as we have a big boost in confidence that we must use to our advantage,” Minister Davies said.

In his speech, the President announced bold plans to

focus on significantly expanding the small business incubation programme, given the key role that small businesses play in stimulating economic activity and employment.

Small Business Development Minister, Lindiwe Zulu, welcomed the announcement. “The issue of business incubation is very important. I am happy that the President spoke about it, because it is through that process that innovators, start-ups, people who want to start their own businesses and people who have bright ideas ... can be in an environment where they can get their plans to grow,” she said.

With the President dedicating a chunk of his speech to addressing the importance of decidedly fixing Eskom and making bold decisions to ensure that state-owned entities are self-sufficient, Energy Minister, Jeff Radebe, said it was important to implement energy-efficient measures to ensure that South Africa attracts foreign investment.

“The President in his State of the Nation Address underlines the important point of how the economy can grow if South Africans work together. From an energy perspective, the line of march is that we need to ensure that the cost of electricity goes down so that we can attract investment into the South African economy,” Minister Radebe said.

SoNA-In-Numbers

Free and democratic South Africa

- 25 years – the age of South Africa’s democracy.
- 5 – the number of urgent tasks the President has identified that will build a better South Africa.

Revitalising industrial parks

- 10 out of 16 identified industrial parks have been revitalised.

Investing in SA

- 1,2 trillion – the amount of investment earmarked for South Africa over five years.
- R300 billion – the amount of investment pledges from South African and international companies attracted from the Investment Conference.
- R17 billion – the amount of foreign direct investment recorded in 2017.
- R70 billion – the inflow of investment into South Africa in the first three quarters of 2018.
- R187 billion – the value of projects that are being implemented following the investment conference that was held in 2018.
- R26 billion – the value of projects that are in pre-implementation phase following the investment conference that was held in 2018.

Job creation

- 275 000 – the additional direct jobs that are aimed to be created every year as part of the agreements reached at the Presidential Jobs Summit in 2018.

Emerging farmers

- 250 000 – the number of small emerging farmers who are working the land and need support in fully developing their businesses.

Tourism

- 10 million – the number of tourists who visited South Africa in the past year.
- 21 million – the target number for visitors coming to South Africa by 2030.
- 2 million – the number of jobs that the export industry can create in food and agriculture, construction, transport, retail and the creative and cultural industries by 2030.
- 3 000 km – the size of South Africa’s coastlines. South Africa has one of the world’s longest coastlines.

Oceans Economy

- R30 billion – the estimated value of investments created through Operation Phakisa on the Oceans Economy.
- Over 7 000 direct jobs have been created through Operation Phakisa.
- R3,8 billion – the expected investment in the Oceans Economy over the next five years by government.
- R65 billion – the expected investment in the Oceans Economy over the next five years by the private sector.
- 100 000 – the number of direct jobs expected to be created through investments in the Oceans Economy.
- 250 000 – the number of indirect jobs expected to be created through investments in the Oceans Economy.

Infrastructure development

- More than R1,3 trillion – the amount that has been invested to build, among others, hundreds of schools and two new universities.
- R100 billion – the amount committed by government into the Infrastructure Fund over a 10-year period.

Exports

- US\$3,3 trillion – the estimated combined gross domestic product of African countries.

Small business

- 51 – the number of technology business incubators that form part of the incubation programme.
- 10 – the number of enterprise supplier development incubators that form part of the incubation programme.
- 14 – the number of rapid youth incubators that form part of the incubation programme.
- 4 – the number of provinces where township digital hubs will be established as part of the incubation programme. – Source: Government Communications

Minister Sisulu addresses Parliament

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, addressed Parliament during the debate on President Cyril Ramaphosa’s State of the Nation Address on 13 February 2019.

Minister Sisulu said that South Africa’s voice was an important one in the world and that our significance grew exponentially.

“Wherever you go, there is no doubt that in the developing world we are increasingly regaining our stature. Our reputation and influence are humbling.

“The African continent sees in us a symbol of how struggle against injustice can create a different world, how the most negative situation can inspire hope and change the world’s discourse.

“Today, we look back on our interventions on the continent and are very proud of the role we have played and are still required to play.



“We return from the African Union (AU) Summit and are overawed by the continued belief in us. Almost overnight, we are the First Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau of the Assembly of the AU for 2019, and elected Chairperson of the AU for 2020 and the African Peer Review Mechanism for the same year. We were humbled by this confidence in us.

“This year is 25 years since South Africa emerged from the dark shadows of international isolation. Today, South Africa is a proud member of the community of nations; our country is respected across the globe for the work that we have and continue to do in the United Nations (UN); the UN Security Council (SC); AU; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS); G20; Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other multilateral fora.”

“ ... Among others, we achieved the following:

- South Africa has a global footprint, in all the regions of the world, demonstrating the acceptance of the country in the community of nations.
- South Africa has played an important role in the promotion of peace, stability and security, especially on the African continent. We strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiations.
- We contributed to the transformation of the Organisation of African Unity into the AU and were at the forefront of the formulation and implementation of the African development programme, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), as part of the ongoing efforts to bring about the African Renaissance.
- We have played a central role in the sensitive matter of nuclear disarmament, internationally, drawing on our own lessons here at home. In fact, the fanfare that the United States is making in its role in the case of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea pales in significance to the role that South Africa has played in this area.
- We have played an important role in the UN, especially in the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals and its successor, the Sustainable Development Goals. And they are central to our own Agenda.
- South Africa has played a critical role in the fight against racism, xenophobia and related intolerances, including the hosting and giving leadership in the UN Conference on these matters. We have not held back when we were confronted with what we regarded as gross abuse of human rights. At this point we would like to apologise to the country for the glitch that happened on the matter of Myanmar. It will not happen again.
- Our country is one of the leading nations on matters of climate change, through our role in the UN and other forums. Recently, the President has accepted the nomination to co-chair the Global Commission on Adaptation.
- We continue to be a leading voice against the oppression of women and the need for gender equality. Our voice in a recent conference of Women Foreign Ministers was a passionate call to ensure that women’s equality is mandatory in all our work. A recent report of the UN states that ‘Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest regional female entrepreneurial activity rate in the world, with nearly a third of businesses having some female ownership’.
- Through Honourable Dlamini Zuma, South Africa was central in the formulation of the African Agenda 2063.
- As part of the Non-Aligned Movement; G-77 plus China; India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA); and BRICS group of nations, South Africa is helping to recast the global governance system away from the dominance of the powerful countries of the North, towards an inclusive international order whose focus is on the empowerment of poor, underdeveloped and developing countries. During the recent AU Summit, the Secretary-General of the UN said that: ‘In the search for durable solutions to forced displacement, the world – and, indeed, I personally – have drawn constant inspiration from African leadership, African vision and African compassion. Over many years, it has become clear to me: Africa’s generosity ... is unmatched’.
- Recently, we were privileged to co-host with the UN the Mandela Peace Summit that focussed on global peace and security, where more than 100 heads of state pledged to follow the principled leadership of Mandela. We as a country basked in the glory of what we mean to the world.

The Minister said South Africa assumed its seat in the UNSC in an age of frenetic global contests on a number of fronts, which have had a profound impact on the African continent and on our country. “The manner in which we conduct our work, in the UNSC and other multilateral fora is critical for South Africa to fulfil the injunctions of the Freedom Charter and to live up to our reputation. Our work at the UNSC is very important if South Africa, Africa and other developing countries are to reverse the dangerous trends towards unilateralism and protectionism that are being spearheaded by some countries. This we are doing, because we are firmly committed to a strong multilateral system. South Africa believes and would always promote and protect a rules-based international order.



“Because most of the issues at the UNSC are those from the African continent, we will not shirk our responsibilities and allow others to dictate terms and conditions on how to resolve the many African challenges of peace and security. This includes doing whatever we can to help defeat terrorism in Africa, the Middle East and every part of the world. However, our most immediate responsibility at the UNSC is the reform of the UNSC itself. Africa believes that by the sheer nature of the work of the UNSC, Africa deserves two permanent seats and South Africa is available to represent the continent.

“Africa remains at the centre of South Africa’s foreign policy. Our bilateral relations with the continent are historical and fraternal, with some countries, which date back to the continent’s support for our national liberation struggle in South Africa against apartheid and colonialism. It would be important to underscore that South Africa’s foreign policy objectives on the continent are implemented within a highly dynamic geopolitical environment, which at times is unpredictable.

Minister Sisulu announced that South Africa and Namibia would co-host the SADC Solidarity Conference on Western Sahara in South Africa from 25 – 26 March 2019. “South Africa remains committed to its principled position, in support of the inalienable right of the Saharawi people to their self-determination and independence, a position based on the resolutions and decisions expressed by SADC, the AU and the UN.

“We want to emphasise that the solution to the question of Western Sahara should be based on the principle of self-determination and decolonisation, through the holding of a referendum that will lead to its independence. We want to emphasise our commitment to the people of Palestine who continue to suffer under severe repression and denial of basic human rights and we re-iterate our support for a two-state solution.

“Zimbabwe has been going through a challenging socio-economic situation, which has inadvertently had an impact on South Africa. We have engaged the Government of Zimbabwe and have a clearer idea of the problem. As such, South Africa stands ready assist the country in addressing these challenges. We would like to express our strong support for the lifting of sanctions against Zimbabwe, in order to allow for economic development in the country.

“We are solving our problems, we are crafting our future and we are determined that in our lifetime, Africa will be a continent to reckon with. Now I understand what former President Mbeki’s idea of an African Renaissance was about. It is possible, it is within our grasp.” To read the full speech, go to www.dirco.gov.za.

South Africa condemns deadly attack in Kashmir

The South African Government condemns in the strongest terms the attack in Kashmir, killing around 40 security personnel and injuring many others in one of the deadliest attacks on Indian forces in this area for years.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has, on behalf of the Government and people of South Africa, extended the country’s deepest condolences to the Government and the people of the Republic of India following the unjustifiable and cowardly attack. In a statement released on 15 February 2019, he conveyed that the thoughts of South Africans were with the people and the Government of India during this trying time.

“Acts of terrorism have no place in society and constitute a threat to development, peace and security. The South African Government wishes to reiterate its solidarity with the Government of India in confronting the scourge of terrorism and will continue to support regional and international efforts to address terrorism in all its forms.”

SA showcases organic products in Germany

South African companies are showing off their wares at the International Trade Fair for Organic Products Germany's Nuremberg as part of government efforts to increase South African exports.



The trade fair, which is popularly known as BIOFACH, is giving South African companies an opportunity to showcase their products to key industry stakeholders.

Trade and Industry Minister, Rob Davies, said the objective of South African companies participating in the fair was to seek trade opportunities for local, organic-certified products to German and European buyers.

“Our department is working in collaboration with the Swiss Import Promotion Organisation to promote exports of organic products to Germany and by extension, to the European Union (EU) market in general.

“The promotion of the organic sector and products is one of the projects identified in the early iterations of the country’s Industrial Policy Action Plan because the sector represents a high-value niche sub-sector with the potential to create thousands of jobs in both the primary agriculture and agro-processing stages of the value chain,” said Minister Davies.

The companies’ participation is also a means of obtaining new business and penetrating new markets. Currently, South Africa imports a significant proportion of the organic food demanded by consumers, and the fair represents both an import replacement and export possibilities for the sub-sector.

“The market for organic products is showing strong growth, particularly in the EU. South Africa needs to maximise its potential and take advantage of the export opportunities that are presented by this growth,” Minister Davies said. Through the fair, local companies will be able to network with key stakeholders and decision-makers in the organic sector in Germany and the EU.

“They will meet with importers, distributors and buyers from retail groups face-to-face. This will enable them to introduce their products directly to these target markets, as well as network and build relationships with potential customers from different parts of the world,” said the department.

In his State of the Nation Address last week, President Cyril Ramaphosa said the country would make a concerted effort to expand its export base, particularly for manufactured goods while also focussing on raising the sophistication of South African exports.

The trade fair will conclude on Saturday, 16 February 2019. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SA exporters urged to take advantage of German opportunities

South African exporters should take advantage of new initiatives introduced by Germany.

South Africa’s Foreign Economic Representative in Germany, Jacob Moatshe, urged local companies to take advantage of new initiatives, which the Western European country has introduced for Africa.

The initiatives are geared towards stimulating business, trade and economic development.

This as local companies, through the Department of Trade and Industry, participated in the Fruit Logistica Trade Fair in the capital, Berlin.

Speaking at the official launch of the South African pavilion at the fair, which got underway on Wednesday, 6 February 2019, Mr Moatshe said South Africa was the largest and most strategic partner through which various German companies could expand into the African region.

“The biggest challenge for ourselves is to optimally utilise some of these initiatives that Germany has established for our benefit,” said Mr Moatshe, also referring to the “Marshall Plan with Africa”, which highlights the objectives of increasing trade and development on the continent.

The Fruit Logistica Berlin is regarded as the world’s leading international trade fair for the fresh fruit and vegetable industry and covers every sector of the international fruit and vegetable supply chain from production, distribution and marketing, through to the point of sale, including global players as well as small- and medium-sized suppliers from all around the world.

This year’s three-day showcase followed on the heels of a successful showing last year. At last year’s event, the South African pavilion raked in more than R372 million in export sales and secured almost 100 trade leads.
– Source: SAnews.gov.za

FRUIT LOGISTICA 2019

6|7|8 FEBRUARY BERLIN

Total discovers goldmine of gas off southern coast of South Africa

Total made a “significant” discovery 175 kilometres off the southern coast of South Africa.



French energy giant, Total, announced recently that it had found “significant” gas off the southern coast of South Africa.

“Total has made a significant gas condensate discovery on the Brulpadda prospects, in the Outeniqua Basin, 175 kilometres off the southern coast of South Africa,” it said in a statement.

Total’s CEO, Patrick Pouyanne, said the potential quantities “could be around one billion barrels of global resources, gas and condensate light oil”.

South Africa’s Mineral Resources Minister, Gwede Mantashe, welcomed the news of the discovery as “potentially a major boost” for the economy.

“It is exciting for our country. We welcome it as we continue to seek investment to grow our economy,” the Minister said. – Source: www.thesouhtafrican.com

Defence celebrates Armed Forces Day 2019 in Cape Town

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) celebrates Armed Forces Day (AFD) 2019 in the City of Cape Town

Following the successful AFD celebrations in six different provinces since 2013, the SANDF will descend on the City of Cape Town to honour the bravery of sons and daughters of our country who lost their lives in the fateful 1917 sinking of the *SS Mendi*.



The people's defence force will also showcase its military might and state-of-the-art hardware and technology in its quest to defend the territorial integrity and borders of our republic.

This day was a proclamation by the former President of the Republic of South Africa and Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force, President Jacob Zuma, that 21 February every year be observed and commemorated as AFD.

The SANDF will present a series of activities that make up the 2019 AFD, which coincides with the commemoration of the sinking of *SS Mendi* on 21 February 1917 in the English Channel. These activities include:

- military displays and career exhibitions at Mandela Stadium in Khayelitsha from 16 to 19 February 2019
- a gala music evening at Cape Town City Hall on 18 February 2019 starting at 19:00pm
- night shoot demonstration at Sunrise Beach in Muizenberg on 19 February 2019 starting at 19:00pm
- AFD Parade and Capability Demonstration at Sunset Beach in Bloubergstrand (Table View) starting at 10:00am to end at 14:30pm.

South African artist Nelson Makamo invited to paint for "TIME" magazine front cover

For the best part of a decade, South African artist Nelson Makamo has had a deal with his 11 year-old cousin, Mapule Maoto. He pays for her studies, and she agrees to model for his colourful paintings. Today, with fans all over the world praising his work, including the likes of Oprah Winfrey, it's turned out to be a pretty good deal.



The latest painting that Mapule has inspired is Makamo's cover for *TIME*'s 2019 *Optimists* issue, guest edited by filmmaker Ava DuVernay. Optimism is a natural fit for Makamo's work, which has for several years largely focussed on young children from rural South Africa.

When *TIME* first approached Makamo to contribute to the issue, he had never produced a magazine cover before. He was eager to create an image that would introduce his work to the world, he says. "It scared me because, even though I've been working for a long time, it felt like a debut."

The final piece, an oil painting on canvas, is titled "Vision of a Limitless Future."

Makamo had been in contact with *TIME* guest editor, DuVernay, since 2017, when the filmmaker bought one of his pieces at auction.

In December, she visited his studio in Johannesburg and purchased another.

The children (and few adults) that populate Makamo's award-

winning charcoal drawings and colourful paintings are drawn from his interactions with Mapule and others in his life, he says.

Makamo grew up in a small town in South Africa's northern Limpopo province. His artistic impulse kicked in early. "I just had this urge to draw, to make marks," he says. That desire grew stronger when he got into comic books, and then works by Van Gogh and Picasso. But, it was discovering African artists that really made him fall in love with art, he says.

Visual artist Dumile Feni was a major influence and inspiration for Makamo. These days Makamo finds hope in contemporary African artists, including fellow South Africans Kemang Wa Lehulere, Sam Nhlengethwa, Dineo Bopape and Zwelethu Machepha, and Nigerian visual artist, Toyin Ojih Odutole. – Source: www.sapeople.com



Celebrity chef, Lorna Maseko, to present at world restaurant awards

Chef and TV presenter Lorna Maseko has been selected to present at the World Restaurant Awards which will be held in Paris this year.

Maseko, known for being a ballerina turned *Top Billing* presenter is also a well-known foodie.

Her love for food was revealed when she was part of the first *Celebrity Master Chef*. Since then, she has solidified her place as a celebrity chef, executive producer and entrepreneur.

Considered as the "Oscars for Restaurants", the World Restaurant Awards ceremony promises to be an extravagant affair for all culinary lovers and authorities across the globe. This is the inaugural awards. Maseko will be among those to present on 18 February.

The awards will be celebrating the world's greatest and pioneering restaurants that range from old to new, and luxury restaurants to more humble eateries.



Creative Director and co-founder of the awards, Joe Warwick, says: "Expect the World Restaurant Awards to be conducted with complete integrity and make everyone think about the full gamut of the world's great restaurants – old and new, from luxury destinations to humble institutions – and what makes them so special."

Award categories include: Restaurant of the Year, Atmosphere of the Year, Instagram Account of the Year, Collaboration of the Year, Original Thinking and Event of the Year. – Source: www.iol.co.za

South Africa's Lindiwe Matlali receives award from the Queen

South Africa's Lindiwe Matlali has been recognised by the Queen of England for the awesome work she does as founder and CEO of Africa Teen Geeks, a non-profit organisation that teaches schoolchildren and unemployed youth how to code. Lindiwe is the latest recipient of a Points of Light Award for 2019.

Inspired by her experience of being orphaned at a young age, Lindiwe is inspiring Africa's next generation of technology innovators.

She works to eliminate the barriers faced by disadvantaged communities in pursuing science, technology, engineering and maths. Africa Teen Geeks has blossomed into one of Africa's largest non-profit technology education organisations. Since 2014, the organisation has trained over 110 teachers from disadvantaged schools and provided computer science training to over 38 342 young people aged six and upwards in 30 schools across underprivileged communities.



Her numerous accolades include TechWomen Fellow 2017 and *Innov8tive* Magazine's "Top 50 Visionary Women in Tech To Watch".

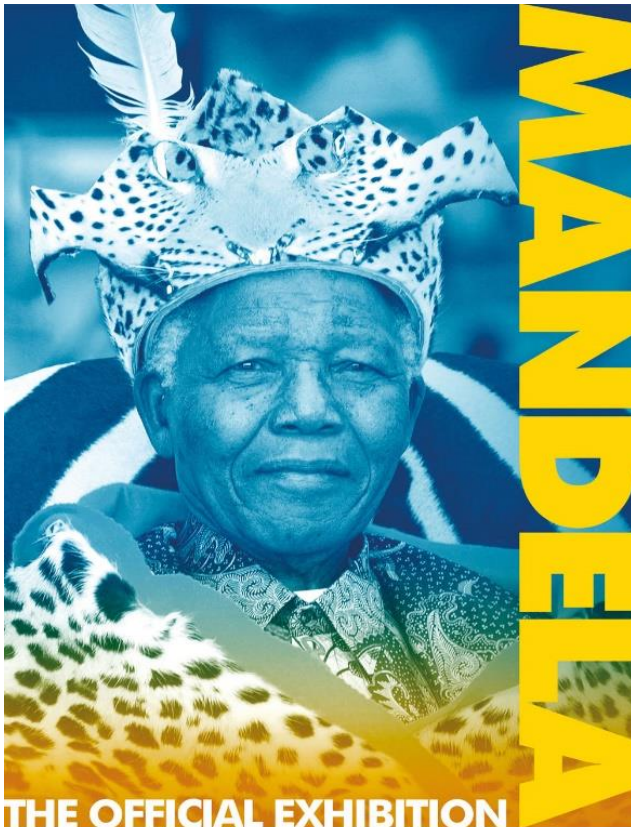
Nigel Casey MVO, United Kingdom High Commissioner in South Africa, said: "Congratulations to Lindiwe on receiving this recognition for the wonderful work that she does. Through her passion for coding, she has reached disadvantaged schoolchildren and raised their aspirations."

She has used her NGO, Africa Teen Geeks, to bridge the gap between affluent and rural schools in computing

education. Well done Lindiwe on being South Africa's 2019 Point of Light."

Lindiwe said: "I'm excited and humbled to be awarded with the Point of Light. African Teen Geeks is a passion project, I often say that I have two jobs one that pays the bills and one that feeds my soul. African Teen Geeks not only gives the children an opportunity to learn new skills but it also allows us to raise their aspirations, to dream bigger and do more." – Source: www.sapeople.com

Nelson Mandela's life and legacy celebrated in London exhibition



The interactive exhibition takes a journey through Mandela's life, including his upbringing in rural Eastern Cape as the son of a chief.

For a man who spent nearly three decades in prison, the passage of time was no doubt important to Nelson Mandela.

So, it is perhaps fitting that an exhibition that opened in London on Friday, 8 February 2019, about his life and legacy features his watch, which was always kept on South African time wherever he travelled in the world as the country's first black president.

The interactive exhibition takes a journey through Mandela's life, including his upbringing in rural Eastern Cape as the son of a chief, his 27-year incarceration and the end of apartheid when he became President in 1994. Mandela died in 2013, aged 95.

It features previously unseen footage alongside more than 150 artefacts such as clothes, campaign posters and travel documents on loan from the family of the Nobel Peace Prize winner and museums and archives worldwide.

"My grandfather, during his presidential years, he wore a watch, a Philippe Patek watch, and I've made that watch available because he gave me that watch and I think because he was such a committed person and always on time," grandson Mandla Mandela told Reuters.

A MULTIMEDIA EXPERIENCE INCLUDING PERSONAL ARTEFACTS FROM NELSON MANDELA'S LIFE AND WORK
FROM 8 FEB 2019
26 LEAKE STREET
LONDON SE1 7NN

"Even when he travelled abroad, his watch remained on South African time which we found hilarious as a family, but that watch is also here on display."

London is the first city to host the touring show *Mandela: The Official Exhibition* before it is permanently mounted in Mandela's birthplace Mvezo.

"It's our generation's responsibility to ensure that we record history for generations to come to understand the character and to understand the glorious human achievement of Nelson Mandela," Zelda La Grange, his personal presidential aide and the exhibition's guest curator, said. – Source: www.ewn.co.za

Six SA universities make top 100 in emerging economies

Six universities in South Africa are among the top 100 higher education institutions in emerging economies.

This is according to the Times Higher Education Emerging Economies University Rankings for 2019, which looked at 442 institutions.

The University of Cape Town came ninth, Wits University 11th, Stellenbosch University 24th, University of KwaZulu-Natal 49th, University of Pretoria 78th and the University of Johannesburg also made the cut at number 99.

Institutions are judged by 13 indicators, including teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook but "are recalibrated to reflect the development priorities of universities in emerging economies", according to the organisation's website.



China claimed the top three spots, with its Tsinghua University coming first, Peking University second and Zhejiang University third. The country remains the most represented nation on the 2019 list, with 72 institutions. – Source: www.news24.com

Two South African hotels named in the world's top 100 for 2019

“Elite Traveler” has recently named its top 100 hotels in the world for 2019.



The *Elite Traveler* magazine is aimed at ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW) individuals and is the only audited publication with worldwide distribution aboard private jets, first-class lounges and in fixed-base operations across over 100 countries.

The top 100 hotels list was curated by the magazine's team of experts and features more than 34 countries.

Some of the factors considered when selecting a hotel include the resorts that go above and beyond to offer the most captivating atmosphere, extraordinary comfort, impeccable service and standout amenities.

While the majority of the luxury hotels are located across the United States and Europe, two South African hotels feature on the list – La Residence in Franschhoek and Singita Ebony Lodge in Sabi Sand.

Elite Traveler noted that Singita celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018, with the camp winning a number of awards since its opening. “Ebony Lodge is our favourite camp and is perfect for a family safari vacation,” it said.

“Situated in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve and surrounded by ebony trees, the lodge has 12 gorgeous suites with private pools and open fireplaces.

“Each suite also has its own deck suspended above the riverbank that overlooks the bushveld — don’t be surprised if you spot animals drinking from the river.”

Elite Traveler noted that La Residence stood out for its location beneath the foothills of the Franschhoek Mountains, surrounded by a 30-acre estate brimming with vines, fruit trees, flowers and herbs.

“It is flamboyantly decadent and one of a kind, especially for South Africa, where most hotels are a little more austere,” the magazine said.

“An eclectic mix of inspirations, from a Maharaja’s palace to the Palace of Versailles, means that no two guestrooms are the same, and there’s fine art and antiques wherever you look.

“The panoramic views from the swimming pool are to die for, and if you want to head out and explore, there’s a complementary vehicle on call to whisk you around — or hop on a bicycle to take it all in.” – Source: www.businessstech.co.za

Soweto Gospel Choir takes home 2019 Grammy Award

Multiple award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir has won the Best World Music Album Grammy for their collection of songs titled “Freedom”.



The awards took place on Sunday night, 10 January 2019, in Los Angeles and were hosted by Alicia Keys. This was the group’s fifth nomination in this category and they have now won the prestigious award a total of three times.

Receiving the award on behalf of Soweto Gospel Choir were album producer Diniloxolo Ndlakuse Shimmy Jiyane, Mary Mulovhedzi and Mulalo Mulovhedzi whose late father David Mulovhedzi co-founded the group with producer/director Beverly Bryer 17 years ago.

The Grammy Award winning album *Freedom* was recorded in June 2018 as part of the group’s tribute to the 100 Years of Mandela celebrations. It features a selection of South African struggle songs, including their scintillating version of Johnny Clegg’s poignant *Asimbonanga*.

The Soweto Gospel Choir is no stranger to international and African accolades and awards, having previously won an Emmy for their collaboration with global pop icons U2 as part of ESPN’s 2010 FIFA World Cup coverage, (tied with Rihanna and Jay-Z’s Superbowl performance), as well as four South African Music Awards and a Metro FM Music Award among others.

The group was also nominated for an Oscar for their collaboration with Peter Gabriel on the theme song for the film *Wall-E*. – Source: www.news24.co.za



Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World

Ambassador Matjila on Iraq

South Africa's Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed the Security Council Meeting on the situation In Iraq on 13 February 2019.

"South Africa would like to highlight the following three areas in our intervention today, namely: the political situation, the security situation and the role of the region.

"Firstly on the political situation, South Africa commends the Iraqi authorities on the progress achieved in forming the National Government. We encourage all stakeholders to work together to finalise the Cabinet.

"All political forces should work together to reach agreement on the Cabinet posts so that the Government could be able to start delivering on its promises to the public for better security, the dignified return of internally displaced persons, rehabilitated public services, a revitalised economy and implementation of reconstruction and development projects.

"Additionally, it would be important for the Government of Iraq to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in the political process and their representation at all levels of political structures.

"Secondly, regarding the security situation, we note with concern the report of the Secretary-General that ISIL remains a threat in Iraq. This threat must be addressed as the continued presence of ISIL has ramifications for not only the instability of Iraq, but also for the entire region.

"We support Iraqi efforts to hold those accountable for crimes committed in the country in line with Security Council Resolution 2379, which established an investigative team to support Iraqi domestic efforts for accountability for the crimes committed.

"Furthermore, South Africa reaffirms its support for the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI). We encourage all stakeholders to continue to support and engage on the efforts initiated by UNAMI in an effort to achieve effective post conflict reconstruction and sustainable peace.

"We are particularly concerned about the increase of violence against women and children, as the Secretary-General's report has highlighted. In this regard, we support the efforts of UNAMI and UNICEF to address this scourge.

"Thirdly, on the role of the region, we welcome the increased involvement of regional organisations in the political process and reaffirm their role in assisting the Government of Iraq in the reconstruction of the country.

"We also welcome the renewed cooperation and talks between the Central Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government, and encourage both parties to continue to reach consensus on areas of concern. We also share the views of regional actors that the government formation in Iraq is an important step towards building a stronger and more balanced relationship among the countries in the Middle East region.

"In conclusion, South African reiterates its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq in line with the principles of the UN charter and will continue to support UNAMI in the implementation of its mandate. Furthermore, we continue to support the work of the UN Investigative Team for Accountability of Da'esh as part of UNAMI's

mandate and emphasise the importance of the independence and impartiality of the mechanism, while working in line with the principles of the UN Charter, UN policies and best practices.”

SA urges ceasefire in Ukraine

South Africa has reiterated its stance that there must be an immediate cessation of hostilities in eastern Ukraine.

“The continued violations of the ceasefire, including the presence of heavy weapons and their use, in violation of the Minsk Agreements, are of serious concern,” said Ambassador Jerry Matjila, South Africa’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, during his address at the Security Council meeting on the Ukraine.

Ambassador Matjila said it was also concerning that the ongoing tensions and conflict were exacerbating the dire humanitarian conditions on the ground. “The parties need to ensure that there is an urgent de-escalation of tensions, through the implementation of the Minsk Agreements, to allow a situation that is conducive for the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis.

“In this regard, it remains necessary for all parties to fully implement all of their respective commitments under the Minsk Agreements. At this point, the Minsk Agreements, including the package of measures agreed under Minsk II, provide the most promising roadmap for peace.”

Ambassador Matjila said it was also of critical importance that the parties refrained from actions that could be viewed as provocative, and which might further impede a peaceful resolution to the situation, in line with the Minsk Agreements.

“Furthermore, it is important that the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine is allowed unhindered access to monitor and verify compliance with the Minsk Agreements in line with its mandate.”

South Africa, Ambassador Matjila said, encouraged the various parties to strengthen all diplomatic efforts to produce a sustainable and peaceful solution. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

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