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A CALL ON SOUTH AFRICANS TO ASSIST NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY TROPICAL CYCLONE IDAI

International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Lindiwe Sisulu, has appealed to South African NGOs, companies and individuals to make donations towards humanitarian aid for the people of Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique affected by Tropical Cyclone Idai.

The Minister urged any South Africans affected by the floods to contact the respective embassies or call the 24-hour DIRCO call centre on 0123511000.

Companies, NGOs and individuals who are able to assist are requested to contact the following officials:

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#CycloneIdaiHumanitarian2019



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SADC SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE WITH WESTERN SAHARA COMMITS SUPPORT TO THE SAHARAWI PEOPLE

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the people of Western Sahara had been deprived of the most fundamental right of self-determining their own destiny.

“We are here to hear from the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and [discuss] what we can do for them in advancing their cause. While we are here to express our unwavering solidarity for the just cause of our brother and sisters, any action going forward must be decided upon by the Saharawi people,” he said.

President Ramaphosa was addressing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Solidarity Conference with Western Sahara by Heads of State and Government on 26 March 2019. The President said it was fitting that the conference was held at the OR Tambo Building, which was named after South African liberation icon Oliver Reginald Tambo, who supported the self-determination of the Western Sahara.

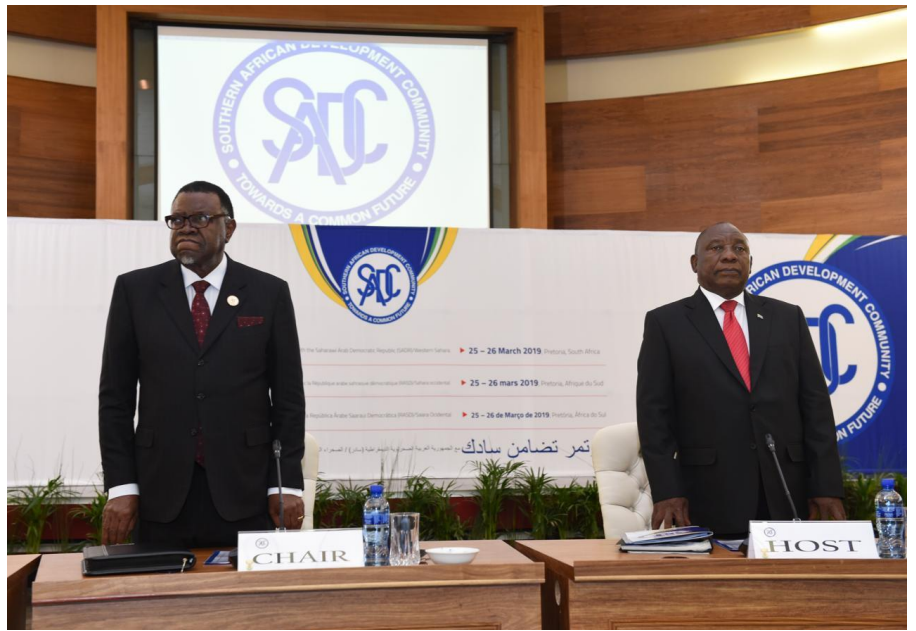
He said South Africa would continue to encourage all parties to engage in fruitful discussions in an effort to bring an end to the deprivation of the Western Sahara people and their displacement.

“Let us support efforts by the United Nations (UN) to bring Morocco and Western Sahara back to the discussion table,” he said.

SADC Chairperson and Namibia President, Hage Geingob, said although numerous African countries had attained freedom, the Arabian state remained a subject of oppression and colonial occupation.

“We are here to reaffirm our solidarity with the people of Western Sahara as they struggle in their legal right for self-determination. We have explicitly outlined our visions and aspirations. These will not be achieved in the absence of freedom of all of Africa.

“The prolonged impasse will have grave consequences on the functioning. We can only move forward if freedom is guaranteed on all our citizens. Freedom is not a gift to the people of Western Sahara, it is a right. Freedom is their birth right,” he said.



Addressing the Ministerial Conference, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, said the time had come for the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination through a referendum



Minister Sisulu told the SADC ministers that the SADC Solidarity Conference with Western Sahara “serves to remind us of what we have always believed, that until the last colony, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, is decolonised, none of us are truly free”.

The SADC Solidarity Conference with Western Sahara was convened to, among other things, reaffirm the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination in line with the principles of the Charter of the UN and applicable documents of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and African Union (AU) as well as to champion the implementation of the UN resolutions and OAU and AU decisions to allow the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination.

“This conference is a clear demonstration of our international solidarity with the Saharawi people in their quest for self-determination. Over the next two days, SADC hopes to come up with concrete steps in which we can strengthen and support the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination. It is this kind of solidarity and support for the people of Western Sahara that must give courage and impetus to their struggle for self-determination”, said Minister Sisulu.



“Most of us here have attained our freedom, strengthened and assisted by the solidarity of people who cared about our plight. We knew that every country has an inalienable right to independence and self-determination”, added Minister Sisulu.

Minister Sisulu acknowledged the significant role played by the UN through the passing of resolutions aimed at raising the plight of the people of Saharawi, including a decision that there must be a referendum in Western Sahara.

More than 20 countries were represented at the SADC Solidarity Conference with Western Sahara. The countries included Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Algeria, Uganda, Botswana, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Cuba, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Malawi, eSwatini, Mauritius, Tanzania, Seychelles, Kenya, Venezuela, São Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste as well Western Sahara.

“We as South Africans are honoured to host this conference as South Africa is itself a product of international solidarity. Let the people of Western Sahara leave this conference with the knowledge that we are fully behind them”, she concluded. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

AFRICA-ASIA PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE

If Africa and Asia are to reap the benefits of having a youthful population and improve their economies, they must improve healthcare for women, adolescents and youth.

By doing so, South Africa’s First Lady, Dr Tshepo Motsepe, said the two continents would be able to improve their economies, create jobs and enjoy benefits for all.



Dr Motsepe, who is a medical doctor by profession and a patron of the South African Civil Society for Women’s, Adolescents’ and Children’s Health, made the remarks at the Africa-Asia Partnerships in Health and Healthcare Delivery for Women and Youth Conference in Johannesburg recently.

This two-day conference convened scholars, policymakers and practitioners across disciplines from Africa, Asia, United States and the rest of the world to move the agenda forward for safeguarding the health and development of women and youth in Africa.

The conference was co-hosted by the University of Witwatersrand and the University of Johannesburg.

Dr Motsepe said the conference built on the success of the first Africa-Asia Conference, also known as the Bandung Conference.

Through this conference, partnerships which aim to unite the two continents, were forged.

She called on the two continents, who share a common history, to focus their efforts on addressing family planning, communicable diseases, conflict and climate change, which have a significant impact on women and youth. In addressing these issues, Dr Motsepe said Africa and Asia would position themselves to achieve the United Nation’s third Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

Under this SDG, it is envisioned that nations can ensure a healthy life for all and promote the well-being for all at all ages.

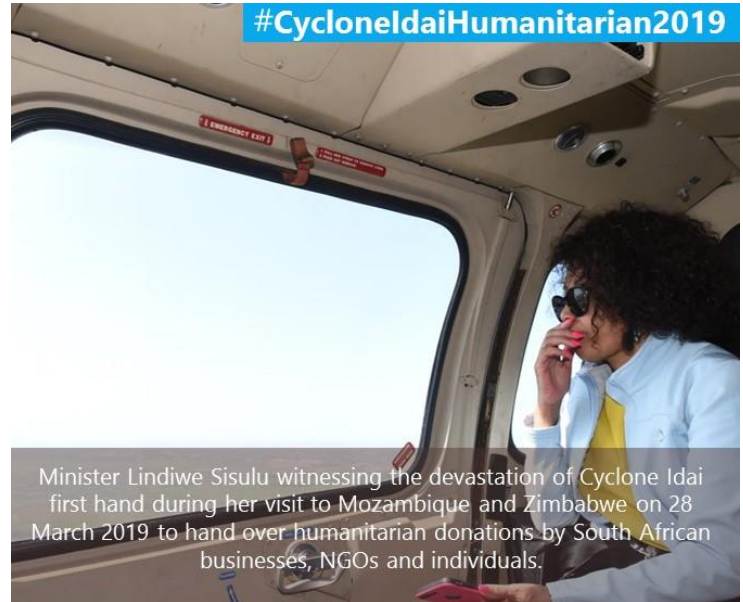
As the conference entered day two, it focussed on Africa-Asia collaboration in sexual and reproductive health, the double burden of undernutrition and overnutrition, infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases, including mental health.

Delegates also engaged on vaccine development, strengthening private-public partnerships in health and better academic collaboration in research and education underscored by multisectoral approaches to health and healthcare delivery. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

MINISTER SISULU TRAVELS TO MOZAMBIQUE AND ZIMBABWE TO HAND OVER DONATIONS TO VICTIMS OF CYCLONE IDAI

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, on 28 March 2019 travelled to Mozambique and Zimbabwe to hand over donations aimed at assisting victims of Cyclone Idai.

Minister Sisulu visited the city of Beira in Mozambique and the Chimanimani District in eastern Zimbabwe to hand over the donations made by South African citizens, companies and members of the Diplomatic Corps, who heeded the earlier call for assistance by the Minister. The donations include financial aid, clothes, water purifiers, non-perishable food items and blankets.



Minister Sisulu also met rescue teams, including the South African National Defence Force, South African NGOs, United Nations Agencies and volunteers. The Minister was accompanied by members of the business community led by Patrice Motsepe, the founder and executive chairperson of African Rainbow Minerals.

They donated an amount of R120 million towards relief efforts in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. The donations will go towards infrastructure development following the floods in those countries.

Two weeks ago, Minister Sisulu appealed to South Africans, corporate companies and non-governmental organisations to make relief donations to the victims of Cyclone Idai.

“As the South African Government, we are humbled by the remarkable response from all South Africans. We have received donations ranging from blankets, mattresses, medical supplies, water purifiers to food”, said Minister Sisulu.

“We continue to receive various donations from different sectors of our society, including churches and the private sector.

We wish to extend our words of appreciation to everyone who has responded to the call to assist our neighbours in need. Working together as a nation, we will succeed in restoring smiles to the faces of the people of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi”, added Minister Sisulu.



Earlier in the week, Minister Sisulu expressed her sincere gratitude to all the South African companies, NGOs and individuals who have responded, and are still responding, to the call for humanitarian assistance for victims.

“We are humbled by the generosity of all South Africans who continue to deliver boxes of goods at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). This is who we are. This is what Ubuntu is,” said Minister Sisulu.

The Minister repeated her appeal to all companies operating in these three countries, and other South African companies, to lead in contributing and in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

“Blankets, clothes, clean water, stationery and food are in urgent need. We are humbled by NGOs like Gift of the Givers, who are already assisting on the ground,” added Minister Sisulu.

Donations can be delivered at the DIRCO Head Office or at the Ministry Offices in Parliament, Cape Town. The following officials can be contacted for further guidance:

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DEPUTY MINISTER LANDERS PARTICIPATES IN THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL UNITED NATIONS (UN) CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION (BAPA+40)

From 20 to 22 March 2019, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Luwellyn Landers, led the South African delegation to the Second UN High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



The conference convened under the theme “Role of South-South Cooperation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities”.

The High-Level Conference built on the historical foundations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) that emanated from the first UN Conference on the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1978.

The conference also reflected and further build on the Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation that was adopted in 2009, which pronounced on the global understanding of this modality of cooperation.

Marking the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the BAPA, the UN General Assembly mandated the UN to convene a Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).

South-South cooperation is one of the foundational pillars of South Africa’s foreign policy.

Since the adoption of BAPA among developing countries in 1978, South-South cooperation has intensified significantly and increasingly engaged national and international players, fostering regional integration and strengthening its contribution to sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Deputy Minister Landers, on the margins of the conference, also engaged in bilateral discussions with a number of high-level representatives.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CASTER SEMENYA

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on 21 March 2019 adopted a resolution tabled by South Africa to defend Caster Semenya's rights to participate in sport.

The resolution, adopted at the 40th session by consensus and without a vote, is aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and girls in sport, giving significant global weight from a human rights perspective to Caster Semenya's case.

South Africa presented the resolution and is grateful to all members of the council and to civil society for rallying behind the resolution, which was co-sponsored by eSwatini, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, India, Iceland and Canada.

"The international community has a duty to protect and defend the rights of Caster Semenya and other female athlete like her across the world, based on the premise that their human rights are being violated.



"The international campaign to preserve Caster's right to participate in global sports, is a struggle for all women in the world against discrimination, sexism, and patriarchy", said the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu.

This is the first time that the human rights system holds international sport associations to account for their obligations under international human rights law.

South Africa is pleased that the Human Rights Council rallied behind Semenya and athletes like her, and did so on South Africa's Human Rights Day.

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LIBERATION ROUTES TAKE SHAPE AS TOURISM MINISTER UNVEILS THE CRADOCK 4 GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

The quaint town of Cradock in the Eastern Cape can proudly count itself among the hidden gems that boast a prestigious tourism offering that is intrinsically linked to South Africa's liberation heritage following the launch of the Cradock 4 Garden of Remembrance Memorial.

The Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom, joined the country in celebrating Human Rights Day by unveiling a fully-fledged Cradock 4 Garden of Remembrance, built in honour of the town's anti-apartheid heroes Matthew Goniwe, Sicelo Mhlawuli, Sparrow Mkhonto and Fort Calata who died on 27 June 1985 in the fight for a democratic South Africa.

The newly unveiled facilities include a visitor centre, amphitheatre, as well as a research and exhibition area that will facilitate the hosting of educational tours and events in the heartland of the Karoo.



Speaking at the launch event, Minister Hanekom highlighted the significance of Human Rights Day, and the contribution of tourism infrastructure programmes in honouring and preserving the legacies of the founders of our democracy, and in remodelling our heritage outlook.

"Today, we stand united in our diversity, celebrating the success of our struggle for liberation that set the trajectory for all South Africans to enjoy their basic human rights.

“This Human Rights Day, we honour the Cradock Four along with the countless number of people who dedicated their lives to the attainment of the freedom we enjoy today.

“Infrastructure projects such as the Cradock 4 Garden of Remembrance are critical in not only honouring those who fought gallantly for our liberation, but in also preserving the unique heritage of our rainbow nation for future generations.”

The Cradock 4 Garden of Remembrance is one of a number of initiatives built by the Department’s Working for Tourism Programme in collaboration with the provincial spheres of government to promote the inclusive development of tourism products that celebrate our country’s heritage in rural nodes. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

R18-BILLION EXPANSION PLAN FOR DUBE TRADE PORT

The Dube Trade Port Special Economic Zone (DTP SEZ) in KwaZulu-Natal continues to experience an unprecedented wave of investments.



The port, which is one of two SEZs in the province, has already created thousands of jobs and contributed immensely to the provincial fiscus since opening its doors in 2010.

This trend that looks set to continue thanks to the R18-billion investment that will be unveiled recently as part of the second phase expansion plan of the DTP SEZ.

This second phase will bring an additional 45 hectares of prime light industrial land within the port.

"The site will serve as the foundation of Dube Trade Port’s next phase of investment attraction, which is projected to total close to R20 billion over the next five years," Economic Development MEC, Sihle Zikalala, said.

MEC Zikalala said this heralded more good news for the growth and prosperity of the province.

"If the massive success of the first phase of the DTP SEZ, which we launched in 2010, is anything to go by, we are doubtless that the second phase will surpass all expectations," he added. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

BRAND SOUTH AFRICA AND INVESTSA EMBARK ON AN INVESTMENT PROMOTION ROADSHOW

Brand South Africa and the Department of Trade and Industry’s InvestSA are embarking on an investment promotion roadshow to Switzerland, Germany, France and India from 19 – 30 March 2019.

The primary objective of the investment promotion roadshow is to engage with stakeholders from government and business to discuss factors pertinent to enhancing South Africa as a more attractive investment destination partner to these important markets.



Inspiring new ways

General Manager for Global Markets at Brand South Africa, Dr Judy Smith-Höhn, said: “Today, South Africa is one of the most sophisticated, diverse and promising emerging markets globally. Strategically located at the tip of the African continent, and ranked as one of the most powerful economies on the continent, the country is a key investment location, both for the market opportunities that lie within its borders and as a financial services gateway to the rest of the African continent.

“Overall, South Africa performs well in the *Nation Brand Index* and engaging business in these markets is important for Brand SA. The investment announcements that have been made by companies since the launch of President Cyril Ramaphosa’s investment drive attests to our competitiveness profile. It has boosted the economy and positioned South Africa as a key global partner for growth and investment.”

Acting Deputy Director-General for InvestSA, Yunus Hoosen, says the investment promotion roadshow is in alignment with South Africa’s five-year investment drive which seeks to raise R1,2 trillion in domestic and international investments as a means of reigniting the economy.

“South Africa offers a combination of developed first-world economic infrastructure and a growing emerging market. Its investment potential lies in its diversity of sectors and industries. It is also a major trading nation, exporting and importing more than US\$167 billion worth of goods every year, from a location that makes it an ideal gateway into African and other global markets.

The India leg of the investment promotion roadshow will be hosted in collaboration with the South African High Commission and the South African Consulate-General, with business engagements scheduled to take place in New Delhi and Mumbai respectively.

This visit follows on President Cyril Ramaphosa’s State Visit to India in January during a three-year strategic programme of cooperation was signed by both President Ramaphosa and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Switzerland, Germany and France have been long-term investors in South Africa with many of their multinationals located in South Africa. These countries are also key trading partners of South Africa.

investSA
ONE STOP SHOP

MINISTER DAVIES HAILS HISENSE R72-MILLION INVESTMENT IN ATLANTIS

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies has hailed Hisense’s investment of R72 million into its refrigeration and television production lines at its factory based in Atlantis, Cape Town, as an “important achievement” and “another example of the fruits of South Africa’s successful partnership with the Republic of China”.

He also said that the Hisense investment signified that South Africa remained an attractive investment destination across all sectors, including advanced manufacturing.



Minister Davies was speaking at the official launch of the expansion, which was also attended by the Hisense Middle East-Africa President, Jeyy Liu.

Hisense, a leading global company and a world leader of flat panel television, household appliances and mobile communications, is expanding its plant in Atlantis, Western Cape and gears for the growth of the fast moving consumer goods sector on the African continent.

“Everyone who is involved with this kind of a project needs to be extremely proud of what has been achieved here because this is an important investment, which has injected R72 million into the economy and created 150 quality manufacturing job opportunities.

“Moreover, this investment brings Hisense’s total investment in this Atlantis plant to R440 million, which is a significant investment,” said Minister Davies. He added that he learnt with pride and joy that the Atlantis Hisense plant had been rated the best-performing plant in the world outside China.

“This means that the plant is performing better than others based in North America and the European Union member countries. This is something we need to be proud of as a country and I congratulate Hisense South Africa for that accolade. This is part of our pitch as a country for manufacturing investment that if you come and invest in South Africa you will have a good experience,” added Minister Davies.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT INTO SA JUMPS TO FIVE-YEAR HIGH

Foreign direct investment into South Africa jumped to a five-year high in 2018 as President Cyril Ramaphosa’s efforts to attract US\$100 billion of investment over five years gathered pace.

Direct investment inflows increased to R70,7 billion in 2018 from R26,8 billion in 2017, the South African Reserve Bank said in its *Quarterly Bulletin*, released on Wednesday, 20 March 2019, in Pretoria.

President Ramaphosa hosted an investment summit in October in which companies, including Daimler AG’s Mercedes Benz unit, pledged to invest US\$20 billion in South Africa. The country, whose economy hasn’t expanded by more than 2% since 2013, also got commitments from China, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.



Direct investment by South African companies abroad jumped to R23,3 billion in the fourth quarter, from R13 billion in the prior three months after a domestic insurer acquired a company abroad, the bank said.

Sanlam, South Africa's largest property and casualty insurer, bought out Morocco’s Saham Finances SA in the continent’s biggest insurance transaction of 2018.

Foreign investors sold a net R33,9 billion in stocks and bonds in the fourth quarter compared with an inflow of R17,9 billion in the three months to September 30. – Source: www.news24.com

SA EXPRESS ADDS FLIGHT TO DRC ROUTE

With increasing passenger demand, South African Express will add another return flight between Johannesburg and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



“The introduction of this additional frequency is in response to high passenger demand on the route, and SA Express is most grateful for the overwhelming support that it is receiving on this destination,” said SA Express Interim Chief Executive Officer, Siza Mzimela, recently.

The additional return flight between Johannesburg and Lubumbashi will apply on Saturdays and come into effect on 30 March 2019.

we fly for you The additional weekend service between the two cities will see flights departing Johannesburg’s OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) at 9:20am and arriving at Lubumbashi Airport 11:45am.

The return flights on the same day will depart Lubumbashi at 12:30, landing at ORTIA at 3pm.

The airline operates a 70-seater regional jet CRJ 700 on the route.

“Indeed, the airline continues to make major strides overall, and is firmly en route to achieving commercial sustainability as we accelerate the implementation of our new business strategies,” she said.

Meanwhile, April 2019 will see the airline commemorating 25 years of connecting secondary destinations to main

airport hubs in South Africa and the region. The Silver Anniversary coincides with the celebrations of South Africa's 25 years of democracy. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA BIDS FAREWELL TO CUBAN ENGINEERS

Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister, Pam Tshwete, has bid farewell to 15 Cuban engineers after four years of service in the country's water sector.

The Cuban engineers, including technicians and water scientists, arrived in South Africa in 2015 as part of a bilateral agreement to help with their technical expertise in South Africa's water sector.

The group was part of the 35 engineers who were deployed in various clusters of the Department of Water and Sanitation throughout the country. Twenty of them returned to Cuba when their contract expired in June 2018.

The Cuban experts were on a four-year contract signed between the department and the Institute of Cuban National Resources four years ago.

The contract was signed by the late Minister Edna Molewa during her tenure as the department's Minister and Cuban First Deputy President, Ines Maria Chapman Waugh.



Speaking to the departing group during a send-off ceremony held in Pretoria on Sunday, 17 March, Deputy Tshwete said South Africa was profoundly grateful for their services in the country.

“What you've done for our country is not different from what you did in Angola. You were always there in the hour of need,” Deputy Minister Tshwete said.

She also noted that the Cubans came to fight in defence of democracy, even though they were not obliged to.

Speaking on behalf of the departing Cubans, engineer Eduardo Loriga said the group was leaving South Africa with a heavy heart.

“It feels like we are South Africans now. South Africa has become our second home. We will continue to retain our relations with this country and its beautiful people,” Mr Loriga said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SA ECOLOGIST WINS BIG IN STOCKHOLM

South African-born aquatic ecologist Dr Jackie King has been named the 2019 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for her game-changing contributions to global river management.

Her work has advanced the scientific understanding of water flows, giving decision-makers methods and tools to assess the full range of costs and benefits when managing or developing river systems, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) said on Tuesday, 19 March 2019.

In a media statement, SIWI said Dr King led the early development of the methods as a researcher at the University of Cape Town, funded by South Africa's Water Research Commission.

Later, Dr King and colleagues created ecosystem models to demonstrate the ecological and social implications of damming and de-watering rivers.

“This has enabled objective assessment of the costs of water-resource developments that could emerge linked to benefits such as hydropower and irrigated crops,” the institute said.



Reacting to news of her prize-winning, Dr King said it was humbling, energising and very rewarding.

"I am delighted that the silent voices of river systems and their dependent people are increasingly being acknowledged.

"We all lose if rivers become severely degraded due to poorly-informed development and management. It does not have to be like that," Dr King said.

Her early work influenced South Africa's 1998 National Water Act and is increasingly guiding governments and institutions across the globe.

First as a researcher and later as a consultant, she has worked in more than 20 countries and with governments of the Mekong, Zambezi, Indus and Okavango river basins, among others.

Dr King's work has been recognised with both the Gold and Silver Medals from the Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists and with South Africa's "Women in Water" Award in the Research Category. She was also the 2016 recipient of the WWF-South Africa's Living Planet Award.

The 2019 Stockholm Water Prize will be presented to Dr King at a Royal Award Ceremony on 28 August, during World Water Week in Stockholm. The Stockholm Water Prize, presented annually since 1991, is the world's most prestigious water award and honours women, men and organisations who have made extraordinary water-related achievements. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

TWO SOUTH AFRICAN WINES ON LIST OF "THE WORLD'S MOST ADMIRED WINE BRANDS"

Each year, Drinks International, a United Kingdom drinks publication, announces its most admired wine brands. The results for this year were announced on 17 March during a special awards evening at the Steigenberger Park Hotel in Düsseldorf in Germany.



Two South African wine brands appear on this year's top 50 list, selected by over 200 of some of the most renowned names in the global wine industry, and strengthened by the expertise of well-known specialist wine market research and consultancy firm, Wine Intelligence, that helped conduct the 2019 survey.

Number 47 on the list was Nederburg Wines in Paarl. Niël Groenewald, MD of Nederburg says, "We are delighted by this news and especially thankful to our viticulture and winemaking teams for their zealous focus on innovation, not merely for the sake of newness, but to see how they can continually improve what they do."

Just two spots up in number 45 sits KWV, another iconic South African wine and spirits producer that was founded in the same year that Nelson Mandela was born (1918). Although KWV is renowned for its brandy, it also produces Roodeberg, The Mentors, Laborie, Cathedral Cellar and the KWV Classic Collection.

Among other wine producers on the list are Penfolds (Australia), Torres (Spain), Villa Maria (New Zealand), Concho Y Toro (Chile), and French icon M. Chapoutier. – Source: traveller24.co.za

NOMZAMO MBATHA HONOURED BY NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

South African actress Nomzamo Mbatha has once again been recognised for her philanthropic efforts, being honoured by the New York State Senator Kevin Parker at the WASH Gala in New York City.



"Last night I not only received the Rising Star Award from Face Africa but I also received the Legislative Resolution from the New York State Senator Kevin Parker in recognition of my work with Youth Development in KZN, my foundation The LightHouse that assists young people suffering from Depression, Anxiety and Suicide as well as my advocacy in highlighting the plight of our displaced brothers and sisters who are refugees," Nomzamo wrote.

The actress, who was appointed as a United Nations High Commission for Refugees Goodwill Ambassador in January, posted pictures of herself taking to the stage at the event to accept her awards and in her post also acknowledged a few people who had contributed to her success.

The resolution on the New York State Senate website reads in part: "It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records this tribute to Nomzamo Mbatha, that future generations may know and appreciate her admirable character, her many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which she is held by her peers." – Source: www.news24.com

BOKS WOMEN TO PLAY SCOTLAND IN TWO TESTS IN CAPE TOWN



The Springbok women team will face Scotland in two Test matches in Cape Town in September/October this year.

It's their first home Tests since 2013 when they beat Uganda in East London.

The two Tests will be hosted at the City Park Sports Grounds in Athlone on consecutive Saturdays, 28 September and 5 October 2019. – Source: www.sport24.co.za

ELS PICKS IMMELMAN AS ASSISTANT FOR PRESIDENTS CUP

International team captain, Ernie Els, has named compatriot Trevor Immelman, South Korean KJ Choi and Canada's Mike Weir as his final three assistants for this year's Presidents Cup.

Els had already named Australia's Geoff Ogilvy as one of his assistant captains for the event at Royal Melbourne from 9 to 15 December.

Choi will return as an assistant for the second time after serving as vice-captain to Nick Price when the Presidents Cup was played in South Korea in 2015. Choi played on the international team in 2003, 2007 and 2011.

Immelman will make his debut as a captain's assistant after playing in 2005 and 2007. Weir will return as a captain's assistant after serving the same role in 2017 and has played on five international teams. – Source: www.news24.com



BAFANA QUALIFY FOR 2019 AFCON AFTER FAMOUS LIBYA VICTORY

Bafana Bafana have qualified for the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations after beating Libya in their final qualification match at the Stade Taïeb Mhiri stadium in Sfax, Tunisia, on Sunday, 24 March 2019.



Needing only to draw in order to progress to the finals, Stuart Baxter's side took a 50th-minute lead through Percy Tau.

However, Ahmad Benali converted a penalty in the 66th minute to give South African fans an anxious closing 24 minutes of play.

Tau eased their fears, however, with his second of the match in the 69th minute as Bafana held on to secure a famous 2-1 victory.

When all was said and done,

Bafana qualified second behind Nigeria in Group E and will take their place in the newly expanded 24-team tournament to be played in Egypt between 21 June and 19 July.

Meanwhile, the draw will take place on Friday, 12 April. – Source: www.news24.com

TEAM SA FINISH SPECIAL OLYMPICS WITH 59 MEDALS

Team South Africa have ended their Special Olympics campaign with 59 medals after competing in the tournament in Abu Dhabi this past weekend.

According to 702.co.za, South Africa took home 36 gold, 12 silver and 12 bronze medals.

The Special Olympics is a tournament for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, skills and friendship with other athletes and the community.

This year's tournament saw 7 000 athletes compete from 170 countries in 24 summer sports, which included cycling, golf, soccer and cricket.

The next Special Olympics is scheduled for 2021 in Sweden from 2 to 13 February.



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