

SA CELEBRATES FREEDOM DAY

President Cyril Ramaphosa says government has made great progress towards realising the rights of people and advancing human dignity.



"Today, we have a country where all enjoy human rights and freedoms," the President said.

Speaking at this year's Freedom Day celebration in Botshabelo in the Free State, President Ramaphosa said the country had a Constitution that was a shield and a protection for all.

"And yet, even as we have lived in a democratic country for the past 27 years, we know that across many parts of South Africa, the promise of 1994 has not yet been fulfilled. Millions of South Africans still live in conditions of poverty and deprivation," President Ramaphosa said.

He said for those who continued to suffer from a lack of basic of services like running water, for those living in fear every day from violence and crime and for those who had no jobs to support themselves and their families, true freedom remained elusive.

"As we celebrate this Freedom Day, we can point to the great progress we have made in confronting the apartheid legacy, from the provision of water and electricity to millions, to opening the doors of learning to the children of the poor, to the provision of healthcare, to lifting millions of people out of poverty.

"But we cannot celebrate Freedom Day without acknowledging how much further we still need to go," he said.

It cannot be, he said, that 27 years into democracy people were being deprived of even the most basic services like water and sanitation because of poor planning, incompetence, mismanagement or corruption.

"It cannot be that access to housing, education and decent healthcare is being undermined because those tasked with service delivery do not care enough," President Ramaphosa said.

He used the occasion to remind people to cast their votes in October's local government elections.

"Our vote is the most potent weapon through which we can improve our lives and transform our communities. Whether you are in a village, a town, a city, a metro or a farm, I call on you to exercise your right in the upcoming local government elections.

"I call on you to decide who among the many candidates has the ability and the determination to work tirelessly on your behalf. I call on you to determine the future of your family and your community by putting your confidence in those parties that have the best policies and the will and the means to implement them.

"I call on you to demonstrate, with your vote, your intolerance for corruption, theft and mismanagement of the funds that are meant for the benefit of you, the citizen," the President said.

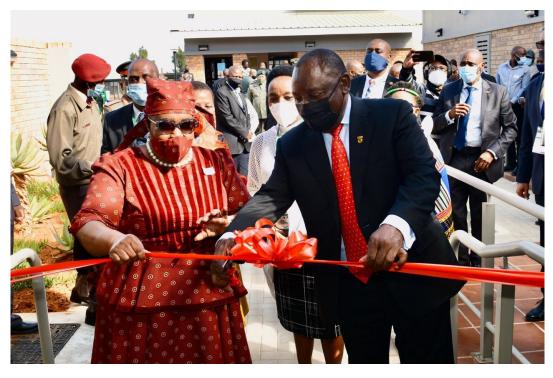
President Ramaphosa said the elections were an opportunity for people to make their voices heard and to be part of the change they want to see.

With regard to protests, he urged community members not to destroy property while exercising their rights.

"When we resort to violent demonstrations, burning, looting and the destruction of property, we are undermining the very cause we seek to advance. Exercising our right to vote is by far the most powerful form of protest," President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa also called on South Africans to take a firm stand on violence against women and children.

"We must speak out and report any instances of gender-based violence, even if the perpetrators are close to us. As a country we must say no to homophobia and all forms of intolerance against members of the LGBTQI+ community," President Ramaphosa said.



This year's Freedom Day celebrations were held under the theme: "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: The Meaning of Freedom under COVID-19". The commemoration marked 27 years of freedom and democracy since South Africa's first non-racial democratic elections in 1994.

The elections marked the advent of democracy after nearly four centuries of colonialism and apartheid.

The President's programme commenced with the official opening and a tour of the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT MOURNS THE PASSING OF AU COVID-19 SPECIAL ENVOY

President Cyril Ramaphosa has learned with deep sadness of the passing of financial expert and former Algerian Minister of Finance, Abderrahmane Benkhalfa.

During President Ramaphosa's year-long term as Chairperson of the African Union (AU), the President appointed Benkhalfa as one of five AU COVID-19 special envoys to mobilise international financial and other support for the African continental effort against the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Special Envoy succumbed to COVID-19 on 23 April 2021, in a military hospital in Algiers. He was 71.

President Ramaphosa has offered his sincere condolences to Benkhalfa's family, the Government and people of Algeria, as well as his colleagues, including fellow special envoys.

"This is a very painful moment, as we bid farewell to an accomplished and globally respected African compatriot who has championed the cause of our continent in the global fight against COVID-19," President Ramaphosa said.

He said it was tragic that Benkhalfa's life was claimed by the very disease he fought as a Special Envoy, and it was poignant that this loss had befallen Algeria and the continent during the Holy Month of Ramadan.



"This is a moment for all of us to intensify our continent's efforts to save lives and to rebuild economies that have been gravely affected by this pandemic," the President said. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

COVID-19 ACT ACCELERATOR MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

On Friday, 23 April 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa participated in a virtual event to mark the oneyear anniversary of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator).

The event brought together ACT Accelerator cofounders, Facilitation Council co-chairs and principals from partner afforded agencies. lt participants a chance to reflect progress, on challenges and the path forward.

South Africa, alongside Norway, has co-chaired the Facilitation Council of the ACT Accelerator since September 2020.



In one year, the ACT Accelerator has made significant strides in the development and equitable distribution of millions of diagnostic kits, vaccines doses and treatment to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The accelerator comprises four pillars: Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Vaccines (also known as COVAX), with the Health Systems Connector pillar working across the other three. Each pillar is managed by two to three partner agencies.

Additionally, the WHO leads on the cross-cutting Access and Allocation work stream.

As of 19 November 2020, since the launch of the ACT Accelerator, the Diagnostics pillar has invested in innovation for faster, more accurate, affordable and easier-to-use tests, boosting manufacturing capabilities, and ensuring that tests are scalable. More than 50 diagnostic tests have been evaluated. In September 2020, ACT Accelerator partners announced that they would make available 120 million affordable, quality COVID-19 rapid tests for low- and middle-income countries.

The Therapeutics pillar aims to find the most promising treatments for everyone across the world and ensure that the most marginalised communities can access the benefits too. It is analysing more than 1 700 clinical trials for promising treatments and has secured dexamethasone for up to 2.9 million patients in low-income countries. It has also secured an agreement to help facilitate future access to monoclonal antibody therapies in low- and middle-income countries.

COVAX represents the largest and most varied portfolio of COVID-19 vaccines globally and currently contains over 10 vaccine candidates.

The pillar also launched the COVAX Facility for global procurement of vaccines, with over 180 countries engaged.

A total 190 countries signed up to the COVAX Facility, which has shipped more than 40 million doses to 100+ participating economies.

The aim for 2021 is to deliver 2.5 billion safe and effective doses by the end of the year.

The Health Systems connector has surveyed over 100 countries to identify health system bottlenecks and capacity gaps, and mapped the systems requirements for COVID-19 tool delivery in four out of the world's six regions. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA PARTICIPATES IN CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

President Cyril Ramaphosa, at the invitation of United States (US) President, Joe Biden, participated in a summit on climate change that was convened virtually on 22 and 23 April 2021.



The Leaders' Summit on Climate was the first high-level meeting to be convened by the USA since its return to the multilateral climate discussions under the Paris Agreement.

South Africa viewed the summit as an opportunity for all countries to exercise leadership in climate change mitigation and just transitions, in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement.

"South Africa expects all countries to take this opportunity to highlight progress in the implementation of their national plans and policies on climate change, such as the enhancement of their Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.

"Central to the political understanding among member states, which led to the successful adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015, is that all countries will contribute their best mitigation efforts to reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases to keep the global temperature rise to under 2°C, as well as to develop a multilateral response to help all countries to adapt to the reality of an already changing climate," said The Presidency in a statement.

The office said support by developed economies for climate change mitigation and adaptation was a critical enabler of enhanced action and ambition by countries that did not have the capacity to address such daunting challenges on their own. At the summit, President Ramaphosa reiterated South Africa's firm commitment to addressing climate change and contributing towards the success of the UNFCCC's Glasgow Climate Change Conference in November 2021. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN MYANMAR

The Government of the Republic of South Africa remains deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in Myanmar since the developments of 1 February 2021 and condemns the indiscriminate use of force against peaceful protestors and the deaths of hundreds of civilians.



"We call on Myanmar's military to exercise restraint and not to use lethal force against those exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

"The week of 18 to 24 April 2021 marked 66 years since the 1955 Asian African/Bandung Conference and the major role played by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (then Burma) alongside other Asian countries at this gathering is recollected. The 'Spirit of Bandung' forged the path of cooperation between Asia and Africa and outlined a vision of a world of independence, peace, justice and common prosperity, as encapsulated as the Ten Principles of Bandung. South Africa therefore calls on Myanmar to evoke the first principle of the Bandung Conference i.e. respect for fundamental human rights and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

"South Africa acknowledges the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) constructive role in facilitating a peaceful solution to the developments in Myanmar and reiterates its support for the association's collective efforts. As such, South Africa welcomes the 'Five-Point Consensus' on Myanmar reached at the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, held on 24 April 2021, which assuredly will contribute to diplomatic efforts to resolve the current situation.

"South Africa supports the international community, by virtue of respecting Myanmar's sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity. It underscores the commitments undertaken at the ASEAN Summit in calling for an immediate cessation of violence, for constructive dialogue involving all parties, a special ASEAN envoy to facilitate the mediation of a dialogue process, the provision of humanitarian assistance and a visit by the envoy to Myanmar to engage all parties in Myanmar.

"South Africa calls on all parties concerned to resolve their political differences through inclusive dialogue and reconciliation that promote mutual interest and cooperation in accordance with the will and interests of the people of Myanmar in their pursuit of democracy, peace, human rights and the rule of law.

CABINET WELCOMES EFFORTS TO ASSIST MOZAMBIQUE

Cabinet has welcomed the efforts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to bring about lasting peace and security, as well as reconciliation and development in Mozambique.

A number of South African nationals have returned while others have been moved to safe areas in Mozambique. This after a spate of attacks in the country's Cabo Delgado Province. The violence has left dozens murdered and thousands displaced.



Acting Minister in The Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, on Thursday, 22 April 2021, said an Extraordinary Double Troika Summit of Heads of State and Government of the SADC, held in Maputo earlier this month, directed an immediate technical deployment to Mozambique.

The leaders noted with concern the acts of terrorism perpetrated against innocent civilians, women and children and condemned them in strongest terms. Leaders affirmed that such heinous attacks could not be allowed to continue without a proportionate regional response.

At the summit, the leaders conveyed the region's full solidarity with Mozambique and reaffirmed SADC's continued commitment to contribute towards the efforts to bring about lasting peace and security, as well as reconciliation and development in Mozambique.

"Cabinet is also satisfied that South African citizens in Mozambique have been offered consular assistance through the Department of International Relations and Cooperation's 24-hour Consular Command Centre," said the Minister.

She was briefing media following Wednesday's Cabinet meeting. - Source: SAnews.gov.za

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE ON 27 OCTOBER

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced Wednesday, 27 October 2021, as the date on which local government elections will take place.

This will be the sixth time under South Africa's democratic dispensation that voters will elect leadership and public representatives at metropolitan, district and local level.

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs will follow the necessary legal process to proclaim the date and undertake other requirements.

"The President urges eligible and especially first-time voters to ensure they are registered to participate in the elections, which provide the basis for development and service delivery closest to where citizens live," The Presidency said in a statement. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



DTIC AND TRADE FORWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA (TFSA) HOST WEBINAR FOR

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the DTIC), in partnership with TFSA, hosted a free webinar for exporters based in Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa on 29 April 2021.



EXPORTERS

The webinar covered valuable information, knowledge, resources, tools and facilities on global markets. It especially identified and demonstrated key information resources for export to the United Kingdom (UK) after it left the European Union. An economic partnership agreement between the UK and these countries came into effect in January 2021.

TFSA is a UK government-funded programme that operates across the countries belonging to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), and Mozambique, to support the business community in the region by giving companies the opportunity to boost trade across and beyond southern Africa, including to the UK, generating inclusive and women-centred growth. The South African National Steering Committee of the TFSA programme is chaired by the Director of Export Development, Promotion and Outward Investments at the DTIC, Luke Govender.

During the webinar, the TFSA demonstrated the tools and facilities brought together in the TFSA Trade and Information Hub that business

could use to identify potential export markets, and the customs duties, rules, regulations and standards exporters must meet in export markets. The Trade and Information Hub is also free to use by business, business support organisations and business media, in promoting exports. It can be accessed on https://tfsouthernafrica.org (link is external).

Export capable firms were shown how to find detailed information specific to their particular products and countries targeted for export, going beyond the broad overview of trade agreements and rules in general. The webinar also provided information on other TFSA initiatives in selected value chains and support to women in export.

TRIBUTE FOR PUBLISHER NADIA GOETHAM

The Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, has paid tribute to publisher, Nadia Goetham, describing her as a literary powerhouse.

Goetham passed away on Sunday, 25 April 2021, due to COVID-19 related complications.

"Not only did she understand the importance of books and storytelling, she was extremely passionate about developing others. She believed in people and helped first-time authors to believe in themselves and the power to tell their stories," the Minister said in a statement on Monday, 26 April 2021.

Goetham carved her career in print journalism and went on to establish a fruitful career in the publishing arena, where she created a monumental impact.

She joined Jacana Media in 2015; first as a production manager, and then went on to fulfil her highest calling as a publisher.

"She validated the dreams of others and will always be remembered for her

contribution to the world of literature. Her legacy will live on in every author she poured into and every life she touched," Minister Mthethwa said.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has extended its deepest sympathies to her family, friends, book lovers and the literary world at large.

The department said Goetham's passing was undoubtedly a huge loss to the literary industry. - Source: SAnews.gov.za

GOOGLE DOODLE: HAPPY FREEDOM DAY SOUTH AFRICA

Google on Tuesday, 27 April 2021, published one of its famous doodles to celebrate South Africa's Freedom Day. This year, the search engine giant selected the country's national flower – the King Protea.



"On this day in 1994, South Africa held its first postapartheid elections, which granted citizens, regardless of their race, an equal opportunity to vote for their national leaders.

"Today's Doodle honours this milestone anniversary, recognised annually as South Africa's Freedom Day, with a depiction of the country's national flower: the protea," said Google.

The doodle was specially created for South Africans alone and was not visible anywhere else in the world.

Google said it chose the protea as it's a "symbol of South African identity and diversity; over 330 species

of protea are found within national borders. The evolutionary origins of the protea trace back approximately 300 million years, making this ancient genus one of the oldest families of flowering plants found on Earth."

Google said that protea iconography was featured across South Africa, from passports to birth certificates, to the R5 coin and the name of the national cricket team: the Proteas.

"Freedom Day honours all of the progress made since the historic 1994 elections, but today's observances also remind South Africans of the ways they can continue to unify the great nation in the name of equality."

"Happy Freedom Day, South Africa!," said Google. – Source: www.sapeople.com



CAPE INNOVATION EARNS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR TACKLING ENERGY CRISIS IN SA

The Nordic Development Fund awarded a South African innovation with a high honour and will help support the development of the innovation.

Plentify is a South African company that has innovated the HotBot in aid of supporting South Africans through the energy crisis. They were recently awarded an international award, which will see the development of the innovation go even further.

Plentify recognised that one of the biggest culprits contributing to the energy crisis was the electric geyser in our homes. This appliance wastes nearly half the energy it consumes and mostly draws its power during peak times when the grid is under the most strain.

What they invented to solve this is a clever device called a HotBot. This is a smart device



that can be fitted to any household electric geyser in just a matter of minutes. Once installed, HotBot communicates through a phone app and starts to intelligently learn the times of the day when you want hot water.

HotBot then prepares your geyser to deliver hot water when it's needed, pulling from the power grid outside of peak times to save municipalities – and Eskom – money and energy while still guaranteeing you hot water when you want it.

"It's a win-win for everyone", explains Jon Kornik, co-founder and CEO of Plentify. "An added advantage of the HotBot is that it helps to take maximum advantage of solar generation, by diverting excess solar energy to the geyser to heat your water, making solar more affordable for both utilities and homeowners."

The innovation was submitted to the Nordic Development Fund to become one of their "portfolio" companies. The Proudly South African innovation went up against hundreds from around the world. It was chosen to receive a grant that will help the innovation go even further in South Africa.

The Nordic Development Fund, working with EEP Africa, will facilitate the funding of this incredible project. EEP Africa contributes to the achievement of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing clean energy access, development and investment across southern and East Africa.

EEP Africa financing will enable Plentify to expand its pilot project in Cape Town and demonstrate the environmental impact and economic value of the new technology. Plentify has partnered with the City of Cape Town to demonstrate how this product will impact the environment and combat the energy crisis in South Africa.

The project will deploy HotBots into 500 homes in the City of Cape Town. Every HotBot saves 1 MWh in energy and 1 tonne in CO2 emissions per year. This project brings together private and public partners, including the City of Cape Town and GIZ, to improve energy reliability and efficiency in South Africa. This will accelerate the adoption of renewable energy and reduce the cost of electricity and hot water for households and businesses. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

CANADIAN LEAVES R20 MILLION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S SEA RESCUE ORGANISATION IN HER WILL

Donna Nicholas fell in love with South Africa and more specifically the National Sea Rescue South Africa (NSRI) – a charity staffed by volunteers who are on call, day and night throughout the year – so much so that she left a large amount of money to them in her ill.

Donna Nicholas only stayed in Cape Town for a short time but was so impressed with the work that the NSRI did that she left

R20 million in her Will to help them continue.



Nicholas, originally born in Toronto, travelled extensively, but her heart always remained in South Africa and specifically with the NSRI.

The kind philanthropist was Vice President of American Eagle Airlines (East Coast), Vice President of the Orr Felt Company, Piqua, Ohio (subsequently President and Chairperson until 2003) and President of South African Felt Industries, Cape Town. She and her late husband invested in several properties in Cape Town.

During one of her visits to Cape Town, she was introduced to the NSRI by Andrew Sutherland, who invited Nicholas to one of the Rotary wine auctions in aid of the NSRI. She was an active bidder at these auctions over the years.

"She really admired the work done by the NSRI and always said that she wanted to support it.

"Nicholas sadly passed away on 15 April 2014 but included a bequest to the NSRI in her will, which substantially funded the new Offshore Rescue Craft (ORC) for Station 10 Simon's Town, and it gave us great pleasure to honour her; by naming the vessel in her memory."

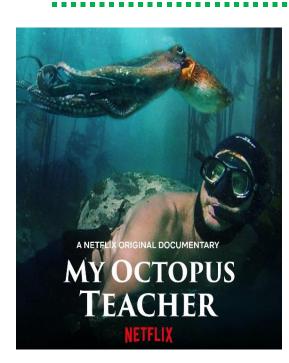
The NSRI's second ORC began its maiden voyage to its home station in Simon's Town on Saturday, 17 April 2021. The second vessel, imported as "hull, deck and bulkheads", was completed by Two Oceans Marine in Cape Town earlier this month. The innovative French-designed ORC will take the NSRI's crew's safety and marine rescue capability to a new level.

Named the Donna Nicholas, the R20-million vessel was destined for service at Station 10 in Simon's Town.

"The station is very proud to be receiving this high-tech search and rescue vessel, and we look forward to being able to reach those in peril speedily and in all weather conditions. The vessel has been purposely designed in France by Pantocarene Naval Architects and built for the worst of the conditions the Cape has to offer", said Station 10, Station Commander, Darren Zimmerman.

The new self-righting and purpose-built rescue vessel is designed for rescue operations in extreme conditions. At 14.8 m long and 4.8 m wide, it can be deployed on rescue missions as far as 50 nautical miles (over 92 km) from land and has an expected lifespan of at least 40 years.

An excited Simons Town rescue crew will begin training and testing the new vessel before it is officially welcomed to the NSRI's growing fleet later this year. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



SA'S MY OCTOPUS TEACHER" WINS BEST DOCUMENTARY AT THE OSCARS

"My Octopus Teacher" – the fascinating story of a man's bond with an octopus – won an Oscar as the Best Documentary.

The film, which has won more than 20 international awards, including Best Documentary at the British Academy Film Awards and Producers Guild of America Awards, became the first nature documentary to win an Academy Award since *The Cove* in 2010.

Co-director, Pippa Ehrlich, who accepted the iconic gold statuette at the Academy Awards in Los Angeles with co-directing colleague James Reed, said she was "utterly overwhelmed" with "an honour we never dreamed possible".

"In many ways, this really is a tiny personal story that played out in seaforest at the very tip of Africa, but on a more universal level I hope that it provided a glimpse of a different type of relationship between human beings and the natural world."

In a personal letter before the ceremony, President Cyril Ramaphosa congratulated the production team of the film, saying it was "documentary storytelling at its best, with a deeply resonant conservation message".

My Octopus Teacher does not use disturbing images of the degradation of the ocean or her creatures but gently lures the audience into a deep sense of wonder and compassion for the magical and biodiverse world of the Great African Seaforest, where underwater tracker Craig Foster builds a profound relationship with a common octopus while diving near his home in False Bay.

The film last year became the first South African documentary to become a Netflix Original. It was released to instant acclaim during the global COVID-19 lockdown, which Ehrlich acknowledges as partly serendipitous to the film's stellar rise in popularity: "In a difficult year, where many of us were stuck inside, feeling afraid and confused, a positive story that transports you to a magical world has a powerful appeal."

"Parts of this story are universal to almost every person on Earth – love and friendship, and connection and hope," Ehrlich says. "It's about nature, but it's also a very powerful, archetypal story that helps us make sense of the world."



Foster, a documentary filmmaker for 28 years, says the Oscar victory brings life-affirming kudos to the media advocacy work by the film's producing entity, the Sea Change Project, which he co-founded with *My Octopus Teacher* Associate Producer, Ross Frylinck, in 2012.

The proudly South African documentary was up against some tough competition: *Collective* – a detailed look into how corruption sparked a fire in Romania and a political crisis; *Crip Camp* – which tells the story of Camp Jened, a summer retreat in the Catskills where, from 1951 to 1977, many young people with disabilities first experienced the joys of community; *The Mole Agent* – an incredible documentary, which follows an 83-year-old who is sent into a nursing home as a spy; and *Time* – a documentary, which tells the story of one family's painful struggle, and how the justice system sentences people of colour in America. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

PJ POWERS AND THE MZANSI YOUTH CHOIR COLLABORATE ON NEW SONG FOR SOUTH AFRICA

On Freedom Day, 27 April 2021, the Social Cohesion Advocates Programme, powered by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC), released "Bayete Mzansi", an anthem performed by PJ Powers Thandeka collaborating with the Mzansi Youth Choir and is accompanied by a powerful music video. This anthem calls the entire nation to come together to take South Africa higher. It forms part of a nationwide movement

called "Up We Go Mzansi", being led by volunteer activists of the DSAC's Social Cohesion Advocates Programme. The programme's overall goal is to mobilise society in its entirety to work together to build a caring and proud society based on shared values and a shared vision.

The campaign anthem "Bayete Mzansi" is complementary to the movement as music truly connects, inspires, and unifies humanity. PJ Powers/Thandeka specifically, is known for her activism through music in the apartheid era. The soloists from the Mzansi Youth Choir, Zoe Gulwa and Thando Matiwane, represent the incredible energy and talents of South Africa youth.

The lyrics of "Bayete Mzansi" invite all of South Africa to sing in unity: "We are, the power of one, and this is our country, where we belong, this song to you, my brothers, my sisters come sing with me in unity". "Up We Go Mzansi" is a movement calling

every person in South Africa to harness our collective talents and strengths and to move South Africa upwards together. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

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THE LATE SIBONGILE KHUMALO AWARDED POSTHUMOUS HONORARY DOCTORATE IN MUSIC

Congratulations are in order for South Africa's first lady of song, the late Dr Sibongile Khumalo.

The legendary singer was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Music by Wits University on Wednesday, 21 April 2021. The event was held virtually.

Khumalo's daughter, Ayanda, received her mother's honorary Doctorate on her behalf.

She expressed how grateful the family is for the honour.

"We are humbled and filled with gratitude and pride at the honour of receiving this award on behalf of our mother, Dr Sibongile Khumalo," said Ayanda.



She said her mom was very excited when she learned about the honorary Doctorate in March 2020 and added that although the legendary jazz singer could not be there in the flesh, her spirit was present.

"Sadly, she never got to experience this moment physically, however, I know without a doubt, she is with us in spirit," said Ayanda.

Khumalo was not the first to receive an honorary Doctorate from Wits University in her family. Her late father, Khabi Mgoma, was a professor of music, and received his honorary Doctorate in 1987 from the university.

Khumalo also taught music. She had a BA Hons from Wits University. The legendary jazz and opera singer died on 28 January at the age of 63 after suffering from a stroke.

She had many accolades, including the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for music, four South African Music Awards, and three FNB Vita awards.

She also received The Order of Ikhamanga in Silver for her contribution to the development of South African art and culture in the musical fields of jazz and opera. – Source: www.kayafm.co.za

CHARLIZE THERON HELPS SA PUPILS WHO DROPPED OUT DURING PANDEMIC TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

Charlize Theron chose to share her impact prize with the Small Projects Foundation in Buffalo City.

South African-born Hollywood A-lister and Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron has dedicated her Red Carpet ADvocacy (RAD) Impact Award to ensuring every child in Buffalo City gets to attend school.

Theron on Thursday, 22 April 2021, received the inaugural award, which honours international celebrities who have inspired citizens from around the world through their work.

The award winners select an organisation which receives a donation to fund work that benefits people in their communities.

The *Mad Max: Fury Road* actress, through her Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project (CTAOP), chose to share her impact prize with the Small Projects Foundation in Buffalo City.

Theron will work with Fort Hare University final-year health and human movement sciences student, Ayabonga Jezile, 27.

Speaking about working with Theron, an elated Jezile said education remained a priority in rural areas.

"This is a great moment. After I passed Matric, I applied to study further, but I was not accepted. I took a gap year and that was when I met Charlize. I was involved in a community project through the Small Project Foundation in 2013."

Jezile said the foundation also offered children in rural areas life skills and HIV prevention programmes.

"It has done well so far. It is a good programme to be involved in.

"I am passionate about development in rural communities."

She said hundreds of children would benefit from the initiative. "This means a lot for our communities. Children who have dropped out can now go back to school. During the COVID-19 lockdown last year, many children left school."

In a statement, Theron said she would share her award by focussing on returning every child in Buffalo City to school.

She said children needed to go to school if they were to succeed and thrive and escape the vicious cycle of poverty. She said the Small Projects Foundation would conduct an assessment of every pupil who had dropped out of school during the COVID-19 pandemic and follow this up with home visits by social workers.

Theron wrote to Jezile: "I want to share this award with you because you really, truly have been so inspirational through work at CTAOP and at the Small Projects Foundation.

"I want to acknowledge your power and the change you bring to your community.

"You are the future and we are all here to be your cheerleaders. We're on the sides cheering you on and supporting you.

"We will always be there for you, whatever you need, because we really believe in you. You have all the answers and we're so happy to be able to go on this ride with you." – Source: DispatchLIVE

SOUTH AFRICAN YOUNGSTER GARRICK HIGGO CRUISES TO SECOND EUROPEAN TOUR TITLE

South Africa's Garrick Higgo continued his brilliant start to life as a European Tour professional by sealing his second victory on the circuit at the Gran Canaria Open on Sunday, 25 April 2021.

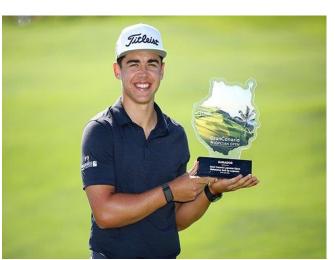
The 21-year-old, who won last year's Portugal Open on just his seventh European Tour start, eased to a three-shot triumph in the Canary Islands.

Higgo, the world number 110, started the final round with a two-shot lead and managed to stay out in front and finish on 25under-par for the tournament.

In-form German Maximilian Kieffer, who lost in a play-off in Austria on his last outing, put some pressure on with an eight-under 62, but had to settle for second again. – Source: AFP

PROTEAS WOMEN QUALIFY FOR 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Proteas women are one of six qualifiers, which include hosts England, Australia, India, New Zealand and Pakistan.







The women's event will take place at the iconic Edgbaston Stadium.

The Proteas women are currently one of six qualifiers, which include hosts England, Australia, India, New Zealand and Pakistan.

The six teams have secured qualification as a result of their standings in the T20 team rankings on 1 April 2021.

A country from the West Indies has also qualified with the winner of a designated qualifying event determining which country from the Caribbean region gets to participate. Athletes will represent their individual countries at the Commonwealth Games and not the West Indies as they would at ICC events.

The Proteas women have automatically qualified for the women's only cricket event at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Cricket returns to the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 1998. It will be the sport's second appearance at the prestigious multi-sport event after the men's ODI competition in Kuala Lumpur, which was won by South Africa, led by Shaun Pollock.

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games will have an eightteam T20 competition, which is scheduled from 28 July to 8 August next year.



The last participating team will be decided through a qualifying tournament to be held by 31 January 2022, details of which will be announced in due course.

Stand-in skipper Sune Luus says that the Proteas are hoping to replicate 1998's gold medal.

"Participating in the Commonwealth Games will be an awesome experience for the teams and a tremendous opportunity to take cricket to new audiences," said Luus.

"We have been constantly improving as a side and will go into the event hoping to emulate our men's team, which won gold the only previous time cricket featured in the Games."

Some 4 500 athletes from 72 nations and territories are expected to compete in Birmingham across 11 spectacular days of sport. Birmingham 2022 will be the first major multi-sport event in history to award more medals to women than men. – Source: www.citizen.co.za

BOKS TO FACE WALES IN NOVEMBER

The Springboks will face Six Nations champions, Wales, on 6 November 2021 in the first match of the itinerary for their end-of-year tour.

The match will be hosted at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, with Wales looking to avenge their 2019 World Cup semi-final defeat by the reigning world champions.

The Springboks have already been confirmed to be playing Scotland a week later at Murrayfield in Edinburgh as one of three matches for the team's November tour of Europe. The identity of the remaining opponent will be confirmed in due course.

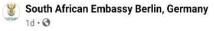


Wales will also be hosting southern-hemisphere heavyweights New Zealand and Australia and flamboyant Fiji as part of their Autumn Nations series. It will be the first time that the All Blacks visit Cardiff since 2017.

SA MISSIONS CELEBRATE FREEDOM DAY ABROAD

This year's Freedom Day celebrations were held under the theme: "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: The Meaning of Freedom under COVID-19". The commemoration marked 27 years of freedom and democracy since South Africa's first non-racial democratic elections in 1994. South Africa's missions around the world commemorated this important milestone.





Ambassador Sizani's Video Message on the Occasion of Freedom Day, 27 April 2021: "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: The Meaning of Freedom under COVID-19"... See More



South

South African Embassy Japan

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South Africa is commemorating Freedom Day under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Maxeke: the meaning of Freedom under COVID-19". Freedom Day will be... See More





South Africa Freedom Day Online Ceremony 2021 Event Details: Date: 27 April 2021 Time: 11:00am-12:00pm (SAST) / 5:00pm-6:00pm (SGT) Place: Zoom Webinar Register here

Join us in celebrating Freedom Day on 27 April 2021 and showcasing South Africa's success in Singapore and Southeast Asia

For Freedom Day 2021 the South African High Commission in collaboration with the South African Chamber of Commerce Singapore invite all our fellow South Africans, our partners, advisers and the greater business community in Africa and Asia, to join the online ceremony where we will share insights into the success we have achieved and show thute to our magnificent country and its democracy.

> Register to join for free, and view more information on the speakers and programme ><u>here</u><

Department of International Relations and Cooperation, SA 1d · @

The Embassy of South Africa in Chile is pleased to invite you to the virtual celebration of our National Day, which will be held on Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 11:00am on our social networks.

This special occasion will include a key message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, the Hon. Mr Andrés Allamand, and short videos spanning business, tourism and a virtual wine tasting.

Register on Zoom (with simultaneous translation) : https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN _NZ2aOF7ZRPynOWIM7dWszA Or go to YouTube: https://youtu.be/aIX-I8bRLTc

South African Embassy, Portugal

Happy #FreedomDay.

As we commemorate this day of significance, let us unite in our diversity and work together to accelerate the process that will ens... See More





We must continue our work to create a nation that has equal opportunities across all areas of society.

#FreedomDay2021 #2021YearOfCharlotteMaxeke ((•)) Livestream: 📑 🍏 🕨 @GovernmentZA





The South African Embassy in Oslo, Norway is hosting a webinar to commemorate Freedom Day on the 27th of April 2021.

To follow the event, please click on the link to register https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8516190777919/WN

<u>dB1PPGnaT2ajTFZqskl3jA</u> or watch on the Embassy's social media platforms.









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