

PublicSector

MANAGER

Nontsikelelo Makaula

propels youth to
new horizons

Midvaal

continues its clean
audit streak

Nelson Mandela Month

climate, food
and solidarity



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Fast-tracking economic reforms as we move towards 30 years of democracy



Khumbudzo Ntshavheni,
Minister in The Presidency.

We have prioritised the fast-tracking of economic reforms as we move towards 30 years of democracy. The latest Operation Vulindlela progress report shows that government is indeed taking concrete steps to fast-track structural reforms needed for South Africa's economic recovery.

In the 33 months since its establishment, Operation Vulindlela has been facilitating the implementation of the reforms to changing South Africa's narrative to stabilise energy supply, strengthen the comprehensive logistics network, improve digital communications, and reform the visa regime.

One of the most critical obstacles to achieving economic growth in South Africa

is the shortage of electricity generation capacity. However, we can draw hope from the reforms already made to sustainably transform the electricity sector.

These include:

- (a) the abolishment of licensing requirements for all generation projects, which will result in over 10 000 megawatts (MW) of new generation capacity and R200 billion in private sector investment;
- (b) regulatory changes that enable municipalities to procure power from independent power producers;
- (c) the amendment of Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006 (Act 4 of 2006) to remove the licensing requirement for

generation projects of any size;

(d) the issuing of a ministerial determination for the procurement of over 14 000 MW of new generation capacity from wind, solar and battery storage; and

(e) the announcement of tax incentives for rooftop solar for businesses and households.

These measures will go a long way in creating a competitive electricity market and the medium-term forecast is that private companies will add more than 4 gigawatts of electricity generation capacity to the grid by the end of 2024.

The second-biggest obstacle facing the country is the state of the freight logistics system, which hampers exports and investments. To this end, the National Logistics Crisis Committee has been established to address logistics, rail and port challenges. One of the committee's duties will be the implementation of the Freight Logistics Roadmap, which includes private-public partnerships and opening rail network access to private operators.

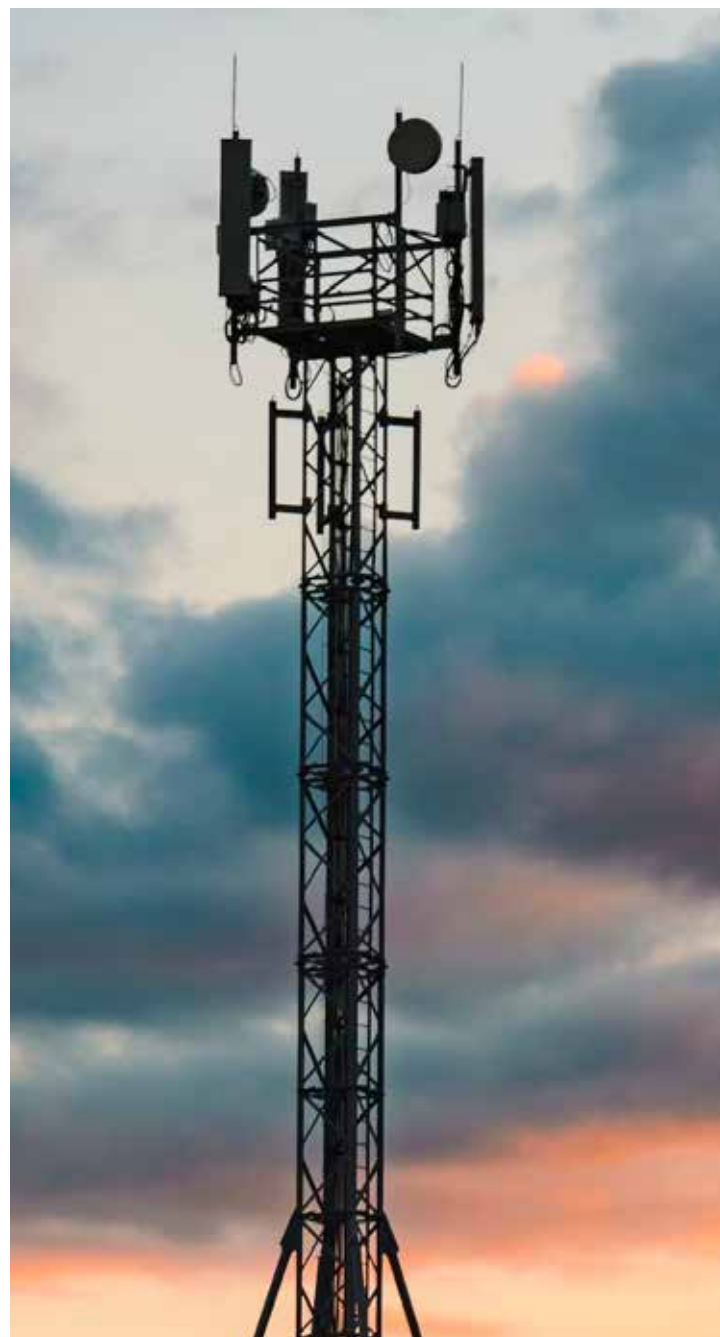
To enable South Africa to take full advantage of the digital age, Operation Vulindlela is supporting measures to transform the telecommunications sector, increase network speed and quality, expand broadband access and reduce

costs. A significant milestone reached on this front was the gazetting, earlier this year, of the Rapid Deployment Policy and Policy Direction, which will help fast track the rollout of fibre and towers. In addition, after many delays, South Africa is progressing to complete its digital migration process – the clearing of spectrum above the 694 megahertz bands will be completed by 31 July 2023 and the date for analogue switch-off will be 12 months thereafter.

To attract critical skills and promote tourism, we have expanded the eVisa system to include an additional 20 countries, bringing the total to 34. The revised critical skills list and the visa implementation plan have been released.

Of the 35 priority reforms, some of which were added after the launch, 11 had been completed at the end of quarter one of 2023. A further 14 reforms are on track and work is ongoing to expedite the remaining 10.

The announcement of these achievements could not have come at a better time than when we are celebrating the life of former President Nelson Mandela – often described as the 'ultimate public servant'. Operation Vulindlela is all about making good on Mandela's dream of a better life for all South Africans.



This Mandela Month, we must acknowledge the contribution of the public servants who are emulating him by ensuring that economic recovery plans are moved from paper to practice. They are living the

Mandela Day 2023's call to action: "It is in your hands".

Let us keep the momentum going so that we have more to celebrate – as we move towards 30 years of democracy, leaving no one behind. ○

Significant work has been done by government to end load shedding and achieve energy security.

By steadily implementing the Energy Action Plan, developed through extensive consultation and endorsed by energy experts, South Africa is improving the efficiency and reliability of power stations, creating opportunities for new generation capacity and transforming the electricity market to make it more competitive.

The creation of a new Ministry of Electricity, headed by Minister Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa, and the establishment of the National Energy Crisis Committee, ensure that the implementation of the plan receives focused and high-level attention.

The objectives of the plan are being realised and, as such, the milestones reached include the finalisation of the contract for 400 megawatts (MW) of additional capacity through the Standard Offer Programme, which allows Eskom to buy excess energy from companies with existing generation capacity; progress made at the Kusile Power Station to restore 3 200 MW to the national grid by the end of 2023; and buffering selected public hospitals from the effects of load shedding, where possible. Already, 76 hospitals do not experience planned power

Achieving energy security vital for economic development



Nomonde Mnukwa,
Acting GCIS
Director-General.

cuts and work is underway to exempt a further 46, while the installation of alternative energy

sources at all state hospitals is being explored.

Efforts to reform the electricity

generation landscape have resulted in exponential growth in private sector investment, with more than 100 projects worth over R200 billion underway. In addition, 66 gigawatts of wind and solar projects are in development across the country.

The unbundling of Eskom into separate entities for generation, transmission and distribution has started in earnest, with the establishment of the National Transmission Company of South Africa as an independent subsidiary of Eskom progressing well. This will not only make the utility more manageable, but also encourage even greater private-sector participation.

Other steps taken to further promote a competitive electricity market include the introduction of the Electricity Amendment Bill and tax incentives to



Image: Matthew Henry on Unsplash

A residential load management pilot project is being implemented in parts of Johannesburg – it will see households that exceed a load-limit threshold having their high-energy appliances switched off via a smart electricity meter.

support small-scale embedded generation initiatives and the installation of residential solar panels.

Going arm-in-arm with programmes to increase electricity generation are Demand Side Management (DSM) interventions. These are being rolled out to reduce the pressure on the grid, while showing consumers how they can reduce electricity costs and benefit through energy-saving behaviour. Larger

Eskom customers are already benefitting from incentives for voluntarily reducing their energy consumption during peak periods and a grant is being made available to municipalities to upgrade energy-intensive municipal infrastructure, such as traditional street and traffic lights.

With homes accounting for 16.5% of electricity demand during peak hours, Eskom's DSM plans rely on the buy-in from

households. Demand can be reduced by up to 1 000 MW – or one full stage of load shedding – if usage is reduced between 17:00 pm and 21:00 pm.

However, where there is no co-operation from households, interventions will be made. A residential load management pilot project is being implemented in parts of Johannesburg – it will see households that exceed a load-limit threshold having their high-energy appliances

switched off via a smart electricity meter.

While government's Integrated Renewable Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme aims to procure private sector energy solutions for public buildings, there is much that we can do as public sector managers to immediately reduce electricity consumption. For instance, turn lights off in unoccupied offices and after work, switch off printers and other appliances when not in use, and open blinds and curtains for natural lighting.

Let us unite and become energy-saving champions by encouraging our colleagues, friends and families to do their bit to secure a brighter tomorrow. ○



Midvaal recipe for success not rocket science

With South Africa's local government sphere hamstrung by poor service delivery, what should be a minimum standard becomes a beacon of hope and symbol of excellence in a sea of despair.

Situated in the south of Gauteng, the Midvaal Local Municipality has recorded nine years successive clean audits. This is a feat that, in the past decade, has only been achieved by three municipalities in the country.

Located within the Sedibeng District Municipality, Midvaal is home to about 100 000 people who rely on this administration to efficiently provide basic services.

Service excellence

The town, which has become synonymous with good governance, was in May cast into the spotlight after its excellent showing at the South African Local Government Association awards for 2021/22. At the awards ceremony, the municipality scooped the Clean Audit Opinion Award and won the Improved Revenue Collection and Debt Management Award. It was also the first runner-up for Good Record Keeping.

Of the country's 257 municipalities, only 38 obtained clean audits in 2021/22.

Quizzed by *Public Sector*

Manager magazine, Midvaal Municipal Manager Anton Groenewald said obtaining a clean audit was “quite simple”.

“It is quite simple with the right people, the right qualifications, the right mindset and the right attitude. If you have that in place, you can accomplish anything.

“It makes it easier, as an institution, if you have the basic institutional and organisational tools in place,” he said.

With 16 consecutive clean audits under his wing, Groenewald joined Midvaal in July 2022. Before that, he was the accounting officer at the Swellendam Local Municipality in the Western Cape.

“When I joined, Midvaal was on its ninth clean audit, I am personally on my sixteenth,” he said, adding that institutions of high quality often have the best professionals.

“What we are seeing is that even though we are not as competitive in terms of salaries (in Gauteng), we still attract [good] people, because they want to be associated with excellence,” he explained.

Alongside the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality in the Western Cape, Midvaal was, in May, recognised as South Africa’s Most Financially Sustainable Municipality by Ratings Afrika.

These awards, said Groenewald, across the spectrum start to “become the basis for our performance”.

“The team here is committed, it is disciplined – it has got a healthy approach – to not only its performance, but there is a level of pride and admiration that we have been able to achieve this”.

Political stability, he said, plays a critical role in the success of the municipality.

“You can only look around the country and the consequences of coalition governments and the instability that [it] causes,” he said.

He attributed his success to keeping basic professional standards like chairing the council’s audit committees.

“I sit in on that... for me, it is critical that chief audit executive and CFO (chief financial officer) work with me in lock-step, with the Auditor-General [and] with the assessment processes. I am accountable and I play an active role in ensuring that the institution responds [timeously], that the documents and records are of a standard that is acceptable,” he added.

Clean audits

Groenewald explained that attaining the first clean audit is

not an easy task, adding that it requires municipalities to excel in eight objectives, including revenue management, expenditure management, supply chain management, record keeping, monitoring and evaluation of contracts, management of termination of contracts for non-performance, remedial action for errors, capital management and asset management.

“Once you get to the level of a clean audit and maintain the eight objectives, half the battle is won,” he said.

He also attributed achieving a clean audit to having the right team.

“To me, that is the defining difference. If you have the right people around you with the right mindset and the right set of values and principles by which they work, then you can achieve anything,” he said.

He dismissed views that clean audits do not always mean adequate service delivery, saying that they were designed to diminish the validity of clean audits.

The municipal manager noted that the price the poor pay for poor management and administration is almost three or four times higher than that of wealthy households.

“...the poor do not have the resources to go buy water at the shop, [or] to find gas alternatives as an energy option”.

To keep up the good work, Groenewald revealed that, the municipality is introducing policy changes that seek to reward good performance. These include a long service recognition reward that was previously just in the form of a certificate. Midvaal has also introduced a professional registration policy that ensures that auditors, engineers and planners are paid professional fees. In addition, the council has ramped up its staff bursary scheme from a R12 000 cap to R25 000. The bursary covers everyone, from those who want to acquire additional qualifications to those who want to change their careers.

“I recently signed off on a bursary of a tank truck driver who wants to become an artisan, a plumber,” he said.

Infrastructure

Like other municipalities in the country, Midvaal is buckling under the pressure of poor infrastructure maintenance. The municipal manager decried what he terms a “chronic under investment” in infrastructure in local government. ○

Steering the youth towards greater opportunities

One of the things Nontsikelelo Makaula loves about her job is witnessing young people joining her organisation without any skills and watching them go through the process of acquiring skills and using the knowledge to serve communities, find jobs or become entrepreneurs.

Makaula heads the National Youth Service (NYS) Programme – a component of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI) that is aimed at promoting youth participation in community development initiatives. It is implemented by the National Youth Development Agency.

Other components of the PYEI include the establishment of a National Pathway Management Network, delivery of agile workforce development, support for youth self-employment and enterprise in the township and rural economy, and the strengthening of workplace experience. They are all implemented by

various partners across government.

Makaula was appointed as senior manager for NYS in 2001, and is trusted with the responsibility of managing the coordination and implementation of the programme with all sectors, including government, civil society and the private sector.

“The programme has grown from two performance indicators to five, measuring the transitions of young people who join the programme and those that manage to complete service,” Makaula explained.

“During the 2022/23 financial year, approximately 47 000 young people participated in the programme and more than 8 000 of them transi-



tioned into opportunities, such as jobs, further education and entrepreneurship. It is one of the largest NYS programmes on the continent and on the globe," she added.

Makaula's passion for youth development and activism dates back to her time as a student at the Tshwane University of Technology, where she obtained a National Diploma in Cost Management in Accounting and Bachelor of Technology in Project Management.

She was part of the Student Representative Council in 2005 and 2006, and she also served in the South African Youth Council as a Deputy Chairperson of Ehlanzeni District in Mpumalanga, where she got exposed to working with various municipalities, lobbying for youth development in their budgets.

She also served in the Young South African Women in Dialogue Provincial Committee, volunteered for the Confederations Cup in 2009 in preparation for the 2010 World Cup and later got an opportunity to work for a small information technology company, focusing on corporate governance of the business, including establishing and maintaining partnerships.

She joined the NYDA in 2011

as an Officer for Special Projects in the office of the Deputy Executive Chairperson.

In 2015, Makaula was appointed as Manager for Inter-Governmental Relations and Projects, where she was responsible for the establishment and operationalisation of NYDA centres that grew from 15 to 42 under her leadership.

She also obtained a Post-graduate Diploma in Business Administration from the Wits Business School in 2021, and is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration with the Stellenbosch Business School.

In her current job, Makaula leads a team of 15 staff members.

How the NYS works

The NYS programme employs a partnership approach that finds solutions in the development of communities by bringing value from different role players, including government, civil society and the private sector.

"Applications are invited through the NYDA portal. The agency also advertises vacancies through its social media platforms," explained Makaula.

The duration for participation varies and is always clearly stated on the advert. The next

call for applications is expected to come July 2023.

The programme benefits any young person between the ages of 18 and 35 – with a specific focus on young people who are unemployed and not in education or training. It is implemented using three key elements:

- **Character building and development and training:**

this covers the provision of structured training, including accredited technical skills training, life skills and personal and leadership development.

- **Service:** exposure to a community service or work placement that benefits communities while young people gain practical experience in line with the training.

- **Exit opportunities:** access to sustainable economic opportunities, such as formal employment, self-employment and further education and training.

"This ensures an active and dynamic youth, the creation of a conducive environment for personal growth, economic growth, increased equality and alleviation of poverty in our communities," said Makaula. One of the challenges that

Makaula grapples with is that the programme depends on funding and partnerships for it to be successful.

"The ultimate goal is to ensure that the programme is recognised as a vehicle for sustainable livelihoods of young people....we are lobbying for partnerships to invest in the programme," she added.

She encouraged more young people to be part of the programme, adding that to address unemployment, all citizens should be innovative and agile.

"The NYS programme provides young people with an opportunity to learn and earn while serving their communities. The number of hours served can equate to experience that a young person can include in their CV. Working in communities exposes young people to entrepreneurial opportunities that they can venture into," she explained.

She added that after completing the programme, beneficiaries stand a better chance of employment or accessing other opportunities.

More information on the NYS Programme can be found on www.nyda.gov.za or the agency's social media pages. ○



Trudging to safer waters in male-dominated industry

An aspirant lawyer's career path unexpectedly veered off course and re-routed to the murky waters of sea dredging, after she stumbled on a lucrative Transnet bursary.

Years later, the decision is paying dividends.

This was the destiny of Samantha Shadrach, master dredger at Transnet's National Ports Authority (TNPA). She is

one of the few women pursuing a career in this male-dominated industry.

Today, she commands one of the parastatal's largest dredging vessels. A dredger is a specialised vessel that removes sand and sediment from sea beds to maintain port berth at constant depths.

The 34-year-old's career in the TNPA Dredging Services began

in October 2011 after completing her Maritime Studies diploma at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in 2009. After concluding a 12-month in-service training programme, she started working as a deck officer, a global accreditation received upon completion of required sea time.

Her on-the-job training was with Safmarine, a container line,

where she gained first-hand experience working with local and international ships while accumulating sea time. She holds a Class 3 officer's licence, which allows her to function as a deck officer and puts her in control of a navigational watch.

"After that you sit for an exam, [should you be successful], you receive a certificate of competency as an officer responsible

for the navigational watch," she explained.

Shadrach's responsibilities as a deck officer include ensuring that the ship abides by collision regulations, and overseeing the safety of the fleet and the crew on board. She is also in command of all decisions made by the vessel, including whether to continue course, what to do when it is pursuing another craft, and what to do in the event of a collision.

Conquering stereotypes

Shadrach, who also holds a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree in Transport and Logistics from the University of South Africa, said it is difficult to thrive in the male-dominated industry.

"If I can count the number of female navigational officers that do dredging, it is just six. I cannot even count the number of men, there are a lot [of them]," she said.

While stereotypes in her line of work are gradually changing for the better, she concedes that overcoming these barriers was a monumental challenge. The number of women dredging and decking vessels is still in pale comparison to those of

their male counterparts.

"When I first came here, it was really challenging. Basically, you are two females out of a crew complement of about 25. The old school seafarers believed that the sea was not a place for females. They would try to demotivate you, go to extremes to show you that you could not do what they do. That view has of late changed," she added.

She ranks becoming a dredge master in 2015 as the pinnacle of her career.

Shadrach obtained the pass under the tutelage of Captain Derick Xolo in the Ilembe dredger. During the training, she mastered the safe dredger navigation without the aid of tugs. At 5 500 cubic metres, the vessel, which was launched in May 2015, is the parastatal's largest trailing suction hopper dredger.

In 2022, she was promoted to master on the Mohomo fleet – a plough tug used as a bed-leveller to smooth out high spots created by marine traffic in high volume berth areas. It complements the work of dredgers, which serve the purpose of maintaining or increasing the depth of navigation channels, anchorages, or berthing areas

to ensure the safe passage of boats and vessels.

This is in addition to working on some of TNPA Dredging Services' oldest vessels, such as Ingwenya and Impisi.

On her maiden voyage, out of a crew of 10, there were only two women. She describes the experience of sailing the smallest vessel compared to the Mohoma fleet, which is 32 meters long under sea swells of five to six meters, as "a bumpy ride."

The two-week, 12-hour daily shifts that she works, she conceded, require significant mental fortitude.

"We start at six o'clock in the morning and we rotate [on the shift]. We do two hours on and get two hours off. If we are working on the Port of Durban, we decide on a berth or an area which we will dredge to, we proceed [and] dredge there," she explained.

"We have a hopper that is loaded with the dredged material. When we have a full load, we dispose and the cycle continues," she elaborated, adding that the sludge is disposed at a dumpsite, about 2.5 miles from the port.

Shadrach recalled how she, initially, had no interest in the field but was drawn to it by

her mother and a family friend who urged her to apply for a bursary advertised in a leading KwaZulu-Natal-based weekend newspaper.

"I was studying BCom Law [at the time]. He gave me the advert understanding that my mother was a single parent and that the cost of education was quite high. He asked to me apply, and I did, not expecting anything from it. I did it for the sake of doing it, [but] I became one of the successful candidates," she reminisced.

And because she had not always had an affinity for the industry, she has, over the years grown to love it.

"It is quite different. When you speak to people about what you do, not a lot of people know about it, so it is quite interesting telling people about it."

Born and raised in Chatsworth, Durban, Shadrach said juggling her work and personal commitments is a worthy sacrifice.

"You miss out on a lot of things. During the two weeks that I am on shift, I do not go home. It is difficult because if you do not find a colleague to stand-in for you, you miss important events in your private life," she said. ○

Transforming the film industry in KZN

The Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the KZN Film Commission, Victor Senna, is passionate about the impact that film and television have on driving development, transformation and inclusivity in rural communities around KwaZulu Natal.

Senna was appointed the Acting CEO of the commission in April 2022.

He is tasked with driving the implementation of key priorities, including strengthening the commission's strategic partnerships with leading institutions, such as Amazon, Netflix and Showmax, among others, to give emerging filmmakers platforms to showcase their products.

"In essence, I am responsible for increasing the commission's footprint to as many peri-urban and rural areas as possible through partnerships with municipalities, film associations and other relevant stakeholders. I have to position the commission as a catalyst in transforming the local film sector,"

explained Senna.

He also has to ensure continued implementation of training programmes, focusing on scarce skills such as drone technology, animation and training on how to participate and create businesses through streaming platforms.

He is also responsible for establishing and maintaining partnerships with accredited institutions to develop programmes that will enhance the competitiveness of the film sector in the province, and prioritise emerging filmmakers from rural areas through the commission's film fund and projects that promote the province's local heritage and IsiZulu content.

"The audience for the IsiZulu content is not only confined to KwaZulu-Natal residents but cuts across all provinces and is even spoken in neighbouring countries. So the marketing for IsiZulu content is huge," he said.

Senna is a seasoned professional with more than 20 years' experience in

leadership in the public sector. His career background includes working as Director for Financial Accounting and Reporting at National Treasury, and Director for Finance at the then Department of Science and Technology.

He also worked as General Manager for Finance at the South African Social Secu-

rity Agency, Chief Director for Revenue and Budget at the Department of Health, and Chief Financial Officer at the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the North-West University, and Master of Commerce and Master of Public Administration degrees from the University of Pretoria.

A decade of excellence

The 2023/24 financial year marks 10 years since the KZN Film Commission was established as an entity of the Department of



Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

One of the transformative actions that the commission took during this period was to ensure that the deaf community is not left behind in participating in the film industry.

"We became the first in the country to do audio descriptions for nine productions. For a decade, the commission has been tasked with building a vibrant and transformed film industry in the province," said Senna.

"The KwaZulu-Natal film industry has grown from around 9% to 12% of the national market share in the past 10 years.

Industry growth has had a direct and indirect impact on the local economy," explained Senna.

In the past 10 years, the commission funded 446 filmmakers for their projects in development or production, of which over 90% were from previously disadvantaged communities; disbursed R154 million to support filmmakers; created 514 training opportunities for emerging filmmakers, with the majority of beneficiaries being women and youth; awarded bursaries to 222 students from rural communities to study film-related courses at local tertiary institutions; and supported 11 small-, medium- and micro-enterprises through an incubation programme.

"The local film industry has



Image: Siva visual on Unsplash

created a total of 2 782 job opportunities for locals. The industry is a catalyst for job creation that does not require a huge capital injection to start the business," said Senna.

He added that through its human capital development programme, the commission aims to accelerate transformation of the film industry in KwaZulu-Natal.

"We believe that properly trained and capacitated filmmakers will contribute towards the growth of the film industry and run profitable businesses. Increasing people's levels of education ensures the industry becomes competitive and stays professional," he explained.

He revealed that plans are

underway for the commission to merge with Tourism KwaZulu-Natal to create a new entity called Tourism and Audio-Visual Agency.

Going forward, the commission is planning to focus on partnering with the private sector to ensure that more filmmakers are able to access funding.

"Transformation will also be a key focus for the commission going forward, to ensure that most emerging filmmakers from rural areas become active participants. Owning of intellectual property by filmmakers and preventing the exploitation of filmmakers will also be one of our focus areas going forward," he added.

Prior to the establishment of the commission, Senna said only the City of Durban, through the Durban Film Office, established in early 2000, assisted filmmakers.

"There was no dedicated organisation responsible for growing the film industry in the province. The KZN film industry was basically non-existent, with only [a] few white-owned productions in the province.

"The commission has been able to ensure that black people from rural areas are able to participate in the film and television value chain through a series of development programmes that it is implementing and funding," he concluded. ○

On the road to the economy of the future



As countries around the world work to reduce carbon emissions, there is great potential for South Africa to establish and develop new industries.

For us, reducing our carbon

footprint is critical to the health and well-being of our people, the sustainability of our society and ensuring that our goods and services remain competitive into the future. At the same time, it is a great opportunity to

grow and diversify our economy and create employment.

We have said that our transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient economy must be just and inclusive. We have, therefore, produced a Just

Energy Transition Investment Plan to direct resources both to supporting workers, communities and industries affected by the shift towards renewable energy sources, and to investing in new industries like green hydrogen and electric vehicles.

This is particularly important as many of our export markets are increasingly seeking to reduce the negative environmental impact of the goods they produce and import. The European Union (EU), for example, has decided to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel powered motor vehicles from 2035.

This has significant implications for South Africa since Europe accounts for about 60% of our motor vehicle exports. This presents both a threat to our auto industry, which mainly produces petrol and diesel vehicles, and an enormous opportunity.

This opportunity has been seized by one of the world's largest automotive manufacturers.

The BMW Group has an-

nounced that it will be spending R4.2 billion over five years to prepare its local manufacturing plant for the production of the next-generation BMW X3.

The plug-in hybrid X3 will be exclusively manufactured in South Africa at BMW's Rosslyn plant in Pretoria from the second half of 2024. While other vehicle manufacturers are producing hybrid vehicles, the X3 will be BMW's first locally produced electric vehicle.

The investment announcement affirms the confidence investors continue to have in our economy. It also gives effect to the principle of our transition to low carbon energy.

While there are fears that the move towards decarbonisation will result in job losses, BMW's

plans for job retention, reskilling and training on electromobility will provide certainty to more than 20 000 employees at the company's facilities across the country.

Working in partnership as government, business, labour and civil society, we have to ensure that the transition to new forms of production is managed in a just, equitable manner.

Among other things, this means that auto manufacturers need to be supported to expand their investment in the production of new energy vehicles in South Africa. We currently have a range of measures to support automotive manufacturers, such as the Special Economic Zone incen-

tives, the Automotive Investment Scheme and others.

We will soon be finalising a strategy to support the transition to electric vehicle manufacturing that is affordable and effective.

It is key that South Africa keeps up with other countries, including on the continent, that are incentivising the manufacture and uptake of electric vehicles as the world moves towards decarbonisation.

South Africa has some important advantages. We have the world's largest reserves of platinum and are an attractive location for renewable energy, both of which are important elements in the production of green hydrogen. Such hydrogen can be used as an e-fuel

in some models of vehicles, which are exempted from the EU ban.

The decarbonisation of our society can be used to drive growth, improve industrial competitiveness, create jobs and harnessing the potential of innovation.

In the State of the Nation Address in 2018, I said that "while change can produce uncertainty, even anxiety, it also offers great opportunities for renewal, revitalisation and for progress."

Whether it is in the auto industry, energy or other economic sectors, we are confident that our country is taking the necessary steps towards a low-carbon future that leaves no one behind.



Photo by Appolinary Kalashnikova on Unsplash

Nelson Mandela Day 2023: climate, food and solidarity



In 2008, former President Nelson Mandela gifted the world his birthday, not as a day of celebration of his incredible life, but as a day of service, driving us to continue the work of creating a world where poverty and inequality do not undermine our dignity. In 2009, the United Nations passed

a resolution recognising Nelson Mandela International Day of service.

Every year since then, we have devoted 18 July to doing this work. We started small, painting schools and delivering food packs but this quickly grew into long-term sustainable partner-

ships and collaborations.

This year, we commemorate 10 years since Nelson Mandela passed away. We miss Madiba deeply. But we are not lost. As we reflect on his passing, we are reminded that although Madiba is gone, “the legacy lives on through you”. This is the Nelson

Mandela Foundation’s call to action in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of his passing.

In a world beset by conflict, continuing socio-economic inequality, poverty, malnutrition, adverse global climatic changes and innumerable other injustices, we need to ask ourselves how we can use Mandela Day to create long-term, sustainable, improved and dignified living conditions.

According to the Poverty and Equity Brief by the World Bank, published in April 2020, “although South Africa has made progress in reducing poverty since 1994, the trajectory of poverty reduction was reversed between 2011 and 2015, threatening to erode some of the gains made since 1994. Approximately 55.5% of the population (30.3 million people) are living in poverty at the national upper poverty line (~ZAR 992) while 25% of the population (13.8 million people) are experiencing food poverty.”



One in every four people in South Africa is hungry. According to an article published by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, in August 2022, titled *Youth energy to tackle persistent malnutrition*, "the nutritional status of chil-

dren and young people in South Africa is poor. Some 27% of the country's children are stunted.

"While wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity remain a challenge and sometimes even coexist in the same household, rising food prices and the ongoing

fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic threaten to worsen these persistently high rates," stated the article.

Food security

People in South Africa are hungry and it is not because food is not available but because they cannot afford food. According to Statistics South Africa, "headline consumer inflation edged higher to 7.1% in March, from 7.0% in February 2023. Inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages continued to accelerate, with prices increasing by 14.0% in the 12 months to March 2023. This represents the largest annual increase since the 14.7% rise in March 2009".

The *Journal of Disaster Risk Studies* echoes the same concerns surrounding food insecurity and highlights how the climate crisis could further exacerbate

these struggles.

"According to the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] (2007), agricultural productivity will decline from 21% to 9% by 2080 due to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. The report indicates that rising temperatures in precipitation are likely to reduce the production of staple food by up to 50%," noted the journal.

How then do we use Mandela Day on a global scale, to take meaningful action to ensure that people have access to the basic right to food and dignity?

For the past few years, the Nelson Mandela Day team has been working at the intersection between climate change and food security, destructing cycles of poverty and inequality by acting against climate change and creating food-resilient environments.



This work started during the COVID-19 pandemic, when we supported families that needed food assistance during lockdown. However, the work has since grown into a far more long-term and sustainable model focused on establishing home-based and community food gardens.

Creating a healthy planet

We are also committed to planting one million trees, 60% of which will be fruit trees, as a climate crisis mitigating initiative. The move is aimed at reducing the impact of climate change through carbon reduction and strengthening soil around the home-based and community food gardens. Trees also contribute to greening spaces and beautifying communities that were previously neglected due to political histories and structural planning, which neglected the power of green and clean spaces. This work ensures that communities are self-sufficient and empowered to address the food crisis.

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Mandela's passing, we will also be working with international partners and stakeholders to make 18 July 2023 a global day of solidarity, recognising the immense challenges of the climate crisis and committing ourselves to taking action in pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Given everything the Nelson Mandela Foundation is doing to contribute to the fight against climate change, there is still immense need for members of the public to get involved. The stakes are incredibly high but we have overcome seemingly intractable challenges before. It is in your hands. The legacy lives on through you.

This Mandela Day, the foundation encourages everyone to plant home-based food gardens, establish well organised community food gardens or plant as many trees as possible.

Ten things you can do this Mandela Day:

- Plant a food garden.
- Plant trees.
- Volunteer at a local community garden.
- Donate food to a soup kitchen or community organisation.
- Rescue food that would have gone into landfill sites and deliver it to organisations that provide food to communities.
- Start a sidewalk pantry of free food for the vulnerable.
- Educate community members on food waste reduction and composting practices.
- Establish a food bank or pantry that provides emergency food assistance to those in need.
- Work with an underprivileged school to develop a programme that promotes healthy eating habits and to provide students with access to nutritious meals.
- Establish a community kitchen that provides training and support for food entrepreneurs, and also offers affordable meals to community members. ○



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NATIONAL ORDERS AWARDS CEREMONY

National Orders are the highest form of recognition that South Africa bestows on deserving citizens. The President of the Republic as the Grand Patron of the National Orders, awards these orders, which are inclusive and represent all South Africans.

The Chancery of Orders is inviting nominations of individuals deemed worthy recipients of the following National Orders:

THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE

(Category: I Platinum; II Gold, III Silver, and IV Bronze)

The Order is awarded to South African citizens who have accomplished excellence and exceptional achievements to the benefit of South Africa and beyond.

THE ORDER OF BAOBAB

(Category: I Gold; II Silver and III Bronze)

The Order is awarded to South African citizens who have made exceptional and distinguished contributions in the following categories: community service, business and the economy, science, medicine and technological innovation.

THE ORDER OF LUTHULI

(Category: I Gold; II Silver and III Bronze)

The Order is awarded to South African citizens in recognition of outstanding contribution in the struggle for democracy; nation-building; building democracy and human rights; justice and peace as well as for the resolution of conflict.

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA

(Category: I Gold; II Silver and III Bronze)

The Order is awarded to South African citizens who have excelled in the field of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport.

THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY

(Category: I Gold; II Silver and III Bronze)

The Order is awarded to South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by displaying extraordinary acts of bravery through which their lives were placed in great danger or who have lost their lives, including trying to save the life of another person or by saving property, in or outside the Republic of South Africa.

COMPANIONS OF O.R. TAMBO

(Category: I Gold; II Silver and III Bronze)

The Order of the Companions of O.R. Tambo is awarded to eminent foreign nationals for friendship shown to South Africa. It is therefore concerned primarily with matters of peace, cooperation, international solidarity and support and is integral to the execution of South Africa's international and multilateral relations.

NOMINATION FORM

Full name:

Citizenship:

Work/home address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

Present occupation:

Previous occupation:

Membership or organisations and societies:

I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the nominee has not been involved in any act(s) that may bring the National Orders and The Presidency into disrepute.

Orders, decorations, medals and awards already received:

Order and category for which nominated:

Particulars of proposer

Full name:

Capacity:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

- 1) An introductory paragraph with summary of the nominee's achievements
- 2) A list of exceptional milestones reached by the nominee in his/her career and/or international arena
- 3) A description of the exceptional, outstanding, dedicated service or act of bravery rendered by the nominee.

The closing date for nominations: 31 August 2023.

Email: nominations@presidency.gov.za

Fax: 086 646 5373

Postal address: The Chancery of Orders, Private Bag X1000, Pretoria, 0001

Delivery address: Chancery of Orders, The Presidency, Room 225, East Wing,

Self nominations, nominations by relatives and nominations of public servants are not allowed and will be subject to automatic disqualification.

Changes to 2023 Tax Filing Season



The 2023 Individual and provisional taxpayers filing season opened on 7 July and will close on 23 October 2023 and 24 January 2024 respectively. Below is what you should look out for as you file your returns:

Personal Income Tax changes:

Aligning the 40 business days rule to the filing season end date

In 2022, when the rule was first introduced, those in the auto-assessment population were granted 40 business days from the issue date of the auto-assessment to revise their return if they needed to amend their auto-assessment.

This year, the South African Revenue Authority (SARS) is extending the 40 business days to coincide with the normal filing due date for non-provisional taxpayers, which is 23 October 2023. This will give those in the

auto-assessment population more time to file a return if they wish to edit their assessments.

Payment due dates

The payment due date for non-provisional eFilers who are not in the auto-assessment population will be 30 days after a notice of assessment has been issued. For those who are auto-assessed, payment will be due 30 days after the Filing Season 2023 closing date.

Statement of assets and liabilities

Provisional taxpayers with business interests are required to declare their assets and liabilities (based on cost) in their tax returns each year. Taxpayers who fall within this category, and with assets above R50 million, are required to declare specified assets at market values on their 2023 tax returns.

Foreign income disclosure

The SARS introduced a Foreign Income container on the return

for taxpayers who must declare worldwide foreign income, however it was noted that taxpayers who must declare income sourced from a foreign employer while working in South Africa or abroad do not have an appropriate source code to declare remuneration for foreign service rendered income. The following three new fields will now apply:

- Income received from foreign employment services not reflected on a South African IRP5/IT3(a) certificate, subject to tax outside the country and the s10(1)(o)(ii) exemption does not apply;
- Income received from foreign employment services not reflected on a South African IRP5/IT3(a) certificate, subject to tax outside the country and the s10(1)(o)(i) exemption applies; and
- Income received from foreign employment services not reflected on a South African

IRP5/IT3(a) certificate, subject to tax outside the country and the s10(1)(o)(i) exemption does not apply.

Spouses married in community of property assessment

Taxpayers who are married in community of property are taxed on half of their interest, dividends, rental income and capital gains. This Filing Season SARS has retrieved the "married in community of property" status from taxpayer's previous declaration and collaborated with the Department of Home Affairs to confirm marital status.

Where the spouses are successfully matched and have interest investments, the revenue authority will replicate the interest investment certificate on both spouses' return, where they will be taxed 50% upon assessment.

Section 93 reduced assessment

SARS has automated the process of requesting "Reduced

Assessment" in terms of Section 93 of the Tax Administration Act, 2011 (Act 28 of 2011). The process will use a form called RRA01 that taxpayers can complete on eFiling. This will enable efficiency and reduce costs for taxpayers.

Trust changes

Beneficiaries and donors (where deeming provisions apply) of a trust must declare their income that was vested in a beneficiary by the trust during the year of assessment in their income tax returns.

The SARS continues to improve its service offerings, systems and processes related to the filing of income tax returns for trusts (ITR12T). The changes are expected to provide taxpayers with the clarity and certainty they require to meet their tax obligations, making it easier for them to comply.

The annual notice, issued by the SARS Commissioner, requires trusts to submit a trust return. It is, thus, imperative that all trustees ensure compliance in this regard.

The revenue authority has introduced changes to the ITR12T and eFiling enhancements – additional questions to the Income Tax Return Wizard to be completed and mandatory supporting documents that must accompany the return, with effect from 23 June 2023. The changes include:

- Updates to the wizard on the trust return: additional questions to determine if any local or foreign amount(s) were vested in the trust as a beneficiary of another trust or deemed to have accrued during this year of assessment; and the number of Trusts from where these amounts were received.
- A simplified return for passive Trusts: to provide for a less cumbersome return, where limited trust specific activities occurred during the year of assessment. The wizard and guide will provide guidance in this regard. The taxpayer must ensure that the correct "type" of return is selected on the first page of the tax return (Income Tax Return Wizard).
- Supporting documents to be submitted with the ITR12T: All mandatory supporting documents must be uploaded and submitted with the trust return. This includes, amongst others, the trust instrument, Annual Financial Statements and resolutions/minutes of trustee meetings. The requirements will vary according to the trust type. (Use the drop-down menu to check the required supporting documents).
- Enhancements to eFiling: A pop-up notification when the return type is selected.

Should the taxpayer select an incorrect tax type based on their registration, this pop-up notification will alert the taxpayer to select the correct return. Other enhancements to the TR12T include a new field for credit agreements and debtors' allowance "Lay Byes" (S24) under both sides of Special Allowances not claimed in the Income Statement and Allowance or Deductions and a Beneficial Ownership Declaration page to record all beneficial owners and those who may gain financially from the proceeds of the taxpayer. Based on the wizard question relating to distributions received from other trusts, the required number of containers for these distributions will be opened in the return. This will allow taxpayers to provide the detail of the distributions received from other Trusts into the individual containers, for example, distributions received from five other Trusts, five containers will automati-

cally be opened.

Managing tax compliance matters

Trusts are included in the definition of a "person" in terms of the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act 58 of 1962), and as such, the trustees have a responsibility to register all trusts for income tax purposes.

The trustees or the appointed tax practitioner is required to file an income tax return for the Trust on an annual basis in terms of the annual notice and during the trust return filing period.

The quick and convenient way to obtain and file a trust return is to register as an eFiler on SARS eFiling, request the return, and then customise it by completing the questions on the first page (wizard) of the return.

To register a new trust for income tax and submit supporting documents, use the SARS online platforms on www.sars.gov.za in the SARS Online Trust Registration link.

For more information visit the Filing Season 2023 webpage. ○



Savings Month:

tips to becoming a saver

Times are tough for many South Africans at the moment, with the price of many goods and services increasing significantly. You will no doubt have noticed this each time you fill up your car or go grocery shopping. With July being Savings Month, we share our top tips on how to save more, even when you find your salary or wages being stretched. Saving money is a little like trying to live a healthier lifestyle – even small changes can make a big difference.

Why saving matters

Life can be unpredictable, and you never know when you might need some extra cash. If you have managed to build up some savings, you will be better prepared in an emergency – for example, unexpected medical bills for a family member. Saving can also help you avoid costs – if you save up for a major purchase like furniture, you can buy it in cash rather than on credit. That means no interest to pay.

Know where your cash goes

The first step towards being better at saving is to understand



what you spend your money on. Some costs are unavoidable, like rent or bond payments, and bills. Other spending can be reduced – this is what we call “discretionary spending” – for example, clothes, going out and takeaway meals. Create a simple budget and track your spending to help you keep on top of it. This will help you identify other ways to save.

Make the change

Once you have identified the ways in which you are overspending, you can start to make real savings. Takeaway coffees are one habit you could kick, and that could save you at least R150 per week. Over the course of a year, that adds up to R7 500 that you would have saved.

If you drink, smoke or vape,

these are other areas where you can make savings – and you will also be improving your health. As you can see, a lot of possible savings come from making lifestyle choices. This could be as simple as not going to after-work drinks as often, cooking at home rather than ordering in, and taking lunch to work rather than buying expensive sandwiches on your lunch break.

Save money at home

Energy bills are a big expense for many families, but even here, you can make savings by switching off lights and other devices that you are not using. Try running your geyser for less time each day, or taking showers instead of baths (a shower uses less hot water).

Be a savvy shopper

Make a list before you go shopping – and stick to it. Do not be tempted by “special offers” unless they are something that you were going to buy anyway. Use rewards cards and loyalty schemes to collect points and save even more.

When you travel to work or run errands, think carefully about your route so that you pay less in taxi fares, or use less fuel. Try walking for short distances, if you feel comfortable doing that.

Review all your policies

If you have medical aid or insurance policies, spend some time checking them to see if there are savings you could make by changing your level of cover, or switching to a different provider. This is especially important if you have not looked at your policies in a while.

Pay off debts first

It can be really tough to save if you have debts like loans and store or credit cards to pay off – the interest payments can really eat into your monthly budget. Prioritise debts with the highest interest rates, and things will start to get easier.

Good luck with getting the savings habit this July – make it a habit for life! ○



Report any form of GBVF to:

**GBV Command Centre Emergency
Line Number: 0800 428 428**

A Skype Line ‘**Helpme GBV**’ for members of the deaf community.



Draft legislation

for the “two pot” retirement system out for public comment



National Treasury has published the revised 2023 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill and 2023 Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill for public comment.

The draft Bills provide the necessary legislative amendments required to implement the first phase of the “two-pot” retirement system, taking into account public comments received on the 2022 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill published on 29 July 2022. The Bills also make provision for the name change from the word “pot” to the word “component” in the Bills to be introduced formally by the Minister of Finance in Parliament. The word “pot” is still being used in the

colloquial form to describe the reform.

The revised 2023 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill incorporates the following key tax proposals that were mentioned in Chapter 4 of the 2023 Budget Review:

- Implementation date of the “two pot” retirement system: It is proposed that the legislative amendments to the “two-pot” retirement system should take effect on 1 March 2024.
- Proposal for seed capital: this makes provision for access by the member of the retirement fund to a portion of the available balance in the retirement fund on implementation date of the “two-pot” retirement

system. In order to limit the adverse effect on liquidity, it is proposed that seed capital should be calculated as 10% of the benefit accumulated in the "vested component" as at 29 February 2024, limited to R25 000, whichever is the lesser. When a member of the retirement fund withdraws the seed capital, it will be subject to the normal tax rates.

- Legislative amendments to include defined benefit funds in an equitable manner: Defined benefit funds do not refer to contributions made by a member to the defined benefit fund to determine benefits, but rather uses a defined formula to calculate benefits due to a member on retirement. To treat defined benefit funds equitably, it is proposed that changes be made in the revised draft Bill to allow defined benefit funds to calculate the one third contributions to the "savings component" based on one-third of the member's pension-

Members of funds should be encouraged to only exercise the withdrawal option as a last resort, and to try and preserve their retirement savings for when they retire.

able service increase, and two-thirds contributions to the "retirement component" based on two-thirds of the member's pensionable service increase with effect from 1 March 2024.

- Treatment of legacy retirement annuity funds: It is proposed that changes be made in the revised draft Bill to make provision for the exemption of legacy retirement annuity fund policies from the provisions of the "two-pot" retirement system, as their inclusion would require a re-design of these historically acquired legacy retirement annuity fund policies.

As indicated in the 2023 Budget Review, legislative amendments dealing with withdrawals from the retirement component if a member of the retirement fund is retrenched and has no alterna-

tive source of income will be considered in the second phase of the implementation of the "two-pot" retirement system.

Further complementary measures may also be considered in the second phase, to ensure that the primary objectives for saving for retirement is not compromised, and to protect the liquidity of such funds at all stages. Members of funds should be encouraged to only exercise the withdrawal option as a last resort, and to try and preserve their retirement savings for when they retire.

The 2023 Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill contains consequential legislative amendments to the Pension Funds Act, 1956

(Act 24 of 1956) to ensure the smooth implementation and administration of the "two pot" retirement system.

Written comments on the revised 2023 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, the Draft Explanatory Memorandum on the Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, 2023 Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill and the Draft Memorandum on the objects of the Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill can be forwarded to National Treasury's depository at 2023AnnexCProp@treasury.gov.za and SARS at acollins@sars.gov.za by close of business on 15 July 2023.

The Bills can be found at www.treasury.gov.za and www.sars.gov.za.[○]



national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Assessing the **efficacy** of South Africa's anti-corruption interventions: a delineated public administration perspective



Corruption is a significant challenge for many countries – South Africa being no exception. The country's economy has been significantly affected by corruption, with billions lost annually due to corrupt practices.

To address this significant challenge, the country has implemented various anti-

corruption interventions aimed at promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance. To assess the efficacy of South Africa's anti-corruption interventions, it is necessary to examine them from a delineated public administration perspective. This perspective emphasises the importance of clear rules, procedures and

structures in promoting accountability and transparency in government.

A comprehensive arsenal of tools to fight corruption

South Africa's anti-corruption interventions include various measures aimed at promoting transparency, accountability,

and good governance. The Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) was established in 2001 to coordinate efforts aimed at combating corruption.

The task team is comprised of representatives from various government departments, law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations. The ACTT has been instrumental in promoting interdepartmental cooperation and coordination in anti-corruption efforts, and it has played a significant role in the successful prosecution of high-profile corruption cases.

The Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), 1999 (Act 10f 1999) was introduced to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. The Act obligates government departments and public entities to submit audited annual

financial statements. It also establishes various procedures and mechanisms aimed at preventing and detecting fraudulent activities.

The Public Protector South Africa was established in 1994 to investigate complaints of maladministration, corruption and other improper conduct by public officials. The office has been instrumental in promoting accountability and transparency in government and has played a significant role in exposing corrupt practices at the highest levels of government.

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) and the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) also combat corruption. The SIU is a specialised investigative unit that has the power to investigate any conduct that may cause or have caused serious maladministration, improper conduct or unlawful enrichment to the detriment of a government department or public entity. The AFU, on the other hand, is responsible for seizing and forfeiting the proceeds of crime.

The SIU and AFU have been relatively effective in combating corruption in South Africa. The SIU has investigated several high-profile corruption cases, including the state capture scandal, and has played a significant role in prosecuting corrupt officials. The AFU has

also been successful in seizing and forfeiting the proceeds of crime, with billions of rands recovered in recent years.

Another important intervention in combating corruption in South Africa is the ongoing initiative on the Professionalisation of the Public Service and conducting lifestyle audits. The Professionalisation of the Public Service involves ensuring that public serv-

ants are competent, qualified and committed to serving the public interest. This is achieved through training and development programs, performance management and effective recruitment processes.

Lifestyle audits, on the other hand, are an important tool in detecting and preventing corruption. Lifestyle audits involve investigating the assets, income and expenditure of public officials to determine whether they are living beyond

their means. This helps to identify cases of unexplained wealth and illicit enrichment, which are often indicators of corrupt activities. The Professionalisation of the Public Service and lifestyle audits have been effective in promoting transparency and accountability in government. However, their effectiveness has been limited by the lack of political will and commitment to implement



The SIU has investigated several high-profile corruption cases, including the state capture scandal, and has played a significant role in prosecuting corrupt officials.

these interventions effectively. Additionally, there is a need for more resources and capacity to conduct lifestyle audits and to ensure that the public service is professionalised effectively.

Disallowing public servants from doing business with the State is another critical intervention in combating corruption. This intervention seeks to prevent public officials from using their insider positions to enrich themselves through cor-

rupt activities, such as awarding tenders to their companies or friends and family members.

By prohibiting public servants from doing business with the State, government aims to ensure that public procurement processes are fair, transparent and competitive, and that public resources are used for the benefit of all citizens.

This intervention has been relatively effective in reducing corruption in public procurement. However, its effectiveness has been limited by the lack of enforcement and the ability of public officials to circumvent the rules by using intermediaries or front companies. Additionally, there have been concerns that this intervention could lead to a brain drain of skilled individuals from the Public Service, as they may be unable to generate additional income outside of their government salaries. The constitutionality of this intervention has also been raised.

Innovative approaches

The State Capture Commission and the establishment of specialised tribunals are two innovative approaches that South Africa has taken to combat corruption. The State Capture Commission was established to investigate

allegations of the use of public institutions by private individuals or companies for personal gain. The commission has been instrumental in uncovering corrupt activities and holding those responsible accountable. It has also provided a platform for whistle-blowers to come forward and expose corruption without fear of reprisal.

The specialised tribunals are designed to fast-track the prosecution of corruption cases, with a focus on recovering stolen assets. The tribunals are staffed by judges with expertise in corruption cases, and they have the power to freeze assets and recover stolen funds. This approach is aimed at addressing the slow pace of justice in corruption cases and ensuring that those responsible are held accountable.

Challenges and recommendations

There is no doubt that South Africa has in its arsenal a broad range of tools to effectively fight the menace of corruption. All the enumerated approaches have the potential to significantly enhance South Africa's efforts to combat corruption. However, their effectiveness will depend on adequate resources and the political will to ensure that they are implemented. Additionally,

it is essential to address the root causes of corruption, such as the lack of transparency in government institutions and the influence of politically connected individuals, to ensure that these interventions have a lasting impact.

There is elastic room for effective enforcement mechanisms, such as regular audits and investigations, to identify cases of non-compliance and hold those responsible accountable. One other significant challenge is the lack of capacity and resources in government departments and public entities. This has resulted in a lack of adequate infrastructure and human resources to effectively implement anti-corruption interventions. In many cases, this has resulted in delays and inadequate implementation of anti-corruption measures. Inadequate resources have hampered the ability of law enforcement agencies to effectively investigate and prosecute corrupt officials.

Limited interventions

Another challenge is the limited scope of some interventions. While South Africa has implemented a range of anti-corruption measures, some of these interventions are narrow in scope and have



not been designed to address the root causes of corruption. For example, the PFMA of 1999 is a crucial intervention in promoting accountability and transparency in government finances. However, the Act does not address corruption in other areas of government, such as procurement and human resources management. This means that corrupt officials can continue to engage in corrupt activities in these areas, even if they are complying with the Act.

Despite the various interventions put in place to combat corruption in South Africa, the country still has a long road ahead in winning the war against corruption. The scourge remains deeply entrenched in various sectors of society, and there are still significant challenges to implement-

ing effective anti-corruption measures. The lack of political will, inadequate resources, and insufficient institutional capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption cases are among the key challenges facing South Africa's anti-corruption efforts.

Moreover, corruption often involves powerful and influential individuals, which can make it challenging to hold them accountable. To win the war against corruption, South Africa needs to increase its efforts to promote transparency, strengthen its institutions, and address the root causes of corruption. There is also ample space for a sustained commitment to ensuring that anti-corruption measures are implemented effectively and that those responsible for corruption are held accountable. ○

WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY?



Police: 10111
Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150
Childline: 0800 055 555

There is no excuse for abuse.
People can only help if they know.

TELL SOMEONE.

Violence and abuse are poison to society. Let's make it stop.



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Social Employment

Fund empowering NGOs to create jobs



President Cyril Ramaphosa's efforts to not leave civil society organisations behind in rebuilding the country's

economy are reaping rewards through the Social Employment Strategy.

This much is evident in a raft

of beneficiaries of the Social Employment Fund (SEF). The fund is a social employment strategy element of the Presi-

dential Employment Stimulus (PES) introduced by President Ramaphosa in October 2020 in response to the devastating eco-

nomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Managed by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), an agency of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the SEF was introduced to create jobs and strengthen livelihoods with meaningful work. It offers participants 16 hours of work per week, at the National Minimum Wage.

"Since June 2022, the fund has seen R800 million invested through 28 strategic implementing partners (SIPs) contracted to deliver on the creation of 50 000 temporary work opportunities," said Programme Manager Bhavanesh Parbhoo.

Speaking during a recent SEF projects programme event, Parbhoo said the fund had three objectives.

"Firstly, we have a raft of issues [as a country] when it comes to employment ... we are on the wrong side of the spectrum. So how do we find innovative ways of solving unemployment in this country? That is at the front and centre of what we are doing," he said.

Via the SEF, the IDC was in the past 12 months able to create temporary work opportunities for individuals throughout the country.

"In this way, we are contributing towards a massive issue that our economy faces," added Parbhoo.



"The second part that we are looking at, beyond employment; we have a raft of wicked problems within society – there is gender-based violence (GBV), malnutrition, educational challenges and alien vegetation in communities. So how does one find innovative ways of solving these problems, getting communities to solve these problems themselves? That is where the SEF gets involved, finding smart ways of solving these problems

on the ground.

"The last thing to mention is that, in society we have the State, which has a role to play in solving the problems, we have the private sector, it is driven by profit motives, but it also has its own role to play. But in the middle we have this third piece, being civil society, which is community-based organisations [and] civil organisations who are committed people that are driven by purpose and under-

stand communities in which they work," he said.

This is where the SEF comes in to ensure greater impact. It amplifies the work of these initiatives.

"The way we roll this out and the way we operationalise the SEF is by partnering with our strategic implementing partners," explained Parbhoo.

How to qualify

At different intervals during the year, the SEF puts out open calls and receives bids from different organisations.

"They have to comply with strict guidelines. We then contract with these implementing partners after doing thorough [checks]... their governance issues, their finance issues, their ability to interact with communities and we choose the best of the best," he said.

The 28 organisations working with the SEF were appointed in the first round, which commenced in June 2022 and concluded in March 2023. The number is expected increase in the next phase.

"The fantastic thing about that is that although there are 28 organisations that we partner with, these guys (organisations) have sub-partners that they work with," he noted.

He said the Johannesburg inner City Partnership – an initiative that facilitates growth

and transformation for all inner city stakeholders through collaboration between the City of Johannesburg, government and the private sector – includes 12 corporates.

“The importance of something like this is quite critical – a beast, in the form of transforming an inner city, requires tackling at various levels”.

This, he said, had to be educational, safety level and greening levels, among others. With that said, he was adamant that all this could not be achieved by one organisation.

“That is why you need different partners to bring in their own magic to the party in order to solve issues effectively,” he said.

He expressed delight at how the fund was able to achieve this with the 1 065 sub-partners through the 28 SIPs. Many of these are small community-based organisations.

“They are able to partner with the implementing partners and, in this way, we are able to ensure scale. There is some definite value that is being pushed up to communities via this programme. We are quite proud of what we are seeing”.

Contributing to the fight against GBVF

Parbhoo also highlighted inroads that the SEF has made in tackling GBVF.



“Prior to working with the SEF, they [NGOs] handled 300 to 400 cases a month. After they joined forces with the SEF, we were able to give them workers to amplify their work and that impact has been scaled about 10 times,” he said.

He revealed that over the past year, private sector involvement has also significantly improved.

“We have got partners, for instance the Impact Catalyst, they work in the mining communities and they have gone and spoken to the various mining companies about the work they do and the mining companies are quite happy to

subsidise the SEF”.

Dr Kate Phillip, PES programme lead, said no less than 80% of the funds received needed to be spent on wages.

“This ensures that the work supported by the fund is labour intensive, provides meaningful experience and delivers real social value. Social employment is not about work alone, but about creating high-quality assets and services for communities,” she said.

To qualify, SIPs should be involved in work that serves the common good of society and have a solid track record of community-based work.

“Over and above other institutional criteria, the organisations must demonstrate capacity to employ at least 1 000 participants at an average of 66 days per ordinary participant for the nine-month duration of the programme. Applicants will have up to three months to ramp up their participant numbers to the maximum intended,” she explained.

The fund is providing other benefits – including work experience and skills provisioning – which can improve a person’s chances of being employed, becoming self-employed or starting their own business.○

CHOLERA PREVENTION



USE AND DRINK SAFE WATER

Treat or sterilize the water before drinking or cooking

HOW TO TREAT OR STERILIZE WATER

- BOIL:**
- Bring water to boiling point for at least 1 minute.
 - Boiling water is an effective way of making water safe.
- TREAT:**
- Put 1 teaspoon of household bleach into 25 litres of water.
 - Put 2 drops of household bleach in 1 litre of water.
 - Wait for 30 minutes before use.
 - Always store your treated water in a clean, covered container.

WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER

Ensure proper hand hygiene

- Before, during, and after preparing food.
- Before and after eating food or feeding your children.
- After using the toilet.
- After cleaning your child's bottom.
- After taking care of someone who is sick with diarrhoea.



ALWAYS BOIL, COOK, AND PEEL WHAT YOU EAT

Cook food well and keep it covered

- Eat foods that have been thoroughly cooked and are still hot
- Peel fruits and vegetables.
- Be sure to cook seafood, especially shellfish, until it is very hot all the way through.
- Avoid raw vegetables and fruits that cannot be peeled.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SA, France sign anti-cybercrime agreement



South Africa and France have entered into a co-operation protocol agreement to improve the Special Investigating Unit's (SIU) cyber forensic capabilities.

The agreement is expected to also yield the establishment of an anti-corruption academy in Tshwane, which will serve the SIU and other law enforce-

ment agencies and anti-corruption agencies within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries.

It was signed by Justice and Correctional Services Minister Ronald Lamola and French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Catherine

Colonna in June.

Minister Lamola said the cooperation agreement will add much needed skills to strengthen the SIU's capacity in cyber forensic investigations, financial crimes and analytical skills.

"We are going to benefit a lot through this process of training that will enable our forensic cyber capabilities and investigations to be on par with the standards of the world and the globe because these types of crime are no longer just national, they are transnational in nature.

"So this kind of cooperation will definitely be of great value and help to us as a country to enhance our skills and be able to deal with the cybercrimes in the country. This will further boost confidence in the investment climate in our country that our cyberspace is safe and if anything happens, we will have

the capabilities to investigate," he said.


The French Minister remarked that the agreement represents "a window of what we are promoting in terms of bilateral cooperation".

"This agreement will yield results beneficial to the South African citizens and possibly to all the SADC region. As a result of the close cooperation from the French experts, the SIU currently has 22 trained trainers who possess the capability to train other investigators.

"Since the very early stages of our cooperation, members of the SIU have been to France and have had opportunities...to see and experience the French expertise in the field of mostly cyber investigations. I call for those exchanges to grow," she said.

Meanwhile, Cabinet has welcomed the agreement.

"This new capacity will also deepen the country's ability to respond to matters arising from the State Capture Commission," Cabinet said in a statement.

The establishment of the academy aims to enhance investigative capabilities and prevention measures, and promote anti-corruption and public education. 

– SAnews.gov.za

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know?



Government has adopted a zero-tolerance approach to corruption in both the public and private sectors.

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



On-trend

Relevance is everything when it comes to fashion. This is why you need to be plugged with the best tips from experts who have done the research for you. Avoid latching onto whatever you see out there, because you are about to get a sneak peek at all the exclusives:



Levi SA: R1 499



Diesel SA: R14 099



Boohoo.com: \$80



NEO by NVR: R2 800

1. More than Denim

Denim is here to stay, always. Designers are now becoming more creative. Look out for those pieces that pay attention to detail. One thing is for sure, for both ladies and men, skinny jeans are out, baggy jeans are in.

2. Wake up like this

Everything, from technology to art is about creating comfort, so naturally fashion will revolve around finding any excuse to wear your pyjamas outdoors. Satin fabrics, loose flowing silhouettes, soft colours, and lace for the ladies are the ideals to look for.

* Prices correct at the time of writing

3. Suit up

Tailoring will always be an essential, season in and season out. It helps to look presentable when you have a big meeting or when you need to be reminded of the boss in you. Ladies, the cinched in blazer is back. If you still have oversized blazers from previous seasons, wear a tank top or corset on over it to update the look. Gents, pin-stripes are gaining momentum again, so pull them out from the back of your closet.

Hugo Boss: R15 200



manieredevair.com: US\$140



superballist.com: R449 (skirt)



4. Skirt season

Skirts are becoming more popular - skirt suits, midi-skirts (knee length) and maxi-skirts. Satin skirts, tweed skirts, lace skirts and rough-edged skirts.

Jo Borkett: R999



4. Soft is the new black

Yes, black has been dominating runways and is one of the key colours of this season, but the opposite is also true. White and its variations have been paired with black or worn with other neutral shades like light grey, beige and stone, as well as with pastel shades. The easiest way to pull off the look is with classic pieces like buttoned shirts, white shoes or knit tops (for a boho feel).

Bash.com: R2 399.95



* Prices correct at the time of writing

Bash.com: R299 (skirt)

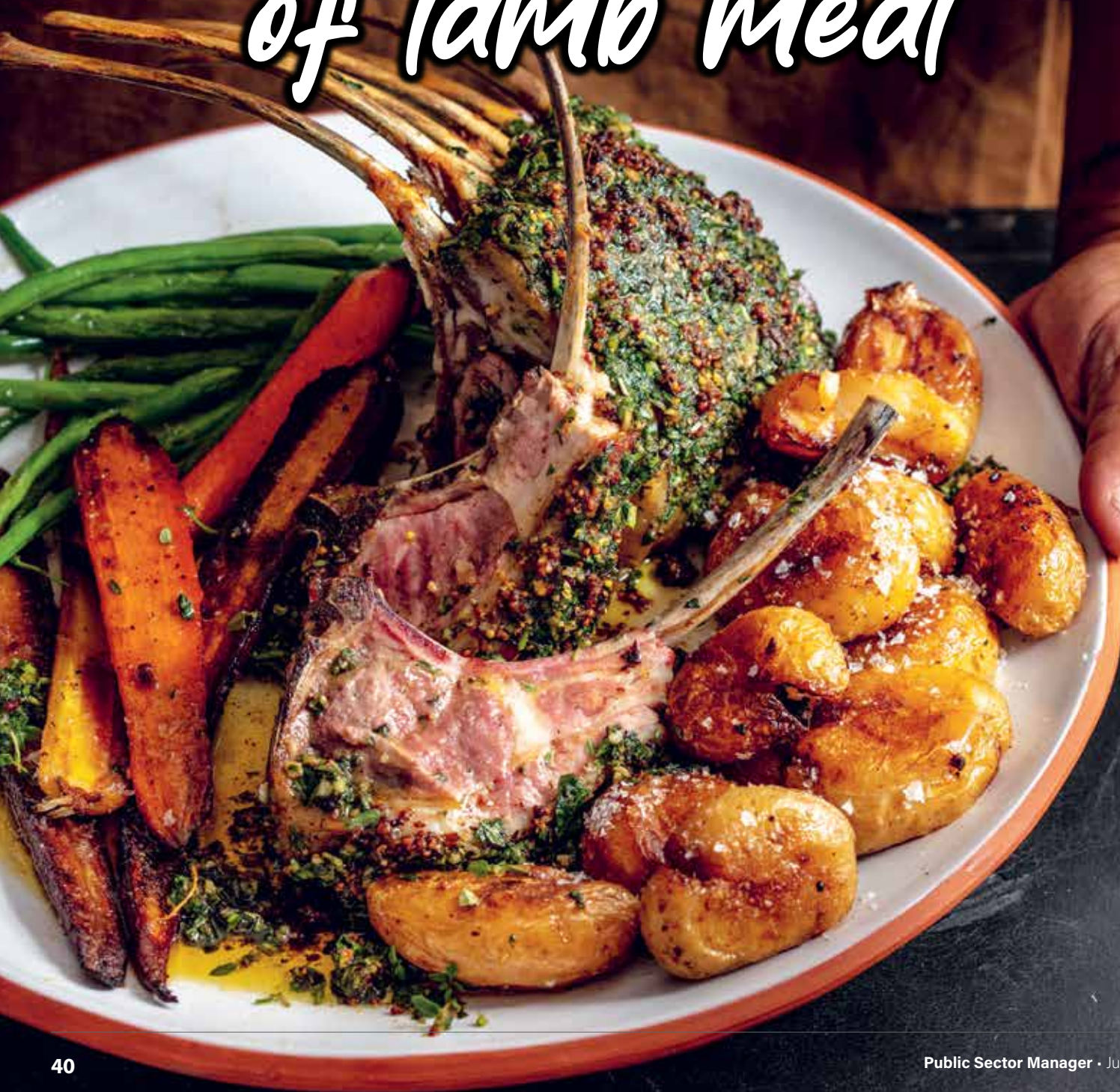


About me

*Rangaka is the founder of NEO by Neo Victoria Rangaka (NVR), a premium African brand aimed at creating designs that redefine the African identity. You can contact her on 082 929 7653 or nvrangaka@gmail.com or Instagram: [@neovictoriarangaka](https://www.instagram.com/neovictoriarangaka) or [@neobynvr](https://www.instagram.com/neobynvr).



Treat yourself to a herb-Crusted rack of lamb meal



Although food items like lamb can be a little bit expensive for some people due to the current economic challenges, you are allowed to treat yourself to a good nutritious meal from time to time – at least once a month.

In this edition, Sinoyolo Sifo, famously known as Sifo the Cooking Husband to his social media followers, shares his favourite herb-crusted rack of lamb recipe.

“I love this recipe because it is easy to make and it is ideal for sharing with family. It is also packed with flavour. You can simply enjoy this succulent lamb rack with roasted veggies or mashed potatoes,” he said.

“Because lamb is a bit on the expensive side, one can perhaps have this meal as a treat once a month. Lamb is naturally rich in protein, which is ideal for muscle growth,” he added.

Ingredients:

- Rack of lamb with 7 to 8 ribs (± 600 g).
- Salt and pepper for to taste.
- 3 tablespoon (45 ml) olive oil.
- 3 garlic cloves finely chopped.
- 10 g Italian parsley chopped.
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) paprika.
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme.

- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary.

Method:

- Place the rack of lamb in a roasting pan and pat dry with paper towel.
- Season all over with salt and pepper, and set aside.
- In a food processor or blender, combine the olive oil, garlic, parsley, paprika, thyme and a pinch of salt.
- Blend on high until thoroughly combined.
- With a sharp knife, score several cuts across the fat layer on the rack of lamb.
- Rub the herb mixture all over the lamb, including the cuts you have made, so that the flavours penetrate the fat.
- Cover the roasting pan with cling wrap and leave the lamb at room temperature for two hours.
- Preheat the oven to 200°C.
- Make sure the rack of lamb is placed fat-side up.
- Cover the exposed rib bones with foil. Roast for 30 to 35 minutes for meat that is medium-rare. If you prefer your meat more well-done, roast for 40 to 50 minutes.
- Remove the lamb from oven and remove the foil.
- Rest the lamb for 10 to 15 minutes before carving and serving.

For a richer flavour, you can refrigerate the marinated rack of lamb overnight, but just make sure you bring it to room temperature before roasting, so it cooks evenly.

This meal pairs very well with red wine like Merlot, Pinot Noir or Cabernet Sauvignon.

Sifo is a pharmacist by profession, but is a self-taught cook, award-winning cookbook author and a social media food content creator with more than 140 000 followers on Instagram.

The Eastern Cape-based pharmacist and cook obtained his Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from the Nelson Mandela University in 2013.

While growing up in Mthatha, Sifo developed enthusiasm for food from watching his mother cooking, and helping his father work in his butcheries during school holidays.

Motivated and inspired by his wife, Nondumiso, Sifo began his food journey on Instagram in 2020, where he continues to accumulate an ever-growing following of people who love his easy-to-make, hearty and delicious meals.

His cookbook, *Sifo The Cook-*

ing Husband, was published in 2022 and has already won two titles, including Best Cookbook at the Book Beyond Awards, and Best family cookbook in South Africa at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in 2022.

His achievements include starring on television shows, working with many local chef celebrities and food influencers, and being a guest presenter at the 2022 Woolworths Eat Out Awards.

“My goal is to break the gender stereotypes that surround male figures in the kitchen and encourage more men to cook. The kitchen is no longer the domain of women only, and men need to get more comfortable in the kitchen, so they can share equally in the responsibilities of day-to-day life and its demands,” he said.◻



You can follow and contact Sifo on Instagram, Facebook and Tiktok: @sifo_the_cooking_husband, his website www.sifothecookinghusband.co.za or contact sifothecookinghusband@gmail.com

South African Destinations

ranked among top 100 most loved globally



South Africa's tourism industry has received a boost as three of its towns made it to the world's top 100 most loved destinations, according to the Tourism Sentiment Index (TSI) for 2022.

The winning destination trio includes Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Hermanus, all located in the Western Cape.

South Africa's Tourism Sentiment Score is its primary brand performance indicator and rallying point for the country to take action.

The sentiment analysis provided by the TSI is based on online

conversations from around the world. Each of the 50 tourism asset scores is weighted based on the size of the conversation and sentiment.

To determine the 100 most loved destinations around the globe, according to consumer sentiment, the study tracked more than 1.6 billion online conversations and content pieces publicly available and about 21 330 global destinations.

The TSI measures and fuels progress for South African Tourism as the country charts its way through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of note, six out of the top 10 destinations identified by online conversations and sentiment have beaches as their primary asset, highlighting the significant value travellers place on this particular attraction and experience in their travels.

The top three destinations in the world, all renowned for their pristine beaches, are the Maldives, the Whitsundays in Queensland, Australia, and the Sunshine Coast, also located in Queensland, Australia.

And the top three destinations from Africa were Seychelles, Mauritius and Zanzibar – both in the top 20.

Hermanus

Hermanus is leading the pack in South Africa at number 18 in the world after being seeded 41 the previous year. It notched the best status, with its top asset being wildlife viewing. The city is situated on Walker Bay, home to the Southern Right Whale – from June to November. It is a picturesque coastal town known for its natural beauty and it has become world-famous for being one of the best places in the world to do land-based whale watching. Hermanus also boasts the world's only whale crier, who alerts townsfolk on land when whales have been sighted by blowing on a loud kelp horn.

The town is known for its pristine beaches, which attract both locals and visitors. Among them is Grotto Beach, an



internationally recognised beach that boasts a Blue Flag award for its cleanliness and safety. All the beaches in Hermanus are perfect for swimming, sunbathing and picnics.

In addition to its natural beauty, Hermanus is also famous for its wines and vineyards. The Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, located just outside the town, is home to some of South Africa's finest vineyards. Explorers can take a wine-tasting tour, sample the various wines, and enjoy a picnic in the vineyards.

It also has a quaint and charming atmosphere with many Cafés, restaurants, and boutiques. The town's Main Road is lined with shops that sell everything, from local crafts to designer clothing. The town is also home to a range of galleries and stu-

dios that showcase the work of local artists.

For those interested in outdoor activities, Hermanus has plenty to offer. Visitors can hike through the nearby Fernkloof Nature Reserve, which boasts diverse flora and fauna. The nearby Klein River Estuary is ideal for bird-watching and kayaking.

Stellenbosch

Stellenbosch, a charming town with a rich cultural heritage and stunning natural beauty, was ranked the 34th most-loved destination. Its greatest asset is its wineries and vineyards, making it the ultimate destination for wine enthusiasts. The town is also home to the prestigious Stellenbosch University, ranked

number 304 in Best Global Universities. The surrounding wine farms make Stellenbosch a popular destination for locals and tourists.

One of the main attractions in Stellenbosch is the Cape Dutch architecture that dominates the town's landscape. These unique buildings are characterised by their thatched roofs, whitewashed walls and gabled facades. Travellers can stroll through the town and explore



Image: www.capetown.travel/top-attractions/

the many museums, art galleries, and restaurants housed in these historic buildings.

South Africa is one of the largest wine-producing regions in the world, with an estimated 2.5 billion litres of wine produced in the country in 2020 alone. Stellenbosch significantly contributes to this output, producing approximately 14% of South Africa's total wine. Globetrotters can tour the wine estates, sample the various wines, and learn about the winemaking process.

The scenic beauty of the vineyards, surrounded by majestic mountains, makes for a truly unforgettable experience.

For those interested in history and culture, Stellenbosch has a rich heritage reflected in its many museums and galleries. The Stellenbosch Village Museum, for example, showcases the town's cultural history through a collection of four historic houses. On the other hand, the Rupert

Museum houses a collection of South African and international art, including works by Rembrandt and Degas.

Stellenbosch is also a food lover's paradise, with various restaurants and Cafés offering everything from traditional South African cuisine to international delicacies. The town's vibrant food scene is complemented by its many markets and festivals, such as the Stellenbosch Wine Festival and the Slow Market.

Cape Town

Cape Town, an iconic city on the country's southwestern coast, has been ranked as the 40th most-loved destination in the world. It is a cosmopolitan city combining its rich history with modern amenities. It offers something for everyone, from its stunning beaches to its bustling city centre. It is famed for its restaurants and dining. In the

previous year, Cape Town was ranked 54th but managed to improve, with food and dining being the driving force behind the upgrading.

The globally-renowned Table Mountain is a must-visit attraction in Cape Town, standing tall at 1 085 meters above sea level. The views from the top are breath-taking and offer panoramic views of the city, the coastline, and beyond. sight-seers can take a cable car ride to the top of the Mountain or hike up one of the many trails for those feeling adventurous.

The V&A Waterfront is one of Cape Town's most iconic landmarks, and it offers a wealth of activities and attractions for holidaymakers of all ages. Located on the picturesque Victoria & Alfred Basin, this bustling hub of activity is home to shops, restaurants, entertainment venues and much more. Tourists can enjoy a wide range of activities, such as

visiting the Two Oceans Aquarium, taking a boat trip to Robben Island (where former President Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years imprisonment) or browsing the many shops selling local crafts and souvenirs.

Cape Town is also home to a diverse array of cultures, which is reflected in its food, music, and festivals. The Bo-Kaap neighbourhood, located in the city centre, is home to the Cape Malay community and is famous for its brightly painted houses and delicious local cuisine.

Cape Town's beaches are another major drawcard with crystal clear waters and stunning views. The most popular beaches include Clifton, Camps Bay and Llandudno, each offering its own unique atmosphere and activities, such as surfing, swimming and sunbathing.

For those interested in history, Cape Town has a rich past reflected in its architecture and museums. The District Six Museum tells the story of the forced removals during apartheid. At the same time, the Castle of Good Hope is the oldest surviving colonial building in South Africa and offers a glimpse into the city's past.

Including three of South Africa's crown jewels in the top 100 most-loved destinations in the world is a significant achievement. It confirms the country's position of being a destination of choice for travellers from various parts of the world. ○

FACTS **ABOUT CHOLERA**



HOW TO CLEAN WATER:

Mix 1 teaspoon or capful of household bleach with 20-25 litres of water and let it stand for at least 2 hours (preferably overnight) or allow water to boil (bubble) for at least 1 full minute. Always store purified water in a clean, covered container.

Follow hand hygiene and food safety practices.

Let's grow South Africa together

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