



**EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, 25 MAY  
17:00 SAST**

## **NETBALL WORLD CUP TROPHY LANDS ON AFRICAN SOIL AHEAD OF TROPHY TOUR**

Preparations for the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 (VNWC2023) have stepped up a gear with the famous tournament trophy arriving on South African soil ahead of the highly-anticipated event taking place from the 28<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

With the VNWC2023 being the first Netball World Cup to take place on the continent of Africa, it was fitting that the trophy arrived into South Africa on Africa Day, 25<sup>th</sup> May, a day which is celebrated across the whole continent.

The VNWC2023 has always been considered as being more than just about the city of Cape Town and instead one for all of Africa to share, with four of the 16 competing nations African; South Africa, Malawi, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The trophy is now in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal ready to start a far-reaching tour of the country.

Speaking on the excitement of the trophy tour, Africa Netball and Netball South Africa President Cecilia Molokwane said: “Let it be an African spectacle, showcasing our culture and our uniqueness as South Africa because we are a rainbow nation and to me showing that Africa can do it and women can do it is the most important thing,

“We want to leave a legacy.

“Hosting the Netball World Cup is a first for Africa, so history will be made right here on home soil and right on our doorstep.”

The chairperson of the VNWC2023 Board, Ms Patience Shikwambana, added: “Things are getting so real you can literally touch the trophy.

“What we will see for the next six weeks across the length and breadth of our land is the reality that the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 is finally here.

“It is far bigger than a single city, it’s something for South Africa and Africa to celebrate and enjoy, and participate in.

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“It’s a huge step forward for women’s sport in South Africa and we encourage the public to go out and be part of this proud countrywide tour.”

The VNWC2023 Trophy Tour will start in KwaZulu-Natal, before moving to Gauteng, and then stopping off in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, Free State, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, before reaching its final destination in the Western Cape.

"The fact that the Netball World Cup Trophy is here signifies how close we are to hosting the global showpiece," said Ms Molokwane.

“I do not think it is a coincidence that it touched down on our shores on Africa Day, we have always maintained that yes, the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 is hosted in South Africa however, it belongs to the rest of the continent.

“We feel that as it gathers momentum around the country, it will also ramp up interest in the upcoming tournament itself,”

“There has already been overwhelming support for the event, and with the 16 teams taking part also beginning to announce their final squads we can sense the shift in momentum.

"This is something for the entire country, and continent, to experience and be part of."

### **The dates for the Trophy Tour are as follows:**

15-29 May: KwaZulu-Natal  
30 May - 3 June: Gauteng  
4-8 June: Mpumalanga  
9-13 June: Limpopo  
14-18 June: Free State  
19-23 June: North West  
24-28 June: Northern Cape  
29 June - 3 July: Eastern Cape  
4-12 July: Western Cape

#NWC2023 #PutYourHandsUp

**ENDS**

Chairperson - Ms Patience Shikwambana | Deputy Chairperson – Mr Max Fuzani | Ms Symayya Khan | Ms Cecilia Molokwane | Cllr Jean-Pierre Smith | Dr Lyndon Bouah | Ms Blanch de la Guerre



Image:



**Caption: The Netball World Cup trophy arrived for the first time ever on African soil ahead of the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 to be staged in Cape Town in July. Cecilia Molokwane, President of Netball South Africa (NSA) and NSA CEO, Blanche De La Guerre collected the trophy from World Netball in London on Tuesday and delivered it to South African shores today (Thursday) on an international flight that landed at the King Shaka International Airport in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. Pictured at the trophy arrival ceremony is President of Netball South Africa, Cecilia Molokwane holding the trophy and to her left Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Nocawe Mafu, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Nomusa Dube-Ncube and MEC Sport, Arts and Culture, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba. Picture Credit: Rogan Ward**

## Notes

### World Netball:

World Netball is the sole, internationally recognized governing body for netball affiliated to the Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF), receiving funding from the International Olympic Committee.

World Netball creates a better world through netball, inspiring netballers to embrace opportunities and achieve their potential. Netball is played in more than 100 countries around

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the world with 79 National Netball Associations affiliated to World Netball. The associations are grouped into five Regions – Africa Netball, Americas Netball, Asia Netball, Europe Netball and Oceania Netball – each with a respective Regional Federation. Regional Federations are an integral part of the global governance structure and assist in the development and implementation of World Netball's Strategy To Grow, To Play, To Inspire, policies and the development of the sport in their respective regions.

The Netball World Cup (NWC), previously known as the World Netball Championships is netball's flagship event owned by World Netball, and it brings together the top 16 teams in the world every four years. The hosts of the NWC automatically qualify for the competition, as well as the top five

teams in the World Netball World Rankings on the date of qualification. The remaining 10 teams are decided through qualifiers in World Netball's 5 regions, as the top two teams from each qualifier will be invited by World Netball to compete at the NWC. The NWC, which first started in 1963, showcases netball around the world through a range of broadcast partners introducing Netball to a whole new audience.

World Netball Congress is also held alongside the event providing a global forum for Netball nations to come together, innovate, share ideas and celebrate women in sport. The Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from the 28th July to the 6th August 2023 at the International Convention Centre.

For more information visit [www.worldnetball.sport](http://www.worldnetball.sport)

**For more information, members of the media should contact the following:**

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