

**EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 17:00PM  
BST**

## **The Official Handover of the Netball World Cup Trophy Takes Place Ahead of Tour of South Africa**

The official handover of the Netball World Cup trophy, from World Netball to Netball South Africa, hosts of the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023, took place yesterday at South Africa House, London.

The High Commissioner, J.N Mamabolo, welcomed the World Netball President, Liz Nicholl CBE, CEO Clare Briegal, and Board Director Lyn Carpenter, as well as Netball South Africa's President Cecilia Molokwane and CEO Blanche de la Guerre, and all other dignitaries present to the proceedings.

Following the handover, the trophy will now fly to South Africa landing in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal on Africa Day, 25<sup>th</sup> May, ready to start a six-week long tour of the country, visiting all nine provinces.

Starting proceedings, The High Commissioner, Mamabolo, said: "It is our wish that South Africa's hosting of the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 will contribute to the growth of the sport, both at home and globally.

"It is also heartening to know that the trophy will make its way across the length and breadth of our country and in so doing, bring the sport of netball to all South Africans through fan parks and legacy projects.

Nicholl then went on to address the dignitaries present saying: "We are thrilled to be

here today at South Africa House for the official handover of the Netball World Cup trophy and the official start of the 'Trophy Tour',

"The Road to Cape Town began back in March 2019 when Netball South Africa was awarded the rights to host the event, so although the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 does not start until the 28<sup>th</sup> July, the preparations and activations are very much underway in South Africa, and we are really enjoying seeing the whole nation get behind them.

"I am sure this support will grow significantly as the Netball World Cup trophy heads to South Africa to start a 6-week tour."

The Vitality Netball World Cup 2023, taking place in Cape Town South Africa from the 28<sup>th</sup> July to the 6<sup>th</sup> August at the Cape Town international Convention Centre, will be the first ever to take place on the continent of Africa.

Speaking on the importance of this Molokwane then added: "We said we wanted the trophy to land on the 25<sup>th</sup> May which is Africa Day, because this is not a 'South African' tournament, it might be hosted in South Africa, but it is an African tournament."

"The Netball World Cup started in 1963, and South Africa was one of the countries participating, but only now does the Netball World Cup go to South Africa after 60 years, it is history in the making for us to say that after 60 years we can bring it to Africa.

Make sure you are following the Netball World Cup, on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) to keep up to date with all the latest news from the trophy tour.

To be part of the first ever Netball World Cup on the African continent, head to the [Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 website now to purchase your tickets.](#)

**ENDS**

**Image:**



Left to right: High Commissioner, J.N Mamabolo, World Netball President Liz Nicholl CBE, Netball South Africa President Cecilia Molokwane, and Netball South Africa CEO Blanche de la Guerre

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**Notes to Editors:**

#### **World Netball**

World Netball is the sole, internationally recognised, governing body for netball affiliated to GAISF, the International World Games Association and 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 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 implementation of World Netball 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)