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Cover image

Social weavers are some of Southern Africa's best builders, well-known for their massive nests with up to 500 birds. Evidence has shown some nests are over 100 years old!

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We made things!

This edition kind of assembled itself.

I kept receiving articles and media releases about different impressive, proudly South African science infrastructure projects. Each exciting in their own respect, all showcasing the innovation that still happens daily in our little southern tip of the continent. Out of that emerged the theme, "We made things!"

It also felt apt to reflect on these scientific, engineering and architectural advancements at a time when many South Africans face a lot of daily uncertainty: load shedding, corruption, increasing inflation, political power struggles, a weak economy and so forth. One can forgive South Africans for thinking that, if we aren't even able to keep the lights on, how can we possibly hope to make world-class, leading scientific advances. But that is exactly what *Quest* is evidence of, each and every edition proving that South African science is alive and kicking hard!

We are still building. Upgrading the Johannesburg Planetarium into a cutting-edge Digital Dome, training mining students in a first-of-its-kind Virtual Reality centre, testing 3D construction printing robotics that can help to reduce the country's housing backlog, opening the continent's first space weather station in Hermanus, to even keep

an eye on the sun itself. And so much more. It makes me truly proud that we are capable of doing all this.

In fact, I think that is what sets South Africans apart – what has always set us apart. In spite of our circumstances and our differences, we still innovate. More than that. The more challenges and struggles we face, the more determined we seem to become to meet them, and overcome them. To make it work. To build to the high heavens and say, "We are here. We can overcome. We are going nowhere. Watch this".

At least, that is the message I get from the many minds and hands behind these impressive projects. So, keep going, SAffers. You're doing better than you think you are. Let's make more things together.

With regards,



Fanie (RS) van Rooyen (Editor)

Ni tshama ni kuma mahungu mayelana na ti projeke ta xisayense e Afrika-Dzonga. Yin'wana na yi'wana ya ti projeke leti ta tsakisa hi xiyimo ta xona. Hinkwato ka tona tikombisa ku humelerisiwa ka xitekhinoloji kuhumelelaka e dzongeni wa Afrika.

Translated into Tsonga by Dr Lean Makhubele.

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