

Paralympics

The Paralympics will take place in Paris over 12 days from August 28 to September 8, 2024. Around 4,400 athletes from over 180 nations will compete in 549 different competitions in 22 sports. 45 African National Paralympic Committees (NPC) are represented. Team Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and Rwanda are some of the 27 NPCs with more female than male athletes. The Games will be streamed on Paralympic.org using the YouTube video player embedded in the IPC website and broadcast live in many African countries. African athletes are confident of success; they won a total of seventy-nine (79) medals at the Rio 2016 Games and sixty-three (63) medals at Tokyo 2020. 29.08.2024

Namibia: Taking a stand

In a bold move, Namibia has taken a stand against Israel's ongoing war against the Palestinians and prevented a ship carrying weapons for Israel from docking in Namibia. The MV Kathrin, which had departed from Vietnam, had requested permission to dock in the port of Walvis Bay before sailing north towards the Mediterranean on a suspected route via the Strait of Gibraltar. The decision is in line with Namibia's stance on the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and reflects the country's support for Palestine and its call for an end to the violence. At this stage, it is unclear where the ship came from and who sent the weapons. 28.08.2024

World police in arms race with the Nigerian mafia

Police forces around the world have joined forces in a series of covert operations against one of West Africa's most feared criminal networks - Black Axe. In Operation Jackal III, officers carried out raids in 21 countries between April and July 2024. The mission, coordinated by the global police agency Interpol, led to the arrest of 300 people with links to Black Axe and other affiliated groups. Interpol described the operation as a "major blow" against the Nigerian criminal network but warned that its international reach and technological sophistication mean it remains a global threat. Interpol reports: "Black Axe and similar groups are responsible for the majority of global cyber-enabled financial fraud, as well as many other serious crimes". 28.08.2024

Botswana: Diamond as big as an avocado

Canadian mining company Lucara Diamond Corporation has discovered and recovered a massive rough diamond weighing 2,492 carats. The diamond was discovered at the lucrative Karowe diamond mine in north-eastern Botswana, some 430 km (270 miles) from Gaborone, the country's capital. The Botswana government believes the huge stone, weighing 2,492 carats, is the second largest ever recovered from a mine. The public will be able to view the diamond at the official residence of Botswana's President, Mokgweetsi Masisi. The find is the largest since the 3rd 106-carat Cullinan diamond, which was discovered in South Africa in 1905 and eventually cut into nine pieces, many of which are in the British Crown Jewels. In recent years, Botswana has found several large diamonds. The third largest diamond find was also made in Botswana in 2021. 27.08.2024

Baobabs defy climate change

Baobab trees, some of which are over 2,500 years old, have shown remarkable resilience by surviving erratic

climate conditions such as droughts and floods throughout their lifespan, writes ecologist Sarah Venter. Her research found that baobab populations are healthy and stable, with very low mortality rates, and there is no evidence that climate change is negatively impacting these trees. Several surveys in many parts of Africa also show stable baobab distributions. It is estimated that there are up to four million baobab trees in Zimbabwe alone, and this is only a fraction of the African population. For many rural communities, the trees remain a vital source of food, medicine and income. 27.08.2024

Landslide in northern Ethiopia

According to state media, 10 people have died in a landslide in the northern Ethiopian region of Amhara; up to 2,400 people have been displaced and are currently being housed in local welfare centers. The landslide is the latest in a series that have occurred in Ethiopia as a result of heavy seasonal rainfall. A recent United Nations report, citing the Ethiopian Institute of Metrology, warns of "a high risk of further flooding and landslides in most parts of the country". 27.08.2024

Nigeria: Floods before the rainy season

According to official figures, at least 49 people have been killed and thousands displaced after heavy rainfall caused flooding in north-eastern Nigeria. Three states in the north-east, Jigawa, Adamawa and Taraba, were badly hit by the floods, displacing 41,344 people. Authorities remain concerned about the heavy rains that have caused flooding as the peak of the rainy season is still to come. In 2022, Nigeria experienced its worst flooding in more than a decade, killing more than 600 people, displacing around 1.4 million people and destroying 440,000 hectares of farmland. 27.08.2024

Import ban for combustion cars

As part of its green energy transition, Ethiopia this week banned diplomatic, consular, regional and international organizations from importing fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Individuals who fit this description can import electric vehicles (EVs) duty free. Important organizations such as the African Union and the Pan-African Chamber of Commerce are based in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and the country has 65 foreign embassies and five consular missions. So this move could have a significant positive effect. In 2022, the Ministry of Finance announced a new customs tariff for vehicles. Gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles were subject to a duty rate of 200%, while the duty rate for electric vehicles was 15%. However, a complete ban on the import of fossil fuel-powered vehicles was introduced in January this year. According to the Ethiopian government, there are around 100,000 EVs in Ethiopia, but with only 56% of Ethiopians having access to electricity, problems remain. The promotion of electric vehicles is a long-term solution to the country's ongoing fuel shortage. According to the Ethiopian Petroleum Supply Enterprise, at least 9.2 million liters of diesel need to be pumped into the market every day to meet basic demand. 26.08.2024

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

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