



9th Floor Media24 Centre  
40 Heerengracht St, Foreshore  
Cape Town 8001



[www.capetowncarnival.com](http://www.capetowncarnival.com)

## **PRESS RELEASE: For immediate publication**

### **Thousands of Capetonians celebrate Afr'energy at the 2023 Cape Town Carnival**

Cape Town - The spirit of Afr'energy rocked the City of Cape Town last night (EDS: Saturday 18/3) as more than 1300 performers from various community groups from around the city put on a show to rival any across the globe.

Tens of thousands of Capetonians lined the streets to witness the colourful spectacle of the floats, dancers, music and energy, and they weren't disappointed. Spectacular, phenomenal, and inspiring were just some of the words used to describe the event.

"What a spectacle to behold! The performers and floats this year were magnificent. I want to give a huge congratulations to the organisers, participants, and people of Cape Town. You have proven what it means to enrich lives and shown your true Afr'energy. It is a privilege to be part of such an amazing initiative", said Multichoice Head of Corporate Affairs, Tumi Masekela.

A variety of participating community groups and performers showcased a year's worth of preparations in celebration of South African culture and creativity as the parade made its way down the Fan Walk on Green Point's Somerset Road.

At the event's Opening Ceremony, Deputy Mayor of the City of Cape Town, Eddie Andrews, called on Capetonians to share the spirit of Afr'energy, saying, "Many of the people gathered here this evening are foreigners, so let's make sure we say hello and give them a warm South African welcome. Let's show them what our beautiful City has to offer."

For the first time since the Covid pandemic, the Cape Town Carnival returned to its classic parade format for the 2023 event. Spectators were able to flood the area and catch all the action first-hand at no cost.





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Forty- six community groups from across the Western Cape participated in the parade, showcasing their individual talents but all reflecting the 2023 theme of 'Afr'energy'. They include Cape Town Carnival favourites such as the Western Province Marching Band, Chinese Community and Bulumko High School, as well as 17 new community groups.

"Seeing Capetonians flock to the Carnival in their droves tonight reminded us how meaningful this event is to the City, and reminds us why we continue to serve our community of performers and sponsors," said Cape Town Carnival Board Chair Prof Rachel Jafta.

"We are so proud of how the Cape Town Carnival has grown to become a world-class event that gives hope to people across our City, regardless of their circumstances. Our performers are proof that you can build a better world and have fun doing it," said Cape Town Carnival CEO Jay Douwes.

This is the 12th edition of the Cape Town Carnival, which has become an iconic free annual event in the city that showcases diverse South African cultures, dance genres, art, and creativity. And although the parade is the showpiece, the impact of the Cape Town Carnival reaches far beyond this event with job creation, skills development, and community participation a focus throughout the year.

The Cape Town Carnival is proudly sponsored by the City of Cape Town; MultiChoice; the Department of Arts and Culture; DSTV; Media24; kfm; Western Cape Government; Standard Bank South Africa; Southern Sun; City Sightseeing; and Peninsula Beverages.

ENDS

Images: Courtesy of the Cape Town Carnival

