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## **Media Alert**

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### **For immediate release:**

#### **National Science Week celebrates evidence-based science**

National Science Week is captivating the national with its powerful theme “Transforming Lives Through Evidence-based Science.” From July 31 to August 5, 2025, communities across South Africa will come together to explore the boundless potential of science in shaping our present and future.

© The theme for this year's National Science Week emphasizes the importance of evidence-based approaches in solving problems and making informed decisions. By using rigorously researched and evidence-based information, science empowers us to navigate challenges and create positive change in the world.

The week will explore the concept of “science” as, “a systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation, experimentation, and the testing of theories against the evidence obtained.”

The National Science Week is an annual science engagement initiative led by the Department of Science and Innovation, and coordinated by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA). It serves as a platform for diverse stakeholders, role players, and interested groups to collaborate and promote the pivotal role of STEMI (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Innovation) in our daily lives.

This year's science week program will feature a myriad of activities and events centered around two crucial branches of science: Energy and Agriculture. The sub-theme "Building Sustainable Electricity Together - Power of Community" will foster public participation and sharing of experiences related to energy, including topics such as electricity and load shedding. Schools and youth will gain valuable insights into career opportunities and skills within the energy industry, guiding them from subject choices to tertiary fields of study.

In parallel, the sub-theme "Advancing Millets for a Healthy Diet" aligns with the 2023 International Year of Millets (IYoM). The week will raise general awareness about the significance of millets in ensuring food security, nutrition, and the production of millet-based products. Youth will be offered the chance to experience farming firsthand, while learners

will be encouraged to take up Agricultural Sciences to tackle food security challenges with purpose and determination.

Throughout the week-long event, National Science Week will showcase an array of engaging activities, such as science shows, demonstrations, workshops, lectures, and science centers. People of all ages will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of science, technology and innovation and their roles in our daily lives. Additionally, fostering connections with scientists will promote a broader appreciation for research and its impact on society.

Established in 2000, National Science Week has steadily grown to encompass the entire nation, becoming a pinnacle event in the scientific calendar. It serves as a beacon of inspiration, encouraging citizens to embrace evidence-based science for a brighter and more sustainable future.

To participate in National Science Week 2025 and join the transformative journey of evidence-based science, visit [www.saasta.ac.za](http://www.saasta.ac.za) for more information and event schedules.

**The objectives of celebrating the NSW 2023 under the aforementioned theme are to:**

- To popularise science to the broader South African society,
- To showcase local innovations in science and technology, and the leadership role of the DSI and other government departments in enabling research, development and innovation,
- To make STEMI appealing to learners, such that they consider SET as career options, and
- To familiarise targeted participants with the science linked to areas in which South Africa has knowledge and/or geographic advantage so as to contribute in making them informed and critically engaged citizens.
- For more information, please click on the link below to find NSW programme Programme  
<https://www.saasta.ac.za/programmes/focus-weeks/national-science-week-2023/>

**ENDS**

**About National Science Week (NSW)**

National Science Week is an initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation, a countrywide celebration of science. The week connects various stakeholders and role players who conduct science based activities during the week and is an annual celebration of the role and value of science and technology in our daily lives.

The National Science Week was established in 2000 and has developed over the years to have a truly national footprint. As the coordinator of the week, the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement ensures the efficient coordination of the week and works with

a multitude of partners including universities, science centres, museums, botanical gardens and other organisation to create a week of scientific exploration, celebration and discovery.

### **About the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA)**

SAASTA is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF) with the mandate to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering and technology in South Africa. SAASTA's contribution to the NRF's vision is to grow the pool of quality learners today who will become the scientists and innovators of tomorrow. It aims to be the leading science advancement agency in the country by promoting and communicating the value and impact of science, technology and innovation in a dynamic knowledge economy. It also intends to contribute significantly towards building a science, engineering and technology (SET) human resource base. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF, please visit [www.saasta.ac.za](http://www.saasta.ac.za)

### **About the National Research Foundation (NRF):**

The National Research Foundation (NRF) was established on 1 April 1999 as an independent statutory body in accordance with the National Research Foundation Act. The NRF is a key public entity responsible for supporting the development of human resources for research and innovation in all fields of science and technology. The organisation is one of the major players in educating and training a new generation of scientists able to deal with South African and African needs. The organisation encourages public awareness and appreciation of science, engineering and technology, and facilitates dialogue between science and society. Its vision is to contribute to a prosperous South Africa based on a knowledge economy. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF please visit [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

### **About the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI):**

The Department of Science and Innovation is the South African government department responsible for scientific research, including space programmes. The current Minister is Dr Blade Nzimande. The department seeks to boost socio-economic development in South Africa through research and innovation. To achieve its goals, the Department provides leadership, an enabling environment and resources for science, technology and innovation. For more information, please visit [www.dsi.gov.za](http://www.dsi.gov.za)

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