

# Sophie Ndaba not dead - currently shooting *Lockdown* Season 5

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- *Lockdown* Season 5 is now shooting in Johannesburg
- Sophie Lichaba, aka Sophie Ndaba, joins the star-studded cast, who won two SAFTAs in 2019
- *Lockdown* was the most awarded drama at the SAFTAs in 2019, winning Best Drama and more
- Binge-watch *Lockdown* Seasons 1-4 on Showmax ahead of the Season 5 premiere on 31 January 2020



Season 5 of *Lockdown*, South Africa's favourite prison drama, started production last week in Johannesburg, where it's mostly shooting at Constitution Hill, the historic prison complex where the likes of Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi and Albertina Sisulu served time.

Every season of *Lockdown* introduces a new star. This time it's Sophie Lichaba, aka Sophie Ndaba, who became a household name in South Africa during her two-decade-long starring role as the feisty receptionist Queen Moroka in the SABC1 soapie *Generations*.

The multi-award-winning actress joins one of the most impressive casts on South African television: at the SAFTAs this year four of the six Drama acting nominations for women went to *Lockdown* cast members: Dawn Thandeka King won Best Actress as Mazet, ahead of her co-star Zola Nombona as Monde (and International Emmy nominee Thuso Mbedu), while Lorcia Cooper won Best Supporting Actress as Tyson, ahead of her co-star Pamela Nomvete as Governor Deborah Band.

Since losing a noticeable amount of weight last year due to diabetes, Sophie's been reported dead on social media repeatedly, most recently as she started filming *Lockdown* last week.

The SAFTA winner is unfazed by the fake news, saying, "I'm just excited to be tackling such a challenging role on one of the biggest shows in the country."

Every episode of *Lockdown* has trended on Twitter, so Sophie's new character on the groundbreaking series will give social media something better to talk about on 31 January 2020, when Season 5 will premiere, only on Showmax.

"We haven't seen Sophie in a while on South African television," says *Lockdown* creator Mandla N, who is still directing every episode of the hit show. "But you could have said the same about Lorcia or Pamela when we cast them, and they've both reclaimed their places among the biggest stars in South Africa."

Notorious for its cliffhangers, plot twists and emotional rollercoasters, *Lockdown* takes viewers into the cells and offices of

Thabazimbi Women's Correctional Facility.

As Season 5 picks up, Deborah is under pressure from The Department of Correctional Services, after one death too many at the prison. Arch-rivals Mazet and Tyson are still running the prison yard together, for now. And Monde is trying to make things right with Vicky (Lauren Jenae), while worrying about her sister Katlego (Natasha Thahane), who's been transferred to Kgotsong Asylum.

SAFTA winners Linda Sebezo and Nomsa Buthelezi are also back as fan favourites Maki and Slenda, while the multi-awarded winning Patricia Boyer returns as the hilarious but dangerous Sue.

Produced by Black Brain Pictures, *Lockdown* was the most awarded drama at this year's SAFTAs, taking home five awards including Best Drama.

*Lockdown* is moving from Mzansi Magic, so binge-watch Season 5, only on Showmax, on 31 January 2020. In the meantime, you can catch up on the first four seasons [here](#).

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