



# ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the  
**President**



## **SOUTH AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE DRIVE IS GATHERING PACE**

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

**T**O achieve the levels of growth our country needs to create enough jobs for its people, we need far more construction and more reliable and consistent infrastructure maintenance.

That is why infrastructure development is a strategic priority for government.

Airports, roads, railways, public transit systems, water, energy and telecoms infrastructure all play a vital role in driving economic growth. Infrastructure development has a multiplier effect, driving productivity and job creation, and improving the delivery of basic services.

For many years, capital investment by both the public and private sectors was in decline. This was due, among other things, to a difficult economic environment, the diversion of resources through state capture, bureaucratic obstacles and low investor confidence.

Now, following various reforms and initiatives, our infrastructure drive is gathering pace.

A recent report by Nedbank found that the total value of new projects announced by both the public and private sectors last year amounted to R445 billion. This was more than double the year before and represents

the largest fixed investment in infrastructure in South Africa since 2021.

It is significant that more than 78% of the value of this infrastructure investment was from government and state-owned enterprises.

According to Statistics South Africa, capital spending by state-owned enterprises and national, provincial and local government continues to rise.

The private sector is lagging behind the state on infrastructure development spend. However private sector entities announced investment plans

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

### Infrastructure Investment Handbook



in 2024 with a total value of R95 billion. These included an R18 billion mixed-use development in Gauteng, a R4 billion investment by Volkswagen to upgrade its Kariega facility in the Eastern Cape and a new private university for the Western Cape.

During the State of the Nation Address and debate, government outlined a number of infrastructure projects underway across the country.

These include projects in water and sanitation, human settlements, renewable energy, recreational, heritage and maritime infrastructure. They also include road rehabilitation, the refurbishing of state-owned buildings to attract investors, and upgrading health facilities.

Infrastructure SA, established under the sixth administration, leads infrastructure planning, management and delivery. The work of Infrastructure SA has enabled progress in the implementation of the designated Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs) in areas such

as energy, water and sanitation, student accommodation and transport. To date, 34 out of 50 SIPs are in implementation stage, to the value of R281 billion. An additional pipeline of catalytic projects to the value of R21 billion will break ground this year.

To ensure that construction projects get going faster and are finished sooner, Infrastructure SA has launched a project preparation fund worth R180 million to prepare and package infrastructure projects across government.

Recently revised regulations for public private partnerships will help to further unlock private sector expertise and funds for infrastructure.

The challenge of the construction mafia that the industry has faced is being tackled head on by the South African Police Service. Its Economic Infrastructure Task Teams are making headway in dealing with this criminality.

Last year, stakeholders attend-

ing the National Construction Summit on Crime-Free Sites agreed to collaborate to address construction-site disruptions. Some of the measures agreed on included enhanced security measures on sites, community engagement and the development of the emerging construction sector.

Construction stoppages are on the decrease since these efforts commenced.

The construction sector is a major source of employment. It accounted for the largest job increases between the second and third quarters of last year.

As work continues apace on structural reforms to improve the business operating environment and facilitate investment, our country's infrastructure build programme will play an increasingly prominent role.

We will intensify our efforts to ensure that infrastructure investment by both the state and business drives economic recovery, growth and job creation.

# MAKE APARTHEID GREAT AGAIN! REALLY??

■ By **ELSEBE WESSELS**

*Recent weeks have been dominated by the news that the American President Donald Trump has signed an executive order under the title: ‘Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa’ ‘addressing serious human rights violations in South Africa’, and ordering that Afrikaners must be given refugee status as victims of unjust racial discrimination.*

*This article, written by Elsabe Wessels, a member of the ANC Veterans League traces some of the background to this decision.*

**I**N July 2024 Afriforum, Solidariteit and Afrikanerstigting (Afrikaner Foundation) went to the USA on a journey of revenge against the South African government, with the explicit goal of begging the Americans to interfere in South African politics in a vitriolic campaign to Make-Apartheid-Great-Again (MAGA).

The Afrikaner-MAGA (A-MAGA) group openly beseeched their fair-skinned brothers and sisters in America to intercede on their behalf and bring American state



power to bear on the South African government.

For their treasonous expedition the A-MAGA delegates targeted the National Conservatism Conference (Nat-Com4) in Washington, to meet and greet self-proclaimed ‘nationalists’ (read white supremacists) and interact with the luminaries of the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement that was sweeping across the USA, in favour of Donald Trump, for a third time. The A-MAGA triumvirate celebrated a ‘home coming’ of sorts amongst

the world’s rightwing political celebrities and tech sympathisers, including South African born Peter Thiel. The Afrikaner’s path to refugee status was generated.

The chief apartheid-preservation-pundit was Ernst Roets, deputy CEO of Afriforum, who gave an impassioned speech about the suffering of Afrikaner woman and children in British Imperial concentration camps and their God-willed messianic rise to power while conspicuously omitting the violent atrocities committed by white South Africans and



the reign of terror by self-styled 'Afrikaners' and their ancestors at this southernmost point of Africa.

They found eager ears in Trump's inner sanctum – also with the rightwing American media and especially among Trump acolytes looking for 'first 100 days' easy gains and, last but not least, Trump's South African born righthand-man Elon Musk with his visceral and deeply troubling psychoses about South Africa and a particular hatred of the ANC and ANC government in particular.

The organisations of the A-MAGA-trio were all set up in the past decade to explicitly protect Afrikaner interests in a post-apartheid democratic South Africa in which our Constitution, Parliament and courts have rigorously protected the rights of all South Africans regardless of race or creed. In Washington, their sorrowful message as the sole flag bearers of Western Civilisation in a sea of black poverty was well received. The 'reveal' was the explicit plea of support to their audiences for the preservation of inherited Afrikaner wealth, both material and institutional and to entrench and safe-guard the wealth accumulated by generations of white South Africans under the auspices of colonial rule and white racial hegemony.

Instead of joining hands with the majority of South Africans, as a joyful rainbow nation, Afriforum and Solidariteit and their cohorts have, with malignant intent, sought out international bigots of note, international rightwing political parties with deplorable racist agendas and found succour amongst the phalanxes of nazi inspired fascist movements on the rise around the world.

This past week the make-apartheid-great-again squad achieved their greatest goal with a vindictive executive order from American President Donald Trump.

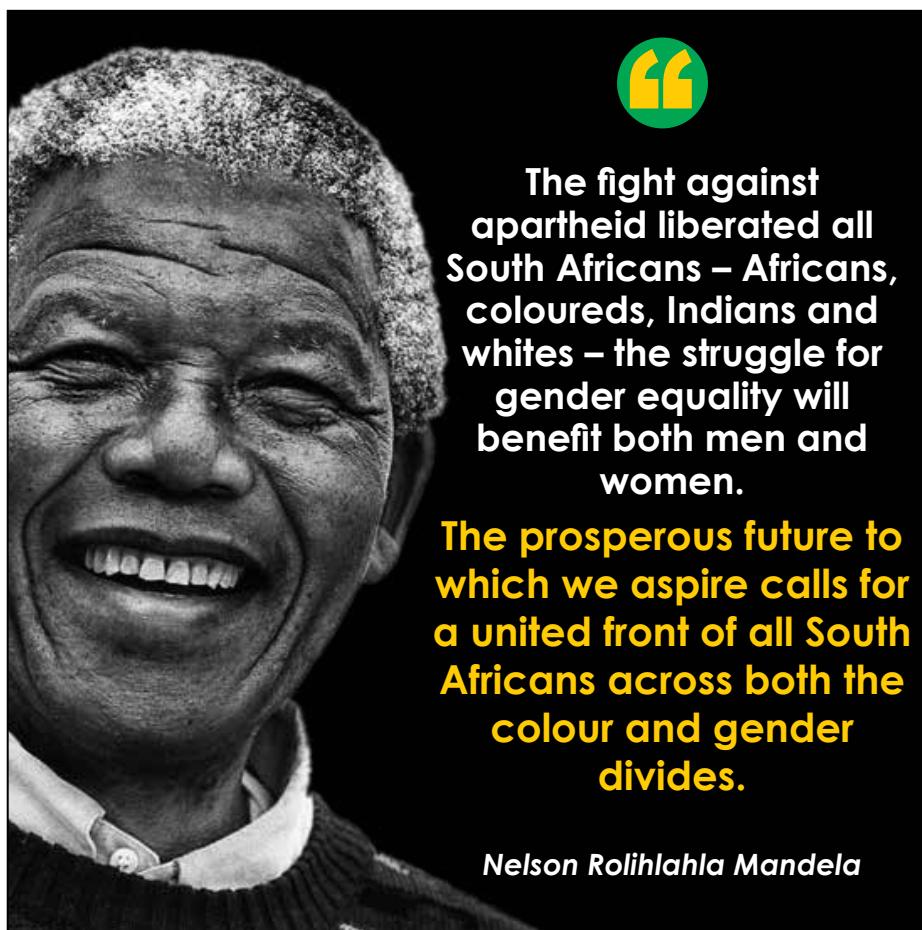
Like a ventriloquist Trump is mouthing their scripts of lies, untruths and small-minded threats as he forges a particularly vocal and hostile agenda against the South African government and black South Africans in particular, dramatically echoing the fallacious spectre of white people's suffering in South Africa.

As Donald Trump continues to hold court, unscripted, bewildering the world and its media by unleashing one executive order after the other, Solidarity, Afriforum, and South Africa's 'white rights' proponents show glee for what they regard as an 'ANC predicament'; but the danger is, the love-affair

between rightwing Afrikaners and the rightwing Trump-realm is sowing deep divisions in South Africa, scratching a deep festering wound that's at the heart of South Africa's crucible of nation building.

This should not happen. President Ramaphosa in his closing SONA address voiced his opprobrium of those rushing off to foreign lands 'to lay complaints about issues that we ourselves can solve here in this country'. Instead, we need to support the President as he rallied South Africans around the vision of our Bill of Rights and as the ANC need to continue to seek alliances with the broadest possible number of people and organisations to solve our own problems.

The forthcoming National Dialogue is one opportunity to do this.





## Unravelling twisted race classification

■ By **NKENKE KEKANA**

**T**HE recent executive order of US President Donald Trump inviting “the ethnic minority descendants of settler groups” to that country has sparked an unprecedented debate about race in SA.

Trump and SA born and US billionaire Elon Musk has offered refugee status to the “disfavored minorities” whose “properties are being seized without compensation.”

This bizarre offer is assumed to target white Afrikaner people although the order does not specifically mention Afrikaners. It is however encouraging that many prominent leaders of this community have rejected the offer.

At the heart of the land question in SA lies in the history of dispossession by white Europeans from the black African majority. Today the majority of the most productive land in South Africa still re-

mains in the hands of a minority white population.

There is no evidence of any properties belonging to the so-called descendants of settlers being confiscated.

The South African Constitution and the laws that have been passed guarantee security of tenure and land is only expropriated through market value compensation, after a lengthy process, which can at any stage be challenged and arbitrated in and by SA’s courts, which are known to be credible and fair in their dispensation of justice in SA.

It is ironic that the architects of apartheid colonialism today cry foul for being discriminated against because of their race.

The Afrikaners who are globe-trotting and telling the whole world that they are victims of racial dis-

crimination are disingenuous and shortsighted and their campaign has backfired. Their business interests are bound to suffer more if the Trump administration imposes tariffs on SA, especially on the country’s agricultural produce such as fruit and wine.

Also, if Trump decides to kick SA out of the US’s preferential trade agreement known as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) it may block that country’s access to the entire continent and push many African countries closer to China.

The descendants of the settlers in South Africa have been in this part of Africa much longer than the Trump ancestors have been in America and yet they are being identified as refugees. Afrikaners are ethnic South Africans; apart from their origins and they belong nowhere else except in this part of the continent.



There are more than four million white South Africans here and more than fifty percent of this grouping call themselves Afrikaners. It is a fact that the majority of farmers who work the most productive agricultural properties are Afrikaners.

Perhaps Trump wants these Afrikaners to come to the US to bolster that country's fledgling agricultural produce as farmers and labourers replacing the repatriated Mexicans.

In SA, the most productive land is in the hands of a population grouping that makes up seven percent of the population of nearly sixty million citizens.

Trump's order is misinformed because the private property rights of the white population, like all South African citizens, are protected.

Contextually, if we are to digest the issues perhaps it is important to revisit the history of the Afrikaners in South Africa.

The majority of Johan Anthoniszoon "Jan" van Riebeeck and

his two ships that docked in the Cape in 1652 (employed by the Dutch East India Company) were mainly of Dutch origins.

In 1688 the French Huguenots arrived in the Cape Colony as refugees escaping from religious persecution from the Catholic monarchy in France.

In 1836 the Cape Dutch and the Trekboer together with the Huguenots made up the majority of the Boers Voortrekkers who travelled/trekked away from the British rule in the Cape Colony in search of greener pastures northwards.

Although many of the Great Trek leaders who led the movement like Hendrik Potgieter, Piet Retief, Piet Uys, Janse Van Rensburg, Louis Tregard died in numerous battles with the native African tribes, but nevertheless, their offspring consolidated their political power and formed what was internationally recognised as the Boer Republics; the ZAR (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State.

The French Huguenots for their part settled in the Cape Colony,

they established the wine farms and built a lucrative wine industry.

The French Huguenots as part of the Afrikaner political elite also used their administrative skills to run the country after the 1910 Union of South Africa.

Many of the political elite in the last hundred years of apartheid rule were all descendants of the French Huguenots. Names of notable Afrikaner leaders such as de Klerk, du Plessis, Cronje, de Villiers, du Toit are all descendants of the French Huguenots.

They came to Africa as refugees and settled here and it is unthinkable that they will migrate again as refugees to the US, now seemingly the land of Donald Trump.

It was only after the Anglo-Boer war and the birth of the Union of South Africa that a language called Afrikaans was used in schools and in the Dutch Reformed Church.

The language itself is a creole language, a fusion of many languages. Although the word Afrikaner was used historically to refer to different peoples of the British/Dutch Cape Colony; race was prefaced to the Afrikaner after the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910. It was only after the 1910 whites only administration that the Afrikaner was re-born as a whites only descriptor.

Today if the more than two million white Afrikaners can come together with the four million Coloured people who speak Afrikaans and have overlaps in cultural practices, they could be a significant portion of the population in SA.

But because "the pure race" white identity dilutes the potential

## Land Ownership in SA

### Farms and agricultural holdings by individual landowners

White people own **26 663 144** ha  
**72%** of farms and agricultural holdings by individual landowners

Coloured people own **5 371 383** ha  
**15%** of farms and agricultural holdings by individual landowners

Indian people own **2 031 790** ha  
**5%** of farms and agricultural holdings by individual landowners

African people own **1 314 873** ha  
**4%** of farms and agricultural holdings by individual landowners



Population group	S.A. Citizen	Non-S.A. Citizen
(i) White	00	10
(ii) Cape Coloured	01	11
(iii) Malay	02	12
(iv) Griqua	03	13
(v) Chinese	04	14
(vi) Indian	05	15
(vii) Other Asian	06	16
(viii) Other Coloured	07	17

### Racial classification in South Africa

for the Coloured population to be Afrikaner, the descendants of the Cape Dutch, Trekboer and the Huguenots form a small cultural bloc that is being courted by the likes of Musk and Trump.

We need to remove the veil of ignorance on the Afrikaners and apartheid racial classification.

It was indeed the Apartheid Nationalist Party who in the 1940s twisted history to suit their racist "own affairs" apartheid policies. The "Afrikaners" have evolved over many years and it has to be nurtured to accommodate the true history of its evolution.

Is it not absurd that descendants of Simon Van der Stel, the first

Governor of the Cape Colony, who may reside in Stellenbosch are perhaps today also talking about the "pure white race".

Simon was the son of Adriaan van der Stel, an official of the Dutch East India Company and his mother Maria Lievens was a Malay mixed-race descendant.

Simon Van der Stel will be categorised as a Cape Coloured. The town Stellenbosch and the naval town called Simon Town are named after him. Today his farm Constantia is one of the wealthiest land masses in Cape Town.

The history of the Coloureds is coupled with European colonialism, indigenous Khoisan and Ma-

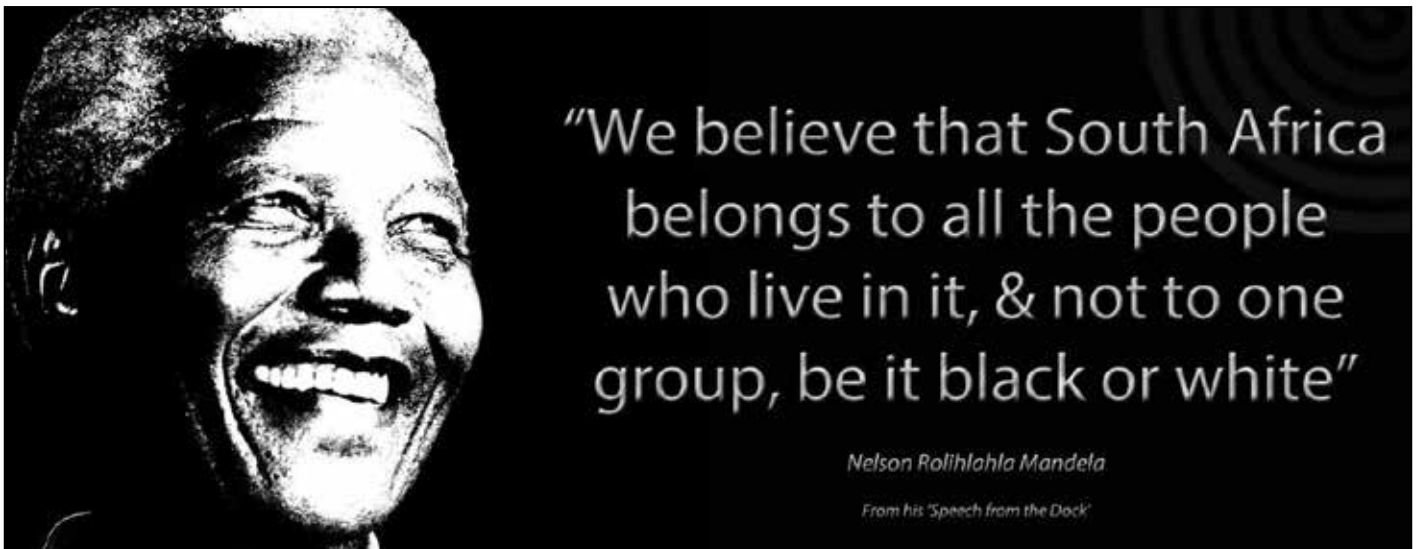
lay slave influences. This mixed ethnicity forged a new identity and cultural practices that are strongly tied to the history of South Africa. The Afrikaners of Colour have as much claim to Afrikaans as a language and the Afrikaner as a distinct identity community.

One day in the not so distant future the children of the "*regte Afrikaners*" (apart from those who might once again be refugees in the Americas) and those of the Afrikaners of colour or Afrikaap may come together to acknowledge their common African ancestry.

We must move beyond the teachings of the racist propaganda and the twisted history books of the Apartheid National Party ideologues and embrace the true meaning of Afrikaners.

The Afrikaners are as ethnic as all other tribal groups in South Africa. They are part of a South African nation with its rich diversity and history. The land belongs to all who are willing to work it and no particular racial group must disproportionately own the land in South Africa.

**Nkenke Kekana** is a member of the ANC NEC.



# The murder of gay imam must strengthen rainbow line against intolerance

■ By **YACOOB ABBA OMAR**

**A**S the world is recovering from the fusillades fired by the Trump administration against all that is beautiful about diversity and inclusiveness, we have experienced our own versions of intolerance.

Muhsin Hendricks, a gay imam of the People's Mosque in Wynberg, Cape Town, was gunned down when he was going to officiate over the marriage of a lesbian couple.

Just days before, thousands of Afrikaans speakers gathered at the US consulate in Johannesburg demanding refugee status, as a consequence of lobbying foreign capitals by right-wing organisations such as AfriForum.

The murder of the imam was greeted by shock and horror, with activists such as Zackie Achmat arguing that *"his executioners are not the majority of Muslims who care about every living being on earth, including every human person"*.

The Centre for Contemporary Islam said it was *"reeling from the*



*ways in which some Muslims are condoning his assassination", bringing "into sharp focus the intense homophobia permeating the Muslim and other faith communities"*.

There is something deeply concerning about practitioners of a religion avowedly committed to tolerance who cannot exercise such a quality even to fellow adherents. Sunnis routinely dismiss Shia as nonbelievers or accuse the mystical Sufis of engaging in un-Islamic practises, while many stripes of Islam banish family members marrying outside their

faith or choosing a different lifestyle. This demonising makes it easier for extremists to shoot, stab or behead.

Solidarity chair Flip Buys and his coterie have been at pains to distance themselves from the results of their unpatriotic lobbying, such as US President Donald Trump signing an executive order halting all aid to SA and offering refugee status to Afrikaners. Buys said: *"We reaffirm today our commitment to the country and all its people."*

However, the posters carried at



## Muslim bigots and white Afrikaner racists must remember they are allowed to hold diverse views because of this rainbow nation's tolerance and its enlightened Constitution.

the demonstration showed what supporters truly believe: not only did they thank Trump, they called for an end to legalised racism – seemingly different from the illegal racism they seem to enjoy practising.

Muslim bigots and white Afrikaner racists must remember they are allowed to hold diverse views because of this rainbow nation's tolerance and its enlightened Constitution. This was made possible by the decades-long struggle waged against apartheid – the embodiment of Christian nationalism and colonialism.

Writing in the Sunday Times, Barney Mthombothi wrote that chauvinists such as Trump behave the way they do because *“Trump is opposed to the idea of SA. The notion that people of all races could work together to build a harmonious society offends his racist sensibilities”*, and that *“such an experiment should not be allowed to succeed”*.

The majority of South Africans who take pride in all our country stands for should find our collective backbone as we confront these demons at home and abroad. At home such monsters

must not be allowed to cross the thin blue line of the law. More powerfully, we must express society's condemnation: their families and congregations must know that such behaviour is not just evil, illegal and unpatriotic, it is simply unacceptable.

Similarly, SA must strengthen the rainbow line against homophobes, racists and right wingers around the world. We are once again occupying the moral high ground, as we did during the period of Mandela's presidency when our foreign policy was guided by our deep commitment to human rights.

Our actions at the International Court of Justice concerning the genocide in Gaza has been supported by many states around the world, holding up the candle of hope for a rules-based world order. Our commitment to the constitution is a source of hope for LGBTQI+ individuals and communities around the world.

Our commitment to redressing the legacies of apartheid provides succour to hundreds of millions as they struggle to overcome the racist legacies of slavery and co-

## The majority of South Africans who take pride in all our country stands for should find our collective backbone as we confront these demons at home and abroad.

lonialism so that they can find a job, and their families can live in safety and with dignity.

We need to protect the advances made through diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programmes as they focus on fostering a positive work culture where all employees feel accepted, respected and heard, ensuring equal access to opportunities, particularly for those who have been marginalised.

**Yacoob Abba Omar** is director of operations at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection.

Protesters displaying the old apartheid flag



# The DA's Political Gimmick: Exposing their Hypocrisy and the Need for People-Centred Governance

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

**T**HE recent postponement of the 2025 Budget Speech has exposed the DA's true agenda – not one that seeks the betterment of South Africa's economy, but one that aims to embarrass and weaken the ANC-led GNU. It is a blatant attempt to create instability, divide the nation, and derail the progress we are making to uplift the poor and working families. The DA's actions are akin to those of AfriForum and other reactionary forces that thrive on division, anti-transformation and economic sabotage, seeking to force the ANC's hand and undermine President Ramaphosa's leadership.

## A Manufactured Crisis to Embarrass the ANC

The DA has positioned itself as a party that claims to care about the poor while vehemently opposing any measures that tax the wealthy. Their so-called support for postponing the Budget Speech under the guise of ensuring a "pro-poor" budget is nothing but political posturing. This is the same party that fights against social welfare, rejects minimum wage increases, and calls for a lean market-driven state where

social services such as education, healthcare, and pensions are drastically cut.

Their refusal to engage constructively on critical budgetary matters and their eagerness to block governance efforts are clear indications that they are not in the Government of National Unity (GNU) to take South Africa forward. Instead, they are using the GNU as a platform to look for weaknesses in the ANC's leadership and weaponize them for political gain. The DA's real agenda is to liquidate the ANC, divide its support base, and erode the very foundation of democratic governance that has brought stability and progress to millions of South Africans.

## The DA's True Agenda: A Lean Market State That Neglects the Poor

The DA has consistently advocated for a neoliberal economic framework that prioritizes the interests of big business and the wealthy over the working families and the struggling poor. Their vision for South Africa includes:

1. **A Lean Market-Driven State:** The DA's economic policies favour reducing the role of government in economic affairs, which would significantly undermine public service delivery, particularly in social welfare, pensions, healthcare, and education.
2. **Opposition to Progressive Taxation:** While claiming to care about the poor, the DA



actively resists policies that would ensure that the wealthy pay their fair share. Their opposition to VAT increases is a smokescreen; their real agenda is to prevent any tax burden from being placed on corporations and high-income earners.

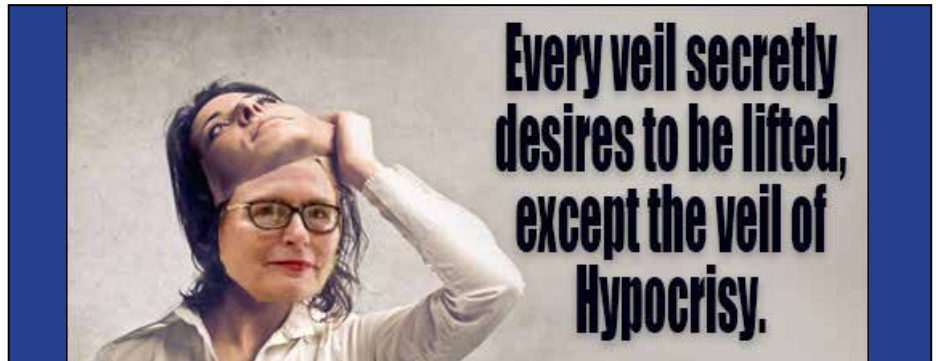
3. **Privatization and Deregulation:** The DA's policies would see essential services like public transport, energy, and even education subjected to private market forces, leading to increased costs and reduced accessibility for the poor.
4. **Disempowering the State:** By continuously attacking the government's fiscal management, the DA creates an environment where austerity becomes the default response, further stripping away state capacity to deliver services.

### Alternative Solutions to Raising Revenue Without Overburdening the Poor

The ANC remains steadfast in its commitment to economic justice. We must now pivot and rethink our approach, ensuring that any future budget adjustments prioritize progressive taxation rather than regressive increases that disproportionately impact the poor.

Instead of a blanket 2% VAT increase, the ANC must adopt a **more nuanced approach:**

1. **Increase VAT by only 1%, but exclusively on luxury goods** (such as high-end electronics, imported luxury vehicles, and other non-essential items). This ensures that the burden falls on those who can afford it, rather than the working class.
2. **Expand corporate tax contributions** by closing tax loop-



holes that allow multinational corporations and high-income earners to evade fair taxation.

3. **Strengthen enforcement against illicit financial flows** –billions are lost annually due to tax evasion, under-invoicing in trade, and illicit outflows that benefit only a privileged few.
4. **Implement a wealth tax on high-net-worth individuals** to redistribute resources without placing additional strain on struggling households.
5. **Enhance fuel levy efficiency** by ensuring that the funds collected are directly reinvested into public transport subsidies to offset the rising cost of living for the poor.
6. **Scrap VAT on key household essentials**, ensuring that the most vulnerable South Africans are shielded from any tax hikes.

This **multi-pronged approach** would allow us to achieve our fiscal goals **without punishing the very people we are meant to uplift.**

### The DA's Hypocrisy: Anti-Poor, Pro-Elite

The DA's attempt to paint itself as the *"champion of the people"* in opposing the VAT increase is a **textbook example of political dishonesty.** Let us be clear: **the DA does not care about the poor. It never has.**

- **The DA's track record speaks for itself:** It has consistently **opposed increases in social spending** on housing, health, and education.
- The DA believes in a **lean, market-driven state**, meaning that it would **cut funding for social welfare, basic education, healthcare, and pension schemes** if it had its way.
- The DA **refuses to increase corporate taxes or impose wealth taxes** – because its real constituency is big business and the elite.
- The DA governs in a way that **prioritizes the wealthy and entrenches economic disparities.** In Cape Town, which it controls, gentrification has forced thousands of working-class families out of their homes while prioritizing the interests of big developers.

Their opposition to the VAT increase was **never about helping the poor.** It was a cynical political maneuver to create instability, fuel public anger, and weaken the ANC's standing with its historical support base.

### Regaining ANC Unity: Lessons from This Crisis

The fact that **ANC leaders themselves had differing views on the Budget** suggests a deeper issue. The ANC cannot afford to **allow internal divisions to be exploited by opposition forces.**



We need to **reaffirm our principles, discipline our ranks, and move forward with a clear and unified vision.**

1. **Internal Unity is Non-Negotiable:** The ANC leadership must **speak with one voice** on major economic decisions. Disagreements should be handled internally, not in a way that gives ammunition to our political opponents.
2. **Better Political Communication:** We failed to prepare our people for the VAT increase debate. Instead of letting the opposition define the narrative, we should have **engaged the public earlier, explained the trade-offs, and sought broader consensus on alternative solutions.**
3. **Reassert ANC's Pro-Poor Credentials:** We must **recommit ourselves to policies that uplift the working class** and make it clear that **no economic measure will be implemented without ensuring that it benefits the majority of South Africans.**
4. **Review the GNU Agreement:** This incident has demonstrated that the DA and others in the GNU are **not interested in stable governance** but are using their positions to sabotage the ANC. **Is the GNU serving our people, or has it become a Trojan Horse for the opposition to weaken us?** We must critically assess our continued participation and ensure that ANC policies remain central to government's agenda.

### Winning the Hearts and Minds of South Africans

The ANC must turn this setback into an opportunity:

- **Show that we listen and**

**adapt:** We must acknowledge that the VAT increase was a politically unwise move and that we are prepared to find alternative, fairer ways to raise revenue.

- **Expose the DA's hypocrisy:** We must launch a nationwide campaign to educate South Africans on the DA's true economic agenda and how it ultimately serves only the elite.
- **Strengthen grassroots mobilization:** The ANC needs to return to the ground, rebuild trust, and remind our supporters why we are the party of the people.

### Conclusion:

#### A Call to Action

The ANC must not allow the DA and its allies to dictate the political narrative. We must be **proactive, not reactive.** The party must **regain the moral**

**high ground**, correct course where necessary, and ensure that our policies remain firmly rooted in the principles of social justice, economic equity, and progressive transformation.

This is not just about a postponed Budget Speech. This is about **defending the legacy of the ANC**, resisting attempts to weaken the party from within and without, and ensuring that **South Africa's economic future is shaped by a government that truly represents the majority, not the privileged few.**

**We will not be divided. We will not be defeated. We will govern in the interests of the people.**

**The struggle continues.**

*Faiez Jacobs is a former ANC Member of Parliament and is an advocate for equity and justice.*





# The ANC is stepping in the right direction

■ By **VUSUMZI VUSIE MBA**

**T**HE African National Congress (ANC) has indeed made significant strides in promoting social justice and equality in South Africa. The signing of the Bella Bill and the Land Expropriation Act are notable achievements that demonstrate the ANC's commitment to addressing the country's historical injustices and promoting economic empowerment for all citizens.

The ANC's efforts to unite all forces across various strata of society are also commendable. By promoting a culture of Ubuntu (humanity) and global justice, the ANC has been able to bring to-

gether individuals and organizations from diverse backgrounds to work towards a common goal of creating a more equitable and just society.

Furthermore, the ANC's stance in solidarity with the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation and human rights abuses is a testament to its commitment to global justice and human rights.

Despite facing criticism and challenges, the ANC has remained steadfast in its support for the Palestinian cause, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to promoting justice and equality for all people.

However, it is also important to acknowledge the ANC's flaws, including allegations of fraud, corruption, and social distance among its members. These challenges must be addressed in order to ensure that the ANC remains a credible and effective force for change in South Africa.

Overall, the ANC's leadership has made significant strides in promoting social justice and equality in South Africa, and its commitment to global justice and human rights is commendable. However, it must also acknowledge and address its flaws in order to remain a credible and effective force for change.



The ANC's path forward involves advancing the National Democratic Revolution, maintaining its non-racial character, and reclaiming its position as a leader in society. This journey requires the party to unite the black block, just as it has attempted to incorporate whites and those opposed to Afriforum's racist sentiments.

To achieve this, the ANC must focus on promoting progressive pan-Africanism, rooted in racial justice, equality, and peaceful coexistence. These principles are embedded in the Freedom Charter and the National Democratic Revolution.

- **Unity and Cohesion:** Strengthening the party's internal unity and cohesion, while promoting a sense of shared purpose and belonging among its members.
- **Non-Racialism:** Continuing to uphold the values of non-racialism, recognizing the diversity of South African society and promoting inclusivity.
- **Progressive Pan-Africanism:** Advancing a progressive pan-African agenda, centered on racial justice, equality, and peaceful coexistence.
- **Social Cohesion:** Fostering social cohesion by promoting nation-building initiatives and addressing the socioeconomic challenges facing South Africa.

By prioritizing these areas, the ANC can regain its mantle as a leader in society, drive meaningful change, and build a more just and equitable South Africa for all.

The African National Congress (ANC) has been at the forefront of South Africa's struggle for liberation and democracy. However, in recent years, the party has faced significant challenges, in-

cluding declining popularity and internal divisions. To regain its momentum and strengthen its position in South African politics, the ANC needs to unite the black block, comprising the Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), despite their differing ideologies and approaches.

One of the primary challenges in uniting the black block is the divergent ideologies of the MK and EFF. The MK's ultranationalist views may conflict with the ANC's commitment to non-racialism and inclusivity. Similarly, the EFF's populist approach may not align with the ANC's more moderate stance, potentially creating tension. Nevertheless, despite these differences, the ANC, MK, and EFF share common goals, such as addressing economic inequality and promoting social justice.

Focusing on specific issues, like land reform or economic empowerment, can help build bridges between the parties. For instance, the ANC's commitment

to land expropriation without compensation has been a long-standing demand of the EFF. By collaborating on such issues, the parties can foster a sense of unity and shared purpose. Moreover, a united front against racism and xenophobia can help to promote social cohesion and address the lingering effects of apartheid.

To achieve unity, the ANC must engage in constructive dialogue with the MK and EFF, acknowledging their concerns and finding common ground. This requires a willingness to listen, compromise, and adapt. The ANC must also recognize the legitimacy of the MK and EFF as representatives of the black block and engage with them in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

Ultimately, uniting the black block is crucial for the ANC's revival and its ability to drive meaningful change in South Africa. By working together, the ANC, MK, and EFF can promote social justice, address economic inequality, and build a more equitable society for





all. The challenge is significant, but the potential rewards are substantial.

The African National Congress (ANC) has indeed demonstrated its commitment to progressive politics, grounded in internationalism, through several key actions. The signing of the Bella Bill and the Land Expropriation Bill, for instance, showcases the ANC's dedication to addressing historical injustices and promoting economic empowerment for all citizens.

Moreover, the ANC's stance on international issues, such as its support for Palestine, highlights its unwavering commitment to defending democracy, human rights, and equality. By representing Palestine in the International Court of Justice, the ANC demonstrates its solidarity with oppressed nations and its dedication to upholding international law.

The ANC's progressive interna-

tionalism is rooted in its founding principles, which emphasize the importance of solidarity, anti-colonialism, and anti-imperialism. The party's commitment to these principles is evident in its engagement with international organizations, such as the African Union and the United Nations, where it advocates for the rights and interests of marginalized communities.

In addition, the ANC's policy formulation process is designed to promote participatory democracy and inclusivity. The party's branches, which make up the majority of attendees at its National Policy Conference, play a crucial role in shaping the party's policies and positions.

Overall, the ANC's actions and policies demonstrate its commitment to progressive politics, internationalism, and the defense of democracy, human rights, and equality.

The ANC's recent progress is in-

deed a step in the right direction, but to truly gain momentum, it's crucial that they take bold actions to address the complex social dynamics and imbalances that exist today.

To achieve this, the ANC could focus on Empowering Marginalized Communities by implementing policies that promote economic empowerment, education, and healthcare. This would help bridge the gap between the privileged and the underprivileged, fostering a more equitable society.

Additionally, the ANC should prioritize Addressing Structural Inequalities by challenging discriminatory laws and practices that perpetuate oppression. This could involve advocating for policy changes, supporting social justice movements, and promoting inclusive decision-making processes.

Human Rights should also be at the forefront of the ANC's agenda. By embracing a human rights-based approach, they can ensure that their policies and actions align with the principles of dignity, equality, and justice. This would involve promoting awareness and education on human rights, particularly among marginalized communities.

Ultimately, the ANC's success will depend on its ability to listen to the voices of all South Africans, particularly those who have been historically marginalized.

By taking drastic actions to address social imbalances and promote human rights, the ANC can truly gain momentum and create a more just and equitable society for all.



# “IT’S OUR TURN TO EAT” Has Never Been in Our Policy Guidelines or Discussed

■ By **THABANG MASEKO**



**T**HE ANC has never been, and will never be, a faction. As regional elective conferences convene in 2025, engaging in factionalism undermines the movement’s core mission: uniting South Africans for complete liberation from all forms of discrimination and national oppression. When money changes hands in the battle for personal power and enrichment, where is the movement that prides itself on being built around membership driven by principles rather than personal gain?

The ANC’s historical strength lies in its ability to merge different organisational cultures, leadership

strands, and generational perspectives. The 48th National Conference in Durban in 1991 marked the end of an era, as Comrade OR Tambo, after nearly three decades of leading the Congress movement, returned from exile to step down as President.

The newly elected National Executive Committee (NEC) embodied the ANC’s diverse strands, uniting different generations in a shared vision.

## **Balancing Government and Organisational Deployment**

The democratic breakthrough of 1994 saw the ANC decisively win the elections and lead the Government of National Unity. However, this transition brought challenges. As President Nelson Mandela acknowledged at the 49th National Conference in Bloemfontein, the ANC’s entry into government was not strategically planned.

He stated: *“Ours was not a planned entry into government. Except for the highest echelons, we did not have a plan for the deployment of cadres. We were disorganised and behaved in a manner that could have endangered the revolution.”*

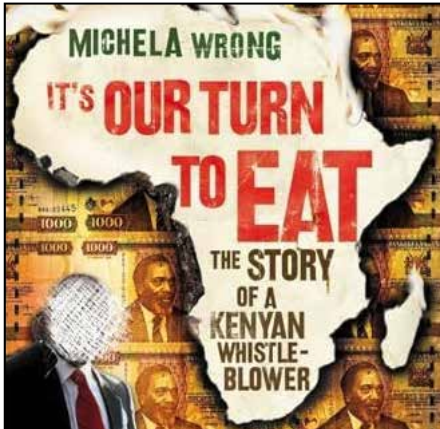
Both the President and the Secretary-General at the time emphasized the need to strike a balance: ensuring that people did not join the ANC merely as a career move while still providing opportunities for committed cadres to serve.

## **The Rise of Careerism and Opportunism**

The 50th National Conference in Mafikeng in 1997 marked a transition, as the Rivonia generation formally handed over leadership positions. However, by the 50th Conference, warning signs had emerged. Reports from both the President and Secretary-General raised concerns over increasingly fierce and divisive leadership contests leading up to provincial conferences in 1996. The intensity of these contests suggested that leadership positions in the ANC were becoming stepping stones to power and material reward in government.

The National General Council held in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) in 2000 took a critical look at the ANC’s character. Acknowledging reports from the President and Secretary-General, the Council identified dangerous trends





taking root within the organisation – careerism, corruption, and opportunism. These elements, foreign to a revolutionary movement, were beginning to corrode the ANC from within. The Council warned that these problems had the potential to eat away at the soul of the movement.

### The Misuse of Political Philosophy

Michela Wrong, author of *It's Our Turn to Eat*, described how political philosophy can sometimes be misused as a shield for corruption. She highlighted how leaders justify their actions under the guise of serving their communities:

*"Philosophy is used as camouflage. Under the pretence of helping the tribe or taking care of an ethnic community, top-level scandals unfold, resulting in personal enrichment at the expense of the people."*

The ANC's legacy and policies have never endorsed corruption, despite attempts to tarnish the movement's image. Our mission has always been to serve the people, not to exploit resources for personal gain. The struggle for a just and equal South Africa cannot be sacrificed at the altar of individual greed. It is imperative that we remain vigilant, resist factionalism, and restore the ANC's integrity to its rightful place in history.



## WHAT DID SOUTH AFRICA DO TO DESERVE U.S. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS?

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

**E**CONOMIC sanctions is an effective tool to isolate recalcitrant regimes, especially those engaged in serious human rights violations, but nevertheless a powerful tool that should be applied sparingly, as the last resort, after everything has failed, and not applied arbitrarily as a show of power by some superpower nations over others. Bullying into submission by superpower nations like the US on emerging or developing economies like South Africa, is just as evil as colonialism and imperialism of yesteryears, and it should be equally condemned with contempt it deserves. South

Africa is a sovereign state, and should not have its sovereignty undermined for any reason whatsoever.

International trade relations is a *quid pro quo* process based on mutual respect, not patronage. Probability of economic sanctions against South Africa by the US and its allies has always been lurking for some time. The reasons advanced in the past included, inter alia, South Africa's non-aligned stance in the Russian-Ukrainian war and/or the inability to enforce the ICC warrant of arrest issued against the Russian President if he could attend



BRICS Summit in South Africa in August 2023. Fortunately, President Vladimir Putin did not come for BRICS Summit, because the impossible was expected, i.e. arresting a sitting head of state.

It is undisputed fact that:

- The US is one of the most powerful nations in the world, and that South Africa is by no means a match to it in more ways than one.
- South Africa does not need economic sanctions by the US or any of its allies, because sanctions would hurt our fledgling economy more, as jobs would be lost.
- The South African economy is indeed dependent on trade relations with other successful economies of the world, including the US and the west. However, it is a lie that South Africa is solely dependent on the US for its economic survival, because it is not.
- President Donald Trump was told blatant lies by AfriForum that there is confiscation of land belonging to white people in South Africa, and he chose to believe those lies without verifying facts. He is not even aware of the country's history regarding land dispossession amongst indigenous people, and does not even suggest how land equity and/or restitution should be attained to breach past imbalances. The real reason is the one not told. Despite the smokescreen to hide the real motive behind US hostility towards South Africa, it is actually being punished for referring Israeli genocidal acts in Gaza to both the ICC and ICJ.

Winning of elections by the Republicans, and making Donald Trump probably the most power-

ful President of the US in recent history, was bound to have disastrous effects, because the word, "diplomacy", is not applicable in his vocabulary. The whole world subsequently had to brace itself for sweeping geopolitical changes that the US President-elect, Donald Trump, would introduce, not only for the US, but for all nations globally. Even before his inauguration as the 47th President of the US, he had already nailed his colours to the mast that, as soon as he got into office he would withdraw most of the Democrats' policies.

Unsurprisingly, he has already done and is continuing to do exactly what he had set himself out to do – "*making America great again*", and every other nation subservient thereto.

However, with the benefit of hindsight, the world needed someone

as abrasive and unemphatic like Donald Trump to open the eyes of everyone, to waken everyone from drunken stupor. He is aggressively shaking geopolitical landscape, necessitating global alignment politics. It is indeed true that "*power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely*".

Too much power in someone like Donald Trump is like a loaded gun in the hand of a delinquent child. Donald Trump is wielding too much undeserved power, and is running amok like a lunatic wielding an axe, from whom everyone has to run for cover. He is like loose cannon that needs to be restrained, otherwise, he would soon plunge the whole world into WWII.

Some of the things that Donald Trump says, does, or suggests, simply do not make any sense. He is rapidly changing the course



**OUR DEMOCRACY IS NOT FOR SALE**

**No to neo-imperialism! No to the spreading of false narratives! Our democracy is not for sale to those who seek to divide us. South Africa's democracy belongs to its people.**

**Attempts to label South Africa's redress policies as 'race laws' are ahistorical and dishonest.**




Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Lutulu House, HQ

of history. For instance, some of his abuse of power include the fact that, he:

- Has signed more than hundred executive orders, with some with some *"far-reaching consequences"* for those adversely affected;
- Wants to annex certain territories like Panama and Greenland into the US;
- Is suggesting that Palestinians should be moved from the Gaza strip and be relocated elsewhere to create room for the Israelis;
- Is imposing higher tariffs on other nations, resulting in retaliatory moves by some of the nations affected;
- Is closing borders and deporting many undocumented foreign nationals back to their countries;
- Is withdrawing the US from international treaties and organizations such as the Paris Treaty on Global Warming and the World Health Organisation (WHO); and
- Is imposing sanctions on the likes of the ICC for issuing warrants of arrest against the Israeli warlords, Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defence Minister, Yoav Gallant.

The rate that Donald Trump is moving is scary, and even those who have voted for him are not sure anymore what next would he do. He seems to be going nowhere fast, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty for all nations across the globe. However, everything that is currently happening in geopolitics was bound to happen at some stage. It is about time that the bubble bursts.

All nations of the world need each other, but no nation should depend entirely on other nations



for its economic survival. Wrong things have been left for far too long. It was wrong in the first place to let certain nations to perpetually prevail over the others, especially African countries, for decades, creating dependency syndrome. It was wrong that the so-called developing and underdeveloped countries should subject themselves to the whims and wishes of the so-called developed nations like the US.

There is a need to demystify the myth that South Africa cannot survive without trade relations with the US or any of its allies. That myth should be dispelled with contempt it deserves. South Africa is not a pariah in global politics and economy. Despite its petite economic and demographic size, South Africa is endowed with mineral and agricultural resources, and is also part of global international trade agreements.

There are many regional and international trade agreements that could keep South Africa's economy afloat. Besides BRICS, South Africa is also part of multiple global trade agreements, including SACU, WTO, ACFTA, G20,

OECD, amongst others.

Even trade relations should be balanced and reciprocal, not one-sided affairs laced with patronising and repressive terms and conditions. It should not be as if South Africa would perish without trade relations with the US, because they need us as much as we need them. After what Donald Trump has already done, nothing worst could be expected, and it would not come as a surprise if AGOA trade agreement with the US could also be rescinded.

No self-respecting sovereign state can afford to be subservient at all times, nursing egos of nations who think they have inherent right to rule over others, or, dictate how should they lead their lives or choose friends for them. South Africa cannot cower down in fear everytime Donald Trump dishes out executive orders as if it is one of the US's colonies.

South Africa is supposed to pass G20 Presidency to the US at the Summit later in the year. However, US does not seem to cooperate with South Africa in preparation for the Summit. For instance, US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, indicated that he would not be attending G20 Summit in South Africa, starting by boycotting G20 preparatory meeting in Johannesburg on 20–21 February 2025, citing South Africa's *"anti-US agenda"*, whatever that means. The US is apparently also not happy with the theme that South Africa adopted for its 2025 G20 Presidency, namely *"Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability"*. Rubio is dismissing this theme as tantamount to *"Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)"*, associated by the US with climate change theme, which is



unacceptable in Trump's administration. What could be any conceivable wrong with that theme?

He also raised doubts whether the US President would attend G20 Summit in South Africa in November 2025, where South Africa is expected to pass the baton to the US for 2026 G20 Presidency. Why should it matter whether Trump attends the Summit in South Africa or not? It is actually immaterial, because thus what freedom of association is all about. In its broader sense, freedom of association includes freedom not to associate.

In conclusion, it should never be expected – not now, not ever, that South Africa would go on bended knees, with a begging bowl, pleading for mercy, for US President not to impose further sanctions of whatever nature against South Africa. South Africa should never apologize for referring Israel's genocidal actions against innocent civilians in Gaza, mainly women and children to both ICC and ICJ.

Unfortunately, South Africa have been naïve not to foresee consequences thereof, and planned against how it would mitigate against any backlash. South Africa should look into effective and efficient ways of gainfully making use of its large-scale natural and agricultural resources, including beneficiation and aggro-processing to sustain the economy.

There is a saying that, if people throw lemons at you, try to make lemonade out of them. In the meantime, South Africa should strengthen ties with other like-minded nations.

As Bob Marley sings, "if one door is closed, many more are open".

# America Did not Do Us a Favor: A Response to the U.S. Aid Cuts to Africa

■ By **SIBUSISO XABANGELA**

**I**N recent weeks the news of America cutting aid to Africa has sent shockwaves across the globe, but some cheered, blinded by myths and old stereotypes. They call it a favor, a gift to be grateful for – but what's really hidden behind these headlines is a history of exploitation. Africa's worth is not measured in hand-outs; the truth is, America owes more than it's ever given. The real gift is justice, and it's long overdue.

The rise of Donald Trump to the presidency in 2025 brought with it a political agenda built on the slogan "America First." This agenda

emphasized prioritizing American interests over global concerns, with a sharp focus on addressing internal issues such as rising unemployment, increasing inequality, and the mismanagement of government resources. Trump's rhetoric and policies often placed blame for these issues on external factors, such as immigration and the role of African nations in global affairs. One of the key actions taken by his administration was the cutting of foreign aid to various countries, including African nations.

Many Americans cheered the move, believing that reducing





foreign aid would benefit their country's economy and improve domestic conditions. However, this narrative is simplistic and deeply flawed. The widespread support for Trump's campaign was rooted in a belief that America's problems could be solved by "putting America first," often at the expense of other nations. This narrow viewpoint fails to take into account the interconnectedness of the global community and the historical factors that have shaped the world's economic and political landscape.

To understand the implications of the aid cuts, we must first consider the role that U.S. aid has played in Africa. Programs like the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) have undoubtedly saved millions of lives across the continent. These initiatives have helped to address critical issues such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic, malnutrition, and poverty. However, while these programs have made a significant impact, it is essential to recognize that they are a small part of a much larger and more complicated relationship between the U.S. and Africa.

Historically, the relationship between the global superpowers, including the U.S., and African nations has been one of exploitation rather than mutual benefit. Through their imperial and diplomatic reach, these countries have systematically extracted labor and natural resources from Africa, leaving many nations in a state of perpetual underdevelopment. The resulting power imbalance has been exacerbated by the structural inequalities embedded in the global economic system.

In this context, the foreign aid



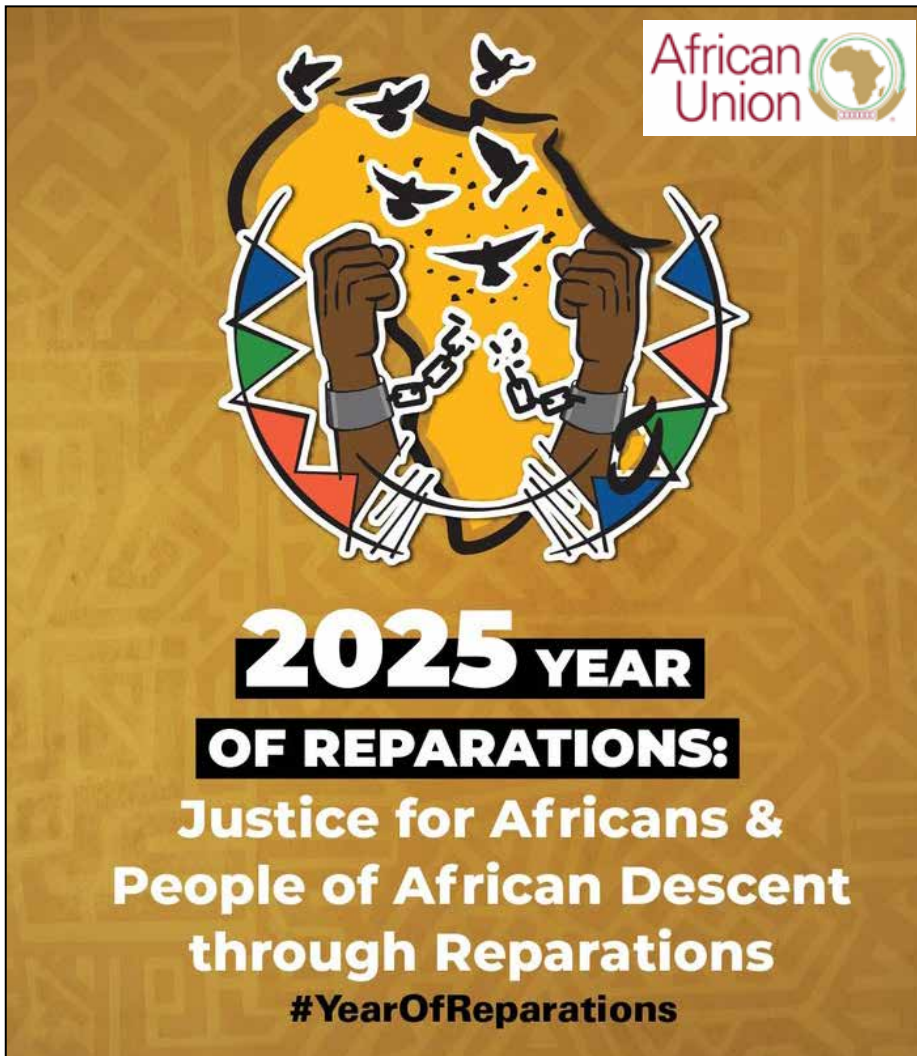
sent by the U.S. to Africa cannot be viewed as a benevolent gesture. Instead, it is a tool used to maintain control and ensure that African nations remain dependent on foreign assistance. The aid is often tied to conditions that serve American interests, such as trade agreements, military cooperation, or alignment with U.S. foreign policy objectives. This creates a vertical, extractive relationship in which African nations are kept in a subservient position, unable to achieve true independence or self-sufficiency.

It is important to emphasize that the United States is not doing Africa a favor by sending aid. In fact, the U.S. owes Africa much more than it has ever provided.

The legacy of slavery, colonialism, and exploitation has left Africa with deep wounds that continue to affect its development. The U.S., as one of the world's most powerful nations, has played a significant role in perpetuating these injustices. From the transatlantic slave trade to the economic policies of the post-colonial era, the United States has benefited from the systematic extraction of resources and labor from Africa.

It is precisely for this reason that I strongly support the African Union's stance on reparations. At the 38th AU Summit in February 2025, the organization designated 2025 as the "Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations." This initiative seeks to address the historical injustices faced by African nations and their people, including financial compensation, formal apologies, and policy reforms. As South African President Cyril Ramaphosa stated in his opening speech at the opening of the South African parliament, "We will not be bullied." This sentiment echoes the AU's commitment to fighting for justice and fairness, not just in Africa but for all people of African descent around the world.

The call for reparations is not an attempt to sever ties with the West or to reject global trade. Rather, it is a demand for a more equitable and just relationship between Africa and the global powers. Africa is not seeking charity; it is seeking justice. Reparations are a means of rectifying the wrongs of the past and ensuring that African nations have the resources and opportunities to thrive in the present and future.



The United States must recognize that no country exists in isolation. The world is interconnected, and the problems faced by one nation are often linked to the actions and policies of others.

Uncontrolled patriotism, as exemplified by Trump's "America First" agenda, is dangerous. It fosters division, undermines international cooperation, and perpetuates global inequalities. If the U.S. is to truly put America first, it must start by acknowledging its role in creating and perpetuating global injustices. This includes taking responsibility for its past actions in Africa and making reparations for the harm done.

Africa is not asking for pity; it is asking for fairness. It is calling for

an end to the exploitative relationship that has existed for centuries. It is calling for respect, for recognition of its sovereignty, and for the opportunity to shape its own future. The African Union's call for reparations is a step to-

ward achieving these goals, and it is a call that should be supported by all who believe in justice and equality.

The U.S. cutting aid to Africa is not an act of generosity or benevolence. It is a reflection of a deeper, more troubling pattern of exploitation and disregard for the well-being of African nations. While the U.S. may have provided aid in the past, it is important to view this aid within the context of a long history of colonialism and imperialism.

The time has come for Africa to demand more than just charity; it is time for reparations and for a more equitable and just global order. The African Union's stance on reparations is a powerful reminder that Africa will no longer be silenced or ignored. It is a call for justice, not just for Africa, but for all people who have suffered under the weight of global inequality.

The U.S. must learn that the path to true greatness does not lie in isolating itself or cutting off aid to those in need. It lies in building fair, honest, and mutually beneficial relationships with nations around the world. Only then can we begin to create a more just and equitable world for all.





*Operation Carlota: The Triumph of Humanity's  
Struggles for Freedom, Solidarity, and Internationalism*

# The Cuban Revolution and African Liberation Movements

■ By **AMBASSADOR PHATSE JUSTICE PIITSO**

**C**ONTEMPORARY sages and intellectual pioneers of philosophy, have transcribed the tapestry of the unwavering philanthropism by the Cuban revolution, embracing its esteemed revolutionary character of highest values of human solidarity and internationalism. The Cuban revolution is unquestionably, a paradigm of human struggles, awakening solidarity amongst the world community of nations, building a peaceful future for humanity.

We pay tribute to its felicity, redefining generous pathways of the present epoch of human civilisation, inspired by tremendous milestone achievements, in the frontiers of human solidarity and internationalism. It is, undoubtedly, a storehouse of unequalled chapter of human courage and vicissitudes, placing virtues of human kindness and brotherhood above the complexities of our living horizons.

During his first visit to the Republic of Cuba, upon his release from the apartheid prison, on the occasion of a solemn ceremony, celebrating the 38th anniversary of Moncada rebellion, the father



**Tata Madiba welcomes Fidel Castro to his first visit to South Africa**

of the South African nation, President Nelson Mandela, said the following profound words of appreciation to the generosity of the Cuban revolution:

*"The overwhelming defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavalle provided the possibility for Angola to enjoy peace and consolidate its own sovereignty. The defeat of the racist army, allowed the struggling people of Namibia to finally win their independence.*

*"The decisive defeat of the apartheid aggressors broke the myth of the invincibility of the white oppressors. The defeat of the apartheid army, was an inspiration*

*to the struggling people inside South Africa.*

*"Without the defeat at Cuito Cuanavalle, our organisations would not have been unbanned. The defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavalle, has made it possible for me to be here today.*

*"Cuito Cuanavalle was a milestone in the history of the struggle for Southern African liberation. Cuito Cuanavalle has been a turning point, in the struggle to free the continent and our country from the scourge of apartheid."*

With utmost humility, the Com-

mander in Chief of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro, responded to President Mandela with the follow words:

*"It takes 13 hours to fly to Angola, not including stopovers. It takes 13-14 hours to fly to Luanda from Havana, and Cuito Cuanavalle took place in a remote area in Angola. It took place more than 1000 km southeast of Luanda. There, our country had to accept the challenge.*

*"As I was telling Comrade Mandela, the revolution risked it all in that action, even its very existence. It dared to engage in a large-scale battle against one of the most powerful and wealthiest countries in the Third World, a country with significant industrial and technological development and armed to the teeth.*

*"We faced this country, so distant from our small country, with our resources and weapons. We even took the risk of weakening our defences, and we weakened our defences and used our ships – solely and exclusively our ships – and our means to create that correlation of forces that would make our fighting a success.*

*"I do not know, if any war was ever waged from such a distance between such a small country and a powerful apparatus like that of the South African racists. We risked everything on that occasion."*

During his official visit to the Republic of Venezuela in 1975, former Secretary of State of the United States of America, Henry Kissinger, confided to President Carlos Andres Peres, that the US intelligence services, could not uncover the movement of the thousands of Cuban troops from



**Heroes of the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and Che Guevara**

Havana to Luanda. The United States only knew of the military operation, long after many of the Cuban combatants, have already arrived in the remote African state of the Republic of Angola.

Against the backdrop of intensifying geostrategic ideological divergence of the cold war period, the aircrafts secretly carrying troops had to refuel on numerous stop-overs, before arriving at the final destination of the former colonial Portuguese state of Angola. The crew had to embark on a long odious journey, through strong hostile storms of the Atlantic ocean, refuelling at Barbados, Guinea Bissau, Congo Brazzaville before landing in Luanda.

The Island of Barbados – renowned as the birthplace of the British slave society, "the jewel in the Crown" of the Caribbean – granted the humanitarian military expedition by the Cuban revolution, disguised as a tourist route from Havana to Africa, the rights to stop-over to refuel within its territorial jurisdiction. It was only after the American intelligence services uncovered the operation, that President Gerald Ford,

exerted tremendous pressure, threatening the Island with financial and economic sanctions, forcing the Cuban government to consider using alternative routes.

Over the period spanning three decades, Cuban aircrafts and warships carried thousands of troops and weaponry to Angola, joining the heroic struggles of the African people, against imperialism and colonial oppression and exploitation. Cuba became the only country in the history of our struggles, to have paid back the debt to humanity.

The fraternity of the bonds of solidarity between the Cuban revolution and MPLA, has its footmark traced as early as the year 1965, when the leader of the oldest national liberation movement in Angola, Agostinho Neto, met with the leadership of the Cuban revolution, led by Ernesto Che Guevara, during their first expedition to the African continent in Congo Brazzaville. The interaction saw intensified efforts by the

Cuban revolution, offering a gesture of both human and material support, not only to the people of



Angola, but many other liberation movements, for the freedom and dignity of the people of the African continent.

Since its unprecedented victory against the dictatorship of Batista in 1959, the revolution has sanctified itself to the fundamental revolutionary principles of the achievement of a just peaceful future world of humanity. Distinguishing its unequivocal commitment to the noble struggles of human solidarity and internationalism.

The Commander-in-Chief of the revolution, Fidel Castro, taught the people of his newly-born democratic state that international solidarity and internationalism is about paying back debt to humanity. Therefore making his revolutionary state, the first in the history of the struggles of human society, to have contributed towards the humane gesture, of paying back the atrocities committed by the European colonial powers against the African people.

Involving her own men and women in the struggles for the freedom of the people of the African continent, was about thanking the African slave people, their bravery, resilience and tormenting exploitation endured in the hands of the European colonial powers, building the economic infrastructure in the Latin American and European hemispheres. These are incalculable acts of a nation inspired by the highest ideals, that freedom is not only about the destiny of individual nation states, but the freedom of all of humanity.

The indestructible bonds of friendship between the Cuban and the African people, stem from centuries of horrendous and slanderous humiliation and



Operation Carlota

sufferings, of millions of the indigenous people of the Americas exterminated in their own land and African people imposed into slavery by European imperialism. Millions died in the plantations, mines and factories selling their free labour as slaves to the European masters.

The indomitable military operation, which saw the presence of the combatants of the Cuban revolution, in Southern African region, especially in Angola, from the year 1975 to the year 1990, was named after a heroic slave woman of the Angolan descent, Carlota Lucumi, who led ferocious rebellion against the slave masters in the sugar plantations of the province of Matanzas, Cuba. The slave people stood in solidarity with each other, waging wars for their own freedom, sparking the movement for the oppressed in the entire region of the Caribbean archipelago.

Operation Carlota had a

far-reaching political significance, a gesture appreciating the historical contribution of the slave people, to political and socio-economic development to the Cuban nation, in memory of the gallantry slave woman, who led the first rebellion. The future generations of mankind will take inspiration from her tenacity, courage and determination to the freedom of our people.

The military expedition was a joint collaboration of the Southern African liberation movements – African National Congress (ANC), South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO), Frente de Libertação de Moçambique/Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO), Zimbabwe African National Unity – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola/People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and Cuba and the former Soviet Union – whose collective efforts saw the defeat of the apartheid South Africa and its US sponsored allies during the battle of Cuito Cuanavale, paving way for the independence of Namibia and South Africa. The enormous efforts of such a small but a titanic nation state, defeating one of the most sophisticated military regimes in the world, was unheard in the annals of history books.

During his address to the first Congress of MPLA held in Angola in 1977, the Deputy General Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, Commander Raul Castro, had to say the following profound revolutionary words:

*"The day our presence here is no longer necessary, only the people of Angola will be able to issue that order."*

*And when the Cubans here for*



*that purpose withdraw from Angola, we will take with us neither oil, nor diamonds, nor coffee, nor anything else. All that we will take with us is the indestructible friendship of this great people, and the remains of our dead."*

Great feats of solidarity and internationalism by the revolution, declaring its socialist character at the back yard of the American empire, building on future communist state led by peasants and workers, propelled the Yankee forces, imposing unilateral economic sanctions against the people of Cuba. The economic blockade has caused a devastating damage to the economy and the general welfare of the Cuban population.

The stranglehold of the American and European embargo continues to undermine the determination of the Cuban people to decide on their destiny and therefore the sovereignty and territorial

independence of the democratic state. The US government is fuelling regime change, sponsoring various mercenaries to engage on illegal activities of economic sabotage, hoping to instigate the majority of the people against the revolutionary government.

But the Cuban people continue to be vigilant in the face of adversity, taking the exemplary acts of heroism of Carlota, placing her unending bravery, acts of courage and resoluteness, and her rebelliousness, as part of the heritage of the culture and traditions of the revolutionary struggles of the people. They are tempered by the circumstances of our mother nature, instilling hope to the hopeless and many of the guardians of our struggles, volunteering to perish their own lives, for the freedom of humanity.

Drawing on a boxing metaphor, Castro turned the battle of Cuito Cuanavale into a trap to the rac-

ist apartheid army. He said the following about the strategic manoeuvre to outshine the South African Defence Force:

*"By going there, we placed ourselves in the lion jaws. We accepted the challenge, and from the very moment, we gather our forces to attack in another direction, like a boxer who with his left hand blocks the blow and with his right strikes!"*

In the words of apostle Jose Marti, *"like a rolling hill, fair ideas reach their objectives, despite all obstacles and barriers, it may be impossible to speed or hinder them, but impossible to stop them"*. The Cuban revolution continues to be the cradle of human solidarity and internationalism.

**Ambassador Phatse Justice Piitso** is a member of the African National Congress. He writes this article in his personal capacity.



# SACP Gauteng Province pays tribute to the late Comrade Thami Ncokwane

■ By **HOPE PAPO**

**W**ITH heavy hearts, the SACP Gauteng Province send its condolences to the family, relatives and friends of comrade Thamsanqa Ncokwane.

We honour and pay tribute to comrade Thamsanqa Ncokwane (popularly known as comrade Thami) a member, activist and cadre of the ANC, SACP and NEHAWU one of the COSATU affiliates. These organisations represent the three out of the four components of the Alliance.

We honour and pay tribute to comrade Thami because like other young people who were born in a South Africa characterised by the abominable colonialism of a special type and the crime of apartheid, he responded to the clarion call to join the liberation movement and became part of the struggle for freedom in a politically organised and disciplined manner.

Based on his own understanding of what was happening in the community and country, he joined the ranks of the progressive student and youth movement through the COSAS/SOSCO, SASCO, SAYCO and later ANC



YL and YCLSA. He joined the struggle during a decade which started in 1980 to 1990 after the launch of COSAS and AZASO in 1979. This difficult and bloody decade which was characterised by the building of mass-based organisations such as COSAS, AZASO/SANSCO, SAYCO, Civic and Women's movement, progressive religious, sport, arts and professional organisations.

A decade characterised by defiance and challenge of the apartheid regime and its oppressive institutions, massacres around the country, mass detentions of young and old people, tortures, kidnappings and disappearanc-

es of freedom fighters and those suspected to be associated with the liberation movement. A decade where various generations (including the Young Lions generation he belonged to) worked together through the four pillars of the NDR to intensify the struggle which pushed the criminal apartheid regime to grudgingly recognize the liberation movement as a legitimate representative of the oppressed and exploited majority. The push led to the unbanning of the liberation movement, release of political prisoners and detainees, return of exiles, talks about talks and the CODESA negotiated settlement which opened the way for the

1994 democratic breakthrough.

It was when he was part of the progressive student and youth movement that he started to know and understand the history of our country and continent from the pre and postcolonial era; the history of the liberation struggle and movement, theory, ideology and cultural aspects which included songs, poetry and drama, heroic battles and wars waged by the oppressed people of South Africa against colonialism and apartheid; contemporary politics of the liberation movement and the working class movement in our country, continent and the world; the meaning of the ten clauses of the Freedom Charter; understanding the relationship between the struggle for peoples education and national liberation of the oppressed and exploited black majority.

He further started to understand the relationship between the struggle for national liberation, gender equality and class struggle and their continental and international dimensions. He also saw the cruelty and viciousness of the criminal apartheid system and capitalism which supported the system.

That is the summary of the environment and political foundation which shaped and made comrade Thami to start appreciating and valuing the importance of social and political consciousness, mobilisation, organisation and education of those who were part of the struggle for freedom. This was also one of the then four pillars of the national democratic revolution which were formally adopted as part of the Strategy and Tactics at the ground breaking ANC National Consultative Conference convened in 1969 at

the Tanzanian town of Morogoro. The Morogoro Conference was convened to assess the state of the struggle at the time and to develop a programme to improve and heighten its prosecution.

The other three pillars of the NDR were political underground, armed struggle and international solidarity which worked together, reinforced and strengthened each other. That is how and why comrade Thami became part of work related to organisation building and political education, which always work together.

He was committed, dedicated, passionate, diligent and deliberate about his own political education and ideological development and that of other comrades within the ANC, SACP, COSATU and its affiliates and SANCO. He understood the political risk and danger to the NDR and struggle for socialism to have members and leaders of Alliance formations and PYA without proper political education and its internalisation in their day to day lives.

He also understood the importance of comrades within the Alliance being familiar and conversant with adopted Congress/Conference resolutions, programmes and decisions of each Alliance component to enrich the content of discussions and not to rely on what is reported by the commercial and social media about the Alliance.

Comrade Thami understood that the Freedom Charter evolved to become the basic foundation document at the centre of what was known as the Congress Alliance and now known as the Alliance between the ANC, SACP, COSATU and SANCO. He understood that the Freedom

Charter was not just a document which came out of the blue, but was preceded by important documents such as the African Claims of 1943 and the Women's Charter of 1954.

He understood that for the ANC, the Freedom Charter is the foundation document to build a National Democratic Society as outlined in the 2017 ANC Strategy and Tactics document. He also understood that for the SACP, the Freedom Charter was a minimum programme and a foundation for much work to be done in society to build a socialist and communist society.

This political understanding of the Alliance made him not to see any contradiction in being a revolutionary democrat, a committed Marxist-Leninist activist, a trade union leader and committed representative of ANC employees within the ranks of the ANC, SACP and NEHAWU respectively. He also participated in the process of economic transformation through the Soweto Business Chamber and other community structures.

He appreciated and valued the decision of the ANC 55th National Conference to anchor organisational unity, rebuilding and renewal on political education and ideological development of members and leaders. He also understood the importance of ANC Leagues, SACP, COSATU affiliates, SANCO and Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA) to also unite, rebuild and renew themselves to have a strong ANC, Alliance and PYA.

He also appreciated and valued the decision of the 2022 SACP National Congress captured in Chapter 1 of the **South African**



**Struggle For Socialism Programme, Strategic Perspectives And Tasks.** *People, Solidarity and the Environment over Profits.*

The opening paragraph of the SACP Programme on page 4 on **Why we need a Communist Party** says:

*"Never before in history has the need for a different, a humane world been more desperately required. Today, the central task of all progressive forces is the struggle to put people before profits, to put the environment before private accumulation, to put internationalist solidarity before deepening inequality and imperialist militarism.*

*We need a Communist Party with strengthening its vanguard capacity and building a powerful, socialist movement of the workers and poor as its priority towards ending economic exploitation and its consequent forms of oppression, towards securing and defending universal social emancipation, and towards rescuing the ecosystem from destruction by the capitalist mode of production, its patterns of consumption and its other social relations of production.*

*Today, a single inter-linked world economy is dominated by a tiny minority of exceedingly powerful transnational corporations. This system is buttressed by a declining but still powerful United States (US) hegemony. The continued domination of this world system is characterised by mutually reinforcing environmental, economic and social crises."*

He was currently engaging about the political and practical meaning of the 2022 SACP National Congress resolution (which was

reconfirmed by the 2024 SACP Special National Congress) to contest elections within and outside a reconfigured Alliance in terms of the unity of the alliance and political education and ideological development work he was daily involved in.

Although he was a serious and respected political strategist and ideologue, he was also a pleasant person, socially astute, street wise and even hilarious at times. This can be confirmed by family members, ANC Staff and structures, alliance comrades, neighbours, friends and other people he interacted with on a daily basis. He also understood the importance of mass political education, hence his positive activism on social media to teach and also learn from others.

The SACP will miss his thought

provoking, direct and at times confrontational but nuanced political inputs. As we say farewell to comrade Thami, we should always remember the words by Commandante President Fidel Castro which are captured in his book titled ***In My Life: A spoken autobiography***:

*"Ignorance is the root of many ills. Knowledge must be the fundamental ally of nations that aspire, despite all their tragedies and problems, to become truly emancipated, to build a better world."*

Farewell comrade Thami, revolutionary democrat, Marxist-Leninist activist and servant of the people to the end.

**Hope Mankwana Papo** is a PEC member of SACP Gauteng Province.





# A TRIBUTE TO CDE THAMI NCOKWANE, THE 'UNAPPOINTED ROYALTY'

■ By **HLENTSWE MOTHOBİ aka WEBSTER**

*“On the 14th of March at a quarter to three in the afternoon, the greatest living thinker ceased to think. He had been left alone for scarcely two minutes, and when we came back, we found him in his armchair, peacefully gone to sleep - but for ever...The gap that has been left by the departure of this mighty spirit will soon enough make itself felt.”*

– Frederick Engels at the gravesite of Karl Marx

**I**N memoriam and in keeping the legacy of Cde Thami Ncokwane alive, as an avid reader and prolific writer, I wish to recommend to every home and household to possess and read the following books, particularly those that teaches us about the Capitalist class and the working class:

- **Das Capital:** Karl Marx
- **The Wealth of Nations:** Adam Smith
- **The Prince:** Niccolo Machiavelli
- **The African Origin of Civilisation: Myth or Reality & Pre-Colonial Africa:** Cheick Anta Diop.

In his honour and to celebrate the contribution of Cde Thami in the

struggle for social change, I also wish to dedicate my dissertation (October 2024) titled **“THE ROLE OF CITIZENS IN INFLUENCING POLICYMAKING PROCESSES IN DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA: A FOCUS ON SOCIAL MOVEMENTS”**.

On the evening of Saturday, 08th February 2025, the brain behind, in sync and in solidarity with the struggles of the workers and the poor ceased to function. It is still unbelievable that you have left us Cde Thami – you have indeed left a big hole in our hearts.

The working class has lost a humble and gentle giant, a thinker, whose primary focus and objective was to see a ‘better’ South

Africa, a ‘better’ Africa and a ‘better’ world – An Internationalist to the core!

Better, because, Cde Thami, epitomized royalty. To me you were like royalty. Royalty is Leadership. An ‘unappointed royalty’, who lived with and among all strata of society, young and old, black and white, rich and poor, employed and unemployed, educated and uneducated as well as those who gave up on life. In all these scenarios, Cde Thami would always emerge as a gentle giant who will be the motivator, the educator, the encourager that life is not easy, it is a battle, we need to be strong at all material times. Wherever you were Cde Thami, there would be people



of sorts around you – a unique character historically associated with royalty. One of royalty's task was to resolve people's issues – in that front, you always came up tops.

We are very saddened to have learnt about the passing on of one of our own, our brother, our friend, our colleague and comrade, Thami Ncokwane.

On hearing of your passing on the 08th February, my dear brother and comrade, my heart has been sore as your passing has left a deep and gaping hole in my heart. It has not yet sunk in that you are no more.

It is indeed a sad moment for one to be speaking about you in the past tense, because it was as recent as Monday, the 03rd February 2025 when Cdes Vlok, Mashudu and I desperately tried to get hold of you on the phone but without success. Later, on Friday, 07th February 2025, you sent me a whatsapp message asking for a cellphone number of another comrade. I responded positively to your request, and you came back with a thank you message. Unbeknown to me, this was to be our last encounter. I did not know that was your last sign to me to say your goodbyes...I will forever miss you, may your humble and revolutionary soul rest in eternal peace Cde Thami; you have left an indelible mark in my life and I will never forget you and your contribution to one's growth and development.

Cde Thami, you were a gentle giant...

Cde Thami, to some of us you were just beyond being a comrade. You were a brother. A friend. A confidant. A teacher. Royalty



*“What a torch of reason  
ceased to burn, What a  
heart has ceased to beat!”*

– In memory of the Russian poet Nikolay Dobrolyubiov, a literary hero of Marx and Lenin, by Nekrasov.

personified.

Cde Thami, you were a giant of your own kind and in your own right. You stood the test of time by being a part and a contributor to the transformation of our country. You lived and worked with and among the downtrodden, freedom fighters and liberators.

You may not have said it or been told about it. You were one of the greatest administrators our entire movement had ever seen. Many can attest that, with the unique character you possessed, when they entered the offices you occupied, they will get help or be referred elsewhere to get a resolve in any query or matter they needed help on. Your science background also came in handy in how you dealt with politico-socio-economic issues, applying the theory: *“for every action, there will always be an opposite and equal reaction”*.

Cde Thami, you were a human being extraordinaire. An embodiment of humility par excellence. In whatever role you played, from whatever vantage point, you stood apart as someone spe-

cial. You also allowed yourself to be led by others in the many organisations you participated in – something many of our leaders fail to embrace.

Numbers do not lie. Cde Thami, you dedicated most of your life to the Movement, particularly the African National Congress. You were a loyal servant of the people to the end.

You and I crossed paths for over thirty-one years, starting at the Vista University Soweto Campus and leading the Science Students Council (SciensCo)...which was established with the help of academics such as Professors Si-pho Seepe and Hartmut Winkler. Together with you, we were also part of the South African Students Congress (SASCO)...you and Cde Papi Molokwane contributed to me volunteering as the SASCO Gauteng Provincial Administrator, ...the ANC Youth League, the South African Communist Party, SANCO and other community initiatives such as savings clubs or stokvels. We also lived side by side around Pimville township for many years with some of our peers from Vista, the youth and student movement.

If the ANC were to be juxtaposed as a person...Cde Thami, you could best fit the notion of “A Leader of Society” – for, you made an impact across society in your short span of life.

In recognition and remembrance of the contribution made by Cde Thami, we need to, amongst other things, ensure that we put the transformation of the ANC and all sites of power at the top of our agenda. This, of course should be in the context of a continued struggle to better the lives of the entire working class and the poor.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

22–28 February 2025

Source: SA History Online, O'Malley Archives, Africa Today/Yesterday, The Africa Factbook and Amazwi SA Museum of Literature

### 22 February 1871

#### John Langalibalele Dube born



John Langalibalele Dube (1871–1946), one of the ANC founders and its first President from 1912 to 1917, was born on this day at the Inanda Mission station in Kwazulu Natal to James and Elizabeth Dube. In 1901, he established the Zulu Christian Industrial School on 200 acres of land at Ohlange in the Inanda district. Three years later, he also launched the Isi-Zulu/English newspaper *Ilanga lase Natal* (Sun of Natal), through which he began to establish his political reputation. On this return from his third visit to the USA in 1905, *Ilanga lase Natal* had attacked the decisions of missionaries, among others, on land allocation rent and their failure to defend African interests. Dube protested and petitioned the Government against proposed legislation. He used his newspaper to amplify the need for African unity and African representation, and to air

more specific grievances. He particularly emphasised the need for education and financial help from white philanthropists. Among his sources of influence, Dube was drawing on the prevalent thinking among blacks in South Africa at the time, and this in turn was influenced by some trends in black thought in the USA. In Natal, this African-American influence was due to the American Zulu Mission. Dube's African industrial school and newspaper were a direct challenge to the colonial authorities and the white workers, who feared 'competition' from African and Indian artisans in the 1890s. Dube bitterly opposed the arrest and trial of Dinizulu in connection with the 1906 Bambata Rebellion and actively assisted in raising funds for his defence. The Natal Government attempted to suppress *Ilanga lase Natal* before and during the Bambata Rebellion. Dube publicised Dinizulu's arrest, and his relationship with the Royal House became so strong and enduring that by the 1930s he was acting as their chief adviser. In 1909, Dube was a member of the delegation to Britain to protest against the Act of Union and in 1912 he accepted the Presidency of the African National Congress (ANC). In 1914, Dube was one of the ANC delegates who went to London to protest against the 1913 Land Act. In 1935, he became a member of the All African Convention and represented Natal on the Natives' Representative

Council from 1936 until his death in 1946, when he was replaced on the Council by Chief Albert Luthuli.

### 22 February 1968

#### Mixed Marriages Act of 1968 extended



On this day in history, the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Amendment Bill was adopted – despite opposition from the United and Progressive Parties. This amendment furthered the existing ban on marriages between White and Black people (Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act (1949) by extending it to White and Coloured people. Marriage officers were given the power to decide the race of couples wanting to be married. If South African citizens of mixed racial descent were married outside of the country, the marriage would not be recognised in South Africa. One year after the original Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act (1949) was adopted, a supplementary law, known as the Immorality act, was adopted. It



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

prohibited sex between people of different races. These laws often split families, and entrenched racial division. PW Botha removed the Act from the statutes book in 1986.

### 22 February 1914 Valliamma Munuswamy Mudaliar, teenage political activist dies from a fever



Born to Indian Emigrants from Tamil Nadu, India, Mudaliar grew up in Johannesburg. As she entered her teenage years in South Africa, Valliammai became increasingly aware of the oppressive system she and her family were living under. At age 16, Mudaliar joined her mother and a large group of other women in an illegal march from the Transvaal to Natal. In October 1913, once again mother and daughter were part of the second batch of women who marched to Natal. They were arrested and sentenced to three months of hard labour at the Pietermaritzburg prison. Mudaliar fell ill soon after her conviction but refused an offer to be released early. She died on 22 February 1914, soon after her release from prison. Gandhi, who visited her at her death bed, designed the Indian flag with the colours of Mudaliar's sari which she had held up in defiance, not having a flag. Mudaliar's contribution is recognised in India, with

a public library, school and commemorative stamp in her honour.

### 22 February 1989 Ladysmith Black Mambazo wins first Grammy



The famous group led and founded by Joseph Tshabalala, which popularised isicathamiya music, won their first Grammy for Shaka Zulu in the Best Traditional Folk Album category.

### 22 February 1996 Black pupils arrive at school escorted by Police

A few days after the ruling by the Supreme Court to force Potgietersrus Primary School in Limpopo Province to allow Black pupils to enroll, sixteen Black children arrived at school protected by police officers to register. They were subjected to a barrage of racist verbal abuse by some members of the White community whose children attended the same school. The low attendance by White pupils affirmed their parents' stance. Only twenty out of almost 700 pupils came to school on that day. Many White parents threatened to establish their own school, rather than have their children attend a multiracial school.

### 22 February 2002 Savimbi killed

Rebel group UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi was killed during a government operation, bringing

an effective end to the civil war which had plagued Angola since independence in 1975.

### 22 February 2018 Anok Yai opens fashion show

The South Sudanese model becomes the second black model to open the Prada fashion house show, since the first by Naomi Campbell, 21 years ago.

### 22 February 2019 Wildlife reserves to benefit local communities

A new Namibian law came into effect giving local communities greater access to the benefits of nature conservation areas. The 83 wildlife conservancies that can handle up to 200,000 guests must now return 50% of their profits to surrounding communities.

### 22 February 2020 Namibian beef to US markets

The USA heavily protects (and subsidizes) its agricultural sector, and after 18 years of negotiations, Namibia is finally allowed to export beef to the USA, the first country in Africa.

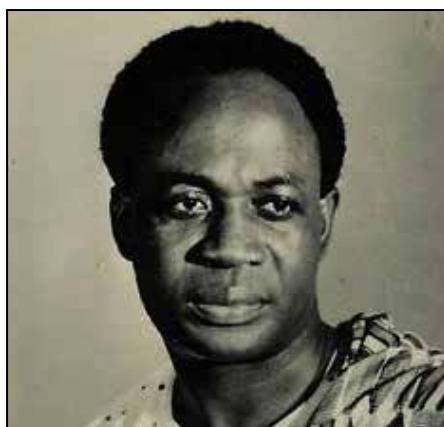
### 23 February 1963 15 African states table Resolution against Racial Discrimination

At the annual conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) at Leopoldville in Congo, fifteen African states tabled a draft resolution requesting the UN Economic and Social Council to denounce racial discrimination and apartheid. The motion was adopted by thirty votes, with three countries – Britain, France and Spain

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

– opposing the resolution. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is commemorated annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville. Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the UN General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

### 24 February 1966 Military coup against Nkrumah government



On 24 February 1966, General Joseph Ankrah of the National Liberation Council seized military power in Ghana, overthrowing the elected CCP government led by President Kwame Nkrumah, who at the time was out of the country. The coup was said to be inspired by the CIA, and the military and police ruled Ghana, until a new constitution was drafted and fresh elections held in 1969. According to [www.ghanaweb.com](http://www.ghanaweb.com), the West, led by the United States “was tremendously hostile to Nkrumah’s vision of Pan Africanism – a unified Africa based on socialist principles. Declassified US security documents show that the US government began plotting the overthrow of Nkrumah at least two years prior to the coup taking place.”

### 24 February 1988 UDF, COSATU and other organisations restricted



State President P.W. Botha amended the emergency regulations so that the Minister of Law and Order could restrict the activities of organisations or individuals. On the same day, 17 anti-apartheid organisations were restricted in terms of Section 6 of the Public Safety Act of 1953. The organisations included the United Democratic Front (UDF), the Azanian People’s Organisation (AZAPO), Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA), the South African Youth Congress SAYCO), the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) and the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC). Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, did not ban the organisations completely, but the implementation of the Act effectively halted their activities. By February of that year, over 25000 people had been detained under the State of Emergency first declared in July 1985.

### 25 February 1994 Women’s National Coalition Conference starts

The non-racial inclusive Women’s National Coalition Conference (25-27 February 1994) started in



the World Trade Centre, Kempton Park. The conference focused primarily on the drafting of the (second) Women’s Charter. The Women’s Charter was adopted on the last day of the conference, and formed the basis of women’s inputs into the negotiations and constitutional process, including the CODESA Interim Constitution of 1993 and the final Constitution of 1996, which provide a framework for women’s equality and emancipation, and a non-sexist society.

### 26 February 1915 Poet Elizabeth Eybers born

On 26 February 1915, Elisabeth Eybers was born in Klerksdorp, then western Transvaal. Her poetry was mainly written in Afrikaans, although she translated some of her own work – and those of other Afrikaans poets – into English. Her work was also translated into German, French, Italian and Hebrew. Her poetry collections published include: *Be-lydenis in die Skemering/Confession in the Twilight* (1936); *Die Stil Avontuur/The Silent Adventure* (1939); *Die Vrou en Ander Verse/The Woman and Other poems* (1945); *Die Ander Dors/The Other Thirst* (1946); *Tussensang/In-between song* (1950); *Helder Halfjaar/Bright half-year* (1956); *Versamelde Gedigte/Collected poems* (1957); *Neerslag/Precipitation* (1958); *Balans/Balance* (1962); *Onderdak/Shelter* (1965); *Kruis*



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

*of Munt/Head or Tail* (1973). Eybers moved to Amsterdam in 1966, and lived there until her death in 2007.

### 26 February 2017

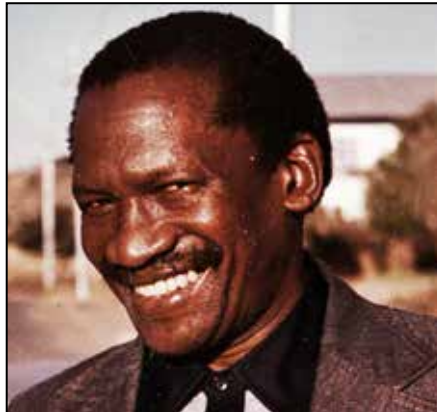
#### Judge Essa Moosa passed away



Essa Moosa was born in District Six, Cape Town on 8 February 1936. He was a judge in the Supreme Court of South Africa. Moosa was a human rights lawyer and activist who defended political detainees during the Apartheid regime, and a founding member of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers. Essa Moosa formed part of the African National Congress's constitutional committee, which supported the party's negotiation team for the goal of establishing a democratic South Africa. A firm supporter of the United Democratic Front, Moosa practiced as an attorney until late 1997, before being employed as judge of the Western Cape High Court in 1998. Moosa was awarded the Order of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) by the Western Cape Province in 2004. He served as judge for 13 years before retiring in February 2011, and passed away on 26 February 2017 in Cape Town after a battle with cancer.

### 27 February 1978

#### Robert Sobukwe passes on Founder and first president of



the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), Robert Mangaliso (Wonder) Sobukwe (54), passed away in the Kimberley General Hospital between midnight and 01h00 on February 27, 1978. Sobukwe died of lung complications after having been hospitalised in 1977. His medical doctors requested that he should be granted freedom of movement on humanitarian grounds, as he was banned to Galeshewe Township, Kimberley, but it was turned down by the authorities. The day is now celebrated by PAC members as Sobukwe day.

### 27 February 1990

#### Mandela visits ANC Headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia



After his release on 11 February 1990, Madiba's first foreign trip was the headquarters of the Afri-

can National Congress (ANC) in Lusaka, Zambia, where he met with the exiled ANC Executive Committee, leaders of the Front-line states, and Commonwealth representatives.

### 28 February 1980

#### Trade unionist and cricket administrator, Butshingi died

Makhwenkwe Harrison Butshingi died in Orlando West, Soweto on this day. Butshingi was born in the Transkei in 1906, and moved to the Transvaal in 1925 to become an insurance company agent. During the 1940s and into the 1950s, he became involved in the Transvaal worker's unions. Butshingi was President of the South African Cricket Board from 1956-1970, and a community leader in various capacities.

### 28 February 1989

#### Olof Palme assassinated



The Swedish Prime Minister was assassinated whilst walking home with his wife from a concert. Palme, Swedish Social Democratic Party leader from 1969 till his assassination, served as PM from 1969 to 1976 and 1982 to 1986. Palme was a strong proponent of non-alignment, and support to liberation and anti-apartheid movements. He was the first European leader who visited Cuba after its liberation.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

22–28 February 2025

Source: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), [www.au.int](http://www.au.int), *The Africa Fact Book (2020)*, [www.daysoftheyear.com](http://www.daysoftheyear.com)

### 22 February

#### World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day is an annual observance day since 1926, introduced by the World Association of Girl Guides and Scouts, to promote international friendship. The day is also used as “an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries.”

### 22 February

#### Be Humble Day

On Be Humble Day, people across the world, irrespective of their religion, culture, and philosophy come together and stress the importance of being humble. Humility helps one extend more compassion and empathy to others. Those who practice humility are more likely to consider others’ beliefs and opinions. Humility offers the opportunity to become less self-involved and more attuned with the feelings of others, promoting the idea that accepting our errors and faults makes us better human beings.

### 27 February

#### International Digital Learning Day

World Digital Learning Day was first celebrated in 2011, at a time when digital or e-learning were just being introduced, and ICT tools reserved for a few. Ten years later, and in the midst of a global pandemic which forced lockdowns on schools and universities, digital learning has become critical. Technology has changed learning, but it is also exacerbating inequalities within countries and across the world. Although South Africa has been talking about making e-learning more accessible, through initiatives such as a laptop/tablet per learner, connecting schools to the internet, and the introduction of ICT as a school subject, the digital divide remains stark, including training for teachers to understand e-teaching and learning. World Digital Learning Day is a reminder of the road still ahead of us.



### 28 February

#### World Rare Disease Day

Rare Disease Day takes place on the last day of February each year. The main objective of Rare Disease Day is to raise awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers about rare diseases and their impact on patients’ and family lives. Close to 1 in 20 people live with a rare disease, but it often goes un or misdiagnosed.

