



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – 8 MARCH 2021

We pay tribute to all the women of South Africa

■ **By President Cyril Ramaphosa**

8 March 2021 is **International Women's Day**. For more than a century, this day has been celebrated across the world as part of the struggle to realise women's rights in the social, political, legal, reproductive, health and other spheres.

The Women's Charter, which was drawn up in 1994, notes that at

the heart of women's marginalisation in South Africa are the attitudes and practices that *"confine women to the domestic arena, and reserve for men the arena where political power and authority reside"*.

There can be no meaningful progress for women if our society continues to relegate women to 'tradi-

tional' professions, occupations or roles, while it is mainly men who sit on decision-making structures.

Fittingly, the theme of this year's International Women's Day is women's leadership and achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.

Since the coronavirus pandemic reached South Africa a year ago,

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the women of South Africa have played a pivotal role in the country's response.

We salute the resilience and bravery of women frontline workers, who worked to fight the pandemic as nurses, doctors, emergency personnel, police and soldiers.

These include the tragic stories of women like Nurse Petronella Benjamin from Eerste River in the Western Cape, who lost her life to COVID-19 just days before she was due to retire after 25 years as a nurse.

Our efforts to contain the pandemic have been greatly boosted by the thousands of fieldworkers like Azalet Dube from Doctors without Borders, who went into communities to raise awareness about the disease, who worked in health facilities as contract tracers, and who provided psycho-social support to families and individuals in distress.

The dedication of the nation's

educators has ensured that our young people were able to receive an education despite the disruption caused by the pandemic. We owe a debt of gratitude to the many women who have worked as teachers, principals, lecturers and as administrators at institutions of higher learning.

We thank the women leading civil society organisations who worked and continue to work with the Ministerial Advisory Committee in driving a holistic approach to managing the pandemic.

Our experience of this pandemic has once more demonstrated women's capacity to organise, collaborate, lead and achieve.

We salute women like Nandi Msezane, who helped raise funds for food support in affected communities, and helped to provide access to mental health support for the LGBTQI+ community during the lockdown.

Vulnerable women and children affected by violence during the lockdown were helped thanks to the efforts of numerous non-governmental organisations (NGOs) led by and staffed by women.

This includes women like Fazila Gany, a longstanding member of the National Shelter Movement who also sadly passed away from COVID-19. The Movement has been critical in ensuring women and children at risk received support and access to services during the pandemic.

Women doctors, researchers and scientists have played and continue to play an important role in our epidemiological response. One of the COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials conducted last year,

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

the Ensemble trial, was led by two female scientists, Prof Glenda Gray of the South African Medical Research Council and Prof Linda-Gail Bekker of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre.

Research performed by academics on economic vulnerability and poverty trends in South Africa helped drive an informed relief response. Last year we lost one of the country's foremost experts on rural poverty, Dr Vuyo Mahlati. At the time she was studying the impact of the pandemic on food security in vulnerable communities, especially small scale farmers.

In the private sector, women business leaders have been visible in mobilising financial resources to support government's efforts.

The Solidarity Fund, which has played such a key role in this regard, is chaired by one of South Africa's most prominent businesswomen, Gloria Serobe. Women CEOs, board members and fund managers continue to play a leading role in pushing for their companies to support government's

Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

No such tribute on this day would be complete without recognising the role of the women of this administration, whose efforts often go unacknowledged. It is women who lead the many government departments at the forefront of the national relief response.

I wish all the women of South Africa well on this day.

Our experience of this pandemic has once more demonstrated women's capacity to organise,

**We salute the resilience and
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collaborate, lead and achieve. Through their actions, they have demonstrated there is no such thing as 'a woman's place'.

The women of our country still face many challenges.

They are still under-represented in the boardrooms and corridors of power. They are still more likely to be poor and unemployed than their male counterparts. They are still vulnerable to gender-based violence and femicide.

But on this day, let us acknowledge how far we have come as a society thanks to the role of women leaders, particularly in helping the nation through this pandemic.

As we have struggled against this disease, women have been present and prominent in almost every arena of life.

This has set a standard for the kind of society we continue to build.

It has inspired and encouraged us to build an equal future.





Repositories of new knowledge: Support for further education

Dear Mr President

SOUTH Africa is home to 26 public universities and many private institutions which cater for the demand for higher education.

The democratic government of the African National Congress added two more public universities in the provinces where none existed. The universities of Mpumalanga and Sol Plaatje University in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape have grown in leaps and bounds since they were launched in 2013.

Our country has nearly one million university students while 700 000 students are registered at more than expected 50 higher education training colleges (TVET colleges – Technical vocational education training). An additional 90 000 students can be found at various private institutions.

By contrast, on the eve of democracy in 1994, the gross participation in higher education was 17% and was highly skewed by race, with 9% for Africans, 13% for Coloureds, 40% for Indians and 79% for Whites.

This is despite the fact that in 1993, 89% of the South African population was comprised of Africans.

The ANC government made a commitment to change this dynamic to reflect the demographics of our country and that mission has since been achieved.

Mr President, this is not merely



Comrade Pule Mabe

a game of numbers but a story of transformation and increased access to higher education for the previously marginalised.

This democratic government has always shown commitment to the upliftment of our people, hence education remains one of the priorities with one of the biggest slices of the national budget. This allocation of resources sees Higher Education and Training remaining one of the biggest beneficiaries of the national budget despite economic difficulties. This is a clear demonstration of our support to broaden access to higher education and education in general.

The government is fully aware that an investment in the education of our children will contribute to a higher trajectory of economic growth which is needed to address the tri-

ple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. The government heard and responded to the pleas of the students and through the NSFAS, hundreds of thousands of students with limited means continue to enjoy free access to tertiary institutions.

Taking into account that institutions of higher learning remain viable, the issue of affordability for deserving students and their parents is taken into account.

The government has consistently appealed to students and student leaders in particular to arrange their concerns appropriately and according to the prescripts of the constitution, which guides all South Africans.

Unfortunately, all too often we have seen protests marred by violence, vandalism, destruction of property such as the burning of libraries and laboratories.

This culture is at odds with the ethos of responsible citizenry that ought to be inculcated at tertiary institutions.

Over the last 800 years of modern university, there have been competing narratives about what the institution is designed to achieve. Universities have been seen as communities dedicated to the learning and personal development of their members. They have been sources of expertise and vocational identity and creators of new knowledge. They are important contributors to society and nations. The

role of universities as repositories and generators of knowledge and the obligation to equip graduates with crucial skills as citizens and tomorrow's leaders cannot be over-emphasised.

The presence of universities as large and influential bodies in civil society cannot be understated. The longer term role of graduates in creating cohesive and tolerant communities is the defining character of tertiary institutions.

Mr President, recently Puleng LenkaBula was appointed as Vice-Chancellor and Principal of one of South Africa's largest universities, the University of South Africa.

This made her only the third black female head of a university in our country.

Unisa is also the largest open distance learning institution on the African continent with 148 years of existence.

Thus, this epochal appointment was approved unanimously by the Unisa Council and has demonstrated the transformative mission of the struggle against racist and minority supremacist regime that denied and deprived black people to participate in meaningful knowledge sharing.

As the ANC, we applaud and welcome LenkaBula's appointment and see it as victory against those who saw black females as domestic workers who only qualify to do their masters' bidding.

Her appointment will in no small measure inspire young black women to follow in her footsteps.

The ANC pioneered laws such as the Employment Equity Act which laid the foundation to see the emancipation of LenkaBula and others.

While this is a trickle, this is a launch pad which would ensure that the Vice Chancellor is a role model worth of emulation.

Prof. Puleng LenkaBula
Vice Chancellor and Principal
of UNISA



As the ANC, we welcome her appointment and we have no doubt that an accomplished academic of her caliber will serve with candour and distinction.

The academic sphere here and abroad has long ignored the role that women of colour play in rearing communities and nations.

LenkaBula's appointment is a tacit endorsement of realising the vision of the National Development Plan Vision 2030 in ensuring that women attain 50% representation in the academic sphere.

Her appointment could not have come at a better time as the world celebrated International Day of Women last week.

Crucially, more and more women need the encouragement and support to further their studies beyond junior degrees that only prepare them for the job market.

During these times when our immediate world changes rapidly, we need all hands on deck to redefine roles and new knowledge systems. The subjugation of women, particularly black women has denied the world of vital knowledge systems which could have pointed our destiny in new directions.

The policies that we championed when the ANC came into power has seen a correlated increase and in-

take of more female students and many have risen to realise their potential in their chosen fields.

Importantly, the role of the university is not merely to prepare graduates for the job market but to incubate thinkers with the right skills to redirect the course of humanity.

The strides we have made in the last 26 years can only be exacerbated by more hunger for knowledge and resultant determination to see a degree not as an end but the means to reach for the stars.

The recent job market has demonstrated that merely obtaining a degree is not sufficient to secure lifetime employment.

There are heart-wrenching stories of graduates who stand at street corners begging for employment, any employment.

Institutions of Higher Learning ought to align their offerings to reflect the changing needs of the modern world.

To this end, the government needs to intensify all efforts to ensure that all deserving potential graduates receive all the support they need.

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



The disease of the use of money in ANC Conferences

Report from the Integrity Commission | **Part 2**

ONE of the simplest ways to get into a leadership position in the ANC is to get access to money. This leads to being voted into a position. This in turn, leads to the levers of power. Money power has taken firm roots. No one is interested in politics that serve the interests of the people. The issue that has dominated is get rich and get rich very fast. Your riches guarantee more access to position and/or leadership. Levers of government and power are about money.

We now know that this question of money is not just from private donors but from long fingers reaching into the public purse and SOEs. This is the root of what today defines the ANC as corruption.

The most worrying aspect is to listen to leadership adopting the

well-worn excuse, that others are doing it too. There's no interest to own up and agree that this is a problem to be handled head on. In other words, the defects of the outcome of leadership elected through use of money pollute the entire organisation.

The question that needs to be posed, is whether a leadership mostly elected through the use of money can be considered to be a duly elected leadership? We need an open, monitorable and verifiable process to elect people who have earned and are worthy of the title of leadership aligned to the politics and ethics of the ANC.

Correcting this matter at the highest levels, shall greatly assist the destructive impact it has done to lower structures. At the same time, work needs to be done to re-build the branches. The process of correction of this problem will enable

us to propel to parliament, to the legislatures and to councils, people of political integrity and quality who truly shall be representative of the people. Not people who are owned by corrupt individuals, by people who have stolen from the state, or from particular groups or factions. It is obvious that the weakness evident today of our parliamentarians and comrades in other structures as mentioned above is the result of the weakness mentioned above.

It must be firmly and clearly stated that the question of use of money for individual leadership campaigns is the source of the factions ripping apart the organisation today. This is simple to discern – money buys votes.

Those who are recipients of these monies owe their existence to their financial benefactors. The unfettered practice of the use of money

results in the growth of factions. The stronger the faction, the more vocal are those who receive money, the more influence they gain. The ultimate outcome is a factionalised and broken organisation. A factionalised organisation cannot look beyond the prism of the faction. Ultimately, our programme of meeting the basic needs of our people is put on the back burner. The people become spectators as the ANC simply focuses and looks in on itself.

Therefore poverty rises, unemployment becomes rises and inequality is left unchecked. Despondency by the downtrodden is at its highest. The ANC formed as a parliament of the people becomes an organisation that spends most of its time managing factions.

StatSA released its Labour Force Survey, Q2:2020 that indicate the number of employed persons decreased by 2,2 million to 14,1 million in the 2nd quarter of 2020 compared to the 1st quarter of 2020. This unprecedented change is the largest quarter 1 to quarter 2 decline since the survey began in 2008. This is a horrific situation.

The ANC must develop strict rules on how to prohibit this disease of use of money for electoral process in its ranks.

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Yet you don't hear or see action being taken in recognition that there's a crisis facing South Africa. The battle of the factions is the central focus and detracts from the core mission of the organisation.

Further comments

The ANC must develop strict rules on how to prohibit this disease of use of money for electoral process in its ranks. It is an anathema to everything the ANC stands for. Over time, money and election in the ANC is already diluting the character of the ANC. As the Integrity Commission, we champion for an ANC that recognises that

it is a revolutionary movement which subscribes to maintaining the moral highground over all opposing forces. The Integrity Commission must seek to reinforce the ethic of comradeship as the girding loin that unites all its members.

In a context where people are daily losing confidence in the ANC, and we move from crisis to crisis, yet for leadership life goes on as normal. The masses have become spectators, and of concern is that they are also victims of right-wing forces and anti-freedom forces arraigned against the ANC and the programmes designed for the thorough-going transformation of South Africa into a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic country wherein a people shall drink from the well of freedom and realise their full potential.

The Integrity Commission is aware that it is merely a few individuals who are promoting the agenda of allowing the use of money for individual leadership campaigns, thus creating a perception that the whole ANC is corrupt.

The Integrity Commission recommends that:

- (a) Every leader of the ANC must be vetted across the board;
- (b) Those who represent the ANC in legislatures and councils must also be vetted and subject themselves to a lifestyle audit. Each one of them must have at least a minimum level of education. These measures should be carried out in a manner that doesn't leave an impression of an elitist or anti-poor organisation. This proposal is made because anyone who becomes a member of parliament or council is expected to have a level of po-



Delegates at the 54th National Conference in NASREC



Top 6 National Officials as elected at the 54th National Conference in NASREC

litical expertise and to be able to deal with policy documents, legislation and budgets. This requires some level of basic education and a commitment to ongoing learning;

(c) The current leadership is riven by divisions and factions. Social distance and links with the people is now brittle. Even with a crisis, as the situation presents itself today, with regard to the Zondo Commission revelations, we sadly do not find a leadership touched or pricked into action. Life simply continues as normal. The people are cynical and now define the movement as corrupt. The many different voices and opinions from the leadership create confusion;

(d) An ethical and upright leadership must be a leadership defined by its commitment to changes in the quality of life of the people, and not be centred on self-enrichment. In relation to this, the measurement for criteria must be developed; and

(e) There must be a communication strategy to address this situation and stem the tide of negativity against the ANC

Conclusion

The IC welcomes the newly formed ANC Electoral Committee and is confident that it will ensure an open and transparent system of selection of leadership in the ANC where capacity, skill and commitment are the determinant factors.

The issue of money at elective platforms of the ANC not only

**...those who aspire
to positions of
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through the eye of
the needle.**

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blunts branches but also blunts the leadership's ability to execute its historic mission. It is hoped that the new membership system, may bring about welcome improvements. But it is not going to solve the problem.

The ranks of the ANC must be composed of persons with integrity whose mission is to serve the people and bring them a better life. Division at leadership echelons and in the ranks and structures of the organisation ultimately leads to the collapse of the organisation. In other words, the ranks of the ANC cannot and must not be filled by those whose interest is opposed to the interest of the people.

The key and fundamental agenda of the ANC and all its members is that the party must live and lead South Africa to become a society in which ultimately all will be free of want. This is the historic mission of the ANC. For this to happen, those who aspire to positions of leadership must go through the eye of the needle.

101 Years of Robert Resha: A TRIBUTE

■ By Ronald Lamola

ONE of the finest revolutionaries in the congress movement, Cde Robert Resha, would have celebrated 101 years on 09 March 2021 had he still being alive. He was described in historical records as a brave, thoughtful, powerful orator and a radical activist.

Cde Resha was often mentioned in the same breath as comrades such as Alfred Nzo and Johnny Makhatini, who were renowned internationalists. Such a description of Comrade Resha mirrors or reflects the character of most firebrand leaders of the ANC such as Anton Lembede, Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela and Peter Mokaba. Cde Resha should inspire those of us who live in a post-apartheid South Africa not to massage the structural issues in our economy which reinforce both racial and class inequalities, and exacerbate the landlessness of our people.

In memory of Cde Resha, we must dismantle structures that perpetuate the oppression of our people and address challenges we have inherited, in a manner which brings highly effective solutions. The generation of Cde Resha confronted the apartheid



Comrade Robert Resha with Comrade OR Tambo

regime in a manner which went beyond the slogan, ***Freedom in Our Lifetime***. They never compromised the struggle for a free and democratic South Africa they envisioned. They endured torture, lengthy prison sentences by an illegitimate regime and exile. Amid all this, they did not surrender; they understood that the struggle for a free South Africa needed to unfold and it is through their activism, that today, we have democracy in South Africa. Unfortunately, Cde Resha like many other activists, did not reach freedom in his lifetime. After being acquitted at

the 1956 Treason Trial, he was exiled. He became a representative of the ANC, serving in Algiers and other ANC offices abroad. On numerous occasions, he spoke on behalf of the ANC before the United Nations committees.

He unfortunately died in London on 7 December 1973. His life though, was well lived. As an activist journalist, he wrote for various progressive newspapers and in that vein, Comrade Resha is mentioned along the likes of John Tengo Jabavu, who published the first black owned newspaper, *Imvo*



Comrade Resha (centre) with Comrade Madiba on a visit hosted by freedom fighters in Algiers

Zabantsundu in 1884, Solomom Tshekisho Plaatje who published *Koranta ea Becoana* in 1901, AK Soga and Walter Rubusana who both published *Izwi Labantu* in 1897, and John Langalibalele Dube who published *Ilanga lase Natal* in 1903 to mention but a few.

It is perhaps an indictment on us, this generation, that in our formative years of our democracy, we have not been able to revive or maintain this heritage of progressive journalists and publications. On the contrary, our media industry remains highly concentrated in the hands of private capital. The schools of journalism also do not bear the names and ideological ethos of Dube, Tengo or Resha.

In honour of this generation, we should begin to reimagine the media fraternity as it seeks to redefine itself in the era of online and social media. Media plurality is paramount now more than ever. The need to interact with verified factual information and debates is no longer a luxury; it is directly linked to the sustainability of our democracy.

As the South African media landscape evolves, this evolution must be located within the rural and dig-

ital divide. One of the things which is becoming more apparent in the digital age, is that false news is likely to spread six times faster than accurate news. We should be able to analyse what impact this has on the marginalised and the poor, who may inadvertently interact with it and act on the basis of false information. False news is also spread to vilify and assassinate characters of comrades and this is what we must guard against. As cadres of the ANC, we should nip this foreign tendency in the bud. Information distorters must be isolated.

As a nation, we appreciate the role that various journalists have played in the country through investigative journalism and for exposing malfeasance and corruption. The media has at times been the mirror through which we view our own developments and enforce accountability to citizens. This is the space that we need to protect. Generations of journalists like Comrade Resha, under very difficult conditions, laid the foundation for a free and independent media that is not biased and mired on propaganda. They wanted the media to reflect the diverse views of our communities and also inform citizens in a

manner which raises their political consciousness. It is this level of consciousness that gave rise to mass support for protests which led to the ushering of freedom and democracy in South Africa.

The same consciousness must empower citizens to be activists and deepen democracy in our country and usher a new era of human rights for all. When society is politically conscious, our people will unite in the fight against gender based violence and femicide. They will know that rights of women should never be trampled.

In remembrance of Cde Resha, let us collectively reinvent our economy and make our democracy tangible for all. In the era of information communication technology, let us through innovation, forge new socio economic pacts which will alleviate some of the struggles our people are confronted with. We must also close ranks and never allow any reactionary or populist politics which are now a yardstick for radicalism to prevail. Let us be ceased with implementing programmes which usher Economic Freedom in our Lifetime which must be understood in the context of socio-economic transformation.

Oliver Reginald Tambo conferred with the **Francisco de Miranda** **Order, in the First Class** posthumously by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela



■ By Alvin Botes



WE are elated and honoured as a country that Oliver Tambo has been awarded the prestigious Francisco de Miranda Order (First Class) by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 March 2021. We recall that in the statement by Oliver Tambo on accepting the Simon Bolivar award on behalf of Nelson Mandela, in Caracas on 24 July 1983, he said *“we feel we have acquired the right to inscribe on our battle standards these immortal words that Simon Bolivar wrote in 1812: “Be not insensible to the cries of your brothers...give life to the dying, bring freedom to the oppressed and liberty to all.”*

This statement epitomised the moment when OR Tambo proclaimed that we are part of the world that

sought to achieve freedoms and liberation for countless numbers of people and countries that were experiencing the yoke of exploitation, oppression, segregation and the brutality of apartheid. South Africa's foreign policy imperatives is premised on four concentric circles, which are **Pan Africanism, Global South Solidarity, North-South Cooperation and strengthening Multi-lateralism.**

This gesture by Venezuela is a testament and underpins the centrality of South-South unity, premised on our shared reality as **developing states**, and our common responsibility to loudly proclaim our denunciation when an injustice is perpetuated against an oppressed people.

South Africa stands firm in its conviction and commitment, that the plight of the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is **intertwined** with the reality and plight of Africa and the South African people.

South Africa commits to continue to be the flag-bearer on **multilateralism**, and to negate from any conduct, posture or sentiment which seeks to fortify **unilateral** action. These commitments enshrines our value proposition to the rest of the world, a deep sense to always err on the side of the most vulnerable.

Today, we witness the **confering of this prestigious award to one of South Africa's foremost heroes.** A man who's name denotes the struggle for freedom and justice; a man who fought for the liberation of all South Africans and a man who cherished a better South Africa in which all live in peace and harmony. Comrade O.R. left us a significant and enduring heritage, which enhanced



Venezuelan revolutionary
Francisco de Miranda

our new constitution, contributed to the inclusive and equitable policies of our democratically elected government, and affirmed the abiding vision of the ANC itself.

The bestowing on OR Tambo of the posthumous award of the **Francisco de Miranda Order (First Class)**, is a prodigious tribute to OR Tambo the Internationalist and acknowledges the role **Frontline States** played in the struggle against **Colonial occupation in Africa**, and in the **Anti-Apartheid Struggle in South Africa.**

We must therefore congratulate all other distinguished and worthy recipients of the Francisco de Miranda Order and recognise the role played by these legends and doyens of the struggle for a peaceful and prosperous Africa. We extend congratulations to:

1. **Samuel Daniel Shafiishuna "Sam" Nujoma**, Founding Father of the Republic of Namibia.
2. **Joaquim Chissano**, former President of the Republic of Mozambique.
3. **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, Vice-Ministry and Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia.
4. **Oppah Chamu Zvipange Muchinguri Kashiri**, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

5. **Luzia Inglés Van-Dúnem**, President of the Angolan Women's Organization, and General of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Angola.

In reflecting on our heritage and paying tribute to Oliver Tambo, the revolutionary thinker, humanist and mentor, we recall one of his most profound quotes "It is our responsibility to break down barriers of division and create a country where there will be neither whites nor blacks, just South Africans, free and united in diversity". In contemporary context and what COVID-19 has taught us "the people of the world are one and we must break down the barriers of narrow nationalism".

South Africa acknowledge that this special gesture by President Nicolás Maduro, strengthens the bond of companionship with President Ramaphosa and our peoples. President Cyril Ramaphosa wishes to acknowledge and appreciate the hand of friendship extended by President Nicolás Maduro.

The 8th commemoration of the death of former President Hugo Chavez on 5 March 2013, should serve as an occasion to celebrate these giants of struggles.

Alvin Botes is an NEC member and Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



Mme Charlotte – Embodiment of Worldly Women’s Commemoration

■ By JP Louw



STANFORD Social Innovation Review, an award-winning magazine and website that covers cross-sector solutions to global problems, argues that it takes three kinds of leaders to bring social innovation to life. These being an agitator, innovator, and orchestrator.

An agitator creates public awareness of specific individuals or groups' concerns. Innovators define actionable solutions that will attend to the said concerns. Or-

chestrators coordinate actions across groups, organisations, and sectors to scale the proposed solution.

And when you have all three in one person who is also first in line to get what needs to happen done, we use terminology such as trailblazer. And if Trailblazer were a person, it would be Mme Charlotte Manye Maxeke.

At a time when the world's attention will be drawn to this year's an-

nual International Women's Day on the 08th March, it becomes prudent to emulate and speak into present day lived experiences that embodies the spirit of Mme Charlotte. And this we must do not just for its sake, but to encourage many of us to strive for the type of country and world she professed.

In what could mistakenly be misread as the UN Women's attempt to also commemorate Mme Charlotte Maxeke's 150th birthday, the theme for this year's International Women's Day is *"Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World"*. And when explaining this theme, UN Women states that *"the theme celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."*

It further explains that the theme *"is also aligned with the priority theme of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women"*. This session's theme is *"Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls"*

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Local Businesses empowered by new SEZ

MORALE is high at the Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zones (SEZ) construction site as companies aim to meet their June 2021 deadline, but none more than in Moago Construction's camp.

It is difficult to miss the passion in Mr Benny Serepong, as he talks about the involvement of his company in the construction of the Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone (TASEZ). He is energised by the fast pace on site, as all players work tirelessly to meet the June 2021 deadline for completion, and he hopes the project contributes towards changing and accelerating the pace at which infrastructure projects are done in the country.

Having been in the construction business for the past 18 years, his company, Moago Construction, is one of the small business enterprises that are benefiting through sub-contracting opportunities in the TASEZ initiative.

What is being built is a massive Special Economic Zone that will house a number of automotive component manufacturers, who



Launch of the Tshwane Automotive Special economic Zones by President Ramaphosa, November 2020

will supply parts to Ford Motors Company South Africa (FMCSA). This will ultimately boost Ford's ambition to become the world's largest Ford Ranger pickup plant.

President Cyril Ramaphosa launched this R4.3-billion initiative in November last year. The project brings together three spheres of government – the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), Gauteng Provincial Government and the City of Tshwane – in a partnership with

the private sector through Ford. The SEZ is situated next to Ford headquarters in Silverton near Mamelodi and Nellmapius townships.

Serepong's Moago Construction was recently appointed for a short-term contract to do bulk earthworks at the construction site.

Serepong is passionate about construction, and credits his uncle for infusing the love for the indus-



Benny Serepong at the construction site of the Tshwane Automotive Special Zones

try from a young age. He learnt the skills and tricks of the trade while working for him to make ends meet for his poor family. He tried to refocus his attention elsewhere and to make a living differently later, by studying Industrial Psychology up to Honours level. He further pursued Leadership Development studies with the IN-SEAD Business School in France but found it difficult to resist the urge to follow his first love – construction.

The TASEZ contract has enabled Serepong's company to offer short-term employment to 39 people; 70% are from the local areas of Mamelodi and Nellmapius.

"The workers we have employed are a blend of unskilled, semi-skilled and fully skilled individuals on the ground to do operations and administration work on site.

"The contract also affords us to bring in 30% of our own workers, so I have also brought in professionals from my own company, among them, civil engineers and quantity surveyors."

Moago Construction is a grade 7 level company through which Serepong has garnered extensive experience building luxury private houses in some of Gauteng's suburbs. He has also been involved in several government projects over the years, building schools, libraries and health facilities.

He believes the TASEZ is an excellent initiative which will contribute to economic growth and job creation in the country.

"Private-Public Partnerships such as this one are critical in igniting the economy of the country.

"I am happy to see that the local community was consulted extensively in this project. "It has made our work easy as we have not experienced any interruptions due to public complaints.

"I feel energised by the tight deadlines set for completion of this work. Staff morale on site is quite high and I believe strongly that as a country we should adopt this fast pace in all infrastructure proj-

ects and make it a dominant culture," says Serepong.

During a site inspection in September, the Director General of the DTIC, Mr Lionel October, revealed that all plans were on track to finish all construction work by June next year. There has also been a very clear direction by government to ensure the project opens up opportunities for Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise (SMME) operators, with an estimated R25-million set aside for their training, mentorship and support.

In this project, government's localisation policy imperatives have been surpassed and currently 45% local businesses have been empowered in the construction phase. Once operational, the SEZ is expected to create more than 8 500 jobs and up to 70% of those jobs will go to local residents of Mamelodi and surrounding areas in Pretoria.

First published in **Business Update, Issue 18**



SOPA 2021 WESTERN CAPE

Highlights of the Response by the WC Leader of the Opposition **Cameron Dugmore** to the SOPA Address 18 February 2021

THOSE that do not have access to agricultural land, who don't have title to land for housing, who are not owners of the Overberg and Provincial economy, are in the main people who were classified as Coloured and African. These two communities were actually the victims of Apartheid and Colonialism and their life chances are affected by that legacy. The problem we have is that the party to which the Premier belongs, the DA, believes that race does not matter.

We are not surprised that the DA continues to lose by-elections in George and Oudtshoorn. The people can see that the real problem is that the DA worries only that the wealthy, the elite, those that benefitted from Apartheid and Colonialism are taken care of.

As the ANC we believe that farmworkers and farmowners need to build a partnership which leads to shared prosperity. We believe that it is simply not sustainable or morally justifiable that less than 1% of Agricultural land in the province is in the hands of black farmers – Coloured, African and Indian. We too celebrate the record exports of fruit by farmers in our province.

The Premier talks about jobs. He



promised 20 000 jobs but says he could only deliver 7000. Why does the Premier never talk about the ownership of the provincial economy? The DA language is – be happy with a few jobs, leave the economy in our hands.

Premier Winde claimed that South Africa was 40 million vaccines short. This is not true. Already our government has secured 9 million vaccines from Johnson and Johnson, 20 million from Pfizer, 12 million from Covax. That is 41 million. Thus, there are over 40 million vaccines simply awaiting finalisation agreements for delivery with manufacturers.

The Honourable Premier speaks about safety and dignity of health-care workers that are overworked during the pandemic, suffer from emotional trauma only to have their premier advocate for the lifting of the alcohol ban. Promises to do something about the harm of alcohol causes at so many levels remain empty promises. The Premier has become the shopsteward of the alcohol industry.

He cannot claim wellbeing as a priority when our classrooms continue to be overcrowded, 12 000 learners remain unplaced and while classrooms in former model C schools stand empty. It is sad that the Premier did not once mention the serious challenge of racism in our province.

After Brackenfell High School, which gripped our nation's attention for weeks, and especially here in the Overberg where racism is so rife, the premier paid scant, in fact no, attention to this serious challenge. Today it may be apt to remind the Honourable Premier and his provincial government that race matters because the legacy of colonialism and apartheid remain.

Premier, if you want to do something for the community of Gena-



Western Cape farm workers protesting against their living conditions

dendal, I challenge you to actually come here and listen to the people. Come here with the Minister

of Agriculture, Land Affairs and Rural Development. Bring the provincial and national ministers

of tourism. This community has massive potential. It has skills, passion and commitment. There is a huge opportunity to work with the community, national and local government to speed up the TRANCA process so that the community can truly benefit from the thousands of hectares of land that are available. But it needs engagement and working together.

While we support SOPA being held in our communities, we appeal to you to never allow a situation again where the community concerned are simply spectators and not allowed to make their voices heard.

SOPA 2021 GAUTENG

Highlights of State of the Province Address delivered by Premier **David Makhura** 23 February 2021



IN Gauteng alone, over four hundred thousand people have contracted the coronavirus and most painfully, almost ten thousand have succumbed to COVID-19. Half-a-million jobs have been lost and 42% of small businesses were forced to close with no prospect of ever re-opening. Those who contracted coronavirus can attest that, contrary to the views of denialists and conspiracy theorists, **COVID-19 is no ordinary flu. It is a painful and deadly disease. It does kill!**

We must be very grateful to the heroic healthcare workers who faced this vicious virus and ferocious pandemic with tremendous courage and resolve to save lives. We commend thousands of essential workers such as the police, security officers, public servants, the military, agricultural workers, energy workers and workers in retail shops who kept the country going under difficult conditions of lockdown.

As the industrial hub of Sub-Saharan Africa, the Gauteng City



GAUTENG

SOPA

STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS
GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER

2021

GP PRIORITIES FOR 2021

GPG PRIORITIES

- Taking a lead in the battle to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic
- Re-igniting the Gauteng economy to take a lead in South Africa's economic reconstruction and recovery plan
- Recalibrating social policy to improve educational and health outcomes, fight crime and protect the most vulnerable sections of the population against urban poverty and hunger.
- Improving governance in the Gauteng City Region in order to ensure integrity, accountability and performance that meet the expectations of citizens.

Region has adopted a strategic posture of leading the way in the industrialisation and re-industrialisation agenda of our country and continent. To this end, the development of the single multi-tier Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is the primary anchor of our industrialisation agenda. It is our goal to have at least one SEZ in each district or metro, specializing in distinct sectors and industries in each corridor.

The progress being made at the Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone (TASEZ) is inspiring. The three spheres of government are investing R3.3 billion in infrastructure, which has unlocked R4.3 billion investment by suppliers and a further R15.8 billion investment announced by Ford Motor Company on 8 February. This is the biggest foreign direct invest-

ment since the 2010 World Cup. TASEZ will produce over 200,000 vehicles by 2022.

One critical area of infrastructure investment is about building and ensuring access to high-speed internet. This is crucial for harnessing the opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution. We are implementing the Gauteng Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Growth and Digitalisation Strategy which has four pillars: Digital Infrastructure, Enabling Environment, Enabling Technologies, and Human Capital Development. This will enable our City Region to build a dynamic digital economy that offers employment to the youth and opportunities to entrepreneurs.

Our province had the second highest number of learners who wrote exams for the National Se-

nior Certificate in 2020 – 110 191 learners. We are pleased that despite all the odds of COVID-19, six Gauteng districts are in the top ten best performing districts in our country. Of the six, five are placed number 1-5 best performing districts.

Since March 2020, a total of 2 919 operations were undertaken with other Law Enforcement Agencies, targeting various crimes including the illicit economy, theft, counterfeit goods and GBV. It is for this reason that the Gauteng provincial government has decided to provide additional resources to the law enforcement agencies.

I am utterly perturbed by the increase in gender-based violence and femicide, the crimes against women and children. This underscores the reality

that women are under siege and we must respond with all arsenal to completely put a stop to the violence and killing of women and children in our society. There should be no place to hide for men who abuse or kill women and children in this beautiful province. We must find perpetrators of GBVF and bring them to book, regardless of their place or influence in Organisations and society.

During the fifth administration, we improved clean audit outcomes from 54% to 65% and the balance of the departments and entities obtained unqualified audit reports. We eliminated disclaimers and adverse findings completely from the audit outcomes of the province because we cracked the whip. We will hold Accounting Officers answerable where there are poor audit outcomes.

SOPA 2021

FREE STATE

Highlights of State of the Province Address delivered by Premier **Sisi Ntombela** 2 March 2021



OF the more than eight hundred and eighty-nine million, nine hundred sixty-nine thousand rands (R889,969,000) spent in the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment, sixty-two percent of the enterprises that benefitted were blackowned, 22 percent youth owned, 21 percent women owned, 1 percent were owned by military veterans and another 1 percent by persons with disability.

Manufacturing is the source of economic growth and we want to tap into its potential to grow this sector in the province. We have secured over one billion rands investment in the Maluti-a-Phofung Special Economic Zone. Although

it is located in Maluti-a-Phofung, the Special Economic Zone is for the benefit of the entire province. Its success is the success of the province.

Our province is a great example that mining is a sunrise industry in the country. Six companies are mining industrial minerals in Lejweleputswa. In addition, there are three coal mines that are operating in the Sasolburg and Koppies areas. These mines have a potential lifespan of almost two decades.

I want to thank our healthcare workers for the sterling work they are doing. Your love and dedication to the country continue to save lives. You are our heroes.

To all our fallen healthcare workers who have lost their lives to COVID-19, you will always be in our hearts. We pay tribute to your great deeds.

We have commenced with our programme to distribute land to our people. We have four thousand, eight hundred and seventy-two land parcels valued at over eleven billion rands. Of these total number of pieces of land, two thousand, six hundred and twenty-six have been earmarked to be transferred to the rightful beneficiaries.

We have completed an audit of farms in the province with the view of making these available to our people, mainly the youth and



The Free State province managed to secure R1bn in investment for the Maluti-a-Phofung special economic zone. The Maluti-a-Phofung special economic zone was opened by former President Zuma on 25 April 2017.

woman. Ninety-five farms that include resorts and nature conservation areas have been identified.

We continue to be troubled by violence against women, girls and children. Violence against women needs to stop. We should not only speak about ending gender-based violence; we should end it. We need to act and act now.

We welcome the thirty-eight million, two hundred and eighty-four thousand rands allocated for ECD workforce and compliance support workers as part of the Presidential Employment Intervention Initiative. Eight thousand, six hundred and thirty-seven additional ECD workers will be employed using this grant. Currently, eleven schools are at various stages of construction.

Following the successful 4th Industrial Revolution Summit in 2019, we brought together the private sector, civil society, academics and the public sector in one platform to chart a common vision for a digitised Free State.

Our municipalities continue to provide basic services through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant to expand access to services for many of our people.

Attacking corruption remains high on our development agenda. We need to be transparent, effective and accountable to create trust in government. This we can achieve only when we are serious about the fight against corruption. We are cooperating with law enforcement agencies in their investigations. I have instructed MECs to ensure that public servants doing business with the state as reported by the Public Service Commission are dealt with accordingly.

SOPA 2021

MPUMALANGA

Highlights of State of the Province Address delivered by the Premier

Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane
5 March 2021

THE Department of Health will continue to play a pivotal role in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. This department was at the coal face in combating the spread of the virus and they did a sterling job. We applaud the work of our frontline staff and emergency services for the commitment and dedication they have shown, placing their lives at risk to rescue ours. Some of them have paid the ultimate price for their dedication.

Agriculture was the least affected industry in 2020 due to the demand for agricultural products, proving once more that our Province is an important contributor to the food basket of South Africa. This sector even experienced job gains during the hard lockdown period, as it recorded growth of more than 11% in the first 9 months of 2020.

One of our most important commitments undertaken in the last SOPA address was the launching and operationalisation of the youth development fund. We budgeted R50 million for the first phase of this programme. We called for the



expression of interest from young people of Mpumalanga province. Thousands of them responded positively. This multiyear programme invites numerous youth owned SMMEs to submit proposals outlining the growth and funding needs of their businesses. These enterprises are then provided with training and funding to grow the operational footprint.

As a Province, we have created 19 649 jobs through the Expanded Public Works Programme. The main beneficiary of these opportunities were: 12 254 Women; 9 239 Young people; and 159 People with disabilities. Government

is strengthening this programme so that it can also assist those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

To cushion the burden and assist small and emerging businesses, the government has launched the R1.2 billion Tourism Equity Fund aimed at improving the participation of black entrepreneurs in this sector. 141. The fund will boost black players in the industry in the next three years through grant or debt funding for companies owned largely by black women and disabled entrepreneurs.

Mpumalanga province accounts for 83% of South Africa's coal production and is the third largest coal producing region in the world. We are delighted to announce that Uthaka Energy will commence work on developing



an underground coal mine in the Wakkerstroom area within the Pixley ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality. This project shall create 576 jobs for the people in the surrounding communities.

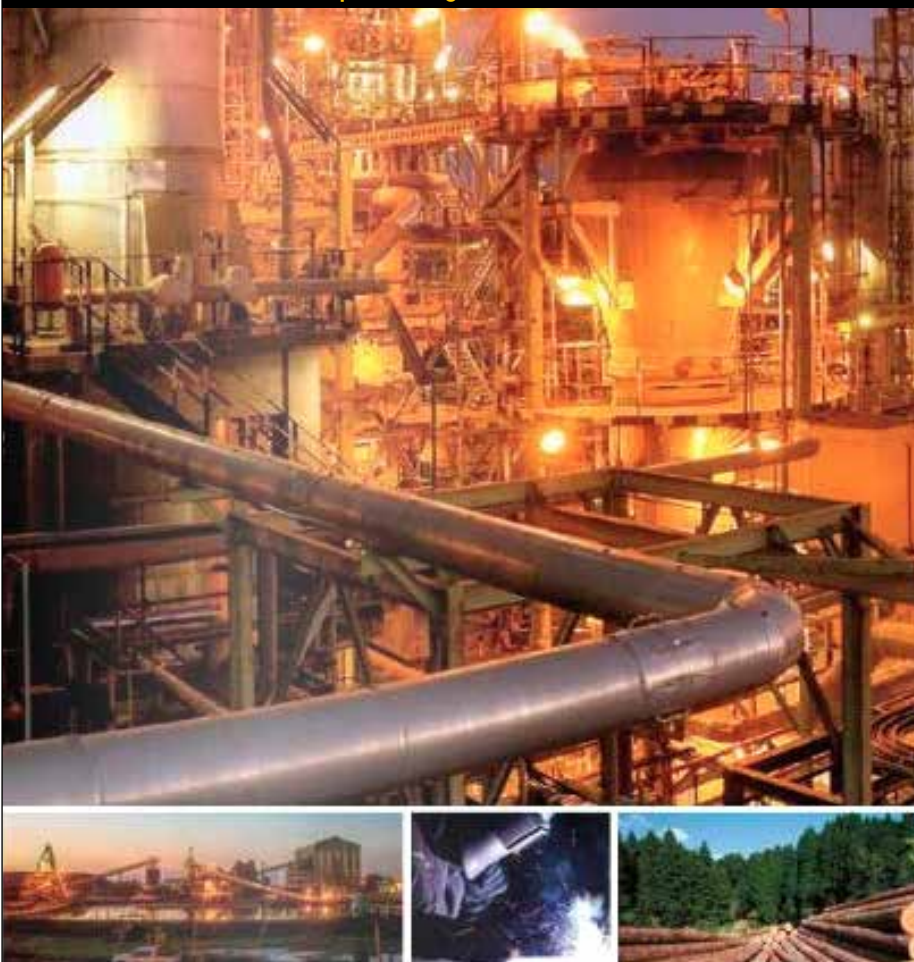
As an ANC led government that listens and responds to what people say, we have released 33 farms totaling to 8906 hectares

throughout the Province. These farms are available for emerging farmers to lease on unused or underutilized or vacant state land. As government we are offering our previously disadvantaged farmers 30 year leasehold with an option to buy.

We will continue to provide top structures for the most vulnerable members of our society including the elderly, child headed homes, people living with disabilities, Gender Based Violence survivors who have no means to provide for themselves and other vulnerable groups. We will continue with our preparations for integrated Human Settlement mega projects by pushing forward with township developments.

The latest crime statistics paint a disturbing picture that suggests that whilst there has been a decrease in all other forms of crime, contact crime which includes murder, sexual assault property crime and other serious crimes are on the increase. Unfortunately Mpumalanga was amongst the worst affected provinces in the country. A significant part of this crime involves Gender Based Violence. Criminals live amongst us, socialize with us and commit some of these crimes in our full view. We urge our people to report criminals to the police.

Some of the industries in Mpumalanga



Q&A

■ By Leo Ndabambi

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Meokgo Matuba

1. Please tell us about yourself as the Secretary General of the Women's League in the ANC, Mme Meokgo Matuba?

I serve with the collective of dedicated and committed NEC members of the ANCWL. My role as the Secretary General is insignificant without working together with all the Officials of the ANCWL and the entire NEC. I am humbled to have been tasked by the membership of the ANCWL to serve as the Secretary General. It is a privilege that I will not take for granted. The organization belongs to the entire membership; mine is just to do the day to day administration and ensuring that their organization is functioning effectively.

I am serving at the behest of the members and their marching orders remains supreme. As the Secretary General, I am so privileged to serve with the NEC which is passionate and committed to mobilise, organise and unite South African Women to participate in the struggle for the total liberation of all oppressed groups and to combat discrimination in the public and private life and institutions. It is also to work actively towards the dismantling of the patriarchal system, the elimination of laws, customs, practices and structures which militate against equality and to oppose any strengthening of patriarchy.



Comrade Meokgo Matuba

2. What can you tell us about the theme of "Unity, Renewal and Reconstruction in the year of Charlotte Maxeke".

There is nothing that women can achieve without being united. Unity of purpose is sacrosanct. Mme Charlotte Maxeke was a unifier. Her focus was almost always on the needs and aspirations of African women. In her memory we must renew and reconstruct our organisation and the entire social fabric of the society. In terms of fighting gender inequalities, we will need to walk hand in hand, heart to heart, mind to mind, staying firmly within the message. We need each other more than ever before.

3. What can women take away from former leaders such as the likes of Mme Florence Mophosho on her centenary, as well as Mme Lillian Ngoyi on her one hundred and tenth anniversary?

These magnificent heroines of our struggle were selfless servant of the people. They never associated themselves with greediness and petty politics of character assassination. They were comrades in theory and in practice.

Mme Lillian Ngoyi was one of the principal leaders of 20,000 strong women's march on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the pass laws. Mme Florence Mophosho organised for the 1955 Congress of the People, the campaigns against passes for women and the 1957 Alexander boycott. We need to emulate them.

4. What would you like to see more from women, as we commemorate Human Rights Month during the COVID-19 pandemic and the scourge of GBVF and LGBTQI+?

I would like to see the unity of women and LGBTQI+ communities across all political, racial and class lines. I'd like to see men, young and old fighting side by side with women against gender based violence and femicide.



5. How did South Africans celebrate International Women's Day?

As the ANCWL, we used that as platform to launch young pioneers programs called *Masupatsela* (Pathfinders). We will be rolling out this program in all the Provinces, Regions and Wards.

6. Please tell us about the proudest moment in your life thus far.

It was when the ANCWL resolved to have a female candidate to contest for the ANC Presidency. It was the proudest moment of my life. History will record the current NEC leadership and the entire membership of the ANCWL as a generation that shattered the glass ceiling in the internal politics of the ANC. We shook political maleocracy. Our decision has motivated a lot of women in South Africa and across the whole African continent to contest for positions at all levels of leadership within and outside politics. We have sent a clear message that we are equal citizens.

7. What is your motto?

Never harbor resentment. Hatred is more corrosive to the heart of its landlord.

continued from page 13

MME CHARLOTTE – EMBODIMENT OF WORLDLY WOMEN'S COMMEMORATION

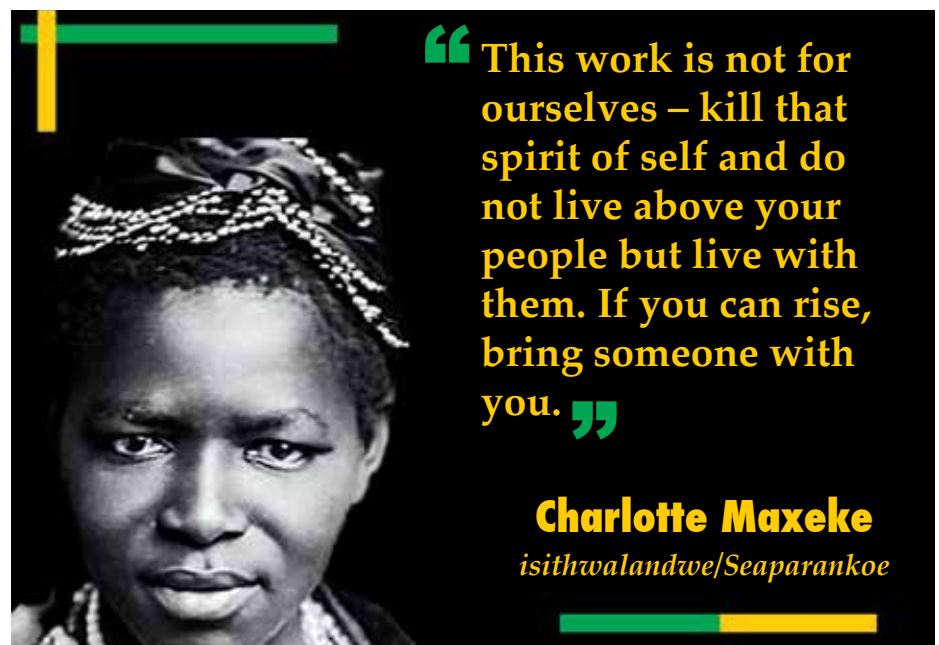
Also important to mention is UN Women's articulation about women standing at the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis, as health care workers, caregivers, innovators, community organisers and as some of the most exemplary and effective national leaders in combating the pandemic. The world's crisis emanating from the spread of COVID-19 has highlighted both the centrality of women's contributions and the disproportionate burdens they carry.

At the crux of Mme Charlotte's endeavours was the realisation of a just and fair world and country. The type of dispensation UN Women refers to in this year's International Women's Day theme is by including terms such "leadership", "achieving", "equal" and "future".

Realisation of South Africa's Eco-

nomie Reconstruction and Recovery Plan announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 15th October 2020 talks to a future of equality that will require leadership if it is to be achieved – interestingly aligned to areas of emphasis from this year's International Women's Day theme as women and society at large are confronted by the calamities of COVID-19. Through the realisation of this recovery plan, women should claim their rightful space in the mainstream economy as they lead us all towards a post-COVID dispensation.

That is how the trailblazing spirit and essence of the founder and first President of the Bantu Women's League as well as President of the National Council of African Women, Mme Charlotte Manye Maxeke, will live on into our futures.

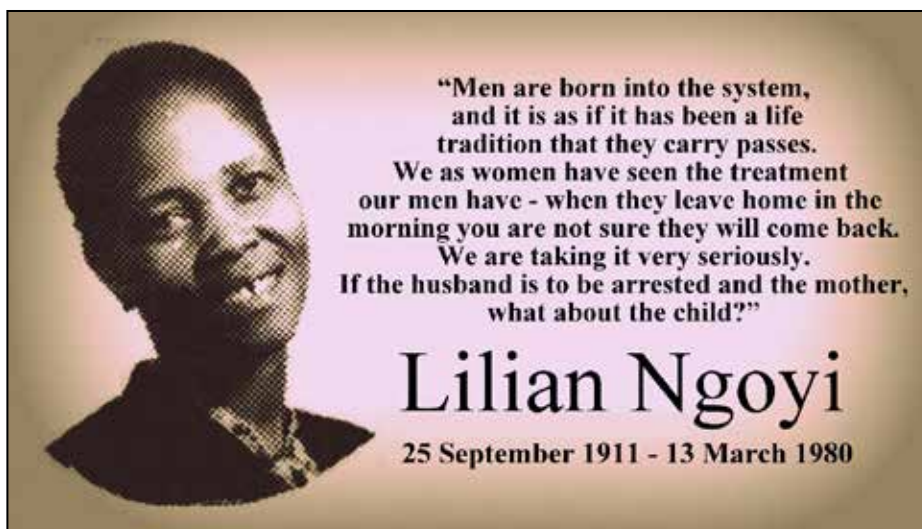


“This work is not for ourselves – kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you.”

Charlotte Maxeke
isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe

13–19 March 2021

Sources: SA History Online and O'Malley Archives



■ 13 March 1980

Lillian Ngoyi passed on

Lillian Masediba Ngoyi, one of the four leaders of the 1956 Women's March passed away on this day. Born in 1911 in Pretoria, she worked as a nurse, a short stint as a domestic worker, and later as a textile worker, where she joined the Garment Workers Union. She was amongst the founding members of the ANC Women's League, and became active in the Defiance campaign of the 1950s. She served on the ANC Transvaal executive, and was the first woman to be elected to the National Executive Committee of the ANC in 1954, a decade after the ANC opened full membership to women. She was elected the first president of the Federation of South African Women, and a leader of the 1956 Women's march. She was one of the 156 Treason Trialists, and was detained and banned by the apartheid regime; newspapers were not allowed to quote her. Throughout her life, she remained active in the liberation struggle and an icon of the women's movement.

■ 13 March 1888

De Beers Consolidated Mines formed

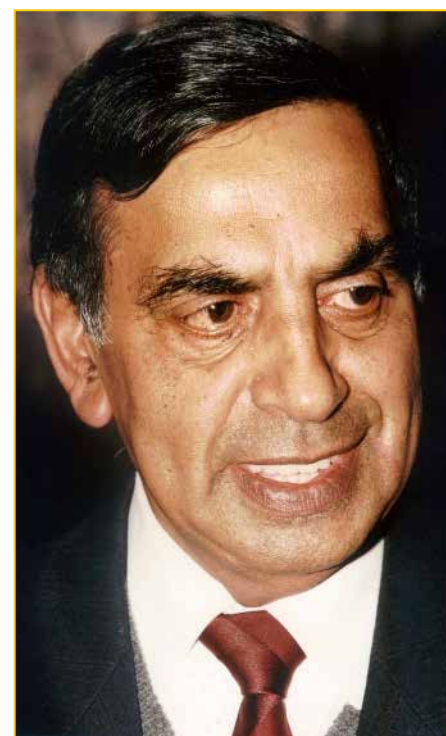
The hitherto monopoly over South African diamond trade was registered in Kimberley, with Barney Barnato at the helm. Cecil John Rhodes in 1871 bought shares into De Beers, and in 1929 Ernest Oppenheimer became De Beers board chair. Anglo America became the largest shareholder in De Beers in 2011 when it bought into the Oppenheimer family stake of 40%. At some point, De Beers controlled between 80-90% of the rough diamonds trade in the world, but with new entrants, this is now 30-40%, and is still regarded as the world's *'leading diamond company.'*

■ 13 March 2004

Dullah Omar passed on

Dullah Mohamed Omar was born in Observatory, Cape Town on 26 May 1934 and grew up in District Six. After matric he did a law degree at UCT, became involved in the New Unity Movement and after gaining his LLB in 1957, went

on to practice law, taking on political trials and human rights issues. He was active in the New Unity Movement, but later joined the Rylands Civic Association and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADEL) - both became affiliates of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in 1983. As a human rights lawyer, he represented Poqo, PAC, ANC, BCM and student activists, and was detained, surveilled and banned by the regime. He was elected as the UDF W.Cape chairperson and Vice President of Nadel in 1987. Omar was the first Minister of Justice of the new South Africa and was later appointed Minister of Transport by President Thabo Mbeki. He died of cancer on 13 March 2004 and is survived by his wife and three children.



Dullah Omar

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

■ 14 March 1982

ANC London offices bombed

On this day the ANC headquarters in London, England, was bombed. General Johann Coetzee, former head of the South African security police, and seven other policemen, claimed responsibility and applied for amnesty before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Coetzee's accomplices were Craig Williamson, John McPherson, Roger Raven, Wybrand du Toit, John Adam, James Taylor and Eugene de Kock.

■ 14 March 1984



Koeberg nuclear power station became operational

Located on the West Coast, Koeberg provides Western Cape with electricity, contributing at some point 6.5% of South Africa's electricity supply (in 2018 down to 4%). According to Eskom (owner), it is the only nuclear power station in Africa with the largest turbine generators in the Southern Hemisphere, and the most southerly-situated nuclear power station in the world. The power station is surrounded by a 3 000-ha nature reserve owned by Eskom, with over 150 different species of birds. The power plant's original lifespan was until 2024, but recent upgrade puts it in commission until 2024.

■ 15 March 1954

Ghetto Act passed

The Asiatic Land Tenure and In-

dian Representation Act (Act 28 of 1946) was introduced on 15 March 1946 and passed in June 1946. This prevented Indians from occupying land outside certain exempted areas and forced them to live in certain restricted areas. In return for restrictions on land ownership, Indians were offered a limited form of parliamentary representation, mainly through White representatives. This act, labelled the '*Ghetto Act*' caused an outcry in the Indian community. Following this, Dr Yusuf Dadoo, with other younger leaders like G.M. Naiker, formed an anti-segregationist lobby which soon ousted the older leadership. Naiker became the chairman of the Natal Indian Congress and Dadoo that of the Transvaal Indian Congress.

■ 15 March 1961

South Africa withdraws from the Commonwealth

The Union of South Africa of 1910 was still a British colony, but in October 1960 a referendum amongst whites was held on whether the country should become a republic, distancing itself from the British monarchy. 52% voted yes, and then Prime Minister Verwoerd informed the British, but still wanted to remain a member of the Commonwealth (an association for British colonies). African member states, as well as India and Canada objected because of the apartheid policy. Verwoerd on this day announced that South Africa will therefore leave the Commonwealth. South Africa was invited to rejoin the Commonwealth with effect from January 1994.

■ 15 March 2015

Collins Chabane dies in car accident

At the time of his passing on this day, Ohm Collins Chabane (15



April 1960 – 15 March 2015) was a member of the National Executive Committee since 2007, a Member of Parliament and Minister in the Presidency for Monitoring and Evaluation. Cde Collins was born in Xikundu village, Limpopo, matriculated from Shingwedzi High School and registered for a B.Sc degree at Turfloop University. His commitment to freedom of his people took precedent and he joined ANC underground activities at the age of seventeen (17), went into exile in May 1980 where he joined Umkhonto we Sizwe, received military training in Angola and on his return worked in the underground, until his arrest and sentence to Robben Island from 1984 to 1990. In prison, he resumed formal studies, obtaining a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Technikon South Africa, started studying aviation, and later completed a Diploma in Management from Arusha in Tanzania. After his release from prison, he served as Provincial Secretary of the ANC in the Northern Province from 1990 to 1998 and was instrumental in the re-establishment of ANC structures in Limpopo Province. After the dawn of democracy, he was a Member of Parliament, served as MEC in the Limpopo Provincial Government in 1998. As NEC member, he served in the Constitutional committee.

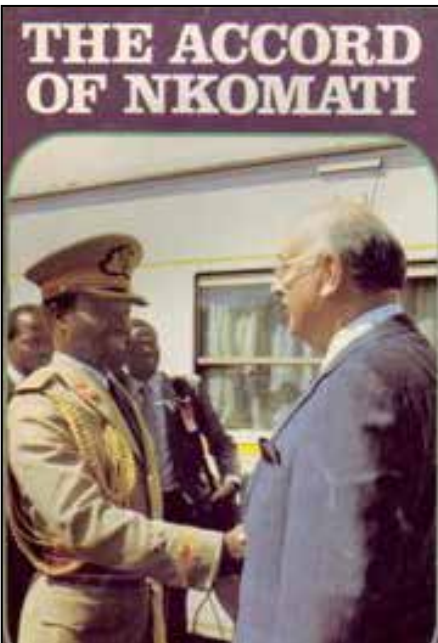
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

■ 16 March 1892 Dr JS Moroka born



Dr James Sebe Moroka, medical doctor, landowner and politician who was elected President-General of the African National Congress (ANC) from 1949 to 1952, was born in Thaba Nchu, Orange Free State. He was a great grandson of Chief Moroka I of the Barolong Boo Moroka at Thaba Nchu.

■ 16 March 1984 SA and Mozambique sign Nkomati Accord



Mozambique signed the Nkomati Accord with apartheid South Africa – a non-aggression pact where the South African government undertook no longer to support the RENAMO rebel group and the

Mozambique government undertook to no longer harbour the liberation movements (ANC and PAC). President Samora Machel signed this accord under great pressure, with RENAMO engaged in a civil war and the SADF incursions into Mozambique. The Nkomati accord did not last long, with further invasions by SADF.

■ 16 March 1994 New Flag and National Anthem Unveiled



The Transitional Executive Council unveiled South Africa's new "interim" national flag and *Die Stem* and *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* as joint national anthems, and the flag was first flown on 27 April 1994, when all South Africans went to the polls to elect a government, for the first time in the country's history. The flag and anthem were adopted as national symbols.

■ 17 March 1820 British Settlers arrive in South Africa

After the Napoleonic wars, Britain experienced a serious unemployment problem; to solve this problem, it started sending settlers to its colonies. The first British Settlers arrived in South Africa on 17 March 1820, in Table Bay on board the Nautilus and the Chapman, till then a Dutch colony, and started the process of the British

takeover of South Africa, especially the Cape colony and Natal. This first group was sent to Algoa Bay, later Port Elizabeth, now Gqeberha. They were sent to settle in the Eastern Cape, as a buffer against the amaXhosa and to boost the English-speaking population. The settlers were given farms and equipment to support them, near Bathurst. Others continued on to Natal (now KwaZulu Natal). This period saw one of the largest stages of British settlement in Africa, and approximately 4,000 Settlers arrived in the Cape, in around 60 different parties, between April and June 1820.

■ 17 March 2000 First National Lottery begins

The first national lottery started in South Africa, with its slogan *Thatha maChance, Thatha maMillions*. A percentage of proceeds of the Lottery goes towards arts, sports, culture and community development, and it is regulated by the National Lottery Commission.

■ 18 March 1963 Guinea-Bissau gains Independence

Guinea-Bissau, the home of Amílcar Cabral, launched its war of independence against Portugal (joined by Cabo Verde). Guinea-Bissau is in West Africa, and borders Senegal and Guinea, with a population of just under 2 million people. Historically, the territory was part of the Kaaba/Ngabou Empire (1537–1867), part of the Mali Empire, until being colonized by the Portuguese from the 16th century. Cabral and others formed the Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde (PAIGC), which conducted an armed liberation struggle against colonisation.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

■ 18 March 1979 Government claims responsibility for Mdluli's death in detention



The South African government admitted responsibility for the death of the African National Congress (ANC) member, Joseph Mdluli (50), on 19 March 1976 and agreed to pay damages to his family. A claim for loss of support by Mdluli's widow against the Minister of Justice and police was settled out of court. She received the amount of R28 616. Joseph Mdluli died of an injury to his neck while being detained in Durban security headquarters. His death occurred just a day after his arrest in connection with the 1976 Gwala treason trial. Four security policemen were charged with culpable homicide, namely Mr Frederick Van Zyl, Col. A.R.C. Taylor, Mr Mandlakayise Patrick Makhanya and Mr Zabulon Ngobese. During their trial, they claimed that Mdluli had tried to escape and had fallen over a chair. A pathologist presented evidence disputing the police version. All four accused were acquitted on 25 October 1976, the fifth day of the trial. The presiding judge said there was insufficient evidence to connect them directly to the death. He called for further investigation.

■ 19 March 1998 First black cricketer to

represent SA in a test match



Makhaya Ntini becomes the first black cricketer to represent South

Africa in a test match, played at Newlands, Cape Town.

■ 19 March 1999 Gadaffi sets date to hand over Lockerby suspects

Libya, led by Brother Leader Gadaffi sets a date to hand over the two Lockerbie suspects, in a letter to the UN Secretary General by 6 April 1999. The date is confirmed in a letter to the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. This followed engagements on the issue by President Nelson Mandela.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

13–19 March 2021

Source: <https://www.un.org>

■ 14 March International Day of Mathematics

Mathematics plays an important role in such areas as artificial intelligence, climate change, energy, economics, business, social and sustainable development, and to improving the quality of life in both the developed and the developing worlds. The theme for 2021 is *"Mathematics for a Better World"*.

■ 15 March World Consumer Rights Day

The day raises awareness about the rights of consumers, in the face of often powerful companies and brands, which needs to be held accountable. This often requires government regulations, for example, through the SA Bureau of Standards and/or specific legislation around labeling of products and more generally, the Consumer Protection Act of 2008, in order to "promote a fair, accessible and sustainable marketplace for consumer products and services." The theme for 2021 - #BetterDigitalWorld - focuses on access to digital products which protects the information and privacy of consumers, that act against cyber-bullying, fake news and protect minors.

■ 19 March International Sleep Day

With the 2021 theme of Regular Sleep, Healthy Future, the day focuses on the importance of sleep to our physical and emotional well-being, and to various sleeping disorders.



The Gender Pay Gap: A Guide for the Already Converted

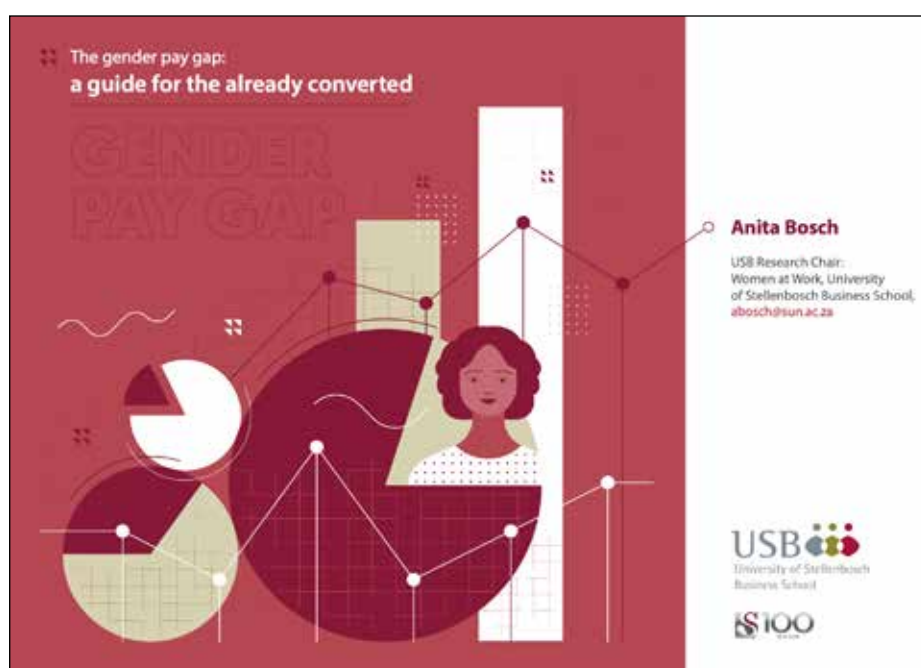
by Anita Bosch

(2020, University of Stellenbosch)

IN the week that we celebrated International Women's Day, News24 carried a story with the headline: **"Gender pay gap: 20% of men think that media reports about it is 'fake news.'"**! So, clearly this Guide is not for them.

The number of women in the 'formal labour force' has been growing since the second half of the 20th century, and more women are pursuing further higher education than ever before. We use 'formal labour force' in brackets, because we know women (and girls) have always been working – in the fields growing food, rearing children, keeping homes, looking after the sick, elderly and disabled – the list goes on.

The Guide, which was sponsored by the Women's Development Bank, is upfront on its purpose: "Around the world, women are paid less than men are paid. This



guide explores why this matters, and what we can do to change it. "Bosch therefore argues that the gender pay gap, the gap between what men and women are paid for work of equal value, is an important indicator of both equity and equality. "If men and women get

equal pay for equal work, it is likely that society values both genders equally. On the other hand, a large gender pay gap is a signal that society is not equal and fair. "

The Guide explains how the gender pay gap is defined and calcu-

Extract from "The Guide" ...

PART 1

Closing the gap on injustice

→ Only 20% of Black African, 35% of Coloured, and 50% of White and Asian households are headed up by married couples (heterosexual or same-sex)⁷. In a marriage, the financial burden is often spread across two incomes.



Black and Coloured women are the most vulnerable. They are more likely to be the primary breadwinner for a larger household than white or Asian women are. The less these women earn, the higher the impact on their children and extended family.

⁷ Amoateng, A. Y. & Heaton, T. B. (2015). Changing race differences in family structure and household composition in South Africa. *South African Review of Sociology*, 46(4), 59-79. DOI: 10.1080/21528586.2015.1109476

⁸ Moodley, L., Kuyoro, M., Holt, T., Leke, A., Madgavkar, A., Krishnan, M., & Akintayo, F. (2019). The power of parity: Advancing women's equality in Africa, McKinsey & Company. <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/genderequality/the-power-of-parity-advancing-womens-equality-in-africa>

The higher the impact too on our country and the continent.

A McKinsey⁸ report projected that if each African country matched the gender equality of their best performing neighbour, \$316 billion could be added to the continent's GDP by 2025.

Closing the gap on injustice - Addressing the gender pay gap in South Africa

7

lated at an individual level, and at an aggregate/collective level and the use of a gender pay gap audit as a tool towards greater equality and equity. It also looks at legislation and policies in South Africa that have an impact on narrowing the gap.

One of the chapters focuses on the reasons for the gender pay gap, and is divided into three categories, of

- Nature of work (looking at education, job sector, industry, unionization, managerial level);
- Nurture, how women are socialized (subject choices at school, maternity leave, family

friendly policies, tax and investment schemes, performance rewards, work experience); and

- What women think of themselves and men: for example that men place a higher value on money, are more competitive, self-confident, and ambitious, whilst women are more conscientious and are more agreeable).

Although I agree with the fact that the reasons for the gender pay gap is 'complex' according to the author, the explanations fail to place the structural and even socialisation at the door of patriarchal structures and systems. So, the impressions is created that it

is women's choices, rather than structural factors, which contribute to the gender gap.

The final section of the Guide **"Time for Change"** looks at what can be done by companies, activists and employees to close the gender pay gap, including making sure that laws are implemented and enforced.

Although the Guide has some problematic aspects, it is a critical contribution to the discussion about the gender pay gap. As WTO Executive Director, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said: *"Get anyone you know talking about gender stereotypes. These false assumptions cannot survive being held up to the light of day."*

in pictures

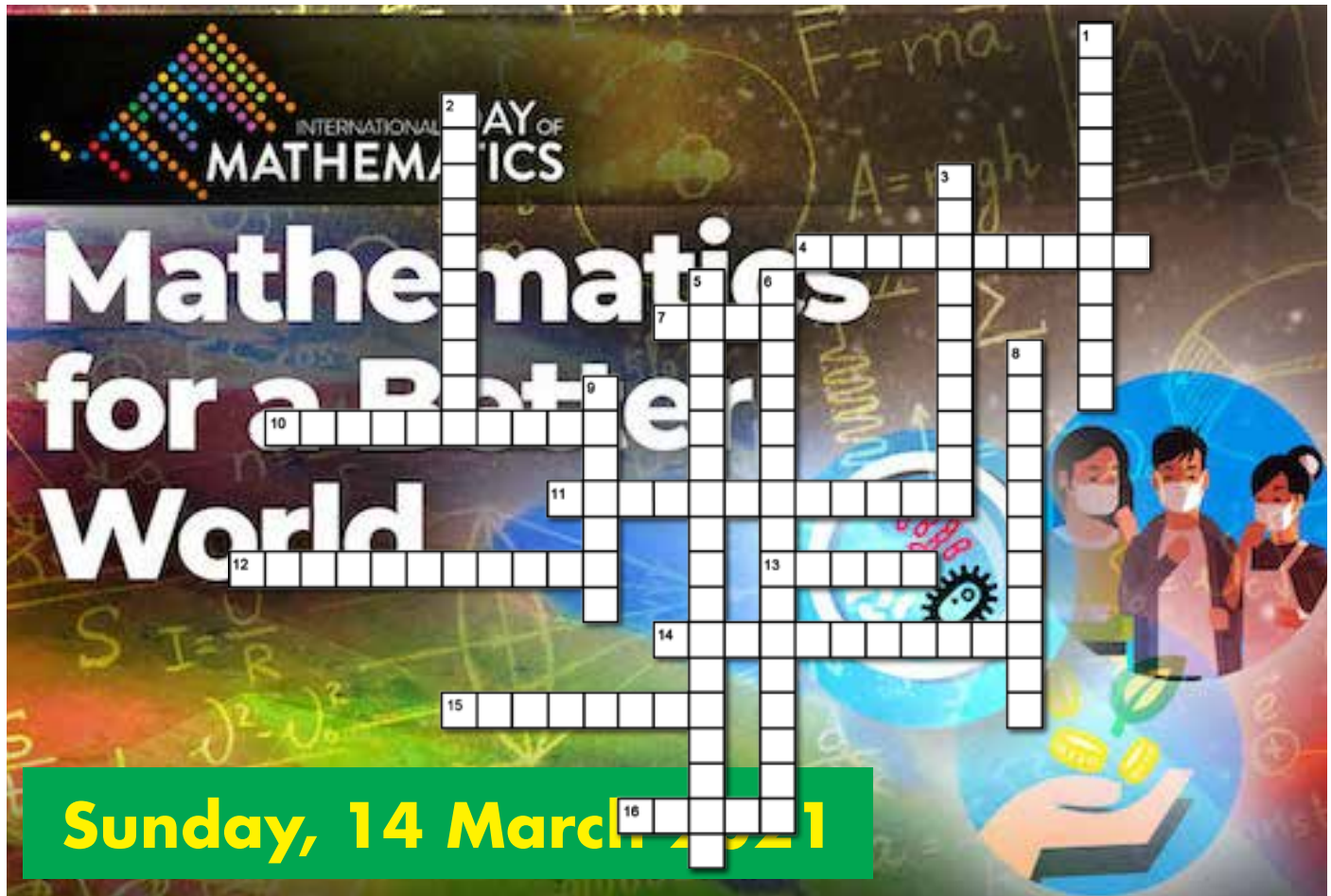


in pictures



X-WORD

International Day of Mathematics 14 March 2021



ACROSS

4. African region where number 7 linked to creation and great divinities.
7. Geometric algorithms native to the Chokwe and Luchazi peoples of Angola, Zambia and DRC, known as ...
10. Mathematics through time played important role in advancement of science, engineering, and ...
11. Author of book *Uzalo. IsiZulu Mathematical Logic*.
12. Father of Algebra.
13. Oldest written mathematics text, on papyrus from ...
14. Oldest mathematical artifact, dated 35,000 years was found in Swaziland, called the ...
15. Branch of mathematics focused on limits, functions, derivatives, integrals, and infinite series.
16. Early culture in South America used vigesimal system based on number 20.

DOWN

1. Oldest clay tables with mathematics, 4000 years old from.
2. Old Greek developed our understanding of triangles.
3. Traditional Mozambican game requires knowledge of probability.
5. First first woman professional academic mathematician from Russia (1950-1891)
6. One of the Hidden Women behind NASA moon landing, a mathematician.
8. Author of early textbook on the differential and integral calculus, *Instituzioni Analitiche*.
9. Earliest female mathematician in the world, born in Alexandria, Egypt.

WORD BANK

Mesopotamia	Egypt	Pythagoras	philosophy
Mayan	Lebombo bone	Niger Delta	Makhosi Khoza
Muravarava	Hypatia	Sona	Maria Agnesi
Sofia Kovalevskaya	Katherine Johnson	Calculus	Al-Khwarizmi