



# ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

19–25 February 2021

## Conversations with the President



# Let us be part of our own development and progress

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

**I**T will soon be a year since the first reported case of coronavirus in our country. The pandemic has come at a great cost to both public health and the livelihoods of millions of our people.

Many workers lost part of their income as their work hours were reduced with many being re-trenched. Several businesses have incurred heavy losses from

scaled-back operations. Others have had to close. People working in the informal sector have also suffered.

Most difficult of all, the pandemic has claimed the lives of breadwinners in many families, leaving them destitute and fearful for the future.

This is why the extensive relief measures we put in place were

both necessary and urgent. And, now that nearly a year has passed, we can say that these measures have proved effective.

Of the full package of relief measures that we introduced, perhaps the two measures that had the greatest impact were the special COVID-19 social grant and the UIF's COVID-19 Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme, generally known as COVID TERS.

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One of the companies that benefitted from the TERS scheme.

We would not have been able to roll out these measures in such a short space of time if we had not had an extensive social security infrastructure already in place.

We were able to respond to this huge and immediate need in our society thanks to the substantial nationwide infrastructure and systems of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF).

There were certainly technical and other glitches along the way, but most of these were speedily resolved. These government agencies did outstanding work to enroll millions of new beneficiaries and ensure they were paid.

The support provided by the UIF was a lifeline to struggling businesses and employees. It made the difference between companies remaining open and being forced to close, between jobs saved and jobs lost.

This benefited businesses like Sihle's Brew, a restaurant in Gauteng, which was able to re-

tain its 18 employees because of the TERS scheme. Thanks to government support, Mamoshalagae Trading and Projects, an auto-electrical business in Mokopane, was able to pay its workers as well as its rent and rates during the lockdown.

Employees in dire straits were able to receive a portion of their salaries.

Lindiwe Ntuli, a paralegal in Centurion, has told how receiving her

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benefits enabled her to work from home and be able to afford her rent.

There are many stories of companies that have been able to stay afloat over the past year because of the support they received from the UIF. The same can be said of the small businesses helped by the various grants and loans provided by a number of departments.

These measures greatly helped our people in their time of need.

As we transition from relief to recovery, we have to shift gear.

While these relief measures were designed to be temporary, the economy will continue to feel the effects of the pandemic for some time.

Even as lockdown restrictions have been eased, many companies are struggling to cope with the fallout of months of diminished operations and lost revenue.

It is for this reason that, following extensive discussion with social

# CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



partners at NEDLAC, the COVID TERS benefit has been extended until 15 March 2021 for sectors that have not been able to fully operate.

The special COVID grant has been extended for another three months.

These remain short-term measures.

Our focus now must be on creating an enabling environment for businesses to recover, and for economic growth that spurs job creation and attracts investment.

The recovery will be difficult and will take time, not least because we are still in the midst of the pandemic.

Important as these relief measures are now, we will not be able to sustain them indefinitely.

We need to make sure that these relief measures provide a firm foundation for a broader recovery without driving the country deeper into debt. Unless we can bring our

national debt down to sustainable levels, no meaningful economic recovery will be possible.

Our national consciousness must now move beyond the realm of relief into that of recovery, and we must all be part of this effort.

As government, hard decisions on public spending will need to be made and implemented this year.

Companies will need to be innovative in driving methods and processes that secure their sustainability and profitability, with job retention being their foremost consideration.

We must put our money back into our economy by buying local products, supporting local businesses and industries and procuring from local suppliers.

An injured patient with strong prospects for recovery is given regular physical therapy to help them get stronger until they can stand unaided.

So must these temporary relief

**We must put our money back into our economy by buying local products, supporting local businesses and industries and procuring from local suppliers.**



measures be seen as the means to get our economy back on its feet. Our ultimate goal is to walk again.

As a nation, let us all lend a hand. Let us be part of our own development and progress.

Let us use the extended relief to drive a stronger recovery.

**Think local, eat local, wear local and buy local.**

When you buy Proudly South African you are supporting companies that comply with:

- Good, homegrown quality**
- Use local content**
- Exercise fair labour practices**
- Uphold responsible environmental standards**

# Beating the Drum: Our partner in the trenches

Dear Mr President

**O**NE of the most significant magazines of our times and our history, Drum, is celebrating 70 years of its existence this year.

This is an important milestone in the life of any publication and as the African National Congress we wish to extend our felicitations to a publication that fought with us in the trenches during the dark days of oppression and subjugation of the masses. The magazine was founded in the 1950s and was positioned to be the voice of the voiceless and immediately made an impact as a thorn on the side of the apartheid regime. Although it was and remains non-partisan, Drum sought to give the oppressed black people a voice through hard-hitting and factual features which depicted life in the labour reservoirs that were the townships. The magazine further exposed the excesses of the regime and the harassment that was the daily fare of our people.

One of the magazine's memorable stories was the expose of the prison labour camps wherein black prisoners were taken to the potato farms owned by whites as labourers with no compensation. It was written by none other than Mr Drum, Henry Nxumalo, who was one of their meticulous journalists who took risks and went



*Comrade Pule Mabe*

undercover to investigate the deplorable practice.

Drum magazine has since undergone transformation to reflect a changing landscape and the demands of modern times. However, it remains a mirror from which black people can see themselves.

This anniversary comes during the challenging times for the print media and we have already seen a bloodbath in the form of the closure of many magazines and newspapers as consumers' taste change to online and digital platforms. Magazines such as Pace and Bona have ceased to breathe and this is the terrible outcome because our free society needs more voices, not less.

It is in this vein that we celebrate a

magazine that saw literary giants such as Eskia Mphahlele, Casey Motsisi, Nat Nakasa, Arthur Maimane and Can Themba to mention but a few, cut their teeth to give black people representation in a country that relegated black voices to the periphery.

Drum magazine was not only about blood and gore but it also reflected the vibrancy of the township culture and the resilience of our people amid the travesty of oppression.

Townships like Kofifi in Sophiatown epitomised harmonious relations among the races, and the shebeen culture was a cornucopia wherein a black man could hit the dance floor with a white woman although the apartheid regime had legislated against such familiarity.

Those shebeens were also places where political debates thrived and the exchange of banned struggle literature happened clandestinely.

Drum magazine also reflected the beauty of black women even as they suffered the worst oppression as women and as black people. The great Dolly Rathebe was the first 'cover girl' to grace the skin of the magazine and her pose in a bikini tore down the barriers which depicted black women as domestic workers in suburban households and the farmsteads.



The cover shouted in no uncertain tones that Black women are beautiful and this instilled pride in black women and men nationwide.

Drum also featured many talented musicians and stage actors whose work led to their banishment and eventual exile.

The freeing of the media landscape when the ANC came into power in 1994 has somewhat leveled the playing fields. Suddenly, publications were free to report without fear of harassment, arrests and even being forced to close. In this democratic era, one would have expected more voices to occupy space but the reality is that many have struggled to survive. Black magazines such as Tribute and Enterprise have long ceased to exist and this is a travesty.

Enterprise was crucial in showing the rise of the black middle class and black business and there is now a void since no other publication has filled that gap.

These days have seen the proliferation of celebrity culture, which, while they reflect consumer preference, unfortunately do not advance the debate and foster the development of our society.

The commercial pressure to

chase celebrities has robbed our country's cultural landscape of voices that would advance our development.

The proliferation of social media has also had a negative impact on the print media. Unfortunately, the advent of social media has heralded the practice of fake news wherein audiences are routinely fed propaganda and blatantly misleading content without any checks and balances.

As an organisation that introduced media freedoms in this country, we cannot stand by and fold our hands in this environment. The ANC and the rest of society have a duty to participate in dialogue that fosters healthy debate in pursuit of solutions to our myriad challenges that hinder progress.

The media is a crucial partner in transforming our society. In the era of the pandemic, we are pleased that by and large the traditional media has toned down the hyperbole and has made every effort to reflect scientific facts and not sensation. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for political reportage wherein the chase for breaking news has seen facts sacrificed on the altar of expediency.

As the roll out of the vaccination process started this week, we are pleased that the media has chosen to walk this difficult path with the rest of South Africa. The road ahead will be hard and long, but the first step has been taken and the battle against the virus looks winnable if we reach the population immunity threshold.

As the ANC, we look forward to the resumption of normality in the economy and daily life of our people when the threat posed by the virus has dissipated.

The last two years have been the most difficult and devastating across many industries and as we pick up the pieces, the media ought to be a partner and not an adversary.

Drum magazine traversed a difficult road alongside the liberation movement during the struggle.

As the magazine celebrates its milestone, we trust that our partner in the battle against the pandemic, gender-based violence, poverty and unemployment will remain in the trenches side by side with us for seventy more years.

#### Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



# Driving localisation and industrial agility - Key to SA's post-COVID recovery

■ *By Ebrahim Patel*

**I**N 2019, the ANC lifted the commitment to localisation to a key pillar of our electoral platform. The Manifesto committed to government policies that would strengthen investment for inclusive growth, with an industrial plan to support localisation.

The coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout have led many countries across the world to look at localisation with renewed interest.

During the early days of the pandemic, global supply chains were disrupted and today many economies are counting the economic cost of the measures to contain the spread of the virus, with the world faced with potentially the worst global recession since World War II.

President Ramaphosa has spoken about the wider economic recovery and reconstruction plan that is being developed.

This wider plan includes the mobilisation of funding for business-



Workers at an electronics company in Cape Town

es in need; investment in infrastructure-driven growth through building of bridges and roads and clinics and renewable energy plants which will bring more young people into jobs; and greater use of locally-made inputs of steel, cement and machinery that can enable infrastructure investment to stimulate the growth of manufacturing.

However, the slowdown in the economy as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and the reprim-

isation of resources towards addressing the immediate social and healthcare needs means the government will have to carry out its responsibilities within a very constrained environment. For example, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic), which I oversee, has had its budget cut by R1.8-billion or 16% for the 2020/21 financial year.

To repair the damage of COVID-19 and reconstruct the economy to create more jobs, bring more

young people into entrepreneurship and increase economic inclusion, we need to think boldly and implement smartly. We need better coordination, fresh thinking and a different way of working.

There can be no return to the *'old normal'*. And nor should there be. It was not *'fit for future purpose'*.

Established industries, though critical in our economy, will not be able to create the millions of jobs required. As a country, we must find our niche in a new environment re-shaped by localisation, digital technologies, greener industries and industrial agility.

To prepare for the post-COVID world, we are now strengthening efforts around reconstruction and recovery, including through engagements at NEDLAC about broader pacts with workers and businesses, focused on saving as many firms and jobs; identifying new opportunities; embracing digital technologies to recover and change; addressing economic inclusion with greater urgency.

Prioritising efforts to save firms and jobs is critical.

First, to strengthen economic dynamism, we are developing sector masterplans. This financial year, we completed a plan for the sugar industry and are now following it up with additional ones, including for furniture which employs 65000 people in SA with the potential for many more small-scale artisans; plus another for the steel industry, the foundation of our industrialisation, employing nearly 250000 people. Complementing these new pacts, we need to ensure implementation of what has been agreed, which will be the focus of masterplans for autos, clothing, sugar and poultry, which togeth-

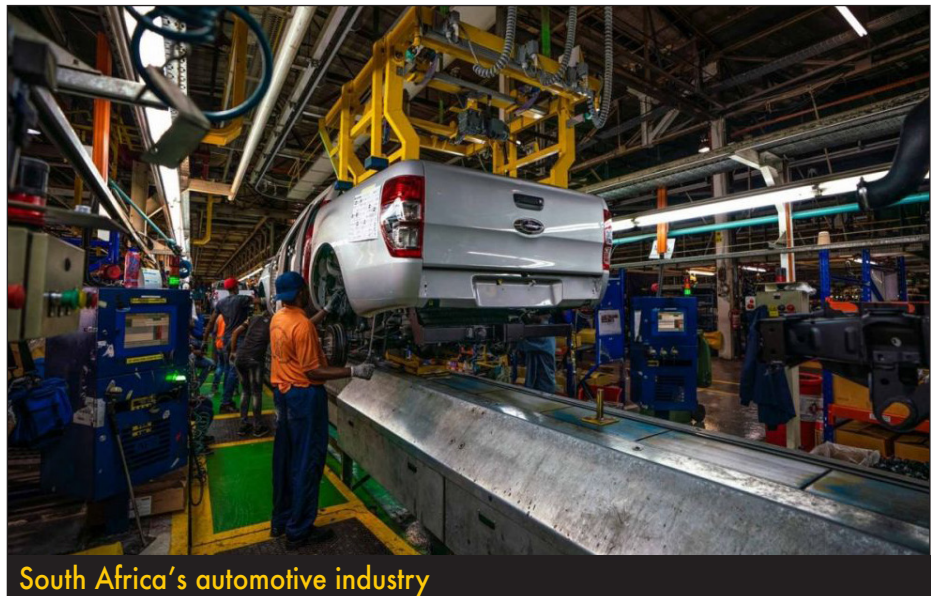
er already directly employs more than 500000 people.

Second, to help pivot the economy from its reliance on imports, to greater levels of local manufacture, we are considering new agreements on localisation and supplier development, following discussions with CEOs of fast food producers, hardware stores, grocery retailers, food and consumer goods manufacturers and Clothing, Textiles, Footwear and Leather (CTFL) retailers and manufacturers. The import of finished goods is the export of jobs. Accordingly, an industrial plan to support localisation was a key commitment of the ANC to our people. Every year we spend 25% of our GDP on imports, much of which could be produced here. We must call on every consumer and business to make choices which support the growth of local industry, and bring jobs back to South Africa.

Third, in the area of trade, we are providing support to local firms, both in the domestic market and for exports; we are busy with talks with the EU on trade access; and are taking a number of actions to strengthen actions against illegal

imports. Following the COVID-19 disruptions, we are now engaging on finalising modalities to enable the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to commence trade by the start of 2021. Africa is home to 17% of the world's people, and yet only 3% of its economic output. The AfCFTA presents a platform for greater regional integration, growth and employment and is a commitment of the ANC election Manifesto. It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity to expand our markets and our productive base, and we must work tirelessly with our continental partners to ensure its success.

Fourth, on investment: we are now focusing on consolidating the presence of firms who have existing operations and help those who made investment pledges, to bring projects to fruition. New areas for investment include deepening our production of PPEs, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. South Africa has a history of innovation; and innovation drives investment. This has been demonstrated by the success of the National Ventilator Project which – in a space of four months – has established medical ventilator production in South Africa,



South Africa's automotive industry



with the potential to export to the rest of the continent. We will also continue our efforts to deepen the beneficiation of our mineral resources, so that we create high-value-add industries that support growth, investment and jobs.

Fifth, on transformation: Government makes significant resources available to black industrialists through the IDC, NEF and government incentive schemes. This need to be complemented with non-financial support to black industrialists women-empowered businesses and worker empowerment must become a stronger focus, and we will work on ensuring that our legislation reflects these ambitions. The 54th ANC National Conference highlighted the importance of worker involvement in company boards. Transformation includes addressing high levels of economic concentration and helping to build stronger, agile small and medium businesses.

Sixth, on Special Economic Zones (SEZ): National government is

shifting the focus from simply providing funding, to playing a stronger role in improved governance, advocacy and mobilising investment. A special unit is being established at the IDC and DBSA to assist provinces to use the R4-billion budget over the next three years more effectively on SEZs and industrial parks. We must nurture township and rural enterprises, and diversify the economic centres across our country.

Finally, we must find new ways to protect public resources so as to ensure that corruption will not get in the way of effective delivery – strong forensic and internal audit capacity needs to be built across government to undertake the required investigations of transactions by agencies where these are warranted. To quote the ANC Manifesto: *“Corruption has negative consequences on our economy and society, impacting on the integrity of our institutions, our leaders and undermining the very moral and ethical basis of our young democracy.”*

We are further working to improve the capacity of the state through smart recruiting and agile partnerships with social partners.

COVID-19 has exposed the fragility in the global economy. Africa must grasp this opportunity to redefine its role in the world – to break from the post-colonial history as simply a supplier of raw materials and this crisis must provide the jolt for our efforts to industrialise. A profound re-boot is now possible, as well as necessary.

**History suggests that from the greatest human crises, the greatest human advances can be made. So, in the darkest hour, we must find the resolve and strength to build a new economy – fit for future purpose, fair and just, sustainable and resilient.**

Ebrahim Patel is Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition

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# Understanding the ANC the way the ANC understand itself

■ *By Professor Muxe Nkondo*

**A**TTENTION to members who are going to attend the National General Council and the questions and challenges they will face, is the essence of organisational renewal and learning. One must spy out and define some of the questions and challenges, for there is no political education that does not respond to felt need; anything else acquired is empty rhetoric.

Each National General Council can best be assessed in its relation to the ongoing concern of radical transformation of social, eco-

nomical, and political relations. This in turn can best be discovered in the value motivations of the participants. Particularly significant are the various factional leaders whose business it is to subvert the public interest. These peddlers have the strongest of motives for finding out the fears, desires, appetites and interests they can mobilise to push their agenda – so they are useful guides into the underbelly of the state of the organisation.

The values and principles underpinning the Constitution of the ANC are not arbitrary, neither are

the Terms of Reference of the Integrity Commission. They are neither simply dependent on what individuals think they want, nor are they imposed on them. Although much effort has been expended in trying to prove that the individual member is always the agent of change processes, in fact he or she is, willy-nilly, guided by the awareness that there is a fundamental urge and will to freedom and justice, and to assisting their fulfillment is his or her task.

No real member of the ANC can doubt that her or his task is to assist the organisation to fulfill its



Delegates at the 4th National General Council

mission and vision – the achievement of the full meaning of freedom and justice. The vision of what that is may be at times clouded, the member may be more or less limited, but her/ his activity is solicited by something beyond her or him that at the same time provides her/him with a standard of judging her/his capacity and achievement.

In the context of organisational renewal and learning – the focus of the next National General Council – this has an urgent relevance. Each part – structure, function, event, idea – preserves uniqueness and individuality as it contains, in a sense, the organisation as a whole. The complexity in question is evidently highly problematical, particularly so, given the vast historical and political context. So, we cannot separate the next National General Council from all those that preceded it, and from the history of the ANC. We therefore cannot eliminate the problem of complexity completely as we prepare for the conference.

This makes for a profound challenge, rooted as it is in the forms of organisational renewal and learning going back to the Morogoro Conference in 1969, developed in various structures of the ANC. And so, the test for the National General Council is the extent to which we can learn from the past and its presence. The challenge here, and it is a grave one, is that the ANC must continue to be resilient and adaptive, as seen, for example, in the Morogoro Conference and recently in the recall of two presidents in succession without disintegrating.

Today, as it prepares for the National General Council, the ANC reveals the political, social, and psychological diversity of its members. The singular, the concrete, the immediate, the passion, the fears – have become the life-blood of politics. This makes the ANC quite complex. It is extremely difficult to rationalise politics down to a formula. Have the great minds in the history of the ANC, such as Charlotte Maxeke, not shown

the way, even if they have done so conceptually or in a philosophical manner, a way essential to political thinking face-to-face with complexity? The National General Council has to deal with the problem of political complexity. It has to deal with the science and art of interpretation and judgment. To do this, it has to continue to broaden agency, freedom, and justice, values that seek to improve people's lives.

The National General Council will take place in an era where the old manifestos, policies, strategies and tactics have to be radically rethought – our politics is wedded to complexity, irony, and paradox. It is necessary, now, to speak of the ecology of politics. So, the National General Council will find itself afloat on a set of interactions upon which it has to learn to navigate. It has then to deal with the ecology of action. But its action must never escape the will to freedom and justice deep down in our humanity, and get immersed in the play of desire, interests, and power.



Delegates at the 4th National General Council

Our first debt is to the climate of revolution or fundamental change, in which the urge for freedom and justice remains urgent. We owe a huge debt to the Charlotte Maxeke's of our climate. The ANC wouldn't have taken the plunge had it not been for their undying faith, their indomitable spirit. They spent their lives constructing mental, affective, social, and political housing in which we should live.

But now, over a hundred years later, do these structures not need dismantling, starting afresh? To cope with the demands of fundamental change, the ANC has to review its policies and strategies. Periodically, it has done so over the years. Our debt is to the insistent demand for fundamental change, which remains urgent and necessary. But plans abandoned by strategy produce failure and disorder.

Now that the need for organisational renewal has been acknowledged, various interventions will be considered at the National General Council, and some of

them will be selected and put into practice. We have to assess how our policies are working. At the same time, the media and members of the general public are engaged in their own assessment of the working and impact of our policies in order to express support for or opposition to fundamental change.

In previous National General Council conferences, how did we address issues of organisational renewal and learning, and what lessons can we draw from all that? How were the challenges identified? Currently, what is the state of public confidence in us? Are we part of the problem, or part of the solution?

The moment demands a reassertion, not a suspension, of democracy. Like at the Morogoro Conference, the challenge is an investigation for a new beginning: every crisis is a crossing, a blessing in disguise, an opportunity to rethink our very foundation, our policies and strategies. Indeed, what we need is a re-

trieval-through-introspection-retrospection, through a critical engagement with the pastness of our past and its presence, and the possibilities of fundamental change.

One way of looking at the next National General Council is to regard it as a very significant event in the overall process of organisational learning – apart from this or that decision, the direct results it will generate in terms of definitive assessment of the success or failure of particular policies per se, but rather the learning dynamic that it will stimulate among representatives. All of them, engaged in organisational renewal, will be participating in a larger process of organisational learning, in which improvements or enhancements to organisational performance can best be brought about through openly reasoned consensus.

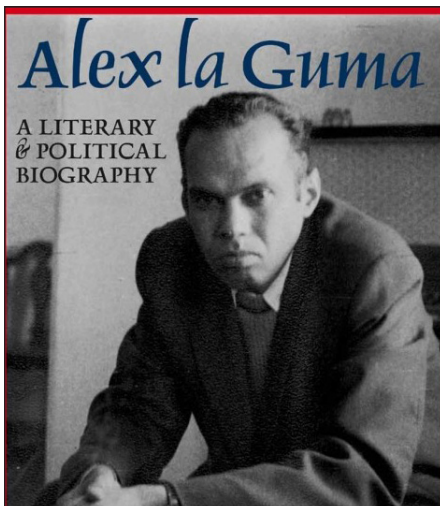
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*The article has been shortened.*

20–27 February 2021

Sources: South African History Online ([www.sahistory.org](http://www.sahistory.org)) and O'Malley Archives

■ **20 February 1925**  
**Novelist, poet and activist**  
**Alex La Guma is born**



Justin Alexander la Guma was born in District Six, Cape Town on 20 February 1925. His father, Jimmy La Guma was of Cuban descent, which made him mixed race in South Africa and was classified as Coloured. La Guma's father was involved in anti-apartheid activism, a path that he would also follow. La Guma was a talented writer and wrote several books, most of them depicting the plight of black people under apartheid. He was arrested several times as an activist, and would use his time in jail to write. He later went to exile in England before returning to his father's native country Cuba, where he became the African National Congress (ANC) Chief Representative. La Guma died in 1985.

■ **20 February 1940**  
**Dr Abdurahman dies in**  
**Cape Town**

Dr Abdullah Abdurahman, medical doctor and Cape community leader, died on this day at the age of 69. Founder and leader of the anti-apartheid African Peo-



ple's Organisation (APO), he was the first Black person to become a member of the Cape Town City Council (from 1905-1940). His death raised concern within the Black, Coloured and Indian communities, as he was a well-known human rights campaigner. *The Standard* and *Imvo Zabantsundu (Black Opinion)* hailed him as a great leader who was at all times available to address the needs of oppressed communities. In June 1999, President Nelson Mandela posthumously honoured Abdurahman by awarding him the National Order for Meritorious Service in Gold.

■ **21 February 1858**  
**Walter B Rubusana,**  
**ANC founder member born**

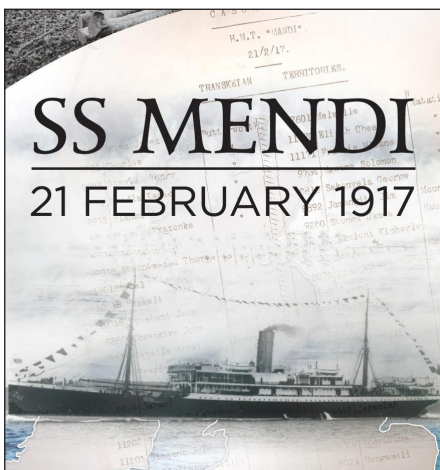


Walter Benson Rubusana was born in Mnandi in the Somerset East district of the then Cape Colony. He was a founder-member of the African National Congress (ANC). His father was a senior councillor (*umphakathi*) to the Paramount Chief, Sandile Nggika. Rubusana trained as teacher at Lovedale college, taught for a number of years, and went on to study and was ordained as minister of the Congregational Church in 1884. He transferred to East London, which became his home for the rest of his life. As a recognised Xhosa language authority, he served on the Xhosa Bible Revision Committee, to review the translation by Tiyo Soga in the 1850s. Rubusana supervised its publication in Britain when he accompanied the Thembu king, Dalindyebo, to the coronation of King Edward VII in 1904. In London, he also published his first book, *Zemk' Inkomo Magwalandini (Defend Your Heritage)*, an anthology of traditional epic poetry, essays and history. Rubusana by then was active in politics, and in 1909 was part of the African and Coloured delegation to the British King, to plead for inclusions of Africans and Coloureds in the soon-to-be formed Union of South Africa. The delegation included Dr A. Abdurahman, African People's Organisation leader, D Dwanya, Matthew Fredericks, John T Jabavu, D J Lenders, Thomas Mapikela and parliamentarian WP Schreiner. Alfred Mangena, who was in London also joined the delegation. The deputation fell on deaf ears, and on their return Rubusana announced his intention to stand for the Thembuland Constituency of the Cape Provincial Council. W B Rubusa-

na ran a most effective campaign, with his church and community roots providing a network to mobilise the voters; strengthened by support the newspaper Ilizwi Labantu. When the results were announced on September 21, Rubusana had won the seat; the first African ever to be elected to serve as a member of the Cape Provincial Council. In 1912, Rubusana was a co-founder of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC), which later became the African National Congress. In 1914, he went to Britain with the SANNC delegation to protest against the Native Lands Act and was co-ordinator of the ANC 1919 constitution. Dr Walter Rubusana was not only a gifted intellectual with many talents, but a political activist in the service of his people. Dr Rubusana passed away on 19 April 1936 at Frere Hospital in East London after a protracted illness.

### ■ 21 February 1917 SS Mendi Sinks

The sinking of the SS Mendi on 21 February 1917 became one of South Africa's worst tragedies of the First World War (1914-1919). A total of 616 South Africans, including 607 black troops serving in the South African Native Labour Contingent, died when the steamship sank in the English Channel on the way to France.



### ■ 21 February 1985 99-year leaseholds introduced for Gugulethu, Langa and Nyanga

Apartheid influx control was aimed at allowing black South Africans into cities only as migrant labour, with impediments against owning land or property in 'white' South Africa. Following the 1973 strikes, the 1976 uprising and pressures from capital for more skilled and stabled black labour, the Black Urban Amendment Act of 1978 introduced a system of 99-year tenure for sites in black townships and villages outside of bantustans. The 99-year leasehold was first introduced for Soweto in 1979. The Cape Town leaseholds deliberately excluded the informal settlements of Crossroads, as the regime continued to try and control movement of black people to the city, with forced removals continuing.

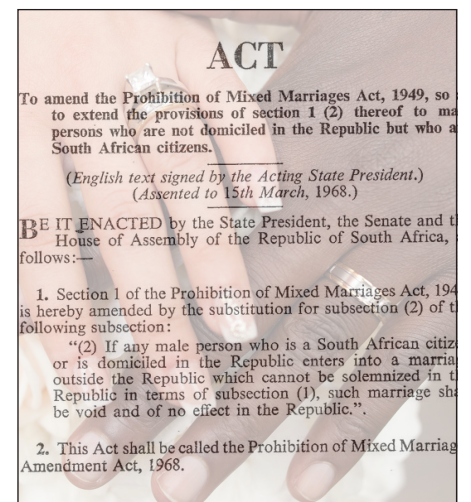
### ■ 21 February 2001 Miriam Makeba nominated for a Grammy



South Africa's legendary musical sensation, Miriam Makeba, was nominated in the category World Music Album for her album Homeland at the 43rd Annual Grammy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, USA. The album was released world-wide and featured a col-

lection of songs from buoyant to the plaintive, illustrating the vocal range and power of this celebrated performer. The nomination followed closely upon her being the first Kora Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

### ■ 22 February 1968 Mixed Marriages Act of 1968 extended

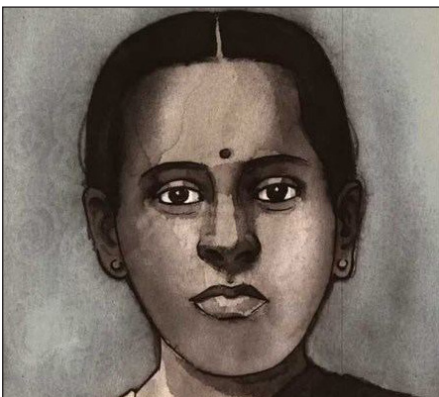


On this day in history, the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Amendment Bill was adopted – despite opposition from the United and Progressive Parties. This amendment furthered the existing ban on marriages between White and Black people (Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act (1949) by extending it to White 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 recognized 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 prohibited sex between people of different races. These laws often split families, and entrenched racial division. President P W Botha removed the Act from the statutes book in 1986.

### ■ 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 have their children attend a multiracial school.

### ■ 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, Valliamma 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 recognized in India, with a public library, school and commemorative stamp in her honour.

### ■ 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 – 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 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 activi-



ties 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 25 000 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 Wom-



en'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: *Belydenis in die Skemerling /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)

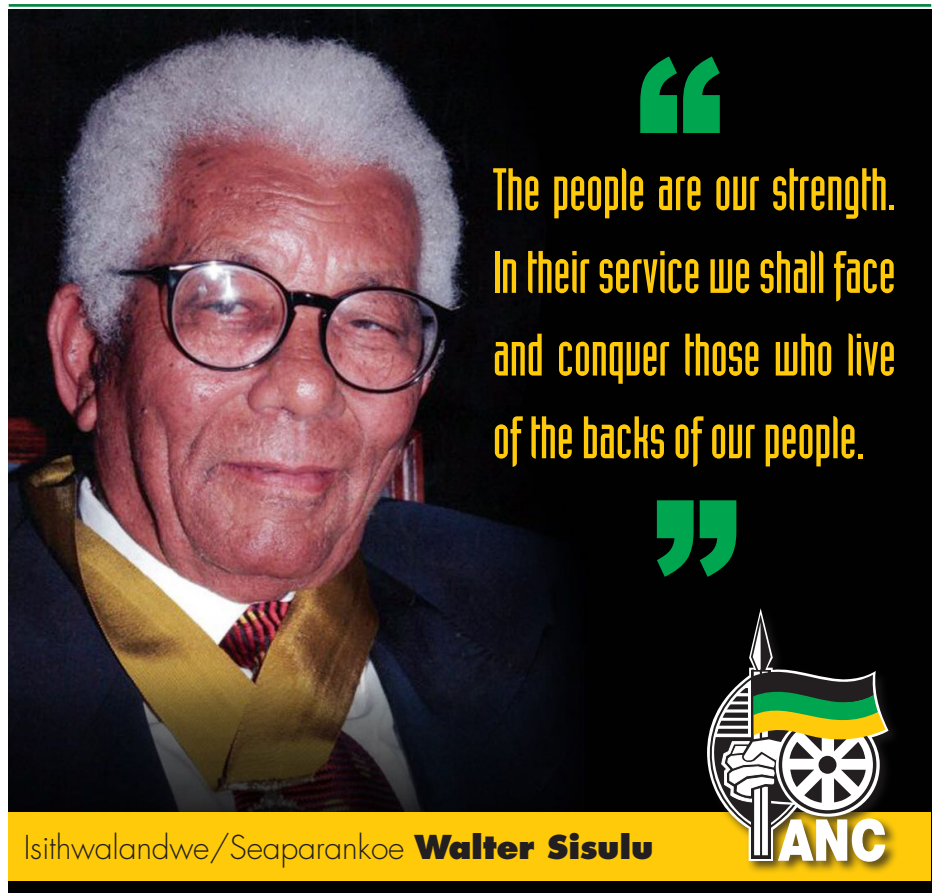
*Neerslag/Precipitation* (1958) *Balans/Balance* (1962) *Onderdak/Shelter* (1965); *Kruis of Munt/Head or Tail* (1973). Eybers moved to Amsterdam in 1966, and lived there until her death in 2007.

### ■ 26 February 2017 Judge Essa Moosa passed away



Essa Moosa was born in District Six, Cape Town on 8 Febru-

ary 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.



Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe **Walter Sisulu**

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS

20–27 February 2021

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

### ■ 20 February World Day of Social Justice



Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. Social justice is upheld when we promote and advance gender equality, the rights of workers, the poor, homeless, LGBTQI+, indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove legal and other barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, sexual orientation or disability. The pursuit of social justice for all is supposed to be at the core of the United Nations' global mission to promote development and human dignity.

### ■ 20 February World Pangolin Day

Pangolins are amongst the world's most trafficked non-human mammals, according to National Geographic, and are therefore under serious threat of extinction. There are eight known species of pangolins – four in Asia and four species in Africa. The Asian species are listed as critically endangered and the African species vulnerable. In 2016, the 186 countries party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the treaty that regulates the international wildlife trade, voted to ban the commercial trade in pangolins. Pangolins are insect-eating and very scaly mammals, with their scales made of keratin, hence the illegal trade.

### ■ 21 February International Mother Language Day

Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for people

and planet. Yet, due to globalization processes, they are increasingly under threat, or disappearing altogether. When languages fade, so does the world's rich tapestry of cultural diversity. Opportunities, traditions, memory, unique modes of thinking and expression – valuable resources for ensuring a better future – are also lost. At least 43% of the estimated 6000 languages spoken in the world are endangered.

### ■ 21 February World Whale Day

World Whale Day reminds us of the challenges faced in our oceans across the globe and is observed annually on the third Sunday in February. Whales are the largest mammals on the planet, and they are found in all oceans. The Blue whale is the largest and can weigh as much as 33 elephants! Although they live in water, they breathe air. They are warm-blooded and also parent their young.

### ■ 21 February International Tourist Guide Day

Tourist or tour guides are persons who guide visitors in the language of their choice and interpret the cultural and natural heritage of an area. The tour guide must have area-specific knowledge and/or qualification, recognized by the appropriate authority.

### ■ 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.”





# World University News African Edition

18 February 2021. No. 301

**T**HIS online journal on African higher education continues to be a real gem. Over the last couple of months it covered how universities across Africa coped with the pandemic and lockdowns, but also broader themes related to higher education transformation and change.

This edition does not disappoint. Leading with a piece by Romeela Mohee and Anjusha Durbarry on the investments by Mauritius in higher education, the article starts: *“When Mauritius became an independent state in 1968, it was an underprivileged insular state, deprived of natural resources and with education reserved for a few affluent people. The island has made great strides since then and is now classified by the World Bank as a high-income country.”*

And indeed, on all social indicators, Mauritius is doing very well, not least in higher education. Its enrollment rate in higher education is now at 40%, and the small island state introduced free higher education for all its citizens in 2019, and they’ve had free primary and secondary education since 1976. The article looks in depth to the evolution of the high level



The screenshot shows the website header with the title 'University World News Africa Edition' and the UWN logo. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Global Edition, Africa Edition, Asia Hub, Transformative Leadership, Special Reports, Events, and Search. The main content area features a section titled 'Africa Top Stories' with a sub-section for 'MAURITIUS' containing the article 'Education success follows ‘massive’ investment, reform' by Romeela Mohee and Anjusha Durbarry. The article text is partially visible, discussing Mauritius's success in higher education. To the right of the article is an image of a tree growing from an open book in a library setting. A sidebar on the right contains a Mastercard Foundation logo and the text 'Trans Lead Higher better' with a 'Visit' button.

of enrolment, including a table on the sources of higher education enrolment and other social factor which encourage university education. A great read indeed.

Other articles in the edition focus on women in STEM, with two seemingly contradictory trends. The one is about how the small West African state of Benin, has just been ranked as having *“the biggest share of women graduates in the field of engineering in the world and ranks sixth globally in terms of its female ICT graduates”* and another article about how African women stands to be the main losers of the 4IR, as the jobs where they predominate are

the most likely to be automated.

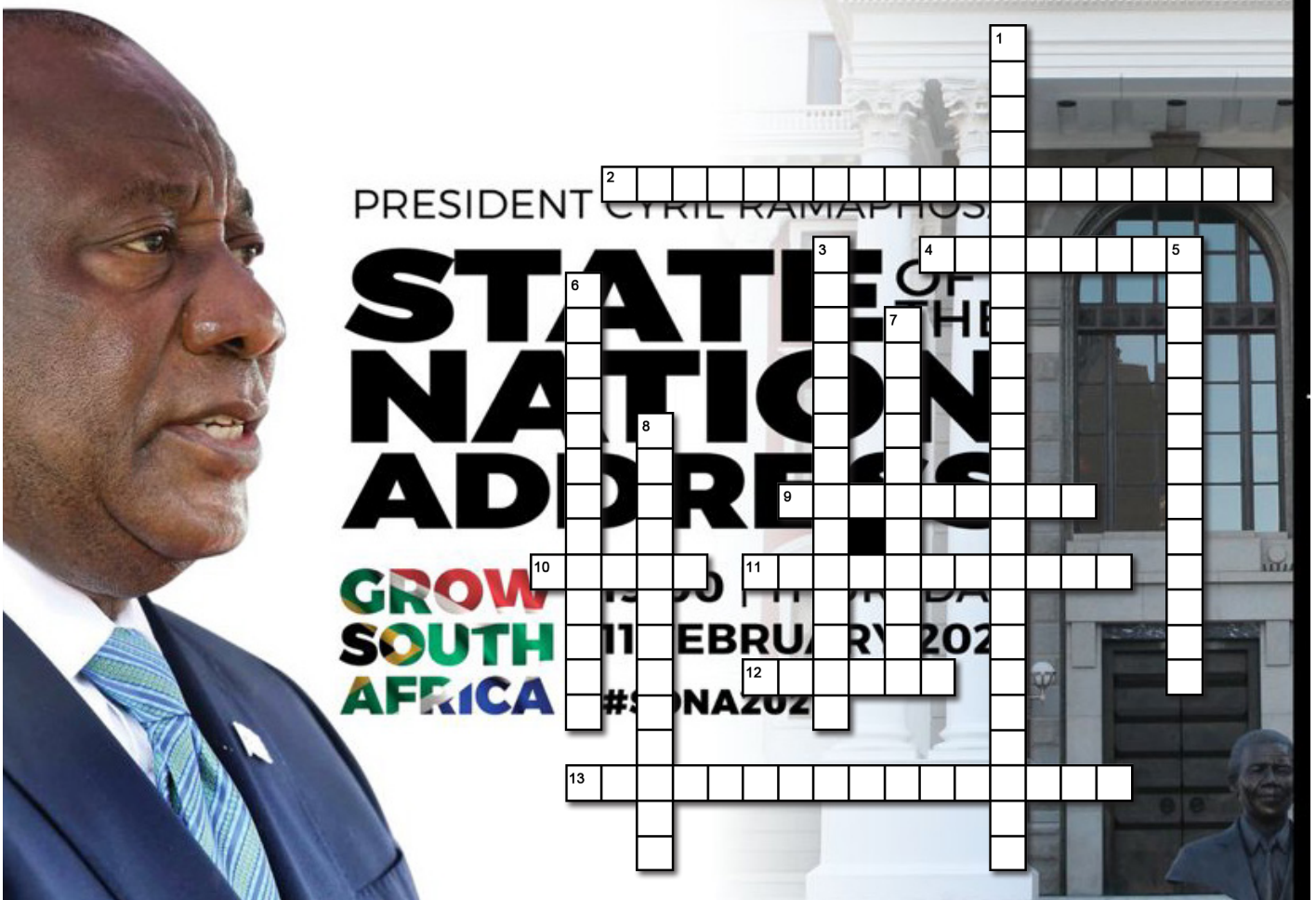
There are also a range of articles more specific to the Covid response, including about praise for South African scientists’ contribution to the fight against the pandemic; whether universities have learnt and therefore better prepared to respond to crisis; the implications of digital transformation and the impact of the pandemic on international students.

The World University News Africa Edition remains amongst the best sources of information of trends and the direction of higher education in the continent, and always a good read.

**X-WORD**



**#SONA2021** 11 February 2021



**ACROSS**

- 2. New .... are being conceptualised in a number of places in our country.
- 4. Licensing of high-demand is at an advanced stage.
- 9. SONA is an address by the ... to Parliament.
- 10. Restoring ... is central to Economic recovery.
- 11. We must undertake a massive... programme to save lives.
- 12. South African national flower.
- 13. Our ... now stands at a staggering 30,8%.

**DOWN**

- 1. We will begin to harness the opportunities presented by the African ...
- 3. Economic recovery, growth and .. is one of the four priorities for 2021
- 5. Advancing small businesses are supported by robust ... support programmes.
- 6. For three centuries, we were victims of oppression, ... and injustice.
- 7. President Ramaphosa likened our nation to which ecosystem?
- 8. SONA21 was held on 11 February, who was released from prison on this day 31 years ago?

**WORD BANK**

- |                             |                |                |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| President                   | reconstruction | Nelson Mandela | Fynbos Biome |
| unemployment rate           | Protea         | dispossession  | vaccination  |
| post-apartheid cities       | manufacturing  | Eskom          | spectrum     |
| Continental Free Trade Area |                |                |              |