



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



20 Years of the NEPAD Programme

■ This is an edited version of Welcoming Remarks delivered by **President Cyril Ramaphosa** during the NEPAD@20 Symposium: **A Decade of Action to achieve “The Africa We Want”** on January 28, 2021

ALLOW me to convey, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of the Republic of South Africa, profound condolences to governments, communities and families that have experienced loss due to the pandemic ravaging the Continent and indeed the World. The Covid-19 pandemic not only threatens our survival as people, but also changes the way

we interact with each other as citizens of the world.

In order to circumvent a further decline in our socio-economic conditions, we need to commit to work together to combat the scourge of Covid-19, which continues to devastate the lives of many. Indeed, the Covid-19 pandemic has unleashed a severe negative impact on African economies in general

and the AU system in particular, and this has necessitated that we realign and modify our priorities on all fronts.

Allow me to pay tribute to Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Hosni Mubarak, Olusegun Obasanjo and Abdoulaye Wade, who two decades ago were inspired to create a Pan African Institution as a socio-econom-

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Dear Mr President

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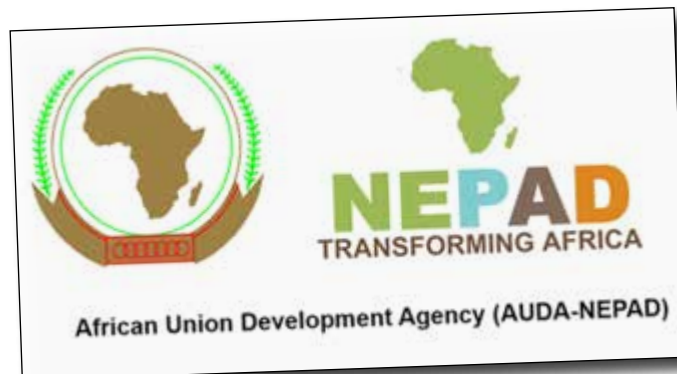


ic flagship, which aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable growth and development, integrating Africa in the world economy and accelerating the empowerment of women. Moreover, they realised that Africa must adopt a new vision for its revival and sustainable socio-economic development, and translate this vision into an appropriate and coherent Programme of Action.

Thus, an effective Pan-African institution to deliver on the Continent's development agenda, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, commonly known as NEPAD was born. The birth of the NEPAD in 2001 ignited the ambition of enhancing the capacity of African States and regional institutions to fulfil the collective vision of an integrated, peaceful, united and prosperous Africa.

The preoccupation of NEPAD, over the years, was to advance sectorial projects and programmes in areas such as agriculture, health, education and training, the environment, information and communication technology and infrastructure development.

The Presidential Infrastructure



Champion Initiative (PICI), that South Africa has the honour to Chair, renewed interest and added more value to prioritising regional infrastructure on the continent. Our political commitment and dedication has made it possible to achieve progress in the implementation of the PICI projects, which cover transport, ICT, energy and trans-boundary water.

A significant progress has been made as well in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) towards the realisation of the goals of AU Agenda 2063. As a framework for engagement with Africa's development partners, PIDA has the potential to fully facilitate integration of the continent in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that we operationalised a few weeks ago. We should be proud that PICI and PIDA became an African

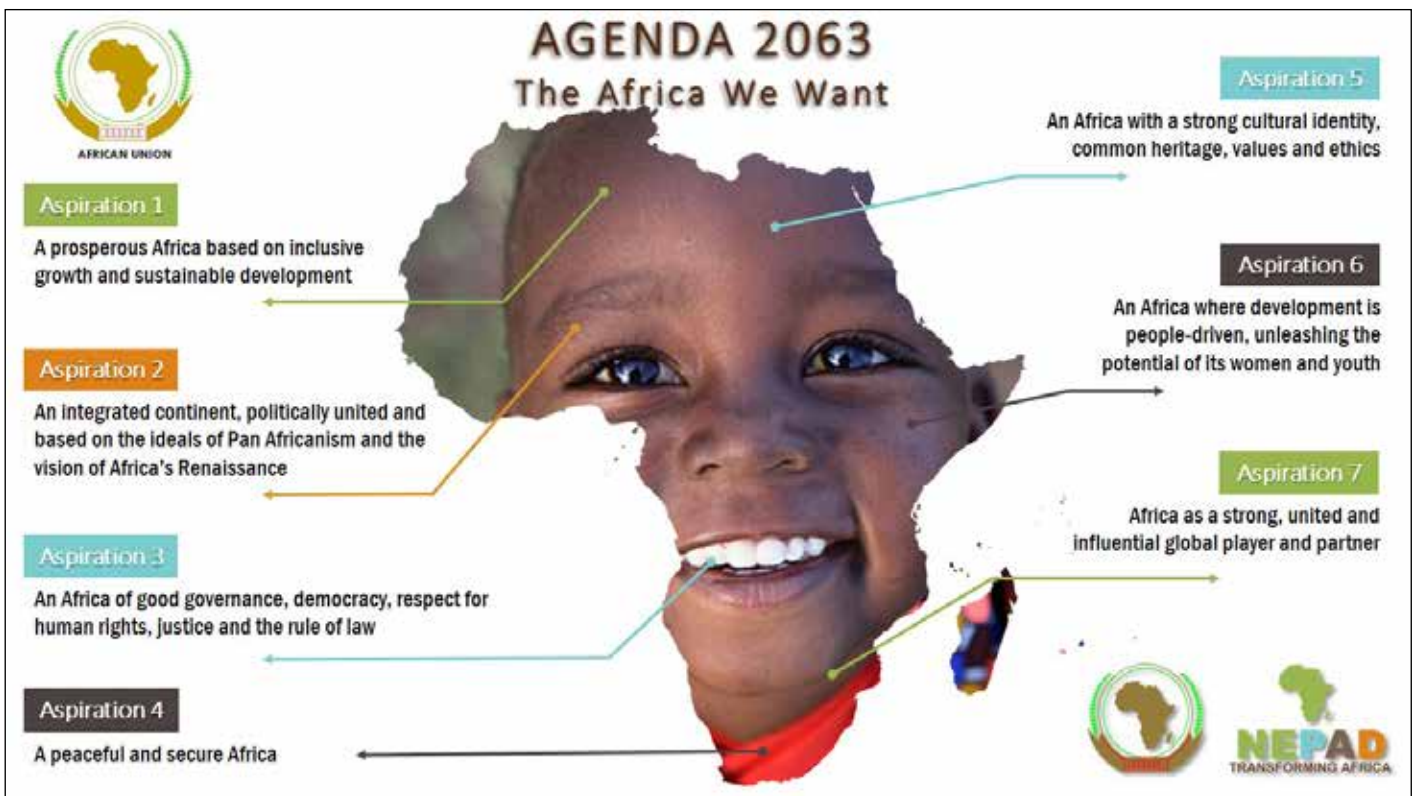
leadership landmark with the NEPAD stamp of inspiration, under the aegis of the African Union.

An impressive accomplishment of NEPAD was the strengthening of partnerships with the rest of the world. NEPAD leaders actively engaged

the G20, Group of Eight major developed countries (G8), Organization of Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD), FOCAC, TICAD and the UN system on a new Development Cooperation and Aid Architecture for Africa. It is impressive to note that cooperating parties viewed NEPAD as an integrated framework for their development support to Africa.

Significantly, throughout these engagements NEPAD has been steadfast to the fundamental principle of an Africa-led and owned development agenda, equality, mutual accountability, trust, respect and a shared commitment for improved results and outcomes. I believe AUDA-NEPAD cannot compromise on this sacred principle as we move forward.

The transformation of NEPAD into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), is an



opportune time to pause and reflect on the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. As we attempt to improve the operational efficiency of the African Union and advance its Agenda 2063, a blueprint for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future, we need to strategically position AUDA-NEPAD to be more pertinent and responsive to the development aspiration of the continent in the immediate and long term.

The AUDA-NEPAD is strategically placed to play a fundamental role as the technical body of the African Union in the immediate and long term. I venture to opine that AUDA-NEPAD must endeavour to reinvigorate political gravitas for AUDA from its own and the AU Member States, accelerate momentum for AUDA-NEPAD programme implementation, diversify its partnership base and strengthen its institutions to deliver on the Continent's aspirations and ultimately propel its citizens towards – **"The Africa We Want."**

While AUDA-NEPAD is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that Africa does not lag behind in harnessing the benefits of new sciences, technologies and innovation, it too has to ensure that historical inequalities and ineq-

The founders of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) realised that Africa must adopt a new vision for its revival and sustainable socio-economic development, and translate this vision into an appropriate and coherent Programme of Action.

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uities are addressed, including those perpetuated by gender prejudices.

We must concede that while NEPAD had notched up impressive gains, it was a glaring oversight not to have successfully communicated and captured the imagination of the African citizenry.

My humble submission is that AUDA-NEPAD must harness the power of communication, and thereby broaden as well as deepen ownership and support of the programme in Africa and abroad among all stakeholders – parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector. In the context of a better world and a better Africa, NEPAD remains a focus of the African National Congress.

I believe, during this symposium, we will all work hard to reflect on the successes, achievements and challenges of the implementation of NEPAD over the past years, in order to guide the implementation of AUDA-NEPAD in future.



ANC NEC LEKGOTLA: CALL TO ACTION

Let's go out now and do the work

■ *Abridged closing remarks by **President Cyril Ramaphosa** to the ANC NEC Lekgotla*

WE have now come to the end of one of the most critical makgotla that the ANC has held in recent times.

Many people are looking to this lekgotla to provide direction on the actions we must now take to overcome Covid-19 and to rebuild our economy and our society.

This imperative is evident in the way that comrades have approached the discussions in this lekgotla, focusing in particular on what needs to be done, by whom, by when and with what resources. There is a clear appreciation of the urgency of implementation, given the dire state of our economy and high levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment among our people.

For the most part, the reports from the commissions go beyond the restatement of existing policy positions and past decisions. They provide practical measures that can be taken to ANC structures, government departments, public entities and other areas of deployment for implementation.

This lekgotla has placed the defeat of Covid-19 as our overriding and most pressing responsibility for 2021, which requires both an intensive vaccination programme alongside the intensification of prevention measures, increased screening and testing and the further strengthening of our health system.

While government must work with all social partners in undertaking

this work, the lekgotla has identified a critical role for the ANC and Alliance in a massive campaign of social mobilisation involving all sectors of society on a non-partisan basis, to reach every corner of the country.

We need to build broad acceptance among our people of the vaccine programme and to vigorously tackle misinformation and misunderstanding. To do this, we must ourselves be disciplined in our own public pronouncements, ensuring that we speak accurately and clearly.

We have agreed that while we work with urgency to undertake these immediate tasks, our planning and preparedness for future crises must be improved. This

must include investment in our own vaccine development and production capacity.

This lekgotla has affirmed that we must place the creation of jobs at the centre of our economic reconstruction and recovery plan. This is the most direct and effective way to respond to the hardship that many families are today facing.

We have therefore re-affirmed the priority interventions contained in the plan that emerged from our engagements with social partners last year – infrastructure investment, employment stimulus, localisation and industrialisation, and the expansion of energy generation.

The Lekgotla stressed the importance of moving swiftly to implementation of commitments. It accordingly recommended strengthening monitoring and evaluation and ensuring more effective consequence management in cases where implementation does not occur.

The lekgotla highlighted the need to build a durable social compact between business, government and labour so we harness all our energies and resources to ensure the urgent implementation of the plan in the interests of all South Africans.

We have also said that the current economic reforms must not only address immediate challenges, but must also lay the basis for the achievement of our broader transformation objectives. They must be implemented in a manner that supports and advances radical socio-economic transformation.

Given the significant fiscal constraints the country faces, which



Land redistribution must be expedited

will be placed under greater pressure as we roll out the vaccine programme, there is a need to re-prioritise existing commitments in the budget to ensure we support those in need and stimulate inclusive growth.

As Parliament works with urgency to finalise the amendments to section 25 of the Constitution to enable the expropriation of land without compensation, we have agreed on the need to tie land redistribution to agrarian reform.

Land redistribution must be expedited. Land in the hands of government must be released. Land redistribution must bolster the agricultural sector, lead to economic growth, and meaningfully tackle poverty, inequality and unemployment.

We must make certain that land reform improves food security for poor families and maintains food security for the nation. Agrarian transformation must be promoted including for black farmers – large and small – who should be granted security of tenure and be given farming support such as access

to know-how, equipment and markets.

The effectiveness of our recovery will depend to a great extent on the scale and pace at which we can bring new electricity generation capacity online. The lekgotla therefore agree that we should pursue several measures simultaneously, including the procurement of new generation sources in line with the IRP 2019, including renewables, the procurement of emergency power, improving the efficiency of Eskom, and enabling more embedded generation by firms.

The lekgotla has agreed that, in the context of the continuing COVID pandemic, we need to consider the extension of basic income relief to unemployed people who do not receive any other form of state assistance. This would depend on the state of public finances and that there should be a clear exit strategy.

The meeting agreed that the national Loan Guarantee Scheme must be fundamentally restructured to improve its accessibility and it should enable the participation of non-bank SMME funders.

It also agreed that the Public Procurement Bill must be finalised as a matter of urgency and tabled in Parliament for consideration during 2021. The Bill must cater for set asides for small businesses and co-operatives to support localisation.

The economic recovery needs to advance gender equality in the economy. We must give effect to the principle of equal pay for equal work and implement the decision to support women entrepreneurs and industrialists through public procurement.

The Lekgotla welcomed the work being carried out in a number of government agencies to deal with corruption. It agreed that measures to capacitate the NPA and other law enforcement agencies, improve transparency around procurement and improve collaboration between agencies must be strengthened.

The Lekgotla reaffirmed the ANC's support for the Zondo Commission into state capture and once again called on law enforcement agencies to act without fear, favour or prejudice in rooting out corruption.

An important decision of this Lekgotla is to convene an Economic Summit that critically looks at what COVID has merely accentuated: poverty, inequality and unemployment in South Africa. This Summit needs to focus renewed attention on broad-based black economic empowerment, the transformation of ownership, management and control patterns in the economy, and the promotion of black and women entrepreneurs and industrialists.

The Lekgotla agreed that as a responsible global citizen, South Africa must contribute its fair share to ambitious climate action by means of a proposed update of

South Africa's first nationally determined contribution.

The ANC and its alliance partners will therefore host an urgent workshop on these matters to guide the policy process.

The Lekgotla debated how best the country should use radio frequency spectrum for development purposes and what should be the correct configuration of public and private sector participation in this sector.

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) has released two Invitations to apply, one for the auction and one for the Wireless Open Access Network.

The Lekgotla urges the government to engage ICASA and the sector in general to ensure that the licensing process proceeds expeditiously through an open and transparent process.

The applicants for spectrum must be empowered, that is, they must satisfy the BBBEE requirements including that of direct ownership.

The process must lead to economic growth, lowering the costs to communicate, and the promotion of effective competition in the mobile market.

We have agreed that the capability of the state is vital to an economic and social recovery, and that specific emphasis needs to be placed on strengthening local government.

The lekgotla emphasised the centrality of addressing all challenges in local government towards economic development and improving the lives of South Africans.

The district development model must be strengthened by ensuring the financial viability of district municipalities and their ability to raise revenue, and deliver services sustainably.

Basic service provision will be accelerated through job-creating projects in:

- Water: Reticulation, borehole construction, spring protection;
- Construction of rural roads;
- Maintenance of public assets;
- Rural bridge construction; and
- Public employment programmes such as the Community Work Programme. These will be redesigned to develop skills and promote local economic development.

The lekgotla was unambiguous in its resolve to strengthen consequence management and accountability in municipalities through strengthening public accounts committees, acting against public servants conducting business with municipalities, increasing transparency of supply chain management systems, and strict enforcement of the listing of municipal officials and service providers implicated in maladministration.

It also urged the state to implement drastic measures to deal with individuals who are vandalising and destroying public infra-

The lekgotla emphasised the centrality of addressing all challenges in local government towards economic development and improving the lives of South Africans.



structure such as schools, water electricity and transport networks.

An important decision is that the ANC and Alliance need to be working far more closely at local level, together with other structures of the democratic movement, to ensure that municipalities are well governed and managed, that they are accountable and transparent, and that they remain focused on the developmental needs of communities.

The meeting identified a broad problem that many local development projects have been started, but not completed. We have therefore resolved on a comprehensive audit of unfinished infrastructure projects, which will inform interventions to complete projects and perform necessary maintenance.

As we approach local government elections, we need as the Alliance to select candidates for local government that are capable, experienced and are respected in their communities. We have agreed that all existing councillors must go through an intensive evaluation, particularly in municipalities that have performed poorly or where there are allegations of corruption.

We need to speed up implementation of our decision to establish an ANC Electoral Committee to lead the candidate selection process.

The lekgotla identified the need to provide more resources at a local level to combat gender-based violence and femicide. While national government has reprioritised resources to tackle the epidemic of crimes against women and children, much of the work needs to happen in municipalities and communities. These efforts need to be properly resourced.



The ANC will continue to mobilise across society for a comprehensive campaign to end gender-based violence and femicide so that no woman or child need live in fear.

The lekgotla also reflected on another of the ANC's priority tasks for 2021, namely working towards a better Africa and a better world.

As South Africa's term as the Chair of the African Union draws to a close, the lekgotla agreed that we need to continue to be engaged with several of the priorities of our term.

These include the continental response to the COVID pandemic and ensuring the access of all African countries to sufficient dose of vaccines.

We will continue to be actively involved in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, giving particularly attention to our initiatives on the economic empowerment of African women.

As a country and as an organisation, we will continue to participate in efforts to silence the guns on the continent. We will do this through our participation in multilateral bodies and processes and, where

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appropriate and where sought, through bilateral engagements.

The lekgotla raised concerns about the lack of progress in resolving the issue of Western Sahara in a manner that recognises the right of the Saharawi people to full independence and self-determination. We will intensify our efforts in the African Union, the United Nations and other forums to advance this struggle.

The lekgotla welcomed the positive commitment to renewed global collaboration signaled by President Biden of the USA. We call on America to speedily reverse the illegal recognition and imposition of Morocco sovereignty over Saharawi.

We trust that this commitment to global peace, justice and security will include a focus on the rights of the people of Palestine and the occupied territories.

The meeting welcomed the decision of the Pan African Women's Organisation to locate its permanent headquarters in South Africa. Among other things, this development presents a valuable opportunity to broaden the participation of South African women's formations in this important continental organisation.

The lekgotla recognised that a coherent, integrated and efficient approach to immigration and border management is important for economic development and social stability. It agreed that the country's immigration laws need to be implemented more rigorously and consistently, in line with our Constitution and international commitments and in pursuit of our national interests.

The decisions of this NEC lekgotla will be consolidated into a report that will be distributed to all our structures, to our Alliance partners and to the broader South African public.

These decisions give effect to the priorities and tasks identified in the ANC's January 8th Statement, and provide a clear line of march for the year ahead.

These decisions give expression to our theme for 2021: Unity, Renewal and Reconstruction in the Year of Charlotte Maxeke.

I would like to thank all the members of the NEC, representatives of the ANC's leagues, Alliance partners and other mass democratic movement formations, and all the employees from various different sectors for an enriching and productive lekgotla.

I wish to thank former ANC Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma and former Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe for their participation in this Lekgotla, and for their ongoing contributions to the work of our movement.

I would also like to thank the members of the planning and technical team at ANC headquarters, who have made this virtual meeting possible.

It is clear what needs to be done. It is clear what each of us is expected to do.

Let us go out now and do the work.

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT STRATEGY

Leadership & coordination of the rollout strategy

The National Department of Health will coordinate the vaccine rollout with provincial health departments and the private healthcare sector.

Structures will need to be established at a district level by the provincial health department to manage the rollout.

#VaccineRolloutStrategySA



DID YOU KNOW

Does the COVID-19 vaccine have side-effects?

As with all medicines, side effects can occur after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. However, these side effects are transient (24-48 hours), and serious side effects (allergic reactions) are exceedingly rare. The fact is: The risk of the disease by far outweighs the risks of the COVID-19 vaccines.



PHASE 1 of the vaccine will be delivered using 3 platforms:

- 1. Work Based Vaccination program:**
Venue: District level public & private hospitals
- Most suitable for hospital linked healthcare workers
- 2. Outreach work based vaccination program**
Venue: Mobile teams move from facility to facility
- Most suitable for healthcare workers in primary healthcare, Community healthcare workers and private medical centres
- 3. Vaccination centres: Remote or facility based**
Venue: Vaccination centres, e.g. community pharmacies
- Most suitable for independent healthcare workers

#VaccineRolloutStrategySA

PHASE 2 & 3 high risk priority groups and general public platforms:

- 1. Public facility vaccination:** Primary health care
- suitable in rural settings for community access
- 2. Vaccination Centres:** Remote or facility based vaccination centres e.g. community pharmacies, GPs or NGOs
- Suitable in urban settings for community
- 3. Outreach vaccination programme:** Service provided via mobile clinics
- Suitable for congregated settings e.g. old age homes
- 4. Work-based vaccination programme**
- Suitable for Essential workers e.g. mining sector, industry & departments

#VaccineRolloutStrategySA



Building on common ground

■ A message from ANC Treasurer General, **Paul Mashatile**, about using one of SA's greatest strengths – forging social compacts – as an action plan to get our country on the road to economic recovery

EARLIER this month, President Cyril Ramaphosa unveiled the South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. It set out a vision and outlined an action plan aimed at stimulating equitable and inclusive growth of the South African economy. One of the key features of this plan is that it is consensus driven and seeks to mobilise collective action towards common goals. The plan is a product of a detailed consultation process with social partners at the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) – a product of a social compact among key stakeholders in the economy. The plan, therefore, draws on one of South Africa's most prized assets which is also the essence of who we are as a people: social compacting, collaboration and consensus seeking.

During the State of the Nation Address in February this year, President Ramaphosa referred to “the greatest strength of our constitutional democracy, and the reason it has endured”. This, he said, is our ability as South Africans to forge broad-based coalitions and social compacts: with business, labour, special interest groups or wider civil society. The



Comrade Paul Mashatile

spirit of consensus and collaboration across all sectors, including among those who may have initially held diametrically opposed positions, is what produced the “*South African miracle*” our country is renowned for.

It is this spirit that is once again carrying our nation as it navigates the path of economic reconstruction and recovery.

It is also this spirit of working together towards common goals that should give all of us hope that the South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan will be implemented and that its goals will be achieved.

The plan is a concrete expression by social partners of their willingness to pull together through this difficult period. It is a joint statement of intent to do everything necessary to ensure that our country makes a permanent and decisive break with our past of low and declining growth, falling per capita incomes, low investment, as well as high and deeply entrenched levels of inequality, poverty and unemployment.

In pursuing the route of building social compacts, South Africa is not alone. Evidence from several other countries has shown that social compacts are an essential ingredient in effective and sustainable growth and development. Overall, there is significant convergence among social partners on what needs to be done to set the South African economy on a new, accelerated, inclusive and transformative growth path. There is also consensus that urgent action is required to kick-start the economic reconstruction and recovery effort; that time is not on our side. Accordingly, social partners have committed themselves to doing things collaboratively, to acting decisively with speed and to harness available resources. In the crafting of the plan great care was taken to avoid doing every-

thing but rather to jointly focus on a few high impact priority areas. These are: aggressive infrastructure investment; employment orientated strategic localisation, reindustrialisation and export promotion; energy security; support for tourism recovery and growth; green economy interventions; mass public employment interventions; as well as enabling conditions and a supportive policy environment focusing on, among others, strengthening employment and empowerment, and massively increasing the participation of and benefits to the historically marginalised: women, youth, people with disabilities; as well as small, medium and microenterprises (including informal businesses) and cooperatives.

Specific interventions that will be undertaken collaboratively under each of the priority areas have also been identified and agreed upon. These are categorised into short-, medium- and long-term interventions. The short-term interventions were determined on the basis of their ability to build consumer, investor and public confidence; kick-start the economy; deepen industrialisation through localisation; deliver quick wins;

and continue providing relief to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The medium- to long-term interventions seek to enable sustainable and inclusive transformative growth on an employment intensive trajectory. It was agreed that equal significance will be placed on both short- and medium- to long-term interventions and that implementation will happen simultaneously.

There was also agreement on clearly defined structural reforms required to support economic recovery and reconstruction. This has helped deal with ambiguities that often arise when the phrase “*structural reforms*” is used.

The structural reforms agreed to include: modernising and reforming network industries and associated state-owned enterprises; re-orienting trade policies and pursuing greater regional integration to boost exports, employment and innovation; lowering barriers to entry to make it easier for businesses to start, grow and compete; supporting labour-intensive sectors such as tourism and agriculture to achieve more inclusive growth; creating greater levels of economic inclusion, in-

cluding through addressing high levels of economic concentration; addressing the weak job-creating capacity of the economy; boosting education and skills development; promoting greater beneficiation of raw materials; and addressing racial, gender and geographical inequalities which hamper deeper economic growth and development. Social partners have also made collective and individual commitments in respect of all the priority focus areas. It was acknowledged that each social partner, not only government, has the resources and capabilities to contribute to the overall objectives of the economic reconstruction and recovery effort.

Also of significance is that there is an appreciation of the trade-offs and sacrifices required from each social partner for the common good. It was further noted that while the contribution of each social partner on any of the specific priorities of the plan may not be equal or simultaneous, each social partner has an important role to play in the implementation of the overall plan.

Social partners have also finalised a social compact on supporting

The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan in numbers

Over

R1 trillion



in infrastructure investment over the next four years

The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan in numbers

More than

800,000



work opportunities created and livelihoods supported through the **Presidential Employment Stimulus**



Eskom. This is a critical intervention, once again driven by consensus, aimed at guaranteeing security of energy supply which is so vital for the economic reconstruction and recovery effort. The social compact on Eskom will also go a long way towards ensuring the operational and financial stabilisation of this strategic state owned enterprise.

Just as social partners played a key role in the drafting of the plan, they will also play an important role in ensuring its effective implementation.

As a start, all social partners have

agreed to implement, without fail, all the commitments they have made as part of the plan. A clear implementation framework was also agreed to. It will be underpinned by the principles of simplicity and effectiveness, clear timeframes, defined responsibilities, the need to avoid duplication, as well as respect for the roles and authorities of the different social partners. The implementation frameworks will improve coordination and accountability amongst the social partners.

The implementation frameworks will improve coordination and accountability amongst the social

partners. It will also facilitate the fast-tracking of decision making that will catalyze the creation of a conducive environment for investment to flourish as well as build consumer, business and public confidence.

Drawing from the collective energies, commitment and willingness to work together by social partners, and inspired by the consensus-driven successes of the past, there is no doubt that our country is now firmly on a path to economic reconstruction and recovery. All hands are on deck and the goals we have set for ourselves are within reach.

Herd immunity: All shoulders to the wheel!

Dear Mr President

ONCE again, the private sector has heeded the call of government to come to the party with regard to the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine.

This is an important process and shows that the social compact that was struck when the pandemic hit our nation's health and economy is paying dividends.

We are encouraged as the African National Congress that the Minerals Council of South Africa has taken the cudgel and committed to procure the vaccine for its labour force.

The mining sector has been the bed rock of our economy for over a century and still contributes 9% to our economy even following years of decline. The mining industry is also labour intensive and contributes in alleviating poverty and unemployment.

The sector estimates that it would spend R300 million to inoculate its workforce as the country battles a surge in infections.

While the money may seem like a drop in the ocean compared to the billions of rands the country needs to spend to vaccinate around 40 million of our estimated 59 million population, this is a highly significant step and an example worthy of being emulated by other sectors.



Comrade Pule Mabe

The battle against COVID-19 has been brutal and almost every sector of the economy has taken a knock.

Mr President, it has always been known that the only high hope for humankind to blunt the coronavirus is a vaccine. While the hy-

Now that efficient vaccines have been found, it is time once again to roll up our sleeves and ensure that our people also derive the health benefits.

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giene protocols went a long way to limit the spread of COVID-19, without the existence of a vaccine, it would have been a mountain too high to climb.

Now that efficient vaccines have been found, it is time once again to roll up our sleeves and ensure that our people also derive the health benefits. Some First World countries have unfortunately shown their true colours by hoarding vaccines. This has put countries such as ours with limited resources on the back foot, although we are pleased that this coming February of 2021, we will receive the first million doses of AstraZeneca from the Serum Institute of India. This first batch will understandably be administered to our healthcare workers who have been in the frontline of the battle against COVID-19. Our teachers and law enforcement workers will be the next in line to be immunised. Indeed, Mr President, there has always been a question of the criteria used to determine whose choice of profession is essential. However, this question is moot in the era of the pandemic. A farm worker, whose slog puts food on our tables, is as essential as the mineworker, without whose labour our already battered economy would sink further.

A garbage collector, who disposes of waste from our households, is a crucial cog in ensuring our health and safety.

However, the procurement of the vaccine, which is not available in enough quantities for everyone, has necessitated that we prioritise those who are at high risk of infection and mortality.

The cashiers and packers at our supermarkets are similarly on the frontline as they resource their tills and ensure we are able to purchase our nutrition and other medication.

The private sector has by and large performed outstandingly during the fight against COVID-19.

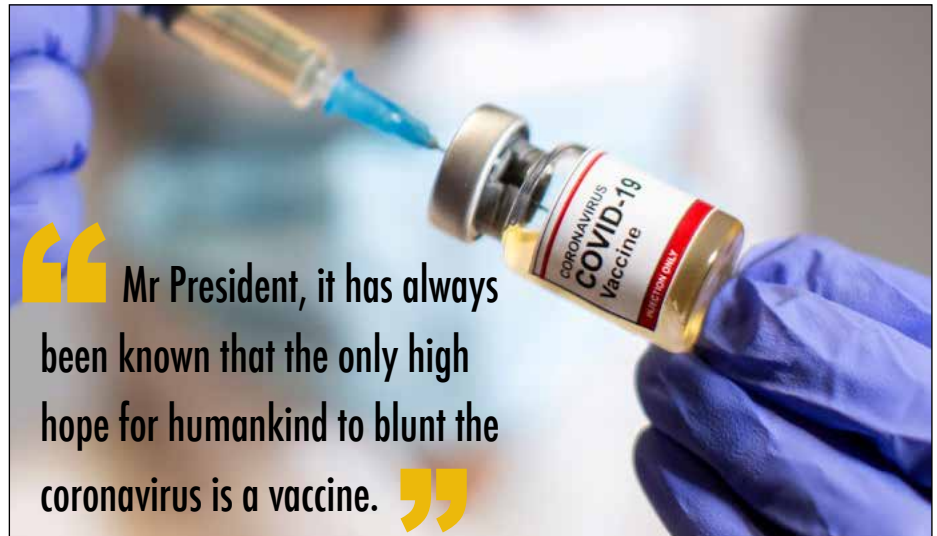
Disparate sectors of the economy were at pains to demonstrate their readiness to open during the hard lockdown as they quickly adopted the health protocols at workplaces such as sanitising and screening the workers and customers.

From that experience, we are hopeful that other sectors of our economy would respond like the mining industry and take the bull by the horns and help with the roll out of the vaccine.

The formal retail sector has always been highly organised and could readily take the cue from their mining counterparts.

Mr President, there has been much criticism and doubt about our government's sincerity and determination in procuring the vaccine. As most countries of the world jostle to be first in the queue, our country has ensured that we are not left behind. As the current chairman of the African Union (AU), it was made clear that South Africa would not use its economic muscle to jump the queue and leave the rest of the continent behind.

South Africa has recorded the highest number of infections and deaths on the continent, at more



“ Mr President, it has always been known that the only high hope for humankind to blunt the coronavirus is a vaccine. ”

than 1.4 million cases and over 42 000 deaths. However, there are more than a billion people in Africa and none should be left behind in the scramble for nationalistic greed.

Since democracy, the foreign policy of South Africa has been clear that we cannot have a stable country while the rest of the continent remains unstable.

It was also for this reason that South Africa intervened in hotspots throughout Africa to ensure stability and security.

Burundi, Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Lesotho are some of the countries that benefitted from South Africa's foreign policy and negotiation skills over the years.

As the pandemic threatens to undo the gains we have made in the last three decades, the rest of the continent also needs to benefit from our efforts.

As the oldest liberation movement on the continent, the ANC enjoys fraternal relations with many liberation movements on the continent. Without belabouring the point and intimating that only countries governed by our fraternal organisations should be

the first in line, we believe that it is crucial that our fellow countries on the continent determine their own needs to assist the African Union Centre for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 Pool Procurement Portal function optimally.

The African Union COVID-19 response Fund will also be crucial in ensuring that all countries have adequate doses to manage the herd immunity against the virus.

Mr President, South Africa has shown remarkable resolve in the trenches when it battled HIV infections and the private sector waged alongside the public to contain the virus that threatened to sink our ship.

The mining and road freight industries were in the forefront of defeating the devastating impact of HIV and it is that experience that the country sorely needs as we enter the tail end of the war against the coronavirus.

***All shoulders to the wheel!
Let's do it together!***

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



Tribute to the Midwives, Nurses, Doctors and all health Frontline workers

■ *By Orapeleng Vanilla Matshediso*

ON the 24th January 2021, I was deeply touched by the address of a nurse at the burial ceremony of comrade Jackson Mthembu. Her address serves as a reminder to the nation and world, that indeed health workers are playing an important role in a fight against an invisible enemy – Covid-19, that continues unabatedly to inflict pain in our hearts.

This is an enemy that continues to claim the lives of our loved ones. What we used to perceive use as statistics of Covid-19 in March 2020 has now turned to be num-

bers and names of the people we know and love so much.

I was also particularly touched by the message of appreciation from President Cyril Ramaphosa, who in his closing speech at the ANC NEC Lekgotla said:

“We pay tribute to the health workers and other frontline workers who have worked tirelessly to care for, and protect, all the people of this country”.

These fellow patriots (health and care workers) must be applauded, appreciated and supported. They risked and dedicated their lives

to the noble cause of their profession, like soldiers who are prepared to die defending their own nation with pride and loyalty.

It was not a mistake that last year, at its 73rd World Health Assembly, member states of World Health Organization, unanimously designated 2021 as the “*International year of Health and care workers*”.

Apparently, this resolution was taken as a recognition and appreciation to the critical role health workers play in saving lives and of course risking their own lives and that of members of their families.

Their morning departure to their respective workplaces leaves their family members, boyfriends, girlfriends, wives and husbands in a state of uncertainty.

The question that keeps lingering on is, would he or she come back home. Another worry is, wouldn't she or he come home infected and infect us. Unfortunately this is a sad reality.

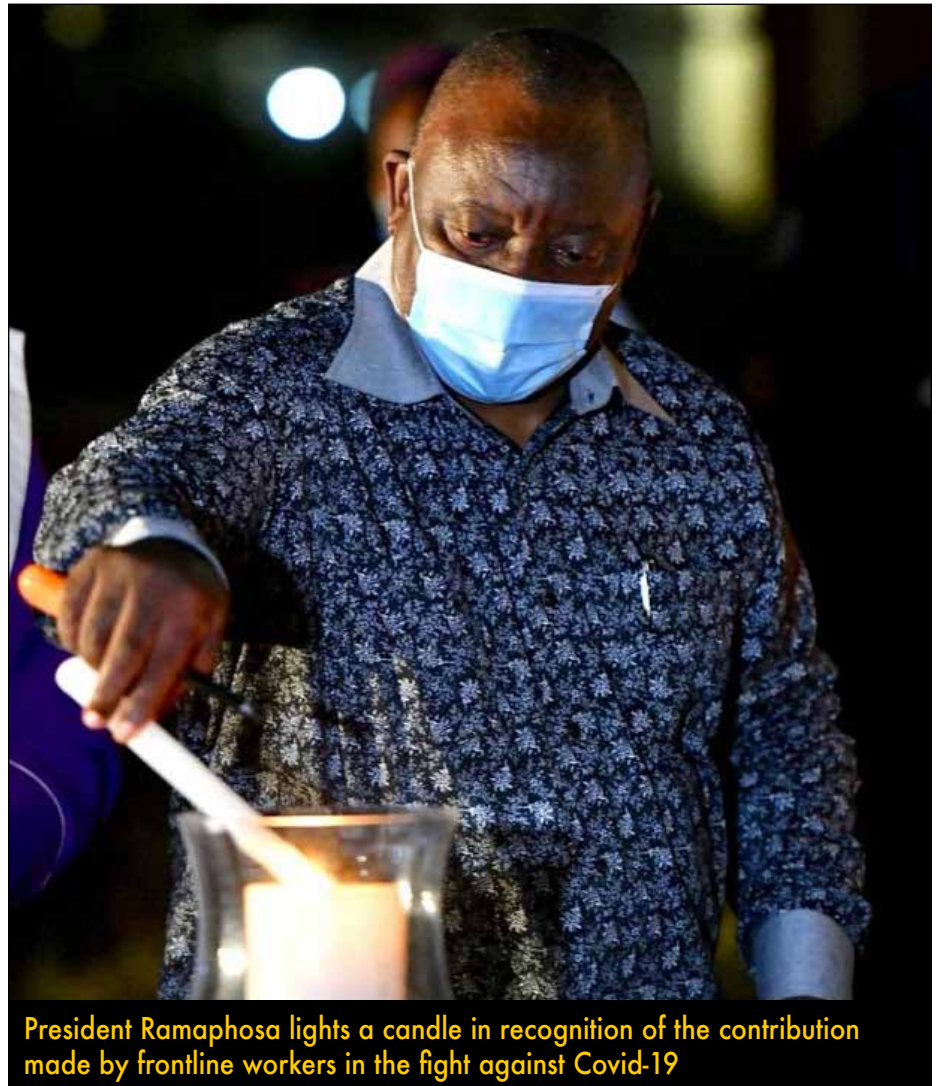
That is why I am of the resolute view that these patriots must never be compromised in so far as Public Protective Equipments (PPEs) are concerned. Unions must continue to be their front-line defenders as they confront Covid-19 head on.

Our health and frontline workers have never enjoyed time with their families in the past festive season. When some amongst us were drinking and misbehaving, putting alcohol on top of our heads, these fellow compatriots were hard at work saving lives and assisting injured or wounded citizen to recuperate and women to give birth seamlessly and without a glitch.

I must hasten to doff my hat for workers at funeral parlours, workers who are forever forced to be on standby, day and night, to ensure that those who pass on, are timeously collected and properly placed at the mortuaries and later buried.

We are running out of tears. Messages of condolences are pouring incessantly. There is no moment of silence at the cemeteries, when certain family leaves the cemetery gates another one is enters to lay to rest the loved ones.

This is a time we need to be strong and courageous. We must



President Ramaphosa lights a candle in recognition of the contribution made by frontline workers in the fight against Covid-19

hold hands, support each other. We can't drop the ball now. We all need to adhere to the health protocols as announced by the Government as we await the arrival of the vaccination.

Covid-19 has forced us to bear a heavy burden of grief and bereavement on our shoulders.

The 73rd World Health Assembly that I alluded to earlier was further reminded that "*applause without action is no longer acceptable*", hence the Assembly urged member states "*to invest in health, health systems and in health and care workers*".

Despite my reservations about international organisations that are

captured and controlled by the so called super powers, I think the call on investment in the health system and health workers is commendable.

My fellow health workers and frontline workers, I want to appreciate your hard work and service to your nation and continent.

May the centre of the universe protect you against the deadly enemy that threatens the existence of humanity on earth.

May the universe give you strength as fatigue and stress set in. We shall overcome. You will be remembered as fearless, selfless, dedicated and committed servants of the people.

Tribute to the late Comrade Kiriri Levy Maleka a.k.a. Jackson Moloji – Luthuli Detachment

■ By Zacharia Pitso Tolo

COMRADE Levy Kiriri Maleka is one of the brave young South African warriors who came forward in 1964, to answer the “Clarion Call” to join the Peoples’ Army, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Lerumo La Sechaba).

The son of Rre Abram and Mme Dikeledi Maleka, Comrade Maleka was born at Gopane in Lehurutshe in 1937. He was baptised in the Lutheran Church and obtained his primary education at Manoane Lower Primary School. He married his childhood sweetheart, Mme Mmita Mathibe. Young Maleka worked in the mines and later as a general worker for the once successful Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) at Lobatse.

In the then Western Transvaal area of Lehurutshe in the vicinity of Zeerust, many villages became the recruiting ground for the youth to join MK. Leading in this recruitment drive was Dinokana Village, under the revolutionary Kgosi Pogiso Abram Grant Ramotshere Moilwa. Kgosi Moilwa resisted the unilateral imposition of the passbooks or dompas on women in 1957/8. He was deposed in 1958 and forced into exile in the then Bechuanaland Protectorate. Kgosi called on the regiments of



Comrade Kiriri Maleka

young people throughout Lehurutshe to swell the ranks of MK.

This cohort of ANC Combatants came from the rural areas of the Western Transvaal where conditions of life were hard, with few mud primary schools, if any. The only Secondary School in Lehurutshe those days in the 60s was at Motswedi, the home village of Kgosi Lucas Manyane Mangope.

Comrade Maleka left SA in 1964 in his late 20’s through Botswana to Tanzania via Northern Rhodesia (Zambia). He was immediately sent to the Soviet Union in the same year for military training and related war courses. He and his colleagues became the face of

liberation of South Africa. Equally, they became the Ambassadors of their people wherever they went for military training.

They received training in foreign languages. Military instructors spoke highly of the calibre of MK combatants. They upheld the values of the movement such as tolerance, honesty, integrity, respect and understood that they were serving their people and not themselves. The respect they espoused, ability to share ideas and skills with one another and solidarity amongst themselves made it easy for the team to understand the most complicated military courses on offer and equipment. MK Soldiers distinguished themselves above all and were well respected by sister liberation and guerrilla armies such as ZIPRA; FAPLA, FRELIMO, POLISARIO; ZANLA; SWAPO and as far afield as East Timor by FRETELIN.

1967 ushered a turning point for MK and the liberation forces in Southern Africa. It was difficult for MK soldiers to enter and infiltrate South Africa. Botswana couldn’t be a perfect option as a springboard into South Africa because of its terrain and vegetation. The most suitable route to enter South Africa was therefore through

Rhodesia. There was a military pact between BJ Vorster and Ian Douglas Smith to fight and repel the guerrilla onslaught against the Zimbabwe Independence Peoples' Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA). ANC had cordial and revolutionary relationship with the Zimbabwean African Peoples Union (ZAPU) under the helm of President Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo. The formal ANC-ZAPU Alliance was signed in 1967 as a counter-force to the Vorster-Smith Pact. It also cleared the route for MK to fight alongside ZIPRA to pave the way into South Africa, armed to the tooth, to face up to the South African Defence Force.

The same year of the ANC -ZAPU Alliance in 1967, President Oliver Reginald Tambo christened MK forces on the banks of the Great Zambezi River, as they were about to cross from the Zambian side into Rhodesia, the "*Luthuli Detachment*". The name of this first detachment of the ANC, was coined in the battlefield but not in the comfort of air conditioned boardrooms.

The ANC- ZAPU Alliance opened two military fronts for MK- ZIPRA Forces, namely, Wange and Sipololo in the northern part of Rhodesia. Fierce and bloody battles were fought during these intense Operations. The young Comrade Maleke was deployed to the Department of Ordinance and Logistics headed by Comrade Lambert A Moloji.

In the aftermath of both Wange and Sipololo Operations, Comrade Maleke continued to work under the new Commander of Ordinance, Comrade Masondo Mavili in Lusaka at the Military Headquarters (MHQ). The department was later headed by Comrade Job Shimankana Tabane (aka Cassius Maake) and working as a



formidable team with the likes of Comrades Madala, Moss Mogalo, Dallaboy and others

The Wange/Sipololo Operations were followed by the militant 16 June 1976 Students Uprising. This led to the arrival of thousands of young warriors from South Africa escaping police brutality with the aim to go for military training. Some went to school to further their studies. Comrade Maleke was assigned the role of training the young comrades to sort and select, pack, conceal and transport weapons to various frontline states from where they were destined to South Africa.

Comrade Maleke is survived by a team of men and women to tell the story and give account of the workings of the Unit of those days. The few to mention are comrades: Sam Skuur Komane; Sonnyboy Marule, some of our brave women, namely Yvonne Jumaima Modiakgotla, Sarah Mhlongo, Letta Mamletis, Dennis 'Ayathola' Ramphomane and some of our now Retired Generals – Monk Moyo, Mantombi and Duma Ngobese. These remain our '*Unsung Heroes*'.

South Africa is free today from the brutal system of Apartheid. We boastfully state that it is because of the foundation and the contribution of the first detachment of MK, namely, Luthuli Detachment. They received, welcomed and inducted June 16 Detachment, their

immediate successor detachment.

History assigned the generation of Comrade Maleke very specific tasks, namely to: defend our people against Apartheid tyranny, liberate and democratise South Africa side by side with the masses, set up the structures for the four pillars of the struggle; free all Political Prisoners and deliver a strong and vibrant ANC and its Alliance when returning home from exile. What can we say today? The simple answer is: "*Mission Accomplished*".

The tasks for the current generation are clearly defined in the 08 January 2021 Statement of the NEC as spelled out by President Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa. These tasks are as follows: Firstly, to act together with all South Africans to defeat Coronavirus. Secondly, to place our economy on a path of renewal and recovery. Thirdly, to forge ahead with the fundamental renewal of the ANC. Fourthly, we must work to build a better Africa and a better world. The accompanying challenge is to expose and uproot corruption, nepotism and factionalism. The ultimate achievement is to build a strong, united and functional ANC. Appreciation is expressed to the Premier and EXCO of the North West and the President for having bestowed the deserving honour on Comrade Maleke by declaring a Special Provincial Burial for his send-off. There are now nine (9) remaining Members of Luthuli Detachment in Lehurutshe. It will be highly appreciated to have their final rest accorded the same honour as Comrade Maleke.

**Robala Ka Kagiso Tshwene,
Makopong Ga ke Naiwe
Hamba Kahle Mkhonto
Amandla! Maatla!!**

REMEMBERING COMRADE JACKSON MTHEMBU

Chief Communicator par excellence has ceased to breathe

■ *By Motlalepule Rosho*

ON THE 20th January 2021, a sombre mood swept across South Africa. The untimely passing of Cde Jackson Mvelase Mthembu due to COVID-19 related complications sent shockwaves across our beloved country. This steward of the people in whom we had a servant leader, dedicated his entire life in the total liberation of the poor, marginalised and economically disenfranchised. He was an astute leader with high moral values. He personified ethical leadership. The hand gestures and slogans as people of Emalahleni braved the rainy Sunday afternoon gave credence to the fact that Cde Jackson Mthembu was a selfless leader.

My first encounter with Cde Jackson was in the then Department of Information and Publicity (DIP) at the then Shell House. I was a young lad and equally an activist from Western Transvaal, while Cde Jackson was from the then Eastern Transvaal. Part of his ambition at the time was to have a very strong media mobilisation team in various regions that would assist in voter education through mass media and communication. He was very passionate and instrumental in establishing regional ANC newspapers. This was primarily aimed at propagating how the ANC envisioned the future of South Africa.

Around the same period, Cde Jackson, the late Cde's Ronnie Mamoepa, Oupa Mmotsa and Sefako Nyaka frequented the Western Transvaal Region under the exceptional leadership of the late

Rankuwa Molefe who succeeded Bra Ike Moroe to see to the full implementation of this strategy. This culminated into the launch of the regional newspaper named "Moelathoko". The ideological outlook of the newspaper was centred on being a source of information to the oppressed and marginalised groupings in Bophutatswana. High on the agenda was political education and endowing the people of this part of the country with information that was centred on changing the lives of South Africans for the better.

Comrade Mthembu fervently subscribed to the battle of ideas principle. He led and provoked discussions with the primary aim of getting the team to work closely with various structures of the Mass Democratic Movement as well as communities ahead of the country's first democratic elections. Cde Jackson understood the course of serving and he lived up to that commitment.

In all the conversations I had with him, there was a consistent deep love for the ANC and commitment to serve the people of South Africa. He was undeniably a "par excellence chief communicator". He believed that information, education and entertainment in the media must help drive the growth and development strategy of the country, particularly in rural and poverty stricken communities, a principle he upheld until his last breath. As a speaker of the Mpumalanga Legislature, he personified the people-centred approach as a base for the country's socio-economic development. This is a responsibility

that he executed with compassion. His Legacy of public participation resonated with his lifelong activism. His tenure as the Chief Whip and spokesperson of the ANC was remarkable. This is despite challenges of socio-economic concern bedevilling the development of our country.

He was a courageous comrade that even in the midst of hopelessness, became a source of inspiration to many. His role as the Chief Communicator in combatting COVID-19 is unparalleled. He brought calmness and determination. His selfless character has certainly been demonstrated in the department he led as the Minister.

His leadership epitomised and was characterised by the promotion of ethical values correlated with good governance. Fare thee well Nkokheli. In your memory, we will continue to constantly communicate with the people in earnest and openly fight the scourge of corruption which continues to rob our people of a better life. Ours is a just course aimed at serving our people. The reconstruction of our economy is of paramount importance in seeing to it that we change the conditions of our people's lives for the better. Thank you for your decisiveness in leading at all fronts. My sincerest condolences to the Mthembu family.

**REST IN POWER MVELASE!
AMANDLA! MAATLA!**

Motlalepula Rosho is a member of the ANC in the North West Province and writes in her personal capacity.

30 January – 5 February 2021

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

■ **30 January 1899**
Dr Max Theiler, first
Nobel Laurette born



Dr Max Theiler was born on 30 January 1899 in Pretoria. He studied medicine at the University of Cape Town Medical School from 1916 to 1918. He graduated at the London School of Medicine in 1922 with a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene and went on to work at Harvard University School of Tropical Medicine and the Rockefeller Foundation in the USA. There he did extensive research on yellow fever and other viral diseases. He headed the research team that produced the vaccination for yellow fever, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology/Medicine in 1951. He was the first ever South African to receive the prize and the only Nobel Laurette to date for creating a virus vaccine.

■ **31 January 1980**
Swiss Government protests
against Apartheid spying

The Swiss government sent an official protest to the South African government over the illegal activities of South African agents operating in Switzerland and liaising with Anti-Apartheid organisations. The International University



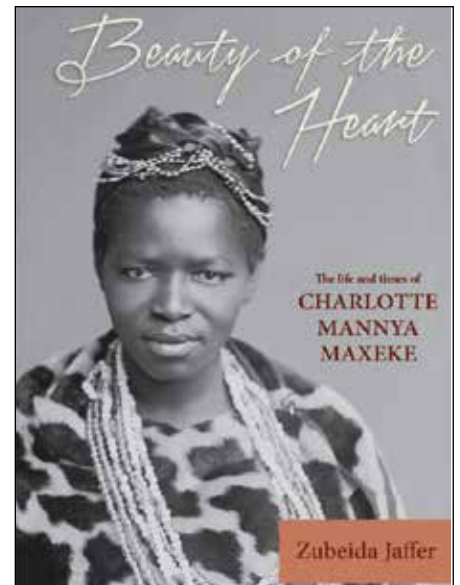
Exchange Fund (IUEF) Director, Lieutenant-General Erikssen, resigned with effect from July 1980, his health having deteriorated after the exposure of apartheid spy, Craig Williamson. Allegations were made that Williamson siphoned off IUEF funds to establish "Operation long reach" in Pretoria, and that he was involved in the assassinations overseas of a number of ANC cadres.

■ **31 January 1986**
Pregnant journalist
Zubeida Jaffer detained



Zubeida Jaffer, former journalist from the Cape Times and her husband Johnny Issel, were detained by the security police on 31 January 1986 under the state of emergency. Jaffer who was three months pregnant at the time was put into isolation, with no access to a doctor, and her lawyer was also detained. Zubeida Jaffer at the time was active in the anti-apartheid and the trade union movements,

editing community and trade union publications. Jaffer is the author of the biography of Charlotte Maxeke, **Beauty of the Heart** (www.beautyoftheheart.co.za)



■ **1 February 1920**
South African Air Force
established

On 1 February 1920, the South African Air Force was established. This made it the first air force of the Commonwealth, with Lt-Col. Pierre van Ryneveld appointed Director of Air Services.

■ **1 February 1889**
Educationist Harold Cressy
born

Harold Cressy, co-founder of the Teachers League of South Africa (TLSA), educationist and teacher, is born in Rorke's Drift, KZN. He qualified as a teacher at the Zonnebloem College Cape Town. In 1906, at the age of seventeen, Cressy was employed as principal of the Dutch Reformed Church mission school at Clanwilliam, where he was exposed to the injustices of the Cape's segregated ed-



Harold Cressy

education system. He studied matric part-time and went on to study for his degree. He was the only Black student of the South African College, now the University of Cape Town, after being refused entry to the universities of Rhodes and Stellenbosch, because of his race. He went on to become principal of Trafalgar High, the first secondary school in Cape Town for Coloured students. He was active in the African Peoples Organisation, founded the Teachers League of South Africa and edited its journal. He passed away of influenza in 1916. Harold Cressy High in District Six Cape Town is named after him.

■ 2 January 1950 Artist Richard Mzamane Mabaso born

South African artist, Richard Mzamane Mabaso, is born in Alexandra, Johannesburg. He started drawing and carving without any instruction and worked for a variety of firms until 1985, when he became a guest artist at the AIA (African Institute of Art) at Funda until 1987.

■ 2 February 1969 Eduardo Mondlane assassinated

Eduardo Mondlane was the founding president of the Mozambican Liberation Front (Frelimo), fighting against Portugal's colonisation of



Eduardo Mondlane

his country. Born in the Gaza province on 20 June 1920, he did high school in Limpopo, went to study at Wits University, but was expelled after a year with the rise of grand Apartheid. He then went to study at Lisbon University in Portugal and later in the United States, earning an MA and a PHD. He trained as an anthropologist, later working for the United Nations, and as historian and sociology professor at Syracuse University. He was elected first president of Frelimo in 1962, and returned to Tanzania to found the Frelimo headquarters. In 1969, a bomb was planted in a book sent to him at the FRELIMO Headquarters in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. It exploded when he opened the package killing him. After the liberation of Mozambique and Frelimo took power, the Universidade de Lourenço Marques in Maputo was renamed the Eduardo Mondlane University in 1975.

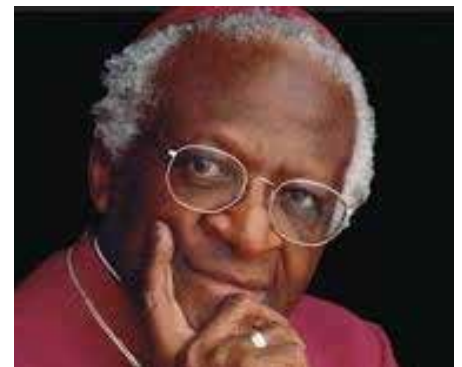


2 February 1990: ANC unbanned

■ 2 February 1990 FW De Klerk announced release of Nelson Mandela and unbannings

In a state of the nation address to Parliament, President FW de Klerk announced that his government will release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and immediately unbanned the ANC, SACP, PAC and other organisations.

■ 3 February 1985 Rev Desmond Tutu appointed first black Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg



Desmond Mpilo Tutu was appointed and ordained as the first Black Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg after winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. The following year he was elected archbishop of Cape Town, which made him the head of the Anglican Church with a 1.6 million membership in South Africa. He used this position to intensify his opposition to the Apartheid system in the country.

■ 3 February 2000 1300 Volkswagen workers dismissed for strike against union leadership

1 300 auto workers were dismissed by Volkswagen on 3 February 2000 in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape, for not returning to work after an unprocedural wildcat strike. What makes this strike noteworthy is that it was possibly the first major example of workers, after 1994, strik-



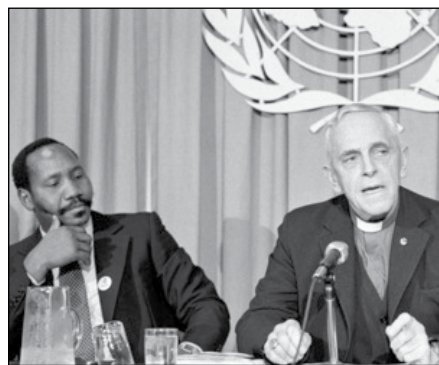
ing not just outside of the auspices of their trade union but ultimately against their trade union. The immediate source of conflict was a productivity agreement reached between NUMSA (the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa) leadership and VW management in 1998 to ensure that the production of vehicles would be doubled the following year. In 1999, the Concerned VW Workers collective campaigned against the latest agreement during the shop steward elections, citing a lack of democratic accountability in the union. This group was made up of older, long-serving workers who had been politicised during the heyday of the workers' movement. They opposed the productivity agreement and were suspicious of the younger layer of shop stewards that had initially agreed to it. After complicated internal politics, the union leadership expelled all 13 newly elected stewards. A month later the union obtained a court interdict to forcibly remove the stewards from their offices. Thousands of rank-and-file members responded with immediate strike action. VW warned that striking workers would be retrenched if they did not return to work, a call which was echoed by NUMSA. The official COSATU press release read: "COSATU General Secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi will address a NUMSA General Meeting at Barks Madlakane Hall, Kwa-nobuhle Uitenhage this afternoon

at 5PM. The meeting has been called by NUMSA to address the illegal strike at the Volkswagen plant in Uitenhage. Vavi will urge all NUMSA members to go back to work and distance themselves from agent provocateurs bent on disturbing production at the plant." At the time, this response was considered by a number of labour analysts to be a clear indication of the COSATU leadership's ever-increasing willingness to collaborate with capital. As a result, it stands out as an important moment in the Federation's history.

■ 4 February 1906 Sunday Times published

The first edition of the first Sunday newspaper in South Africa, the Sunday Times, appeared with New Zealander George Herbert Kingswell as editor.

■ 4 February 1972 Addis Ababa UN Security Council Special session against Apartheid



At the United Nations Security Council's Special Session on Colonialism and Racial Injustice in Southern Africa in Addis Ababa, a resolution was adopted against apartheid. The Security Council, meeting in Addis Ababa, adopted resolution 311 (1972) condemning apartheid; recognising the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa; calling upon South Africa to

release all those imprisoned as a result of apartheid; calling upon all States to observe strictly the arms embargo against South Africa; urging governments and individuals to contribute to UN funds to assist victims of apartheid; and commending organisations and individuals assisting in the education and training of South Africans. The vote was 14 in favour and one abstention (France).

■ 5 February 1982 Neil Aggett killed in detention



Medical doctor and activist Dr Neil Aggett, who was at the time Transvaal organiser for the Food and Canning Workers Union and African Food and Canning Workers Union, died after 70 days in detention without trial, at the hands of apartheid security police. Dr Aggett was just 28 years of age. Aggett was born in Nanyuku, Kenya and moved to South Africa in 1964 to complete his education, earning a medicine degree from UCT in 1976. He worked as a physician in Umtata, Tembisa and later Baragwanath hospital in Soweto. About 15000 people attended Aggett's funeral in 1982, including Bishop Desmond Tutu, and 90,000 workers went out on strike in a show of solidarity. The first inquest in his death, with Aggett family represented by George Bizoz, founded no-one was responsible. Another inquest started into his untimely death continues in 2021.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

24 January – 5 February 2021

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

24 January

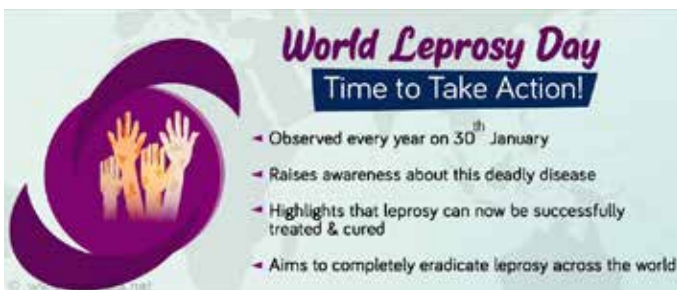
International day for African and Afrodescendant Culture



This is a new global day by UNESCO as it celebrates the many vibrant cultures of the African continent and African Diaspora around the world. It recognizes that it remains a rich source of global heritage and culture. The cultures of Africa and her Diaspora is crucial for the development of the continent, and for humanity as a whole. The African Union has also declared 2021 the **Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage**.

31 January

World Leprosy Day



Leprosy (Hansen's disease) is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. The disease mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes. It is contagious and airborne, and people of all ages can be affected. Leprosy is curable and treatment in the early stages can prevent disability. The theme for 2021 World Leprosy day is **Beat Leprosy**, with appeals to spread the word that **Leprosy Is Curable, join in the fight to End Stigma**, and advocate for the Mental Wellbeing of persons who have experienced leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases. Historically, people with leprosy were isolated from their communities, or in special leprosy



hospitals, asylums or colonies, until treatments were found. Although largely eliminated as a widespread public health threat, it is still prevalent, hence the continued observance of this day.

2 February

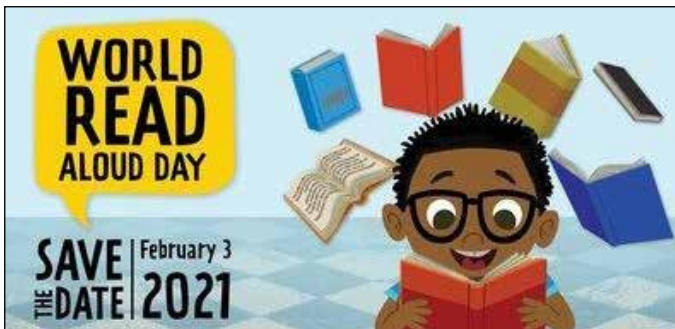
World Wetlands Day



Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil or where water is present very near to the surface. The prolonged presence of water creates conditions that favor the growth of specially adapted plants (hydrophytes) and promote the development of characteristic wetland (hydric) soils. Wetlands are important for their biodiversity and ecosystems, and their contributions to the groundwater systems and as carbon sinks, and are and must therefore be protected. South

Africa's 300,000 wetlands make up only 2.4% of the land, but nearly half are endangered, due to urban encroachment and development, mining, and agriculture, invasive alien plants, and erosion. The St Lucia wetlands system in KZN is amongst the most famous. (<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/what-wetland>; <https://www.environment.gov.za>)

■ 3 February World Read Aloud Day



Storytelling and the oral tradition were and remain important part of preserving history, traditions, indigenous knowledge, education and history. Today we have books, but reading aloud for children and each

other, listening to audio books remain important part of how we learn. World Read Aloud Day is therefore celebrated by over 170 million people globally and is growing. *"Storytelling creates connections among people and communities that exchange stories and engage in reading aloud together, become stronger and show improved family health and nutrition civic engagement and participation in the labor market."* (worldlit.com)

■ 4 February World Cancer Day

Cancer can develop anywhere in the body, starting when cells grow out of control and crowd out normal cells, and making it hard for the body to function as it should. Each year, over 10 million people die from cancer and this figure is expected to rise to 13 million by 2030. Factors that contribute to the high incidents of cancer include tobacco and alcohol, obesity, diet and nutrition, lack of physical activity, radiation, workplace hazards, infections as well as non-modifiable risk factors such as age, genetics and carcinogens. The theme for World Cancer Day in 2021 is I Am and I Will (worldcancerday.org)



SIBONGILE KHUMALO

- 24 SEPTEMBER 1957 - 28 JANUARY 2021 -

ANC is deeply saddened by the untimely passing of opera singer and Jazz music legend, Mama Sibongile Khumalo.

We join the nation in paying tribute to this music legend who became a beacon of hope and who inspired many artists and individuals in our country.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends and fans. May they find solace in knowing that their loss is the nation's loss.

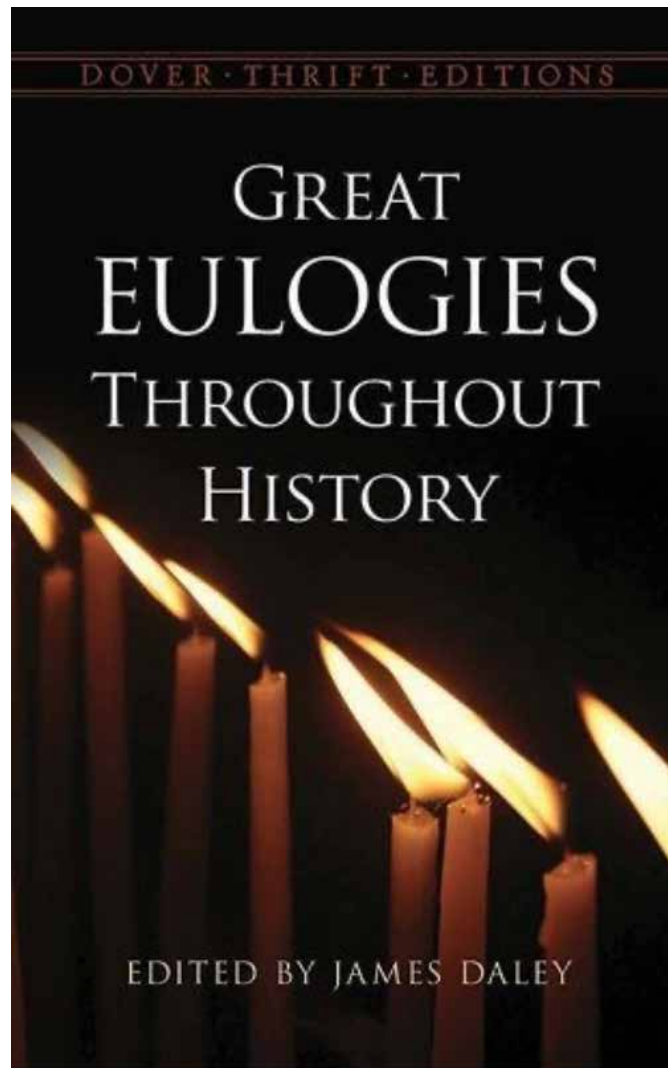
#RIPMamaSibongileKhumalo

Of Eulogies and Biography

THE COVID-19 pandemic has made virtual memorial services as part of the new normal. Although to access it you must have the requisite devices and data, it does allow for participation usually limited by physical services.

Having been part of quite a few over the last months, what struck me about them is the contribution of the individual stories (and therefore biographies) to our understanding of the nuances of history. A wide variety of speakers from different walks of life of the person – family, political, professional, friendship, different phases of their lives – gives a sense of the tapestry of individual lives, and an account of specific events or era.

What comes to mind was the accounts given of late lawyer Priscilla Jana's immense contribution to the lives of so many detainees, and Dr Penuel Maduna's poignant story of how she recruited him and the rather scary one of making copies of Koeberg nuclear plant plans for Priscilla to transmit to the ANC in London, only connecting the dots once there was an attack on the station. Or the fact that I learnt for the first time listening to the life of late Dr Thoko Msimang, that there were also women in the Luthuli Detachment. Or the accounts of



the contributions by late Minister Jackson Mthembu; the moving eulogy by Cde Baleka Mbete to Mam Edith Phemba, or by cde Zakes Tolo on the late Cde Kiriiri Levy Maleka, the last from the Luthuli detachment who participated in the Wankie and Sipolilo campaigns. There are too many examples.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, we know the biographies of famous figures from the

past in large part due to their funeral elegies (lamentations rather than eulogies, which celebrates the deceased!). Writing the obituaries, tributes and eulogies of those who departed, are therefore an important contribution to biographies and therefore our history.

James Daley in **Great Eulogies throughout History** has compiled 25 eulogies from the last three centuries. It includes eulogies of American founders, and civil rights leader Martin Luther King, as well as the more contemporary eulogy of Nelson Mandela delivered in 2013 by President Barack Obama. As per usual, eulogies of women are a distinct minority, featuring Charlotte Bronte, Anais Nin, Emily Dickenson, Susan B Anthony and Coretta Scott King.

Over 43,000 South Africans have now lost their lives to this pandemic. We hear about them in the daily numbers, and media reports about more well-known victims who have succumbed. All of these lives, in their great diversity, represent a part of history, whether local, national or just a slice of a particular family history. We may just need our own collection of Great Eulogies for the COVID-19 period.

Sibongile Khumalo (1957–2021)



ACROSS

3. Starred with opera greats Virginia Davids and Aviva Pelham.
8. Her musical repertoire includes...
10. Starred in this production with Hugh Masekela.
12. She performed at which historic event on 10 May 1994?
13. Birthplace in Johannesburg on 5 November 1957.
14. One of the music institutions where she worked...
15. Obtained BA in Music from this university.

DOWN

1. At age 14 she knew that she wanted to become an ...
2. At age 8, studied violin, singing, drama and dance under ...
4. Recipient of national order of ...
5. Professor of Music father who influenced her music.
6. Apart from her singing, she was also an accomplished ...
7. Operatic debut.
9. First album in 1996.
11. Her mother, a nurse with the 'lush alto voice'.

WORD BANK

Orlando West
University of Zululand
Fuba Academy
inauguration
Emily Motsieloa

Khabi Mngoma
jazz choral
Songs of Migration
Grace Mngoma
Carmen

violinist
Ancient Evenings
Divine Divas
opera singer
Ikhamanga