



# ANC TODAY

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## Conversations with the President



# This time of great trial and difficulty has been among the AU's finest hours

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

**S**OUTH Africa's term as Chair of the African Union comes to an end this week. As we reflect on our year in this position, I am reminded of the old saying that 'in crisis lies opportunity'.

Ours was a baptism of fire, having assumed the Chairship in the same month the first case of coronavirus was reported on the continent.

The priorities we outlined for our term, among them furthering peace and security, the economic empowerment of women and deepening economic integration, had to be immediately and dramatically reoriented to deal with the pandemic.

Our most pressing task was to steer the focus of the African Union to addressing the worst

global emergency in over a century.

COVID-19 has affected all the countries on the continent. To date there are more than 3.5 million confirmed cases in Africa, and more than 88,000 people have died.

It has been a health, humanitarian, social and economic crisis for African countries, most of whom

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are inadequately resourced to manage a health emergency of this size.

And yet, as unprecedented as the nature of the pandemic has been, so too has been the manner in which African countries have come together to fight it.

In doing so, we have drawn principally on the continent's own expertise, capabilities and institutions such as the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

Africa did not sit by passively as the true extent and danger of the pandemic unfurled. From the earliest days of the pandemic and led by the AU, we swiftly developed a continental response strategy, driven by the Africa CDC and regional task forces.

We realised that every country on the continent would be severely affected by the pandemic. Most would not have the resources needed to meet the public health challenge or to protect their economies. We therefore agreed as

African countries to appoint several prominent Africans as special envoys, who would engage with international funders and multilateral institutions to make the case for financial support and debt relief on Africa's behalf.

In this way, working as one continent, we were able to achieve debt relief for many countries and financial assistance towards our

COVID response and economic recovery.

But much as African countries went to the international community for support, we first helped ourselves – establishing and capitalising a continental COVID-19 Response Fund.

For every partnership forged with better-resourced nations and the international donor community, we set up our own innovative and ground-breaking African Medical Supplies Platform to enable all African countries to quickly secure personal protective equipment and other medical supplies in an equitable, affordable manner.

And now that the COVID-19 vaccine is available, we have worked as a collective to ensure that the continent gets its fair share, working with the COVAX Facility and led by our own African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team. Vaccine rollout has already commenced on the continent and we aspire to have the majority of the continent's population vaccinated by the end of 2021 to achieve herd immunity.





We have acted as one to protect health, people and livelihoods on the continent. In doing so, we have demonstrated our capacity for self-reliance and our ability to be the drivers of our own development.

Despite the dominance of COVID-19, we have still managed to make advances in several of our key priorities.

During our term, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was finally launched, heralding a new era of intra-African trade and economic integration.

Even under the difficult conditions posed by the pandemic, the continent has pushed ahead towards the goal of 'silencing the guns' on the continent. The AU has been actively involved in negotiations around the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, in achieving a ceasefire in Libya and promoting peace in South Sudan.

Another focus of our term has been on the economic empowerment of women, which we will continue to champion even beyond our term and throughout the Decade of African Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion to 2030.

**South Africa will continue to play its part to foster integration on the continent, and support the incoming Chair and the organisation in its efforts to meet the aspirations of the AU's Agenda 2063.**

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As we hand over the baton to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) we leave this preeminent continental body in a position of greater strength.

South Africa will continue to play its part to foster integration on the continent, and support the incoming Chair and the organisation in its efforts to meet the aspirations of the AU's Agenda 2063.

When the Organisation for African Unity was founded in 1963, Member States planted the seeds of cooperation and solidarity in pursuit of a better life for all the peoples of Africa.

They affirmed that African unity

was paramount if the welfare and wellbeing of Africa's people was to be assured.

History bears witness that these seeds have not always fallen on fertile ground, and over the years the continental unity project has experienced many hurdles and false starts.

But the grave threat posed by this pandemic has galvanised African countries to collective action.

In the hot-house of the COVID-19 crisis, the seeds of unity and co-operation planted by our pioneering forebears have come to life and flourished.

This time of great trial and difficulty has been among the AU's finest hours.

We are honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead the organisation through this period, when it practically demonstrated the true meaning of the words African Union.

This is an accomplishment for which all the citizens of our continent Africa should feel proud and from which they should draw encouragement.

# Together we can defeat this pandemic

Dear Mr President

**A** GAINST all the odds and false predictions, the first batch of one million Covid-19 vaccine doses arrived in South Africa this week, with 20 million more on the way.

The naysayers were expecting the worst that our country had been tardy in procuring the much-needed vaccine. However, once again the government, led by the African National Congress, defied expectations and prioritised lives above all the hoopla.

From when the first positive case of the coronavirus was diagnosed in March 2020, the government acted expeditiously to preserve lives and livelihoods.

A lockdown was instituted to enable our health care facilities to prepare for the surge in transmissions. Shelters were established to ensure a roof over the heads of the homeless. A stimulus package went a long way in alleviating the plight of businesses that could not operate. A COVID-19 special grant put the food on the tables of the unemployed.

Mr President, South Africa was among the first countries that raised its hand to trial the vaccine of the novel coronavirus and research continues.

Even as our country's chairship



*Comrade Pule Mabe*

of the African Union comes to the end, we stand proud that we have acted in a manner that ensures that the health of the Africans on the continent is safeguarded against the pandemic.

South Africa is not an island and our being at the helm of the continental body has guaranteed that the vaccine would be available to all the countries that needed it, irrespective of scant resources.

Mr President, the arrival of the vaccine on home soil has ratcheted the usual scaremongering by the antivax brigade, who continue to spread fake news to serve their own selfish interests.

The health care workers are first in line to be inoculated and rightfully so since they are on the front

line in the war against the pandemic.

We appreciate and recognise that some of them may be apprehensive about the efficacy of the vaccine.

A concerted campaign is required to assure our people that this government would never act contrary to the interest of our people.

As we enter yet another chapter in the trajectory of the virus, it is vital that we do not drop our guard as regards the established hygiene protocols that protect us and our next of kin from infection and tragedy.

Disciplined members of the ANC are called to the front to lead by example and demonstrate solidarity by wearing their masks in public, washing their hands regularly or sanitising and maintaining physical distance.

The coronavirus variant that emerged during the second wave has shown that the virus has not lost its virulence. While we appreciate that people are fatigued by the pandemic, it is crucial to be vigilant to protect ourselves from harm.

Even the advent of the vaccine is not adequate shield from infection and there is still a lot that is not known about the virus that emerged from Wuhan province barely 16 months ago.



Research and scientific analysis is mute with regard to the efficacy of the vaccine against the coronavirus variant.

This is yet another weapon in the arsenal of peddlers of fake news who would rather mislead the public instead of coming up with solutions.

The purpose of the vaccine is to establish population immunity, wherein two thirds of our people are immunised and protected from infection. This comes at huge cost but the ANC govern-

ment understands that there is no price on human life.

We mourn the loss of lives of the people that succumbed to COVID-19 and we are hopeful that our response has gone a long way to prevent a carnage.

As the vaccine is prepared for inoculation, we urge the peddlers of fake news to desist from sowing panic in order to ensure that our people are adequately protected.

Some opposition parties have been vocal against the lockdown

measures even as they acknowledge that they were necessary.

Nobody wants to live in lockdown forever and we all look forward to a return to normalcy wherein we can interact with our next of kin and gather at the sports arena and ANC rallies like we used to. But until we are all protected from the infection, we are required to demonstrate patriotism and humanism by adhering to the hygiene protocols.

Following the easing of some restrictions this week, we urge our people to be cautious and avoid superspreader events such as liquor establishments, parties and other large gatherings.

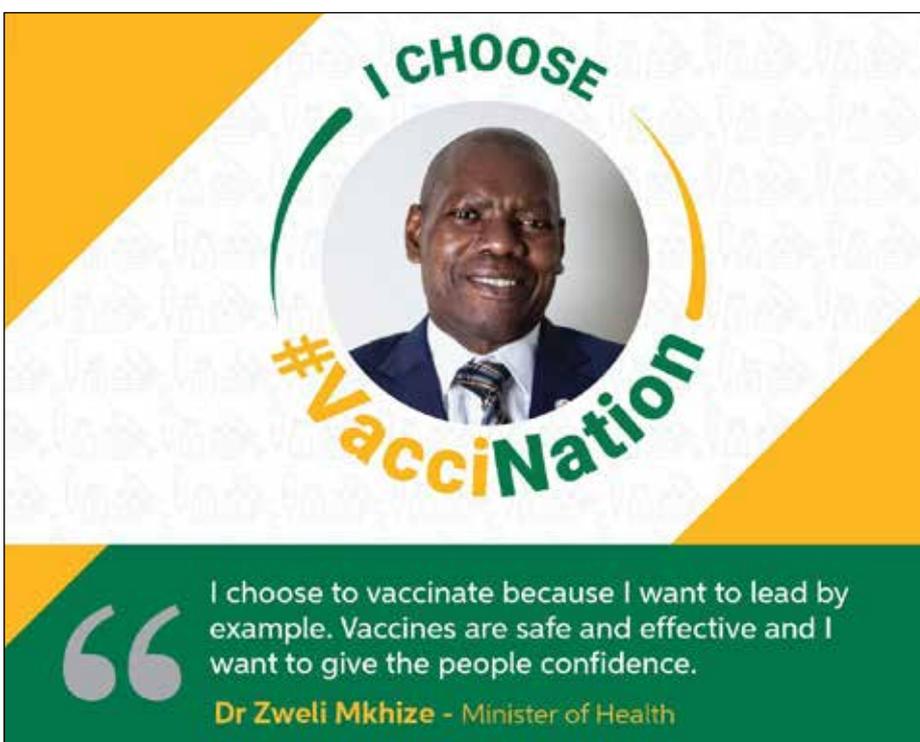
We further urge our motorists to desist from drinking and driving and exercise caution and vigilance on the road to prevent needless accidents and loss of lives.

We are on the cusp of defeating the pandemic and we cannot afford to surrender at the finishing line.

***Together, we can defeat this monster!***

**Pule Mabe**

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



# TRIBUTE TO JONAS GWANGWA

■ By Pallo Z Jordan



**J**ONAS Gwangwa was an artist in South Africa's bardic tradition, who regarded the arts as integral to social life and the role of the artist as the interpreter and critical commentator on the human condition. He chose his political options early in his career and pursued that path till the end of his life.

Jonas Mosa Gwangwa was one of the greatest musical talents South Africa produced. In recognition of his contribution, he was inducted into the Order of Ikhamanga in 2010.

Gwangwa, as he was universally known among his friends and colleagues, grew up in Orlando Town-

ship, Johannesburg. After his primary school education he enrolled at St Peters, the Anglican training college in Sophiatown where he was to encounter a number of other very talented students, among whom can be counted the late Hugh Masekela, with whom he developed a close musical and personal bond; the late Zakes Mokae, the actor who took South Africa by storm in the early sixties; the late Fikile Bam, who rose to a position on the bench in democratic South Africa.

It was at St Peters that Jonas's musical talent blossomed. Recognising his potential, he was among the first members of the Huddleston Band, formed by Reverend Trevor Huddleston while he was a St Peters. As a member of the Huddleston Band, Jonas Gwangwa joined the ANC Youth League. Their band helped entertain delegates at the Congress of the People in Kliptown.

Jonas Gwangwa and Hugh Masekela left South Africa with the cast of *"King Kong"* when that musical went to London's West End. Both had won scholarships to the Manhattan School of Music in New York, which they took up when the show's London season ended in 1961.

Many an amusing incident attaches to that basement flat on West 87th Street, including the ritual slaughter of a sheep, smuggled into Manhattan from a farm in New

Jersey, and served up as glorious feast accompanied by traditional beer.

Gwangwa established himself as an outstanding composer and arranger during those years. The hit album, *“An Evening with Belafonte and Makeba”*, which won a Grammy, were his arrangements. He also arranged and played the music for Hugh Masekela’s album *“Grr”*. The short-lived *“Union of South Africa”* that brought together the talents Masekela, Gwangwa and Semanya once again saw him soar among his equals.

As one among the small number of ANC members in New York, Gwangwa and the late Keorapeitse Willie Kgositsile helped draft Miriam Makeba’s statement to the UNO in 1963.

After leaving the USA in the 1970s, he found refuge in Lobatse, Botswana from where he was able to re-establish contact with musicians from South Africa and the activists of the ANC underground.

As a patriot and committed activist, when the ANC declared the centennial of the **Battle of Isandhlwana, 1979, “The Year of the Spear”**, Jonas Gwangwa found a role for himself in the cultural sphere. Working in cooperation with Joe Gqabi and Squire Makgothi, who headed the ANC machinery in Botswana; and the poet, Mongane Serote, who led the Medu Cultural Ensemble, he was actively involved in widening and deepening the political dimensions of the cultural movement in South Africa. Joe Gqabi recruited Gwangwa into Mkhonto we Sizwe and he transferred to Luanda, Angola in 1980. Recognizing his great strength, O.R. Tambo appointed him to train and instruct the small cultural groups we had in

each camp into a viable semi-professional ensemble. Thus “Amandla!”, the ANC Cultural Ensemble, was born in 1980. It was while serving in Angola that Jonas was involved in a car accident that almost cost him a leg.

The cultural ensemble was one of the ANC’s most effective instruments for mobilizing international solidarity. It toured Sweden, the UK, the USSR, the Netherlands and the GDR. It also did a number of stints among the Frontline states, staging impressive performances in Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique and its base, Angola. A tour of the UK in 1985 helped catapult it into the Anglo-phone world. While the ensemble was on tour in Australia during 1987, they heard the announcement that the musical score for the movie, “Cry Freedom”, to which Gwangwa had made a huge contribution, had been nominated for an academy award. Jonas Gwangwa had at last arrived!

Gwangwa continued his work for the liberation movement espe-

cially during the first democratic election campaign, when music, song and dance were effectively harnessed. The democratic breakthrough in 1994 was the vindication of his efforts, spanning more than thirty years.

In his passing South Africa has lost not only an outstanding musician, who was among the pioneers of Modern Jazz in Africa, but also a patriot who served his country and its people well by lending his immense talent to the struggle for freedom and democracy. As we dip our banners in salute of this cultural giant, we also express our heartfelt condolences to his children, his grand-children and other members of the Gwangwa family. We, as a people, mourn the passing of Jonas Gwangwa. Your loss is deeply felt as our collective loss.

With his creativity Gwangwa has bequeathed us a legacy that will outlast the ages.

***Lala ngoxolo mfokabawo.***

***Hamba Kahle Mkhonto. ■***



# A los doctores y doctoras Cubanos: Hasta la victoria siempre!

■ *By Mzwandile Masina*



**“ It was the first time that a country had come from another continent not to take something away, but to help Africans to achieve their freedom ”.**

**Nelson Mandela writing from his prison cell about Fidel Castro and Cuba fighting in Angola.**

**T**HIS past Monday, President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his address to the nation, made a profoundly important announcement: that cabinet has approved a proposal to nominate the contingent of Cuban doctors who came to the country to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Henry Reeve International Contingent of Doctors Specialised in Disaster Situations and Serious Epidemics, otherwise known as the Cuban Medical Brigade, came to the African continent shortly after the pandemic hit our land. By November 2020, they had treated nearly 40 000 people across the continent and are still actively at work fighting the pandemic.

In our country, which is the hardest hit on the continent, 217 of these doctors, health technologists and epidemiologists have been instrumental in our fight against the virus, particularly in remote rural areas where a significant number of them are deployed. Health MECs across the country have expressed gratitude about this, and it is KZN Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu who captures it most aptly when she says: *“We have benefitted as a Province in the work that they have done and continue to*

*do. Some of the specialists in the group are epidemiologists and we did not have enough in the province. They have assisted us”.*

While the news was met with celebration from progressive forces, there were some like the Democratic Alliance who argued that such an honour should not be bestowed upon the Cuban doctors, but that we should have nominated South African doctors instead. At the heart of this argument is the refusal to recognise the profundity in the actions of the Cuban doctors who were under no obligation to come and help our country and continent, but who chose to, driven by a spirit of revolutionary conscience, humanity, and solidarity. This spirit is embedded in the people of Cuba, and it is important that we trace it beyond the pandemic, in order that the logic of the Nobel Peace Prize can be appreciated in its fullness. To understand the work of the Cuban Medical Brigade, we must understand the revolutionary government and people of Cuba who, throughout history, have demonstrated unwavering solidarity to the African continent.

Following the success of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, the government of Fidel Castro developed a foreign policy that placed Africa at its centre. Committed



to internationalism and driven by the belief that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, Castro sent troops to fight in wars against colonial or proxy forces on our continent and supported revolutionary movements with logistical and technical support. In what was known as the “Decade of Independence”, when many African countries were at the height of their armed struggles and liberation wars, Castro sent his emissary, Argentine-born Cuban revolutionary Ernesto “Che” Guevara on a three-month visit to numerous African countries.

Castro and the Cuban people believed that there was a need to assist African countries to win independence against their colonial masters. It was in Algeria where, just two years after the liberation of Cuba, Castro sent troops, civilian assistants and resources to the Algerian National Liberation Front to fight against French colonialism. The same intervention was provided to the Congolese people in the Simba rebellion, which was fought against the French and their proxies following the brutal assassination of Patrice Lumumba.

In Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau, where Amilcar Cabral was leading a guerrilla struggle against Portuguese colonialism, a Cuban force proved pivotal in Guinean’s victory over the Portuguese, which would ultimately lead to the independence of Guinea-Bissau. In South Africa, the solidarity of Castro and Cubans is historical. The apartheid regime often used proxy forces in the frontline states to fight our national liberation movements. But the 1988 Battle of Cuito Cuanavale saw the apartheid regime along with reactionary Angolan and Portuguese

Cuban doctors arriving in South Africa to help in the fight against the coronavirus



forces defeated spectacularly by the revolutionary forces, alongside whom Cuba was fighting.

The significance of the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale in our own struggle history is immense. Reflecting on it, President Nelson Mandela said that it “destroyed the myth of the invincibility of the White oppressor and inspired the fighting masses of South Africa”. The intervention that was provided by Castro and the Cuban people was not only with the military or actively fighting in our liberation struggles. Cuba also extended support to newly independent countries like Benin, the Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali. Cuba sent tens of thousands of doctors, dentists, nurses, health-care technicians, academics, teachers, and engineers to the continent and elsewhere, where assistance was needed to rebuild nations and economies that had been decimated by colonialism. It is no surprise then that in 2020 when the world was confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic and the developed world was fo-

cused only on saving its own peoples and economies, Cuba once again heeded the call to demonstrate practical solidarity with developing nations in desperate need of assistance.

The people of Cuba did not have to send their doctors to help save us – just as they did not have to send their troops to fight for our liberation many years ago. But they did it because the spirit of humanity and solidarity lives in them. If the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to those who help the world fashion a higher civilisation, then there is surely none more deserving of this honour than the Cuban Medical Brigade and the people of Cuba in their entirety. They have bestowed upon the African continent and the world the greatest gift possible: a more human face.

***May they continue ever onward to humanity’s victory. Hasta la victoria siempre! ■***

**Mzwandile Masina** is the ANC Ekurhuleni Regional Chairperson



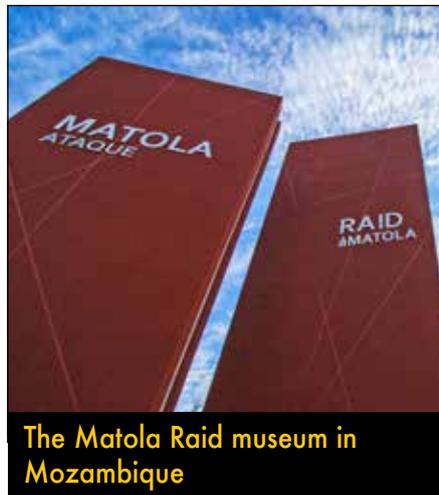
# Matola Massacre Remembered

■ *By Ambassador Welile Nhlapo*

**T**HIS was a difficult and painful experience for me. I was living in a flat above the ANC office in London with Francis Meli and Freedom Mkhwanazi. The phone was in my room. It was still outside working hours.

I answered the phone and someone in Maputo asked me to check the telex and forward the contents to Lusaka. Those days, to contact Lusaka from Maputo you had to go via Portugal. It was therefore convenient to go via London. I rushed down and retrieved the telex. I was numb as I read the names of the comrades who were killed in Matola. I knew most of them from Angola, except Mdu Guma who I knew from Ongoye. I called Lusaka to inform them that we had received the telex. My instruction was to contact Griffiths Mxenge to forward the names to his office since most of the people were from KZN.

I was also instructed to inform Obadi's family. I have known his family from Alex, and I was at some point at Ohlange High School with his uncle and aunt. When he first went to boarding school to Enkamani, he was handed over to me at Park Station for help. So, I knew the whole family. One of his aunts taught me at primary school. His sister Tshidi had just passed through London and left him a suit for me to pass it on to him in Maputo. I am mention-



The Matola Raid museum in Mozambique

ing these details to share the trauma I faced when breaking the news.

The second and most difficult experience was to drive with Ishmael Coovadia to the Defence and Aid Fund office in London to fetch Eleanor Khanyile to take her to her sister's home where Mama Adelaide Tambo, M B Yengwa and Mama Yengwa were waiting. I was close to her, so it was not difficult to trick out of the office.

When we got to the car, trouble started first when Comrade Ishmael insisted that I sit with her at the back. After we set off in the direction of home, she asked why the route since I said she was needed at the ANC office. I then told her the elders mentioned earlier were waiting for her. She held my hand firmly and looked me in the eyes and if William, her husband, was okay. She

realised that my hand was shaking and insisted on the answer. I mumbled something as we were nearing the house. The elders were waiting at the gate, weeping and wailing. I was lost for words as she gazed at me, shaking her head. Comrade William had just visited London after his release from Robben Island. I met him when the Dhlomo family organised lunch for him.

Back in the office I was asked to contact our Chief Representative in the GDR, Comrade Anthony Mongalo in the GDR to check if Jeff Radebe was in the country as he was a student there. After I confirmed with Mxenge that he was alive and presently in the GDR. I got to know that there was confusion about whether it was Lance-lot Radebe or him who had died, as both were from KwaMashu and they had to make sure the correct family was informed.

Comrade Moss (Mbulelo Musi), we were happy to learn that your name and that of Jungle were off the list since you were accounted for. I'm sorry if it is the first time for you to hear about this, I don't remember sharing this piece of news with you. I had a chance though to share with comrade Jeff. He just sighed and thanked me for sharing.

Those are my traumatic memories about Matola massacre. ■

# Tribute to Mama Rebecca Kotane

■ By Orapeleng Vanilla Matshediso

I AM utterly devastated and saddened to learn about the passing on of Mama Rebecca Kotane, a wife to the late General Secretary of the SACP fondly known as Malome Moses Kotane.

Mama Kotane was an honest member of the ANC and mass democratic movement. A Mother of our revolution and a fierce fighter in the struggle against apartheid colonialism. A woman of great fortitude and determination.

She voluntarily participated in the 1950s defiance campaign led by the ANC and subsequently participated in the mobilisation for the nation-wide gathering that drafted the Freedom Charter in 1955 and later formed part of the organisation of the women's March to the Union building in 1956.

We have lost a true and dependable comrade of the mass democratic movement in North West and South Africa. Unfortunately, Mama Kotane passes on at the time the ANC in her Province, the North West, is bleeding and entangled in an endless fight with itself. We have seemingly forgotten our membership declaration we made when we joined the ANC: *“Voluntarily and without motive of material advantage or personal gain, that I agree to respect the constitution and the structures and work as a loyal member of the organisation.”*

We have further declared that “I



*will place my energy and skills at the disposal of the organisation and carry out tasks given to me”* by the organisation. I wish we could pause re-read the entire membership declaration in rule 4.16 of the constitution of the ANC as amended and adopted by the 54th Nation Conference in 2017.

Mama Kotane and her generation selflessly fought for the liberation of our country. She belonged to a generation of men and women who adhered and upheld the membership declaration of the

ANC, its character and moral values. For they understood that being a member of the ANC is to serve the cause of the people and not of a faction.

Mama Rebecca and many others were arrested for executing the mandate of the ANC. This generation had internalised the principle of respecting the organisational decisions, character of accountable leadership, value of selflessness, and understanding that the ANC is a centre that gives directives and mandate.



Mama Rebecca Kotane

This generation never betrayed the revolution for they understood that the poor and the working class have no weapons to fight against the brutal system of apartheid except the ANC and its alliance. When we kill the ANC, we are dooming the aspirations and hopes of many people who still have confidence in our organisation.

I wish that all members of the ANC in our province North West could understand and remember that the ANC governs at the behest of the people, and its deployees lead at the behest of the ANC and leadership is accountable to general membership.

I wish we could jog our memories and recall that the ANC doesn't contest elections for its own sake, but for the sake of attaining and transforming state institutions and use that power to transform and change the lives of the people.

As individual members of the ANC, we must ask ourselves questions,



Comrade Moses Kotane

such as what are we doing to protect the legacy and ideas for which Mama Kotane, Malome Kotane, Malome JB Marks, Mama Ruth Mompoti and many other departed heroes of our province and the country stood and died for.

I am quite confident that upon her arrival at her destiny, she would meet with her husband, Malome Kotane, one of the revolutionaries whose mind was never on recess. She would surely give him an organisational report on the state of

his organisation, the ANC in North West, and the country in general.

Hopefully, later all the departed leaders of the ANC and the alliance would be convened to get a national report that Mama would present to Oliver Tambo, the longest serving President, together with other members and leaders who departed this world a long time ago. She should tell them that we have no respect for the ANC membership declaration, that we are self-serving members and leaders.

She'd say we behave as if the ANC owe us positions and deployment when we are deployed. We want to ensure that our relatives, friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands, wives and fellow family members are beneficiaries of government tenders and employment opportunities. We forget that we are supposed to be leading society.

Rest in peace mother of the revolution. ■



# Masterclass in resilience and recycling

■ By Sipho Mbhele

**A**FTER six months of lockdown, the South African economy is coming back to life. With this in mind, the PBF, in association with Life Retreat hosted an online Masterclass, or webinar, on resilience and recycling. The class forms part of the PBF's mandate to empower SMMEs with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive.



We live in a time when resolve is needed most, and confidence is the means to ensure inclusive growth. Resilience and recycling are the building blocks of a better future for all, which made them the obvious choices as the subjects to be discussed and dissected at this bold and important initiative.

## URGENT ACTION

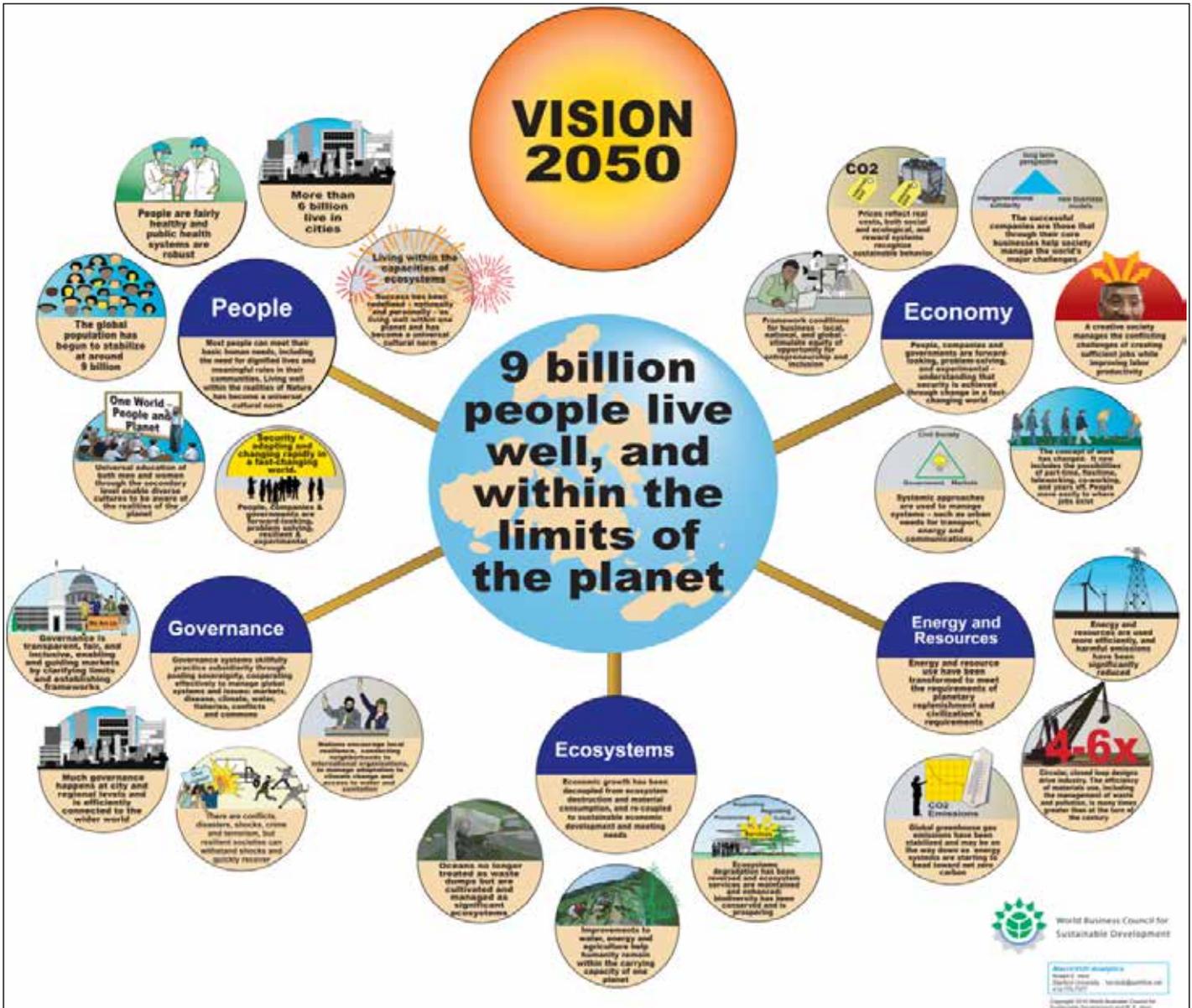
The PBF webinar was held just one day after the 75th United Nations General Assembly where, as an important sideline, a summit on biodiversity with the theme, ***“Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”***,

was held. In his address to the summit, President Ramaphosa echoed the sentiments of the Masterclass when he said that, *“The coronavirus pandemic has badly affected the ability of national economies to respond to challenges like environmental degradation and climate change. In pursuit of sustainable development, our recovery strategies can, and should, strike a balance between environmental and economic imperatives. As responsible global citizens, we need to change our behaviour and consumption patterns and integrate approaches to improve conservation of species and ecosystems. As we emerge from the corona-*

*virus pandemic, not only must we raise the ambition of our biodiversity targets, but we must also ensure that the recovery effort fosters greater and not less harmony with nature. Through improved awareness, collaboration and collective determination, we can ensure that we build back both better and greener.”*

## A CALL TO ACTION

There is a telling proverb that states, *“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”* The proverb, together with the words of President Ramaphosa, is a call to action for all of us to change



our personal behaviour and recycle where we can in order to stop climate change. And there are more benefits.

**REVIVING THE JOB MARKET**

Statistics South Africa released the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) which revealed that 2.2 million people lost their jobs in the second quarter of 2020. Recycling as an industry can turn back the trend as it undoubtedly contributes to job creation and is yet another way to recover after COVID. In the words of the president:

*“Our success in responding to this unprecedented crisis will be measured by the speed of our labour market recovery. We must ensure that every job lost during the crisis is replaced and that more jobs are created so that we can meaningfully reduce unemployment.”*

*“Our recovery strategies can, and should, strike a balance between environmental and economic imperatives.”*

**LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE**

The author Robert Swan said that, “The greatest threat to our planet

is the belief that someone else will save it.”

The webinar served as a timely reminder that sustainable development, biodiversity and recycling is the obligation and duty of all countries of the world – and a multilateral approach is required to place the global community on a path towards realising the goal of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, which is to work towards a world where humans are living in harmony with nature

\* First published in *Business Update*, Issue 19.

# Celebrating 168 years of José Martí

■ *By Phatse Justice Piitso*

**H**UNDRED and sixty eight years ago, on the 28th of January 1853, the welcoming sound of a trumpet reverberated, exuding the happiest resonance into the deeper springs of our mother nature, announcing the birth of a revered philanthropist of the struggles for humanity, José Julian Martí Perez. Today, the birth of this towering colossus from our mother nature is testimony of his greatness as his profound ideas and magnanimity continue to live and will never die.



The heroic nation of Cuba conferred on its illustrious son the title of Apostle of their revolutionary struggle and the founding father of their epic struggles for independence. As we celebrate the birthday of this organic intellectual of our age, and as we cherish his paradox of love, his being, his tenacity and selflessness, his devotion and dedication to the sacred revolutionary cause, we undoubtedly declare him not only to be the Apostle of the great nation of Cuba, but an Apostle of the revolutionary firmament and the worldwide struggles for emancipation of all of humanity.

He was an imaginable powerhouse of a genius, a profound thinker and an eminent writer, a prolific poet, a seasoned diplomat, educator, patriot and an all-round revolutionary. He was indeed a beacon illuminating the

glorious path of our struggle, not only for the liberation of the people of the beautiful Caribbean island of Cuba, but for the whole of the Latin American hemisphere and indeed the world.

His fervent desire for freedom and equality, saw him later banished from Spain, Mexico, Guatemala and Venezuela for his opposition against the enslavement of the African people, against the horrors of abuses by military dictatorships and colonial governments. He was tremendously inclined to his philosophical proposition that his homeland is humanity.

In his lifetime, he discovered his immense love and hobby for writing, a weapon that he used its prospects to express his inner feelings, and understanding of the world material conditions.

He wrote such marvellous and thought provoking theoretical works such as the Spanish and the Cuban revolution, simple verses, the memorial meeting in honour of Karl Marx, mother America, Simon Bolivar, Guatemala, the funeral of the hay-market martyrs, and many others.

In the publication of *La Patria Libre*, he wrote extensively about the ten years war of 1868-1878, during which the Cuban landowners, together with the peasants and the slave movement, waged a fierce struggle for the independence of Cuba and the freedom of the slave people, against the Spanish colonial domination. As a consequence, he was subsequently arrested for his support for the insurrection and criticism of those supporting the Spanish colonial power, the reason which led to his banishment to Spain.



Wall mural in Havana, Cuba. Translated, the message reads: SANE LOVE IS NOT LOVE.

His arrival in Spain came simultaneously with the proclamation of the first Spanish Republic in 1873, when he published an open letter addressed to the head of the new Spanish government, Don Estanislao Figueras, titled the Spanish republic and the Cuban revolution. This was one of the most decisive theoretical interventions by José Martí on his firm views about the necessity of the struggle for the independence of the people of Cuba.

Whilst in the United States of America, Martí formed the Cuban Revolutionary Party. Its and its strategic objective was to conduct the struggle for the overthrow of the puppet Spanish colonial government in Cuba. Together with General Maximo Gomez and General Antonio Maceo, the son of Mariana Grajales, the mother of the Cuba nation, he established an underground movement to commence with the armed struggle in Cuba.

Jóse Martí was killed by the Spanish forces during the war for independence of 1895, and his death and ideas symbolised him as a martyr of liberation for the independence and freedom

of the people of Cuba and Latin America. It was during this war that the defeat of Spanish troops led to the annexation of Cuba and its territory of Guantanamo by the American empire.

On the day of the anniversary celebration of the birthday of Apostle Jóse Martí, we again make a call to the American government, to the newly elected President of the United States of America, President Joe Biden, to bring to an end the decades-long economic sanctions against the people of Cuba. The economic blockade against the Republic of Cuba by the government of the United States constitute a crime against humanity.

Nowhere in the history records of the world, has a powerful empire such as the United States of America, besieged such a small country as the Republic of Cuba, with illegal economic sanctions, for a period of more than half a century. This is an untold story unprecedented in the history of the development of human society.

To us, the people of South Africa, the people of the Southern African region, the people of the

African continent and the whole world of humanity, the heroic nation of Cuba continues to be a living candle which continues to light others. In them, we find happiness during our greatest and darkest times, the hope they instil is like a sun, that gives eternal light to humanity.

The Cuban revolution remains to be an example of what the world of solidarity and internationalism represents. No amount of counter revolutionary offensive and propaganda will tear apart this great nation of Apostle Jóse Martí.

His memory will last forever and will never die, as we celebrate the anniversary of his birthday today, we shall forever be inspired by his exemplary leadership, a nation will never say goodbye to its commander. Martí lives amongst us and his ideas are the stronghold of the better world we want to build for all – a true homeland to all humanity. ■

**Ambassador Phatse Justice Piitso**, is now the Chief of staff in the office of the Secretary General of the African National Congress. He wrote this article in his personal capacity.



# Remembering Thami Mhlambiso, the ANC's first envoy to the United Nations

**T**HAMI Mhlambiso, the first Chief Representative of the African National Congress to New York, and the first Representative of the ANC to the United Nations, died on Sunday 24 January 2020 in Millsboro, Delaware in the United States from complications due to COVID-19.

Mhlambiso was widely known for his historic roles in fighting the apartheid government of South Africa as a student leader, in spearheading the ANC's drive to force the disinvestment of American institutions from his homeland, and for his forceful articulation on the world stage of the inhumanity of the apartheid regime.

As Vice President of the National Union of South African Students in 1960, he led a student resistance at the University of Fort Hare against the imposition and extension of apartheid education at the institution. In 1963, Mhlambiso was imprisoned and, upon his release in 1967, he and his young family were forced into exile by the South African government.

At the direction of the ANC, Mhlambiso left London in 1972 in order to establish a new office in New York as part of the organization's strategy to delegitimize the South African regime across the world, and particularly in the United States.



By 1975, Mhlambiso had succeeded in securing observer status for the ANC at the United Nations, and he served as the ANC's first representative to that body. He was known for delivering fiery speeches to the United Nations Security Council, for his unassuming demeanour and for his popularity with delegates to the United Nations. From 1978, Mhlambiso joined the United Nations itself as a member of its Anti-Apartheid Radio where he covered prominent anti-apartheid figures and pertinent issues of the day.

An avid golfer from his youth, he taught the sport to several southern African ambassadors. A dynamic, uncompromising and independent-minded leader, Mhlambiso was regarded as a lifelong political mentor by many within the ANC.

Mhlambiso was born on 25 March 1938 at Amathole Basin in the Eastern Cape Province. He was the first son of Nkosi Vumindaba Mhlambiso of the Radebe clan of the AmaHlubi people, and of Ivy Mhlambiso of the Tembu clan of the AmaXhosa people. He earned a BA in English from University of Natal in 1964, and he pursued a master's degree at London School of Economics.

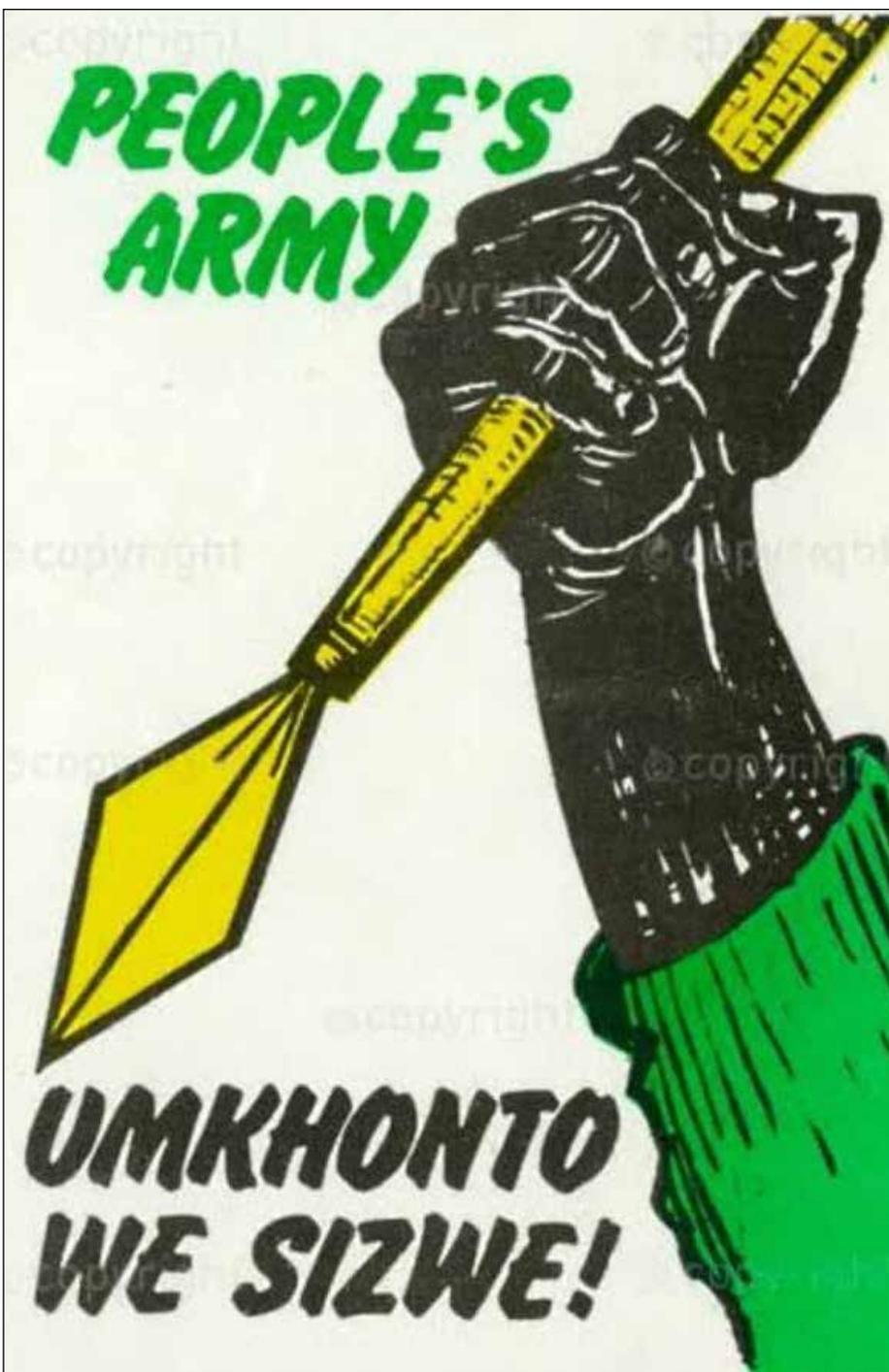
Comrade Thami Mhlambiso is survived by his former wife Nobubele Mhlambiso, son Thando Mhlambiso, daughter Thembisa Mhlambiso, daughter-in-law Marlaina Balaban, son-in-law Ken Rivera, granddaughter Tickle Mhlambiso, sister Nompumelelo Mhlambiso, and by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

***Lala ngoxolo, Radeb'omhle!*** ■

# TRIBUTE TO CDE SIZWE KANI MOTSEPE

## A humble servant of his people

■ By Mikki Xayiya



**R**ESPONDING to the call and challenge by the ANC leadership to the youth of our country in the wake of the 16th June 1976 students uprising in Soweto, but which soon spread to other major centres of our country, to swell the ranks of the people's army Umkhonto We Sizwe our young people wasted no time in taking up this revolutionary clarion call..

By the second half of the 70s, the ANC underground was gradually beginning to come of age. A discernible network of underground structures was in place mainly composed of, and constituted by old ANC activists who'd survived the 60s apartheid onslaught that saw many either incarcerated or eliminated; including released political prisoners who'd served time at the notorious Robben Island Maximum Security Prison and other prisons in the country.

These were joined and reinforced by a new layer of younger activists thrown in by the various youth, students, workers and community struggles that were beginning to make their mark in the fight against apartheid.

It was precisely in this highly charged environment of struggle and resistance that Cde Sizwe Kani was drawn into the politics of the African National Congress.

He obviously had as his inspiration the background sketched above and the moral indignation and political awakening provoked by the everyday encounters with apartheid legislation, unyielding in its brutality and downright petty at times if only just to humiliate the African majority.

1976 found him in Maseru, Lesotho where soon after his arrival he was fully integrated into the leading structures of the ANC.

Having skipped the country, Cde Sizwe was based at a transit facility in New Europa, just outside the Lesotho capital of Maseru. He was a member of the Screening Committee alongside comrades such as Andrew Kgoti, Inspector Mtolo, Ngalitye Ondala, Zukile Nomvete and Zolile Nippy Magugu.

Between 1979-1980, he underwent MK military training in Quibaxe in Angola and the German Democratic Republic. In all these instances he distinguished himself as an upright and diligent cadre who discharged his responsibilities as a commander with humour and humility, ever at hand to lend a helping hand and words of encouragement to struggling comrades.

After his military training, the leadership of Umkhonto we Sizwe, recognising his abilities, his tried and tested trustworthiness and dependability, resolved to deploy him as one of the officers at Camp 32, a facility of the ANC Department of Intelligence and Security. Here again Cde Sizwe distinguished himself as a diligent officer always leading by example and beloved of his comrades.

And when a group of mutineers stormed the armoury in Pango and started shooting indiscrimi-

nately at comrades deemed by them loyalists, Sizwe, deployed in that camp as part of security, managed to slip out to alert the MK regional military command about what had transpired in that camp. Soon an MK combat group was sent to retake the camp and apprehend the shooters who had shot our comrades in cold blood without provocation. This was followed by a tribunal where those involved in the killing of our comrades were handed sentences.

A good account of these events is well covered in the ANC appointed Stuart Commission and in the movement's submission to the TRC, the documents are all there in the public domain. It was a very tragic and sad turn of events from which the necessary events were drawn.

Cde Sizwe's heroic life was both exemplary and worthy of emulation. He enlisted in Umkhonto we Sizwe when there were no rewards, none whatsoever, when

there were no positions to clamour nor fight for, but just responsibilities – the burden of leading in the frontline.

On coming back home he did not do so as a conquering hero demanding and looking the spoils of war nor sought entitlements on account of his struggle credentials. He came back as a humble servant of his people, who was always at hand to render pastoral care to many of our MK comrades who were facing serious material and psychological hardships. He was there to console the families of our dear departed cadres. We shall miss him deeply.

***Hamba kahle soja lenguquko. Sepela ga botse Kgabo.***



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Maximum contributions of 600 words, in an accessible language – any South African language – adequately referenced. We reserve the right to edit articles.

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# Tribute to the “first lady of song”

## SIBONGILE KHUMALO

■ By Saul Pelle

**S**IBONGILE Khumalo was born in Orlando West, Soweto, on September 24 1957. Her grandfather was a maskandi artist, her father, Khabi Mngoma, a professor of music and her mother, Grace, a nurse with a powerful alto voice.

Khumalo showed musical promise from an early age and at the age of eight was taken under the wing of celebrated musician Emily Motsieloa, studying violin, singing, drama and dance.

She was exposed to the sounds of legendary local musicians including Letta Mbulu and Miriam Makeba, and the drumbeats of local traditional healers and the Zion Christian Church. As a child she wanted to be a doctor, but could not hide the stirrings of an ambition to one day sing opera on the world stage.

Khumalo’s parents encouraged her to reach for her dreams, but opportunities were limited for a young black girl wanting to be an opera singer in apartheid-era SA. Mngoma knew that for his daughter to fulfill her wish she would need to study overseas, a prospect that seemed impossible for the family at the time, so he encouraged her to try something else.



She finished matric, and, noticing the lack of music teachers in black communities, enrolled for a BA in music at the University of Zululand, and later a BA honours from Wits University. She also obtained a higher diploma in personnel management.

She found work as a music teacher, administrator and researcher at the University of Zululand, Federated Union of Black Artists (Fuba) and Madimba Institute of African Music at Soweto’s Funda Centre. She also concentrated her studies on Zulu, Sotho and Tsonga musical heritage.

However, her talent was not to be denied and after years of studying and teaching music, she decided to take the plunge as a vocalist. After launching her full-time singing career in 1992 at Kippies Jazz International, she won the Standard Bank Young Artist Award at 1993’s Grahamstown Arts Festival for her sellout show, The Three Faces of Sibongile Khumalo.

Her mix of opera, oratorio and classical music with African traditional elements won her audiences around the world.

She performed at some of the

world's most prestigious venues, including the Royal Festival and Royal Albert halls in London, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC and Het Muziektheater in Amsterdam.

President Nelson Mandela hailed her as “the first lady of song”.

As the Covid-19 pandemic took hold on the nation and crippled the arts industry, Khumalo showed her resilience and adaptability by performing for a virtual audience from an empty 1,300-seat Opera Theatre at the South African State Theatre in September last year.

It would be her last major performance before recurring health struggles saw her in and out of hospital.

Sibongile Khumalo was awarded the National Order of Ikhamanga in Silver in 2008 for her excellent contribution to the development of South African art and culture in the musical fields of jazz and opera.

President Ramaphosa said: *“This is a moment of great sadness for all of us who were mesmerised and moved by the power, sensuality and improvisation of Sibongile Khumalo’s unique voice.”*

*“Not only was she an unmistakable voice on concert stages around our country and the world, but she was a voice of advocacy for the performing arts, for the rights and place of women in our society, and for human rights at large.”*

*“As a music academic, she was also a voice of instruction and inspiration to new generations of artists who had the privilege of learning from a performer who was at the pinnacle of her career. “We will miss her greatly.”*



## ▶ Getting to know your Covid-19 Vaccines



### ▶ Knowing the Facts



#### Myth: Vaccines are unsafe and rushed

**Fact:** No step in the development and testing of the COVID-19 vaccines has been skipped. Millions of people who have already taken the vaccine have NOT become ill or died.



#### Myth: The vaccine will change my DNA

**Fact:** Some people think that because some of the vaccines are made using RNA technology, it means the RNA will interact with their DNA. The vaccine CANNOT change your DNA.



#### Myth: Vaccines contain microchips to track and control people

**Fact:** There is NO microchip or any other substance in a vaccine that can be used to track or control people.



#### Myth: 5G networks cause the coronavirus through radiation emissions

**Fact:** Viruses CANNOT travel on radio waves and mobile networks. COVID-19 is spreading in many countries that do not have 5G mobile networks.



#### Myth: The Vaccines have the mark of the Beast - 666

**Fact:** Vaccines have no connection with any religious organisations and cannot be infused with spirits, demons or other abstract ingredients. There is no conspiracy to possess, bewitch or control anybody.

# Q&A

■ By Leo Ndabambi

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Nonceba Molwele

### 1. Cde Nonceba, please tell us about yourself.

My name is Nonceba Molwele and I was born in Johannesburg. I went to school in the former Transkei in the rural areas of Umzimkhlu which is now under Harry Gwala District. Later I came back to Johannesburg in the early 80's and joined organized labour and became a shop steward for a number of times. I joined Soweto Civic association before it became SANCO, when it was still Civic. In time I joined the ANC Women's League and the ANC. In the year 2000 I was deployed by the ANC to the local government as a PR Councillor, so I have been in local government since 2000 to date.

I have occupied a number of positions on the City of Johannesburg, like being Chairperson of a portfolio committee, which was an infrastructure service at the time. Also, I was part of the pilot of the separation of powers between the legislature and the executive, as Johannesburg was piloting the separation of powers. I was the Chief Whip and the first Female Chief Whip of Council after the metro council was developed, the amalgamation of different local councils of Johannesburg metro council. So, I was the first female Chief Whip at the time.

I became the Chair of Chairs; and also occupied the position of being the MMC of Health and Social Development from 2011 to 2016. After 2016 we were on the opposition benches and I was a shadow MMC and in the



*Comrade Nonceba Molwele*

committee of Health and Social Development, where we fought for the return of the city of Johannesburg. I then became a speaker after the return of Johannesburg. I am also a member of the Regional Executive Committee of the ANC. I was also the deputy secretary of the region at some point, but I started at the branch.

### 2. What do you think leaders of society should learn from the past leaders, especially the likes of Mam Charlotte Maxeke, taking into account that 2021 has been declared as the "Year of Unity, Renewal and Reconstruction in the year of Charlotte Maxeke?"

Mam Charlotte Maxeke was very passionate about the pride of the peo-

ple. It was never about herself, but it was more about serving the people. I think what people should learn is that leadership is not about you as a person. It's not about your pocket, but it is about serving as even in our oath when you join the ANC it says that you are joining this organization without any aim of having something in return. It is about serving the people. The Organization we belong to is the leader of society.

### 3. What are your most outstanding leadership qualities that make you a better leader and what are your shortcomings?

It is to follow in the footsteps of Mam Charlotte Maxeke, as I have said serving the people first and not your own. It is about knowing you represent the organisation, not yourself but the organisation called the African National Congress. For an example, people are not going to say Nonceba is doing wrong things but they will say: "Do you see what the ANC is doing?" so leadership qualities is about being a good, disciplined leader that unifies people. In terms of short comings, it's about making sure you don't reach the ceiling, at some point you learn from other people. It's also to listen to other people and be lead.

### 4. How do you think we can fight the second pandemic of GBV and the LGBTQI+?

For me to fight it, we all have to collaborate with all members of society.

The mistake we do as leaders is we talk to the victims only. There are good men out there; there are men's organisations and men's forums. We need to nature a society that cares about women and children and people's rights. The LGBTQI+ society are human beings and it is a choice of a person to choose how you want to live your life. This country is a country that observes human rights. If we know what human rights are, we can be a better society. Those that think they have the right to violate other people's rights must be brought to book because rights come with responsibilities.

**5. What moment in your life stands out from the rest as your proudest so far?**

WOW! When I do good for the people every day. For example I was visiting schools today and appreciating the teachers, when I see people smile and say thank you, ngiyabonga, it makes my proud moments that I had put a smile on someone's face.



**6. What would you say about the adherence to the COVID-19 Regulations especially from the most vulnerable and poorest to the more astute?**

Our government is doing its best to educate our communities about COVID-19. We grew up being told to wash our hands. So, now it is to emphasise to wash our hands, wear our masks and practice social distancing. Now that we have a vaccine, we have a task to educate our communities about the conspiracy theories around the vaccines.

**7. What would you say about the upcoming vaccine that has started arriving this month?**

We encourage everyone to vaccinate and weaken the false theories spread about the vaccine because our government has done a lot to expedite the arrival of these vaccines. If people don't vaccinate, it means all the endeavors done will be in vain.

**8. What is your motto?**

**Make the best out of life.**



6–12 February 2021

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

■ **6 February 1993**  
**Arthur Ashe, tennis star and anti-apartheid icon passed on**



Arthur Robert Ashe, a prominent African American tennis player who was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia died on 6 February 1993. He died of complications from AIDS after contracting HIV from a blood transfusion during heart surgery. Ashe, a vocal and long-time protester against apartheid, was approved a visa to visit South Africa in 1973. This was after a number of refusals. He became the first black player to win a title – a doubles match – in the South African Open. During his career, Ashe won three Grand Slam titles, making him the first black man to win the singles title at Wimbledon, the US Open, and the Australian Open. He also set a record in 1968, winning both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S Open championships. For 12 years, Ashe was ranked among the world's top ten tennis players. He was ranked number one in both 1968 and 1975. He was one of the founders of the powerful Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) in 1972; he served as the organisation's president.

■ **7 February 1966**  
**Sobukwe clause in amended Suppression of Communism Act**

The Suppression of Communism Amendment Bill provides for the extension by a further year the power of the Minister of Justice to detain prisoners convicted under the Suppression of Communism Act for further periods after the expiry of their sentences. This power had been applied to Robert Sobukwe and his detention will be extended.

■ **7 February 1983**  
**Cedric Mayson charged with Treason**



Cedric Mayson, former Methodist Minister, was editor of the Christian Institute's journal, *Pro Veritate*, and was banned for five years in 1977, together with Beyers Naude. He was detained on 27 November 1981, and appeared before the Pretoria Supreme Court on charges including treason and being a member or an active supporter of the African National Congress (ANC) on 7 February 1983. His co-accused were Alan Fine, Sisa Njikelana, Thozamile Gqwetha and Sam Kikine. He was released on bail, fled the country and arrived in Britain the day before his case was due to resume on 18

April 1983. Rev Cedric Mayson served as Chaplain of the ANC, until his retirement. He passed away in 2015.

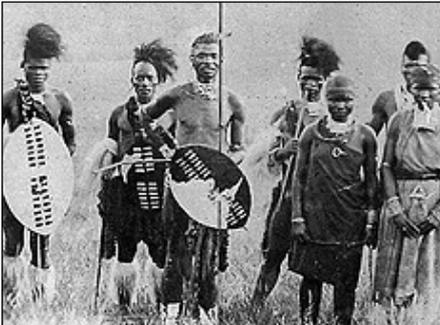
■ **8 February 1994**  
**King Cetshwayo passed on**



King Cetshwayo was born to Mpande, who was King Shaka's half brother in 1826. His father declared him his successor very early on in life, which was unusual for a King to do. As Cetshwayo grew older, he began to undermine his father's authority and assumed control of the kingdom. By the time Mpande died, he was only King by name as Cetshwayo had long taken over the decision making. The British grew worried as they watched Cetshwayo's military power grow rapidly. The British orchestrated a plan to annex the kingdom. The Zulus were given an ultimatum, Cetshwayo should forsake his sovereignty and his army should disarm. When Cetshwayo rejected the ultimatum, war broke out. The Zulus won the battle of Isandlwana but lost the battle of Ulundi. He died on 8 February 1884. Despite a prior attempt to assassinate him, it is possible that his death was caused by a heart attack, rather than the poisoning rumored at the time.



### ■ 8 February 1906 Start of the Bambatha rebellion



Natal, in the early years of the 20th century was the site of conflict between Colonial Administrators and autonomous African kingdoms. The death of Cetshwayo in Eshowe in 1884, the last of the independent Zulu kings, left the task of resistance to colonial rule to be pursued by minor chiefs. By 1906, one of the most formidable of these chiefs, Bambatha, resisted colonial measures imposing a poll tax on his subjects in addition to the hut tax. This led to, first, a standoff between him and the colonial officials. Bambatha was determined to resist the 1 pound poll tax imposed by the colonial government. The divisional magistrate in Bambatha's area, T. R. Bennet was equally determined to carry out the task of collecting taxes from Bambatha's subjects.

When Bennet arrived in Bambatha's homestead, he was threatened by Bambatha and those he mobilized. The next day the colonial government dispatched a party of fourteen policemen under the leadership of Sub Inspector Hunt to arrest Bambatha and the rebels. Two policemen were killed and the rest were forced to retreat. It became clear that Bambatha was not to be intimidated. This marked the beginning of the Bambatha Rebellion.

### ■ 9 February 1874 Nkosi Langalibalele banished to Robben Island

While inhabiting the area near present day Estcourt in the Drakensberg foothills, Langalibalele – a hereditary chief of the Hlubi – was summonsed to Pietermaritzburg for failure to register firearms. The Hlubi had received these firearms as a form of payment from the owners of diamond mines. After refusing to go to Pietermaritzburg, a force was sent against Langalibalele. He subsequently fled the colony, but three of the colonial troops were killed in a clash on the Bushman's River Pass. Deemed to be in rebellion, the Hlubi chief was captured and sent to Pietermaritzburg where he was put on trial by a kangaroo court which consisted of substantial procedural irregularities. Lieutenant-Governor Sir Benjamin Pine punished the Hlubi by breaking up their location, confiscating their cattle, and imprisoning Langalibalele on Robben Island. Langalibalele was therefore one of the first Black activists to be banished to Robben Island, nearly a century before Nelson Mandela and numerous other activists were imprisoned there.

### ■ 9 February 1955 Sophiatown residents forcefully removed



In the early hours of 9 February 1955, around 2 000 policemen, armed with guns, knobkerries and

rifles, forcefully moved the families of Sophiatown to Meadowlands, Soweto. Their possessions were loaded at the back of police trucks, and dumped in Meadowlands where they were forced to stay. With their children, these families were exposed to cold and rainy weather conditions. The forced removals were part of the government's countrywide apartheid plan to turn the residential and business areas of cities and towns white. More than 60,000 residents from Sophiatown were forcefully removed. A new, white suburb was built on the ruins of Sophiatown and named Triomf.

### ■ 9 February 1968 SWAPO activists sentenced by Pretoria court

The presiding judge in the Pretoria terrorist trial, Justice Ludorf convicted the thirty men accused of conspiring to overthrow the South West Africa administration (now known as Namibia). All accused were handed prison sentences ranging from five years to life. Nineteen were sentenced to life imprisonment, while nine and two others were sentenced to twenty and five years respectively. Those sentenced in this trial include SWAPO leaders Toivo Ya Toivo, Eliaser Tuhadeleni and Nathaniel Maxuillili. At the time of the trial, the country was under South African administration, placed by the League of Nations at the end of the First World War in 1919. Toivo Ya Toivo made a widely publicized speech at the trial, where he stated: *"We are Namibians, and not South Africans. We do not now, and will not in the future, recognise your right to govern us; to make laws for us, in which we had no say; to treat our country as if it was your property and us as if you are our masters. We have always regarded South Africa as an intruder*

in our country. This is how we have always felt and this is how we feel now and it is on this basis that we have faced this trial". Toivo was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and served his sentence on Robben Island. In 1990 Namibia gained independence from South Africa.

### ■ 9 February 1978 Winnie Mandela receives 6 months sentence



Winnie Mandela, restricted to the town of Brandfort, in the then Orange Free State, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment (suspended for four years) for breaking her banning and house arrest order by receiving unauthorised visits by friends and relatives.

### ■ 10 February 1988 UDF Activist Pearl Tshabalala assassinated

Ms Pearl Tshabalala, a prominent businesswoman and member of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in Clermont, Durban, who had resisted moves to incorporate Clermont into the KwaZulu homeland state, was fatally shot. This was allegedly done by Caprivi trainees led by Daluxolo Luthuli. Luthuli acted on instruction from Samuel Jamile, former deputy minister of the KwaZulu government. Tshabalala was shot in front of her five-year-old child as she was leaving her business in Clermont. Her as-

sassination was also served before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

### ■ 10 February 1991 17 million people arrested for pass violations



Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok said that between 1921 and 1986 more than 17 million people had been arrested under influx control laws in South Africa.

### ■ 11 February 1966 District Six forced removals commence



On 11 February 1966, the mixed race residential area of District Six in Cape Town was declared a "White area" under the 1950 Group Areas Act of the apartheid government.

### ■ 11 February 2000 Nelson Mandela Museum opened in Mthatha

The Nelson Mandela Museum is a three component structure comprising of a museum in Mthatha,

a visitors' centre in Mvezo and a youth centre in Qunu, all in the Eastern Cape. The museum was opened by then President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela himself on 11 February 2000, exactly ten years since his release from prison. Positioned in the area of his birth, the museum receives tourists from all over the globe. The Bhunga building in town usually holds exhibitions of Mandela memorabilia such as gifts the late statesman has received throughout his life. The Mvezo visitor's centre situated at Mandela's birth place offers visitors a glimpse into his early childhood. The Qunu Youth Centre, situated in the place where Mandela and his mother took refuge and where he grew up, gives visitors an experience of his school years and young adulthood.

### ■ 12 February 1930 Sculptor born Tavhana born South African sculptor Tshikudo Paul Tavhana (also Thavhana), was born in Dzanani, Limpopo Province.

### ■ 12 February 1982 Journalist Thami Mazwai jailed



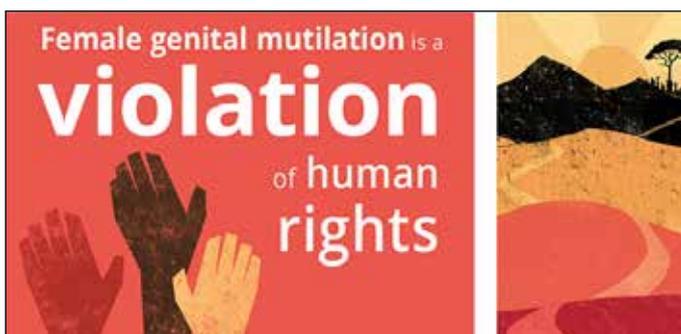
On 12 February 1982 journalist Thami Mazwai was jailed for two years after refusing to present facts against a former fellow student-leader charged under the Terrorism Act. At the time Mazwai was a journalist with the Sowetan.

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS

6–12 February 2021

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

### 6 February International Day Against Female Genital Mutilation



Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women. Girls who undergo female genital mutilation face short-term complications such as severe pain, shock, excessive bleeding, infections, and difficulty in passing urine, as well as long-term consequences for their sexual and reproductive health and mental health. FGM is a universal problem, concentrated in 30 countries in Africa and the Middle East and is also practiced in some countries in Asia and Latin America and amongst immigrant populations in Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. The African Union has a continent-wide campaign to end FGM, with the president of Burkina Faso as the AU champion on the campaign. To date, 22 AU member states have legislation to criminalise female genital mutilation.

### 9 February Africa Safer Internet Day



Safer internet day celebrates how the internet can inform, connect and inspire all of us, but also on the importance of a safe internet, safe from bullying, predators, abuse, racism, homophobia, sexism and misogyny.

In 2019, over 71% of children were online, according to the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF). At the same time, due to work and other pressures, parents and guardians have less and less time, and often the knowledge to guide their children's engagements with the internet. With increasing digitalization, children are more able to get access to education, to connect to peers and to use the enormous potential the internet provides to them. As the world battle the Coronavirus pandemic, with 1.2 billion children out of school due to lockdowns, more and more are dependent on the internet and on-line learning to continue with education.

This awareness day is aimed at young people, to help them know what to trust online, supporting young people to question, and to challenge and change the online world for the better. In most of Africa, it also focuses on access to the internet and data.

### 10 February World Pulses Day

Pulses, also known as legumes, are the edible seeds of leguminous plants cultivated for food. Dried beans, lentils and peas are the most commonly known and consumed types of pulses. Staple dishes and cuisines from across the world feature pulses, from hummus made of chickpeas, to beans or to dhal made of peas or lentils. Pulses are packed with nutrients and have a high protein content.



They are also low in fat and rich in soluble fiber, which can lower cholesterol and help control blood sugar levels. The nitrogen-fixing properties of pulses improve soil fertility, which increases and extends the productivity of the farmland.

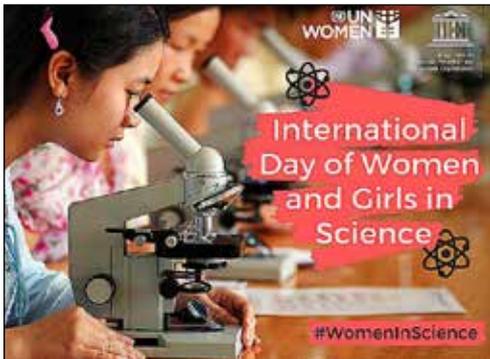
## ■ 8 February

### International Epilepsy Day

An estimated 65 million people are living with epilepsy around the world. To have epilepsy is to have a tendency to have recurring seizures. Anyone can have a seizure if the brain is exposed to a strong enough stimulus. It is not necessarily a life-long diagnosis. South Africa also has national awareness day on epilepsy on 21 June each year.

## ■ 11 February

### International Day of Women and Girls in Science



The day celebrates the unrecognised role that women through the ages played in the sciences, and to promote their current

contributions and involvement in the science. Throughout the world, women make up 53% of bachelor and masters graduates and 43% of PhD graduates, but only 38% of them pursue careers as researchers and only 30% in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Globally, female students' enrolment is particularly low in ICT (3 per cent), natural science, mathematics and statistics (5 per cent) and in engineering, manufacturing and construction (8 per cent).

The African Union has been campaigning for more women and girls in science, including an annual award for the top African women scientist. Since 2011, there has been an increase in women researchers in South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Cameroon and Ethiopia.

According to UN Women "Science reflects the people who make it. The world needs science, and science needs women and girls." The global campaign is therefore for

- More women in STEM
- More role models for girls
- More girls choose studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- More innovators with diverse backgrounds
- Better solutions to global challenges.

## BOOK REVIEW

By Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule

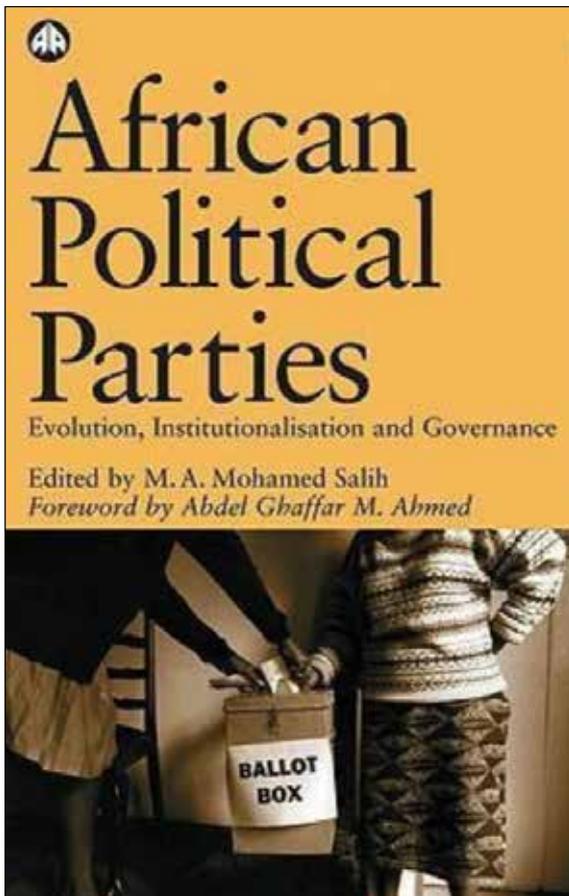
# Political Parties (Part 1)

**African Political Parties.** Evolution, Institutionalisation and Governance, Edited by MA Mohamed Salih (2003. Pluto Press)

**Handbook of Political Parties,** Edited by Richard S Katz and William Crotty (2009. Sage Publications)

IN APRIL this year we will celebrate 27 years (equal to the time Mandela spent in prison) of democracy. And, like them or not, political parties have been key to representative democracy and the evolution of our body politic. Although South Africa's is generally described as a 'dominant-party system', most of the major political parties, have had some experience of governance, as majority or in coalitions, as well as being in opposition.

The field of comparative research on political parties is over a century old, and there is much to be learnt from the evolution, organisation, change (or as we call it, 'renewal') or decline, impact of electoral systems, changes in the voting population, governance track records including performance in parliament and relationships with the state bureaucracy, the list goes on.



In **Part 1** of this series, we look at two such comparative studies, the first on **African political parties** edited by MA Mohamed Salih and the second a **Handbook of Political Parties** edited by Katz and Crotty. All three of these editors are part of a generation, along with the likes of Kenneth Janda, S Neuman, Peter Kopecky and Mair, Vickey Randall, who played an influential role in the comparative research on political parties.

**African Party Politics. Evolution, Institutionalisation and Governance** is divided into three parts as per the book title. The first, Evolution are studies of specific African parties, UNIP of Zambia, Chama Cha Mapinduzi of Tanzania, and a broader look at parties in specific national settings, Sudan, Ethiopia and Namibia. The second part deals with institutionalisation of parties, including the

themes of the institutional context of African multi-party politics in a more general context, and again specific chapters focusing on parties in Ghana and Kenya. The final part focuses on Governance, with two chapters focusing on Southern Africa.

**The Handbook of Party Politics**, as any good textbook does, delves and starts with the basics, Definition of Party covered over seven chapters looking at both historical evolution and more contemporary themes; the Functions of Party section with a further twelve chapters exploring different aspects of the functions of political parties, with

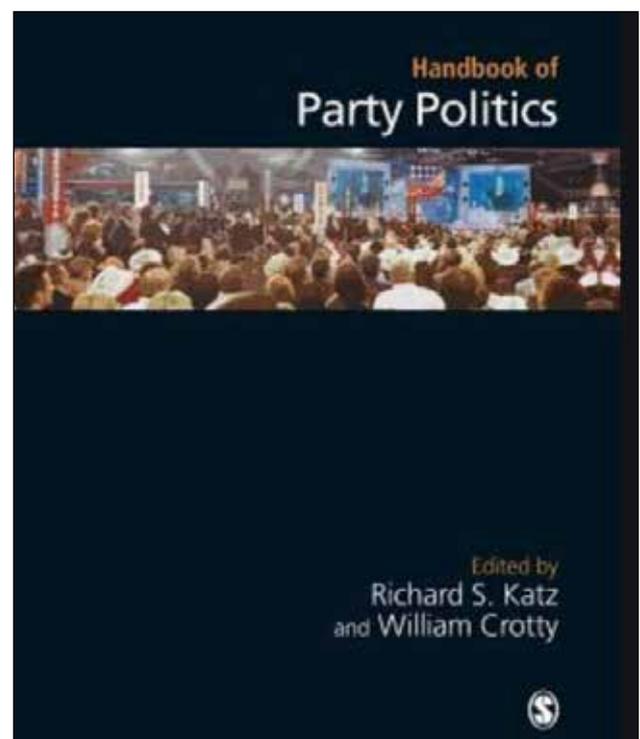
an emphasis on government, but also campaign environment and party finance amongst other themes. The third part looks at party organisation – different party models, movement parties, party membership and participation, electoral mobilisation, and professional staff and consultants in parties. The next two sections deal with common issues for comparative political party research: Party and Society and Party and the State, with a final section on Parties in the Future, most notably the emergence of cyber parties, parties in the media age, and

parties in the context of regional integration, in this instance the European Union.

Both these books are essential reading for understanding the basics when analysing political parties, as well as the unique situations of each country and region. But, as Salih (2003, p3) reminds us in his Introduction:

*“Parties are instruments of collective human action and creatures of political elite...In both instances, an organisational structure must be forged, money must be raised, cadres recruited, officers elected or selected, and procedures for internal governing established and agreed upon. In short, party building has a logic of its own.”*

Of course both these books are now nearly two decades old and much have changed across Africa and the world. In the next review we will look at the lessons from these studies for the ANC and South Africa, as well as some of the more recent comparative studies on political parties.



## 2020 Allan Kirkland Soga Lifetime Achievement Award Winner: **Zubeida Jaffer**

**T**HE Allan Kirkland Soga Lifetime Achievement Award recognises a sustained and extraordinary contribution to journalism. The winner will have demonstrated impeccable ethics and craft excellence. Their work will have enriched South African public life, their accomplishment achieved in the face of obstacles.

This year's winner's rich journalism career spans 40 years. It begins when, as an 18-year-old University of Cape Town student she walked into the Cape Argus newsroom seeking a holiday job. Little did she know that she was stepping into her future role as a news reporter and an inadvertent anti-apartheid activist.

*"I did not choose journalism. Journalism chose me,"* she says.

She had sent applications to seven companies for a holiday job and only the Argus Company had replied. She was called in for an interview and offered a job. She had expected to run errands and do odd jobs for the editor. The news editor had a different idea. Her first assignment was to take down details from a random caller, who was organising a camp for underprivileged children. She wrote her first report and she was hooked.

She later applied to Rhodes University where she was allowed to



complete the three-year journalism degree in two years.

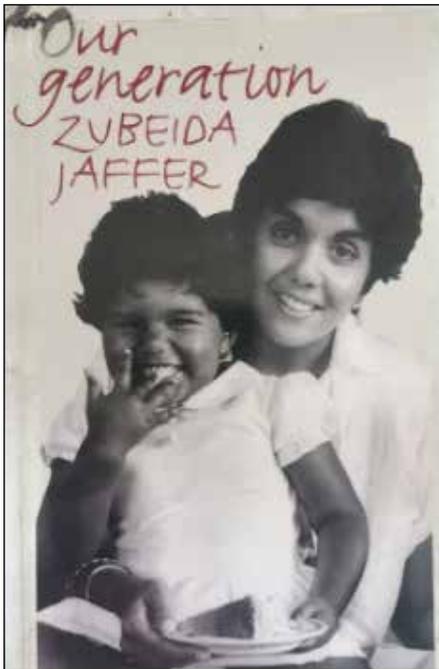
By 1980, she was firmly at the Cape Times, this time as a qualified reporter, and would also spend a short while at the Rand Daily Mail in Johannesburg that same year. All the while she was volunteering in developing the community newspaper, Grassroots, initiated by a group of local journalists. Grassroots helped bring together local community organisations. These organisations would grow and eventually combine to form the United Democratic Front (UDF) that led the uprising against apartheid.

Her reporting life started at the time of the uprisings in the Cape

and within six months led to her arrest and detention after exposing police killings on the Cape Flats. She was charged with possession of three banned books and acquitted. In 1981, her passport was withdrawn the day after she reported on University of the Western Cape (UWC) students burning the old South African flag. She was denied a passport for the next nine years.

She left the Cape Times and produced community and trade union media, helping to give voice to local communities. This led to another detention in 1986. She was pregnant at the time, was tortured but released without charge.

After her release and becoming a



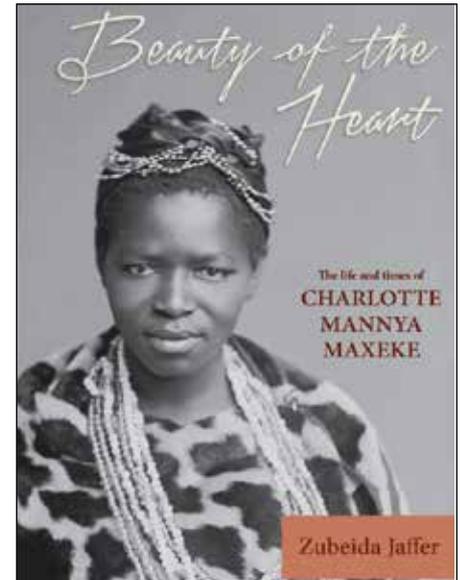
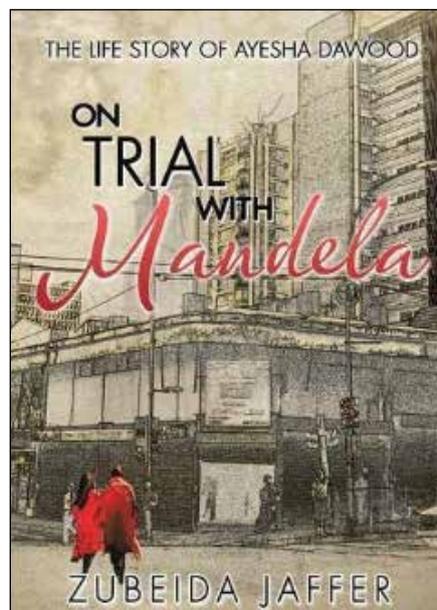
mother, she went to head up the media department at UWC between 1987 and 1989, covering the student and academic protests on the campus. By 1990 through to 1995, she became the southern Africa correspondent for Africa Information Afrique (AIA), an African-Canadian news agency. In 1994 she was elected to serve as one of seven media professionals on the Independent Media Commission for South Africa's first democratic elections. In 1995, she left for New York where she obtained a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University. Upon her return to South Africa in 1996, she became political editor of the Daily News in parliament. That same year she appeared at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to give her testimony of the atrocities she had endured under apartheid. The following year she became the founding editor of the Independent Newspapers parliamentary bureau.

Her work has earned her numerous local and international awards. These include the Muslim Views Achiever Award as well as the Honor Medal for Distinguished

Service to Journalism from the University of Missouri in the USA. In 1994, she became the first woman on the African continent to receive the Percy Qoboza Award from the National Association of Black Journalists in the USA. She has continued to write for newspapers and do radio and television interviews over the years but has also moved into writing books.

Her memoir, *Our Generation*, eloquently tells the story of her emotional journey through the years of South Africa's turbulence into a new democracy. It has been translated into Arabic. Her second book, *Love in the Time of Treason*, is the story of Ayesha Dawood of Worcester who was charged with treason alongside Mandela in the fifties. It is published internationally under the title, *On Trial with Mandela*.

Her third book, *Beauty of the Heart, the Life and Times of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke*, tells the story of a formidable South African woman leader who also became South Africa's first black female graduate. She wrote the book as writer-in-residence at the University of Free State (UFS).



She remains associated with the university as a research fellow. This has allowed her to co-edit a fourth book, *Decolonizing Journalism in South Africa: Critical Perspectives*, with three other academics. The book will be released in 2021.

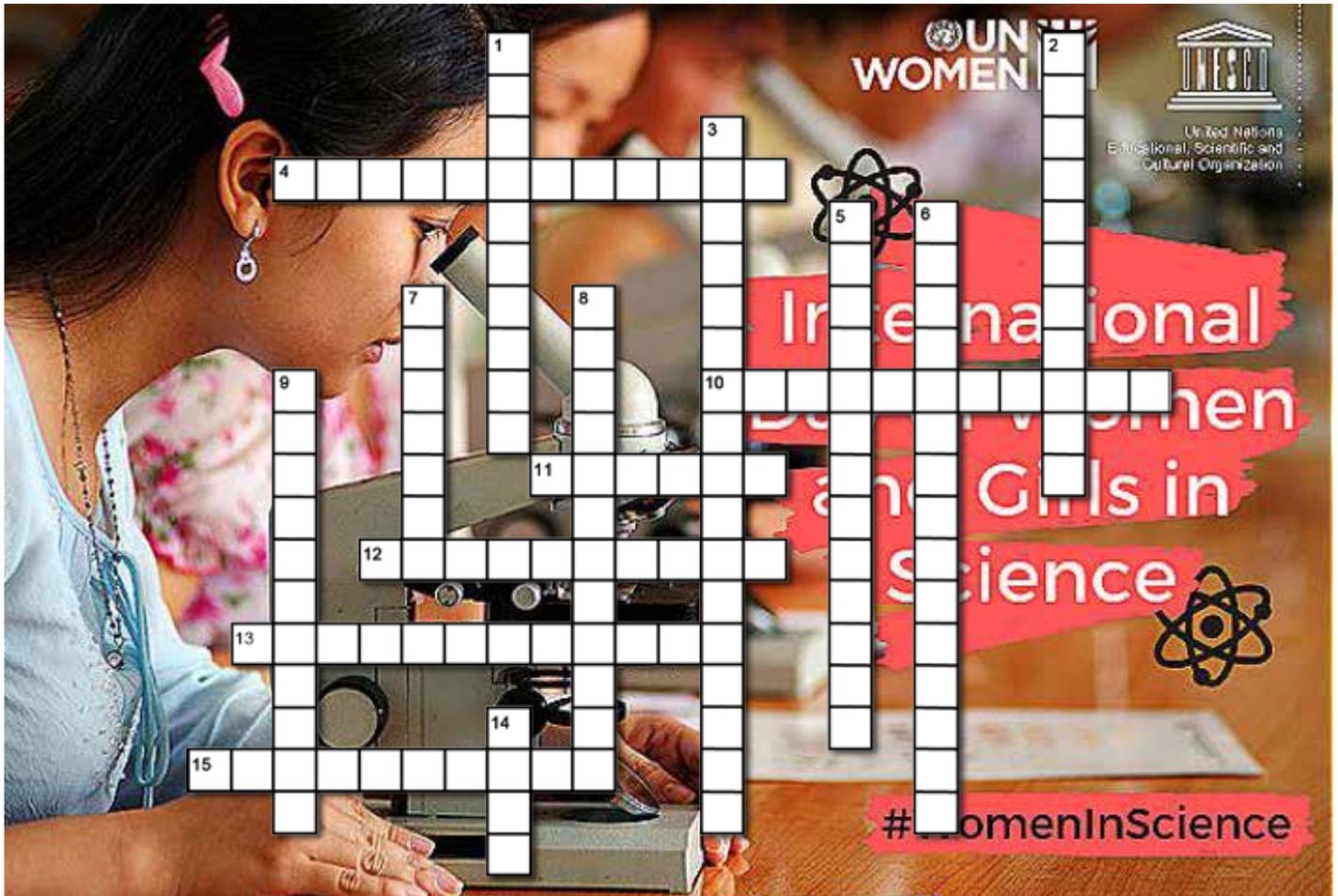
While at the UFS, she founded an online platform, [www.thejournalist.org.za](http://www.thejournalist.org.za), to introduce students to stories of African pioneer journalists that are ignored in university curricula. This portal links up with students and academics across the country and will soon be extended to the African continent and the Diaspora. This has been entirely created with local funds and represents an effort to decolonize journalism education.

She also curates her own news portal under her own name, [www.zubeidajaffer.co.za](http://www.zubeidajaffer.co.za), where she publishes her own articles and a selection of writings that have attracted her attention.

Later this year, she plans to launch her own publishing company called No 10 Publishers in an effort to build her own independent voice free from the vestiges and restrictions of past oppressions.

# International Day of Women and Girls in Science

11 February 2021



## ACROSS

4. South African Kiara Nirghin created a super absorbent polymer, used in water
10. E in STEM stands for ...
11. Kathrine Johnson was a pioneer of which space programme
12. Polish physicist, chemist, first women Nobel Prize winner, foundation for modern nuclear science
13. Marine biologist whose book Silent Spring raised awareness of damaging human activity on the environment
15. The T in STEM stands for ...

## DOWN

1. Percentage STEM students who are women
2. Iranian Maryam Mirzakhani won recognition for her work in which field?
3. US Navy Rear Admiral Grace Hopper was a
5. Brazilian physicist who thinks 'water is weird'
6. Hashtag for International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
7. Tu Youyou, Chinese chemist who discovered artemisinin, used to treat ...
8. Ethiopian Segenet Kelemu, a molecular plant pathologist, her research key to ...
9. M in STEM stands for ...
14. If you teach a girl to ..., she will change the world (Kenya).

## WORD BANK

thirty five

malaria

food security

#WomenInScience

Technology

conservation

Marcia Barbosa

Rachel Carson

Engineering

US NASA

Mathematics

computer scientist

Mathematics

Marie Curie

code