



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President



South Africa waging a **struggle** that puts **global solidarity** to the test

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

TWENTY years ago, South Africa was the site of victory in a lawsuit that pitted public good against private profit.

At the time, we were in the grip of the HIV/Aids pandemic, and sought to enforce a law allowing us to import and manufacture affordable generic antiretroviral medication to treat people with HIV and save lives.

In response, representatives of the pharmaceutical industry sued our government, arguing that such a move violated the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). This is a comprehensive multilateral agreement on intellectual property.

The case, dubbed '**Big Pharma vs Mandela**', drew widespread international attention. The lawsuit was dropped in 2001 after

massive opposition by government and civil society.

As a country, we stood on principle, arguing that access to life-saving medication was fundamentally a matter of human rights. The case affirmed the power of transnational social solidarity. Several developing countries soon followed our lead. This included implementing an interpretation of the World Trade Organization's

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(WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) that allowed them to import and manufacture generic antiretrovirals.

Years later, the world is in the grip of another deadly pandemic in the form of COVID-19. And once again, South Africa is waging a struggle that puts global solidarity to the test.

Alongside India, we have submitted a proposal to the WTO for a temporary waiver of certain aspects of TRIPS to facilitate wider access to technologies needed to produce vaccines and medicines. The idea is to rapidly scale up local production to ensure wider access to affordable and effective vaccines.

The waiver proposal currently enjoys the support of more than 100 countries. Last week the US gov-

ernment announced its support for the proposal, which will give the current negotiations added momentum.

The enforcement of intellectual property rights is critical to research and development and innovation in the quest for human progress.

But our position as South Africa is that such a waiver is necessary at this time. It is temporary and is in direct response to an emergency.

This is an unprecedented situation. It requires that all intellectual property, knowledge, technology and data related to COVID-19 health technologies be put at the disposal of all.

If we as the international community are truly committed to human rights and the values of equality and non-discrimination, vaccines

should be viewed as a global public good.

They should be made available to all, not just to the highest bidders.

A situation in which the populations of advanced, rich countries are safely inoculated while millions in poorer countries die in the queue would be tantamount to vaccine apartheid.

It will set a devastating precedent in our quest to realise a more egalitarian world and our ability to handle future pandemics.

Social responsibility for health is a recognised principle in the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights adopted by the international community in 2005.

It affirms that progress in science and technology must contribute to justice, equity and the interests



President Nelson Mandela joining hands with HIV/Aids activists for antiretrovirals to be accessible to all

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of broader humanity. It notes that the benefits of scientific research should be shared with society as a whole and within the international community, in particular with developing countries that face resource constraints.

Earlier this year, the UN's education, science and culture body UNESCO called for vaccine equity, noting that it was not just the right thing to do, but also the best way to control the pandemic, restore confidence and to reboot the global economy.

Currently, 55% of the existing vaccine manufacturing capacity is located in East Asia, 40% in Europe and North America, and less than 5% in Africa and South America. In the case of developing countries, much of this capacity is under-utilised.

South Africa is one of only five countries on the continent with vaccine production capacity. Although we have secured enough vaccine doses to reach 'population immunity', there will continue to be a need for vaccines. We are therefore preparing to bolster global vaccine manufacturing for COVID-19 and other major diseases. Existing facilities need to be repurposed and new capacity built.



I call on all South Africans to support this effort, and in particular civil society organisations that played a leading role during the HIV/Aids pandemic.

Civil society has a critical role in mobilising international support for this cause, particularly through international cooperation with like-minded organisations in developed countries. This is an issue that calls for greater public advocacy and awareness-raising.

As a nation, we must stand united in our effort to manufacture

COVID-19 vaccines to save lives and proceed with the national recovery.

Our commitment to putting human lives first does not diminish our commitment to honour international trade agreements.

It is about the promotion of health as a public and social good.

It is about affirming our commitment to the advancement of equality and human rights, not just in our own country but around the world.

FOR CITIZENS OVER 60 YEARS OF AGE

6 steps to getting vaccinated

- 1 Register on Electronic Vaccination System(EVDS) on vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za
- 2 The welcome screen will tell you what to do next.
- 3 Follow the instructions. Put in all the details the system asks for.
- 4 When you are done the system will send an SMS to the phone number you provided.
- 5 This SMS will tell you that you are registered.
- 6 When it is your turn to be vaccinated, the system will send you another SMS with a date and the venue for your vaccination.

#IChooseVacciNation

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999

The NEC meeting reaffirmed our shared commitment to the process of renewal and rebuilding

■ Closing Remarks By **ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa** to the ANC NEC Meeting of 8–10 May 2021

We have now come to the end of an important meeting for our movement.

Although we had to deal with very difficult issues, this meeting has reaffirmed our shared commitment to the process of renewal and rebuilding.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES FOR 2021

As we noted on the opening day, this NEC meeting coincides with the 25th anniversary of the adoption of our democratic Constitution by the Constitutional Assembly.

The meeting recalled that the values and objectives enshrined in the Constitution find their genesis in the African Claims, Freedom Charter and other seminal texts of our movement.

The ANC therefore has a historical responsibility to respect, uphold and advance our country's Constitution. Members of the ANC are expected to live according to the values of social justice, respect for humanity, equality, selfless service and adherence to the rule of law.



President Ramaphosa delivering the Closing Address at the Virtual ANC NEC meeting held from 8–10 May 2021

The NEC reaffirmed the ANC's commitment to advance the objectives of the Constitution to build a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

The NEC therefore reiterated the foremost priorities of the organisation for 2021:

Firstly, to act together with all South Africans to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secondly, to place our economy on a path of renewal and recovery.

Thirdly, to forge ahead with the fundamental renewal of the ANC in line with its core mandate and values.

Fourthly, to strengthen developmental and participatory local government, and achieve a decisive win the upcoming local government elections.

Fifthly, to build a better Africa and a better world.

DEFEATING COVID-19

The NEC applauded the continued dedication by those on the front-line in the fight against COVID-19. It commended South Africans for their continued adherence to prevention measures, and in taking responsibility for their own health and the health of others.

The meeting noted worrying signs of escalating infections in some areas, and the need for society to remain vigilant to prevent a devastating third wave of infections.

The meeting welcomed the report on the second phase of the Alliance's COVID-19 campaign. This campaign encourages adherence to the public health protocols, especially wearing masks, social distancing and hand hygiene; and we call on all adults in South Africa to participate in the mass vaccination campaign that will begin during May 2021.

We reaffirmed positions adopted at previous meetings and by the Alliance that South Africa needs to seek vaccines and treatment from all available sources, including BRICS partners, and that this should be undertaken in conformity with our country's laws and regulations.

We have welcomed the initiative by South Africa and India to fight for a TRIPS waiver at the World Trade Organisation so that there is equitable access to COVID vaccines.

This proposal is now supported by the World Health Organisation, the African Union and more than 100 countries, including the United States.



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We will continue engaging other countries that are still reluctant to offer their support to a vaccine patents waiver. We will also continue to promote a pan-African approach to fighting the pandemic, including access for the continent to sufficient vaccines and capacity to produce its own medical equipment, medicines and vaccines.

ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATION AND BUILDING A CAPABLE STATE

On land reform and redistribution: As part of its commitment to tackle the historical injustice of land dispossession, the NEC had a discussion on the process of amending Section 25 to explicitly make provision for the expropriation of land without compensation.

This is informed by the direction

of our National Conference that land reform must take place in a manner that strengthens the agricultural sector, improves economic growth and significantly tackles inequality, poverty and unemployment.

The NEC welcomed the progress that has been made in the Parliamentary process and urged government to bolster resources and capacity to effect land reform and restitution at a faster pace.

Local Government remains a key sphere of government, and in the context of the District Development Model, we must continue to strengthen its capacity to meet its obligations to communities, to deliver basic services, to ensure popular participation in decision-making, and to drive local economic development.

This should also enable empowerment of cooperatives and SM-MEs, the empowerment of women and youth, and the promotion of skills development.

Given the critical role of this sphere, the ANC has revised and adopted guidelines for the selection of candidates, which allows for the best candidates to emerge with the support of local communities.

We have stressed that all ANC members and structures must ensure that we are deliberate in selecting candidates with the necessary capacities, experience and skills.

These candidates must be the embodiment of hard work, service to the people and ethical conduct. This NEC has stressed the importance of the principles of continuity, gender equality and the representation of young people.

UNITY, RENEWAL AND THE STATE OF THE ANC

The Special NEC meeting discussed in detail the state and cohesion of the organisation. It noted with deep concern the continued factional divisions and divisive public pronouncements, which give the impression of an organisation in crisis.

Fundamental to these challenges is the critical process of implementing the mandate of the 54th National Conference to build unity of principle and unity in action, combined with the task of ensuring organisational and societal renewal.

At the same time, the meeting recognised that the work of the organisation is continuing. Contrary to impressions created in some public discourse, the work of the organisation is continuing.

Since the last NEC meeting, over 2,000 Branch general meetings have been held, and regional conferences have started.

Local structures and regions are also continuing the campaigns against COVID-19, as well as other organisational programmes and campaigning for by-elections. As this leadership, we have recommitted ourselves to the mandate of the 54th National Conference to restore the unity, renewal and integrity of the ANC, despite the very difficult and complex challenges of the current period.

In the spirit of criticism and self-criticism, we reflected on the way we work and on our conduct as NEC members. We agreed to adhere to organisational protocols and practices, including collective leadership, the promotion of unity and renewal, and strict adherence to the ANC's communications protocol.



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We have agreed to hold a retreat as soon as conditions permit to address varying perspectives among the leadership and develop a practical action plan to strengthen the process of unity and renewal.

Members of the NEC have expressed concern about a concerted and well-resourced campaign to sow division and confusion in the ANC, with the ultimate aim to destroy the movement as an instrument for progressive transformation and change.

It noted that this campaign is actively aided by a few individuals from within the NEC, through leaks, deviant public pronouncements, protests and misinformation on social media.

The NEC agreed to take urgent steps to investigate the leaks from the NEC and any organised campaign to subvert the movement and to take appropriate action.

Implementation of step-aside guidelines and procedures:

During this meeting, we received a report from the National Working Committee on the implementation of the resolution that all ANC members indicted for corruption and other serious crimes should step aside or be temporarily suspended pending the finalisation of their case.

The report indicated that, in line with the decisions of the NEC meeting of 26-29 March 2021, a number of ANC members had stepped aside and others had been served with notices of suspension.

These include our Secretary General Ace Magashule and NEC member Bongani Bongo.

This meeting has confirmed the terms and conditions for elected office bearers and public representatives who have stepped aside or temporarily suspended.

These include that during the step-aside period, such an individual may not:

- carry out the duties and responsibilities of their office;
- represent the organisation publicly or in any other forum;
- make public pronouncements on matters related to the organisation;
- engage in the mobilisation of ANC structures, any other organisations or individuals;

During the step-aside period, a public representative may not occupy any executive office or other position of responsibility in the legislative to which they belong. During the step-aside period, they will be entitled to remuneration and other benefits.

The decision to step aside must

be reviewed by the relevant structure of the organisation every six months.

The NEC confirmed that in the light of the temporary suspension of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General Jessie Duarte will, in accordance with the ANC Constitution, *“carry out the functions entrusted to the Secretary General by the National Conference, the National General Council, the NEC or the NWC...”*

Members have condemned the unwarranted attacks on the Deputy Secretary General and ANC staff members at Luthuli House for carrying out decisions of the NEC, NWC and Officials.

These attacks have taken the form of threats, insults, unfounded allegations and misinformation. We have also noted with great concern death threats made against the ANC NEC Coordinator Cde Andries Nel, and agreed that this be reported to the relevant authorities.

The NEC reaffirms its full confidence in the Deputy Secretary General, and supports her in carrying out her duties as per the ANC Constitution.

The NEC discussed the ‘letter of suspension’ written by the Secretary General to the President, for which the Secretary General had no authority or mandate from any structure of the movement.

The NEC agreed that such conduct was completely unacceptable and a flagrant violation of the rules, norms and values of the ANC.

The NEC furthermore instructed the Officials to advise the Secretary General to apologise publicly

to ANC structures and members within a set timeframe.

If he fails to do so, the ANC will institute disciplinary procedures in accordance with the ANC Constitution.

Commission of Inquiry into State Capture

This meeting also discussed the ANC’s submission to the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture. The ANC reaffirms its support for the work of the Commission and its role in determining the nature and extent of state capture, and of holding those responsible to account.

While the ANC has come under great scrutiny at the Commission, we believe that this is a necessary part of the national effort to end state capture in all its forms and ensure that it can never happen again.

Update on BBGMs, Regional and Provincial Conferences

We must appreciate the work by ANC structures to convene Branch Biennial General Meetings – or BBGMs – where new branch leadership is elected.

Over 2,000 of these meetings have been held and the process is ongoing. This is the first time that the majority of BBGMs are held on the basis of the new membership system.

While there have been some technical glitches, the system has helped to protect the integrity of the movement’s key organisational processes.

Local Government Elections Campaign

We should welcome the tireless work being done by our local government elections teams at all levels on by-elections and preparations for the forthcoming election campaign.

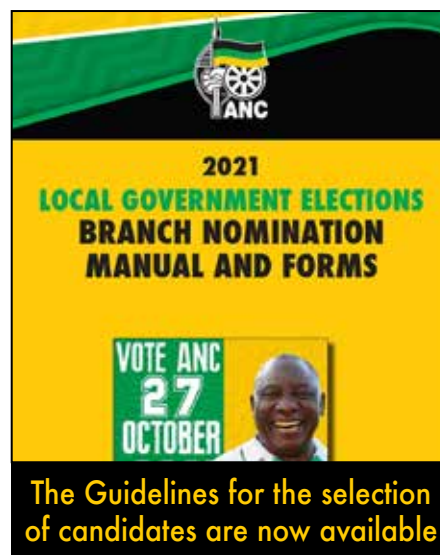
While we must welcome the advances in some by-elections, where the ANC won wards from the opposition, we must also recognise that there were areas where the ANC lost some ground. We know that citizens and communities expect decisive action to renew the organisation and, critically, to address the service delivery challenges afflicting many localities.

The ANC will continue to correct these weaknesses, and take measures to prevent the current failures from carrying over into the future.

This relates both to policy content, implementation mechanisms and the selection of appropriate community leaders and activists as candidates in the ANC’s list.

National General Council

This meeting has noted the countrywide discussions on the National General Council discussion documents, and urged that these be consolidated at branch levels,



so that the contributions can be processed for submission to national structures.

The NEC mandated the Secretary General's Office to prepare a comprehensive report to the NEC, with proposals regarding the nature, form and timing of the NGC. This must take into account the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the local government elections campaign, and the need to hold a National Policy Conference before the next National Conference in December 2022.

Free State

In light of the Ramakatsa vs ANC judgement, we have agreed that priority must be given to pursuing a political solution that will build a united and vibrant ANC in the Free State.

We need to intensify the efforts being led by Cde Kgalema Motlanthe to achieve a political solution. To avoid a political vacuum in the province, we have therefore mandated the NWC to establish an inclusive interim structure to take the province to an elective conference in due course.

Integrity Commission Reports

The NEC adopted a number of reports from the Integrity Commission and recommendations as presented and further noted where appeals have been lodged. The NEC urged NWC and the Officials to ensure speedy processing of the appeals.

ANCYL National Youth Task Team

The NEC welcomed the report that the newly appointed National Youth Task Team has started its

work towards building a vibrant ANC Youth League that champions the interests of young people and as a preparatory school for new cadres of the ANC.

It further noted processes to strengthen the Progressive Youth Alliance in dealing with matters affecting young people, including financing of higher education.

The NEC noted work in progress to ensure that all NYTT members meet the age requirements of the ANC Youth League Constitution, which is that they should be below 35 years of age.

All NEC members and other leaders were urged to support a vibrant and active League.

Task Team on Mpumalanga Violence

The NEC noted and adopted the report of the National Dispute Resolution Committee led by the Deputy Secretary General into the violence at BBGMs that broke out in the Ehlanzeni region in Mpumalanga, Nkomazi sub-region wards 4 and 32.

The NEC noted the progress made by the task team led by cde Zweli Mkhize to further look into these and previous incidents of violence.

It authorised the NEC deployees to the province to refer matters of serious misconduct to the National Disciplinary Committee, and to ensure cooperation with law enforcement agencies with respect to criminal matters.

The NEC agreed that, except for the Nkomazi sub-region, branches should resume BBGMs and BGMs in May 2021, so as to do away with parallel structures and branches.

North West

The NEC expressed concern regarding the ongoing instability in the North West and the impact that this is having on organisation, governance and service delivery.

It reiterated the decision of the NEC meeting of 26-29 March 2021 that the Interim Provincial Committee must continue to discharge the mandate given to it by the NEC in accordance with the powers that it has in terms of the ANC Constitution.

Unity of MK veterans

As we approach the 60th anniversary of the founding of the people's army Umkhonto we Sizwe, we are deeply concerned at the slow progress in convening a unified conference of its veterans.

We have agreed to establish an inclusive committee to start preparations for an appropriate celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Umkhonto we Sizwe in December 2021.

We support the Deputy President and the Deputy Secretary General in the processes they lead to unite former MK combatants, and call on the MK Military Veterans Association and MK Council to cooperate.

Addressing patriarchy and misogyny

The ANC Women's League has raised the existence of gender-based discrimination and misogyny in our structures on several occasions.

We need to give further consideration to this matter so that we ensure all female comrades enjoy full participation in organisational life.

EDITORIAL

Support for the rights of LGBTQI persons

The ANC reiterates our complete support for the rights of LGBTQI+ persons and condemns the apparent rise of incidents of hate crimes against this community. No-one has the right to discriminate against or attack anyone based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

THE ALLIANCE

The NEC welcomed the report on the Alliance Political Council held since the last NEC meeting.

It noted work in progress on the matter of non-trading holidays by the Department of Home Affairs and urged Officials to continue engagements with the Alliance on the issue of the public sector wage negotiations.

BUILDING A BETTER AFRICA AND WORLD

Mozambique

The NEC supports the initiatives by SADC to assist Mozambique to resolve the conflict in the province of Cabo Delgado and further encourages party to party engagement between the ANC and Frelimo.

Sinn Fein

The NEC welcomed the process to strengthen the bonds between the ANC and Sinn Fein and further pledges to deepen communication, sharing and exchanging expertise on various issues.

Cuba

The NEC resolutely reiterates its solidarity with Cuba and reaffirms its demand for an immediate end to the blockade and the wanton aggression against Cuba. The NEC calls for further strengthening of bilateral relations between our countries.



Palestine

The ANC reaffirms our support for the people of Palestine in their struggle for freedom and self-determination. We repeat our condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the unlawful evictions of Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh al Jarrah and the brutal attacks on Palestinian protestors at Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

We reiterate that the expansion of settlements by Israel has already been condemned by the United Nations and urge the international community to stop Israel from expanding its illegal occupation of Palestinian lands and property.

Western Sahara

The NEC reaffirms our commitment to strengthen and intensify South Africa's support for the Saharawi people in their quest for self-determination. We call on the progressive movement within the continent and the international community to accelerate its efforts in this regard.

CONCLUSION

It is apparent from all the reports we received in this meeting that

the work of the ANC is proceeding despite our internal and external challenges.

We need to be more pro-active in communicating these aspects of ANC life to counteract this false impression of an ANC on the verge of collapse.

We must remember that the trust and support of the South African people should never been taken for granted.

For as long as we are divided as a leadership, for as long we fail to act against corruption, and unless we put the needs of our people first, we will struggle to restore the credibility of the ANC.

The people of South Africa are looking to this leadership to provide direction, to decisively respond to the challenges in the country, and to accelerate the radical economic and social transformation of our society.

This NEC meeting has provided a firm foundation for this work. Our task now is to build on the progress we have made and fulfill the expectations that our people have.



We are embracing the future!

■ Remarks by the ANC Treasurer General, **Paul Mashatile**, on the Occasion of the Launch of the Progressive Business Forum's Digital Platform

AS some of you may recall, delegates at the 54th National Conference of the ANC resolved on the urgent need for the modernisation and professionalisation of the ANC. This was identified as crucial in the ongoing endeavour to renew and revive our movement.

At the beginning of this year, the National Executive Committee, in its January 8th Statement, directed that one of the tasks of our movement this year must be to continue to improve and modernise our core organisational systems, including our fundraising efforts.

On this day as we launch this digital platform, we are carrying forward the resolutions of the 54th National Conference on the modernisation and professionalisation of the ANC.

We are also giving effect to the directive in the January 8th Statement to focus on the modernisation of, among others, our fundraising efforts.

In particular, through this launch, we are creating a platform for our valued PBF subscribers as well as



Comrade Paul Mashatile

our ANC merchandisers to access PBF programmes through an on-line application.

This online application will enable our subscribers and merchandisers to register on-line wherever they are, including on their mobile phones.

From here-on the filling of paper based applications and registrations will be a thing the past.

Equally, our subscribers and merchandisers will now also be able to

access PBF programmes and services at their convenience, wherever they are.

Through this launch the PBF, as a programme of the ANC, is propelling its systems on to the information and communications technology super highway!

We are embracing the future!

Ultimately, our goal is to ensure agility, ease of use, reliability and accessibility to all those who use our services and benefit from our programmes.

On behalf of the African National Congress, I take this opportunity to thank all our partners in this ground-breaking initiative.

Without all your support and cooperation we would not have reached this milestone.

As the ANC, we are delighted that, overall, our programme to improve and modernise our core organisational systems such as the membership system, branch functionality, our administration, elections campaign capacity, communications, research, fundraising as

well as monitoring and evaluation is proceeding relatively well.

In this regard, we have successfully launched our new electronic based membership system.

In addition, our communications machinery continues to rely heavily on online platforms.

This is allowing our movement to better shape and influence the narrative as well as to improve the timing of the release of crucial information to the public and to our members.

Furthermore, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our structures effectively used online platforms to engage with membership, take up campaigns and to deepen political education.

From where we are now, there is no turning back. The modernisation of the ANC is firmly on track; and gradually, step by step, the ANC is being renewed.

On this important occasion, we wish to also thank our ANC mer-



Sipho Mbele speaking at the launch

chandisers and our PBF subscribers for their continued support of our efforts to raise funds for the movement.

A number of you have been with us for many years as pillars of our fundraising efforts. We thank you heartily for this.

We also trust that you will continue to find value in the programmes, offerings and platforms of the PBF. The PBF stands ready to provide

a reliable platform for the continued engagement and sharing of information between business and government.

We look forward to working with all of you, especially now in the era the Political Party Funding Act, which has brought with it major challenges and but also opportunities.

We are however, confident that together, we will navigate successfully through these uncharted waters.

As the ANC, we remain committed to transparency in the funding of political parties. We view this as an important safeguard of our hard won freedom and democracy.

We are continuing to engage government with a view to ensuring that it plays its part in providing adequate funding to political parties as well as to all our country's democratic processes.

Congratulations to the team that put together all of this work.

Keep up the good work.



ANC merchandiser store in Tshwane

Beware of the wedge-driver: Unite for Duma Nokwe

Dear Mr President

THIS week is the anniversary of one of the eminent sons of South Africa and the African National Congress. Philemon Nokwe, known as Duma, was born of working class parents in Evaton in the Vaal Triangle in 1927. Comrade Duma became acquainted with politics early in his life, as one of his teachers in Johannesburg was none other than Oliver Tambo, who was a leader of the African National Congress Youth League at the time. He studied for a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Fort Hare and obtained a teacher's diploma a year later in 1950. In 1952, he was elected chairperson of the Orlando branch of the Youth league and was suspended from teaching because of his participation in the Defiance Campaign.

Comrade Duma accompanied Walter Sisulu, the secretary-general of the ANC on a five-month tour overseas wherein they visited Britain, the Netherlands, Israel, the Soviet Union, China, Romania and Poland. In 1955, he was elected to the National Executive Committee of the ANC and two years later he was elected its Secretary General. This was despite his five-year banning orders in 1954, which restricted him to Johannesburg. The banning order hampered Comrade Duma's professional career as he had decid-



Comrade Pule Mabe

ed to study law. He duly obtained an LL.B degree at the University of Witwatersrand and qualified as an advocate. The Group Areas Act (1950) prevented him from occupying the same chambers as other barristers because of his race. The restrictions further prevented him from travelling freely to consult with his clients and prepare for cases. Comrade Duma was one of the accused in the Treason Trial between 1956 and 1961 and was an unofficial member of the defence team.

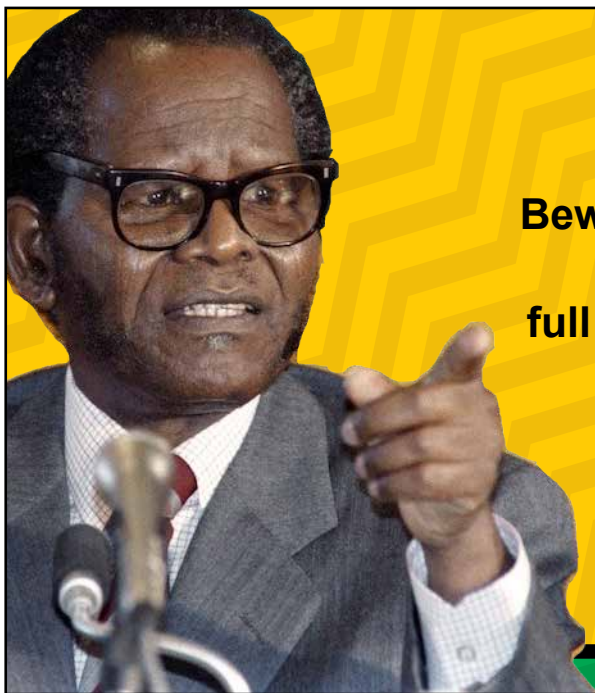
Following the traumatic events after the Sharpeville shootings on March 1960, Comrade Duma was detained for five months. He successfully appealed a prison sentence imposed upon him after he

was rearrested for furthering the interests of a banned organisation, the ANC.

He subsequently left South Africa at the orders of the ANC underground leadership and he crossed into Bechuanaland alongside Moses Kotane in 1963. In exile, he was intensely involved with campaigns to recruit support for the ANC and with attempts to affect an economic boycott against South Africa. Ill health forced him to resign his position as Secretary-General of the ANC in 1969 but he remained active in overseas opposition politics and he advocated for the suspension of South Africa at the United Nations in 1974. He passed away at the age of 50 in January 1978 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Mr President, some of the little-known facts about Comrade Duma is that when ANC President Albert Luthuli won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1961, he, Moses Kotane and Govan Mbeki gathered at the Durban flat of Phyllis Naidoo to draft his acceptance speech.

In an interview with the Sunday Times in March 2014, President Thabo Mbeki credits Comrade Duma and his wife, Mme Tiny for insisting that he learns to drive to assist him to do his work. Although Comrade Thabo Mbeki confesses that he never obtained a driver's licence because to get



**Be vigilant, comrades
The enemy is vigilant.**

**Beware of the wedge-driver, the man who
creeps from ear to ear, carrying a bag
full of wedges, driving them in between a
group and another, a man who goes
around creating splits and divisions.**

Beware the wedge driver, comrades.

Watch his poisonous tongue.

one in South Africa, he had to get a “pass” (Reference Book), which he was determined to defy in the aftermath of the Anti-Pass Campaign.

Furthermore, comrades will be interested to learn that during their overseas tour with Walter Sisulu, they attended the World Youth Festival in Bucharest and visited China to solicit arms without the permission of the ANC. He, Sisulu and Nelson Mandela were threatened with dismissal in the late 1940s after Mandela accused Luthuli of being a coward.

Mr President, as the first black advocate to be admitted to the Transvaal Supreme Court, Comrade Duma was a staunch advocate of human rights. He used his knowledge of the law as an instrument to fight for human rights, following on the footsteps of Dr Pixley Isaka Seme, Mandela and Tambo among others.

He represented a generation of the legal fraternity who used the law to push the boundaries of what constituted human rights.

His outstanding abilities were best

summarised by Oliver Tambo at his funeral service that while he taught Comrade Duma at school, in politics, OR became a student of Comrade Duma’s.

In his honour, his bust and the Duma Nokwe Chambers were unveiled in 2009 in Sandton. Comrade Duma’s life was one of selflessness and sacrifice in the face of adversity and the hostility of the apartheid juggernaut. He laid his life on the line to lay the foundation for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Mr President, we have made strides since those days when Comrade Duma was denied access to the chambers because he was black. The transformation of the judiciary is a work in progress but we are pleased that today’s generation of legal minds has been freed of the hurdles faced by Comrade Duma and his generation. While the legal profession still has some way to go, we have seen and we are proud of the performance of many black and female legal practitioners and we urge the profession to work harder to promote transformation.

Mr President, as we honour this stalwart of our liberation struggle,

we are mindful that our movement faces a tumultuous period since it came into power in 1994. Our role as the ANC since 1994 has evolved to include fighting for a united, non-racial and non-sexist and prosperous South Africa. While this is not a smooth process because in any revolution there are bound to be setbacks and resistance, a united ANC is the only vehicle to deliver on this mandate. As our organisation embarks on a process of renewal, the wedge-drivers are hard at work in pursuit of their nefarious agenda of division.

When mediating on infightings within the ANC, OR frequently warned against the wedge-driver, ***“who creeps from ear to ear, carrying a bag full of wedges, driving them in between you and the next man, between a group and another, a man who goes around creating splits and divisions.”***

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



TRIBUTE TO COMRADE THEMBI SHANGE NOBADULA

As a **younger generation**, to comrades of her generation and her caliber, **our debt is immeasurable**

■ By Z. Pallo Jordan

In the late 1940s, Miss Thembi Shange met and married, Fikile Nobadula, the grandson of a migrant from the Eastern Cape, who had come to the Rand to work as a clerk in the goldmines near Benoni. The young couple settled in Benoni, hoping for a peaceful family life.

The Second World War had changed the world, but had also radically transformed South Africa, especially the Rand. Africans arrived on the Rand in their thousands in search of work and were quickly swept up by a growing secondary industry sector. When Thembi and her young husband got married, the African population of the Rand exceeded all the others.

Unlike the rest of the world, White-ruled South Africa entrenched rac-

ism and all the other institutions of colonialism after the war ended. Three years after marking victory over Hitler in Europe, the Afrikaner National Party, led by Hitler's disciples, won the general elections with a slim majority among the White voters of South Africa.

Both Thembi Shange Nobadula and her husband, Fikile, were card-carrying members of the ANC branch in Benoni. As activists they were called upon by their movement to respond to the onslaught unleashed by the National Party after its electoral victory.

In the same branch of the ANC was a brilliant teacher, who later became a lawyer, named Oliver Tambo. In 1950 he left the teaching profession and began a law practice in central Johannesburg in 1952 in partnership with Nelson

Mandela.

The Nobadulas owned a valuable economic asset, a hall, which could serve as a venue for meetings and other gatherings. During the short inter-regnum between the Peace at Vereeniging and the 1913 Native's Land Act, the Nobadula family had acquired property in Benoni. Fikile's father had added to the property portfolio by constructing the hall, which bore the family name.

As long-standing and respected residents of Benoni they had useful networks, that stretched beyond the Rand into Natal, where the Shange family originally came from; and into the Cape, where Fikile's family roots were.

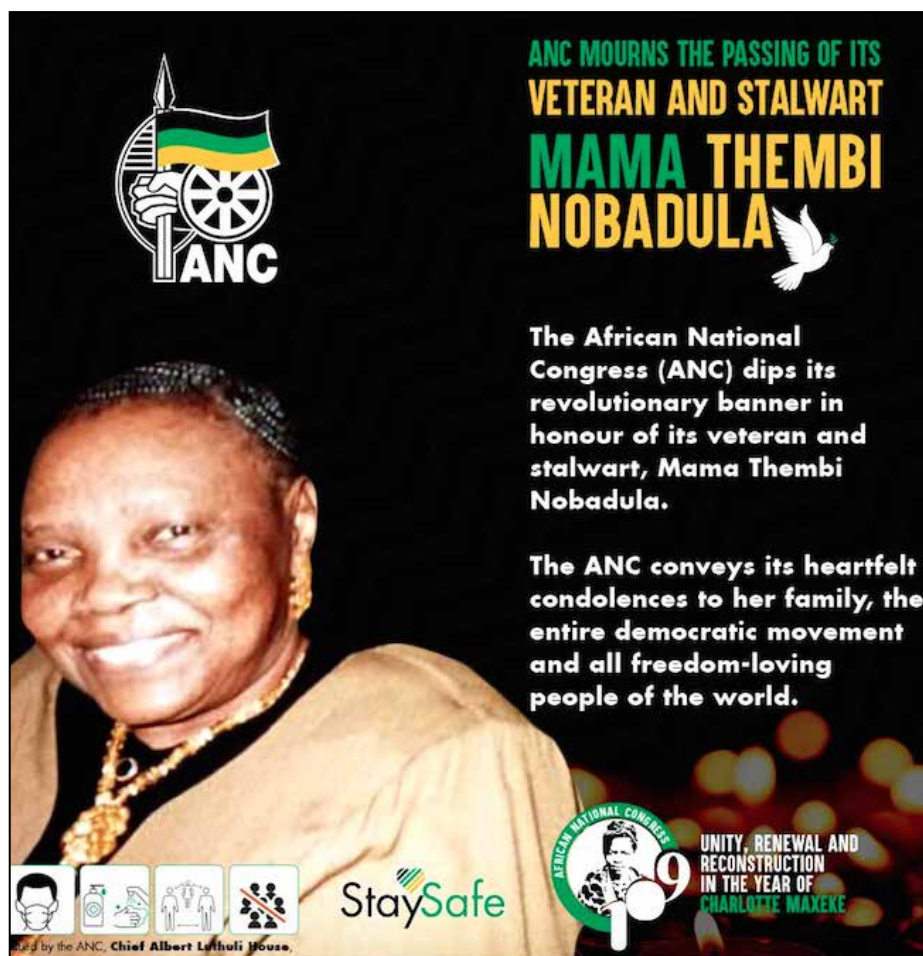
Thembi Shange Nobadula distinguished herself as an activist

and member of the ANC Women's League in Benoni. She was amongst the thousands of participants in the 1956 Women's March on Pretoria, led by Lilian Ngoyi and Helen Joseph. By that time, both she and her husband had acquired political profiles that earned them regular Special Branch raids. For the couple, the crunch came in the immediate aftermath of Sharpeville, when the ANC was banned.

The apartheid regime had not anticipated the response of the people to the Anti-Pass Campaign. After the initial massacre on 21st March 1960, South Africa descended into a crisis. On 28th March the country's urban areas were brought to a standstill by a general strike of African workers, protesting the massacre of the previous Monday. On 30th March, 30 thousand (30,000) Cape Town township dwellers marched on Parliament. The following day, 31st March, the Whites-only Parliament declared a State of Emergency and the Security Police began arresting political activists early that morning.

Thembi, her husband, Fikile, their four children and Thembi's brother, Jerry Fana Shange, left South Africa secretly a few days later, crossing into what was then "Bechuanaland" to evade arrest. Thus began her life as a political exile. From Botswana they made their way to Tanzania, together with a party of fellow refugees.

Exile was rough on all families that were affected, some more brutally than others. Owing to circumstances well beyond their control, Sis Thembi's family was split up as a result of exile. Fikile was able to secure passage to London for himself, his two younger daughters and their son. Thembi



remained behind in Tanzania with Nthombiso, their eldest, and her brother Jerry Fana. The marriage did not survive the long separation that lasted close to six years.

Working in the ANC mission in Tanzania, Thembi Nobadula was one of the ANC militants present at the inception of the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO), which set up its headquarters in Algiers in 1963. She seized the opportunity, denied her in South Africa, to acquire a number of secretarial skills including office management. She was able to move to London in 1965.

As a divorcee, Thembi assumed responsibility for her children, giving them a stable home, despite their circumstances. The skills she had acquired in Dar-es-salaam enabled her to find employment at the British Council, a job she held

onto until her retirement. A remunerative job kept the wolf from the door so that she could engage in her principal sphere of activity in the ANC's structures in London. Within a matter of years after her arrival, she was elected Chair of the ANC Women's League in the UK.

Working closely with Comrades Adelaide Joseph, Adelaide Tambo, Zanele Mbeki, Hilda Bernstein, Mary Turok and others, they made the branch in London an effective mobiliser of international solidarity. They built firm links with the emergent Women's Liberation Movement in the UK; with Cypriot Women; the Palestinian women, and of course, through PAWO, the other Southern African liberation movements.

The times were difficult and the effectiveness of the regime's re-



1956 Women's March... Mama Thembi was amongst the thousands of women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria

pression had imposed an unnatural silence on the country, but as the decade of the 1970s matured, the workers' strikes in the early seventies, followed by the Soweto Uprising in 1976 indicated that the movement was being revived.

Under the best of circumstances, raising a family in exile is challenging. Sis Thembi had her challenges too, but her daughters all found likeable husbands and have given her nine grandchildren, and a few great grandchildren. To the tribulations of exile were added the loss of her brother Jerry Fana, who died in a car accident in Tanzania. In quick succession, during 2013, she lost her eldest, then her youngest daughter. She has borne these reverses bravely though they visibly did affect her.

The 1980s were probably the most fulfilling years for all the exiles. Not only was the liberation movement clearly on the offensive, but the initiative had visibly passed to us. In August 1986, working with Mrs Adelaide Tambo, she helped organize a celebration of the Women's March on the 9th in Haringey, the borough of Lon-

don in which they both lived. The event took place at Finsbury Park and the African-American militant, Angela Davis was the keynote speaker.

The release of political prisoners at the end of that decade, followed by the release of Nelson Mandela on February 11th was the signal that victory was within reach.

The prospect of returning home was very attractive to most of the exiles. Sis Thembi was among the earliest wave of returnees. Though efforts had been made to assist the reintegration of the exiles, one can, with the benefit of hindsight, say that those provisions were inadequate!

Like many a returnee, especially those who had lived in social democratic environments, what they found back home was unattractive, if not a little discomfiting. People like Sis Thembi, who had been in the UK for two decades, working and earning a living, the social benefits South Africa provided are a pittance compared to what they could receive in the UK! Add to that other elements of

the social wage pensioners in the UK are entitled to in Britain – from free London Transport passes, discounted cinema, theatre tickets, free access to museums – living out your last years at home looked less attractive. A number of such exiles chose to come back to the UK; others chose to stay in the US, in Sweden, Norway and other countries in the West.

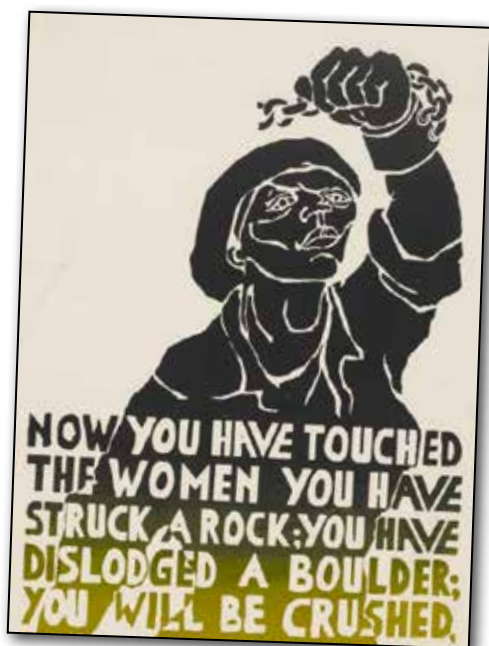
Though far from home, Sis Thembi has always kept her oar in South African waters. She attended the two ANC elective conferences as a delegate from the UK; has participated enthusiastically in the anniversaries of the Women's Anti-Pass Campaign and has continued to contribute to the political life and activities of the movement here in the UK.

What can one say about a person who seems to have seen it all?

Sis Thembi was of the generation that transformed the ANC from an organisation of loyal petitioners into a fighting mass movement during the 1950s. Theirs was the generation that took the decision to wage the armed struggle. She was more fortunate than many of her colleagues and contemporaries, because she was able to witness the defeat of the racist regime and the birth of democracy. We can all complement her on a life well-lived, a life lived in the struggle, and a life lived for the struggle.

Our debt to her, as a younger generation, to comrades of her generation and her caliber, is immeasurable. For that, we will always honour her and cherish her memory.

***Lala ngoxolo MaDumakude!
Ulifezile igqatso! Hamba
Kahle Cde Thembi Nobadula!***



Comrade Thembi Nobadula was that Rock!

■ By David Kenvyn, Scotland Anti-Apartheid Movement

THEMBI Nobadula was one of the stalwarts of the African National Congress (ANC) throughout the 1950s. She was one of those who organised and led the Women's March on Pretoria in 1956, when 20,000 women went to the Union Buildings to protest that the Pass Laws were being extended to women. Johannes Strijdom, the Prime Minister, made sure that he was not in Pretoria on 9th August 1956, so that he did not have to meet the women. A song was composed: *"When you have struck the women, you have struck a rock, you will be crushed"*. Thembi was that rock.

In 1962, she came to London to help in the work of establishing the now banned ANC in exile, where she lived near to Adelaide and Oliver Tambo. Over the next 32 years, she was a constant presence at both ANC and Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) meetings, never faltering in her resistance to the apartheid regime. She was an inspiration to everyone who came into contact with her.



1956 Women's March

In 1986, the ANC Women's League, led by Adelaide Tambo and Thembi Nobadula, decided to organise a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Women's March. Haringey NALGO, the London Anti-Apartheid Committee and the Metropolitan District of NALGO stepped up to help. A huge event was organised in London's Finsbury Park with Angela Davis as the keynote speaker. Adelaide Tambo sat on one side of her and Thembi Nobadula on the other. To the delight of both Cde Adelaide and Cde Thembi, Angela Davis excoriated Margaret Thatcher. It was a great day,

and Thembi had played a considerable part in organising it.

A great soul has passed. She was our friend, our comrade and an inspiration to all of us. There is work still to be done on the transformation of South Africa. It will require many of us to step forward, to take up her spear and to continue the work.

Comrade Thembi, Hamba Kahle! A hero of our heroes.

Let us praise the women.

Malibongwe!



Dr TT Cholo – The voice of reason in the post-apartheid dispensation

■ By *Shalate Davhana and Malesela Maubane*

AS South Africa celebrates twenty-seven years of freedom from racial oppression this year, many anti-apartheid struggle stalwarts who delivered democracy through their blood and sweat should be celebrated more visibly. The sacrifices of various freedom fighters towards the attainment of political independence should continue to be a catalyst towards a better life for all compatriots.

Amidst the political turmoil and instability which characterised the 1990s, Dr Tlou Theophilus Cholo immersed himself in the struggle and as a labour activist, where he stood firmly for the emancipation of marginalised citizens. Upon leaving his Limpopo hometown in Mmakala village, Ga-Matlala a thaba for Johannesburg in 1945, he became actively involved in trade union activism and as an uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) combatant. The Matlala area also has a history of being a hotspot for political activism.

His dedication to the struggle apparently saw him selected to go to Moscow, in the then Unionist Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) and The People's Republic of Chi-



Comrade TT Cholo

na, where he honed his political, military and trade unionism skills.

Reading through various literature about Dr TT Cholo's attainments, one has an impression of a man content with his role in the struggle for the attainment of freedom, especially towards equal access to education, women empowerment, and fair distribution of economic gains to the benefit of the country's majority population. The current Soshanguve resident and his generation contributed im-

mensely to the building of a South Africa for all, it is up to us to safeguard these gains of freedom.

As we reflect on the history of trade unions in South Africa, Dr Cholo's name is engraved as one of the founding members of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) in 1955. Significantly, the federation was established three months before the Congress of the people (COP) adopted the Freedom Charter in Kliptown, Soweto. Having migrated to Gauteng from an isolated rural community in pursuit for greener pastures at 19 years old, Cholo defied being subjected to inhumane working conditions and meagre wages, which forced him to resign merely a week in his first job at a dry cleaner in downtown Jo'burg.

His detestation of human injustice influenced him to confront the apartheid regime head-on, and fatefully landing him in a cell at the Robben Island prison, an incarceration that lasted for 16 years. Dr Cholo's struggle footprints can be traced to Russia, China, Cuba, Tanzania, eSwatini, Botswana and Zambia amongst others. Recorded as a dedicated MK cadre, it

was not surprising that he attended the 1969 Morogoro conference as a delegate of the then armed wing of the ruling party. The ability to organise resulted in the ANC deploying him to the Northern Province, now Limpopo in 1993, where he became the Provincial Secretary of the MK Military Veterans' Association.

Dr Tlou Cholo concedes that the African National Congress (ANC) transition from a liberation movement to a governing party had its own hiccups since the leadership had no previous experience of governing a state. In terms of the exchange of power in 1994, Cholo laments that the new administration had to start with a clean slate, with no money, as the Nationalist government seemingly relocated funds offshore prior to relinquishing power. Considering these conditions, the veteran believes that they did a sterling job during the initial stages of transition wherein South Africa was ushered into a democratic state.

The Ga-Matlala a Thaba-born liberation struggle icon speaks stern-

ly about the scourge of corruption, which he says overshadows any development efforts and is fueling a negative narrative about the government whilst undermining the country's socio-economic development efforts.

In 2018 the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) conferred an honorary doctorate (public management) on the former trade unionist and struggle stalwart whilst the Presidency awarded him the Order of Luthuli in Silver (2009) for his selfless sacrifice in the struggle against apartheid and exceptional leadership in the trade union movement.

It is evident that Cholo's contribution to a democratic South Africa is one that cannot be confined to sporadic local celebrations. Word that the Dr TT Cholo Foundation and other stakeholders have set plans in motion to meaningfully honour the struggle icon through various legacy projects, including an annual lecture, are commendable. Ntate Cholo and his comrades, for their role in the liberation struggle, are part of cultural

heritage as defined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and are worth preserving, not only for the ANC but for South Africa at large.

The motto for the defunct 'Lennes primary school', Ntate Cholo's alma mater in Mmakala village, "*Tirišano ke maatla*" in the Sepedi language, can be loosely translated to "*there is power in working together*" and it rings true in relation to efforts to appropriately honour this brave struggle icon.

The oppressed South African majority looked to Cholo and his comrades for their political emancipation which ushered in a democratic dispensation in 1994. Surely, as the country confronts the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and looks at ways to reignite the economy, counsel of these veterans should still be valuable.

Davhana and Maubane are Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) alumni and residents of Gauteng and Limpopo, Dr TT Cholo's province of current residence and birth respectively.



ANC stalwart and veteran, Cde Tlou Cholo with the last surviving members of the Luthuli Detachment

Q&A

■ By Leo Ndabambi

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Tsakani Mashele

1. Cde Tsakani, please tell us about yourself and what force prepared you to be who you are today?

My name is Tsakani Mashele. I am from Shiluvana (Tzaneen, Limpopo). I am a nursing Auxiliary who started working at Shiluvana Life Health Care Centre since 2003 to date. As a mother of two kids boy and a girl, I am a hard worker and a strong woman who is able to handle challenges in life.

2. What do you think leaders of society should learn from women leaders who have passed on, especially the likes of Mam Charlotte Maxeke and Mhani Joyce Mashamba, taking into account that 2021 has been declared the “Year of Unity, Renewal and Reconstruction, in the Year of Charlotte Maxeke”?

I can describe the late Joyce Mashamba as a brave person who sacrificed her family for the sake of the ANC and liberation of the country. She was good at distinguishing between wrong and right.

The late Mhani Joyce served in various capacities in the provincial government also as a Member of Parliament. She was an “accomplished political commissar and an educator” that made many personal sacrifices for the liberation struggle, having been a member of the African National Congress, ANC Women’s League



Tsakani Mashele

Auxiliary Nurse and Limpopo
NEHAWU Nursing Co-ordinator
for Private Hospitals

and the South African Communist Party.

Mashamba was one of the longest serving MEC’s and at the time of her death had been the Limpopo MEC for Agriculture and Rural development. The other portfolios she held ranged from Education, sports Arts and culture, safety and security and liaison and social development.

Lastly Mhani Joyce built a library where she came from so that the young generation can know who Joyce Mashamba was when we

tell them about her.

As a younger generation, we can learn a lot from comrades such as Mam Charlotte Maxeke and Mhani Joyce Mashamba in terms of:

- Dedication to fighting for the rights and the struggle of black women.
- Leaders of society should learn that Unity is power; and
- As leaders of society, we should rise above their personal needs and interest.

3. What are the most outstanding leadership qualities that make you a better leader?

- I am a person of great Patience
- I am a self motivated person.
- I am goal driven.
- I believe in collectivism.

4. As a mother and activist, how can we fight this second pandemic of GBV and LGBTQIA+?

We can fight the pandemic by teaching both male and female and the entire society about the ills of violence and also get the perpetrators of this act of violence to account for their actions and rehabilitate them. Children should be taught at a young age about gender and that no gender is above another.



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

I am proud where I am today because I can see that I am a leader in the work place, as well as in the community, the province and at school. I can feel that I am born to be a leader to represent the women in the community. I am who I am today because of Nehawu (Elwel Maponya branch)

6. As an Auxiliary Nurse, what would you say about the adherence to COVID-19 regulations especially from the most vulnerable and poorest in the villages to the more astute and urbanised?

Covid-19 has shown us the gap that exist in society. Those who are poor and living in rural areas are second and last to everything. The following has made it difficult to put up with some of the regulations and what needs to be done when one has tested positive:

- Lack of water for washing hands.
- Unavailability and access to proper sanitizers
- Lack of education and awareness.
- Lack of housing for self quarantine incase of a positive case.
- Lack of medication to treat positive cases.

7. What would you say about the vaccines that have now resumed this month in light of International Nurse's Day that was observed?

The vaccine will help society to slow down infections. However the rollout process seems much slower than expected. International nurse's day commemorates the birthday of Florence Nightingale the first professional nurse is observed on 12 May. The theme this year is **"Nurses: A voice to lead. A vision for future health care."**

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic nurses across the region have emerged as the heroes of an unprecedented crisis and many have spoken of their fight in the frontline against the pandemic as biggest challenge they have faced in their careers, defending our people and the community.

This past year especially from May 2020 to May 2021, many events have unfolded and nurses have proven to be the cornerstone in the battle against COVID-19. We also call on all nurses to fight together to gain long term right for the profession.

8. What is your motto?

To do my best in the community, helping those who are in need. Put my best effort into everything. Define what you value and I have given myself moral parameters by simplifying the decision making process in the community. I am a humble person, and a good listener.

Before making decisions, consult with the relevant persons. Exercise consistency and open mindedness.



15–21 May 2021

Sources: SA History Online and O'Malley Archives

■ 15 May 1885 Parliament opens for the first time in Cape Town

The parliamentary building at the top of Adderley Street, Cape Town, is occupied for the first time. This up to today remains the seat of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa.

■ 15 May 1889 Founder of Sofasonke Party born

James Sofasonke (meaning 'We shall all die') Mpanza, founder of the Sofasonke Party and a champion for better housing for Johannesburg's Blacks, is born in Georgedale, today part of Cato Ridge.

■ 15 May 1993 Baby Jake crowned World Boxing Champion



On 15 May 1993, Jacob "Baby Jake" Matlala, won the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) world champion title. Matlala had been introduced to boxing at a young

age by his father, and turned professional in 1979. Under the guidance of Theo Mthembu, Matlala won his first professional victory against Fraser Plaatjie in Port Elizabeth in 1980. Matlala went on to become the South African Flyweight Champion, and later won the International Boxing Association (IBA) Flyweight title in 1997.

■ 15 May 2004 SA wins bid to host 2010 Soccer World Cup



South Africa wins the bid to host the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, the first African country to host this global event.

■ 16 May 1976 James Ranisi Jolobe passed on

On 16 May 1976, South African poet, author and a clergyman James Ranisi Jolobe passed on in Tsolo, Transkei. He made a contribution to South African arts and culture through poetry. Born in Transkei, Jolobe was best known for his collection of poems, *Umyezo* (1936). He also played a major role in the compilation and translation of the English-Xhosa-Afrikaans dictionary.

■ 16 May 1977 Mme Winnie Madikizela-Mandela banished to Brandfort



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela banished to Brandfort, Free State for her political activism by the apartheid government for nine years. She was dumped unceremoniously in Brandfort with her daughter Zinzi, and throughout the period they continued to suffer harassment. Mme Winnie was not allowed to officially pursue her career as a social worker.

■ 17 May 1900 Esther Franks, first ophthalmic surgeon born

Esther Franks, physician and first woman ophthalmic surgeon to practise in SA, was born in Zurich, Switzerland. Her parents emigrated from Russia via England and Switzerland and came to SA shortly after her birth. She was a pioneer in the fight against blindness. In 1971 she was adjudged Woman of the Year by the readers of *The Star* for her outstanding work in restoring sight to thousands of rural Africans.

■ 17 May 1936

Sugar magnet Hulett born

Sir James Liege Hulett, Natal planter, industrialist and politician, was born in England and came to South Africa in 1857 at the age of 19. Hulett pioneered the country's sugar industry when he founded the Hulett Company in 1892, which had extensive cane plantations and erected the first sugar mill in 1903. He was also the first person in Natal to cultivate tea successfully. He personally raised money to extend the railway line between Verulam and Stanger, which became the first and only privately owned line in Natal. He represented Victoria in the Natal legislative council for twenty-two years. In 1921, Hulett founded Kearsney College, a prestigious boys' school in Stanger, on the Natal north coast. Today, the Huletts Sugar Company is called Tongaat-Hulett, after it merged with the Tongaat sugar company, and is still one of the major sugar groups in the country.

■ 17 May 1937

Maggie Laubscher, painter passed on

Born on 14 April 1886 in a wheat farm near Malmesbury, Maria Magdalena Laubster was a painter and printmaker. Her expressionistic work was initially shunned upon by critics, but has since gained wide acceptance. Laubster studied art in Cape Town for two months under Edward Roworth and later in London at the Slade School, and also trained under Schmidt-Rottluff, in Berlin, Germany. She was elected to the South African Society of Artists (SASA) in recognition of her talent. Laubster and Irma Stern are two of the most prolific woman painters in South Africa, introducing expressionism to South Africa. Laubster was also a singer

and had initially pursued singing. However her mother's lack of confidence in her voice discouraged her from pursuing singing as a career. Laubster died on 17 May 1973.

■ 17 May 1989

ISCOR privatised

The Conversion of Iscor Bill is passed by the apartheid government, allowing for the privatization of ISCOR. The steel company was founded in 1928 as a state owned company. After privatization in 1989, it went through different ownership structures, until it changed hands to AcelorMittal South Africa.

■ 18 May 1912

Walter Sisulu born



Walter Ulyati Sisulu is born in the Engcobo area in Eastern Cape. Sisulu worked as a miner, baker's assistant, domestic helper and factory hand and was an active trade unionist before joining the ANC in 1940. He was one of the founders of the ANC Youth League, elected as its first treasurer in 1944. He went on to become secretary general of the ANC from 1949 to 1954, as leader of the Defiance campaign and the adoption of the Freedom Charter (1955), and was a founder of Umkhonto we Sizwe

in 1961. A Rivonia trialist, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964, and served on Robben Island till his release in 1989. After the unbanning of the ANC he chaired the Interim Leadership Core to rebuild the ANC, and was elected as Deputy President at its 1991 Durban Conference, a position he held until the 1994 Conference, when he retired. Walter Sisulu, according to ES Reddy, was *"the organisational genius of the ANC, ...He was the moving spirit behind all the great campaigns in the 1950's, as well as the transformation of the ANC in 1960-61 for underground work and armed struggle."* Sisulu passed away in 2003.

■ 18 May 1899

Conference lays foundation for ICC

An International peace conference is convened at The Hague in the Netherlands. It adopts conventions on warfare and creates the Permanent Court of Arbitration, now the UN International Court of Justice (ICC). The case against South Africa about the administration of South West Africa (now Namibia) was heard in this court.

■ 19 May 1930

White Women gain Right to Vote

White women won the right to vote in South Africa, after decades of campaigning by suffragettes from the Women's Christian Temperance Union formed in 1899 for this purpose.

■ 20 May 1910

Hailey's Comet

Hailey's Comet passes 22 km from Earth, the closest in history. Comets are space snowballs of

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

frozen gases, rock and dust that circle in a fixed pattern around the Sun. When frozen, they are the size of a small town.

■ 20 May 1935 Ethiopia calls on UN for support against Italian Invasion



A special meeting of the League of Nations, the forerunner of the United Nations is called for by Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), requesting aid in defence against Italian aggression. Ethiopians, led by reigning Emperor Haile Selassie resisted this invasion of Mussolini's forces during what is known as the Second Italo-Ethiopian War (1935-1940). Selassie was named Time magazine Man of the Year in 1935 for leading this resistance. This was the second invasion by Italy, following their failed attempt in the First Italo-Ethiopian War (1895-1896) when Italy was defeated at the Battle of Adwa by Ethiopian forces led by Emperor Menelik II. In the Battle of Adwa, Menelik II and his wife, Empress Taytu Betul, proved the moral imperative in the struggle of Ethiopia against colonialism.

■ 20 May 1981 UN and OAU take a stand against Apartheid policy

An International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa

was hosted by the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at UNESCO House in Paris, France. The UN had been vocal about the apartheid policy since the early 1950s. On 1 April 1960, the UN Security Council, in its first action on South Africa, adopted Resolution 134 condemning the policies and actions of the South African government in the wake of the Sharpeville massacre, where nearly 70 peaceful protesters were killed by the police on 21 March. The Security Council called upon the government to abandon its policies of apartheid and racial discrimination.

■ 21 May 1936 Conference on Protection of the African elephant and rhinoceros



On this day in history, an international conference was held to implement legislation to protect the African elephant and rhinoceros. This is because due to their prized ivory tusks and horns, which were valuable trade commodities, African elephant and rhinoceros populations were on the decline. Although specific information about this particular conference is difficult to find, records show three years earlier the "*Convention Relative to the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in their Natural State* (1933)" was put forward. This convention promulgated the protection of certain animal species, which included the African Elephant, the White Rhinoceros and

the Black Rhinoceros. Governments all over the world agreed to the terms of this convention, including the Union of South Africa, Belgium, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Egypt, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. This convention was put into force on 14 January 1936, the same year that the conference was held in London.

■ 21 May 1946 Women Organises Food Strikes



As a (albeit divided) participant and contributor in the Second World War, South Africa faced severe food shortages during the 1940s, with the poor especially vulnerable, severely affected. Wholesalers and others hoarded food and sold it at exorbitant prices. A non-racial women's organisation formed in 1946, the Cape Town Women's Food Committee (CTWFC), organised food queues so that everybody could get food. Founders and leaders of the CTWFC included Katie White, Dora Tamana, G. Anthony, Hettie McLeod and Cissie Gool. On 21 May 1946 the women stormed warehouses and other places where food were hoarded to demand that they be released to the general population. These protests were known as the '*Rice Strikes*'. The Women's Food Committee mobilised women under the slogan "*Today we fight for food, tomorrow for the vote, and then freedom for all.*"

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

■ 21 May 1884

King Dinizulu rises to the Throne

HRM King Dinizulu succeeds his father, Cetshwayo as monarch of the Zulu Kingdom, at the age of 15 years.

■ 21 May 1978

Moses Kotane passed on



Moses Kotane, South African Communist Party and ANC stalwart passed away in Moscow, Russia where he was hospitalised after a long illness he suffered since 1968. In 1931 Kotane became an active member of the South African Communist Party before it was banned in 1951. Later in 1946 he took African National Congress membership and became a National Executive Committee member of the party. Like other prominent political leaders of the time Kotane was harassed by the Apartheid government agencies and repressive legislations. He was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act of 1951. In 1955 Kotane and I.M. Cachalia sneaked out of the country without proper documents to attend the famous Bandung Conference, held in Indonesia. These two activists were sent by the ANC as observers. In 1963 he left the country for Tanzania. In exile Kotane worked tirelessly in the African National Congress external missions.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

15–21 May 2021

Source: <https://www.un.org> and <http://www.dirco.gov.za/events>

■ 15 May

International Day of Families

Families – in all their diversities – form the basic units and building blocks of most societies, responsible for raising and socialising children. However, trends such as the changing nature of work, education, urbanisation, migration as well as new technologies and climate change have impacted on families. Following from the theme of last year, International Family day in 2021 focuses on families and social change.

■ 16 May

International Day of Living Together in Peace

Living together in peace is about accepting differences, social justice, working for the common good, and the ability

to listen to, recognise, respect and appreciate others. The day focuses global attention on the ongoing need to promote and work for peace, tolerance, inclusion, peaceful resolution to conflict and solidarity.



■ 16 May

International Day of Light

The day seeks to strengthen scientific cooperation amongst scientists, professionals, countries and ultimately across the world, in order to harness science for the common good of all humanity, not just for profits. The day coincides with the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.

■ 17 May

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

This day help to raise awareness about the opportunities of the Internet and other information and communication technologies

(ICT) for individuals, communities and societies, and therefore ways to bridge the digital divide. The global Information Technology Union (ITU)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

assigned the theme for 2021 as ***“Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times”***.

■ 17 May International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia



In many countries, sexual and gender minorities continue to be among the most marginalised individuals and groups, often facing discrimination and exclusion from key services including health, education and housing. Homophobia means discrimination and/or prejudice against people because of their sexual orientation or their gender identity. The South African Constitution outlaws all discrimination on the basis of race, gender, disability, identity as well as sexual orientation. Our laws make provisions for ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, but changing attitudes is much more difficult. We have thus seen the rise in hate crimes against people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) communities. A bill against Hate Crimes is being considered, to ensure harsh punishment for crimes of homophobia.

■ 20 May Global Accessibility Day

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) promotes digital access and inclusion for people with disabilities and impairments. GAAD is observed, to get everyone talking, thinking and learning about digital access and inclusion, and the more than One Billion people with disabilities/impairments, whether it's visual, hearing, movement or cognitive.

■ 20 May World Bee Day

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat

from human activities. Pollination is, however, a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity. To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20 May as World Bee Day, and the theme for 2021: ***BEE engaged. Build Back Better for Bees.***

■ 21 May International Tea Day

Millions across the world start their day with a cup of tea, or drink it during the day. The International Tea Day raises awareness of the rights of those who make it possible, the workers in the tea value chain, to enjoy our favourite brew. The International Tea Conference in New Delhi came out with an International Declaration on the rights of workers and small growers to help regulate uneven competition, land ownership, safety regulations, rights of women, social security and living wages. Major African tea producers, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa account for about 30% of world exports in tea. As we also celebrate Africa month, buy local.

■ 21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity

Culture is defined as the ideas, customs, and social behaviour shared and/or manifested by people, groups or a society. All societies have a degree of cultural diversity, as well as the things that brings them together across cultures. The South African Constitution recognises this, when it talks about our ***“Unity in Diversity.”***





Gender mainstreaming in African Continental Free Trade Area National Implementation Strategies

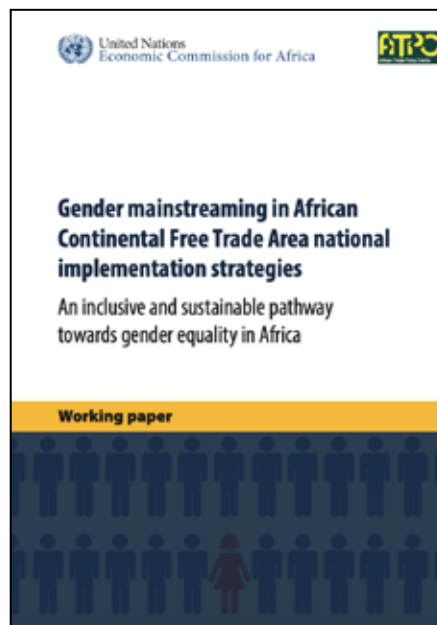
(2020. UNECA)

WOMEN on the African continent constitutes over half of its population, and the majority of the poor. And yet, on the continent like in the rest of the world, *“female-run enterprises have been growing steadily..., making a significant contribution to household incomes and the growth of national economies.”*

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was operationalized on 1 January 2021, after lengthy negotiations since it was launched at the African Union Johannesburg Summit in 2015. The working paper on how countries can mainstream gender in their national AfCFTA strategies, is therefore important to make sure that this common market is inclusive and promote gender equality.

The paper examines the constraints that women businesses, entrepreneurs, traders and workers face across the continent, and then makes recommendations on the following common mitigating and transformative strategies:

- Access to finance/working capital;
- Facilitating market links and market information;



- Mentorship, buyer and business network opportunities;
- Targeted support to connect and enable female-led enterprises to compete in regional value chains;
- Digital skills training as more regional value chain activities go digital;
- Capacity-building and expertise training on local content and rules of origin requirements, and other regulations, including AfCFTA certificates of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and other technical requirements, such as packaging, labelling and

certification of products that meet AfCFTA trade standards;

- Specialized financial literacy, business and financial management training, particularly for female micro-entrepreneurs;
- Gender-responsive public procurement policies and programmes for women-owned businesses;
- Childcare services

Many of these measures should already be part of national development plans to ensure gender equality for women in the economy, and some are specific to participation in and navigating a common market.

The working document also have an important sectoral focus, looking at what specifically needs to be done to enable women entrepreneurs, business and traders in Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Services.

Overall, the paper acknowledges the importance of gender mainstreaming, of gender-disaggregated data, of the diversity of women traders and other needs; and the need for women to adapt, by developing digital and technical skills.

X-WORD

#AfricaMonth World Heritage Sites

Sources: www.africanworldheritagesites.org and www.awhf.net



ACROSS

2. Site of meteor crater and dome in South Africa.
3. National park in Algeria, covered by 'forests' of eroded sandstone
5. One amongst five world's natural heritage rainforests in Cameroon
8. Desert in neighboring country
10. Sacred grove, tropical high forests, in Nigeria.
11. Capital of former kingdom of Kongo in Angola.
12. Fortified historic town in Ethiopia.
14. Number of African world heritage sites now listed.

DOWN

1. World's tallest free-standing massif, amongst world's largest volcanoes.
4. Ancient Kush civilizations of lower Nile in the Sudan.
6. Trading and intellectual centre, famous libraries, now in Mali.
7. Global UN agency that designates world heritage sites.
9. Swahili trading center in Zanzibar.
13. Site of ancient civilization in Ethiopia.

WORD BANK

UNESCO

Mt Kilimanjaro

Island of Meroe

Vredefort

Osun-Osogbo

one hundred and nineteen

Dja Faunal Reserve

Axum

Mbanza Kongo

Stone Town

Tassili N'ajjer

Namib Sand Sea

Timbuktu

Harar Jugol