



ANC TODAY

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23–29 April 2021

Conversations with the President



Our ambitions should match the size of our challenges

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

LAST week, I visited the Port of Durban to see for myself the work being done to make the port more efficient and competitive. After a briefing with the senior management of Transnet, I toured the harbour in a pilot boat, which is usually used to guide large ships through the entrance channel to the pier.

Seeing the workings of the port from the water, one is reminded of

its vast scale and complexity. As we left the pier, we watched the African Finch, an enormous vessel laden with over 30,000 tonnes of timber, depart from the terminal. A vessel of this size carries immense economic value, and many such vessels pass through the port every day.

If the port does not function efficiently, the entire economy suffers, from importers and exporters

to consumers.

On the other hand, if the port works well, it can drive economic growth and position our country as a gateway to the region and the continent.

When I visited Durban in October 2019, many local businesses and port users raised concerns with me about the performance of the Durban Port. Shipping companies

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CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



Port of Durban in KZN

in particular expressed concern about truck congestion and waiting times, ship berthing delays and anchorage times, poor maintenance of equipment and generally low productivity in the port.

My visit to the port last week was to check whether the commitments made in response to these concerns had been implemented.

There has indeed been great progress over the past year in turning around the performance of the port, despite the impact of COVID-19.

These efforts are already showing results in improved maintenance of equipment, reduced congestion, quicker turnaround times and increased use of rail instead of road transport.

While this is important progress, there is still much work to be done to position Durban as a world-class port and as a hub port for the Southern Hemisphere.

In recent years, the port has slipped from its position as first in Africa to third, behind Tangier in

Morocco and Port Said in Egypt. Truck turnaround times have greatly improved. Similarly, the reliability of cargo handling equipment has improved to 80%, and is heading towards at least 95% to meet international benchmarks. Ship waiting times have reduced to impressive levels.

These statistics may seem technical and obscure, but they have a direct impact on the growth of our economy and on the prices we

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pay as consumers.

We have made improving the efficiency of our ports a priority of Operation Vulindlela, and have focused on rebuilding Transnet, which is one of our valued state owned enterprises. The new management of Transnet and its operating divisions are resolutely focused on turning the performance of the port around.

The management has ambitious and exciting expansion plans for all five of the port's precincts. These include the deepening of the Maydon Wharf channel to allow larger, modern vessels to enter the port, the infill of Pier 1 and Pier 2 to create additional capacity for containers, and the development of a new container terminal in the Point Precinct.

Altogether, the expansion of infrastructure at the port will require R100 billion in new investments over the next decade and more. This will completely transform the port, expanding its capacity for container handling from 2.9 million units to more than 11 million units.

These ambitious plans will require greater private sector participation and investment. Transnet, including the Durban Port, is an important national asset belonging to the people of South Africa.

Partnerships with the private sector are crucial to bring new investment, technology and expertise to port operations and to modernise equipment and infrastructure. Transnet is planning, for example, to advertise a concession later this year to build and operate the new Point Terminal. This will bring in private investment and improve the efficiency of container handling.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



President being briefed about developments at the Durban port

Through our reform process, we are steadily improving the efficiency of our ports and railways and unlocking massive investment in infrastructure. This will not only lower costs and improve the competitiveness of our exports, but will create thousands of new jobs in the process.

Through both operational improvements and structural re-

forms, Durban Port will reclaim its place as the best-performing port in Africa.

As part of our Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, we will continue to work tirelessly to expand infrastructure investment and transform our network industries.

If my visit to Durban left one thing in my mind, it is that we South Af-

ricans are capable of succeeding in projects of vast importance and scale.

Our ambitions should match the size of our challenges.

With the progress we are making at the Durban port, with the reinvigorated skills and capabilities that we have in Transnet, we now have the wind in our sails. And we are moving at a rate of knots towards our destination.



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Freedom Day – Reflections on the roads travelled

■ By ANC Deputy Secretary General Jessie Duarte

CHARLOTTE Maxeke was a woman whose ability to stand firm no matter what she faced, is how I would put context to what I wish to write here. I cannot compare myself to her or to any other women because our lived realities are shaped by our individual environments. I also think it's arrogant to compare oneself with great people.

I lived all my life in small homes, normal for working class families. My mother was a garment worker and my father worked in mine trading stores, shoe stores and drove a bakery van. He took whatever job that came along, a job that put food on the table. There were also years of unemployment when one or other of my parents had no work.

I was raised in Newclare and my whole life revolved around that area. Holidays and school days were in the same area for most of my life. Books took me on journeys throughout the world, an escape from the mundane sameness of living on the wrong side of the track and in a racially divided community.

It was not always like that. In my very early years ours was a vibrant diverse community; we were multilingual small children, chil-



Comrade Jessie Duarte

dren of mineworkers and hawkers of many goods, factory workers, teachers, doctors and lawyers.

Newclare was the home of many leaders of the ANC. My mother was an active garment union member. My older brothers were young activists.

In 1961, all that changed ruthlessly as people were removed and taken to Lenasia and Soweto and homes were bulldozed to make room for cheap housing project. Flats covered the green fields we played in and we all looked the same and spoke only English

or Afrikaans. The only constant was the ever-present poverty that came with joblessness and matriculation with no future to look forward to. Thinking of higher education was either becoming a nurse, teacher, mechanic, welder or carpenter. On a rare occasion, one of us would break out and go to UWC or even Wits.

So, these were my circumstances as a child. I was offered a scholarship post my matric year and spent a year in the USA. It should have been a year that would assist me to get a scholarship to a university there, but that was not to be. I came home and in 1973 married my now ex-husband, studied a few courses and became a certified bookkeeper whilst I tried to continue with my studies at UNISA. However, I became active in the politics of my area. We started a Newclare residents association and fought high electricity charges, but mainly it was to attempt to inspire activism. **"No Sports in an Abnormal Society"** became a rallying call and organisations began to emerge around the issue of education and sport. The Black Consciousness Movement was the very beginnings of mobilisation for me, but my family were solidly Congress people, and soon I too followed the traditions of Congress.

Freedom Day celebrations



In late 1979, I met Mama Sisulu and so began a life of true activism as a very active member of a group to establish women's organisations in all provinces. I was active in the Anti-President's Council to protest against the racist tricameral parliament.

I worked for Ravan Press as an accountant, then for Reverend Beyers Naude where I ran a scholarship programme whose task was to find scholarships for activists in preparation for a new civil service in a free South Africa. I remained closely attached to my community, by then in a township called Riverlea.

I was banned when the first state of emergency was declared, but continued with the mobilisation work for the ANC, and primarily as part of the activists whose task it was to make the country ungovernable. The UDF became our life.

Finally, on 27 April 1994, the period of negotiations at CODESA

had achieved a universal suffrage and all South Africans could vote for the laws that would emerge under an ANC led government.

I stood in line on that day, apprehensive, happy, and strangely detached as if I was watching a movie. I stood in line for four hours before I got to the ballot box. I saw people from the community silently waiting or excitedly talking, a peaceful day.

At this point I worked for Cde Nelson Mandela. It had been four incredible years with the greatest human being I was honoured to serve. My head was full of what lay ahead, plans for the inauguration, my own future as a person on the Gauteng list to become an MPL. The training I had received in 1993 at the Civil Service College would stand me in good stead. Big questions about our ability to transition from activism to governance occupied my mind.

I voted and knew that there was no turning back, ever. I also knew

that the road ahead would be difficult, and it is clear that the challenges we face now are not unexpected. Yet, face them we must, bring about the vision in the Freedom Charter and apply the tactics we so carefully discuss in every conference of the ANC.


This second transition period of transformation from what Apartheid was to a non-racial, non-sexist, united and democratic country takes courage. There are contradictions to manage and old ideas and norms to defeat. Our road to a better life for all is long and arduous.

There is no freedom without economic freedom and for this we need to radically change the structure of our economy and implement progressive laws to bring about social transformation and, with it, social justice.

27 years into our democracy. The struggle must continue.

A government for the people: Revolutionising Municipalities

Dear Mr President

 NCE again this year, the people of our country will flock to the polls to elect their local government councillors for the next five years.

The local government elections, slated for October this year (2021), come during a testing time for everyone as our country and the rest of the world battles the deadly coronavirus.

Be that as it may, the elections will go ahead under strict hygiene protocols after the Independent Elections Commission (IEC) showed the way when it held the long overdue by-elections in November last year (2020). The African National Congress showed once again during those by-elections that it had no equal in terms of appeal to the voters and populace when it made a clean sweep of the wards that were being contested.

However, Mr President, this does not in any way mean that we should take for granted the support our people have shown to our 109-year-old organisation.

It is the duty of the ANC and its leaders across the board to ensure that only candidates who are beyond probity are fielded. Councillorship should not be determined by popularity, but by the will to serve our people and deliver the crucial services as per their mandate.



Comrade Pule Mabe

The inefficiencies plaguing local government are behind the service delivery protests which flare up now and again and have led to vandalism and destruction of public and private properties.

The annual reports by the Auditor General have painted a damning picture with regard to the use of municipal finances with little consequences for those who are responsible.

It is the responsibility of the ANC to turn this situation around because we hold the majority of municipalities in the country.

Local government is the institution that is close to the people and its impact is immediately felt with regard to the delivery or non-delivery of services. Where local gov-

ernment works optimally, there is stability and solidarity within the community.

For the longest time, we have spoken about local economic development but many municipalities have failed to internalise this concept.

As the ANC, it is up to us to empower and capacitate our public representatives in order to truly transform the fortunes of our people.

The mainstream media and social media were ecstatic during the last local government elections when the ANC "lost" power in three metro municipalities of Tshwane, Jo'burg and Nelson Mandela Bay.

Even though we subsequently retained some of them due to coalitions, we need to ensure that this time we win key municipalities convincingly.

This puts the onus on our candidates and leaders to hit the ground running.

Even though the pandemic hinders proper campaigning, the new normal has presented all of us with the opportunity to engage with our communities in creative ways.

In the communications unit, we are geared to ratchet our efforts to conscientise and imbue our cadres with the tools they need to communicate with their communities.



Mr President, the calibre of the candidate who will raise their hands to lead a ward is central to what we seek to achieve as an organisation.

To prevent the debacle that happened in 2011 when many of our candidates were rejected by their communities, the ANC should ensure that only those who are deeply rooted among the people are fielded.

It is also important that those who are ultimately vetted are cadres who are steeped in the ANC tradition. It is futile to have opportunists whose sole aim is to line their pockets at the expense of the reputation of our glorious movement.

Over the years, research has shown that local government elections attract lower participation than the national and provincial elections. We need to turn this tide, together with opposition political parties.

Local government can no longer afford to be the orphan of governance.

It needs to be at the centre of delivery. During the pandemic, local government proved inadequate to cater for disaster management. Water shortages that have long stoked discord among communities were sharply exposed as people were required to limit unnecessary movement and stay at home as much as possible and to wash their hands frequently. These hygiene protocols proved very challenging in different municipalities and national and provincial governments had to intervene on an urgent basis. While cooperative governance between all the three tiers is provided for by the constitution, it is a sad indictment when one leg of government fails in its duties and it reflects badly on those we have been tasked with



Local Government
Elections 2021 date
has been set...

the responsibility to deliver services.

The pandemic exposed the fissures that have long been simmering on the surface and the time is overdue when we need to ensure that promises are kept.

Now that the local government elections date have been proclaimed, the next step would be the launching of our manifesto in order to give our candidates their marching orders.

Our manifesto will hold those that we are going to elect to account. As the ANC, we need not hold back when our councillors fail and betray their communities. We should not wait until protests disrupt peace and stability before we intervene. Councillors who are rooted within their communities should be the first signal of discord. It is unfair to expect our people to wallow in sewer and filth until the community rises up in anger and rampage.

The name of the ANC supersedes the selfish interests of individuals

and we should not hesitate to cull non-performing representatives. The much-maligned cadre deployment policy should not be used as a ticket to pilfer public funds. As a matter of fact, only cadres who understand the overriding mission of the ANC should be deployed and only those who are suitably qualified should be contracted to serve on the frontline. The scandals of under-qualified officials who are hired for political reasons should be confined to the dustbin of history.

Mr President, this is an honest appraisal of our fortunes and shortcomings in local government over the last six terms. It is also true that there are pockets of municipalities that are doing a sterling job and honouring the mandate of their communities and the ANC.

This is a culture we need to inculcate against all odds.

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

Our political economy and the road to our recovery and reconstruction

■ *By Sikhumbuzo Thomo*

AS we begin the long and difficult recovery road from the coronavirus pandemic, and we put a spotlight on the world economy today, it is without any shadow of doubt that the global economy is still facing enormous challenges. We are aware of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that came at a backdrop of our domestic challenges related to electricity, drought and high youth unemployment.

Despite the impending recovery, effects of the COVID-19 sluggish economic growth will sadly be around for some considerable time. The recent economic downturn and depressed commodity prices have painfully reminded us that as a country, we must deepen our industrial base and benefit, or remain forever vulnerable to volatile global commodity prices. The possibilities of export led growth are so limited that they negatively affect most developing countries, including ours. So, we need as a counter measure among others to strengthen our domestic market base to sustain industrial development and economic growth. The circumstances we find ourselves in require that we re-double our efforts to radically transform our country's economy. We can no longer afford



to be a country that relies on the production and export of our primary commodities.

We need to continue working to bring about structural reforms at two inter-related levels: firstly, we need to place our productive sectors firmly at the heart of a new growth path that will move us up the value chains. Secondly, we must significantly broaden the base of economic participation. These are some of the commitments of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP), and provide the only plausible basis on which to secure higher rates of inclusive growth and investment. As an example, when the ERRP speaks about building infrastructure, as we are

currently doing, it is not only to have the infrastructure in place. It is also to use the infrastructure as a means to promote economic development.

It is here I think that the ERRP comes into its full element that creates conditions for a rejuvenated economy. This is done by seeking to combine infrastructure led growth that creates conditions, and programmes that cooperate around value added productive activities. That is the way we need to scale up if we are to hit the scales towards where China is now presently, for example.

Now, from where we come from, South Africa was at some point the most industrialised country in

the African continent historically from a political economy context, post the 1994 transition. That is what we inherited. The bulk of the industry was heavily orientated towards the domestic market and was quite highly protected, and went through a shock with the instrument of the Uruguay Round obligations. One of the issues for the ANC at the time was that the apartheid government had classified our country as a developed country. We have subsequently changed that and the effect of this was that we took bigger tariff cuts than Brazil and India for example. That is where we come from, and our industrial sector did not do well.

So what we are trying to do now is to turn this post-transition economic de-industrialisation around, using the ERRP. In particular we have drawn many lessons from all our economy since the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). A lot of the questions, even criticism on the ERRP, unfairly come on the overall macro environment, which is not what the ERRP is about. For a small and open economy like ours, there are intractable issues that we can never be able to deal with, like the currency for instance. Our currency (Rand) varies with that of the EU (Euro). Put it simply, as a fragile economy, when we trade with the West, the Rand is at the mercy of global uncertainty, and this has a direct impact on the overall South African economy. The opposite does not obtain when one of the western countries' economy is in dire straits.

Importantly, one other key aspect is localisation. There is a challenge on localisation issues and the ERRP seeks to address and consequently resolve that. As a government, we have thankfully

Objectives of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan




The objectives of the plan are to:

- create jobs, primarily through aggressive infrastructure investment and mass employment programmes;
- reindustrialise the economy, focusing on growing small businesses;
- accelerate economic reforms to unlock investment and growth;
- fight crime and corruption; and
- improve the capability of the State.

not signed the Optional Protocol on government procurement. Had we signed the protocol, all of the localisation initiatives and its good intents will have come to naught. And for as long as we do not sign the protocol, it means we can use our own interventions to support localisation like we have done in the plan. Had we stepped aside of that and tried to force that onto the private sector, then we would have been in violation on Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS).

So, this is how we have gone about it in the ERRP. We have seen that when we have infrastructure programmes, we have far too many and far too high a percentage of imported products. Right now we need COVID-19 health oriented products. Howev-

er, when you look around, there is as not enough local producers to take advantage of the government spend to boost local jobs. This is the immediate challenge that the plan seeks to resolve.

There is still a long way to go in addressing many other economic issues. However, we are making noticeable progress. We have had a social dialogue process that has led to the formulation of this plan with all social partners in the country. This plan recognises that there is significant convergence amongst the social partners on what needs to be done to set our economy on a new accelerated, inclusive and transformative growth trajectory.

Sikhumbuzo Thomo is the Head of Economic Diplomacy Task Team (IR).



Working with stress, not against it

■ *By Werner Gaigher*

CHRONIC stress in the workplace is a very real threat to productivity today. And, although a shoulder massage while sitting at your desk is most certainly pleasant, most companies fall way short of addressing the problem effectively. To date, employers' go-to strategy to reduce this stress is to offer wellness programmes to staff members.

But as good as the intentions on the part of management are, the strategy doesn't work. The reason for this is the one-size-fits-all model the programmes are run on. Workers, like everyone else, are individuals – each with their own set of strengths and weaknesses.

UNPACKING THE “STRESS RESPONSE”

The problem runs deeper than the models themselves, however. At its root is a misunderstanding of what stress really is. Despite what the programmes teach using terms such as “stress management” and “creating a stress-free environment”, stress is not a



through-and-through bad thing. In fact, if you're a totally stress-free animal in the wild, you might pay for it with your life.

It works like this: when an animal senses a real and present danger, its adrenal glands increase the production of adrenalin and cortisol; blood is redirected from the internal organs to the muscles; the heart rate increases and its pupils dilate. All of this is designed to give the animal a burst of energy and heighten its senses to survive the threat, more often than

not a prey either stalking it or in hot pursuit. It's called the “*stress response*” and it's a lifesaver.

But the office is not a plain in the Serengeti. It's vastly different. Beyond having water coolers instead of drinking holes, and air-conditioning instead of tree shade, places of work are most probably around 95% safer than the wild. The actual threats to one's life in an office are close to zero because, yes, no one has ever died of missing a deadline or being shouted at by their boss.











Yet, in offices around the world, people are sitting at their desks experiencing the same sensations a zebra has in the Serengeti being chased by a lion. Even worse, where the zebra returns to a state of relative peace when the lion is outrun, office workers remain chronically stressed even though a threat such as losing one's job can be negated simply by doing good work. Why is this?

The reason is that humans have the same primitive brain and ancient autonomic nervous system as most mammals in the wild. Unlike animals, however, we have for some reason attained the ability to reason, plan, negotiate and contemplate about the past and future. Ironically, it is exactly this thinking part of our brains – this constant contemplation – that keeps us in a chronic state of stress. We can't seem to turn it off. Yes, my job is secure if I work hard, we think, but what if something beyond my control happens and I'm out on the street? What if a meteor strikes and the whole world comes to an end? What then?!

WORKING WITH STRESS

Us humans have lost the voluntary ability to shake off the feeling that there is always a threat and something bad is about to happen. This has huge implications for our health, relationships and our overall functionality and productivity. The trick is to complete these cycles of stress instead of being trapped within them and keeping that energy stuck within our bodies.

Working with stress – reducing it – and the ability to return our bodies to a more balanced, calm and soothing state, requires us to understand how our bodies respond to the perception of safety and

10 Strategies for Managing Stress in the Workplace	
1  Control Your Distractions Regaining control over your environment and technology can make you less frazzled.	6  Get Enough Sleep Good, quality rest renews you so that you can more effectively manage stress.
2  Disconnect From Work Take a technology break and make room for personal time to recharge.	7  Leave "Busy" for the Bees Shift your focus from reactive to PROactive.
3  Make Vacation a Work-Free Zone Use all of your vacation time and leave your work at the office.	8  Let Go of the Past "Face time" in the office is no longer a useful measure of productivity.
4  Give Up Multi-Tasking Task switching lowers the quality of your work and sabotages productivity.	9  Support Thoughtful Work Make sure there are quiet places in the office that support focus and flow.
5  Use "Office Hours" Be less available to others so you can do more thoughtful work and empower your team.	10  Recognize When You're Overwhelmed Your mind and body are your most important resources. Prioritize your wellbeing.

danger, and to be willing to understand these states and change our relationship towards them. Before we start to do anything about our situation, we first need to understand that our body is responding to protect us – and it's doing so without our permission.

The stress response is an involuntary reaction by the nervous system. It is called "*neuroception*" – and it happens before, and completely independently, from perception. Unfortunately, our nervous system struggles to differentiate between a life threat, like a lion chasing us, and a deadline which holds no threat to our health whatsoever. For the nervous system it is all the same. So, when our bodies respond to a deadline as if it's a lion, our mind tells us that we should be afraid. We literally think ourselves into

danger.

The solution is to start befriending these various body sensations. This requires awareness of the here and now, and a turning towards these sensations with a gentle, agenda-less, curious attitude. Remember these sensations are trying to protect you.

Once we become familiar with our various individual responses and sensations, we can voluntarily modulate our nervous system through tools such as breathing, movement, sound, and social support to name a few, to move our nervous system towards more reflexivity. We need stress, but we also need the tools to switch stress off when it is not relevant.

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Q&A

■ By Leo Ndabambi

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Kagiso Given Mashaba

1. Please tell us more about yourself.

Given is a born-again Christian who was born and bred in Alexandra Township. He is an Educator at SAHETI School (Accounting teacher) and has a Bachelor of Education Degree as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Management – in the field of Business Administration. He believes in changing the world, one learner at a time through teaching and learning. In addition, he has ownership levels of commitment when it comes to serving his family, church, school and society at large. Furthermore, he has passion for music and plays drums for a musical band which was founded in Alexandra. He believes that music played a major role in protesting segregation during the apartheid era and helps us express ourselves in the spiritual realm.

2. The ANC's theme for 2021 is: THE YEAR OF UNITY, RENEWAL, AND RECONSTRUCTION; IN THE YEAR OF CHARLOTTE MAXEKE. What can you tell us about uMam' Charlotte Maxeke?

Charlotte Maxeke and I share something special. She was also an educator who taught indigenous languages to expatriates and Basic English to African "boss boys". She was a member of a choir that toured Europe, North America, Canada and the United States. After obtaining her B.Sc



*Kagiso Given Mokhutswane
Mashaba*

School teacher and artist

Degree, she was the first black South African woman to earn a degree. This amplifies the ownership levels of commitment that Charlotte exemplified.

3. What can we learn from past activists from the entertainment industry like bra Hugh Masekela and comrade Collins Chabane, as they are remembered during freedom month?

Hugh Masekela was an example of a person who believed that Freedom is embedded in 'knowing thyself'. The Hugh Masekela Heritage Foundation's mission is "to unearth, preserve, and promote Africa's heritage and culture

through arts and education and to restore Africa's identity and share it with the world" (Hugh, 2015). Our takeaway from the latter is aligned to the ANC's theme for year 2021 of unity, renewal, and reconstruction. We learn that in order to build, have hope and be revived, our true identity must be restored first before we can share our great capabilities with the world.

Collins Chabane developed an interest in music while in prison. He played the harmonica and managed to release two albums. Furthermore, he obtained a Diploma in Engineering and a Diploma in Management while in prison. He was later appointed as the Minister in the Presidency. From his history and achievements, we learn that you can be chained but your spirit, mind and soul can never be bound to any system or institution. You are who you say you are, and that the greater freedom is within you.

4. As an educator, what do I think pupils should do to fight COVID-19?

Learners must act independently and make fruitful decisions that will result in their family, friends, teachers and the society to be safe from the virus by taking all precautionary measures that help protect us from being infected with the virus. They should be mindful that although they are not high risk

people, this does not mean they should be careless by interacting without masks or social distancing because they can be carriers of the virus that will affect and infect their loved ones and all other high risk individuals around them.

5. Also being a live performing arts entertainer, what is your view on how best we can educate society to better fight the plight of GBVF and LGBTQIA+ as second pandemic?

Music still remains a medium to be used to address issues relating to LGBTQIA+ and GBVF that we are facing as the human race. Musicians must be aware of current affairs so that each time they perform, their performance should be relevant by means of addressing issues. In contrast, it would be difficult to play songs that address socio-economic issues at a person's wedding. So the government should create many more platforms and make funding available for musicians to use music to address issues affecting our nation.

6. What is your highest achievement?

It is establishing a family at a young age which money cannot buy, as well as continuously serving one another. This is my highest achievement because I believe that for us to have a great nation, it starts with having strong family structures. The ecosystemic theory qualifies the latter in terms of how we are socialised into the broader community. So everyone is a result of their upbringing. I was brought up from a family line where my previous generation took up the opportunity to serve others in one way or another, through using their own academic achievements.

7. What is it that the upcoming youth of South Africa can contribute towards attaining the education that they need through the creative arts?

They need to have ownership levels of commitment instead of obligation levels of commitment when it comes to their studies. They must own education and not do work because of avoiding consequences such as punishment if work is not done. In addition, the Youth must understand that they have a role to play in governance and contributing to our nation in the long run. Therefore, preparation will be their acceleration to their destination (educationally). Furthermore, the Youth must discard the misconception that qualifications are only achieved through educational institutions. Knowledge about the NQF with its enabling bodies and legislation must be shared with the Youth for them to make informed decisions about gaining skills, knowledge, attitudes and values through all available means. For example,

the South African Qualifications Authority and the NQF Sct (No. 67 of 2008) acknowledges the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (SETAs & Professional Bodies) that people can be trained, assessed and qualified in the workplace to achieve NQF levels 4 to 10. They will then receive National Occupational Awards, based on the Organising Framework of Occupations (OFO).

8. What is your motto?

Hope is King: Reconstruction, Revival, Renewal is possible if one believes that regardless of what the nation is going through, there is still hope for us to Rebuild.

The morale of the nation can only be uplifted if we preach HOPE and implement all actions promised to the nation. This way, we will be giving room to SYNERGY, upon which all resources of the country will be used efficiently.





24 – 30 April 2021

Sources: SA History Online and O'Malley Archives

■ 24 April 1901

Great Comet of 1901

'Great comets' are so named if they are visible with the naked eye. On 24 April 1901 a comet that became known as 'The Great Comet of 1901' or 'Viscara' was visible to the naked eye over most of South Africa. The comet was yellowish in colour and remained visible for the next month (until 25 May). The comet was first spotted by astronomers at the Royal Observatory in Cape of Good Hope, and a certain Mr. Innes was the first person to observe the comet using a 10-inch guiding telescope.

■ 24 April 1976

Benjamin Tyamzashe received Fort Hare Honorary degree



Benjamin John Peter Tyamzashe, Xhosa composer and musician, received an honorary M.A. Degree from the University of Fort Hare in recognition of the major contribution he had made to Xhosa music. In the 1988 Old Mutual-Telkom National Choir Festival, Tyamzashe was again honoured posthumously for his immense contribution to the field of music.



■ 24 April 1984

Second Poverty study published

The second Carnegie Report on Poverty in South Africa is published (the first focused on 'poor whites'). The report gave account of the structural poverty because of apartheid colonialism amongst the majority black population. The report revealed levels of poverty as *"devastating and extensive"*, especially in former homeland areas. *"In Ciskei, the study found elderly people living in darkened hovels, sitting on ragged, filthy beds and with no food on their shelves. Malnutrition was common. In the Orange Free State province 800 residents of a Black township were forced to share 12 open-pit toilets, which led to an outbreak of infectious diseases."*

■ 24 April 1987

Barclays Bank SA changed its name to First National Bank

After protests against Barclays Bank's involvement in South Africa and its apartheid government, Barclays Bank (SA) announced its new name – First National

Bank of Southern Africa (FNB) – a wholly South African owned and controlled entity. Sir Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays, admitted that while the decision to pull out of the South African market was a commercial one, the pressure exerted against the bank by anti-apartheid protesters had a detrimental effect on the bank's business in other areas. Student campaigns against Barclays Bank, initiated in the 1960s, were carried on year after year, especially at the beginning of every academic year, to persuade students not to open accounts with the bank.

■ 24 April 1993

ANC President OR Tambo passes on

Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo, ANC President from 1967 until 1991 passed away after a lifelong of service and commitment to freedom of South Africa and Africa. Cde OR, as he was affectionately known, was born in Bizana, Eastern Cape in 1917, went on to study BSC at Fort Hare University in 1941, but was expelled for his political activities before he com-



pleted his degree, and went on to become a teacher of mathematics. He was one of the founders of the ANC Youth League formed in 1944, becoming its first secretary and was elected onto the NEC of the ANC in 1948. Cde OR played a critical role in the mass defiance campaigns of the 1950s, was elected as ANC deputy president in 1958 and after the Sharpeville massacre, he was tasked to establish the ANC's exiled wing, a role he played with distinction and dedication until the unbanning of the ANC in 1990. The ANC's Political School launched on 12 April 2019 is named in his honour.

■ **25 April 1932**
First Speaker of Parliament, Dr Frene Ginwala born



The first Speaker of a democratic and non-racial parliament, Cde Frene Noshir Ginwala is born. She went into exile, trained as a lawyer and worked as a journalist and in ANC offices in Britain, before returning to South Africa after the unbanning of the ANC. Cde Frene was also a member of the National Executive Committee, until her retirement.

■ **25 April 1986**
HRM Mswati III takes up reigns as monarch of the Kingdom of Eswatini



King Mswati III (Makhosetive Dlamini), became King of Swaziland (now Eswatini) when he succeeded his late father King Sobhuza II, who died of pneumonia in 1982. Two relatives, Queen Dzeliwe Shongwe and Queen Ntombi Thwala, served as regents until Makhosetive, who was fourteen years old when his father died, was ready to take the reins. Queen Shongwe ruled from 1982-1983 while Queen Thwala ruled from 1983 until 1986. During that time the prospective King was pursuing his studies at the English Sherborne School.

■ **25 April 2007**
First African Malaria Day

The African Union declared this as African Malaria Day, given the devastation of the tropical disease throughout the continent. In 2014,

it was changed to World Malaria Day following a lobby by African member states of the World Health Organisation. The AU has an ongoing #RoleBackMalaria campaign.

■ **26 April 1888**
Author William Gqoba passes on

Author, editor, teacher, catechist, interpreter and wagon-maker William Wellington Gqoba passed on in Lovedale, Eastern Cape. He was born in Gaga, near Alice, and was one of the earliest authors in Xhosa literature. After his death, nine of Gqoba's writings were included in an anthology by W.B. Rubusana *Zemuk' inkomo magwalandini* (1906), and two pieces in the anthology by W.G. Bennie, *Imibengo* (1935).

■ **26 April 1964**
United Federation of Tanzania formed

Tanganyika and the islands of Zanzibar unite to become the United Federation of Tanzania. The former Zanzibar islands remain semi-autonomous and hold five of the country's thirty administrative regions. The other 25 are found in the mainland, formerly Tanganyika. The current president of Tanzania is Samia Suluhu Hassan and is from Zanzibar.

■ **27 April 1950**
Group Areas Act passed

Apartheid as a system was obsessed with separating the citizens of South Africa on a racial basis. This was done to foster White superiority and to entrench the minority White regime at the expense of the Black majority. Significant pieces of legislature were passed in this regard such as the Land Act of 1913, the Mixed

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Marriages Act of 1949 as well as the Immorality Amendment Act of 1950. All these acts were designed to bring about the separation of 'races'. This intention was futile, as there were many urban areas where Black and White South Africans lived side by side. On 27 April 1950, the Apartheid government passed the Group Areas Act. This Act enforced the segregation of the different races to specific areas within the urban locale. It also restricted ownership and the occupation of land to a specific statutory group. This meant that Blacks could not own or occupy land in White areas. To enforce the Group Areas Act, people were forcibly removed, and by 1980 it was reported that over 3.5million people were removed on the basis of this barbaric act.

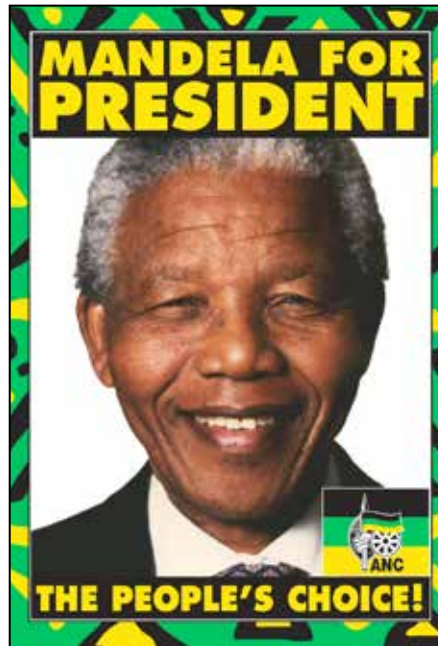
■ 27 April 1972 Kwame Nkrumah passes on



Kwame Nkrumah, father of Pan Africanism, became the first prime minister and president of Ghana in 1957 until 1966. Ghana (formerly known as The Gold Coast) gained its independence and became a republic in 1960. Nkrumah was a founder of the Convention People's Party. He experienced several assassination attempts. In 1966, while Nkrumah was on a visit to China, he was deposed by the police and military. He spent

his later years in exile in Bucharest, Romania. Kwame Nkrumah died on 27 April 1972.

■ 27 April 1994 South Africa's First Democratic Elections



Millions of South Africans lined up in their numbers to cast their votes in the first non-racial elections in the country, after negotiations that started in 1990. This election changed the history of South Africa. It paved the way towards a new democratic dispensation and a new constitution for the country. For the first time all races in the country were going to the polls to vote for a government of their choice. Nineteen political parties participated and twenty-two million people voted. The election took place in a festive atmosphere, contrary to fears of political violence. The African National Congress won the election with 62.65% of the vote. The National Party received 20.39%, Inkatha Freedom Party 10.54%, Freedom Front 2.2%, Democratic Party 1.7%, Pan Africanist Congress 1.2% and the African Christian Democratic Party 0.5%. Although the ANC gained a majority vote, they formed the

Government of National Unity, headed by the ANC's Nelson Mandela who became the first democratic President of the country. 27 April has since been declared Freedom Day.

■ 27 April 2002 Mark Shuttleworth speaks to President Mbeki from space

On this day, the continent's first astronaut, Mark Shuttleworth, spoke with President Thabo Mbeki via video call – from space.

■ 28 April 1924 President Kenneth Kaunda born



Kenneth Kaunda was born in Chinsali, the Northern Province of Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Kaunda was a qualified teacher and taught in a number of schools for years, and left teaching to fight for independence. In 1964, Kaunda became the first president of an independent Zambia. He remained in power until 1991. President Kenneth Kaunda supported liberation movements from Southern Africa, including providing for the headquarters of the ANC in Lusaka.

■ 28 April 1978 AZAPO formed

In the aftermath of the 16 June 1976 Uprising in Soweto, Jo-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

hannesburg, the apartheid government banned all Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) organisations, including the Black People's Convention (BPC), the South African Students' Organisation (SASO) and the Black Community Programmes (BCP). Out of the banning of these liberation movements, the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO) was founded to carry on the work of liberation as an overt organisation. The organisation adopted the Black Consciousness philosophy advocated by Steven Biko and continued to propagate it in its programmes.

■ 28 April 1990 Father Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest, is injured by a letter-bomb



Father Michael Lapsley was born in New Zealand on 2 June 1949. He was trained as an Anglican priest in Australia, where he joined The Society of the Sacred Mission. Father Lapsley came to South Africa in 1973 sent by the Mission, and served as a university chaplain at three campuses in Durban. He felt it was his duty to speak out against the injustices of the Apartheid regime. In 1976, the Apartheid government exiled Father Lapsley for his affiliation to the ANC, as well as for the support of students after the 1976 student uprising. Father Lapsley then moved to Lesotho and later Harare, Zimbabwe, where he served as a chaplain in the ANC.

In 1982, Father Lapsley moved from Lesotho to Zimbabwe, after the South African government launched a raid into Lesotho that killed 42 people. It was believed that Father Lapsley was one of the targets. On the 28 April 1990, Father Lapsley received two pieces of mail from South Africa. Included in one of the pieces of mail was a powerful letter bomb that gravely injured him. This attempt on his life was organised by the Civil Cooperation Bureau, a covert organisation of the South African Government's security apparatus.

■ 28 April 2008 Banyana Banyana midfielder found raped and murdered

On 28 April 2008, Banyana Banyana midfielder Eudy Simelane, was found in a ditch in the outskirts of her home township KwaThema, Gauteng. She had been raped, robbed and murdered. Her rape was a reaction to her sexual orientation as Simelane was an out lesbian woman. Simelane had had a successful soccer career and used her celebrity status as part of her LGBTQIA activism. She was out in her community and while reactions to her homosexuality were mixed, KwaThema did have a known and celebrated LGBTQI friendly sub-culture. This made Simelane's abduction, rape and murder all the more alarming. In recent weeks there have been a number of reports of violence and murder of people from the LGBTQI community.

■ 30 April 1930 Pixley ka Seme succeeds Josiah Gumede as ANC president

Josiah Gumede was elected as president-general of the ANC during its annual congress in 1927, despite ANC criticism of his



pro-communist stance. Gumede's three-year term as president-general of the ANC was characterised by dispute and dissension. However, it did introduce new strains of radical thought into the ANC, and a more militant stance. Opposition to Gumede's fraternity with communism grew, and came to a head when the anti-communist faction of the national executive committee of the ANC took a majority decision to resign en bloc, and T. Mapikela took over as acting president-general. At the annual ANC conference on 30 April 1930, Pixley Seme succeeded Gumede as president general, by a vote of 39 to 14. This ended Gumede's role as prominent figure in South African politics. In recognition of his earlier services to the ANC he was, however, appointed as lifelong honorary president of the organisation.

■ 30 April 1969 Five bush colleges Acts passed

Separate acts give five University Colleges for blacks full university status, (Fort Hare University, University of Durban Westville, University of Zululand, University of the Western Cape and Turfloop University, separating them from UNISA, although the Central government retained tight control. Under the new dispensation, they were supposed to produce a docile black middle class, but soon became hotbeds of political activism.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

24 – 30 April 2021

Source: <https://www.un.org> and www.au.int

■ 24 April Independent Bookstore Day

Independent bookstores are retail shops usually owned by individuals or families, and not owned by large corporations and are not chain-stores. They play an important role in ensuring access to a diverse range of books, because each owner tends to have their own preference of books stocked, as well as location. In South Africa, we have few bookstores, and even fewer independent bookstores. What is growing however, is the number of independent online bookstores.

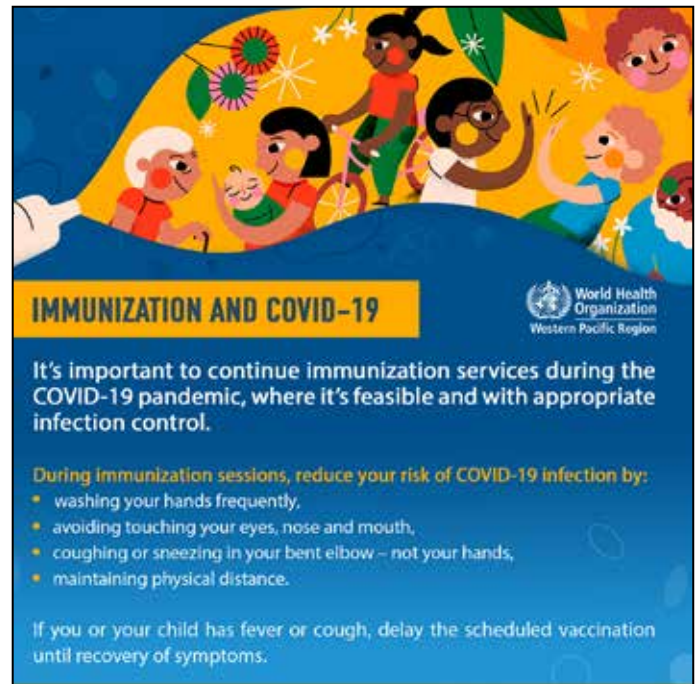
■ 24 April International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace



The values of multilateralism and international co-operation, which underpin the UN Charter is fundamental to promote and support the three pillars of the UN – peace and security, development and human rights. Multilateralism and international cooperation means an international norms and rules based system, that is fair and promotes equality, and helps to foster common and more just approaches to development, global trade, climate change, geopolitical tensions, humanitarian and migratory crises.

■ 24-30 April World Immunization Week

With the theme '*Vaccines bring us closer*', World Immunization Week 2021 (April 24th-30th) will show how vaccination connects us to the people, goals



and moments that matter to us most, helping improve the health of everyone, everywhere throughout life. It is a call to action against vaccine apartheid, being practiced by many rich countries in the context of a global COVID-19 pandemic, and their refusal to allow for waiver of intellectual property rules of the WTO, which would allow developing countries to manufacture vaccines for the needs of their citizens. World Immunization Week – celebrated in the last week of April (24 to 30 April) – aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. Immunization saves millions of lives every year and is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions.

■ 25 April International Delegates Day

Delegates refer to all the country representatives in multilateral organisations that work tirelessly to protect and advance national and common global interests at the United Nations.

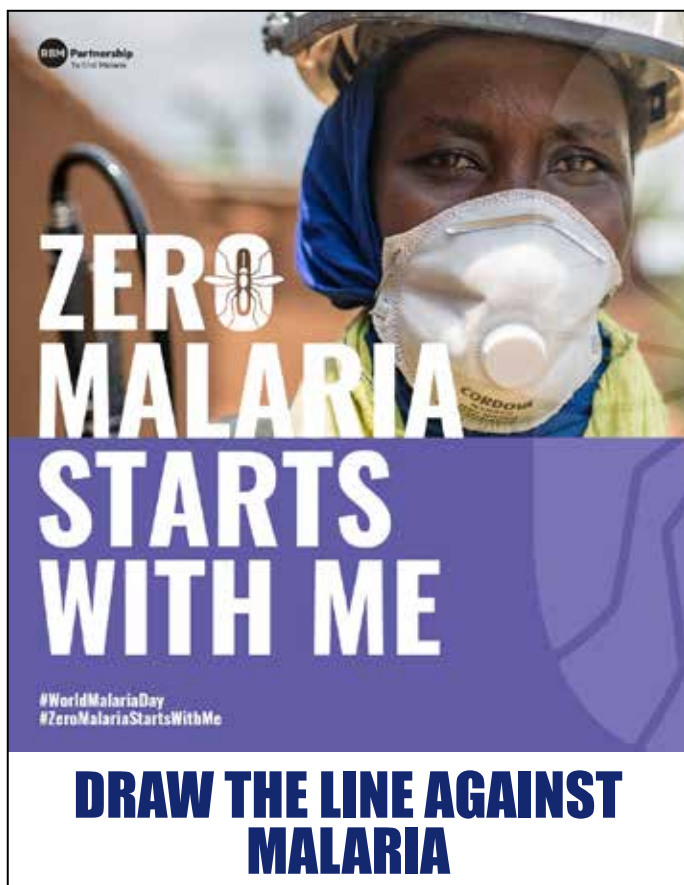


THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



■ 25 April World Malaria Day

This year, under the theme *“Reaching the Zero Malaria target”*, the African Union, the WHO and partners will mark World Malaria Day by celebrating the achievements of countries that are approaching – and achieving – malaria elimination. They provide inspiration for all nations that are working to stamp out this deadly disease and improve the health and livelihoods of their populations.



■ 26 April World Intellectual Property Day

Creative minds the world over – architects, artists, artisans, designers, engineers, entrepreneurs, researchers, scientists and many others – come up with new ideas every day. From the arts to artificial intelligence, fashion to farming, renewable energy to retail, television to tourism, and virtual reality to videogames, to name just a few. Intellectual property protects the rights over ideas, and can include patents, copyright, industrial design rights, trademarks, plant variety rights, trade dress, and geographical origins. Countries have intellectual property rights, and the global entity that governs it is called the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

■ 28 April World day for Safety and Health at Work



Workplaces – mining, manufacturing and so forth – can be very hazardous to health and safety, hence the emergence of unions fighting for health and safety standards, and laws being made to ensure workplace safety. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) started observing this day emphasis the prevention of accidents and diseases at work. In the era of COVID-19, this is very important so that workers don't get infected at work, or infect customers and each other.

■ 30 April International Jazz Day

International Jazz Day raises awareness in the international community of the virtues of jazz as a force for peace, unity, dialogue and enhanced cooperation among people, as well as an educational tool.

in pictures



ANC National Executive Committee members, led by the Officials embarked on a door-to-door campaign in order to reach out to voters in the wards of the 14 by-elections that took place on 21 April 2021. Through the hard work of NEC members, leadership of provinces and regions, and the many volunteers, we successfully retained the 10 wards that we were contesting and won two wards from the opposition. These are some of the pictures.



in pictures



How you can Save the Planet

by Hendrik van Hensbergen
(2021, Puffin Books)

22 April was World Earth Day, with the theme for 2021, *Restore Our Earth*. The COVID-19 global pandemic has shown that indeed nature can start restoring itself, when us humans were huddled in our homes under lockdown, and as our factories, planes and cars stopped emitting pollution.

At the forefront of global action for environmental change and especially avoiding the calamity of climate change are Generation Z, the young people of today. They are a generation that faces much uncertainty – with huge student debts, with the scourge of unemployment, under employment and graduate unemployment – for the first time in a century their generation may not be better off than their parents.

This has had a radicalising impact, as we've seen with the Anti-globalisation movements, the Arab spring movements, Black Lives Matter, and across the world, the environmental movements formed and driven by teens.

Van Hensbergen was one such teen and young person, who, whilst working for the World Wildlife Foundation, founded Action for Conservation as an organisation for young people in the UK. His book, *How You Can Save the Planet*, is but one of a few of the genre, but what makes it interest-



ing is that he looks at different actions for change, through the stories of real young climate activists.

Like Amelia who started getting involved when she was 15, taking part in an environmental competition at school, making bird feed baths out of pencils. Doesn't sound like much, but she believes that "small changes add up to make a big difference."

Then there is Lesein Mutunkei, an avid footballer and inspired by Wangari Maathai, decided that for every goal he scores, he would plant a tree. He calls it Tree for Goals, and it spread in his school to other teams – basketball, rugby, athletics – spreading to other schools, and soon they managed

to plant over a 1000 trees around Nairobi, Kenya.

Fourteen year old Aditya Mukarji from Delhi, India watched on his computer how a turtle was strangled by eating a plastic straw, and started a campaign to convince people to stop using single-use plastics. He convinced an Indian cinema chain to stop selling plastic straws, and also made a list of alternatives to various every day single use items.

All the stories are followed by concrete and simple actions that can be done in local communities, as well as a quiz on the topic.

These young activists have a few things in common, a commitment to change, understanding the importance of organising for change, and linking the local to the global. Naomi Klein in an interview in *The Guardian* (9 March 2021) observed that "there are three fires in the world today: climate change, rising anger, fear and anti-immigrant sentiment, and young people. This third fire might save us all."



X-WORD

Earth Day 22 April 2021



ACROSS

2. Theme for 2021 Earth Day.
6. Number of years it takes for plastic to break down in a landfill.
8. Slogan for conscious consumers: Reuse, ... , ...
10. Song sang by Pope Francis and Bono on 50th Earth Day in 2020 ...
11. 22 April is also the anniversary of which Soviet revolutionary?
12. On Earth Day, we can show support through ...

DOWN

1. We can support Earth Day by ...
3. Earth day action for environmental and climate education in schools and ...
4. Number of people on streets during first Earth Day event in 1970.
5. Millions downloaded the Indian Earth Day song called ...
7. First global climate change agreement signed in 1997 ... Protocol.
9. Earth Day celebrated by over a ... people worldwide.

WORD BANK

450
20 million
cleanups
Dharti Ma

Reduce Recycle
Kyoto
planting trees
Vladimir Lenin

billion
civic education
Canta La Vita
Restore our Earth