



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the **President**



Africa is forging a new path towards self-reliance

■ By **President Cyril Ramaphosa**

AFRICA'S management of the COVID-19 pandemic is a story of defied expectations.

It is now two years since the first COVID-19 case in Africa was reported. Even as the burden of infections remains high – to date Africa has recorded over 11 million cases – dire predictions about Africa's ability to withstand the health impact of the pandemic have not materialised.

Some have called it Africa's COVID-19 paradox, that despite widespread poverty, poor liv-

ing conditions, under-resourced national health systems and scant resources, the pandemic is being effectively managed in a number of African countries.

Several reasons have been suggested for this '*paradox*'. These include the continent's relatively young population, experience in fighting outbreaks of disease, exposure of the population to previous infections, and limited travel connections in many countries.

Another reason that has been suggested is the rapid response

of the African Union to the pandemic, driving a coordinated response and unified strategy. This strategy mobilised resources to fortify national health systems, set up an online platform to secure medical supplies, undertook a continent-wide drive to acquire vaccines, and drove effective public health communications.

At a time when decisive leadership was called for, the leaders of Africa stepped up.

In the course of the past two years, African countries have

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built remarkable resilience that will be invaluable for future health emergencies of this nature.

Faced with massive global shortages of medical equipment and diagnostics in the early days of the pandemic, African countries turned to local manufacturing of sanitisers, personal protective equipment, COVID-19 test kits and ventilators.

There is another aspect to Africa's story of defied expectations, namely the realisation that as the global crisis unfolded, our continent could not rely on the generosity of wealthy countries. We had to do things for ourselves.

African countries have had to contend with wealthy nations pledging partnership, solidarity and cooperation, but at the same time acting in a way that holds back the continent's recovery from the pandemic. An example was the travel ban imposed late



Our experience of managing COVID-19 has emboldened the nations of Africa. It has shown us that resources and capabilities exist across our own continent to deal with emergencies of this magnitude.



last year on South Africa and a number of other countries in the region in response to our scientists' detection of the Omicron variant.

But nowhere has this been more apparent than in the unaccept-

able practice of developed countries buying up and hoarding all available COVID-19 vaccine stocks in quantities far exceeding the needs of their populations. This vast swathes of the so-called developing world struggled to access them for their people.

Our experience of managing COVID-19 has emboldened the nations of Africa. It has shown us that resources and capabilities exist across our own continent to deal with emergencies of this magnitude.

It has reminded us that we have world-class institutions like the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention that must be supported and capacitated to fulfill their mandates.

It has shown us how fragile our global partnerships can be, particularly in a global emergency.

Most importantly, it has strengthened our collective resolve to step up pressure on developed economy nations to give us not charity, but our just dues.

Countries of the global north have a responsibility to support Africa's development in large part due to the role that many of these countries played in plundering, polluting and impoverishing our continent.

Last week, I attended the 6th Summit between the African Union and European Union in Brussels. There, African nations outlined their expectations from the partnership with the bloc as we work to recover from COVID-19 and manage the effects of climate change.





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We welcome the help that EU countries continue to provide towards Africa's sustainable development in a way that develops our capabilities and brings the continent closer to self-reliance.

Last year, South Africa was selected by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the first site for a vaccine technology transfer hub. On the sidelines of last week's Summit, the WHO announced that six African countries including South Africa will receive the technology needed to produce mRNA vaccines at scale for the continent.

We will continue to make the case for building Africa's capacity to produce its own vaccines, including through a temporary waiver of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

We welcome the commitment of the AU-EU Summit "to engage constructively towards an agreement on a comprehensive

WTO response to the pandemic, which includes trade related, as well as intellectual property related aspects."

Without being able to manufacture our own vaccines, an equitable recovery will not be possible.

Building a better Africa and a better world is the cornerstone of South Africa's foreign policy. For Africa to play a full and equal role in global affairs, we must first attend to the developmental challenges of the people of Africa.



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We must uplift ourselves by making our own medicines to treat our people and save lives. We must develop our own economies through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), promoting investment and tourism within Africa, accelerating industrialisation, and driving green growth and low-carbon development. We must end all conflict and entrench democracy and good governance.

Thanks to our experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cause of African unity has been given a new lease on life. It has given renewed momentum to the project of political and economic integration, which has been strengthened by the advent of the AfCFTA.

Africa has found a new voice. It is bold and unapologetic in its expectations of our partners. At the same time, we are determined that Africa's challenges must be, are being, and will be, solved by Africans themselves.

We don't need War: Ceasefire!

Dear Mr President

FATHER Roman Dusanowskyj, the parish priest of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whitney Pier, N.S., is hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst when it comes to tensions between Russia and his people's homeland.

"In Ukraine, what is happening now is disturbing, frightening, and overwhelming," he says.

The community of Whitney Pier might be miles away from the potential war zone, but hearts in the area are heavy.

Mr President, Europe is facing dark days ahead following the invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops on Thursday. Father Dusanowskyj expresses the fears of many of his countrymen and women as the world watches disaster unfold in his homeland. That this war happens at a time when a global pandemic is very much still in our midst is ominous. The Spanish Flu pandemic happened near the end of World War I in 1908.

"Who would have thought that by now mankind, or humankind, would've realised that there are no winners in war," says Dusanowskyj.

Indeed. There are simply no winners in any war, only losers. While



Comrade Pule Mabe

this latest war took many people by surprise, the watchers of tensions between the two countries were expecting this escalation of hostilities.

South Africa, thousands of miles away from the conflict zone, can simply not afford to stand on the sidelines and claim immunity.

For the uninitiated, Mr President, let me briefly give the recent background that fuelled this war. On February 21, President Putin issued a decree recognising the breakaway People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk (DNR and LNR) in Eastern Ukraine.

The Duma, the lower chamber of the Russian Federation's par-

liament, duly ratified the cooperation and mutual assistance agreement concluded with the two "states" the day after with zero votes against and no abstentions.

The world woke up to the deployment of Russian troops in Donbas on Thursday, closing the diplomatic and political route the West invested so much into during the past eight years. The Minsk II protocol agreed upon by the so-called Normandy Four (Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany) back in February 2015 is no longer worth the paper it is printed on, according to Dimitar Bechev, Visiting Scholar at Carnegie Europe writing in Al Jazeera.

The protocol stipulated that the reintegration of DNR and LNR into Ukraine would happen after constitutional amendments granting them special status have been passed. Other provisions of the document allowed for Russia to partly restore its lost leverage in domestic politics, as well as see some of the Western sanctions lifted. Ukraine, for its part, would recover territorial control.

In hindsight, the Minsk protocols probably never had a chance. Russia and Ukraine had opposing interpretations as to the sequence of steps: Kyiv wanted to re-establish control over the border with Russia first before

changing its basic constitution and Russia wanted it the other way around. But on February 21, this all became history. Clearly, diplomacy had exhausted itself and was left in tatters.

Mr President, South Africa previously showed the world there was an alternative to conflict which did not include loss of human life; a negotiated settlement. Mediation by the United Nations Security Council could well offer a lifeboat for the warring countries and avert disaster.

What do these developments mean to ordinary South Africans and members of the African National Congress? Well, for one the price of crude oil is expected to shoot through the roof as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Since our economy and that of many countries relies on imported crude oil to chug along, this means we will not be unscathed by that war.

Many Western countries, led by NATO, The United States and European Union, have already announced “massive” sanctions against Russians and South Africa has also been invited to impose sanctions against our partner in the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa south-south alliance cooperation (BRICS). Tougher Western sanctions will also drive up costs for Russia. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s decision to put the Nord Stream 2 pipeline on hold, long a shibboleth for German politicians of all hues, is a harbinger of things to come. Sure enough, the Russian economy has previously shown resilience and weathered the storm. But growing isolation will not improve the livelihood of ordinary Russians as discontent mounts.



These are still the early days, Mr President, but many of our cadres would know the role Moscow played in helping our comrades with resources such as military training and education at their tertiary institutions when the ANC was still banned and scattered all over the world.

Russia, alongside Cuba and the Nordic countries as well as many African countries such as Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and others welcomed our comrades with open arms when it was too dangerous for them to remain in South Africa. For that reason, Mr President, it is important that we do not tread on toes and burn bridges. However, our country has a foreign policy which puts human rights above everything else and this will guide our response to this war. Invariably, it is the ordinary man, woman and child who suffer in these types of conflicts. Already, thousands of Ukrainians abandoned their homes and headed to the Poland border before the first bombs landed yesterday. The human cost of war is simply immeasurable as it displaces people from their routine and places them at risks of diseases, hunger, poverty, slavery, exploitation and many

other ills of modern times.

Africa is home to many conflicts which have left a litany of human catastrophe. Displaced people are often at the mercy of cruel human traffickers. Women and children are often subjected to slavery and sexual exploitation when their lives are uprooted.

That may not be the fate awaiting Ukrainians at the moment, but their flight to safer areas no doubt bears consequences beyond comprehension. The falling bombs have already lightened our TV screens, but the reality on the ground is grimmer than the fireworks on our screens.

Back in Whitney Pier, Father Dusanowskyj says he can’t watch anymore.

“I was always taught there’s no sense worrying about something you have no control over, but you can’t help anticipate the worst of the worst.”

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

BUDGET 2022:

Reiterating our commitment to the reconstruction and recovery of our economy; saving lives and restoring livelihoods, as well as securing the long-term prosperity of our nation



■ Extracts from the **2022/2023 Budget Speech** by the Minister of Finance
Enoch Godongwana, 21 February 2022

IN the 2021 MTBPS we committed ourselves to charting a course towards growth and fiscal

sustainability. This budget reasserts this commitment. It narrows the budget deficit and stabilises debt.

It also extends income and employment support to the most vulnerable, addresses service delivery shortcomings and provides tax relief.

However, these interventions cannot replace the structural changes our economy needs. Difficult and necessary trade-offs are required.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Global Outlook

The world economy is expected to grow by 4.4 per cent this year.

This is lower than the 4.9 per cent we anticipated when tabling the MTBPS. The Omicron variant of the coronavirus caused many countries to impose restrictions to manage its spread. In addition, continued imbalances in global value chains have limited the pace of the world's economic recovery.

Domestic Outlook

The South African economy has not been insulated from these global developments. We have revised our economic growth estimate for 2021 to 4.8 per cent, from 5.1 per cent at the time of the MTBPS.

This revision reflects a combination of the impact of changes in the global environment, along with our own unique challenges. Commodity prices, which have supported our economic recovery,

slowed in the second half of 2021.

Industrial action in the manufacturing sector, and the re-emergence of load shedding, also slowed the pace of the recovery.

Real GDP growth of 2.1 per cent is projected for 2022. Over the next three years, GDP growth is expected to average 1.8 per cent.

THE FISCAL FRAMEWORK

Revenue collection

Tax collections since the time of the MTBPS have been much stronger than expected. We now estimate tax revenue for 2021/22 to be R1.55 trillion.

This is R62 billion higher than our estimates from four months ago, and R182 billion higher than our estimates from last year's Budget.

This follows a shortfall of R176 billion for 2020/21 when compared to the 2020 Budget forecasts. This positive surprise has come mainly from the mining sector due to higher commodity prices.

The fiscal outlook

More than R308 billion has been directed towards bailing out failing state-owned companies. Since 2013, frontline services and infrastructure reduced by R257 billion. In this Budget, we are shifting from this trend, and are restoring our focus on the core functions of government.

Our debt burden remains a matter of serious concern. This year, government debt has reached R4.3 trillion and is projected to rise to R5.4 trillion over the medium-term.

Supporting Economic Reconstruction and Recovery

We have had more than a decade of economic stagnation. Only through sustained economic growth can South Africa create enough jobs to reduce poverty and inequality; enabling us to reach our goal of a better life for all.

The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Programme remains essential to growth. We are accelerating the implementation of critical structural reforms contained in the ERRP in particular, in electricity, rail, ports and telecommunications.

Bounce-back scheme to support SMEs

To support businesses in distress owing to the COVID-19 pandem-

ic, a new business bounce-back scheme will be launched, using two mechanisms which will be introduced sequentially:

Firstly, small business loan guarantees of R15 billion will be facilitated through participating banks and development finance institutions. This allows access for qualifying non-bank small and medium loan providers.

We intend to bring the total support package through the bounce-back scheme to R20 billion.

Employment Initiative

We do not aspire to be a below 2 per cent growth economy. We are capable of so much more.

In this regard, we are refining proposals for an expanded reform agenda – to shift our economy towards a higher growth trajectory.

SPENDING PROPOSALS

In this budget, we are taking steps to support education, health, the fight against crime and corruption, and to improve capital investment, amongst others.

Over the next three years, we allocate R3.33 trillion to the social wage to support vulnerable and low-income households. This is approximately 60 per cent of non-interest spending.

We have prioritised spending on the following key areas:

In 2017, government announced a policy for fee-free higher education. We are announcing an additional allocation of R32.6 billion for financial support to current bursary holders and first-year students under the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

An additional R15.6 billion is allo-









#RSABUDGET2022

T W E N T Y
BUDGET 2022
T W E N T Y T W O

HIGHLIGHTS

SRD EXTENSION

- **R44 billion** allocated to the extension of the Social Relief of Distress grant.
- The grant is only extended to **March 2023**.
- The money is sourced from **larger-than-expected** revenue collections.
- National Treasury cannot commit to a new, permanent expenditure without a **matching permanent increase to revenue**.

#BUDGET2022		
Changes to the social grants		
+R95.00 State Old Age  2021/22 R1,890.00 2022/23 R1,985.00	+R95.00 State Old Age, over 75  2021/22 R1,910.00 2022/23 R2,005.00	+R95.00 War Veterans  2021/22 R1,910.00 2022/23 R2,005.00
+R95.00 Disability  2021/22 R1,890.00 2022/23 R1,985.00	+R20.00 Foster Care  2021/22 R1,050.00 2022/23 R1,070.00	+R20.00 Child Support  2021/22 R460.00 2022/23 R480.00
• Care Dependency Grant: 2021/22 R1890 2022/23 R1985		

cated to provincial health departments to support their continued response to COVID-19, and to bridge shortfalls in essential goods and services.

R3.3 billion is allocated to absorb medical interns and community service doctors.

R8.7 billion is added to the Police budget. The department is allocated R1 billion to implement personnel reforms.

Another R800 million may be available in the following year, subject to satisfactory progress. We are also strengthening the resourcing of the justice system and our courts. In this regard, the budget of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is increased by R1.1 billion, while the Office of the Chief Justice receives an additional R39.9 million.

The South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) re-

ceives an additional R9.9 billion for maintaining the non-toll road network.

Over and above this, the Budget Facility for Infrastructure has approved funding for several water projects.

The department of social development will receive the largest allocation of R58.6 billion over the medium term.

DIVISION OF REVENUE

Basic municipal services require more support, especially for the poor. To address this, R28.9 billion is added to the local government equitable share.

We are making these allocations to uplift and provide services to our people. These funds must be used for the purpose they are meant for. Currently 175 out of 257 municipalities are in financial distress. We stand ready to work with Parliament and all oversight

bodies to hold municipalities accountable for delivering these services.

Corruption is a major blight on our country. It has lowered our economic growth potential, made us fiscally more vulnerable, and severely weakened the capability of the state.

Accounting officers need to ensure that their procurement processes have integrity, provide value for money, and are free from interference from politically connected persons and bidders.

TAX PROPOSALS

Our tax proposals for 2022/23 are as follows:

The personal income tax brackets and rebates will be adjusted by 4.5 percent, in line with inflation.

The adjustments will mean that the annual tax-free threshold for a person under the age of 65, will increase from R87300 to R91250.

Medical tax credits will increase from R332 to R347 per month for the first two members, and from R224 to R234 per month for additional members.

Fuel Levies

In 2021, the inland petrol price breached R20 per litre. The higher prices have put pressure on the cost of transport, food and other goods and services.

To provide some relief to households, no increases will be made to the general fuel levy on petrol and diesel for 2022/23. This will provide tax relief of R3.5 billion to South Africans.

There will also be no increase in the Road Accident Fund levy.

Corporate Income Tax

As announced in the 2021 Budget, the corporate income tax rate will be reduced from 28 per cent to 27 per cent, for companies with years of assessment ending on or after 31 March 2023.

Excise duties and other taxes

Excise duties on alcohol and tobacco will increase by between 4.5 and 6.5 percent.

Government also proposes to introduce a new tax on vaping products of at least R2.90 per millilitre from 1 January 2023.

A new tax will also be introduced on beer powders.

After three years of no changes, the health promotion levy will be increased to 2.31 cents per gram of sugar.

The structure of the economy will need to change to adapt to the needs of addressing climate change.

As we reduce emissions, communities must not be left behind as production shifts to greener solutions.

There are opportunities to access international finance to help pay for this just transition.

The carbon tax rate will increase

In this budget, we are taking steps to support education, health, the fight against crime and corruption, and to improve capital investment, amongst others.

from R134 to R144, effective from 1 January 2022.

As required by legislation, the carbon fuel levy will increase by 1c to 9c per litre for petrol, and 10c per litre for diesel, from 6 April 2022.

Retirement funds

Retirement funds play a critical role in channelling savings into productive investments. Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act sets out the criteria through which these funds may make investments.

Government has also proposed a fundamental restructuring of the retirement system for individuals to allow for greater preservation and partial access to funds through a “two-pot” system.

Conclusion

I would like to reiterate our commitment to the reconstruction and recovery of our economy; saving lives and restoring livelihoods, as well as securing the long-term prosperity of our nation.

We pay tribute to the millions of South Africans, whose resilience and courage during these times of pandemic and economic hardship, is an inspiration to all of us who have the privilege to serve in the public sector.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2022-23 BUDGET



2.16 trillion
Consolidated government expenditure

1.3 trillion
to social services

Total budget for each sector

Learning R441.5 bn

such as basic education R282.8 bn, NSFAS R46.1bn

Health R259 bn

such as district health services R115.7 bn, facilities management and maintenance R11.1 bn

Community development R236.3 bn

such as public transport R47.4 bn

Economic development R227.1 bn

such as job creation and labour affairs R24.8 bn

Peace and security R220.7 bn

such as police services R110.2 bn, law courts and prisons R50.8 bn

Between 4.5% and 6.5%

Tax increase on alcohol and tobacco for 2022/23.



R24.6 billion
to teachers' salaries



R15.6 billion
to healthcare goods and services



Personal income tax

You will only need to pay tax if you earn **R91,250** annually.

On Palestinian Solidarity: Commemorating the Goldstein massacre of February 1994

■ By **Alvin Botes**

TWENTY-EIGHT years ago today (25 February 1994), less than six months after the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat signed the landmark Oslo Accords in Washington DC, extremist Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein, during the overlapping religious holidays of both the Jewish Purim and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan carried out a massacre targeting Muslim worshippers who were performing the dawn prayer (Fajr) at the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron. This gruesome attack left 29 worshippers martyred and more than 150 others injured, before Goldstein was overpowered and beaten to death.

Word of the attack unleashed mass Palestinian protests across Hebron, the West Bank and Gaza, leading to an estimated 20 to 50 more fatalities, including nine Israelis, with more than 150 injuries recorded. The fallout from the massacre had far-reaching political and economic consequences that remain in motion today.

The heart of Hebron's history centres around the Ibrahimi Mosque, also known as the Cave of the Patriarchs, located in Hebron's Old



Comrade Alvin Botes

City, which tradition holds is built on the burial site of biblical patriarchs such as Abraham, revered by Muslims, Christians and Jews alike.

The whole sequence of untoward events was triggered by Goldstein, a follower of the manifestly racist Rabbi Meir Kahana, an Orthodox Jewish American known for his ultra-nationalist ideology and for founding the Kach party in 1971.

The aftermath of the Goldstein massacre provoked international outrage and condemnation. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed Resolution 904 without a vote, calling for “*measures to be taken to guarantee*

the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory.” Resolution 904 resulted in the creation of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), which was supposed to protect the Palestinian population.

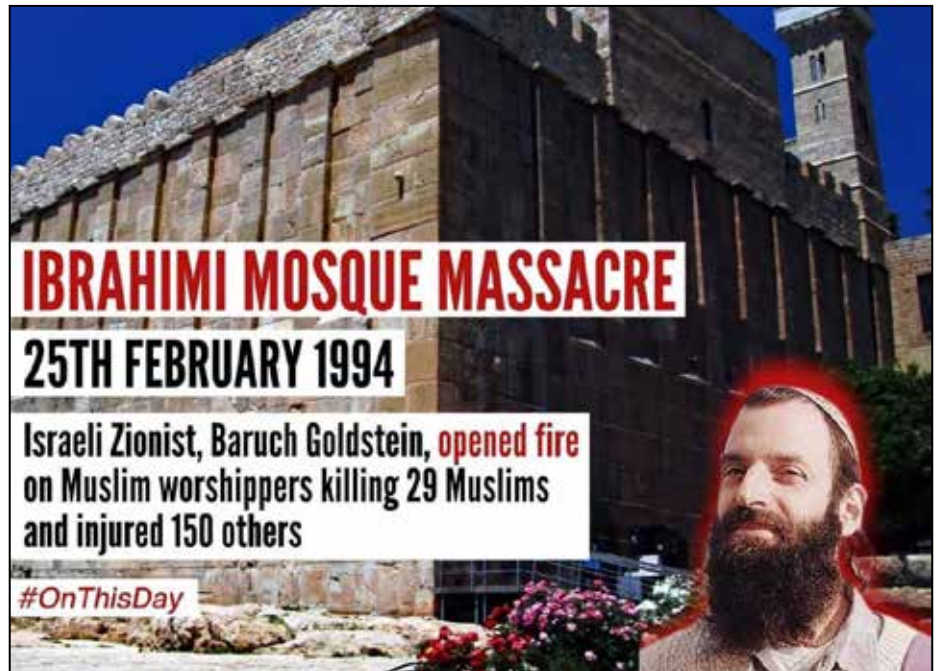
However, Israel only allowed TIPH to act as observers, leaving Palestinians in Hebron at the mercy of settlers and the soldiers assigned to protect them. In response to the international outcry, the Israeli government created a commission of inquiry that found Goldstein had acted alone, absolving Israel of any responsibility.

Since Israel was established in 1948, its policies and legislation have been shaped by an overarching objective: to maintain a Jewish demographic majority and maximize Jewish Israeli control over land at the detriment of Palestinians. To achieve this, successive Israeli governments have deliberately imposed a system of oppression and domination over Palestinians. The key components of this system are territorial fragmentation; segregation and control; dispossession of land and property; and denial of economic and social rights.

Hebron is a city built around its most ancient relic, the Ibrahimi Mosque, a sacred structure, enumerated as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2017, which should bring worshippers together, whether Jewish, Christian, or Muslim. Instead, the reality of Zionism and settler colonialism in Palestine has rendered the Mosque rather as an apartheid construct, not as a unifier.

The political, social, and economic consequences of Israeli colonial expansion, the closures and movement restrictions, and the excessive use of force continue to affect the lives of all Palestinians, not only in Hebron. In recent years (since around 2020), a succession of human rights groups in Israel and globally have conducted monitoring and have produced highly critical reports of Israel's practices, mechanisms and measures and wider policies aimed at creating a coercive environment that triggers the forcible transfer of Palestinians from their land. Israel's policies in Hebron's Old City reveals a system that infiltrates every aspect of daily life for Palestinian residents. Violating international humanitarian and human rights law, the Israeli regime creates a coercive environment that triggers forcible transfer of Palestinians living in the Old City. Israel continues to restrict Palestinian their rights, including free movement and access to property, while strengthening military protection of the colonisers, which in turn emboldens them to harass, abuse and attack the Palestinian population.

To this day, Palestinians under Israeli rule continue to experience widespread abuses, including killings through the excessive use of force, torture, arbitrary arrests and long-lasting curfews over wide areas. They also were subjected



to strict and arbitrary controls on movement, which impeded their ability to earn a living, study at universities, obtain goods and services, and otherwise conduct their everyday lives.

The West Bank city of Hebron, long a flashpoint of conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, has been the scene of widespread human rights abuses since the renewal of violent clashes on September 29, 2000, an uprising that Palestinians commonly refer to as the Al-Aqsa Intifada. Hebron is the only major Palestinian city in the West Bank that remains in substantial measure under the direct control of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). The crisis in Hebron, as in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, has at its core a disregard for human rights and international humanitarian law.

In November 2000, Human Rights Watch (HRW) in consultation with individuals and other organisations, undertook a two-week fact-finding mission to the West Bank in November 2000, and a three-week fact-finding mission to the West Bank and Gaza in Feb-

ruary 2001 and released a "Study of Human Rights Abuses in Hebron District." As published in its report, "Center of the Storm", the research found serious and extensive human rights abuses in Hebron district, including excessive use of force by Israeli soldiers against unarmed Palestinian demonstrators; unlawful killings; unacknowledged assassinations of suspected Palestinian militants; attacks by Palestinian gunmen directed against Israeli civilians living in settlements and in circumstances that have placed Palestinian civilians at grave risk from Israeli response fire; disproportionate Israeli gunfire in response to Palestinian attacks; and extensive abuses by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians.

The debate about whether the Israel-Palestine situation can be termed as apartheid is gaining traction. After a four-year investigation, Amnesty International (AI), one of the most prominent human rights groups in the world published on 1 February 2022, a comprehensive report entitled; "Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians; Cruel System of Domination

and *Crime Against Humanity*.” Amnesty’s report documents comprehensively the systematic discrimination and how Israel enforces a system of oppression and domination against the Palestinian people. Amnesty International became the 4th major human-rights group to indict Israel of creating and maintaining an “apartheid” system to control Palestinians.

Amnesty’s report knits a coherent pattern meticulously detailing the realities on the ground and what many Palestinians, activists, and allies have said for years. Its report has been widely received as an in-depth and concise compilation of incidents, policies, and aggressions against Palestinians living under occupation and apartheid. Some of the incidents and realities covered in the report include home demolitions, unjust imprisonment, detention of children, lack of access to water, endless checkpoints, curfews, and many more human rights abuses.

Over the last two years, South Africa has been instrumental in stepping up pressure on the Government of Israel. In partnership with the Government of Namibia, Palestinian and Israeli Human Rights Organisations, and international legal scholars, sought to

catalyse discussions on whether the actions of the Israeli government contravene international legal prohibitions on the Crime of Apartheid.

In keeping with South Africa’s long-term and principled support for the Palestinian people, the Government of South Africa remains committed to support initiatives aimed at refocusing the international agenda on Palestine and the Middle East Peace Process.

South African Government believes that the only way to bring about lasting peace in the Middle East is to have a comprehensive and unconditional negotiated settlement to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and Israel’s continued blockade of Gaza. The on-going delay in achieving such a settlement leads to an unending cycle of violence.

South Africa’s foreign policy reflects its longstanding commitment to the development of a viable, sovereign Palestinian State, living in peace alongside the State of Israel. South Africa therefore supports international efforts aimed at the establishment of a viable Palestinian state, existing side by side in peace with Israel within internationally recognised

borders, based on those existing on 4 June 1967, prior to the outbreak of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In commemorating and marking the anniversary of the Goldstein massacre that took place on 25 February 1994, the story of what happened at the Ibrahimi Mosque and in Hebron 28 years ago should be told around the world. What happened in Hebron was not only the responsibility of Baruch Goldstein. The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was not just a passing event, but rather an act planned to impose a new reality through which the occupation could achieve its goals, seeking to expel the Palestinians from the Old City and control the Ibrahimi Mosque.

Since the massacre, the city of Hebron has been subjected to a series of measures that changed its historical features and strengthened Israeli settlement - the level of Israeli occupation and domination throughout one of the world’s oldest cities continues to rise. The Israeli government, and those who push an anti-Palestinian narrative must take responsibility for what happened and what continues to happen today. Until constructive action to recognise accountability occurs alongside acute measures to end illegal occupation, the threat and reality of violence will remain. As South Africa, we remain steadfast in our support for and solidarity with the people of Palestine on this day of remembrance.



Alvin Botes is an National Executive Committee (NEC) Member of the ANC and a member of the International Relations Sub-committee of the NEC. He is also Deputy Minister for International Relations and Co-operation.

SOPA 2022 GAUTENG

From the **Public Health Emergency** to the **Economic And Service Delivery Emergency**



Highlights of State of the Province Address delivered by
Premier **David Makhura**
21 February 2022

THE call we are making in this address is that all hands must be on deck as we move 'From the public health emergency to the economic and service delivery emergency'. We have learnt many lessons in our battle with the COVID-19 pandemic. These lessons include mobilisation of social compacting, promptly and decisively acting against crime and corruption in government and society as well as inter-departmental and inter-governmental cooperation to avoid government working in silos.

As we make the economy and jobs our number one priority over the next two years, we will also work closely with municipalities and the national government to urgently accelerate service delivery and improve access to housing, electricity, water, sanitation, road maintenance, visible policing, quality education and health.

The collapse of infrastructure for basic services also requires an emergency response akin to the way we dealt with the COVID-19 public health emergency. We have come a long way in putting Gauteng on a positive trajectory. All the surveys done by the Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO) since 2011 show that there was continuous investment and real improvements in the quality of life, infrastructure, basic services and governance in the pre-pandemic years.

Between 2015 and 2020, the economic output of Africa was dominated by 3 countries, Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa. Gauteng was the seventh-largest economy on the continent in that period and its contribution to South Africa's GDP was more than 35%.

Even after the COVID-19 pan-

demic, Gauteng still contributes 35% to the GDP. Gauteng remains a leading player in the national economy and a critical contributor to the continental economy. The GGT2030, our current provincial plan of action, was introduced to cement our position nationally and in the continent by doubling the size of the Gauteng economy and the number of people employed.

The GGT2030 prioritises the transformation, modernisation and re-industrialisation of the 10 high-growth sectors, which are linked to the roll-out of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the five corridors and the township economic revitalisation.

Learning from our COVID-19 response and appreciating that the current unemployment crisis represents an emergency, all hands are on deck to reclaim the devel-

opment trajectory. We have established a Provincial War Room in which government and industry leaders have joined forces to drive economic recovery, unlock growth in every sector and create sustainable jobs as well to support SMME development.

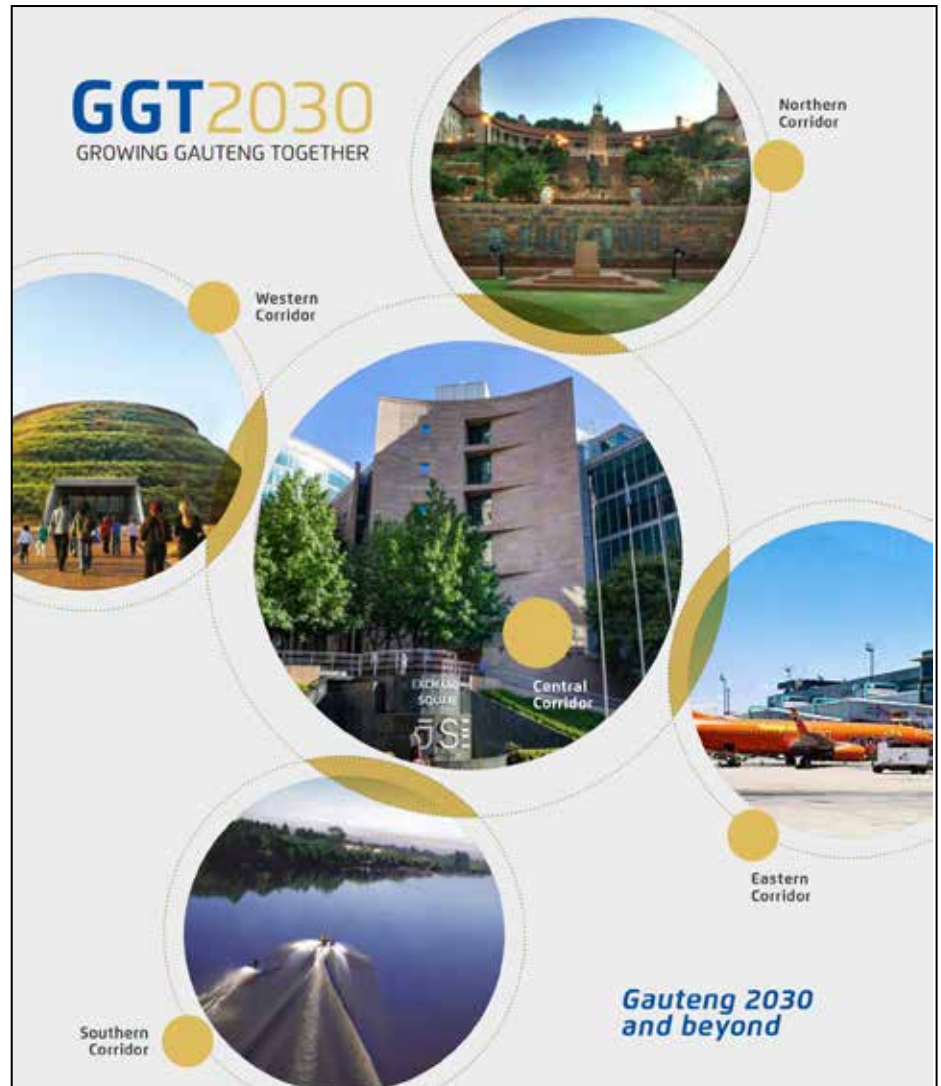
I would like to share with you some of the concrete results that have emerged from these sectoral engagements and war room sessions. There is work being done with the ICT and digital services sector. This work draws in experts, policymakers, and businesspeople from across the digital economy landscape to support the implementation of the Gauteng 4IR strategy.

Our Ekasi Labs, Township Cloud Zones and Hot-Desking Hubs will be optimal sites for new data centres and big investments in communication technologies.

The provincial government has partnered with the University of Johannesburg (UJ) to turn the province's mounting e-Waste (disposal of electrical appliances and electronic devices) problem into an economic opportunity and protect the environment. Through this partnership, the youth will be inspired and trained to recycle and create something meaningful from discarded devices and appliances.

Together with the Aviation Industry and the Tourism and Hospitality sector, we are building a Gauteng Air Access partnership to attract more passenger and cargo airlines to operate from OR Tambo International and Lanseria Airports.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the hotel and restaurant sub-sector of the tourism industry, much



work is being done to ensure the recovery of this important sector that has huge potential for employment and promote Gauteng's unique tourism offerings.

In the Food, Beverage, agro-processing and agribusiness sectors, we are working with industry players and organised farmers in partnership with the Agricultural Development Agency to ensure food security and promote urban agriculture as a key sector for employment and business.

In the past twelve months, we have been interacting extensively with the Cannabis Industry role players and have identified the unique economic opportunities of the industry in Gauteng. This year

we will establish a dedicated unit within the provincial government to work with the industry and national government to address regulatory and licensing issues, attract investment, and facilitate black participation in this new sector that has enormous medicinal and industrial potential.

Between 2014 and 2019, we provided extensive support to township businesses through transformative public procurement policy that enabled the provincial government to spend more than R20 billion procuring goods and services from township-based enterprises.

A total of R5.6 billion was spent on women-owned enterprises;

Every child in South Africa has the right to early learning

Gauteng's Early Childhood Development Programme bearing fruit



R5.3 billion was spent on youth-owned enterprises and R470 million was spent on enterprises of people living with disabilities.

We have embarked on supplier development training for 3,198 township suppliers, and 2,881 suppliers were trained on how to tender/access government business opportunities.

We know that many township businesses collapsed under the weight of the COVID19 pandemic. However, this will not shake our determination to fundamentally change the township economic landscape. One of the most enduring policy interventions of this sixth administration is the introduction of the Township Economic Development Bill.

Since 1994 Educational outcomes have been a key area of pride. In 2014 we will continue to invest in the modernisation and quality delivery of education especially improving educational outcomes in township schools. Our 2014 decision to invest in the modernisation of our education system has proven fruitful over the last eight years.

This progress has been the result of incremental interventions, which included ICT, investment

in infrastructure, and inputs in teacher training, adequate provision of classroom resources.

Early Childhood Development provides a critical stage in the cognitive development of a child with last implications for their future learning capabilities. This work included investing in producing practitioners who would help us make an impact on the early stage of a child's development.

We have seen positive results from operation *O kae Molao*. Going forward, the operations will

be intensified and strengthened in collaboration with private law enforcement agencies through the Eyes & Ears Programme. We call upon all the people of the province to join hands with the government in the fight against crime.

We need a healthy productive population. Through the Hanyani Health and Wellness programme, we have provided 8 hubs with product development programmes. The Hanyani wellness Programme in collaboration with health is aimed at reducing the health bill by reducing the number of people that visits our health facilities for lifestyle diseases.

I wish to re-assure the people of Gauteng will focus on all the re-ordered priorities outlined in this State of the Province Address, with the economy and jobs on top of our agenda over the next two years. I would like to re-iterate that Gauteng will bounce back and move forward in a way that lives no one behind.

Operation "O kae Molao"



The ANC must not lose its sense of direction

■ By **Zamuxolo Nduna**

THE Constitution of the African National Congress stipulates that members in good standing have in their own right to contest each other and amongst the ranks of the organisation. When the SANNC was formed and later became the ANC, its mission was to liberate the people of South Africa from the chains of oppression. History has constantly repeated itself in the organisation.

This year (2022), the African National Congress is going to provincial and national conferences. This

is one of the most critical time in the organisation as we're seeing groupings coming out to contest various positions in the organisation from provincial Chairmanship to provincial Treasurer. Contestation in any organisation is meant to strengthen the organisation not to divide members. Structures of the organisation should create an enabling environment for all those who wish to lead and take the organisation to its glorious days.

The ANC cannot shy away from the fact that it's high time it elects leaders who will not lead only the

organisation but society holistically. South Africans without any doubt have lost confidence towards the African National Congress.

Post 2017 Nasrec, the nation was confident that things would turn out for the better. Intra-party conflicts and divisions amongst structures in the organisation are delaying the development of an African. The current state of the country is beyond worrisome. Quarterly reports from independent institutions and government departments are showing a sign of negative and alarming results. The number of those living in poverty-stricken communities has increased drastically. Qualified personnel are not being utilized for the betterment of the country.

It would be ideal for the African National Congress to look at strategic ways of utilising whatever resources they have at their disposal in ensuring that ordinary citizens and those who are not politically inclined are being developed. I thus, do not believe that South Africans are demanding the organisation to make them millionaires: what they require from the government of the day is basic human services. After the African



President Jacob Zuma congratulates Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa on his election as ANC President

National Congress launched its 2021 LGE manifesto, the current national Chairperson of the ANC, made remarks that the African National Congress doesn't make promises, it delivers "*commitments*". There's so much that the organisation can do to improve the lives of those they claim to "*represent*."

In the midst of all the conferences and factions in the organisation, it would also be ideal for the organisation not to lose its sense of direction. Whilst there's so much happening in the country – job losses, unemployment rate increase drastically, fuel prices, a slow growth in the country's economy, and many other factors we ought to deal with as the nation, some South Africans are still supporting the governing party, despite all of the mentioned challenges and obstacles. A gigantic organisation like the African National Congress should be capacitated enough to deal with its own issues without putting the country's development goals on hold.

Whoever the delegates will elect in all these conferences must be of a caliber that will drive the country to the land of honey. There should be a call from all the delegates that once you're elected you're not representing the interests of those who supported you, but you're representing the organisation. Leaders must instill confidence. If African National Congress members/delegates do not agree on what's best for South Africa, it'll translate into more divisions. It's critical for the organisation not to lose its sense of direction for its survival. Round table discussions and other progressive engagements are necessary. However, if leaders in the ranks of the organisation are not implementing policies discussed, we won't be able



Delegates singing at 2017 National Conference held in NASREC.

to drive the country's vision and mission.

The African National Congress had once aligned itself to the development and the betterment of a South Africa's growth. I'm anticipating that CENSUS 2022 will shock many of us, even though we've come across and engaged previous reports from institutions illustrating the state of the country. The essence of this piece is to remind the organisation that beyond conferences, the party has so much work to do in regaining people's trusts and confidence. The fundamental principle of the organisation is to represent the interests of South Africa as it regards itself as the only organisation capable of advancing the needs of many South Africans in their respective communities. And the government of the day needs to strategise as how best to include young people in the development of the country's so-

cio-economic affairs.

The most important matter currently is how best to redress the injustice of the past and also how best to address societal issues. A call to the African National Congress is that citizens shouldn't feel or perceive that the country is on autopilot yet the ruling party claims to have the interests of citizens at heart. When the organisation lost major cities during the 2016 LGE, it was suppose to be an eye opener for the leadership of the organisation. Things became much worse last year during the 2021 LGE. Another important call to the African National Congress membership: those whom you'll be electing must be leaders who will not only account to the organisation – but to South African citizens.

Zamuxolo Nduna is an Academic in the field of politics and education. He writes in his personal capacity.



Building Sustainable State-Owned Entities

■ By **Isaac Matshego**

THE South African economy is in a state that has not facilitated the achievement of the country's shortterm economic targets, nor its strategic development goals of raising the incomes and livelihoods of citizens. Job creation has hardly kept up with labour market growth. Per capita GDP has contracted since 2015.

Even before the onset of COVID-19, economic indicators significantly lagged the targets set in the **National Development Plan 2030**.

The annual economic growth rate was below 2% a year since 2014, averaging only 1% up to 2019. The unemployment rate breached 30% in 2020, and once discouraged workers are included, the rate climbs to around 40%. Other indicators paint a similarly worrying picture.

In the **InfraCompass 2020** survey, SA recorded a mixed performance in the assessment of infrastructure development quality.

Measured against 81 countries



that, combined, account for 93% of global economic activity, it is the top performer in Africa in infrastructure development. However, it ranks poorly among the other upper-middle-income countries.

It ranked in the top 10 in terms of the quality of financial markets' infrastructure, 12th in planning and 23rd in procurement, but performed poorly in governance (35th), regulatory frameworks (46th), funding capacity (47th), permits (51st) and activity (61st).

It did poorly in the value of closed

publicprivate partnerships (PPP) infrastructure deals (5.5 points out of 100), totaling only 0.03% of GDP compared to the upper-middle-income country average of 0.3%. The score for the value of closed infrastructure deals with foreign equity ownership came in at 7.1 out of 100.

This suggests a preference for traditional infrastructure models that are, unfortunately, constrained by the capacity of the government and the SOEs to raise debt financing for infrastructure projects.

PERSPECTIVE

The State of South African SOEs

The difficulties engulfing SOEs, resulting in their failure to drive development, are well documented. Most of the rot appears to have set in over the past decade. Before then, the large SOEs regularly paid dividends to the public treasury.

Eskom was a well-managed utility that won global awards and had a better credit rating than the government in the early 2000s.

Transnet secured concessions to operate rail ports in a few African countries. South African Airways won several global awards, including for being the leading airline in Africa.

Poor management, political interference in operational matters, high debt, weak balance sheets and a shortage of critical skills afflict the SOE entities, which has led to poor investment outcomes. Moreover, SOEs have been a significant burden on the fiscus.

Treasury transferred R232.3-billion to the large SOEs between 2008 and 2020, while another R42.2-billion has been budgeted for 2021 to 2024.

The bailouts are contrary to the management guidelines of Treasury, which dictate that SOEs should be capable of raising development loans on the strength of their balance sheets.

The positive news is the excellent state of the development finance institutions (DFIs). The Industrial Development Corporation plays a leading role in industrial financing in the country and facilitates the entry and expansion of previously disadvantaged industrialists.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has proven itself a world-class infrastructure financier in the domestic market and Southern African region.

Despite its financial troubles, the Land Bank remains a significant partner for emerging farmers.

The generally good state of the DFIs is proof that South Africa can have SOEs managed prudently and can be facilitators of development.

The significance of SOEs extends beyond their socioeconomic objectives of transforming the economy to a more inclusive one. They are central to the government infrastructure build programme, with most of the government's infrastructure megaprojects being planned based on cooperation between national departments and SOEs.

The rollout of the government's R791.2-billion infrastructure development programme over the fiscal years ending in March 2024 will be driven by SOEs, accounting for 37% of the spending.

Stabilising and Improving the Management and Governance of SOEs

Stabilising SOEs is, therefore, critical. Some progress has



Some of the State-owned Enterprises (SOEs)

been made in recent years. New boards and management have been appointed at Eskom and Transnet. Leadership at the entities such as Airports Company South Africa has been strengthened.

The restructuring of Eskom into three separate entities will transform it into a more operationally efficient entity.

The establishment of the Transnet National Ports Authority as an independent subsidiary of the Transnet Group has been announced.

Other positive developments include establishing the Infrastructure Fund that will coordinate PPPs between public entities and the private sector. 'Operation Vulindlela' aims to ensure efficacy and coordination of infrastructure spending across the public sector.

To build well-run and efficient entities capable of becoming dividend payers instead of relying on bailouts, SOEs require justifi-

cation for their involvement in economic activity to avoid conflict with the role of the private sector.

There also needs to be a clear separation of management roles, the board and the shareholder to avoid interference in operational matters by those appointed to fulfill fiduciary and oversight functions.

So too, capital management should be divorced from the whims of those in power, who are often influenced by short-term political and pecuniary goals. Prudent management is needed to shield them from the influence of the executive arm of the government.

To this end, establishing an independent board to oversee policy implementation and enforce proper governance and management of SOEs is necessary. Implementing these measures will set local SOEs on a better financial path and improve their contribution to achieving development goals.

Better managed SOEs with sol-

id balance sheets will improve these entities' credit ratings and enable them to raise capital in local and international markets under favourable terms.

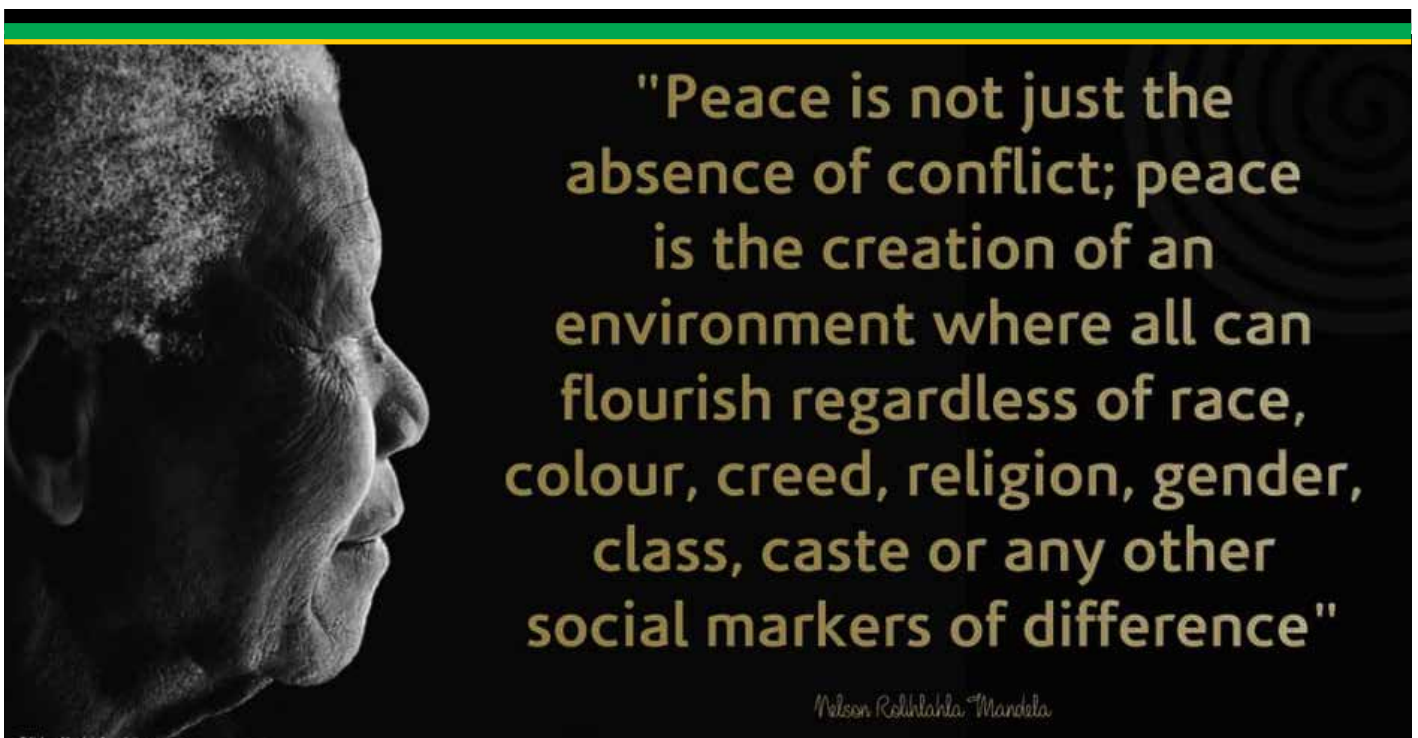
Conclusion

SOEs are central to the government's developmental plan. Therefore, the need to strengthen local SOEs and improve their contribution to development objectives is of paramount importance.

Well-functioning SOEs will facilitate strong economic growth and the significant reduction of unemployment and poverty.

Lifting confidence, facilitating greater cooperation in fixed investment by the public and private sectors, boosting economic growth will ultimately stimulate job creation, ensure reliable energy supply, and eradicate logistical bottlenecks that constrain the country's export capacity.

*First published in **Business Update**, Issue 22.*



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

26 February – 4 March 2022

Source: SA History Online, O'Malley Archives and The Africa Factbook (2020)

26 February 1915 Poet Elizabeth Eybers born



On 26 February 1915, Elisabeth Eybers was born in Klerksdorp, then western Transvaal. Her poetry was mainly written in Afrikaans, although she translated some of her own work – and those of other Afrikaans poets – into English. Her work was also translated into German, French, Italian and Hebrew. Her poetry collections published include: *Be-lydenis in die Skemering /Confession in the Twilight* (1936); *Die Stil Avontuur/The Silent Adventure* (1939); *Die Vrou en Ander Verse/The Woman and Other poems* (1945); *Die Ander Dors/The Other Thirst* (1946); *Tussensang/(In-between song* (1950); *Helder Halfjaar/Bright half-year* (1956); *Versamelde Gedigte/Collected poems* (1957) *Neerslag/Precipitation* (1958) *Balans/Balance* (1962) *Onderdak/Shelter* (1965); *Kruis of Munt/Head or Tail* (1973). Eybers moved to Amsterdam in

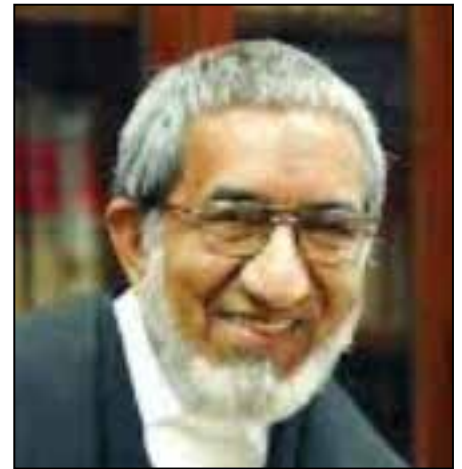
1966, and lived there until her death in 2007.

26 February 2000 Cyclone Eline causes heavy rains in Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa

On 26 February 2000, it is reported that Cyclone Eline, which struck the Southern African countries of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique was continuing to ravage the areas with heavy rains. The heavy rains, which started on 21 February 2000, continued for months, flooding large agricultural areas and homes. Thirty three people were reported dead in Zimbabwe and twenty nine in Limpopo. South Africa was once again ravaged by heavy floods in early 2011, leading to fears of a repeat of the disaster 11 years earlier. The floods, however, turned out to be less severe and caused less devastation.

26 February 2017 Judge Essa Moosa passed away

Essa Moosa was born in District Six, Cape Town on 8 February 1936. He was a judge in the Supreme Court of South Africa. Moosa was a human rights lawyer and activist who defended political detainees during the Apartheid regime, and a founding member of the National Asso-



ciation of Democratic Lawyers. Essa Moosa formed part of the African National Congress's constitutional committee, which supported the party's negotiation team for the goal of establishing a democratic South Africa. A firm supporter of the United Democratic Front, Moosa practiced as an attorney until late 1997, before being employed as judge of the Western Cape High Court in 1998. Moosa was awarded the Order of the Disa by the Western Cape Province in 2004. He served as judge for 13 years before retiring in February 2011, and passed away on 26 February 2017 in Cape Town after a battle with cancer.

27 February 1964 Town of Bethlehem founded

The town of Bethlehem was founded in 1864 (other sources claim 1869). It is nestled in the Maluti Mountains in the Free

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

State Province and is one of the towns that grew rapidly after it was founded. The rapid growth was due to the town being connected to Johannesburg, Harismith and Bloemfontein by rail. The town's name is of Hebrew origin and means "*house of bread*". It is so named because the town boasts fertile land where wheat grows in abundance.

27 February 1978 **Robert Sobukwe, PAC** **founder and president** **passed on**



Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe (54), founder and first president of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) passed away in the Kimberley General Hospital in the early morning of February 27, 1978. Sobukwe died of lung complications after having been hospitalised in 1977. His medical doctors requested that he should be granted freedom of movement on humanitarian grounds, as he was banned to Galeshewe Township, Kimberley, but it was turned down by the authorities. The day is celebrated by PAC members as Sobukwe day.

27 February 1980 **First democratic elections** **held in Zimbabwe**

After a freedom struggle fought between members of various

liberation organisations and the illegal Rhodesian government, the Lancaster Agreement was signed, leading to the country's first democratic and non-racial elections. These elections were won by the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), and Robert Gabriel Mugabe (1924-2019) became its first prime minister.

27 February 1990 **Mandela visits Zambia**



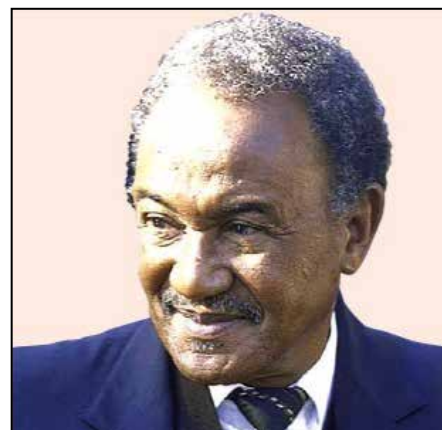
Nelson Mandela started a 17-day foreign visit on 27 February, his first since 1962, following his release from prison on 11 February 1990, after 27 years in jail. His first destination was the headquarters of the African National Congress (ANC) in Lusaka, Zambia, where he met with the exiled ANC Executive Committee, leaders of the Frontline states, and Commonwealth representatives. He was hosted by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, and greeted with the ceremony normally reserved for heads of state.

28 February 1980 **Trade unionist and** **cricket administrator,** **Butshingi died**

Makhwenkwe Harrison Butshingi died in Orlando West, Soweto on this day. Butshingi was born in

the Transkei in 1906, and moved to the Transvaal in 1925 to become an insurance company agent. During the 1940s and into the 1950s, he became involved in the Transvaal worker's unions. Butshingi was President of the South African Cricket Board from 1956-1970, and a community leader in various capacities.

1 March 1914 **Archie Gumede born**



Archibald Archie Gumede was born on 1 March 1914 in Pietermaritzburg. He studied at the South African Native College (now University of Fort Hare), but dropped out after two years. He returned to Natal and joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1949 and became secretary of the Natal branch. Gumede was very active in the Natal ANC, leading the delegation to the Congress of the People in Kliptown in 1955 and in the campaigns against the extension of pass laws to women. Gumede established his own law practice in Natal in 1970 after being admitted to the bar. He became chairman of the Release Mandela Committee (RMC) in 1979. He was founding member of the United Democratic Front (UDF), was elected as UDF president in 1983, and tirelessly campaigned for liberation, despite harassment. In 1994 Gumede became a member of the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

National Assembly of South Africa. He died in June 1998 at the age of 84.

1 March 1922 Wits gain full university status

The University College in Johannesburg attained full University status under the name the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg. The origin of Wits lies in the South African School of Mines, which was established in Kimberley in 1896 and transferred to Johannesburg as the Transvaal Technical Institute in 1904. The Institute became the Transvaal University College in 1906 and was renamed the South African School of Mines and Technology four years later. Full university status was granted to the University College in 1922, with effect from March 1. Seven months later, the inauguration of the University was duly celebrated. Prof Jan Hofmeyr became the first principal. Construction on the new University buildings began at Milner Park on a site donated to the University by the Johannesburg Municipality. The University had, at that stage, six faculties, namely Arts, Science, Medicine, Engineering, Law and Commerce, 37 departments, 73 academic staff members and just more than 1 000 students.

1 March 1994 Walvis Bay handed over to Namibia

The South African government ended eighty-four years of control over the Walvis Bay enclave by handing over the port and twelve offshore islands to the Namibian government. This followed in the wake of bilateral discussions lasting three years between the South African and Namibian gov-

ernments and the establishment of a transitional Joint Administrative Authority (JAA) in November 1992 to administer the 300 square mile territory. The amicable resolution to this territorial dispute, which stretched back to 1878, was commended by the United Nations and the international community as it fulfilled the provisions of UN Security Council 435 (1978), which declared Walvis Bay to be an integral part of Namibia.

2 March 1918 UNISA officially opened, replacing University of the Cape of Good Hope

South Africa's biggest University, the University of South Africa (Unisa) was officially opened on 2 March 1918. It had been known as the University of the Cape of Good Hope since it was established in 1873. Today, Unisa is one of the mega universities of the world, with over 300 000 students in 130 countries. In 2000, the University merged with Technikon SA and also incorporated the distance education component of Vista University.

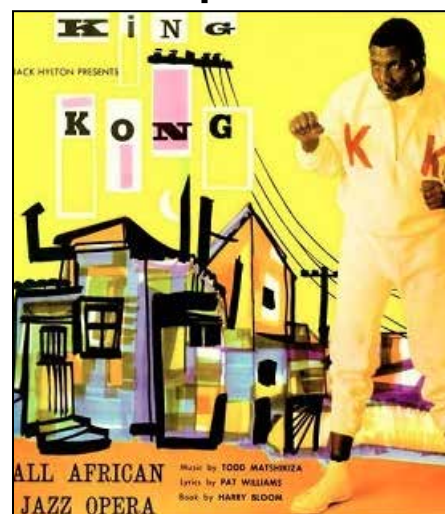
2 March 1987 Ladysmith Black Mambazo wins first Grammy

Ladysmith Black Mambazo, with



founder and lead vocalist Joseph Tshabalala, became the first South African group to win a Grammy award. The group won the award for the best traditional folk album. The album '*Shaka Zulu*' was produced by music icon Paul Simon.

3 March 1968 King Kong composer Todd Matshikiza passed on



South African artist, composer and writer, Todd Tozama Matshikiza, died at the age of 47 in Lusaka, Zambia after a sudden illness. He composed the music and wrote some of the lyrics for the popular all-Black musical King Kong, portraying the life and death of heavyweight boxer Ezekiel Dlamini. He also wrote for Drum magazine.

3 March 1971 Beatles unbanned

The SABC lifted its ban on the Beatles music on this day.

3 March 2004 Caribbean countries boycott UN mission in Haiti

Angered by the manner in which Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced to flee his

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

country, the fifteen-nation Caribbean Community said it would not provide troops for the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Force in Haiti. Aristide was overthrown twice, first in a military coup in September, 1991, and finally in February, 2004. He claimed he was abducted at gunpoint by United States Marines. After two-and-a-half-months' exile in Jamaica, he was offered amnesty in South Africa.

4 March 1890 Architect Gerard Moerdijk born

Gerard Leendert Pieter Moerdijk, of Dutch descent, was born in the Waterberg district, Transvaal (now Limpopo Province). He was one of the first Afrikaans architects and pioneered new designs for churches, adapting them to South African requirements and using local materials. He designed approximately nine-

ty churches, numerous houses, halls and public buildings, and the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria.



INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

26 February – 4 March 2022

Source: www.un.org and [African Factbook \(www.au.int\)](http://www.au.int)

27 February International Digital Learning Day

World Digital Learning Day was first celebrated in 2011, at a time when digital or e-learning were just being introduced, and ICT tools reserved for a few. Ten years later, and in the midst of a global pandemic which forced lockdowns on schools and universities, digital learning has become critical. Technology has changed learning, but it is also exacerbating inequalities within countries and across the world. Although South Africa has been talking about making e-learning more accessible, through initiatives such as a laptop/tablet per learner, connecting schools to the internet, and the introduction of ICT as a school subject, the digital divide remains stark, including training for teachers to understand e-teaching and learning. World Digital Learning Day is a reminder of the road still ahead of us.



28 February World Rare Disease Day

Rare Disease Day takes place on the last day of February each year. The main objective of Rare Disease Day is to raise awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers about rare diseases and their impact on patients' and family lives. Close to 1 in 20 people live with a rare disease, but it often goes un or misdiagnosed.

1 March African School-feeding Day

The African Union has declared 1 March as African School-feeding Day, to advocate for members

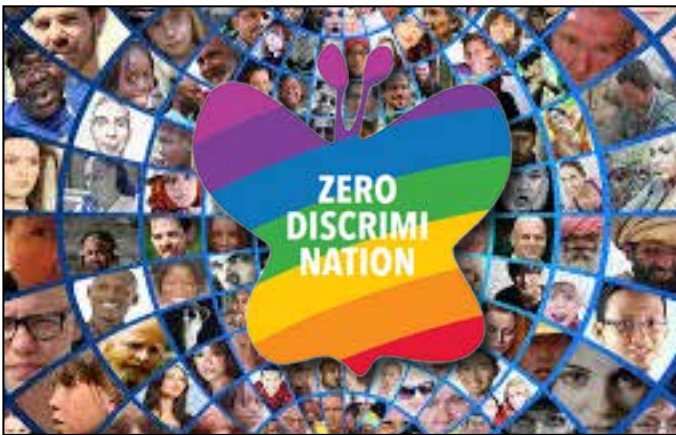


THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

states to extend school feeding programmes as critical to educational and health outcomes of African children, their families and communities. According to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), *“school feeding is one of the most extensive social safety nets in the world, and in 2020 one in every two schoolchildren, or 388 million children, receive school meals every day in at least 161 countries from all income levels.”*

1 March

World Zero Discrimination Day



Discrimination comes in all shapes and sizes, and the day is aimed at raising awareness of the importance of celebrating difference and diversity, and for laws, leadership and institutions to be proactive to combat discrimination. It was first introduced by UNAIDS to raise awareness on the need not to discriminate and stigmatise people living with AIDS, but targets broader discrimination, calling on people to *“make some noise around zero discrimination, to speak up and prevent discrimination from standing in the way of achieving ambitions, goals and dreams.”*

3 March

Wangari Maathai Day for Africa Environment and World Wildlife Day

Wangari Maathai, a biological scientist with a doctorate in veterinary anatomy, was the founder of the Greenbelt Movement in Kenya, encouraging communities to reverse environmental degradation by planting millions of indigenous trees and advocating and working throughout her life for the protection of the environment and communities. She became the first African woman to win a Nobel Prize for her work. The African Union recognised her contribution, when it named Africa Environment Day after her. The day is also globally celebrated



as World Wildlife Day, because on 3 March 1973 the UN members signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

3 March

World Hearing Day

The day raises awareness of hearing loss and ear diseases. Key message by the WHO on this day are that good hearing and communication are important at all stages of life and that hearing loss (and related ear diseases) can be avoided through preventative actions such as: protection against loud sounds; good ear care practices and immunization.

4 March

World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development

UNESCO proclaimed 4 March as World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development), to raise awareness of the role of engineering in modern life. Engineering is defined as *“the branch of science and technology concerned with the design, building, and use of engines, machines, and structures.”* The day is also used to promote awareness of engineering as a career, and the importance of young people, especially girls and women, studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



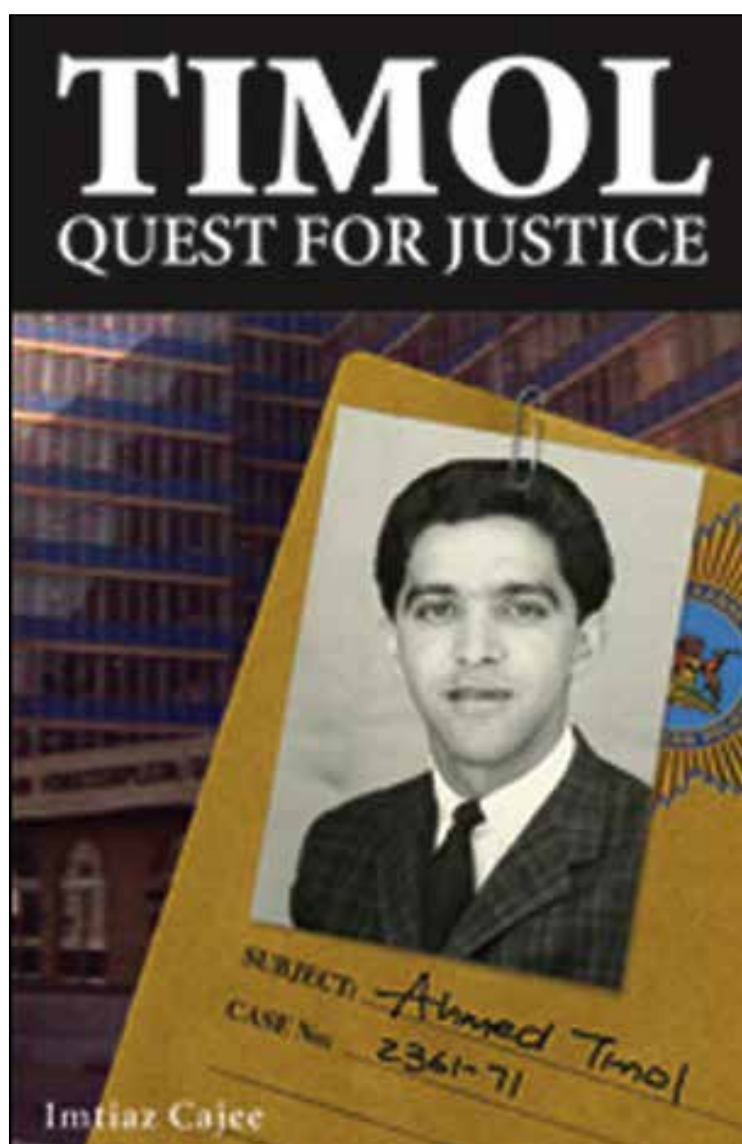
Celebrating the courage and humanity of an extraordinary African

Foreword by **President Thabo Mbeki** to the book:
"Timol: A Quest for Justice."

ANY good dictionary will refresh your grasp of what is really meant by that much over-used term, "*comrade*." I myself have just consulted a dictionary, which reminds me that a comrade is an intimate friend or associate. We are accustomed to making, almost automatically, the move from the simple word "*comrade*" to its revolutionary sense, "*comrade-in-arms*." My point however is that Ahmed was each and both of these, taken separately as well as together.

Ahmed Timol was my comrade not only in the broad and diffuse sense that we shared an allegiance to a humane political movement that was determined to overthrow injustice, in that we were comrades-in-arms, but we were also comrades, quite literally. He and I went to receive political training in Moscow in the Sixties. We had the same teachers in the same institution. We ate the same food. We made the same friends, acquaintances and contacts. We shivered alike in that cold foreign place and were warmed by the same revolutionary yearnings.

So, now when I glance again at my dictionary, it is fitting and proper that it explains to me that the word "*comrade*" comes from the early French comarade which signified a member of a group sleeping in the same room, a roommate, a companion. This sense of the word originates, in turn, from the Old Spanish word *cámara* which means room. And one can trace

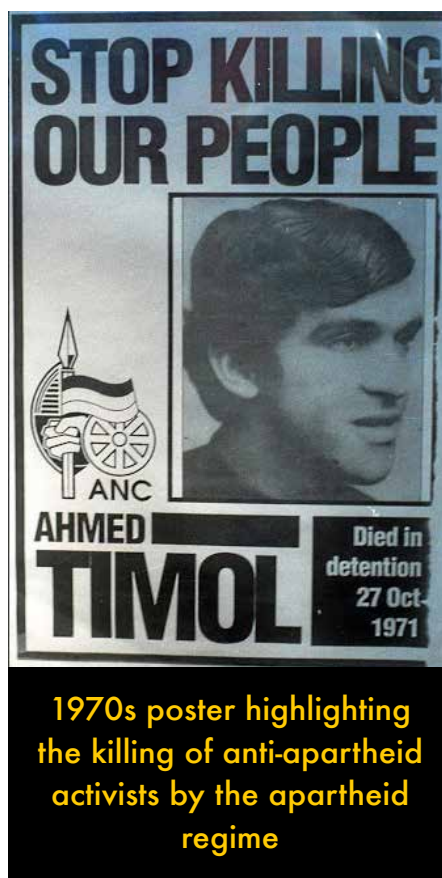


this sense of a shared room further back through the Latin. So Ahmed and I shared a room, but a large one. His room was an entire country and not only that, but the world even beyond South African borders, throughout which he also sought justice.

Ahmed himself noted certain ironies in an autobiography that he once wrote, upon which the author of this book is able to draw. Ahmed wrote: *"It is indeed a tragic history of our families that my forefathers were once colonial subjects of the British Raj in India and my father both a subject of British Imperialists in India and now a victim of South African colonialists and racialism."*

There was further irony in the fact that Ahmed's life started as the world began to galvanise itself successfully against the racial tyranny of Hitler and ended as the apartheid juggernaut, feeding on the same dark forces as Nazism, reached its height of repression in South Africa in 1971. He was himself the light in a darkening room. As someone says in this book, he ought never to have existed.

The apartheid regime had banned us a decade earlier and had brutally set out to break and torture our scattered comrades. They believed that they had broken the back of the underground. And then they found Ahmed. Mayibuye! They performed upon his body a macabre dance, a danse macabre of exorcism through violence. It was their own neurosis that spoke through every blow, because in him our revolutionary spirit was made flesh and they simply could not believe it. He was and remained, even after his death, the spectre that was haunting South Africa.



That was at the high tide of apartheid, when every single institution in South Africa, from the tiniest municipality to Parliament, had been finally rid, by the white nationalists, of the remnants of people of colour who in some provinces had enjoyed a precarious place by grace and favour of a paternalistic *"English"* colonial era.

This had been one of the most grimly systematic bleaching operations in history. And yet, the atmosphere of apparent racial control, of white baasskap, was misleading. The times were already turning; soon to be followed by strikes, urban protest, freedom for neighbouring countries, sanctions and disinvestment, unprecedented world mobilisation of opposition, and guerrilla warfare. All these forces, and others, combined with growing white doubt to bring the whole edifice crashing down in 1990-94.

You will read in this book that Ahmed was Muslim but never sectarian: he sought national unity across the class, caste and religious divides of his own community. You will further read that he was communist without ever abandoning his religious piety. And you will read how his revolutionary discipline never overtook his joy in simple things.

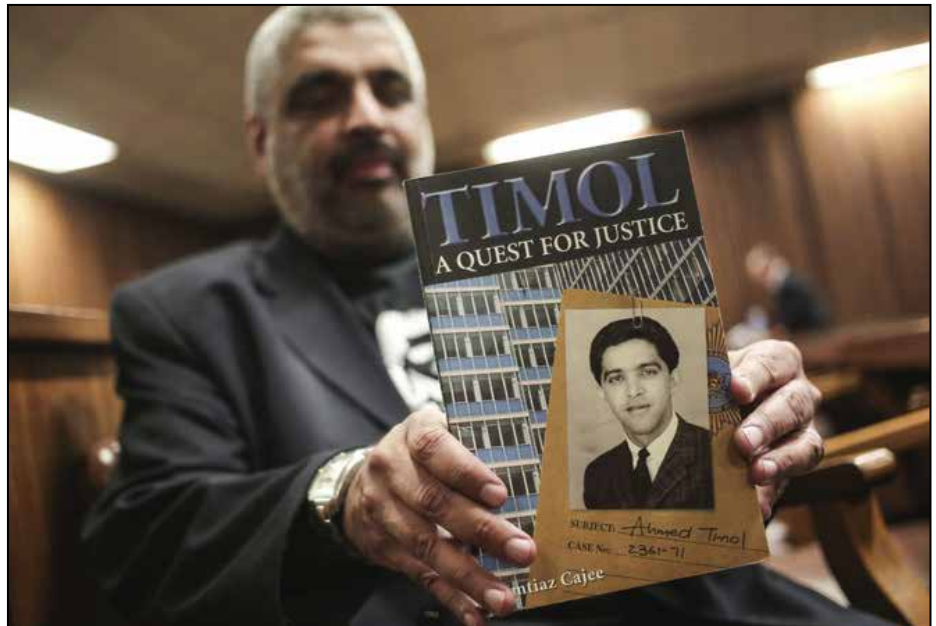
I want to emphasise very strongly that Ahmed was, apart from all this, a great Africanist in the most profound sense. Just as Dr Dadoo expanded the non-racial ethos that is the hallmark of our liberation movement, just as Dr Dadoo lifted the gaze of his community to behold its African realities, so too did Ahmed Timol expand upon and enact, in his own flesh and with his own blood, the great lengths to which the Indian community in South Africa could and would go in order to assert and claim its proper birthright in this place: Ahmed belongs in a high place amidst the pantheon of great African indigenous leadership not only in this country but across the diaspora.

As is so often the case, the challenges that we face are not unprecedented and we are able to learn from the prior experience of others in nationalist struggles elsewhere. The vision of Dr Dadoo during our struggle for liberation was, for instance, strikingly similar to the vision of the great West Indian historian and prime minister, Eric Williams, whose book, *Capitalism and Slavery*, pioneered a new understanding of the end of the slave trade a century and a half after the end of the successful revolution of Haitian slaves. In his speech marking the independence of his country, Williams directly addressed the great diversity of his country in the cause of national unity:

"There can be no Mother India for those whose ancestors come from India. There can be no Mother Africa for those of African origin. There can be no Mother England and no dual loyalties. There can be no Mother China even if one could agree as to which China is the mother; and there can be no Mother Syria and no Mother Lebanon. A nation, like an individual, can have only one mother and Mother cannot discriminate between her children."

This is the wisdom that we too apply, in our own quest for a single South Africa. And still, as late as 2003, it was possible to read, in the pages of a business newspaper, a column by a notoriously disaffected columnist who has long ridiculed our goals of national unity in the international press. He has long – and wrongly – warned the world that a free South Africa would quickly descend into tribal warfare, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal.

This voice turned, during 2003, to try an assault on the longstanding unity between Indians and Africans in this country. Thus, the columnist castigated what he chose to call *"our Asian country-men"* as though South Africans



Intiaz Cajee, the author of the book about Ahmed Timol

of Asian ancestry can occupy no indigenous place in our revolutionary pantheon and even in our democratic government. Such men cannot read this book without hanging their heads in shame. Sadly, it is too much to ask for remorse.

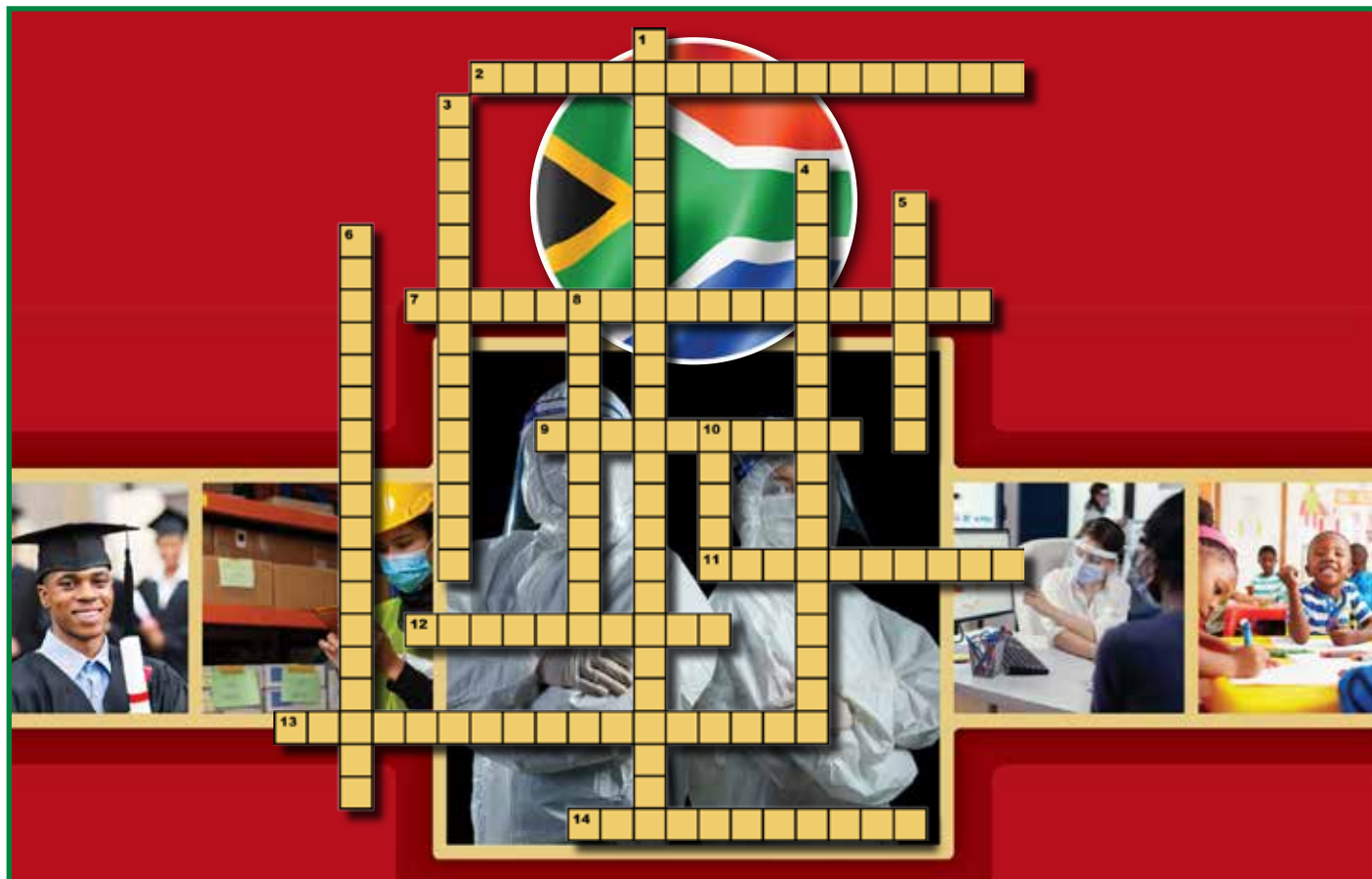
These are weighty matters. And yet this book, despite its sombre subject and its analytical seriousness, succeeds in bringing out the bliss that drove the man Ahmed Timol. The author himself correctly quotes CLR James.

This great historian of the Haitian revolution, in all its tragedy and triumph, is also the author of a blissful and classic essay concerning cricket, *Beyond A Boundary*. In this essay James saw the beginnings of *"the West Indian renaissance not only in cricket, but in politics, in history and in writing."*

The author is himself to be commended for the labour of this book, which is in itself a further sign of the African renaissance in our own time. In his very first line, he writes that *"Ahmed Timol is one of the most celebrated official murder victims of apartheid South Africa."* When I first read that I paused over the word *"celebrated"*. Was this word not somehow wrong? I know that the writer meant this word in the sense of *"famous"* or *"well known"*. But the other meanings – the festival overtones of the word *"celebrated"* – at first seemed out of place. And yet I see that Ahmed's nephew is quite right. Because we do finally celebrate, in the most festive sense, the courage and humanity of this extraordinary African.



Budget 2022



ACROSS

2. Largest portion of taxes collected.
7. Accounts for only 3rd largest revenue collected.
9. The Budget speech tells us how much and on what, ... will spend in the coming year.
11. Spending on public services also called the ...
12. Tax on petrol contributing to Road Accident Fund.
13. Government agency that collects taxes.
14. Largest grant.

DOWN

1. Total expenditure on social services.
3. Minister of Finance.
4. Presidential... to create jobs.
5. Taxes on cigarettes, alcohol, also known as ...
6. R10 billion allocated.
8. 2022 Budget speech called 'boring, but ...
10. R46.1 billion to this education fund.

WORD BANK

Enoch Godongwana
SA Revenue Services
Sin taxes
Employment Stimulus

Old-age grant
Personal income tax
social wage
one point three trillion rand

NSFAS
Corporate income tax
Contingency reserve

**Fuel Levies
Government
Responsible**

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