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Conversations with the
President



TO COMBAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE, WE NEED TO PLAN TOGETHER, IMPLEMENT TOGETHER AND ACCOUNT TOGETHER

*Address by **President**
Cyril Ramaphosa at the
Second Presidential Summit
On Gender-Based Violence
and Femicide,
Ekurhuleni, 1 November 2022*

WE are meeting here, at this second Presidential Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, exactly four years to the day since we made a pledge to each other to work together to end the violence that men perpetrate against women and children in South Africa.

It was at the first Presidential

Summit on GBV and Femicide in 2018 that we collectively made a firm commitment to the nation to undertake a comprehensive, effective and united response to gender-based violence and femicide.

We agreed to develop a National Strategic Plan to guide our national response, to coordinate the various sectors involved in the fight against

Dear Mr President
All delegates...!!!

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**Humankind is at a
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President Cyril Ramaphosa addressing the 2nd Presidential Summit on GBV and Femicide.

GBV, to strengthen the state's response, and to align the efforts of government, the private sector and civil society.

We decided to embark on a number of interventions to deal with the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide in our country.

The first step was the development of a GBVF Emergency Response Action Plan in 2019.

I requested Parliament's presiding officers to call a special joint sitting of both houses of Parliament to announce the action plan.

The plan was embraced by members of Parliament representing all political parties.

This was a significant moment in that GBVF was seen as a non-partisan matter on which all political parties demonstrated their preparedness to act together to address this scourge.

This was followed by the release in April 2020 of the Na-

tional Strategic Plan, which had been carefully drawn up together with civil society.

Yet, despite our efforts, violence against women and children continues unabated in our country.

Data from the South African Police Service shows that sexual offences and rape increased by 13 per cent between 2017/18 and 2021/22.

Between the first quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, there was a 52 per cent increase in the murder of women, and 46 per cent increase in the number of children murdered.

Not a day goes by without a story in the newspapers, on television or online about a woman or child that has lost their life or been abused in the most horrendous manner.

Since the rape and murder of 19-year-old Uyinene Mrwetyana in 2019 sparked mass marches around the country,

there have been so many more women killed by men.

Since then, the nation has been horrified by the brutal violence that took the lives of Tshego-fatso Pule, Nosiselo Mtebeni, Hillary Gardee, Namhla Mtwana, Dimpho Skelenge and many other women.

Innocents like Asithandile Same, Tshimologo Lotshabeng, Tazne van Wyk and Reagan Gertse have fallen victim to heartless criminals.

Just as the country was reeling from the news of a gang rape of a group of women in Krugersdorp, we were confronted with the news of the murder of 4-year-old little Bokgabo Poo, who was dismembered and her body parts thrown into a field.

Just as babies are not being spared, even the elderly have become targets of violent men.

We have in recent times seen a spate of rapes and killings of elderly women, our mothers and grandmothers that are meant to be respected and treated with dignity.

These horrors defy comprehension. There are really no words for them.

They tell a story about our society that is deeply disturbing.

It is a story of a nation at war with itself.

These barbaric acts are a shameful indictment of the men of this country.

It is not women who are responsible for ending such crimes; it is men.

As a society, ending violence against women and children cannot be anything but our foremost priority.

This is about the lives of our country's women and children.

There can be no greater urgency.

That is why all of us who are attending this Summit must be focused on action and results.

We need to be critical about those areas of the National Strategic Plan in which there has been little or no progress.

We need practical plans to correct shortcomings and weaknesses.

This Summit must look at what is working, what is not and what is needed to make a difference. This is an accountability Summit.

This second Presidential Summit is for us to assess progress in fulfilling the commitments we made at the first Summit in 2018 and in implementing the National Strategic Plan.

What we have stressed throughout this process is the importance of a collaborative and coordinated approach towards combating gender-based violence and femicide.

We need to plan together, im-

plement together and account together.

We owe this to the women and children of South Africa.

We owe it to all who have been victims of this scourge, including families and loved ones.

We owe it to the people of this country.

The actions we take now will determine whether this crime forever remains a feature of our national life, or whether we can say we are the generation that ended it.

One of the great successes of our effort to fight gender-based violence is the extent to which social partners have rallied around the National Strategic Plan.

The presence here today of such a broad range of civil society organisations, public bodies and social formations is testament to this.

We are grateful to all those people from across society who have been involved throughout

all stages of the formulation of the NSP and guided its implementation.

We are further grateful to all the Working Groups, co-chaired by government and civil society representatives, that have been working tirelessly to drive the implementation of the NSP.

To ensure that the issue of gender-based violence receives the highest attention, the responsibility for institutionalising the NSP across all organs of state was placed in the Presidency.

An 'End GBV' Collective was established as a multi-sectoral structure to drive collaborative implementation.

Government departments are required to submit monthly reports to the Presidency outlining their respective achievements towards the targets set in the NSP.

This has been key to tracking progress.

We set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee to coordinate the



implementation of the NSP across government departments and report regularly to Cabinet.

The Bill that will pave the way for the establishment of the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Council is currently before Parliament.

We must acknowledge that this Bill took too long to get to Parliament due to a rather long period of consultation, but we are hopeful that it has been enriched by the extensive engagements that have been undertaken.

To ensure that a gendered lens is applied to public finances and resource allocation, in 2019 we adopted a framework on gender-responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and auditing.

This is in the early stages of implementation and we are work-

ing to institutionalise it at local government level.

I said at the inaugural Summit in 2018 that we would fast-track the review of existing laws and policies to ensure that they are more effective at preventing gender-based violence, providing greater support and care for survivors, and bringing perpetrators to justice.

In January this year, I signed into law three key pieces of legislation, namely the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act, and the Domestic Violence Amendment Act.

These new laws afford greater protection to survivors of gender-based violence and ensure that perpetrators are no longer able to use legislative loopholes to evade prosecution.

Other reforms that will strength-

en the fight against gender-based violence include the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill that is currently before Parliament.

The Victim Support Services Bill has been approved by Cabinet and published for public comment.

In 2020, we also passed the Cybercrimes Act, which affords protection against sex crimes like so-called revenge porn, threats of sexual violence, blackmail and other acts that disproportionately affect women, especially young girls.

The Department of Justice and Correctional Services is seized with implementing reforms in the criminal justice system to ensure that the system prioritises survivors and their needs.

There has been particular focus on the accessibility and functioning of Sexual Offences Courts.

Since the last Presidential Summit, 83 courts have been upgraded into Sexual Offences Courts.

We have prioritised support for survivors through adequate sheltering services and one-stop services for victims of trauma.

Expanding the network of Thuthuzela Care Centres was one of the commitments we made at the 2018 Presidential Summit.

Since the National Strategic





GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA IS A NATIONAL CRISIS

Plan was adopted, we have opened more new centres around the country.

Another centre will be opened in Limpopo later this month.

This will add to the increase of Thuthuzela Care Centres across the country.

Apart from being places of refuge and support, these centres are proving effective in improving conviction rates.

In the last financial year, a conviction rate of 77 per cent was obtained for cases reported at Thuthuzela Care Centres.

As it stands, out of 52 districts across the country, 45 have at least one GBV shelter and 85 per cent of these are government funded.

We will do more to ensure that the remaining districts without shelters are capacitated.

The Department of Social Development has established a National Emergency Response Team to offer trauma debriefing in emergency situations.

The Gender-based Violence Command Centre has been further capacitated with a new facility that can accommodate more personnel.

We have been working to ensure that South Africa's efforts to turn the tide against gender-based violence are aligned with global efforts.

Late last year, South Africa ratified the International Labour Organisation's Convention 190 aimed at eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work.

A key aspect of the National Strategic Plan is the economic empowerment of women.

Since announcing our determination to direct at least 40 per cent of public procurement to women-owned businesses, we have sought to establish an enabling environment to support women entrepreneurs.

We have trained more than 6,000 women to prepare them to take up procurement opportunities.

Through the Women's Eco-

conomic Assembly, we have seen industry associations and companies committing to industry-wide gender transformation targets.

We can therefore say that we have made significant progress in putting the supporting architecture in place that is critical to a coordinated and collaborative fight against GBV.

In the Joint Sitting of Parliament in 2019, I called for government departments to allocate the necessary resources to combat gender-based violence.

As a result, in February 2021, government announced the allocation of approximately R21 billion over three years to implement the various components of the National Strategic Plan.

A significant portion of these funds has been committed to advancing the empowerment of women through procurement, business support and access to economic opportunities.

Funds have also been directed to expanding support to survivors, strengthening the re-

sponse of the criminal justice system and undertaking prevention programmes.

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation has been tracking expenditure of the R21 billion allocated over the medium-term.

It is important that this Summit assesses both the extent of funds that have been spent as well as the purposes to which these funds have been put.

We need to ensure that our resources are being directed to where there is the greatest need and where they have the greatest impact.

Last year we established a private sector-led Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund 1, which received a commitment of R162 million and has to date funded 112 grant partners.

We must acknowledge, however, that given the demand for services to address the many different aspects of the fight against GBV, these funds are currently inadequate.

I therefore call on the private sector in particular to join hands with us – as we did with the Solidarity Fund – to make more resources available where they are needed most.

We must accept that as individuals, institutions and leaders across society, we all must play our part.

This fight is about far more than ensuring that survivors of GBV get justice.

It is about preventing violence against women and children from happening in the first place.

It is in the area of prevention that we need to place greater attention, exert more effort and dedicate more resources.

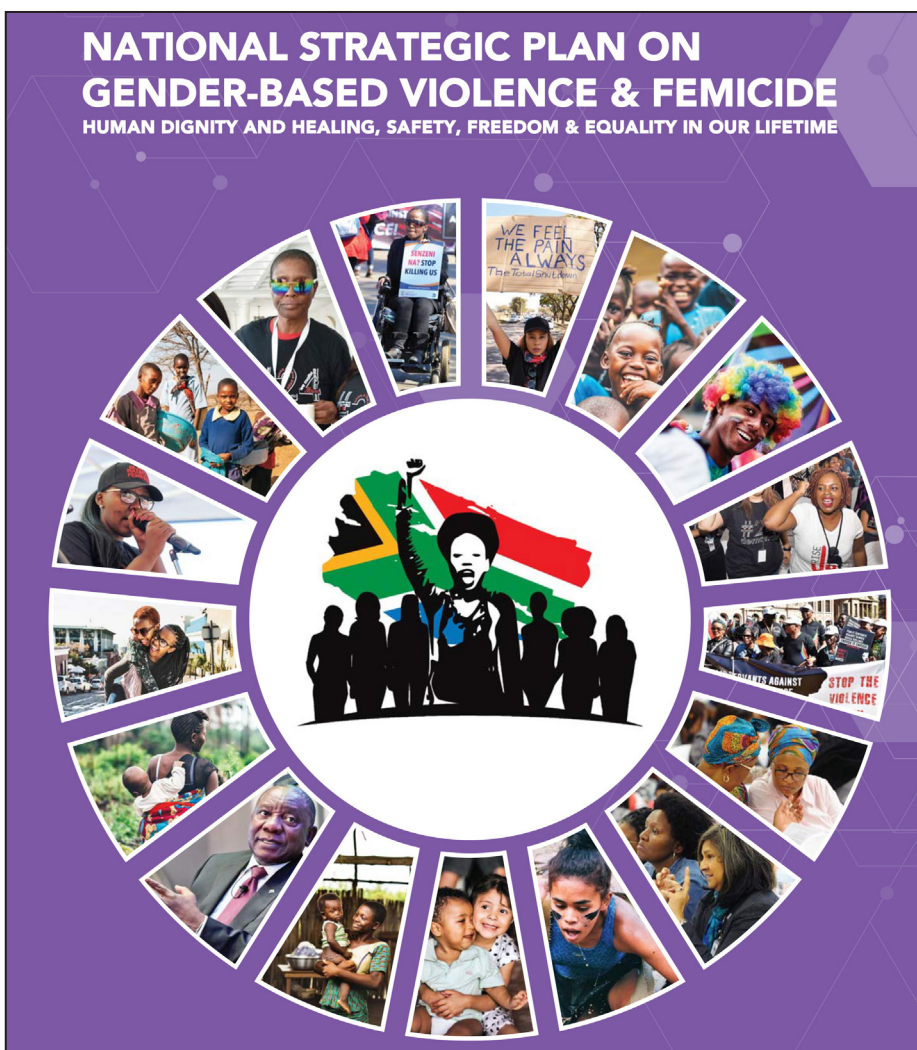
As government we have developed a comprehensive National GBVF Prevention strategy, and in March this year, we also launched the National Integrated Prevention Strategy against Femicide.

But we have not mobilised the resources required for effective behaviour change programmes that link up with the efforts of social partners in communities to address the attitudes and actions of men.

In every part of society, in every workplace, in every school and college and university, in every government department, in every municipality, in every community, we need to be organising men's dialogues.

We need to reach out to boys and young men to develop masculinities that value respect, understanding and accountability.

A good example of this is the project by Prime Stars, which,





in collaboration with government, focuses on redefining masculinity among young men.

This programme needs to be rolled out to all the schools in the country.

We need to see the President, Ministers, Premiers, religious leaders, sports people, artists, educators, business leaders and many others participating in various dialogues, outreach and awareness-raising activities.

We thank our Premiers for convening Provincial GBV summits leading up to this summit.

Those summits have made a huge contribution in raising the level of consciousness about GBV and Femicide and helping to prepare us all for this summit.

We need to re-weave the social fabric, so we become a society that is nurturing, caring, respectful and in which the human rights of all are protected.

We must build a society in which there is no place for crimes against women, children and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

As we reflect on the progress of the last four years, we can count many successes.

We have put the issue of violence against women and children firmly on the national agenda and at the forefront of the minds of many South Africans.

We have established critical institutions and mobilised significant resources.

But there is much more that still needs to be done.

We are not even close to where we want to be.

We are confronted with an immensely difficult task.

The road ahead will be long and challenging, but it is a road that we must walk together.

It is a road that we must walk – together and with determination – so that the women and children of this country may live in safety, in peace and in happiness.

We want to do nothing less than fundamentally and forever change our society.

Working together, as we have done over these last four years, I have no doubt that we will overcome and that we will prevail.



All delegates...!!!

Dear Mr President

All delegates

THE time is nigh. We are on the cusp. The 55th national conference of our beloved African National Conference is upon us. The next 42 days are crucial as delegates gather and as one. Their mandate rests on the shoulders of giants who came before us. There will be no middle road. As Africa's oldest liberation movement, we heed the mandate as per the requirements of our people.

A load rests on the shoulders of those who are called to lead.

World capitalism has at the present time, that is, since about the beginning of the twentieth century, reached the stage of imperialism. Imperialism, or the epoch of finance capital, is a high stage of development of the capitalist economic system, one in which monopolist associations of capitalists – syndicates, cartels and trusts – have assumed decisive importance: in which enormously concentrated banking capital has fused with industrial capital; in which the export of capital to foreign countries has assumed vast proportions: in which the whole world has been divided up territorially among the richer countries, and the economic carve-up of the world among international trusts has begun.

Imperialist wars, i.e., wars for world domination, for markets for banking capital and for the



Comrade Pule Mabe

subjugation of small and weaker nations, are inevitable under such a state of affairs. The first great imperialist war, the war of 1914–17, is precisely such a war.

The extremely high level of development which world capitalism in general has attained, the replacement of free competition by monopoly capitalism, the fact that the banks and the capitalist associations have prepared the machinery for the social regulation of the process of production and distribution of products, the horrors, misery, ruin, and brutalisation caused by the imperialist war – all these factors transform the present stage of capitalist development into an era of proletarian socialist revolution.

That era has dawned.

Only a proletarian socialist revolution can lead humanity out of the impasse which imperialism and imperialist wars have created. Whatever difficulties, the revolution may have to encounter, whatever possible temporary setbacks or waves of counter-revolution it may have to contend with, the final victory of the proletariat is inevitable.

Objective conditions make it the urgent task of the day to prepare the proletariat in every way for the revolution and resolutely break with the bourgeois perversion of socialism, which has taken the upper hand in the official Social Democratic parties in the form of a social-chauvinist trend (that is, socialism in words, chauvinism in fact, or the use of the “defend your country” slogan to cover up defence of capitalist interests in imperialist wars), and also in the form of a Centre trend (i.e. unprincipled, helpless vacillation between social-chauvinism and revolutionary internationalist proletarian struggle) for the conquest of political power in order to carry out the economic and political measures which are the sum and substance of the socialist revolution.

The fulfilment of this task, which calls for the fullest trust, the closest fraternal ties, and direct unity of revolutionary action on the part of the working class in all the advanced countries, is impossible without an immediate break in principle with the bourgeois perversion of so-

cialism, which has gained the upper hand among the leadership of the great majority of the official Social-Democratic parties. Such a perversion is, on the one hand, the social-chauvinist trend, socialism in word and chauvinism in deed, the defence of the predatory interests of “one’s own” national bourgeoisie under the guise of “defence of one’s country”; and, on the other hand, the equally wide international trend of the so-called Centre, which stands for unity with the social-chauvinists and for the preservation or correction of the bankrupt. Second International, and which vacillates between social-chauvinism and the internationalist revolutionary.

As the conference beckons, we remember the above words of Lenin and we reflect on the seminal words of our founding father, Albert Luthuli:

“Though I speak of Africa as a single entity, it is divided in many ways by race, language, history, and custom; by political, economic, and ethnic frontiers. But in truth, despite these multiple divisions, Africa has a single common purpose and a single goal – the achievement of its own independence. All Africa, both lands which have won their political victories but have still to overcome the legacy of economic backwardness, and lands like my own whose political battles have still to be waged to their conclusion – all Africa has this single aim: our goal is a united Africa in which the standards of life and liberty are constantly expanding; in which the ancient legacy of illiteracy and disease is swept aside; in which the dignity of man is rescued from beneath the heels of colo-

nialism which have trampled it. This goal, pursued by millions of our people with revolutionary zeal, by means of books, representations, demonstrations, and in some places armed force provoked by the adamancy of white rule, carries the only real promise of peace in Africa. Whatever means have been used, the efforts have gone to end alien rule and race oppression.”

A revolutionary democratic movement: The ANC pursues fundamental change to create a better life for all. Equality among all South Africans in choosing a government of their choice, using the country’s resources to improve conditions of especially the poor, and removing racism in the ownership and distribution of wealth are among our core principles. Within its ranks,

the ANC ensures the participation of members in shaping the movement’s policies and programmes.

The ANC represents the mass of forces that pursue social transformation. Individuals belonging to different classes and strata form part of these forces, because they stand to gain from fundamental change. However, the ANC is keenly aware of the social basis of apartheid. It recognises the leading role of the working class and pays special attention to the poor.

Amandla!

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

55TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ANC
GAUTENG 16 - 20 DECEMBER 2022

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Defend and advance the gains of Freedom: Unity through Renewal

Issued by ANC Headquarters, 54 Pixley Seme street, Johannesburg

“The future of the National Democratic Revolution will depend on decisions and actions we take in Conference.”
#ANCNC55

HUMANKIND IS AT A FORK IN THE ROAD

*Speech by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin,
28 October 2022*

WE have used the Valdai Club platform to discuss the major and serious shifts that are taking place around the world, the risks posed by the degradation of global institutions, the erosion of collective security principles and the substitution of “rules” for international law. We have no idea whatsoever who made these rules up, what these rules are based on, or what is inside these rules.

It looks like we are witnessing an attempt to enforce just one rule whereby those in power – and I am talking about global power – could live without following any rules at all and could get away with anything. These are the rules that we hear talking about them incessantly.

Alas, events continue to follow a negative scenario. Moreover, they have morphed into a major system-wide crisis that impacted, in addition to the military-political sphere, the economic and humanitarian spheres as well.

The West has taken a number of steps in recent years and especially in recent months that are designed to escalate the situation. As a matter of fact, they al-



ways seek to aggravate matters, which are nothing new, either. This includes the stoking of war in Ukraine, the provocations around Taiwan, and the destabilisation of the global food and energy markets. The destabilisation of the energy market resulted from a number of systemic missteps made by the Western authorities. As we can see now, the situation was further aggravated by the destruction of the pan-European gas pipelines. This is something otherworldly altogether.

Global power is exactly what the West has at stake in its game. But this game is certainly dangerous, bloody and, I would say, dirty. It denies the sovereignty of countries and peoples, their identity and uniqueness, and tramples

upon other states’ interests. No one, except those who create these rules I have mentioned is entitled to retain their identity: everyone else must comply with these rules.

In this regard, let me remind you of Russia’s proposals to our Western partners to build confidence and a collective security system. They were once again tossed in December 2021. However, sitting things out can hardly work in the modern world. He who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind, as the saying goes. The crisis has indeed taken on a global dimension and has impacted everyone. There can be no illusions about this.

Humankind is at a fork in the

road: either keep accumulating problems and eventually get crushed under their weight, or work together to find solutions that can make our world a more stable and safer place.

You know, I have always believed in the power of common sense. Therefore, I am convinced that sooner or later both the new centres of the multipolar international order and the West will have to start a dialogue on an equal footing about a common future for us all, and the sooner the better, of course.

Current developments have overshadowed environmental issues. Climate change no longer tops the agenda. But that fundamental challenge has not gone away, it is still with us, and it is growing. The loss of biodiversity is one of the most dangerous consequences of disrupting the environmental balance. Is it not equally important to maintain cultural, social, political and civilisational diversity?

At the same time, the smoothing out and erasure of all and any differences is essentially what the modern West is all about. What stands behind this? First of all, it is the decaying creative potential of the West and a desire to restrain and block the free development of other civilisations.

There is also an openly mercantile interest, of course. By imposing their values, consumption habits and standardisation on others, our opponents – I will be careful with words – are trying to expand markets for their products. The goal on this track is, ultimately, very primitive. It is notable that the West proclaims the universal value of its culture and worldview. Even if they do not say so openly, which they ac-



tually often do, they behave as if this is so, that it is a fact of life, and the policy they pursue is designed to show that these values must be unconditionally accepted by all other members of the international community.

I would like to quote from Alexander Solzhenitsyn's famous Harvard Commencement Address delivered in 1978. He said that typical of the West is "*a continuous blindness of superiority*". He said this in 1978. Nothing has changed.

Over the nearly 50 years since then, the blindness about which Solzhenitsyn spoke and which is openly racist and neocolonial, has acquired especially distorted forms, in particular, after the emergence of the so-called unipolar world. What am I referring to? Belief in one's infallibility is very dangerous; it is only one step away from the desire of the infallible to destroy those they do not like, or as they say, to cancel them. Just think about the meaning of this word.

Even at the very peak of the Cold War, the peak of the confrontation of the two systems, ideolo-

gies and military rivalry, it did not occur to anyone to deny the very existence of the culture, art, and science of other peoples, their opponents. Yes, certain restrictions were imposed on contacts in education, science, culture, and, unfortunately, sports. But nonetheless, both the Soviet and American leaders understood that it was necessary to treat the humanitarian area tactfully.

And what is happening now? At one time, the Nazis reached the point of burning books, and now the Western "guardians of liberalism and progress" have reached the point of banning Dostoyevsky and Tchaikovsky. The so-called "*cancel culture*" and in reality – as we said many times – the real cancellation of culture is eradicating everything that is alive and creative and stifles free thought in all areas, be it economics, politics or culture.

Today, liberal ideology itself has changed beyond recognition. If initially, classic liberalism was understood to mean the freedom of every person to do and say as they pleased, in the 20th century the liberals started saying that the so-called open society had



enemies and that the freedom of these enemies could and should be restricted if not cancelled. It has reached the absurd point where any alternative opinion is declared subversive propaganda and a threat to democracy.

Whatever comes from Russia is all branded as “*Kremlin intrigues*.” But look at yourselves. Are we really so all-powerful? Any criticism of our opponents – any – is perceived as “*Kremlin intrigues*,” “*the hand of the Kremlin*.” This is insane. What have you sunk to? Use your brain, at least, say something more interesting,

Standardisation, financial and technological monopoly, the erasure of all differences is what underlies the Western model of globalisation, which is neocolonial in nature. Their goal was clear – to establish the unconditional dominance of the West in the global economy and politics. To do that, the West put at its service the entire planet’s natural and financial resources, as well as all intellectual, human and economic capabilities, while alleging it was a natural feature of the so-called new global interdependence.

Here I would like to recall Russian

philosopher, Alexander Zinoviev. More than 20 years ago, he said that Western civilisation needed the entire planet as a medium of existence and all the resources of humanity to survive at the level it had reached.

Moreover, the West initially secured itself a huge head start in that system because it had developed the principles and mechanisms – the same as today’s rules they keep talking about, which remain an incomprehensible black hole because no one really knows what they are. But as soon as non-western countries began to derive some benefits from globalisation, above all, the large nations in Asia, the West immediately changed or fully abolished many of those rules. And the so-called sacred principles of free trade, economic openness, equal competition, even property rights were suddenly forgotten, completely. They change the rules on the go, on the spot wherever they see an opportunity for themselves.

Here is another example of the substitution of concepts and meanings. For many years, Western ideologists and politicians have been telling the world there

was no alternative to democracy. Admittedly, they meant the Western-style, the so-called liberal model of democracy. They arrogantly rejected all other variants and forms of government by the people and, I want to emphasise this, did so contemptuously and disdainfully. This manner has been taking shape since colonial times, as if everyone were second-rate, while they were exceptional. It has been going on for centuries and continues to this day.

So currently, an overwhelming majority of the international community is demanding democracy in international affairs and rejecting all forms of authoritarian dictate by individual countries or groups of countries. What is this if not the direct application of democratic principles to international relations?

What stance has the “civilised” West adopted? If you are democrats, you are supposed to welcome the natural desire for freedom expressed by billions of people, but no. The West is calling it undermining the liberal rules-based order. It is resorting to economic and trade wars, sanctions, boycotts and colour revolutions, and preparing and carrying out all sorts of coups.

One of them led to tragic consequences in Ukraine in 2014. They supported it and even specified the amount of money they had spent on this coup. They have the cheek to act as they please and have no scruples about anything they do. They killed Soleimani, an Iranian general. You can think whatever you want about Soleimani, but he was a foreign state official. They killed him in a third country and assumed responsibility. What kind of world are we living in?

As is customary, Washington continues to refer to the current international order as liberal American-style, but in fact, this notorious “order” is multiplying chaos every day and, I might even add, is becoming increasingly intolerant even towards the Western countries and their attempts to act independently. Everything is nipped in the bud, and they do not even hesitate to impose sanctions on their allies, who lower their heads in acquiescence.

For example, the Hungarian MPs’ July proposals to codify the commitment to European Christian values and culture in the Treaty on European Union were taken not even as an affront, but as an outright and hostile act of sabotage. What does it mean?

Without exaggeration, this is not even a systemic, but a doctrinal crisis of the neoliberal American-style model of international order. They have no ideas for progress and positive development. They simply have nothing to offer the world, except perpetuating their dominance.

I am convinced that real democracy in a multipolar world is primarily about the ability of any nation – I emphasise – any society or any civilisation to follow its own path and organise its own socio-political system. If the United States or the EU countries enjoy this right, then the countries of Asia, the Islamic states, the monarchies of the Persian Gulf, and countries on other continents certainly have this right as well. Of course, our country, Russia, also has this right, and no one will ever be able to tell our people what kind of society we should be building and what principles should underlie it.



A direct threat to the political, economic and ideological monopoly of the West lies in the fact that the world can come up with alternative social models that are more effective; I want to emphasise this, more effective today, brighter and more appealing than the ones that currently exist. These models will definitely come about. This is inevitable. By the way, US political scientists and analysts also write about this. Truthfully, their government is not listening to what they say, although it cannot avoid seeing these concepts in political science magazines and mentioned in discussions.

Development should rely on a dialogue between civilisations and spiritual and moral values. Indeed, understanding what humans and their nature are all about varies across civilisations, but this difference is often superficial, and everyone recognises the ultimate dignity and spiritual essence of people. A common foundation on which we can and must build our future is critically important.

Here is something I would like to emphasise. Traditional values are not a rigid set of postulates that everyone must adhere to, of course not. The difference from the so-called neo-liberal values is that they are unique in each particular instance, because they stem from the traditions of a par-

ticular society, its culture and historical background. This is why traditional values cannot be imposed on anyone. They must simply be respected and everything that every nation has been choosing for itself over centuries must be handled with care.

This is how we understand traditional values, and the majority of humanity share and accept our approach. This is understandable, because the traditional societies of the East, Latin America, Africa, and Eurasia form the basis of world civilisation.

Respect for the ways and customs of peoples and civilisations is in everyone’s interest. In fact, this is also in the interest of the “West,” which is quickly becoming a minority in the international arena as it loses its dominance.

Of course, the Western minority’s right to its own cultural identity – I want to emphasise this – must be ensured and respected, but, importantly, on an equal footing with the rights of every other nation.

If the Western elites believe they can have their people and their societies embrace what I believe are strange and trendy ideas like dozens of genders or gay pride parades, so be it. Let them do as they please. But they certainly have no right to tell others to follow in their steps.



AFRICA WITHOUT SAHARAWI INDEPENDENCE REMAINS INCOMPLETE

■ **Open letter to Ambassador Malainin Takana Mohamed Ali, the political advisor of the President of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic**

By **Phatse Justice Piitso**

I am writing this letter with the affinity of true comradeship and friendship. Please convey my regards to your family, the leadership of the Polisario Front and the people of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.

I was overwhelmed with the greatest joy to receive warm birthday wishes from you, a true descendant of the empire desert of the Sahel, where water is

the king and the shadow is the queen.

Your true spirit of brotherhood brought back the fascinating memories of our rare discussions in Havana, Cuba, during our tenure as Ambassadors of our respective countries. I will never forget the words of wisdom you borrowed me, amongst which was one which says a rose in the desert only survives on its

strength and not its beauty.

The recent state visit by your President Comrade Brahim Ghali to South Africa has brought tremendous enthusiasm between the people of our two countries. More than ever before, the flames of solidarity to the just cause of your struggles for territorial sovereignty and independence are becoming brighter on each and every passing moment.

Today millions of the people of my country and the world know that in the hidden beauty of the desert of the Sahel, the oasis of the silent civilisation of mankind, live the most humble people of the Saharawi. Our solidarity with the people of the Saharawi is born out of our common struggle for the liberation of our people.

They know that in the boundless wilderness of the kingdom of the desert sands are the footprints of the long journey of the beautiful roses of the Sahel, the true storehouse of hope, to the future struggles of all humanity. The footprints which even the most powerful winds of the desert cannot obliterate.

In the famous Cartagena Manifesto of 1812, Simon Bolivar, the father of Latin American war of independence, makes a clarion call to all the metropolis of the world to hasten to break the chains of those victims who groan in the dungeons, ever hopeful of rescue. He says such are people that we must not make mockery of their trust.

He directs all of us never to be insensible to the cries of our brothers and sisters. Again, he commands, fly to avenge the dead, to give life to the dying, to bring freedom to the oppressed and liberty to all.

He says of us to mobilise those whose limbs are benumbed by chains, their sight dimmed by the darkness of the dungeons, and their strength sapped by the pestilence of servitude, to march toward the temple of liberty and create a new equilibrium of the universe.

The impetus of international solidarity on the question of the

struggles for the independence of the people of Saharawi is reaching greater heights. An African continent without an independent Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic will remain incomplete.

We are inspired by the enormity of your courage and steadfastness to liberate yourselves from the jaws of the empire. What I am sure of is that the victory of the struggle of the people of the Saharawi is the victory of the struggles of all humanity.

Saharawi is the birthplace of one of the greatest nations of the African continent, a nation of great men and women born out of difficulties - a nation whose rich history of struggle has become a catalogue of the greatest feats of human solidarity.

For over centuries you have endured humiliation and untold atrocities of torture and abuse of human rights inflicted by the Spanish and French colonialism. Today, on the eve of our modern century, you still remain perpetu-

al victims of crimes of genocide, committed by the kingdom of Morocco.

The invasion of the Saharawi by the military forces of the Kingdom of Morocco is the violation of one of the cornerstone principles of the United Nations Charter, on the rights of peoples to self determination. The people of the Saharawi have the fundamental rights to determine their own destiny.

We are aware that it is not in the best interest of imperialism to ensure peaceful transition for the true independence of the people of the Saharawi. We are aware that with the assistance of the United States of America and the European Union, Morocco continues to plunder the precious natural resources of the occupied land.

The truth is that beneath the desert sands of the Saharawi are billions of reserves of phosphate which is being exploited by the forces of imperialism. There are



other billions of prospective reserves of oil, iron Ore and other precious metals.

We do not know how much resources they have looted over the years. But it is in the best interest of the empire to exploit the abundant natural resources of the region, disregarding the horrible conditions of merciless abuse of women and children of the Saharawi.

We also make a call to the world community of nations to put more pressure on the kingdom of Morocco, to release many of the political prisoners -- men, women and children languishing in Moroccan jails.

These are the martyrs, the beautiful roses of the Sahel, who have volunteered to relinquish their own lives, for the freedom and dignity of their own people.

To them we say you are true sons and daughters of the African soil. The fear of death is an obstacle for the true happiness of your people.

We are confident that no matter how difficult it may be to find yourselves in those conditions of incarceration, one day you shall overcome. You are true patriots of the struggles of humanity.

In our lifetime we must strive to achieve the important goal of building a better world for all. There is no nobler a cause than to be part of those who cherish to achieve a better world for humanity.

Ambassador Phatse Justice Piitso is a member of the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa. He writes this open letter in his personal capacity.

A Revolutionary Friendship that changed the course of Africa's History

Part Two

■ By **Mbulelo Musi**

IT is estimated that about 400 MK cadres died in heroic skirmishes against UNITA in Angola. It's therefore heartwarming for the MK Liberation War Veterans (MKLWV) to note that at long last negotiations between Angolan and South African governments are underway in earnest to honour and memorialise those fallen heroes, including the building of monuments as well as exhumations, repatriation and dignified reburials back home.

It is thanks to the Tambo/Neto axis, the inseparable bonds forged by them that the relations between the two peoples have grown and solidified. These enduring relations date back to those earlier years in the 1960's when Presidents Neto and OR met as leaders of MPLA and ANC as well as the respective armed liberation forces, MK and FAPLA.

At the time, OR had been assigned by the National Executive Committee of the ANC to establish the ANC offices following its banning by the Apartheid regime in 1960.

On his part, Agonstinho Neto had come from Portugal back to Africa to lead the formation of the MPLA and lead the armed liberation struggle against fascist Portuguese colonialism.

From the very inception, these leaders were bonded by their vision and conviction of the freedom of their countries and Africa from colonial domination.

Inevitably, they both played mutually supportive solidarity roles in various international and regional multilateral institutions including amongst others the then Organisation of African Unity, (OAU) the

Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations.

They also went on to build solid relations between the MPLA and MK combatants in the early 1960's in a camp called Kongwa in Tanzania. That relationship not only endured the test of the rigours of struggle, but also matured with the times.

Post the advent of freedom and democracy in SA in 1994, the interstate relations, including matters of bilateral, regional and global cooperation in areas of investment, trade, security relations between the two countries have been burgeoning, deepening and diversifying for mutual benefit particularly in the last decade.

These relations include amongst others mining, agriculture, oil and gas. Both countries' leaders are at one that the potential scope for more expanded cooperation should continue to increase.

It's beyond doubt that since its independence in 1975, Angola became a home away from home for thousands of MK cadres.

One recalls vividly when we entered Angola in late 1976 for military training. Upon arrival, we were welcomed by the most enduring statement written in Portuguese on walls in the Angolan International Airport in Luanda the capital City.

It boldly read ***“Angola, the firm trench of the revolution in Africa”***.

The warm welcome MK received from the Angolan people was as refreshing as it was warm and it grew stronger and deeper with the passage of time.



The unbreakable ties and relationship between OR and Neto helped form that mosaic tapestry that constituted the liberation legacy and heritage of Angola and South Africa. For that, we as MKLWV will remain forever indebted to the Angolan people in general and Presidents Neto and dos Santos in particular.

According to Stats SA, the SA population currently stands at 60, 2 million. That of Angola stands at over 36 million – the combined total being a staggering 96million

All these multitudes are busy with ongoing year-long celebrations of their friendship. The uMkhonto we Sizwe Liberation War Veterans (MKLWV) constitutes an important and integral part of those multitudes.

It is estimated that the known graves of the MK martyrs buried in Angola stands at almost 400.

The governments of SA and Angola are currently hard at work to honour, memorialise, preserve and promote that great liberation

heritage.

This includes the long overdue exhumation repatriation and decent reburial of the remains of those fallen heroes and heroines, the building of museums, interpretive centres, statues etc.

An Inter Ministerial Committee led by the Minister of Arts and Culture and inclusive of the Security Cluster supported by a team of senior public servants has been established to oversee and undertake that task.

MKLWV warmly welcomes these positive developments and calls on the governments of South Africa and Angola to fast track their implementation.

The MKLWV is prepared to play an active role in that process through amongst others identification of the remains, connecting with their families as well as mobilisation of stakeholder support.

The MKLWV envisions and commits to play a critical role in five areas aimed at strengthening the

bonds of solidarity and friendship between the two nations. These being:

1. Preservation and promotion of the rich liberation heritage, be it through leveraging the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route programme or the celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of MK, the centenary of Augustino Neto, OR Tambo Month and other related programmes.
2. The building of strong people to people relations including cooperation between the liberation war veterans of both countries, in the Southern African Region and elsewhere in the world.
3. Strengthening party to party relations between the ANC and MPLA.
4. The strengthening of the state to state relations including economic and trade relations for the mutual benefit of both countries.
- 5 Strengthening regional security integration and cooperation with the AU peace keeping and peacemaking efforts utilising the existing Agreements and Protocols.

The last two areas have become critical given the rapidly changing geo-political security architecture which has been further propelled by the ensuing Russian/Ukraine War.

Now, perhaps more than ever before, closer cooperation on multiple fronts politically, economically, culturally and security has become an imperative of the times.

Both countries are endowed with rich resources such as oil and



gas, agriculture, mining in diamond, gold, and platinum. These could help fast track and catapult efforts aimed at the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment.

The 96 million combined population are awaiting with eagerness for the day when the socio-economic needs facing the majority in both these two rich countries shall be a thing of the past, sooner rather than later

The MKLWV members stand combat ready with a diversity of skills, expertise and experience including Portuguese language proficiency, to put their shoulder

to the wheel.

Only in that way can the celebration of the Centenary of Agostinho Neto and 105 years of OR birthday have a deep meaning befitting of their special and unique historical stature.

A LUTA CONTINUA!

LONG LIVE THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE ANC AND MPLA!!!

Mbulelo Musi is National Political Commissar, MK Liberation War Veterans (MKLWV)

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE SOUL OF A COLOSSAL CADRE – HANZ NKETU

■ By **Ben Sediane**

“**D**EATH ends a life, not relationship” – Mitch Albom.

That is the reason why I am impelled to have a conversation with you, Hans, my dearest brother, and comrade-in-arms. Hence trusting that resting your mortal remains under the heavy rain was a symbol of how the giant ‘River Horse – Hippopotamus – Mokubung Wa Mma Khakha tlhobela, ngwana phate ya bolele ba metsi, tse nyane di hlapa di theosa Madiba, tse kgolo di hlapa di a nyolosa, Kubu Kubu ntsha marota re bone’ accorded the dropping down of your motionless body.

You went down murmuring this sonnet of William Shakespeare:

*No longer mourn for me when I am dead
Then you shall hear the surly sullen bell
Give warning to the world that I am fled
From this vile world with vilest worms to dwell.
Nay if you read this line, remember not
The hand that writ it, for I love you so
That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot
If thinking on me then should make you woe.
Or, if, I say, you look upon this verse,
When I perhaps compounded am with clay,
Do not so much as my poor name rehearse,
But let your love even with my life decay,
Lest the wise world should investigate your moan
And mock you with me after I am gone.*

Afterwards, you had the first two verses of the following hymn, **Le Felleng Mo Ke tsamayang**, as

your coffin was about to reach the surface, ...

*Ke habile lehodimong,
Tseleng ha ke na bodutu;
Ha ke tsamaye ke le mong,
Ke na le Morena Jesu.
Lefelleng, moo ke tsamayang,
Ho lahleha ba bangata;
Empa nna ya ntsamaisang
Ke Jesu, ke mong’a tsela ...*

Your life suite properly to the commendation bequeathed to Nelson Mandela by the ANC on his passing, ... “in the life of every nation, there arise men who leave an indelible and eternal stamp on the history of their peoples; men who are both products and makers of history. And when they pass, they leave a vision of a new and better life and the tools with which to win and build it.”

Your laborious willpower qualified you to endure the refined viciousness of the South African fascist police for many years during which you engaged in full-time underground political work in defiance of harsh political restrictions imposed by the fascist regime. You struggled fiercely to impart this high level of discipline among all the activists of the movement.

If I ought to portray you, I will invoke Marianne Angelou’s words, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” In confirmation to the latter, you embraced Alexander the



Great's construal, *"I would rather live a short life of glory than a long one of obscurity."*

Throughout your life, you never faltered to tell the truth. In your innate character, you embraced Gramsci's words when he said *"telling the truth is always revolutionary."* Above that, George Orwell tersely talks about your charisma when he said, *"in a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act."*

I know you to be the gentle being who at no time mixed his words. I know you, like how Rene Descartes once quantified that *"the only thing we have power over in the universe is our own thoughts."* I know you to be in consonant with the intelligent words as advocated by Andre Gide, in his Autumn Leaves book, *"it is better to be hated for what you are, than to be loved for what you are not."* I then know that you will be in accord with the analogous thoughts of Oscar Wilde, *"to live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all."*

We traversed life journey together inspired by the words of Albert Camus when he said, *"do not walk in front of me, I may not follow. Do not walk behind me, I*

may not lead. Walk beside me, just be my friend." Oh, yes, our life journey was full of moments.

Your unexpected passing made me understand why Woody Allen once retorted that *"I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens."* Indeed, I attest to those words because the pain of losing someone like you is endless. In the same mood, I will forever crave for your brotherhood and comradeship; and again, inspired by how Elbert Hubbard put it, *"a friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you."*

My first contact with you was in 1984, which was the start of heightened political upheavals in our struggle, a historical moment that demonstrated the most decisive in the overall orientation of our political progression as a movement. By that time, you were a highly admired and wholly ardent young person, who had only one thing in mind – to get rid of apartheid colonialism. Since then, we both embraced Socrates words, *"there is no possession more valuable than a good and faithful friend."*

Little did I realize that all these hard works you busy enduring,

were meant to fully execute your mission in totality here on earth. You really did not want to leave any stone unturned as you fade across the bridge. As you faded across that bridge, I knew that you always wanted to enjoy life to its fullest. You subscribed to Oscar Wilde's ideas, *"always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."*

You left us when sanity is being made insane in our lives. You left us when what has been professed many years ago by Antonio Gramsci, *"the old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born, now is the time of monsters,"* is coming out profusely to haunt our people and our movement, the ANC.

You left us when the once glorious movement under John Langalibalele Dube, Sefako Makgatho, Zacharia Mahabane, Josiah Gumede, Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, AB Xuma, James Moroka, Albert Luthuli, OR Tambo, Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki is facing serious extinction; but not from the external nemesis; somewhat from what Gramsci consented, *"the old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born, now is the time of monsters,"* consequently the same 'monsters' are within ourselves.

As you make your way to your ancestors and our revolutionary ancestors, kindly tell them of our plight to renew the movement they worked so hard to build and sustain. Tell them that out of the old ANC, we are striving to rebuild the new ANC under the renewal project; and the monsters within are at play to disrupt this project.

Tell them that in its entire history, the ANC had undergone in-

numerable challenging epochs, but managed to survive. Put it to them that even the current phase will come to pass, and the survivor will be the ANC.

As you present the plight of the ANC, generously put it to them that the 'monsters' within have developed the extraterrestrial tendency of telling lies. Tell them that the very same 'monsters' use any ANC platforms and their positions to vilify others. Continue to brazenly elucidate to them that the very same 'monsters' have turned the ANC into a commodity. A commodity where only those who are singing praises to these 'monsters' can be deployed, awarded (lucrative) tenders, and parachuted to leadership positions. Tell them that these 'monsters' have even enlarged the **Eye of the Needle** to embrace their underlings.

As you tell them about all these malfeasances effected by these 'monsters,' surely the ancestors will recall the warnings made by OR Tambo, when he said, "... close ranks. *Be vigilant, comrades. The enemy is vigilant. Beware the wedge driver! Men who creep from ear to ear, driv-*

ing wedges among us; who go around creating splits and divisions. Beware the wedge driver! Watch his poisonous tongue."

Indeed, the 'monsters and wedge drivers' are fully at play to destroy the ANC. You have refused to sell your soul to them, even at your lowest ebb. You have refused to sell your revolutionary soul to the highest bidder (monsters and wedge drivers). For that, these 'monsters and wedge drivers' never wanted to utilize your widely earned experience and capacity, as they always prefer their underlings who will in turn act in consonant with them to defraud the state and destroy the ANC.

Leaving all of us behind, had an unfathomable scar. Your progenies, the entire family and the society at large will always long for that unending live conversation with you. In our consolation, we shall beseech the words of Baruch Spinoza, "*sadness diminishes a man's powers.*" For those of us who you left behind, we shall ensure that this sadness within us does not weaken our power as we need it to renew the ANC.

Rest assured that history of the

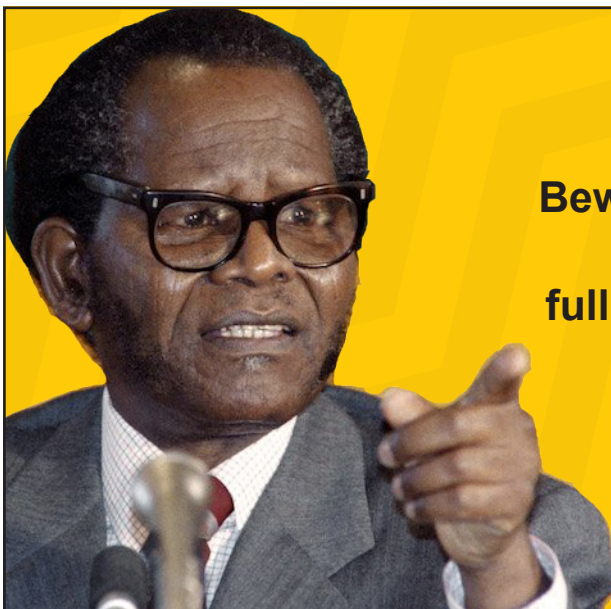
people will always absolve you. Rest assured that, unlike the deceitful intentions of these 'monsters and wedge drivers,' there are many in the ANC and outside who longed for the renewal of the ANC. On behalf of myself and everyone who love our people and the ANC, I know I represent everyone's collective sentiments when I borrow the words of Frodo, "*I wish it need not have happened in my (our) time,*" said Frodo.

It is without any iota of doubt that you are currently echoing the epistle that say, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*"

Go well Moferefere! Go well Nyenye! Go well Hans! Go well Hanzino! Go well Ntate Nketu!

Go well Kubu!

Until we meet again across the bridge ... Good night.



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

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

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

5 – 11 November 2022

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

■ 5 November 1987
Govan Mbeki released
from Robben Island


After 23 years in prison, Govan Mbeki, a member of the ANC National Executive Committee and Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) High Command, was released from Robben Island. His release followed a call for all political prisoners to be freed, as apartheid was dying. Upon his release the government restricted him to the magisterial district of Port Elizabeth until November 1989. In February 1990, when the ANC and other liberation movements were unbanned, he resumed duty on the ANC's NEC as well as the Central Committee of the SACP. A teacher and intellectual, while on Robben Island, Mbeki wrote many songs and manuscripts, which were smuggled out of prison. These writings are housed at the University of Fort Hare, as the Govan Mbeki Collection. In 1954 Govan Mbeki joined the editorial team of the political newspaper, the *New Age*. He was sentenced

to life imprisonment during the 1964 Rivonia Trial with Nelson Mandela, Ahmed Kathrada, Dennis Goldberg and others. In 1980 he received the Isithwalandwe Seaparankwe, the highest award within the ANC, for his dedication to securing freedom and democracy in South Africa. Govan Mbeki passed away on 30 August 2001 at the age of 91.

■ 6 November 1929
Ray Alexander, trade
unionist arrives in South
Africa


Ray Alexander Simons nee Alexandrowich arrives in South Africa from Latvia where she was born on 12 January 1913. After her arrival, she realized that many workers in Cape Town and the rest of the country were not organized into unions. She became involved in the labour movement by organizing Black workers' unions in the Western Cape. After joining the Communist Party

of South Africa (CPSA) she took part in the anti-pass campaign. Ray Alexander in 1941 founded the Food and Canning Workers' Union (FCWU) in the Western Cape; by 1945 the Food and Canning union obtained a wage determination for the fish canning industry and in the 1950s, members of FCWU played a leading role in the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SAC-TU). In April 1954, Ray Alexander together with Helen Joseph, Lilian Ngoyi and Florence Mkhize helped found the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) which fought for women's rights. She was issued with a banning order in 1954 which forced her to resign from FEDSAW. Ray Alexander was forced into exile where she continued to support the struggle against apartheid. Between 1981 and 1983 Ray Alexander wrote a series of articles for the African Communist under various pseudonyms and in 1986, she was elected life president of FAWU. She died on 12 September 2004 at the age of 91.

■ 6 November 1938
Feminist Diana Russell
born

Diana E.H. Russell was born in Cape Town on 6 November 1938. Her mother was British and her father South African. After completing her bachelor's degree at the University of Cape Town, Russell left for Britain. In 1963, she moved to the United States

where she completed her PhD at Harvard University, focusing on sociology and the study of revolution. Russell is known for her research on sexual violence against women. She has written books on the subject and was the first person to offer Women's Studies. In 1963, Russell joined the Liberal Party of South Africa and was arrested while participating in a peaceful protest in Cape Town.

■ 6 November 1962 United Nations condemns Apartheid

The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for its apartheid policies and recommended economic sanctions. The United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid (originally called the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa) was established by the General Assembly, under resolution 1761 (XVII) of November 6, 1962, to keep the racial policies of the South African Government under review throughout the year. It began its work in April 1963. The Committee worked to promote the international campaign against apartheid under the auspices of the United Nations. Its primary concern was to press for effective international sanctions against the South African regime, arrange assistance to the victims of apartheid and to the liberation movements; and to ensure constant publicity to the inhumanity of apartheid and the resistance of the people in order to secure widest support for action. The Special Committee Against Apartheid elected African Ambassadors from member states as its chairperson. The Chairs were: Diallo Telli (Guinea), 1963-1964; Ach-

kar Marof (Guinea), 1964-1968; Abdulrahim Abby Farah (Somalia), 1969-1972; Edwin Ogebe Ogbu (Nigeria), 1972-1975; Madame Jeanne Martin Cisse (Guinea), 1975-1976; Leslie O. Harriman (Nigeria), 1976-1979; B. Akporode Clark (Nigeria), 1979-1981; Alhaji Yusuff Maitama-Sule (Nigeria), 1981-1983; Major-General J.N. Garba (1984-1990); Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), 1990-1994. E.S. Reddy served the Special Committee Against Apartheid from 1963-1984 first as Principal Secretary of the Committee and later as Director of the Centre Against Apartheid.

■ 6 November 1964 Vuyisile Mini, executed by the Apartheid regime



Vuyisile Mini (1920-1964) a trade unionist and uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) combatant was hanged for his role in the MK and anti-apartheid resistance. As a member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), he was responsible for the organisation of metal workers at a time when the government had increased its repressive measures against Black trade unions. He became the first African National Congress (ANC) member to be executed by the government. Vuyis-

ile Mini was hanged together with Wilson Khayinga and Zinakile Mkaba. After his 1964 execution, Mini was secretly buried in a pauper's grave at Rebecca Street Cemetery in Pretoria. The bodies of Mini, Khayinga and Mkaba were exhumed in 1998 and Mini was given a heroes funeral at the Emlotheni Memorial Park in New Brighton township in Port Elizabeth. At the time of his death, Mini was married, and had six children. His daughter, Nomkhosi Mini also joined MK and survived a March 1979 South African Defence Force attack on the Novo Catengue camp in Angola. She was shot dead by members of the notorious Vlakplaas hit squad during the 1985 Maseru raid. Seven members of the Security branch, including its then deputy chief were refused amnesty for this killing.

■ 6 November 1964 Names of 303 banned persons published

A government notice published on 6 November 1964 gave the names of 303 persons on whom banning notices under the General Laws Amendment Act of 1963 (the so-called 90 Day Act), consisting largely of amendments to the Suppression of Communism Act, had been served up to 30 April 1964. Of that total, 68 were listed Communists, but 235 were not. Amongst this last group have been Liberal Party members. The strict security legislation aroused huge protests. By the end of 1964, 671 persons had been charged with contravention of the security laws and the campaign of violence to overthrow the South African government had almost been broken. Nearly all the revolutionary leaders had either been banned, jailed or fled the country.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

■ 6 November 1982 Paul Biya becomes Cameroon president



After Ahmadou Ahidjo resigned as president of Cameroon, he was replaced by Paul Biya, the serving Prime Minister. Biya is the second-longest ruling head of state and the oldest president in Africa.

■ 7 November 1917 Helen Suzman is born

Doyen of South African liberalism, politician and anti-apartheid activist, Helen Suzman, was born in Germiston, South Africa on this day. During her 36 years in the whites-only Parliament she used every opportunity to speak out against discriminatory legislation. She entered politics when she represented the United Party (UP) in Parliament in 1953. Six years later she founded the Progressive Party (PP) and became its sole representative in Parliament. As a Member of Parliament she was able to visit prisons, among them Robben Island, where she inspected the living conditions of prisoners. In the course of her career the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard awarded her honorary doctorates; she was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Award in 1978 and in 1980, the Medallion of Heroism. The Helen Suzman Foundation was estab-

lished to promote liberal democracy in South Africa.

■ 7 November 1989 Namibians to vote for a constituent assembly

Voters went to the polls from 7–11 November to vote for a Constituent Assembly in the first non-racial and democratic elections in South-West Africa/Namibia. The Constituent Assembly was to draw up a new constitution for the territory as a sovereign state. More than 97% of the registered voters voted. The South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) won the election overwhelmingly.

■ 7 November 1994 Former MK members dismissed from SANDF

The government discharged 2,221 trainees who had gone absent without leave in October from the newly instituted South African National Defence Force (SANDF). After they were released, Defence Minister Johannes (Joe) Modise set midnight, 6 November, as deadline for their return. More than 4000 trainees complied with the minister's deadline and returned to camp. The trainees cited their unhappiness with the slow pace of integration into the SANDF and conditions in the camp. All the dismissed recruits were former members of the armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) of the African National Congress (ANC). Those who failed to return, were viewed as deserters who missed an opportunity to remain in the SANDF.

■ 8 November 1887 The Johannesburg Stock Exchange established

The Johannesburg's Stock Exchange (JSE) was established

to facilitate the explosion of trade sparked by gold mining in the Witwatersrand. Mining and financial companies with investors needed a central facility to access primary capital. Initially, trading took place in a miner's tent and moved to the stables at the corner of what in now Sauer and Commissioner Streets. On 8th November 1887 Benjamin Minors Woollan founded the JSE by providing a facility to conduct trading. The JSE is the oldest stock exchange facility in Africa.

■ 8 November 1922 Heart doctor Chris Barnard born

Pioneering heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard (1922-2001) was born in Beaufort West on this day. He headed the surgical team that achieved the first-ever human heart transplant at Groote Schuur hospital in 1967.

■ 8 November 1958 All African People's Conference held in Accra, Ghana

A year after Ghana's independence from Britain under the



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

presidency of Kwame Nkrumah, the All African People Conference (AAP) was held in the capital city Accra on this day. Nkrumah felt that Ghana independence would be meaningless if other African states were still colonised by the European powers. Earlier in the year, Nkrumah, as a pioneer of Pan-Africanism convened the Conference of All Independent African States (Libya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan United Republic of Egypt and Ghana), which was followed by this historic AAP Conference. The AAP Conference was attended by all independent and non-independent African states, liberation movements and public organisations. The slogan for the conference was **“Hands off Africa”**, meeting to chart a way forward on how to achieve continental freedom. The conference committed African countries and liberation movements to anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, anti-racialism, African Unity and non-alignment.

■ 8 November 1974 Olympic Swimmer Penny Heyns born



Penelope Heyns, was born on the 8th of November 1974 in Springs, Transvaal. Her parents later moved to the Natal South

Coast. She attended Doon Heights Primary and Amanzimtoti High, where she excelled in both academics and in athletics. At the age of 13 she became the swim team captain at school. In 1992 she was the youngest member of the South African Olympic team at the Barcelona Games. While she did not win any medals, she did attract attention. She was offered an athletic scholarship from the University of Nebraska, where she later earned her Degree in Psychology. She was also a member of the South African squad at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, where she won a bronze medal in the 200 m breaststroke event. Heyns continued her swimming career and was asked to represent the USA in the Olympic games but she decided instead to represent her native South Africans in the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta. She won both the 100m and 200m breaststroke event and this made her the only woman in the history of the Olympic games to do so. In 1999 she set four world records. Penny Heyns established herself as perhaps the world's greatest female breastroker of all time, breaking 14 individual world records during her career. In the year 2000 Penny announced her retirement from swimming.

■ 8 November 2014 African Union organise Africa Against Ebola roundtable

The Ebola crisis in West Africa, especially Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone saw the WHO declaring a 'public health emergency.' Shortly thereafter, the African Union Peace and Security Council resolved to deploy a joint humanitarian/military mission of volunteers (ASEOWA) to the three countries, to assist with tackling

the pandemic. After a joint visit by AU Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, UN Economic Commission Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes and African Development Bank President Donald Kaberuka to the three countries in October 2014, Dlamini Zuma wrote to all African Presidents, requesting them to provide more health workers to strengthen ASEOWA. On 8 November 2014, the AU Commission Chairperson, with UNECA and the AfDB convened the Africa against Ebola roundtable at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa with the private sector. At this roundtable, the private sector pledged 32 million USD towards the additional deployment of African health workers. By December 2014, 178 Nigerian health workers, 187 Ethiopian health workers, and 81 health workers from the DRC joined the ASEOWA contingent in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. On the 9th of January 2015, 170 health workers joined the ASEOWA team from Kenya. The ASEOWA contingent in the three countries played a critical role in supporting the health departments and communities of the three AU member states to bring the pandemic under control.

(Source: <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/30999-doc-factsheetsof26jan2015.pdf>)

■ 9 November 2008 Mama Africa, Miriam Makeba passes on

South African singer Miriam Makeba dies at the age of 76 after a 30 minute performance in the Italian town of Caserta. Nicknamed 'Mama Africa', Makeba's music transcended South African borders and entered the global stage. Makeba built her reputation in the music industry in the



1950s singing for the Cuban Brothers, the Manhattan Brothers and the Skylarks. In 1959 Makeba starred in the anti-apartheid documentary *Come Back*, after which she was subjected to harassment by the apartheid government. Her passport was revoked and withdrawn while she was outside the country, leading to her stay in exile in London. When her mother died in 1960 she could not return for her funeral because her passport had been revoked. In 1963 Makeba testified before the United Nations (UN) of how the apartheid government had stripped her of her citizenship. She performed at the inaugural conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in May 1963 in Addis Ababa. After speaking out against apartheid at the United Nations, her music was banned by the state broadcasters in South Africa. Makeba lived in numerous countries such as the United States of America, France, Guinea and Belgium; and whilst in exile, she received passports from Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, the US, and Belgium, whilst being denied a South African passport. Makeba toured various parts of the world in the 1970s and 1980s and continued to speak out against apartheid in various

forums. At the end of apartheid, she returned to South Africa and continued with her singing career. In 2005, Makeba announced her retirement from the mainstream music industry but she continued to make appearances and to do smaller performances.

■ 9 November 2004 Mbeki and entourage welcomed in Abidjan

South African President Thabo Mbeki, accompanied by Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, arrived in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to help find a solution to the political unrest in the country. Thousands of people turned out on the streets to greet President Thabo Mbeki and the rest of his delegation. Mbeki was received in Abidjan by the secretary general of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), Mohammed Ibn Chambas, as well as local ministers.

■ 10 November 1871 Stanley found Livingstone at Ujiji, Tanzania

David Livingstone (1813-1873) was a Scottish missionary and explorer, also known as an anti-slavery advocate, whilst promoting British colonial and economic expansion in Africa. His first postings were in Southern Africa, which he abandoned to travel, convert and explore and map the rivers or highways of the continent. He left the London Missionary Society and was appointed as Her Majesty Queen Victoria's consul, paving the way for explorations across the continent. He is credited with being the first European to "discover" the Mosi-o-Tunya ("the smoke that thunders") waterfalls, which

he named Victoria Falls. In 1886 he returned to Africa, this time seeking the origins of the river Nile, starting his journey in Zanzibar. After many tribulations, he ended in Ujiji, Tanzania, gravely ill. Livingstone by then lost contact with Europe, and New York Herald newspaper sent journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley to try and find Livingstone. He found him in the town of Ujiji on 10 November 1871, and greeted him with the now famous words: "*Dr. Livingstone, I presume?*"

■ 10 November 1985 Dr JS Moroka passed on



Dr James Sebe Mokoka, a medical doctor, politician, and great-grandson of Chief Moroka I of the Barolong Boo Moroka in Thaba Nchu died in his village of Ratlou. He was an active member of the African National Congress and in 1949 he became its president until 1952.

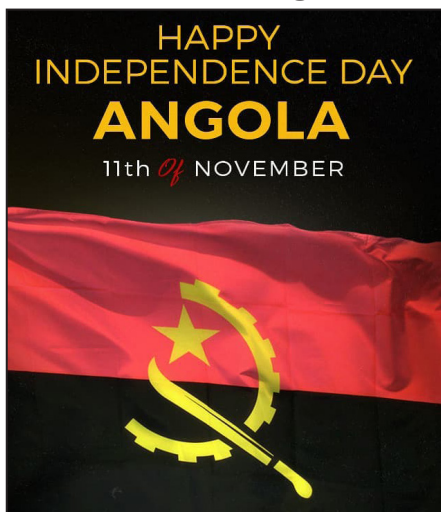
■ 10 November 2002 Mass grave found near SADF base in Namibia

Reports were made that two mass graves were found at a former South African Defence Force base, Eenhana, in northern Namibia. Construction workers discovered the first mass

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

grave containing human bones and ammunition 400 metres from the former military base on 9 November. The second grave was discovered the next day near the base's airstrip, it contained human remains. The bones were suspected to be those of South West African People's Organisation fighters who may have been killed in the so-called nine-day war near the end of South Africa's occupation of Namibia, which ended in 1990. It was not known how many bodies the grave contained. Constand Viljoen, who was chief of the army from 1977 to 1985, reacted to the finding by saying that it was impossible for well-disciplined South African troops to have buried guerrillas in mass graves.

■ 11 November 1975 Angola gains independence from Portugal



Angola becomes independent after 14 years of armed resistance to Portuguese colonial rule. The three major movements, the Movimento Popular de Liberação de Angola, (MPLA), the Front for the National Liberation of Angola (FLNA) and National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) signed the Alvor agreement in January 1975. Due to political differences amongst

the parties that signed the agreement, civil war broke out. The MPLA which seized power was supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union, and UNITA which went to war was supported by South Africa and the USA. The independence of Angola paved way for other liberation movements in Southern Africa to establish bases for military training. For instance, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) established bases in Angola. In 1976 the African National Congress (ANC) set up the Central Operations Headquarters of uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) and began a process of establishing military training camps in Angola.

■ 11 November 1992 Church of England Votes to allow Women to become Priests

The Synod of the Church of England on this day voted to allow women to be ordained as priests, following a trend in the Anglican Church across the world. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa voted for the ordainment of women priests earlier in 1992, whilst countries such as Canada, New Zealand and the US had women priests ordained since the 1970s. The first female Anglican bishop was ordained in Canada in 1994, and the first Southern African female bishop in 2012. The Church of England's first female bishop was ordained only in 2015!

■ 11 November 1995 Ken Saro-Wiwa is executed

Born in the Ogoni District of Nigeria, Ken Saro Wiwa studied English at the Government College Umuahia. He took up a post as

a Civil Administrator during the Nigerian Civil War and wrote a novel based on his experiences. In 1973, after serving as Regional Commissioner for Education in the River State Cabinet, he was dismissed for his support of Ogoni autonomy, and Saro Wiwa became a member of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). A major issue faced by the Ogoni people, which MOSOP campaigned around, was that of the crude oil extraction in the region. Since the 1950's, Ogoniland had been dumped with oil waste, causing irreversible environmental damage. Saro Wiwa led a passive resistance campaign against the multi-national corporations, Royal Dutch Shell in particular, and was also critical of the Nigerian government for its reluctance in curbing the wastage of oil companies. Due to his outspoken views, Saro Wiwa was imprisoned by the Nigerian military government for several months, without trial. In 1994, four Ogoni chiefs were murdered, and although he had been denied entry into Ogoniland on the day of the murders, Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP leaders were arrested for inciting the killings. Due to the false testimony of two witnesses, bribed by Shell officials, he was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to death by hanging. On 11 November 1995, Saro Wiwa was executed, as were the other eight defendants. The international community responded with outrage, and Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth for almost four years. Law suits were brought against Shell, as well as Brian Anderson, the head of the Nigerian operation at the time. Shell offered \$15.5 million to the families of the nine victims, but denied any responsibility for the executions.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

5 – 11 November 2022

 Source: www.un.org, www.au.int and *The Africa Fact Book (2020)*

■ 5 November World Tsunami Day



Though rare, tsunamis are among the most devastating natural disasters. They know no coastal borders. Coastal communities – often concentrated in low-lying and highly populated areas – are the most potentially vulnerable to coastal hazards including tsunamis, with heavy human and economic losses. International cooperation is key for deeper political and public understanding; as well as involvement in reducing our risks from these coastal natural hazards. In December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day to promote a global culture of tsunami awareness. A tsunami is a large ocean wave that is caused by sudden motion on the ocean floor, as a result of an earthquake, a powerful volcanic eruption, or an underwater landslide. The strongest recorded tsunami was in 1958 in Lituya Bay, Alaska reaching waves nearly half a kilometres high, resulting in five deaths. The worst recorded was however the 2004 Asian tsunami of 26 December 2004, affecting 13 countries and causing 230,000 human deaths.

■ 6 November International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

Though mankind has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage. Furthermore, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) found that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, whether high-value resources

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

6th November


such as timber, diamonds, gold and oil, or scarce resources such as fertile land and water. Conflicts involving natural resources have also been found to be twice as likely to relapse. The United Nations attaches great importance to ensuring that action on the environment is part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies – because there can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed

■ 6 November

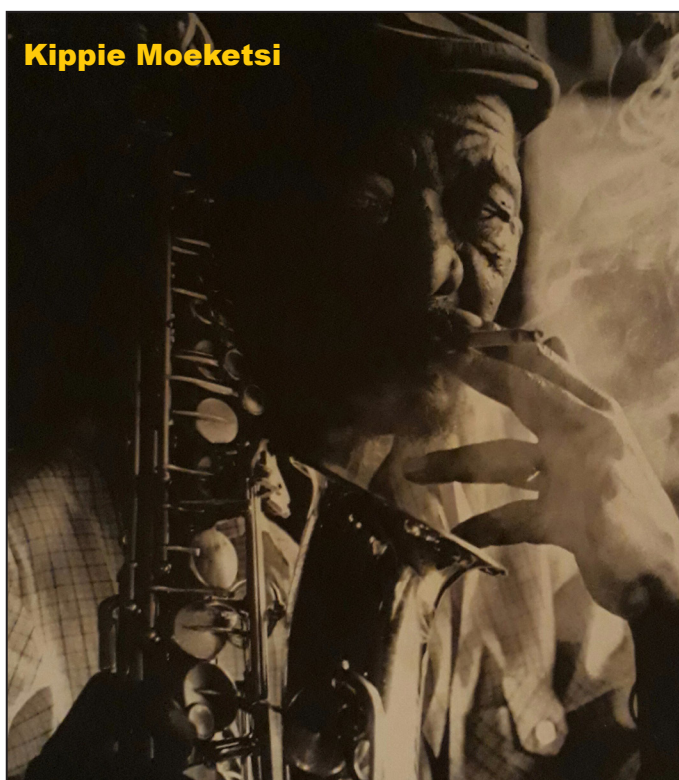
World Saxophone Day

The saxophone is part of the wood instruments, designed in 1846 by Belgian Adolphe Sax. It gets its sound from the vibration of a single reed, and can be made of brass, silver, copper, etc. Famous African saxophone players include Manu Dibango from Cameroon (who died of COVID-19 this year), South Africans Kippie Moeketsi and Basil 'Mannenberg' Coetzee, Ethiopian Getachew Mekurya, and of course African American Charlie Parker.

■ 7 November

International African Writer's Day

In 1991, the Conference of African Ministers of Education and Culture, meeting in Cotonou, Benin, resolved to establish 7 November, the day on which PAWA was founded, as International African Writ-



ers' Day, which is now celebrated throughout the continent.

■ 10 November

World Science Day for Peace and Development

World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable.





It's Global Warming and the COP is meeting, Again.

It's all in the Reports.

FROM 6 to 18 November 2022, climate activists, government and multilateral negotiators (high and low), energy and forestry companies lobbyists, and a host of others will meet in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt for the twenty seventh Conference of the Parties on Climate Change, or short COP27.

The 'Parties' are the 198 countries that ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, negotiated at

the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Thirty years later, and we are doing great, NOT. The objective of the Convention was simple, work together as global humanity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in order to prevent the earth from warming to dangerous levels, resulting in climate change which could threaten all life on earth.

Expert reports are produced by the United Nation for these conferences and COP27 is no ex-

ception.

COP27 Reports on Financing Climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience

The reports dealing with finance for climate change, are interesting: climate finance has increased by 12% since the last year, and climate finance from developed to developing countries increased between 6% and 17%.

Meanwhile, ways to track domestic public climate finance are improving in both developed and developing countries.

Most importantly, since that pesky principle of differentiated responsibility which Rio endorsed still applies, it was agreed in Paris (2015) that 100 billion USD will be raised per year, for climate change mitigation, adaption and resilience to developing countries. The UFCCC account is rather terse on the matter: “The report confirmed the goal was not met in 2020.” (UNFCCC, 2022)

Increasingly though, because extreme weather conditions are already happening (one third of Pakistan affected by floods in September 2022, yet another drought in the Horn of Africa), there are also calls for a focus on financing for climate loss and damage.

The science is clear, we are heading in the wrong direction

The reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are of course the most important which COP27 will con-

sider. It provides scientific and technical information on climate change to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

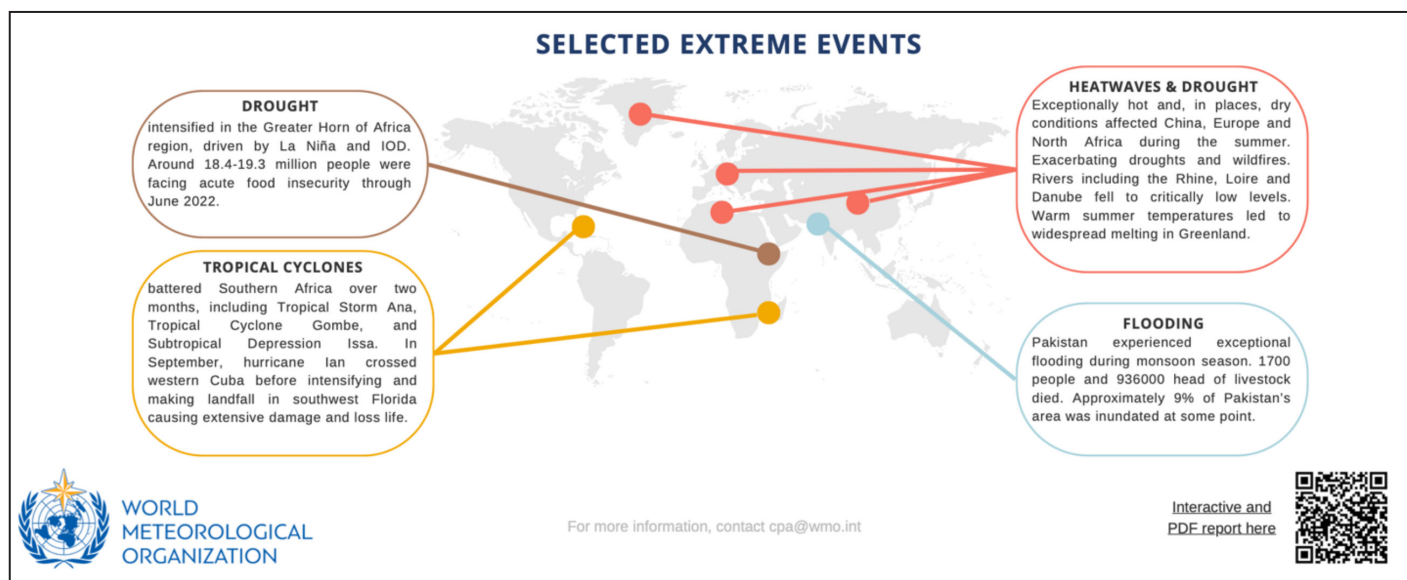
The 2022 reports indicate that we are not heading in the right direction. Just consider the following two paragraphs:

Widespread, pervasive impacts to ecosystems, people, settlements, and infrastructure have resulted from observed increases in the frequency and intensity of climate and weather extremes, including hot extremes on land and in the ocean, heavy precipitation events, drought and fire weather (high confidence). Increasingly since AR5, these observed impacts have been attributed to human-induced climate change particularly through increased frequency and severity of extreme events. These include increased heat-related human mortality (medium confidence), warm-water coral bleaching and mortality (high confidence), and increased drought-related tree mortality (high confidence). Ob-

served increases in areas burned by wildfires have been attributed to human-induced climate change in some regions (medium to high confidence). Adverse impacts from tropical cyclones, with related losses and damages 19, have increased due to sea level rise and the increase in heavy precipitation (medium confidence). Impacts in natural and human systems from slow-onset processes 29 such as ocean acidification, sea level rise or regional decreases in precipitation have also been attributed to human induced climate change (high confidence).

There are also other reports, like the United in Science report (2022) by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), which warned:

“...greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise to record highs. Fossil fuel emission rates are now above pre-pandemic levels after a temporary drop due to lockdowns. The ambition of emissions reduction pledges for 2030 needs to





be seven times higher to be in line with the 1.5 °C goal of the Paris Agreement.

The past seven years were the warmest on record. There is a 48% chance that, during at least one year in the next 5 years, the annual mean temperature will temporarily be 1.5°C higher than 1850-1900 average. As global warming increases, “tipping points” in the climate system cannot be ruled out.”

Africa the most affected

It bears repeating that while the African continent remains the lowest contributor to global greenhouse emissions, it is the most affected. The African Union Committee of African Heads of State and Government (CAHOSC) coordinates the continent’s responses to climate change, and will therefore also advance the common African positions at COP27.

There is an interesting report by the Carnegie Foundation on African Climate Research Organizations, providing a database of institutions working on climate

change. Often African voices are drowned (or cut out, as climate activist Vanessa Nakata experienced) in the global conversations, this database is therefore important to show work done in the continent by African researchers.

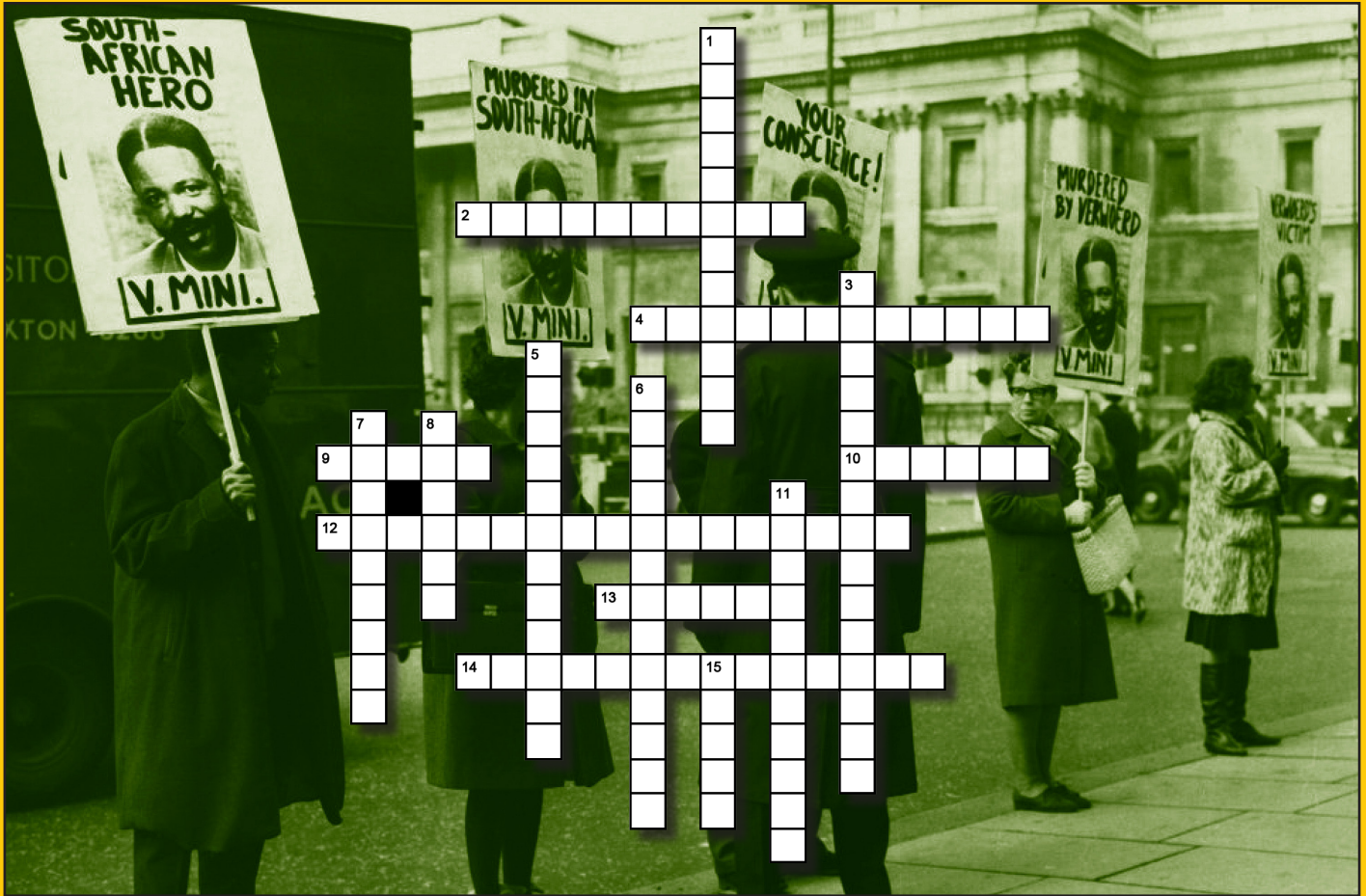
The database is interesting. South Africa has the largest number of institutions (49), followed by 26 in Kenya and 15 in Nigeria. It has some obvious omissions, like the Lake Chad Basin Commission based in Ndjamena Chad, which have been monitoring and collecting data for decades now on the drying up of once the second largest lake in the world, in part due to

climate change.

An African COP?

COP27 in Egypt is important because this is only the second time that Africa hosts this global forum. We hope that this will help once again to push African climate issues onto the front of the agenda. But read the Reports.



X-WORD
Vuyisile Mini (1920-1964)

ACROSS

2. Fellow political detainees in 1956 in North End prison.
4. 50s freedom song Mini composed '*Pasopa nansi '... we Verwoerd'*'.
9. Mini was sentenced to ... for sabotage in 1964.
10. Egyptian leader appealing for clemency for his death sentence
12. He was organiser and then Secretary of this union.
13. Mini was a gifted actor, dancer, poet and ...
14. During Defiance campaign, Mini entered a... reserved for Whites only.

DOWN

1. Founded African Painting and Building Union with fellow unionist.
3. A member of the Eastern Cape High Command of ...
5. Part of this famous event of 1956.
6. Mini was born in this Eastern Cape city, now Gqeberha.
7. Participated at this age in first rent and bus fare strike.
8. UN General secretary also appeal for his clemency.
11. Union comrades knew Mini as the '*organiser of the...*'
15. 1960 elected as Secretary in the Eastern Cape.

WORD BANK

Port Elizabeth

Metal Workers Union

Govan Mbeki

singer

death

seventeen

Stephen Tobia

railway station

ndondemnyama

Nasser

unorganised

SACTU

Treason Trial

Umkhonto we Sizwe

U Thant