



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



Remarks by the Secretary General of the African National Congress, **Comrade Fikile Mbalula**,
on the occasion of the seminar on

President Xi Jinping and China-SA Relations in the New Era

18th August 2023

IT WAS with a deep sense of honour and gratitude to receive the invite to participate on this very important occasion of a seminar on President Xi Jinping and China – South Africa Relations in the New Era.

Firstly, allow me to pay tribute to the President Xi Jinping for his steadfast leadership, together with the collective of the Communist Party of China, on promoting social, political and economic re-

lations between not only China and South Africa but the whole African continent.

I make emphasis on continental Africa because we in South Africa have, as our long-standing political resolution that South Africa cannot afford to be an island of success amidst a sea of continental poverty. In this regard, we believe that our relations should help support the realisation amongst others of Agenda 2063

to reduce economic marginalisation of Africa's people.

It has been a long journey over the 25 years of South Africa – China relations, and most certainly also over the past 10 years since President Xi Jinping first undertook his visit to South Africa. Our party-to-party relations between the Communist Party of China and the African National Congress have grown in leaps and bounds, and this has provid-

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ed a mutual learning platform to grow our respective political parties, the economies of our countries and meet the socio-economic needs of our people.

The relationship between China and South Africa significantly tells a story that says people who embrace different systems and cultures can in fact cooperate and exchange social, political and economic lessons for the greater good of all humanity. This is the distinct feature of our relationship as the African National Congress and the Communist Party of China, underpinned by mutual respect whilst assisting each party to reach its development goals. This is the profound lesson that we must carry for the next 25 years of China – South Africa relations!

Of course, like all relationships, this too has not gone without challenges. However, the determination by the leadership of both the Communist Party of China and the African National Congress has ensured we sail through those challenges.

The geopolitical challenges that continue to redefine our world can learn a lot from the China – South

Africa relations. Our understanding on geopolitics is not informed by mere idealism on world peace, but that global peace itself is better guaranteed by stability in the balance of power. Our observation is that a multipolar world may, as a result serve best the objectives of world peace and global security of all nations.

In this regards allow me to re-iterate what we said on the occasion of our recent visit to China as arising from our National Conference resolution:

“The ANC has been part of the non-aligned movement. We are also part of the anti-imperialist and anti-colonial forces. The ANC remains firm in its view that all conflicts should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. We totally reject gun-boat diplomacy”.

Again, on that occasion we amplified what President Xi Jinping said on the profound meaning of international solidarity:

“We must help others to succeed while seeking our own success and ensure all can enjoy the outcomes of modernization. Humanity lives in a community with a shared future where we rise and fall together. For any country to

achieve modernization, it should pursue common development through solidarity and cooperation and follow the principles of joint contribution, shared benefits and win-win outcome. The front-runners should sincerely support other countries in their development.”

Our participation together with the Communist Party of China in BRICS seeks to cement the global aspirations for an alternative world where all countries compete on the basis of their natural and human resource endowment as opposed to unipolar dictatorship. It is a platform that will enable the kind of solidarity envisaged by President Xi Jinping and all other leaders of the BRICS community. Certainly, as South Africa we share in these profound values and thereby cherish our continued membership of BRICS working together to usher in a new world underpinned by justice and equality.

In this regard, we re-iterate our message that BRICS is not an enemy to any country or any constellation of countries, but rather an example of how the entire world could relate in solidarity underpinned by progressive social, economic and political principles. BRICS will certainly advance the cause of multilateralism as opposed to unilateralism. It is precisely why we welcome the geopolitical shifts from a unipolar world to a multipolar world as this will help foster multilateralism. Dialogue premised on multilateralism will help resolve various conflicts not only those pertaining Russia and Ukraine but those also pertaining the South China seas, Western Sahara, Israel and Palestine, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger and many more. Multilateralism will also be an appropriate arbi-

ter on economic and trade matters as opposed to the unilateral blockades against countries such as Cuba, Zimbabwe, Iran, North Korea and so on.

We take this opportunity to thank President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China for supporting our initiative at hosting the BRICS Political Parties Plus, which sought in the main to be a springboard to mobilize African political parties into the BRICS progressive fold. The event was a resounding success and that could not have been possible without the support of the Communist Party of China and all other BRICS political parties.

Today we take stock of the China – South Africa relations, acknowledging the strides we have made on economic trade between the two countries. As noted by the Department of International Relations and Cooperations (DIRCO) earlier this year on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the relations between our two countries on the 1st January 2023, this was consolidated into the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and underpinned by a new 10-Year Strategic Programmes of Cooperation (2020-2029).

Over those years, our trade grew exponentially. Trade saw an increase from less than R1 billion in 1998 to over R544 billion by 2021. Many on South Africa are very much familiar with Chinese trading malls around the country, which has opened up amongst others to affordable electronics for various household uses. These Chinese trading malls employ a significant number of people helping reduce our high unemployment figures.

Of course, it will be important that as South Africa we too explore how to build South African trading centres in China to promote South African manufactures and services.

Historically, South Africa has been reliant on mineral resources to boost our economy. Part of areas wherein China could look into is investment in mineral exploration, as we aim to capture at least 5% of global exploration funds in the intermediate term.

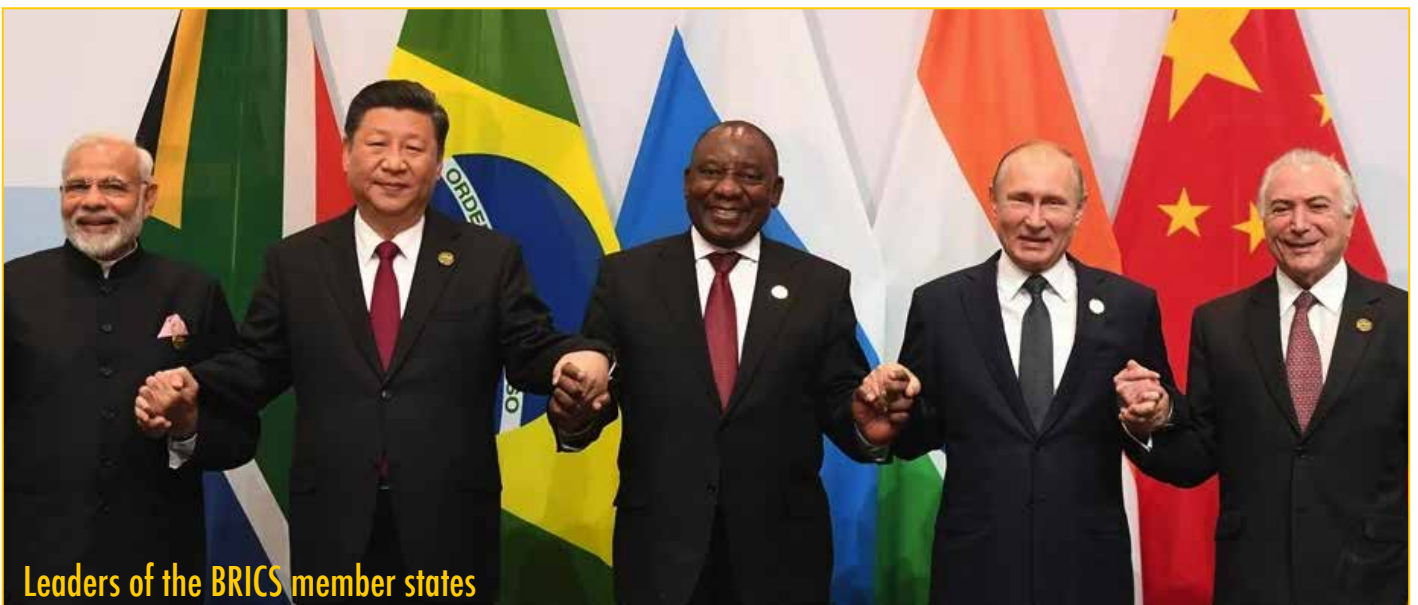
Linked to that, as expressed by President Cyril Ramaphosa recently, we no longer want to export just raw minerals. Instead we want to have our minerals benefited here in South Africa as

part of our industrialisation drive. That's another areas China could look into, that is mineral beneficiation.

As I conclude, allow me to thank you once more for inviting us into this important event. We also thank you for having invited us on several occasions over the years to share our political experiences on party-to-party basis, the most recent being the June visit two months ago.

As we heard for the National General Elections next year, we remain committed to organisational renewal which must restore and improve the trust that our populace has had on the African National Congress. We remain committed to being revolutionary democrats, for the fundamental national transformation of society.

As the ANC, we remain guided by the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution to create a society underpinned by non-racialism, non-sexism, equality, democracy and the prosperity for all. We chose the path of a Developmental State as the political architecture of our national transformation, so that the State can decisively intervene in favour



Leaders of the BRICS member states



of certain progressive developmental ends. Such as capacity in the State must see to it that we provide water, electricity, sanitation, roads, houses, healthcare centres, schools and various other infrastructure builds. Public Private Partnerships have to be forged to enable the State to deliver on these undertakings whilst simultaneously addressing the long-standing challenges of racial, gender and class inequality.

Over the 25 years of our relations, we have gone a long way towards deepening our democracy institutionally and regular national as well as local government elections remains a determinant of our democratic mandate to govern, hence next year we are geared towards the national general elections that will mark 30 years of democracy and political freedom from apartheid colonialism.

And in this we can certainly count on the esteemed partnership we have with the Communist Party of China. We also welcome the continued communication between President Cyril Ramaphosa and President Xi Jinping on both party-to-party issues as well as country-to-country relations.

Working together we believe we are stronger and therefore can assail the geopolitical challenges facing our shared world.

BRICS remain an extremely important platform to advance the various development objectives, as amplified recently in the Declaration of the BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue here in Ekurhuleni in South Africa.

We look forward to yet again working together for the success of the 15th BRICS Summit!

Statement of the ANC Veterans League followings its first NEC Meeting held on 17 August 2023

Veterans League NEC's first meeting focuses on forthcoming elections

The newly elected NEC of the Veterans League met on 17 August 2023 to deliberate on key issues facing the country as well as confirm administrative arrangements to strengthen its operation, post its National Conference at the end of July 2023.

High on the agenda of the meeting was the need to prepare for the forthcoming national and provincial elections, particularly since the ANC NEC has opened up the process for branches to nominate electoral candidates.

The NEC committed themselves to be urgently seized with the tasks necessary to ensure a decisive ANC victory with public representatives of high quality and integrity in the national and provincial legislatures.

This includes engaging in the drafting of the election manifesto and ensuring that all nominated candidates are persons of quality and integrity. Candidates should not be associated with any criminal activity, gender-based violence, malfeasance or have failed to live up to their current deployments as public representatives. The Veterans League (VL) is committed to ensuring that veterans across the country are active in the branch nomination process as well as to ensure that mem-



bers of the VL with appropriate skills and experience are nominated and secure electable positions on candidate lists.

It was also acknowledged that to build support for the ANC, members of the VL have to be active in local structures attending to community-based issues and supporting the turn-around of dysfunctional municipalities.

Other key issues on which the NEC deliberated on included:

Lack of progress on addressing state capture

The meeting expressed dismay at the lack of progress on the implementation of the Zondo Commission Report and tardy progress on bringing to book those implicated in state capture and looting of the state. The VL NEC

PERSPECTIVE



The Year of Decisive Action
To Advance the People's Interests
and Renew our Movement

resolved to set up a committee to monitor the progress of both the ANC and the state in addressing these matters.

It also expressed support to members of the Veteran's League who are active in the Defend Democracy Campaign out of a recognition that our hard-won democracy gains need to be defended.

Commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the launch of the UDF

On the eve of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the launch of the United Democratic Front (UDF) on Sunday 20 August, the VL welcomed the UDF40 initiative under the banner of UDF40 Active Citizenry for Accountability and Transformation.

"We do not view it as an attempt to undermine the ANC or set up an alternative political party but as an initiative to focus on re-activating the spirit, values and ways of working of the UDF", said Snuki Zikalala, President of the VL.

"Many members of the VL started their 40 years of unbroken service in the UDF and calls such as reconnecting with communities, rebuilding local structures, engaging, and supporting service delivery is precisely the active citizenry that the VL resolved to take forward at its National Conference", he added.

Women's Month

On the eve of the second anniversary of the assassi-

nation of Babita Deokaran and the 98th birthday of Isithwalandwe, Cde Gertrude Shope, the NEC recognised the contribution that women such as these both to the struggle for freedom and the defence of democracy in our country.

The Constitution of the VL was amended at our recent National Conference to embrace the principle of ensuring gender equity

in all VL structures. The NEC is made up equal number of men and women.

The NEC will be meeting in early September to develop a programme of action which will include a focus on the development of women's leadership across the movement and standing up against violence, harassment and ongoing patriarchal stances in our society.

UDF 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CELEBRATION

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST 2023
JOHANNESBURG CITY HALL | 13:00 - 17:00

PROGRAMME DIRECTORS | Murphy Morobe | Cheryl Carolus.

MAIN SPEAKERS | Archbishop Thabo Makgoba | Popo Molefe | President Cyril Ramaphosa.

SECTOR SPEAKERS | Civics | Youth/Students | Women | Media | Labour | Education | Political Campaigns | Professionals | International Solidarity | Cultural and Sports Boycott.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE | Political Detainees (DPSC).

UDF40 DECLARATION | Valli Moosa.

Re-ignite the UDF
spirit of active citizenry
for transformation and
accountability.



The Launch of the United Democratic Front,

20 August 1983

(Abridged)

Interview with **Comrade Johnny Issel**, activist and one of the organisers of the historic event. Issel was regional secretary of SASO, an ANC member of the provincial legislature, a leader of the UDF in the Western Cape and a member of the MK and the ANC underground.

The interview, conducted by his son, Fidel Issel was done on the 20th anniversary of one of South Africa's most significant political developments, the launch of the United Democratic Front (UDF), Johnny Issel, who led the organisation of that historic event, speaks of his experiences.

Q: You and Trevor Manuel represented the Western Cape at the meeting to decide where the launch of the UDF would be held. That was one month before the actual launch. What was the atmosphere like when the two of you arrived in Johannesburg?

Johnny Issel (JI): The mood among politicians in Jo'burg over that weekend was quite festive. On that Friday banning orders, imposed in terms of the Communism Act, were lifted. So, everybody was celebrating.

... except the one on you and a few others? ...

JI: Yes, I was one of the ten people to be banned again. So, many of those whose banning or-



ders were lifted seemed to have converged on Jo'burg that Friday. From the airport we were driven to Lenasia where the festivities were quite noticeable. Those present were fully aware that by then the ANC flag had been raised quite successfully at huge gatherings in the Cape.

You were meeting to decide where the launch would be held?

Yes, we were going to discuss where the launch would take place.

... who was at this meeting?

JI: I had thought there were going to be a lot of people but there were only a few. There was Pravin Gordhan and Yunus Mohamed from Durban, Jabu Ngwenya and Amos Masondo from Soweto, Ismail Momoniat and Valli Moosa from Jo'burg, Trevor and I, and perhaps one or two others.

A number of issues related to the UDF had to be discussed, from the colours to the city which would host the launch. When discussing the colours, Amos pro-

posed grey. A long silence ensued. Then somebody proposed the German colours, without calling it such: black, red and yellow. Everybody seemed in agreement and we moved to the important matter of where the launch should be held.

Right at the start it became clear that Cape Town was not going to be considered for the launch. That opinion seemed unanimous. The comrades argued that the meeting should be held in Durban. If there were problems in having it in Durban, then Johannesburg should be considered. If for some reason it could not be held in Johannesburg, then Port Elizabeth should be the last option. Having the launch in Cape Town would be too risky because of the many factions, they argued.

I was, somehow, taken aback by this attitude. I could still hear Leila Patel and Zubeida Jaffer and others, who had come to see us off at the airport, shouting after us to bring the launch to Cape Town. But little did I realise what a long night it was going to be.

Trevor and I tried to dissuade those present but it seemed they had made up their minds. Cape Town was going to be too risky for such an important event. The discussion dragged on until very late into the night. Most of it centred on why the meeting could not be held in Cape Town. By then many of those present had fallen asleep including my co-delegate.

But I had decided that the case for the launch in Cape Town could not be abandoned. I outlined, ad nauseam, the structures we had created in Cape Town, the various campaigns around which we had mobilised, the many com-



rades who were in full-time employ within various structures and in different communities. Then, in a desperate attempt, I offered to work fulltime on the launch. That, somehow, seemed to sway the others – perhaps more out of tiredness. And when asked whether I could guarantee an attendance of at least six thousand people at the launch, I said: “Yes” – Cape Town had won the launch.

So what awaited you on your return when people learned that the launch was taking place in Cape Town?

Well, we had already phoned the news through the day after the meeting. So when I arrived back everybody knew. Everybody was overjoyed. However, I had an outstanding matter to sort out on my return. The security police had been looking for me for a few days before we left for Jo’burg. I suspected that I was going to be one of the ten people in the country to be banned again. Colonel Griebenhaught, who was in charge of the security police, was leading the search for me. I phoned Griebenhaught and informed him that I was on my way to Caledon Square. On my way there I picked up Percy Sonn, whom I could trust to keep the ‘boere’ in check. The police were visibly relieved when we arrived. I think I was equally re-

lieved because, with them off my back, the work for the launch could start in all earnestness.

Why Rocklands? For what reason was this important gathering held in Rocklands?

Finding a venue was very critical. The date for the launch had been set at the meeting in Jo’burg. And we had only four weeks to organise. So, as soon as I arrived from Jo’burg, I worked on finding a venue. I looked at the Good Hope Centre but found it quite cold. It was also not available.

Mitchells Plain, somehow, always intrigued me. I had spent much of my time testing different kinds of organisation in the Plain. I felt a strong affinity with the people of Mitchells Plain, particularly with the Rocklands community. They had often protected me against police harassment and even against some political detractors. I had also been the first chairman of the Rocklands Civic Association. The association had an official relationship with the municipality and thereby had easy access to the local civic hall. The Rocklands civic hall was not the best suitable venue for such an important gathering but we just had to make it pass...

... you got into trouble with this choice?

That was the last drama in the whole process. Scores of heavily armed policemen in a convoy of kwela-kwela trucks stormed the meeting. But that story goes back a few days before the historic event. We realised that the hall was not going to be big enough but could not change the venue. It was highly illegal



to hold a gathering in the open. We could not give the boere the slightest chance to move against the meeting. So a plan had to be found. The only way out was to erect a huge tent. But to put up such a tent we had to dig holes in the tarred road. The municipality, very likely under pressure from some quarters, refused to give us this permission. We then approached Eulalie Stott, a very nice, liberal lady on the council, who arranged this.

And as the meeting was taking place, I was manning the control centre at Shahida's house in Rocklands. I had a direct line to the hall and to the two control centres of the CB groups who had helped us bring the busses into Mitchells Plain. As the meeting neared the end, I heard from the CB group in Heideveld that the convoy was rushing down Duinefontein Road. I contacted the hall and instructed that as many of the lawyers present – and there were many from all over the country – should confront the convoy. I insisted that no word of the convoy should be made known to the meeting. The

police, on their arrival, were adamant that the meeting was taking place in the open in contravention of the law. After some persuasive arguments from the lawyers, the policemen left.

Where did the idea of a United Front come from?

The idea to build a united front against apartheid was proposed by Allan Boesak at the meeting in Lenasia during January earlier that year. The idea of a united front was also bandied by communists during the last World War when Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. This was a rather expedient response from the communists. Shortly before that Stalin had made a pact with Hitler who was preparing to attack Poland. When Hitler turned against the Soviet Union, after having overrun Poland, the communists, who had earlier called for neutrality in the War, needed to save face. Hence the call for a united front against Hitler.

At the Cape, however, the building of a broad front against apart-

heid took shape from the late seventies, as a critique of the elitist position of the Black Consciousness Movement. Formations and organisations spanned across social classes. So, when the idea to build a broad front within the country was proposed, much of the work had already started at the Cape. The UDF undoubtedly enhanced this process tremendously.

The UDF launch was a great feat! Did you expect it to be something of this magnitude?

Though we had limited time of less than one month to organise the launch, with such commitment, I was confident that the event was going to be a success. We had a number of advantages like a wide-ranging number of well-rooted organisational structures and a large and divergent repertoire of organisational know-how. Success was never in doubt.

The magnitude of the launch, however, did surprise me as it did many others. But again my



organisational experience over the years had been to improve on our past experience. That was how we managed to capture the hearts and minds of the masses. I have to admit, though, that the extent to which the UDF launch went beyond all past events did surprise me.

What were some other surprises?

One of the achievements was the large corps of activists who were taken through some very specialised organisational experiences. That was critical for the many campaigns which would follow. The proliferation of these experiences, gained during the launch, was a tremendous advantage during later years when conditions became fairly repressive.

Then there were a number of organisational tactics which we tried and perfected during the launch. One such tactic was crowd control or marshalling as we called it. I took a bit of a personal interest in this matter. We attempted to perform this task in a quasi-military manner. The marshalling was really effective, so much so that with the "burial" of the UDF, many years later, one comrade on a public stage referred to me as having been the chief-marshall during the launch. This skill became very useful during the many marches we had to organise in the years ahead of us.

The biggest surprise for me was the impact that the launch had on the mass of the people. And not merely the people of the Cape Peninsula but the people in the rural areas. And particularly the coloured people within the rural areas. It left a big lump in my

throat when I observed coloured people in these areas finding their voice through the UDF - at a time when 'baas' was still very much 'baas' in these areas. The UDF for them was a means through which they could say to the white man that his days were numbered. "UDFers" they called themselves in unprecedented defiance.

And the link between the UDF and the ANC was well known. It was therefore not surprising that barely two and a half years after the launch of the UDF they entered into talks with Mandela.

What broad areas of work had to be performed in preparation of the launch?

There was, firstly, the launch with its myriad of tasks which had to be undertaken. Secondly, we had to constitute a Regional UDF Council. This was quite difficult because we were struggling to get certain groups, particularly, the Trade Unions, into the Front. More importantly, the UDF was about politics. We organised numerous workshops with a large number of groups to expose the sham constitutional proposals of the apartheid government. Then there was another important aspect of the work: the regular Gumbas. This happened on a nightly basis culminating in the main UDF Concert. This was held in the Hanover Park Civic. Our very best musical artists, such as Basil Coetzee and Robbie Jansen, performed.

Returning to the launch. It must have been a logistical nightmare to handle so many people coming into Cape Town with all modes of transport at

different times. How was that all managed?

Logistics is based on effective communications. In this regard we were quite lucky. At that time there was a certain fad amongst young motorists in Cape Town. That was long before cell phones. These motorists were organised into groups with their cars fitted with CB long-distance communication systems. They were linked to a base station in some area on the Flats. We decided to approach them. And to our surprise they were very willing to help. We had arrangements with two of these groups. One was based in Heideveld and the other in Kensington. From early the Friday morning they were all over the Peninsula and on the N1 near Paarl. With their assistance we brought all these vehicles safely into Mitchells Plain where most of the delegates were staying.

Were there any novel organisational aspects with the launch?

The ability to produce media, in many different forms, was one of our strengths. Media was critical because there was always the risk that the other side might publish some counter media to mess up our efforts. Therefore, we could take no chances. They did try some of their tricks and confiscated an entire publication as we got off Paarl Post's press in Paarl on the eve of the launch. However, other printing presses, which we had laid our hands on, were churning out publications elsewhere.

But we needed some of audio media. And we decided to produce our own with the song Buffalo Soldier, which was hitting the charts at the time, in the back-

ground. The voices of Kay Jaffer and Mike Evans were styled in the way Radio Moscow used to read their news bulletins.

Then the painting of graffiti was highly effective. It provided quite a kick to those who were attracted to more conspiratorial activities.

Particular care had to be taken with nurturing the ecumenical movement where work had started some time before the idea of the UDF. We also got the Muslim community more closely linked to us. In fact, it was during the preparations of the UDF launch that Call of Islam was born.

The UDF covered the entire Peninsula. What about the rural areas?

Through Grassroots, our civic movement, youth and women structures, we were able to reach every nook and corner of the Peninsula. At the time of the launch, however, we were still quite thin in the rural areas. The Boland areas were activated quite early on and there were many detentions as early as 1980. After the death of comrade Hennie in 1981, Worcester was solidly ours. And

through our show of force at his funeral, the fear for the white man in the town seemed to have vanished.

For a long time we had our eyes on the South Cape because it was by far the most strategic part of the rural areas. Consolidation in this part could only be achieved after the launch. Through the intervention of Grassroots, we established SAAMSTAAN (stand together) to act a bit like the Iskra in the South Cape.

Other rural areas such as the Karoo and the West Coast came into the fold much later.

How possible is that selfless effort (that characterised the UDF) today?

In answering that question it is important to consider the values which underlined those selfless deeds during the eighties. We need to examine the values which inspired those comrades to reach such high levels of commitment. Since the coming of the nineties, things seem to change within our country. A new culture arrived with the nineties. It brought and legitimated the "market". And in a very short space of time it took

control of practically every aspect of our lives.

In our market society everyone looks out for himself – and only himself. Nobody is his brother's keeper. Very different from the tenets held and forged during the camaraderie of the eighties. Very different from the values that inspired the likes of Vuyisile Mini, or Mntuli ka Shezi, or Neil Aggett, or Anton Frans.

The new values emerging within our nascent democracy are at the opposite pole of those prevalent during the times of the UDF. We can hardly expect the values, which came with the nineties, to give rise to those selfless deeds seen during the time of the UDF.

But looking back, and yearning for the past, would be retrogressive. Progress lies in the future, so history teaches.

*This Interview was compiled by the son of Johnny Issel, Fidel Issel
Fideli2008@gmail.com.
PUBLISHED WITH HIS PERMISSION*

"May this interview inspire you and your organisation for the benefit of our communities and Country."

Media briefing to announce the 40th Anniversary celebration that will be held on 20th August 2023 at the Johannesburg City Hall, starting from 12h00.



UDF UNITES. APARTHEID DIVIDES

■ This article was first published in the UDF Publication, **Isizwe, The Nation**, Volume 1, No. 1, November 1985 under the heading "Convention Alliance"

TWO YEARS and one month after its inception, the UDF finds itself bearing the full brunt of the government's onslaught. Two thirds of our national and regional executive members are out of action through death, detention or trial. At least two thousand rank and file members of UDF affiliates are in detention. A major UDF affiliate, COSAS, has just been banned.

It came as no surprise that we should bear the weight of the government's onslaught. It is, of course, a back-handed compliment. The wave of repression, as many foreign and local journalists have noted, has merely served to elevate the status of the UDF. However, we have not invited this repression for its own sake; it is the consequence of the effective challenge we have mounted to the government's "reforms".

Indeed, the "reforms" and repression are not in contradiction to each other. Both are intended to give a crisis-ridden regime time and space to perpetuate itself. Above all, both the "reforms" and the repression are designed to shut out mass-based, democratic participation in the transforma-



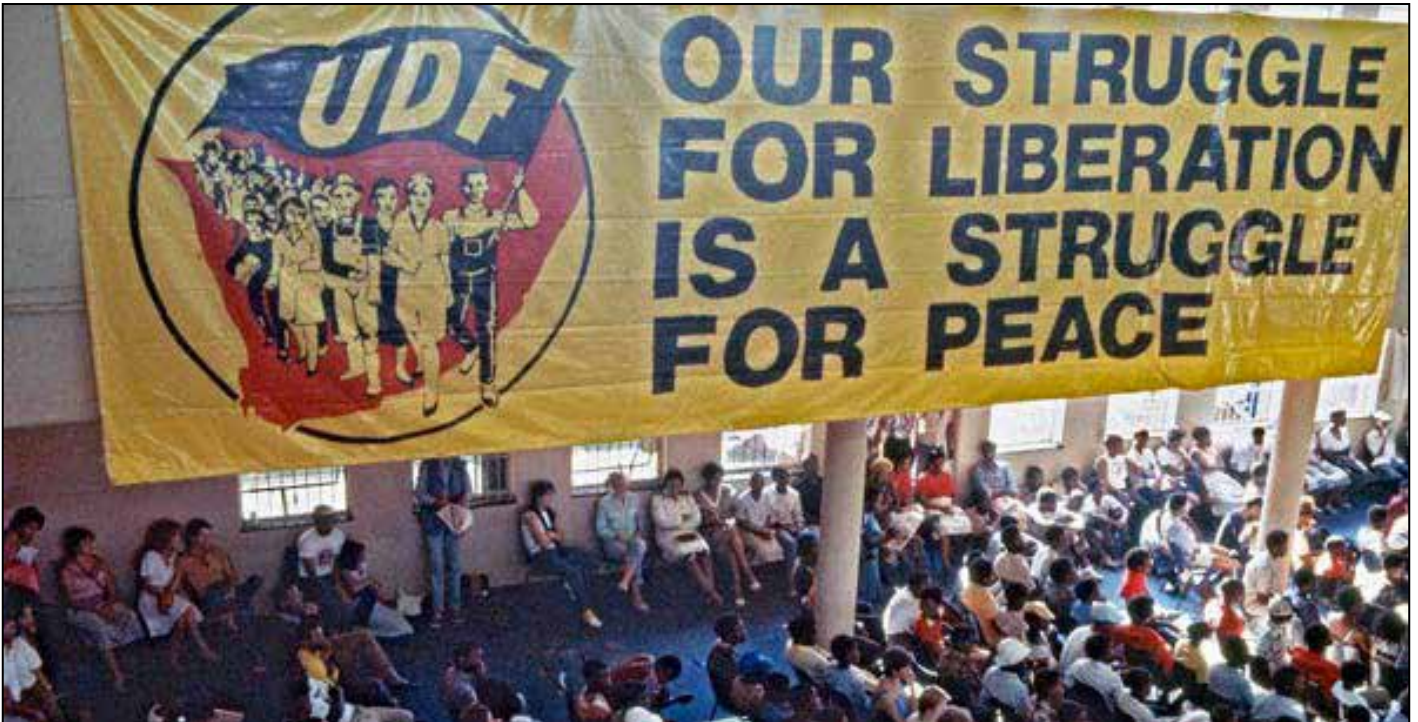
tion of our country.

The political bankruptcy of the government, coupled with the onslaught on the UDF, have prompted a rush for the limelight in certain quarters. Each day brings a new recipe: Anton Rupert ("a man of vision is needed..."), Raymond Ackerman ("an alchemy of great vision is needed..."), Buthelezi (every night on SABC TV).

Since the mid-70's when he was still offering Lebanon as an outstanding example of an effective, multi-ethnic "constitutional" system, Van Zyl Slabbert has

advocated a particular brand of "negotiation" politics. Specifically, he has sought closed-door talks between representative political elites (his term, not ours). It is this vision of politics, we believe, that underlines the national convention alliance. We see in this initiative another attempt to keep the broad mass of South Africans off the political stage.

The UDF insists that there can be no meaningful change in South Africa, and consequently no peace, without the unbanning of all political organisations, the unconditional release of all detain-



ees and political prisoners, the scrapping of the racist constitution, the pass laws, group areas and bantustans.

All restrictions on 'Workers' ability to organise themselves in trade unions must also be removed. These are not bargaining chips. They are the objective conditions necessary for developing a meaningful democratic participation and mass acceptance of any change.

When the UDF calls for the release of Nelson Mandela, it is not so that he can be whisked off to top-level negotiations behind closed doors (assuming that someone of Mandela's calibre and integrity would allow this to happen, in the first place). We demand that Mandela and all other political prisoners be allowed to take up their rightful roles in the development of mass-based organisation.

It is meaningless to push for national conventions at a time like the present. We assert this not out of any knee-jerk intransi-

gence. The lesson of the last two years is, precisely, that you cannot negotiate "reforms" over the heads of the people.

Where does this leave us, then? We in the UDF, no less than most South Africans, greatly look forward to the day when South Africa can live in peace with itself and the world. While there are no shortcuts, we are not pessimistic about the future.

We are greatly heartened by the growing participation of millions of South Africans in the running of their own lives. In great many initiatives - local and national, rural and urban - we are seeing ordinary South Africans assert their collective right to democratic participation.

In the Vaal Triangle and New Crossroads, residents have refused to pay their rents for many months. They feel that they have no control over the way in which these funds are spent. Nation-wide there are consumer boycotts against the state of emergency and the presence of

troops in the townships. Collective resistance to forced removals has begun to mark up victories. Everywhere South Africans are organising with increased confidence.

In the Western Cape, where 465 schools have been shut down by ministerial decree, parents, teachers and students challenged the closure. But they were doing more than this; they were asserting that the schools belong to the community not to an illegitimate, minority regime.

The collapse of the black local authorities, the tri-cameral parliament's lack of all credibility and the effective ungovernability of many parts of South Africa are not the result of an anarchic conspiracy led by the UDF.

As the UDF Transvaal publicity secretary, Sidney Mufamadi, recently put it: ***"The UDF does not seek to make South Africa ungovernable. Our objective is to make our country governable – under majority, democratic rule."***



COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UDF

■ By **George Magoma**

ON THE 20th August 1983 the hundreds of progressive forces met in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town in what became one of the turning points of our history. On this day the United Democratic Front (UDF) was formed.

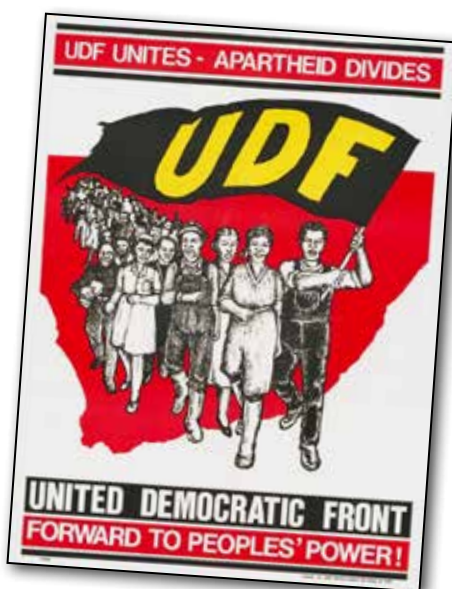
At the time, the apartheid machinery of oppression, political killings, bannings and abductions was viciously grinding. At the time the ANC was exiled and political bannings was the order of the day, leaving the oppressed South Africans without a voice. Even the church, which provided light and hope for the oppressed majority was under the apartheid radar, its leaders threatened, poisoned and killed.

This extended to organised labour, youth and women's organisations, the civic movement, academics, the legal fraternity, students and motive forces for change across the political spectrum of progressives and activists.

The UDF was formed out of a particular context and prevailing conditions of the time. Its formation was in complementarity of

various pillars of struggle, strategies and tactics as an onslaught against the heinous regime and pariah state. It existed at the time of the apartheid tactics of divide and rule, by the introduction of the tri-cameral system of representation and Bantu local administrations as apartheid tentacles to the exclusion of the black oppressed majority.

The UDF's goal was to establish a non-racial, united South Africa in which segregation is abolished and in which society is freed from the clutches of institutional and systematic racism.



The formation of the UDF shook the apartheid foundations, gradually leading to its demise by capitulating to people's power. Its formation fortified the pillar of mass mobilisation, rallying progressive society around the agenda of the ANC towards the strategic goal of a non-sexist, non-racial, united and democratic society based on equality, freedom and justice.

Undeniably, the UDF played an important role in the liberation struggle. In the course, instilling and promoting values of commitment and dedication to the revolutionary cause, ethical leadership, its non-racial and non-sexist character, commitment to women leadership as epitomised by the leadership of Comrade Albertina Sisulu as one of the its presidents, Frances Baard, one of its honorary patrons, Comrade Cheryl Carolus, Sister Bernard Ncube and many valiant women of stature who dared the apartheid system.

As a coincidence of history, the UDF was formed in the month August, women's month. In recognition of the importance of women's struggles and the plight of women, the ANC declared



1984 as the year of women. In 1985 the ANC challenged the apartheid system by rendering the country ungovernable and apartheid unworkable, the extent to which the apartheid government failed to cross the Rubicon. The UDF was formed out of conviction that *"that South Africa belongs to those who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people; that our people have been robbed of their birth right to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality"* as advocated by the Freedom Charter.

In the forty years of this rich history, the liberation struggle has greatly evolved, culminating in a democratic Constitution which recognizes the equality of non-racial groups as espoused by the Freedom Charter and advanced by the ANC as one of its strategic goals. The UDF was a reaffirmation of the ANC's conviction that "South Africa belongs to those who live in it, all national groups shall have equal rights and that the people shall share in the country's wealth".

As a true record of history, the

UDF galvanized society behind the agenda of the ANC when the oppressed were voiceless and their movement and freedom of political activity and association were stifled due to draconian apartheid laws.

At the time, the liberation movement led by the ANC had inflicted serious damage on the apartheid state, with the system at its worst fragility and panic as attested by assassinations, abductions, political killings, incessant states of emergency and occupation of townships and villages by the notorious South African Defence Force (SADF) led by Magnus Malan and his blood-thirsty generals.

In commemorating this seminal occasion of the formation of the UDF, we should not arrogate to ourselves and personally lay claim to the UDF to this rich inheritance. This was a collective struggle of the oppressed South Africans across the racial divide.


No struggle has begotten any heroes but gave rise to the collective will of the people. And out of the collective struggles of the people. Any assertion will be a distortion of history and act of chest beating and parochial triumphalism.

The UDF taught us about the power of unity as a potent force towards a particular goal, hence its motto of *"UDF unites; apartheid divides"*. In the face of the daunting challenges of unemployment, poverty, the gender based violence epidemic, endemic crime and other social ills, South African must be united to find solutions to these problems.

In celebrating this massive feat, the ANC celebrates women who led the UDF at the difficult time of our struggle, subjected to the worst of dehumanisation and indignity. We pay tribute to those who died at the brutal hands of the apartheid system and salute the people of South Africa and progressive society on the birth and nurturing of this giant. The ANC joins progressive civil society in commemorating the 40th anniversary of a colossus upon whose shoulders and values we proudly stand, and espouse in the course of the advancement of the people's interest and renewal of our movement.

Happy 40th anniversary!

**"UDF UNITES
APARTHEID DIVIDES."**



THIS DAY IN HISTORY
20 AUGUST 1983

UDF is formed in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain

The United Democratic Front, a federation of anti-apartheid organisations is launched in Cape Town, to oppose the racist tricameral parliament system introduced by the Apartheid government. As an umbrella organisation of civic associations, student, youth, women's, religious, trade union and other organisations, it campaigned throughout the 1980s against the apartheid system and laws, and against repression. Alberina Sisulu, Archie Gumede and Oscar Mphetha were elected as the first UDF Honorary Presidents.

UDF unites. Apartheid divides.



Women and the National Democratic Revolution, NDR

■ By **Nomi Nkondlo**, ANC PEC Member, and MPL

THE National Democratic Revolution (NDR) is like a bible amongst the ANC members, and generally well-known concept amongst the left, particularly Marxist-Leninists by ideological training. Does this well-revered concept bear any meaning for women's struggle and their cause for liberation? If any, what does the NDR mean for the SA struggle of women, and relevance in the modern-day democratic strides. Most women within the ANC and its structures remain loyal members of this august and oldest liberation movement of our times, and their numbers as a ma-

jority is testimony to such.

If any discussion today is to be understood and explained in the current realities of women and their interface with NDR, what would that reveal? NDR is a historical and theoretical basis to explain the SA struggle through an interrelated lens, from the Marxism-Leninism theory of *"Dialectical and Historical Materialism"*. This analogy has explained oppressive systems with a particular focus of native struggles within their territories, against foreign and at times domestic forces. These groups joined by national interests, and in their formative

stages may not necessarily be developed to understand distinctly the theoretical or ideological basis of their oppression, more than being organised as a people against a common territorial enemy. The ANC, with the influence of the communist in the early 20s would have later adopted the NDR analogy to explain the struggle in South Africa against colonial rule, and later apartheid in what it termed as Colonialism of a Special Type, CST.

The NDR is neither complete nor properly articulated outside its interwoven nexus of the national and class dimension that overlays the

relationship of the oppressed to that of the oppressor. It is this understanding that the women question was explained in what in the 'historics' of ANC was called "triple oppression" of women. An analogy that placed the subjugation of women not only as a mere social phenomenon; instead its existence from the historical evolution of humankind and that of the state, coupled with the concomitant "social formation" that explains the domestic and global features of the related 'forces and means of production' in each phase of human development.

This provides the character of the SA struggle as, not only a colonial conquest, and later racialised apartheid but interpreting its features of oppression as that of "race", segregating women racially amongst other women of different races, thus "Black women" suffering more, but also in "class" terms, as in productive spaces women will be treated inferior and even paid lesser in same occupations with their men-folk, and thirdly, "gender" as their biological indifference to men which places them as a fairer sex with associated roles assigned to them. The theory of "triple oppression" explains the hierarchy of oppression, amongst

the black majority in SA further introducing the social stratification that patriarchy, a system of men domination over women creates. Explained by Sylvia Walby, in her book *'Theorizing Patriarchy'* (1990), she posits that **Patriarchy** is:

"a social organization marked by the supremacy of the father in the clan or family, the legal dependence of wives and children, and the reckoning of descent and inheritance in the male line..."

"A political-social system that insists that males are inherently dominating, superior to everything and everyone deemed weak, especially females, and endowed with the right to dominate and rule over the weak and to maintain that dominance through various forms of psychological terrorism and violence."

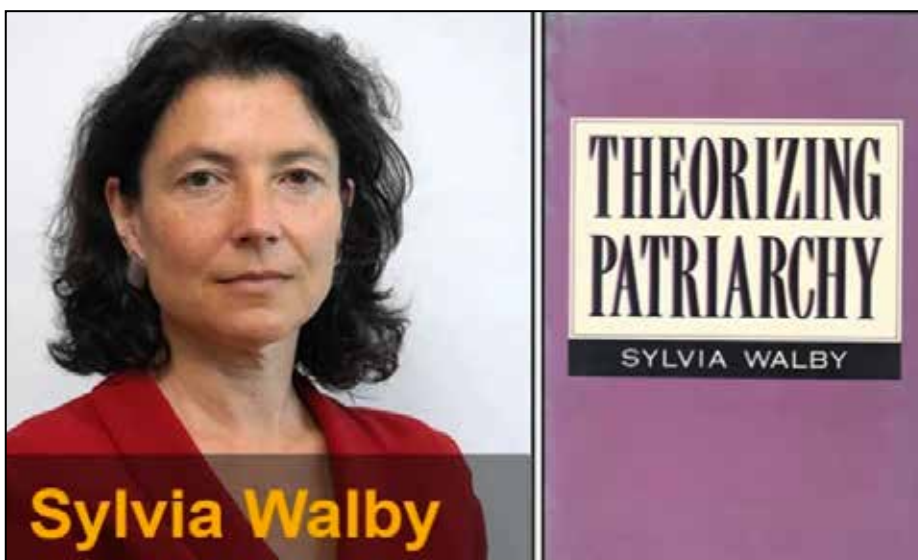
The training about Patriarchy has been a foundational base in the struggle against women oppression that has liberalised women, and was a basis of their radicalism in women's movements, and activities of the mass work. The various groups of women heroes we celebrate as part of the struggle in SA would have been hard-core, and well trained in feminism that affirms

their identity and voice in society. Such helped a cohort of women from Charlotte Maxeke's time who would have been inducted in the "black-American" resistance by scholars like W.E.Du Bois, to the time of Albertina Susulu, Adelaide Tambo, Ruth First, Lillian Ngoyi, Winnie Mandela, and many others who stood firm in engendering spaces with women issues in the body politic of SA.

An interesting presentation by Sylvia Walby is what she terms "dance of contempt" as "psychological Patriarchy" in which "Both men and women participate in this tortured value-system" and are rewarded and/or punished to the extent of conformity/non-conformity to the expected roles. We must admit to this point, that patriarchy fashioned and operates a binary-logic of identity, which in modern day democracies that has given rights and freedoms, lays bare other layers of oppression.

One of the critiques of the younger generation, even within the ANC and its structures, is the limitation in "triple oppression" as an analysis to explain the multi-layered, multi-faceted and what is known as "intersectionality" wherein other aspects of gender inequality are hidden. The binary-logic must be an immediate attention, as multiple-identities have given a new meaning to the entire discourse of gender equality. It's a question needing deep insights and exploration in the pursuit of the NDR, in our country with increased levels of GBV and Femicide, with hate crimes a twin to the scourge.

The ANC Women's League must be commended for the bold step it took to establish both the "Young Women's Desk", and the "LBGQ-TIA+ Desk" as both these imposes a responsibility to the ANCWL but





also the ANC to properly theorise these developments within the context of the NDR.

If then the NDR would have captured the situation and plight of women, surely the advancement of the democratic phase must be understood not as a mere miracle of times. These are intentional outcomes brought about by the cumulative effort of struggles of women in the belly of the apartheid beast. The suffering endured, and the brutality women sustained would have produced and stood to reason the qualitative leap a democratic society must take, to recognise women's equality not as a show of favour, but victory won in struggle. Further, must be the heightened consciousness of men in SA, who have taken forward the words of women in the **"Women Charter of 1954"** to stand side-by-side with their womenfolk in building the non-sexist society, and in today's challenges fight against GBV, in movements named **"Not In My Name"**. These are just a demonstration of building-blocks of the "non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic" features of a society the NDR promises.

According to Marxist intellectual Samir Amin, *"we are in uncharted waters, but that is exactly where we need to be."*

Of concern is the "triple challenge" vs "triple oppression", in the current phase of the NDR, as poverty, inequality, and unemployment remain stubbornly representing a

woman that is black, African, and in rural areas? Is the SA state and society alive to this crisis, and properly theorised and contextualised to deliver responsive social policy that does not delay the National Democratic Society, and thus, liberation of women?

What then is the strategic task of the NDR today, in providing an intelligent answer to this quagmire?

In a meeting in 1917, Charlotte Maxeke made the call that, *"It is high time that the voice of black women be heard. They must ready themselves for a struggle."*

Such a task is not of "Ladies and Gentlemen" but prepared soldiers of the revolution, equipped with the tools of analysis, and the moral stamina to carry this phase to its logical conclusion. We need "New Man", a "New Woman", and a "Renewed Consciousness" to stay true to the realization of the National Democratic Society where the gender question shall be resolved.



ANC stalwart Charlotte Maxeke

THE PATH TO 2024 AND ROADMAP 2032

■ By **George Magoma**

RECENTLY, Comrade Zuko Godlimpi painted a bleak picture of the ANC's fortunes at the 2024 ballot. So did Ferial Hafajee, a journalist and political commentator. In no specific ranking, amongst others, the common denominators to their observations were:

- The electricity crisis;
- Poor service delivery; and
- Corruption

The emphasis was on the weak national grid that enveloped the country into deep darkness which account for job losses, a weak economy, absence of foreign direct investment, high inflation, retrenchments, death of SMMEs and many casualties occasioned by the electricity crisis.

The ANC, in its strides to speedily address this crisis had mandated government to establish the Electricity Ministry. Clear targets were set. In addition, the reconfiguration of government departments and the recent government reshuffle was part of the interventions to urgently address service delivery issues.

Prior to this, the 54th Conference of the ANC had witnessed the convalescence of the National Prosecuting Authority, the establishment of the Independent Directorate within the authority and the strengthening of security cluster to stem the tide of the

endemic corruption that is ubiquitous across all tiers of the State. This was in line with the ANC's Resolution and Declaration of the 54th Conference to fight crime in all its forms and manifestations

Admittedly, this plundering has a huge impact on the fiscus, thus punctuating service delivery. The state of local government is in tatters, incapable of executing its service delivery legislative mandate. And so are many problems besieging society.

Confronted with these problems the ANC developed a program which is a product of its agenda to build a better society. In its assessment, it acknowledged its distance from communities hence the resolve to reconnect with communities, building vibrant branches; rebranding and reimagining, unity, and renewal under the bold declaration of **"Decisive Action to Advance the Peoples Interests and Renew our Movement"**.

Given its weak state it would be



perilous and suicidal for the ANC to go the 2024 polls and embark on a Roadmap 2032, to woo the electorate to the ballot as a way of refreshing its mandate of leading society in advancing the National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

The leadership stature and the ANC's vanguardism had been under question. This saw its electoral decline in local, provincial and national elections over several years.

Commentators and analysts, including research engines all agree, to a lesser extent, that the decline in electoral performance benefits no political party. This is because its traditional mass base chose to boycott the ballot than to vote for the opposition with huge ramifications on the stability of local government and service delivery. This gave rise to an uncharted territory of coalition governments in metros. The unprincipled nature of these coalitions plunged local government into chaos.

On the economic front the middle class was adversely impacted, resulting in the erosion of its purchasing power owing to high inflation, high interest rates and economic uncertainty.

Due this, political pundits projected the ANC's performance in 2024 to be at 37% or below, with speculations of a coalition government at national and provincial levels. Many theories and conspiracies abound. In the last national and provincial elections (2019), the ANC attained 57.50% down from 62.15% in the 2014 elections.

This represents a steep gradient since 1994 where the ANC secured 62.65% of the general vote. The power base of the ANC is shrinking, with serious impact on its vision of a better life and the



creation of the National Democratic Society through an important ideological instrument of the NDR.

Compounded by high unemployment and abject poverty which mirror the ugly face of society, this decline is instructive, warranting urgent measures for the ANC to reclaim its place in the political sun fraught with many political parties which pose a risk on its electoral base. On the political front, there are assaults on the body of the ANC to weaken and ultimately eviscerate it as a way of derailing the NDR.

The critical question is, who'll benefit from this? What are the implications? The elevation of the people to the pinnacle of its agenda of development remains one of the key priorities in the process of unity and renewal. The ANC must reinvent itself, led by men and women of impeccable character at whose hearts reside the aspirations of society, ethical leadership and the cultivation of culture of urgency to give impetus to development, catalytic change and socioeconomic

transformation.

As the country marches towards 2024 there's an urgent need to save the grid from collapse, to rebuild local government, to create jobs and to fight poverty. The ANC needs to build programmatic branches as a way of reconnecting with society. This will contribute immensely in re-instilling trust amongst communities and to rebuild the ANC. There is little time. The ANC cannot be skirting over these massive problems.

A cursory glance into the ANC Resolutions and the Roadmap 2032 demands of the ANC to adopt a new path that would re-steer it from its destructive detour of acts that weaken its ability and capacity to advance the interests of the people.

Does the Roadmap 2032 represent a further shift of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030? Or perhaps the 1996 Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) in a new form? The answer is no. In the course of the evolution

of every organization, new conditions necessitates a shift in strategies and tactics. As a dynamic organization the ANC exists in changing conditions and times.

Its inability to re-orientate itself poses an existential threat on its life and ability to advance the objectives underpinning its existence. It is for this reason that it adopted a performance and monitoring system as a guide to ensure that it remains true to its revolutionary cause. And does not veer from its mandate of serving society.

The RDP, NDP and Roadmap 2032 are dialectically linked and complementary. Each of these are putting society at the apex of development through a paradigm that is people-driven and people-centre and where people are primary beneficiaries.

“The organizational culture and traditions of the ANC as a movement are based on being rooted among the people and to maintain a vibrant internal democracy. And based on its readiness to acknowledge and decisively address our weaknesses in order to accelerate the people’s struggle”.

– ANC 8 January statement 2022.

The ANC had identified the following as its priorities for 2022:

- ***Building a social compact to decisively address unemployment and poverty. Working with social partners, we must accelerate economic recovery and reconstruction and ensure that social services are provided to all citizens.***
- ***Defend our democratic gains against attempts to undermine our Constitu-***



tional order and destabilize our democracy.

- ***Accelerate fundamental renewal and rebuilding of the ANC so that it is more effective and trusted agent of change.***
- ***Build a capable developmental state with an effective and ethical public service that drives the implementation of South African’s transformative agenda.***
- ***Continue to work for a better Africa and a better world.***

These should be cardinal thrusts that underpin and shape the ANC’s Roadmap 2032. Of critical importance is its record and the massive gains and strides made since 1994. Elections are about power and numbers. This power should be used to advance development and to reposition and reassert South African’s role and contribution in the international community. This entails establishing relations with progressive forces in a manner that is collaborative and the modernisation of the movement in a changing world order from unipolarism and multilateralism directed towards working class internationalism and a new world order based on

peace, solidarity and justice,

The ANC has made massive achievements in changing the apartheid landscape in favour of the poor and the working people. This includes economic transformation by ensuring that the previously disadvantaged are active role players in the economy and progressive legislation that radically transformed society.

As the country moves towards the 2024 elections which marks the 30th anniversary of our democracy, the ANC says:

“The 2024 national and provincial elections will be an important milestone of our country, as we celebrate thirty years of democracy. All indications are these 6th national and provincial elections will be particularly challenging, given the electoral decline since 1994”.

This decline is on account of the ANC’s weaknesses. Admissions of internal weaknesses is part of renewal.

There’s no one size fits all solutions to varying and competing needs of communities.

The ANC is correct in saying that the basic thrust of the 2032 Roadmap should be “localisation

based on the material conditions in each locality and sector”.

As a stepping stone towards that direction, the ANC should interact with multiple sectors on a regular basis as part of social compact and a collective effort to find solutions to the challenges affecting society and to explore innovative ways in building a better country. This entails bringing the ANC closer to communities and stakeholders and leading with society.

A leader of society is embedded within community struggles not from the ivory towers that create a distance between the ANC and society. The Roadmap should be predicated upon the realization of the ANC's strategic objective of transforming South Africa and the lives of the people.

For this to happen, the ANC says this would be a posture when it has “successfully transformed itself into a renewed, responsive, modernized, well governed, well resourced, caring and effective political formation. This should be the central focus of the ANC”.

The path towards 2032 will be steep and prickly. A Damascus moment of reflection and introspection is critical if the ANC is to obviate hurdles towards the 2024 elections to secure an overwhelming victory in the advancement of people's interests leading to 2032.

The 2022 priorities should guide the ANC on its path towards 2032. Thus should be underpinned to by a concrete, measurable and realizable programme of:

- Investing in the TVET sector;
- Resuscitating the nursing and teaching colleges;

- Ensuring relation between higher education output and the industrial job policy and strategy in order to address the problem of unemployed graduates and to ensure that every individual unleashes their own potential and contribute to the growth of the country;
- To forge relationships and collaborations with the business community to create jobs and to drive economic development;
- Re-industrialisation to build the economy;
- Fighting crime and the scourge of Gender Based

Violence and child abuse, including the persecution of the LGBTQI+ community;

- Build organs of people's powers and rebuild community activism;
- Enhance social cohesion and to build a non-racial non-sexist unitary South Africa;
- To build a strong immigration regime; and
- Strengthen anticompetitive practice to protect consumer abuse, to ensure consumer choice over price of goods and services and SMME growth and economic participation.





■ By **Dada Morero**

ON THE 9th of August, South Africa was marking 9 years since the over 250 000 protest that took place in 2014. It was, and remains, the largest protest that has ever taken place in our country since the dawn of democracy. People from all walks of life – White, Black, Muslim, Jew, Man, Woman, Young and Old – gathered on the streets of Cape Town in solidarity with the Palestinian people and against Israel's well documented apartheid policies.

South African anti-apartheid icons, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Ahmed Kathrada were at the forefront of the protest. Government Ministers, Members of Parliament, Church leaders, sports people, artists and other dignitaries from towns and cities across the

length and breadth of our country were in attendance.

However, it was the ordinary members of society that gave the protest its muscle and strength. The protest was significant not only due to its sheer size but also because it reflected the demographics of our country and sent a clear message from our people to government and all government representatives (from all political parties and at all levels) as to what direction South Africa must take with regard to Israel's occupation and oppression of the Palestinians.

Most South African political parties and representatives have remained true to the people's demands to boycott and sanction Israel due to its apartheid practices. However, the Patriotic Alli-

ance (PA) stands as an exception, choosing to engage with Israel despite the wishes of South Africans.

The PA claims to be in Israel to discuss water-related matters, citing Israel's supposed expertise in the field. Either the leaders of the PA are incredibly uneducated or they are simply using this as a pathetic excuse. The truth is that Israel's water management is highly controversial, and there is evidence of discriminatory policies against Palestinians. Renowned South African water expert Lorenzo Fioramonti debunked Israel's alleged success in water management as a "constructed fantasy."

Fioramonti, an actual South African water expert, and not just a political opportunist, explained a few years back: *"There is enough*



evidence to show how Israel's policies have taken water away from Palestinian communities. Hiding this through a pseudo-technical debate about water technology would be unacceptable ... [W]e cannot ignore that, regardless of the specific technology the Israeli government has embraced, it is based on an unequal and often oppressive policy ... Israel's alleged success in water management is a 'constructed fantasy'."

Furthermore, if members of the PA, actually did any research, they would have surely come across the Amnesty International report **"Troubled Waters – Thirsting for Justice"** which goes into details about Israel's discriminatory water policies against Palestinians. In 2010, the UN Human Rights Committee found Israel guilty of directly violating Palestinian human rights to water and sanitation. Does the PA really want us to get advice from criminals?

Our own Former Minister of Water, Nomvula Mokonyane has explained it best: *"Israel has been using water and the control of water access as a tool to control the Palestinian state....Israel is the world's leading practitioner in Water Apartheid."*

The PA's engagement with Israel is unnecessary as water technology is available from other countries with which South Africa has had successful collaborations in agriculture, water technology, and desalination.

It is shameful that the PA aligns itself with an apartheid regime, and even more embarrassing that they attempt to deceive the public about their motives. Some have claimed that the PA are actually probably in Israel for their own selfish business or political reasons. The truth is that the PA has chosen a side, the side of the oppressor. The people, the voters of our country, the true patriots of our land, will deal harshly with such. True patriots of South Africa will not tolerate such deception.



A distressing sight for Africans was the PA members' photo shoot with Israeli President Isaac Herzog. Herzog has a history of supporting discriminatory policies against Africans (referring to them as "infiltrators"). In December 2014, for example, Herzog was one of the many Israeli politicians who had supported a vote to expel Eritrean asylum seekers and refugees. The vote was largely seen by human rights bodies as being driven by racist and anti-African sentiment.

Herzog is also someone who publicly said in 2018, soon after he was replaced as Labor leader, on national TV that there was "an actual plague" of Jewish people in the US who were "married or coupled with non-Jewish partners" and that this situation needs "a campaign, a solution" to combat. Such bigoted remarks are shameful and aligning with such a figure raises questions about the PA's values and principles.

The Patriotic Alliance's actions are an embarrassment to South African patriots who stand for justice, equality, and human rights. Their engagement with an apartheid state and association with figures like Herzog tarnish the principles that South Africa holds dearly.

Dada Morero is Chairperson of the ANC Greater Joburg Region.



UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!

A Reading List on the United Democratic Front

THE United Democratic Front (UDF) existed for less than a decade, but its impact on South Africa and progressive politics was profound. Initially formed in 1983 to oppose apartheid reforms aimed at placating black political aspirations, specifically the tricameral parliament and black local authorities, it grown into a broad social and political movement which rendered the system of apartheid unworkable.

It weathered the most harshest of repression – massacres, mass detentions and bannings, political assassinations, third force violence, restrictions – from an apartheid security state in the 1980s that became increasingly desperate to quell resistance across all sectors of society, including within the white ruling block. Its hated army, the South African Defense Force, who since the 70s was engaged in war against our neighbours, were now deployed to the townships and schools, on university campuses and villages.

The resilience of the UDF can be explained by a number of factors, including the following:

- **Its united front character with organisations joining rather than individuals:** even when the UDF national or regional leadership were detained or harassed, there was always a reservoir from its affiliates that could

fill that gap. It also forced the regime to disperse its repression efforts across a broad range of sectors, in the process alienation more and more sectors.

- **A campaigning organisation:** as a movement of affiliates with their own programmes, it encouraged solidarity and participation across sectors. It also ran UDF national campaigns, the boycott of the BLAs and the tricameral parliament (DON'T VOTE), and later as the mass democratic movement, the defiance against repression and apartheid laws.
- **Organs of peoples power:** it encourage affiliates and sectoral organisations to be involved at the very local levels, with UDF area committees, but also sectoral campaigns of women, civics, youth, student, cultural and other organisations, and out of this evolved a clear alternative to the systems and structures of apartheid.
- **New forms of organisation:** this include support for the One Union, One Industry. One Federation. One Country demand that led to the launch of COSATU in 1985, to issue-based organisations such as the Detainees Parents Support Committee, the National Education Crisis Committee, the Release Mandela Campaign and so forth.

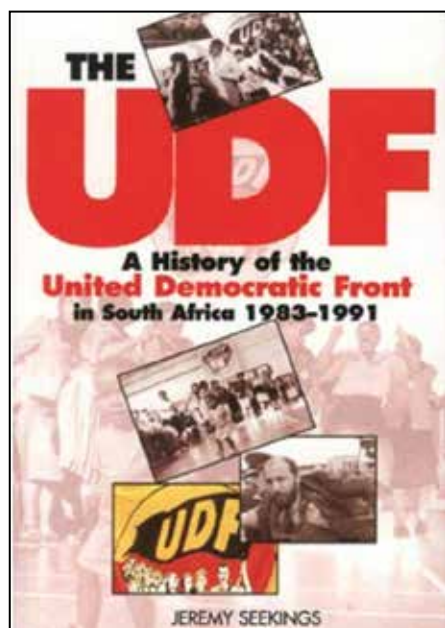
Politically the UDF aspired to en-

sure democratic participation, non-racialism, women's participation, working class leadership and represented intergenerational and intersectional mix in how it was organised and operated. The UDF and most affiliates also adopted the Freedom Charter and clearly aligning with the ANC.

Thus, in 1990 we saw the unbanning of political organisations, release of political prisoners, which laid the basis for negotiations. As the ANC started to re-establish its structures as a legal movement, the debate on what should happen to the UDF started in its ranks, and at a Council in 1991, it took a decision to dissolve. Already one of its largest affiliates, the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) in April 1990 at its National Congress took the decision to dissolve and build the ANC Youth League, and the same happened with women's organisations who were UDF affiliates.

The UDF played an indelible role in our history, and provides a fascinating and complex study in the building of a political and social movement. 20 August 2023 celebrates forty years since its launch at Rocklands Civic Centre in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town.

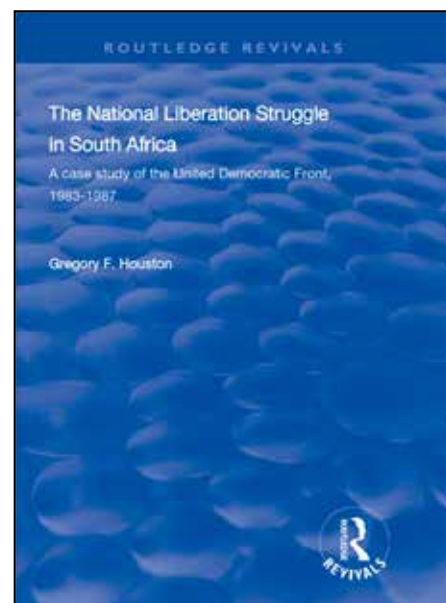
The following three books are a good introduction to the History of the UDF:



The UDF. A History of the United Democratic Front in South Africa, 1983-1991, by Jeremy Seekings (2000, David Phillip): The new South Africa cannot be understood without a knowledge of the history of the UDF and its role in the transition to democracy. This is the first major study of an organization that transformed South African politics in the 1980s. By coordinating popular struggles on the ground and promoting the standing of the African National Congress, the UDF played a central role in the demise of apartheid and paved the way for South Africa's transition to democracy. Based on extensive documentary and interview sources, the book traces the UDF's birth, career, and dissolution. It is a remarkable tale of strategic and tactical decision-making: of how opponents of apartheid made choices that helped to seal the fate of white domination while avoiding the general bloodbath that always threatened.

Beyond our Wildest Dreams. The United Democratic Front and the Transformation of South Africa by Ineke van Kessel (2000, University of Virginia Press): The 1980's South Africa were marked by protest, violent confrontation, and international sanctions. Internally, the country saw a bewildering growth of

grassroots organizations—including trade unions, civic associations in the black townships, student and other youth organizations, church-based groups, and women's movements—many of which operated under the umbrella of the United Democratic Front (UDF). "Beyond Our Wildest Dreams" explores the often conflicted relationship between the UDF's large-scale resistance to apartheid and its everyday struggles at the local level. In hindsight, the UDF can be seen as a transitional front, preparing the ground for leaders of the liberation movement to return from exile or prison and take over power. But the founding fathers of the UDF initially had far more modest ambitions. As Azhar Cachalia, one of its core activists, later explained: "Look, when we founded the UDF, we had never in our wildest dreams expected that events would take off in the way they did. What happened was beyond everybody's expectations." Interviews with Cachalia and other leading personalities in the UDF examine the organization's workings at the national level, while stories of ordinary people, collected by the author, illuminate the grassroots activism so important to the UDF's success. Even in South Africa, writes Ineke van Kessel, who cov-



ered the anti-apartheid movement as a journalist, resistance was not the obvious option for ordinary citizens. Van Kessel shows how these people were mobilized into forming a radical social movement that developed a highly flexible and innovative form of resistance that ultimately ended apartheid.

The National Liberation Struggle in South Africa. A Case Study of the United Democratic Front, 1963-87, by Gregory F. Houston (1999/2020, Routledge): First published in 1999, this volume follows the interactions between the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the African National Congress (ANC) and Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), which had adopted more revolutionary strategies after their banning in 1960, over the period 1983-87.

Only a few studies of the UDF have aimed to link revolutionary developments in 1980s South Africa with theories of revolutionary strategy and tactics. This volume focuses on the relation between revolutionary theory, praxis and the formation, aims, policies and practices of the UDF. Houston argues that the formulation of the UDF met certain strategic and tactical requirement of Lenin and Gramsci's theories of revolutionary strategy.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19 – 25 August 2023

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

■ 19 August 1955 First Sudanese civil war starts

One of Africa's longest conflicts, between north and south eventually led to the split of the Sudan, and the birth of the Republic of South Sudan in 2011. The First Sudanese Civil War was a twelve-year conflict between the two regions of Sudan between 1955 and 1972, a year when the country was declared independent from Great Britain. The main belligerents in the war were the central government of Sudan and the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM). Great Britain, Egypt, and the Soviet Union supported the central government while the SSLM was backed by Ethiopia, Uganda, and Israel. An estimated 500,000 people died during the twelve-year conflict. The second Sudanese civil war started in 1983 and continued till 2005, when peace process facilitated by IGAD, eventually led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the referendum leading to South Sudan independence.

■ 19 August 1963 Hector Pieterse born

The 13-year old school boy, Hector Pieterse, was shot by the police during the 1976 student march, sparking the historic events of that year. The iconic picture of Hector's lifeless body by photographer Sam Nzima carried by Mbuyisa Makhubo, next

to his sister Antoinette Sithole, immortalized the young martyr.

■ 19 August 1981 Gulf of Sidra incident

In 1973, Libya claimed the Gulf of Sidra as part of its territorial waters. The USA in response conducted freedom of navigation operations in the Gulf, leading to a number of skirmishes. On this day, the US deployed a large naval operation in the Gulf, and two Libyan fighter jets shot at an American aircraft. The Americans in return shot down two Libyan fighter jets.

■ 19 August 1982 Bekeme Masade born

Masade, a Nigerian advocate for sustainable growth and corporate responsibility was born in Lagos. She worked to bring together all stakeholders to address challenges of resource extraction that ruined the environment and impoverishes communities. In 2021



she won an award for her advocacy work from the Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences. She is the first West African to become a board member of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and is the convener of the sustainability in the extractive industries (SITEI) conference.

■ 19 August 2002 Amina Lawal sentence upheld



On 19 August 2002, an Islamic high court in Katsina state, Nigeria, upheld a sentence of death by stoning for Amina Lawal. The 31-year old woman was convicted of adultery by a village court for having a child more than nine months after her divorce. She was not represented by a lawyer at the hearing and the man who allegedly fathered her daughter denied the offence and was acquitted. According to some interpretations of Sharia law, for a man to be convicted of adultery, he either has to confess to the crime or



four men have to have witnessed the act. Following the intervention of lawyers appointed by Amnesty International, Lawal was granted 30 days to appeal against the decision; the appeal was filed to the Upper Sharia court of appeal in Katsina. Her sentence drew worldwide attention, with the sentence condemned as inhumane and discriminative towards women. In February 2004 the Sharia Court of Appeal ruled that Amina Lawal's conviction was invalid because she had been pregnant already when the harsh Islamic Shariah law was implemented in her home province.

■ **19 August 2013**
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
takes helm of UN Women



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was sworn in as the Executive Director of UN Women during a ceremony on 19 August 2013 at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City, presided over by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Mlambo-Ngcuka, South Africa's first female Deputy President (2005-2008), led the UN's work on advancing gender equality and women empowerment. Ngcuka, a gender activist and educationist, was the first President of the Natal Organisation of Women (NOW), formed in 1983.

■ **19-22 August 1963**
Indonesia, Sudan,
Mauritius tighten
Apartheid sanctions

Indonesia announced the severance of diplomatic and commercial relations with South Africa, and the closure of Indonesian ports to South African vessels. Sudan closed her sea and airports to South Africa and Portugal; and so did Mauritius on 20 August 1963. South African Airways (SAA) announced on 22 August 1963, that it would be re-routing its flights to Europe via Luanda (Angola), Brazzaville, the Cape Verde Islands, and Las Palmas (then all still Portuguese colonies).

■ **20 August 1919**
Author Noni Jabavu born



Helen Nontando (Noni) Jabavu was born in 1919 in the Eastern

Cape into a literary family. From the age of thirteen, she was schooled in England, and continued to live there for many years. She went on to become one of the first African female writers and journalists. *The Ochre People* is one of her two autobiographical works; the other is *Drawn in Colour* (1960). Both were written early in her literary career and have been hailed by critics as being brilliant and fascinating. The works indicate that she preferred positioning herself as being simultaneously an African and a European, tracing her origins in both England and South Africa. In her books she looked at the alienation she felt, issues of identity and the impact of the West on Africa. Jabavu died on 19 June 2008 at the age of 88.

■ **20 August 1935**
Dulcie September born
in Cape Town

Dulcie September was born on this day in Cape Town. She became active in the student movement in Cape Town, linked to the Non-European Unity Movement. She campaigned against bantu education, and as a teacher, joined the Teachers League of South Africa and the African

This Day in History



Anti-apartheid activist and ANC stalwart Dulcie September was born on this day in 1935.

Comrade September would've celebrated her 88th birthday today.

20 August 1935 – 29 March 1988



Peoples Democratic Union of Southern Africa (APDUSA). After leaving the Unity Movement, September together with Neville Alexander, Marcus Solomon, Andreas Shapingo, Fikile Bam and Xenophon Pitt formed the anti-apartheid paramilitary *Yu Chi Chan* Club. She was arrested for her political activities and served five years, together with Doris van Heerden, Dorothy Alexander and Elizabeth van Heyden. September left the country after 1976, joining the ANC in the UK and becoming active in the ANC Women's League. She campaigned around children and women's issues, and worked at the ANC Lusaka headquarters from 1981, chairing its Regional Preparatory Committee. At the end of 1983, Dulcie September was appointed ANC Chief Representative in France, Switzerland and Luxembourg. In this position, she was a leading organiser of the international campaign to isolate apartheid. On 29 March 1988, September was assassinated outside the ANC's Paris office.

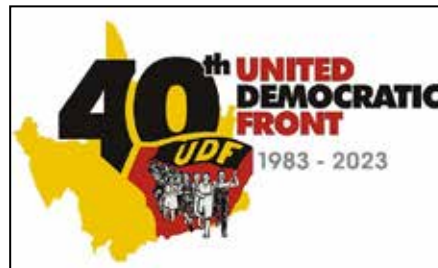
■ 20 August 1950 **Anthropologist Tidiane N'Diaye born**

Senegalese anthropologist, economist and author was born on this day. He is the author of a number of publications on the history of Black Africa and the African diaspora, as well as numerous economic studies of the *Institute national de la statistique et des études économiques* on the French overseas departments (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique). N'Diaye's essays on the Arab slave trade (*Le génocide voilé* "the veiled genocide", *Étude de la traite négrière arabo-musulmane* "study of the Arab-Muslim negro slave trade") were nominated for the Prix Renaudot in 2008.

■ 20 August 1976 **Nordic countries call for arms embargo against South Africa**

At a Nordic Council meeting in Copenhagen, the Foreign Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden recommended an international weapons embargo against South Africa.

■ 20 August 1983 **UDF launched in Mitchell's Plain**



The United Democratic Front (UDF), a front of over 400 civic, women's, youth, faith-based, rural and other organisations was launched, in opposition to the racist South African regime, under the slogan UDF Unites. Apartheid Divides. It campaigned against the tricameral parliament elections, the black local authorities and united communities in a range of other programmes.

■ 21 August 1927 **4th Pan African Congress held in New York**

The continental and diaspora movements against slavery and colonialism evolved as a global Pan African movement, with the holding of six Pan African Congresses between 1900-1945. The fourth Congress was held in New York, USA sponsored by Addie W Hunton and the African-American women's organisation, Circle for Peace and Foreign Relations. The 4th Pan African Congress included delegates from the US states, the Caribbean and from Africa, only delegates from the Gold Coast (Ghana), Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone, due to travel restrictions.

■ 21 August 1929 **Trade unionist Emma Mashinini born**

Emma Mashinini (21 August 1929 – 10 July 2017) was a South African trade unionist and political leader. Living in Johannesburg, her family was forcibly displaced several times during her childhood. She started working at age 14 and soon became a union organiser at a garment factory. She became active with

This Day in History

Trade Unionist and ANC stalwart Emma Mashinini was born on this day in 1929.

Comrade Emma would've celebrated her 94th birthday today.

21 August 1929 – 10 July 2017



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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the African National Congress (ANC) in 1956. Mashinini served for 12 years on the executive of the National Union of Clothing Workers (NUCW) and founded the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (SACCAWU) in 1975. She was arrested and detained without charges for six months in 1981–82. Mashinini played several important roles in the transition to ANC rule in the 1980s and 1990s. Mam Mashinini served on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and went on to become a Commissioner for Restitution of Land Rights. Her autobiography, titled *Strikes Have Followed Me All My Life*, was published in 1989 and re-published in 2012. She received numerous awards and decorations, including the Order of the Baobab and the Order of Luthuli.

■ 21 August 1982

King Sobhuza II passed on

In 1982, the Kingdom of Swaziland (now Eswatini) was plunged into mourning, when His Majesty, King Sobhuza II, passed away at the age of 83 at the Embo State House. The king died after a successful reign of sixty years and was the longest reigning monarch in the world at the time. King Mswati III ascended the throne in 1986 at the age of 18 - as the youngest reigning monarch in the world.

■ 21 August 1998

PW Botha found guilty of contempt

George Magistrate Victor Luga-ju found former President P.W. Botha guilty of contempt for repeatedly ignoring subpoenas to testify in public before the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Botha was

fined ten thousand rand and given a one year prison sentence, suspended for five years. The TRC wanted to question Botha about human rights abuses perpetrated by security forces during the apartheid era, as he chaired the State Security Council from 1978 to 1989.

■ 21 August 2008

Hargeisa International Book fair launched

This is an annual cultural event held in the Somaliland and has become amongst the largest book fairs in the Horn of Africa. The main goal of the festival is to promote a culture of reading and writing in the region by producing and publishing high quality Somali literature and translating international classical literature (including fiction, poetry and drama) into Somali.

■ 21 August 2020

Kenyan camel population quadrupled

Over a period of two decades, the camel population in Kenya has increased from 1 million in 1999 to over four million in 2020. Camels are reared by pastoral tribes in north east Kenya, and provide transportation, fur, meat and milk.

■ 22 August 1788

Sierra Leone created for freed slaves

The colony of Sierra Leone was conceived by British philanthropists and abolitionists as a home for African slaves freed in England. A Temne king sold a strip of land on the north shore of the Sierra Leone Peninsula to the Sierra Leone Company for the "free community of settlers, their heirs and successors." A few years lat-

er, the settlers were also joined by settlers of African origin from other parts of the empire. Sierra Leone became a British crown colony in 1808. Throughout the 19th century, the colony steadily grew through various "treaties of friendship" and cessions from the local chiefs. Sierra Leone achieved its independence on 27 April 1961.

■ 22 August 1856

Djидjelli earthquake causes tsunami around Mediterranean

An earthquake which destroyed the Algerian city of Djidjelli also caused a tsunami that flooded Mediterranean islands and the coastal towns of North Africa and Europe.

■ 22 August 1894

Natal Indian Congress formed

The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) was formed by Mahatma Gandhi in order to fight discrimination against Indian traders in Natal. It became the first permanent political organisation to strive to maintain and protect the rights of Indians in South Africa. The NIC, Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and the Cape Indian Congress later went on to form the South African Indian Congress (SAIC). Thereafter, many joint activities between the SAIC and African National Congress (ANC) were organised.

■ 22 August 1924

Agatha Christie novel set in Africa

The Man in the Brown Suit is published on this day, one of the first European detective mysteries set in Cape Town, Bulawayo and other African locations.



■ 22 August 1925 Sculptor Nelson Mukhuba born

Nelson Mukhuba, a versatile and talented South African artist, was born in Tshakhuma village, Venda. He worked as a carpenter, welder, gardener and house painter until he chose to promote his own Vhavhenda culture through his music and woodcarving skills. Mukhuba used mainly Murula and Jacaranda trees to produce his craftwork. During the 1960s, as a migrant worker in Johannesburg, he formed various Marabi dance bands and made recordings. Mukhuba committed suicide in 1987; he set his storeroom alight and many of the works that survived bear the scars of this tragic event.

■ 22-26 August 1977 World Conference against Apartheid in Lagos

World Conference for Action against Apartheid, Lagos, organised by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organisation of African Unity and the Federal Republic of Nigeria took place on this day.

■ 22 August 1977 Pretoria Show opens to all races

The Pretoria show is an annual event that began in 1939 as a whites only agricultural show and grew to include arts, entertainment, education and exhibitions over the years. However, on 22 August 1977 the show was officially opened to all races. The show is the largest springtime show in South Africa, now called The Spring Show taking place every year between late August and early September at the Tshwane Events Center (previously Pretoria Show Grounds).

■ 22 August 1984 UDF organises boycott of Tricameral parliament elections

On 22 August 1984 the United Democratic Front, a coalition of anti-apartheid groups, organised highly successful boycotts of the Coloured and Indian elections to parliament in 1984. The UDF was against the exclusion of African people from the Tricameral parliament and saw this as part of the racist, segregationist divide and rule of apartheid. In early 1984, the UDF claimed a membership of more than 600 organizations and 3 million individuals and in that year mass action had rendered SA ungovernable. This led to a state of emergency being declared by PW Botha in 1985.

■ 22 August 2010 Iconic Athlone towers demolished

The iconic Athlone cooling towers also known by locals as "The two ladies of Athlone" were demolished in just eight seconds during a "surprise" implosion on 22 August 2010 by the City of Cape Town.

■ 23 August 1862 First Rugby match played in SA

On 23 August 1862, the first rugby match heralded the start of what would become a hugely popular sport among White people in South Africa. The match took place in Green Point, Cape Town between one team made up of civilians and one made up of military members. The first rugby club, Hamilton, was formed in 1875 and was soon followed by the Villagers Club. As the popularity of the sport grew, the Rugby Union Board was formed. After SA was banned from inter-

national sporting arena, it meant that it could no longer participate in international rugby matches. SA was only allowed to return to playing international rugby in 1992, following changes in the country's political environment and the integration of rugby. The national team, the Springboks, has since the dawn of democracy won the Rugby World Cup three times, in 1995, 2007 and most recently in 2019.

■ 23 August 1894 James La Guma born

Political activist and trade unionist James Arnold (Jimmy) La Guma, member of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and president of the South African Coloured People's Organisation (SACPO) from 1957–1959 was born in Bloemfontein. He joined the Communist Party in 1925 and visited the Soviet Union (USSR) more than once. La Guma was an ardent Africanist and believed that the empowerment of a Black political leadership was necessary for the success of communism in South Africa. He is the father of Alex La Guma, journalist, comic-strip artist, novelist, political activist and one of the 156 Treason Trial plaintiffs in 1956.

■ 23 August 1942 Music icon Letta Mbuli born



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Letta Mbuli was born in Soweto on 23 August 1942. As a teenager she joined the cast of the play *King Kong* and toured the US with other artists like Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. At the end of the tour, Mbuli returned to South Africa, but did not stay long because of the apartheid government policies. She returned to the US where she quickly became part of the exiled artists' circles that included Caiphus Semenya. Mbuli released several albums in the US and slowly made a name for herself as a singer, songwriter and actor. In 1992 Mbuli and Semenya returned to South Africa; soon after working together on the album *Not yet Uhuru*, which introduced them to the South African audience. Mbuli was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the South African Music Awards in 2001.

■ 23 August 1960 Largest frog found in Equatorial Guinea

The largest species of frog, this one weighing 3.3 kg was found in Equatorial Guinea, named the Goliath bullfrog, only found in Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon. It is endangered due to habitat loss and being hunted for the exotic pet trade.

■ 23 August 1976 Botswana adopts Pula currency

Botswana introduces its own currency, the Pula (meaning rain), replacing the South African Rand in use since the 1960s.

■ 23 August 2006 Report on Rape in Khayelitsha

The Simelela Rape Survivors Centre in Cape Town reported that

almost half of the rapes in Cape Town's Khayelitsha township involved girls under fourteen, with the youngest survivor aged one and the oldest a grandmother aged seventy-six. From August 2005 to July 2006 the Centre treated 743 rape cases, an average of two to three a day. The Simelela Rape Survivors Centre was a response to the high degree of sexual violence against women and children in South African townships. Khayelitsha has one of the highest rates of rape cases in South Africa.

■ 23 August 2011 AKA releases debut album

South African rapper Kiernan Jarryd Forbes (AKA), releases his debut album, *AlterEgo*, quickly reaching gold status and earning him the Male Artist of the Year SAMA in 2012.

■ 23 August 2022 South Africa largest exporter of Macadamia nuts

Native to Australia, South Africa has become the largest exporter of these rare slow-growing nuts this year, representing 34% of global exports, followed by Australia (26.7%) and Kenya (12.3%). China accounts for 33% of global imports of nuts, followed by the US at 23.9%, according to WorldTopExports.com



Angie Brooks

■ 24 August 1928 Angie Brooks born

Liberian jurist and diplomat, the first woman to be elected President of the UN General Assembly was born on this day in Virginia, Liberia. She served as Liberia's Assistant Secretary of State, a Supreme Court Justice and Liberia's Ambassador to the United Nations.

■ 24 August 1960 Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi born



Geraldine Fraser was born on 24 August 1960, in Lansdowne, Cape Town, the daughter of a teacher and factory worker. She became politically active at Livingstone High School where she was elected to the SRC. A year after she enrolled for a Teachers Diploma at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), she left South Africa to join the ANC in exile, where she worked under Joe Gqabi, ANC Chief Representative in Zimbabwe. A member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Fraser-Moleketi received her military training in Angola, the former USSR and Cuba. She also became a member of the SACP and served in the regional leadership of the SACP, based in Zimbabwe. Upon her return to South Africa, Fraser-Moleketi worked at the SACP headquarters and became

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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a member of the Politburo and also the ANC NEC. She was an ANC MP from 1994-2008, serving as Minister for Welfare and Population Development until 1999, and as Minister of Public Service and Administration until 2008. She has since worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the African Development Bank (AfDB).

■ 24 August 1962 African countries call for Release of Nelson Mandela



African delegations requested Secretary-General U Thant to help obtain the release of Nelson Mandela. In a statement, they condemned the arrest on 5 August and noted that he was held under the Sabotage Act, which carries a possible death penalty.

■ 25 August 1949 Zena Bacar born



Mozambican singer, one of her country's first popular music star was born in Nampula. She recorded her first song in 1980 and toured internationally with her band Eyuphuro.

■ 25 August 1949 Comet 48P/Johnson discovered

The 48p/Johnson is a periodic comet with a fixed orbit around the earth, which was discovered by South African astronomer Ernest Johnson and named after him. It's expected to pass close to earth again in 2025.

■ 25 August 1949 Salif Keita born

Considered Mali's greatest singer, Keita was born in Djibila on

this day. The most famous entertainer who has albinism, is known as *"the Golden Voice of Africa."*

■ 25 August 1993 Amy Biehl killed in Cape Town



An American Fulbright post-graduate, Amy Elizabeth Biehl (26), was dragged from her car by a 100-strong mob of youths in Gugulethu, and stabbed to death. Biehl was driving three co-workers to their homes in the township, when some young men started throwing stones at her car and eventually surrounded the vehicle, shouting the Pan African Congress (PAC) militant slogan "One settler, one bullet!" Some of the perpetrators served sentences for the murder, and the US based Biehl family later reconciled with some of those responsible for their daughter's death, through the foundation named after her.



The overwhelming majority of women accept patriarchy unquestioningly and even protect it, working out the resultant frustrations not against men but against themselves, in their competition for men as sons, lovers and husbands.

Traditionally, the violated wife bides her time and off-loads her built-in aggression on her daughter-in-law. So men dominate women through the agency of women themselves.

WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

19 – 25 August 2023

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

■ 19 August World Humanitarian Day



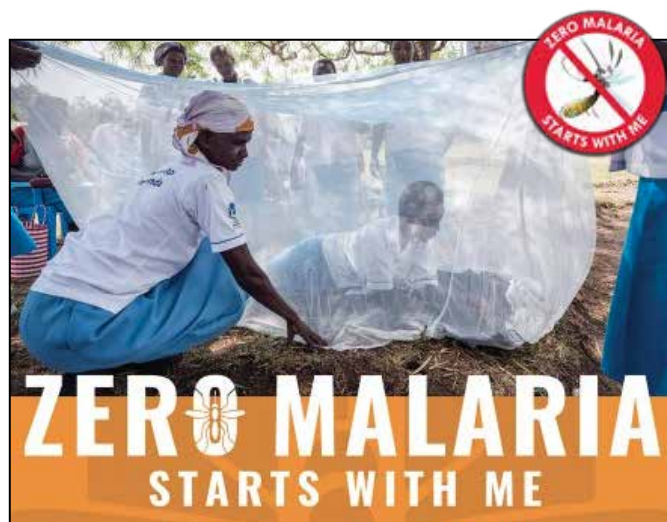
A humanitarian crisis is defined as “a generalised emergency situation that affects an entire community or a group of people in a region, which involves high levels of mortality or malnutrition, the spread of disease and epidemics and health emergencies.” When such emergency situations arise, it is necessary for government and society more generally to mobilise in support of affected people. Sometimes, countries are unable to, on their own, respond to such humanitarian crises, and solidarity is called for.

■ 19 August World Photography Day

This is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science and history of photography. Founded in 2009 by the Australian photographer Korske Ara, 19 August was chosen to celebrate World Photo Day, the day that the patent of the daguerreotype (an early method of photography) was purchased by the French government.

■ 20 August World Mosquito Day

The day celebrates the occasion on 20 August 1897, when Sir Ronald Ross discovered the link between the mosquito and malaria. Mosquitoes kill over 600 000 people every year and are responsible for malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever and encephalitis.



The African Union has a ‘Zero Malaria Starts with Me’ campaign in member states. The mosquito is the most dangerous animal in the world (even more than humans and snakes, who respectively kill about 475,000 and 50,000 people a year). Mosquitoes kill 725,000 people a year.

■ 20 August International Homeless Animals Day

The International Society for Animal Rescue (ISAR) initiated the International Homeless Animals’ Day in 1992, on the third Saturday in August. The event raises awareness about abandonment and overpopulation of dogs and cats that contribute to these animals becoming homeless around the world.



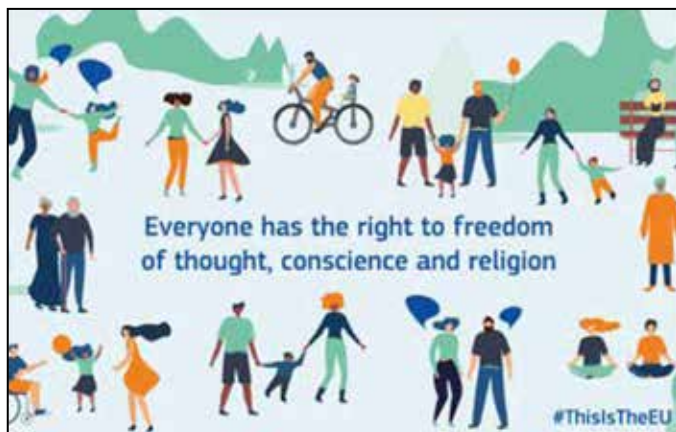
■ 21 August

International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/165 (2017), established 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in order to honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

■ 22 August

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief



Freedom of religion or belief, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing. They are enshrined in articles 18, 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is also enshrined in the South African Constitution and Bill of Rights. Upholding these rights plays an important role in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief.

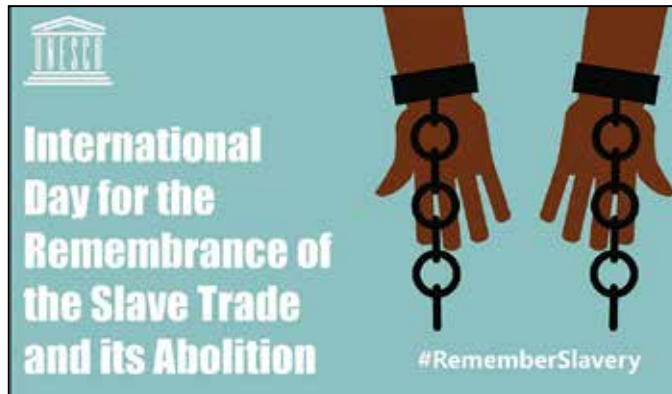
■ 22 August

World Plant Milk Day

The day encourages awareness and celebrates plant-based alternatives to dairy milk, with 65% of the world with some form of lactose intolerance. Animal agriculture is one of the leading drivers of climate change, producing more greenhouse gases than all of the world's transportation combined. Switching from dairy to plant-based milk is one of the easiest ways in which you can significantly reduce your impact on the planet. Plant based milk includes soy, almond, oat, peanut, coconut milk.

■ 23 August

International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition



The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. In remembrance, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August each year. Already by the 1480s, Portuguese ships were trading slaves from Africa to work on the sugar plantations of Cabo Verde and Madeira islands in the Atlantic Ocean. The Spanish got into the trade in the 1500, taking slaves to the Caribbean. As European colonialism expanded, the Dutch, French, Denmark and English also got their slice of the lucrative trade in human beings.

■ 24 August

Pluto Demotion Day

Pluto, the outermost "planet" in our solar system, used to be the 9th planet in our solar system. But, on 23 August 2006 it was downgraded to a 'dwarf planet' by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), following a redefinition of what is a planet. The furthestmost planet in our solar system is now Neptune. Thus, to be plutoed, means to be downgraded!



*The ANC national leadership, led by ANC Secretary General Comrade Fikile Mbalula and accompanied by the ANC KZN leadership embarked on **Ukuyokotha Isilo**, an audience with His Majesty, Zulu King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini on 15 August 2023*



The ANC national leadership led by Secretary-General Comrade Fikile Mbalula meeting with the KZN Provincial Office Bearers (POB) to focus on progress made by KZN government and identifying needed interventions to accelerate service delivery, 16 August 2023



Slave Trade Remembrance Day 23 August



ACROSS

5. Country involved in transatlantic slave trade.
10. First Cape slave revolt in 1808 led by slave tailor.
12. Largest slave-trading centre from 15th to 19th century.
15. Civil war over slavery in 1861.
16. Famous slave ship rebellion in 1839.
17. Country involved in transatlantic slave trade.
18. South American country destiny of nearly halve African slaves
19. Country involved in transatlantic slave trade
20. Continent where slaves were captured for the trade.

DOWN

1. First slaves brought to US in 1619 by and sold in Virginia were from ...
2. Introduced slavery in Cape colony.
3. Country involved in transatlantic slave trade.
4. Issued Romanus Pontifizes of 1455 allowing for the right to invade, plunder and "reduce their persons to perpetual slavery."
6. Origin of slaves to Cape colony
7. First country to permanently ban slavery and free themselves.
8. Country involved in transatlantic slave trade.
9. Origin of Cape slaves.
11. Origins of slaves to Cape colony
13. Country involved in transatlantic slave trade.
14. 1825 slave uprising with 12 slaves and Khoisan laborers in Koue Bokkeveld, led by ...

WORD BANK

Africa | Angola | Britain | Denmark | France | Portugal | Spain | Pope Nicholas V
 Netherlands | Haiti | Gorée Island | Amistad | Brazil | United States | Galant
 Dutch East Indian Company | Madagascar | Sri Lanka | Malaysia | Louis from Mauritius

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