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Conversations with the **President**



Remarks by **President Cyril Ramaphosa** as Summit Chair on the

Outcomes of the 15th BRICS Summit

24 August 2023

WE successfully concluded the 15th BRICS Summit yesterday.

It is the first BRICS Summit to be hosted in-person since the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent global travel restrictions.

Leading up to the Summit, there was a wide-ranging BRICS business programme aimed at attracting investment, promoting collaboration and showcasing opportunities within South Africa, Africa and BRICS countries.



We welcome the clear vision of Ms Dilma Rousseff as the President of the New Development Bank on the role that the Bank should play in support of infrastructure and sustainable development in Africa and the Global South.

We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the

BRICS Business Council and welcomed the self-review by the Council and the subsequent recommendations made to Leaders.

We also welcomed the work of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance in their first in-person engagement with leaders. We particularly welcomed the participation of youth representatives in the Summit.

We addressed our expectations for the BRICS economic partnership to generate tangible benefits for our communities and deliver

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viable solutions for common challenges faced by the global South.

We shared our vision of BRICS as a champion of the needs and concerns of the peoples of the Global South. These include the need for beneficial economic growth, sustainable development and reform of multilateral systems.

We reiterate our commitment to inclusive multilateralism and upholding international law, including the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

We are concerned about ongoing conflicts in many parts of the world. We stress our commitment to the peaceful resolution of differences and disputes through dialogue and inclusive consultation.

The Summit noted that an unbalanced recovery from the hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating inequality across the world.

We encourage multilateral financial institutions and international organisations to play a constructive role in building global consensus on economic policies.

We have noted that there is global momentum for the use of local currencies, alternative financial arrangements and alternative payment systems.

As BRICS, we are ready to explore opportunities for improving the stability, reliability and fairness of the global financial architecture.

The Summit agreed to task the BRICS Finance Ministers and/or Central Bank Governors, as appropriate, to consider the issue of local currencies, payment instruments and platforms and report back to the BRICS leaders by the next Summit.

This Summit reaffirmed the importance of BRICS people-to-people exchanges in enhancing mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation.

The Summit appreciates the progress made over the last year in the fields of media, culture, education, sports, arts, youth, civil society and academic exchanges.

We adopted the Johannesburg II Declaration which reflects key BRICS messages on matters of global economic, financial and political importance.

It demonstrates the shared values and common interests that underlie our mutually beneficial cooperation as the five BRICS countries.

BRICS itself is a diverse group of nations.

It is an equal partnership of countries that have differing views but have a shared vision for a better world.

As the five BRICS countries, we have reached agreement on the guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures of the BRICS expansion process,



which has been under discussion for quite a while.

We have consensus on the first phase of this expansion process, and further phases will follow.

We have decided to invite the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to become full members of BRICS. The membership will take effect from 1 January 2024.

We value the interest of other countries in building a partnership with BRICS.

We have tasked our Foreign Ministers to further develop the BRICS partner country model and a list of prospective partner countries and report by the next Summit.

Today, we will be hosting leaders from Africa and the Global South in the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue.

This is so that we can have an inclusive dialogue on key issues affecting developing economies and identify actions that we can take together towards a more equitable, inclusive and representative world.

May I conclude by thanking the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China, together with their delegations, for participating in this most successful 15th BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Through this Summit, BRICS has embarked on a new chapter in its effort to build a world that is fair, a world that is just, a world that is also inclusive and prosperous.



XV BRICS Summit Johannesburg II Declaration

BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism

Sandton, Gauteng, South Africa Wednesday 23 August 2023

Preamble

1. We, the Leaders of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa met in Sandton, South Africa, from 22 to 24 August 2023 for the XV BRICS Summit held under the theme: ***"BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism"***.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to the BRICS spirit of mutual respect and understanding, sovereign equality, solidarity, democracy, openness, inclusiveness, strengthened collaboration and consensus. As we build upon 15 years of BRICS Summits, we further commit ourselves to strengthening the framework of mutually beneficial BRICS cooperation under the three pillars of political and security,

economic and financial, and cultural and people-to-people cooperation and to enhancing our strategic partnership for the benefit of our people through the promotion of peace, a more representative, fairer international order, a reinvigorated and reformed multilateral system, sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Partnership for Inclusive Multilateralism

3. We reiterate our commitment to inclusive multilateralism and upholding international law, including the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) as its indispensable cornerstone, and the central role of the UN in an international system in which sovereign states cooperate to maintain peace and security, advance sustainable development, ensure the

promotion and protection of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and promoting cooperation based on the spirit of solidarity, mutual respect, justice and equality.

4. We express concern about the use of unilateral coercive measures, which are incompatible with the principles of the Charter of the UN and produce negative effects notably in the developing world. We reiterate our commitment to enhancing and improving global governance by promoting a more agile, effective, efficient, representative, democratic and accountable international and multilateral system.

5. We call for greater representation of emerging markets and developing countries, in international organizations and multilateral fora in which they play an important role. We also call for increasing the role and share of women from EMDCs at different levels of responsibilities in the international organizations.

6. We reiterate the need for all countries to cooperate in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms under the principles of equality and mutual respect. We agree to continue to treat all human rights including the right to development in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. We agree to strengthen cooperation on issues of common interests both within BRICS and in multilateral fora including the United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights

Council, taking into account the necessity to promote, protect and fulfil human rights in a non-selective, non-politicised and constructive manner and without double standards. We call for the respect of democracy and human rights. In this regard, we underline that they should be implemented on the level of global governance as well as at national level. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the promotion and protection of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all with the aim to build a brighter shared future for the international community based on mutually beneficial cooperation.

7. We support a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of developing countries in the Council's memberships so that it can adequately respond to prevailing global challenges and support the legitimate aspirations of emerging and developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America, including Brazil, India and South Africa, to play a greater role in international affairs, in particular in the United Nations, including its Security Council.

8. We reaffirm our support for the open, transparent, fair, predictable, inclusive, equitable, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core, with special and differential treatment (S&DT) for

developing countries, including Least Developed Countries. We stress our support to work towards positive and meaningful outcomes on the issues at the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13). We commit to engage constructively to pursue the necessary WTO reform with a view to presenting concrete deliverables to MC13. We call for the restoration of a fully and well-functioning two-tier binding WTO dispute settlement system accessible to all members by 2024, and the selection of new Appellate Body Members without further delay.

9. We call for the need to make progress towards the achievement of a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system, ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems, and implement resilient agricultural practices. We emphasize the need to deliver on agriculture reform in accordance with the mandate in Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, while recognizing the importance of respecting the mandates with regards to a Permanent Solution on Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes and special safeguard mechanism (SSM) for developing countries, including LDCs, in their respective negotiating contexts. BRICS members are also concerned with trade restrictive measures which are inconsistent with WTO rules, including unilateral illegal measures such as sanctions, that affect agricultural trade.

10. We support a robust Global Financial Safety Net with a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its centre. We call for the conclusion of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 16th General Review of Quotas before 15 December 2023. The review should restore the primary role of quotas in the IMF. Any adjustment in quota shares should result in increases in the quota shares of emerging markets and developing economies (EMDCs), while protecting the voice and representation of the poorest members. We call for reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, including for a greater role for emerging markets and developing countries, including in leadership positions in the Bretton Woods institutions, that reflect the role of EMDCs in the world economy.

Fostering an Environment of Peace and Development

11. We welcome the Joint Statement of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations meeting on 1 June 2023 and note the 13th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors and High Representatives on National Security held on 25 July 2023.

12. We are concerned about ongoing conflicts in many parts of the world. We stress our commitment to the peaceful resolution of differences and disputes through dialogue and inclusive consultations in a coordinated and cooperative manner and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises.

13. We recognise the importance of the increased participation of women in peace processes including in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and development, and sustaining peace.

14. We stress our commitment to multilateralism and to the central role of the United Nations which are prerequisites to maintain peace and security. We call on the international community to support countries in working together towards post-pandemic economic recovery. We emphasise the importance of contributing to post-conflict countries' reconstruction and development and call upon the international community to assist countries in meeting their development goals. We stress the imperative of refraining from any coercive measures not based on international law and the UN Charter.

15. We reiterate the need for full respect of international humanitarian law in conflict situations and the provision of humanitarian aid in accordance with the basic principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence established in UNGA resolution 46/182.

16. We commend continued collective efforts of the United Nations, the African Union and sub-regional organisations, including in particular the cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, to address regional

challenges including maintaining peace and security, promoting peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and development, and call for continued support by the international community to these endeavours using diplomatic means such as dialogue, negotiations, consultations, mediation, and good offices, to resolve international disputes and conflicts, settle them on the basis of mutual respect, compromise, and the balance of legitimate interests. We reiterate that the principle "African solutions to African problems" should continue to serve as the basis for conflict resolution. In this regard we support African peace efforts on the continent by strengthening the relevant capacities of African States. We are concerned about the worsening violence in Sudan. We urge the immediate cessation of hostilities and call for the unimpeded access of the Sudanese population to humanitarian assistance. We remain concerned at the situation in the Sahel region, in particular in the Republic of Niger. We support the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya. We reiterate our support for a "Libyan led and Libyan-owned" political process with UN-led mediation as the main channel. We emphasize the need to achieve an enduring and mutually acceptable political solution to the question of Western Sahara in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions and in fulfilment of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

17. We welcome the positive developments in the Middle East and the efforts by BRICS countries to support development, security and stability in the region. In this regard, we endorse the Joint Statement by the BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys for the Middle East and North Africa at their meeting of 26 April 2023. We welcome the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasise that de-escalating tensions and managing differences through dialogue and diplomacy is key to peaceful coexistence in this strategically important region of the world. We reaffirm our support for Yemen's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and commend the positive role of all the parties involved in bringing about a ceasefire and seeking a political solution to end the conflict. We call on all parties to engage in inclusive direct negotiations and to support the provision of humanitarian, relief and development assistance to the Yemeni people. We support all efforts conducive to a political and negotiated solution that respects Syrian sovereignty and territorial integrity and the promotion of a lasting settlement to the Syrian crisis. We welcome the readmission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the League of Arab States. We express our deep concern at the dire humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories due to escalating violence under continued Israeli occupation and the expansion of illegal settlements. We call on the international community to support direct negotiations based on international law including relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, towards a two-state solution, leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine. We commend the extensive work carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and call for greater international support for UNRWA activities to alleviate the humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people.
18. We express serious concern with the ongoing deterioration of the security, humanitarian, political and economic situation in Haiti. We believe that the current crisis requires a Haitian-led solution that encompasses national dialogue and consensus building among local political forces, institutions and the society. We call on the international community to support the Haitian endeavours to dismantle the gangs, enhance the security situation and put in place the foundations for long-lasting social and economic development in the country.
19. We recall our national positions concerning the conflict in and around Ukraine as expressed at the appropriate fora, including the UNSC and UNGA. We note with appreciation relevant proposals of mediation and good offices aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, including the African Leaders Peace Mission and the proposed path for peace.
20. We call for the strengthening of disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC), recognizing its role in safeguarding and for preserving their integrity and effectiveness to maintain global stability and international peace and security. We underline the need to comply with and strengthen the BTWC, including by adopting a legally binding Protocol to the Convention that provides for, inter alia, an efficient verification mechanism. We reassert our support for ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) and of its weaponization, including through negotiations to adopt a relevant legally binding multilateral instrument. We recognise the value of the updated Draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT) submitted to the Conference on Disarmament in 2014. We stress that practical and non-binding commitments, such as Transparency and Confidence-Building Mea-



asures (TCBMs), may also contribute to PAROS.

21. We reiterate the need to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue through peaceful and diplomatic means in accordance with the international law, and stress the importance of preserving the JCPOA and the UNSCR 2231 to international non-proliferation as well as wider peace and stability and hope for relevant parties to restore the full and effective implementation of the JCPOA at an early date.

22. We express strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed. We recognize the threat emanating from terrorism, extremism conducive to terrorism and radicalization. We are committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens. We reiterate that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to contribute further to the global efforts of preventing and countering the threat of terrorism on the basis of respect for international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, and human rights, emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility in combating terrorism with the United Nations continuing to play central and coordinating role in this area. We also stress the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach of

the whole international community to effectively curb the terrorist activities, which pose a serious threat, including in the present-day pandemic environment. We reject double standards in countering terrorism and extremism conducive to terrorism. We call for an expeditious finalization and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework and for launching multilateral negotiations on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, at the Conference of Disarmament. We welcome the activities of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group and its five Subgroups based upon the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan. We look forward to further deepening counter-terrorism cooperation.

23. While emphasising the formidable potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for growth and development, we recognise the existing and emerging possibilities they bring for criminal activities and threats, and express concern over the increasing level and complexity of criminal misuse of ICTs. We welcome the ongoing efforts in the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes and reaffirm our commitment to cooperating in the implementation of the mandate adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution 75/282 in a timely manner.

24. We reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT-environment, underscored the importance of enhancing common understandings and intensifying cooperation in the use of ICTs and Internet. We support the leading role of the United Nations in promoting constructive dialogue on ensuring ICT-security, including within the UN Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of ICTs 2021-2025, and developing a universal legal framework in this realm. We call for a comprehensive, balanced, objective approach to the development and security of ICT products and systems. We underscore the importance of establishing legal frameworks of cooperation among BRICS countries on ensuring security in the use of ICTs. We also acknowledge the need to advance practical intra-BRICS cooperation through implementation of the BRICS Roadmap of Practical Cooperation on ensuring security in the use of ICTs and the activities of the BRICS Working Group on security in the use of ICTs.

25. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen international cooperation and our collaboration against corruption and continue to implement the relevant international agreements in this regard, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption. With the knowledge that the scourge of corruption knows no geographic boundaries, and respects no society or humanitarian cause, we have jointly put in place a

strong foundation to combat corruption through capacity building, including, conducting training programmes and sharing of current best practices applied in each of our countries. We will continue to reinforce these efforts and increase our knowledge of the emerging avenues. We will enhance international cooperation through collaborative information-sharing networks, and mutual legal assistance to combat illicit financial flows, counter safe havens and support the investigation, prosecution and recovery of stolen assets subject to domestic laws and regulations of BRICS countries.

Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth

26. We note that an unbalanced recovery from the shock and hardship of the pandemic is aggravating inequality across the world. The global growth momentum has weakened, and the economic prospects have declined owing to trade fragmentation, prolonged high inflation, tighter global financial conditions, in particular the increase in interest rates in advanced economies, geopolitical tensions and increased debt vulnerabilities.

27. We encourage multilateral financial institutions and international organizations to play a constructive role in building global consensus on economic policies and preventing systemic risks of economic disruption and financial fragmentation. We call for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to continue implementing the recom-

mendations which should be voluntary within MDBs governance frameworks, from the G20 Independent Review Report on MDBs Capital Adequacy Frameworks to increase their lending capacities, while safeguarding MDBs long-term financial stability, robust creditor rating, and preferred creditor status.

28. We believe that multilateral cooperation is essential to limit the risks stemming from geopolitical and geoeconomic fragmentation and intensify efforts on areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to, trade, poverty and hunger reduction, sustainable development, including access to energy, water and food, fuel, fertilizers, as well as mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change, education, health as well as pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

29. We note that high debt levels in some countries reduce the fiscal space needed to address ongoing development challenges aggravated by spillover effects from external shocks, particularly from sharp monetary tightening in advanced economies. Rising interest rates and tighter financing conditions worsen debt vulnerabilities in many countries. We believe it is necessary to address the international debt agenda properly to support economic recovery and sustainable development, while taking into account each nation's laws and internal procedures. One of the instruments, amongst others, to collectively address debt vulnerabilities

is through the predictable, orderly, timely and coordinated implementation of the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatment, with the participation of official bilateral creditors, private creditors and Multilateral Development Banks in line with the principle of joint action and fair burden-sharing.

30. We reaffirm the importance of the G20 to continue playing the role of the premier multilateral forum in the field of international economic and financial cooperation that comprises both developed and emerging markets and developing countries where major economies jointly seek solutions to global challenges. We look forward to the successful hosting of the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi under the Indian G20 Presidency. We note the opportunities to build sustained momentum for change by India, Brazil and South Africa presiding over the G20 from 2023 to 2025 and expressed support for continuity and collaboration in their G20 presidencies and wish them all success in their endeavours. Therefore, we are committed to a balanced approach by continuing to amplify and further integrate the voice of the global South in the G20 agenda as under the Indian Presidency in 2023 and the Brazilian and South African presidencies in 2024 and 2025.

31. We recognize the important role of BRICS countries working together to deal with risks and challenges to the world economy in achieving global recovery and sus-

tainable development. We reaffirm our commitment to enhance macro-economic policy coordination, deepen economic cooperation, and work to realize strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive economic recovery. We emphasize the importance of continued implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 in all relevant ministerial tracks and working groups. We will look to identify solutions for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

32. Recognising that BRICS countries produce one third of the world's food, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthen agricultural cooperation and promote sustainable agriculture and rural development of BRICS countries for enhancing food security both within BRICS and worldwide. We emphasize the strategic importance of facilitating steady access to agricultural inputs, on ensuring global food security. We reiterate the importance of implementing the Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries, and welcome the Strategy on Food Security Cooperation of the BRICS Countries. We underscore the need for resilient food supply chains.

33. We recognize the dynamism of the digital economy in enabling global economic growth. We also recognize the positive role that trade and investment can play in promoting sustainable development, national and regional industrialization, the tran-

sition towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. We recognize the challenges facing trade and investment development in the digital era and acknowledge that BRICS members are at different levels of digital development, and thus recognize the need to address respective challenges including the various digital divides. We welcome the establishment of the BRICS Digital Economy Working Group. We reaffirm that openness, efficiency, stability, reliability, are crucial in tackling economic recovery challenges and boosting international trade and investment. We encourage further cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and payment systems to promote trade and investment flows. We agree to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in trade in services as established in the BRICS Framework for Cooperation on Trade in Services, with the BRICS Business Council and BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) with the aim to promote implementation of BRICS Trade in Services Cooperation Roadmap and relevant documents including the BRICS Framework for cooperation in Trade in Professional Services.

34. We reiterate our support to the African Union Agenda 2063 and to Africa's efforts towards integration, including through the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area. We underscore that the AfCFTA is poised to create a predictable environment for invest-

ments, particularly in infrastructure development, and provides an opportunity to find synergies with partners on cooperation, trade and development on the African continent. We underline the importance of strengthening the partnership between BRICS and Africa to unlock mutually beneficial opportunities for increased trade, investment and infrastructure development. We welcome progress made towards the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade and recognise its potential to be a catalyst for economic and financial inclusion of women and youth into Africa's economy. We stress the importance of issues including industrialization, infrastructure development, food security, agriculture modernisation for sustainable growth health-care, and tackling climate change for the sustainable development of Africa.

35. We further note that the African continent remains on the margins of the global trading system and has much to gain through BRICS collaboration. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and BRICS cooperation presents opportunities for the continent to transition away from its historic role as a commodity exporter towards higher productivity value addition. We welcome and support the inclusion of the African Union as a member of the G20 at the New Delhi G20 Summit.

36. We commit to strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation to intensify the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial



Revolution (PartNIR) and create new opportunities for accelerating industrial development. We support intra-BRICS cooperation in human resource development on new technologies through the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competences (BCIC), BRICS PartNIR Innovation Centre, BRICS Startup Forum and collaboration with other relevant BRICS mechanisms, to carry out training programmes to address challenges of NIR for Inclusive and sustainable industrialization. We reiterate our commitment to continue discussion on the establishment of BCIC in cooperation with UNIDO to jointly support the development of Industry 4.0 skills development among the BRICS countries and to promote partnerships and increased productivity in the New Industrial Revolution. We look forward to the cooperation with UNIDO and request the PartNIR Advisory Group to coordinate with UNIDO.

37. We recognize the crucial role that Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) play in unlocking the full potential of BRICS economies and reaffirm the importance of their participation in production networks and value chains. We will continue joint efforts aimed at eliminating constraints such as lack of easily accessible information and financing, skills shortage, network effects, as well as regulation of excessive administrative burden, and procurement related constraints ensuring easily accessible information and financing, skill up gradation and mar-

ket linkage. We endorse the BRICS MSMEs Cooperation Framework which promotes BRICS cooperation on such issues as exchanging information about fairs and exhibitions, and encouraging participation of MSMEs in the selected events to enhance interactions and cooperation amongst MSMEs which may secure deals. Member states will facilitate exchange of business missions, and promote sector specific Business to Business (B2B) meetings amongst the MSMEs, to enhance enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation and business alliances between the MSMEs of BRICS, with a particular focus on women-owned and youth-owned MSMEs. Member States will provide information relating to MSMEs, business development opportunities and possibilities of partnerships for the development of MSMEs in the BRICS countries. In addition, we will promote sharing of information on trade policies, and market intelligence for MSMEs to increase their participation in international trade. We will facilitate access to resources and capabilities such as skills, knowledge networks, and technology that could help MSMEs improve their participation in the economy and global value chains. We will exchange views on measures and approaches for integrating BRICS MSMEs into global trade and Global Value Chains, including by sharing experience on how regional integration approaches can support the development of MSMEs.

38. We reiterate the commitment to promote employment for

sustainable development, including to develop skills to ensure resilient recovery, gender-responsive employment and social protection policies including workers' rights. We reaffirm our commitment to respect, promote, and realise decent work for all and achieve social justice. We will step up efforts to effectively abolish child labour based on the Durban Call to Action and accelerate progress towards universal social protection for all by 2030. We will invest in skills development systems to improve access to relevant and quality skills for workers in the informal economy and workers in new forms of employment as we seek to increase productivity for economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable and inclusive economies. We will explore the development of a BRICS platform to implement the Productivity Ecosystem for Decent Work.

39. We acknowledge the urgent need for tourism industry recovery and the importance of increasing mutual tourist flows and will work towards further strengthening the BRICS Alliance for Green Tourism to promote measures, which can shape a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive tourism sector.

40. We agree to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization and make full use of standards to advance sustainable development.

41. We agree to continue to deepen cooperation on competition amongst BRICS

countries and create a fair competition market environment for international economic and trade cooperation.

42. We agree to enhance dialogue and cooperation on intellectual property rights through, the BRICS IPR cooperation mechanism (IP-RCM). As we celebrate a decade of cooperation of the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices, we welcome the alignment of their workplan to the Sustainable Development Goals.

43. We support enhancing statistical cooperation within BRICS as data, statistics and information form the basis of informed and effective decision making. On the 10th anniversary of its first issue, we support the continued release of the BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2023 and the BRICS Joint Statistical Publication Snapshot 2023 for engaging a wider range of users.

44. We recognise the widespread benefits of fast, inexpensive, transparent, safe, and inclusive payment systems. We look forward to the report by the BRICS Payment Task Force (BPTF) on the mapping of the various elements of the G20 Roadmap on Cross-border Payments in BRICS countries. We welcome the sharing of experience by BRICS members on payment infrastructures, including the interlinking of cross-border payment systems. We believe this will further enhance cooperation amongst the BRICS countries and encourage further dialogue on payment instru-

ments to facilitate trade and investment flows between the BRICS members as well as other developing countries. We stress the importance of encouraging the use of local currencies in international trade and financial transactions between BRICS as well as their trading partners. We also encourage strengthening of correspondent banking networks between the BRICS countries and enabling settlements in the local currencies.

45. We task our Finance Ministers and/or Central Bank Governors, as appropriate, to consider the issue of local currencies, payment instruments and platforms and report back to us by the next Summit.

46. We recognise the key role of the NDB in promoting infrastructure and sustainable development of its member countries. We congratulate Ms Dilma Rousseff, former President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, as President of the New Development Bank (NDB) and are confident that she will contribute to strengthening of the NDB in effectively achieving its mandate. We expect the NDB to provide and maintain the most effective financing solutions for sustainable development, a steady process in membership expansion, and improvements in corporate governance and operational effectiveness towards the fulfilment of NDB's General Strategy for 2022-2026. We welcome the three new members of the NDB, namely Bangladesh, Egypt and United Arab Emirates. We

encourage the NDB to play an active role in knowledge sharing process and incorporate the member-countries best practices in its operational policies, according to its governance mechanism and taking into account national priorities and development goals. We see the NDB as an important member of global MDB family, given its unique status as an institution created by EMDCs for EMDCs.

47. We welcome the establishment of the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance during 2022 and efforts to operationalise the Network. We will work towards the identification and designation of the lead Think Tanks from member countries. We endorse the Operational Guidelines for the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance developed under South Africa's Chairship, which provides guidance on how the Network will operate in terms of governance, delivery of outputs and funding of the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance.

48. We recognise that infrastructure investments support human, social, environmental, and economic development. We note that the demand for infrastructure is growing, with a greater need for scale, innovation and sustainability. We highlight that BRICS countries continue to offer excellent opportunities for infrastructure investment. In this regard, we further recognise that leveraging governments' limited resources to catalyse private capital, expertise and efficiency will

be paramount in closing the infrastructure investment gap in BRICS countries.

49. We continue to support the work of the Task Force on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Infrastructure in sharing knowledge, good practices and lessons learnt on the effective development and delivery of infrastructure for the benefit of all member countries. In this regard, the Task Force has collated guiding principles that advance the adoption of a programmatic approach in infrastructure delivery and promotes the use of PPPs and other blended finance solutions in infrastructure development and delivery. We look forward to convening the Infrastructure Investment Symposium later this year for a discussion amongst BRICS governments, investors and financiers on ways to work with the private sector to promote the use of green, transition and sustainable finance in infrastructure delivery.

50. The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) continues to be an important mechanism for mitigating the effects of a crisis situation, complementing existing international financial and monetary arrangements, and contributing to the strengthening of the global financial safety net. We reiterate our commitment to the continued strengthening of the CRA and look forward to the successful completion of the sixth Test-Run later in 2023. We also support progress made to amend the outstanding technical issues on the Inter-Central Bank Agreement

and endorse the proposed theme of 2023 BRICS Economic Bulletin 'Challenges in a post-COVID-19 environment.

51. We welcome the continued cooperation on topics of mutual interest on sustainable and transition finance, information security, financial technology, and payments, and look forward to building on work in these areas under the relevant work streams, including the proposed study on leveraging technology to address climate data gaps in the financial sector and support the proposed initiatives aimed at enhancing cyber security and developing financial technology, including the sharing of knowledge and experience in this area.

Partnership for Sustainable Development

52. We reaffirm the call for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental, in a balanced and integrated manner by mobilising the means required to implement the 2030 Agenda. We urge donor countries to honour their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and to facilitate capacity building and the transfer of technology along with additional development resources to developing countries, in line with the national policy objectives of recipients. We highlight in this regard that the SDGs Summit to be held in New York in September 2023 and the Summit of the Future to be held in Septem-

ber 2024, constitute significant opportunities for renewing international commitment on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

53. We recognise the importance of implementing the SDGs in an integrated and holistic manner, inter alia through poverty eradication as well as combating climate change whilst promoting sustainable land use and water management, conservation of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components and the biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, in line with Article 1 of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities. We also underscore the significance of technology and innovation, international cooperation, public-private partnerships, including South-South cooperation.

54. We underscore the importance of collaborating on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use matters, such as research and development of conservation technologies, development of protected areas, and the combatting of illegal trade in wildlife. Furthermore, we will continue to actively participate in international biodiversity-related conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its protocols and advancing the implementation of its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF),

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and working towards the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats.

55. We welcome the historic adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-15) in December 2022. We thus undertake to strive towards the implementation of all the global goals and targets of the KMGBF, in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and national circumstances, priorities and capabilities in order to achieve its mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and vision of living in harmony with nature. We urge developed countries to provide adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the KMGBF. We also acknowledge the potential for cooperation on the sustainable use of biodiversity in business to support local economic development, industrialisation, job creation, and sustainable business opportunities.

56. We reemphasise the importance of implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its

Paris Agreement and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) enhancing low-cost climate technology transfer, capacity building as well as mobilizing affordable, adequate and timely delivered new additional financial resources for environmentally sustainable projects. We agree that there is a need to defend, promote and strengthen the multilateral response to Climate Change and to work together for a successful outcome of the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28). We recognise that the Means of Implementation should be enhanced by developed countries, including through adequate and timely flow of affordable Climate Finance, Technical Cooperation, Capacity Building and transfer of Technology for climate actions. Furthermore, there is a need for comprehensive financial arrangements to address loss and damage due to climate change, including operationalising Fund on Loss and Damage as agreed at the UNFCCC COP27 to benefit developing countries.

57. We agree to address the challenges posed by climate change while also ensuring a just, affordable and sustainable transition to a low carbon and low-emission economy in line with the principles of CBDR-RC, in light of different national circumstances. We advocate for just equitable and sustainable transitions, based on nationally defined development priorities, and

we call on developed countries to lead by example and support developing countries towards such transitions.

58. We stress the need for support of developed countries to developing countries for access to existing and emerging low-emission technologies and solutions that avoid, abate and remove GHG emissions and enhance adaptation action to address climate change. We further emphasize the need for enhancing low-cost technology transfer and for mobilizing affordable, adequate new and timely delivered additional financial resources for environmentally sustainable projects.

59. We express our strong determination to contribute to a successful COP28 in Dubai, later this year, with the focus on implementation and cooperation. As the main mechanism for assessing collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals and promoting climate action on all aspects of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, the Global Stocktake must be effective and identifying implementation gaps on the global response to climate change, whilst prospectively laying the foundations for enhanced ambition by all, in particular by developed countries. We call upon developed countries to fill outstanding gaps in means of implementation for mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries.

60. We welcome Brazil's candidacy to host COP30 as the year 2025 will be key to the

very future of the global response to climate change.

61. We further urge developed countries to honour their commitments, including of mobilizing the USD 100bn per annum by 2020 and through 2025 to support climate action in developing countries. In addition, importance of doubling adaptation finance by 2025 from the base of 2019 is also key in order to implement adaptation actions. Moreover, we look forward to setting up an ambitious New Collective Quantified goal, prior to 2025, as per the needs and priorities of developing countries. This will require enhanced financial support from developed countries that is additional, grant-based and/or concessional, timely delivered, and adequate to take forward adaptation and mitigation action in a balanced manner. This extends to support for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
62. We acknowledge that the financial mechanisms and investments to support the implementation of environment and climate change programmes need to be enhanced, and increased momentum to reform these financial mechanisms, as well as the multilateral development banks and international financial institutions is required. In this regard, we call on the shareholders of these institutions to take decisive action to scale-up climate finance and investments in support towards achieving the SDGs related to climate change and make their institutional arrangements fit for purpose.
63. We oppose trade barriers including those under the pretext of tackling climate change imposed by certain developed countries and reiterate our commitment to enhancing coordination on these issues. We underline that measures taken to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss must be WTO-consistent and must not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade and should not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade. Any such measure must be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of different national circumstances. We express our concern at any WTO inconsistent discriminatory measure that will distort international trade, risk new trade barriers and shift burden of addressing climate change and biodiversity loss to BRICS members and developing countries.
64. We commit to intensify our efforts towards improving our collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, and strengthening our ability to fight back any such pandemics in the future collectively. In this regard, we consider it important to continue our support to the BRICS Virtual Vaccine Research and Development Center. We look forward to the holding of the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response to be held on 20th September 2023 at the United Nations General Assembly and we call for an outcome that will mobilise political will and continued leadership on this matter.
65. We recognize the fundamental role of primary health care as a key foundation for Universal Health Care and health system's resilience, as well as on prevention and response to health emergencies. We believe that the High-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to be held at the UN General Assembly in September 2023 would be a critical step for mobilizing the highest political support for UHC as the cornerstone to achieving SDG 3 (good health and well-being). We reiterate our support for the international initiatives, with the leadership of WHO, on addressing tuberculosis (TB) and look forward to actively engaging in the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB in New York in September this year and encourage an assertive political declaration.
66. Taking into account national legislation and priorities of BRICS countries, we commit to continue cooperation in traditional medicine in line with previous meetings of the BRICS Health Ministers and their outcomes, as well as the BRICS High-Level Forum on the Traditional Medicine.
67. We note that BRICS countries have significant experience and potential in the field of nuclear medicine and radio pharmaceuticals. We welcome the decision to establish a



BRICS Working Group on Nuclear Medicine to expand cooperation in this area.

68. We welcome South Africa hosting BRICS Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Steering Committee meetings throughout 2023 as the main coordination mechanism to manage and ensure the successful hosting of BRICS STI activities. We call on the Steering Committee to undertake a strategic review of the thematic focus areas and organisational framework of the BRICS STI Working Group to ensure better alignment as appropriate with current BRICS policy priorities. We commend South Africa for hosting the 8th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and the concurrent organization of the 6th BRICS Young Innovator Prize. We commend the success of the BRICS STI Framework Programme in continuing to connect scientists through the funding of an impressive portfolio of research projects between BRICS countries. We also appreciate the efforts of the BRICS STI Framework Programme Secretariat in facilitating a discussion to launch in 2024 a Call for Proposals for BRICS STI Flagship Projects. We recognize the progress achieved in the implementation of the BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation (2021-24). In this regard we encourage further actions to be taken on initiatives such as the BRICS Techtransfer (the BRICS Centers for Technology Transfer) and the iBRICS Network (the dedicated BRICS innovation network). We also welcome more actions to be taken, es-

pecially by the BRICS STIEP (Science, Technology and Innovation Entrepreneurship Partnership) Working Group, in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship, for example, through support for the BRICS Incubation Training and Network, the BRICS Technology Transfer Training Program, and the BRICS Startup Forum.

69. We congratulate our Space agencies for successfully implementing the BRICS RSSC agreement by exchanging of BRICS Satellite Constellation data samples; holding of the 1st BRICS RSSC Application Forum in November 2022; convening of the 2nd meeting of BRICS Space Cooperation Joint Committee in July 2023 and continue to successfully implement the BRICS Constellation Pilot Projects. We encourage the BRICS Space agencies to continue enhancing the level of cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing and applications, so as to provide data support for the economic and social development of the BRICS countries.

70. While emphasising the fundamental role of access to energy in achieving SDGs and noting the outlined risks to energy security we highlight the need for enhanced cooperation among the BRICS countries as major producers and consumers of energy products and services. We believe that energy security, access and energy transitions are important and need to be balanced. We welcome the strengthening of cooperation and increasing investment in the supply chains for energy

transitions and note the need to fully participate in the clean energy global value chain. We further commit to increase the resilience of energy systems including critical energy infrastructure, advancing the use of clean energy options, promoting research and innovation in energy science and technology. We intend to address energy security challenges by incentivising energy investment flows. We share a common view, taking into consideration national priorities and circumstances, on the efficient use of all energy sources, namely: renewable energy, including biofuels, hydropower, fossil fuels, nuclear energy and hydrogen produced on the basis of zero and low emission technologies and processes, which are crucial for a just transition towards more flexible, resilient and sustainable energy systems. We recognise the role of fossil fuels in supporting energy security and energy transition. We call for collaboration amongst the BRICS countries on technological neutrality and further urge for the adoption of common, effective, clear, fair and transparent standards and rules for assessment of emissions, elaboration of compatible taxonomies of sustainable projects as well as accounting of carbon units. We welcome joint research and technical cooperation within the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform, and commend the holding of the BRICS Youth Energy Summit and other related activities.

71. We remain committed to strengthening BRICS cooperation on population mat-

ters, because the dynamics of population age structure change, and pose challenges as well as opportunities, particularly with regard to women's rights, youth development, disability rights, employment and the future of work, urbanisation, migration and ageing.

72. We reiterate the importance of BRICS cooperation in the field of disaster management. We stress the importance of disaster risk reduction measures towards building resilient communities and the exchange of information on best practices, adoption of climate change adaptation initiatives, and integration of indigenous knowledge systems and improving investments in early warning systems and disaster resilient infrastructure. We further stress the need for holistic inclusivity in disaster risk reduction by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in government and community-based planning. We encourage expanding intra-BRICS cooperation through joint activities for enhancing the capacities of national emergency systems.

73. We agree with the importance placed by South Africa as BRICS Chair on Transforming Education and Skills Development for the Future. We support the principle of facilitating mutual recognition of academic qualifications amongst BRICS countries to ensure mobility of skilled professionals, academics, and students and recognition of qualifications obtained in each other's countries subject to compliance of applicable domestic

laws. We welcome concrete proposals made during the 10th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education focusing on critical areas in education and training such as entrepreneurship development, skills for the changing world, out-of-school youth, climate change, labour market intelligence, early childhood development and university global ranking. We appreciate the progress on education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) cooperation, in particular, the operationalization of the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance which focuses on strengthening communication and dialogue and early finalisation of the Charter of the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance thereby promoting substantial cooperation in TVET, integrating TVET with industry.

74. We commit to strengthening skills exchanges and cooperation amongst BRICS countries. We support the digital transformation in education and TVET space, as each BRICS country is domestically committed to ensure education accessibility and equity, and promote the development of quality education. We agree to explore opportunities on BRICS digital education cooperative mechanisms, hold dialogues on digital education policies, share digital educational resources, build smart education systems, and jointly promote digital transformation of education in BRICS countries and to develop a sustainable education by strengthening the cooperation within BRICS Network University

and other institution-to-institution initiatives in this area, including the BRICS University League. We welcome the BRICS Network University International Governing Board consideration to expand membership of the BRICS Network University to include more universities from the BRICS countries. We underscore the importance of sharing best practices on expanding access to holistic early childhood care and education to provide a better start in life for children within BRICS countries. We welcome the decision to facilitate exchanges within BRICS countries on equipping learners with skills fit for the future through multiple learning pathways.

Deepening People-to-People Exchanges

75. We reaffirm the importance of BRICS people-to-people exchanges in enhancing mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation. We appreciate the progress made under South Africa's Chairship in 2023, and including in the fields of media, culture, education, sports, arts, youth, civil society and academic exchanges, and acknowledge that people-to-people exchanges play an essential role in enriching our societies and developing our economies.

76. We recognise that youth is a driving force for accelerating the achievement of sustainable development goals. Leadership by young people is fundamental to accelerating a just transition premised on the principles of intergen-



erational solidarity, international cooperation, friendship, and societal transformation. A culture of entrepreneurship and innovation must be nurtured for the sustainable development of our youth. We reiterate the importance of the BRICS Youth Summit as a forum for meaningful engagement on youth matters and recognise its value as a coordinating structure for youth engagement in BRICS. We welcome the finalisation of the BRICS Youth Council Framework.

77. We commend the successful holding of the BRICS Business Forum. On its 10th anniversary, we welcome the BRICS Business Council's self-reflection with a focus on milestones achieved and areas of improvement. We further welcome the intention of the BRICS Business Council to track intra-BRICS trade flows, identify areas where trade performance has not met expectations and recommend solutions.

78. We acknowledge the critical role of women in economic development and commend the BRICS Women's Business Alliance. We recognise that inclusive entrepreneurship and access to finance for women would facilitate their participation in business ventures, innovation, and the digital economy. We welcome initiatives that will enhance agricultural productivity and access to land, technology, and markets for women farmers.

79. On its 15th anniversary, we recognise the value of BRICS Academic Forum as a platform for deliberations

and discussions by leading BRICS academics on the issues confronting us today. The BRICS Think Tanks Council also celebrates 10 years of enhancing cooperation in research and capacity building among the academic communities of BRICS countries.

80. Dialogue among political parties of BRICS countries plays a constructive role in building consensus and enhancing cooperation. We note the successful hosting of BRICS Political Parties Dialogue in July 2023 and welcome other BRICS countries to host similar events in the future.

81. We reaffirm our commitments under all the instruments and Agreements signed and adopted by the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture and commit to operationalising the Action Plan (2022-2026) as a matter of urgency through the BRICS Working Group on Culture.

82. We commit to ensure the integration of culture into our national development policies, as a driver and an enabler for the achievement of the goals set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also reaffirm our commitment to promote culture and the creative economy as a global public good as adopted at the World Conference on Culture and Sustainable Development-MONDIACULT22.

83. We agree to support the protection, preservation, restoration and promotion of our cultural heritage, including

both tangible and intangible heritage. We commit to take strong action to fight against illicit trafficking of our cultural property and encourage dialogue among culture and heritage stakeholders and commit to promote digitization of the culture and creative sectors by finding technologically innovative solutions and pushing for policies that transform ways in which cultural contents are produced, disseminated, and accessed. We reaffirm our commitment to support participation of cultural enterprises, museums and institutions in international exhibitions and festivals, hosted by BRICS countries and extend mutual assistance in the organisation of such events.

84. We welcome the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Sports to develop a BRICS Sport Cooperation Framework, during South Africa's Chairship in 2023. We look forward to the successful holding of the BRICS Games in October 2023 in South Africa. We commit to provide the necessary support for BRICS countries to participate in international sport competitions and meetings held in their own country in compliance with relevant rules.

85. We emphasize that all BRICS countries have rich traditional sport culture and agree to support each other in the promotion of traditional and indigenous sports among BRICS countries and around the world. We encourage our sport organizations to carry out various exchange activities both online and offline.

86. We commend the progress made by BRICS countries in promoting urban resilience including through the BRICS Urbanisation forum and appreciate the commitment to further strengthen inclusive collaboration between government and societies at all levels, in all BRICS countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda and promoting the localisation of the SDGs.

Institutional Development

87. We reiterate the importance of further enhancing BRICS solidarity and cooperation based on our mutual interests and key priorities, to further strengthen our strategic partnership.

88. We note with satisfaction the progress made on BRICS institutional development and stress that BRICS cooperation needs to embrace changes and keep abreast with the times. We shall continue to set clear priorities in our wide-ranging cooperation, on

the basis of consensus, and make our strategic partnership more efficient, practical and results oriented. We task our Sherpas to continue discussions on a regular basis on BRICS institutional development, including on consolidation of cooperation.

89. We welcome the participation, at the invitation of South Africa as BRICS Chair, of other EMDCs as "Friends of BRICS" in BRICS meetings below Summit-level and in the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue during the XV BRICS Summit in Johannesburg in 2023.

90. We appreciate the considerable interest shown by countries of the global South in membership of BRICS. True to the BRICS Spirit and commitment to inclusive multilateralism, BRICS countries reached consensus on the guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures of the BRICS expansion process.

91. We have decided to invite the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to become full members of BRICS from 1 January 2024.

92. We have also tasked our Foreign Ministers to further develop the BRICS partner country model and a list of prospective partner countries and report by the next Summit.

93. Brazil, Russia, India and China commend South Africa's BRICS Chairship in 2023 and express their gratitude to the government and people of South Africa for holding the XV BRICS Summit.

94. Brazil, India, China and South Africa extend their full support to Russia for its BRICS Chairship in 2024 and the holding of the XVI BRICS Summit in the city of Kazan, Russia.



Women in BRICS. Lessons from China and South Africa

■ By **Gadija Brown**

CULTURE, tradition, patriarchy and history play a role in female independence and self-sufficiency. These play a role with men as bosses, brothers, fathers and sons, as well as their understanding in the paradigm shift towards women's emancipation.

The independence of women is personal to me, as it is for many other women across the country and the world. I was engaged at 19, because of cultural and traditional pressures. My great-grandmother was married at 13, my grandmother had 12 children, my mother who was one of 6 siblings finally broke the chain and married at the age of 22.

It is therefore heartening that a programme has been launched in the Free State Finance department called Financial Literacy and Financial Liberation for women. It is a weekly series which over the period of a year had gone into what type of financial decisions women should make in building wealth and guidance towards money matters. This is done in partnership with commercial banks and the financial services industry.

Society benefits if we have more people rigorously active in the economy. Side-lining women or



young people is of no benefit to any economy.

Importance of BRICS for Africa

In order to understand the impact of BRICS in Africa, the five BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) together contribute nearly 31.5 per cent of the global GDP, compared to 30.7 per cent by G7 countries. (Business Standard, April 2023). In terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), the total combined GDP of BRICS countries is 17,3 Trillion USD.

The total population of BRICS countries is 3.2 billion and should

we add Africa, the total population size would be 4.6 billion people, more than half of the global population of 8 billion in 2023. The female population in BRICS is 1,569bn, and again if we add African women, it would equate to 2,2bn, more than a quarter of the global population.

Opportunities for women and access for women in the following demand areas:

There are therefore a range of social and economic opportunities, which should enable women of Africa to explore, working together with their sisters in the continent and other BRICS countries.



Some of these opportunities within these economies include the following:

- **Demands for Government** to achieve energy security, water security, food security, legislative and policy alignment on Climate change and sustainable development goals, over and above the socio economic objectives in education, health, safety and security.
- **Demand from industry, ownership and control of land, industries and logistics.** Access to work within the African Continental Free Trade Area, access to new sectors, industries and markets like renewable energy, innovation and technology; as well as access to the financial sector across the value chain and areas of mining and retail.
- **Consumers on the demand side** within the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy. In South Africa, this includes the preferential procurement process, where the target for women-owned businesses has just been raised from 30% to 40%.

The 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 has given us a voice. Today we have won the right to be invited and sit at the table where decisions are being made. With more women at the decision-making table, this should allow for inclusive and ethical decision-making, and decisions that would be to the benefit of greater humanity as a collective.

Learning from China and South Africa

A common phrase in China states that "Women hold up half the sky". Indeed, this is true. Women and girls represent half of the global population and half

BRICS Population vs Africa

	FEMALE	MALE
Brazil	110m (52%)	105m
Russia	77m (53%)	67m
India	662m (48%)	717m
China	690m (48%)	722m
South Africa	30m (50.8%)	29m
Africa	725m (50%)	725m

of the world's potential. Women's issues are human rights issues. China has accomplished tremendous progress on women's empowerment and the promotion of gender equality since the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. For example, there has been a welcome increase in women's autonomy in decision-making – with 24.9% of seats in China's national parliament being held by women, as of February 2021.

China's comprehensive legal system to protect women's rights and interests, including more than 100 laws and regulations – has meant that China has almost eliminated the gender gap in compulsory education, while women account for more than 40% of the employed workforce in society.

In South Africa, particularly through Section 9 of our constitution and other policies and laws, the issues of gender equality and a non-sexist society are firmly on our agenda.

This includes machinery that focuses on women's emancipation and various affirmative action policies targeting women, and action to ensure women's representation.

In the Free State province, 6 out of 10 departments are led by women. The province has a female Speaker, Deputy Speaker and a female ANC Chief Whip in the Provincial Legislature. The Free State Provincial govern-

ment has 50% plus females in decision making positions.

However, in the private sector, female CEOs constitute only 8% (22 women), up from 5% a year earlier. CFO representation stood at 22% (56 women) from 17%.

Among all the locally listed entities, the female representation at the executive level reached 15%, or 84 women, a slight improvement from 13%. Only 7 of a total of 100 JSE Listed companies are run by women.

It is therefore a sad truth that in the private sector, women continue to be inadequately represented in leadership roles, across the world and in all sectors. Female leadership remains restricted from the local to the global level, including in their political participation.

During the BRICS Summit hosted this year in South Africa, and through the BRICS Regarding Women's Business Alliance, we are certain that the agenda on women will be at the centre of its policies. We are also confident that women will be top of mind in its economic decisions, finance and investment decisions, as well as global socio geo-political decisions in alignment with the BRICS partnerships legislative and policy frameworks.

Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo/You Strike a Woman, You Strike a Rock.

Gadija Brown is MEC for Finance in the Free State.



■ By **Sephoka David Sekgobela**

COULD Parliamentary Democracy perhaps work better for South Africa than the current Constitutional Democracy? There are compelling reasons why we need to discuss these matters frankly and in a civil manner so that those who are better informed could enlighten us – each one, teaches one. This exercise is not about mobilizing people to reject the current Constitutional Democracy in favour of Parliamentary Democracy or vice versa. Any system could be abused if applied with nefarious intentions. The danger of abusing power is always present.

The main difference between Parliamentary Democracy and Constitutional Democracy is where the ultimate authority for law-making lies. In parliamentary sovereignty, law-making authority lies with the legislature, and in constitutional supremacy, it lies with the Constitution. Examples

of Parliamentary Democracy are Britain, Germany, Sweden, Japan, Australia, and Greece.

Under apartheid's Constitution of 1961, parliament was sovereign. The legislature had absolute sovereignty and was supreme over all other arms of government, namely the executive and the judiciary. No Act of parliament could be declared invalid by a court of law. The role of the judiciary was to apply the law passed by the legislature as it was, and not to make it, except through case law. The Constitution even precluded the courts from pronouncing on the validity of an Act of parliament.

In its Westminster context, parliament is taken as representing the interests of the people. However, in apartheid South Africa, parliament was never truly representative of all the people, but merely a small minority. The majority, Africans in particular, were

excluded on the basis of race. Under apartheid, parliamentary sovereignty was used as a political strategy to exclude the black majority from the common voters' roll and other social amenities of life. It was also applied to even preclude disenfranchised blacks from opposing the repressive laws of the regime such as the influx control, job reservations, Immorality Act, to mention but a few, lest they would be arrested for breaking the law.

That was wrong, because in a democratic society, parliament is not supposed to have unlimited powers, but should always be kept in check as representing the will of the people, and not act against the wishes of the majority who elected it. Even in Parliamentary Democracy, there should always be constitutional guarantees to safeguard the interests of the people. A parliament with unlimited powers is undemocratic and autocratic.

However, all that changed in 1994, when South Africa became a Constitutional Democracy. The Constitution became the highest source of authority in the land. As a breakaway from the 1961 apartheid Constitution, South Africa adopted an interim Constitution in 1993, which outlined the framework upon which the final Constitution would be based. South Africa adopted the final Constitution in 1996. Hence, the current Constitution is superior to parliament. It is the highest law of the land. No other law could go against the Constitution. Any laws or acts of Parliament that are inconsistent with the Constitution are declared invalid. No person, not even the President, could go against the Constitution. The courts have a pivotal role to play in upholding the Constitution. The role of the courts under Constitutional Democracy is to protect the Constitution.

Chief Justice, Raymond Zondo, whilst delivering the annual Grifiths and Victoria Mxenge memorial lecture at the Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), Eastern Cape, on Thursday 20 July 2023, confirmed the supremacy of the judiciary over other arms of government in a Constitutional Democracy. The

theme of the lecture was, *"The Role of a Strong Judiciary in a Constitutional Democracy."* He said, *"Our courts have enormous powers in our constitutional democracy, including the powers to declare invalid acts of parliament and the conduct of the president if such actions are inconsistent with the constitution."*

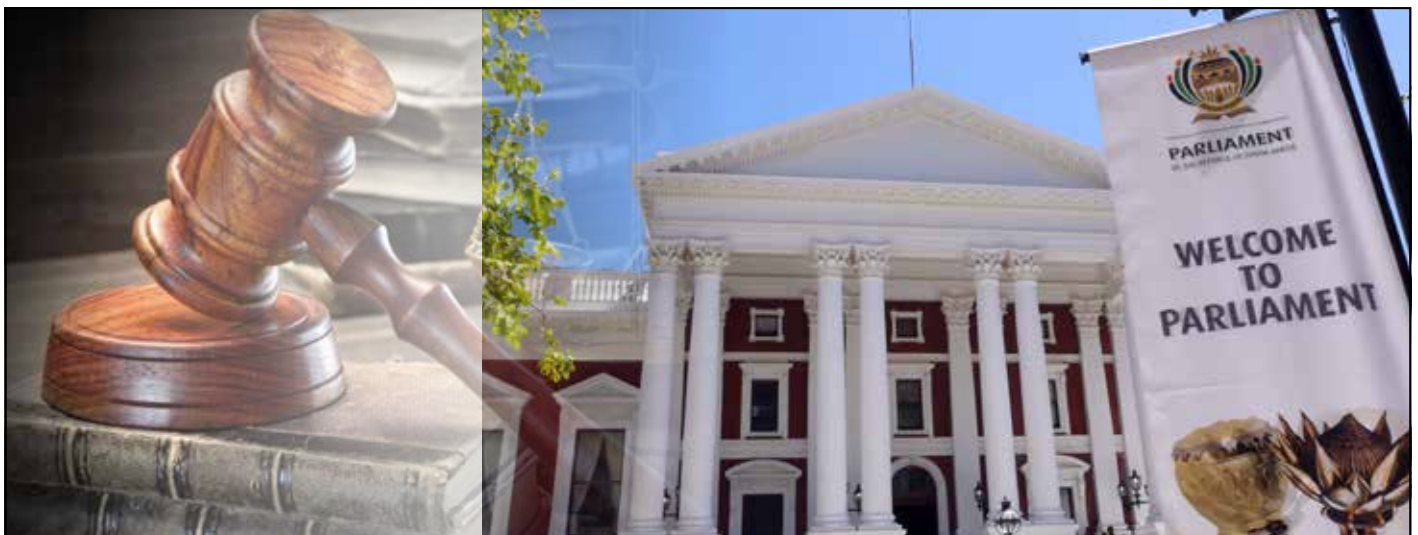
He emphasized that, *"the judiciary's role is to keep other branches of government in check when they violate the rule of law"*.

What Chief Justice Zondo said seems to be at the heart of the problem currently plaguing South African governance – apparent erosion of the doctrine of separation of powers, and the perceived "judicial overreach" by the courts. In asserting its function as the Constitutional vanguard, at times the judiciary will intrude to some extent on the terrain of the other arms of government, namely the legislature and the executive.

Some of the decisions of the courts under Constitutional Democracy would go against the wishes of the government and/or the ruling party representing majority of the electorate. There are those who are asking whether is it not time for a process to

review the current "anti-transformation Constitution" and allow the people to adopt the revised Constitution by way of a referendum. They aver that in a Constitutional Democracy, there seems to be some imbalance amongst the three spheres of government – the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. Power seems to have tilted more to the judiciary, against the other arms of government. With the current Constitutional Democracy, the judiciary may, and does often, reject policy directives by the executive and legislative instruments passed by parliament and signed by the president, and whenever that happens, the affected policy or legislation has no force in law. For instance, the Pretoria High Court recently reviewed and set aside the initial decision by the Department of Home Affairs not to renew the Zimbabwean Exemption Permits (ZEPs), and declared it "invalid, unlawful and unconstitutional".

Hence the issues raised by former Kwa-Zulu Natal Premier, Sihle Zikalala, whilst addressing the 2022 Human Rights Day commemoration on 21 March 2022, should not be left to dissipate into thin air. Zikalala called for a review of Constitutional Democracy: *"We want*

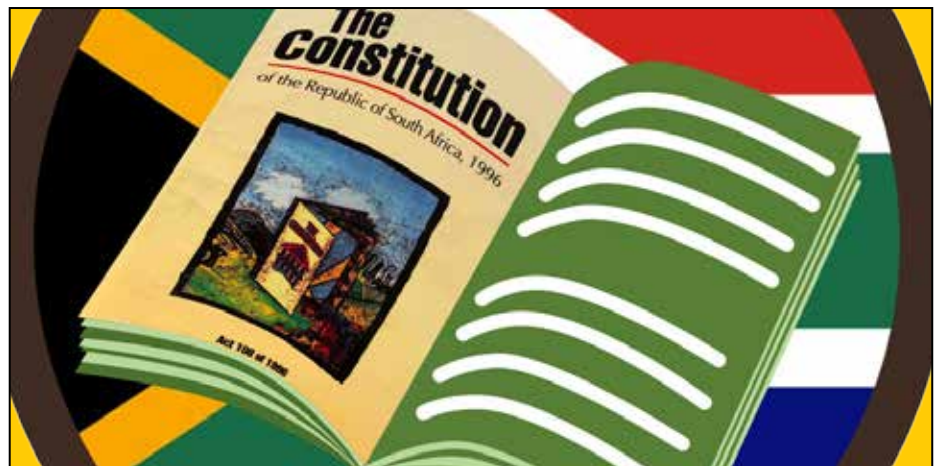


to issue the call for us whether it is not time to move away from absolute rule by the Constitutional Court to a situation where we have Parliamentary Democracy in which the voice of the people who elected is supreme to all other voices. ...We, therefore, need to pay serious attention to the recent reversal of transformation policies by courts. While we all have to respect and uphold the independence of the judiciary, we need to review the dilemma imposed by the system of Constitutional Democracy. This system places one organ of the state above others. It is time we should debate whether the country does not need Parliamentary Democracy where laws enacted by Parliament should be above all and not reviewed by another organ. It cannot be correct that transformation and the will of the people gets undermined by one arm of the state, possibly making a mockery of the idea of democracy itself".

He concluded that, "it was not fair that decisions taken by the executive to speed up transformation were being reversed by the Constitutional Courts on a regular basis".

There are those like Gwede Mantashe who also argue that parliament should be supreme in a democracy, because the judiciary is perceived "as a roadblock to achieving true democracy and meaningful social change".

Lindiwe Sisulu's opinion piece about the Constitution was dubbed "extraordinary attack on the Constitution" by the media and some political commentators. She wrote: "What we have instead witnessed under a supreme Constitution and the rule of law since 1994 has been the co-option and invitation of political power brokers to the dinner table,



whose job is to keep the masses quiet in their suffering while they dine on caviar with colonised capital. The politicians take care of themselves and their families while those who put them there go to bed hungry, waiting for crumbs from the table."

In response to criticisms against Lindiwe Sisulu's opinion piece, Arthur Mutambara, former Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, wrote an article titled "SA Constitution is not Sacred, Judges not Demigod, "Is the South Africa constitution the supreme law of the land? Yes. Is the document sacred? No. Is it flawed? Yes, and it must be criticised, and fundamental changes sought. Why?

Well, the South African Constitution is a ceasefire document (a settlement agreement) between the architects of apartheid and its beneficiaries on one side and the victims of apartheid on the other. It is a compromise and an imperfect document, pure and simple. Obviously, such a constitution will contain clauses, provisions and values meant to protect the interests of the architects and beneficiaries of apartheid.....In conclusion, let us have a healthy debate about the issues raised by Sisulu".

Constitutional Democracy guarantees some of the most extensive legal protections for minori-

ty rights, and is open to abuse by the minority, with the helping hand of the judiciary.

For instance, the minority opposition parties, often legally challenge the government successfully in courts with a myriad of court actions against some of the government policies and laws, and the judiciary is lending a hand in that regard, because they seem to be winning almost every case against the state. In other words, parliament is not sovereign, i.e. the powers of the executive and parliament are limited by the written Constitution.

Proponents of Constitutional Democracy argue that whenever a court declares the action or failure to act on the part of the executive to be unconstitutional, it does not necessarily help opposition parties or civil societies to co-govern the country.

In conclusion, it would seem that some of people prefer Parliamentary Democracy, with the inherent judicial review of the decisions as safeguard of the bill of rights, whilst the minority groupings, including those who are enjoying maximum protection of individual rights, including ill-gotten gains accumulated under the previous apartheid regime, would rather prefer Constitutional Democracy.

FUNCTIONALITY OF THE BRANCH

■ By **Mojaki Keoabetsoe Mojaki**



Our lesson today focuses on two integral concepts: Member and Branch.

Rules 5 and 23 of the ANC constitution are my references.

We join the ANC as individuals who are drawn together by a common purpose. One cannot claim to be a member if one has not embraced the ideological perspective of the ANC.

When individuals come together they form a branch.

In accordance with Rule 23 of the ANC constitution, a branch must elect the Branch Executive Committee that will spearhead branch program of action, interact with upper structures, discuss and adopt policies, principles, values and ethics of the ANC as adopted and disseminated by upper structures.

Rule 5 of the ANC constitution tabulated rights and duties of individuals in a branch. For one to be legible to lead the ANC at branch level one must first embrace Rule 5 religiously.

At the very first instance a member of the ANC has an obligation to:

- discuss
- formulate and
- implement policies of the ANC.

This is possible if one belongs to a branch.

But what if a branch is dysfunctional?

Whether we accept it or not, most branches are dysfunctional. And this deprive members to be active IN THE BRANCH but not in the ANC. Rule 5 doesn't say members should discuss, formulate and implement policies of the ANC not of the branch. It says the branch is the most critically important base of the ANC. By implication the branch is the engine of the ANC.

The branch is critical as a nucleus of the ANC. It is a basic unit where constructive and comprehensive discussions can flow deeper. Discussions are meaningful and intensive in a smaller group. And a branch that has only 100 members cannot be effective and efficient in policy formulation and critical in-depth debates.

A branch is the smallest unit of

the ANC. It engineers policies and express the sentiments of the people living in a ward.

(If I was to amend the ANC constitution I would say branches should be established according to Voting Districts. In that way it would be easy and fast to convene, discuss and debate with efficiency).

We don't need 100 or 1000 members in a branch. But few members who are able to carry out tasks and mandates of the ANC in bringing a better life for all people in the branch.

Numbers are needed for voting purposes. Thus, we need few people who can engage, agree and reach out to the broader community to solicit their involvement and participation in bringing change in their lives as a community.



Majority do not make decisions. They simply adopt them. And a branch should be a basket or bucket for accumulation of ideas. Fewer people meet and share ideas, debate and resolve on them. Then the broad community is sold those ideas to adopt and implement.

A branch is made up of individuals who are members.

Rule 23 states that if a branch is not doing as expected, a member should deal with that problem at that level and if nothing changes within two months, then a member can elevate that to upper structures.

But what should happen if the immediate higher structure is dysfunctional and fails to deal with the matter? We go higher and higher. And how do we deal with this if the NEC is not responsive to the problem raised at the branch level?

Reading both rules in the constitution I came to realize that the important component of the ANC is individual members.

The ANC needs a member:

- That understand the policies, principles and values of the ANC.
- Who can persuade and be persuaded by others to formulate those policies and influence and be influenced to sell those policies to others for adoption.
- A member who can propagate, articulate and defend those policies.
- Who is studious, who reads and learn at all times and be able to think independently in order to participate in processes and programmes of the ANC.

The problem is Complacency and taking things for granted.

Individuals elected to be leaders automatically think that they know the ANC better than others. As custodians of ANC policies, principles, values and ethics everyone starts to follow them and accept whatever they say just because they are elected to be leaders.

What we need to deal with is to elect people on merit and in line with the ANC constitution and guiding documents like *"Through the Eye of a Needle"*.

The ANC can only renew itself if individual members take full responsibility and select the best amongst themselves to assume leadership positions. It isn't enough to put people to lead just because they are available. Branches must have people with political insight and acumen.

When the constitution says one must have been a member of the ANC for at least two years before s/he can be considered for election it doesn't refer to numerical years but accumulative period during which a member learns about policies, regulations and processes of the organization.

We have discussed impediments so many times; however, platforms have undermined this. We ended up with populists, careerists and opportunists who know nothing about the ANC.

Unfortunately when you try to advise them they think you want to take over from them.

What should you do then? Leave them to continue destroying the ANC? Disobey them when they're asking you to implement

policies contradicting those of the ANC? Respect them by virtue of being elected leaders to the peril of the ANC?

As a member of the ANC, I advise you to read Rules 5 and 23 and do what is enshrined in them.

Rule 23 clearly outlines the purpose of a Branch and the BEC.

The constitution further outlines what the BEC should do.

1. Immediately after elections it must meet and ASSIGN TASKS to members.
2. Develop the programme of the branch that should be carried out by the members.
3. One important factor is that the ANC BEC should hold community meetings at least bi-monthly.
4. Hold branch meetings at least monthly so that a report can be presented to members and submitted to the REC.

But this isn't happening. The elected branch executive committee members regard themselves as the ANC. They choose who should be a member, who to get information, who to deploy etc.

A Functional Branch of the ANC must:

- Have a BEC that meets constantly and consistently.
- Have Political education sessions to discuss historical and contemporary socio-political and economic topics.
- Hold Community meetings to get information from the community and impart ANC information to the community.
- Have Community alliances with social, business, religious and academic institutions and clubs to have a collective voice.

The BEC must

- Have a database of all people in the branch. This database should register all professionals, academics, destitute, unemployed, business including taverns and recreational facilities, politicians, artists and influential people living in the branch.
- Involve and participate in municipality activities as well as liaise with the municipality on service delivery in the ward.
- Have information and report back meetings with the community on all matters of service delivery.
- Compile branch reports and send them to REC with recommendations and comments. Demand feedback on all matters raised by the branch and or the community. Matters which couldn't be resolved by the branch must be brought forth to seek intervention from higher structures.
- Have database of all members of the ANC and develop communication channels

apart from BGMS. The Membership Officer in the BEC must remind members and update them on their status.

- Strive to foster unity and integrity of the ANC branch and combat all forms of divisive tendencies and factions.

A branch that doesn't meet to formulate policies and have political discussions including addressing the community issues cannot qualify as a branch.

GENERAL COMMENT

The challenges we have are premised on lack of political acumen and social commitment. Election to leadership positions turn us into CHIEFS and not servants of those who entrusted leadership to us.

Majority of those leading ANC structures are using that to empower themselves materially. They serve their masters in upper echelons and not the people of South Africa. And that is made possible by the fact that the ANC

they know is the ANC presented to them by their masters.

We really need to wake up and start doing something from our branches going up. It shouldn't be about positions. To be elected doesn't make one an automatic leader. But serving the people, implementing ANC policies, educating others, is what makes one a leader.

Some amongst us think discussing individual leaders and defending them is political. They think quoting philosophers and books is political. They think using big words of English is political. Let me tell you, that's not being political but impressionist and populist.

Being political is discussing with the purpose of changing the prevailing socio-economic situation of your people. It is converting progressive ideas into functional programmes that transform your society.

I am giving you this lesson free of charge. My reward would be when you take them as advice and implement them to achieve the objectives of the ANC.

Stop talking about people and start talking with the people.

Stop following specific individuals and start following the ANC.

Stop talking too much in vain and start acting too much in gain.

I hope you enjoyed today's lesson and learned something. This is your ANC. Know it better. Make it better.

Be a leader not a bleeder.

My name is Mojaki Keoabetsoe Mojaki and I write what I like and like what I write.

Example of an ANC Branch sending out a notification for the Branch Biennial General Meeting (BBGM)





The UDF and the radicalism of non-racialism

■ By **Dr Wesley Seale**, ANC Western Cape PEC member

PERUSING the pictures of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the launch of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the event seemed to reflect, once again, the diversity of the South African people, just as the launch did 40 years ago. One could therefore be forgiven to suggest that the Johannesburg City Hall, like the Rocklands Civic Centre before it, belonged to all who sat in it, both Black and White.

There should therefore be little doubt that the crowd of Rocklands in 1983 undoubtedly sought to re-incarnate the non-racial character of Kliptown in 1955. Just as the generation of the Congress of the People sought to show the apartheid regime at the time the kind of South Africa they wanted, so too the generation of the UDF sought to personify non-racialism as well.

Since its very inception, though never “a substitute” or “a front movement of the ANC”, the UDF had a Charterist orientation.

For example, Padraig O'Malley writes that “within the UDF there were groupings that were either affiliated with the ANC or SACP or were material for conversion.”

Others such as Melvin Brintjies describe how (before) and after the launch of the UDF, “the Freedom Charter became our organizing tool...” and the encounters with people from other races allowed him “to understand that our struggle was about liberating and uniting everyone, irrespective of race, color or class.”

The non-racialism, as espoused by the Freedom Charter, permeated throughout the thinking and action of the UDF. In fact,

for O'Malley “the opposition to the [racist] tricameral parliament led to the creation in 1983 of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front, a broad, non-racial grouping of about 650 affiliates with a total membership of more than 2.5 million who collectively put the emphasis on mass mobilization and protest politics.”

Thulas Simpson in his book, **History of South Africa: From 1902 to the Present**, records how the launch of the UDF “adopted a declaration that demanded ‘a single, non-racial, unfragmented South Africa’ and concluded with a ‘pledge to come together in this United Democratic Front, and fight side by side against the government’s constitutional proposals and the Koornhof Bills.’” The constitutional proposals Simpson refers to was, of course, the racist tricameral parliament.

Yet the radiance of the radicalism of non-racialism by the UDF did not only glow in the political sphere but sought to shine its light in all walks of life darkened by apartheid. For example, while Charles Chordnum notes that the UDF promoted the **'Don't Vote'** campaign for the 1983 racist tri-cameral elections, he also points out the emergence over time of a *"divide between racist sports bodies and the anti-apartheid formations supporting non-racial sport under South Africa Council on Sport and the UDF..."* Racist sports events were therefore targeted, by UDF activists, and the particular example used by Chordnum is the Rapport Cycle Tour of 1986.

At the time of its existence, there were also formations that stood in sharp contrast to the non-racialism as espoused by the UDF and which had specific racial or nationalist outlooks. For example, there was the National Forum which, as Simpson explains, *"had been formed in June 1983 by 170 community organizations that were largely, though not exclusively, adherents of the Black Consciousness traditions."* At the same time, the vicious and violent attacks on the UDF by Inkatha, a Zulu nationalist organization which was supported by the racist regime in Pretoria at the time, cannot also go unmentioned.

It is difficult not to fall into the trap of multi-racialism. When one looks at Kliptown, Rocklands and Johannesburg, one thinks that because the crowd was multi-racial it was non-racial. Yet Murphy Morobe describes it best when in an interview at the time of the UDF he said when he got involved in student politics especially around 1976, as students they had an *"original evasion for*

any contact with white people." This would later change when working with people such as Dr Beyers Naude and Cedric Mason but that ultimately this multi-racial character of the organization led to a situation where *"one could deal with people of other colour as people with whom you could share the same views and opinions on issues."* A move therefore from experiencing people through the lens of race to embracing them through the lens of character, values and opinion.

In the same interview, Cheryl Carolus echoes the views of Murphy Morobe when she acknowledges that *"we are building a nation out of one that is fairly fragmented, that SA has never really been a nation and that, like it or not, we are all South Africans and we are going to have to shape a future in this country together."*

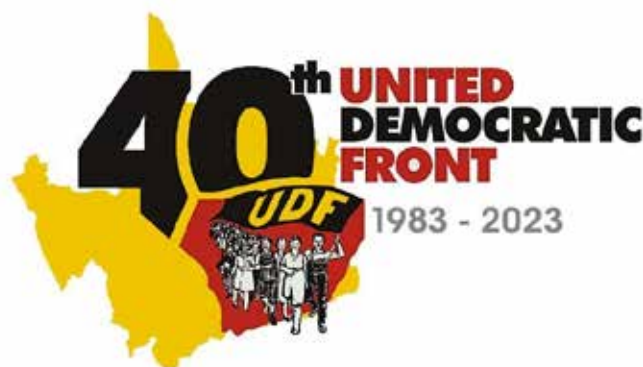
In all of this, one cannot ignore one of the very fundamental

characteristics of the UDF which would have contributed immensely to its non-racial character. While the figure differs from source to source, the UDF was primarily a front of organizations for organizations that were, in the main, issue based. The fact that these organizations were issue driven tilted the scale in favor of non-racialism and away from race-based politics as propagated by the apartheid state.

As if a daily reminder, hanging in my office is the words of a deacon of non-racialism and UDF leader, Professor Jakes Gerwel, when he observed: *"non-racialism is the most precious gift of the African people to this nation. There is no objective reason why, they should have continued to defend and promote this vision for our society, except that they believed it to be a morally superior vision of a society. It is that generosity of spirit which is the future of this nation."*



UDF poster



DECLARATION

Presented on the Occasion of the

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Johannesburg City Hall, 20th August 2023

WE, former members and activists of the United Democratic Front (UDF), gathered at the Johannesburg City Hall on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary and proudly recall the mass uprising of the 1980s.

Even 40 years later, it still constitutes the most significant mass democratic uprising the world has ever seen. The mass uprising was sustained, with unstoppable momentum, over an entire decade. Not even the detention without trial of 40,000 UDF leaders could stop the uprising.

The brutal killing of our comrades and the countless massacres by the forces of the apartheid regime only strengthened our resolve - who of us does not recall the mass funerals of the fallen?

We remember with deep sadness the many heroes and her-

oines who sacrificed their lives for our liberation. Our hearts still weep for you. It is a pain that cannot be overcome.

The power of the UDF resulted not only from the courage and commitment of its activists but also because it was a broad front of South African democrats: workers and academics; students and medical doctors; lawyers and writers; rural communities and city dwellers; musicians and sportspersons; bishops and imams; communists and liberals; black and white.

The UDF was launched to make the final assault on apartheid – regardless of the costs. We said, “Enough is enough!”. The final attack on apartheid was conducted not by a handful of charismatic leaders but by the masses of our people themselves.

The rallying call was: **UDF**

UNITES, APARTHEID DIVIDES!

The strategic objective was the creation of a **UNITED, NON-RACIAL AND NON-SEXIST SOUTH AFRICA** in which social and economic egalitarianism is practised.

It was a life-and-death struggle for human dignity. Through united mass action, the UDF rendered apartheid unworkable and the country ungovernable.

The great South African freedom struggle resulted in the overthrow of apartheid and the adoption of a Constitution by the democratically elected Constitutional Assembly. The South African Constitution is today the pride of our nation!

South Africa has made tremendous strides:

■ The long nightmare of apart-

heid and colonialism is no more!

- The civil service, the courts, and the professions are no longer a whites-only preserve.
- The provision of water, electricity, health, and education has penetrated the formerly neglected areas of South Africa.
- The people can choose their own government in regularly held free and fair elections.
- It would be difficult to find another country with more press freedom.
- We have an independent and courageous judiciary. Nobody is above the law.

South Africa is a different and better place! But sadly, our beloved country has many failings.

- Child abuse is rife.
- Unspeakable violence against women continues.
- Crime is rampant.
- Trains do not run, many hospitals are in a poor state, and many schoolteachers are delinquent.
- Many of our public representatives are not accountable to the people.
- Corruption in the private and public sectors is rife.

- The gap between the rich and the poor is unconscionable.
- The national wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few and is still racially skewed.
- After all these years, the pattern of land ownership remains unfair and unjust.
- Racism still rears its ugly head all too often.

But we declare today, that we are not a helpless people! We commit ourselves to be Active Citizens. Many otherwise well-meaning patriots have allowed themselves to be driven into inaction. To do nothing only serves to play into the hands of the wrongdoers. We must refuse to be passive recipients of corruption, incompetence, and lack of accountability. The freedom we fought for has created the democratic space to exercise people's power. We must fully occupy this democratic space!

We, therefore, call on all South Africans:

- To work for the improvement of education by participating in school governing bodies and alumni organisations.
- To contribute to fighting crime by participating in Community Police Forums (CPFS).
- To support and promote Civic Organisations.

- To participate in Ward committees to ensure that Councilors are both empowered and held accountable.
- To explore the creative way in which to hold MPs and MPLs accountable to the public, every day – not just once in five years;
- To promote social compacts between government, labour, business, and civil society aimed at economic growth, the creation of a more equal society, the creation of jobs, and the diversification of ownership patterns.
- To promote awareness, knowledge, and love for the human rights contained in our glorious Constitution.
- To make the protection of the environment and the combatting of climate change everyone's business

And

- To keep the heartbeat of democracy alive by registering to vote and participating in elections.

Finally, we call on all South Africans:

- **To speak up every day – let's not be complicit by being silent.**
- **Let us refuse to allow our history to be trampled upon or our future to be stolen!**

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

26 August – 1 September 2023

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

26 August 1966 PLAN launches armed struggle against South Africa

On 26 August 1966, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of SWAPO, fought in a battle against South African occupying forces at Omugulugwombashe in northern Namibia. In 1973 a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly declared 26 August, 'Namibia Day' to commemorate the gallant struggle of the Namibian people against South African occupation. On this date is also commemorated the anti-colonial war against Germany in the figure of Chief Samuel Maharero. This day is officially known as National Heroes Day in independent Namibia.

26 August 1975 Footballer Mercy Akide born



Pioneering African women's football player was born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. In 2001 she be-

came the first recipient of CAF's African Woman Footballer of the year award.

26 August 1975 Victoria Falls Conference

The Conference took place in a parked railway carriage in the middle of the Victoria Falls Bridge, on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and South African Prime Minister John Vorster acted as mediators, as Ian Smith, head of Rhodesia's minority government met Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, leaders of the liberation movements of Zimbabwe, to begin talks about an end to the civil war.

26 August 1978 SA High jump champion Hestrie Cloete born



Hestrie Cloete was born in Germiston, East of Johannesburg on 26 August 1978. She began participating in sports at an early age. Her long-time coach, Martin Marx, discovered her at the age

of 13. Hestrie won a gold medal at the world championships in Paris in 2003, and two silver medals at the Olympic Games, the following year. Hestrie Cloete was famous for her mental focus ritual of spinning her index fingers around each other and leaning sideways before every jump.

26 August 1985 Zola Budd Breaks World Record



In a low key event in Crystal Palace, England, South African born athlete Zola Budd broke the 5 000 metres world record set by Ingrid Kristiansens of Norway by more than ten seconds. Budd also stunned the sporting fraternity by running bare-footed on her way to claim this magnificent achievement. Kristiansens's record stood for 15 years before Budd broke it.

26 August 1996 Eugene de Kock convicted of six murders

The Supreme Court convicted former Police Colonel Eugene de

Kock (dubbed 'Prime Evil') of six murders of Black anti-apartheid activists during his service as commander of a police unit, C10 based at Vlakplaas, a farm outside Pretoria. He was also convicted of scores of lesser crimes, from conspiracy to murder to fraud. Amongst those that were killed were ANC lawyer, Bheki Mlangeni, and former Vlakplaas colleague and Askari, Brian Ngqulunga.

26 August 1996 **Johnnic Empowerment deal**

In South Africa's then largest empowerment deal, the National Empowerment Consortium made a deal with Anglo-American Corporation to buy 48% of shares in Johnnic Industrial Corporation (an investment holding company with interests in entertainment, media, casino, exhibitions and property).

26 August 2006 **Peace accord with Lord's Resistance Army**

The Ugandan government signed a peace agreement with Lord's Resistance Army of Joseph Kony, with an agreement to leave Uganda for camps in the DRC. The LRA in 2010 resumed its activities, with killings, abductions leading to over 400,000 refugees in DRC, CAR and South Sudan.

26 August 2019 **Rhino eggs harvested**

Kenyan scientists successfully harvest white rhino eggs from the last two remaining white rhino females. The sperm of the last male was taken before his death and is used to inseminate the eggs and create rhino embryos, in order to prevent extinction of this species.

27 August 1943 **Renowned author Sindiwe Magona born**



Sindiwe Magona, author of a large number of books, including children's books, was born on this day in the village of Gungulu, Transkei. A social worker and teacher as well, she writes about the experiences of women, her own experiences and tells South African stories. She has also produced plays and her internationally acclaimed books include *Beauty's Gift*, *Living, Loving, and Lying Awake at Night*, *To My Children's Children*, *Teach Yourself Xhosa*, and *Push-Push and Other Stories*. Her plays include *I Promised Myself*, *A Fabulous Middle-Age* and *Vukani!* She will be 80 this year.

27 August 1962 **Johannesburg Civic Theatre opens**

The modernist building was opened as a showcase for the performing arts, with more than 200,000 opera, theatre and ballet lovers attending the theatre in its first year. By law, black South Africans could not attend.

27 August 1963 **WEB du Bois passed on**

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, a giant amongst Pan African activists, was a founder of

the NAACP, the largest and oldest civil rights organization in the United States, and from 1910 to 1934 served it as director of publicity and research, a member of the board of directors, and editor of the *Crisis*, its magazine. During this period, NAACP advocacy was instrumental in securing anti-lynching legislation. WEB Du Bois was also active in the global Pan African movement, initiating the second and third Pan African Congresses. Du Bois published numerous important works on race. By the time of his death in 1963 he had written 17 books and edited four journals, and greatly influenced public discourse on race.

27 August 1975 **Emperor Haile Selassie passed on**



Haile Selassie was born Lij Tafari Makonnen, in the village of Ejersa Gor, in the Harar Province of Ethiopia. Heir to a 13th century dynasty, he ascended to the throne of Ethiopia in 1930, proclaiming himself 'Haile Selassie', which means 'Might of the Trinity'. In 1936, Emperor Selassie led the resistance against Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and also spoke out against the use of chemical weapons at the League of Nations. Exiled in 1936, he was restored to power in 1941. However, by the 1970s, Emperor

Selassie's apparent indifference to a major famine in the country resulted in the loss of popular support. In 1974, he was de-throned in a military coup by his successor, Mengistu Haile Mariam. It was reported that Emperor Selassie had died on 27 August 1975, but the cause of his death remained a mystery.

27 August 2019 **Rwanda efforts to protect cranes success**

The number of endangered grey-crowned cranes nearly doubled from 459 in 2017 to 748 in 2019, after concerted efforts by Rwanda to protect the birds and crack down on their illegal trade.

28 August 1878 **Zulu king captured**

King Cetshwayo, Zulu monarch was captured after his defeat during the British-Zulu War. When he took over from his father, King Mpande in 1873, he took a clear stance against British and Afrikaner colonial expansion. In 1875, Boers flooded across into Zululand, claiming land south of the Phongola River as well as attempting to tax Zulu homesteads in the north-west. King Cetshwayo sent several thousand warriors to the border and the Boers retreated. In December 1878, Cetshwayo rejected the British demand that he disbands his troops, and in January British forces invaded Zululand to suppress Cetshwayo. The British suffered a grave defeat at Isandlwana, where 1,300 British soldiers were killed or wounded. But, on March 29 the tide turned in favour of the British at the Battle of Khambula. King Cetshwayo was captured on this day and sent into exile. In 1887, the British formally annexed Zululand,

and in 1897 it became a part of Natal, which joined the Union of South Africa in 1910.

28 August 1923 **Journalist Bloke Modisane born**

Journalist, short-story writer and actor William (Bloke) Modisane was born in Sophiatown, Johannesburg on 28 August 1923. Modisane left South Africa in 1959 and, while in exile he published his only and much acclaimed book *Blame Me on History*. *Blame Me on History* was an examination of what apartheid did to the character and self-esteem of the educated Black man. The book was banned in South Africa in 1966. Modisane died in 1986 in Dortmund, West Germany and is rated as one of the finest Black writers and intellectuals of the 20th century.

28 August 1940 **Joseph Shabalala, Ladysmith Black Mambazo founder born**

Dr. Bhekizizwe Joseph Shabalala (28 August 1940– 11 February 2020) was founder and musical director of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, taking isicathamiya to the global stage and winning five Grammys and nominated for 17, during his lifetime.

28 August 1942 **President Eduardo dos Santos born**

President of Angola from 1979 to 2017 and leader of the MPLA, José Eduardo dos Santos was born in Luanda on this day.

28 August 1962 **Efuru starts journey**

Flora Nwapa on this day sent her first novel, *Efuru* to Chinua Ache-

be for advice. He encouraged her to submit her work for publication and sent her money to post the manuscript to Britain. *Efuru* became the first novel published in Britain in English by an African woman, and became a pioneering milestone for African writers.

29 August 1987 **FEDSAW Western Cape region Relunched**



On 29 August 1987, a new FEDSAW region of the Western Cape was launched. Leading women in the South African struggle were honoured at the launch. Breaking restrictions placed on naming and honouring various people, the launch nevertheless honoured amongst others Ray Alexander Simons, Hilda Bernstein, Lillian Ngoyi, Frances Baard, Helen Joseph, Dorothy Nyembe, Amina Cachalia and Albertina Sisulu. Organisations such as the African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) and the women's branch of the South African Congress of Democrats (COD) were also honoured.

28 August 2000 **Arusha Accord signed**

The Arusha Accords negotiated



by former Presidents Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Nelson Mandela of South Africa were signed, bringing an end to the Burundi civil war, which saw 300,000 killed.

29 August 2012 **ANC honours Tryphina Jokweni**

Tryphina Mboxela Jokweni was amongst the women who organised the 1956 Women's march to the Union building. She was a member of the ANC at the time and when Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) was formed, she joined in 1962. She is one of the pioneers of MK. She was arrested in 1966 in her hometown, Umkhumbane, Durban and detained for six months. After her release, she moved to Umlazi, where she continued working in the underground, using her home as a safe house for MK cadres. In 1987, she was detained and tortured by the police, and gave testimony to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Jokweni passed away in 2002. On 29 August 2012, the ANC commemorated Jokweni and recognized her contributions to the liberation struggle by laying a new tombstone for her at the Wentworth Cemetery, Durban.

30 August 1943 **John Kani born**

On this day Bonisile John Kani was born in New Brighton, in the Eastern Cape. He matriculated at Newell High School and his love for theatre led him to work with several drama groups in the New Brighton area where they performed at schools and for communities. He joined the Serpent Players drama group in 1965 where he met Athol Fugard. In collaboration, they produced

some of the most well-known plays, including *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* – which launched his career in theatre locally and abroad. The play also won numerous awards, including the Tony Award in 1975. His numerous other involvements in theatre led him to become one of the most celebrated actors and playwrights in South Africa.

30 August 1956 **Zambian Speaker born**

Nelly Mutti was born in Ndola, Zambia. A well-known human rights lawyer, she served as her country's chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Commission (2002-2006) and a Commissioner of the constitutional review process. She was elected unopposed as first female Speaker of Parliament of Zambia.

30 August 1990 **Pineapple museum**

Standing just under 56 feet tall, the 3-storey Pineapple Museum in Bathurst, Eastern Cape, and made of metal and fibre glass, this building lays claim to being the largest pineapple in the world.

31 August 1966 **Battle of Algiers premiers**

The neo-realistic film about the Algerian War of independence fought against France premiered at the Venice Film Festival. Banned in France for portraying the French atrocities during the war, it won international awards and became a cinema classic, inspiring other liberation struggles across the continent.

31 August 1992 **University of Namibia established**

An Act of the Namibian parlia-

ment established the first national university, with its main campus in Windhoek.

31 August 2012 **Sister Bernard Ncube passed on**



On 31 August 2012, anti-Apartheid activist Sister Bernard Ncube died at the age of 80. A practicing Roman Catholic nun, she was recruited into the struggle by Albertina Sisulu. Despite reservations from the church, Sister Ncube used her faith to defend her activism and was outspoken about the human rights abuses of the Apartheid state, the dangers of capitalism, and the importance of reproductive rights. After being elected to parliament in 1994, Sister Ncube chaired the portfolio committee on Arts and Culture and was elected mayor of the West Rand municipality in 2002. She continued to be active in politics throughout her life despite the church maintaining that nuns should not be politically active. Her funeral was held at the Regina Mundi Church where President Jacob Zuma paid tribute to her saying that *"South Africa has lost a compassionate human being who was fearless and never relented in her convictions"*.

31 August 2001 **World Conference Against Racism starts in Durban**

The third UN World Conference

Against Racism, made up of delegates representing hundred and sixty countries, was held in Durban during the weeklong third United Nations-sponsored World Conference on Racism. Former Ireland Prime Minister, Mary Robinson was the secretary general of the Conference. Two previous UN anti-racism conferences were held, in 1978 and 1983.

1 September 1773 **Phyllis Wheatly poetry published**

Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral was published in London. It was the first book of poems published by a West African woman. Phyllis Wheatly was enslaved in West Africa, sold into slavery and transported to America at the age of 8.

1 September 1902 **Emmanuel Caulcrick first**

Emmanuel Caulcrick became the first Nigerian pharmacist to be registered in Nigeria on this day. He opened a pharmacy in Lagos.

1 September 1961 **Founding of the Non-Aligned Movement**

(NAM) was founded in 1961, with its first conference in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, with the view to advancing interests of developing countries. In its first three decades, the Movement played a crucial role in decolonization, formation of new independent states, and democratization of international relations. Present at the founding Conference were African delegations, including Emperor Selassie of Egypt, King Hassan II from Morocco, President Nkrumah from Ghana, Mali President Modibo Keita, Somali President Aden Adde, Sudan

President Ibrahim Abboud and Gamal Nasser, President of Egypt. Cdes Sam Nujoma (SWAPO) and Oliver Tambo (ANC) attended the conference as observers.

1 September 1969 **Gaddafi seize power in Libya**



On 1 September 1969, Muammar Gaddafi seized power in Libya after a coup d'état. Gaddafi, the leader of the Free Unionist Officers movement, overthrew the monarchical rule of King Idris, who ruled Libya since independence in 1951.

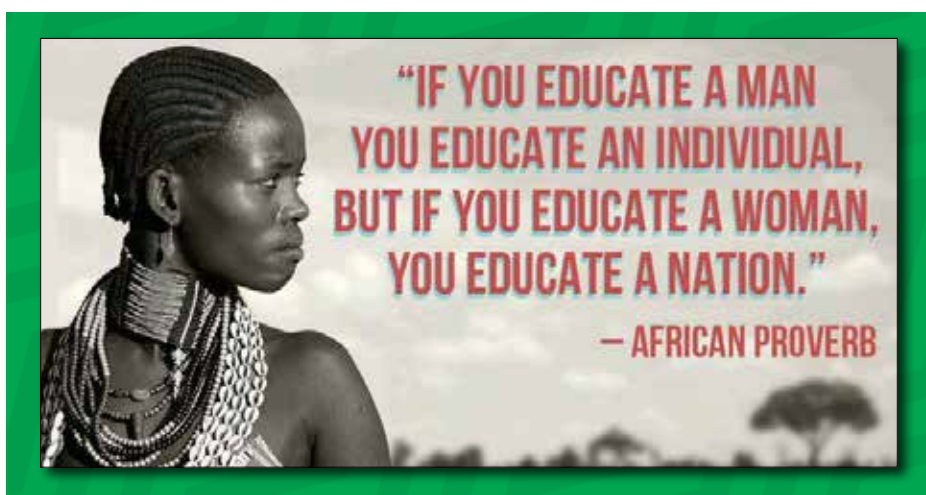
1-2 September 1976. **Students march through Cape Town City centre**

About 2 000 students from Langa,

Nyanga and Gugulethu marched through the Cape Town CBD. On 2 September the ban on public gatherings throughout the country was re-imposed until 31 October. Just a day after the ban was re-imposed, Coloured students marched to the CBD. However, the police were prepared and subsequently closed down the CBD. Tear gas was sprayed on students, affecting people working in the area and forcing them out into the chaotic streets.

1 September 1990 **Goldstone report on Sebokeng killings**

The report of the inquiry, led by Justice Richard Goldstone, into the shooting by the police of anti-Apartheid protesters in the township of Sebokeng on 26 March, 1990, was made public. On 26 March police had opened fire on anti-apartheid protesters in the township of Sebokeng, near Johannesburg, killing at least 14 people and wounding more than 380. The people of Sebokeng were protesting against high rents and the racial segregation of local facilities. The report criticized the actions of the police, saying that they had used force, which was *"quite immoderate and disproportionate to any lawful object sought to be attained"*.



INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

26 August – 1 September 2023

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

26 August

Dog Day

Dogs have been domesticated as humans' best friend over 40 000 years. They are part of the wolf-like canids. The World Canine Organisation recognises over 340 breeds of dogs. Organisations like the SPCA and others look after the well-being of dogs and other pets, but it's all our responsibility to care for our best friends.

28 August

International Day for Universal Access to Information



Access to information is key to democratic rights, enshrined in our Constitution and promoted and protected through laws such as the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) and the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA). POPIA affords the right to protection against the unlawful collection, retention, dissemination and use of personal information. It governs processing of personal information in a responsible way. PAIA provides a right of access to information held by private and public bodies.

28 August

Bow Tie Day

Bow ties are seen as worn by older men, nerds and scientists; but they are versatile and stylish and not just restricted to men. The day celebrates this dashing accessory!

29 August

International Day against Nuclear Tests



The first nuclear bomb, named Trinity and part of the Manhattan project, was tested by the USA on 16 July 1945 in New Mexico. Just over a month later, the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on 6 August 1945, immediately killing 80 000 people and tens of thousands' others later as the effects of radiation were felt in the years and decades to come. Since 1954, eight countries collectively have carried out over 2000 nuclear tests, with damaging impact on people and the environment. France for example tested most of its nuclear weapons tests in its then colonies, Algeria and French Polynesia. The UN eventually adopted the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty in 1996, although this has not stopped countries' nuclear tests.

29 August

Independent Bookstore day

Independent bookstores are not linked to a chain store, often owner operated, allowing them to stock books of choice. Some independent bookstores specialize in poetry, progressive literature,



crime or science fiction with a combination of new and secondhand books. Research showed that having an independent bookstore in a neighbourhood increases the value of properties. In South Africa, bookstores are mainly found in formerly white areas, and booksellers have looked at innovative ways of getting books into all communities; with authors self-publishing and selling out of the boot of their cars, to an initiative like the Eyethu Pop-up library which sells books at a taxi-rank stand in Kimberley and the 'Booksellers of Mzansi' initiative in Durban, that support homeless people to make a living by selling secondhand books on the streets of the city.

29 August More Herbs, less Salt day

Most of us consume more than 1.5 teaspoons of salt every day, which is way, way too much for our bodies. Salt contains sodium, which can lead to high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke. On this day, try using herbs instead of salt in your food. You can use garlic, turmeric or ginger for anti-inflammatory benefits, or use onions, dill, cloves, nutmeg, or fresh herbs like parsley or coriander.

30 August International Day of the Disappeared

Enforced disappearance has frequently been used as a strategy to spread terror within the society. The feeling of insecurity generated by this practice is not limited to close relatives of the disappeared, but also affects their communities and society as a whole. Disappearance has become a global problem and is not restricted to a specific region of the world. Once largely the product of military dictatorships, enforced disappearances can nowadays be perpetrated in complex situations of internal con-



flikt, especially as a means of political repression of opponents. Of particular concern today are the ongoing harassment of human rights defenders, relatives of victims, witnesses and legal counsel dealing with cases of enforced disappearance; the use by States of counter-terrorist activities as an excuse for breaching their obligations; and the still widespread impunity for enforced disappearance. Hundreds of thousands of people have vanished during conflicts or periods of repression and conflict in at least 85 countries around the world.

30 August Amagwinya Day

Every culture has at least one fried bread dish. For South Africa, that's the Amagwinya. Buy it from a local vendor, or try making your own at home.

31 August African Traditional Medicines Day

Traditional African medicine is a holistic discipline involving the use of indigenous herbalism combined with aspects of African spirituality. About 80% of Africa's population relies on traditional medicine


HERBS THAT HEAL

for their basic health needs. In some cases traditional medicine is the only healthcare service available, accessible and affordable to many people on the continent. In this case, the significant contribution of traditional medicine as a major provider of healthcare services in Africa cannot be underestimated. There remain entrenched and historical biases against traditional medicines, although pharmaceutical companies and researchers often raid medicinal plants used by traditional healers on the continent, without recognition of the indigenous knowledge intellectual property.

31 August International Overdose Awareness Day

The day aims to reduce the number of deaths caused by overdose, by raising awareness and erasing the stigma associated with it. Besides death, drug overdoses also cause permanent injuries. Both of these scenarios devastate family members and friends of those who have suffered an overdose. This observance seeks to help people cope with the pain and grief overdoses cause. Another important message on this day is to discuss how overdoses are entirely preventable.

31 August International Day for People of African Descent



The International Day for People of African Descent was celebrated for the first time on 31 August 2021, in the aftermath of the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Through this Observance the United Nations aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent.

September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Although childhood cancer is relatively rare, the incidence rate has been increasing. According to a 2014 report by the American Cancer Society, it is now estimated that one in 408 children worldwide will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 15.



September Albinism Awareness Month

ALBINISM AWARENESS MONTH SEPTEMBER



“Her **albino** hair illuminated my dreams, shining brighter than moonlight.”

ANNA KAVAN

Albinism is an inherited condition where a person is unable to produce normal colouring of the skin, hair and eyes (lack of pigments). The condition can be limited to the eye or involve the eye and the skin. The condition affects about 1 out of 20,000 people in the world. In South Africa, according to Mswela (2016), the incidence of albinism is about 1 out of 4000.



In last week's ANC Today (page 4), we carried a statement by the ANC Veterans' League titled: “Statement of the ANC Veterans League following its 1st NEC meeting on 17 August 2023.”

The correct title is: “**Statement of the ANC Veterans League following its 2nd NEC meeting on 17 August 2023.**”

X-WORD

Women in African History



ACROSS

2. Nigerian feminist and political leader, advocate for women's education
6. Flora Nwapa, pioneer of women's literature first novel, a classic.
9. Banished to Brandfort, ANC Women's League President
12. FEDSAW leader of 1956 Women's March and first on ANC NEC in 1958.
13. Iconic author of *To my Children's Children*, born 27 August 1943, turning 80 this year.
14. Ethiopian Empress contributing to victory at **Battle of Adwa** (1896).

DOWN

1. Environmental activist, Nobel Peace laureate, founder of Green Belt Movement in Kenya.
3. Amongst first who joined MK in 1962.
4. MK commander, SASO leader, first chairperson of Commission on Gender Equality.
5. Only of her gender at 1912 ANC founding conference, formed Bantu Women's League in 1918.
7. Mozambican freedom fighter and FRELIMO leader (1954-1971).
8. South African who served longest banning orders, UDF President, FEDSAW activist.
10. Dahomey Kingdom women warriors who fought slavery.
11. Broke 15 year 5000 meters world record, running barefoot in 1985.

WORD BANK

Albertina Sisulu | Thenjiwe Mtintso | Winnie Madikizela-Mandela | Charlotte Maxeke
 Lillian Ngoyi | Tryphinia Jokweni | Zola Budd | Sindiwe Magona | Efuru
 Taytu Betel | Agojie | Funmi Ransome-Kuti | Wangari Maathai | Josina Machel

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