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Conversations with the
President



The Veterans' League is the Embodiment of the Values, Mission, Tradition, Culture and Ethos of the ANC

Address Of ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa to the 3rd National Conference of the ANC Veterans' League
30 July 2023

It is a great honour to address this closing session of the 3rd National Conference of the ANC Veterans' League.

In line with the mandate set forth by the ANC 55th National Conference to unite and renew

our movement, the NEC of the ANC pledged to convene successful conferences of all its Leagues to establish proper and functioning structures.

With the conclusion of the conference of the ANC Veterans

League and the election of its national leadership, we have concluded an important part of that task.

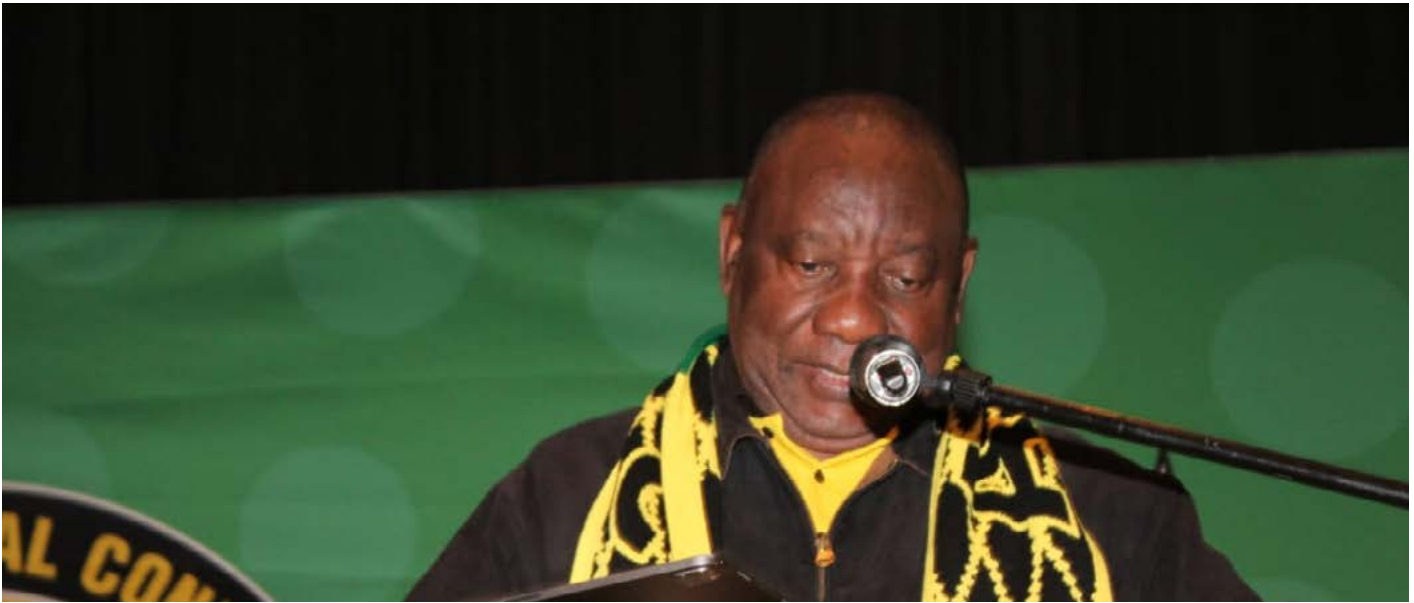
I congratulate the SGO, the Task Teams and all the cadres of our movement who worked diligently

Let us build this Great Nation Together

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A just cause finds great support

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to make this a reality.

The Veterans' League has shown that indeed it is the embodiment of the values, mission, traditions, culture and ethos of the ANC.

This was reflected in both the form and content of your 3rd National Conference.

In form, the Veterans League Conference was conducted with extreme precision and discipline. You completed your entire Agenda of Conference in the allotted time: from Constitutional Amendments to Commissions, to elections of leadership.

The NEC was elected in the true spirit of Through the Eye of a Needle: ensuring the NEC reflects gender, capacity, geographic spread, experience and the national question.

The consensus manner in which you agreed to this NEC was truly exemplary. In fact, this is what we expect from true veterans of our movement, to place unity, and the character of the ANC, above

individual positions.

Through the deliberations and decisions of this Conference, the veterans of our movement have made a clear and definitive statement of their determination to unite, rebuild and strengthen the African National Congress.

They have also expressed their deep concern that the resolutions of successive ANC Conference on renewal "have not always received serious, systematic and urgent attention from the leadership of the movement". This is a concern that we, as the ANC NEC, recognise and acknowledge, and that we are working through our programme of action to address.

The veterans represented here have reaffirmed their commitment to the advancement of the National Democratic Revolution and the realisation of a free, democratic and equal South Africa.

This Conference confirms the role that veterans and stalwarts continue to play within our movement.

We look to our veterans and stalwarts as a vital link to our proud and distinguished history of struggle. In our veterans we see embodied the values and the principles that have defined our movement over many decades.

And yet, while our veterans provide an essential link to our past, they are firmly rooted in the present and their efforts are firmly focused on the future.

The ANC Veterans' League is, at its core, concerned with the future of the ANC, the future of our country and the direction of the National Democratic Revolution.

This Veterans' League is not given to nostalgia. It does not dwell on the great victories of the past.

This is a Veterans' League that is actively engaged with the challenges and the opportunities of the present.

This is a League of activists who are prepared to work and who are ready to engage.

Central to the purpose and the programme of the Veterans' League is the renewal and revitalisation of the ANC, the Alliance and the broader democratic movement.

As we prepared for the ANC 55th National Conference in December last year, the Veterans' League came forward with important proposals on renewing and reorganising the ANC so that it may reconnect with the people.

Many of these proposals find expression in the resolutions of the 55th National Conference, our programme of action and the ANC Roadmap to 2023.

In describing the actions we need to take to renew the ANC, the Veterans' League has consistently – and correctly – placed the interests of the people of South Africa at the centre.

They have made the fundamental point that the ANC does not exist for its own sake. It exists to serve the people and to unite all South Africans for the achievement of a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic country.

I want to emphatically endorse the overall tasks the Veterans' League set for itself towards and beyond this Conference.

The Veterans' League is absolutely correct when it says that it needs to be at the forefront of the renewal of the ANC.

The purpose of renewal is to improve the material conditions of the people.

And the work that we do as the ANC to improve the lives of South Africans in turn contributes to building and strengthening our movement.

It is by renewing the ANC that we will be able to better drive the provision of public services and infrastructure, the alleviation of poverty, the creation of jobs and economic opportunities, and improved safety and security.

As we do this work of renewing our movement, as we focus our attention on the needs of the people, as we become more outward-looking in our programmes, we will in turn be building an organisation that is more united, more cohesive and more effective.

That is why the ANC Programme of Action for 2023 positions the ANC as a campaigning organisation that is rooted among the masses and that directs government to change people's lives for the better.

The Programme of Action gives effect to the 55th National Conference resolutions and the tasks laid out in this year's January 8th Statement.

This programme focuses on building the organisation and driving its renewal through our branches and members. It is only through political work in communities that we will be able to build a strong organisation, develop our cadreship and restore our standing in society.

As we have done in the past, we need to use the 2024 election campaign to build our structures, to

engage our members in campaign work and to be in constant contact with the people.

Our programme of action also includes engagements with organisations, groupings and stakeholders across society. As the Veterans' League has said, the ANC should take the initiative of learning from our past mistakes and affirm that it recognises and respects the autonomy and independence of civil society organisations.

Proceeding from this understanding, we should work to ensure that these engagements lead to cooperation on practical issues of social transformation.

As the ANC and as the Alliance, we need to work closely with other formations that share the goal of social and economic change, that seek to improve the lives of South Africans, and that seek to strengthen our democracy and advance the rights of all people.

We will not agree on all matters, nor will we necessarily share the same ideological perspectives, but we are united by a common desire to transform our society and improve the material conditions of its people.

In just a few weeks from now, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the United Democratic Front.

In recalling this seminal moment in our struggle for democracy, we should draw lessons from the experience of the UDF as a broad front for liberation.



The UDF mobilised a remarkable range of formations from across society to confront the might of the apartheid state and to forge the path towards a united and democratic society.

As we reflect on that history, we should avoid the temptation to bemoan, by comparison, our current organisational state. Instead, we should use the lessons of the UDF to revive the activism and vibrancy of our structures.

We should be inspired by the UDF example to empower and enable our cadres, and to forge a broad front to drive social and economic transformation.

To undertake this work, we need to fix the problems in the ANC. We need to correct our mistakes and address our weaknesses.

Over the course of several years, the veterans and stalwarts of our movement have led the call to confront and defeat corruption, patronage and other tendencies within the ANC.

They have said that unless we do so,

the very survival of our movement is at stake and the progress of the National Democratic Revolution is under threat.

This concern is echoed in resolution on Strategy and Tactics that we adopted at the 54th National Conference, where we said:

"It cannot altogether be ruled out that the liberation movement itself can be so corrupted – in terms of its objectives, policies, value system, as well as composition and conduct of leadership – that it becomes a bed of counter-revolutionary infestation."

That is why our 55th National Conference strongly reaffirmed our positions on the sustained renewal of the ANC "to regain the moral, intellectual and political high-ground as the leader of society."

The Conference said:

"There is no turning back on the fundamental renewal of the ANC and radical socio-economic transformation of South Africa. Conference delegates share a

common commitment to arrest any negative tendencies and decisively correct errors that threaten to overshadow and reverse the gains of our democracy."

In the end, we will not stop corruption within our ranks unless we deepen the ethical consciousness of our members and leaders.

When we joined the ANC, we each made a solemn declaration that we were joining the organisation without motives of material advantage or personal gain. Yet there are some among us who have clearly forgotten their oath.

Those who see the ANC as a path to wealth, to power, to influence or status must know that they do not belong in our movement. They must change their ways or they must leave.

If we are to rebuild the ANC as an ethical movement that enjoys the confidence of the people, then we need cadres of integrity, honesty and commitment.

Part of renewing our movement,

is revitalising, energising and establishing credible and legitimate branch structures of the ANC. There has been a tendency in our movement for our structures to only become active during elections and towards conferences.

Active ANC structures, grounded in all facets of community life and leading community campaigns, must be the touchstone of our organisation.

We therefore welcome the resolve of all our Leagues to also rebuild their structures as part of our drive to renew and unite the movement.

The Veterans' League has also set a target for itself to participate actively in resolving local issues, including through participation in ANC branches, community structures and other forms of active citizenry.

We encourage the League to sustain this campaign and link it more closely to the ANC's revived Letsema-campaign and seek partnerships with Alliance, MDM and other progressive community structures.

Making local government function more effectively and serving communities better is crucial to creating a better life for all. ANC structures must work to make local government effective and efficient.

The 55th National Conference was clear that our members and leadership should undergo political, ideological and theoretical training. The Veterans' League's resolve to be actively

involved in every aspect of political education is therefore vital to preserving the culture and traditions of our movement.

The OR Tambo School of Leadership has demonstrated that our members have great appetite for training. The participation of young people in this training is an indication of the great potential there is to build a new cadre.

This is a pillar of our organisational renewal in which the veterans have a particularly important role to play. They have the experience, the knowledge, the political consciousness and the ideological clarity we need to train and mentor new generations of activists.

Alongside the work we must undertake to renew and rebuild the ANC, we must decisively address what are perhaps the most challenging social and economic circumstances since the advent of our democracy.

We are still grappling with the effects of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, which caused the loss of more than 6 million lives across the globe and more than 100,000 in our own country.

The pandemic triggered as one of the worst job crises since the Great Depression. South Africa alone lost some 2 million jobs.

International instability, turmoil in the global economy and the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict is fuelling higher fuel and food prices, increasing the cost of living for millions of South Africans. On top of this, we are in the grip of an energy crisis that has been many

years in the making.

In responding to this grave challenge, our most pressing priority must be the creation of employment, especially for young people. This means the economy needs to grow faster, it needs to be more inclusive and it needs to attract far greater levels of investment.

In line with the resolutions of the 55th National Conference, we are intensifying our investment drive and taking steps to improve the investment climate.

The ANC government has therefore taken steps to restore policy certainty and consistency, root out corruption in state-owned enterprises, strengthen law enforcement agencies and affirm the rule of law.

We have worked to remove unnecessary regulatory impediments to investment, reform our immigration regime to encourage an inflow of skills and tourists, and develop our ports, railways and roads.

National Conference identified the construction of infrastructure as one of the most effective drivers of economic activity, growth and employment. We have placed particular emphasis on supporting small businesses, cooperatives and businesses in the informal sector.

All of the work we are doing to stimulate investment and create jobs is being hampered by the severe electricity crisis. Despite the current levels of load shedding, the reality is that we have made important progress over the last

PERSPECTIVE



five years to fix the deep-seated problems in our electricity system.

Over the next few days, government will be releasing a one-year review of the implementation of the Energy Action Plan. It will show the work that has been done to restore and rebuild Eskom, to improve the performance of its power plants, to unlock massive investment in new generation capacity, and to manage demand.

As we have said before, we will not end load shedding overnight. But we have a clear path out of the electricity crisis that will create the conditions for energy security for all South Africans into the future.

The well-being of our people, the progress of our society and the development of our economy requires that we overcome crime and violence.

We are strengthening the police to prevent crime and improving the capacity of the National Prosecuting Authority and courts to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.

Government has been working closely with civil society to intensify the fight against gender-based violence and femicide. The ANC and Alliance, and particularly the ANC Women's League, have been active in this work.

Ultimately, we will only end gender-based violence if all of society is mobilised in a concerted and consistent campaign to change behaviour and transform gender relations.

As instructed by the 55th National

Conference, the ANC government is making progress in the fight against corruption.

We have done much to dismantle the state capture networks in state-owned companies, law enforcement agencies and other entities. And we have made significant progress in rebuilding all these institutions and restoring their integrity.

There is almost no part of the state or society that is not affected by corruption. Yet it is the government led by the ANC that has put in place the instruments to tackle corruption. Progress is being made. People are being prosecuted and funds are being recovered.

We have often said that our progress as a nation cannot be separated from the progress of the African continent as a whole.

To drive the growth, diversification and development of African economies, the ANC is working with our counterparts elsewhere on the continent to strengthen the African Union and ensure that the African Continental Free Trade Area is effectively implemented.

Our foreign policy stance is informed by the understanding that multilateralism and respect for international law are key to global political and economic stability. We continue to work for the fundamental reform of multilateral institutions to more effectively respond to the needs of the Global South.

There have been concerted efforts to draw South Africa into a broader

geopolitical contest. Yet, we have consistently maintained our non-aligned stance, our respect for the UN Charter and our support for the peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue.

Our non-aligned position exists alongside our active support for the struggles of the oppressed and marginalised in different parts of the world.

Just as we benefited from international solidarity, the ANC pledges solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine and Western Sahara in their respective struggles for freedom, justice and democracy.

These are among the priorities and tasks identified in our January 8th Statement. They have also been the subject of deliberations and decisions at this National Conference of the ANC Veteran's League.

This Conference has done much to further enrich our approach to renewal, to sharpen our analysis of the key challenges of the moment and to provide further momentum to the rebuilding of our movement.

I commend all the members of the ANC Veterans' League on a successful and productive National Conference.

As the ANC National Executive Committee, we look forward to working with the Veterans' League to rebuild the ANC, serve the South African people more effectively and ensure the advance of the National Democratic Revolution ■

Let us build this Great Nation Together

**Remarks by Deputy President Paul Mashatile on
the occasion of the National Dialogue on Coalition
Governments, University Of The Western Cape,
August 4, 2023**

Iwould like to welcome all of you to this national dialogue on coalition governments. Our gratitude also goes to our hosts, the University of the Western Cape and the Dullah Omar Institute of Constitutional Law, Governance, and Human Rights.

This is the first time ever that the leadership of as many sectors of our country have met to deliberate on a critical issue that has caught the imagination of the nation and will undoubtedly resonate beyond our borders.

In reality, our deliberations over the next two days are several years late, in that, like everything else, our democracy has been continuously evolving, though with little collective reflection among the broad sections of our country's leadership. Had we paused earlier to reflect on how best to promote and maintain consensus within our evolving democracy, we might have avoided some of the recent distressing scenes that have played out dramatically in some of our metropolitan municipalities.

The government is keenly aware of the challenge of addressing such a contentious issue as coalition building. Universally, every political party desires to govern. However, when an election produces no outright winner, parties are forced to enter into such partnerships as coalitions to facilitate the effective oversight and conduct of public affairs.

Whatever the configuration of governance, the electorate and the people as a whole expect from those who govern nothing less than the material improvement of their lives, a better future for themselves and their children as well as guarantees for peace and security.

Those who govern also owe accountability to the people at all times, for without accountability, the process of governance is compromised. Additionally, where parties battle it out, like the feuding houses of Verona, other things also get lost: among them, improving the lives of the people is often compromised with negative impacts on the wellbeing of citizens. This is all the more so in a country like South Africa, which has,

for the longest time, been the subject of international attention. This is accentuated by the age of social media, in which ordinary citizens can be as powerful communicators as any of the global news and television agencies.

Within minutes, a clip about some injudicious or downright ill-conceived incident in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, or any small town or village can reach a significant number of the world's 6.92 billion smartphone users and inform perceptions about South Africa across the globe. These impressions invariably affect the choices and judgements, big or small, public or private, that others make about South Africa. In short, our audience is no longer just our fellow nationals; we sit in a global fishbowl!

Yet, our political focus must unerringly remain on the well-being of our people. Our pursuit of national consensus on how to approach coalition governments is a matter of national interest. Properly handled, it has the potential to bring the necessary stability, especially to the local government sphere, despite the intemper-



ance we have witnessed in relation to coalitions.

This dialogue therefore seeks to promote fidelity to the national interest so that we remain focused on the fulfilment of the constitutional injunction to build a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous society.

You will all have seen our discussion paper entitled: “A Policy Framework Towards Stable Governance.” It makes the important point that “Coalitions are an unmistakable expression of choices that the electorate has made. It is democracy at work!” It also identifies problems and challenges in the local sphere of government, amongst them: “lack of skills, inadequate revenue, indifference from both administrators and politicians, and the substitution of the public good with self-interest.”

The document also makes an important point whose nuances must be kept in mind throughout our discussion. Whereas it asserts “a direct

correlation between the constant collapse of municipal executives and them being coalition governments,” it also cautions that the “correlation... does not imply causality — that is, coalitions trigger collapses” in that “both the coalitions and their turbulence have separate triggers, albeit somewhat inter-related.”

However, the “frequent collapse” of coalitions at the local government level “is deliberate, sometimes even unrelated to the pursuit of the public good, and can be minimised down to a healthy level, with little detrimental effect on municipal administration.”

Other distressing problems the document identifies with our recent coalition experiences at the local government level and in the country’s major metropolitan municipalities include:

- opportunistic political behaviour, enabled by institutional loopholes;
- the lack of a threshold for the admissibility of a motion of no con-

fidence and the vulgarisation and proceduralization of the process that are not related to considerations of ethics and competence;

- the monetisation of votes and seats in municipal governance — patronage/rent-seeking, and;
- power-play and relevance; gang-ing up against incumbents.

The discussion document also says, in passing: “Career politicians, without any prospects of employment elsewhere, face a constant risk of job insecurity”. This is no minor matter. It is closely related to a broader socio-logical characteristic of South African society, which manifests the continued racial imbalance in the distribution of opportunities, wealth, poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

It is also exacerbated by an economy that has not grown sufficiently over the years to absorb greater numbers of job seekers. Together, both factors — the sociological characteristics of our society and the stagnant econo-



my manifest in a stampede towards the political sphere, especially by the youth, who increasingly demand greater representation in politics than the professions and the rise in variants of right-wing and left-wing populism alike. In fairness, populism is not only a South African but a global phenomenon that cannot be understood outside the context of national and international resource distributional imbalances.

Like any other country, our sociological reality impacts the state of political parties and the country. It reflects the political party's social base and the extent to which, as creatures of agency, every social base exerts itself on the national stage in a dynamic intercourse with others to produce particular outcomes.

Consequently, while we must be ready and willing to learn from the coalition experiences of other countries, we must also bear in mind South Africa's unique sociological and political characteristics. Our history of a unique colonialism that is unlike any other and the enduring legacy of that special colonialism has a direct impact on our politics today and will undoubtedly be the case for a long time to come. We must there-

fore craft viable partnerships that reflect the South African context in all its nuances, complexity, and opportunities.

A few days ago, I finished reading a book about the destruction of Somalia written by one of the country's former diplomats, His Excellency, Ambassador Mohamed Osman Omar. The thrust of his thesis is that after the collapse of the Siad Barre regime in January 1991, Somalia descended into civil war and eventually collapsed because the leadership was driven by a "power struggle without restraint." Emphasising the point, he argues that they were inspired by "self-aggrandisement, absence of discipline and national spirit". They pursued Somalia's narrow "social cleavages based on clan loyalties" — never "willing to learn from our own or from other [people's] follies."

Ambassador Omar's observation about his country begs several questions. Perhaps the most crucial is: what must be done to institutionalise fidelity to the national interest, a challenge that is as much Somali as it is South African? For South Africa, the process is made all the more urgent by the alarm bells sounded in the document we have circulated

when it asserts that "the substitution of the public good with self-interest" and that the "frequent collapse" of coalitions at local government level is sometimes "deliberate, [and] unrelated to the pursuit of the public good." What of the fact that we now know from the Somali experience what can happen to a country when "follies" eclipse the national interest!

Implicit in this is the nature and character of the South African political party and the national political culture that it promotes in word and in deed. We will be well-served to defer to Ben Okri:

"We dream of a new politics
That will renew the world
Under their weary suspicious gaze.
There's always a new way,
A better way that's not been tried
before."

This is crucial because the membership and support base of political parties are dreamers inasmuch as they are carriers of political outlooks and messages which, in turn, shape the nation's political thinking, ways of seeing and doing politics, with profound implications for its future prospects.

I am suggesting that our social structure and its economy are central to all our endeavours. With or without coalitions in any sphere of government, but most especially because of coalitions, South Africa requires a growing economy, which creates opportunities for people beyond the political sphere. As an enduring dividend of freedom, such an economy will be a factor in social and political stability, state and nation-building, all of which can elude us if the economy fails.

We must salute the work done by a number of institutions on how to improve and stabilise coalition governments at the local level. The government has contributed some proposals towards a framework for coalitions. These include:

- commitment to a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous society;
- coalition leadership based on the actual votes received by each party in an election;
- commitment to Batho Pele principles — putting people first;
- working towards poverty eradication through a growing and inclusive economy, and;
- good governance and zero tolerance for corruption.

This is an open process in which everyone is free to make proposals. We intend to synthesise proposals from as many South Africans as possible and to present these in the coming months as a framework for consideration, which may or may not end up in legislation.

In many respects, we are fortunate

that we may be the generation in our evolving democracy that co-creates and designs resilient solutions to our political architecture. Coalitions must therefore give us the possibility to consolidate national efforts to create a truly substantive democracy that is based on the will of the people!

To underscore the urgency with which we should respond to this moment of our democracy, let us recall Dr Martin Luther King Jr: “There are millions of poor people in this country who have very little, or even nothing, to lose. If they can be helped to take action together, they will do so with a freedom and a power that will be a new and unsettling force in our complacent national life.”

Although this was directed at the America of his time, it carries equal meaning for us. We can ignite the hopes of our people with the demonstration of united leadership, which communicates the message that we have gathered here today as a collective of South African stateswomen and statesmen and not as mere politicians representing their parties.

I, therefore, invite the collective wisdom of all those who led us previously in the making of this country, weaving it together as a proud nation of all who live in it, united in their diversity. I am talking here about our liberation ancestors, who initiated and successfully delivered democratic South Africa. May they come forward and bless us as we undertake similar steps that require the nation to pause in attention and reaffirm its commitment to move forward in concert towards the attainment of a united democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous South African nation.

This national dialogue will not stop

after tomorrow; it is just the beginning. It is the launch of the dialogue that must spread across our nation as we collectively grapple with the most crucial question: what do we do going forward to serve the people even better?

The motto of this eminent institution of higher learning is *Respice Prospice*: look back, look forward, and take what is worthy from the past, and build the future. As we grapple with these issues, may we embrace the apposite counsel of the motto of the University of the Western Cape so that we are able to meet the expectations of the people for the material improvement of their lives, and secure a better future for them and their children. So shall we be true to the national interest!

I am delighted to end with some good news. His Excellency, Mr. António Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations, has appointed Professor Thuli Madonsela, our former Public Protector, to serve on his newly formed Scientific Advisory Board, which consists of seven eminent scientists to advise on emerging scientific issues so as to maximise scientific advances for the global good.

Congratulations, Prof. Madonsela!

You have done our country proud. We are confident that you will fly the national flag even higher! Your appointment illustrates the fact that we are a nation that has everything it takes to rise to greater heights.

I want to end off with words of President Nelson Mandela: “It seems impossible until it is done.” Let us build this great nation together ■

ANC Veterans League

3rd National Conference

DECLARATION

BIRCHWOOD, GAUTENG, 28 – 30 JULY 2023

We, the delegates to the Third National Conference of the ANC Veteran's League (ANCVL), gathered at Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng, on 28th – 30th July 2023, under the theme: "Renewal of the ANC to advance the National Democratic Revolution".

This Third National Conference of the ANC Veterans League was convened by the National Task Team (NTT) appointed by the ANC NEC and given a tight timeframe.

The Conference received the following reports:

- The Convenor's Political Report
- The Coordinator's Report on the work of the National Task Team
- Policy discussion document
- Renewal discussion document
- Discussion document on Organising, Campaigns and Membership
- Policy Framework on Coalitions
- Discussion document on Money Politics and Revolutionary Morality

The discussion documents formed a very strong basis for the Conference to focus on how the ANC Veterans League can contribute to effective policies and concrete programmes that will decisively push forward the fundamental Renewal of the ANC in order to improve the quality of life and well-being of the people of South Africa.

As the veterans of the ANC – the men and women who dedicated our lives to the struggle for a free, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous South Africa – we spent this weekend at this Conference focusing on the primary concerns and aspirations of the people occupied the centre stage.



All delegates broke into three Conference Commissions where they deliberated on the challenges facing the ANC and the critical tasks facing our country and paid dedicated attention to the matters of strategy, organisation, policies and programmes that must be improved and implemented to advance the fundamental transformation of South Africa.

As delegates to this conference, we now declare

A. On our journey to this Conference

We are veterans who are ANC members, 60 (sixty) years of age or older, who have served the ANC and the movement over an unbroken period of 40 (forty) years and are members of the ANC in good standing.



Accordingly, we belong to a core of members who have given the better part of their lives to the work of the ANC as a servant of the people.

We have successfully laid the foundation of a credible, legitimate and reconstituted the Veterans League across the country. The spirit of the conference has been one of principled unity, discipline, openness, humility and humbleness.

We stand on the shoulders of the giants of our liberation movement and the entire generation who activated overcame the apartheid state and swelled the ranks of the democratic movement, ANC and uMkhonto weSizwe. And amongst us are those who were the “Young Lions” of the 1970s and 1980s who contributed to a resounding ANC elections victory in 1994.

However, we recognise that the journey towards the full emancipation of our people is not done yet and thus we recommit ourselves to continue to serve the people and

actively participate in the work of the ANC to ensure our beloved organisation is able to renew itself to deliver on our historic mission;

B. On the National Democratic Revolution and South African Constitution

The ANC is a national liberation movement formed to unite people and spearhead the struggle for fundamental political, social and economic transformation. We believe that the ANC was the principal architect of our transformative constitutional democracy. South Africa achieved a decisive democratic breakthrough in the 1994 elections which gave us a firm mandate to the Constitutional Assembly, made up of representatives, elected based on one person, one vote, to draft a new democratic Constitution in 1996. The democratic Constitution provides a basis for the democratisation and transformation of our country.

However, the challenge to transform and grow the economy so that it creates jobs and empowers

our people, particularly the youth, women and people who live in informal settlements, townships and rural areas, remains. Further, there is today rampant crime and corruption which is a threat to our democracy.

Therefore we as the veterans commit to:

- Developing and deepening this democracy into a truly people-oriented, people-centred participatory democracy able to deliver a better life for all;
- Institutionalizing integrity and ethical leadership across the state and pursuing it in society;
- Acting in a decisive, empathetic and principled manner to generate hope for a more inclusive, just, equitable and sustainable future for our country and the people;
- Continuing the efforts to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights and
- Unleashing the potential of

each person.

C. On the Economy

We have direct experience of the effects of unemployment, hunger and crime which is visited upon our children, grandchildren, the infirm and the aged. We recognise that it is women, especially young women who bear the brunt of inequality, poverty and unemployment. If do not resolve these challenges, our economy will continue to limp. Therefore we as veterans commit to:

- Assist the ANC to tackle chronic poor economic performance and the resultant high rate of
- unemployment, poverty and inequality; rising lawlessness, criminality and violence;
- Engage on the economic policies and the role of the developmental state;
- Work practically for economic development at a local level to ensure "a better life for all" becomes a reality in our lifetime.

D. On the way forward for the ANC

We unreservedly support the calls at the 54th ANC National Conference to embark on a process of renewal. The Veterans League is fully committed to supporting the path of renewal of the ANC and building and supporting our organisation so that it can deliver to the people.

We believe that a strong ANC, a strong organization is an asset to the government and that a strong organization rooted in our communities can complement the work of government as such an organization, once rooted amongst the people will be the first to see the problems that affect the people; We want to see:

- A disciplined and coherent or-



ganization of members that respect themselves and respect the ethos of their organization and its traditions; and

- An organisation free from corruption, factionalism and political violence;

We, therefore, commit to:

- Offer our timeless wisdom and counsel to play vital roles on various platforms including the structures of the ANC;

Be a "resource for the organisation" especially in terms of cadre development and political education;

- Share advice and guidance as well as policy interventions that can strengthen the work of the ANC, where necessary.
- Build dynamic ANC branches that engage with communities, and become active in ward committees;
- Assist in refocusing branches towards the people we serve and the problems and challenges they face in their daily lives;
- Monitor provision of local services to prevent corruption and poor service delivery and

strengthen advice offices and contact centres for residents to access government services;

- Act decisively against corruption where ever it appears; and
- Engagement and dialogue with broader structures of the movement and civil society.

E. Our Clarion Call to Fellow Veterans

We have met here today with a sense of purpose and urgency. We are well on our way to fulfilling our historical mission and what our Constitution requires of us that we embody the organisational experience and memory of the movement and the people's struggle for freedom and democracy, reinforcing the traditions, history, values and unity of the movement.

In light of the challenges faced by the ANC which threaten its very existence and its soul, the Conference has issued a "CALL-UP" of ALL Veterans to report at the nearest office of the ANC or online to come and make a full and rich contribution to the work of the ANC, the movement and the life of the nation ■

A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far

BRICS Party Dialogue Speech from the Communist Party of China

I'd like to begin by expressing, on behalf of the Communist Party of China, our heartfelt congratulations on the convening of the Dialogue, the highest tribute to President Cyril Ramaphosa and the ANC for their tremendous efforts and our warm greetings to representatives of all participating political parties!

China aligns itself with the theme and priorities of BRICS cooperation proposed by South Africa this year and stands ready to fully support the work of South Africa during its presidency. We look forward to the upcoming 15th BRICS Summit, which will surely serve to boost the strategic mutual trust and cooperation in solidarity among BRICS countries.

BRICS cooperation reminds me of a well-known quote of President Nelson Mandela, "It always seems impossible until it's done". We Chinese also have a saying, "With perseverance, one can carve through stone and metal." In the past 17 years, step by step, BRICS countries have withstood various tests and deepened cooperation across the board, thus turning what's impossible into possible. It has become an import-

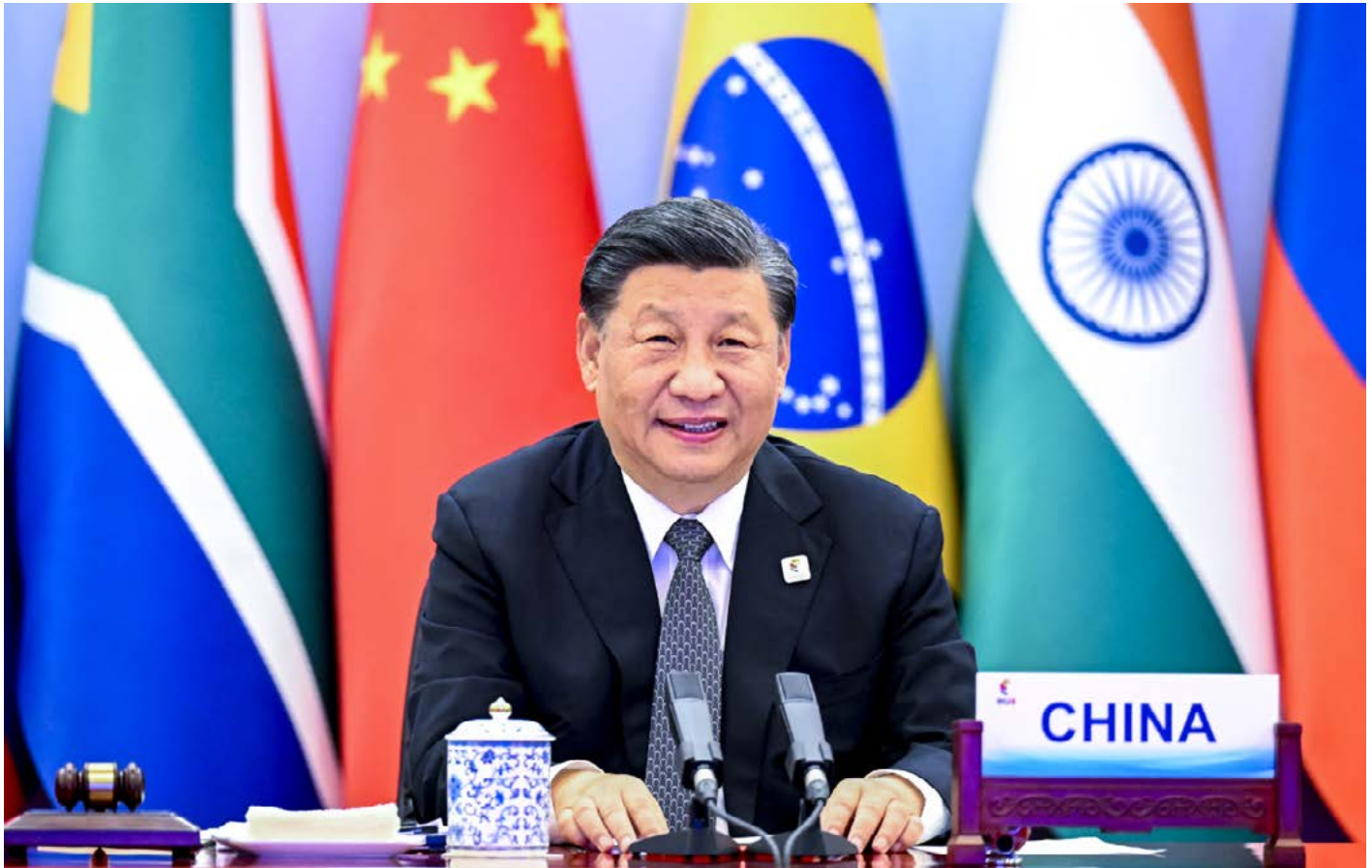
ant force for upholding world peace and stability, boosting global development and promoting exchanges and human progress.

According to the forecasts of the IMF, BRICS countries' contribution to the world economy will reach nearly 40% in the next 5 years, higher than that of the G7 combined. BRICS cooperation is successful because BRICS countries, from the very beginning, have been exploring a new path for countries with different systems to coexist, achieve win-win outcomes and move forward together. A BRICS cooperation architecture with three pillars of economic and financial cooperation, political and security cooperation and people-to-people exchanges has thus been established, making cooperation in various sectors integrated, and mutually reinforcing. It also represents three core values underlying the BRICS cooperation.

First, the value of common development. BRICS countries, in a spirit of openness, have strengthened economic cooperation with one another by leveraging their respective comparative advantages. By so doing, BRICS countries have propelled global economic growth and helped

emerging markets and developing countries to share the dividends of economic globalization. This resonates with the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by President Xi Jinping. On its part, China is ready to work with all countries, in the spirit of pursuing common development through cooperation in solidarity, to implement the GDI for realizing the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and making global growth stronger, greener and healthier.

Second, the value of common security. BRICS countries support true multilateralism, the accommodation of each other's core interests and major concerns, and the respect for each other's sovereignty, security and development interests. BRICS countries have thus found a path of security favouring dialogue over confrontation, consultation over coercion, partnership over alliance. This resonates with the Global Security Initiative (GSI) proposed by President Xi Jinping. China is willing to join all countries, in the spirit of pursuing common security through equal-footed dialogue, to implement the GSI for greater stability and security of the international society in turbulent times.



Third, the value of harmonious coexistence of civilizations. BRICS countries cherish their unique cultural identities and advocate respect for the diversity of civilizations. They encourage people to get involved in BRICS cooperation through people-to-people exchanges, thus enhancing mutual understanding among different peoples and interactions among different civilizations. This resonates with the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) put forth by President Xi Jinping. China stands ready to work with all countries, in the spirit of promoting common progress through diversity and inclusiveness, to implement the GCI to let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and inclusiveness transcend feelings of superiority.

“
***Our Party thanks
our comrades from
the African National
Congress for
organizing the 2023
BRICS Plus Political
Parties Dialogue.***”

Just as the human community with a shared future is underpinned by the three global initiatives, the BRICS community with a shared future rests upon the three pillars of development, security and civilization. We need to bolster the three pillars in the new era to forge

stronger bond among BRICS countries and greater synergy for building a BRICS community and then a human community with a shared future.

A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far. What BRICS cooperation represents is a just cause that calls for mutual assistance, joint endeavors and win-win cooperation. I am confident that with the concerted efforts of political parties of BRICS countries and all other political parties present here, the giant ship of BRICS cooperation is bound to ride the wind and cleave the waves towards the destination of an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

In closing, I wish this Dialogue a complete success ■

We condemn any form of Hegemonism, Neo-imperialism, Neo-colonialism, Racism and Nasizm

■ By **A Klimov, Member of the Bureau of the Supreme Council of the UNITED RUSSIA**

15 years ago, my motherland, Yekaterinburg, situated near the Ural Mountains, hosted the first meeting of four major independent powers of our planet, which was then called BRIC. Two years since, South Africa was warmly welcomed as the fifth member of the alliance and it got its well-known name – BRICS.

Throughout the years since, BRICS has covered a number of dimensions. This alliance is not only about the summits, the ministerial meetings, discussions between experts in economy, science, education, technology – but it is also about parliamentary meetings and dialogue between representatives of the responsible political parties of our countries. It is the third time that South Africa assumes the BRICS presidency and the second time it organizes the BRICS Plus Political Parties Di-

alogue. The importance of such dialogues in the modern world is on the rise, as direct contacts between political parties from around the world enable us to discuss nearly all the challenges and threats posed by the 21st century from the point of view of our voters – the peoples that we represent.

The All-Russian Political Party “United Russia” has the majority of seats in the Federal Parliament as well as in most of the constituent entities of our country. It was created by Vladimir Putin, our national leader, over 20 years ago. Our Party has a special Commission that addresses issues of foreign affairs that is presided by Sergei Lavrov, one of the most well-known Ministers of Foreign Affairs in the world. I am honoured to be his deputy in this Commission.

Today, the Commission’s work is focused on implementing the principles codified in the new Concept of Foreign Affairs of Russia approved by Vladimir Putin. This Concept builds on the principles enshrined nearly 90 years ago in the UN Charter. We support a multi-polar world order, sovereign equality of all nations, non-interference into domestic affairs, the right to self-determination, the principle of peaceful coexistence of countries with different political systems, respectful and mutually beneficial cooperation. We condemn any form of hegemonism, neo-imperialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and Nazism. We support generally accepted principles and norms of international law. These are the principles shared by the global majority and these are the principles which form the basis for such organizations as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.



Unfortunately, Washington and their Western partners find the basis for their policies in other principles. They consider themselves special, they believe they have the right to govern the world and to create rules for others to obey. They consider it normal to interfere into domestic affairs, impose unilateral sanctions, organize “colour revolutions”, civil wars and other conflicts, including military ones.

This is exactly why consolidation of the global majority is crucial for ensuring global peace, international security, and sustainable development in the 21st century.

Today we meet on African land. Many African nations got their independence with decisive support from my motherland. Still today, Russia remains opposed to the so-called “new colonialism”, including such spheres as economy, finance, ecology, education, culture, food, energy and information security, etc. That is why together with our comrades from all the conti-

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nents, we suggested to hold a Forum Against Modern Practices of Neo-Colonialism this October in Moscow.

We are planning to discuss a wide range of security issues: from military to energy security, from food to information and technological security. I would like to take this opportunity and invite everyone who will be present in St Petersburg to take part in our round table.

My country, Russia, has never pursued colonialist policies. On the contrary, many countries of the world got their independence with our help. Russia has many friends,

especially in Africa. In 2023, our Party initiated the creation of a worldwide Russia's Friends Club, which will help consolidate our views of the modern international system and bring our peoples closer together. We also hold special meetings at the expert level as part of the work of the International Inter-Party Expert Group. I would like to take this opportunity to suggest you to consider creating such a group within BRICS. These issues can be discussed in further detail at the party level during Russia's BRICS presidency in 2024.

Our Party thanks our comrades from the African National Congress for organizing the 2023 BRICS Plus Political Parties Dialogue. We have studied in detail the draft of the final document of the event and we believe that it can be a good foundation for our discussions as well as plans for the future. We believe that these few days of bilateral and multilateral contacts will allow us to understand each other better and exchange opinions on some of the most pressing issues of the modern world ■

We should prevent the world from sliding into a **Third World War**

Address by Gennady Zyuganov, Chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Committee to the participants in the BRICS Plus Dialogue of Political Parties, 2023

I am glad to welcome all the representatives of the parties and international organizations gathered in South Africa to discuss a wide spectrum of extremely complicated, but exceedingly important pressing political and economic problems facing BRICS, ranging from possible ways of its development to strengthening of international mechanisms of resolving conflicts; from the activities of the New Development Bank to the enlargement of the organization and establishment of equitable relations with African countries.

It is very important that the parties and organizations represented at this meeting are standing for the establishment of a truly democratic multipolar order based on the principles of equality, justice and mutual respect for one another in which world politics, trade and finances

are free of barriers and politically motivated restrictions not only in words but in deed.

Today the world is changing rapidly, exposing all the accumulated social and class contradictions and revealing the essence of true friendship and mutual understanding among the peoples.

The US-led collective West has not abandoned attempts to preserve its dominant positions in the world at all costs and continues to pursue a neocolonial policy and seek to restore Fascism. It is still possessed by the desire to bring back the grim colonial past merely dressing it in a new garb. Driven by rabid Russophobia and a pathological desire to destroy Russia and the Russian world, it is drawing ever more countries into its bloody orbit. The West is essentially setting once brotherly

peoples against one another to gain political and economic dividends.

Our country, the USSR, lost 27 million lives in the Second World War. We know the price of war. We want peace. But the USA wants war in order to weaken and destroy Russia.

Ever more sanctions are being introduced together with strengthening of pressure mechanisms against all those who dare to object. We see a deliberate wrecking of economic, political and cultural ties and a conscious attempt to destroy international cooperation.

All this challenges common sense and elementary logic, damages the interests of countries worldwide and has a negative impact on the well-being of people in practically all countries.



We are happy that the countries of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America disclose the essence of the conflict NATO has provoked in Ukraine. We appreciate the peoples and governments of all the continents who have not given in to Western diktat and refused to introduce sanctions against Russia.

Together, we should erect a barrier in the way of this man-hating policy and prevent the world from sliding into a Third World War.

I should remind you in this connection that our countries are the home of more than three billion people, account for a quarter of the world GDP, 20 percent of the world trade, about 25 percent of direct investments, and the summary international reserves of BRICS states


***I am convinced
that it is only on
a collective basis
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account for 35 percent of world reserves.

This is a great economic and political potential which is capable of putting up a serious challenge to the West's hegemonic policy.

Moreover, we have every chance to increase our multi-vector cooperation in the framework of the BRICS dialogue and with partners from amongst the states represented here.

And of course the major infrastructure and trade project named One Belt One Road being implemented by China opens up serious prospects for cooperation among all our states in the context of combining the integration processes ongoing in the Eurasian Economic Union

I am convinced that it is only on a collective basis that many serious issues on the global agenda can be tackled, this meeting being an example of constructive work along these lines ■

NDR is not inimical to the Constitution

■ By **Chrispin Phiri**

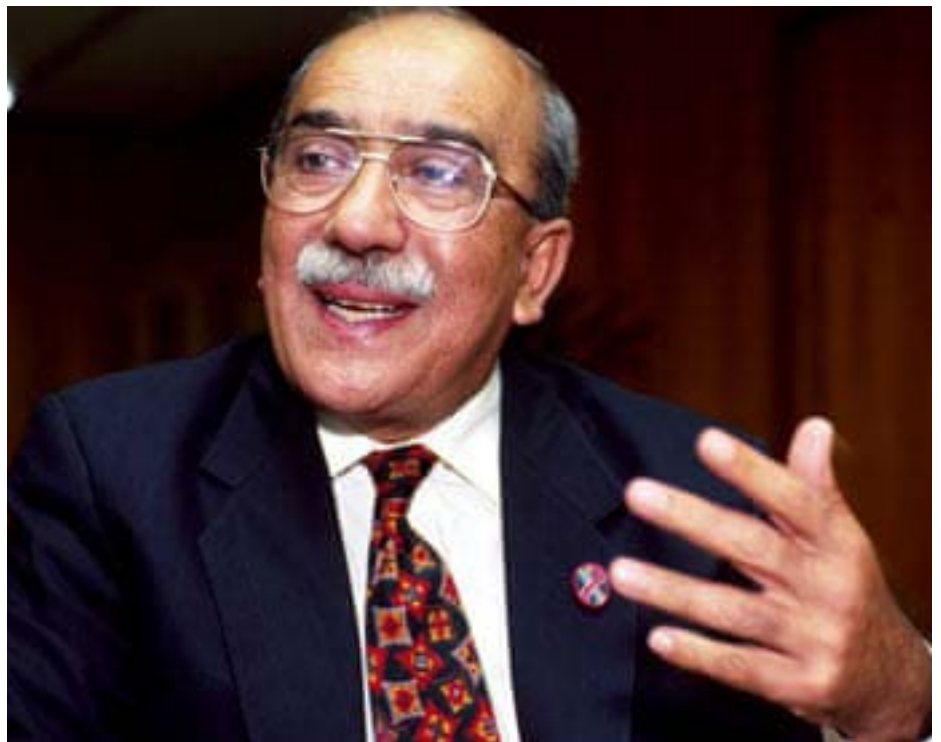
The National Democratic Revolution (NDR) has recently been a topic of debate, with some arguing that it threatens the Constitution. One such argument comes from Advocate Paul Hoffman, who suggests that separating the NDR from the Constitution could prevent potential disaster.

While Hoffman's views are widely available online, it is important to approach them cautiously. Propaganda often repeats falsehoods to create the perception of truth, and this argument may be guilty of the same tactic.

Hoffman's argument relies heavily on an appeal to authority, citing the views of the late Kader Asmal as evidence in favour of separating the NDR from the Constitution. However, there is a concern that Hoffman fails to provide an actual quote from Asmal to support this claim. This omission is significant and raises questions about the validity of the argument.

This is a fatal flaw in his argument because the direct quote from Asmal shows up as Hoffman's strawman.

Asmal's response to Hoffman's

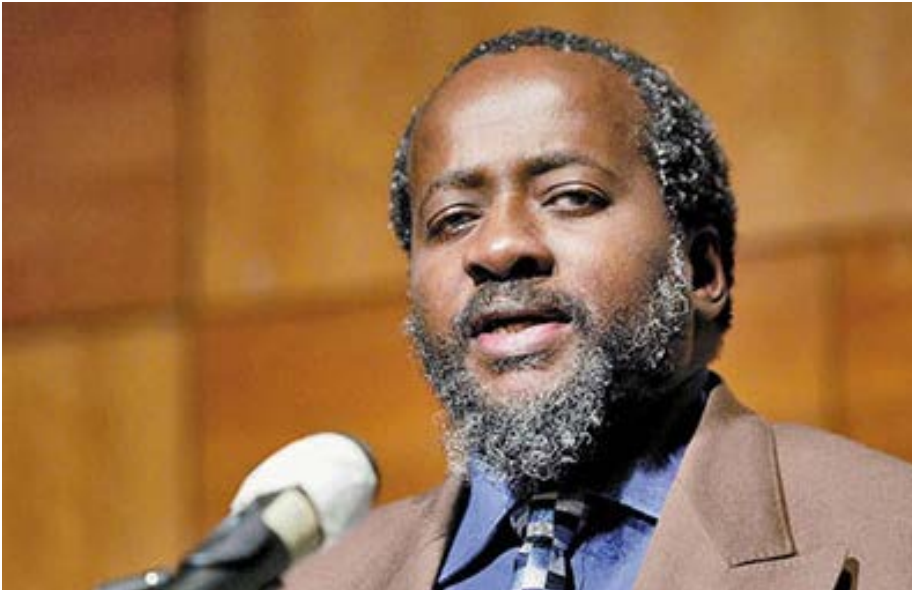


question about the relevance of the NDR is clear. He believes that the real revolution is supporting the Constitutional order, and the outdated notions of revolution are not only irrelevant but also give young people the wrong idea. Asmal does not think NDR is offensive or harmful, as Hoffman claims he thinks outdated.

It is important to note that Hoffman's understanding of the NDR suggests that it aims to secure hegemonic control of the levers of power in society in South Africa,

which is problematic reasoning.

The NDR aims to build a South Africa that is free from discrimination, democratic and prosperous. The path to achieving this vision is empowering the historically marginalized black majority, specifically Africans. The principles outlined here differ starkly from those upheld by the apartheid regime. The primary objective of the NDR is to transform South African society into one that no longer embodies the hallmarks of a specific type of colonialism.



Adopting the Constitution does not eliminate the dominant and oppressive grip of apartheid. Unfortunately, our society remains drastically divided along racial lines, with levels of inequality that are unmatched worldwide. Moreover, it is disheartening to note that poverty still disproportionately affects black women.

As Pallo Jordan argues and points out, the liberation movement aims to unite all colonized individuals, transcending the boundaries of ethnicity, race, language, and culture. Rather than forcing assimilation into a singular entity, the movement embraced diversity as a strength instead of a cause for conflict. This is evident in South Africa's national motto, "Unity in Diversity."

Jordan notes that The ANC's strategy is to unite diverse ethnic, racial, linguistic, and cultural groups under a common home territorially determined as their country.

D-for Democracy

The principles of a democratic society that we aim for are clearly articulated in the foundational documents of the ANC (African National Congress), which include the African Claims, the Women's Charter, the Freedom Charter, and the Strategy and Tactics document. These principles are also reflected in our nation's Constitution.

R- Revolution

Professor Asmal takes issue with one specific component of the NDR... the revolution. To this end, one sees a literal reading of the word revolution. The literal reading is misplaced. In the case of South Africa, the fundamental conflict at play is the struggle between national oppression and national liberation. As such, the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) represents a gradual process of societal transformation aimed at achieving the objectives outlined in the preamble of our Constitution and various developmental plans over the years from the RDP - NDP to date.

Creating substantial change requires a systematic approach and unwavering determination. Collaboration across all sectors and levels is necessary to make a significant impact.

Our National Democratic Revolution programme identifies crucial objectives and domains of influence that will facilitate economic expansion, development, and fair distribution while promoting global transformation.

The NDR has indeed been linked to cadre deployment, which has unfortunately been misused recently. Despite this, striving to transform the state bureaucracy strategically is important. The original design of the bureaucracy was meant to reinforce racism and patriarchy, but we must work towards imbuing it with the values of our Constitution.

To accomplish this, enlisting individuals with a particular skill set who can help us reimagine South Africa may be necessary. History has shown us that this is a challenging task, but it is not impossible.

It is important to note that the NDR cannot be used to justify appointments of people who lack the necessary skills or integrity to prosecute the mission of reconstructing South Africa. While maladministration and corruption are legitimate concerns, dismissing the NDR is not a viable solution.

Instead, it is crucial to ensure that the programme is implemented effectively and transparently, with a keen eye on rooting out any corruption or malfeasance. Only by doing so can we achieve the transformative change that the NDR seeks to bring about ■

Disentangling Public Institutions from the Persistent Culture of Capture and Rent Seeking? **Part 1**

Some amongst us bear direct responsibility for multiple crises facing our society and beyond.

■ By **Busani Ngcaweni**

The World Economic Forum (2015) states any country's prosperity lies on the strength of its institutions. Legal and administrative institutions present in any society constitute what economists refer to as an "enabling environment," facilitating the generation of wealth. However, when these organizations falter, trust is compromised, leading to potential harm to economies.

A 2021 report from the Global Business Ethics Survey stated that the pressure to compromise standards is the highest it has ever been. Globally, 29% of employees reported pressure in 2020, an increase from 20% in 2019.

This is alarming. And so today, I want to address a matter of utmost importance—the imperative of building strong institutions. It obviously must start with good governance

which the United Nations refers to as the systems and processes that ensure the overall effectiveness of an organisation or a country. This is characterized by transparency, accountability, participation, rule of law, fairness, and responsiveness.

Good governance encompasses the processes and structures through which decisions are made and implemented, and it ensures that these decisions are in the best interest of the organisation or the public. The effectiveness of both public and private sector organizations relies heavily on the implementation of good governance coupled with sound personnel practices.

In the context of the public sector, "personnel practices" refers to the laws, frameworks, guidelines, and activities that govern the well-being and effectiveness of human resources. These practices encom-

pass various aspects such as recruitment and selection, induction, and onboarding, planning and performance management, continuous learning and professional development, career management, codes of conduct, and discharge from service.

The cornerstone of these personnel practices in public administration is in Section 195 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. This section establishes fundamental values and principles that govern public administration. It further provides that public administration must be governed by the democratic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution, such as a high standard of professional ethics, and that the effective use of resources must be promoted. Public administration must be development oriented, and transparency must be fostered by providing the public with timely, ac-



cessible, and accurate information. There are further important pieces of legislation governing employment in the various spheres of government, other organs of state and public enterprises.

In addition, there are numerous institutions entrusted with ensuring good governance, transparency, accountability and the establishment of employment policies and practices in the public administration such as the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), the Public Service Commission (PSC), the Public Protector of South Africa (PPSA), Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and so on.

With all these pieces of legislation, one would assume that they would be used continuously as guiding principles for good governance and to hold individuals accountable and limit any form of misconduct in the pursuit of building strong institutions. Let me share a scenario in the context of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into allegations of State Capture, corruption and fraud in the public sector, including organs of the state also known

to the public and the media as the Zondo Commission, the question to be asked is what went wrong?

If one looks at some of the suspects and accused persons in the various criminal cases in our Courts regarding state capture, they are men and women of substance who are highly qualified, having studied at prestigious Universities when only a few could afford. They occupied Executive Management positions in Government and in major state institutions and wielded enormous power. Could it have been adverse personal financial circumstances, family commitments (black tax), avarice (extreme greed for wealth or material gain) or merely opportunities that presented themselves?

We are further reminded of a character in Chinua Achebe's book titled, "No longer at Ease" first published in 1960 namely, one Mr. Obiajulu "Obi" Okonkwo who had occupied a post in the Senior Civil Service of the Nigerian Government in Lagos. Prior to the sad end to his career, his local community had rallied around to raise funds for him to study abroad. At first, Obi held high moral ground and had been the beacon of hope

for his community and his people looked up to him.

Later, Obi, as he was commonly known, had been arrested for taking a bribe of twenty pounds in order that he could recommend a particular applicant for a scholarship to the Scholarship Board. What was puzzling to many is that at the time, Obi was a young and educated man of brilliant promise, had occupied a senior post and was well paid and had a car allowance all of which were privileges reserved for a chosen few and those preferred by the system at inception (Europeans). His Boss and Supervisor, Mr. Green believed that Obi took a bribe because, "The African is corrupt through and through." I beg to differ with Mr. Green as we are probably aware, the maladministration, fraud and theft uncovered at the Zondo Commission cuts across racial lines. I am therefore led to believe that it could only be a lack of ethics.

Now let us bring it closer to home, let's talk about the Big Four firms, renowned for their global reach and expertise and have long been considered pillars of our profession. They have played a signifi-

cant role in shaping the financial landscape, providing assurance to investors and stakeholders alike. However, recent events have cast a shadow over their reputation, revealing instances of unethical conduct that threaten the very core of our institutions.

The “Big Four” auditing firms, namely EY (Ernst & Young), PwC, KPMG, and Deloitte, hold significant influence in the global economy. Despite their prominence, these firms have faced involvement in various major financial scandals. For instance, EY auditors certified Wirecard’s annual financial statements for a decade without uncovering a network of fraudsters manipulating the company’s books, resulting in substantial job losses for Wirecard employees, and Investors at Wirecard also incurred significant financial losses, as the company’s shares experienced a sharp decline in value.

The question arises as to why EY auditors failed to recognize the fraud? Possible explanations include negligence or being overextended in their duties. The Big Four enjoy a dominant position in the global audit industry due to their extensive knowledge of company and tax laws, which makes them indispensable. However, as opportunities for growth in auditing have diminished, these firms have expanded their services beyond auditing and now offer a range of consulting services to both the companies they audit and governments.

This diversification raises concerns about the immense power and potential lack of control held by the Big Four. With their significant influence and involvement in various

sectors, there are worries that they may have become too powerful. The question of whether the Big Four are out of control is a topic that deserves careful consideration and scrutiny.

State Capture in South Africa has resulted in significant costs, including corruption, economic stagnation, job losses, increased public debt, and borrowing costs. The effects of State Capture go beyond monetary losses and include the erosion of institutional independence and capacity, particularly in institutions like the South African Revenue Service (SARS).

KPMG’s involvement in State Capture became widely known through its investigation into the alleged “rogue unit” at SARS in 2015. KPMG’s connection to State Capture continued through its involvement in the Gupta wedding scandal, where public funds meant for local dairy farmers were diverted to Gupta companies. KPMG provided auditing and tax advisory services to a Gupta-owned company involved in organizing the lavish wedding. The auditors failed to detect red flags, misclassified transactions, and allowed the use of financial statements for tax evasion purposes.

Another significant case involving KPMG was the collapse of VBS Mutual Bank due to looting by bank executives. KPMG signed off on the bank’s inaccurate financial statements, and the lead auditor was alleged to have covered up the crimes. Junior auditors who raised concerns faced obstacles and were discouraged from pursuing further inquiries.

One more key example was the

appointment of Bain and Company (referred to as “Bains”) at the South African Revenue Service (SARS). SARS hired Bains as a management consultancy firm, paying them R167 million over 27 months. Bains was tasked with providing consultancy services, including suggesting a strategic overhaul and complete restructuring of SARS. However, SARS was already functioning effectively in its oversight and enforcement functions, making the need for a management consultancy questionable. The appointment process revealed several irregularities. Before the official tender process began, Bains had meetings with the former President Jacob Zuma and Mr. Moyane, who was the Commissioner of SARS at the time. These meetings indicated that Bains would be given the position, bypassing any fair competition. The purpose of these early meetings was to ensure the necessary pre-planning to redirect SARS’s resources and take control of the organization.

These cases highlight the structural problems and governance deficiencies within the auditing industry, leading to conflicts of interest and a lack of professional ethics and accountability. This has called the need for executives to be held accountable and for the industry to face effective sanctions to prevent further misconduct. Hence, we see that the finance minister Enoch Godongwana has recently increased the maximum monetary fines to R25 million for errant auditors and auditing firms. Although this is seen as a step in the right direction, one wonders if it’s enough to curb the violations uncovered ■

...To be continued

A Leaf out of South Africa's History

The First MK Kongwa Camp Inhabitants

August 1964

■ By **Castro Khwela**



On 3 August 1964, a large group of trained Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) cadres that included Archie Sibeko, Zolile Nqose, Leonard Nkosi, Eric Mtshali, Benjamin Ramotse and approximately thirty others, were reunited in Moscow Airport, to take a flight to Tanzania. In August 1963, two groups that had been selected on the basis of their having, as much as possible, passed matric, or who really could write, read and understand instructions, were sent to the Soviet Union. And these were groups that were trained in everything about urban guerrilla warfare – from pistols up to machine guns, as well as in the making of homemade explosives. When the training was accomplished in August 1964, and the two groups finished almost simultaneously, they all went back to Tanzania to start the camp at Kongwa, an old derelict railway station.



When they arrived at Dar es Salaam Airport, they were met by Nimrod Sejake, who was a senior member of the African National Congress (ANC). The MK group was conveyed by trucks to a residence in Dar es Salaam, which was known as “Mandela Camp”.

On 6 August, the group engaged with Ambrose Makiwane, who was in charge of Mandela Camp. Makiwane informed them that he had been appointed Commander of

the military camp that they were going to establish at a place called Kongwa, near Dodoma, about 576 kilometres from Dar es Salaam. The plan was that the group was to stay in Kongwa until more trained men had arrived for an attack to be launched on South Africa. The group was then transported in two military trucks along a rough and wet road, where they saw wildlife including lions, zebras, cheetahs, antelopes, etc.



When they arrived in Kongwa, they found a site at which there were only two dilapidated buildings in which the kitchen, toilets and showers were still in need of repairs and cleaning. On same day they arrived, in the evening, the group retired in a courthouse in Kongwa village. The following morning they cleared the camp and began to move in. Few people stayed in houses; the majority of the cadres stayed in tents for two, three years at Kongwa.

They were told that was where they were going to stay and had to make the place habitable. Cadres worked very hard to make it a habitable place, since Kongwa was a very dry, hot, dusty place with lots of diseases, especially eye diseases. People couldn't walk. At the beginning, it was really tough, until the leadership appointed a medical officer, Leslie Sondezi, who had some med-

ical training and had worked as a medical orderly in one of the hospitals in Durban.

In the camp they had platoons, with each platoon being on duty in sequence. Some sections would go to the kitchen. Some sections would go to the garden to develop vegetable gardens, others did guard duties, and some of the sections would go to the armoury, furthering their knowledge in the use of weapons or went for the shooting range. There were also cadres there who would be on duty to issue out weapons. And one of these people would be the man on duty of that platoon. He would oversee everything that things were running smoothly in the camp. And he would immediately report to the Officer Commanding what the situation was like in the entire camp.

There would also be political classes and in some days cadres would, after lunch, be free to go to town to go and just associate and come back in the evening. And in certain evenings there would be political speeches. Cadres kept themselves occupied, doing certain military maneuvers and marches.

There were also camps for FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front), MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union), and SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation), all in Kongwa, on land that had been set aside by the Tanzanian government for southern African liberation movements. The various liberation movements held inter-camp events, every Friday, and concerts in either of the camps ■

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

5 - 10 August 2023

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

■ 5 August 1875 First edition of Al-Ahram newspaper published in Cairo

Al-Ahram was founded in Alexandria in 1875 by two brothers, Be-shara Takla and Saleem Takla. It began as a weekly newspaper published every Saturday. Its first issue appeared on 5 August 1876. The paper was relaunched as a daily newspaper in January 1881.

■ 5 August 1907 Bombardment of Casablanca starts

The French navy started bombarding Casablanca with artillery shells from battleships. 7000 Moroccans were killed in the attack, as part of French colonization of Morocco. The conquest met fierce resistance from the Shawiya people, and as the insurrection spread, the French responded by firing bombs containing picric acid into residential neighbourhoods. Businesses, mosques and entire neighbourhoods were destroyed in the assault.

■ 5 August 1947 Playwright Julie Okoh born

Nigerian playwright, educator and women's rights activist was born in Ubijaja, Edo. More than a dozen books have been written analysing her plays depictions of women in African society. Julie Okoh received

a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Nigerian Theatre Artists in 2011. She continues to write plays.

■ 5 August 1950 Malaria eradicated in Eswatini

Malaria has been nearly eradicated in Swaziland, where before up to 1000 people died each year, especially in lowveld areas. Government had a campaign to spray every hut and house with DDT and to educate residents about the disease.

■ 5 August 1965 South Africa's first atomic reactor, Safari 1 opened.

South Africa's first atomic reactor, Safari I, was opened by the Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd at Pellindaba near Johannesburg.

■ 5 August 1987 Boy who harnessed the wind born



Malawian inventor and author, William Kamkwamba was born in Kasungu. He earned fame at age 14 for inventing an electric turbine to power household appliance made from blue gum trees and scrap parts. He turned the experience into a book *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, which became a global hit.

■ 5 August 2021 Gaming in Africa reach

Games analytic company NewZoo reports that 186 million Africans are gamers, mainly through games downloaded and played on phones. This is the highest growth in gaming in any continent.

■ 6 August 1909 Mining leads Eswatini economy

The British Commissioner of the protectorate of Swaziland, reported that mining leads the country's economy, with cassiterite tin as the main export, extracted from five white-owned mines.

■ 6 August 1945 USA nuclear bomb obliterates Hiroshima

The first nuclear weapon used in warfare obliterates Hiroshima, Japan as the World War II draws to an end. Uranium to power the bomb was mined in Belgian Congo (DRC). Since 1921, millions of dollars'

worth of uranium have been mined from Congo, with no profit or benefit going to the Congolese people or towards the development of the country.

■ **6 August 1962** **Nelson Mandela arrested**



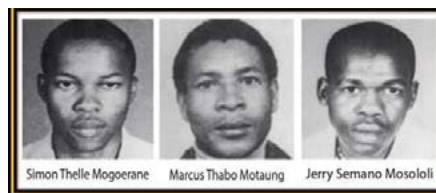
Nelson Mandela, leader of the ANC and first commander-in-chief of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), was captured in Cedera, near Howick, KZN shortly after his return to South Africa on completing military training in Oujda, Morocco, and after attending the All Africa People's Conference in Ethiopia. He was charged with incitement to strike and with illegally leaving the country. His trial took place in Pretoria Old Synagogue and in November 1962, he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on the charges. He began his sentence in Pretoria Central Prison.

■ **6 August 1965** **Cocoa House opens in Ibadan**

Cocoa house in Ibadan, Nigeria is a testament to the once-lucrative

cash crop era of Nigerian history. It was built from the revenue from cocoa, timber, rubber production and was the first sky scraper to be built in tropical Africa. The 26 floor building was first named Ile Awong Agbe (House of Farmers), before renamed Cocoa House. Nigeria remains the fourth largest exporter of cocoa, after Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia and Ghana.

■ **6 August 1982** **Moroka Three Sentenced to Death**



Three ANC members, Telle Simon Mogoerane, Jerry Semano Mosololi, and Marcus Thabo Motaung, were sentenced to death for separate attacks at the Moroka and Orlando Police stations in Soweto and the Wonderboom Police station in Pretoria in which four policemen were killed. The three, known as the "Moroka Three", were charged with high treason and twenty other alternative charges, including the attack at New Canada railway station and Central Park electric sub-station. They pleaded not guilty and cited police brutality during the 1976 uprising as cause for their actions against the police in Soweto and Wonderboom. Justice D. J. Curlewis ignored evidence of police brutality and passed a guilty verdict and imposed a death penalty on these men. He rejected their testimonies detailing their torture. The trial also revealed that South African medical profession-

als were complicit in police brutality and at times collaborated by giving the police permission to take away Motaung who was shot three times. The "Moroka Three" were executed on the 9 June 1984.

■ **6-7 August 1990** **Pretoria Minute signed**

The ANC and the South African Government issued a joint declaration (the "Pretoria Minute") at the conclusion of 15 hours of talks. The ANC announced that it would immediately suspend all armed actions, while the Government undertook to consider lifting the state of emergency in Natal "as early as possible" and to continue reviewing the security legislation and its application "in order to ensure free political activity". The government and the African National Congress (ANC) reaffirmed their commitment to talks about talks (Groote Schuur Minute) and the consensus reached on the release of political prisoners, return of exiles, obstacles in the Internal Security Act and suspension of armed action by the ANC as part of the on-going negotiations to end white minority rule. The final report of the Joint Working Group on political offences was accepted by both parties. Both sides pledged to redouble efforts to reduce the level of violence in the country. This consensus between the two parties became known as the Pretoria Minute.

■ **6 August 1992** **Adelaide Tambo Return to South Africa after 30 years of exile**

Adelaide Tambo became politically active after her grandfather's arrest at the age of ten. At high school, she started to work as a courier for

the ANC, and joined the ANC Youth League at the age of 18, where she met Oliver Tambo whom she later married. In 1960, the Tambos were asked by the ANC to set up the movement in exile. They first settled in London, and Mme Adelaide became a founding member of Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement and the Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO). Mam Adelaide Tambo returned to South Africa after the unbanning of the ANC, and was elected as National Treasurer of the ANC Women's League in 1991. She served as a member of the first democratic parliament from 1994 to 1999. She received the order of Boabab in gold for her commitment in struggle and her dedication to community service and nation building. Mam Tambo passed on 31 January 2007.

■ **6 August 2018** **WHO reports on Rwanda**



child health

The World Health Organisation reports significant advances in children's health in the country. At independence from Belgium in 1962, nearly a quarter (222 of 1000) of Rwandan children died before their fifth birthday. At the time of the WHO report, the figure declined to 39 of 1000, helped by advances

against malaria.

■ **6 August 2019** **Ngwevu intloko dinosaur fossil named**

For the first time a dinosaur is given an isiXhosa name: Ngwevu intloko (meaning grey skull). The fossil of a 200 million year old dinosaur was dug up in 1978 on a South African farm was first misidentified, until Wits University paleontologist determined that the fossil is a new genus of dinosaur and it got named on this day.

■ **7 August 1860** **Natal colony permit to import Indian indentured labour**

The colony was permitted by the British government to import indentured workers from the Indian subcontinent, to work on Natal sugar plantations on three year contracts. This formed the nucleus of the South African Indian population. South Africans of Indian/Asian origin today constitutes 2.6% of the population, or just over 1.5 million citizens (StatsSa, 2019)

■ **7 August 1932** **Abebe Bikila born**

Ethiopian barefoot runner and first black African to win an Olympic gold medal was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Abebe Bikila won the Men's Marathon at the 1960 Olympics, and won gold again in the same race in the 1964 Olympics.

■ **7 August 1933** **Author Wilma Stockenstrom born**

Wilhemina Johanna Stockenstrom is a significant and gifted Afrikaans writer, whose work has been translated into several other languages. Wilma studied Drama

at Stellenbosch University, where she initially focused on drama and playwright before she branched into poetry and fiction. She wrote a few plays and appeared in some theatre productions. With her first book of poetry, *Vir Die Bysinde Leser*, published in 1970, she received praise for the originality and unconventional use of language. Wilma showcased her acting abilities in television shows such as *Mannakwalanners* and *Die Be-soeker*, for which her performance earned her the Rapport-Oscar. Wilma has contributed extensively to Afrikaans writing in general, but it is mainly for her poetry that she is considered an important figure in Afrikaans literature. Originally from Napier in the Cape, she spent most of her working life in Pretoria, where she worked as a translator. She moved back to Cape Town in 1993.

■ **7 August 1934** **OATUU Secretary General born**

Independence leader and trade unionist, Dennis Akumu was born in Blando Akumu, Kenya. Angered by the exploitation of African workers during colonialism, he became a trade unionist known for his oratory. In 1973, he became the first Secretary General of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity.

■ **7 August 1960** **Cote d'Ivoire gains independence**

Precolonial history of Cote d'Ivoire includes the establishment of savanna and forest towns by the Duyla traders, including the town of Kong, the establishment of Islam in the north and the 17th century establishment of the kingdom of



Gyaaman. The capital, Bondoukou, became a centre for trade and Islamic scholarship. By the 18th century, a centralized political and administrative system had developed, but due to the European scramble for Africa, this system was replaced by French colonial rule in 1893. From 1904-1958, Cote d'Ivoire was incorporated into the Federation of French West Africa. In 1958, Cote d'Ivoire became an autonomous country within the French community, and on 7 August 1960, full independence from France had been achieved under the leadership of Félix Houphouët-Boigny, who governed until 1993. Cote d'Ivoire supported the South African liberation struggle and was the first country to re-establish diplomatic relations after the end of apartheid.

■ **7 August 1975** **Charlize Theron born**

South African artist and the first African to win Hollywood's Academy award was born in Benoni. She won the Oscar for Best Actress in the 2003 drama *Monster*.

■ **7 August 1992** **President Chissano meets Renamo leader**

Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano met with Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the Resistan-

cia Nacional Mozambicana (RENAMO), to sign a peace agreement in Rome. The two leaders signed a joint declaration committing themselves to the spirit of established protocols and ensuring that agreed constitutional guarantees would be adopted as law before a final peace agreement is signed. The final agreement was signed on 4 October 1992.

■ **7 August 2018** **Africa's largest indoor sports complex opened**

The largest multi-story indoor sports complex, named The Dome is opened in Swakopmund, Namibia by President Hage Geingob. Building started in 2014, the 7000sm complex has a five story office block attached, and is covered by 14,000sm of fabric.

■ **8 August 1906** **Mangena article on**



colonialism

Americans read about colonialism from an African point of view with the publication of South African lawyer Alfred Mangena's article on the topic in Iowa's Des Moines Register. Mangena went on to become SA's first black lawyer. He wrote in the article: "The English have shelled our villages, looted

our cattle, destroyed our crops, and burned our churches. Their end is attained – the native can now do nothing but go and work in the mines. We don't want to swamp the white man in Africa. But we desire a share in the country, and some political rights."

■ **8 August 1923** **Author Latifa al-Zayyat born**

Egyptian writer and activist was born on this day in Dumyat. A university professor and administrator, she was also director of the Egyptian Arts Academy. Her novels in colloquial Arabic explored political and sexuality themes.

■ **8 August 1970** **Rugby player Chester Williams born**

The only black player to be part of the Springbok team that won the 1995 Rugby World Cup, Williams was born in Paarl on this day.

■ **8 August 1976** **The Owl House lady passed on**

Helen Elizabeth Martins, at the age of seventy-eight passed away. On a cold winters' morning in Nieu-Bethesda she took her own life by swallowing caustic soda. Martins is known for the Owl House, a museum dedicated to her art in the picturesque town of Nieu-Bethesda, Eastern Cape. Her whimsical sculptures of mermaids, camels, prophets, giraffes and of course her iconic owls, made of cement and glass, transformed her home and garden between 1945 and 1976 into a 'sanctuary of color, light, and fantastical creatures.' She collaborated with Koos Malgas to build the Camel Yard, with over 300

sculptures. Martins was born on 23 December 1897 in Nieu-Bethesda.

■ **8 August 1999**
Mboweni first day in
office as SA Reserve
Bank Governor



The former minister of labour and later finance minister, Tito Mboweni, was appointed governor of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) to replace Dr Chris Stals. Mboweni, the first Black person to head the SARB institution. He first joined the Reserve Bank as an advisor to Chris Stals in 1998, and served as Governor until 2009. He was succeeded by Gill Marcus, the first woman to hold this position.

■ **8 August 2004**
Slaughter of Ostriches

In 2004, South Africa was hit by the H5N2 strain of the Avian Flu Virus, killing over 2000 birds in Middleton area, Eastern Cape and quickly spread. On 8 August, government ordered the slaughter of 30 000 ostriches to contain the virus. All export of poultry was suspended, as well as the movement of poultry between Eastern and Western Cape.

■ **9 August 1880**
Edmond Albius dies in
poverty

The self-taught horticulturalist and child genius, born into slavery and uneducated, died in poverty in Sainte-Suzanne, Réunion, after creating the means to grow the vanilla plant outside of its native Mexico at the age of 12. His technique was applied only after his death. In 2022, Madagascar provided 90% of global natural vanilla.

■ **9 August 1956**
Historic women's march
to Union Buildings

In one of the largest demonstrations staged in South African history, 20 000 women of all races marched to Pretoria's Union Buildings on 9 August 1956, to present a petition against the carrying of passes by women to the prime minister, J.G. Strijdom. This famous march is commemorated as National Women's day, a public holiday on 9 August every year. The march against pass laws was organised by the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW). The Federation famously challenged the idea that 'a woman's place is in the kitchen', declaring it instead to be 'everywhere'. Strijdom was not at the Union Buildings to accept the petition. The women of South Africa sent a public message that they would not be intimidated and silenced by unjust laws. After the petition was handed over to the secretary of the prime minister, the women sang the song: Wathint' abafazi, Strijdom! Since then, the phrase 'wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo' (You Strike a Woman, You Strike a Rock) has come to represent the courage and strength of South African women, and the fight against patriarchy and for a non-sexist society.

■ **9 August 1975**
Moses Kotane receives
Isithwalandwe/
Seaparankwe



Moses Kotane, General Secretary of the SACP and ANC leader received this highest award from the ANC in 1975, three years before his passing in 1978.

■ **9 August 1987**
Longest Mining strike
starts

South Africa's longest and biggest strike was organised by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), led by Cyril Ramaphosa as general secretary. At the time the second largest trade union in South Africa, NUM represented mineworkers in the gold and coal mines. Approximately 360 000 Black miners went on strike over wage and working conditions, lasting three weeks and costing close on R250 million. To break the strike, the Chamber of Mines retrenched approximately 50 000 workers. The mineworkers' strike finally came to an end after an agreement was negotiated with the Chamber of Mines outlining new working conditions and wage increases for mineworkers.

■ **10 August 1965**
Karen Muir youngest person in world to break a sporting record



Karen Muir was born and lived in Kimberley and went to the Diamantveld High School, when she broke the women's world record for backstroke at an event for girls, swimming a 110-yard backstroke in 1 minute, 8.7 seconds. Over the five years that followed, she set another fifteen swimming records, in twenty-two South African championships. She matriculated in 1970. After retiring from sport, she studied medicine at the University of Orange Freestate, where she qualified as a doctor. She practiced as a doctor and family physician, and died of breast cancer at the age of 60 years in Mossel Bay on 1 April 2013. Karin Muir was elected to the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1980.

■ **10 August 1969**
Zambia nationalized its copper mines

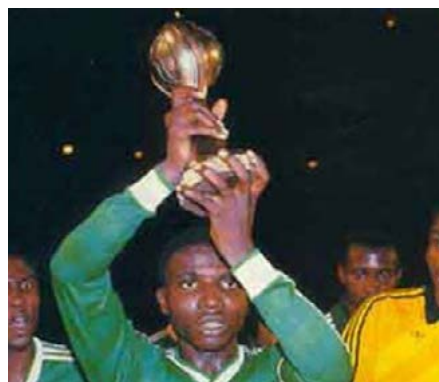
Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda announces nationalisation of copper mining companies, key to Zambia's economy contributing over 50 percent of government revenue. This policy gave the Zambian gov-

ernment the powers to use revenues collected from these mines to substantially reduce prices of basic food products. When copper prices collapsed in the mid-seventies, the Zambian economy began to decline. The government borrowed money from the International Monetary fund (IMF) to maintain lower prices of basic foodstuffs. In 1985, the IMF put pressure on the Zambian government to restructure the economy and abandon socialist economic policies. As a result, the government adopted the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP). These programmes were blamed for causing Zambia's economic decline.

■ **10 August 1971**
Pamphlet bombs in Cities

Eleven bombs exploded, scattering ANC propaganda leaflets in four major cities. The blasts occurred twelve months after similar actions in the same cities.

■ **10 August 1985**
Baby Eagles win World Cup



The Baby Eagles, Nigeria's under-16 football team won the final to become the first African team to win the FIFA U-16 World Cup held in China. The Nigerians went on to win the U-16 champions in 1993, 2007, 2013 and 2015.

■ **10 August 2020**
Radio personality and business person Bob Mabena passed on



One of the most iconic South African radio personality passed on this day, from cardiac arrest at the age of 51. Born west of Tshwane in 1969, Mabena started his radio career in 1989 at Radio Bop, followed by stints at Metro, MSG Africa and Power fm. He also released several albums, one which won a SAMA in 1997. Bob Mabena also raced professionally in the Group N series for Nissan.

■ **10 August 2020**
Rwanda Space Agency established

The national space agency was established by the government of Rwanda to develop data-collection satellites used in agricultural planning and natural disaster mitigation. Rwanda launched its first satellite in November 2019 ■

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

7 - 10 August 2023

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

■ 7 August

Global Forgiveness Day

A day to forgive and be forgiven and a chance to set things right. It is the perfect opportunity to set aside old differences, move beyond grievances or hurts, and start afresh.

■ 8 August

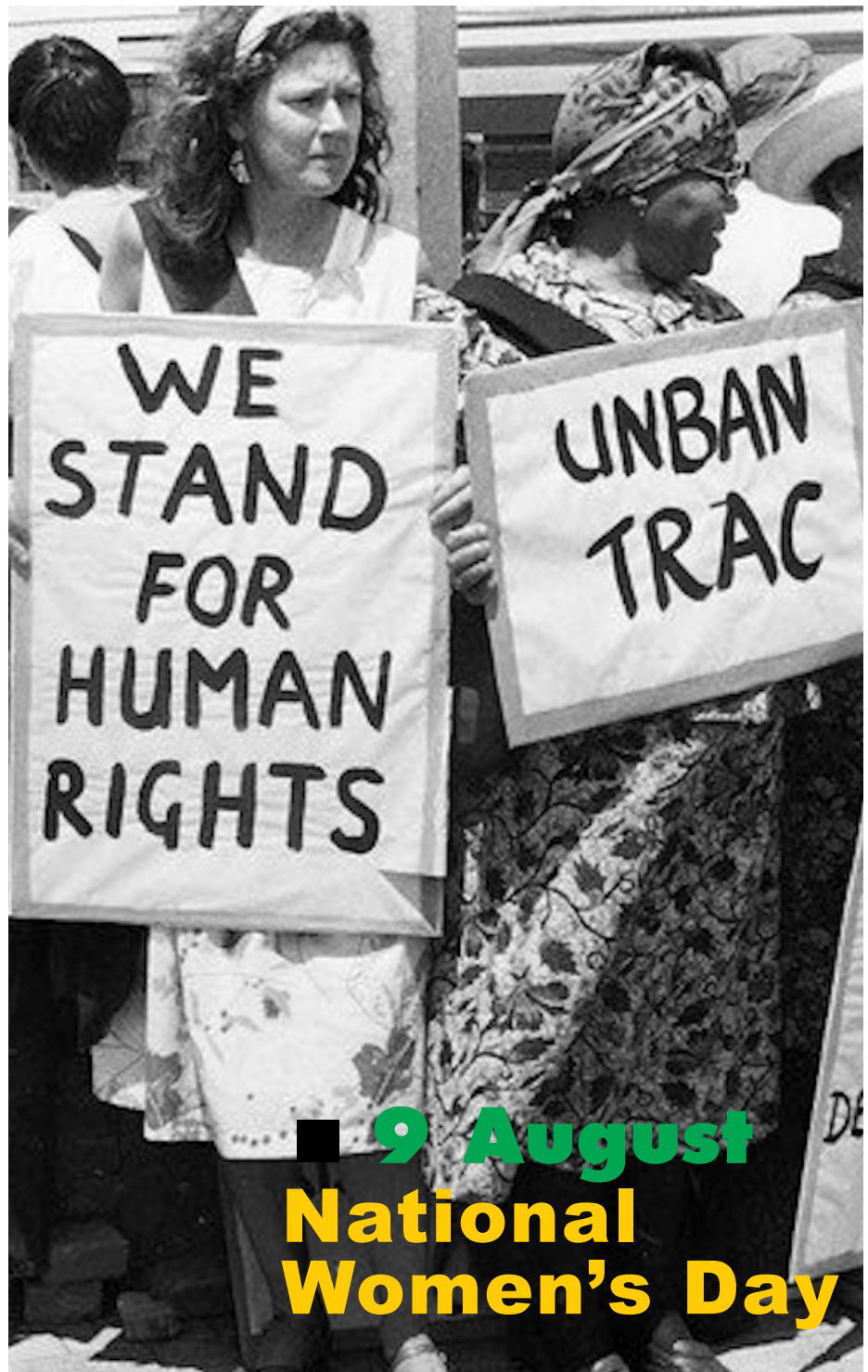
International Cat Day

International Cat Day was created in 2002 by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, to raise awareness for cats and learn about ways to help and protect them. In 2021 there were an estimated 220 million domestic cats and 480 million stray cats.

■ 9 August

National Women's Day

On 9 August 1956, over 20,000 women from all over South Africa travelled to the Union Buildings to join the Federation of South African Women's (FEDSAW) march against pass laws. Many thousands more were prevented from partaking in the march by the police or by bannings. Gathering on the lawn of the Union Buildings, a delegation of women – Lillian Ngoyi, Rahema Mohamed, Sophie De Bruyn and Helen Joseph handed over thousands of petitions against the hated passes to the representatives of the then Prime Minister, who was



■ 9 August
National Women's Day

hiding from the women. As they raised their fists to the air, they chanted:

Wathint' abafazi, Strijdom!
 Wathint' abafazi! Wathint' im-
 bokodo, Uzakufa!

(You Strike a Woman, You Strike a Rock, You shall be Crushed!) This women's march inspired the women movement throughout the decades of struggle, and after 1994 the day is celebrated as National Women's Day, to remind our country of the bravery of women in struggle and the need to continue to strive for a non-sexist South Africa.

■ 9 August

Book Lovers Day.

An unofficial holiday observed to encourage bibliophiles to celebrate reading and literature. People are advised to put away their smartphones and every possible technological distraction and pick up a book to read. Book Lovers Day is widely recognized on global scale, yet its origin and creator remain unknown to date

■ 9 August

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

9 August commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. It is celebrated around the world and marks the date of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982. Indigenous peoples live in all regions of the world and own, occupy or use some 22% of global land area. Definitions of indigenous people include 'original and earliest known inhabitants of an area'; 'cultural distinct groups affected

by colonialism' or 'inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live.' Numbering at least 370-500 million, indigenous peoples represent the greater part of the world's cultural diversity, and have created and speak the major share of the world's almost 7000 languages. Many indigenous peoples continue to be confronted with marginalization, extreme poverty and other human rights violations. www.unesco.org

■ 10 August

African Civil registration and Vital Statistics Day.

Africa Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Day is celebrated on 10 August every year, with the aim of increasing public awareness on the importance of the timely registration of vital events, particu-

larly births and deaths, through well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems.

■ 10 August

Africa Day of Decentralisation and Local Development

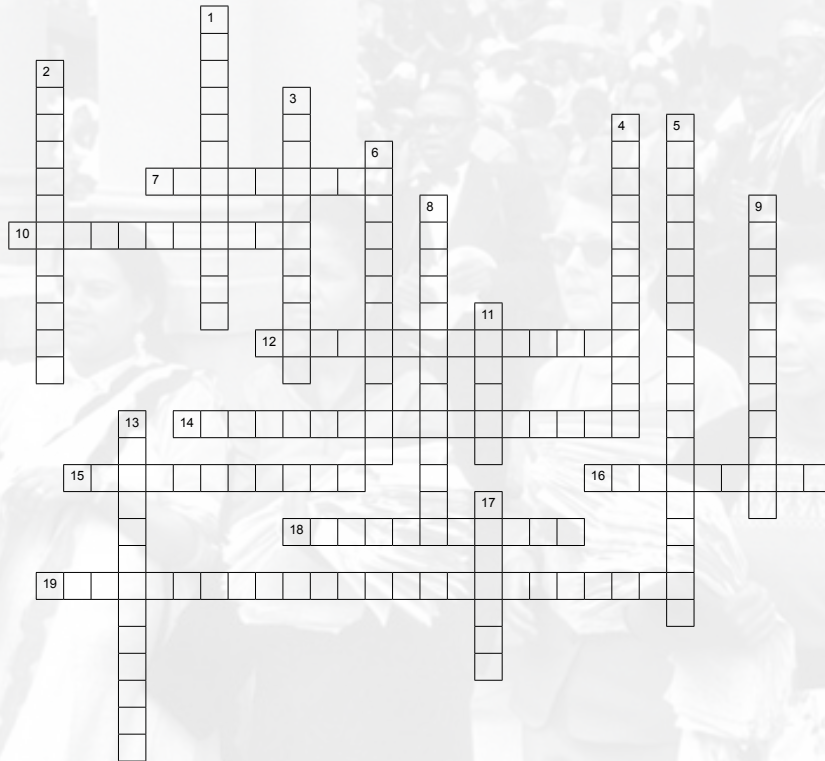
Local government is an important localized and decentralized form of government, from both a developmental and participation perspective. The day spotlights the role of local government in urban and rural areas across the continent. The African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development was adopted in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in 2014. The continental umbrella body for local government, formed in Tshwane in 2005, is the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA). The theme for 2021 African Local Government Day is "The contribution of arts, culture and heritage to the sustainable development of African cities and territories ■"



■ 9 August.

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

African Women's Day



Across

7. Malian midwife and freedom fighter, PAWO founder
 10. PAWO founder, First African woman to preside over UN General Assembly in 1969 (Liberia)
 12. Environmental political activist, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, author, founder Kenyan Green Belt Movement.
 14. First PAWO SG, also first woman to chair UNSC in November 1972 (Guinea)
 15. Represented UNIP, Zambia and chaired the 1962 Conference
 16. Pioneer author and women's rights advocate, Senegal
 18. Tanzanian women's leader and organiser of 1962 conference
 19. African Women's Day celebrate the formation of which continental organisation in 1962

Down

1. PAWO Honorary President from Senegal
 2. PAWO was declared a specialized agency in 2017 of which organisation
 3. The 31 July 1962 PAWO launch was held in which Tanzanian city?
 4. Current PAWO President from Namibia
 5. Nobel Peace Prize winner and Africa's first elected woman president, Liberia
 6. Tunisian activist for girls education, PAWO founder
 8. South African activist, Youth Leaguer, attended first PAWO Conference in 1962
 9. Fought British colonial rule in Ghana
 11. Queen, religious and military leader of the Djéroua, a powerful Berber tribe
 13. Represented SWAPO, Namibia at 1962 PAWO founding Conference
 17. Movie The Woman King made based on the Women Warriors from

WORD BANK

Pan African Womens Organization
 Dar es Salaam
 Eunice Ipinge
 Assetou Koite
 Jeanne Martin Cisse
 Adelaide Tambo
 Aoua Keita

Putuse Apollus
 Angie Brooks
 Biti Mohamed
 Radhia Haddad
 Betty Kaunda
 African Union
 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Wangari Maathai
 Yaa Asantewaa
 Dahomey
 Mariama Ba
 Kahina

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ANCWL NEC meeting

