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Conversations with the **President**



Peace and reconciliation is an important part of our shared heritage

By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LATER this week, South Africa will mark Heritage Day, in which we celebrate the great diversity of culture, language and history in our country.

Like many South Africans, I am an avid viewer of the television series *Shaka iLembe*, which premiered locally in June. This spectacular and ambitious epic based on the history of King Shaka and the formation of the Zulu kingdom has become one of the most successful South African

productions. It has supported skills development, job creation and localisation during six years of production.

Shaka iLembe forms part of a growing movement within the local creative industries to craft stories and histories about South Africa's people from their perspective and through their eyes.

We have come a long way from the state broadcasting of the apartheid era, when the rich and

cultural heritage of South Africa and lived realities of the South African people were marginalised.

Today, our storytellers, artists, filmmakers and other creative professionals are telling the stories of the South African people. These stories are cultural endowments for the benefit of future generations, and are integral to the ongoing task of forging national unity, inculcating national pride and promoting respect for diversity.

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Preserving Our Rich Heritage and Rejecting Harmful Practices

The success of *Shaka iLembe* and many other local productions should encourage creative professionals to apply their talents to the production of more such work. There are so many stories to be told, both of the past and the present.

One part of our country's story that has not been fully told is our peaceful transition to democracy. It is a complex story with many different perspectives and competing narratives.

This past weekend, speaking at the funeral service for Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the founder of the Inkatha Freedom Party, I told mourners that the commitment of leaders like Prince Buthelezi and President Nelson Mandela to put aside their differences and work for peace was a legacy we must all strive to uphold and emulate.

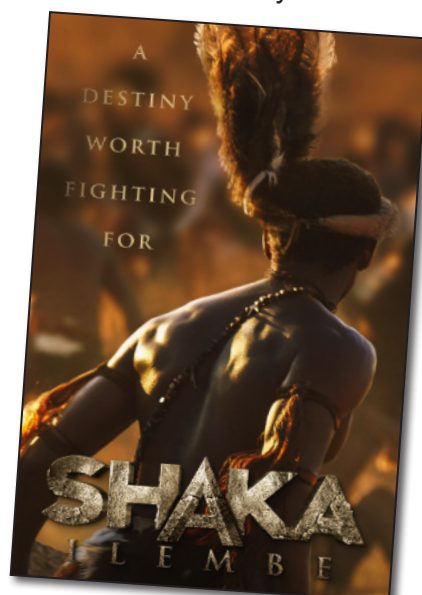
One of the most remarkable aspects of South African society today is our common commitment to maintain peace amongst ourselves and our neighbours, and to preventing tribalism and ethnic chauvinism from sowing discord between us. Even when acts of racism occur, these provocations are rejected by South Africans, who won't let them be used to

exacerbate tensions in communities.

This eternal vigilance is born of bitter experience that has its roots in the political violence of the 1980s and early-1990s, and how South Africans worked together to overcome differences, pull our country back from the brink and achieve peace.

As we revel in our cultural pride and celebrate our roots with art, dance, cuisine and music, we must remember that the struggle for peace and reconciliation is a vital part of our heritage.

We remember that the children born into democracy are able to



take pride in their heritage today because of the peaceful democratic transition, which produced a Constitution that guarantees rights and freedoms for all, including the right to express one's language and culture.

Today our artists and cultural workers are able to exercise their right to freedom of expression in how they chronicle both the past and the present, and to do so without fear of censure, banning or imprisonment.

These are the fruits of freedom, but also the fruits of peace. With so many countries and societies around the world today beset by conflict, we are fortunate that the project of national reconciliation is ongoing and has not been abandoned.

I call on all our creative practitioners to play a more prominent role in nation-building through work that highlights the uplifting, inspiring and enduring aspects of our society and its history.

Contributing to maintaining peace and to advancing reconciliation is our collective responsibility as South Africans. It is the greatest gift we can bestow on the generations to come.



STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA TO THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

SEVENTY-EIGHT years ago, in the aftermath of the Second World War, the nations of the world made a solemn commitment to save future generations from the horror and the suffering of war.

Through the United Nations Charter these nations accepted a shared mandate to foster peace and to promote fundamental human rights, social progress and a better standard of life for all.

And yet, as we gather here, much of humanity is confronted by war and conflict, by want and hunger, by disease and environmental disaster.

Solidarity and trust between states is being eroded. Inequality, poverty and unemployment are deepening.

In these conditions and in the wake of a devastating global pandemic, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals seem increasingly remote.

At the moment when every human effort should be directed towards the realisation of Agenda 2030, our attention and our energies have once again been diverted by the scourge of war. But these woes, these divisions, these seemingly intractable troubles, can and must be overcome. Over millennia, the human race

has demonstrated an enormous capacity for resilience, adaptation, innovation, compassion and solidarity.

At this moment, we are all called upon to reaffirm these essential qualities that define our common humanity.

These qualities must be evident in how we work together as a global community and as nations to end war and conflict.

Democratic South Africa has consistently advocated for dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy to prevent and end conflict and achieve lasting peace.



It has committed itself to the promotion of human rights, human dignity, justice, democracy and adherence to international law.

From the experience of our own journey from apartheid to democracy, we value the importance of engaging all parties to conflicts to achieve peaceful, just and enduring resolutions.

It is these principles that inform South Africa's participation in the African Peace Initiative, which seeks a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

In this conflict, as in all conflicts, we have insisted that the UN Charter's principle of respect for the territorial integrity of every country should be upheld.

Our participation in the African Peace Initiative is informed by a desire to see an end to the suffering of those most directly affected by the conflict and the millions on our continent and across the world who, as a result of the conflict, are now vulnerable to worsening hunger and deprivation.

As the international community, we must do everything within our

means to enable meaningful dialogue, just as we should refrain from any actions that fuel the conflict.

As we confront other conflicts in several parts of the world, including on our continent Africa, we need to be investing in prevention and peacebuilding.

We support the call by the UN Secretary-General in the New Agenda for Peace for Member States to provide more sustainable and predictable financing to peacebuilding efforts.

As a global community, we should be concerned by recent incidents of unconstitutional changes of government in some parts of Africa.

The global community needs to work alongside the African Union to support peace efforts in the eastern DRC, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Mali, Central African Republic, South Sudan, northern Mozambique, the Great Lakes Region, the Sahel, Niger and the Horn of Africa.

The African Union Peace and Security Council has declared that it stands ready to deepen

its cooperation with the UN Security Council to silence the guns on the African continent and to achieve peace, stability and development.

We are called upon to remain true to the founding principles of the United Nations, by recognising the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination in line with the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions.

We must work for peace in the Middle East. For as long as the land of the Palestinians remains occupied, for as long as their rights are ignored and their dignity denied, such peace will remain elusive.

The actions of the Government of Israel have imperiled the possibility of a viable two state solution.

The principles of the UN Charter on territorial integrity and on the prohibition on the annexation of land through the use of force must be applied in this situation.

South Africa continues to call for the lifting of the economic embargo against Cuba, which has caused untold damage to the country's economy and people.

Sanctions against Zimbabwe should also be lifted as they are imposing untold suffering on ordinary Zimbabweans.

As many people around the world are confronted by hunger and want the essential human qualities of cooperation and solidarity must be evident in the actions we take to bridge the divide between wealthy and poor.

We must summon the necessary will and resolve to regain the momentum towards the achieve-

ment of the 2030 Agenda.

This means that we must address the fundamental development challenges that have long characterised our unequal world.

To address the developmental challenges that face many people in the world we required targeted investment, technology transfer and capacity building support, especially in key areas such as industrialisation, infrastructure, agriculture, water, energy, education and health.

This also requires predictable and sustained financial support, including supportive trade policies, from the international community.

We call on our partners from wealthier countries to meet the financial commitments they have made.

It is a great concern that these wealthier countries have failed to meet their undertakings to mobilise 100 billion dollars a year for developing economies to take climate action.

We support the proposals outlined in the Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Goals Stimulus.

In particular, we support the call to tackle debt and debt distress, to massively scale up affordable long-term financing to 500 billion dollars a year, and to expand contingency financing to countries in need.

It is a grave indictment of this international community that we can spend so much on war, but we cannot support action that needs to be taken to meet the most basic needs of billions of

people.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals depends fundamentally on the empowerment of women in all spheres of life.

Social and economic progress will not be possible unless we end gender discrimination. We must ensure that there is equal access for women to health care, education and economic opportunities.

We must pay particular attention to the provision of adequate health services to every woman, child and adolescent. By doing so, we will fundamentally improve the health and well-being of all.

The empowerment of women must be central to the actions we now take towards the realisation of Agenda 2030.

The essential human qualities of innovation and adaptation must be evident in the actions we take to prevent the destruction of our planet.

Africa is warming faster than the rest of the world.

We are told that of the 20 climate hotspots in the world, 17 are in Africa.

Centuries after the end of the slave trade, decades after the end of the colonial exploitation of Africa's resources, the people of our continent are once again bearing the cost of the industrialisation and development of the wealthy nations of the world.

This is a price that the people of Africa are no longer prepared to pay.

We urge global leaders to accelerate global decarbonisation while pursuing equality and shared prosperity.

We need to advance all three pillars of the Paris Agreement – mitigation, adaptation and support – with equal ambition and urgency. African countries, alongside other developing economy countries, need increased financial support to both implement the 2030



Agenda and achieve their climate change goals in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

We need to operationalise the Loss and Damage Fund for vulnerable countries hit hard by climate disasters, as agreed at COP27.

Africa has embraced this challenge.

Africa is determined to deploy smart, digital and efficient green technologies to expand industrial production, boost agricultural yields, drive growth and create sustained employment for Africa's people.

As the global community, we must ensure the essential qualities that define our humanity are evident in the institutions that manage the conduct of international relations.

We require institutions that are inclusive, representative, democratic and advance the interests of all nations.

We require a renewed commitment to multilateralism, based on clear rules and supported by effective institutions.

This is the moment to proceed with the reform of the United Nations Security Council, to give meaning to the principle of the sovereign equality of nations and to enable the council to respond more effectively to current geopolitical realities.

We are pleased that the Common African Position on the reform of the Security Council is increasingly enjoying wide support.

This process must move to text-based negotiations, creating an opportunity for convergence between Member States.

We must ensure that the voice of the African continent and the global South is strengthened in the United Nations and broader multilateral system.

All the peoples represented here in this United Nations had their origins in Africa.

In Africa, they developed the tools and capabilities to spread across the world and achievable remarkable feats of development and progress.

Despite its history, despite the legacy of exploitation and subjugation,

despite the ongoing challenge of conflict and instability, Africa is determined to regain its position as a site of human progress.

Through the African Continental Free Trade Area, which is creating a wider seamless trading area of low tariffs and accelerated interconnectivity, African countries are mobilising their collective means and resources to achieve shared prosperity.

Through the African Continental Free Trade Area, African countries are establishing the foundation for a massive increase in trade, accelerated infrastructure development, regional integration and sustainable industrialisation.

As the global community, we have the means and we have the desire to confront and overcome the enormous challenges that face humanity today.

As the nations gathered here in this General Assembly, let us demonstrate that we have both the will and the resolve to secure a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for our world and for the generations that will follow.



International Diplomacy:

President Ramaphosa met with Ukrainian President Zelensky to discuss the way forward on the peace initiative, exchange of the prisoners of war, the return of children and the revival of the grain deal.

A critical viewpoint: GENDER EQUALITY IN A CONTEMPORARY WORKPLACE

MAO Zedong, who popularized the age-old Chinese adage, “*Women Hold Up Half the Sky*”, argued that women be used maximally, outside their traditional arena, especially that of the home. They must be employed in all sectors of life, more so in what is considered the all-powerful domain of men, professional business, and the powerful sectors of life where the acquisition of money predominate human existence. Hence, Mao’s extortion of the affirmation of successful women stands and must prevail as a beacon to women across the globe!

Although there has been a lot of change in the 29 years of our democracy, the fundamental question remains, “Have we really transformed the lives of women in our original quest of full equality for all, especially women?”

The response at best, is bitter-sweet. The unequal gender gap remains; it is ever-present, even omnipotent, in most of our socio-economic sectors. Women suffer from the most unbearable working conditions, notwithstanding our so-called equal policy objectives, and women as a constant, are still confronted by the worst of patriarchy. This



■ By **TANYA BOWERS**

disposition is exacerbated by our current poor economic conditions, where female-headed working class households are significantly poorer than that of their menfolk. This of course has been aggravated by COVID-19, whilst the effects of COVID and being forever poor, are either masked as insignificant female contributions or minimized when and where it succeeds. Global events, such as the Russo – Ukraine war aggravated an already foible existence, including higher bread prices and diminish-

ing rand values, which devalues women even more. There is a genuine lack of social and financial support, the odd exceptional cases where female businesses thrive, are nothing in comparison to the poor quality of life, unsustainable, unfair, and unequal society of ours. It is always women who suffer the most!

While we are in favour of legislation that promotes employment equity, these regulations do not ensure that women have the same rights to financial security and economic independence. Society’s refusal to uplift women financially is the main cause of black women’s subjugation.

The gendered posture that poverty inflicts is not a coincidence. This is because the inherent, exploitative nature and unfair market systems entrenched in capitalism’s structural elements, which serve as a systematic criticism of patriarchy, selectively mutes women’s voices in today’s workplaces.

These lived experiences, linked to a variety of political, economic, social, technological, and environmental dimensions are the barriers to genuine equal gender transition of a fairer South Africa and the world. These are invari-



ably linked to issues of gender stereotypes, injustice, under-representation of women's access to rights, and lack of social protection and economic empowerment. With this said, the uneasy silence that surround the so-called controversial issues of the aforementioned under-representation of women in certain workplace activities and elevation of them to position of power in much higher numbers, and the lack of investment in gender-friendly technologies, the deconstruction of gender workplace power relations, and the inability to garner sufficient support for gender accommodation, laws for childcare facilities, and work guarantees for women when in menstruation, must become more than empathy and mere platitudes, real, effective paid work or words, must be effected as a necessity.

Even though the Constitution prohibits unjust discrimination and ensures equality before the law, it doesn't address the questions of ownership and how much real power women have in decision-making or how far we've come towards addressing issues of gender parity. Existing research linking employees' ideas of justice with workplace fairness

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We don't ask for this, we demand this, as enshrined in Law.



is supported by the empirical facts of gender-based violence (GBV), sexism, hegemonic masculinity, gender wage discrepancies and perceptions of injustice. Although representation is an important indicator for gender equality, it cannot be the only strategy for affecting a shift along the lines of how gender is viewed by an individual, the workplace and in society in the main.

Therefore, the way we approach workplace policy and procedure formulation is a fundamental criterion that necessitates a combination of true commitment, systems thinking, and inclusivity to address the underlying difficulties which compromises the values and objectives of gender equality.

This viewpoint is situated within the repressive characteristics of a capitalist market economy and how they present themselves in discriminatory policies and behaviour towards women as individuals, as employees within firms, and as members of society at large. This, however difficult it is to understand for men, and even the 'silent and muted voices' of women, determines how systemic racism and sexism interact in synergy with market forces.

A convergence of minds that contribute towards shaping a new gender paradigm, where women claim their space by dismantling any form of oppression and women's vulnerability in a male-dominated world can but help to eradicate the objectification of women and the concomitant stereotypes that women suffer daily.

Gender mainstreaming must therefore be a deliberate strategy that incorporates a gender lens in all policies and procedures in achieving more equitable outcomes.

We don't ask for this, we demand this, as enshrined in Law.

This is Ours!!

Young Lions, Ready yourselves to the anticipated Appointment with the Future

■ By **SELLO SHAI**

THE den of young lions, referred to as the African National Congress Youth League was built like Noah's Ark as the story is told in the Bible. The building of the young lion's den and Noah's Ark have no discrepancy because both endeavours were meant to instil positive thinking, realise effective social mobilisation and wrap the lives of the tyrannized and vulnerable populace of their beloved nation with a cottonwool, respectively.

The slight difference is that Noah didn't voluntarily build the Ark but the Lord commanded him to build it in which his family and *"every living thing of all flesh"* were saved from the flood. The floodwater destroyed the wicked and all creatures that lived on the land except those in the Ark. When the floodwater receded, Noah and his family exited the ark. Then God blessed Noah and his 'sons', saying to them, *"Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth."*

It was, unlike Anton Lembede, Peter Mda, Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, who were forced by material condition on the ground to build the den for



the young lions' retreat. These are the young builders who were born, lived and suffered under the man-made cruel and evil environment of apartheid. Majority of them paid the supreme sacrifice so that you and I could be free.

The ANCYL must realise that this future is not theirs but borrowed from their children. Comrade Moses Kotane when he said *"At this hour of destiny, your country and your people need you. The future of South Africa is in your hands and it will be what you make of it."* He knew that that future was borrowed from us, his children.

Seven decades and nine years ago this progressive youth outfit was built for the purpose of striving to rally the youth of our country to support, unite behind this Den and actively participate in the struggle to create a non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic and prosperous society. It was also built to support and reinforce the mother body, the African National Congress as a steward in the attainment of the goals of the National Democratic Revolution. The full contribution to the work of the African National Congress and to the life of the nation by its young person's re-

mains undisputed.

This Den – the ANCYL – is not an enclosed space but rather a retreat for autonomous strategic hunting programme as the lion roars towards its anticipated appointment with the future. Patriotism among the youth and promotion of gender equality in all spheres of life, especially amongst the youth must remain the ANCYL's middle name instead of being pre-occupied with issues that will impact deleteriously in their journey to realise the anticipated political rendezvous with the tomorrow and beyond.

The ANCYL must not move their eye from the ball. As we celebrate the youth league's 79th anniversary, we want to see the new ANC Youth League led by the capable, energetic, progressive and visionary President Col-

len Malatjie, his Deputy Phumzile Mgcina, Secretary General Mntuwoxolo Ngudle, his members of the secretariat 1st Deputy Secretary General Tsakani Shiviti, 2nd Deputy Secretary General Olga Seate, the Treasure General Zweli Masilela and the recently elected ANC Youth League collective growing from strength to strength. The ANCYL shall only realise economic freedom and social change if it avoids to be the youth desk of the ANC, praise singers, voting fodder and king makers of individual selfish adults of the ANC mother body.

They must be able to advance their views, frustrations, and recommendations through these representatives to a one solid organization of the people of South Africa, the African National Congress. Even though its autonomy is based on programmes to realise the aims and objectives as

enshrined in the ANCYL Constitution but not independent from the ANC mother body. The ANCYL must continue to be a necessary irritation with an endeavour to help quicken the transformation of South Africa and the renewal of the African National Congress.

Since the ANCYL was established in 1944, the ANC revolutionary character changed radically over the years. The congress movement needs the ANC Youth League like never before.

At this juncture, the ANCYL's chief responsibility must be rallying all young persons, both registered and unregistered voters, to ready themselves to vote for the ANC in the next year's general elections.

The DA will continue to say no to everything coming from this majority government because their policies are anchored in colonial and apartheid doctrine and have a heightened relationship with racial discrimination laws as evident by exodus of black leaders from the DA. The people of South Africa both black and white must reject this evil crusade.

It is only the ANCYL that will save us. Our civil society, inclusive of the youth sector, is not socially mobilised, effectively and adequately serviced by our ANC structures. This can be a low-lying fruits for the ANCYL. The populace is confronted with issues of crime, GBV, drugs, unemployment, etc. The youth league of the ANC, as it celebrate 79 years since it was formed must retreat to some of the old strategies and tactics that were executed by UDF [as we equally celebrate four decades since the UDF was established] like *"Organs of the People's Power."*





The leadership of the ANC Youth League paid a courtesy visit to renowned artist Mam Ester Mahlangu

The ANCYL must reconsider re-establishing ANCYL Branches in Institutions of High Learning.

This approach of “*Organs of People's Power*” must also include and target institutions of high learning because colleges, Further Education and Training, and universities are also communities on their own. 90% of the lives of thousands of young persons as students are spent there. These students go home socially mobilised and politicised under the ANC ideology.

The time is now for the ANCYL to establish the Pioneering Brigades of Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Anton Lembede, Solomzi Mda, Peter Mokaba, Lulu Johnson, Malusi Gigaba, Fikile Mbalula, Bannie Molokwane, Solomon Mahlangu, Stanza Bopape and many more as it confronts stumbling

blocks facing young persons in our country, Africa and the world at large.

Students are regularly attacked in their places of abode, on the streets and everywhere else they go. The abuse of a girl child, children and young persons is the language of the day. The ANCYL must weigh up the prospect of coming with an entity of an NPO or NGO approach with an endeavour to tackle the above.

A programme to arrest this sorry scenario must be implemented now or never. The ANCYL constitution also demand of its members to promote the creation of a broad, non-aligned pioneer movement and fight for the rights of children as enshrined in the UN Declaration of Children's Rights.

This line of attack of servicing students and young persons in a

number of communities, schools and institutions of higher learning will serve as a tangible preparatory school for the ANC, as we previously used to call this den. ANCYL must not leave any untenanted gap, instead must be involved in all affairs of their communities. The ANCYL must always strive and must work for the educational, moral, art and culture, sports upliftment of young persons and champion the general interests and rights of the South African Youth in the socio-economic and political life of the country as enshrined in its constitution.

Happy 79 years birthday youth parliament of the Congress Movement.

Sello Shai is former ANCYL Regional Deputy Chairperson, Western Region, Mpumalanga Province



Reframing Cooperatives in South Africa: From Aspirations to Actions Across Sectors

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

THE cooperative model has historically been a cornerstone in the African National Congress (ANC) agenda for economic development and social justice in South Africa. These enterprises, steeped in the principles of collective ownership, social responsibility, and community development, have vast untapped potential. Yet, a lingering question remains – why has the implementation of a potentially transformative model been so patchy?

Given this week's Parliaments Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development on the

State of the Cooperative Sector; this article, aims at shedding light on the challenges facing cooperatives, also questions the political will backing these enterprises and proposes immediate actions to get them back on track.

Status Quo: A Landscape of Missed Opportunities

The Cooperative sector remains beleaguered by implementation gaps, regulatory challenges, and an identity crisis and urgently needs multi-sectoral approaches to respond to: housing, spaza shops, unemployment, energy, sustainability, and food security –

to revitalize cooperatives.

We need to bring back hope and promise and confront mismanagement, and unsustainability.

Strengths and Weaknesses: A Strategic Analysis

Strengths:

- **Community Ownership:** Cooperatives align with ANC's core principles of social justice and economic development.
- **Resource Mobilization:** WE CAN leverage local resources, minimizing dependency



on external factors. Let's believe and have faith in our collective people's capacity.

Weaknesses:

- **Governance and Management:** The lack of strong governance structures and accountability often leads to mismanagement.
- **Scalability:** Cooperatives struggle to scale, particularly when it comes to large and complex economic activities.

Opportunities and Threats:

We as the ANC can use its political capital to foster a conducive environment for cooperatives, attract social impact investors, and integrate cooperatives into value chains. However, political interference and regulatory challenges are potential threats.

What is happening currently?

Primary (first level) co-operative enterprises whose members are natural persons only and may legally admit juristic persons. As of March 2021, it is estimated that there were 209,000 registered co-operatives in South Africa, with 99% estimated to be primary co-operatives. This indicates a significant increase in registrations from a baseline 43,000 since 2009, and an estimated 13,200 in 2012.

With a legal minimum requirement for a primary being 5 persons (and may include juristic persons), it may be conservatively estimated that there are over 1 million members of primary co-operatives. This means population density (percentage of members in the overall population) is at 1,6 percent, far lower than the Sub-Saharan Africa of 7 percent, and slightly higher than

Palestine (1.2 per cent).

In the financial sector, co-operative banking sector has seen stagnant membership growth but steady growth in financial performance. As of March 2023, the sector had 29 registered co-operative banking institutions (the CBIs), serving over 30 000 members who have mobilized nearly R500m savings deposits. From these savings deposits the sector has lent out over R350-million to their members in a form of personal loans, enterprise and housing finance. The financial sector includes co-operatives not registered under the Co-operative Banks Act but registered under the Co-operatives Act and other financial legislation such as NCR and FSCA. They include Praetorium Trust, which initially started as a buying organisation, using buying card, which has assets of over R1-billion and membership of over 25,000.

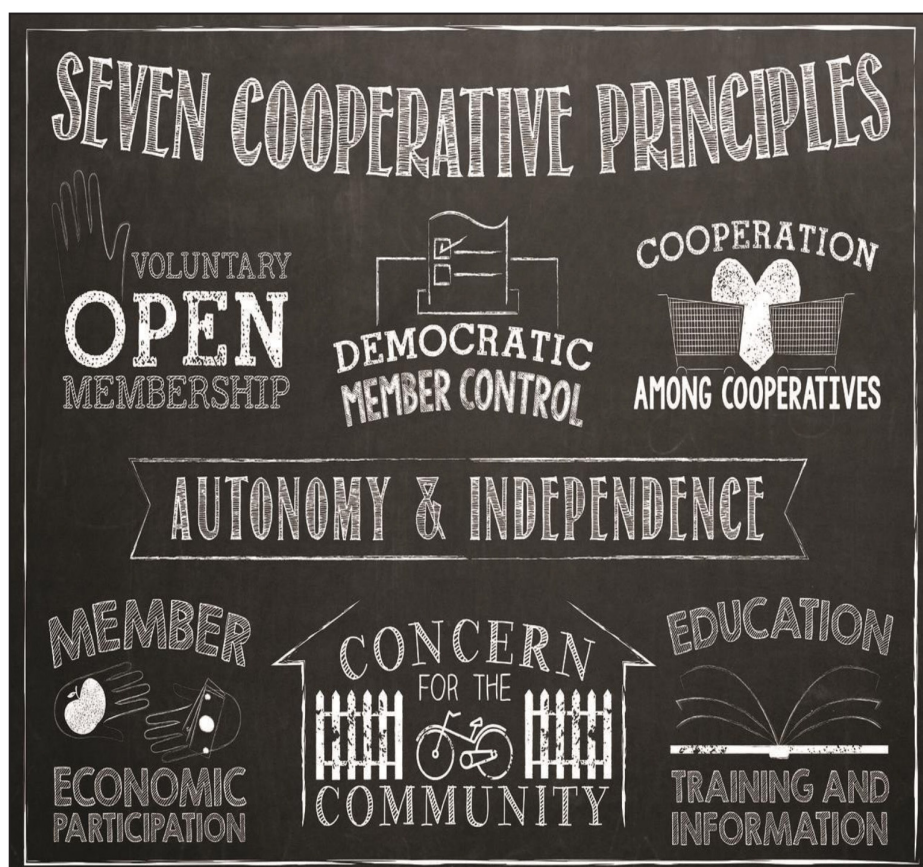
It is also evident that majority of members of these co-operatives do not identify themselves as worker co-operatives, indicating the problem of co-operative identity in the sector.

The lack of co-operative identity, in which registration for co-operative is not motivated by the nature and purpose of co-operatives, but mainly by desire to access a grant or external funding, has created many "pseudo or fake co-operatives". Worker-owned type of co-operatives are literally the major beneficiaries of CIS funding and other funding programmes for co-operatives.

Why the Lack of Implementation?

Identity Crisis:

A key challenge is the "identity crisis" within co-operatives. Many cooperatives are formed with the



primary aim of accessing grants or external funding, not necessarily to adhere to the essence and responsibilities of a cooperative.

Regulatory Hurdles:

Complex and sometimes outdated regulations make it harder for cooperatives to navigate the bureaucratic maze. The absence of clear guidelines, especially for secondary and tertiary co-operatives, exacerbates the problem. Revise the National Cooperative Strategy 2023–2033 and the Co-operatives Act of 2013 urgently.

Financial Limitations:

Access to finance remains a stumbling block. While there are institutions like the Cooperative Banks Development Agency (CBDA), the support does not match the scale of the need.

Is There Political Will to drive a cross-sectoral cooperative imperative?

Housing

The need for quality housing remains acute. A consolidated needs assessment across all housing projects is vital. Engaging with the National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC) for financial and strategic support can bridge the funding and implementation gaps.

Spaza Shops

The retail sector, particularly spaza shops, represents an untapped market for cooperative intervention. Aligning 25,000 identified South African-owned spaza shops with the SEFA Township, Rural Entrepreneurial Programme (TREP), we can fortify the retail supply chain and localize economic benefits.



Unemployment

Addressing unemployment necessitates creative solutions. Piloting locally made township Industrial Container malls can serve as incubators for small businesses, simultaneously creating jobs and facilitating township economic programmes.

Energy

As South Africa transitions to more sustainable energy solutions, cooperatives can play a significant role. Cooperatives must engage in the Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission (PCCC) Just Energy Transition dialogue to explore their potential in sustainable energy projects.

Sustainability of Cooperatives

The administrative challenges facing cooperatives can be streamlined through digitization.

A comprehensive digital system that assists cooperatives in administration, compliance, and financial management can significantly improve sustainability.

Food Security

With food security remaining a priority, the cooperative model can foster agricultural productivity. The time is ripe to conclude workshops toward the launch of the country's first National Agricultural Tertiary Cooperative, a pivotal step in harnessing agricultural cooperatives for national food security.

Given that cooperatives align with the ANC's objectives of collective ownership and economic inclusivity, one would expect strong political backing. However, the landscape suggests a disconnect between policy and practice. These are some of the action steps the current Cooperative Policy review must consider to demonstrate commitment and political will:

Short-Term Actionable Steps:

i. Policy Audit

ii. Rigorously review existing cooperative policies and identifying actionable strategies including gaps and

opportunities, embracing International and Africa based best practices.

iii. Financial Infusion – Co-ordinate and liaise with the Department of Trade and Industry, the CBDA, and collaborate with financial institutions like NHFC and SEDA for targeted financial support and grant programmes, focusing on start-up capital and scaling opportunities for cooperatives.

iv. Regulatory Streamlining
Regulations must be revised to remove redundancy and inefficiency. A unified, simplified regulatory framework will make it easier for all types of cooperatives to comply with legal requirements.

v. Capacity Building
Collaborate with educational institutions and experts like DGRV, NDA to develop a co-operative-centric curriculum. This helps in creating a workforce ready to participate actively in cooperative models.

vi. Public-Private Partnerships
Engage with corporate stakeholders to explore avenues of partnerships, mentorship, and joint ventures with cooperatives. This not only boosts credibility but can serve as an additional source of funding and market access for co-operatives. The “*Afrikaner Kooperasies*” model stands as a testament to the efficacy of well-managed cooperatives in fostering economic development. Their success lies in strong governance, community participation, and financial prudence. Emulating these aspects can offer a roadmap for the success of

Black-owned cooperatives. Let's work, share and learn together.

vii. Establishing a Cooperative Council:

In line with international best practices, establish a National Cooperative Council that comprises members from governmental bodies, financial institutions, and the cooperatives themselves. This council would oversee the strategic growth, policy advocacy, and education in the cooperative sector.

Conclusion

The untapped potential of cooperatives in South Africa is immense. They could indeed be the drivers of an equitable economic landscape. But for that to happen, we need not only political will but also actionable strategies and immediate implementation. The time for rhetoric is over; it's time to act, to transform policies into practices and opportunities into outcomes. Only then can we claim to have made genuine progress in leveraging cooperatives as catalysts for socio-economic transformation.

The ANC must leverage its polit-

ical capital to expedite the necessary reforms and provide the institutional support needed for cooperatives to thrive.

Revitalizing the cooperative sector is not merely a matter of economic policy but a social imperative that aligns with ANC's commitment to building a just and equitable society. The time is ripe for revisiting our approach to cooperatives to make them an effective vehicle for social change and economic empowerment. By embracing lessons from successful models and making informed, strategic decisions, we can re-orient cooperatives to be self-reliant and sustainable, thereby delivering the economic dividend that South Africa so desperately needs.

The power of cooperatives in making life changing difference to build and achieve a vision of inclusive growth in real life. It is believed that in the words of Tom Vislsack the “*people working together in a strong community with a truly shared vision, shared goals and common purpose can make the impossible possible.*”

Faiez Jacobs is former ANC WC Provincial Secretary and current MP and Whip for Small Business.



Let the Best Amongst us Lead the Rebuilding, Renewal and Unity of the ANC

■ By **ORAPELENG MATSHEDISO**

MADIBA (Nelson Mandela) didn't force his leadership; at every event, especially committee meetings, it was patience (a rare leadership trait) that we learned from Madiba. Because he would sit and listen and listen, and then, at the end speak"—Ahmed Kathrada.

Therefore, the rebuilding, renewal and unity process of the ANC needs politically conscious membership and leadership that is equal to the task of this epoch; and leadership or membership that does not impose itself and its views into the organisational structures and the society.

Some of us were privileged to have been recruited into the ANC and other organisations of mass democratic movement (MDM) by comrades who patiently taught us both the written and unwritten founding principles of our organisations. More so, how the ANC used to manage its successions and elections of leadership. We have been taught to correctly internalise and practicalise the phrase "*let the best lead us*". We have been taught to appreciate and accept that even within or among our own generation; there are comrades who are more seasoned and capacitated; than us, and we have to always respect and allow them to lead us and

the society; for the survival of the ANC as a true leader of the society and the midwife of social transformation.

Let the best lead, and this must also be understood within the context of what President Nelson Mandela said in 1997 barely three years after the movement got into government "*The country we have inherited is essentially structured in a manner which denies us the possibility to achieve the goal of creating a new people-centred society*". Therefore, the best among us must be elected to ensure that a national democratic society (NDS) is realised through the prosecution of the national democratic revolution (NDR).

For an example. Comrades such as David Maimela, Phindile Kunene, Mosimanegape Moleme, Lazola Ndamase, Buti Manamela and many others are to a certain extent my generation. But, acknowledging and accepting that they have led us and are somehow senior to some of us does not make us lesser of leaders. This has been the unwritten principle that was internalised and practised within the congress movement for many years. This





Comrades Thabo Mbeki, Nelson Mandela and Jacob Zuma at the ANC 50th National Conference held in Mafikeng, 1997

unwritten principle has been key in managing succession and reducing unnecessary leadership contestations. I am not suggesting that we should undermine our internal democracy and not contest each other as generations. I am merely reflecting on how the principle of *“let the best amongst us lead”* assisted the organisation and provided it with an opportunity to be led by comrades who are equal to the tasks of each epoch in history. Consequently, this made the ANC a true leader of society through the provision of visionary and well-trained leadership to the movement and society.

Today, it has become fashionable to elect comrades with no capacity to articulate and lead the movement together with society; comrades who can enter the battle of ideas and find it very difficult to influence any discourse in the very same society we claim to be its leader.

I am reminded by the books of history that on the 8th of January 1912 in Bloemfontein (Mangaung), the South African Native National Congress (SANNC), today known as ANC was formed; and had its inaugural elective

conference on that day. Notably, the ANC maturely managed leadership elections. John Langalebalele Dube was elected its first President in absentia; he was represented by his brother Charles Dube as a delegate to the conference. We are also told that, initially, the first president of the SANNC or rather the ANC was supposed to have been comrade Walter Rubusana, who declined this election in favour of comrade John Langalebalele Dube.

Another reason comrade Rubusana declined the nomination, was that he had other huge tasks that might have compromised his commitment to the struggle and organisational building. What is of interest is that comrade Pixley Ka Isaka Seme never had a sense of entitlement to the leadership position of the presidency on the basis that he was amongst the prominent organisers of the conference. Instead, comrade Seme became the first Treasurer General of the ANC.

Again, history tells us that back then in the ANC, for you to be deployed or elected to lead, you would be either identified by membership or leadership of the upper structures. Or at times

you would be identified and approached by veterans of the movement. It was never easy for a person to go out in public and want to be deployed or elected imposing him or herself into the structures and the society.

Today, we can design our own posters, impose and campaign for ourselves. I think the NEC of the ANC in its next meeting should discuss this matter because we all use the logo of the organisation in our posters, including even those that have questionable characters in society. If this matter is not properly managed, it has the potential to further taint the banner that is already going through serious reputational damage. Perhaps, comrades can only be allowed to use the colours and not the logo of the organisation while campaigning or lobbying for nominations during the BGMS ahead of the 2024 general elections. But the question remains *“Who are these people who have become members of the ANC.”*

Additionally, today, those who are tasked to organise conferences are rigging them in their favour or in favour of their factions and it has become normal. Today

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leadership in the ANC is no longer about electing those who are equal to the task of the day, but it's about popularity and access to state resources for self and gratification. I once argued in the BGM of the ANC, that we need to revisit and redefine the narrow and commonly used definition of *"a member of the ANC in good standing"*.

I contend that a member in good standing belonging to a revolutionary movement like the ANC cannot merely be defined by the duration in and paid-up membership fee of the ANC. The ANC is an organisation with a rich history that as the younger generation we could learn from in the quest for rebuilding, renewal and unity.

In 1997, at the ANC National Conference in Mahikeng in his political report, President Mandela warned us about the emergence of careerists within the ANC and MDM. He said: *"Many among our members see their membership of the ANC as a means to advance their personal ambitions to attain positions of power and access to resources for their own individual gratification"*. Comrade Mandela further said that we must deal with this *"negative feature"* if we genuinely and decisively want to defend the ANC and the revolution. Then later in the year

2001; I guess as a response to Mandela's warning; and the election and deployment of weak leadership we developed a document *"Through the eye of a needle. Choosing the best cadres to lead transformation"*.

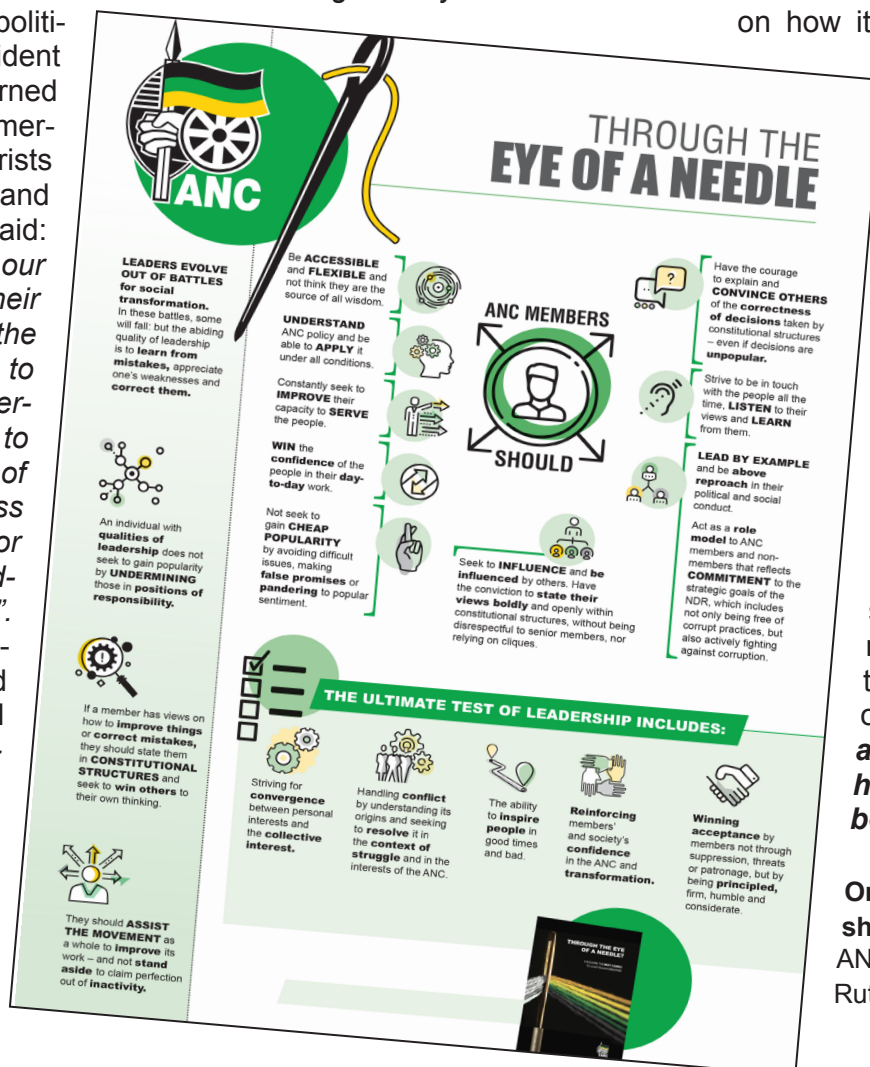
This intervention was commendable and necessary. However, it had limitations, because it focused more on leadership selection, elections and deployment. It failed to primarily focus on building quality membership because, from the pool of membership, it is where leadership is drawn. The question remains, how can a membership that is largely dominated by people of questionable characters and those with poor political consciousness be able to identify among itself that leadership which is envisaged by the *"through the eye of a needle"*?

I was excited that, before and leading up to the 55th National Congress, some structures, leaders and members of the ANC and alliance were making a clarification call for the ANC conference to relook into or audit the people who have become its members. There were various views, and suggestions for all of us to terminate our ANC membership and re-affiliate through a process of audit as well as recommendation for constitutional amendment on the requirements for one to be a member of the ANC beyond a mere duration in and paid-up membership fee of the ANC.

For the ANC to genuinely rebuild, renew and unite, it needs to honestly audit its membership, intensify political education through OR Tambo School of Leadership, and revisit its history on how it managed succession and election within the context of implementing the contemporary document *"through the eye of the needle"*. Professor Tshilidzi Marwala correctly penned, that *"due to the complexity of problems that face humanity today, those who do not know should not lead"*.

The correct and yet seminal question that must be answered through the renewal of the ANC is, *"Who are these people who have become members of the ANC?"*

Orapeleng "Vanilla" Matshediso is a Member of the ANC in the North West (Dr Ruth Mompoti Region).



THE 'GATSHA MOMENT'

■ By **VUSUMZI MBA**

NOW that the dust has settled and the prince has been laid to rest, people of South Africa should be allowed to genuinely reflect on his life, work and contribution during the history of resistance against oppression in our country. This is perhaps the right time to comment about the past and create an opportunity for greater awareness of the country's strengths, weaknesses and patterns of behaviour. This can then help us make better decisions in the present and future.

Many voices expressed their thoughts on the Prince's life and the dominant voice asserted he must be remembered as a mass murderer that sold out the oppressed masses. While I agree with this fact, my intent is to encourage: *"Let a conversation be one that reflects on the things that weren't mentioned during the past two weeks about Prince Buthelezi's death."*

The death of the Zulu Traditional Prime Minister should be a moment of writing our history. I believe a historical account should avoid being driven by emotions or political expediency as shown by numerous political leaders, but it should be driven by events that

have shaped the democratic society. The Prince's life should be analysed historically as an account of where the country comes from instead of an isolated event. Therefore, the progressive block must avoid narrating the obvious things that allow for populist expediency.

The death of Prince Gatsha Buthelezi provides us with a moment to reflect on our good and bad history. A history of those who served, suffered and sacrificed versus a history of those who decided to be in the enemies camp as collaborators. Cowards that worked as cohorts of the white colonial apartheid government. A history that gave birth to heroes and heroines whilst on the other side it produced sell-outs, traitors and askaris.

Furthermore, what is fundamental from this history is for us to learn and produce. We need to learn from the past. This will assist us not to repeat the injustices of yesteryears. In the process of learning from our past we will be able to produce knowledge that will shape leaders of the future.



Gatsha Buthelezi's death should serve as a reminder that the people of South Africa stood up when standing was not easy and defended themselves from the most brutal and ruthless regime – the apartheid regime. The regime that systematically dispossessed and marginalized the indigenous people.

Above all that has been said to the public, his death should remind us of our reconciliation programme. A programme that was intended to build transformed patterns of just and harmonious relations between the perpetrators and victims of the evils of past years, at all levels of society.

Moreover, our country's reconciliation programme distinguished South Africans from other citizens in the rest of the world that also had a history of oppression. Through our reconciliation programme our country was elevated to the top echelons of humanity. Actually, it made us to be seen

as a special African country of super-humans in the democratic circles. South Africans were seen as unique and exceptional because of their ability to forgive even though there was no show of remorse from the perpetrators. This placed black South Africans at the highest echelons of humanity as a people that forgave those who oppressed and marginalized them during apartheid governance. These were people who regarded black people as barbaric, chaotic, violent and uncivilized, therefore, unworthy of respect. Wrong as this was, black people proved to the world that they too were people that could reason and had no ill intentions but good hearts, and their lives always mattered even in the past.

All this happened because there was quality leadership that was able to provide strategic leadership, unite, and give direction. This is the type of leadership that the country needs right now. A leadership that is not divisive but decisive on issues of development and transformation. The leadership of the time clearly understood that the problem was bigger than the late prince and his renegades. The leadership understood that tribalism and ethnicity were not going to unite the nation. This defeated the divide and rule modus operandi of the apartheid regime. They clearly recognized the fact that Inkatha Yesizwe was being used by Buthelezi and the apartheid government to divide the nation.

Unlike other African countries, the leadership was able to avoid a civil war. A war that could have destroyed everything that we have today and delayed our transformation and developmental path. We were fortunate to have leaders of that calibre.



This leadership included the likes of Joe Slovo, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Mandela and, interestingly, all the former presidents of the democratic government, including the current President, Cyril Ramaphosa. This is the leadership that shaped our thinking towards achieving a democratic society.

If our former leaders opted to stoop low to racism and ethnicism, the current democracy wouldn't have been successfully established. The leadership understood that collaborators and other types of sell-outs were not self-designed; they were products of the apartheid system's making. In order for social cohesion to be achieved many sacrifices, including reconciliation with the perpetrators of injustices of the past, had to be made.

The late prince perpetuated tribalism by prioritising "Zulu nationalism" over everything, playing into the hands of the apartheid regime and landing on their divide and rule strategy well. Lead-

ers recognized this and used their minds over emotions to craft a way forward towards a united nation. They realized that their responsibilities went beyond the then injustices because the liberation principles of freedom and equality of all races was paramount.

Now that the prince is gone, the progressive block should provide a platform for different voices. Emotions should not be ignored, however, they can't be the sole base on which history should be recorded. The late prince had served in both the apartheid regime and the democratic regime. His roles have been political and traditional, ethnic and national. Therefore, we must take both the positive and the negatives into consideration, no matter how hurtful that may make us because this is the demand of strategic leadership.

Building a socially cohesive society requires an ear and attention to the multitude of views and voices from which we can write an objective history. In writing this history, we need not distort it on issues of land, traditional leadership and wealth. Above all, we must prioritize the democratic project to achieve a non-sexist, non-racial and prosperous country that will always be able to put peace at the fore even to the perpetrators of heinous crimes against the people and apartheid collaborators like the late prince.

Vusumzi Vusie Mba is a former student and youth activist of SASCO and the ANCYL. He writes in his personal capacity.

The views and opinions expressed in this article is solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy and position of the African National Congress.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

23 – 29 September 2023

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

■ 23 September 1941 Judge Navi Pillay is born



Navanethem (Navi) Pillay, served as United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, and was born on 23 September 1941 in Clairwood, Durban. She went to the University of Natal where she graduated with BA (1963) and LLB (1965), and also joined the Unity Movement. After articles in Durban, she became the first woman to open her own law practice in KZN in 1967, providing legal defense for political activists, representing Phyllis Naidoo in her first case. In 1971, she represented 10 members of the Unity Movement charged under the Terrorism Act. In 1973, she fought and won the right for political prisoners to have access to legal counsel, and later defended BCM members Saths Cooper and Strini Moodley. In 1982, she obtained a Master of Law and in 1988 a Doctorate of Juridical Science from Harvard

University. Pillay joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 1995, serving as its Judge President from 1999 for two four-year terms. Since 2003, served as judge on the International Criminal Court. Pillay is co-founder of the South African Advice Desk for Abused Women and was appointed the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 28 July 2008.

■ 23 September 1963 First Lake Kariba earthquake

A 6.1 Richter scale occurs on the human-made lake, the first of five up to 2021, caused by the massive weight of the water, with the lake built on an area with a history of seismic activity.

■ 23 September 2019 Jazz veteran Dorothy Masuku passed on



Dorothy Masuku was born on 23 September 1935 in Zimbabwe, to

a Zambian father and KZN mother. Masuka is known for her contribution to jazz in South Africa and the entire world. Masuka's talent was discovered when she was singing at a school concert at St. Thomas Catholic Boarding School in Johannesburg. At the age of sixteen she signed up at Troubadour Records. During her teenage years, she released about 30 singles and most of them achieved hit status, including her famous song '*Hamba Nontsoko-Lo*'. In 1961 Masuka wrote a song to pay tribute to Patrice Lumumba of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She continued to release more songs until one of her songs about apartheid laws was banned. She then went into exile where she spent time in Malawi and Tanzania. While in exile, she campaigned for the liberation of people through music. At the time of her death, Dorothy Masuku was based in Yeoville, Johannesburg. She died at her home, surrounded by her children and grandchildren, after suffering from hypertension.

■ 23 September 2021 National Theatre of Somalia re-opens

The National Theatre in Mogadishu opens with film screening attended by thousand. The theatre was destroyed by Islamic militants during the civil war, was restored and again destroyed a second time in 2012 with a suicide bombing.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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■ **24 September 1938**
Nigerian Central banker
Joseph Sanusi born

The Governor of Nigeria's Central bank (1999-2004) appointed by President Obasanjo, Joseph Oladele Sanusi was born in Ondo state, known for stabilizing and steering the country's banking system.

■ **24 September 1957**
Sibongile Khumalo born
on this day



On this day Sibongile Khumalo was born in Orlando, Soweto. She is one of the most recognized jazz, classical music, opera and traditional music artists in South Africa. She was launched into the limelight in 1993 when she won the Standard Bank Young Artist Award at the Grahamstown Festival. Born into a music family, she studied music and performed at several honoured occasions, including Nelson Mandela's 75th birthday and the 1994 Inauguration. Khumalo received the national Order of Ikhamanga in Silver. The "First Lady of Song" passed away at age 63 on 28 January 2021.

■ **24 September 2008**
Motlanthe elected as
President

Following the resignation of Pres-

ident Thabo Mbeki, the National Assembly elected Cde Kgalema Motlanthe as the third President of the Republic of South Africa, a position he served in until the elections in 2009.

■ **24 September 2020**
Ethiopia starts Bridges
programme for Youth
employment

Ethiopia starts the programme to create 600,000 jobs for young people (80% female), as well as 15,000 small businesses over a period of five years. The programme all seeks to train 300,000 young people at Ethiopia's seven industrial parks.

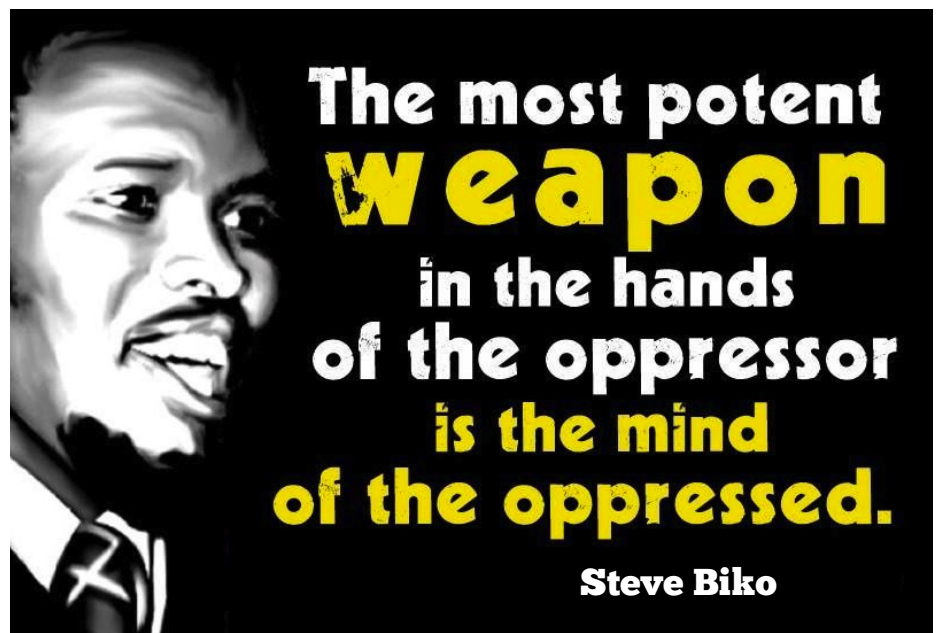
■ **25 September 1974**
Viva Frelimo Rallies in SA

The achievement of independence in Mozambique inspired the Black People's Convention (BPC) and the South African Students' Organisation (SASO), to organise a 'Viva Frelimo' rally. If Portuguese colonialism could be defeated in Mozambique, so could settler-colonialism in South Africa. The idea was conceived by the SASO president at the

time, Muntu Myeza. These rallies were the only national campaigns to be staged by SASO and it accelerated tension between SASO and the South African government. On the day of the rallies people turned up in large numbers in Durban and Turfloop. Police arrests followed and many BCM/BPC/SASO leaders were arrested, Absolom Zitulele Cindi, Sathasivan Cooper, Rubin Hare, Sulayman Ahmed Ismail, Mosioua Gerard Patrick Lekota, Maitshie Nchaupé, Aubrey Mokoape, Sivalingam Moodley, Strinivasa Rajoo Moodley, Justice Edward Lindane, Muntu Myeza, Pandelani Jeremiah Netolovhodwe, Nkwenkwe Vincent Nkomo, Gilbert Kaborane, Kaunda Sedibe, and Sadecque Variava; they were subsequently charged under the Terrorism Act, after months in detention.

■ **25 September 1977**
Steve Bantu Biko Buried

After his killing by the apartheid regime in detention on 12 September 1977, and attempts to hide what happened, Biko's funeral was the first big political funeral in South Africa since the 1960s.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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As bus-loads of mourners neared Biko's burial town (King William's Town), they passed Black youths standing solemnly along the road with their clenched fists raised. Prominent white liberals, such as MP Helen Suzman, attended. So did the black American diplomat, Donald McHenry and other international dignitaries. At the funeral, 20,000 people marched and sang freedom songs. For five hours, speakers eulogised Biko. The Reverend Xundu, the Transkei Anglican priest, who presided over the funeral, appealed to God to take sides with the oppressed to overthrow the system.

■ 26 September 1936 Winnie Madikizela-Mandela born

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, an icon of the liberation struggle, is born in Bizana, Pondoland. Madikizela-Mandela was a staunch opponent of the apartheid government. She was jailed, harassed and eventually banished to Brandfort whilst her husband was in prison. Her militancy and empathy with the oppressed earned her a title of *"mother of the nation."* Madikizela-Mandela played a role in the founding of the Black Women's Federation and the Black Parents' Association; was a member of Umkhon-

towe Sizwe and of the ANC NEC, and a Member of Parliament until her passing on 2 April 2018.

■ 26 September 1916 Mary Smith, Ichthyologist born

On 26 September 1916 artist and ichthyologist, Margaret Mary Smith, was born in Indwe in the Eastern Cape. Ichthyology is the branch of zoology that deals with the study of fishes. Margaret Mary Smith illustrated the book *'Sea fishes of Southern Africa'* by Prof. J.L.B. Smith, which is regarded as one of the most comprehensive books on fishes in the world.

■ 26 September 1950 SASOL registered

The history of Sasol began in 1927 when a White Paper was tabled in Parliament to investigate the establishment of a South African oil-from-coal industry. It was realised then that, because South Africa did not have crude oil reserves, the country's balance of payments had to be protected against increasing crude oil imports. After many years of research and international negotiations, *Die Suid Afrikaanse Steenkool, Olie en Gaskorporasie* (the South African Coal Oil

and Gas Corporation) was formed and registered on 26 September 1950. The company has developed world-leading technology for the conversion of low grade coal into value-added synfuels and chemicals. Today its operational footprint extends to more than 20 countries and they export to over 100. Sasol is one of the top five publicly listed companies in South Africa and is quoted on the JSE and the NYSE.

■ 26 September 2002 Senegalese ferry disaster

The world's worst civilian ship disaster takes place when the Senegalese ferry, *Le Jolla*, capsizes in a storm off Gambia. Officially, 1,836 lives are lost (compared to 1,500 when the Titanic sunk in 1912). Only 65 people survive the disaster. Nearly half of the victims were from the town of Ziguinchor, Senegal, including 150 secondary school pupils from the town.

■ 27 September 1939 Sociologist and liberation theologian Jean-Marc Ela born

Cameroonian sociologist and theologian articulated the Christian foundation for African liberation theology was born in Ebolowa.





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■ 27 September 1961 Imam Haron killed in detention



Imam Haron was born on the 8th February 1924 in Claremont, Cape Town. He was influenced by the various progressive political trends in South Africa and internationally. He was influenced by the Muslim Brotherhood, the Teachers' League of SA, the NEUM and progressive trade unionists such as Ray Alexander. He established the Claremont Muslim Youth Association. When he was appointed Imam of Stegman mosque he initiated the tradition of getting progressive speakers to address his congregation. This tradition persists still today. He was the editor of **Muslim News** (from 1960 to 1966). He maintained contact with Alex La Guma, Robert Sobukwe and others. He spoke out when others were silent. He urged his constituency to support the 1960 anti-pass marches; he spoke out in favour of workers on strike and of struggles against the apartheid regime. He was arrested by Spyker van Wyk, tortured for 123 days and died on 27th September 1969. No one was brought to book for his brutal murder. In 2014, Imam Haron was awarded the National Order of Luthuli for his "exceptional contribution to raising awareness of political injustices". The family has decided to apply to reopen the inquest into his murder.

■ 27 September 1961 Khaled Al Khamissi born

The Egyptian writer and columnist was born on this day in Cairo. His hitherto three critically acclaimed novels have been translated in over 25 languages. Al Khamissi founded Doum, an institution for critical thinking, as well as story-telling and literary festivals.

■ 27 September 1965 Dr Margaret Campbell, Africana collector passed on

Margaret Roach "Killie" Campbell was born in Mount Edgecombe, KZN on 9 September 1881. She was educated at St. Anne's Diocesan College in Natal and St. Leonard's School in Scotland, where she developed a profound interest in history. Campbell was well known for her private collection of Africana, which is made up of items specific to Natal and the Zulu people. She collected manuscripts, books, photographs and maps over her lifetime, and encouraged both settlers and Zulu families to write their family stories, in order to preserve local history. Her collection of historical artefacts has allowed for much research, and she was awarded honorary degrees from the University of Natal and the University of the Witwatersrand for her contribution to historical preservation. She died in Durban on 27 September 1965, and her collection was donated posthumously to the university.

■ 27 September 1987 Africa's rapid transit system opens

The first section of the Cairo rapid transit system opens, connecting the suburb of Helwan with the Ramses Square. Cairo Metro is

Africa's first fully-fledged rapid urban transit system.

■ 28 September 1902 15,000 gold licenses received a week



The start of diamond (1867) and gold (1886) mining transformed South African from an agrarian society at the edge of world trade into a globally integrated industrial economy, which spurred wealth and immigration and intensified the subjugation of the indigenous inhabitants as well as the conflicts between the Dutch and the British. The mineral revolution led to the quick spread of European colonization into the interior. The period saw the making of magnates and migrants, of millionaires and bankrupts, shopkeepers and entrepreneurs. It also saw the emergence of a new working class, one that was deeply divided along both colour and social lines. Racist laws enabled the white-owned mining companies to control workers, keep wages very low and gain immense profits from the diamonds and gold that black miners extracted from the earth. 10 years after 1886, the Johannesburg town was already the largest in South Africa, outstripping the growth of Cape Town. On 28 September 1902 it was announced that 15,000 applications for gold mining permits were being received weekly in Johannesburg.

■ 28 September 1923 Ethiopia joins League of Nations

Abbyssinia (Ethiopia) joins the League of Nations (forerunner of the UN), the second African country after founder, South Africa.

■ 28 September 1945 Pieter Dirk Uys born



Pieter Dirk Uys was born in Cape Town in 1945. He studied drama at UCT from 1965 to 1965 before going to study at the London Film School. During the 1970s and 1980s he was associated with the Space Theatre in Cape Town and the Johannesburg Market Theatre. He has become an award winning novelist and playwright and has written more than 20 plays and over 30 revues over 40 years in the theatre industry. Uys is also well-known as his alter ego **Evita Bezuidenhout**, whom he describes as “the most famous white woman in South Africa.”

■ 28 September 1958 Haile Selassie tells League of Nations he will fight Italian invasion

Ethiopia had been one of the few states to survive “the scramble for Africa” by the major European powers in the late 19th century. Both Italy and Ethiopia were members of the League of Nations, founded in 1920. Italy was a founding member and Ethiopia joined 28 September 1923. However, during the run up to the Second World War, Benito Mussolini, Italy’s fascist dictator, dreamed carving out a “New Roman Empire” around the Mediterranean sea and northern Africa. After a border clash in 1934, and

on 7 May 1936 Italy annexed Ethiopia. Ethiopia appealed to the League for arbitration and the doctrine of collective security, but the League’s response was sluggish at best. Emperor Selassie vowed that Ethiopia will resist Nazi invasion.

■ 28 September 1962 Thuli Madonsela born



Advocate and prosecutor Thuli Madonsela is born in Johannesburg on this day. Part of the drafters of the 1996 Constitution, she served as Public Protector from 2009 to 2016, a fierce opponent of corruption and state capture.

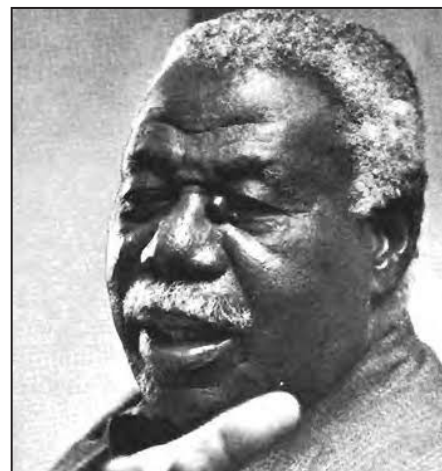
■ 28 September 1970 Gamal Abdel Nasser died

In September 1970 Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser died of a heart attack. Nasser had been in power in Egypt since 24 November 1954, and is the founder of modern-day Egypt. He was one of the founding



members of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). He was succeeded by Muhammad Anwar Sadat in 1970. Nasser had been described as the first leader of an Arab nation who challenged what was perceived as the western dominance of the Middle East. However, Nasser suffered a major blow when Egypt and other Arab nations were defeated by Israel in a war that lasted only six days in 1967 and he offered his resignation. Nasser is still highly revered in Egypt, Africa and the Arab world.

■ 28 September 1975 ANC President and Trade Unionist AWG Champion died



Trade unionist, political activist and businessman Allison Westsels George (A.W.G.) Champion died at his home in Chesterville, Durban. He was known as a campaigner for an end to apartheid and devoted his life to the betterment of the Zulu people. In 1942, he was elected to the Native Representative Council (NRC) – one of the most outspoken members against apartheid in the council. From 1946 to 1947 he was president-general of the African National Congress (ANC). Champion occupied several positions in various other political organisations.

■ 28 September 2003 Pope John Paul II appoints Cardinals

Pope John Paul II appointed 31 new cardinals; three of them were from Africa. These were the Nigerian Cardinal Anthony Olubunmi Okogie, Ghanaian Peter Turkson, and the Sudanese Gabriel Zubeir Wako. The Pope's appointment of these three cardinals and others from the developing world was part of the Catholic Church's aim to revamp interest in the church and church membership.

■ 28 September 2008 Bala Brothers released first album, B3

The three brothers released their album on this day. The eldest, Zwai Bala was the first black student admitted to the Drakensberg Boys Choir School, later joined by younger brothers Loyiso and Phelo.

■ 29 September 1903 Artist John Koenakeefe Motlhakangna born



Motlhakangna (Mohl) was born in 1903, son of a carpenter/sculptor, in Dinokana near Zeerust, North-west. Mohl compulsively drew as a child, on rocks and use clay to fashion animals. When his father threatened to take him out of school to tend goats, the Reverend

Alfred John Haile, then principal of the London Mission Society's Tiger Kloof Educational Institution (known as *Moeding* in Setswana) intervened and implored his father to allow him to continue to study and draw. Mohl graduated from Moeding as a teacher, went on to study art in Namibia at the Windhoek School of Art and studied art for five years in Düsseldorf, Germany at the Kunstakademie, where he shortened his surname to Mohl. Mohl returned to South Africa and settled in Sophiatown in 1944 where he started teaching art from his home, making him the first black art teacher to establish an independent art school, The White Studio. He also established the Apollo Gallery in Johannesburg using a pseudonym, Frank van Melten, since under the apartheid laws, as a black man, he was not allowed to open a gallery in white area. Mohl was a founding member of Artists under the Sun (1960), which held open-air art exhibitions in Johannesburg at the Zoo Lake and Joubert Park. He died in Soweto in 1985 and was posthumously awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Silver for his contribution to the field of art. <https://www.straussart.co.za/artists/john-koenakeefe-mohl/>

■ 29 September 1969 Earthquake in Tulbagh and Ceres

At about 10:04pm on 29 September 1969, the Boland farming towns of Tulbagh, Wolseley and Ceres experienced the most destructive earthquake in South African history. The epicenter of the earthquake was situated in Saron, a region near Tulbagh. The earthquake measured a sizeable 6.3 on the Richter's scale. The Tulbagh earthquake resulted in nine human casualties and several injuries. In addition many homes in the town were rendered uninhabitable.

■ 29 September 2005 Dikgosi Monument dedicated in Gaborone

The Three Dikgosi monument (also known as the Monument of the Three Chiefs), featuring statues of Dikgosi (chiefs) Khama III, Sebele I and Bathoen I, who ensured national sovereignty for the country by traveling to London in 1895 and successfully petitioning Queen Victoria to keep their lands free from Cecil John Rhodes company control, is dedicated in Gaborone by Botswana President Festus Mogae.



INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

23 – 29 September 2023

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

■ 23 September International Sign Languages Day



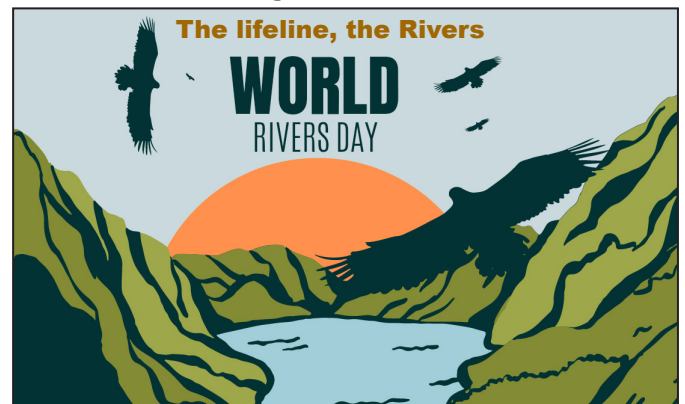
The day promotes the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80% of them live in developing countries. In 2023, South African Sign Language became the 12th official language.

■ 24 September World Bollywood Day



The Indian film industry, mainly in Hindi language, that begun in the 1950s is based in Mumbai. The name “Bollywood” was coined during the 1970’s. It is India’s and world’s largest film industry in terms of films produced and released each year. The term Bollywood originated when Indian film industry overtook the Hollywood film industry, producing more than 1000 films a year.

■ 25 September World Rivers Day



World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world’s waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world.

■ 26 September International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

The elimination of nuclear weapons is amongst the oldest goals of the United Nations,. It is one of its first global resolutions adopted in 1946 and every UN Secretary General has activity pursued this goal. However, according to the UN, there are still over 13,000 nuclear weapons in the world, with well-funded plans by nuclear countries to advance

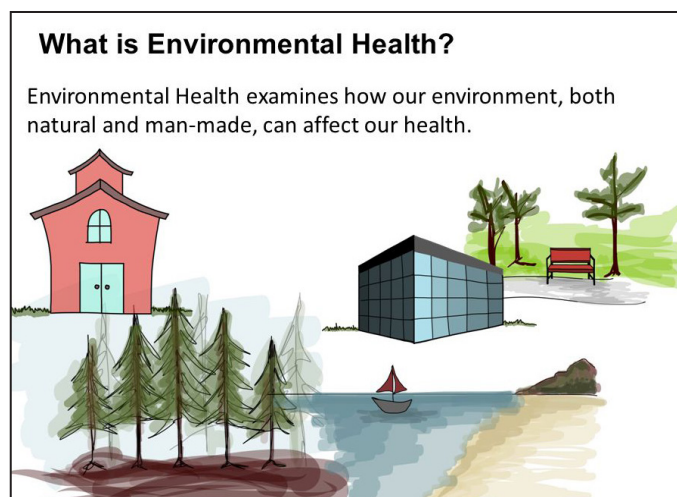


investment in nuclear weapons. South Africa is the only country that voluntarily gave up its nuclear weapons and programme, making the African continent a nuclear-weapons free zone.

■ 26 September

World Environmental Health Day

Environmental health day focuses attention on the impact of the environment we live in, and the damage we continue to do to our environment on human health. Environmental health issues include polluted air, water and lack of sanitation, amongst other issues.



■ 27 September

World Tourism Day

Global tourism numbers, in particular international tourism arrivals, according to the UNWTO are still 16% below 2019 numbers, year on year. For Africa, this now stands on 8% below 2019 arrivals.

■ 27 September

Ancestor Appreciation Day

Many of us are completely unaware of our ancestors and the lives they lived, yet they almost certainly went a long way towards shaping our habits, traditions and values today. Fortunately, the annually-celebrated Ancestor Appreciation Day gives people a reminder to learn more about those who came before us.

■ 28 September

International Day for Universal Access to Information

Universal access to information means that everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart infor-

Access to Information:
 Saving lives, Building Trust,
 Bringing Hope!

mation. Access to information is more and more recognized as a prerequisite for sustainable development and for claiming human rights. Digital technologies and social media enable access to information, but raises important issues of privacy, cyber security and cyber bullying.

■ 29 September

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

The world produces enough food to feed everyone, but over 800 million people still go hungry, including 23% of households in our country. However, one third of food produced in the world goes to waste along the value chain, enough to feed 3 billion people. The day draws awareness on the impact of food waste, not just on people but on the environment and what we can do about it.



Unity in Diversity. Languages



ACROSS

2. Official language spoken by about 10% of population.
4. Official language also related to Congo and Niger languages.
7. Thank you in *isiXhosa*.
9. Good news.
13. *isiZulu* SABC radio station
14. Public broadcaster.
15. Ilkwekwezi FM radio station broadcasts in this language.
16. Recently added as 12th official language.
19. *Swati*, *Ndebele*, *Zulu* and *Xhosa* fall within this language group.
20. Refers to God in *Setswana*.

DOWN

1. Girl in *Afrikaans*.
3. *SiSwati*-speaking radio station broadcasting to Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Gauteng.
5. Public Broadcasting Service radio station exclusively in *isiXhosa*.
6. Greatest of the Great.
8. People in *Setswana*.
10. Youngest SA language.
11. Official language also known as *Sesotho sa Leboa*.
12. Language shared with neighbor Lesotho.
17. Oldest language in South Africa
18. Good Morning in *Xitsonga*.

WORD BANK




Ukhozi fm	Ndebele	Ligwalagwala fm	SABC	Umhlobo Wenene	English	N/uu
Afrikaans	Sign language	Nguni	Sesotho	Sepedi	Tshivenda	Avuxeni
ndiyabulela	meisie	Batho	Modimo	Unkulunkulu	Ni marungi	

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