



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



The extension of AGOA could help transform African economies

By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

THE extension of AGOA could In the last few months, there has been much discussion in South Africa about AGOA, which stands for the African Growth and Opportunity Act. The Act was passed by the United States Congress in 2000, granting qualifying African countries duty-free access to the US market for their exports.

While this may seem to many in our country to be a rather distant, even obscure, topic, AGOA is an important instrument for growing

and transforming our economy. The benefits of AGOA are felt in the lives of our people through increased economic activity and the jobs that such activity created.

We have just hosted a successful 20th AGOA Forum in Johannesburg where we made a case for the extension, or reauthorisation, of AGOA beyond 2025. This would provide certainty for companies wanting to invest or expand their operations in eligible African countries.

South Africa benefits a great deal from AGOA. Our country is the United States' largest trading partner in Africa. The US exports more goods to South Africa and imports more goods from South Africa than any other African country. According to US Census Bureau data from 2020, South Africa was the largest destination for US foreign direct investment among AGOA eligible countries.

The value of AGOA to African countries, however, extends beyond the impressive trade sta-

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tistics. Rather, AGOA can make an important contribution to the transformation of African countries from mainly being exporters of raw materials to producers of finished goods for both continental and global markets.

If extended beyond 2025 for a sufficiently long period, and if used more effectively, AGOA can contribute significantly to the further diversification of African economies. It could enable countries to produce a wider range of products using the abundant minerals, metals and agricultural produce. The extension of AGOA could also encourage the further development of value chains across different countries.

We have already seen this happening in South Africa's automo-

tive industry, for example. Local automotive companies source leather car seats from Lesotho, wiring harnesses from Botswana, copper wiring from Zambia, steering wheel components from Tunisia and rubber from Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Malawi, Ghana and Cameroon. The vehicles are finally fully manufactured in South Africa then exported to the US duty-free under AGOA.

This is a great example of the resources and industrial capabilities of different African countries being brought together to produce finished goods that can be sold beyond our shores. This is contributing to the creation of jobs both in South Africa and in other African countries and raising foreign exchange earnings. Such regional value chains will

be integral to the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area. As trade barriers between Africa countries come down, the potential for such integration will grow enormously.

The 20th AGOA Forum discussed what needs to be done to scale up investment by US companies to fully unlock the opportunities provided by AGOA. With the share of AGOA-eligible countries to total world exports still negligible and industrialisation and economic diversification still work in progress, there is much more that we need to do. A renewal of AGOA will incentivise greater US investment in Sub-Saharan Africa and improve the export competitiveness of African products.

As the cornerstone of the Unit-

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



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

ed States' trade relationship with sub-Saharan Africa, AGOA has played an important, catalytic and transformative role in these economies.

AGOA enhances the diversification of African economies enabling them to export value added products. By enabling African countries to have preferential access to the US market, this opportunity incentivises African countries to develop and export value-added goods and services. This does and will continue to reduce Africa's dependence on primary commodities and enhance its ability to participate in global value chains.

Another important element of AGOA is that it has a capacity building and technical assistance component that supports Afri-

can countries in meeting the requirements for accessing the US market. This assistance helps improve Africa's competitiveness by enhancing skills, knowledge and infrastructure, enabling African businesses to meet international standards.

Africa has been advocating for the integration of continental economies for a long time. AGOA encourages regional integration among African countries. To fully benefit from AGOA, countries are finding that it is far better to work together to increase production capacities, harmonise standards and develop regional value chains. This is demonstrated by the experience of 10 countries, including South Africa, in the production of motor vehicles exported to the US. This promotes co-operation, economic integration

and the growth of larger regional markets within Africa.

Yet, the benefits of AGOA extend beyond our continent. As we learnt from the COVID pandemic, the global economy stands to benefit from more diverse value chains that are not dependent on just a few sites of production.

South Africa greatly values its bilateral relationship with the US, one of our largest trading partners and with whom we enjoy relations that extend well beyond trade.

We look forward to further engagement around the reauthorisation of AGOA at a time when its benefits continue to support our quest for economic growth, job creation and inclusive, sustainable development.



AGOA and Trade Should Not Be Weaponised

COSATU Statement on the AGOA Forum

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) welcomes the successful AGOA Forum held from 2 to 4 November 2023 in Johannesburg. We support government's efforts to extend South Africa and other African countries' membership in AGOA and negotiate a new and enhanced AGOA that will increase the scope of products covered to further incentivise Africa and South Africa's economic and industrial development, job creation and decent work. The Federation applauds the leadership by the Minister for Trade, Industry and Competition, Ebrahim Patel, who is leading AGOA engagements on behalf of the African Union.

South Africa, like all nations in this globalised era, is heavily dependent upon trade with other countries. Our key trade and investment partners include the world's leading economies, in particular the United States, the European Union, China and Japan. AGOA has had a positive impact upon not only South Africa but Africa as a whole. It provides reduced tariff access for large volumes of South African goods to the US market, currently the world's largest economy. Our mining, manufacturing and in particular



auto-manufacturing, clothing, jewelry, chemical and agricultural exports have benefited from this favourable tariff access.

AGOA is renewed annually with AGOA itself due to expire in September 2025. Not only do US companies investing locally support 450 000 South African jobs; but even more indirect local jobs in the mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors benefit from our large volumes of exports to the US. The revenues and taxes they generate contribute towards government's fiscus and thus its ability to fund badly needed public services and jobs. The overwhelming majority of these work-

ers are members of COSATU Affiliates.

COSATU's mandate is to protect workers' jobs and to tackle unemployment. We cannot afford a single job loss with an unemployment rate of 42.1% and when 60% of young people struggle to find work. The Federation has been deeply dismayed by statements by some politicians who have sought to weaponise trade relations and undermine South Africa's sovereignty and hard-won non-aligned stance and firm belief in the need for conflicts to be resolved through peaceful dialogue. Workers should not be punished because of geo-politi-



Minister Ebrahim Patel addressing delegates at the AGOA Forum

cal crises in the world that they have nothing to do with or little power to resolve.

AGOA has been important not only to South Africa's industrial development but also to those of other African states, in particular our neighbouring countries, e.g. Botswana whose direct exports to the US pale into insignificance compared to its value add exports to South Africa's auto-manufacturing sector which are then included in vehicle exports to the US.

South Africa's exit from AGOA would not only be a devastating

blow to local jobs but also those throughout the region and thus further add pressure to an already unmanageable migration flow to South Africa.

For the first time the annual AGOA Forum included Organised Labour where COSATU and our sister union movements from across South Africa, Africa and the US have placed the cause of decent work firmly on the AGOA agenda. A renewed AGOA needs to include provisions to support compliance, good labour practices and penalise employers who flout labour laws. COSATU is

heartened by the positive support we have received from the US labour movement which has a long history of solidarity with South African working-class struggles. The Federation is inspired by the active participation and clear sense of unity displayed at the AGOA Forum by the trade union movement across South Africa, Africa and the US in support of a new AGOA which places decent work and fair labour practices, job creation and economic development at its heart.

Whilst the Federation supports South Africa's continued membership of AGOA, it is important that our historic non-aligned role be strengthened. It is critical that government and business simultaneously expand trade and investment with other large trading partners such as the European Union, China, Japan, India, Brazil and most importantly the African continent. Such efforts must include South Africa's BRICS partners and negotiations to establish an African Continental Free Trade Area. With a 42.1% unemployment rate, we need to aggressively invest in all industrial and economic development and export opportunities.

Trade Ministers from across Africa in attendance at the 20th AGOA Forum hosted by South Africa.



From Liberators to Professional Public Service – Cadre Deployment to Transform Apartheid State became associated with Cronyism, State Capture and Graft

■ By **ABBA OMAR**

CADRE deployment was birthed at a time when a Herculean effort was required to transform the apartheid state machinery. Today it has come to be associated with cronyism, state capture and corruption.

To ensure a healthy dialogue we need to recognise its roots, what has been achieved and the efforts being made to overcome the weaknesses and excesses of such practice.

The struggle attracted the professional and black middle classes. Many young people who fled into exile, especially from the “1976 generation”, were encouraged to complete their studies through bursaries provided by solidarity movements and governments.

During the transition period between the ANC’s unbanning in 1990 and the 1994 elections, many cadres were sent for further training at places such as the



Clingendael Institute (the Dutch international relations centre) or joined British mandarins at Westminster in various government departments.

Given the imperative of transformation and the resources at its disposal, the ANC deployed these cadres into government after winning the 1994 election. This was no marching of a liberation army into the capital, wholesale ransacking of the ‘ancien regime’ and its replacement by a

horde of barbarians.

Yet despite a honeymoon after 1994, by the end of his first six months in office former President Nelson Mandela would complain to the ANC’s 49th conference in December 1994 that “ours was not a planned entry into government. Except for the highest echelons, there was no planned deployment of cadres.”

The ANC was concerned that individuals were using their associ-



ation with the party to push themselves into political positions, sowing the seeds of patronage networks with all the corruption that comes with them.

To counter this, an ANC cadre deployment policy was developed and adopted in 1998. It held that *"in our participation in institutions — whether of the state or civil society — as cadres of the movement, we should have respect for the internal processes of the structures and institutions we are part of"*.

I wish I could end today's column by simply saying the rest is history. Sadly, we have come through the grubby milestones of state capture, the Guptas and the Zondo state-capture commission revelations. This has directly affected state capacity and morale among public servants, as people of integrity and whistle-blowers fear recrimination, frivolous disciplinary actions and even assassinations.

Since the government adopted

the National Development Plan in 2012, *"professionalisation of the public service"* has been seen as the antidote for the sleaze and cronyism that seeped into the body politic.

It would take almost a decade before we came to see concrete steps being taken, such as the framework document crafted by the National School of Government. The document is located within chapter 10 of the constitution, which states that one of the basic values and principles governing public administration is a high standard of professional ethics.

In his February 2023 opening of parliament speech, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that *"in response to the state capture commission and in line with the framework for the professionalisation of the public service, integrity assessments will become a mandatory requirement for recruitment to the public service and entry exams will be introduced"*.

The consequent Public Service Commission Bill recently approved by the cabinet will commit the commission to co-ordinating the implementation of the framework document and ensuring that qualified people are appointed to senior management positions.

The ANC's December 2022 conference placed *"addressing state capture and corruption"* at the centre of its renewal programme, and gave its integrity commission the task of examining individuals named in the Zondo commission.

Often quoted as this line may be, we could all do well by recalling Madiba's words: *"Whether you change the linen or stitch up wounds, cook the food or dispense the medicines, it is in your hands to help build a public service worthy of all those who gave their lives for the dream of democracy."*

Abba Omar is director of operations at the Mapungubwe Institute. This article first appeared on **Business Day** 18 October 2023.

Voter Registration and Why it is Important to Vote for the ANC

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

THE most defining feature of the African National Congress (ANC) is its binary character as a liberation movement and a political party to advance its key strategic import of building a non-racial, non-sexist democratic society based on freedom, equality and justice. This includes advancing the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) towards the creation of a National Democratic Society (NDS).

Inevitably, the 1994 democratic dispensation necessitated a change in character, form, content, strategies and tactics towards building a new democratic order based on the will of the people, democratisation of state institutions, inculcating a new citizenry with a patriotic duty to actively participate in the life of the country, its developmental trajectory and to instil consciousness in their responsibilities towards building common citizenship, to give meaningful effect to the values and ideals upon which the country is founded and to adapt to new conditions.

Why is the ANC contesting state power? It is to advance its historical mission as a liberation movement



The poster features the ANC logo on the left, which includes a torch, a flag, and a gear. On the right is a portrait of a smiling man in a suit. The background is yellow. A green banner across the middle contains the text 'VOTER REGISTRATION WEEKEND' in white and yellow. Below this, a black banner with a calendar icon shows the dates '18 - 19 NOVEMBER 2023'. A green box below that shows the time '08H00 - 19H00'. At the bottom, a black banner with white text says 'GET YOUR ID AND REGISTER TO VOTE', followed by a large white 'X' on a green background.

ANC

VOTER REGISTRATION WEEKEND

18 - 19 NOVEMBER 2023

08H00 - 19H00

GET YOUR ID AND REGISTER TO VOTE

at whose apex resides the aspirations of the people in the context of *"the people shall govern."*

The period 1994 heralded a democratic Constitution in order to:

"Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights; Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law; Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations."

To advance these ideals, and to sustain a momentum of leading society and to instil society's confidence in the ANC's ability to prosecute the national liberation struggle in a new milieu, the ANC understands the importance of democracy, governance, leadership, and most importantly, mandate.

Building a democratic state and a government based on the express will of the people, creating a nation allegiant to the country based on the participatory nature of our democracy requires regular, free and fair elections. This includes building resilient and credible institutions to entrench democracy and the will of the people.

In the broader context, the will of the people and "the people shall govern" are not restricted to elections, excluding the people and depositing everything on the doorstep of government. This will be suicidal to what the ANC fought, and what the Constitution, as a transformative vehicle strives to achieve. The will of people and the sacred principle

of "the people shall govern" are a basic tenet of our democracy based on societal activism and society's activist role in the democratic state.

Regular, free and fair elections

Section 181(1) (f) of the Constitution of South Africa establishes the Electoral Commission as an institution that strengthens constitutional democracy in a manner that is impartial, independent, without fear, favour or prejudice.

Since 1994 the country had regular elections with the ANC at the helm of the state owing to popular choice and overwhelming support and confidence of the people as an organisation capable of leading the revolution and advancing socio-economic transformation. Between 1994 and 2023 there has never been a constitutional hiatus in ensuring that there is regular, free and fair elections devoid of any external influence and breach of impartiality on the work of the Electoral Commission.

In 2024 South Africans will be going to the polls to elect a government of their choice. This has demonstrated the resilience of our Constitution and its ability to build a democratic state based on the will of the people.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) announced its state of readiness to execute its constitutional obligation of conducting and managing elections as contemplated by sections 181 (2) and 190 (1) (a) and (b) of the Constitution. The ANC fought for these, advocating for participatory democracy and an adult universal suffrage based on one-man-one vote.

Election Manifesto Review

The ANC is approaching the 2024 elections in a manner that is hostile owing to its dented image, acts of corruption, a collapsed local government, a weak economy and declining performance at the polls as conceded in its self-appraisal, renewal and rebuilding processes.

Since the dawn of our democracy in 1994, the country held six national and provincial general elections. The number of parties contesting elections has grown exponentially since 1994, and threatens to grow even further, especially with the independent candidates contesting elections.

Our journey has been long and daunting, especially in the last 29 years of being in government. 1994 to 2004 were the glory years, where our efforts were visible and appreciated through an increase in voter participation. However, post 2004, we have been experiencing a steep decline at the polls, with the lowest voter turnout in the 2021 local government elections being the worst ever. The ANC will work to change this downward trend.

Conscious of its responsibilities towards society and the perilous impact of electoral decline and loss on the NDR and the essence underpinning its existence, its aim and objectives, and a vision of the National Democratic Society, the interests of the people, and its vanguard role the ANC subjected itself to scrutiny, assessing the path travelled since the 2019 elections by reviewing its election manifesto and how far we have travelled.

This was not an act of chivalry but a product of renewal, capacity building, recalibration and a candid admission of our weaknesses which emasculate our ability and

capacity to implement the 2019 manifesto, thus hamstringing development.

The purpose of manifesto election review is to renew the movement, reconnect with society as an important component of the NDR in the context of the people shall govern, mass character of the ANC and as a people-oriented organisation and a transformational agenda that is people-driven and people centred. It is for these reasons that the ANC declared 2023 as a year of ***“Decisive action to advance the people’s interests and renew our movement.”***

Voter registration

Voter registration is set for the 18th and 19th November 2023. This is important for the ANC to increase its voter base and consolidate its existing support as a way of arresting its electoral decline in order continue with its mission of leading society and advancing the people’s interests.

The ANC will travel the length and breadth of the country to embark on voter registration campaign, to re-seek the mandate of the people as a complementary process to the election manifesto review and the 2024 election strategy for an overwhelming victory. This campaign goes beyond registration by highlighting the ANC’s key achievements and an innovative way to improve on our weaknesses.

The ANC voter registration will target current registered voters by listening to their concerns, attracting new voters, especially the youth vote, undecided voters and those in apathy owing to the

state of service delivery, and to contest all voters from other parties including independent candidates due to the emergence and proliferation of new political parties, moon shot pacts that represent an unprincipled alliance against the ANC and an anti-transformation and pushback agenda against transformation.

Since 1994 a lot has been done in many areas. These achievements range from unfettered access to education, decent houses, electrification of houses, eradication of mud schools, building a resilient economy, a drop in unemployment, investment pledges to improve the economy, fighting famine and poverty, universal access to health through the National Health Insurance, the Gender Based Violence and Femicide Bill aimed at addressing the scourge that is an affront to our societal fabric and the fight against misogyny and patriarchy. Other achievements include the Basic Education Law Amend-



ment Act, the Nasi Ispani job creation initiative, the transformer replacement programme, an end to load shedding, equality in the workplace by strengthening the Employment Equity regime and economic empowerment through a procurement legislation that is based on fairness, competitiveness and equity. Undeniably, a lot has been done.

Conclusion

The voter registration campaign is a journey towards the 2024 elections, geared towards consolidation of people’s power, advancement of the NDR, building a capable state free from corruption and an economy responsive to the needs of society.

The ANC looks to the future with enthusiasm, buoyed by society’s trust of an organisation capable of leading development. Society listened to us during the interactive election manifesto review processes. ANC welcomed society’s cries where there are weaknesses. This includes the areas of water shortage, rampant crime, a weak local government and other challenges identified by communities, civil society, businesses, youth, women and faith-based organisations and traditional leaders. The ANC listened and accepted criticism with humility.

The 18th and 19th is the beginning of a journey towards the 2024 elections which the ANC will win with the support of the people. Indeed, ***“The People Shall Govern.”***

Get your ID and register to vote African National Congress.

■ By **MEGAN ADONIS**

Throughout history, persons with

Empowering persons with disabilities to represent themselves is vital for genuine inclusion. It is time for disabled and young

Society often perpetuates stereotypes and misconceptions



about disability, limiting the potential of disabled individuals. However, by actively involving persons with disabilities in decision-making processes, the ANC can challenge these stereotypes and change societal perceptions. Young and seasoned disabled leaders can serve as role models, demonstrating the capabilities and achievements of disabled individuals, and inspiring others to embrace inclusivity. This shift in perception will contribute to a more equitable and accepting society, where disabled individuals are valued for their contributions rather than defined by their disabilities.

The call for a disability league within the ANC is not just about representation within the party; it is a call for equal opportunities for persons with disabilities throughout society. Access to education, healthcare, employment, and other essential services remains a significant challenge for disabled individuals. By taking the lead in establishing a disability league, the ANC can drive meaningful change and advocate for policies that address these systemic barriers. It is time for the ANC to champion the rights of disabled individuals and ensure that their needs are met, enabling them to fully participate in all facets of society.

True transformation and inclusion can only be achieved when all voices are heard and valued. As a young African woman with a disability, I am calling upon the African National Congress to establish a disability league and lead the way in empowering persons with disabilities. It is time for disabled leaders to rise and take their rightful place in shaping our society. I emphasise the call upon disabled youth activists, disabled Women activists to stand firm

in their contribution towards the emancipation and empowerment of persons with disabilities and to challenge the status quo and become the beacons of hope.

By championing self-representation, challenging stereotypes, and advocating for equal oppor-

tunities, we can create a future where disabled individuals are embraced, empowered, and celebrated. Let us work together to build a society that leaves no one behind and truly reflects the diversity and strength of our nation. If not us then who and if not now then when?

ANC appoints new General Manager: Cde Patrick Flusk

WE have the pleasure to introduce Cde Patrick Flusk, who is a longstanding activist in the youth movement, the UDF, and an ANC activist.

He played a key role in the formation of the Southern Transvaal Youth Congress, helping to build youth structures across PWV and later towards the SAYCO launch in 1987.

After 1990, he helped rebuild ANC structures in the province.

Cde Flusk, in addition to being an activist and leader, is also an experienced manager, serving as ANC Councillor in the City of Jo'burg, CEO of the Local Government Transformation Programme, as



DDG at Local and Provincial Government (now COGTA), as City Manager of Ekurhuleni and as Consultant in the area of local government transformation and training.

He therefore brings to the ANC General Manager position a deep understanding of the movement and the technical skills to assist with modernisation of our operations.

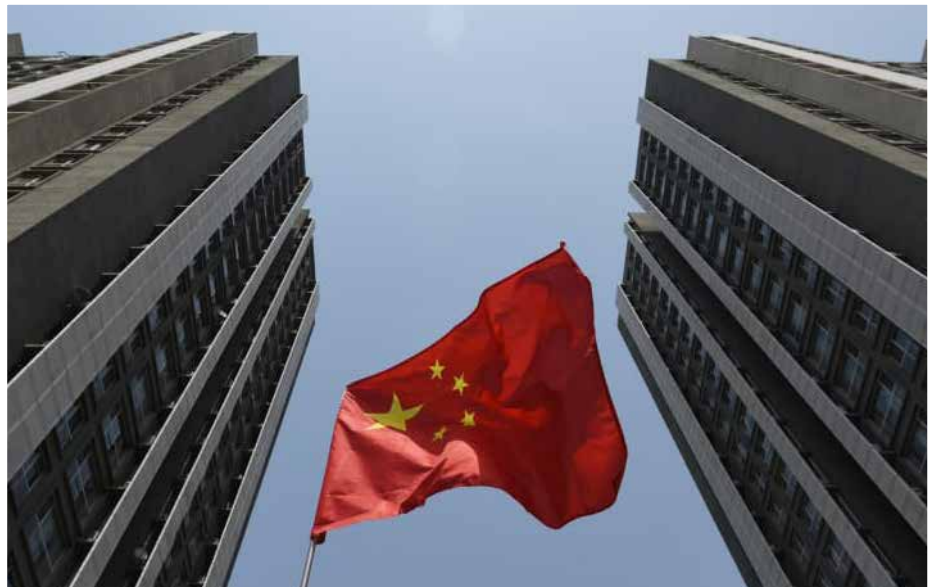
Part One

CHINA – Turning the Burden of Dreams into Glorious Realities

■ By **TITUS MAFOLO**

IN dealing with the topic of China, I have decided Firstly, to break the input into different sections with their own headings. It is hoped that the history of China should help us as we grapple with the theoretical issues that arise from the Chinese history, which hopefully would help enrich our own theory and practice. I have decided not to insert references in the main text but to cite the sources at the end of the document.

When discussing China, it is easy to confine the topic to three phenomena: the enduring ideas of Confucius; the history of the different Dynasties and the analyses of the rule of the Communist Party of China. While these are important in dissecting and understanding China – historically, culturally, politically and economically – the three areas do not necessarily tell the fullness and richness of this populous country of 1.4 billion people whose land-mass spans the equivalent of five time zones and borders fourteen countries. Its total land area



makes it the third largest country in the world. It has 22 Provinces, four municipalities, five autonomous regions and two semi-autonomous special administrative regions.

In 2023, its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$17.7 trillion and growing. In the centuries before the Birth of Christ period, China was defined by at least six important philosophical and political belief systems. Two of

those – Confucianism and what the Western world had narrowly termed 'Legalist' have endured to the present era. Firstly, Confucianism, which focused on the importance of personal ethics and morality, laid the foundation for much of Chinese and indeed some Asian inter-generational cultures.

Confucius was a philosopher and teacher who lived from 551 to 479 BCE. His thoughts on ethics,



good behaviour and moral character were written down by his followers in several books. Confucius believed in ancestor worship and human-centred virtues for living a peaceful life.

Secondly, the 'School of Legalists' tradition, which in Chinese is called 'Fajia', was an intellectual current that gained considerable popularity during the years 453-221BCE, years after Confucius had died.

The Fajia thinkers were political realists who sought to attain 'a rich state and a powerful army'. The followers of these two Chinese philosophical traditions had serious disagreements – Confucius believers insisting that the virtues of benevolence, ritual propriety, ethics, morality and social harmony were the only legitimate and effective basis for good government.

Those of the Fajia tradition rejected Confucian ideal of a government by virtuous scholars ruling over a peaceful and harmonious agrarian society. Instead, they defined the proper goals of the ruler and his officials in one sim-

ple exhortatory phrase: 'Enrich the state and strengthen its military power'.

In one of their memorable debates, Confucians openly decried those of Fajia tradition on the latter's fixation on 'wealth and power', arguing that 'propriety and righteousness are the foundations of the state, while power and profit are the destroyers of government'.

Meanwhile, China was unified for more than two millennia, being governed by several imperial dynasties. Some of the important historical achievements of China are the invention of gunpowder, paper, the first country to use petroleum as fuel as well as the creation of the modern civil service and government structure in the years 206 BCE to 220 CE.

For most of the two millennia, from the 1st to the 19th century, China together with India were the world's biggest economies. China accounted for one-quarter of the global GDP until the late 1700s and about one-third of the global GDP around 1820 as the Industrial Revolution was begin-

ning in Britain. Indeed, between 1405 and 1424, China had built some formidable maritime vessels such that they sailed to India, Arabia and Africa, including the south of our continent engaging in lucrative trade.

One of those fleet comprised of 63 large ships and 255 smaller vessels carrying a total of 27,800 men, including 95 commanders, 543 military officers, 868 civil officers, 180 medical officers and assistants; ambassadors, secretaries and ordinary workers as well as more than 26 000 soldiers. Chinese engagement with Africa was around trade.

This was a century before Portugal started their own seafaring into Africa that was to lead to the enslavement and colonisation of Africans and their countries. By the end of the 1700s, Chinese were regarded as being at the apogee of their prosperous empire. Government was strong; population had reached three hundred million, making the country not only most populous in the world but also with the citizens living better than those anywhere in the world.

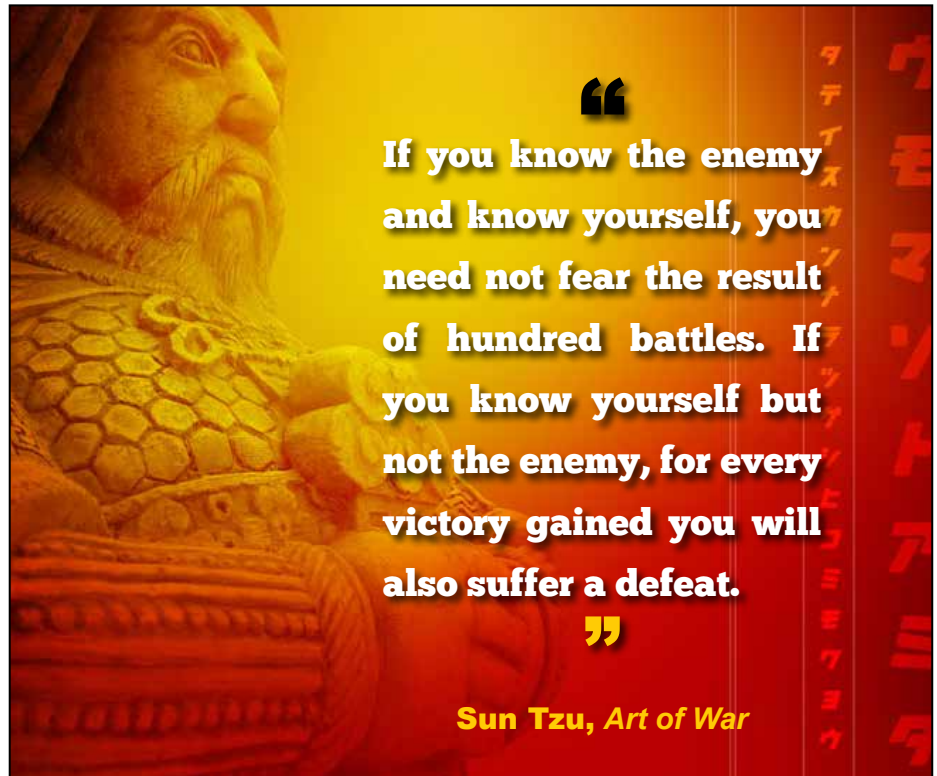
China's affluent regions rivalled those of Britain and Netherlands, then the wealthiest parts of Europe. It was at this time that the Chinese ruler at the time, Emperor Qianlong deigned to receive Lord Macartney, Britain's emissary of King George III. Macartney arrived in China with an embassy of ninety-five men, carrying the latest in European technology and artwork as gifts.

The mission was to establish diplomatic relations between Britain and the Celestial Kingdom – as China was known. Despite its military and economic might, Britain was running an unsustainable trade deficit with China because there was no British export that the Chinese consumers were buying in great numbers. When the British delegation met Emperor Qianlong, he dismissed them, writing to King George III: "As your ambassador can see himself, we possess all things. I see no value on objects strange and ingenious and have no use for your country's manufactures".

LESSONS

From the above we take the important lessons from both the Confucians and those of Fajia tradition, even though they themselves did not agree.

- From the Confucians we learn the importance of morality, ethics, benevolence, ritual propriety and the need to foster community and social harmony.
- These are critical lessons at the time when communities believe that the ANC – the leader of society – is no more a leader because of the unbelievable traction of malfeasance, corruption and many



deviant behaviours that have disfigured our nation;

- Even those wrong things that are not done by ANC members, the general feeling is that the ANC rule has allowed and tolerated these negative things;
- We therefore have a duty to self-correct, especially as we will be going to our people to urge them to continue to vote for us because, in reality, there is no party that can help the country to truly bury the demons of the past and take the nation forward;
- As far as those of the Fajia tradition are concerned, it is indeed important to build a developmental state with strong institutions, similar to what the Chinese of antiquity envisaged with their phrasing that may have been relevant during that time – ‘Enrich the state and strengthen its military power’;

- As far as the treatment by Emperor Qianlong on the British emissary is concerned, the lesson is that, we should learn to be humble. Even if one holds a powerful position, we should be aware that arrogance and complacency leads to defeat.

The emperor did not have a comprehensive report of the balance of power between China and Britain at that time (although he believed China was more powerful). His dismissive attitude did not help his country to know the strengths and weaknesses of their soon-to-be adversaries. He should have taken lessons from one of the greatest Chinese military strategist, Sun Tzu in the Art of War: *“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat.”*



Like the Phoenix, Gaza will Rise from the Fire

■ By **RONNIE KASRILS**

The Palestinian spirit is unbreakable. Like the mythical phoenix, defiant and heroic Gaza will rise from the fire.

THE aerial bombardment of Gaza's most crowded Jabalia refugee camp piles on one massacre after another. It signifies Israeli barbarism and a fascist inability to understand the heroic human spirit to resist repression.

History has shown that the bombing of civilians – from the Basque town of Guernica in 1937 to Soviet and British cities in World War 2, from America's destruction of Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, to the massacre of Gaza today – strengthens the determination to resist.

As the Israeli state's inhumane attack on Gaza continues, with the ground-zero onslaught grinding forward, civilians are being killed at a terrifying rate – the ghetto reduced to rubble.

By the 6th of November, well over 10,000 of the 2.3 million people packed into the walled sliver of land have been killed. The lives of more than 3,500 children have been taken, with women and the elderly accounting for most other deaths. Entire families have been wiped out. Over 20,000 people have been wounded, many with life-threatening injuries. A Pales-

tinian child is being killed every 10 minutes. More children have been butchered in October than in all the world's conflicts since 2019.

People across Gaza are in unspeakable pain and anguish. People across the world are reeling from television images of frantic parents rushing bloodied infants through shattered hospital wards or people digging through collapsed rubble with their bare hands in search of loved ones.

At this rate of slaughter, over 30,000 people will be killed by

Christmas, 40% of them children, 30% women, and 150,000 injured.

Netanyahu and his generals declare that their “war” could last months, so these statistics are not improbable. This is a war crime, a crime against humanity on an unimaginable scale. These crimes are backed by the likes of US President Joe Biden and Britain’s Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and much of the Western media, including Zionist outposts in my own country, South Africa – shamelessly ignoring the disproportionate blood bath Israel has visited on Palestinians.

Announcing the onset of a “total war”, Israel’s Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, declared in words that will shame Israel for all time: *“I have ordered a complete siege of the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel... We are fighting human animals.”*

I do not say this lightly, but it is a plain fact that these words could have come from the mouth of a Nazi exterminator.

Seared into collective memory is Gallant’s chilling warning to the 1,1 million in the northern part of the ghetto giving them 24 hours to flee their homes. Thousands of women and children sheltering at Gaza City’s Al Aqsa Hospital, are refusing to leave even under that deadline, for as at Jabalia, there is nowhere to go.

The Gaza population under siege for 16 years was already suffering borderline starvation with only 500 trucks allowed in each day prior to the current onslaught. After intense pressure, Israel has permitted a trickle of UN relief to deliver food, water and medicine to enter through the Rafah bor-



der crossing. No fuel has been allowed. The tiny amount of supplies permitted through Egypt’s border allows Israel to claim it is providing basic necessities while denying sustenance to most people in practice.

It is evident that many will die of thirst and hunger, bereft of care and medication. Already 12 of Gaza’s hospitals have been destroyed and 32 medical centers partially damaged or put out of service. This includes the Al-Ahli Baptist hospital in Gaza City where 500 people died from a direct hit by an Israeli missile. Unlike the missiles used by Israel, the rockets used by Hamas or Islamic Jihad don’t have the power to destroy entire buildings. This was another Israeli war crime.

Amidst this devastation there are an estimated 55,000 pregnant women with 5,000 of them close to giving birth. There are 130 babies in incubators and 140 in ICU. In 1948, when Israeli fascists slaughtered 240 men, women and children in the Deir Yassin village near Jerusalem, its agriculture minister, Aharon Zisling, declared in horror: *“We have behaved like Nazis and my whole being is shaken.”*

Fascism

The great physicist Albert Einstein, and the philosopher Hannah Arendt, an expert on the Nazis, correctly labeled the architect of that massacre, Menachem Begin, a fascist. He later became Israel’s prime minister. It is an undeniable fact that the government that is raining hell on the people crowded into the Gaza ghetto are proto-fascists driven by a racist myth: They are the chosen people and Palestine is their God-given land.

Israel is a settler colony, that has adopted apartheid practices, and its crimes have been funded and legitimated by the West since its illegitimate birth as a state in the 1948 Nakba. The US has vetoed and undermined UN resolutions and international law from that time through the 1967 occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Today the West colludes with Israel in its ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, war crimes and aggression against neighboring states.

The US currently provides \$3.8 billion per year funding for Israel’s military alone. Biden has now announced a further \$14 billion in support for the Israeli military with not a cent of humanitarian

aid for Palestinians. The US has dispatched two aircraft carrier groups, with 2,000 marines, to "protect" Israel and has delivered more bombs and missiles for the "defensive" onslaught on Gaza. Israel likely requires an inventory of gas and flame throwers for the ground attack on the vast Hamas tunnel system now underway.

While Western support for Israel is driven by racism, there are also more personal motives at play in some instances.

Prime Minister of the UK, Rishi Sunak's wealthy family has enormous investments in Israel as do many others on the Zionist bandwagon, including many Western corporations. The claims made in support of Israel by most Western politicians and dutifully echoed by most of the Western media need to be rigorously assessed. Let's take the chorus of statements describing Operation Al-Aqsa Flood launched by Hamas on October 7 as 'unprovoked' and declaring that 'Israel has a right to defend itself.

The two-billion-dollar Gaza security fence was breached, and 360 Israeli soldiers and 1,200 settlers killed by Resistance fighters engaged in a liberation struggle against apartheid settler-colonialism – although eye-witness testimony has emerged that scores of Jewish settlers died by indiscriminate shooting from their own side. Those settlers died because the Israeli state failed to protect them from guerrilla fighters who had broken out of perpetual open-air imprisonment.

The action of the mujahdeen takes place within the context of almost eight decades of brutal oppression, going back to the time of the dispossession of their

grandparents. The Israeli towns, villages and kibbutzim that they raided were built on land stolen from their very own families in the 1940s, during the Nakba that had cast them into refugee limbo. Indeed, two-thirds of the residents of Gaza are refugees, many from those same destroyed villages.

Whither Gaza – Whither Palestine – Whither Israel?

The gravity of the situation for Gaza, and all Palestinians, looks bleaker than ever. Or could there be a twist in the tale?

As horrendous as the situation is, Israel's plans might not be as unchallenged as expected. It is never wise to deploy military force on the scale involved in an emotive knee-jerk reaction, with no clear military and political objectives.

Apart from the lack of a clear strategy, at the tactical level, the prospect of the ground invasion having to contend with the intricate tunnel system the resistance fighters have developed over the years would be daunting for any military.

Attacking in urban conditions, with rubble and collapsed buildings creating problems for tanks, against a formidable opponent, is the most difficult and dangerous of all military operations. Hamas has demonstrated extraordinary mastery of guerrilla tactics as illustrated by the lessons it dished out to the Israeli army on October 7, and in previous Israeli assaults on the territory.

The Israeli army cannot afford to face any further calamities. The Israeli public will not readily forgive the political elite and a military whose inadequacies have

already been so rudely exposed – in part owing to racial hubris and complacency; in part because it has become a glorified police force dealing with stone throwing teenagers.

An occupation force of a corrupt and decrepit state, despite all its boasting, cannot produce sustained high morale, especially when up against a highly motivated opponent, contemptuous of death, with a deeply felt cause. Hamas knew that a ground force invasion would inevitably follow an operation such as Al-Aqsa Flood and would have carefully prepared much more than the anticipated booby-trapped tunnels. Who knows what surprises there are in store for the invaders?

Moreover, Israel has to maintain considerable force on its northern front with Lebanon, and its feared opponent, Hezbollah. Skirmishes have already been occurring there as guerrilla fighters probe Israel's defences. Likewise, the West Bank resistance is likely to register a potent response, along with possible flare-ups within Israel itself.

Guerrilla fighters throughout the region have developed impressive operational capacity and daring and demonstrate a far greater threat to Israeli military prowess than the conventional Arab armies that Israel contended with in 1948 and 1967. The Israeli army's deployment is already greatly stretched as will be Israel's economy and military call up of its reserve force over a protracted period.

The Israeli families of those Hamas captured, are becoming extremely impatient with the Government's reluctance to negotiate a prisoner exchange. The

release of some captives with Western citizenship, through outside intervention, is placing enormous pressure on Netanyahu and his ilk. As possible prisoner exchanges like those take place, the obduracy of the Israeli state will become more objectionable. Recall that in 2011 the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit was exchanged for over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Hamas is holding a very strong card. And its support will grow.

Furthermore, the US-Israeli objective of propping-up the Palestine Authority (PA), of dividing Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza, between Fatah and Hamas, has long rendered Mahmoud Abbas a lame duck with no credibility, the two-state solution as futile, and the notion of only peaceful forms of struggle as inadequate.

Current events have put paid to those plans or the idea that the PA could be brought in to govern the Gaza Strip. Gaza is uniting the determination and belief of Palestinians everywhere – in the occupied territories, within Israel itself, in the refugee camps of the region, in the prisons and in the Diaspora.

That's not the only headache for Western objectives. Both the USA and Israel are concerned at the possible setback to the Abrahamic Accord and Israel's normalization with its neighbors, which Netanyahu was only recently boasting about in his UN General Assembly address in September.

As spineless and even treacherous as most Arab governments have been regarding support for the Palestinians over the years – Algeria, Syria and Yemen



Houthi's, along with Hezbollah, are among exceptions – the unprecedented Palestinian resistance has galvanized the Arab masses as reflected in the huge protests in the Middle East and beyond and is bound to create a dilemma for those regimes.

The last thing the USA wants is a quagmire in the Middle East, with mass uprisings against client US regimes from Egypt and Jordan to Saudi Arabia. The US simply cannot afford this at a time when their proxy war in the Ukraine is unravelling, the Kiev counter-offensive grinding to a halt, and Russia gaining the upper hand. The US has recklessly generated tensions with China.

At the same time, the alliance between China and Russia is strengthening. They are being less stand-off in their dealings with Israel and would most likely support Iran if needs be, leading to a regional test of strength with the West.

Given such factors, Israel could find that there are limits to the backing it will receive from the US and Western Europe in a volatile situation. Moreover, while buildings might be reduced to rubble, and thousands killed,

Palestinians have exhibited the most extraordinary resilience and steadfastness (*sumud*) over decades.

Ben Gurion once said that after the 1948 Palestinian generation, 'the old will die, and the young will forget'. These hopes were in vain. Palestinians have not forgotten, and they have not accepted permanent oppression as their fate.

Hamas and the other resistance groups in Gaza and the West Bank are part of the people, not alien entities. This is a key tenet in successful guerrilla struggles. Much depends on how Hamas contains the ground invasion and forces the Israeli army into something of an impasse. Much also depends on international reaction.

It is vital we do everything possible to forestall the slaughter, and through the power of international solidarity enable and strengthen UN's role, and apply pressure on the US and Western Europe, to support an immediate ceasefire.

Most important of all is People's Power – direct action in the streets worldwide as never seen before; along with the intensification of the BDS campaign to completely isolate Zionist Israel.

The indiscriminate bombing of civilians deepens resolve and invokes resistance. The Palestinian spirit is unbreakable. Like the mythical phoenix, defiant and heroic Gaza will rise from the fire.

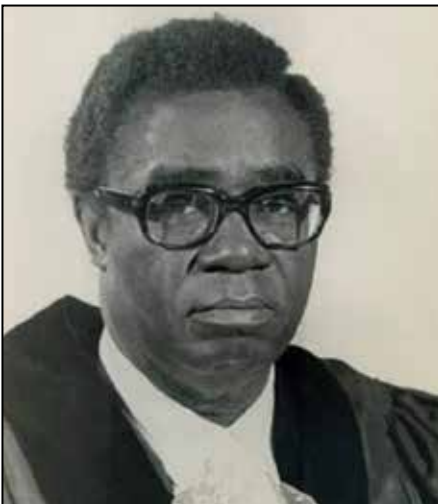
Ronnie Kasrils, is a veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle, and South Africa's former Minister for Intelligence Services, activist and author. He contributed this piece to ***The Palestine Chronicle***.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

11 – 17 NOVEMBER 2023

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

11 November 1914 Judge Taslim Olawale Elias born

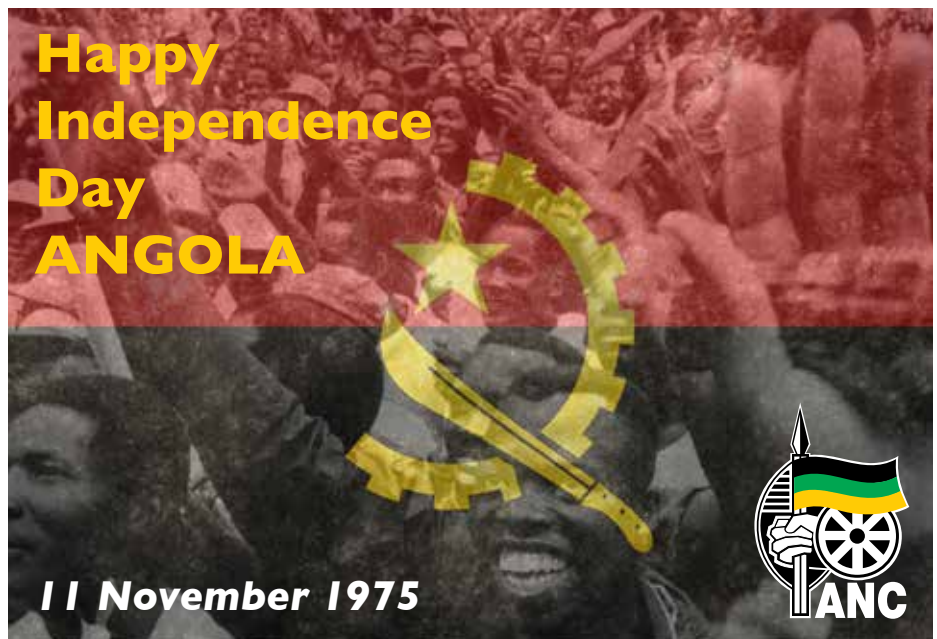


The first African to become President of the International Court of Justice (1982–1985) was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He was Nigeria's first Attorney General and Minister of Justice after independence. In 1972, he became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 1972. Through his judgements and various books published, he made an invaluable contribution to Nigerian customary law and to Africa in international legal context. Judge Elias passed on in 1991.

11 November 1956 President Edgar Lungu born

President of Zambia Edgar Lungu (2015–2021) was born in Ndola, an accomplished military officer prior to his presidency. He served one full term as president, before losing his re-election bid.

Happy Independence Day ANGOLA



11 November 1975 Angola gains independence from Portugal

Angola became independent after 14 years of armed resistance to Portuguese colonial rule. The three major movements, the Movimiento Popular de Liberación de Angola, (MPLA), the Front for the National Liberation of Angola (FLNA) and National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) signed the Alvor agreement in January 1975. Soon thereafter, a civil war broke out. The MPLA which seized power was supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union and UNITA which went to war was supported by apartheid South Africa and the USA. The independence of Angola paved way for other liberation movements in Southern Africa to establish bases for military train-

ing. For instance, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) established bases in Angola. In 1976 the African National Congress (ANC) set up the Central Operations Headquarters of uMkonto weSizwe (MK) and began a process of establishing military training camps in Angola.

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

The Synod of the Church of England on this day voted to allow women to be ordained as priests, following a trend in the Anglican Church across the world. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa voted for the ordainment of women priests earlier in 1992, whilst

countries such as Canada, New Zealand and the US had women priests ordained since the 1970s. The first female Anglican bishop was ordained in Canada in 1994, and the first Southern African female bishop in 2012. The Church of England's first female bishop was ordained only in 2015!

11 November 1996 Malawi Stock Exchange opens

The first national stock exchange opens in Blantyre, the industrial and commercial capital of Malawi on this day. On the first day of business, 2300 Malawians buy stocks in the first company to be listed, the National Insurance Company. Today, The MSE also runs two other market platforms, namely, the Alternative Capital Market (to raise capital for small and medium-sized companies at lower cost) and the Debt Market. Today, there are over 30 stock exchanges across the continent. These include three regional exchanges: the *Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières* (BRVM), based in Côte d'Ivoire; the East Africa Exchange, based in Rwanda; and the *Bourse des Valeurs Mobilières de l'Afrique Centrale* (BVMAC) in Gabon.

11 November 2018 New bank headquarters dominates Addis skies

The new headquarters of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) is completed, with the 198 story skyscraper now the country's highest building. The bank's history dates back to 1942, when established as the State Bank of Ethiopia, and evolved as the CBE in 1963 as a share company. It has over 37.9 million account holders and 1900 branches across the country.

11 November 2020 Magician Wian van den Berg becomes Tik Tok legend

The magician became one of the top SA Tik Tok star when his followers passed 10 million and over 200 million watching his videos (@Wianmagic). A self-taught magician, Wian was born in 1995, and grew to fame when he appeared on SA Got Talent.



12 November 1906 How Pretoria became Jacaranda City

On this day, flower and tree supplier James Clark, who imported jacaranda seedlings from Australia and began growing them large scale, donated 200 tree saplings to the Pretoria City Council. They were planted and by 1971 the city had over 55,000 jacaranda trees (70,000 by 2022), hence the Jacaranda City as it turns purple when the trees blooms in October each year.

12 November 1930 Black Sash leader and activist, Molly Blackburn born

Political activist and civil rights campaigner Molly Blackburn was born in Port Elizabeth. In 1981 she started her political career

by winning the Provincial Council seat of Walmer, Port Elizabeth, for the Progressive Federal Party (PFP). A year later she became involved in the advice office of the Black Sash, where she learned more about the problems that faced South Africa. The National Party (NP) regarded her as a trouble maker, for her constant questioning of police actions and the dealings of the Development Board in the upliftment of Black areas in the Port Elizabeth region. Her unselfish life of service came to an abrupt end on 28 December, 1985, when she died in a car accident.

12 November 1938 Steve Tshwete born

Steve Vukile Tshwete (1938–2002) was born in Springs on 12 November. He spent his childhood in the village of Peulton,



and later in King William's Town and East London. His parents, Vuyelwa Nolayiti and Brongher Palamente Tshwete, were workers but set great store in education and kept young Steve in school despite being poor. As he was growing up, the treason trial of the 50's dominated the headlines and was a catalyst for his consciousness and after leaving school he began working for the African National Congress (ANC). He joined the African Students Association, joined Umkhonto we Sizwe and became secretary of the regional command of the Border region MK. He was arrested in 1963 and sentenced to 15 years on Robben Island, where he earned a BA from UNISA, majoring in English and Philosophy. After his release in 1978, he worked as a teacher and during the 1980s became president of the UDF Border region. After being declared persona non grata by the apartheid regime, Tshwete left for exile, where he became Umkhonto we Sizwe commissar. On his return to South Africa in 1990 after the un-banning of the African National Congress (ANC) he became its National Organiser, responsible for rebuilding the organisation's structures, and later as coordinator on sports matters. This is when he got his nickname of "Mr Fixit" for his interventions to build non-racial sporting codes. In 1994 he became the first democratic Minister of Sport and Recreation and in 1999 President Thabo Mbeki appointed Tshwete as Minister of Safety and Security.

12 November 1967 Association of African Universities formed

The association was founded in Rabat, Morocco bringing together the heads of African universi-

ties, many formed after independence.

12 November 1984 Morocco leaves OAU

The Kingdom of Morocco, one of the founder members of the Organisation of African Unity, leaves the OAU in protest against the admission of the Saharawi Democratic Republic as a member, claiming Western Sahara as its territory.

12 November 2021 Storm brings scorpions to Egypt

Three people die and nearly 500 hospitalised when a freak storm and flooding blows thousands of scorpions from the desert into Aswan. The scorpions swarmed cars and houses, injecting people with venom in panic.

13 November 1967 Artist Bonnie Ntshalintshali born



Bonnie Mayvee Ntshalintshali was born in Winterton, Natal. She fell into art when she apprenticed as a studio assistant for ceramics artist Fèe Halsted-Berning. Her talent in ceramics and painting soon shined through and Halsted-Berning encouraged her to

pursue her own path. In many of her works, Ntshalintshali drew inspiration from her early years at mission school. She won numerous awards throughout her career, among them the Corobrik National Ceramic Award in 1988 and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award in 1990. Her work is represented in collections locally and overseas. Ntshalintshali died in 1999 and was buried at the farm where she was born.

13 November 1956 Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula born



Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula was born on 13 November 1956. She is currently serving as the Speaker of the National Assembly since August 2021. She was a cabinet minister from 2004 to 2021, including as Minister of Defence and Military Veterans between June 2012 and August 2021. She was an elected member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC) between 2002 and 2022 and is a former president of the ANC Women's League. Raised in the Eastern Cape, Mapisa-Nqakula trained as a teacher and worked in youth development until 1984, when she left South Africa to join Umkhonto we Sizwe in exile. She returned to the country in 1990

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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

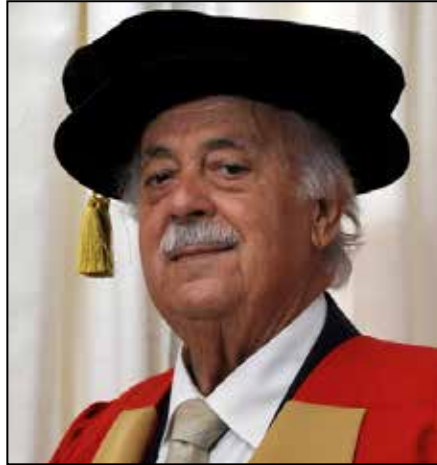
and became a national organiser for the newly relaunched ANC Women's League; she was later its secretary-general from 1993 to 1997 under league president Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. She joined the National Assembly after the April 1994 general election and chaired Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence from 1996 to 2001.

14 November 1922 **Boutros Boutros Ghali** **UN Secretary General** **born**



The first African elected as UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros Ghali (1922-2016) was born in Egypt on 14 November 1922. He studied International Law and International Relations, and was appointed as a Professor in both these fields at the University of Cairo. Ghali started his political career as a member of the Arab Socialist Union in 1974, later serving as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs before moving to the United Nations (UN). He was elected as UN Secretary General in 1992, with the 1994 Rwanda Genocide without intervention from the UN as well as the Bosnian War, taking place on his watch. He failed to win a second term as UNSG in 1996, and was succeeded by Kofi Annan in 1997.

14 November 1927 **Advocate George Bizos** **born**



The Human rights lawyer and anti-apartheid campaigner, was born in Vasilitsi, Greece on this day and came to South Africa as a refugee from the Second World War in 1941.

14 November 1961 **Egypt launches first** **rocket**

Egypt launches its first rocket from Al Kahir launch site. Its space programme started in the 1950s.

14 November 1962 **Eritrea made an Ethiopian** **province**

On this day in 1962, the Ethiopian parliament and Eritrean Assembly voted unanimously for the abolition of Eritrea's federal status, making Eritrea a simple province of the Ethiopian empire.

14 November 1975 **Spain hands over Western** **Sahara**

Spain gives portions of Western Sahara to Mauritania and Morocco in the Madrid Accords, as it pulls out of the territory. One month before, the International Court of Justice ruled that nei-

ther Mauritania nor Morocco has a claim to Western Sahara, and that it is up to the Saharawi people to determine their future. The Madrid Accords were signed without the Saharawi people.

14 November 1977 **Biko inquest starts**



Steve Biko died on the cement floor of a cell in a Pretoria prison hospital after torture at the hands of the police. An inquest into his death was held two months later in Pretoria. His death and the inquest received worldwide coverage. Police admitted to keeping Steve Biko shackled and naked for two days, but still dismissed allegations of assault. As it would later come to light, the inquest proved to be just one big conspiracy to conceal the real cause of Biko's death, with all the witnesses and all court officials playing a part.

14 November 2006 **Parliament approves Bill** **for Same-sex Marriages**

On 14 November 2006, parliament approved the Civil Unions Bill, which provided for same-sex marriage, making South Africa the first African country to do so and one of only a few in the world at the time. MPs from the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



The Year of Decisive Action
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African National Congress were required to support the bill, which was passed by the National Assembly 230 to 41. The measure was opposed by almost all opposition parties except the Democratic Alliance. The DA allowed its members a free vote on the issue. The bill provided for opposite-sex and same-sex couples of 18 years or older to register a voluntary union, either by marriage or civil partnership. Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka signed the bill into law on 30 November 2006. The first couple to wed, Vernon Gibbs and Tony Halls, did so in George, Western Cape, the following day, 1 December 2006.

15 November 1884 Start of Berlin Conference that formalized Scramble for Africa



On 15 November 1884, the Berlin Conference of Western colonial powers was convened by Germany's first chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, lasting until February 1885. It resulted in the General Act of the Berlin Conference that divided Africa amongst colonial powers, set colonial boundaries, rules for further colonization of African coastal territories, internationalised the rivers Niger and Congo, and gave King Leopold of Belgium control over the Congo. The 14 countries represented

at the conference, in addition to Germany, were the Austria-Hungary Empire, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, United States of America, Italy, France, Britain/United Kingdom, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Sweden-Norway and the Ottoman Republic.

15 November 1920 First General Assembly of the League of Nations

The League of Nations, formed after World War I was the forerunner to the United Nations Organisation (UN). It was formed on 19 January 1920 with 48 member countries, including the Union of South Africa. Its first General Assembly was held on 15 November 1920.

15 November 1931 Sculptor Lucas Sithole born



Lucas Sithole, renowned South African sculptor, was born in KwaThema, Springs, Transvaal (now Gauteng) to a Zulu father and a Swazi mother. He created more than 800 sculptures in wood, stone liquid steel and bronze. Sithole often used to give an explanation why he made his sculptures. As one of South Africa's best known sculptors internationally, about 200 works are in collections in the Americas and

Europe. Lucas Sithole passed on in 1993, but his work can be viewed on the commemoration website: <http://www.sithole.com>.

15 November 1988 Barend Strydom kills 8 people in Pretoria

On 15 November 1988, 21 year-old Barend Strydom went on a killing spree with his pistol and attempted to shoot every Black person he encountered. He killed 8 people and seriously wounded 16 before he was confronted and stopped by Simon Mukondoleli, a taxi driver working in the capital. Strydom claimed to be the head of a white supremacist group called the Wit Wolwe. Upon investigation, it was found that the organisation did not exist and was a figment of Strydom's imagination. He claimed that his actions were a necessity to the survival of his tribe. An eyewitness account of the event is contained in the book, *Undercover With Mandela Spies: The story of the boy who crossed the square*, by Bradley Steyn.

15 November 1994 RDP White Paper tabled in Parliament

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) was the ANC's blueprint for the transformation of South Africa into a non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous democracy. It formed the basis of the ANC's elections Manifesto of 1994, with its credo of a **Better Life for All**. The White Paper on the RDP tabled in 1994 addressed the issues of transformation, but within a fiscal and monetary framework that eventually laid the basis for the GEAR. It also introduced the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC).

15 November 1996

Vanessa Nakate born

Ugandan environmentalist activist, founder of Youth for the Future of Africa was born in Kampala. Nakata staged protests for months across Kampala, including outside the parliament, to raise awareness of climate change and the degradation of the country's rain forests. She wrote her autobiography, *A Bigger Picture* in 2022.

16 November 1860

First Indian indentured labourers arrive in South Africa

The first Indian indentured labourers imported by the Dutch in South Africa were reported to have arrived on board the Truro from Madras to work in the sugar cane plantation in Port-Natal. The group was made up of 197 men, 89 women and 59 children. Most returned to India at the end of their term, but a few stayed behind. Those that stayed quickly established themselves as industrial and railway workers, clerks and interpreters. Today, Durban in Kwazulu-Natal has the highest population of people of Indian origin, outside of India.

16 November 1930

Author Chinua Achebe born

Chinua Achebe (1930–2013) is one of the most prominent African writers, famous for his novels and other writings on Nigeria and the African continent. Achebe was born in Ogidi, Nigeria, the son of a teacher in a missionary school. He attended Government College in Umuahia, followed by the University College of Ibadan, where he studied English, history and theology. He worked as a journalist and public servant

and during the Nigerian Civil War (1967–70) Achebe was in the Biafran government service, and then taught at US and Nigerian universities. Achebe wrote his first novel, *Things Fall Apart* (1958), the most translated African novel; followed by novels, essays and poetry collections *No Longer at Ease* (1960), *Arrow of God* (1964), *A Man of the People* (1966), *Beware, Soul Brother* (1971), *Girls at War* (1972), *How the Leopard Got His Claws* (1972), *Christmas in Biafra* (1973), *Morning Yet on Creation Day* (1975), *The Trouble with Nigeria* (1983), *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987), *Hopes and Impediments* (1988), *There was a Country. A personal history of the Biafra* (2012). In 1990 Achebe was paralyzed from the waist down as the result of a serious car accident. Despite the setback, he remained active and continued writing and publishing. In 2007 Achebe won the **Man Booker International Prize** for fiction.

16 November 1989

South African beaches open to all races

The Separate Amenities Act of 1953 divided all public (and private) amenities on the basis of race, from hospitals, buses, trains and government offices, to parks, cinemas, restaurants and beaches. After the second Defiance campaign started by the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) in 1989, where activists defied apartheid petty laws by going to swim on whites-only beaches, then President De Klerk announced on 16 November 1989 that South African beaches would be opened to all people across the racial lines. The Act was repealed in October 1990.

17 November 1989

Anton Fransch killed by apartheid police

Anton Fransch was born and raised in Bonteheuwel, Cape Town. He was the second youngest of 7 siblings. He attended



THIS DAY ANTON FRANSCH KILLED BY APARTHEID POLICE

17 NOVEMBER 1989

Anton Fransch was born and raised in Bonteheuwel, Cape Town. He was the second youngest of 7 siblings. He attended Modderdam High School and joined the Congress of South African Students (COSAS). This was during the 1980's when the resistance against the apartheid regime was intensifying. He also joined Bonteheuwel Military Wing. He went to Angola to receive military training. He returned in 1989 to expand the network and actions of the Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the ANC. His position was discovered and on the 17th November 1989, he was killed in a house in Athlone, Cape Town, after a 6-hour gun battle with the security forces of the apartheid regime.



Modderdam High School where he joined COSAS. He joined Bonteheuvel Military Wing and went to Angola to join Umkhonto we Sizwe and receive military training. He returned in 1989 to expand the Western Cape MK operations. His position was discovered and on the 17th November 1989. He was killed in a house in Athlone, Cape Town, after a 6 hour gun battle with apartheid security forces.

17 November 2004 Breyton Paulse included in Springbok team after challenge by ANCYL

Although South African rugby was united after years of apartheid segregation and discrimination, leading to the return of the Springboks to interna-



tional rugby in 1992 and winning the Rugby World Cup in 1995, transformation remained difficult. In 2004, Breyton Paulse, a Black rugby player was omitted from the Springboks prior to a test with England. The ANC Youth League challenged this decision, stating that *"transformation cannot be put in reverse. Attempts to keep rugby as an exclusive sport for Whites will never work"*. On 17 November 2004, Paulse was included in the national team. Breyton Paulse is known for his tremendous speed on the pitch. He was selected for both the 2003 and 2007 World Cup finals. He played for the French Clermont Auvergne and the local Stormers and was named as the player of the year in 2000.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

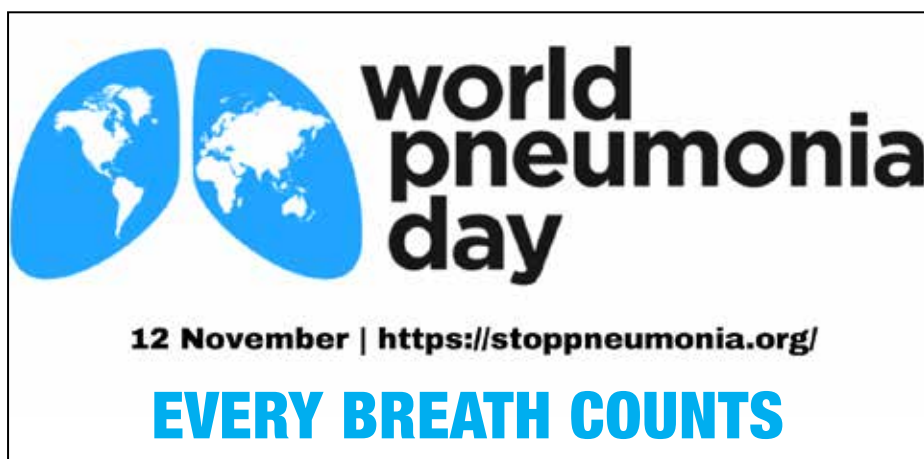
11 – 17 NOVEMBER 2023

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

12 November

World Pneumonia Day

Pneumonia acts is the single largest infectious killer of both children and adults with at least 2.5 million people each year succumbing to it. In fact, pneumonia is the world's leading killer of children under the age of five years old. Pneumonia is an infection that inflames the air sacs in one or both lungs. A variety of organisms, including bacteria, viruses and fungi, can cause pneumonia.



13 November

World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is a global observance dedicated to promoting and celebrating acts of kindness. This day serves as a reminder of the positive impact that kindness can have on individuals, communities, and the world at large. It encourages people to perform intentional acts of kindness and foster a culture of compassion and generosity. World Kindness Day is observed on November 13th



each year. It is an annual event that encourages individuals to practice kindness in their daily lives. It highlights the importance of empathy, understanding, and cooperation to create a more harmonious and caring world.

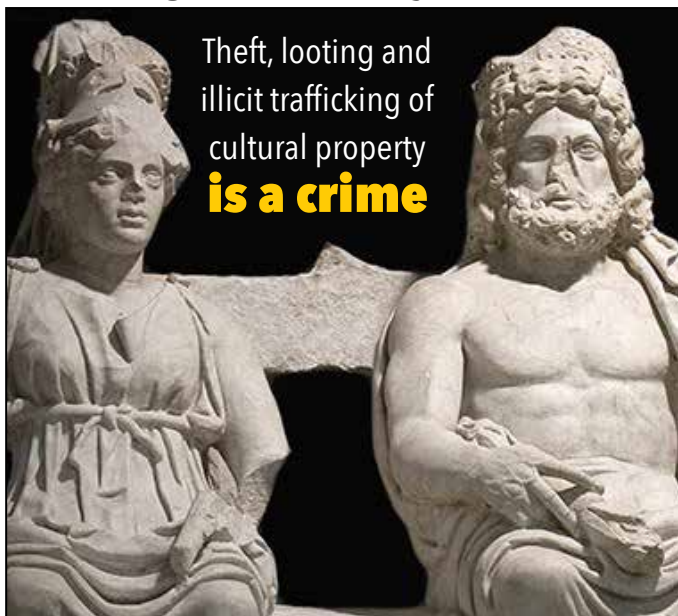
How to Participate in World Kindness Day 2023?

Participating in World Kindness Day is a simple yet impactful way to make a positive difference in your community. Here are ways to get involved:

- **Perform Acts of Kindness:** Throughout the day, consciously perform acts of kindness, such as helping a neighbor, complimenting a colleague, or donating to a charity.
- **Spread Positivity:** Share uplifting and positive messages on social media to inspire others to be kind and compassionate.
- **Volunteer:** Offer your time to volunteer for a local charity or nonprofit organization that aligns with your values.
- **Donate:** Make a donation to a charitable cause that you believe in, whether it's for humanitarian aid, education, or healthcare.
- **Teach Kindness:** Educate children and young people about the importance of kindness and empathy through storytelling or classroom activities.
- **Random Acts of Kindness:** Surprise someone with a random act of kindness, such as buying a stranger's coffee or leaving an encouraging note for a friend.

14 November

International Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural objects



The day reminds the world that theft, looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property takes place in every country, robbing people of their culture, identity and history, and that we have to work together to combat this crime. As a result of colonialism, a report by Sarr and Savoy (2018) indicated that up to 90% of African material cultural heritage is outside the continent. For example, according to this report, the Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale in Belgium holds 180,000 African artifacts, the Humboldt museum in Germany 75,000, Musée du Quai Branly Jacques Chirac 70,000 and the British Museum 69,000. African ministers of culture have been lobbying for the return of African cultural objects since the days of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

14 November

World Diabetes Day



Globally, an estimated 422 million adults were living with diabetes in 2014, compared to 108 million in 1980. The global prevalence of diabetes has nearly doubled since 1980, rising from 4.7% to 8.5% in the adult population, and an increase in associated risk factors such as being overweight or obese. Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and lower limb amputation. Healthy diet, physical activity and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. In addition diabetes can be treated and its consequences avoided or delayed with medi-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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

cation, regular screening and treatment for complications.

15 November

I love to write day

Writing is not just for acclaimed authors. After all, every famous writer started the first chapter of their first book with just one word. I Love to Write day was founded by author John Riddle, a non-fiction and self-help writer, to get kids writing in schools and encourage adults to rekindle an old dream.

16 November

International Day for Tolerance

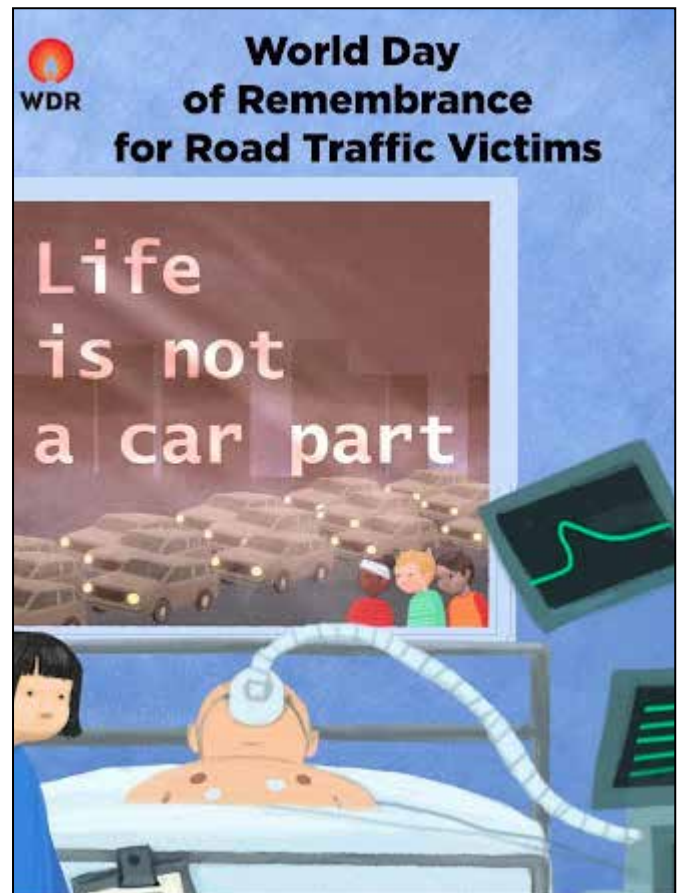


The day is celebrated by the United Nations in order to strengthen tolerance by fostering mutual understanding among cultures and peoples. This is at the heart of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is more important than ever in this era of rising and violent extremism, racism and other intolerances, gender-based violence and widening conflicts that are characterized by a fundamental disregard for human life. UNESCO defines tolerance as "... respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human." (UNESCO's 1995 Declaration of Principles on Tolerance.)

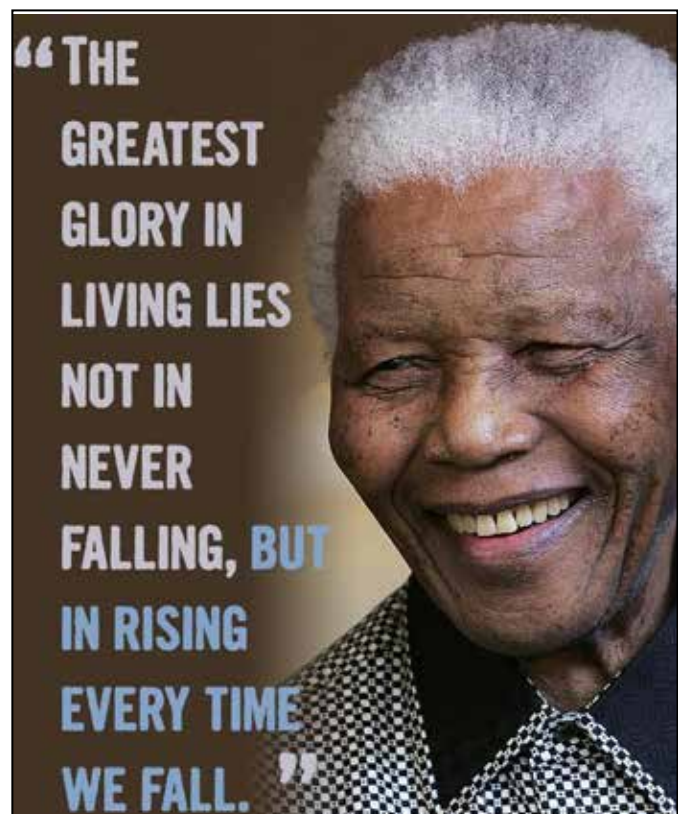
17 November

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

As the number of cars in the world expands massively, and despite global efforts to curb road accidents, road use still cause huge numbers of deaths, serious injuries and illnesses every year, both as a result of road traffic accidents and through air pollution. Road accidents in South Africa claimed 1685 lives between 1 December 2021 and 11 January



2022. The theme for World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is **"Not a Car Part."** The day is celebrated every 3rd Sunday in November.



National Disability Rights Awareness Month

3 November – 3 Dec 2023



ACROSS

2. A disability may be present from..., or occur during a person's ...
3. Disability is the consequence of an impairment that may be ..., sensory, emotional, or developmental.
4. Multidimensional ... for persons with disability is much higher than persons without.
6. Disability prevalence changed from 7.4% in ... 2011 to 6% in ... 2022.
10. No person, including the State and private companies may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly on one or more grounds against any person on one or more grounds including race, gender, colour, age or...
11. Nothing ... us, without us.
12. Disability may be..., sensory, emotional, developmental
13. A disability may be present from..., or occur during a person's ...
14. Disability is the consequence of an impairment that may be ..., ..., ..., sensory, emotional, developmental, or some combination of these.

DOWN

1. Act provides quotas for employment of people living with disabilities.
5. Persons with disabilities face significant inequalities in terms of... attainment.
7. Across the world, estimated 1.3 billion people experience ... disability.
8. Global sports games for people living with disabilities.
9. Disability prevalence is highest amongst ... persons. (Census 2022)

WORD BANK

cognitive physical mental lifetime
 birth educational poverty significant
 Census older about disability
 Employment Equity Paralympics

write for us

Maximum contributions of 600 words, in an accessible language – any South African language – adequately referenced. We reserve the right to edit articles.

Email: info@anc1912.org.za