



# ANC TODAY

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## Conversations with the **President**



# Together we will win the battle against illegal mining

By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

**T**HE fight against illegal mining is seeing results. Last week, the Ministers in government's Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster reported on significant progress in curbing this criminal activity and arresting those responsible.

A central part of this effort are the specialised Illegal Mining Task Teams set up by the South African Police Service (SAPS) last year to conduct operations against illegal mining and its as-

sociated activities in hotspots around the country.

A number of intelligence-driven operations by these task teams, supported by the Hawks, have culminated in over 4,000 arrests for various offences related to illegal mining. Between April and August this year there have also been arrests of more than 7,000 suspects involved in illegal mining for contravening immigration regulations.

I recently authorised the deploy-

ment of 3,300 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) personnel to support the SAPS in its ongoing operations against illegal mining for a six-month period. This deployment will provide valuable support to the SAPS as it gains further ground.

The SANDF deployment supports a multi-sectoral effort that brings together the SAPS, State Security Agency, the newly formed Border Management Authority and the departments of Mineral Resources and Energy,

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**In recent operations by law enforcement agencies and security forces, several illegal miners were arrested.**

Home Affairs, Justice and Constitutional Development, Environmental Affairs and others.

Illegal mining is linked to other crimes such as money laundering, bribery and corruption, illicit financial flows, human and weapons trafficking, and other forms of organised crime.

Recent incidents have shown some of the devastating effects of illegal mining on the safety of communities. These incidents include the gang rapes last year of a group of women allegedly by illegal miners; an underground gas explosion at a disused mine in Welkom in May this year that killed 31 illegal miners; and a gas explosion linked to illegal mining activity at an informal settlement in Boksburg in June this year that claimed dozens of lives.

Our efforts to end illegal mining cannot focus only on the miners, but also on those people further up the value chain who benefit. As Minister Gwede Mantashe said last year, *"illegal miners are foot soldiers for criminal syndicates and must be dealt with like*

*any other economic saboteurs"*.

The disruptive operations that have been undertaken against these syndicates have resulted in the forfeiture of assets and freezing orders against the assets of suspects by the Hawks and the Asset Forfeiture Unit.

For this fight to be successful, everyone has to play their part. Mining houses that don't comply with the laws around the closure and rehabilitation of mines have contributed to the proliferation of illegal mining. There are approximately 6,100 derelict, unused or abandoned mines in South Africa. In some cases the mines are old and their owners cannot be traced, but in other cases, miners have failed to honour their obligations to rehabilitate or close these mines.

We therefore welcome the efforts of the Minerals Council of South Africa to support greater collaboration between government and the mining sector in tackling this problem.

Our actions against illegal mining are part of a broader effort

to tackle all crimes of economic sabotage, including cable theft, extortion at construction sites and other damage to critical infrastructure.

Through the work of specialised task teams, the SAPS has made 61 arrests linked to extortion at economic and construction sites since April. Over the last four years a total of 27 people have been convicted and sentenced for such crimes.

Working together with business, unions and communities, we will not let up in our fight against the acts of sabotage that are undermining our country's development.

We congratulate our law enforcement agencies and security services for their successes in dealing with these crimes. Their intelligence-driven operations would not be possible without the cooperation of communities, whistle-blowers and industry.

If we continue to work together, this is a battle that we can and will win.

# COSATU deeply dismayed by baseless fear mongering by the DA

Statement by COSATU

**T**HE Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) is deeply dismayed by baseless fear mongering by the Democratic Alliance (DA) on agricultural export license requirements to the European Union and Great Britain. The DA falsely claimed that government has imposed a new requirement that agricultural export licenses will only be issued to farms with an annual turnover of less than R10 million or who have been issued Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment compliance certificates and that this will pose a threat to all 800 000 agricultural jobs.

Tragically, these hysterical allegations by some obscure DA Member of Parliament (MP) are devoid of any relationship to facts or truth. We welcome the clarification provided by not only the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development but also by AgBiz on behalf of industry that there are no such limitations to agricultural exports.

We understand that politicians from an opposition party will always be scrolling for a soundbite



and a headline, more so in the run up to their parties' selecting candidates for an election. But this desperation should not come at the expense of an already fragile economy struggling to boost and attract investors confidence, support battered sectors, reduce unemployment and boost state revenues. The action by a single misguided MP has done real damage to brand South Africa when we can least afford it.

It's important that the DA provides

economics and communications courses for its public representatives and institute some quality control measures to avoid future reckless and ill considered statements causing further damage to local businesses, jobs and the economy.

It will be a pity for our maturing constitutional democracy if we are compelled to reduce statements by the official opposition to the spam folder if they continue along this path of misinformation.



# In Conversation with Sergio Carreira Neto

## LESSONS FROM BRAZIL IN FIGHTING CASH IN TRANSIT HEISTS

■ By **VUSI MAVIMBELA**

**S**ERGIO is a Brazilian senior police officer with over 26 years of experience, both domestically and internationally, and has a passion for studying law enforcement affairs. He is a PhD Candidate in Education and is the author of several books and articles. His latest book is entitled *"Policing Models Around The World"* and is published in 2023. Recently, I invited him out to lunch – to hear his perspective about my observations concerning two aspects of law enforcement and crime in Brazil.

The first observation is that, in my time in Brazil, I have hardly heard or read about the phenomenon of cash-in-transit (CIT). The second one is what I see as the paucity of traffic cops on the roads.

These two aspects happen to be among the top traumas that impact the public psyche of all South Africans. For decades now, CIT has been the most public, brazen and violent crime that hogs the public and social media. Law enforcement agencies have found it hard to keep pace with



the violent nature, the frequency and the geographic spread of this phenomenon. Assaulting gangs have become larger, better armed and more technically adept in their execution.

Incidentally, a few weeks ago, on 9 October 2023, the ENCA social media account carried a headline that said, "CIT Authorities to look to Brazil for help". It further stated that "cash-in-transit officials will be looking to Brazil to discuss possible ways to reduce the recent spike in the industry. There have been 249 heists in 2023.

On the other hand, every motor-

ist or driver can relate many episodes about the psychological and humiliating trauma of being flagged down by traffic cops whose primary mission is not to uphold and enforce the law, but to break it by soliciting bribes. They hide behind trees, under bridges and in the bushes to catch out their next victims for quick money, for a gift in kind including a bottle of whisky if it is available at hand. Others go to the extent of advising the motorist to drive to the nearest ATM to withdraw bribe money. The authorities that are supposed to enforce the integrity of the system seem to have resigned themselves, with

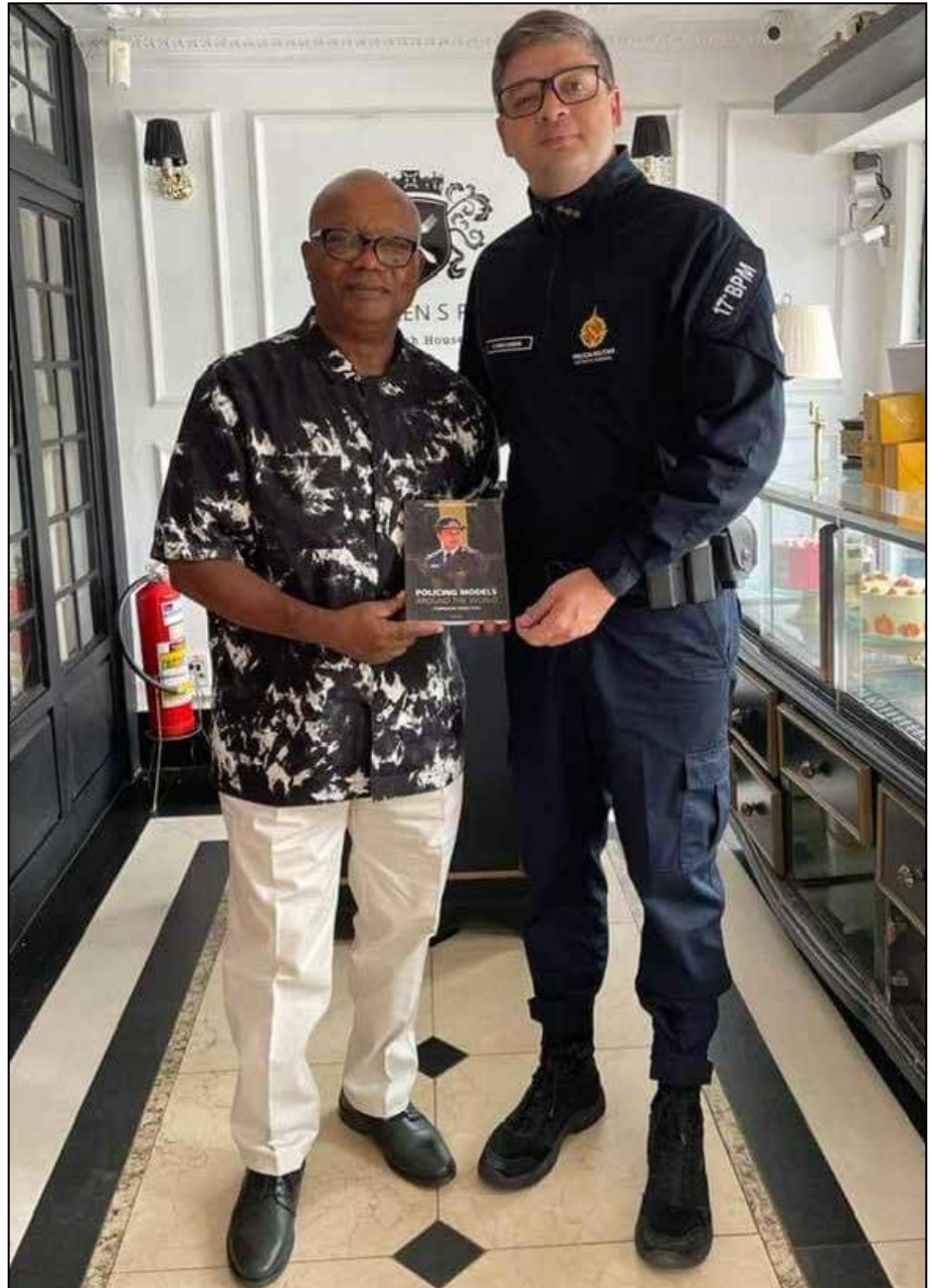
gay abandon, to this ravaging cancer – a cancer that has become symptomatic of the malaise that infects every level and every aspect of South African society.

Sergio was upfront in acknowledging that Brazil is also facing serious challenges of crime in several categories, especially organized fraud and armed gangs. He further stated that, in the aspect of armed gangs, South Africa is fast catching up to the notoriety of Brazil and Colombia. However, he also stated that there are other aspects where Brazil has done relatively well.

Sergio's response to my observation on the two aspects is worth narrating because it has very compelling lessons for South Africa. Let me proceed to paraphrase him:

*"To a very great extent, in Brazil we have phased out the use of cash in financial transactions. I have not carried cash in my pocket or in my wallet for many years. That applies to many people in Brazil. If you eliminate cash in transit, you eliminate CIT. Even the poorest of the poor in my country use what we call a Pix – a cashless payment system that uses your electronic device like a cell phone or laptop or computer. It is a payment system that is zero-taxed by the government in service of small transactions and poor people.*

*All you need is either your cell phone number, your social security number called CPF, or even your email address to receive your payment electronically. Every Brazilian citizen has a cell phone number or social security number. Of course, those who can afford it also use credit cards or debit cards, and those are taxed by the state."*



*If you reverse your car out of a parking lot in a shopping mall, a car guard may approach you, if you tell him you don't have cash to pay him, he will ask you to take out your phone and take a picture of his Pix number or his cell phone number and you can pay him when you get home. A hawker in the street always has his Pix number or mobile number displayed on the table of his stall. The buyer pays by switching on the cell phone, punching in the hawker's Pix number or Cell phone number, and using either*

*of the numbers to make a payment.*

*It gets even better Ambassador, you might be surprised that I have not carried my wallet for a long time now because all my financial transactions can be done using my cell phone. I buy my grocery, my food, my clothes, etc using my cell phone. I just swipe my cell phone against the payment terminal. My wallet has become virtually redundant, and as I am talking to you now, I don't know where it is in my house.*



*In countries like Finland there are many people that have never handled cash in their lives. Brazil is far more advanced than the USA in using electronic financial transactions even for ordinary poor people. Per capita, we have far fewer Reias circulating in Brazilian society than there are Dollars among the people in the American society”.*

*{I told Sergio that I used to withdraw cash before a round of golf to pay my caddie. One day I forgot to withdraw the cash and I told the caddie to get into the car and we go to an ATM to withdraw his payment. He coolly advised me to take his cell phone number or his Pix number and pay him when I get home. I felt like I had just come from a very underdeveloped country with a very backward financial system}.*

*“Ambassador, I have been a police officer for more than 20 years. I cannot remember the last time I had to deal with theft or large scale robbery that involved cash. The moral of the story is that you will not have cases of CIT if you modernise and democratise your financial system at all levels of society. We have to embrace technology and it will go a long way in helping us combat crime.*

*On your second issue Ambassador, concerning the paucity of traffic cops on the road, there are factors to consider. In Brazil, we have invested in a very extensive and effective electronic and camera road system that is seamlessly linked to the penal payment system. It is almost impossible to rig or flout the traffic camera system and its payment regime. This system makes it possible to reduce the number of traffic cops on the road and therefore also re-*



*duce the possibility of bribery and corruption.*

*Secondly, we are at the last stage of phasing out the paper system where a traffic cop issues a paper ticket to the offending driver. Different states are now introducing body cameras to record everything in real time in the interaction between the cop and the motorist. In addition, cops carry cell phone-like devices which they use to record and issue fines electronically in a way that clocks directly into the motorist's social security number. That also helps to reduce opportunity for corruption. Once the road camera clocks a traffic offense, it is made difficult to erase or reverse without having to explain at the central monitoring server why that had to happen. That also reduces corruption and the ability to manipulate the system.*

*Thirdly, every police officer in Brazil is also a traffic cop and vice versa. Although there are dedicated traffic officers, but they still have the authority to enforce law*

*if they come across a crime unrelated to traffic offenses. Every police officer has the authority to record or issue a fine if there is a traffic offense. As I have already stated ambassador, we have virtually phased out the issuing of paper fine. For example, if you happen to park at a wrong spot or park inappropriately, cops no longer write on a piece of paper and clamp it with a wiper on the windscreen.*

*If you happen to park on the same spot the whole day, you might end up with ten different electronic fines because every cop or police that passes by will take the electronic registration number of the car, and that will go immediately to the owner's social security number as a traffic offense. Therefore, the length of time or number of hours the offense was committed might be captured in different police records at different times, which in turn informs the severity of the financial penalty.”*

Sergio, it would seem the Brazilian system is better in ensuring that more resources, including personnel resources, are released to fight crime in all its forms. It eliminates the resource wastage of multitudes of traffic cops whose primary task is to waylay motorists instead of being deployed in crime hotspots. Such a system also reduces opportunities for corruption and truancy.

Your comments about how Brazil has eliminated CIT is instructive indeed.

**VUSI Mavimbela** is South African Ambassador to Brazil and author of ‘Africa and the Testament of the Gods’ (2020), ‘Time is not the Measure’ (2018), and ‘No lullaby for my country’ (1991).



# Gauteng's Bold Move: Crime Wardens as a Game-Changer in the Fight Against Crime

■ By **SELLO MAECO**

**T**HE introduction of crime wardens by the Gauteng Provincial Government, under the leadership of ANC Provincial Chairperson and Premier of Gauteng, Comrade Panyaza Lesufi, marks a significant and innovative step in the fight against crime. This initiative, a brainchild of the ANC-led government, is not just a policy shift but a bold statement in redefining community safety and involvement in crime prevention.

The deployment of crime wardens, primarily drawn from Community Police Forums (CPF), is a strategic move that extends the

capabilities of the South African Police Service (SAPS) by adding a crucial layer of community-based security. This approach is in perfect alignment with the ANC's long-standing commitment to community-driven solutions in addressing the nation's challenges. It is a practical manifestation of the party's ethos of 'Batho Pele', putting people first.

The effectiveness of the crime wardens in our communities is a demonstration to this initiative's foresight. Their presence has led to a noticeable reduction in crime rates, enhancing the sense of security among residents. This

success is a direct result of the ANC-led government's deep understanding of the need for community involvement in tackling the complexities of crime in our society. These wardens, coming from the very heart of our townships, bring invaluable local knowledge and a deep commitment to their communities, making them uniquely effective in their roles.

The opposition to the crime wardens programme, notably from organizations like Accountability Now, is a clear indication of the challenges faced by progressive policies aimed at transformative change. As the ANC, we must





stand firm against these forces. The criticism and resistance to the crime wardens programme are, in many ways, a resistance to the empowerment of our communities and a desire to maintain the status quo that benefits a select few.

In some areas, such as certain farms in our province and elsewhere in the country, we observe a stark contrast. Here, private individuals are allowed to carry arms and patrol their neighbourhoods, often leading to questionable practices and the mistreatment of workers under the guise of security. This double standard in the approach to community safety and crime prevention highlights the necessity of a regulated, accountable, and community-focused programme like the Crime Wardens. It is a programme that democratizes safety and ensures it is not a privilege of the few but a right for all.

Moreover, the leadership of Comrade Panyaza Lesufi in this initiative is a beacon of hope and progress. As citizens of Gauteng, it is our duty to rally behind our Premier. His vision for a safer

Gauteng is a vision that benefits all, and it is through our collective support and cooperation that this vision can be fully realized. The Premier's commitment to this cause is a commitment to each one of us, to our families, and to our communities. It is a commitment to creating a Gauteng where safety and security are

accessible to all, not just a select few.

The crime wardens initiative by the Gauteng Provincial Government is a bold and innovative approach to community safety, reflecting the ANC's commitment to empowering communities and involving them directly in the fight against crime. This programme is not just about reducing crime rates; it's about building a cohesive society where every member feels safe, valued, and involved in shaping the future of their community.

The success of this programme in Gauteng is a proof to the power of community-driven initiatives and the visionary leadership that supports them. As a party and as a province, we must continue to support and expand this initiative, ensuring that Gauteng sets a shining example of effective, community-based crime prevention for the rest of South Africa.





# Working the Land to Fight Poverty And Unemployment

■ By **MATOME MOREMI**

**U**NLIKE her contemporaries who settled for glamorous cushy corner office jobs, daily clad in high heels and upmarket garments, Kgabo Mashishi settled for unfamiliar terrain in the economic arena. Mashishi, a graduate from the University of Limpopo holds a BSC in Agricultural Plant Production (Honors Degree). She is one of the millions of young South Africans who are confronted by the harsh realities of the economy which is struggling to produce much needed employment. The ratio with which the current economy produces jobs is not congruent to the number of graduates seeking employment. Instead of leaking her wounds, twiddling her thumbs and lamenting the unfortunate reality of lack of jobs, Mashishi took a bold stand by putting her qualification to great use.

Armed with Agricultural Plant Production qualification, she took uncharted route of food security as an economic activity for a living. Her journey of a thousand mile started with an opportunity to work as a contract extension officer with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development in the Limpopo province. She used her six



**Kgabo Mashishi**

months stay at the Department to great use as she acquired much needed experience and forged valuable mentorships which would later add value to her enterprise.

So far, it would appear that her journey had been without pitfalls and hitches. The reality, however, was the inclines in her journey had been steep, but instead of being melancholic she persevered with both her eyeballs on her goal.

Having entered a six months contract with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, she always knew that her stay in the public service was temporary. Unlike many of

her peers who immediately get into depression with the knowledge of idling at home at the completion of their contract, Mashishi boldly confronted her impending fate. She refused to let conditions dictate her fate and instead took her fate in her capable arms.

Through her networks which she forged during her six months contract, she managed to lease a piece of land [1 hectare] in Mokopane on which she planned to do vegetable production.

She then started planting crops, and instead of smooth sailing, the genesis of her farming life started on knotty terms. She lost crops under various circumstances with many of those circumstances being out of her control. At this stage quitting would have been an easy option. Going back to office job seemed a realistic option. However, her determination was greater than the difficulties she was confronted with. She persevered, toiled hard and refused to let impediments define her fate. She opted for the Chinese approach, which is to do trial and error instead of waiting to perfect something that may never start. At this stage it was clear that nothing was going to impede this young woman from achieving her desired goal.

The question therefore is where does she get the strength to continue under these difficult circumstances given her tender age? There is an old English/Afrikaans saying that goes, *"an apple doesn't fall far from the tree and similarly, 'chip of the old block'"*.

These idioms describe precise resemblance of Mashishi in relation to her parents. She is the daughter of the parents both of whom are educators, with the father being the Principal of a school. Both parents are business oriented, such that when it's time to put the chalk down, they venture into the entrepreneurial space.

They hustle through catering, decorations, events management and the manufacturing of garments businesses. It therefore comes natural that the spirit of entrepreneurship which Mashishi possess was passed on to her by her parents. This therefore explains her attitude towards challenges which never deterred her from achieving her goal.

Kgabo Mashishi, as she's affectionately known, describes her academic qualification as an important tool with which she managed to confront the many challenges which threatened to derail her. She further explains that the six months experience which she acquired at the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development was invaluable as she had the courage to take the leap in planting the first seed.

At the end of her six months contract, Kgabo was faced with the certainty of being unemployed, joining throngs of young South Africans in this unfortunate reality. She, however, decided to

change her fortunes by becoming an employer instead of joining the queue of those seeking employment. By working the land Kgabo entered the uncharted terrain. Armed with only six months experience, her achievements can only be described in glory terms.

She currently boasts a farm of cabbages soon to be harvested. The much awaited harvest will be sold to fresh produce market in Mokopane and Polokwane.

This is an inspiring story of a young woman who uses the land productively without government support and of course without lamenting. This is a classic example of a young person who deserves government support through the many developmental programmes that exist. She has proven beyond reasonable doubt that with some support she will not only provide much needed jobs to the many unemployed young people; she will be able to contribute to food security in the province and importantly, in the rural settlements.

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development programmes such as *"Fetsa Tlala"* and related programme can come in handy in support of people of Kgabo's caliber. The current economic difficulties in the country need people such as this so that government's efforts of growing the economy are supported by such initiatives.

Apart from venturing into food security, Kgabo also runs a successful small business called *"Diyela tša Sepedi"* specializing in manufacturing of Sepedi garments or dresses.

Her determination can be of critical benefit to government's efforts of fighting youth unemployment in the country. She has perfected the fundamental Freedom Charter's calling of *"the land shall belong to those who work it."*

**Matome Moremi-Taueatsoala** is a Government Communicator in Limpopo. He wrote the article, edited by another Government Communicator, Joshua Kwapa.





# Disability Politics in the Western Cape

■ By **THE ANC PTT WC DISABILITY MOVEMENT**

**W**ESTERN CAPE is the only province that experienced a slight increase in 2022 in terms of disability prevalence compared to all other provinces, from 5.3% in 2011 to 5.4% in 2022 (Stats SA: 2022).

Yet, the majority of persons with disabilities are still found in poverty-stricken townships and rural areas of the Western Cape, which are situated far away from economic opportunities and development opportunities. Persons with disabilities are the most vulnerable to all sorts of socio-economic ills such as GBV, inaccessible infrastructure, stigmatisation, disablism, and isolation.

Amplifying all these social ills is the high rate of unemployment, high levels of illiteracy, inaccessibility to information and transportation for persons with disabilities in the Western Cape.

Access to municipal health services has proven to be a nightmare for persons with disabilities and their families in the Western Cape. Inadequate supply of community rehabilitation workers to provide community-based health service to youth with disabilities and their families has proven to be another barrier to facilitate and



influence the wellbeing of youth with disabilities in the Western Cape.

The DA-led Western Cape government does not seem to have an appetite to positively influence the wellbeing and livelihood of persons with disabilities in this province. This is evident in their failure to include disability specific programmes in their Municipalities' Integrated Development Plans (2022–2027). That is further compounded by the failure of the Western Cape government to implement the GEYODI Framework (Gender Youth and Persons with Disabilities Indicator Framework). GEYODI Framework is our only living and pragmatic document that contains a

set of indicators which should be incorporated into the departmental planning and budgeting instruments and programme design and implementation and against which to monitor progress on disabilities commitments as well as inform the public policy cycle in all our provincial governments. This is done to measure progress towards the promotion of empowerment, equality, development, and rights of persons with disabilities.

Ours is to change the outlook of disability politics in the Western Cape. In particular, during this month of November/December, which is recognised worldwide as disability month when we advocate and raise awareness about

disability rights as human rights. This is the time for local, provincial, and national governments to enable persons with disabilities to lead and be involved in decisions making that have a direct impact to their lives.

Barriers to political participation

of persons with disabilities belong to the dustbin of history. Persons with disabilities may no longer be isolated and be denied an adequate budget to address the plight that is challenging their livelihoods. We appreciate our beloved ANC-led government for upholding the rights of persons with

disabilities by officially endorsing the inclusion of Sign Language as the 12th language in South Africa. Renewal is in motion!

**Leave No one Behind! If not now, then when! Disability is an Opportunity!**



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# AI's Potential and Pitfalls: Time to Bring in the Regulators

■ By **YACOOB ABBA OMAR**

*Job losses, privacy and misinformation are key concerns among researchers, entrepreneurs and watchdogs*

**T**HE Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit, hosted by the British government on November 2 at Bletchley Park, home to code-breakers during World War 2, noted that “risks arising from AI are inherently international in nature, and so are best addressed through international co-operation”.

This was the latest in a series of debates on the effect of AI and its regulation. It was preceded by the September meeting of the Group of Seven countries, chaired by Japan, which committed to the “Hiroshima Process”, aiming to regulate AI and allied technologies.

This in turn was preceded by the May US Senate hearings where Sam Altman, CEO and founder of Open AI, testified that “if this technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong”, arguing that “*regulatory intervention by governments will be critical to mitigating the risks of increasingly powerful models*”.

Such is the alarm about this rapidly expanding technology that



many academics supported MIT professor Max Tegmark when he called for a six-month pause in giant AI experiments.

The Bletchley Park gathering, which included China, resolved to “sustain an inclusive global dialogue and contribute in an open manner to broader international discussions and continue research on frontier AI safety”.

Job losses, access to privacy and spread of misinformation are among the key concerns researchers, entrepreneurs and

regulators have been raising. Leading AI scholar Geoffrey Hinton left Google recently fearing AI could create havoc in society through misinformation and job losses. On the other end business leaders such as Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys, believes in the supremacy of the human mind, arguing that such technologies should be seen as co-workers.

However, it is clear that the service-orientated industries will be the worst hit, especially where developed countries have off-



shored some of their back-end operations. Compared to blue-collar workers, office-bound white-collar workers wedded to their laptops are set to be on the redundancy lists.

It is estimated that generative AI will have a market value of \$60bn by 2025, representing 30% of the total AI market. Most Business Day readers will be familiar with the fact that ChatGPT reached 1-million users in just five days, with new uses of generative AI being launched daily.

Concerned about the implications this seismic shift in technology portends for SA, the Mapungubwe Institute (Mistra) has decided for its upcoming annual lecture to invite former University of Johannesburg vice-chancellor and recently appointed rector of the UN University and UN under-secretary-general Tshilidzi Marwala to address the question of the perils and welfare effects of AI.

SA has already notched up several milestones, such as the 2020 report of the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Mistra's "Leap 4.0: African Perspectives on the Fourth Industrial Revolution", also launched in 2020, as well as the World Economic Forum-sponsored Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network for Global Technology Governance, which has helped link us to a number of other countries.

The Boston Consulting Group's recent report, "SA and AI" points out that in the domestic context misuse of AI "could place an organisation or business in breach of its obligations under the Protection of Personal Information Act", calling for the issues raised and the possible consequences to be tackled by the appropriate policymakers.

The report also suggests that public-private partnerships and

development finance institutions could "embed one further foundation stone of SA's AI development – tech infrastructure", allowing data-sharing platforms to build the large, diverse data sets on which AI models are trained. At the local level, especially for remote and underserved areas, stable and high-bandwidth connectivity could be availed full-time through proper investment.

South Africans have already seen the launch of a number of impressive start-ups using AI such as Aerobotics, used in the agriculture sector; Envisionit DeepAI, used by radiologists; and the better-known online marketplace Jumo. Marwala's lecture should provide insights on how the regulatory mechanisms could work with the animal spirits of entrepreneurship in the best interests of SA.

**Abba Omar** is Director of Operations at the Mapungubwe Institute.



# Tribute to Cde Ina Cronje: A Veteran of our Movement

■ By **JOHN JEFFERY**

 On Friday, 10 November 2023, the ANC in KwaZulu Natal held a memorial service for the late Comrade Ina Cronje who passed away on 24 October 2023 after a short battle with cancer.

Cde Cronje was a legend. I was privileged to have known her for over 30 years and she was a phenomenal woman, an exceptional government official and an extraordinary comrade.

She was born Catharina Magdalena Griesel on 29 October 1942 in Pretoria as the second of five daughters.

Her grandfather as well as her husband, Pierre's, grandfather, were sent to St Helena Island in the Atlantic Ocean by the British as prisoners of war during the Anglo Boer War. Her father was a supporter of Jan Smuts and joined the South African Defense Force. After the Second World War he went to farm at Schweizer-Reneke in the now North West Province where Ina went to school. Other famous residents of Schweizer-Reneke were Ahmed Kathrada, Essop and Aziz Pahad and the internationally acclaimed artist, Irma Stern.

After finishing school, Ina studied at the University of Pretoria for



a BA degree. She graduated in 1964 and became a teacher.

In 1965 she married Pierre Cronje, a civil engineer, and the couple eventually went to live in Amanzimtoti in KwaZulu-Natal where Ina taught at Kingsway High School.

The couple moved to Hilton in 1976 and Pierre was elected as a member of the then whites-only Parliament for the Greytown Constituency in the 1981 election.

Pierre held the seat for the Progressive Federal Party and later the National Democratic Movement – Pierre left the PFP in 1990 when the PFP would not agree to working with ANC, and set up

a new party with other progressive whites, the United Democratic Movement (UDM) – and, from 1992, the African National Congress until the 1994 elections when he was elected as an ANC Member of the National Assembly.

In 1984, at the age of 40 and while pregnant with her son, Reuben, Ina gave up teaching and began studying for an LLB degree through Unisa. After graduating she did her articles of clerkship and then worked as an attorney until she was elected to the KZN Provincial Legislature in 1994.

As an attorney she represented many comrades who were charged with political offences relating to the low intensity civil war in the KZN Midlands.

She was a veteran of our movement. Ina joined the ANC when it was unbanned in 1990 and became a member of the Pietermaritzburg Central Branch. She was later elected to the Natal Midlands Regional Executive Committee, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Committee and the KZN Provincial Working Committee.

She was elected to the KwaZulu Natal Legislature on 27 April 1994 and was appointed as the ANC's Deputy Chief Whip.

The Chief Whip at the time was Harry Gwala who was unwell and so Ina had to perform most of the functions on her own and took over from him when he passed away on 20 June 1995. This period was fraught with challenges with the IFP holding a 1 seat majority and being unused to any political opposition as Inkatha had been the only party in the KwaZulu Legislature.

The IFP wanted the provincial capital and seat of the legislature to be in Ulundi. As they had pulled out of the national Constitution-making process, they vigorously promoted the adoption of a KZN Provincial Constitution, which Ina and other comrades had to ensure was consistent with the ANC's Constitutional position. The process was made more complicated as the ANC was one seat short of the third needed to block the provincial constitution if necessary.

During this period, the Legislature alternated monthly between Pietermaritzburg and Ulundi. This made the Cronje's family life difficult as Ina was hardly ever at home and Pierre was an MP in the first democratic Parliament in Cape Town.

As Chief Whip, Ina had to ensure that ANC MPLs, who had had no experience of Parliament or Provincial Legislatures, understood the procedures and rules of the Legislature. She was also the Chairperson of the Environment and Conservation Portfolio Committee in the Legislature for a few years.

Ina was appointed as a Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Education in 2004 by Premier Sbu Ndebele. During her 5



years in this important post she turned the provincial Department around by drastically increasing the number of learners writing matric by 57 526, building 24 new schools and 6777 classrooms, increasing the skills training sites of FETs from 52 to 73, ensuring that textbooks were delivered on time, achieving the lowest teacher/learning ratio and obtaining a clean audit for the Department.

She visited many of the nearly 6000 schools in the province and when walking in many in towns, ex-pupils would come up and say: *"I remember when you visited our school"* and then insist on taking a selfie with her.

She was appointed as MEC for Finance by Premier Zweli Mkhize in 2009 and during her 5-year term she brought the provincial finances out of the red. She developed and rolled out a financial literacy program for members of the public, ensured that service providers were paid on time and obtained clean audits. She also established an Infrastructure Unit in the Provincial Treasury to assist provincial departments and

municipalities and ensured that provincial departments spent nearly 100% of their infrastructure budgets.

Ina retired from active politics after the 2014 elections at the age of 70 but, as all of us who knew her would have predicted, rather than sitting at home, she took on new challenges.

She was appointed the Chairperson of KZN Trade and Investment in December 2014, a position she held until she resigned due to ill health shortly before she passed away.

She also became a consultant with a Pietermaritzburg firm of attorneys working particularly on environmental matters and drafting legislation. She continued her studies and completed an LLM degree in Environmental Law at the University of KZN in 2017 at the age of 74.

Many comrades at the memorial spoke of Cde Ina's contribution to ensuring non-racialism in the ANC as well as how she handled being the mother of a young child whilst at the same time being an activist during the 1990's at a particularly difficult time for the ANC. The ANC KZN Deputy Provincial Chair, Cde Gugu Simelane, spoke about how Cde Ina as a senior woman leader in the ANC had set an example to her when she was a young comrade.

Cde Ina lived life to the full.

She was highly respected by all who knew her and worked with her and she held a special place in the hearts of many.

She will be sorely missed.



# The People of South Sudan and the SPLM Leadership Deeply Appreciate the Unwavering Support of South Africa

**A** PART from being the only countries with the direction South in their names, South Africa and South Sudan are also the last African countries to gain their independence, in 1994 and 2011 respectively.

The links between the struggles of the two countries go back to the 1980s, when after the formation of the Sudan's People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and later the movement (SPLM) in 1983, they shared the ANC offices in a free Zimbabwe in Harare. Some of the Umkhonto weSizwe (MK) and SPLA cadres trained together. When the ANC left Zimbabwe to return to South Africa in 1990, we gave our offices to the SPLM.

After South Africa's liberation in 1994, the country continued to support the South Sudan in its quest for independence, peace, sustainable development anchored on long term structural transformation. The AU facilitated peace talks that led to the referendum on independence on 9 January 2011, and the subsequent formation of the Republic of South Sudan later that year.



**ANC delegation led by Secretary General Fikile Mbalula in Sudan**



**ANC Secretary General Fikile Mbalula and SPLM Secretary General, Peter Lam at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two parties.**

When civil war broke out in Africa's youngest nation, South Africa was in the forefront of the countries that stepped up again to push for peace and government of national unity that sought to bring together all the warring groups and parties.

This past week, from 14–17 November 2023, a delegation from the ANC led by its Secretary General, Comrade Fikile Mbalula, visited the SPLM Headquarters in Juba to rekindle a longstanding historical relationship. The ANC delegation held meetings with the highest ranking members of the leadership organs of the SPLM. The first meeting was with the Secretary General Comrade Peter Lam Both, First Deputy Secretary Comrade Dr Bol Benjamin

and Second Deputy Secretary General, Comrade Mary Apayi Ayiga. This was followed by the meeting with full complement of the National Secretariat to share experiences and briefings on political, organisational and governance matters. The delegation also paid a courtesy visit to the SPLM Chairman, President Salva Kiir Mayardit and three Deputy Chairpersons of the SPLM – Dr James Wani Eggia (who is the Second Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan), Second Deputy Chairman Comrade Koul Juuk and Third Deputy Chairman Comrade Daniel Awet Akot.

In all these meetings, the history of the relationship between the ANC and the SPLM was highlighted, from 1983 when

the SPLM was formed to 1990 when the ANC handed over its Offices in Harare to the SPLM after its unbanning and return to South Africa, right up to the negotiated settlement that led to the 2011 elections and establishment of the Republic of South Sudan and ongoing support for state-formation, institution-building and peace-building. South Africa's Presidents have always been there to ensure that there is peace and development in South Sudan - from Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, Jacob Zuma, Kgalema Motlanthe and Cyril Ramaphosa. The people of South Sudan and the SPLM leadership deeply appreciate the unwavering support of South Africa.

The SPLM leadership briefed



the Secretary General of the ANC and his delegation on progress with the **Comprehensive and Revitalised Peace Agreement of 2018**, which resulted in a government of national unity and other related transitional arrangements.

A new Electoral Law has been passed, and the new Electoral Commission as well as a Constitutional Review Commission have been established. The Political Parties Council, which is responsible for the registration of political parties for elections, has also been established and political parties are being encouraged to register so that they could participate in the 2024 elections.

A day after the ANC delegation arrived in Juba (15th November 2023), the newly unified and integrated Security Forces were launched and deployed across the country. All these are critical steps that have paved the way for peaceful and fair elections slated in December 2024.

*"This process is important for*

*South Sudan," explained SPLM Deputy Chair James Wani Eg-gia, "so that we can address our urgent national priorities: food security through investments in agriculture and agro-processing; infrastructure development especially energy and transport; development of mining and oil industries; and education and health."*

One of the highlights of the visit was the interaction with some of the one hundred (100) SPLM cadres who were trained in September and November 2023 in South Africa by the ANC Political Education Department led by NEC member David Makhura. Already, these trained SPLM cadres are doing very impressive work on organising, mobilisation, communication and election strategy across the country in preparation for the South Sudan elections.

This has raised high expectations and increased demand for more political education and cadre development between and within the two sister parties and move-

ments in the coming five years.

The visit concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Secretaries General of the ANC and SPLM to take the cooperation and solidarity to a new level in the next five years, focusing on thematic and programmatic areas on party building and renewal; policy priorities, national development, planning, monitoring and evaluation of government performance; elections campaigns; communications and the battle of ideas and overall ideological work and development of cadres.

From the interactions we have been having with African political parties and governments, including at the recent BRICS Plus Political Parties Dialogue held in July, it is clear that many countries and progressive political parties in our continent still have huge respect for and high expectations from the leadership role of South Africa in ensuring that Africa asserts a more unified and coherent voice in global and continental affairs.





# We have not forgotten the generosity and solidarity of Sinn Féin and the people of Ireland during our struggle

Message of support at Sinn Féin Ard Fheis (National Conference) held in Dublin, Ireland, November 10 – 11 2023

■ By **ANDILE LUNGISA**

I carry with me warm greetings from the African National Congress and the people of South Africa who have not forgotten the generosity and solidarity that was displayed by Sinn Féin and the people of Ireland during our struggle against the white supremacist apartheid regime. The militant, nonviolent, solidarity movement that the Irish and other people of goodwill engaged in on behalf of our people is imprinted in the national consciousness of our young republic and shall never be forgotten. We are embarrassed because we will never be able to repay it.

The ANC has been a popularly elected governing party in South Africa for almost 30 years. We derive our mass legitimacy from the way we conducted the struggle against the apartheid regime, and how we have governed since

coming to power.

I allude to the tactics and strategies for our national liberation struggle because a lot of parallels have been made here in the West between the struggle of Palestinians for self determination, and our struggle for national liberation.

Whilst the entire liberation movement, rightfully so, considered military confrontation with the apartheid State a just path, we made a clear moral and political distinction between military targets and White civilians, who were complicit and beneficiaries of the apartheid regime. Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela never lost sight of the humanity of our enemies. That is because the ANC was collectively clear eyed about a future that we wanted to build. A future where we

would govern a united nation that treated all its citizens, regardless of race, gender or religion with dignity and human rights. I make this point not to criticize the Palestinian movement but to preserve the ANC's hard fought for historical record.

On the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, the position of the ANC and the government it leads is that of a two State solution established on the 1967 border lines with East Jerusalem as Palestine capital.

And we call on all Parties to honour and implement all UN and UNSC resolutions including resolution 2334 for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian question. We have joined progressives forces of the world through our Minister of International Relations Cde Naledi Pandor in calling for immediate ceasefire to end and





save human lives" in Gaza. In our continent Africa we are still haunted by the memories and scars of 1994 genocide in Rwanda with the whole world watching.

Our human consciousness is pierced by the bloodied bodies of woman and children of Gaza.

We are outraged by the collective punishment, genocide and consequent hellish suffering of Palestinian people. We condemn in the strongest terms possible the thuggish behavior of the settlers in the West Bank that persists with impunity.

We thus not only call for a ceasefire in Gaza but we also demand accountability once the guns have stopped.

Genocide; Crimes against Humanity; War Crimes; Crimes of Aggression all under The Rome Statute, being the ICC's founding treaty, have been committed by the Government of Israel in Gaza. We call on the ICC to act and arrest all the perpetrators, especially Netanyahu.

Our values and humanity also does not make us oblivious to the wanton massacre of Israeli civilians by Hamas. We cannot relate or understand the logic of kidnapping children and elderly people. If we are friends to the Palestinian people, we must be honest to them without dictating on how they should persecute their struggle for self determination.

The powerful nations of the world have not been even handed in their approach to this decades old conflict. The result of their bias is the instability that we now see.

We have a Jewish community



**The leadership of Sinn Féin at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis (National Conference)**

in our country that not only participated in the struggle against apartheid dehumanizing cruelty against African people, but that has been integral in the rebuilding of national unity and cohesion. Criticism of the brutal Israeli government is not Jewish hatred. Apartheid was brought to its knees by the struggle of the working class, intellectuals and activists in South Africa with the support of ordinary people internationally through organised arms, economic, sports and cultural embargoes. UN sanctions resolutions enabled some Western governments to posture as being against apartheid but had a highly sophisticated sanctions busting programme to continue trading with the apartheid regime.

It is the failure of the current global order that has led the ANC-led government to be part of the founders of the BRICS bloc of nations that wish to create a multi polar world. We do not think that the West, under the leadership of the United States, has been a just steward of the global order, and thus we wish to democra-

tise global governance and distribution of power. The threads of a unipolar world have been fraying and gradually inching us closer to a global conflagration. The COVID pandemic exposed the fragility of the current global system. Access to life saving vaccines was predicated on access to resources. Human cooperation was only paid lip service whilst the reality was that countries of the South were treated as disposable polities.

BRICS is predicated on building strong national economies and institutions, protecting local cultures and economies and deliberate cooperation on a global scale to ease human suffering.

The ANC electoral slogan has been 'A Better Life for All'. As we all appreciate that foreign policy is a continuation of domestic policy, we thus wish to make a fairer and more equitable world for all.

**Andile Lungisa** is a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC.

*Part Two*

# CHINA – Turning the Burden of Dreams into Glorious Realities

■ By **TITUS MAFOLO**

## The Century of Humiliation

**A**FTER China's emperor had smugly dismissed the British delegation, by the middle of the 19th century, China was to decline. Why? Briefly: During the Chinese age of prosperity and flourishing, when together with India they were the biggest economies in the world, the people of this vast country used opium for medicinal purposes and in limited amounts.

At that time, British addiction to tea had caused an annual trade deficit in favour of China. But then, British traders stumbled upon a clever but willfully hurtful way to stop the haemorrhaging of British silver bullion at Canton (today's Guangzhou), the only Chinese port where Europeans were allowed to bring their goods.

The British traders started selling high-grade opium, grown in India, which was a British colony, to Chinese middlemen. These traders, many linked to the government-backed British East In-



**The opium war**

dia Company, were the drug cartels of their day. In so doing, they managed to turn Britain's chronic trade deficit with China into a growing surplus.

The opium trade became so successful that the British Parliament agreed to expand it beyond Guangzhou – by force if necessary. China was now faced with a double problem of silver bullion suddenly flowing out rather than into the country, but most devastatingly, the opium addiction

catastrophically began ravaging many lives in the country.

In response, the Chinese government decided to stop the importation of opium, including confiscating and destroying the drug. Britain was furious and decided to go to war. So, China and Britain confronted each other in one of the most destructive drug wars. Indeed, in both Opium Wars, the first in 1839 to 1842 and the second one in 1857 to 1859, Britain in the first war, and,



Britain and France in the second one, delivered crushing defeats to China and forced onerous terms, through what was known as 'unequal treaties'.

The terms of the treaties included Britain taking over of Hong Kong, forcing China to pay damages for the destroyed opium and opening China market for skewed trade relations, including the freedom to sell opium. Further, China was forced to allow Western Countries and Tsarist Russia to engage in businesses as they wished and for over a century they continued to exploit unhin-

dered the resources and riches of the country.

The first of these treaties was signed aboard a British warship anchored at Yangtze, not far from the Temple of Tranquil Seas. Ironically, through the humiliating treaty, the symbolism of the Tranquil Seas turned into combined realities of turbulence, distress and humiliations.

This was the beginning of an interminable series of military and political setbacks leading to upheavals that consigned China to an age of economic and social

declines. All these brought about deep levels of poverty and backwardness such that China was to be derogatorily called 'The Sick Man of Asia'. These were not the last humiliations.

In 1894, the first China-Japan war erupted and after six months, Japan had won and regional dominance in East Asia shifted from China to Japan. For many years Chinese reformers and leaders wrestled with these humiliations, regularly speaking about '*a century of humiliation*'. Indeed, by the 1940s they had even established a National Humiliation Day. To this day, China encourages their children "*never to forget national humiliation and thus strengthen our national defence*".



#### LESSONS:

- The first lesson comes from the previous section when the Chinese were over-confident and did not know their potential enemy. The question for us today is: do we fully know the whole range of political and social forces opposed to the ANC?
- Do we know why the DA and the EFF get whatever support they get? What are the issues that attract people, some of whom were ANC members and supporters to the opposition? At the societal level, there are many forces that are opposed to the ANC Alliance who use different platforms to undermine and weaken the ANC. At times, they even use ANC members to deepen the divisions and self-mutilate with the ultimately objective of undermining the party's support among the people.
- The Chinese have a Nation-



al Humiliation Day and they teach their children *'never to forget the humiliation previously suffered'*. What are we doing about our commemorative days? Why are we not commemorating these days in every township and village like during apartheid days?

- We hardly take our kids to these events or to the Freedom Park, Hector Peterson Memorial and others as a way of ensuring that they never forget the problems and challenges that helped us to attain our freedom. Just check how the Voortrekker Monument is visited throughout the year but especially on the 16 December, because the Afrikaner don't want their children to forget their history.

### Burden of Dreams

When China was unravelling, following a series of these historical setbacks from the mid-19th century into the 20th century, a number of Chinese intellectuals and thinkers offered a combination of practical and optimistic proposals as well as visionary dreams of a country that had to reclaim its past centuries of glorious scientific innovations, maritime dominance and economic prosperity.

In 1826, before the first Opium War of 1839, which presaged China's decline, Wei Yuan, an intellectual state technocrat, produced a practical field guide for government officials and a compendium of theories on political and economic reforms – ***An Anthology of Statecraft Writings from the Present Dynasty***. In the centuries before the Christian era, the term statecraft, or jing-shi, literally meaning 'ordering the world', was used by Chinese

Fajia scholars of the more pragmatic political bent to distinguish themselves from Confucian intellectuals who emphasised only the attributes of moral and ethical self-cultivation as well as metaphysical philosophy. Importantly, Wei Yuan used the old term of 'wealth and power' as an overarching goal for his reform agenda. What Wei did was to expertly and in the most nuanced ways, combine the opposing views of the Confucians and those of the 'School of Legalists' or Fajia. This was clearly Wei's burden of dreams, because these views never saw the light of day once the Opium Wars began and China went through a series of debilitating episodes of political and economic decays for over a century.

Indeed, the intellectual sophistication of Wei Yuan was lost to many, even in modern days, especially among those who see the current rulers of China, through the Communist Party of China, as being the latter-day saints of the Fajia, who are interested merely in the pursuit of national strength, investing in a technologically advanced military, encouraging commerce through a mixture of private enterprise and state monopoly over key industries and maintaining social order through a brutal set of laws enforced uniformly by an authoritarian state.

Again, at the beginning of the 20th century, while China was experiencing countless upheavals – combined pressures of internal decay and foreign assaults – a political essayist, Liang Qichao wrote a novel, *The Future of China*, through which he contradicted the real living conditions of his country at that time. This was a blend of patriotic reverie and science fiction, conjuring up what a

rejuvenated China might look like in sixty years hence.

This China, according to Liang Qichao, would be rejuvenated, strong, prosperous and globally respected. This was Liang's burden of dreams.

### LESSONS:

- One of the most important lessons here is that the people affected by events must write their own stories. It is a regrettable fact that few within the ANC write about their stories, their struggles, experiences all of which are part of the rich South African narrative;
- Even during the times of stress – whether economic, social and even political, we don't write. We don't even dream about the kind of a better society we wish to see.
- We hardly write to dissect and analyse the current conditions. There are many who write and being strongly opposed to the ANC and are against the transformative measures taken by the democratic government so that the majority who are unemployed and poor should be fully empowered.
- We then take whatever is trending as the gospel truth and even engage issues based on those negative narratives. The result is that we end-up not knowing ourselves and leaving many, especially the youth, with what Friedrich Engels in the 1893 letter to Franz Mehring called 'false consciousness', whereby a class assert itself towards goals that do not benefit it.





# Words to Stop a GENOCIDE

■ By **THANDI GAMEDZE**

I wish poetry could end the pain  
I'm trying to come up with the exact configuration of words able to terminate a genocide  
Like in the movies when everything hangs on figuring out the correct combination to open up the safe  
I am listening intently for the clicks that would indicate progress

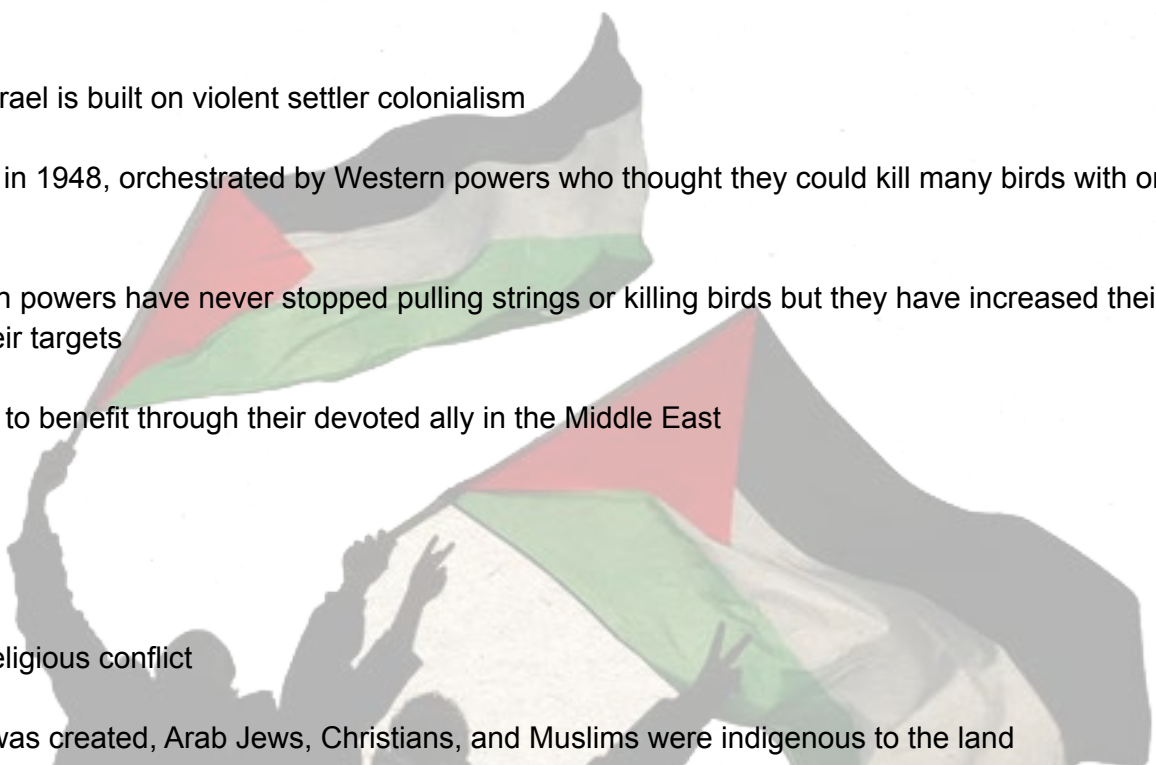
The state of Israel is not the Israel of which the bible speaks  
Click  
Just because something is in the bible doesn't make it right  
Click  
The Israelites in the Old Testament moved from being enslaved to practicing genocidal settler colonialism  
Click  
That was not, is not, and never will be okay  
Click

Breathe  
Re-strategise

The state of Israel is built on violent settler colonialism  
Click  
It was created in 1948, orchestrated by Western powers who thought they could kill many birds with one stone  
Click  
Those Western powers have never stopped pulling strings or killing birds but they have increased their stones and their targets  
Click  
They continue to benefit through their devoted ally in the Middle East  
Click

Breathe  
Re-strategise

This is not a religious conflict  
Click  
Before Israel was created, Arab Jews, Christians, and Muslims were indigenous to the land



Click

Jesus himself was a Palestinian

Click

He is an ancestor of those currently being bombed

Click

Breathe

Re-strategise

Violence meted out by settler colonial powers is not self-defence

Click

The United Nations says so

Click

It also says that Israel is an apartheid state

Click

Surely we can at least agree that genocide is never okay?

Click

Breathe

Re-strategise

Think about the children

Click

Children everywhere belong to all of us

Click

We all belong to each other

Click

Think about our shared humanity

Click

I'm grasping at straws here

I had thought the lock would be open by now

But we have to keep trying

Because everything hangs on us figuring out the correct combination

Because a threat to injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere

Because we are at risk of losing our humanity

Yet it doesn't seem like there is an end to the numbers in the password to this particular safe

I'm starting to lose faith that all the words in the world could make even a dent in the Iron Dome of global evil

I wish I knew the combination of words that could stop a genocide

But I don't

*Thandi Gamedze*



**FREE  
PALESTINE**



# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

18 – 24 NOVEMBER 2023

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

## 18 November 1951

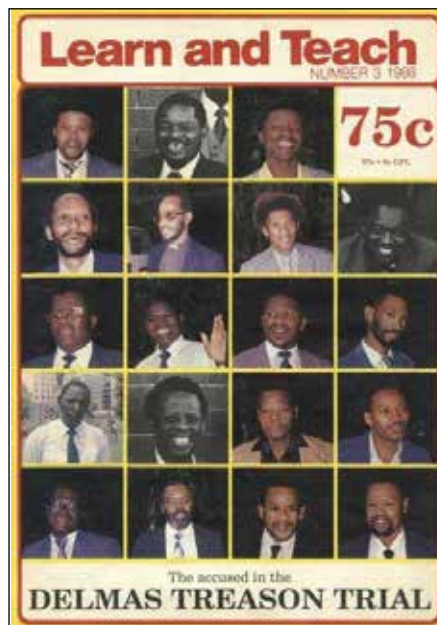
### Clements Kadalie passed away in East London

Founder and Secretary General of the Industrial Commercial Union (ICU), Kadalie died in East London. The ICU was formed in 1919, and by the end of that year Kadalie led the dockworkers strike in Cape Town. Kadalie was born in Nkhata Bay District, Malawi in 1896. At 16, he graduated from the Livingston Missionary Institute as a teacher, with honours. He taught for a year, but went travelling southwards, working as a clerk in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and visiting other parts of Southern Africa, and eventually ending up in Cape Town, where he settled in 1918. Kadalie became a militant leader of black workers, and eventually settled in East London with his family, where he was also organiser for the ANC, and lived till his passing. Academic, activist and author Rhoda Kadalie is one of his granddaughters.

## 18 November 1989

### Chikane, Lekota and Molefe convicted of Treason

Popo Molefe, Patrick Lekota and Moses (Moss) Chikane, prominent UDF leaders and anti-apartheid activists were arrested in April 1988 and charged with treason. The government accused the United Democratic Front (UDF) of being responsible for the Vaal uprising and arrest-



ed UDF officials Lekota, publicity secretary, Molefe, national secretary, and Chikane, Transvaal Provincial secretary, together with more than 20 other suspects. Though several were released on bail after one year, the three were kept in Pretoria Central Prison. Lekota, Molefe, Chikane and Tom Manthatha were found guilty in Delmas of treason on 18 November 1988.

## 19 November 1909

### Educationist Moses Josiah Madiba born

The author, educationist, linguist and first African chancellor of the University of the North, was born at Uitvlucht, Polokwane district. He was the first secretary of the Maune branch of the Transvaal African Teachers' Association in 1930. He played an important

role in the development of the Northern Sotho language, and his books *Thuto ya Polelo* (1941), *Tsiri* (1942), *Mahlontebe* series (1952) and *Nkotsana* (1955) are still widely read. In 1960 he was appointed first chairperson of the advisory council of the newly established University College of the North, a position he held until 1973 and on 13 May 1978 was installed as the first African chancellor of the University of the North. A lay preacher, he also served as first president of the Transvaal synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church from 1963. He died on 2 January 1985 in Seshego, Pietersburg district.

## 19 November 1981

### Griffiths Mxenge assassinated

Griffiths Mxenge, African National Congress (ANC) veteran and apartheid lawyer and activist from KwaZulu Natal, was assassinated and his body severely mutilated in an act of barbaric brutality on 19 November 1981.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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

The magistrate at the inquest into his death found that his death was caused by the act of some unknown person or persons. In 1996 at the Truth and Reconciliation, his self-confessed murderers applied for amnesty. They were Dirk Coetzee, Almond Nofomela, Joe Mamasela, Brian Ngqulunga and David Tshikalan-ga, policemen and agents of the apartheid government's death squads. They were granted amnesty by the TRC.

### **20 November 1604** **Emperor Fasilides,** **Founder of Gondar born**

Ethiopian Emperor Fasilides was born in Bulga, Shewa. A noted planner and builder, he established Gondar as the Ethiopian Empire's capital city and created civic complexes, bridges and churches. He cut ties with Europe, banished Catholics and supported the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. He was emperor from 1632–1667.

### **20 November 1923** **Nobel Laurette Nadine** **Gordimer born**



Author, cultural activist and winner of the 1991 Nobel Prize for Literature, Nadine Gordimer, was born in Springs. One of South Africa's most prolific novelists, she also wrote non-fiction on various South African subjects and made TV documentaries. She was one

of the founders of the Congress of South African Writers (COSAW). Gordimer received 15 honorary degrees from universities all over the world. She published 13 novels and 10 short story collections (translated in 40 different languages). Gordimer passed away in July 2014.

### **20 November 1957** **University College** **Hospital of Ibadan** **commissioned**

West Africa's largest hospital, the 1000 bed University College Hospital of Ibadan in Nigeria is commissioned after completion on this day. Today, it remains the flagship tertiary health care institution in Nigeria, offering world-class training, research and services.

### **20 November 1988** **UN condemns South** **Africa's actions against** **its neighbours**

After decades of terrorism by South Africa against its neighbours who gave support to liberation movements, including invading these countries, planting bombs and killing not only liberation fighters but also citizens of these countries, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed resolutions condemning South Africa's aggression against its Southern African neighbours. The UN General Assembly re-affirmed the legitimacy of the region's struggle against apartheid and the legitimacy of armed resistance.

### **20 November 1994** **Lusaka Protocol for** **Angola peace signed**

The Lusaka Protocol to end the 19-year civil war in Angola

was signed in Zambia, between the Angolan government led by MPLA and the UNITA rebel movement. Despite the Protocol, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi continued the war, until his death in 2002.

### **21 November 1947** **Poet Jared Angira born**

The poet was born in Siaya, Kenya. Angira published his first collection of poems, Juices in 1970, edited literary magazine Busara and was a founder of the Kenya Writer's Association.

### **21 November 1984** **Operation Moses starts**

The operation to airlift 8,000 Ethiopian Jews from refugee camps in Sudan where they fled famine in their country to Israel starts. Today there are some 160,000 Israelis of Ethiopian origin.

### **21 November 1985** **Mamelodi Massacre**



Thirteen residents were gunned down in Mamelodi by South African police during a peaceful protest. This followed the declaration of a State of emergency on 25 July 1985 by President PW Botha in 36 of South Africa's 260 magisterial districts. Within the first six months of the Emergency, 575 people were killed in political vio-



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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

lence. Under the provisions of the Emergency, organisations could be banned and meetings prohibited; the Commissioner of Police could impose restrictions on media coverage of the Emergency; and the names of detained people could not be disclosed.

### 21 November 1989

#### **Last SADF troops withdrawn from Namibia**

The Citizen reported that the remaining 1 500 South African troops in South West Africa (Namibia) had been withdrawn during November. South Africa ruled Namibia as a protectorate taken over from the Germans after World War 2. The SADF fought against those fighting for the liberation of Namibia, led by SWAPO and also used the country as a basis to destabilise its neighbours. The battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1988 was a turning point in the history of southern Africa, and soon after negotiations started. On 21 March 1990 the country gained independence from South Africa as the Republic of Namibia, with Swapo leader Sam Nujoma elected as president.

### 21 November 2000

#### **Origins of the Baphumelele Foundation**

Retired teacher Rosie Mashale found a toddler abandoned on her Kayelitsha doorstep. When Mashale took the young boy to the police, she was told she should care for him. By the end of the year, Mama Rosie was caring for 67 children, all in her home. Her house expanded into an orphanage and daycare centre, which eventually provided refuge and service to some of the 14,000 homeless street children in Cape Town. She established

the Baphumelele (meaning 'you have progressed') Foundation to teach job skills to homeless teens.

### 21 November 2004

#### **NCOP Chairperson Joyce Kgoali passed on**



The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Joyce Kgoali, passed away following complications after a minor operation. Kgoali was also a National Executive Committee (NEC) member of the African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) and a Provincial Executive Committee member of the ANC in Gauteng. She was MEC for Public Works and Transport in Gauteng before appointed as substitute to Naledi Pandor as the chairperson of NCOP. Mam Joyce was born in Lesotho on 13 January 1950, and worked in the textile sector where she joined the trade union movement and became a leader in SACTWU. She was also active in the ANC underground structures, in the UDF and the Federation of Transvaal Women (FEDTRAW).

### 21 November 2013

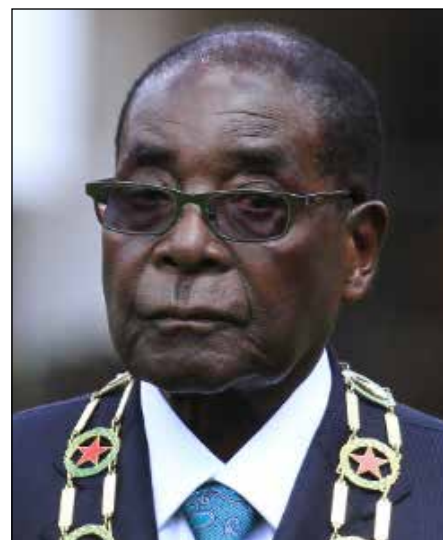
#### **First CubSAT satellite**

Students from the Cape Peninsula University of Technolo-

gy launched South Africa's first CubeSat, type of nano-satellite, into space. It provides valuable space weather details, orbiting Earth up to 15 times a day at an altitude of 600km.

### 21 November 2017

#### **President Mugabe resigns**



After 37 years in power, Zimbabwe President Robert Gabriel Mugabe (93) resigned after internal ructions in his party ZANU-PF following the sacking of former vice-president Emmerson Mnangagwa. His letter of resignation was read out in Parliament, and he was replaced by President Mnangagwa.

### 22 November 1497

#### **Vasco Da Gama passes the Cape of Good Hope**

The Portuguese expedition, to find routes from Europe to India set off on the Atlantic ocean, southwards in July 1497, led by Vasco Da Gama. The three ships set foot on the island of St Helena on 4 November 1497, where he made first contact with the Khoi Khoi. Da Gama passed the Cape of Good Hope on 22 November 1497, landing in Mosselbay after being battered by storms, with the second encounter with the Khoi

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Khoi, where the exchange ended in a stand-off and Da Gama and his ships left with some haste, after firing canons at the Khoi. The next landing point was Durban, and then Mozambique.

## 22 November 1943

### Film maker Safi Faye born



Senegalese film maker was born in Dakar. After directing documentary and short films, she made a movie *Kaddu Beykat* (Letter from my Village) in 1975, the first movie by a Sub-Saharan African woman to be commercially distributed as a feature film. Faye has directed many feature films, and today is recognized as one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most prominent directors. Her 1996 film *Mossane* received the Un-certain regard award at Cannes. Faye passed away at the age of 79 on 22 February 2023.

## 22 November 1962

### Paarl Insurrection by Poqo

Poqo members from Mbekweni, Paarl, met and resolved to attack security installation in the town. Over 200 men armed with axes, pangas, sticks, sabres and possibly a few revolvers gathered at about 02h00 and split into two groups, one to attack the prison and the other the police station. The latter group approached

the police station and began attacking police patrol vans. Three were shot dead in front of the police station and others were wounded. Several were arrested. As the rest of the group fled, they met those who had been planning the prison attack and formed a new group which began attacking houses in Loop Street. Two residents, Ms Rencia Vermeulen and Mr Frans Richards, were killed. The final death toll was seven, including five Poqo members: Godfrey Yekiso, Madodana Camagu, John Magigo and Ngenisile Siqwebo. Matthews Mayezana Mali was shot by the South African Police (SAP) on the following day. Mali was shot in the head and chest while marching in front of a group of Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) demonstrators on their way to the Paarl police station to hand over a list of grievances on the day after the uprising. Historian Tom Lodge wrote about the insurrection in the edition of African Studies Review journal (1982).

## 22 November 1973

### The film, Boesman and Lena released



The motion film by playwright Athol Fugard and directed by Ross Devenish, was released, with its theme on apartheid forced removals. The play also was performed off Broadway, starring James Earl Jones and Ruby Dee in 1970, running for 205 performances. In 2000, another *Boesman and Lena* film, starring Danny Glover and Angela Basset was released.

## 23 November 1887

### ESKOM and ISCOR founder born

Hendrik Johannes van der Bijl, an industrialist who founded ESKOM (1923) and later ISCOR was born on 23 November 1887 in Pretoria. His father was a merchant and property investor. Van der Bijl studied physics in Germany where he obtained a Masters of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Leipzig, after which he returned to South Africa in 1920. He founded the Electricity Supply Commission (Eskom) in 1923, providing inexpensive power to South Africa. Van der Bijl then set his sights on the steel industry and established the South African Steel and Iron Corporation (IsCOR). Van der Bijl died in 1948 and is regarded as one of the great South Africans for his contribution to the country's industrialisation.





### 23 November 1971

#### Bridge of Death

Just 11 days after its opening, the Van Stadens bridge between Gqeberha and Humansdorp, Eastern Cape became known as the Bridge of Death. This is when the first of dozens of suicidal persons leaped to his death. In 2013, a wire mesh barrier and warning signs were erected to hinder jumpers. To date nearly 100 people have jumped to their death from the bridge, the latest reported in September 2021.

### 23 November 1973

#### Arab states agreed on Oil Embargo against apartheid South Africa

A summit of Arab countries adopted an oil embargo against apartheid South Africa. Other Arab countries, like Kuwait, already since 1962 refused to sell oil to South Africa

### 23 November 2005

#### Ellen Johnson Sirleaf elected as first female president in Africa



After a closely contested elections in Liberia, Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, a former assistant minister of finance (1972-73) and finance minister (1980-1985) was

announced as the winner of the Presidential elections. She was sworn in as President in January 2006, and served as President until 2017, when she stepped down at the end of her second term. President Johnson Sirleaf, along with Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman won the Nobel Peace prize in 2011.

### 23 November 2019

#### National Museum of the DRC opened

President Felix Tshisekedi opened the National Museum, dedicated to Congolese artifacts stolen by European colonialist and now scattered around the world.

### 24 November 1948

#### Sculptor Vuminkosi Zulu born



Vuminkosi Zulu was born in Mapumulo, KZN on 24 November 1948. He studied art at Rocke's drift art school and completed his course in 1972, staying on as resident artist until 1974. Zulu is famous for his etchings and wood carvings and his famous wood-carving titled the Battle of Isandlwana (1982) won him praise and a sculpture award. Zulu had the

ability to capture emotions such as loneliness or fear in his etchings. His work can be found in many collections locally and abroad. Zulu died in 1996.

### 24 November 1986

#### Barclays Bank announces its disinvestment from South Africa

Barclays Bank, announced that it was selling its remaining 40 per cent holding in its South African associate, Barclays National Bank Limited of South Africa. Sir Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays, admitted that while the decision to pull out of the South African market was a commercial one, the pressure exerted against the bank by anti-apartheid protesters had a detrimental effect on the bank's business in other areas. Student campaigns against Barclays Bank, initiated in the 1960s, were carried on year after year, especially at the beginning of every academic year, to persuade students not to open accounts with that bank.

### 24 November 1995

#### Pretoria's first black mayor

Johannes Lebone Slo Ramokhoase was born in 1951 in Eesterus before the residents were moved to Mamelodi. He was the headmaster of Mamelodi High School and chairman of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU). On 24 November 1995, Ramokhoase became the first black mayor of Pretoria. He was instrumental in integrating the old city council of Pretoria with the local municipalities of Mamelodi and other townships. A street in the Pretoria CBD has been named in his honour.

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

18 – 24 November 2022

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

## 18 November

### African Statistics Day

The day was designated by the African Union, to strengthen statistics capacities in member states. Statistics help us to understand our communities and countries, major trends and form the basis of public policy.

## 18 November

### International Day of Islamic Art

The day raises awareness of past and contemporary artistic expressions of Islam, and the contribution of culture through Islamic Art to civilization. Islamic art spans a period of over 1400 years, and include architecture, calligraphy, painting, glass, ceramics, and textiles, among others. Islamic art has become an integral part of the art expression of the African continent, with the first Islamic Diaspora found in Africa, when the Prophet Muhammed sent some of his family to safe refuge in Ethiopia as he fled Mecca for Medina.

## 19 November

### World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse



Created in 2000 and commemorated every November 19 (in synergy with the Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child), the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse is an annual

global awareness campaign to create a culture of prevention of child abuse. An international coalition was launched in 2001 with the aim of increasing existing programmes and developing new prevention measures. The coalition, headed by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), unites over 930 governmental and non-governmental organisations in more than 135 countries, all of which now mark November 19 with local and national activities and events. WWSF publications include global posters, calls to action for coalition members, newsletter and e-news, as well as global impact reports and campaign postcards and fliers. These outputs support the annual rallying call via WWSF's global partnership network of those committed to raising awareness, mobilising for action, and sharing and disseminating prevention programmes and innovative measures.

## 19 November

### Women's Entrepreneurship Day



Across the globe, women participate in paid economic activities less than men. The gender gap in labour force participation is around 14 percent in the median OECD country, 26 percent in the median middle-income country, and 13 percent in the median low-income country. When women do participate, they often work in lower-paying jobs and sectors and have less access to social safety nets. In South Af-



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rica, the President announced that 40% of public procurement will be set aside for women and youth, and yet the Public Procurement Bill now before Parliament, does not enforce this target. We must legislate, implement and monitor this target.

### 19 November World Toilet Day

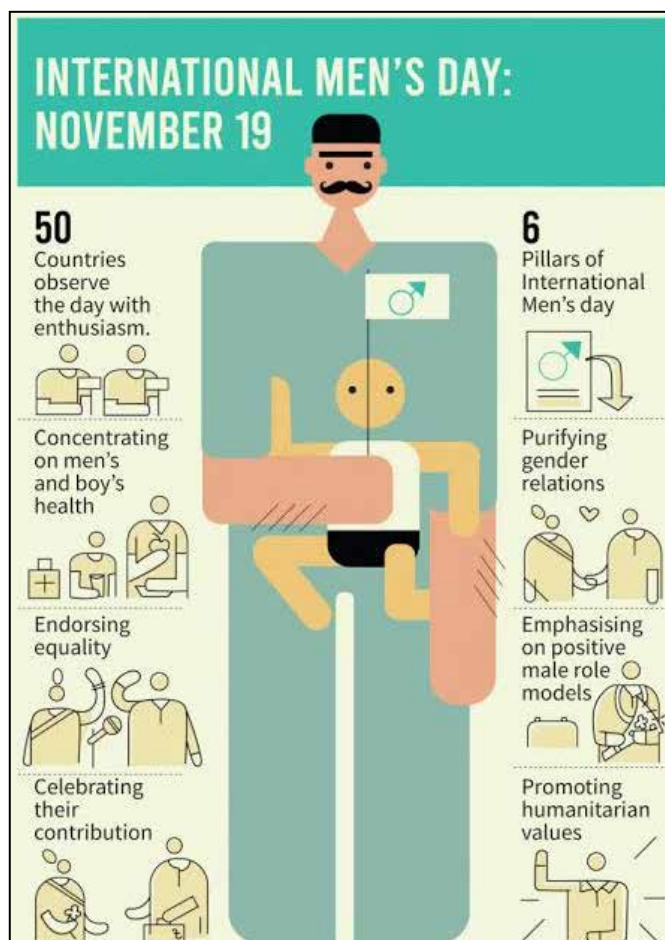


The day raises awareness about the importance of clean and accessible sanitation. Human waste creates illnesses, and access to toilets is therefore a basic human right. We still have more than 4.2 billion people living without safely managed sanitation options in the world today. In South Africa, pit toilets in schools and communities continue to take lives of children, and we must recommit to eradicate pit toilets from our schools, and access to sanitation for all.



### 19 November International Men's Day

International Men's Day is celebrated to look at alternatives to toxic masculinity, and a chance to teach boys about the values, character, and responsibilities of being a man. Focus areas for the day therefore include health, well-being, integrity, improving gender relations and working for gender equality, highlight positive male role models, fighting gender based violence and promoting human rights of all.



When men lead by example, they help to create a fair and safe society. Their positive actions allow everyone to prosper.

### 20 November Africa Industrialization Day

It was declared African Industrialisation Day by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1989, to promote industrialisation and value addition in the continent, with its rich natural resources. According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) *"industrial development is (important) for sustained and inclusive economic growth in African coun-*



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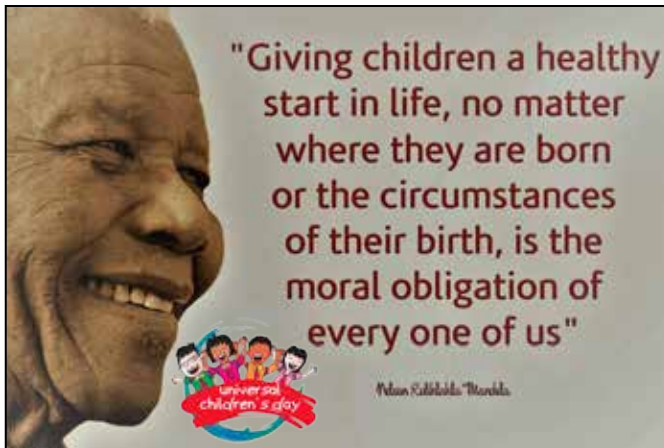


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tries. Industry can enhance productivity, increase the capabilities of the workforce, and generate employment, by introducing new equipment and new techniques. Industrialization, with strong linkages to domestic economies, will help African countries achieve high growth rates, diversify their economies and reduce their exposure to external shocks. This will substantially contribute to poverty eradication through employment and wealth creation."

### 20 November Universal Children's Day

Launched in 1954 by the United Nations, Universal Children's day aims to raise awareness on child welfare worldwide, the promotion, defense and advancement of children's rights and to promote togetherness and awareness amongst all children. The day also marks the day of the adoption of the Declaration and Convention of Children's Rights.

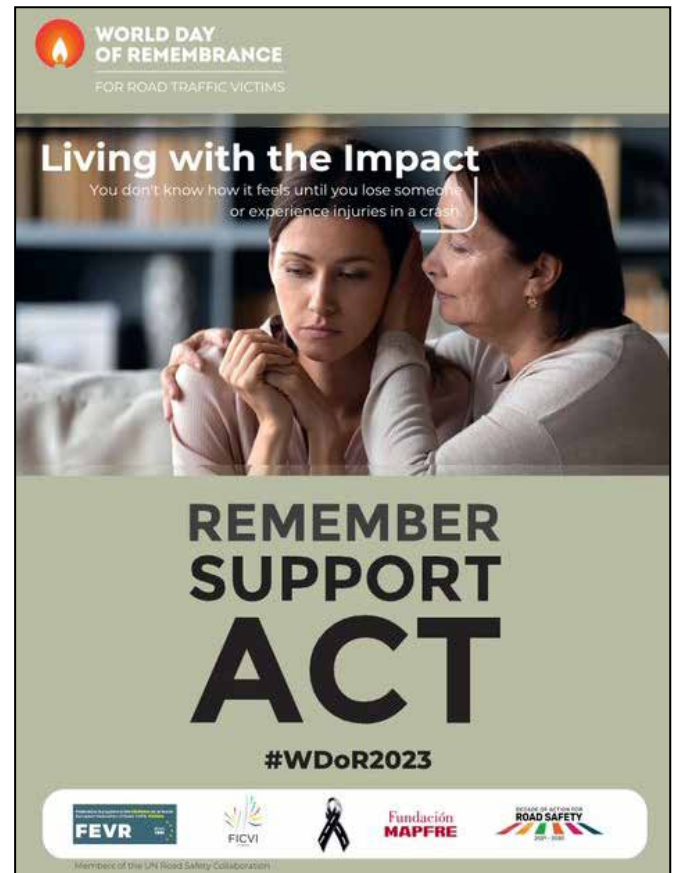


### 21 November World Television Day

Television continues to be the single largest source of video consumption. Though screen sizes have changed, and people create, post, stream and consume content on different platforms, the number of households with television sets around the world continues to rise.

### 21 November World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

Every third Sunday in November, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) seeks to remember the millions of lives lost or injured due to road crashes. Sunday marks the 30th Anniversary of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The day is also held to pay



tribute to emergency responders and medical professionals. These people deal with the trauma of road deaths and injury on a daily basis. According to the WHO, road accidents caused over 1.35 million deaths in 2016, which is one person every 25 seconds. In South Africa many lives are lost daily on our roads through reckless and careless driving. The situation worsens over weekends and during the festive holidays. The theme for 2023 is "Remember. Support. Act." This call on all of us to Remember those lost to road crashes. Support the bereaved. Act to prevent further casualties.

### 21 November. World Fisheries Day

More than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and global warming. The World Fisheries Day highlights the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water. Water forms a continuum, whether contained in rivers, lakes, and ocean. Fish forms an important part of the diets of people around the world, particularly those that live near rivers, coasts and other water bodies.



## ANC visit to South Sudan





## World Toilet Day 19 November 2023



### ACROSS

5. Access to... rose from 51.9% in 2001 to 70.8% in 2022.
7. Sewage contains... from households and businesses.
9. An example of off the grid toilet system.
10. Sewers will also carry urban runoff or ...
11. Infrastructure for sanitation.

### DOWN

1. We must eradicate the ... system.
2. ... is a basic human right.
3. Young pupil who died in pit latrine in school.
4. Census 2022 82.4% of households had access to ...
6. Access to sanitation one of the sustainable development ...
8. Pit latrine also call a ... toilet.

### WORD BANK

Sanitation	goals	Envirolloo	Michael Komape
long-drop	piped water	flush toilet	bucket toilet
sewerage treatment plants		wastewater	stormwater

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.

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