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Conversations with the **President**



Middle East conflict calls for solidarity, tolerance and dialogue

By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

It is now over a month since the attacks in Israel that unleashed a terrible spiral of violence in which civilians have been the biggest casualties.

According to authorities, more than 1,200 people were killed in the attack by Hamas on Israel on 7 October and more than 11,000 Palestinians have been killed to date in Gaza as a result of Israeli Defence Force bombardments since then. More than 60% of the people killed in Gaza are reported to be women and children.

As the bombardment of Gaza continues, there have been pro-Palestinian demonstrations around the world, as well as those expressing solidarity with Israel. There have been a number of such events in our own country, convened by civil society organisations, political parties and religious groupings.

What is happening in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank provokes strong emotions.

For some, the murder of Israelis

and the abduction of hostages on 7 October has further hardened sentiment that Israel has the right to use whatever means at its disposal to defend itself. At the same time, there are others who view the collective punishment of the people of Gaza by the Israeli government as a war crime.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has long been a polarising conflict that has deepened divisions in societies and communities way beyond the Middle East.

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Yet no matter how strong our views on this matter, we must guard against this conflict turning us against each other as South Africans.

Last week, police had to intervene in a confrontation between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian supporters at a demonstration in Cape Town. While this incident is troubling and unacceptable, we must commend all those South Africans who have participated in orderly and peaceful demonstrations in several parts of our country.

Our Constitution protects everyone's right to freedom of opinion and expression, to freedom of association and to demonstrate. It also requires that all demonstrations must be peaceful and that freedom of expression does not extend to the advocacy of hatred based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion that constitutes incitement to cause harm.

There is no place in South Africa for violence or threats of violence against those who hold contrary views. Nor is there any place for any form of prejudice, racism or chauvinism.

As emotive as the Israel-Palestine issue may be for many of our citizens, particularly given our own history of discrimination and oppression, we must not let it deepen divisions between us.

We are a society that prides itself on its tolerance and respect.

Successive democratic administrations have upheld the constitutional rights of all individuals and groups in this country. We have enforced these rights through our courts, including the Equality Court, and through institutions



like the South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, and others.

It was disappointing therefore to read an article in a leading Israeli newspaper by a representative of a local Jewish organisation suggesting that our government is 'encouraging pogroms' against the South African Jewish community.

This has never happened in the history of democratic South Africa, nor will it ever be allowed to happen.

As a government and as a people, we stand firm in our call for justice for the oppressed Palestinian people, for their rights and aspirations to be fulfilled, for the immediate cessation of hostilities, and for there to be accountability for the deplorable killings of civilians in this recent conflict. We maintain that peace will not be possible until Palestinians are free.

Yet, support for the Palestinian struggle cannot be equated with anti-Semitism. There is no place

in our society for anti-Semitism, just as there is no place in our country for prejudice directed against any individual or community on the basis of race, religion, belief, political view or sexual orientation.

In a free and democratic society such as ours, where divergent views are respected and protected by law, we will continue to uphold everyone's right to advocate and demonstrate peacefully, be they pro-Israel or pro-Palestinian.

As a people with our own painful history of discrimination, racism and prejudice, let us remember our personal duty to be tolerant and respectful of others.

Let us promote dialogue and meaningful engagement so that, as South Africans, we may work together to support the realisation of just, peaceful and secure future for the people of both Palestine and Israel.

Above all, let our painful history be a reminder of the heavy cost of a divided nation that has turned against itself. When it comes to freedom, equality and justice, we must be at one.



Summary of the Extraordinary Joint Meeting of BRICS Leaders and Leaders of the invited BRICS Members on the **situation in the Middle East with particular reference to Gaza** by the Chairperson, President Cyril Ramaphosa

21 November 2023

1. WE, Leaders and representatives of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa met with Leaders of the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 21 November 2023 to exchange views on the current situation in Gaza and other Palestinian Occupied Territories as well as its spillover effects.

2. We recalled our national positions concerning the situation in Gaza as expressed in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Concerns were expressed at the latest escalation of violence since the 7 October 2023 attack and the grave deterioration of the situation in the region, in particular the dire humanitarian situation in



Gaza and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in Israel.

3. Acts of violence aimed at Palestinian and Israeli civilians were condemned, including war crimes, indiscriminate attacks and targeting of civilian infrastructure, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement, and destruction. We emphasised that civilians must be protected, in accordance with international hu-

manitarian law and international human rights law. The Chair joined calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all civilians who are being illegally held captive, demanding that their safety, and well-being are guaranteed, and that humane treatment is accorded to them in compliance with international law. We stressed the need to pursue accountability. We must ensure that independent and transparent investigations are conducted

in accordance with international standards.

4. We condemned any kind of individual or mass forcible transfer and deportation of Palestinians from their own land. Many Leaders reiterated that the forced transfer and deportation of Palestinians, whether inside Gaza or to neighbouring countries, constitute grave breaches of the Geneva conventions and war crimes and violations under International Humanitarian Law.

5. We expressed our deep concern at the dire humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We reiterated the need for full respect of international humanitarian law and the need for full, immediate, safe, unhindered, and sustained humanitarian access and the provision of aid in accordance with the basic principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence established in UNGA resolution 46/182.

6. We reiterated our commitment to the peaceful resolution of differences and disputes through dialogue and inclusive consultations in a coordinated and cooperative manner and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises.

7. We called for an immediate, durable, and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities.

8. We reiterated our strong support for regional and international efforts aimed at achieving an immediate cessation of hostilities, ensuring the protection of civilians and the provision of humanitarian aid.

9. We reaffirmed our commitment

to the basic principle that peace and security in the Middle East should be achieved and sustained in accordance with, and in full respect for, international law and the United Nations Charter. We reaffirmed the primary role of the UNSC in maintaining international peace and security. We joined other global leaders in welcoming the adoption of UNSC resolution 2712 on 15 November 2023 under China's UNSC Presidency and called for its full implementation.

10. We acknowledged the important role played by relevant international and regional organisations, including the League of Arab States and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, in addressing threats to peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. We welcomed the briefing by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the outcomes of the Joint Extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit held in Riyadh on 11 November

2023. We also welcome the efforts led by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, in hosting the Cairo Peace Summit.

11. We emphasised the importance of preventing further destabilisation and escalation of violence, including the spill over of the conflict in the region and called upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint and, upon all those with influence on them, to work toward this objective.

12. We reaffirmed that a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means. The Chair joined calls for the international community to support direct negotiations based on international law including relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, towards a two-state solution, leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine.



ANC Declaration on Parliamentary Motion on Palestine

THE South African Parliament has the opportunity to express its view on the unfolding genocide and obliteration of a people whose land has, in terms of the United Nations, been illegally confiscated and illegally occupied.

The entire world is faced with the responsibility to bring an end to this genocide, killings and untold human suffering of a people who have suffered persecution for 75 years.

Therefore, any motion before this House that seeks to bring about a just settlement to this dispute needs all political parties' support.

As we speak, the President of the Republic is chairing an extended meeting of BRICS, whose objective is to bring about a ceasefire in order for negotiations to start. As we speak, we have lodged on the 17th November, through our Ambassador to the Netherlands, to the ICC Chief Prosecutor, Karim Khan, the request to investigate and establish whether there is sufficient evidence, relating to war crimes; genocide or crimes against humanity, to refer a non-party state, like Israel, and we have included Hamas even though it is not a nation state, to the International Criminal Court

for prosecution. In the case of Israel, it is their Head of State whom we say needs to have an arrest warrant issued against him, as we believe the evidence required is overwhelming.

In Gaza 12,000 killed, which excludes those still buried under rubble, 32,000 injured excluded those buried under rubble, of which 75% are women and children. Yet the Israeli Head of State and Army say they are going after Hamas. 1,270 families bombed, 22 Civil Defence Teams bombed, 103 UN staff killed, 203 medical personal killed, 26 hospitals bombed, 1,6 million people so far displaced, 55,200 homes destroyed and 276,000 homes damaged. But it is not only Gaza.

In the West Bank 213 Palestinians have been killed and 2,640 injured, 12,637 violations and assaults, 2,850 arrested and 485 Israeli settler assaults. The Israeli army has dropped 32,000 tons of explosives on Gaza, double the force of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in World War 2. In summary, it is a war zone in which genocide is being conducted with planning and intention.

The world, at the United Nations has called for a cessation. Only United States and Israel voted



against with Ukraine abstaining. Let us be clear, this is not a religious war as some have tried to tell us in their declarations. This is about the legitimate right of a people to live on their land along the pre-1967 borders in peaceful co-existence. It is about the right to the land and an economy that has over decades been stripped away by force and against United Nations resolutions, through enforced settler communities being imposed on Palestinian land.

Government has withdrawn its diplomats from Israel for consultation and we note the Ambassador of Israel has been summonsed back to Israel.

Our amendment to the EFF motion calls for a ceasefire to be agreed and that both parties to the conflict commit to binding United Nations facilitated negotiations whose outcome must be a just, sustainable and lasting peace, along the lines of a two-state solution within the pre-1967 borders. That until this is achieved; the **Israeli Embassy should remain closed.**

Economic Transformation requires the active participation and mobilisation of the Working Class

Remarks by **Comrade Nomvula Mokonyane**,
 1st Deputy Secretary-General of the ANC at SACCWU 12th National Congress,
 Benoni. 23 November 2023

I would like to convey our revolutionary greetings on behalf of the ANC NEC led by our president Cde Cyril Ramaphosa and also congratulate the leadership of SACCWU for convening such a successful conference.

I stand before you representing the ANC, a party deeply committed to the principles of working-class unity, economic transformation, and the total emancipation of our people.

It is indeed an honour to address this congress under the theme ***“Consolidate Working Class Unity and Power for Total Emancipation.”***

We gather here at a critical moment in our nation's history. South Africa faces numerous challenges, including persistent inequality, high levels of unemployment, and an economic structure that



perpetuates the exclusion of the majority.

The time has come for us, as the ANC and SACCWU, and all our alliance partners to unite our efforts and confront these challenges head-on.

The ANC has always recognized the importance of building strong industrial sector unions as a

means to advance the interests of workers and effect meaningful change.

We understand that a united and organized labour movement is a powerful force for social justice and economic transformation.

It is through the collective power of workers, as represented by unions like SACCWU, that we



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



can challenge exploitative economic systems and dismantle the barriers that hinder the full realization of our people's potential.

We must not underestimate the importance of transforming economic ownership patterns in South Africa.

For far too long, our economy has been characterized by a concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few, while the majority continue to struggle for economic security and dignity.

It is time to reshape the economic landscape, ensuring that the benefits of our nation's resources are shared equitably among all South Africans.

The ANC is committed to implementing policies that promote economic transformation and inclusive growth. We recognize that true liberation can only be achieved when the working class, particularly the historically marginalized and oppressed, have a meaningful stake in the economy.

We will continue to advocate for the redistribution of wealth, the creation of decent and sustainable jobs, and the empowerment of workers through skills devel-



opment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

However, economic transformation cannot be achieved through policy alone. It requires the active participation and mobilization of the working class. SACCAWU has a crucial role to play in this process.

As a union representing workers across various sectors, you have the power to challenge exploitative practices, fight for fair wages, and advocate for the rights of workers. Your collective strength and unity are essential for driving the transformative agenda forward.

As we consolidate working class unity and power, we must also remain vigilant in our pursuit of total emancipation.

This means not only addressing economic disparities but also

confronting the social, political, and cultural barriers that perpetuate inequality and discrimination. This includes intensifying the fight against GBV and Femicide and advocating for greater representation of women in influential positions of power.

We must strive for a society where every South African, regardless of their background, enjoys equal rights, opportunities, and dignity.

In addition to the themes of working-class unity, economic transformation, and total emancipation, it is crucial that we recognize the importance of positioning South Africa within the changing geopolitical landscape.

As a nation, we must be proactive in consolidating the opportunities brought by emerging global alliances, such as the BRICS institutions, and continue to fight for solidarity efforts, particularly in support of Palestine.

South Africa, as a member of the BRICS alliance, holds a unique position in the global arena. This alliance, represents a significant shift in the balance of global power. It provides us with a platform to strengthen economic ties,



foster cooperation, and promote mutual development among nations that share common goals and aspirations.

The ANC recognizes the immense potential that lies within the BRICS framework. It presents us with an opportunity to diversify our economy, attract foreign investment, and create sustainable jobs.

By leveraging our membership in BRICS, we can enhance trade relations, access new markets, and collaborate on critical issues such as infrastructure development, technology transfer, and sustainable development.

As we position ourselves within the changing geopolitical landscape, we must also remain steadfast in our support for solidarity efforts, particularly with Palestine, Western Sahara, Ireland, Cuba, Swaziland and many other friends who are battling the scourge of imperialism.

The struggle for Palestinian self-determination and the end of Israeli occupation is not only a matter of human rights but also a symbol of our commitment to justice and international solidarity.

The ANC has a long-standing history of supporting the Palestinian cause. We firmly believe in the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, the establishment of a viable and independent Palestinian state, and the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through peaceful negotiations based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

We must continue to advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people, condemn human rights viola-

tions, and support initiatives that promote peace, justice, and reconciliation. Our solidarity efforts should extend beyond mere rhetoric to concrete actions, such as boycotts, divestments, and sanctions against entities complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights.

As we consolidate working class unity, drive economic transformation, and pursue total emancipation, let us not forget the importance of positioning South Africa within the changing geopolitical landscape. We must seize the opportunities presented by the BRICS alliance to enhance our economic development, create jobs, and uplift our people. Simultaneously, we must remain steadfast in our solidarity efforts with Palestine, standing up for justice, human rights, and the pursuit of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Together, let us harness the pow-

er of unity, economic transformation, and international solidarity to build a South Africa that is not only prosperous and equitable but also plays a leading role in shaping a more just and peaceful world.

In conclusion, I call upon SACCAWU to continue its important work in advocating for workers' rights, promoting unity, and mobilizing the working class towards total emancipation. The ANC stands firmly with you in this struggle. Together, let us build strong industrial sector unions that champion the rights of workers and actively contribute to the transformation of our economy. Let us work tirelessly to reshape economic ownership patterns, ensuring that the fruits of our nation benefit all South Africans.

Forward to the unity and power of the working class Forward!!

THANK YOU

FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE

ON 18-19 NOVEMBER 2023





REGISTER TO VOTE





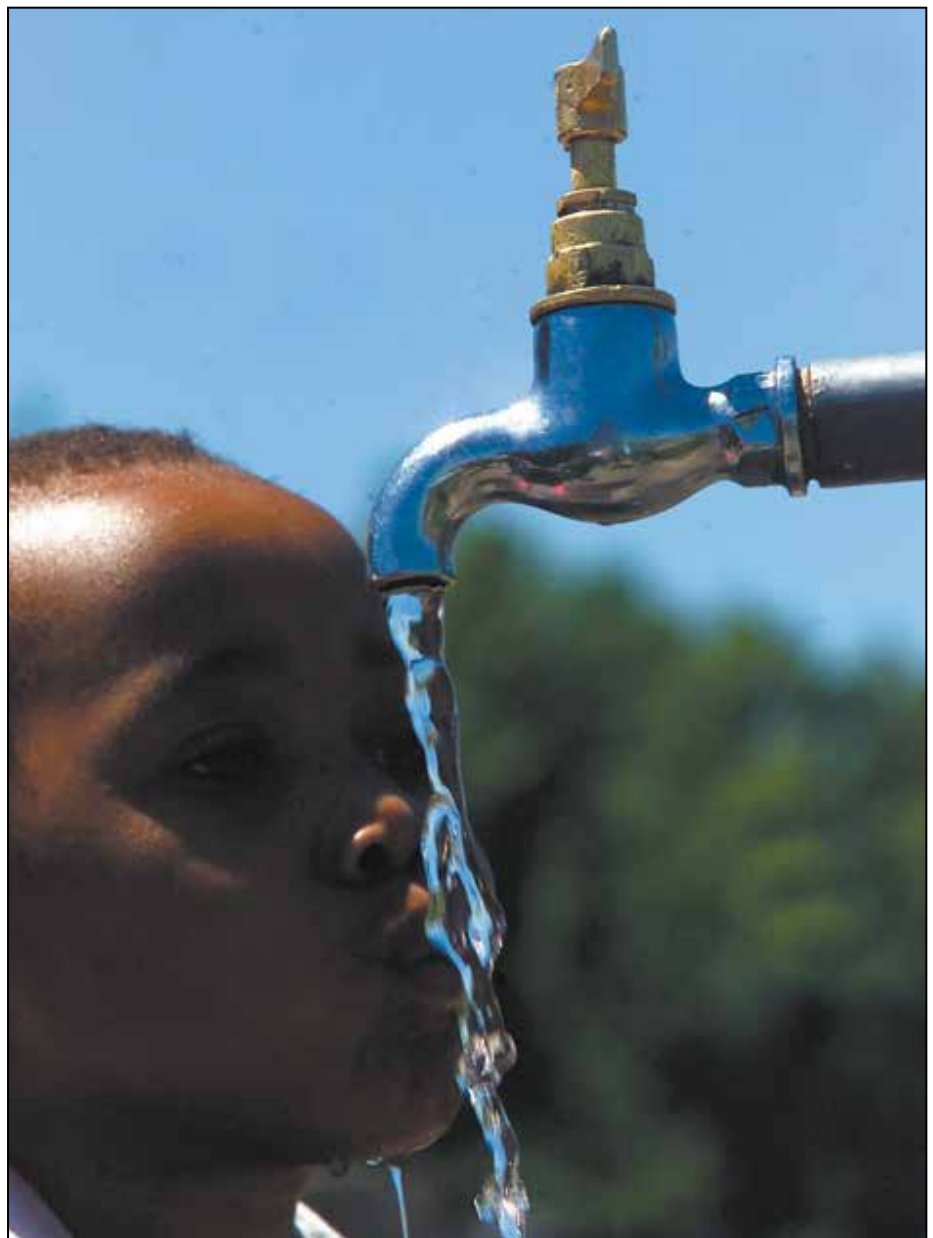

WATER is a lifeline for the entire nation

COSATU Submission on the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency SOC Limited Bill

SOUTH Africa is and will remain a water scarce country. Naturally water is the lifeline for the entire nation. It is critical that it be managed effectively and efficiently and the constitutional right to water is upheld. We are concerned about the condition of our water infrastructure, the large amounts of water lost to leaks and the backlog in infrastructure investments. We need to equally change how we consume water as households, industries, agriculture and mining. A shift towards conservation and recycling is long overdue.

The Bill provides for a single national government institution to manage our water infrastructure and resources. This is important to help ensure a coordinated approach to this matter.

COSATU however is opposed to this single national government organ being a public entity or agency and not located within the public service, in particular the Department of Water and Sanitation. The Federation is deeply opposed to the fixation of politicians and senior state management to 'agencify' the state.





Issues that undermine service delivery within the public service, e.g. vacancies, budget cuts, mismanagement, unreliable internet connection, dilapidated public works properties, corruption etc. must be dealt with.

Creating an entity or agency because politicians and management lack the courage and work ethic to clean up the state is not a solution. In fact, it is fragmenting the state, duplicating mandates, creating additional layers of management and weakening executive authority.

Workers are opposed to the agencification of the state as these entities fall outside of the state's collective bargaining processes and deliberately and inadvertently undermine collective bargaining and workers' hard won labour rights.

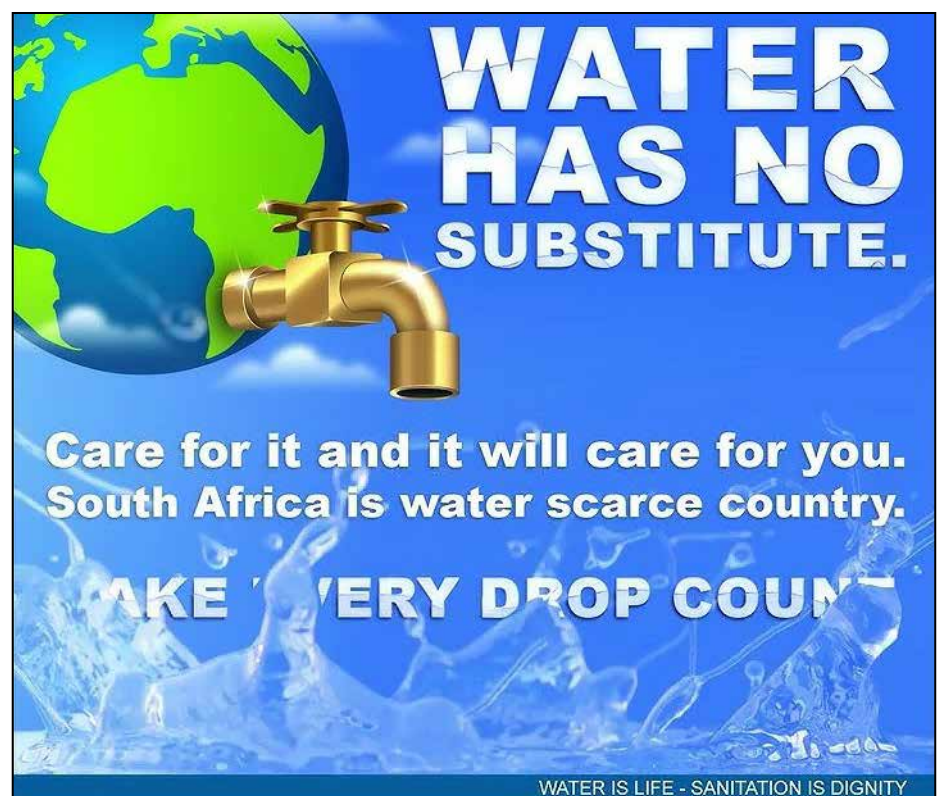
The Presidency and National Treasury too have finally un-

derstood COSATU's concerns about senior state officials creating these agencies as a way of circumventing the public service wage regime and its controls,

in order to give themselves positions with far higher salaries. One notorious example is the Road Traffic Management Agency which dispenses some traffic tickets, yet it is reported that its senior management team is paid more than the President of the Republic.

The Minister of Finance disclosed to Parliament recently that there are now 5303 entities and agencies within the state. It's surprising that Cabinet has endorsed the creation of yet another agency when the President has repeatedly committed to consolidating the state, removing duplicate mandates and reintegrating these agencies back within the public service.

The Federation hopes government will learn to speak with one voice and that Parliament will amend the Bill to locate this single national water organ within the public service and the Department.



Navigating Realities: My Thoughtful Vote for the ANC as a First-Time Voter

■ By **PALESA MANDILE**

IN the intricate web of South African politics, my 21-year-old self – a second-born among four children and a first-time voter in my second year at the University of Pretoria – finds herself in a delicate dance between hope and critical reflection, walking a path intricately woven with the African National Congress (ANC). Navigating academia with the support of NS-FAS, my journey prompts a nuanced examination of the ANC's role in shaping my reality.

Growing up in the shadow of the ANC's historic fight against apartheid, my roots are entangled with tales of resilience and sacrifice. As I stand on the cusp of my first vote, I find it essential to acknowledge the shadows cast by the party's imperfections. While the ANC played a pivotal role in dismantling the oppressive system, subsequent years have revealed a party grappling with internal challenges and governance issues.

The support I receive from NS-FAS, undoubtedly crucial, brings to light the complexities in the ANC's broader approach to edu-



cation. The system remains burdened by inefficiencies, leaving many students in precarious financial situations. As a first-time voter, I grapple with the reality that the ANC's promises of accessible education must be met with tangible and sustainable actions, not just rhetoric.

Casting my vote for the ANC becomes an exercise in measured optimism rather than unbridled trust. The ANC's historical significance doesn't exempt it from accountability for its present actions

and inactions. In acknowledging the ANC's imperfections, I am confronted with the challenge of participating in a system that demands scrutiny and accountability. It is not enough to be a passive supporter; I must be an active participant in the ongoing conversation about the ANC's future.

My vote, cast with a critical eye, is an invitation for the ANC to rise above its challenges. It is a call for transparency, efficiency, and a renewed commitment to the principles that defined its inception.

The ANC must evolve to meet the contemporary needs of South Africa, addressing the concerns of a new generation that demands more than the laurels of the past.

As a first-time voter at the University of Pretoria, I extend an invitation not just to support the ANC but to question it, challenge it, and push it toward the ideals it professes. South Africa's future depends on a robust and responsive ANC, capable of self-reflection and adaptation. In the complex tapestry of our political landscape, my story is a thread woven with hope.

While 30 years of democracy may not be enough to surmount all challenges, a comparison with other nations in the global south reveals strides toward progress. The ANC's role in this journey is integral, and as the second-born of four children, I recognize the importance of supporting a party that has contributed to a South Africa that, in many aspects, is a beacon of hope and progress on the African continent.

Beyond its historical significance and commitment to dismantling apartheid, the ANC boasts a lega-



cy of positive contributions shaping South Africa's post-apartheid trajectory. Notably, the establishment of a robust social welfare system strives to uplift the most vulnerable segments of society. Through initiatives like social grants and housing programs, the ANC addresses socioeconomic inequalities and provides tangible support to those in need. Furthermore, the ANC's dedication to reconciliation and nation-building plays a pivotal role in fostering unity among diverse communities, setting the stage for a more inclusive and harmonious South Africa. The ANC's role in steering the nation through a peaceful transition to democracy is a global inspiration for movements advocating justice and equality. As a first-time vot-

er, I acknowledge these positive aspects while urging the ANC to continue evolving and addressing the challenges on our journey toward a brighter future.

Considering my vote, none of the opposition parties resonates with me policy-wise. It's not merely a lack of alternatives; rather, it's a conscious decision to safeguard the freedoms and societal framework that the ANC has helped create. I am mindful of the delicate balance needed to maintain and improve upon the progress we've achieved. My vote for the ANC is not just a critique of the opposition but a commitment to the continued development and protection of the South African society we've collectively forged over the past three decades.



Good Jew, Bad Jew.

Racism, anti-Semitism and the Assault on Meaning

■ By **STEVEN FRIEDMAN**

In a recently published book Steven Friedman, who has written extensively on the political and social aspects of apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa, explores the racist underpinnings of the West's responses to Israel's war in Gaza.

This is an extract from the book, published in *The Conversation*.

UGANDAN academic Mahmood Mamdani sees a link between the violence of the coloniser and the slaughter of Jews and Slavs by the Nazis. The racial theories of Houston Stewart and others who claimed the Aryan race was superior meant that Jews and Slavs, who were both regarded as not Aryan, could be placed beyond the pale of civilisation and were thus candidates for the “laws of nature”, not of war.

According to Mamdani, in World War II, the Nazis “observed the laws of war against the Western powers but not against Russia”, and not against Jewish civilians and resistance fighters. British, American and French prisoners of war were treated according to the rules of the Third Geneva Convention, but Russians were not.

A bizarre feature of this distinction between the “civilised” and those ripe for the slaughter was that the Nazis’ Jewish prisoners of war serving in the Western armies were not slaughtered. But Russian soldiers were. This does not mean that Jewish and non-Jew-



ish prisoners were treated entirely equally. Jewish prisoners were usually separated from others and there is some evidence that they were treated more harshly.

But the vast majority survived the war and there is no evidence that any were killed because they were Jewish. Scholars have made various attempts to explain this. But perhaps the most plausible explanation is one that none of them offers – that serving in a Western European or American army meant that Jews, in the eyes of their Nazi captors, had attained at least a sufficient degree of “Europeanness” to save them from death. Serving in the

Russian military conferred no such “honorary Aryan” status because Soviet Russia was considered a mortal enemy of the Aryan race – a “non-Western” presence in Europe.

Nazi extermination camps, where gas chambers were used as instruments of slaughter, were all situated in occupied Poland, not in Germany. There were concentration camps in Germany, but these were forced labour camps, not death camps. An obvious explanation for this seemingly odd fact is that the Nazis worried that Germans might learn what was happening in death camps, and might not share their government's view that wholesale slaughter was acceptable.

This was similar to the tactics of the architects of apartheid in South Africa. They ensured that brutality directed at black people was usually imposed in areas away from the gaze of white people. But it seems unlikely that this explanation would hold. Apartheid showed that human rights abuses do not need to be moved to another country to hide them from the sight of the dominant group.

Rather, it seems likely that the reason was that which Mamdani's analysis suggests: by sitting the camps to the east of Germany, the Nazis were, in effect, removing them from Western Europe where such barbarism was not considered acceptable. The east of Europe became, in a sense, a colony inhabited by people who were not considered Aryan and therefore not fully European. They were thus subject only to the “laws of nature”.

Anti-semitism, racism and genocide

Nazi anti-Jewish bigotry was originally labelled racism while bigotry against people who were not white Europeans was not. The context of the situation of the camps helps to explain that. Bigotry was acceptable only if it was directed at people who were not European. Mamdani cites *A History of Bombing*, by the Swedish author Sven Lindqvist. He observes that the Nazi genocide was born at the meeting point of two traditions that marked modern Western civilization: ‘the anti-Semitic tradition and the tradition of genocide of colonised peoples’.

The first was (mainly) the prejudice of the right. The second produced the less obvious but still real prejudices which justified colonisation and continue to underpin mainstream European attitudes. Mamdani notes that the fate of the Jewish people was that they were to be exterminated as a whole. In that, they were unique – but only in Europe.

This point, he adds, was not lost on intellectuals from colonised countries, such as the Martinican thinker Aimé Césaire, who wrote that the European bourgeoisie could not forgive Hitler for the fact that he applied to Europe colonialist procedures which until then had been reserved exclusively for the Arabs of Algeria, the ‘coolies’ of India, and the ‘niggers’ of Africa.

This, of course, explains why a Europe that was justifiably appalled at the Nazi genocide had no great qualms about the wholesale slaughter of Congolese or about the Herero genocide.

It might be argued that the reason was not bigotry but distance. Events in Africa were simply not noticed in Europe because they happened far away, and few people were aware of them. But Mamdani's view that race prejudice was at work is supported by the fact that these attitudes persist today, when communications technologies ensure that the Western mainstream knows what is wrought on people in far-off places. A clear example is the attitudes prompted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

As numerous critiques have shown, European politicians and journalists drew attention to the fact that the Ukrainians were white Europeans or “people like



us" – and therefore "civilised" – in contrast to Iraqis, Yemenis, Syrians, Afghanis, Africans and, until not that long ago, Jews.

While this could be dismissed as the view of a bigoted few, the fact that Europe and the United States acted with a level of anger never directed at the Israeli state's bombing of Palestinians, Saudi bombing of Yemen or Russian bombing of Muslim Chechnya and Syria suggests that Mamdani's hypothesis explains this reaction too. That the United States led the charge, despite its own incursions into Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, could be explained as plain hypocrisy but could also fit in with Mamdani's thesis.

The Russians had broken the rules of "civilised war" by treating white European Ukrainians in a manner that should be reserved for colonised subjects. Had they restricted themselves, like the West, to visiting misery only on people who were not European, such as the Syrians whom they had earlier bombed, they would have acted well within "civilised" bounds.

Racial experiments

But it seems not always possible to restrict barbarism to the colonies. Mamdani shows how European behaviour in Namibia set the stage for the Nazi genocide in Europe. It was in Namibia in the first years of the 20th century that Eugen Fischer, a German geneticist, conducted "*racial experiments*" on Herero people who were, as Jews would later be, interned in concentration camps. Fischer claimed to have shown that people born of mixed Herero and German parentage were physically and mentally inferior to



their German parents.

Adolf Hitler read Fischer's book that made this claim, and later appointed him rector of the University of Berlin. One of Fischer's students was Josef Mengele, who conducted experiments in Auschwitz on Jewish human beings and who also selected victims for the gas chambers.

Nazism was, seen through this lens, what Franz Fanon suggested it was: a form of colonial rule extended into Europe. It took the "anti-Semitic tradition" to its logical conclusion by relegating Jews to the status of Africans whose slaughter Chamberlain celebrated in his letters to the German Kaiser hailing the murder of Hereros.

We can see current attempts to align Jews with white supremacy and ethnic nationalism as attempts to escape this history and to position "good", Zionist, Jews as the white Europeans that Nazism insisted they were not. This gives added significance to the fact that the first American writings claiming a "new anti-Sem-

itism" devoted much effort to blaming black people for anti-Semitism, thus signaling that Jews shared the prejudices of the white European mainstream and so should never have been treated as the Congolese and Hereros had been.

Zionism and violence against Palestinians

The current alliance between the Israeli state and other ethnic nationalists is a further example of the attempt to become European. Viewed in this way, today's right-wing Zionism is not, as it is sometimes portrayed, a departure from the movement's supposed humanist past. There is a direct line from Herzl, whose Zionism was inspired by the music of a virulent anti-Semite, to the Israeli state and its supporters who find sustenance in the prejudices of Donald Trump and Viktor Oban.

Much the same impulse surely drives British Jews who today unite with those who had once excluded them from their clubs and, more recently, stereotyped them in novels. These stereotypes are

used to denounce left-wingers whom the right has always associated with Jewishness.

Mamdani uses the term “conscripts of Western power” to describe those who were once oppressed by the West but are now allied to it. But today’s “good Jews” are not conscripts; they are volunteers.

His argument also sheds new light on the visits of right-wing anti-Semites to the Yad Vashem memorial to Nazi victims, a practice aptly described by the Israeli journalist Noa Landau as “Shoah-washing”. The Israeli anti-Zionist activist Orly Noy notes:

If Zionism previously justified its crimes against the Palestinian people in the name of the Holocaust, today it uses the Holocaust as a tool to justify antisemitism itself in exchange for political profit. More than that: it allows an anti-semite to define what antisemitism is. This is the bitter truth we face today – for the official State of Israel, the concept of the Holocaust and antisemitism are purely political means, and as such can be manipulated, distorted, and deceived, just like any other political tool.

Nazi crimes are used by the Israeli state to justify violence against Palestinians. But viewed through Mamdani’s distinction, and the core role that Nazi mass murder plays in Zionism’s justifi-

cations, the Israeli state’s use of the Nazi genocide may also be seen as a continuing attempt to remind ethnic nationalists that by forming an ethnic nationalist state, Jews should be treated as the Nazis would not treat them – as fellow Europeans, rather than as “darker people” who are deserving targets of racism.

Noy’s reference to allowing anti-Semites to define anti-Semitism may also shed light on why today’s anti-Semites are happy to



accept the invitation to mourn a Nazi slaughter that they usually excuse. An obvious explanation is that their admiration for the Israeli state makes a little hypocrisy necessary.

If their favourite ethnic nationalist state wants heads of government who feel that the Nazi genocide has received an unfair bad press to shed a ritualised tear for its victims, that is a small price to pay.

But they may also be signaling that the establishment of an ethnic nationalist state, which itself colonises the “darker races”, entitles “good Jews” to the European status that the Nazis had denied them. This, of course, does not mean that “bad Jews” – those who are not fervent ethnic nationalists – deserve the same consideration.

The distinction between European and colonial wars may also shed more light on why “good Jews”, those who support the Israeli state, are so firmly supported by Western centrists and liberals. If Jews are, as the opponents of Nazi racism insisted, European, then the Israeli state can be seen as another colonial enterprise, which, in the view of some of its opponents, is exactly what it is. And so its response to Palestinians is, in the eyes of its European allies, governed by the “laws of nature”, not by the “laws of war”. To brutalise Ukrainians is to violate the “laws of war” and is unacceptable to Europe and its heirs. To brutalise Palestinians is to follow the “laws of nature”. The Israeli state may do as it pleases to Palestinians without violating the code of those to whom “Europeanness” or “whiteness” is a valued identity – many of whom are liberals or centrists.

The distinction between European and colonial wars, then, throws important light on the new way in which Jews are viewed both by white supremacists and by mainstream Europe.

Part Three

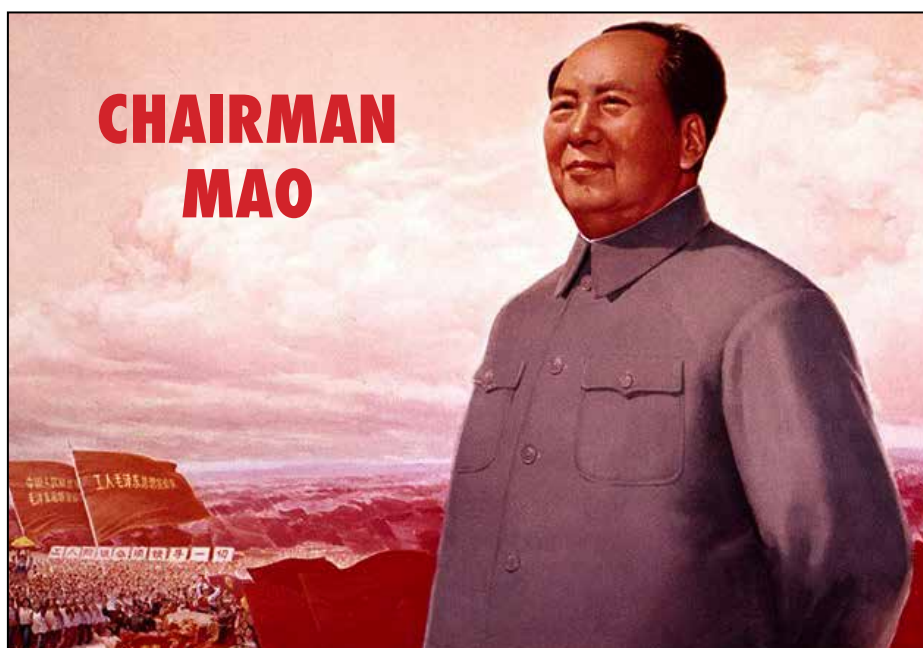
China – Turning the Burden of Dreams into Glorious Realities

THE LONG MARCH AND MAO ZEDONG'S RULE

■ By **TITUS MAFOLO**

THE Chinese Communist Party was formed on 23 July 1921, five months after the formation of the South African Communist Party. This was the time after China had seen the end of the last Qing Empire in 1911, which collapsed after a minor revolt by government troops in Wuhan. This made one of the influential thinkers of early 20th century China, Liang Qichao, to comment that it was: **“A revolution in ink, not in blood”**.

Then, in 1912, Sun Yat-sen, assumed power through his Nationalist Party. A patriotic Chinese who studied in America, Sun proved to be anti-imperialist even when he saw the need to learn from both the West and Japan. Sun Yat-sen was particularly inspired by Vladimir Lenin's Communist Party, especially on the party structure built on strong leadership, party discipline and centralised messaging. Therefore, the Chinese Nationalist Party leader urged his colleagues to: “learn from Russia, its methods, its organisation, its way of train-



ing party members (and) only then can we hope for victory.” When Lenin wrote his seminal Paper: *‘Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism’*, and posited that anticolonial and anti-imperialist struggles in Asia were critical part of the larger global revolution against capitalism, Sun Yat-sen and many Chinese who were to form the Communist Party of China in 1921, felt that they belonged to the bigger global forces for freedom.

Accordingly, in 1923, being urged by the Soviet Union, both the Chinese Nationalist and Communist parties formed what they called the United Front, the agreement being signed by the respective leaders – Sun Yat-sen and Chen Duxiu, the founder of the Communist party. Sun Yat-sen died in 1925 and was replaced as the leader of the Nationalist Party by Chiang Kai-shek. However, within two years, Chiang shocked the country when he launched what

was to be called the 'white terror', massacring many leaders of the Communist Party with whom his mentor had entered into alliance. Thus, not only did Communist Party members go underground, they decided to retreat into rural areas where they were getting greater support. As the Nationalists pursued them, they divided into different units and started the 'Long March', away from government strong holds into remote areas.

The **Long March** was a military retreat by the Communist forces being attacked and pursued by the Nationalist government army. The most famous of the marches was to be the one under Mao Zedong, which marched over 9,000 kilometres through some of the most difficult terrain of high mountains, forests and raging rivers. Having started with over 65,000 soldiers, they ended being around 8,000. The leadership that Mao Zedong demonstrated throughout the march earned him the position of Chairman. Henceforth, Mao Zedong was to be known as Chairman Mao. After a long war that also included having to fight the invading Japanese forces, the Communist Party ultimately became victorious in 1949 and established the People's Republic of China, along Marxist-Leninist principles.

Undoubtedly, Mao Zedong had an incredibly strong and enduring historical imprint on China. He fought and led a difficult and brutal struggle for freedom – from both reactionary nationalists as well as imperialists forces. The Chinese revolution, led by Chairman Mao achieved independence and sovereignty. His reforms started an important process of empowering poor rural people. Of course, some of Mao



Zedong policies were disastrous. In particular, the Great Leap Forward, aimed at rapidly transforming China's economy from agrarian to industrial. This led to the catastrophic famine that led to deaths variously cited as between 15-55 million.

Again, in 1966, he initiated the Cultural Revolution aimed at removing 'counter-revolutionaries' elements in China. This was characterised by widespread destruction of important artistic and cultural artefacts; attacks on intellectuals, especially university lecturers by gangs of youths as well as attacks on those committed communist party members seen as being against the programme. Many revolutionaries were targeted, including the future president of the country, Deng Xiaoping. Deng was ultimately banished to a remote rural area and his son, a university student attacked and thrown out of a 4-storey building, tragically becoming a paraplegic. Indeed, Mao Zedong cultivated a cult of personality.

This was perhaps not surprising because Mao was a great worshipper of Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union whom Mao seemed to be emulating on everything he did. When Nikita Khrushchev,

who replaced Stalin, started the de-Stalinization of the USSR, Mao and the Chinese leadership were appalled. This was the beginning of the China-Soviet split.

By 1961, the Chinese communist leaders issued a formal denunciation of Soviet communism as the work of 'revisionist traitors' and 'social imperialists'. Again, when the Soviets promoted 'peaceful co-existence' with the West, to reduce the threat of nuclear confrontation, China saw this as a retreat from the global struggle against imperialism. From then henceforth, among others, the two countries competed in trying to influence, especially the developing countries in their struggles against colonialism and imperialism.

In Asia, China aligned more with Cambodia, even supporting the Khmer People's Revolutionary Party – Khmer Rouge. While they started as an anti-imperialist force, once they took power, Khmer Rouge tried to emulate China's programmes – both agrarian and cultural revolutions. The disastrous consequences resulted in about 2 million deaths with the country's professional and technical class destroyed. On the other hand, the Soviet Union supported and was an

ally of Vietnam. The China-Soviet tensions were transferred to these Asian countries. When Vietnam attacked Cambodia to stop the murderous campaign of Pol. Pot, a Chinese ally, China in turn, attacked Vietnam in 1979. In that war, China suffered disproportionately more casualties. The competition of supporting different organisations happened also in Africa – in South Africa the Soviet Union supported the ANC while China supported the PAC; in Zimbabwe ZAPU received help from the Soviet Union while ZANU was assisted by China. In Angola the MPLA was supported by the Soviet Union while China assisted UNITA.

LESSONS:

- An important lesson is that struggles for freedom have been fought under very difficult conditions. The story of the '**Long March**' resonates with our own long history of struggle for freedom. As in the previous section, these stories must be fully chronicled, communicated and passed on to the next generations.
- Has the ANC of today learned why the Movement was very strong in the past – the discipline that defined the Movement during the difficult periods of struggle and how Oliver Tambo held the organisations strong and united under very difficult conditions.
- The alliance between the Nationalist Party and the Chinese Communist Party asserts the inevitability of alliances. Indeed, these alliances may be for short, medium and long terms. What is important is to interrogate the aims of such alliances and whether they

help to advance, in our situation, the objectives of the national democratic revolution.

- The issue of alliances is important, especially in the light of the reduced electoral support for the ANC. So, whatever tactical or strategic alliances that may be forged, the aims and objectives of such approaches should be very clear and the general membership should have the required information, political education as well as possessing the required tools of analysis to interrogate and understand the reasons for whatever positions are being taken.
- Importantly, the ANC should, as it were, have the pulse of the people when determining whatever alliances that needed to be forged. A critical question should be, if the observation still holds that, there is a social distance between significant sections of the leadership and the masses, will the same leadership be
- able to adopt positions that are consistent with the political mood, especially of the ANC's biggest support base, the African majority?
- Again, although he was such a brave and fearless leader, Mao Zedong committed some strategic mistakes while in government. These may not have been deliberate. But they tell us that we should be able to fearlessly and comradely fully interrogate the programmes and decisions we take and have the courage of our convictions to change course when we realise we are committing strategic errors.
- Importantly, we must avoid the cult of personalities. We saw how Mao Zedong nearly destroyed the Chinese Communist Party when he unleashed the young college students against what he perceived as his enemies, including some of the most disciplined and committed members of the party.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

25 November – 1 December 2023

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

25 November 1841

Amistad survivors returned home

The 35 surviving Africans enslaved on La Amistad, who revolted, took over the slave ship and were arrested on arrival in the USA, set sail on a return voyage to Africa. They were freed by the US Supreme court, and arrived in Sierra Leone in January 1842.

25 November 1867

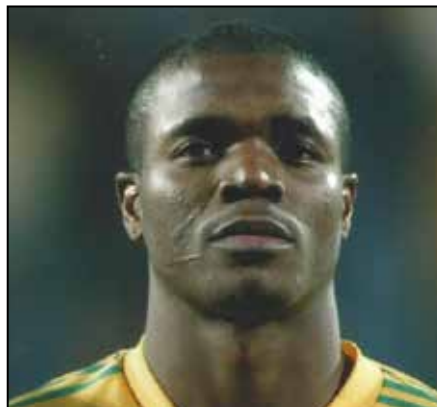
Banker Talaat Harb born

The Egyptian economist and financial pioneer, Talaat Harb was born in Cairo. A successful entrepreneur, he contributed to the building of an indigenous national economy, when he founded Banque Misr in 1920, with business conducted exclusively in Arabic, entirely owned and staffed by Egyptians. Today, Banque Misr is owned by the state, with 18,000 employees, 10 million clients and around 700 branches.

25 November 1980

Footballer Aaron Mokoena born

Footballer, Tebogo Aaron Mokoena was born on 25 November 1980 in Boipatong Johannesburg. In his early career, he played for local teams such as Jomo Cosmos. He later moved on to teams like Ajax Amsterdam, KRC Gent, Portsmouth and Bidvest Wits. Mokoena is the youngest player ever to rep-



resent South Africa. He was only 19 when he played in 1999 at the 2000 Olympic qualifiers. He also led Bafana Bafana in the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana. Mokoena's tough tackling skills earned him the nickname "Mbazozo", meaning "The Axe".

25 November 1981

South African mercenaries involved in Seychelles coup

South African mercenaries, collaborating with Seychelles citizens who wanted to overthrow the Marxist government led by Prime Minister France-Albert René, were involved in a failed coup attempt in the African island state of Seychelles on this day. Twenty-seven (27) of the 54 mercenaries participating in the coup were members of the South Africa Defense Force.

25 November 1993

Cyclist Mossana Debasai born

Eritrean cyclist, Mossana Deba-

sai was born in Asmara. Before competing in the Women's Road Race at the 2020 Olympics, she won the 2019 African Road Championships, establishing herself as one of Eritrea's and Africa's top cyclists.

25 November 2004

Poet Sheila Cussons passed on

Acclaimed South African poet Sheila Cussons died in Cape Town at the age of 82. Cussons was known for her poetry works in Afrikaans, produced in ten volumes. Cussons was born on 9 August 1922 in Moravia, near Piketberg in the Cape Province. She published her poetry over a period of 33 years with her first volume, Plektrum, appearing in 1970. She won awards such as the Hertzog prize, the WA Hofmeyr prize which she won twice and the Ingrid Jonker, Eugene Marais and CNA prizes.

25 November 2016

Fidel Castro passed on



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



90-year old former First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the Council of State, Fidel Castro died of natural causes on the evening of 25 November 2016. Castro, a founder of the Cuban revolution, staunch supporter to the anti-colonial movements in Africa, was one of the defining leaders of the 20th century.

25 November 2011 Solar eclipse over Antarctica

The partial solar eclipse, with the moon covering about 80% of the sun is visible only in the most Southern Hemisphere areas, including South Africa. The eclipse was used to create awareness amongst thousands of school children.

25 November 2017 Minga and the Broken Spoon

Cameroon's first animated film, Minga and the Broken Spoon was released by Cledley Productions, based on a national folk tale. An orphaned girl accidentally breaks a spoon washing dishes in the river, and her furious stepmother tells her to find the only identical spoon that was hidden by her late mother.

26 November 1919 Corner stone of the Union Buildings laid

The Union Buildings is the seat of the South African government and is situated in the capital city, Pretoria, now known as Tshwane. It was designed by Sir Herbert Baker in 1908 and the building started in 1909. On 26 November, 1910, the corner-stone was laid, with completion intended for 1913. The construc-



tion of the Union Buildings took approximately 1,265 artisans and labourers. Almost fourteen million bricks were used for the interior office walls. South African stone was used throughout the building, with most of the mountain stone quarried on the site.

26 November 1953 First woman to win Formula 1 racing born

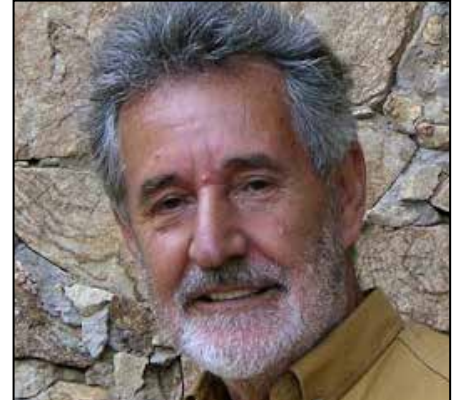
Desiré Randall Wilson was born on 26 November 1953 in Brakpan. Wilson is a former racing driver who is one of only five women to have competed in Formula One. In 1980 she won the Formula One race at Brands Hatch in the British Aurora F1 series. The win made her the only woman to ever hold the Formula One title. Wilson also competed in CARTS and sports car racing. A book documenting her life as a racing driver titled *'Driven by Desire'* has been published.

26 November 1957 Simon Nkoli born

South African gay rights and anti-apartheid activist was born in Soweto. He was the founder of the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of the Witwatersrand (GLOW), a leader of the United Democratic Front and was charged with Treason in the famous Delmas trial. Nkoli founded and organised the first Pride March in Jo-

hannesburg. The Market Theatre in 2023 features an opera about his life, *The Vogue Opera*.

26 November 1975 Afrikaans Author Breyten Breytenbach sentenced as a Terrorist



On an illegal trip to South Africa with a false passport, writer Breyten Breytenbach was betrayed, arrested and sentenced to nine years imprisonment for high treason under the Terrorism Act by the Pretoria Supreme Court. He had pleaded guilty for entering South Africa to start an organisation Atlas or Okhela, a resistance group fighting apartheid in exile and was intended to be the White wing of the banned African National Congress (ANC). He served seven years as a political prisoner until his release in December 1982 amid international intervention.

26 November 1988 Struggle Icons Harry Gwala and Zeph Mothopeng released

Two members of the banned liberation movements, Harry Gwala (ANC) and Zephania Mothopeng (PAC) were released from Robben Island. Both Gwala (1920-1995) and Mothopeng (1913-1990) served two terms on Robben Island for their political activities. After the banning



of the ANC in 1960, Gwala became active in ANC underground structures until his arrest in 1964. He was charged and convicted for sabotage and recruiting members for uMkhonto weSizwe (MK). In 1972 he was released from prison and restricted to Pietermaritzburg. After the workers strike in August 1976, Gwala was arrested again with scores of ANC members, charged under the Terrorism Act and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island. In the 1980s, Gwala developed a motor neuron disease which left him disabled. Mothopeng was arrested in 1963 and sentenced in May 1964 to 3 years in prison for furthering the aims of the banned PAC. He was released in 1967 and restricted to QwaQwa for two years. Mothopeng continued with his political activities and was arrested in 1976 under the Terrorism Act and was sentenced to 15 years in prison on 26 June 1979. Even after their release, both men remained politically active within their respective organizations. Mothopeng died on 23 October 1990 and Gwala died of a heart failure on 21 June 1995.

27 November 1929

Premier Winkie Direko born on this day

Isabella Winkie Direko, former



teacher, winner of the Bloemfontainer of the Year Award in 1993, Premier of the Free State from 1999-2004 and a member of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), was born in Botshabelo. Direko served in numerous positions in the educational and development fields, including as President of the National Council of African Women, a member of the Council of Vista University and Chancellor of the Free State University. Direko also played a leading role in the Girl Guides Association of South Africa and was a council member of NICRO and the Child Welfare Organisation. In 2001 she obtained an M Ed degree at the University of the Free State. Mam Direko passed away on 17 February 2012 at the age of 83 years.

27 November 1987

Namibian artist John Ndevasia Muafangejo passed on



Muafangejo was born at Etunda lo Nghadi, Angola in 1943. He grew up in a traditional homestead herding cattle during the day, playing communal and literary games, with their strong moral and philosophical content. This influenced his artistic work, with its strong autobiographical subject matter. He attended St Mary's Anglican mission school at Odibo in Namibia where his artistic skills were recognized, and

trained at Rorke's Drift from 1968 to 1969 before returning to teach and establish an art school at St Mary's in 1971. He held his first of several solo exhibitions in Windhoek and represented South Africa at the Sao Paulo Biennale. He applied to attend the Michaelis School of Art in Cape Town but his application was rejected. In 1974 he took up the position of artist-in-residence at Rorke's Drift, producing his unique colour woodcuts. He held an exhibition at the African Art Centre in Durban and in 1976, participated in the Brooklyn Museum's exhibition '*Black South Africa: Graphic Art*'. Muafangejo returned to Namibia in 1977, continuing to participate in various global exhibitions. He died in 1987 at Katutura Township, Windhoek. In 1988, the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown hosted a retrospective exhibition of his work. A second retrospective was held at the Museum of Modern Art at Oxford in England between 1990 and 1992. A documentary about him was made for the BBC Channel 4 in 1991 and in 1992 Orde Levinson's '*I was Loneliness, a Catalogue Raisonné of his Graphic Work*' and '*The African Dream, Visions of Love and Sorrow: the Art of John Muafangejo*' were published. Muafangejo is best known for his linocuts of figures, religious and historical scenes. His work can be seen in public galleries throughout South Africa." [Source: <https://www.lifewithart.com/artists/john-muafangejo.html>]

27 November 1995

Rwanda Genocide Tribunal gets on the way

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), set up by the UN Security Council, got underway in Arusha, Tanzania,



prosecuting those responsible for the 1994 Rwanda Genocide who saw close to a million people massacred, whilst Africa and the world watched. The genocide prompted the African Union in its Constitutive Act to shift from the OAU principle of 'non-interference', to the principle of non-indifference. The ICTR was the first international tribunal to deliver verdicts for persons responsible for genocide, and also the first to recognize rape as a means of perpetuating genocide.

27 November 1996 **SA severs diplomatic ties with Taiwan**

South Africa announces its decision to sever diplomatic ties with Taiwan, in recognition of the one-China policy.

28 November 1907 **King Leopold II hands over administration of Congo to Belgium**

In the 1880s, following the 'scramble for Africa', the Congo belonged to King Leopold II of Belgium, the only private colony of the time. Leopold's administration of the Congo was ruthless and brutal, eventually leading to the death of over 10 million Congolese in his État Indépendant du Congo (Congo Free State). His rule resulted in the culling of African elephants for ivory, clearing natural forests for rubber plantations, amongst other environmental devastations wreck on nature and humans. Africans, employed as labourers by the company, were subjected to extreme levels of violence to ensure that they met the targets set for them by the officials. Atrocities committed by colonial officials in the Congo are chronicled Conrad's book *"The Heart of Darkness"*, which

was to be the most graphic account of the excesses committed by colonial officials on their subjects in Africa.

28 November 1951 **Trade unionist Clements Kadalie passed on**



Trade unionist, Lameck Koniwaka Kadalie Muwamba, known by his adopted name, Clements Kadalie, was born in April 1896, in Nyasaland, now Malawi. After schooling at the Church of Scotland mission station, he was trained as a teacher. In 1915, he went to South Africa in search of work. Three years later, he settled in Cape Town and befriended activist and trade unionist, Arthur F. Batty. Kadalie established the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU) in 1919, to protect the rights of workers, particularly those of Black workers. In the same year, Kadalie led a dockworker's strike, in which all goods were prevented from being exported at Cape Town's harbour. By 1927 the ICU had around 100,000 members. Kadalie welcomed cooperation with other organizations, such as the Communist Party of South Africa (now SACP). Due to his activities, Kadalie was classified as a "prohibited immigrant" and was deported from South Africa in 1924. By 1928, the ICU was marked by

internal strife, and in the same year Kadalie was forced to resign. He then established his own branch of the ICU in East London and became a provincial African National Congress (ANC) organiser. On 28 November 1951, he passed away in East London.

28 November 1987 **South African Airways Boeing 747 crashes into Indian Ocean**

SAA flight 295, a Boeing 747 called Helderberg was en route from Taiwan to then Jan Smuts International airport (now OR Tambo International) in Johannesburg crashed. Reports indicated that the plane experience a catastrophic fire in its cargo area and crashed in the Indian Ocean near the island of Mauritius, killing all 159 passengers and crew aboard. The government appointed Judge Margo to investigate the causes of the crash, but no conclusions were reached as to the causes of the crash, especially since some of the air traffic control tapes of the incident were alleged to have gone missing. The Margo commission's inconclusive findings spurned many theories, the most persistent that the plane carried substances for the security forces (including mercury and other dangerous substances), which caused the fire that led to the crash. The matter also served before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1996. A decade after the crash, it was discovered that apartheid South Africa's chief oil sanctions buster, who was also a director of the IDC, also perished on the flight.

28 November 2009 **Moses Mabhida Stadium opened**

The stadium in eThekweni, com-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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

pleted for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, was named after SACP Secretary General, opened this day.

29 November 1776 Transatlantic Slave Trade boom

The most profitable 25-year period for the Transatlantic Slave Trade started, with a record number of over 2 million enslaved Africans shipped to the Americas between this date and 1800.

29 November 1781 Zong Massacre

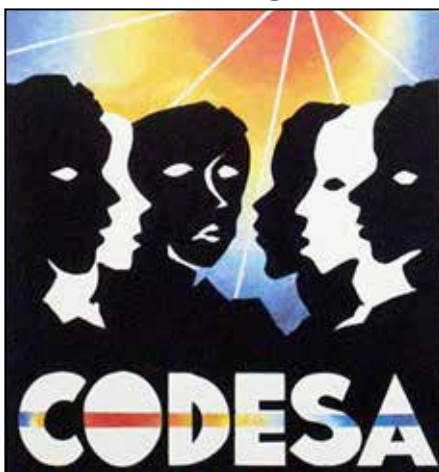
British slave ship *Zong*, carrying thousands of enslaved Africans drifted off course in the Transatlantic Slave Trade as drinking water ran low. To save water, 130 African slaves were thrown overboard to their deaths. The ship owner later filed a claim with his insurance for the 'losses', a common practice to insure slaves against death at sea.

29 November 1967 Oskido born



Oscar Sibonginkosi Mdlonwa, musician and DJ is born in Oukasi, Brits. Oskido, as he is known popularized Kwaito music and became a music mogul.

29 November 1991 CODESA starting date set



Delegates from twenty groups agreed after preparatory talks in Johannesburg on a date for the start of substantive negotiations on South Africa's future constitution, a Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA). Its opening session in Johannesburg was going to be on December 20–21. The SA government and the ruling National Party (NP) sent two separate delegations. The CODESA eventually concluded negotiations around an Interim Constitution in 1993, and paving the way for the 1994 first non-racial and non-sexist elections on a common voters roll.

29 November 2019 Africa's first GMO mosquitos released

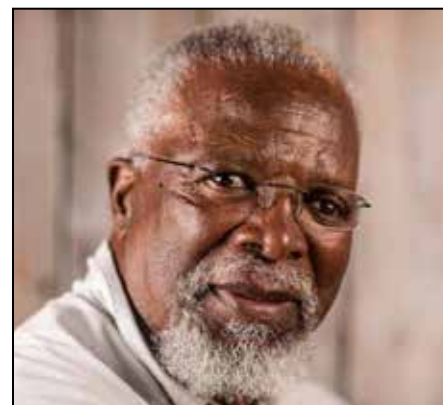
To combat malaria, 10,000 genetically modified mosquitos that are sterile male *Anopheles gambiae* were released in Burkina Faso, with the hope that they would mate with local females and drive down the deadly malaria parasite carriers.

30 November 1880 News of Chief Sekhukhune's death reach London

The colonialist and racist London

Times, printed a tribute to Sekhukhune, leader of South Africa's Pedi people, whom the British were only able to conquer after some time. *"We hear this morning,"* wrote the Times, *"of the death of one of the bravest of our former enemies, the Chief Sekhukhune. The news carries us some years back to the time when the name of Sekhukhune was a name of dread, first to the Dutch and then to the English colonists of the Transvaal and Natal."*

30 November 1943 Dr John Kani born



Iconic veteran South African actor and playwright was born in New Brighton, Gqeberha. Rising to fame for his performance in *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*, which he co-wrote with Athol Fugard, he was abducted by the security police, beaten and left for dead. Despite this, he continued to write, direct, perform and advocate for the importance of the arts.

30 November 1975 Republic of Dahomey changes name to Benin

Under the policies of young reformist revolutionaries, the government, by changing its name, sought to eradicate tribal divisions and influences. Benin is a politically neutral name, replacing Dahomey, which was associated with the largest ethnic group, the Fon.

30 November 2006 Chiliboy Ralepelle first black Springbok Captain



Rugby player, Mahlatse Chiliboy Ralepelle was born in Tzaneen on 11 September 1986. Ralepelle moved to Pretoria and attended Pretoria Boys High School, where he joined the rugby team. He was selected for the under-15 squad in 2001 and the under-19 squad in 2004. Ralepelle made history in 2006 when he became the first Black rugby player to captain the Springboks. In 2010, his reputation was tainted when he was suspended following a drug test that proved positive. It was later discovered though that an energy drink contained a banned substance. Ralepelle was cleared.

1 December 1834. Slavery abolished in the Cape

On 1 December 1834, slavery came to an end in the Cape Colony; a year after the Slavery Abolition Bill of 1833 was passed by the British House of Commons and by the House of Lords. Although the Bill was passed in August 1833 it came into effect on 1 August 1834. On that date slavery was abolished throughout the vast British Empire, with a few exceptions. One was the Cape Colony, where it was delayed for four months until 1 December.

The Act apprenticed slaves to their masters for a period of four years. This enabled them to learn trades and afforded a transition period for the owners. A certain amount was granted as compensation to the owners, which they had to collect personally in Britain. No compensation was given to the slaves, ever.

1 December 1892 Opening of largest natural history museum

The Transvaal Museum opens in Pretoria on this day. After 1994, its name was changed to the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History, growing to become Southern Africa's largest natural history museum.

1 December 1986 Dr Fabian and Florence Ribeiro assassinated



The medical practitioner and political activist, Dr Fabian Defu Ribeiro, and his wife, a teacher turned businesswoman, Florence Barbara Ribeiro, were gunned down in their own courtyard on 1 December, 1986, after several attempts on their lives. It only emerged at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearing in 1997 that they were assassinated by Apartheid state agents, when six policemen (AJM Joubert, PJ Verster, C Naude, N Robey,

JJH van Jaarsveld and C Vlietstra) applied for amnesty in connection with their murder. The TRC Amnesty Committee granted amnesty to the perpetrators in 1999. Former Vlakplaas commander Jan Cronje was also granted amnesty for the role he played in the planning of the murder.

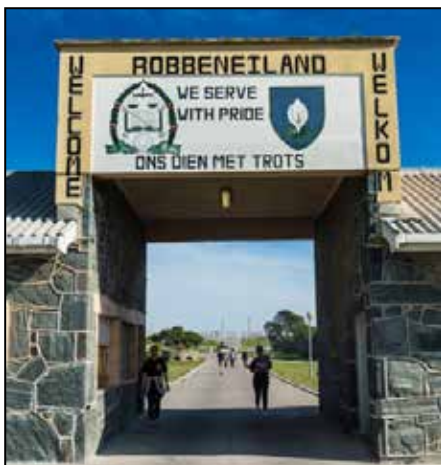
1 December 1987 Nyerere addresses ANC conference in Arusha



Julius Nyerere, president of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), addressed delegates attending the African National Congress (ANC) conference in the Tanzanian city of Arusha. Nyerere called for an end to white rule in South Africa and encouraged the struggle against apartheid to continue, stating in his speech: *"Throughout these long years the struggle has been waged inside South Africa, by the people of South Africa. It has waxed and waned. There have been many setbacks, until sometimes the faint-hearted despaired and occasionally even the courageous retreated for a time into sullen resignation. But never was the flame of resistance extinguished."*

1 December 1999 Robben Island declared UNESCO World Heritage Site

Robben Island is off the coast of Cape Town and was named by



Dutch explorers who encountered many seals on the island. When the Dutch colonized South Africa in the 17th century, the island was used to isolate people that were considered unwanted elements in colonial society. Among the first inhabitants were political leaders from the East Indies, such as Pangerau Chakra Deningrat, the Asian Prince of Madura, who died on the Island in 1754, who were imprisoned on Robben Island as they protested to Dutch rule of their countries. When the British took control of South Africa, a leper colony was started on

the island. Since 1961 countless member of the liberation struggle were imprisoned there, most notably Nelson Mandela, who spent eighteen years on Robben Island. Others include, Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu and other Rivonia trialists. Political prisoners on Robben Island during the colonial period were Sayed Abdurahman Moturu, one of Cape Town's first imams, and the Xhosa prophets, Nongqawuse and Maqana Nxele. On 1 December 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), named Robben Island as a World Heritage Site.

1 December 2006.

First gay marriage in South Africa

Vernon Gibbs and Tony Halls became the first same sex couple to legally wed in the country, one day after President Thabo Mbeki's government legalized gay marriage. The two are game rangers working in Riversdale, Western Cape and also animal



rights activists. This made South Africa the first country on the continent and the fifth country in the world to legalize same sex marriages.

1 December 2019.

Most uninhabitable place on earth

A survey of biologist and climatologist chose the Danakil Depression, located in the Danakil desert that spans Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. The depression was made by volcanic lava trapping a lake, which evaporated to leave toxic mineral deposits.

LET COMMUNITIES
LEAD

 World AIDS Day 2023

1 December

 UNAIDS



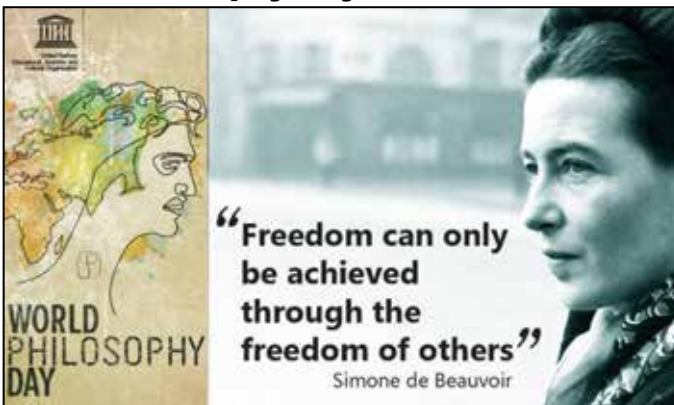
INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

25 November – 1 December 2023

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



23 November World Philosophy Day



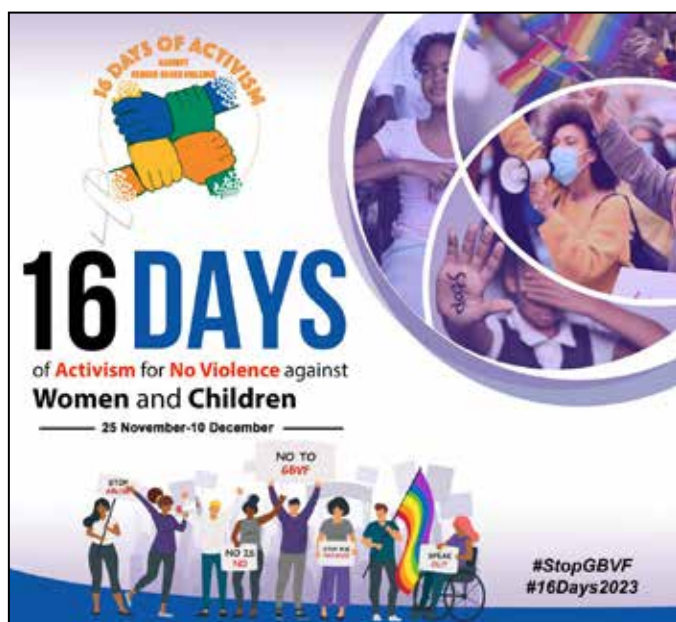
Every third Thursday in November, World Philosophy Day promotes the intellectual culture of philosophical debate that respects dignity and diversity. The day also encourages academic exchange, highlighting the role philosophy plays in addressing global issues. It underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and individual. Philosophy refers to the approach to and the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.

25 November – 10 December 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women and Children

16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women and Children, started in 1991 to highlight the wide-

spread global prevalence of violence against children and gender based violence. Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world. It remains under-reported, due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it. In general terms, it manifests itself in physical, sexual and psychological forms, which include: intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide); sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber- harassment); human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation); as well as female genital mutilation and child marriage.

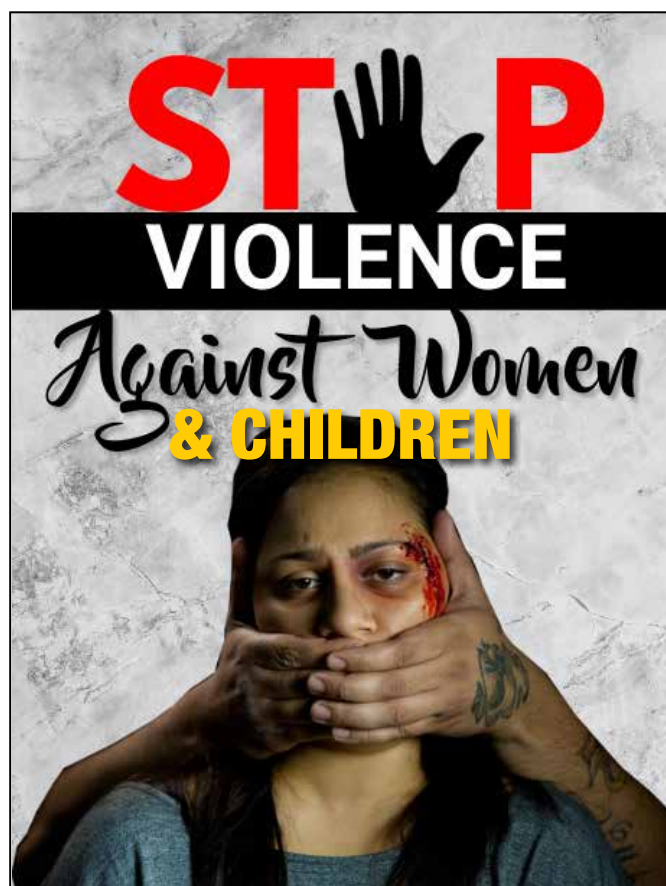




25 November

International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women

Five years ago, the #MeToo movement, founded by activist Tarana Burke in 2006, exploded and sparked global mobilization creating a moment of urgency in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. Since then, unprecedented awareness and momentum have been created thanks to the relentless work of grassroots activists, women's human rights defenders and survivor advocates worldwide to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. At the same time, there has been a rise in anti-rights movements, including anti-feminist groups, resulting in shrinking space for civil society, a backlash against women's rights organizations and a rise in attacks against women human rights defenders and activists. Supporting and investing in strong, autonomous women's rights organizations and feminist movements is key to ending violence against women and girls. South Africa has horrific high levels of violence against persons, and within that, violence against women and children, including femicide ranks high.



25 November

International Systems Engineer Day

The system that is sending and receiving your email, your company website, social media platforms, the file sharing system you use at work. These are just some examples of systems you may be using that someone somewhere designed, built and tested before empowering you with it to use. We may call them many things, such as Engineers, Systems Engineers, Infrastructure Engineers, Systems Integrators, Architects, Systems Analysts and so forth; they are at the heart of innovation and technology developments. (<https://www.systemsengineerday.com>)

26 November

World Olive Tree Day

The olive tree, with its roots in the Mediterranean, is a universal symbol of peace and harmony. Growing across five continents, olives provide jobs, security and natural resources to rural communities around the world. As an agent against global warming, olive trees have a positive carbon balance – they take more CO₂ out of the atmosphere than is emitted during the olive oil production process. Olive oil and table olives are a proven source of nutrition, and key ingredients in the many foods. They offer

a wide variety of aromas and flavours and enhance a unique cuisine that is gaining interest from renowned chefs around the world. The ability of their multiple medicinal and nutritional properties to prevent certain diseases is now widely recognised. Although the olive producing market in South Africa is still small, it is big business, with just 11 producers owning most of the country's olive groves, mainly in the Karoo region of the Western Cape. Olive growers also tend to process and package their own olive oils and olive packaging.

28 November Red Planet Day

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun – a dusty, cold, desert world with a very thin atmosphere. Mars is also a dynamic planet with seasons, polar ice caps, canyons, extinct volcanoes, and evidence that it was even more active in the past. Red Planet Day commemorates the launch of the Mariner 4 spacecraft on November 28, 1964. Mariner 4 performed the first successful flyby of the planet Mars returning the first pictures of the Martian surface.

29 November International day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



The UN General Assembly in 1977 declared 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the day in 1947 when the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on the partitioning of Palestine. On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, all UN member states are encouraged to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the human rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. The African Union has been consistent in its condemnation of Israel's aggression, and the Palestinian Authority is invited to address every Summit of the African Union. In 2021, the AU Commission Chair Mohamed Faki granted

Israel observer status to the AU, a step to which at least 22 AU member states objected to and was reversed. The 2023 day of solidarity takes place in the context of Israel's war and genocide in Gaza.

30 November International Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

The International Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed on the day that the Chemical Weapons Convention, signed in 1997 by 189 countries, came into effect. The Convention prohibits the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of large-scale chemical weapons. It provides opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, for the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, and ultimately promoting peace, security, and multilateralism. At the time of the signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention, "eight countries declared chemical weapons stockpiles when they joined the CWC: Albania, India, Iraq, Libya, Syria, the United States, Russia and an anonymous state widely believed to be South Korea. Of those eight countries, Albania, South Korea, India, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Russia have completed destruction of their declared arsenals. Syria, however, may not have declared its entire stockpile. The United States plans to complete the destruction of its chemical weapons by September 2023." (www.armscontrol.org)

30 November International Computer Security Day

The day creates awareness on computer security issues, especially protecting personal and official information stored on computers. So on this day, check basic security of your personal computer and protect all your data from ransomware viruses, identity theft, and more. It also raises awareness of protecting your data through regular back-ups and secure storage in the cloud.

1 December World Aids Day

The world has made significant progress since the late 1990s, but HIV remains a major global public health issue. Like with other major health issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services are disrupted in countries with fragile health systems or where the health systems are overwhelmed by the pandemic.

Sustainable Development Goals 2063



ACROSS

2. SDG sets standards for judging whether we made progress with reducing.
5. SA female representation in political positions has showed a over years.
9. SA's 2023 report shows reduction in reduction in maternal, infant and neonatal ...
10. SA reported significant increase in subscriptions per 100 inhabitant.
12. Unequal distribution of ... resources remains a concern.
13. The UN SDGS are about prosperity for ... and ...
14. End date when SDG targets must be met.
16. SDGs about People, Planet, Prosperity,... and Partnership.

DOWN

1. Improvement in access to safe
3. Commendable reduction in
4. The lack of for the youth remain a crisis....
6. Number of sustainable development goals (SDGs).
7. The UN SDGS are about prosperity for ... and ...
8. SDGs synergies with national development plans and the African Union.
11. Manufacturing value as proportion of GDP and per capita experienced ... trend.
15. South Africa faces national challenges like prevailing and... poverty.

WORD BANK

people planet poverty seventeen mortality positive trend
 2030 downward financial job opportunities fixed internet broadband
 drinking water CO2 emissions increasing Peace Agenda 2063

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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