



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Progress Of Economic Recovery

(ABRIDGED)

UNION BUILDINGS, TSHWANE 30 OCTOBER 2023

South Africans watched with pride and joy as our national rugby team, the Springboks, became the world champions for the fourth time since the advent of democracy in our country.

As we all watched their progress towards the championship, we marveled at their resilience and determination to overcome some of the best teams in the rugby

world. At moments when their cause seemed lost, they fought back and they emerged victorious. This victory rightfully calls for a moment of national recognition and celebration of our rugby players and their achievements. We should also applaud our cricket team which has been performing well in the Cricket World Cup.

I spoke to the Proteas captain Temba Bavuma and encouraged

them to remain focused and told him that the entire nation supports and stands behind them. I also told him that I intend to travel to Mumbai in India to watch them play in the finals.

As we confront the many severe challenges in our country, we draw hope and encouragement from the determination and the performance the Springboks and the Proteas have displayed.

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The victory by the Springboks and the performance of the Proteas follows the victory of Banyana Banyana in the Women's Africa Cup of Nations and their progress to the knockout stages of the FIFA Women's World Cup.

Our spirits were similarly lifted by the achievements of our national squad at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin in June. The determination and resilience of our teams have given credence to Madiba's words that sports unites the nation.

Together, we overcame apartheid, ended centuries of conflict and gave birth to a thriving democracy. Together, we confronted and overcame the deadliest global pandemic in over a century. We are indeed stronger together.

As we reflect on these great achievements on the sporting field we also need to reflect on our economic recovery and the further steps that we are taking to revive economic growth and improve the lives of our people. As the latest census figures show, we have achieved great feats of human development since the beginning of democracy.

Millions of South Africans have been raised out of poverty and now have housing and access to electricity, water, sanitation and other basic needs. Access to health care and education have been greatly expanded.

Much more still needs to be done to make more progress. Even over the last 10 years, we have been able to make significant strides. For example, the percentage of households in formal dwellings

rose from 78 percent in 2011 to 89 percent in 2022.

This is evidence of concrete progress, and should give us encouragement as we confront the challenges of the present. This month, we mark three years since we embarked on the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, which outlined the actions that we would take to rebuild our economy and create jobs in the wake of the pandemic.

This recovery plan was accepted by many stakeholders in our country and is underpinned by our National Development Plan. The last three years have been extremely challenging. We are emerging from more than a decade of stagnant economic growth, compounded by the impact of the pandemic.

We are working to reverse the legacy of the past era of corruption and mismanagement of our SOE's, which has left us with a persistent energy crisis and an inefficient ports and rail network.

And we are contending with a range of global and domestic pressures which have set back our economic recovery. And yet, there are clear signs that our efforts are showing results. Electricity supply is improving. Jobs are being created. Houses, roads, bridges and dams are under construction. Law enforcement agencies are cracking down on criminal syndicates. The proceeds of state capture are being recovered.

These are reasons for hope. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, we put in place decisive public

health interventions that saved many lives. To deal with negative economic effects of the pandemic, which resulted in the loss of more than 2 million jobs, we put in place an unprecedented stimulus package that lessened the damage to the economy.

Since then, in the midst of severe load shedding and increased global volatility, the economy has continued growing, albeit too slowly. The economy has shown a significant degree of resilience and is now larger than it was before the pandemic.

Over the last two years, the number of people with jobs has increased by two million, bringing the level of employment close to its pre-pandemic level. A key element of the reconstruction and recovery plan was to expand social protection and public employment.

The special SRD Grant known as the R350 grant, which we introduced in 2020, has kept millions of people out of poverty, and continues to provide much-needed support for those who are unemployed.

The Presidential Employment Stimulus has created over 1.2 million opportunities since its establishment, representing the largest expansion of public employment in South Africa's history.

Over 4 million young people have registered on the SAYouth online platform, and more than 1 million of these have been able to access opportunities for learning and earning. Every one of those jobs



created is a reason for hope. Every person who no longer lives in poverty is a reason for hope.

Another commitment we made in the Reconstruction and Recovery Plan was to fix South Africa's infrastructure through renewed investment in maintenance and construction of new projects. Several significant infrastructure projects are underway.

These projects are both contributing to greater economic activity and jobs, and providing much-needed infrastructure for the growth of our economy and the needs of our people. These infrastructure projects range from social housing, road construction, rural bridges, and dam constructions.

The Passenger Rail Agency of

South Africa has to date restored operations on 26 out of 40 commuter rail corridors.

To continue with the restoration of our commuter rail corridors, R50 billion will be spent over the next three years to modernise our passenger rail network. As part of our infrastructure build we are undertaking significant water infrastructure projects.

These include Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, The Mzimvubu water project in the Eastern Cape will involve an investment of R17 billion. Around the country, water treatment works are being upgraded, pumping stations are being repaired, and pipes are being laid to get water to under-serviced areas.

We are making progress towards ending load shedding. Our greatest priority has been to reduce the severity and frequency of load shedding to achieve energy security. Over the last few months, there has been a measurable decline in the severity of load shedding.

The Energy Action Plan that I announced in July last year is showing positive results, giving us greater confidence that we will bring load shedding to an end. Regulatory reforms we have initiated have enabled a massive increase in private investment in electricity generation, with over 12 000 MW of confirmed projects in development.

Following the introduction of tax incentives and financing mechanisms, the amount of installed rooftop solar has more than doubled to over 4 500 MW in the last year. The steady progress we are making in resolving the energy crisis is a reason for hope. The Transnet board has developed a turnaround plan which aims to increase volumes transported on our network. Progress is also being made with the introduction of private sector participation in container terminals.

I want to make it clear that South Africa's port, rail and electricity infrastructure are strategic national assets, and that they will remain in public ownership. However, introducing competition in operations – both in electricity and in logistics – will create greater efficiency and reduce prices in the long term, just as the introduction of competition in the telecommunications sector has led

to greater choice and enormous benefits for consumers.

We are also making progress in tackling crime and corruption. The South African Police Service has established 20 Economic Infrastructure Task Teams throughout the country to protect critical infrastructure and tackle the "construction mafia."

We are seeing results in arrests for illegal mining, cash-in-transit hikes, cable theft, drug smuggling and similar crimes. Increasing the number of police men and women will further strengthen our capacity to curb acts of criminality. I have also extended the employment of 880 members of the SANDF to support the police in combating criminal activity that targets critical economic infrastructure. The police have arrested several people for extortion at construction sites and made over 3,000 arrests for illegal mining. Through the intensive efforts of our law enforcement agencies, dozens of illegal mines, unregulated coal yards and unregistered second hand dealers have been shut down.

The Economic Infrastructure Task Teams have confiscated significant quantities of copper cable, rail tracks, coal and other metals. Every arrest made and every length of cable recovered is a reason for hope. We are making progress in the fight against corruption, including bringing those responsible for state capture to justice.

Over the last four years, the NPA Investigating Directorate has taken 34 state capture and corruption cases to court,

involving 205 accused persons. Freezing orders of R14 billion have now been granted to the Asset Forfeiture Unit for state capture related cases.

Around R5.4 billion has to date been recovered and returned to the state. As recommended by the State Capture Commission, we are putting in place laws, institutions and practices that reduce the potential for corruption of any sort and on any scale. We are continuing to build meaningful compacts with key stakeholders in a number of areas.

To support our efforts of enhancing collaboration, we have established a partnership with business to work together in four critical areas – energy, logistics, crime and corruption, and employment. We continue to collaborate with organised labour and civil society to ensure a whole-of-society approach to addressing the most important challenges our country faces.

All of this gives us hope that we are turning the tide on the many challenges that we face. Our economic challenges are severe. Despite the progress we are making, poverty, inequality and unemployment remain high.

We continue to face domestic and global pressures, and our economy is growing too slowly for us to overcome the challenges facing our country. Load shedding has constrained economic growth. The underperformance of the ports and rail network is affecting our ability to get exports to market. Government spending has exceeded revenue since the 2008

global financial crisis, without a commensurate increase in economic growth.

As the Minister of Finance has noted, for every rand that government collects in revenue, 18 cents go towards servicing our national debt. This means that we are now paying more in interest on our national debt than we are budgeting for the police force.

Ultimately, more rapid and inclusive growth is the only solution to unemployment, poverty and inequality. Growth is also necessary for the sustainability of public finances. Building on the progress we have already made, government will accelerate the implementation of economic reforms over the next six months.

To address the weaknesses in many of our municipalities, we are undertaking interventions in local government. As national government, we are driving a number of interventions to support a rapid turn-around in local government services such as water and sanitation, electricity, roads and waste collection.

These interventions are accelerating service delivery where basic services have collapsed. While addressing the immediate problems, we are introducing necessary institutional reforms and professionalisation in the appointment of senior municipal officials.

The achievement of sustained and inclusive growth requires a stable macroeconomic environment. A sustainable fiscal trajectory is

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a precondition for growth. We therefore remain absolutely committed to stabilising our levels of debt and adopting a responsible fiscal policy.

The Minister of Finance will set out government's plans to achieve this trajectory in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement on Wednesday. Spending on health, education, policing, and other essential services will be protected as far as possible.

Today marks the start of the 2023 National Senior Certificate exams for close on one million learners. Over the next weeks, our learners will prove the value of hard work, dedication and the investment that we have made as a nation in the education of our young people.

We wish them the very best, confident that they will make the country proud. There are many reasons for hope. We have made significant progress in reforming our economy to make it more

inclusive and to achieve a higher rate of growth.

We are on track to resolve the most important constraints on economic growth by stabilising our energy supply and fixing our logistics network. The reforms underway will propel economic growth in South Africa in the years to come, resulting in a stable supply of electricity, a working railway, and more jobs for all South Africans.

On our way to rebuilding our economy, there are a number of strengths that stand us in good stead. We have a strong and sophisticated financial sector, a strong and effective civil society, a functional democracy, an independent judiciary, a stable macroeconomic framework underpinned by a capable National Treasury and an independent Reserve Bank.

We have collectively embarked on a journey of economic reform which will set our country on a path to higher growth and more jobs. The concerted efforts of all South Africans are starting to show results in many areas.

In celebration of the Springboks' momentous achievement and the achievements of all our other sports men and women – and as a tribute to the resolve of our united nation – I am declaring Friday the 15th of December 2023 as a public holiday.

We declare this to be a day of hope, a day of celebration and unity. Our sports men and women have shown us what is possible. We will succeed and we will ensure that we leave no-one behind ■

Sports is a Glue that Binds the Nation

By **Cde Fikile Mbalula**, ANC Secretary General

In the last week the Springboks took to the world stage, flying South Africa's flag high as the final whistle signaled yet another victory, cementing South Africa's status as the only country to win the Rugby World Cup four times. A truly remarkable feat worthy of celebration by the nation. The French capital, Paris, was temporarily transformed into a South African stage, an image completed by the donning of the colours of the South African flag at the Eiffel tower, with none other than President Cyril Ramaphosa himself, leading the celebrations. The presence of the President at the stadium during the final was an important morale booster and demonstration that the whole nation was behind the Springbok team, despite what naysayers would have us believe.



The negativity generated by some sections of our population is nothing more than ill-informed rhetoric that does nothing for our national project to build a united society, free of the bondages of the past that forced us to see one another through the prism of race. *A certain Igo Vegter, a self proclaimed advocate for clas-

sical liberalism and his ilk, cannot resist to spew hogwash, insulting President Ramaphosa while singing praises for Steenhuisen. This is the negativity we have come to expect from those like him who continue to subscribe to the racist dogma that perceives black people as subhuman who are not

worthy of respect. His delusions of grandeur exposes his level of ignorance in suggesting that government had no role to play in the development of our sports, with specific reference to rugby.*

Once again, sport continues to play a pivotal role in nation-build-



ing and demonstrating the ability of South Africans from all walks of life to embrace one another as fellow citizens of our beautiful nation. The celebrations that characterised the national mood when the Springboks lifted the Webb Ellis cup transcended racial boundaries and brought South Africans together, celebrating a moment of triumph for the nation. This was a moment in time when we became each other's keepers. It was equally a moment that reminded us of the role of sport in our liberation struggle, leading to the ushering in of democracy in 1994.

Sports played an extremely important role in moulding the modern-day democratic society despite the odds. Segregated sports was meant to polarise society and the government of the day, pit-

ted sportsmen and sportswomen against each other, using race as a propaganda tool to instill an ideology of racial supremacy which underpinned the apartheid system. Rugby was at the centre of this polarisation with the name Springbok associated with all-white rugby that refused to recognise legends who had showcased their skill on the rugby field, because of their race. It is equally important to acknowledge that black rugby was a frontrunner in advocating non-racial sports, going back to the turn of the century.

The colourful history of rugby in South Africa was the microcosm of our society, the most powerful symbol of racial reconciliation and a seedbed for a non-racial society. When President Mandela chose rugby and the Springbok symbol

as the embodiment of unity and reconciliation, much to the chagrin of his comrades, he demonstrated visionary leadership with foresight, who placed the interests of his people above all else. This is despite the humiliation that he endured in the hands of the race-based sports apologist, Louis Luyt.

The unity that enveloped the country in celebration of the Springbok victory is a manifestation of Mandela's vision and a demonstration that we have come a long way to make his vision a lived reality. The naysayers would have us believe otherwise, but South Africans have stayed the course and continue to manifest the dream of a society united in its purpose, transcending narrow racial perspectives that seek to divide rather than unite.

The first Minister of Sports of the democratic South Africa, Minister Steve Tshwete, was unapologetic in his determination to drive the transformation of rugby, himself having been one of the many unsung rugby activists in the heydays of apartheid. His vision to transform the sport and unwavering commitment to the broader transformation of sports set the agenda for those of us who were to follow in his footsteps.

Indeed, when I became the Minister of Sports in 2010, I picked up the baton and continued on the path Cde Steve had set before me. Our vision of transformation was not to allow our people to be used as tokens while the levers of power in sports remained untransformed.

In 2014, when we were brief-

ing the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Sports and Recreation, we made it clear that the moral justification for transformation had been ineffective, as bean counting of black faces on the field was counterproductive. We believed that it was not correct to have a demographically representative, unprofessional, non-winning team from an irregularly administrated sporting body with challenges in accessing that sport. We therefore added an additional six dimensions to the Charter, which then spoke to a multi-dimensional approach that was to set us on a path to meritocracy. This was informed by the pilot study done by the Eminent Persons Group in 2013 .

It was on this premise that I outlined a firm vision in 2016 that would deliver tangible outcomes in the form of black players emerging through the ranks based on their skill on the field, having been given an equal opportunity to compete. We had done work that demonstrated that quotas were not advancing the cause of transformation and proved to be counterproductive. Selecting someone as a quota player was an affront to their integrity. We drove a hard bargain in ensuring that players would participate in a



national team on merit.

We were under no illusion about the abundance of talent among black South Africans, who never had the opportunity to compete on equal terms with their white counterparts. We therefore implemented this policy underpinned by a strong belief that merit and transformation are not mutually exclusive. To this end, we did away with quotas and set rugby on a path to encourage the emergence of raw talent from young South Africans, premised on an equal opportunity to compete on the field of play. We had no doubt that such an approach would enable an integrated society that would foster a process to get the national teams across sports codes, to where they

should be.

Indeed, the Springbok team that flew South Africa's flag high in France in 2023 was a product of that policy that gave all players an opportunity to emerge head above shoulders of their peers, irrespective of race. The naysayers, who want society to believe that this squad was not a product of a deliberate and focused policy intervention that was allowed to mature over time have their heads buried in the sand and want to hoodwink society to believe in falsehoods. *The South Africa of yesteryear Vegter yearns for will never come to pass again. It is a relic that has been relegated to the rubbish bin of history. The sooner he accepts that reality, the sooner he will be able to make peace with a democracy that thrives under a majority rule.*

History has no blank pages, and we must celebrate our successes and the path we have traversed and gains we have made towards the realisation of a truly non-racial, non-sexist and emancipated society. This is the vision of the National Democratic Revolution that continues to inform our forward momentum as a nation ■



Locating OR Tambo in Defining the Renewal Project

■ By **Cde Maropene Ramokgopa**



Cde Maropene Ramokgopa, the 2nd Deputy Secretary General of the African National Congress delivering the OR Tambo Memorial Lecture hosted by the ANC Alfred Nzo Region at the Wild Coast Sun, Mzamba, Eastern Cape

On Friday, 28 October we joined the Regional Executive Committee (REC) of the ANC Alfred Nzo Region and its members in celebrating what **would've been the 106th birthday of Cde Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo. We honoured the longest-serving President of the African Nation-**

al Congress (ANC), a man whose contributions have transcended the grave and continue to inspire the existence of the glorious 1912 movement, and society more broadly.

Where do I begin to reflect on an illustrious life like the one Cde Tambo lived?

He was a scholar of life, a servant of the Lord, a diplomat, a family man, a leader, and a humanitarian. He was the glue that kept ANC together during its most difficult times.

A child of the working class, President Tambo was exposed quite early to the contradictions that prevailed in South Africa during the 20th century, including the impact of colonialism and Apartheid. When tracing the chronology of his life, he spent much of it in pursuit of education. A mathematician, teacher, and lawyer, President Tambo believed education was the single most important tool of liberation and service to humanity.



Often referred to as a modest revolutionary, we must understand President Tambo's legacy beyond retrospect and academic interest, but rather we must invoke his legacy in defining and navigating the current context in which we find ourselves as the ANC and South Africa more broadly.

To do this, it requires that we all engage in a process of self-reflection and self-critique, which President Tambo never shied away from.

History dictates that no organization is guaranteed eternal life or long-term success without renew-

ing itself and adapting to changing conditions.

An organization's ability to remain sustainable, and achieve long-term survival and organizational success lies in the ability of those in leadership to make conscious decisions supported by actions, alongside the discipline and commitment of members and supporters. That is what must underpin organizational renewal.

President Tambo's contribution to the ANC must be understood within a context of volatility marked by periods of internal strife, great uncertainty, suppres-

sion, and a growingly despondent nation in the hands of the Apartheid regime.

A defining characteristic of his leadership trajectory was his ability to believe in the power of change and embrace the uncertainty, opportunities, and shortcomings that are associated with it.

Simply put, President Tambo was an agile leader with the ability to create and respond to change.

The ability to change across time and space is one of the greatest traits of the ANC. Over the 111

years of its existence, the ANC has witnessed drastic shifts in its formation, functioning, and composition as dictated by the terrain of struggle.

However, alongside its continuous change and evolution, the ANC has remained consistent with its historical mission of uniting all South Africans around the vision and program of building a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous society.

Organizational renewal is not new to our glorious movement.

From the first wave of successful renewal defined as the resuscitation of the ANC between 1937 and 1949, to the decisive and second wave of successful renewal between 1949 and 1969, to the period of revival, resurgence of mass struggle and un-governability between 1969 and 1989, to rebuilding the movement after unbanning between 1990 and 1994.

However, a noteworthy milestone of organizational renewal was the 1969 Morogoro Consultative Conference.

The conference took place nine years after the banning of liberation movements including our ANC and the Pan-African Congress (PAC) amongst others. This period was also marked by intensified state brutality, the incarceration of many of our leaders following the Rivonia Trial, and the killing of many of our leaders, including women and youth.

Similar to the context under which the Morogoro Conference was convened, the ANC is confronted



with a new set of challenges under the democratic dispensation including crippling unemployment, particularly amongst the youth, an unequal distribution of the country's wealth, and a growing mistrust of the government by citizens. This period calls upon the movement to change gears and adapt to the new realities that confront us internally and externally.

During the 1991 48th National Conference of the ANC in Durban, President Tambo said,

"... the fundamental question that we have to resolve is how to transform our movement to meet the new situation in our country."

The ANC Organisational Renewal Roadmap to 2032 makes a clear assertion that the renewal of the organization must be multi-pronged and occur on all levels of the organization.

This requires robust internal debates on all matters of policy, strategy, and organization, including contestation for leadership.

To renew the organization, we must both embrace and jealously safeguard and deepen the culture of self-reflection and self-correction. This has always remained the lifeblood of our organization.

To achieve the renewal of the ANC we should learn from and emulate OR's style of leadership. Cde OR was agile and consultative. He was not dogmatic or rigid, but flexible and pragmatic. He was not authoritarian, but democratic and participatory. He was not aloof or distant, but accessible and humble. He consulted widely with his comrades, listened to their views and opinions, and sought consensus and unity. He also respected diversity and differences within the ANC and encouraged debate and discussion on various issues confronting the movement. However, this did not mean he was not decisive. He did not vacillate and always stood firm on the principles and values of the ANC.

Self-correction begins with each of us as members and cadres of the movement. The ANC Organisational Renewal Roadmap 2032

is deliberate about the development of a new cadre.

A cadre that has a clear understanding of the issues that face the organization and society at large.

- A cadre that is committed to the development of one's immediate community.
- A cadre that can move with the people.
- A cadre that can inspire and provide hope.
- A cadre that recognizes the ANC as a vehicle of transformation and development for society at large.

Therefore, our renewal project must start with you, with me, with us.

We are almost 30 years into South Africa's democratic dispensation with the ANC having been elected in successive elections as the preferred leader of society by our people.

Over the past three decades, the ANC-led government has aimed to use state power to move as rapidly as possible towards realizing our historic mission fully. Since the dawn of democracy, we have registered significant wins including expanding vital services such as water, sanitation, electricity, roads, and housing to so many people in such a short time, which very few countries have been able to do in such a short period.

We are equally cognisant that there are areas for great improvement, particularly in service delivery, the distribution of the country's wealth, building credi-

ble state institutions, and tackling corruption and crime.

It is for this reason that the ANC under the leadership of Cde President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa has begun a process of the 2019 ANC Manifesto Review. The Manifesto Review is about reviewing our social contract with the people of South Africa, as well as engaging in the Roadmap to 2032 in terms of Organisational Renewal.

The Renewal Agenda is not a mere political rhetoric or sloganeering; it is a process of continuous self-critique, self-correction, and accountability to the organization, its followers, and society at large. A process embedded in the organizational culture of the ANC.

President Tambo reaffirms this by saying:

"... we did not tear ourselves apart because of lack of progress at times. We were always ready to accept our mistakes and to correct them ... we succeeded to foster and defend the unity of the ANC and the unity of our people in general."

Through his vision, President Tambo understood the importance of a rigorous process of self-reflection and self-critique as essential for the survival of the ANC under the new circumstances, which is what the ANC 2019 Manifesto seeks to do. This becomes the basis for formulating new strategies and tactics that meet the requirements and the demands of the new conditions.

Change is a necessary condition for the continued survival and ef-

fectiveness of our organization. To embrace change is to embrace freedom.

"the time comes in the life of any nation when there remains only two choices, submit or fight. We shall not submit, we shall fight with all means in our power in defence of our people, our freedom and to achieve our freedom."- Manifesto of the Umkhonto weSizwe, a quote President Tambo often referred to

The time to fight has arrived. Like at Morogoro, we need to define new strategies and tactics for fighting for our people, alongside our people.

As we advance to the General Elections next year we need to consolidate our unity and mobilise all our structures. At the level of governance, we must increase the pace of service delivery and accountability to the people.

The developmental mandate we need to advance as per the precepts of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) requires that we employ different weapons in our fight for the realization of the South Africa we deserve.

In the words of President OR Tambo at the 1987 Arusha Conference;

"Together we shall win"

Long Live Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo, Long Live!

Long Live the African National Congress, Long Live!

Long Live the Alliance Movements, Long Live!

2023 MEDIUM TERM BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT SPEECH (ABRIDGED)

INTRODUCTION

Allow me to join the President and the nation in congratulating the Springboks on winning the 2023 Rugby World Cup for a record fourth time.

This is a proud moment that has unified and brought joy to South Africans. Thank you Mabhokoboko for reminding us that with preparation, commitment, unity and resilience, you can conquer any adversity!

In the same spirit, I am honoured to present the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

This Policy Statement outlines our resolve to:

- Stabilise public finances while maintaining support for the most vulnerable and protecting front line services;
- Fast track growth-enhancing reforms. This includes a new financing mechanism for large infrastructure projects; and
- Reconfigure the structure and size of the state, while strengthening its capacity to deliver quality public services.

These priorities echo the message delivered by His Excellency, the President during his address on Monday. Thank you for your com-



mitment to staying the course of growth and sound public finances.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL CONTEXT

The economic outlook over the medium term remains weak, reflecting the cumulative effect of power cuts, the poor performance of the logistics sector, high inflation, rising borrowing costs, and a weaker global environment.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

The International Monetary Fund forecasts global growth to slow from 3.5 per cent in 2022 to 3 per cent in 2023 and 2.9 per cent in 2024.

The weaker growth outlook for China, South Africa's largest trading partner; the lower commodity prices; and the risk that the US interest rates will remain higher for longer, means the global economic environment is less supportive of South Africa's growth prospects.

DOMESTIC OUTLOOK

Domestically, we forecast a 0.8 per cent growth in real GDP in 2023. This is 0.1 percentage points lower than the growth projection at the time of the 2023 Budget.

Growth is projected to average 1.4 per cent from 2024 to 2026. These growth rates are not sufficient to achieve our desired levels of development.

However, our economy has shown signs of resilience. Real Gross Domestic Product, a measure of economic performance, is now above pre-pandemic levels.

In the first half of the year, the economy grew by 0.9 per cent despite record levels of loadshedding.

The tourism sector grew more than 70 per cent in the period, driven by the arrival of more than 5.4 million international tourists. This year we hosted the Formula-E, the BRICS Summit, the Netball World Cup 2023, and this week we welcome up to 700 delegates to the 20th AGOA Forum in Johannesburg.

We have put our best foot forward and reminded the world of the beauty of our country, the warm spirit of our people, and the world class facilities for doing business and investing.

Other sectors of the economy have also shown promising signs of growth in the first six months of the year include:

The construction sector grew by 4.2 per cent; The agriculture sector grew by 7.8 per cent; and The services sector is up 1.5 per cent. In the words of the President, these are the reasons for hope.

Unfortunately, since February, the risks to the economy that we warned about, including the decline in global commodity prices that granted us substantial revenue last year, elevated inflation and the depreciation of the Rand have materialised. As a result, our

public finances are significantly weaker.

The main budget deficit has increased by R54.7 billion compared with the 2023 Budget estimates. This reflects lower revenue performance, higher public service wage bill costs and higher debt-service costs.

The main reasons for this are a sharp fall in corporate income tax, particularly from the mining sector, although personal income tax collection was better than forecast.

The result of the shortfall is a substantial worsening in the main budget deficit in the current fiscal year. We are now projecting a deficit of 4.9 per cent of GDP compared to our previous estimate of 4.0 percent. Under these circumstances, measures to stabilise public finances and reform the economy to generate higher growth are essential. We recognise that alongside these measures, our most effective way of funding government is through an efficient tax administration and by broadening the tax base.

SARS will continue its focus on enforcing compliance in areas such as debt collection, fraud prevention, curbing illicit trade, voluntary disclosures, and encouraging honest taxpayers to comply voluntarily.

Every additional Rand of revenue collected is one Rand less which we have to borrow.

FISCAL OUTLOOK

Allow me to frame our fiscal challenges as follows:

Government spending has exceeded revenue since the 2008 global financial crisis. These rising annual budget deficits have reached an

extent where the government will have to borrow an average of R553 billion per year over the medium term.

As a result, gross debt rises from R4.8 trillion in 2023/24 to R5.2 trillion in the next financial year. By 2025/26, it will exceed the R6 trillion mark.

We now expect gross government debt to reach 77 per cent of GDP by 2025/26. This is higher than the level we forecast in February.

Over the next three years, debt-service costs as a share of revenue will increase from 20.7 per cent in 2023/24 to 22.1 per cent in 2026/27.

The cost, or interest of this debt, for next year alone, amounts to around R385.9 billion.

Over the MTEF, interest costs amount to R1.3 trillion. This is more than we spent on police, education, or health.

It is important, however, to point out that our debt levels and rising debt service costs are not problems in and of themselves.

Our challenge is that rising debt service costs are crowding out important social spending, and our economy has not grown fast enough to support increasing expenditure or our current debt levels.

Therefore, this policy statement sets out our strategy for avoiding a fiscal crisis and preventing the build-up of systemic risks to the economy.

The decisions we have taken include spending reductions and reprioritisation, while also taking concrete steps to support growth.

None of these decisions are taken lightly. They are taken with the short- and long-term viability of public finances in mind, and in the interests of balanced and inclusive growth.

Inefficiencies and wastage of scarce public resources is limiting our ability to effectively support service delivery and economic growth.

In this regard, the MTBPS announces that action is being taken to review and reconfigure the structure and size of the state, in line with the President's commitment in the 2023 State of the Nation Address.

A joint plan to review government departments, entities and programmes over the next three years is being prepared.

This plan will address overlapping mandates and functions, including in public entities, and ensure that we create standards for more sustainable remuneration of executives that serve public entities receiving transfers from the fiscus.

We also intend to leverage this plan to better direct our scarce resources to priority areas. The President will make further announcements in this regard in due course.

FISCAL CONSOLIDATION

We understand that lowering debt and the budget deficit alone is not enough. It is for this reason that our fiscal strategy in this MTBPS prioritises reforms aimed at strengthening GDP growth.

To this end, excluding interest, funding for capital projects remains the fastest-growing item by economic classification.

Furthermore, we are introducing a new mechanism for improving the pace of delivery of capital projects.

The MTBPS also recognises that government must respect the budget constraint, to preserve sustainability of government services that are being crowded out by debt-service costs.

We propose a strategy of targeted spending adjustments based on policy priorities, and a reconfiguration and rationalisation of the state, which includes closing or merging ineffective entities and programmes, and enhancing the complementarity of its functions. The poor revenue performance requires an adjustment to spending both in-year and over the medium term.

EXPENDITURE

In the current financial year, spending has been revised down by R21 billion. This is still below prevailing underspending levels by departments and institutions which averaged R32 billion per annum over the past three financial years.

For 2024/25 and the 2025/26, the reductions are R64 billion and R69 billion, respectively. These are based on current revenue projections and do not take it account future revisions to revenue forecast.

The implications of these adjustments will be partially offset by departments implementing the cost containment guidelines issued by the National Treasury, implementing control measures on payroll systems in line with the directive issued by the Department of Public Service and Adminis-

tration, as well as implementing the recommendations from the spending reviews conducted in the past two fiscal years.

Government has made a strategic decision to allocate funds to frontline sectors such as Health, Education and Police Services.

- Additional funding of R24 billion this year and R74 billion over the medium term will be used to fund the 2023/24 wage increase and the associated carry-through costs in these sectors.

- R34 billion is allocated to extend the Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress grant by another year. Over the medium term, a provisional allocation is retained while a comprehensive review of the entire social grant system is finalised.

- The presidential employment initiative will be extended for another year through repurposing of a portion of funds from existing public employment programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Community Works Programme. A comprehensive review of public employment programmes is underway.

DIVISION OF REVENUE

The Division of Revenue is an important tool for the equitable allocation of funds to provinces and municipalities.

Over the next three years, government proposes allocating 48 per cent of available non-interest spending to national departments, 42.1 per cent to provinces, and 9.9 per cent to local government.

We acknowledge the pivotal role of local government in delivering effective services to communities. We also recognise that the

provincial and municipal spheres are under pressure to meet increasing infrastructure service demands.

The government remains dedicated to supporting the sustainability and financial stability of our municipalities. Let there be no doubt, effective local governance is the bedrock of service delivery. Equally, financially stable municipalities are the foundation of our nation's economic prosperity. With this mind, I want to briefly address one of the most pressing issues facing our nation – water provision, management and the state of our water treatment systems.

Over the years, we have seen the impact of poor water management leading to polluted water sources and limited access to clean water for our citizens. This has largely been caused by the dysfunctionality of many of our municipalities.

To address this challenge, the government is making changes to conditional grants, starting with the urban settlement development grant, the integrated urban development grant, and the municipal infrastructure grant.

These changes include reconfiguring of grants and revising the grant conditions, to align them with the Green Drop, Blue Drop, and No Drop assessments relaunched by the President as part of efforts to ramp up the performance of water service authorities.

In addition, we will be working with local governments and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to develop new funding models, so

that municipalities can continue to earn revenue through the transition to more self-generation of electricity by firms and households.

To cater for the growing pressures imposed by climate change on infrastructure, especially at the local level, we have created a resource pool to specifically respond to future disasters. In this regard, R372 million has been added to the municipal disaster response grant, while R1.2 billion has been added to the municipal disaster recovery grant, to cover the repair and rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged by flooding in February and March 2023.

Mitigating the environmental risks posed by climate change must go hand-in-hand with addressing the financial and economic risks also posed by climate change.

The National Treasury is making progress towards developing a disaster risk financing strategy, which will among others, enhance existing risk financing instruments.

MUNICIPAL DEBT RELIEF

In light of the difficult financial conditions faced by municipalities, addressing the Eskom problem without dealing with the municipal non-payment and uptake of debt relief programme, would have been counterproductive.

The debt-relief arrangement for Eskom outlined in the 2023 Budget noted that a large proportion of outstanding municipal debt is owed to Eskom. National government has introduced support to relieve municipalities of debt to Eskom.

Upon application by a municipality, the debt to Eskom up to 31 March 2023 will be written off over a three-year period, in equal annual tranches. This is provided the municipality complies with set conditions.

These conditions include enforcing strict credit controls, enhanced revenue collection, and up-to-date payment of monthly current account owed to Eskom. By October 2023, 67 applications had been submitted, totalling R56.8 billion, or 97 percent of total municipal debt owed to Eskom at end-March 2023.

Twenty-eight applications have been approved; the remainder are being assessed and verified with provincial treasuries. The ultimate goal is the profound transformation of these municipalities, by enabling them to build financial resilience, amplify their capacity to generate sustainable revenue, and rekindle a culture of paying for services rendered.

RAISING ECONOMIC GROWTH PROSPECTS

The President, stated in his address on Monday that 'More rapid and inclusive growth is the only solution to unemployment, poverty and inequality. Growth is also necessary for sustainability of public finances.' Mr President, I could not agree with you more.

This MTBPS supports measures to lift our growth prospects over the medium term and restructures the state to become more effective.

In its approach, the government is intentional about leveraging the collective wisdom of all stakeholders to realise the vision set out in the National Development Plan to create a better life for all.

ELECTRICITY

On electricity supply, we have experienced more power cuts in the year to September 2023 than in the whole of 2022.

However, over the medium term, additional generation capacity from renewable energy investments combined with the return of Eskom's units that are out of service, should ease power cuts. Our electricity system is undergoing an enormously positive transformation. We are reaping the fruits of our efforts to reform the electricity sector, including the easing of restrictions on self-generation and encouraging private investment in the area.

At the same time, we recognise the potential loss of revenue due to private electricity generation, and the fact that traditional revenue models relied on by public entities like Eskom, face serious disruption.

It is for these reasons that our electricity reforms are holistic, evidenced-based, and geared to find a balanced solution to our electricity supply challenges. They take into account not just a particular entity but the transformation of the sector as a whole.

As part of this approach, the review of Eskom's coal-fired power stations commissioned by the National Treasury, is complete.

Effective implementation of the recommendations will help transform the electricity sector. It will also inform revisions to Eskom's corporate plan to bolster accountability and effective, informed oversight. The government will shortly share the findings of the report.

As part of the 2023 Budget, we announced the Eskom debt relief amounting to R254 billion from

2023/24 to 2025/26.

The partial take-over of Eskom's debt announced in February was done for two main reasons:

- The first was to ease pressure on the company's balance sheet and free it to invest in transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- The second reason was that more than R330 billion of Eskom's debt was already government guaranteed. Explicitly taking on this debt would reduce fiscal risk and enhance long term fiscal sustainability.

As we said in February, the allocations to Eskom would be accompanied by strict conditions to ensure public funds are used for their intended purpose.

One key condition we set back then was that should Eskom defy any of the conditions, the loan would not be converted to equity. The Eskom Debt Relief Amendment Bill which we are tabling today seeks to enhance the enforceability of the conditions agreed under the debt relief agreement. It provides for the payment of interest by Eskom on amounts advanced as part of the debt relief loan;

The Amendment also provides for the reduction of the amount of debt relief available to Eskom, in the event that the entity does not comply with the National Treasury conditions.

These principles and strict conditionalities, greatly enhanced by the Amendment, are a key part of how we will deal with Eskom and all other state-owned entities, to avoid a repeat of the mistakes of previous bailouts.

ENERGY TRANSITION

The transition to a low-carbon economy should be integrat-

ed into a comprehensive green growth strategy and industrialisation plans.

This involves assessing policy conditions, challenges, and opportunities for diversification and investing in new industries.

South Africa's traditional trading partners are intensifying their decarbonisation plans.

Many countries are introducing carbon pricing mechanisms to make emissions more expensive and incentivise emissions reductions.

In automotives, a major export and source of employment, the transition to New Energy Vehicles (NEVs) poses an existential threat to South African vehicle production.

This transition will require balancing domestic market demand, establishing renewable energy-based charging infrastructure, and supporting production.

The goal is to make sure the sector remains a major contributor to the industrial development of the domestic economy.

As such, the government plans to implement tax and expenditure measures to support the automotive sector during this transition. Details will be provided in the 2024 Budget Review.

Part of the broader strategy includes collaborating with other African countries to develop battery production capacity on the continent, by pooling the critical-mineral resource base that Africa is endowed with.

LOGISTICS

South Africa's logistics system faces significant challenges, such as deteriorating rail performance and inefficient ports. Rail under-

performance is estimated to have cost up to 5 per cent of GDP in 2022, with losses in the region of R50 billion in the minerals sector alone.

Given the scale of the challenges, the National Logistics Crisis Committee was instituted to broaden reforms in the sector and prioritise reforms aimed at resolving the immediate crisis, while also addressing the structural aspects hampering the sector.

This approach is consistent with the key lesson from our reform of the electricity sector, that resolving these challenges must be based on transforming the sector, and not trying to save an entity. We acknowledge Transnet's central role in moving goods and commodities to local and international markets, and the implications to business, people's lives, the economy and our global competitiveness when Transnet is dysfunctional.

No modern economy can thrive and grow new industries if rail lines are beset by delays, and ports are unable to efficiently handle incoming and outgoing cargo.

Transnet's performance in this regard has been underwhelming and its operations have been strained by a worsening financial state.

Recognising the seriousness of the situation, the National Treasury is working with Transnet and the Department of Public Enterprises to ensure that Transnet can meet its immediate debt obligations.

Broader reforms of the logistics sector will be guided by the Freight Logistics Roadmap.



The Roadmap sets out a clear path for enhancing efficiencies, facilitating the introduction of competition and leveraging the financial and technical support of the private sector.

Only once these three objectives are reflected in Transnet's corporate and operational plans, will there be a conversation about whether and how government can provide financial support to transform the logistics sector.

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Investment in infrastructure is central to supporting higher economic growth and expansion of access to basic services.

We are seeking to facilitate a quantum shift in the quantity and quality of delivery by mobilising private sector financing and technical expertise at scale.

However, the infrastructure ecosystem is plagued by challenges that undermine our efforts to fast-track delivery.

Among the challenges is the lack of a credible pipeline that can attract funding, lack of sustainable financing arrangements to crowd-in private finances, and poor contract and project management to manage cost and schedule overruns.

In this regard, we are amending Treasury Regulations and key elements of municipal legislation in line with the recommendations of the completed review of the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) framework.

The new regulations will be published by the time of the Budget 2024.

We are also establishing an Infrastructure Finance and Implementation Support Agency that will systematically address the need to crowd-in private sector finance and expertise into the public infrastructure programme.

Government will also widen the scope for concessional borrowing by creating new mechanisms

through which private-sector investors and multilateral institutions can co-invest with government for selected infrastructure projects.

This will include the use of build-operate-transfer (BOT) structures, PPPs and concessions, and application of the frontloading mechanism which provincial conditional grants now allows for. The outcome will be clearer institutional arrangements for the private sector to invest in public infrastructure, an increased pipeline of credible infrastructure projects, and greater access to various forms of financing underpinned by effective delivery mechanisms.

These measures will unlock social infrastructure projects, blended finance and PPPs including the electricity transmission infrastructure and upgrades to railway lines, amongst other projects that will be fast tracked.

The 2024 Budget will provide further details on these measures.

STRENGTHENING PROCUREMENT

We have tabled the Public Procurement Bill in Parliament. The Bill seeks to create a single regulatory public procurement framework envisaged in section 217(1) of the Constitution. The Bill also determines a preferential procurement framework for all procuring institutions within which to implement their procurement policies.

The Bill went through an extensive consultation process in government and Nedlac. It also considered the recommendations of the Zondo Commission and the President's response to Parliament thereto. The public has been afforded an

opportunity to submit written comments followed by public hearings that were conducted through parliamentary process during September.

We are supporting the Parliamentary processes that are considering the Bill and we look forward to the outcomes.

We are also working with development partners to modernise the procurement system, eliminate bottlenecks and make it more agile to deliver services.

As part of the procurement reforms, several SCM Instructions issued over the years have become a challenge and unnecessarily hamper operations of especially Schedule 2 public entities. We have reviewed these instructions with a view to relaxing them to unlock bottlenecks in the system.

This is also in keeping with the Constitutional Court judgement in the preferential procurement regulations of 2017 to allow organs of state to develop their own policies pending the finalisation of the Public Procurement Bill.

FIGHTING CRIME AND CORRUPTION

Crime is a safety, economic and a social issue. A safe environment, for our people to fully participate in economic and social life, is non-negotiable. Fighting crime is a key ingredient of enhancing economic growth.

This fiscal framework notes this policy priority and protects personnel-intensive functions, such as the police while supporting a range of other crime fighting efforts.

We are also working hard to address deficiencies in our fight

against organised crimes and illegal financial flows.

Since February, when South Africa was greylisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a large number of government departments and agencies – including the police the Hawks, NPA, SIU, SSA, the Reserve Bank, FSCA, and SARS – have been working hard to address these deficiencies.

The FATF noted at its plenary meeting last week that such work is showing positive results, with South Africa having addressed 15 of the 20 technical deficiencies in our legal framework and making good progress on 17 of the 22 effectiveness action items, including 2 that are now deemed to be largely addressed.

However, there is also a significant amount of work that must still be done, particularly with regard to the investigation and prosecution of complex money laundering cases and terror financing, the identification of informal mechanisms for remitting money around the world, and the recovery of the proceeds from crime and corruption.

Government expects to address all the deficiencies identified by FATF by early 2025.

We are also devising ways to make better and more targeted use of the Criminal Asset Recovery Account (CARA) to address crime. Among these efforts and emanating from the Presidential project on illicit mining strategy, a recommendation has been made for Cabinet to consider using money from the fund to strengthen the capability of our law enforcement agencies in dealing with criminal activities such as illegal mining, construction site extortion, and



making our communities safer.

The South African Police Service, The Defense Force, the Financial Intelligence Centre, the Department of Home Affairs and the Border Management Authority have all received allocations from this fund.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE REFORMS

We are also improving the legislative environment in areas such as financial management and financial governance. These reforms will respond to the recommendations of the Zondo Commission, the Mpati Commission, and the Nugent Commission.

I will shortly table an Omnibus Bill for public consultation, which will include key amendments to various pieces of legislation, including the Public Finance Management Act of 1999 (PFMA), Municipal Finance Management Act of 2003 (MFMA) and South African Revenue Service Act (SARS Act).

CONCLUSION

The lived experiences of many South Africans do not reflect our development ideals.

The expectation of a vibrant, in-

clusive and sustainable economy that works for all South Africans is not a perpetual quest to aspire to, it is a reasonable and achievable endeavour.

For its part, this MTBPS expresses government commitment to stabilise the foundation upon which this economy lies.

In summary, the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement commits government to continue to support the economy, stabilise public finances and protect the social wage.

We do this by:

- Fast tracking the implementation of structural reforms, key being in the electricity and logistics sectors, to lift our growth prospects.
- Adopting a prudent fiscal stance that supports growth, promotes investment and prevents the build-up of systemic risks to the economy.
- Directing scarce fiscal resources towards key priority areas including frontline services and social protection while reducing inefficiencies and wastage.

Drawing inspiration from the Springboks, I am convinced that if we are united and remain committed to this trajectory that will lift up our growth prospects, we leverage the power of the collective, and persevere in this difficult environment, we will come out victorious.

I am grateful to the President and Deputy President for their continued support and leadership.

Thank you to the Deputy Minister of Finance and the National Treasury team led by the new Director-General, Dr Duncan Pieterse.

I would like to thank Mr Ismail Momoniat for his sterling contribution during his 29-years of service in the National Treasury in many roles, most recently as Acting Director-General.

His commitment to sustainable, transparent and accountable public finances, and the values of our Constitution, is an example for us all.

Thank you to the Commissioner of the South African Revenue Service and the Governor of the South African Reserve Bank.

Thank you to my colleagues in the Ministers' Committee on the Budget and in the Budget Council who share the heavy load of the tough decisions that we make to maintain sustainable public finances.

To Parliamentary Committees of Finance, Appropriations and Public Accounts, I express my sincere appreciation.

To my wife and family, thank you so very much for your support. Lastly, thank you to each and every South African.

Let us move, forward together ■

Citizens upbeat as SA slowly moves in the right direction

Serious issues – electricity supply, logistics and crime – are being resolved through concerted efforts

■ By **Cde Yacoob Abba Omar**

Even before the Springboks' historic fourth Rugby World Cup trophy, and before the stellar performance of the Proteas at the Cricket World Cup, South Africans were already beginning to recognise that our country is finally moving in the right direction.

According to the September What Worries the World survey by polling company Ipsos, South Africans were bucking the global trend over the question of whether their country was going in the right direction. To quote from the report: "Moving the other direction is SA. After having the lowest right direction score last month (14%), 27% are now happy with how the country is going."



This slow shift in a positive direction is also captured in the Indlamithi Barometer, based on 55 indicators which will be released on November 9. In his address to the nation on Monday evening, President Cyril Ramaphosa captured what many involved in joint business and government work

streams have been saying: things are coming together on various fronts.

Three of the most serious issues affecting our nation — electricity supply, logistics and crime — have begun showing results through concerted efforts. The national



logistics crisis committee (NLCC), composed of high-level business and government leaders, has been formulating and rolling out a logistics road map, deemed by policymakers an emergency, to tackle the effect on ports, rail and road infrastructure.

The Gain consultancy, which focuses on freight transport in particular, estimates that the Transnet crisis will, just this year, cost the country R1bn a day in economic output, equivalent to 4.9% of annual GDP or R353bn. Among the steps already taken are changing the leadership at Transnet and its board's approval of a turnaround plan.

Back-breaking challenge

The NLCC comes after the successful operation of the national energy crisis committee (Necom). Private sector investment in electricity generation has benefited from regulatory reforms, with more than 12,000MW of con-

firmed projects in development. Tax incentives and financing mechanisms have caused installed rooftop solar to more than double to more than 4,500MW in the past year.

Crime and corruption will remain a back-breaking challenge, as the Ramaphosa administration tries to overcome the legacy of the state capture period, when vital aspects of policing such as crime intelligence were decapitated.

In his Monday evening address, Ramaphosa pointed out that the SA Police Service has established 20 economic infrastructure task teams, and 880 members of the defence force have been deployed to support the police in combating criminal activity that targets critical economic infrastructure. "Every arrest made and every length of cable recovered is a reason for hope," the president said.

Furthermore, the fight against corruption has moved into a high-

er gear, especially with private sector donations to a dedicated fund for the improvement of the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA's) capacity. The NPA Amendment Bill, which will establish the investigating directorate against corruption as a permanent entity within the NPA, is winding its way through the legislative process in parallel with a report being prepared by the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council.

The legislative amendments will make it easier for the envisaged directorate to attract permanently employed experienced investigators, instead of relying on secondments from other agencies.

Government officials are keen to assure the public that the various public-private sector initiatives will be led by the state. Rudi Dicks, head of the project management office in the presidency, says they are not a form of capture, arguing that a level of protection is provided by the government engaging with business through organised formations rather than individual companies. Also, the government will take the lead in the work streams.

The state of affairs may not have quite the same zing as the Boks' victory, and thus should not warrant the popping of any bubbly corks yet. It is more like the slow progress of the Proteas, to be celebrated with each hurdle crossed before the finals ■

Cde Abba Omar is director of operations at the Mapungubwe Institute. He serves on the executive committee of the Indulamithi Barometer project.

Unleashing Potential: Nurturing Small Enterprises for a Prosperous South Africa

■ By **Faiez Jacobs**

In my journey as a devoted ANC member deployed to the Small Business Development Portfolio Committee in the South African Parliament, I have been deeply involved in a series of public hearings that span across the vibrant provinces of our beloved nation. From Mpumalanga to the Western Cape, we have engaged with the people, ensuring that their voices are heard and play a crucial role in shaping our legislative endeavors, particularly concerning the National Small Enterprise Amendment Bill [B 16—2023].

This Bill is a significant legislative milestone aimed at transforming the support framework for Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in South Africa. It proposes crucial amendments to the National Small Enterprise Act of 1996, paving the way for the establishment of the Small Enterprise Development Finance Agency (SE DFA) and the Office of the Small Enterprise Ombud Service. These entities are set to play a vital role in empowering small businesses across our nation, pro-



viding them with the necessary resources and fostering a fair, equitable trading environment.

SMMEs and Cooperatives are the heartbeat of our economy, driving job creation, reducing poverty, and stimulating economic growth. Their impact is profound, espe-

cially in rural and marginalized communities, where they serve as catalysts for local development and empowerment. The public hearings have provided a platform for a diverse range of stakeholders to voice their opinions and concerns regarding the Bill. The overwhelming support for the Bill



has been evident, as it is seen as a beacon of hope for creating an inclusive environment for small businesses.

However, the hearings have also highlighted various challenges and concerns that need to be addressed. There is a call for transparency, accountability, and the elimination of corruption in the funding and support mechanisms for small businesses. The need for inclusivity and the prioritization of vulnerable groups such as youth, women entrepreneurs, and people living with disabilities has been emphasized. Additionally, there is a demand for decentralized services and local support centers, particularly in rural areas, to ensure that assistance is readily available to those who need it most.

The regulation of foreign-owned businesses, especially in the food sector, has also been a point of discussion, with calls for stronger regulations and accountability

measures to protect South African businesses. As a committee member, I am fully committed to ensuring that the insights and recommendations from the public hearings are carefully considered as we work to refine and enhance the National Small Enterprise Amendment Bill.

We recognize the challenges ahead, but we also see the immense potential and resilience of South Africa's small business sector. By working together, fostering open dialogue, and implementing necessary reforms, we can create a supportive environment for small businesses to thrive and contribute significantly to our nation's economic growth and prosperity.

The role of SMMEs and Cooperatives in our economy is immense, and by supporting them, we are investing in the future of our nation. The National Small Enterprise Amendment Bill is a critical piece of legislation with the potential to

transform the small business landscape in South Africa. As we continue to engage with stakeholders and listen to their concerns, we are laying the groundwork for a future where SMMEs and Cooperatives are an integral part of our economy.

In conclusion, the public hearings have provided invaluable insights and highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive reform in the small business sector. We are committed to ensuring that the National Small Enterprise Amendment Bill truly reflects the needs and aspirations of South Africa's small business community. Together, we will create a stronger, more inclusive and supportive environment for small enterprises, driving economic growth and prosperity for all South Africans ■

Cde Faiez Jacobs is ANC Whip for Small Business PC and former Western Cape Provincial Secretary

Gauteng Provincial Government's five-point strategy to respond to the electricity crisis.

The protracted electricity crisis has caused significant hardship for the people in our province and has had a detrimental effect on the growth of the Gauteng province's economy. This unsustainable situation has the potential to break the spine of our resilient provincial economy, which grew by 2.8% last year.

Power shortages negatively impact several areas, including the availability of healthcare services, food and water, the rate of bankruptcies, the level of crime, and unemployment rates.

According to the Reserve Bank of South Africa, load-shedding costs the economy up to R900 million daily. Load-shedding also affects inflation because the high operational costs of running diesel generators are passed on to customers, and higher rates of waste lead to potential shortages of supplies.

This does not just undermine the country's economic growth but also that of our neighbouring countries.



Since February this year, the Gauteng Provincial Government has conducted a consultative session with all relevant stakeholders to address this issue, looking for ways to address electricity shortages and guarantee a steady electricity supply.

These coordinated initiatives to address the crisis began with the formation of an energy crisis re-

sponse team that has been collaborating with the National Energy Committee, local governments, and energy experts, as well as the release of R1.2 billion in funding, as announced during the State of the Province Address (SOPA).

As a result, a five-point strategy was adopted to respond to this crisis: eliminating all illegal power connections, installing Smart Me-



ters in every home and business, improving revenue collection by cleaning the billing system, cleaning the indigent register, and replacing all damaged transformers.

Illegal connections must be removed to effectively control the power supply and guarantee fair and sustainable electricity services for all Gauteng residents. The province plans to include smart grid technology to increase the energy infrastructure's security and resilience, accelerate the informal settlement communities' formalisation to enable electrification and reduce unlawful connections. We also want to adopt a Backyard Dwellers Policy to accommodate landlords and tenants.

There is broad agreement that all homes and businesses in Gauteng should install smart meters. Installing smart meters is a successful way to prevent load shedding and safeguard the system in case

of grid overload. Smart meters provide remote load management (load limiting) at homes and businesses when used with a smart billing system. This programme will increase energy efficiency, and more precise billing will be possible.

The focus is on implementing an online metering system and better Scada system/Technology by installing WiFi, meter auditing, and new meter boxes. Because accurate data is necessary to bill customers, cleaning the billing system seeks to increase revenue collection. Additionally, it simplifies revenue collection at all levels and helps determine who qualifies as indigent beneficiaries.

The government's policy demands that our community's vulnerable members (the Indigents) be provided with free essential services. Unqualifying individuals have marred the indigent register, and we intend to clean it up to man-

age beneficiaries better. We plan to launch this revamped register in January 2024.

The allocation of cost-reflective tariffs for the respective categories of consumers needs to be applied diligently to avoid disputes. The province intends to install correct bi-directional smart meters to feed customers with PV systems into the grid and put a moratorium to force customers to register and supply into the grid. We are also considering a Debt Relief Policy for the province.

We have resolved to undertake the arduous task of fixing all broken Transformers that are a crucial part of delivering electricity to communities. Several transformers were damaged due to overloading in the past two years, and some still need to be restored to date. The affected communities are mainly in the townships and are likely to stay involved even with additional available capacity



if the province fails to intervene.

We shall conduct conditional assessments and explore specific conditional grants in dealing with the maintenance and replacement of transformers. An infrastructure audit will be done to improve the capacity to meet the demand, including rolling out a programme for transformer replacement. CoGTA will enforce mandatory maintenance, including creating strategic stores of critical components like transformers.

The amount of energy we consume in cities can be significantly reduced through energy efficiency measures, which can also result in cost savings and improvements to the health and welfare of city dwellers. We focus on introduc-

ing energy efficiency measures for households, government, business, and public infrastructure.

Our plan to reduce carbon emissions in cities begins with the structures where we live, work, and spend most of our time. Energy is needed to power, heat, and cool our homes, workplaces, hospitals, schools, and factories. Buildings are amongst the largest consumers of electricity.

We intend to ensure that all stakeholders contribute to developing the Energy Response Strategic framework and formally adopt and develop action plans for implementation. This includes monitoring the performance of the strategic framework.

We intend to strengthen structures and institutional mechanisms to restructure the business model of municipalities to develop energy strategies and plans to integrate energy supply to the national grid and make municipalities viable through available revenue solutions.

There are plans to protect the energy infrastructure, bring our generational plants into production, and make available resilient distribution infrastructure. The GPG has appointed about 6000 well-equipped Crime Prevention Wardens as a provincial law enforcement body that will collaborate with other law enforcement organisations to fight crime, including cable theft and vandalism of the infrastructure.

As part of their mandate, the (CPWs) have the mission to support law enforcement officers' initiatives to combat crime and ensure police visibility at the ward level. They interact with community structures, provide early warning, and gather information from the local population. They have provided security to strategic state installations to stop vandalism to state infrastructure and have already been at the forefront of preventing cable theft.

We acknowledge that more work remains to address the energy situation, but we need communities and business organisations to take responsibility for the electricity infrastructure. This includes collaborating with government agencies, using electricity responsibly, and protecting the energy infrastructure ■

Positioning SOE's as instruments of Economic Transformation and Development

■ By **Cde Given Morokoma Sebei**

In his article in the Mail and Guardian newspaper, titled 'I am an active SOE shareholder - Gordhan', dated 20th October 2023, Comrade Pravin Gordhan, in his capacity as Minister of Public Enterprises department, provided further clarity on the improved efficiencies of our SOE's and his role as "an active shareholder - (and his) responsibility to hold the Boards accountable, ensure proper governance, demand ethical leadership, and judicious execution of the mandate".

He also correctly underscored that "State (must) leverage the capabilities of our SOEs to bring about a just and an equitable society".

This statement is a correct and progressive restating and commitment in the context of the pursuit of our national economic interests as a nation.

In the same article referred to above, Comrade Pravin says, «interventions also require....people who are ready to put their interests last and the interest of the country first." Once again, reas-



serting our historic commitment to serving public interest than private gains.

Lastly, it is also stated in the article that:

«Ownership and control, by the state, of SOEs, (must) ensure the state can achieve its policy objectives and is fundamental to achieving an inclusive and prosperous society». Again, I would wholly agree with him on this assertion. These are

broadly progressive assertions and restating what our post-1994 dispensation is primarily all about.

Additionally, aware of the complex yet necessary transformational and developmental trajectory South Africa, under the political leadership of the ANC, is consistently pursuing, Comrade Pravin acknowledges that he has "never pretended that our work would be any easier" and indeed it is not an easy task.



In providing policy framework which must guide how SOE's are run, which must then direct how DPE transform entities in question, especially the likes of Eskom, Transnet and Denel, given their strategic role in serving public good, the Presidency in 2020 emphasised the fact that SOEs must be effective instruments of economic transformation and development.

And as a result, inspired by the desire to contribute towards the leveraging of the "capabilities of our SOE's to bring about a just and an equitable society", the following questions come to mind when further and closely studying the article by Comrade Pravin.

Some of these questions include the following:

- Why would Takatso Consortium be given majority shareholding or private equity of more than 50%, 51% to be precise, beyond the 49% government is left with if we are really committed to ensuring that "Ownership and control, by the state, of SOE's, ensures the state can achieve its policy objectives (particularly the ending of poverty, unemployment and inequality which largely and negatively affect black and African lives)"?
- What does "I chose to undertake a radical restructuring process" mean by the DPE Ministry in the context of the more than 50% Takatso Consortium private equity as a case study to understand the potential nature and character of the "Radical restructuring process" underway?
- In the response, the Ministry talks about "public and private sector work(ing) together and complement each other in meeting the developmental needs of the population. Given the Takatso Consortium deal as a case study, does these kind of partnerships imply more than 50% of private equity acquisition with a weakened state role in the effective and efficient running of SOE's?
- Given the national importance of this debate and the collective thought and action required thereof, how does the Minister ensure parliament, through DPE portfolio committee, is brought on board so that indeed "capabilities of our SOE's (is leveraged in order) to bring about a just and an equitable society"?
- In relation to Transnet, there is another talk of "Transnet and private sector companies (which) will conclude partnerships". Once again, are those partnerships going to have private players having more stake like it happened in SAA 'public-private partnership'? DPE Ministry talks about "'crowding in' of private finance through partnerships rather than privatisation". Now, what is the difference between 'crowding in private finance and privatisation? Frankly, can there be any difference between 'crowding in private finance' and privatisation because ultimately private finance, whether termed 'crowding in' or privatisation, will then have an influence on the strategic direction Trans-



net for instance will have to take? So, aren't these semantics unfortunately on a matter of national importance economically? Also, how do we ensure the "radical restructuring process" doesn't lead to loss of some of the skilled and knowledgeable executives in entities like Transnet?

- Regarding Eskom, the National Transmission Company of South Africa is being 'hastily' established, whose major function apparently will be buying and, therefore, selling electricity from Renewable companies. Why must it be stated or emphasised that the new NTCSA will primarily buy and sell electricity from Renewable companies? Why must an Eskom entity, NTCSA, now be 'forced' or required to buy and sell electricity instead of primarily continuing to generate and sell electricity to businesses and South African households? Won't that negatively impact on the electricity

tariffs for the struggling electricity consumers and indigent families who already can't make ends meet financially given the prolonged economic downswing or contraction?

- Boards of our SOE's are a crucial part of the governance structures and therefore require to be an integral part of the collaborative efforts in helping the state "achieve its policy objectives". How do we therefore ensure that we appoint competent Boards for our SOE's and therefore allow them enough governance space?

Lastly, ANC-led government must indeed ensure that the state leverages the capabilities of our SOEs to bring about a just and equitable society. We are a movement firmly rooted among the working class communities who daily experience and bear the brunt of the historic poverty, unemployment and inequality. So, a sober and objective debate must be encouraged in or-

der that South Africans are taken into confidence and therefore be rallied behind the "radical restructuring process" and all other interventions Department of Public Enterprises is undertaking.

Efforts by the Presidency to take other SOE's to their respective Line Ministries is encouraging, though another debate that must continue to happen is how are we going to ensure the planned 'State Asset Management Company', to be established through the National State Enterprises Bill, help the "State leverages the capabilities of our SOE's to bring about a just and equitable society" and also that "we are serving the interests of all South Africans, not a narrow rent-seeking elite"? ■

Given Morokoma Sebei writes in his personal capacity as the former ANC Gaby Shapiro branch chairperson

A Leaf out of South Africa's History

The 'Knitting Needles Guerrilla' is Arrested By Castro Kwela

On 31 October 1979, during the late hours of the afternoon, while Thandi Modise was preparing supper for the family she was living with in Eldorado Park, she heard a knock on the door. Three apartheid policemen entered the house, two being Indian and one, a so-called coloured Security Branch officer known as Captain Seth Sols.

The policemen began searching Modise's flat, where they confiscated a number of books, including one by Joe Slovo, a Scorpion pistol, which was hidden under the sofa, as well as two passports, one for Bophuthatswana and another for Swaziland. Near the toilet, they recovered a bottle filled with chemical explosives and some blocks of TNT explosive charges.

Thandi was then taken to John Vorster Square Police Station, in Johannesburg, where she was shown pictures taken of her during her short stay in Mozambique in January 1978, from an apartheid security police file, referred to as



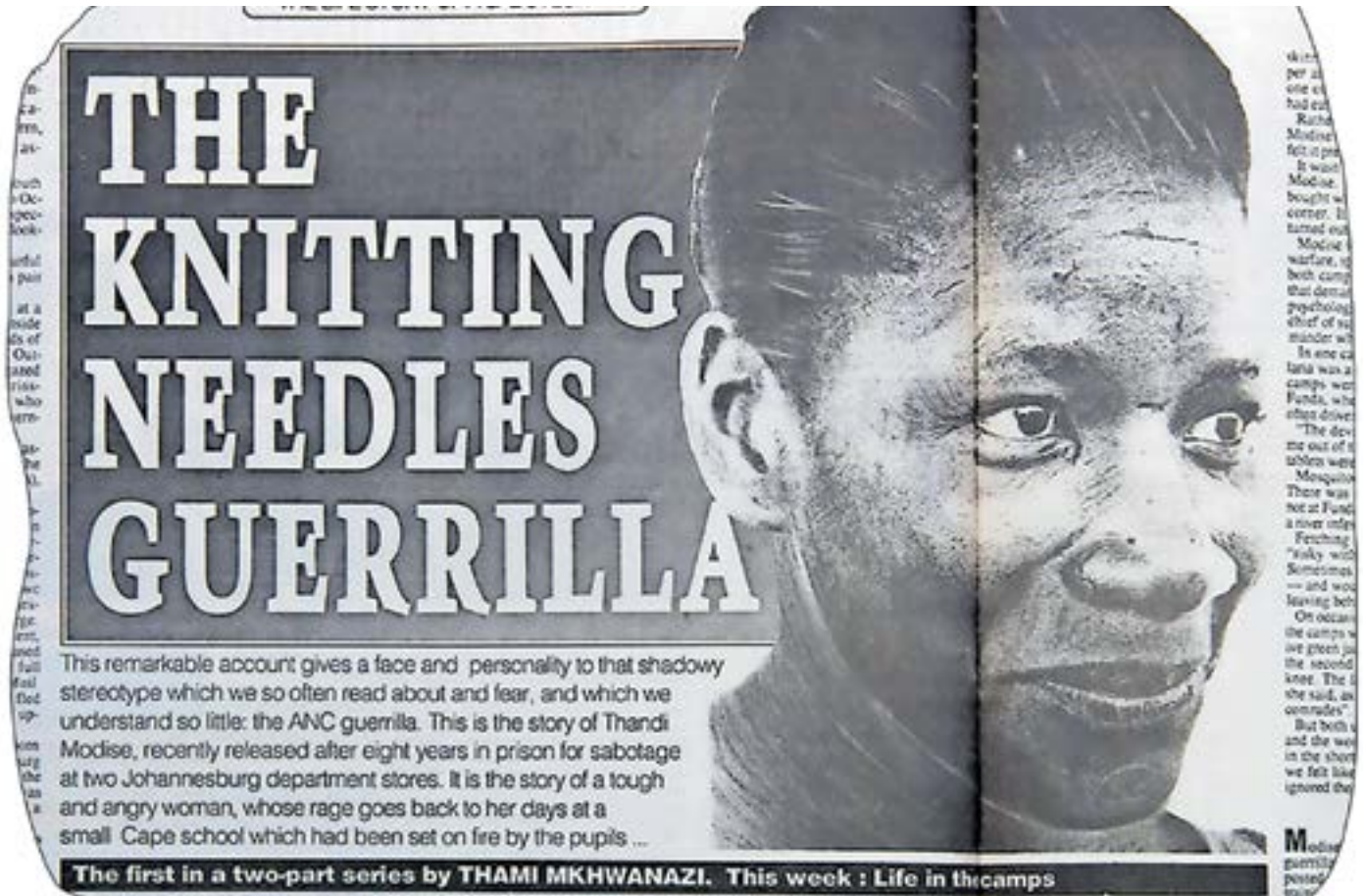
a "Terror Album".

Thandi Modise entered South Africa from Swaziland in the early days of January 1978, where she used a false passport with a siSwati name of "Zandile Simelane". She then headed to Soweto, where she met her comrade, Vuso Shabalala, who had crossed into South Africa from Swaziland in November 1977, using a Swazi travel document.

Shabalala was sent by the Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) Transvaal Urban

Machinery to conduct reconnaissance on possible targets in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereniging (PWV) area. After entering the country, he headed to Soweto where he adopted a nom de plume of a Swazi student attending a school in Johannesburg.

On 15 March 1978, Thandi arrived at the entrance of the OK Bazaars store on Eloff Street, in Johannesburg, wearing a maternity dress and carrying a sling bag over her shoulder, containing a dozen box-



es that looked like match boxes. In fact, these boxes were igniters that were attached to ready-made timers. She then went up the escalators and then walked around the store, placing the matchboxes in assortments of clothing in the men's, women's and children's departments. Afterwards, she quickly headed down the escalators to join the crowds that were exiting the buildings.

As she noticed that nothing was happening, she took a taxi to Diepkloof, where waited for a report in the news. Apparently an employee at the store, H.A. Venter, saw smoke coming from some clothes and acted proactively to stop the fire from spreading beyond the clothing. The same happened on 16 March 1978, at an Edgars store, close to a block

away from the OK Bazaars. Again, the fire was pre-emptively extinguished by Petrus van Jaarsveld, an Edgars' employee, who noticed some clothes emitting smoke.

While based in Diepkloof, Thandi went out often on reconnaissance operations and on her return home drew sketches of what she had observed. She would then cross into Swaziland on numerous occasions over this period to pass on the drawings to the MK Machinery, which in turn would assign guerrillas to carry out the final attack.

Approximately a year after entering South Africa, in January 1979, Thandi noticed the landlady in Diepkloof checking in the middle of the night to see if she was asleep. After deciding to follow her, she gathered that the landla-

dy was creeping to an apartheid police van parked in the street outside. Thandi resolved that morning to leave the house and moved to a so-called coloured township of Eldorado Park, where she began to stay with some friends.

Under cross-examination, security policeman Captain Seth Sols said he and his two colleagues raided the house in Eldorado Park after they received a telegram, based on a tipoff, informing him about a woman who had received terrorist training outside South Africa. The problems at her Diepkloof hideout had compelled Thandi to suspend her reconnaissance and devote her time to the formation of political cells, as "Thandi Mentor", in Eldorado Park ■

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

3 - 10 November 2023

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

■ 3-4 November 2020 Tigray war begins

The war between the Federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) starts with a surprise attack by the TPLF on the Northern Command Centre of the Ethiopian Defense Force, following a build-up that started in 2018 with the election of Abyi Ahmed as chairperson of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), and the EPRDF dissolution in November 2019 by Abyi to form the Prosperity Party. Following the attack on the EDF Northern Command Center and the raiding of most of its weapons, the Federal government led by Prime Minister Abyi Ahmed declared war on the TPLF, which lasted until a ceasefire and peace agreement in 2022.

■ 4 November 1922 Discovery of King Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt

After years of search for the tomb of King Tutankhamen in Egypt's Valley of Kings, it was discovered on this day in 1922. King Tutankhamen became pharaoh at the age of nine and died around 1352 B.C. at age 19. Items from the tomb are exhibited in Egypt's National Museum in Cairo.

4 November 1975. Mr. Olympia in South Africa

Despite a sports boycott against apartheid South Africa, the world's top body building competition, Mr Olympia is held in Pretoria. The winner, Arnold Schwarzenegger and mentor Ben Weider, head of the International Federation of Bodybuilding, refuse to participate unless black bodybuilders and black spectators are allowed to attend.

■ 4 November 1992 Dankote Cement founded

Aliko Dankote, Nigerian business mogul founds Dangote cement, as part of the Dangote Group (founded in 1981). Two decades later, it has a presence in ten African countries, and is the largest producer of cement in Africa.

■ 4 November 2012 Florence Matomela House named

The office of the ANC Nelson Mandela region in Qeberha is named after Florence Matomela, the first woman to be arrested in Port Elizabeth during the landmark 1952 Defiance Campaign against racist apartheid laws. Matomela at the time was provincial organiser of the ANC Women's League in the Cape, and was one of the founders and vice presidents of the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) as well as an organiser

of the 1956 Women's March. She was banned, restricted and later sentenced to prison for her ANC membership. After her release, Mam Matomela was banned again, until her passing in 1969.

■ 5 November 1964 Abedi Pele born

Ghanaian football star, Abedi Ayew (later Pele) was born in Kye-bi, Ghana. A talented footballer, he donned the Black Star jersey 73 times, and led the Ghanaian national team as captain. He is considered one of the greatest player of his generation, chosen as CAF Footballer of the Year in 1991, 1992 and 1993. Abedi holds the record for most African Cup of Nations appearances, from 1982 to 1998.

■ 5 November 1985 Nyerere retires as President



After leading Tanzania since independence in 1961, including overseeing the unification of Tan-

ganyika and Zanzibar, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere retired. His vice president, Ali Hassan Mwinyi became the second President of Tanzania. Nyerere said this about his decision to retire: "It is true I am going. I am not very old, I am 62 but that is not the point. The point is that I have been leading my country since the beginning of the struggle for independence 30 years ago and since the Union with Zanzibar 20 years ago. So I think by now I have done all that I can do to help my country. One could go on but I do not believe that "going on" is the issue. It is much more important to look to the future..."

■ 5 November 1987 Govan Mbeki released from Robben Island



After 23 years in prison, Govan Mbeki, a member of the ANC National Executive Committee and Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) High Command, was released from Robben Island. His release followed a call for all political prisoners to be freed, as apartheid was dying. Upon his release, the apartheid government restricted him to the magisterial district of Port Elizabeth. He resumed duty on the ANC's NEC and the Central

Committee of the SACP after the unbannings in 1990. A teacher and intellectual, while on Robben Island, Mbeki wrote many songs and manuscripts, which were smuggled out of prison. These writings are housed at the University of Fort Hare, as the Govan Mbeki Collection. Govan Mbeki passed away on 30 August 2001 at the age of 91.

■ 5 November 1993 Birth of COMESA

16 founding member states sign the COMESA Treaty in Kampala, Uganda, to create the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Today, COMESA comprises 21 member countries from east and southern Africa, but also including 3 North African countries: Egypt, Libya and Tunisia.

6 November 1929

Ray Alexander, trade unionist arrives in South Africa

Ray Alexander Simons nee Alexandrowich arrives in South Africa from Latvia where she was born on 12 January 1913. She became involved in the labour movement by organizing Black workers' unions in the Western Cape, joined the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA) and took part in anti-pass campaigns. Ray Alexander in 1941 founded the Food and Canning Workers' Union (FCWU) in the Western Cape. By 1945 the Food and Canning union obtained a wage determination for the fish canning industry and in the 1950s, members of FCWU played a leading role in the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU). In April 1954, Ray Alexander, together with Lilian Ngoyi, Florence Matomela, Helen Joseph, Francis Baard and Florence Mkh-

ize helped found the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW). She was issued with a banning order in 1954 and forced into exile where she continued to support the struggle against apartheid. Between 1981 and 1983 Ray Alexander wrote a series of articles for the African Communist under various pseudonyms and in 1986, she was elected life president of FAWU. She died on 12 September 2004 at the age of 91.

■ 6 November 1938 Feminist Diana Russell born



Diana E.H. Russell was born in Cape Town on 6 November 1938. Her mother was British and her father South African. After completing her bachelor's degree at the University of Cape Town, Russell left for Britain. In 1963, she moved to the United States where she completed her PhD at Harvard University, focusing on sociology and the study of revolution. Russell is known for her research on sexual violence against women. She has written books on the subject and was the first person to offer Women's Studies. In 1963, Russell joined the Liberal Party of South Africa and was arrested while participating in a peaceful protest in Cape Town.

■ 6 November 1962 United Nations condemns Apartheid

The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for its apartheid policies and recommended economic sanctions. The United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid (originally called the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa) was established by the General Assembly, under resolution 1761 (XVII) of November 6, 1962, to keep the racial policies of the South African Government under review throughout the year. It began its work in April 1963. The Committee worked to promote the international campaign against apartheid under the auspices of the United Nations. Its primary concern was to press for effective international sanctions against the South African regime, arrange assistance to the victims of apartheid and to the liberation movements; and to ensure constant publicity to the inhumanity of apartheid and the resistance of the people. The Special Committee Against Apartheid elected African Ambassadors from member states as its chairperson. The Chairs were: Diallo Telli (Guinea), 1963-1964; Achkar Marof (Guinea), 1964-1968; Abdulrahim Abby Farah (Somalia), 1969-1972; Edwin Ogebe Ogbu (Nigeria), 1972-1975; Madame Jeanne Martin Cisse (Guinea), 1975-1976; Leslie O. Harriman (Nigeria), 1976-1979; B. Akporode Clark (Nigeria), 1979-1981; Alhaji Yusuff Maitama-Sule (Nigeria), 1981-1983; Major-General J.N. Garba (Nigeria) 1984-1990; Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), 1990-1994. E.S. Reddy served

the Special Committee Against Apartheid from 1963-1984 first as Principal Secretary of the Committee and later as Director of the Centre Against Apartheid.

■ 6 November 1964 Vuyisile Mini, executed by the Apartheid regime



Vuyisile Mini (1920-1964) a trade unionist and uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) combatant was hanged for his role in the MK and anti-apartheid resistance. As a member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), he was responsible for the organisation of metal workers at a time when apartheid increased its repressive measures against Black trade unions. He became the first African National Congress (ANC) member to be executed by the government. Vuyisile Mini was hanged together with Wilson Khayinga and Zinakile Mkaba. At the time of his death, Mini was married, and had six children. His daughter, Nomkhosi Mini also joined MK and survived a March 1979 South African Defence Force attack on the Novo Catengue camp in Angola. She was shot dead by members of the notorious Vlakplaas hit squad during the 1985 Maseru raid.

■ 6 November 1964 Names of 303 banned persons published

A government notice published on 6 November 1964 gave the names of 303 persons on whom banning notices under the General Laws Amendment Act of 1963 (the so-called 90 Day Act), had been served up to 30 April 1964. Of that total, 68 were listed Communists, but 235 were not. The strict security legislation aroused huge protests. By the end of 1964, 671 persons had been charged with contravention of the security laws.

■ 6 November 1982 Paul Biya becomes Cameroon president

After Ahmadou Ahidjo resigned as president of Cameroon, he was replaced by Paul Biya, the serving Prime Minister. Biya is the second-longest ruling head of state and the oldest president in Africa.

■ 6 November 1995 Space lawyer, Ruvimbo Samanga born

The Zimbabwean space lawyer was born in Bulawayo on this day. With more African countries beginning space programmes, Samanga led a new generation of experts in space law, a legal field that involves international space treaties and other extra-terrestrial issues. She was appointed a member of the UN Spaces Generation Advisory Council. She coached the team that won the 2018 International Championship of the Manfred Lachs Space Moot, the continent's first and only win to date of the competition that started in 1992.

■ 7 November 1917 Helen Suzman is born



Doyen of South African liberalism, politician and anti-apartheid activist, Helen Suzman, was born in Germiston, South Africa on this day. During her 36 years in the whites-only Parliament, she used every opportunity to speak out against discriminatory legislation. She entered politics when she represented the United Party (UP) in Parliament in 1953. Six years later she founded the Progressive Party (PP) and became its sole representative in Parliament. As a Member of Parliament she was able to visit prisons, among them Robben Island, where she inspected the living conditions of prisoners. In the course of her career the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard awarded her honorary doctorates; she was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Award in 1978 and in 1980, the Medallion of Heroism. The Helen Suzman Foundation was established to promote liberal democracy in South Africa.

■ 7 November 1949 Actress Thembi Mtshali born

Sgudi 's nice actress, singer and playwright was born in Vrede, Free State. As a singer, she is known for the soundtrack *The Lion King* (1994), *Stokvel* (2002) and *Imbewu - The Seed* (2018).

■ 7 November 1975 Cuba starts support to Angola



To assist the MPLA of Angola in the war against apartheid South Africa and UNITA, Cuba's President Fidel Castro sent its first combat troops to Luanda. Its last troops left Angola as per the New York Accords in 1991.

■ 7 November 1989 Namibians to vote for a constituent assembly

Voters went to the polls from 7-11 November to vote for a Constituent Assembly in the first non-racial and democratic elections in Namibia. The Constituent Assembly was to draw up a new constitution for the territory as a sov-

ereign state. More than 97% of registered voters voted. The South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) won the election overwhelmingly.

■ 7 November 1990 Church admits apartheid is a sin

The Dutch Reform Church, which enabled the crimes of apartheid for generations, offered a "confession of sin" to 81 religious groups at a conference in Rustenburg, admitting that 'apartheid is a sin.' The Rustenburg Declaration further read: "We denounce apartheid, in its intention, its implementation and its consequences, as an evil policy, an act of disobedience to God, a denial of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a sin against our unity in the Holy Spirit."

■ 7 November 1994 Former MK members dismissed from SANDF

The government discharged 2,221 trainees who had gone absent without leave in October from the newly instituted South African National Defence Force (SANDF). After they were released, Defense minister Joe Modise set midnight, 6 November, as deadline for their return. More than 4000 trainees complied with the minister's deadline and returned to camp. The trainees cited their unhappiness with the slow pace of integration into the SANDF and conditions in the camp. All the dismissed recruits were former members of the armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) of the African National Congress (ANC). Those who failed to return, were viewed as deserters who missed an opportunity to remain in the SANDF.

■ **8 November 1887**
The Johannesburg Stock Exchange established



The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) was established to facilitate the explosion of trade sparked by gold mining in the Witwatersrand. Mining and financial companies with investors needed a central facility to access primary capital. Initially, trading took place in a miner's tent and moved to the stables at the corner of what is now Pixley Seme and Albertina Sisulu streets. On 8th November 1887 Benjamin Minors Woollan founded the JSE by providing a facility to conduct trading. The JSE is the oldest stock exchange facility in Africa.

■ **8 November 1902**
Origin of University of Khartoum

The Gordon Memorial College, which became the University of Khartoum, was opened on this day.

■ **8 November 1922**
Heart doctor Chris Barnard born

Pioneering heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard (1922-2001) was born in Beaufort West on this day. He headed the surgical team that achieved the first-ever human heart transplant at Groote Schuur hospital in 1967.

■ **8 November 1958**
All African People's Conference held in Accra, Ghana



A year after Ghana's independence under the presidency of Kwame Nkrumah, the All African People Conference (AAP) was held in Accra on this day. Nkrumah felt that Ghana independence would be meaningless if other African states were still colonized. Earlier in the year, Nkrumah as a pioneer of Pan-Africanism convened the Conference of All Independent African States (Libya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt and Ghana), which was followed by this historic AAP Conference. The AAP Conference was attended by all independent and non-independent African states, liberation movements and public organisations. The slogan for the conference was "Hands off Africa", a meeting to chart a way forward on how to achieve continental freedom. The conference committed African countries and liberation movements to anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, anti-racialism, African Unity and non-alignment.

■ **8 November 1974**
Olympic Swimmer Penny Heyns born



Penelope Heyns, was born on the 8th of November 1974 in Springs, Transvaal and later moved to Natal. She attended Doon Heights Primary and Amanzimtoti High, and at the age of 13 became the swimming team captain at school. In 1992 she was the youngest member of the South African Olympic team at the Barcelona Games and a member of the South African squad at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, where she won a bronze medal in the 200 m breaststroke event. Heyns continued her swimming career and was asked to represent the USA in the Olympic Games but she decided instead to represent her native South Africans in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. She won both the 100m and 200m breaststroke event and this made her the only woman in the history of the Olympic games to do so. In 1999 she set four world records. Penny Heyns established herself as perhaps the world's greatest female breastroker of all time, breaking 14 individual world records during her career. In the year 2000 Penny announced her retirement from swimming.

■ **8 November 1994**
Arusha chosen as seat
for Rwanda Genocide
trials

The UN Security Council chooses Arusha, Tanzania as the venue for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

■ **8 November 2014**
African Union organise
Africa Against Ebola
roundtable

The Ebola crisis in West Africa, especially in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone saw the WHO declaring a 'public health emergency.' Shortly thereafter, the African Union Peace and Security Council resolved to deploy a joint humanitarian/military mission of volunteers (ASEOWA) to the three countries to assist with tackling the pandemic. After a visit by AU Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, UN Economic Commission Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes and African Development Bank President Donald Kaberuka to the three countries in October 2014, Dlamini Zuma wrote to all African Presidents, requesting them to provide more health workers to strengthen ASEOWA. On 8 November 2014, the AU Commission Chairperson, with UNECA and the AfDB, convened the Africa against Ebola roundtable at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa with the African private sector. At this roundtable, the private sector pledged 32 million USD towards the additional deployment of African health workers. By December 2014, 178 Nigerian health workers, 187 Ethiopian health workers, and 81 health workers from the DRC joined the ASEOWA

contingent in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. On the 9th of January 2015, 170 health workers joined the ASEOWA team from Kenya. The ASEOWA contingent in the three countries played a critical role in supporting the health departments and communities of the three AU member states to bring the pandemic under control.

■ **9 November 1907**
Cullinan Diamond gifted
to King Edward VII



The colonial government in South Africa gifted the largest rough diamond ever found to England's king as a birthday gift, and was incorporated into the Crown Jewels. The diamond was found two years before in Cullinan, South Africa on land belonging to but seized from the Bapedi people.

■ **9 November 2008**
Mama Africa, Miriam
Makeba passes on

South African singer Miriam Makeba dies at the age of 76 after a 30 minute performance in the Italian town of Caserta. Nicknamed 'Mama Africa', Makeba's music transcended South African borders and entered the global stage. Makeba built her reputation in the



music industry in the 1950s singing for the Cuban Brothers, the Manhattan Brothers and the Skylarks. In 1959 Makeba starred in the anti-apartheid documentary *Come Back*, after which she was subjected to harassment by the apartheid government. Her passport was revoked and withdrawn, leading to her exile. When her mother died in 1960, she could not return to her funeral because her passport had been revoked. In 1963 Makeba testified before the United Nations (UN) of how the apartheid government had stripped her of her citizenship. She performed at the inaugural conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in May 1963 in Addis Ababa. After speaking out against apartheid at the United Nations, her music was banned by the state broadcasters in South Africa. Makeba lived in numerous countries such as the United States of America, France, Guinea and Belgium; and whilst in exile, she received passports from Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, the US, and Belgium, yet denied a South Afri-

can passport. Makeba toured various parts of the world in the 1970s and 1980s and continued to speak out against apartheid in various forums. At the end of apartheid, she returned to South Africa and continued with her singing career. In 2005, Makeba announced her retirement from the mainstream music industry but she continued to make appearances and did smaller performances.

■ 9 November 2004 Mbeki and entourage welcomed in Abidjan

South African President Thabo Mbeki, accompanied by Defense Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, arrived in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to help find a solution to the political unrest in the country. Thousands of people turned out on the streets to greet President Thabo Mbeki and the rest of his delegation. Mbeki was received in Abidjan by the secretary general of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), Mohammed Ibn Chambas, as well as local ministers.

■ 10 November 1871 Stanley found Livingstone at Ujiji, Tanzania

David Livingstone (1813-1873) was a Scottish missionary and explorer, also known as an anti-slavery advocate, whilst promoting British colonial and economic expansion in Africa. His first postings were in Southern Africa, which he abandoned to travel, convert and explore and map the rivers or highways of the continent. He left the London Missionary Society and was appointed as Her Majes-

ty Queen Victoria's consul, paving the way for explorations across the continent. He is credited with being the first European to 'discover' the Mosi-oa-Tunya ("the smoke that thunders") waterfalls, which he named Victoria Falls. In 1886 he returned to Africa, this time seeking the origins of the river Nile, starting his journey in Zanzibar. After much tribulations, he ended in Ujiji, Tanzania, gravely ill. Livingstone by then lost contact with Europe, and New York Herald newspaper sent journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley to try and find Livingstone. He found him in the town of Ujiji on 10 November 1871, and greeted him with the now famous words: "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

■ 10 November 1985 Dr JS Moroka passed on



Dr James Sebe Moroka, a medical doctor, politician, and great-grandson of Chief Moroka I of the Barolong Boo Moroka in Thaba Nchu died in his village of Ratlou. He was an active member of the African National Congress and in 1949 became its president until 1952.

■ 10 November 1995 Ken Saro-Wiwa is executed

Born in the Ogoni District of Nigeria, Ken Saro Wiwa was a member



of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). Since the 1950's, Ogoniland had been dumped with oil waste, causing irreversible environmental damage. Saro Wiwa led a passive resistance campaign against the multi-national corporations, Royal Dutch Shell in particular, and was also critical of the Nigerian government for its reluctance in curbing the wastage of oil companies. Due to his outspoken views, Saro Wiwa was imprisoned by the Nigerian military government without trial. In 1994, four Ogoni chiefs were murdered, and although he had been denied entry into Ogoniland on the day of the murders, Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP leaders were arrested for inciting the killings. Due to the false testimony of two witnesses, bribed by Shell officials, he was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to death by hanging. On 10 November 1995, Saro Wiwa was executed, as were the other eight defendants. The international community responded with outrage, and Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth for almost four years. Law suits were brought against Shell, as well as Brian Anderson, the head of the Nigerian operation at the time. Shell offered \$15.5 million to the families of the nine victims, but denied any responsibility for the executions ■

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

4 - 10 November 2023

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

■ 4 November

King Tutankhamun Day

King Tutankhamun was a pharaoh who ruled in Egypt during the 18th dynasty, from 1332 to 1323 BC. He became king at the age of 9, and ruled until his death at age 19. On 4 November 1921, British archaeologists stumble upon stairs that led into the ground, heralding the discovery of the grave of King Tut. His burial site at the Great Pyramids of Giza had lots of riches, including the Boy King's remains in a gold coffin. All 5000 artifacts, including his mummy, will be seen at the Grand Egyptian Museum in Al Haram. It's expected to be the largest archaeological museum in the world.

■ 5 November

World Tsunami Day



Though rare, tsunamis are among the most devastating natural disasters. They know no coastal borders. Coastal communities – often concentrated in low-lying and highly populated areas – are the most potentially vulnerable to coastal hazards including tsunamis, with heavy human and economic losses. A tsunami is a large ocean wave that is caused by sudden motion on the ocean floor, as a result of an earthquake, a powerful volcanic eruption, or an underwater landslide. The strongest recorded tsunami was in 1958 in Lituya Bay, Alaska, reaching waves nearly half a kilometre high, resulting in five deaths. The worst recorded was however the Asian tsunami of 26 December 2004, affecting 13 countries and causing 230,000 human deaths.

■ 6 November

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

Though mankind has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals

killed to gain military advantage. Furthermore, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) found that over the last 60 years at least 40 percent of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, whether high-value resources such as timber, diamonds, gold and oil, or scarce resources such as fertile land and water. Conflicts involving natural resources have also been found to be twice as likely to relapse. The United Nations attaches great importance to ensuring that action on the environment is part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies - because there can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed.

■ 6 November

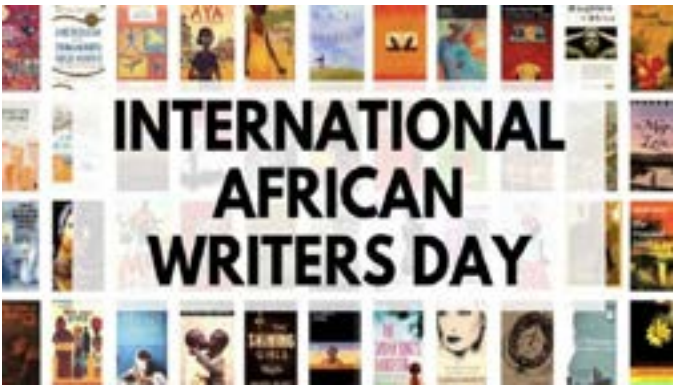
World Saxophone Day

The saxophone is part of the wood instruments, designed in 1846 by Belgian Adolphe Sax. It gets its sound from the vibration of a single reed, and can be made of brass, silver, copper, etc. Famous African saxophone players include Manu Dibango from Cameroon (who died of COVID-19), South Africans Kippie Moeketsi and Basil 'Mannenberg' Coetzee, Ethiopian Getachew Mekurya, and of course African American Charlie Parker.

■ 7 November

International African Writer's Day

The day coincides with the formation of the Pan African Writers Association. Today, African writing, both fiction and non-fiction is a kaleidoscope, telling African stories in its rich diversity. According to author, Ace Moloji, "literature is one of the key elements to impart African knowledge and culture...there's a huge difference between a person that consumes literature and a person that has no relationship whatsoever with books or with reading at large."



■ 10 November

World Science Day for Peace and Development

World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable ■

South Africa in numbers

October 31, 2023

89% the percentage of households in formal dwellings in 2022, which rose from 78% in 2011.

3 - years since government embarked on the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, by 30 October 2023.

More than 2 million – jobs *lost due to the negative economic effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

2 million – the increase in the number of people with jobs over the last two years, bringing the level of employment close to its pre-pandemic level.

R350 – the value of the Social Relief of Distress Grant introduced by government in 2020 to keep millions of people out of poverty, and continues to provide much-needed support for those who are unemployed.

Over 1.2 million – employment opportunities created by the Presidential Employment Stimulus since its establishment, representing the largest expansion of public employment in South Africa's history.

Over 4 million – young people registered on the SAYouth online platform, by 30 October 2023.

More than 1 million – young people registered on the SAYouth online platform, who have been able to access opportunities for learning and earning, by 30 October 2023.

26 - commuter rail cor-

ridors, out of 40, whose operations had been restored by the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa, by 30 October 2023.

R50 billion – the amount to be spent over the next three years to modernise South Africa's passenger rail network.

R17 billion – the value of the investment into the Mzimvubu Water Project in the Eastern Cape.

Over 12 000MW of confirmed projects in development as part of regulatory reforms government has initiated to enable a massive increase in private investment in electricity generation.

Over 4 500 – megawatts of installed rooftop solar that have more than doubled in the last year following the introduction of tax incentives and financing mechanisms.

***20** – Economic Infrastructure Task Teams* established by the South African Police Service throughout the country to protect critical infrastructure and tackle the "construction mafia".

***880** – members* of the South African National Defence Force to be employed to support the police in combating criminal activity that targets critical economic infrastructure.

Over 3 000 – people arrested for illegal mining.

34 – State capture and corruption cases taken to court* by the National Prosecuting Authority's

Investigating Directorate over the last four years, involving 205 accused persons.

205 accused persons involved in 34 State capture and corruption cases taken to court by the National Prosecuting Authority's Investigating Directorate over the last four years.

R14 billion – the value of freezing orders granted to the Asset Forfeiture Unit for State capture related cases.

Around *R5.4 billion – the value of money recovered by the Asset Forfeiture Unit and returned to the State, by 30 October 2023.

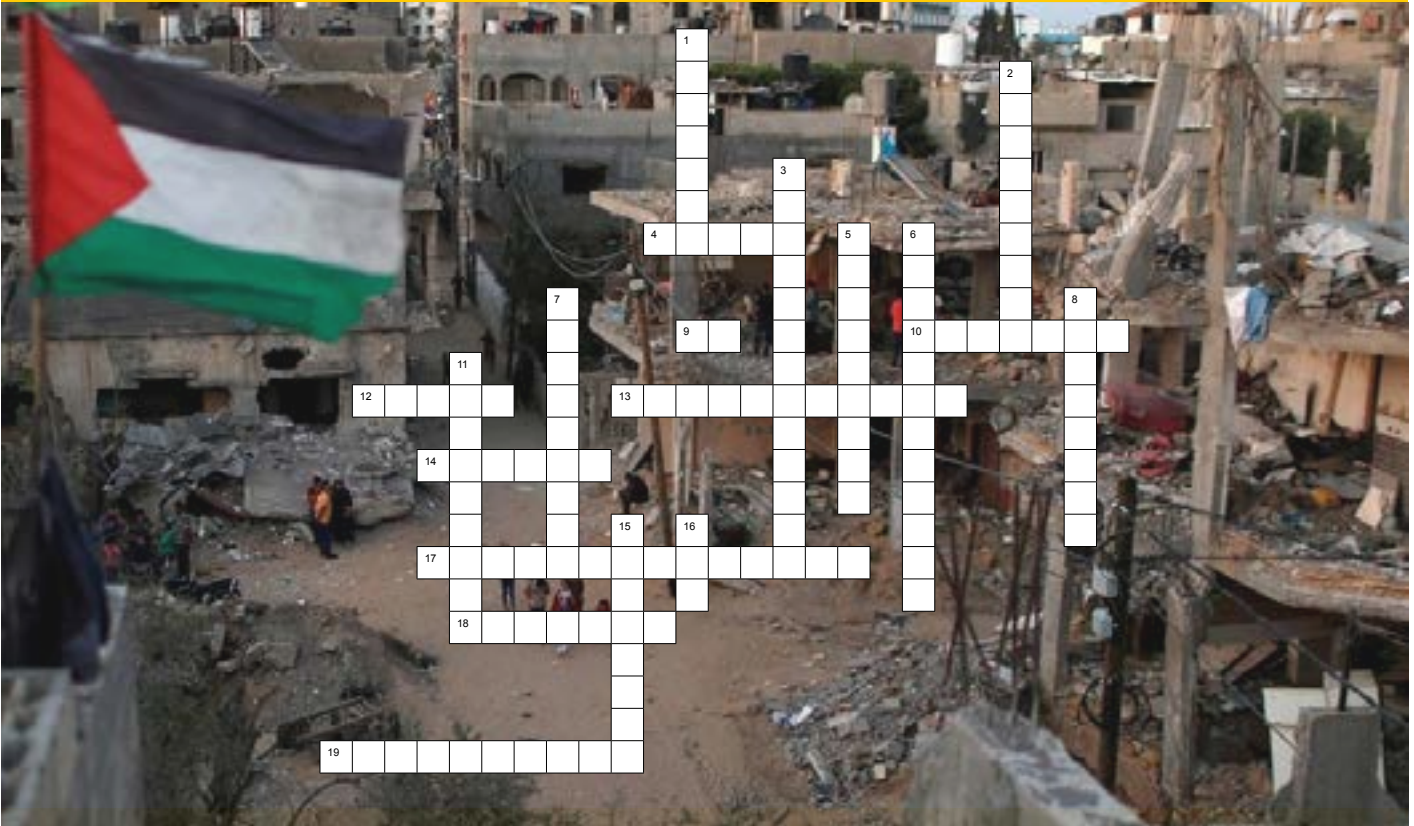
18 cents – the amount for every rand that government collects in revenue that goes towards servicing South Africa's national debt.

Over 6 months – the period during which government will accelerate the implementation of economic reforms.

4 – the number of times the Springboks became the world champions since the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994.

15 December – the Friday in December 2023 that President Cyril Ramaphosa has declared a public holiday in celebration of the Springboks' momentous achievement and the achievements of all other sportsmen and sportswomen – and as a tribute to the resolve of the united nation. It is a day of hope, celebration and unity.

Stop the Gaza Genocide



Across

- 4. Formation of Israel in 1948 linked to raising and eviction of over 700 Palestinian villages
- 9. Supports Israel with weapons and money, amongst other support
- 10. Siege of Gaza lasted the last ... years
- 12. Vowed to declare war on Israel if Gaza ground invasion continues
- 13. Israeli defense minister who said: "I have ordered a complete siege of the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel... We are fighting human animals."
- 14. Palestinian refugee camp bombed and reduced to rubble
- 17. Facility in Gaza City under threat by Israel
- 18. Who said South Africa will not be free until Palestine is free?
- 19. This is not a war, it is an ...

Down

- 1. Another Palestinian refugee camp bombed repeatedly
- 2. World War 2 genocide against Jewish and other people
- 3. Hospital bombed by Israel and 500 patients and medical personnel killed
- 5. Lebanese movement in conflict with Israel
- 6. Racist Zionist myth perpetuated by the state of Israel and allies: racist myth: "Jews are the... .. and Palestine is our God-given land."
- 7. Call for isolation of Zionist Israel through disinvestment and
- 8. Other Palestinian territory under threat
- 11. Disputed holy capital city
- 15. With 4 weeks of bombing, over 3500 ... killed in Gaza
- 16. Supports Israel with weapons and money, amongst other support

WORD BANK

Jerusalem
 Holocaust
 USA
 UK
 Bureij

Jabalia
 Children
 Yoav Gallant
 Al Aqsa hospital
 sixteen

Al-Ahli Baptist
 chosen people
 West Bank
 occupation
 Nakba

Hezbollah
 Yemen
 sanctions
 Mandela

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