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Conversations with the
President



SOUTH AFRICA WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL

By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

AS a nation that fought and defeated apartheid, we have a particular obligation to stand up for justice and fundamental human rights for all people, everywhere.

It is this obligation that informed our application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to halt the violence unleashed by Israel on the Gaza Strip.

The Genocide Convention was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in the immediate aftermath of

the Holocaust, one of the worst crimes in modern history. Having witnessed the mass extermination of six million Jews and millions of other victims of the Nazis, the world came together to prevent such atrocities from occurring again.

As a signatory to that convention, South Africa carries a responsibility, like other states that are signatory to the convention, to prevent acts of genocide wherever they occur. It was in fulfilment of this responsibility and to prevent further civilian deaths and

destruction that South Africa took this case to the court.

The International Court of Justice listened to the South African case and in turn also listened to the Israeli case. In its order handed down last week, the ICJ found that it is plausible that Israel has committed acts that are in violation of the Genocide Convention to which South Africa, Israel and many other countries are signatories.

The International Court of Justice ruled that the State of Israel shall,

ANC Statement on Outcome of the NEC Meeting and Lekgotla - January 2024

6

Jacob Zuma's "MK Party" - A Blasphemy to the Legacy of the Military Wing of the ANC

11

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



Team South Africa at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention, in particular: killing members of the Palestinian group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to Palestinians; deliberately inflicting on Palestinians conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part; and imposing measures intended to prevent births of Palestinian children.

The court further ruled that the State of Israel shall ensure with

immediate effect that its military does not commit any acts set out above. The State of Israel shall take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip. In effect, the court said that the steps Israel claims to be taking in respect of international law are insufficient.

On the issue of humanitarian assistance, the court ruled that the State of Israel shall take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life

faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The court further directed the State of Israel to take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of the Convention on the Crime of Genocide against members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip. The court also ruled that Israel should submit a report within a month on all measures taken to give effect to the court's order.

Criticism of the atrocities committed by the Israeli military is not directed at any religious or ethnic group, and cannot simply be dismissed as anti-semitism. Nor can our case before the ICJ be said to diminish the enormity of the Holocaust. On the contrary, it is the experience by humanity of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide that motivates our efforts to prevent anything of this nature from happening again.

As government we have been consistent about the application of international law. We have been equally consistent in condemning the atrocities committed by Hamas against Israeli civilians on 7 October 2023 and in calling for the release of hostages still being held in Gaza. Yet, as we ar-



CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

gued in our case before the ICJ, this attack on civilians in Israel cannot justify the subsequent acts committed by the Israeli military against the residents of Gaza.

This court application is about the Palestinian people; their suffering, the deprivation of their rights, and the denial of their right to self-determination. Yet, in bringing this application we are seeking to reinforce, protect and advance the rights of all people at all times.

The unprecedented onslaught against the people of the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military is an assault on all those who believe in justice, human rights and respect for international law.

As South Africa, we have called these genocidal acts that the international community has a duty

to halt and hold Israel accountable for. As South Africans who are committed to peace, justice and human rights, we are proud to stand on the right side of history.

The eminent novelist Primo Levi, himself a Holocaust survivor, wrote: *“As long as there is suffering in the world, our duty to remember is not fulfilled.”*

If the slogan ‘Never Again’ is to offer hope for humankind, the lessons of not just the Nazi Holocaust, but all forms of genocide, must be practically and consistently applied.

At the time they were committed, and despite glaring evidence, there were those who claimed they were unaware of the extent of the horrors committed by the Nazis or others like the Bosnian Serb armed forces or the Inter-

ahamwe in Rwanda. In our own country there were also those who feigned ignorance about apartheid and its true impact on our people.

A genocide is unfolding in the Gaza Strip and we have a moral duty to act.

Let it be recorded in the history books that the democratic South Africa was not among those who shut their eyes or claimed they didn’t know.

I call on all South Africans to rally behind our call for justice for the Palestinian people, and for a negotiated settlement that will bring about a just peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

This cause is a reminder to us all that justice for only some is justice for none.



EDITORIAL



STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE

MEMBERSHIP OF JACOB ZUMA

THE ANC NEC took note of the announcement by former ANC President Jacob Zuma on 16 December 2023. He announced that he would be campaigning for another political party and further launched a series of vitriolic attacks against the ANC and its leadership.

This development occurs in a context where anti-transformation forces are converging to stop the march towards a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous country that truly belongs to all.

Part of the anti-transformation tactics are to encourage rebel break-away groupings to erode the support base of the ANC.

Some of these parties masquerade as more radical than the ANC, but their revolutionary-sounding rhetoric cannot hide the reality that they have common cause with the forces opposing transformation. The shared goal of all these forces is to deprive the ANC of the ability to use state power to effect change.



Former ANC President Jacob Zuma's shocking announcement on 16 December 2023

The formation of the MK party is not an accident. It is a deliberate attempt to use the proud history of armed struggle against the apartheid regime to lend credibility to what is a blatantly counter-revolutionary agenda. It was the sacred ground rule of uMkhonto we Sizwe, the glorious People's army which all its members were taught, that this army was established to advance the political goals of the ANC. It implemented what the ANC NEC instructed it to do.

The war against poverty, inequality and unemployment remains the primary objective of our transformation struggle. At this point in the National Democratic Revolution, there is no need to advance this programme through the opportunistic use of military symbolism.

The challenges of our struggle for a better life for all are difficult and diverse and require honest and dedicated leaders. To suggest that the solutions are easy is

EDITORIAL

dishonest and smacks of populist self-gratification.

At its last two national conferences, the ANC vowed to renew itself to more effectively address society's challenges and conduct its affairs in line with its core values.

The ANC is committed to developing and, where necessary, correcting its members and leaders.

However, as renewal gains momentum, Zuma and others whose conduct is in conflict with our values and principles, will find themselves outside the ANC.

The JZ-party project aims to cast doubt on our entire constitutional democracy. The ANC categorically rejects the dangerous suggestion that our electoral system can and will be manipulated. The Independent Electoral Committee is one of the most trusted public institutions.

The entire voting process and counting process is monitored by party agents from all competing parties and international observers who have repeatedly declared our elections to be free and fair.

The people of South Africa and the ANC will not allow a Renamo/Unita project in our country to discredit democratic outcomes that do not favour them and use violence against the people as a bargaining tool. This is the fundamental danger of the JZ-party project. It targets extremist instincts in our body politic and riles up a political base to foment social unrest.

His actions reinforces the work of the primarily right-wing opponents of the National Democratic Revolution. In this regard, in

assuming this reactionary public posture, former President Zuma is actively asserting himself as the figurehead of counterrevolution in South Africa today.

Former President Jacob Zuma is actively impugning the integrity of the ANC and campaigning to dislodge the ANC from power, while claiming that he has not terminated his membership. This conduct is irreconcilable with the spirit of organisational discipline and letter of the ANC Constitution.

This chain of events requires the organisation to invoke measures to protect and preserve its integrity and prevent further damage to its reputation.

Pursuant to this, the NEC during its ordinary meeting held from 26–29 January 2024 resolved to invoke **Rule 25.60** of the ANC Constitution: ***"If justifiable exceptional circumstances war-***

rant an immediate decision of temporary suspension of a member without eliciting the comment or response of such member as contemplated above, the NEC, the NWC, the PEC or the PWC, as the case may be, may summarily suspend such member". The NEC concluded that exceptional circumstances exist to justify and warrant an immediate decision to suspend former ANC President JG Zuma in line with Rule 25.60 as stated above.

The ANC is willing, able and ready to defend the gains of freedom and our constitutional democracy. Accordingly, we call on ANC members, our alliance partners, and all South Africans to reject the agenda of the JZ-party project and all other divisive, anti-transformation and counter revolutionary projects aimed at derailing the forward march to a National Democratic Society.



ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS



ANC STATEMENT ON OUTCOME OF THE NEC MEETING AND LEKGOTLA – JANUARY 2024

ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Given the political and organisational context, the African National Congress National Executive Committee (NEC) carefully examined a number of significant developments that occurred in the country and on a global level.

The track record of the African National Congress's (ANC) prowess in defending our freedom and pushing forward the National Democratic Revolution remains unparalleled. Through the Manifesto Review and the commemoration of our 112th Anniversary at Mbombela Stadium, it is unmistakably evident that the ANC is a liberation movement for all South Africans.

The reaffirmation of our organisational stance as entailed in the ANC's January 8th Statement emphasises that 2024 is the crucial year to defend our freedom and advance a better life for everyone. Achieving a resounding victory in the upcoming National and Provincial Elections is essential to sustain and advance the revolution and economic liberation of our people. Our journey of reconstructing and developing our nation into a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society will not be derailed by a coalition of anti-transformation and counter-revolutionary forces.

The effective implementation of the ANC priorities and tasks was reaffirmed in our NEC meeting as well the annual Lekgotla un-

der this year's theme – The Year of United Action to Defend our Freedom and a Better life for All – Forward to a Decisive Victory!

This entails implementing organisational reforms, resolving the energy crisis and eliminating load-shedding, enhancement of basic services, revitalisation of our economy for job creation, reinforcement of the fight against crime and corruption, and the construction of a better Africa and world. These remains a pivotal for our definitive and outright victory.

The NEC instructed the government to spare no effort in executing these priorities.

VOTER REGISTRATION

We call on all our members and South Africans at home and



ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

abroad to defend our freedom and advance a better life for all by registering to vote this weekend on the 3rd and 4th of February to lay the ground for the unveiling of the People's Manifesto at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban on the 24th February 2024.

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS

The NEC was delighted to receive the news that the 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) pass rate had reached an impressive 82.9%, marking an improvement from the previous year's 80.1%. The NEC also commended the learners for their resilience and dedication to progress. These outstanding results reaffirmed the ANC's belief that the dedicated and persistent efforts made over the past thirty years are bearing fruit and paving the way for sustained progress towards achieving the Freedom Charter resolution that the doors of learning and culture shall be open to all.

CLIMATE CHANGE/ EXTREME WEATHER/ KZN FLOODS

The NEC expressed deep concern regarding the ongoing rise in extreme weather events, particularly in regions such as Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Eastern Cape, where the consequences are consistently severe. Given the recent devastating floods that led to a state of disaster declaration, the NEC extended heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who tragically lost their lives.

In urging the government to take decisive action, the NEC stressed the significance of enhanced long-term urban planning, improved land-use management, a more ef-

fective disaster management system, and the ability to accurately forecast and mitigate risks.

AUCTION OF PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA ARTIFACTS

The NEC raised concerns about the sale of personal belongings that once belonged to former President Nelson Mandela, our iconic leader. We have urged the government to address broader issues surrounding the preservation of our cultural heritage as a whole, with a specific focus on the struggle for liberation.

This call emphasizes the importance of safeguarding our history and ensuring that it remains accessible to future generations.

CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS

The ANC Electoral Committee has provided an update on the progress of the candidate selection process for the upcoming 2024 National and Provincial elections. According to the committee, the process is running smoothly and is expected to be completed by mid-February 2024. Once the candidate selection process is finalized, the extended NEC will convene to review and approve the final lists of candidates.

In the meanwhile the ANC has completed its consolidation of the Framework on the Integrity Commission, thus paving the way for accelerated and beyond reproach implementation of processes to uphold the integrity of the organisation.

In addition to the candidate selection process, all provinces are required to organize extended

Provincial Executive Committees (PECs) to nominate three Premier candidates. These Premier candidates will then undergo an interview process conducted by Officials at a later date. The specific timing of these interviews will be determined by the National Office Bearers after the elections.

It is worth noting that in the Western Cape, the identification of a premier candidate will occur after engaging with relevant stakeholders. This indicates that the ANC is taking a consultative approach in selecting the premier candidate for the Western Cape, ensuring that the decision is made in collaboration with key stakeholders in the province.

ADDRESSING FORMER PRESIDENT MR ZUMA'S COUNTER REVOLUTION

The ANC NEC has taken action to protect the party's integrity and reputation. We have followed the provisions in Rule 25 of the ANC Constitution to address the situation as indicated in our previous media statement. We have considered the severity of the alleged violation or misconduct and the likelihood of further misconduct. The NEC is committed to upholding organisational discipline and preserving the ANC's constitutional framework.

NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME MUST WORK FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

The NEC acknowledges the rise in the number of students receiving financial assistance from the National Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). However, there are concerns about the governance issues within NSFAS and how it

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

may impact their ability to effectively support students. The ANC is particularly concerned about the delays in student allowance payments. It is essential for NSFAS to prioritize timely payment for living expenses, transportation, and accommodation for students.

The ANC commends the allocation of R3.8 billion towards a comprehensive student funding model that targets students from the “missing middle” segment. Furthermore, the ANC welcomes the allotment of R4.2 billion to facilitate the registration process for students, ensuring a smooth start to the academic year.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The NEC noted that South Africa’s comprehensive victory at the International Court of Justice sits at the centre of a shift in the global balance of forces. At this moment in time it is not just Israel which is on trial but international law itself.

Furthermore, we reject attempts to characterise our work as that which is a proxy for Hamas or any other nation state. This work is consistent with our long standing ethos to engender a better Africa and a better world. The underlying pillars of this better Africa, better world ethos is a determination to ensure that multilateral institutions apply the international rule of law-based system equally across all nations.

The ANC is highly heartened by the overwhelming support for justice for the Palestinians by ordinary people from across the world, even on countries that have been indifferent on the unfolding genocide. This massive support by ordinary people gives hope that a better world is not

only possible but is within our reach as humanity.

CUBA-AFRICA SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE: 15–16 JANUARY 2024

The ANC successfully hosted a conference that aimed to foster solidarity between Cuba and Africa. Cuba’s involvement in the liberation movements of our nation and other countries in Africa has been instrumental. Even today, Cuba faces repercussions for taking a strong stance against apartheid and colonialism. Through this conference we actively supported Cuba as we work towards ending the unjust economic blockade that has persisted for 64 years. Our relationship with Cuba has always been marked by friendship, cooperation, and unyielding solidarity. We do not know acts of terrorism that can be associated with Cuba.

ANNUAL LEKGOTLA OUTCOMES

The Lekgotla deliberated and resolved on the following:

BASIC SERVICES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

The Lekgotla received presentations on local government, infrastructure, electricity, and water basic services. The Commission welcomed progress made by the ANC led government to transform South Africa’s society for the better. To date communities across the country have access to water, sanitation, electricity, housing and cleaner communities.

Local government budgets must be reprioritised to focus on re-

pairs and maintenance with a specific focus on water and sanitation, public lighting and roads. Municipal grants must be front loaded including revenue to accelerate critical infrastructure investments. The ANC will ensure that the implementation of the Just Energy Transition involves local governments structures that are properly capacitated.

The Energy Action Plan remains the primary basis of our response to the electricity challenges. ESKOM will remain the major player on the generation side of the energy ecosystem. In addition to improving the performance of the ESKOM installed units, attention will be given to convert the diesel/open cycle gas turbines to closed cycle gas turbines operating as baseload with a potential to add 2000MW.

Transmission financing will receive urgent attention to ensure the on-boarding of new renewable generation capacity. Extending the incentives and scope for the roll-out of rooftop solar solutions should be implemented. This includes the incentives extending for 3 years and covering battery and inverters. Industrialisation, jobs and new skills should be realised on the back of the energy crisis.

The ANC welcomes Government’s efforts to manage and ensure that blended finance are put in place and will draw on the participation of private sector in energy and water infrastructure. The department is currently rolling out major housing projects through frontloading approach.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

The ANC is determined to fast-track the resolution of both load-shedding and logistics challeng-

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS



es to boost production levels and volumes exports, respectively so that the true growth potential of the South African economy can be unleashed. Despite severe electricity and logistical challenges, which have constrained economic growth, the South African economy registered growth which demonstrated its resilience.

The economy has surpassed pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels both in terms of size and number of people employed. However, economic growth levels remain and unemployment remains high. By the end of March 2024 the MTSF that guided the sixth administration in implementing its mandate will reach expiry.

To stimulate sustainable growth in the long-run, there is a need for a national industrial strategy that will form the core of our growth strategy. This will find expression in the ANC's 2024 Manifesto. Between now and the elections, the ANC government will accelerate the implementation interventions to stimulate economic recovery and create jobs.

INDUSTRIALISATION AS AN ENGINE FOR GROWTH

The industrial strategy must be anchored on an industrial ecosystem that includes research

and development, innovation, commercialisation and large-scale manufacturing capacity. Utilising the regulatory frameworks, we will enable the greater participation of the private sector in industrialising our economy thus crowd-in both public and private investments. Placing the industrial strategy at the core of the growth strategy of the economy will require the coordination of a pilot agency (MITI Japan).

LAND AND AGRICULTURE

The ANC-led government implemented a large-scale programme of land restitution and land redistribution, with about 24% of farmland in South Africa now owned by black farmers. The agricultural economy has grown strongly over the past three decades, creating many thousands of jobs. By December 2023 the sector employed 956,000 individuals, the highest level ever recorded since 1994. Moreover, agricultural exports increased with exports being supplied to more than 181 countries across the world.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Recognising that SMMEs are the engine for growth and job creation, it was resolved that there should be increased support for SMME through tools such as the

SMME-Focused Localization Policy Framework. The design and implementation of mechanisms to eliminate red-tape for SMMEs must be expedited. Funding support for SMMEs must also be increased, especially for rural communities and townships.

Small Business Development Short-term Measures Over the next few months:

The DSBD portfolio will commit R500 million through SEDA. Also to be include is:

- R250 million to equip targeted townships and rural MSMEs with turnover of less than R3million.
- R170 million for green product markets in 7 District Municipalities.
- R50 million for general dealer support.
- R32 million for stock for spaza shop support in partnership with WRSETA.
- Business training conducted for 12500 township and rural-based informal micro enterprises, including spaza shops, with an additional 1500 micro enterprises being provided with equipment as part of the IMEDP.
- R220 Million on cooperatives of different sectors.
- 1700 unemployed graduates to be placed on SMMEs and

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

informal businesses to help professionalise the sector.

MINING

Mining remains the pillar of the South African economy. Mining is the sector without which the energy transition will not be possible. In this sense, mining is a sunrise industry. This means that as a country we must increase exploration especially for critical transition minerals. We need to put mechanisms in place to ensure that the mining sector remains productive and sustainable.

These are short-term measures with long-term progressive impact for the mining sector. The DMRE will launch exploration fund together with IDC to support exploration by emerging and junior miners.

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

The growth of the economy has been constrained by inefficiencies in Rail and ports. To restore higher volumes of exports we require efficient rail and ports infrastructure. Fixing our rail and ports will reduce pressure on road public transport and assist to preserve road infrastructure. We have adopted the Freight logistics roadmap which must guide our efforts to deal with the challenges of the logistics sector.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Short-term: These employment initiatives will have both short-term and long-term impact.

The Department of women, youth and persons with disabilities together with the Department of Defence and the CSIR will launch the SANDF-led National youth service for South Africa. Estimated Size of Phase

1 (2024) of SANDF-led National youth service: 100,000 National Service Recruits.

The Department of Labour and Employment in partnership with other government departments and institutions will launch a multi-year 15 billion project that is aimed at creating 2 million job opportunities.

The Presidential Employment Stimulus will be expanded with the aim of creating 1 million job opportunities. Government needs to move swiftly with the implementation of the amendments to the scrap metal licensing and trading regime to ensure that all traders are licensed and monitored.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE STREAMS/PATHWAYS

Food and Agricultural Value Chains: This includes a National Goat Commercialisation Project. Manufacturing: here recruits will be trained and capacitated in the development, commercialization, and manufacturing of plant-based fiber composites and polymers for industrial applications, starting in the Auto Sector.

Maritime and Oceans Economy Stream: will include Shipping, port and logistics, Vessel

Construction and Repairs, etc. **Engineering, Construction, and Infrastructure Stream:** Water and Sanitation Infrastructure, Road, Freight and Rail Network Development and Maintenance.

Skills of the Future: Digital Technologies, Cybersecurity, Platform Economies (Robotics, Coding, etc). Defence Industries: Aerospace, Facilities Management, etc.

CONGRATULATIONS BAFANA BAFANA

The ANC takes this opportunity to heap praise on our national soccer team, Bafana Bafana. They are continuing on the brilliance experienced by the Springboks. We look forward to them taking the battle all the way to the finish line. Go forth Bafana Bafana, strike like an arrow!

CONDOLENCES & WELL-WISHES

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of Comrade Violet Siwela, Mosima Nolly Makganyoga, Mashao Macdonald Setabola, Manthe Bertha Mapfumo, Pelwa Margaret Rakubu, Leckina Mapula Rakubu, and Bongekile Mahlangu. The NEC would like to express its heartfelt condolences during this difficult time.

REGISTER AND VOTE ANC



3 - 4 FEBRUARY 2024

OPINION

JACOB ZUMA'S "UMKHONTO WESIZWE PARTY" – A BLASPHEMY TO THE LEGACY OF THE MILITARY WING OF THE ANC

■ By **THABANG MAKWETLA**

THE phenomenon of leaders who abandon their revolutionary movements and proceed to pursue strategies that are aimed at defeating them, is not new in the history of Liberation Struggles elsewhere and in our region in particular. MPLA in Angola, FRELIMO in Mozambique, ZAPU & ZANU in Zimbabwe, and SWAPO of Namibia, all have their own chapters of this experience. A case study of this history is evidently desirable and can enrich revolutionary literature on this subject among South Africa's leftist activists.

The political about-turn in December 2023 of the former President of the ANC is bound to be intriguing to many onlookers. However, carefully scrutinised and distilled, this is a complex ideological outcome far beyond just being the trials and tribulations of one individual member of the ANC, Mr Jacob Zuma. His political journey is interwoven with the evolution of the ANC after its unbanning in 1990, in particular the changes in our country, society, and the Party, occasioned by the very successes of the struggle the ANC waged for liberation.



The decision by former President Mbeki to relieve his deputy, Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma of his responsibilities in government in 2005 was an important sign-post in this journey.

In the interest of brevity, it is important to remind ourselves that the struggle waged by the ANC to overthrow apartheid rule was prosecuted on four fronts, viz (i) the Armed campaign of Umkhonto weSizwe, (ii) the ANC Underground Structures, (iii) the Mass Front, (iv) and International Sol-

idarity. All these sectors were of equal value to the success of this struggle. ANC cadres, senior and junior, involved in this work under the directorship of the Politico-Military Council (PMC) belonged to one or the other of these sectors. It may be an interesting puzzle to many that Jacob Zuma was never part of the leadership of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto weSizwe which he has come out of retirement to reincarnate, today. To those who follow the ANC or are curious, during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,

OPINION

the ANC deposited information about members who constituted its leadership structures at different times, in different sectors and activities, over the ages. These TRC records are valuable to those who are keen to know what happened. Jacob Zuma was never a member of the Military Headquarters (MHQ) of Umkhonto weSizwe, MK.

This is not to say Jacob Zuma has not performed valuable and heroic work in the ANC. What is puzzling is his sudden behaviour which suggests a glorification of the military, contrary to his own lived legacy in the ANC. The military was the cutting edge of the struggle for freedom but not the only critical nor strategic endeavour in defeating apartheid rule. His singing of the MK song, *'Awulethe Umshini wami'* as his signal-tune is a subtle attempt to ensconce himself within the community of MK former members. It is a strange attempt at rewriting history, because it minimises the valuable political underground work he has performed throughout his political life in the ANC. The question is why?

Jacob Zuma was elected from the floor to be the Deputy Secretary General of the ANC at the first National Conference of the ANC after its unbanning in July 1991, as a desperate intervention by the ANC-PNYC (The ANC – Provisional National Youth Council) the forerunner to the ANCYL of today, after this Youth contingent's candidate for the Secretary General's position, Alfred Nzo, lost the contest badly to the current president, Cyril Ramaphosa. It was the view of the Youth League at the time that the top leadership of the ANC could not be without a component of the returned leadership which

was in charge of the activities of the movement from outside the country for three decades. The other important consideration why Zuma, was because the Youth Leadership appreciated the strategic changes in the environment which necessitated the strengthening of the mass front to secure our strategic breakthrough of 1994. Knowing that Zuma as a member of the Internal Political Construction Committee (IPC) was exposed and predisposed to leaders of the Internal Mass Organisations/Structures had an advantage of reaching out and working with them better than the other leaders who were leading the military wing, MK. The PNYC included a strong component of youth leaders from exile who were conversant with the ANC leadership from exile.

The sacred ground rule in Umkhonto weSizwe, which all its members were taught, is that MK was established to advance the political goals of the ANC. MK does not have its own political programme. It only implements what the ANC-NEC instructs the military wing to do. In the relationship between the military and politics, MK members knew that politics come first. It is an af-

front to MK traditions, values and norms for any member of MK to seek to act politically outside the legitimate political leadership of the ANC. MK members in good standing, will always seek to fight their battles on political issues within the ANC and with the leadership of the ANC. Hostile mobilisation against the ANC under the banner of Umkhonto weSizwe is a shocking ill-advised strategy.

The popularity of MK in South Africa was as a result of the blood spilt generously by members of the ANC in pursuit of freedom for our land. Some of them, their families are still to see a hump of soil on the ground where the remains of their loved ones lie entombed. It is extremely insensitive for anyone to pursue sectarian interests in their name when their families live among us still without closure to this odyssey.

Zuma's December divorce papers served on the ANC says his decision to disassociate himself from the ANC is because *"the organisation that (he) has served for six decades has changed into an organisation that (he) no longer (can) recognise."* Of course to expect that after three extraordinary decades of South Africa's



OPINION

transformative policies, the ANC could possibly remain the same is ahistorical and unscientific, a point which he seem not to appreciate as a 'critical former Social Reformer'. His submission is a subjective sentimental lamentation devoid of any disciplined and honest desire to find solutions to the problems he claims are troubling him. The challenges of the South African struggle for a better life for all are difficult and diverse and require honest and dedicated leaders. The temptation to suggest that the solutions are easy, is dishonest, and populist self-gratification. This will unavoidably cause a great deal of harm to the country. However it is respectfully a discussion for another day.

To be true to its origins, to renew itself the ANC must stand firm for justice, be selfless, display the resolve for self-sacrifice and love for the people. If it doesn't, this is the jadedness which indeed could make people not to recognise the ANC for what it was. The ANC has made this admission in numerous resolutions of its last two National Conferences. In this regard, Zuma knows that he has a great deal to account for, and the differences between the ANC and its former president on this score have finally proved to be irreconcilable.

The list of infractions the ANC battled Zuma about are better chronicled by Ronnie Kasrils in his book "**A Simple Man**"— the Zuma enigma. It was not the intention to bring them all under the microscope in this instalment. However, Jacob Zuma's personal impact on the ANC during his presidency cannot go without mention because cardinal mistakes were committed whose harm may still endure into the



future. As an institution, the ANC was founded on the abiding historic principle of unity. Her birth signalled the birth of South Africa's black nation in the context of colonial conquest, as articulated by Pixley ka Isaka Seme's plea in 1911 during preparations for the formation of the ANC when he said, "*The demon of racialism, the aberrations of the Xhosa-Fingo feud, the animosity that exists between Zulus and the Tsongas, between Basuto and every other Native must be buried and forgotten. We are one people.*" This resolve still reverberates in ANC structures to this day. It is an incontrovertible historical fact that the ANC proceeded to deliver a unified non-racial South African Nation of today in 1994.

Contrary to this legacy during his presidency, former President Zuma watched and allowed, *carte blanche*, a campaign of ethnic chauvinism to rage in the ANC under the slogan, "100% Zulu-Boy" largely driven by his kinsmen in violation of the sacred commitment of ANC members to eschew ethnic divisions, to advance the primary mission of the NLR (National Liberation

Revolution), nation-building. He introduced a counterrevolutionary script where political leaders subtly resort to profiling their ethnic identities in order to grow support out of apolitical blood consanguinity of traditional communities. This regression in our national cohesion is fraught with unimaginable consequences for the future. It is a sad reversal of history.

What does Zuma's departure mean to the ANC? There are commentators who believe it signals the further decline of the ANC. Maybe. However, the other way of looking at this question is, whether the ANC-renewal was realistically possible with Zuma in the house. Zuma's ride into the sunset may signify the jettisoning of the baggage that was sinking the ANC ship. This may be the opportunity for this ship to happily and safely sail to the shores.

Thabang Makwetla writes in his personal capacity. (Makwetla is a member of the ANC NEC and a former Senior MK Commander that was responsible for the Botswana Politico Military machinery).

OPINION



Fact: Media is the biggest opposition to the ANC

■ By **DIPOLELO RAMOKGOPA**

OFTENTIMES the ANC and its members are accused of being cynical about media reporting on issues relating to ANC/ANC led government. But the events of the past have once again given credence to our concerns as regards media reporting on either ANC or ANC led government matters.

The fresh and recent case in point is the bribery allegations leveled against our Finance, Higher Education, and Labor and Employment Ministers by the CEO of Thuja Capital, Mr. Mthunzi Mdwaba. These allegations were covered by various media outlets as breaking news – with Mr. Mdwaba

given interviews where he asserted that he has proof to that effect. In their reporting, these media outlets were hell-bent on entrenching the often-repeated narrative that the ANC/ANC led government is the face of corruption in South Africa.

In response to these allegations, these Ministers vehemently denied ever soliciting any bribery from Mr. Mdwaba and vowed to haul him before court to prove his allegations. Indeed, the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana, has instituted a lawsuit against Mr. Mdwaba.

As it stands, the matter has accordingly been ventilated in the

competent court of law and the verdict thereof has been issued. Most importantly, the court found that Mr. Mdwaba's allegations were unfounded and therefore the verdict is in favour of the Minister. Furthermore, the court directed Mr. Mdwaba to pay legal costs.

After this verdict, one would have expected media outlets to equally hype this verdict as they did with the allegations. This they should have done by interviewing Mr. Mdwaba as well as the Minister to hear their take on the verdict. However, and predictably, this was not done. Instead, the matter was covered as fleeting news headlines Not “*breaking news*”

OPINION

as it was the case with the allegations.

This cannot be balanced and fair news reporting by any measure!

International politics

It is common knowledge that the ANC-led government has shocked the world by taking a giant and risky step by approaching the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to deal with genocide perpetrated by the State of Israel against the people of Palestine in Gaza. This step was widely covered by various media outlets here at home and abroad. These media outlets have invited a variety of international politics pundits to opine about whether South Africa has a *locus standi* and plausible case against the State of Israel.

Like it would normally be expected, these pundits' views were biased either in favour or against the case presented by South Africa. Of course, there was one school of thought which was biased in favour of the wishes of what we call "Global South" while on the other hand was the one in favour of the wishes of what we call "Global North". These views, of course, were neither innocent nor neutral. They were formulated to influence the final court decision because these pundits are serving certain interests.

In the end, the ICJ issued a verdict in favour of the ANC led government. A decision which will surely change how multipolar institutions operate and place South Africa firmly in the fore front of disrupting and shaking geopolitics. Additionally, this decision will record South Africa in the history books as a country that has stood on the side of humanity and justice.



Again, one would have expected the media outlets to cover this victory as ANC led government victory rather than South African government victory. This I say because whenever there is wrongdoing on the part of our government, they report it as ANC-led government rather than South African government.

This kind of reporting smacks of dishonesty and deliberate agenda to sully the image of the ANC at every opportunity. Yet they do not acknowledge the good things that this very government does for South Africa and humanity at large.

Equally, one would have expected opposition parties such as EFF who claim to be leftist political parties to issue statements heaping praises on the ANC-led government. This is a justifiable expectation as they often portray themselves as anti-west/America who they correctly describe as capitalist and imperialist nations. Additionally, these nations are pro-Israel as it relates to the war between Israel and Palestine.

However, they would rather remain reticent on the matter, or shall I say tight-lipped as they do not want to recognize the achievements of the ANC-led government especially under President Cyril Ramaphosa who they often accuse as being an agent of the West/America.

As it happens, contrary to the red

herring that they sustained for many years, Cyril Ramaphosa's government has proven to be the first one to have practically taken on the international hegemony of the West/America on the global politics.

Again, one would have expected the media outlets to give interviews to these opposition parties to give their views on the stance taken by the Ramaphosa led government on the matter relating to war between Israel and Palestine – precisely because he is often accused of being the puppet of West/America who are pro-Israel and serving their interests.

But we are not seeing such interviews being conducted to debunk the myth of a Ramaphosa that works for these nations.

This biased reporting or news coverage points to the reality that obtains in the environment in which we as the ANC operate, where we have not only opposition political parties that militate against us, but also the media which has eclipsed opposition parties in militating against the ANC.

Therefore, the ANC and its members should remain vigilant and alive to this reality as to close ranks when it comes to safeguarding the integrity and image of our only glorious liberation movement, the ANC.

This is even opportune as we are going into 2024 general elections where forces of darkness are funding popcorn political parties with the sole purpose of reducing ANC votes. Thus, making it difficult for us to achieve our key objective of the NDR - that of creating a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and a united South Africa.



All I want for SONA is a boring speech

■ By **YACOOB ABBA OMAR**

GIVE me a boring speech. This is my request to President Cyril Ramaphosa as he prepares to speak to the nation in his eighth opening of parliament speech, known as the State of the Nation Address (SONA).

If he does give a boring speech he will no doubt have to deal with a chorus of opposition voices complaining that his speech did not offer anything new, or that it is just a reflection of past commitments.

But a boring speech will be one that deals concretely with the challenges facing our country, one that addresses the three critical Es: employment, economy and energy.

Ramaphosa must convincingly show us that the disruptions we

the greater use of renewable energy sources. He will have to show how this will be helping us grow the economy and increase employment.

Then there is the clutch of Cs we need to be convinced are being addressed with all the required attention — crime, corruption and climate change. The poorest of our citizens experience the brunt of the dramatic changes in climate through flooding or food inflation. Egged on by unscrupulous elements of society, and law enforcement agencies that turn a blind eye, informal settlements are often built in flood-prone areas.

The just transition to a low-carbon future is becoming even more urgent as humanity is confronted with climate change. Again, it is the most vulnerable in society who will be most directly affect-

An uninspiring State of the Nation Address will examine the three critical E's: Employment, Economy and Energy.

all experience in power supply are slowly but inexorably moving to a situation when we can depend on stability and continuity. He has much material to draw from, as his government has taken steps to expand power supply and address the crisis in the logistics value chain, especially with private sector initiatives and

CURRENT AFFAIRS

ed by the transition — hence the need for reskilling and maintaining the social net to mitigate the effect of job losses.

Under Ramaphosa's stewardship, SA has been walking the tightrope between managing this transition and utilising our comparative advantage of being blessed with an abundance of coal — especially given the increase in European demand.

US historian Will Durant famously wrote that *"the health of a nation is more important than the wealth of nations"*, an adage to be kept in mind when the president spells out the next few steps on the road to National Health Insurance.

Ramaphosa will also need to reflect on the context. One of these is indicating how the nation should move forward after the release of the Human Rights Commission's report on its investigation into the July 2021 riots.

"Unresolved systemic conditions like post-COVID-19 economic



recovery, high unemployment and socioeconomic divides" – as highlighted by the commission – will require a programme of responses, at the core of which must lie that deepest of all divides in SA – addressing the racial divide.

Ramaphosa will also need to indicate how the country will manage the fallout after the principled position SA took at the International Court of Justice. The viti-

ol of our country, government and the legal team itself have been subjected to is an indication of the vindictiveness we will face, notwithstanding that an eminent bench of judges almost unanimously supported a position that has been echoed and supported by millions of people across the world, people who embrace us for our stance.

The final key element that Ramaphosa needs to address is calls for secession in some parts of the country. This represents not only an unfortunate attempt to break up the united SA the founders of our rainbow nation fought for, but is a foolhardy move typical of regions in different parts of the world that think because they are better off they can set up their own states or create a racial or tribal laager.

Here's hoping that in his usual measured, balanced and modest way Ramaphosa rallies all of us around his signature call of *thuma mina* since these challenges require all of our efforts.



South Africa's ICJ Victory Cements it as a Champion of Human Rights and Leaders of the Global South

■ By **ALVIN BOTES**

SOUTH Africa's case at the International Court of Justice to prevent acts of genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza has done more for our country in terms of global public opinion than probably any other issue since Mandela's Presidency. It has restored our reputation as a country that champions the rights of the oppressed and has underscored the bravery of our leadership in taking this case to the World Court in order to save lives and ensure no country can get away with committing genocide with impunity.

South Africa's commitment to justice and international law in the face of threats and bullying by some in the international community has reinforced our post-1994 legacy as a country that is determined to stand on the right side of history and defend the rights of the oppressed, no matter the cost. South Africa is the reference point for the world when it comes to issues of human rights. Our Government has reaffirmed Mandela's position that human rights should be foundational to international relations. This is a milestone moment as we celebrate 30 years of our democracy this April.



For this moral fortitude, people around the world have lauded our position, and South Africans wherever they find themselves are being celebrated as heroes.

Shortly after the ICJ ruling a South African citizen boarded a plane overseas and was given red carpet treatment by the flight attendants and passengers just for being South African – an unexpected display of support for South Africa's efforts to end the genocide underway in Gaza. We may have many challenges in our country, but these are the moments that make us so proud to be South African.

As a nation we need to acknowledge the moral stand taken by our Cabinet when they decided on December 8th last year that South Africa should institute legal proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for violating its obligations under the Geneva Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948) in Gaza. Cabinet was swayed by the sheer immorality and illegality of the actions of the Israeli government as it carried out a genocidal campaign against the people of Gaza.

The human rights NGO Oxfam

CURRENT AFFAIRS

has indicated that an average of 250 Palestinian people in Gaza have been killed daily since 7 October last year. Oxfam's figures indicate that the average daily killing of Palestinians by the Israeli military since October 7th exceeds the daily death toll of any major conflict in recent years.

The deaths of children are almost incomparable both in terms of actual numbers killed and the rate at which children have been killed. The indescribable suffering of young children who continue to be operated on without anaesthetics during amputations and other serious surgeries is beyond comprehension. The lack of even basic medical supplies and pain killers to treat gruesome injuries is testament to the depravity of this military onslaught.

More journalists have been killed in Gaza in the last 100 days than were killed during World War 2 and during the Vietnam War.

There was consensus within our political leadership that South Africa needed to approach the highest judicial organ of the United Nations to stop the mass killing of Palestinians, 70 percent of whom are children and women, and to stop the wholesale destruction of civilian infrastructure including residential buildings, hospitals, schools, bakeries, water and electricity sources. From the outset, our interests have been centred on the values and principles of the South African Constitution, which places a premium on the right to life, the right to dignity, and the human rights of all people.

South Africa presented its case to the ICJ on January 11th, and on January 26th the Court delivered its order on South Africa's

request for provisional measures. The Court found "plausible" (paragraph 54 of the ruling) evidence that Israel was conducting a genocide against the Palestinians of Gaza.

While not all provisional measures that were requested by South Africa were granted, crucial ones that will contribute to the protection of Palestinians were granted. The Court was near unanimous (a 15-2 division) in its order for provisional measures, which include that: Israel shall take all measures within its power to prevent all acts of genocide as contained in Article II of the Genocide Convention (including "killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group").

The order stated that Israel must prevent and punish direct and public incitement to commit genocide. Israel is also required to take effective measures to provide urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance. It must ensure effective measures are taken to prevent the destruction of evidence and ensure its preservation and is required to provide a report to the Court on the measures it has taken to give effect to these provisional measures within one month.

It is interesting that the Israeli judge at the ICJ, Aharon Barak, joined the majority of the judges in a vote of 16-1 to say that Israel is not allowing in humanitarian aid to the Palestinians in Gaza, and that Israel must "prevent and

punish the incitement of genocide."

If Israel either fails to respond or does not respond satisfactorily to the Court order, then the ICJ will send its order to the UN Security Council (UNSC) for enforcement. The UNSC will be bound by the UN Charter to enforce the order. Israel has already rejected the order. Algeria, a member of the UNSC at this time, has asked for a meeting to be held to discuss the verdict and to have the UNSC call for an immediate ceasefire.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has hailed the ICJ ruling as a "victory for international law, for human rights, and above all, for justice." It has put South Africa on the right side of history.

The vast majority of countries globally, and indeed ordinary people across the globe, recognise that South Africa's actions were to stop a textbook case of genocide.

The intention was to save the lives of thousands of people, including children in Gaza and to end the institutional impunity which Israel has been enjoying for decades – which has emboldened their unlawful killing of Palestinian people in Gaza and other occupied territories.

South Africa's Ubuntu/Botho Diplomacy is reflected in the idea that we affirm our humanity when we affirm the humanity of others, including the Palestine people; thus, playing a major role in the forging of South African national consciousness.

Alvin Botes is an ANC NEC Member and Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The Constitutionality of the Western Cape Powers Bill DOES THE CONSTITUTION ITSELF CREATE UNCERTAINTY?

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

THE Western Cape's secessionist approach towards federalism is gaining traction, and it looks like they are not going to stop at nothing until they ultimately break away from the South African Republic – something that should never be allowed to happen. Calling for devolution of powers and functions in terms of the Constitution is something else, provided they have capacity to carry out those functions and powers effectively and efficiently. The powers yearned for include policing, public transport, energy, trade (including international trade), and harbours (including national harbours). However, the DA is actually calling for federal states with the Western Cape Provincial Powers Bill, especially by stating that it **“seeks to exercise the maximum possible degree of autonomy and control over their own affairs within the existing constitutional scheme”**.

Autonomy? What autonomy? South Africa does not need another Orania. South Africa is a unitary state, and calling for provinces to become federal states amounts to call for **“changing the constitutional structure of the Republic”**. It is about time

that the DA's overzealous wings be clipped and flurry branches pruned.

It all started with the quest for the devolution of transport powers to the Western Cape Province and the City of Cape Town, and the province has now advertised for public comments the Western Cape Powers Bill, 2023, on the allegations that *“the national government is unable or unwilling to deliver services to the people of the Western Cape or to exercise its constitutional powers and responsibilities to promote the rights and interests of the*

residents of the Western Cape”, which is untrue.

In response thereto, ANC released the statement dated 17 January 2024, condemning the Bill, referring to it as *“nothing more than a ploy to revive and reintroduce the discriminatory policies of apartheid, which segregated South Africa along racial and tribal lines by creating Bantustans”*. It is stated in the ANC statement that:

1) *The Bill is in direct violation of the Constitution, as the Western Cape Provincial Legislature lacks the legisla-*



CURRENT AFFAIRS

tive authority or constitutional mandate to develop, propose, and enact such a bill;

- 2) *The Bill lacks any constitutional basis to justify its legislative authority, rendering it illegitimate and invalid”.*

Calls for devolution of certain powers and functions to the provinces in terms of the Constitution were made even louder by the DA-led province and the City of Cape Town during the protracted conflict with the taxi industry body, SANTACO, and that included the administration of public transport subsidies. After almost a month of legal wrangling with SANTACO and the Department of Transport over the land transport legislation, namely the National Land Transport Act and the National Road Traffic Act, the Western Cape government went for the devolution of rail powers as well, in order to run “*a properly functioning train service in Cape Town*”? Is the DA actually wrong in trying to assume its powers as enshrined in the Constitution?

Devolving Constitutional mandates and competencies to local municipalities is in line with the South African government’s principle of subsidiarity, in terms of which certain functions should be devolved to the lowest level of competence. However, the main issue hampering the devolution of functions to the lower levels of governance has always been lack of capacity in terms of the resources – finance, infrastructure, human resources, or otherwise. For the same reason of lack of capacity, local authorities constantly find themselves lagging behind in service delivery to the electorate in terms of electricity, water and sanitation, infrastructure such as serviced roads, general lack of social amenities of



Stark reality of poor versus rich in the Western Cape

life, leading to constant community protests.

The Western Cape Province and many of its local authorities like the City of Cape Town, are not immune from service delivery backlogs, including infrastructure. There are still areas where basic service delivery is not what it is supposed to be, due to persistent historical inequalities and social challenges. Access to basic services – education, health, and economic opportunities still exist in large scale, especially in African-dominated settlements like the townships and rural areas.

The rail service is a massive responsibility in terms of resources – infrastructure development and maintenance, funding for rail operations, human resources required, etc. Instead of agitating for more powers and functions, the Western Cape Province and the City of Cape Town should be concerning themselves with bridging service delivery gaps in the black areas such as Nyanga and Gugulethu. There are also gangsterism and taxi-related challenges that the Western Cape should address satisfactorily before it

years for more powers to deal with the complicated rail sector challenges. The Western Cape Province and the City of Cape Town have constantly been challenging the national government on the issue of concurrent powers vested by the Constitution in all three levels of governance – national, provincial, and local government.

In pursuing this idea of a federal system, some of the actions and utterances of the DA seems to be treasonous, i.e. meet all the minimum requirements for the definition of High Treason. According to preliminary research, the common-law offence of High Treason is defined as, “*Any conduct unlawfully committed by a person owing allegiance to a state with the intention of:*

- *overthrowing the government of the Republic;*
- *coercing the government by violence into any action or inaction;*
- *violating, threatening or endangering the existence, independence or security of the Republic;*
- *changing the constitutional structure of the Republic.”*

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The DA is basing its argument on the powers vested upon the province in terms of the Constitution. The DA might not necessarily be wrong, and the blame could be put squarely on the polygamous nature of the Constitution, that promises anything and everything to all levels of governance. In terms of the Constitution, certain powers and functions currently being carried out by other competent levels of governance such as the provincial and/or national authorities or agencies, have to be devolved to the lower level of governance. Schedule 4, Parts A and B to the Constitution, allocates the function of public transport to all three spheres.

The national and provincial governments have concurrent powers, and local governments have powers over municipal public transport. Schedules 4 and 5 of the Constitution empowers provinces exclusive legislative competencies on specific functional areas that include public transport and provincial roads, the provision of transport funding, including transport subsidies, which should be channelled and coordinated through a single authority. Chapter 7 of the Constitution deals specifically with matters related to local government. Part B of Schedule 4, read together with Section 155 (6) (a) and (7) of the Constitution, lists a number of functions that local government must perform. These functions include municipal planning and municipal public transport services.

The issue of concurrent public transport powers across all levels of governance seems to have led to a power struggle between the local authorities and other levels of governance. The lines are blurred, leading to power

struggle amongst the authorities. Disagreements always ensue amongst all levels of governance, and these have to be sorted out in terms of the Constitution. The Constitution has to spell out the respective powers and functions in clear and unambiguous terms.

There should not be any gray areas. For some time, the Western Cape Province and the City of Cape Town have been decrying the devolution of public transport powers vested in them in terms



of the Constitution, but they were going about it the wrong way in trying to ascertain their authority – going toe-to-toe with the Department of Transport. Unfortunately those differences were playing out in the open during the protracted taxi strike in the Western Cape in 2023, with public spats against each other in the backdrop of the unlawful impounding of taxi vehicles by the City of Cape Town law enforcement officials.

While the arrangement of the devolution of powers to the lowest level of government in terms of the government seems to be appropriate in terms of the Constitution, this provides a challenge as well, because most of the local authorities lack capacity to undertake some of those functions. Most of the local authori-

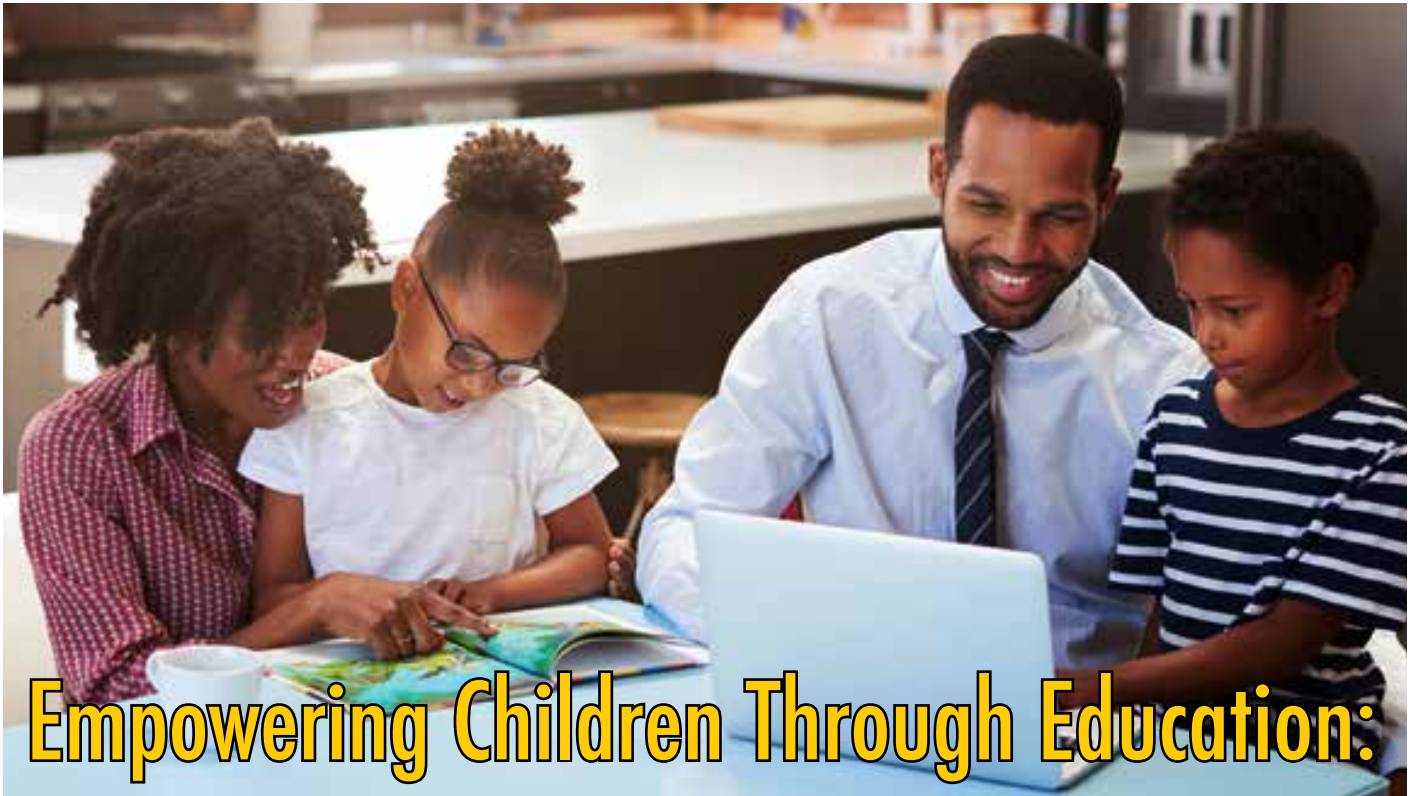
ties are not equipped to deal effectively and efficiently with their Constitutional powers that have always been the competency of other levels of government such as the provincial or national government. There are no resources accompanying the said devolution of those powers and/or functions. The authorities to which those powers are supposed to be delegated are not adequately equipped to can deal with the powers devolved.

Having noted the shortcomings of local authorities with regard to capacity, provincial and national incumbents have not released some of the powers they have been performing over a long time to local authorities. The respective responsibilities or powers do not seem to have been clearly demarcated. There is a need to outline the rules of intergovernmental coordination in clear and unambiguous terms to avoid encroaching unnecessarily into each other's terrains, and/or to minimize confusion. The Department of Transport had long been urged to develop guidelines for such shared public transport responsibilities. The sooner the Department develops those guiding principles, the better.

The Western Cape's secessionist tendencies and City of Cape Town's ambitions for autonomous public transport functions should be handled in a way that would not cause further conflicts among the three spheres of government.

After all, South Africa is a unitary state, not a federal state. The hierarchy of authority should be respected. To attain what it desires, the DA would need two-thirds of the national votes to completely overhaul the Constitution. Other than that, it is just wishful thinking.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Empowering Children Through Education:

A Call for Family Unity

■ By **NOBAMBA ZULU**

EDUCATION stands as the cornerstone of a prosperous and fulfilling life, shaping the future of our children and enabling them to unlock their innate potentials. Yet, in many communities, the pursuit of education is overshadowed by alternative avenues promising quick fixes and elusive solutions.

The essence of education extends beyond the confines of classrooms; it is a gateway to realizing one's talents, securing opportunities, and contributing positively to society. In an era where uncertainties loom, it's imperative that families rally together to champion the cause of education for their children.

Families hold the key to nurturing a culture of learning. By fostering unity, they create an environment conducive to supporting each child's educational journey. This solidarity transcends blood relations; it's about embracing every child in the community, regardless of lineage, and ensuring they have access to education.

Financial barriers often obstruct the path to education for many children. However, through collective effort and mutual support within families, the burden of school fees, stationery supplies, and uniforms can be alleviated. By standing together, families can bridge the financial gaps that hinder a child's access to education.

The implications of neglecting education are dire. Children deprived of learning opportunities face bleak futures, potentially falling prey to societal vices such as begging, crime, substance abuse, and other detrimental behaviors. Education, on the other hand, offers a beacon of hope, empowering children to make informed choices and contributing meaningfully to society.

One of the most crucial aspects is steering children away from seeking shortcuts and false promises. It's crucial to instill in them the understanding that success is not found in superficial remedies offered by self-proclaimed miracle workers, false prophets

CURRENT AFFAIRS

or fake healers. Instead, success and 'luck' are products of spiritual alignment, dedication, activating gifts and talents, hard work, and the unwavering support of a united family.

Teaching children that their fortune lies within the collective strength of the family encourages a sense of belonging and responsibility. It reinforces the idea that genuine support and opportunities are not purchased or acquired externally but are cultivated through mutual aid and unity within the family.

Therefore, as custodians of our children's futures, it falls upon us as parents, guardians, and members of extended families to ensure that every child has the chance to receive quality education.

Let's stand united, supporting and uplifting each other, and steering our children towards the transformative power of education.

By doing so, we pave the way for a future where our children thrive, not in search of miracles or luck, but armed with knowledge, qualifications, and the ability to fulfill their potential.

Build a strong foundation for spiritual wellness in your family!

Nobamba Zulu is a member of *Impande yeSigodlo family spiritual wellness institute*



A Leaf out of South African History

The Dream of Total Liberation of Africa is in Sight

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

The Rural Masses Say, "Seize the Land!"

The organisation and mobilisation of the rural population is clearly lagging behind those of our people in the towns and cities. And yet it is in these rural areas that the apartheid system

has its most disastrous impact on our people. We have the organisational capacity to begin to tackle the rural areas seriously and continuously.

In the Freedom Charter we say that "the land shall be shared

(This is an edited version – 40th Anniversary Tribute by ANC President OR Tambo. 1984 – The Year of the Women)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

among those who work it". As you will know, the situation today is that our people in the bantustans have been reduced to landless and jobless outcasts. Many are condemned to a slow and painful death in the so-called resettlement camps. On the commercial farms, the most merciless brutalisation of our people, especially women and children, takes place, every day and every hour of the day at the hands of the landowners.

One of the fundamental elements for the solution of the problems facing our people in the countryside is the resolution of the land question in favour of the tillers. Our immediate task, therefore, is to mobilise the rural masses around the question of land. It is only when the countryside is organised that the rural masses will be able to respond resolutely to the call: "Seize the land!"

Apartheid Threatens Peace

In the period we have seen the increased involvement of the religious community in our struggle for liberation. In this context, you are aware that at the National Conference of the Council of Churches last year, a proposal was made to convene a conference in 1986 to decide on the issue of the contribution of the Christian church to change in our country. It was then said:

"When peace is broken or threatened by injustice, the Christian has a responsibility to work for peace, to work for righteousness, by striving to rectify what is unrighteous, unjust".

Those words constitute a serious challenge not only to Christians, but also to people of other faiths



in our country. While the evil and unjust apartheid system exists in our country, we cannot have peace, nor can the peoples of Southern Africa.

The fraternal peoples of Namibia and Angola, especially, have for years now known no peace because of Pretoria's brutal colonisation and occupation of their countries. Daily, our Namibian and Angolan brothers and sisters suffer death and destruction from the regime's bombs, bullets and bayonets. This war of aggression is being conducted by a regime from our own country.

We have a responsibility to ourselves and the children and people of Namibia and Angola, to raise our voices in condemnation of the aggression. We urge

upon the people of South Africa to demand and fight for the immediate withdrawal of all South African troops, mercenaries, Pretoria-backed bandits and special assassination groups from Angola, Namibia and other affected countries in Southern Africa.

In this context, let the oppressed and democrats of our country assume their historic responsibility, recognising that the struggle in South Africa is the hope of the sub-continent.

We are entitled to expect that people of all faiths in our country, including the Christian, the Jew, the Hindu and the Moslem, will in fact act, and act now, in defence of justice, peace and life, against a system that is total evil and inhuman.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

3 – 9 February 2024

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

3 February 1976 Abuja founded as new capital

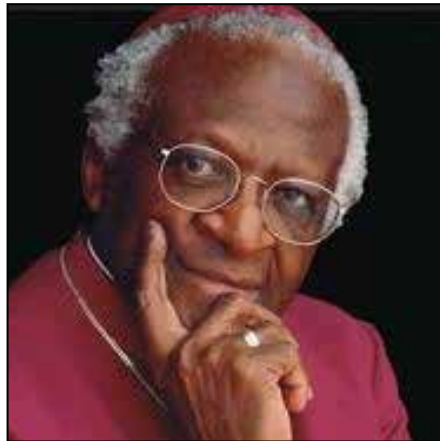
The City of Abuja was chosen as the new capital of Nigeria, from amongst 33 cities which bid for the honour. The planned city houses the federal government, with a three arms zone with the Presidential Villa, the National Assembly and the Supreme Court, all surrounded by a ring road in close proximity. Abuja replaced Lagos as capital officially on 12 December 1991.

3 February 1976 Lourenço Marques becomes Maputo

The capital of Mozambique, named Lourenço Marques after a 16 century Portuguese trader and colonizer, is changed to Maputo by then President Samora Machel. The city takes its name from the nearby Maputo River, which starts as the Pongola river in South Africa, joined by the Great Usuthu river from Eswatini.

3 February 1985 Rev. Desmond Tutu becomes first black Anglican Bishop

Desmond Mpilo Tutu was appointed and ordained as the first Black Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg after winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. The following year he was elected archbishop of Cape Town, which made him the head of the An-



glican Church with a 1.6 million membership in South Africa. He used this position to intensify his opposition to the Apartheid system in the country.

3 February 1996 South Africa hosts and wins AFCON

For the first time since the end of Apartheid, South Africa hosts the African Cup of Nations Football tournament. In the final on this day, Bafana Bafana, captained by Neil Tovey plays and wins 2:0 against Tunisia.

3 February 2000 1300 Volkswagen workers dismissed

1300 auto workers were dismissed by Volkswagen on 3 February 2000 in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape, for not returning to work after a wildcat strike. It was possibly the first major example of workers, after 1994, striking not just outside of the auspices of their trade union but ultimately

against their union. The immediate source of conflict was a productivity agreement between NUMSA (the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa) and VW management in 1998 to ensure that the production of vehicles would be doubled the following year. In 1999, the Concerned VW Workers collective campaigned against the latest agreement during the shop steward elections, citing a lack of democratic accountability in the union. This group was made up of older, long-serving workers who had been politicised during the heyday of the workers' movement. They opposed the productivity agreement and were suspicious of the younger layer of shop stewards that had initially agreed to it. After complicated internal politics, the union leadership expelled all 13 newly elected stewards. A month later, the union obtained a court interdict to forcibly remove the stewards from their offices. Thousands of rank-and-file members responded with an immediate strike action. VW warned that striking workers would be retrenched if they did not return to work, a call which was echoed by NUMSA. The official COSATU press release read: COSATU General Secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi will address a NUMSA General Meeting at Barks Madlakane Hall, Kwanobuhle Uitenhage this afternoon at 5PM. The meeting has been called by NUMSA to address the illegal strike at the Volk-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

swagen plant in Uitenhage. Vavi will urge all NUMSA members to go back to work and distance themselves from agent provocateurs bent on disturbing production at the plant. At the time, this response was considered by a number of labour analysts to be a clear indication of the COSATU leadership's ever-increasing willingness to collaborate with capital. As a result, it stands out as an important moment in the Federation's history.

4 February 1906

Sunday Times published

The first edition of the first Sunday newspaper in South Africa, the Sunday Times, appeared with New Zealander George Herbert Kingswell as editor.

4 February 1959

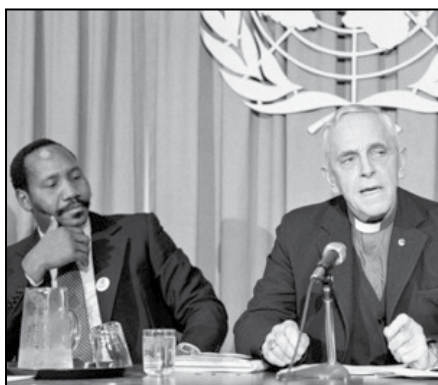
Tsitsi Dangerembga born

The renowned Zimbabwean author was born in Mukoto. Her first novel *Nervous Condition* (1988) was a hit, the first novel published in English by a black Zimbabwean woman and making the BBC 2018 list of the top 100 books that shaped the world. Other works include the play *She No Longer Weeps* (1987), a feature film that she directed *Everyone's Child* (1986), and novels *The Book of Not* (2018), *This Mournable Body* (2020) and essay collection *Black and Female* (2022)

4 February 1972

Addis Ababa UN Security Council Special session against Apartheid

At the United Nations Security Council's Special Session on Colonialism and Racial Injustice in Southern Africa held in Addis Ababa, a resolution was adopted

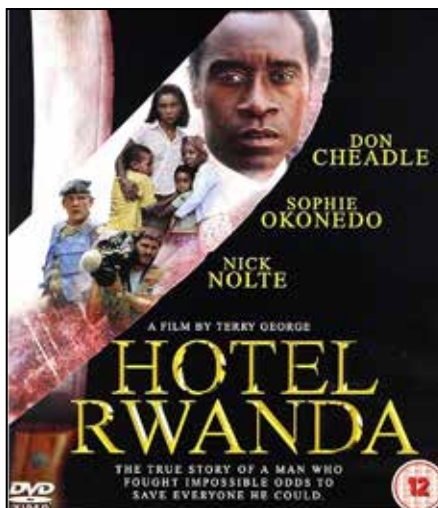


against apartheid. The UNSC adopted resolution 311 (1972) condemning apartheid; recognising the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa; calling upon South Africa to release all those imprisoned as a result of apartheid; calling upon all States to observe strictly the arms embargo against South Africa; urging governments and individuals to contribute to UN funds to assist victims of apartheid; and commending organisations and individuals assisting in the education and training of South Africans. The vote was 14 in favour and one abstention (France).

4 February 2005

Hotel Rwanda

The feature film, about Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager in Kigali, that gave refuge in his des Milles Collines hotel to over a thousand Tutsi refugees fleeing



from Hutu attacks during the 1994 Rwanda Genocide, is released to critical acclaim. The movie was shot in Kigali and Johannesburg and features American actor Don Cheadle, as well as South African actors Leleti Khumalo, Desmond Dube, Tony Nkoroge and Fana Mokoena.

5 February 1905

Herman Charles Bosman born

Considered one of South Africa's great short story writers, Bosman was born in Kuilsriver, Cape Town on this day. His short stories were published in the collection *Mafikeng Road* (1947)

5 February 1977

TANU and Afro-Shirazi party merge

The Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) founded by Julius Nyerere in 1955, and Zanzibar's ruling Afro-Shirazi Party merge to form the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). This lays the basis for the United Federation of Tanzania, still governed by a CCM majority.

5 February 1982

Neil Aggett killed in detention

Medical doctor and activist Dr Neil Aggett, who was Transvaal organiser for the Food and Canning Workers Union and African Food and Canning Workers Union, died after 70 days in detention without trial, at the hands of apartheid security police. Dr Aggett was just 28 years of age. Aggett was born in Nanyuku, Kenya and moved to South Africa in 1964 to complete his education, earning a degree in medicine from UCT in 1976. He worked as a physician in Umtata, Tembisa and later Baragwanath

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

hospital in Soweto. About 15000 people attended Aggett's funeral in 1982, including Bishop Desmond Tutu, and 90,000 workers went out on strike in a show of solidarity. The first inquest in his death, with Aggett family represented by George Bizos, found no-one was responsible. Another inquest that started into his untimely death continued in 2021.

5 February 2016 Morocco Noor 1 solar array

Morocco's Noor 1 solar array, covering 450 hectares delivering 370 Giga watts of solar power, begins to generate electricity.

6 February 1993 Arthur Ashe, tennis star and anti-apartheid icon passed on



Arthur Robert Ashe, a prominent African American tennis player who was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia died on 6 February 1993. Ashe, a vocal protester against apartheid, was approved a visa to visit South Africa in 1973, after a number of refusals. He became the first black player to win a title – a doubles match – in the South African Open. During his career, Ashe won three Grand Slam titles, making him the first black man to win the singles title at Wimbledon, the US Open, and

the Australian Open. He also set a record in 1968, winning both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S Open championships. For 12 years, Ashe was ranked among the world's top ten tennis players. He was ranked number one in 1968 and 1975. He was one of the founders of the powerful Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) in 1972 and served as its president.

7 February 1966 Sobukwe clause in amended Suppression of Communism Act

The Suppression of Communism Amendment Bill provided for the extension by a further year to the power of the Minister of Justice to detain prisoners convicted under the Suppression of Communism Act for further periods after the expiry of their sentences. This power had been applied to Robert Sobukwe and his detention was extended.

7 February 1983 Cedric Mayson charged with Treason



Cedric Mayson, former Methodist Minister, was editor of the Christian Institute's journal, Pro Veritate, and was banned for five years in 1977, together with Beyers Naude. He was detained on 27 November 1981, and appeared before the Pretoria Su-

preme Court on charges including treason and being a member or an active supporter of the African National Congress (ANC) on 7 February 1983. His co-accused were Alan Fine, Sisa Njikelana, Thozamile Gqwetha and Sam Kikine. He was released on bail, fled the country and arrived in Britain the day before his case was due to resume on 18 April 1983. Rev Cedric Mayson served as Chaplain of the ANC until his retirement. He passed away in 2015.

7 February 2016 Ethiopian Airlines Aviation Academy opens

The upgraded academy, founded in 1958, was opened by Prime Minister Haile Mariam Desalegn, and aimed to train 4000 aviation personnel, including pilots, mechanics, engineers, technicians and others in the sector, every year by 2025. On 6 March 2023, the Ethiopian CEO Mesfin Tasew announced that the academy was upgraded to an aviation university, also offering degree programmes.

8 February 1884 King Cetshwayo passed on



King Cetshwayo was born to Mpande, who was King Shaka's half-brother in 1826. His father declared him his successor very early on in life, which was unusual for a King to do. As Cetshwayo

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

grew older, he began to undermine his father's authority and assumed control of the kingdom. By the time Mpande died, he was only King by name as Cetshwayo had long taken over the decision making powers. The British grew worried as they watched Cetshwayo's military power grow rapidly. The British orchestrated a plan to annex the kingdom. The Zulus were given an ultimatum: Cetshwayo should forsake his sovereignty and his army should disarm. When Cetshwayo rejected the ultimatum, war broke out. The Zulus won the battle of Isandlwana but lost the battle of Ulundi. He died on 8 February 1884. Despite a prior attempt to assassinate him. It is possible that his death was caused by a heart attack, rather than the poisoning rumored at the time.

8 February 1906 Start of the Bambatha rebellion



Natal, in the early years of the 20th century was the site of conflict between Colonial Administrators and autonomous African kingdoms. The death of Cetshwayo in Eshowe in 1884, the last of the independent Zulu kings, left the task of resistance to colonial rule to be pursued by minor chiefs. By 1906, one of the most formidable of these chiefs, Bambatha, resisted colonial measures of imposing a poll tax on his subjects in addition

to the hut tax. This led to a first standoff between him and the colonial officials. Bambatha was determined to resist the 1 pound poll tax imposed by the colonial government. The divisional magistrate in Bambatha's area, T. R. Bennet was equally determined to carry out the task of collecting taxes from Bambatha's subjects. When Bennet arrived in Bambatha's homestead he was not welcomed. The next day the colonial government dispatched a party of fourteen policemen under the leadership of Sub Inspector Hunt to arrest Bambatha and the rebels. Two policemen were killed and the rest were forced to retreat. It became clear that Bambatha was not to be intimidated. This marked the beginning of the Bambatha Rebellion.

9 February 1874 Nkosi Langalibalele banished to Robben Island

While inhabiting the area near present day Estcourt in the Drakensberg foothills, Langalibalele – a hereditary chief of the Hlubi – was summonsed to Pietermaritzburg for failure to register firearms. The Hlubi had received these firearms as a form of payment from the owners of diamond mines. After refusing to go to Pietermaritzburg, a force was sent against Langalibalele. He subsequently fled the colony, but three of the colonial troops were killed in a clash on the Bushman's River Pass. Deemed to be in rebellion, the Hlubi chief was captured and sent to Pietermaritzburg where he was put on trial by a kangaroo court which consisted of substantial procedural irregularities. Lieutenant-Governor Sir Benjamin Pine punished the Hlubi by breaking up their location, confiscating their cattle, and imprisoning Langalibalele on Robben Is-

land. Langalibalele was therefore one of the first Black activists to be banished to Robben Island, nearly a century before Nelson Mandela and numerous other activists who were imprisoned there.

9 February 1955 Sophiatown residents forcefully removed



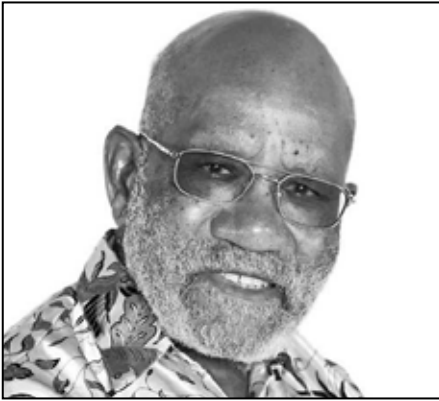
In the early hours of 9 February 1955, around 2 000 policemen, armed with guns, knobkerries and rifles, forcefully moved the families of Sophiatown to Meadowlands, Soweto. Their possessions were loaded at the back of police trucks, and dumped in Meadowlands where they were forced to stay. With their children, these families were exposed to cold and rainy weather conditions. The forced removals were part of the government's countrywide apartheid plan to turn the residential and business areas of cities and towns white. More than 60,000 residents from Sophiatown were forcibly removed. A new, white suburb was built on the ruins of Sophiatown and named Triomf.

9 February 1968 Toivo ya Toivo and others sentenced

The presiding judge in the Pretoria terrorist trial, Justice Ludorf convicted 30 SWAPO activists for conspiring to overthrow the



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



South West Africa administration (Namibia). SWAPO founder, Toivo ya Toivo, who was sentenced to 20 years on Robben Island, made the following speech at the trial: “We are Namibians, and not South Africans. We do not now, and will not in the future, recog-

nise your right to govern us; to make laws for us, in which we had no say; to treat our country as if it was your property and us as if you are our masters. We have always regarded South Africa as an intruder in our country. This is how we have always felt and this is how we feel now and it is on this basis that we have faced this trial.” In 1990 Namibia gained independence from South Africa.

9 February 1978 Winnie Mandela sentenced to prison

Winnie Mandela, restricted to the town of Brandfort, in the then Or-



ange Free State, was sentenced to six months imprisonment (suspended for four years) for breaking her banning and house arrest order by receiving unauthorised visits by friends and relatives.



VOTER REGISTRATION WEEKEND



The Year of United Action
To Defend Our Freedom and
Advance a Better Life for All:
Forward To A Decisive Victory!

A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

DEFEND OUR FREEDOM

3-4 FEBRUARY 2024

08H00-17H00

TO PLEDGE



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

3 – 9 February 2024

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

4 February

World Cancer Day



Cancer can develop anywhere in the body, starting when cells grow out of control and crowd out normal cells, making it hard for the body to function as it should. Each year, over 10 million people die from cancer and this figure is expected to rise to 13 million by 2030. Factors contributing to high incidents of cancer include tobacco and alcohol, obesity, diet and nutrition, lack of physical activity, radiation, workplace hazards, infections as well as non-modifiable risk factors such as age, genetics and carcinogens.

4 February

International Day of Human Fraternity

We need — perhaps more than ever before — to recognize the valuable contribution of people of all



religions, or beliefs, to humanity. The declaration *“Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together”* – co-authored by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb – is a model for interfaith harmony and human solidarity.

6 February

International day Against Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women. Girls who undergo female genital mutilation face short-term complications such as severe pain, shock, excessive bleeding, infections, and difficulty in passing urine, as well as long-term consequences for their sexual and reproductive health and mental health. FGM is a universal problem, concentrated in 30 countries in Africa and the Middle East and is also practiced in some countries in Asia and Latin America and amongst immigrant populations in Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. The African Union has a continent-wide campaign to end FGM, with the president of Burkina Faso as the AU champion on the campaign. To date, more than 22 AU member states have legislation to criminalise female genital mutilation.

6 February

Africa Safer Internet Day

Safer internet day celebrates how the internet can inform, connect and inspire all of us, but also on the importance of a safe internet, safe from bullying, predators, abuse, racism, homophobia, sexism, fake news and misogyny. In 2019, over 71% of children were online, according to UNICEF. At the same time, due to work and other pressures,

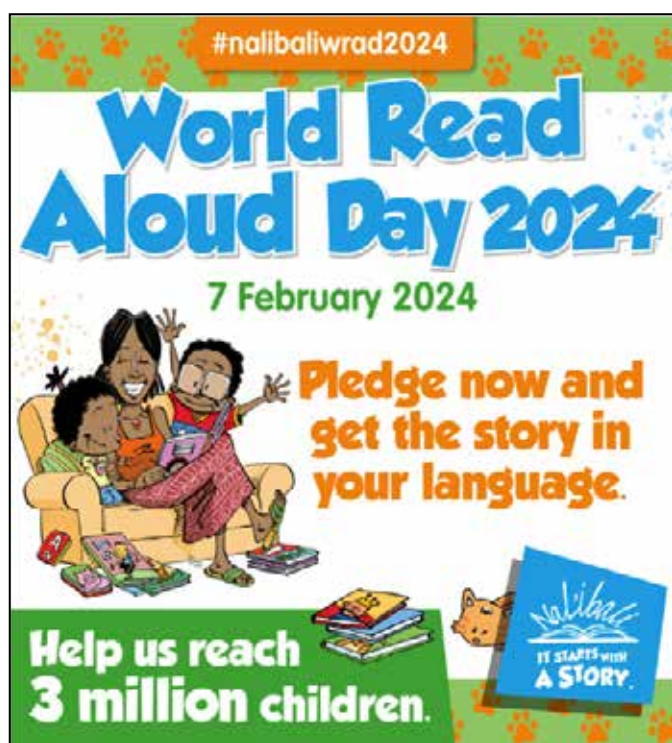
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

parents and guardians have less time, and often the knowledge to guide their children's engagements with the internet. With increasing digitalization, children are more able to get access to education, to connect to peers and to use the enormous potential the internet provides to them. This awareness day is aimed at young people, to help them know what to trust online, supporting young people to question, and to challenge and change the online world for the better. In most of Africa, it also focuses on access to the internet and data.

7 February

World Read Aloud Day

Storytelling and the oral tradition were and remain important part of preserving history, traditions, indigenous knowledge, education and history. Today we have books, but reading aloud for children and each other, listening to audio books remain important part of how we learn. World Read Aloud Day is therefore celebrated by over 170 million people globally and is growing, celebrated every first Wednesday of February. *"Storytelling creates connections among people and communities that exchange stories and engage in reading aloud together become stronger and show improved family health and nutrition, civic engagement and participation in the labor market."* South Africa's Nal'bali celebrates the day, encouraging a reading culture and targeting 3 million people to read aloud. (worldlit.com, <https://nalibali.org/wrad2024#>)



8 February

International Epilepsy Day



An estimated 65 million people are living with epilepsy around the world. To have epilepsy is to have a tendency to have recurring seizures. Anyone can have a seizure, if the brain is exposed to a strong enough stimulus. It is not necessarily a life-long diagnosis. South Africa also has national awareness day on epilepsy on 21 June each year.





X-WORD

#RegisterToVoteANC



ACROSS

- 2. These category of people can also vote.
- 6. Body responsible for running elections.
- 11. If you can't go to a voting station, you may apply for a ...
- 14. You can also register ... using your phone or laptop.
- 16. Document needed to register and vote.
- 17. The list of all eligible South Africans who can vote is called a ...
- 18. When was the first time all South Africans were allowed to vote?

DOWN

- 1. of Voters Act of 1951 removed all blacks (African, Indian, Coloureds) from the common voters roll.
- 3. You must check that you are registered in the correct where you live.
- 4. Number of people on the voters roll.
- 5. Party mandated to lead the building of a better life since 1994.
- 7. Representative from political parties to monitor that elections free and fair.
- 8. Places where we go to vote are called voting ...
- 9. IEC allows you to register from this age.
- 10. Our elections are also watched closely by African and international ...
- 12. When white women gained right to vote in SA.
- 13. To vote in SA you must be ... and above.
- 15. Number of young people still not registered by end January 2024.

WORD BANK

identity document eighteen 18 ANC IEC sixteen 16 Voters Roll
 1994 online 27 million 14 million party agents stations Voting district
 special vote prisoners observers 19 May 1930 Separate Representation

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