



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

22 – 28 March 2024



Conversations with the
President

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR SOME ARE HUMAN RIGHTS FOR NONE

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

THIS week, on 21 March, South Africa celebrated Human Rights Day.

On that day we will recall the Sharpeville Massacre of 21 March 1960, when apartheid police shot dead 69 unarmed protesters who were taking a stand against the apartheid regime's unjust and inhumane pass laws.

The events in Sharpeville on that day were one of the worst violations of human rights in our history and attracted worldwide condemnation. It was in the aftermath of the Sharpeville Massacre that in 1960, the United Nations (UN) Security Council adopted its first resolution condemning violence perpetrated by the apartheid regime.

Six years later, the UN General Assembly would label apartheid a crime against humanity. It would also declare 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and an opportunity to draw attention to racial injustice everywhere.

Thirty years into democracy, all who live in South Africa continue to enjoy the shelter and protection of the Bill of Rights enshrined in our Constitution. Our forebears who took up the struggle in defence of liberty and human rights at Sharpeville enjoyed no such protection. As a result of their struggles we now enjoy these rights.

In addition to the dreaded pass laws, black South Africans were

denied even the most basic rights. With a combination of unjust laws and brute force, the racist regime decided where black people could live, what schools their children could attend, who they could and could not marry, what occupations they could enter, and how much they could earn.

So petty and cruel was apartheid that there was even a law, the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act, that segregated public facilities along racial lines. "Whites Only" or "Net Blankes" signs were put up in store entrances, on public benches, in playgrounds, and even on the country's beaches.

For the generations born into freedom it is almost inconceivable

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

that such systematic, deep-seated racism existed, making it all the more necessary for us to reflect on how far we have come in building a country that is non-racial, non-sexist, equal, prosperous and free.

Over the past three decades, we have worked together to undo the terrible legacy of apartheid. However the effects of apartheid persist across society – whether it is in health, educational and developmental outcomes, access to basic services and infrastructure, or in the racialised nature of poverty, unemployment, inequality and exclusion.

Human Rights Month is an opportunity to assess the progress we have made over the past three decades to advance the Bill of Rights set out in our Constitution, as well as to reflect honestly on where we have fallen short.

The results of Census 2022 released last year highlight the progress we have made as a country in giving effect to the rights contained in our Constitution.

The pro-poor policies of the democratic state have lifted millions out of absolute poverty, expanded access to basic services, improved educational and health outcomes for the country's majority, and broadened participation in economic activity.

As we head into our country's 7th democratic election this year, we are further reminded of the fundamental freedoms South Africans enjoy today. These include freedom of conscience and opinion, the right to assembly and demonstration, freedom of association, and wide-ranging political rights. We also have a free, independent media that plays a critical



role in promoting transparency and accountability.

On the occasion of the adoption of our Constitution in 1996, we proclaimed to the world that we are a society committed to democracy, to the rule of law and to the protection of human rights.

This places a great responsibility on us as South Africans, whether as government, business, labour or civil society, to live up to the promise of our Bill of Rights.

We have to stand together united as we work for the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. We should not be in denial about our shortcomings and strive to overcome them with urgency. For millions of South Africans, lack of access to basic services, unemployment and lack of opportunity affect the most fundamental of human rights – the right to dignity.

As we continue to work towards realising the basic human rights

of all South Africans, we are reminded that these rights are universal. That all people, everywhere, have basic rights and should be free to exercise them.

We are reminded that we cannot truly be free until all people are free.

When we consider the deteriorating state of human rights and fundamental freedoms in many parts of the world today, we are mindful that we have a moral responsibility to strive for the achievement of human rights not just for our own people, but for all people across the world.

As we commemorate the tragic events that took place in Sharpeville in 1960, and recommit ourselves to the cause of human freedom, we stand firm in our position that human rights for only some are human rights for none.

Let us all continue to advance and protect the human rights of all who live in South Africa.

STATEMENT OF THE ANC

Delivered by **Secretary General Fikile Mbalula,**

ON THE ELECTORAL COURT CASE RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF THE MK PARTY BY THE IEC

OVER the hundred-and-twelve years of its existence, the African National Congress (ANC) has had to confront and defeat many counter-revolutionary schemes which sought to destroy the movement morally, politically, and organizationally, and ultimately derail the people's struggle for fundamental socio-economic transformation. Sowing seeds of confusion as a basis to scatter the movement and derail the united action of our people has been the headway to counter the potency of the ANC, the Alliance, and the mass democratic movement.

Stealing the history, heritage and intellectual property assets of the organization is part of the counter revolution propaganda aimed at communicating a multiplicity of political outposts all claiming legitimacy from the proud history of the ANC. This is because the architects of these acts of counter revolution have realized that by themselves, they lack the moral integrity to present themselves to society as credible leaders unless they hide behind the history of the movement.



Like our forebears, the ANC National Executive Committee has a dual responsibility to defend the organisational integrity and heritage of the ANC and to guarantee the continuity of the national project of fundamental socio-economic transformation.

Today, we are here at the Electoral Court in Mangaung to legally challenge the use of the name and symbols of Umkhonto weSizwe, by a new party led by one of the former leaders of the ANC.

It is a matter of historical record

that MK was a military wing of the ANC, and it operated under the political direction of the National Executive Committee. It is an integral part of the history and heritage of the ANC.

The formation of break-away parties is part of the strategy and tactics of counter-revolution whose goal is to stop or derail the National Democratic Revolution. Some of the tactics employed by counter-revolution include “divide and conquer”; “co-opt and corrupt”; “capture and weaken the democratic state”, and “unleash

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ANC SG FIKILE MBALULA

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It is a matter of historical record that MK was a military wing jointly formed by the ANC and the SACP and it operated under the political direction of the ANC National Executive Committee. It is an integral part of the history and heritage of the ANC. //

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER. VOTE ANC

ANC

African National Congress

A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

violence and create instability”.

On the other hand, the anti-transformation forces are converging into coalitions whose primary focus is to reverse the transformation agenda led by the ANC. The same anti-transformation forces are encouraging and funding rebel break-away groupings and small parties with the hope that all these efforts will erode the support base of the ANC and force it into coalitions.

It is very disturbing to note that some of the parties that masquerade as radical and have revolutionary-sounding rhetoric have common cause with the right-wing forces: they all want to derail the National Democratic Revolution.

The formation of this new party that has hijacked the name,

legacy and symbols of MK is not an accident. It is a deliberate attempt to sow confusion by using the proud history of armed struggle against the apartheid regime to lend credibility to what is a blatantly counter-revolutionary agenda.

The ultimate aim of the initiatives to form a myriad of small political parties is to chip away from all angles the popular electoral support base of the ANC. In this way, those forming these parties are doing so at the behest of their counter-revolution masters, who literally pay them to liquidate the ANC, morally, politically, and organisationally.

All this flows from the old-age narrative suggesting that the ANC is too big with the further argument that this in itself is not good for democracy. Essentially the size

and political posture of the ANC is not good for those whose unjust material interests are threatened by the advent of freedom and democracy.

These are forces which over the years have been arrayed against the ANC, as the embodiment of the forces for change. Having failed in their various attempts to chip away from moral and political hegemony of the ANC, they have now concentrated themselves as stealing the assets of the ANC to create a new organisation at the direct expense of the ANC.

As the ANC we are not perturbed by the mushrooming of many political parties as that is partly an expression of democracy, even as we know the clandestine forces behind these various initiatives. However, what we will not tolerate is anyone stealing the assets of the organisation.

The main reason why these forces want to liquidate the ANC politically and organisationally is because of the progressive stances the organisation has taken on both domestic and international matters.

These forces have as a result adopted the idea that the ANC cannot be vanquished or liquidated externally, but through counter revolution forces working from within, who claims to be members of the ANC whilst stealing its assets and leaving behind their trail of corruption as the basis of how the masses of the people must view the organisation.

That is why these protagonists of liquidating the ANC claim that they are members of the ANC, so as to hoodwink us hoping against hope that we will not realise they are in fact stealing the assets of

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the organisation.

The public posture and pronouncements of members and leaders of the party in question leave no doubt about its anti-constitutional, anti-democratic, ethno-populist, violent and insurrectionary intentions. The party also harbours views that some of the rights enshrined in our Constitution should be taken away. It has all the hallmarks of a rebel movement that would not hesitate to resort to insurrection and violence against the people as a bargaining tool, should the electoral outcome not favour them.

What is strange though, but perhaps not surprising, is that the so-called advocates of democracy and constitutionalism have been silent as those behind the so called MK Party threaten the very foundation of our democracy through violence. This in itself is revealing on the broad scope of counter revolution in South Africa.

Objectively, the leader of this party, Mr Jacob Zuma, is actively asserting himself as the figurehead of counterrevolution in South Africa today, standing in contrast and contradicting the façade of what he projected throughout his apparent struggle years. This in itself is revealing on the actual motive behind his political participation in the struggle, that it was ultimately about himself and not the masses of our people. And of course, he has historically abused the masses of the people, as he continues to seek to do so today, by pretending that his selfish needs are in fact the needs of the people. His activities and those of his party fit very well in the broader strategy of the right-wing forces of *“cutting the ANC to size and bringing it below 50%”*.

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“ The ANC will not allow any party to steal its legacy and trademarks - from that of MK to the uniform of the ANCWL. ”

LET'S DO MORE TOGETHER. VOTE ANC

African National Congress ANC X A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

This party is spreading the untruth that, currently the ANC is supposedly controlled by white monopoly capital (WMC) and foreign forces. This is the same narrative the Guptas hired Bell Pottinger to propagate and cause serious divisions in the movement and in society. The ANC has adopted very principled positions on major issues here at home and abroad, and this has pit our movement against right-wing forces globally and domestically. The false accusations that the ANC has sold out only serves to reinforce the work of the global and domestic opponents of the NDR who are working tirelessly to ensure regime change in our country.

Mr. Jacob Zuma is telling the people that he was badly treated by the ANC. Nothing is further from the truth. The ANC became

too ambivalent and accommodative of leaders whose ethical orientation was at odds with its own values. Renewal is setting the bar higher again to ensure that the ANC never ever allows an individual leader to lower its ethical bar to be accommodative.

The ANC will not allow any party to steal its legacy and trademarks – from that of MK to the uniform of the ANCWL.

Mr. Zuma’s reference to the ANC as *“the ANC of Ramaphosa”* was a cheap stunt to draw the President of the ANC into a personal tit-for-tat. He was effectively ignored.

This party wants to engage in electoral democratic contestation whilst lambasting the very democratic process. He seeks to commit electoral fraud, political-

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LET'S DO MORE,
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ly, morally, and legally speaking. Thus, whilst participating in electoral contestation, it is a participation that goes only as far as it serves the leader's needs.

This new party is a gathering largely of people who are either in trouble with the law or in trouble with renewal. What is common is anger, fear and hatred for the renewed ANC and loathing of rule of law – a renewed ANC must be out of power and an ethical, capable, and developmental State will be too dangerous for those in trouble with the law.

Narrow nationalism and populism

Over the past decade, rightwing tea parties led by right-wing nationalists and reckless populists have become commonplace in politics:

1. All the leaders are either

right-wing ultra-nationalists or populists.

2. They are all anti-establishment with anarchists and counterinsurgents.
3. They are anti-democracy and anti-constitutionalist and anti the rule of law.

4. Their personalities are bigger than their parties, they are charismatic 1-person show populists
5. They all have dictatorial/authoritarian big man syndrome tendencies.
6. They run fear-based mobilization and fear based negative campaigns which are racist, sexist, Afrophobic, homophobic, ethno-nationalists or tribalists from different national or religious groups who have not embraced the values of the Constitution.
7. They all run very powerful and effective propaganda campaigns based on what they term alternate truths, which in reality means fake news or falsehoods.
8. They all have disruption and rebellion built into the DNA of their parties and campaigns.
9. They project a capacity that threatens to disrupt and destabilize the government.
10. There is no ideological principles/coherence. Their campaigns are all based on rhetoric.



Jacob Zuma's "MK" Party continues to steal ANC symbols and claim it as its own

UNPACKING THE ANC'S MANIFESTO

Priority 4: INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

AT the outset, we wish to express our heartfelt sympathy to the families, friends, and communities of those who sustained injuries en route to the Inkatha Freedom Party manifesto launch at Moses Mabhida Stadium a week ago.

Our thoughts are with each individual affected during this unfortunate incident, and we extend our sincere wishes for their rapid and full recovery.

Similarly, we condemn in the strongest terms the misuse of a commemorative event, such as the celebration of His Majesty King Dinuzulu's war exploits during the 110th anniversary of the late Zulu King Dinuzulu kaCetshwayo, attended by President Cyril Ramaphosa and His Majesty King Misuzulu kaZwelithini at kwaCeza, a few kilometres away from Ulundi, at the weekend.

The exploitation of traditional functions to advance the political agendas of parties tainted by historical grievances is deplorable.

As the African National Congress, we unequivocally affirm our support for traditional institutions and leaders, including the reigning monarch of the Zulu na-



tion, His Majesty King Misuzulu kaZwelithini.

Our steadfast support for these institutions remains unwavering, and we shall not be swayed by those entrenched in yesterday's politics, seeking to meddle in the affairs of traditional leadership for short-term political gains.

We recognize the vital role that traditional institutions and their leaders play in our societal fabric, serving not only as custodians of our rich heritage but also as crucial partners in our nation's development and governance.

It is our belief that respecting and

upholding these institutions is paramount to fostering unity, cultural pride, and social cohesion among our people.

Therefore, the ANC commits to working collaboratively with traditional leaders, ensuring that their invaluable insight and leadership continue to guide community development, while also respecting the autonomy and sanctity of traditional institutions.

We stand firm in our conviction that the future of South Africa's growth and prosperity is intrinsically linked to a harmonious partnership between government and traditional leadership, one



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that respects the past while boldly stepping into the future.

Two weeks prior, the people and members of the people's movement across South Africa convened to express their overwhelming support for the progress agenda of the African National Congress.

Despite the sceptics, the response from our people affirmed the ANC as the party of choice for individuals of all ages, races, genders, and backgrounds, irrespective of their religious convictions, social standing, and ethnicity.

We filled the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium, a feat unmatched by some, who were left with empty chairs, not to mention their empty promises grounded in populism for its own sake.

This stark contrast not only showcased our unwavering support but also highlighted the substantive nature of our agenda, as opposed to the shallow offerings based on fleeting populism presented by others.

Our gathering at the stadium was a testament to the deep-rooted belief in our mission and the tangible progress we've pledged to deliver, far removed from the ideologically vacuous assurances that have become all too common in the political landscape.

Several months ago, the African National Congress initiated a programme to review the implementation of our previous manifestos and evaluate the progress made since the dawn of our democracy.

We reminisced about the groundbreaking announcements made by President Nelson Mandela in 1994 to implement the Recon-

struction and Development Programme (RDP).

These initiatives included providing free healthcare for pregnant women and children under six, offering free housing for the impoverished, and the extensive rollout of water, sanitation, and electricity to those previously marginalised.

Our efforts have encompassed the promotion and protection of various groups, such as workers, women, the youth, people with disabilities, children, LGBTQ+ and senior citizens, anchored in the Bill of Rights within our Constitution.

The 2024 Manifesto builds on the achievements of the past 30 years of democracy to tackle the numerous challenges that persist despite these successes.

Consequently, the 2024 manifesto aims to consolidate the democratic gains since 1994, underscoring our continuous commitment to investing in our people and ensuring their well-being and prosperity.

It is upon the indomitable spirit and unyielding courage of our people that the foundation of our freedom was built. Throughout the darkest periods of our history, it was the masses who bravely confronted the brutal apartheid regime, refusing to be silenced or subdued.

As the African National Congress we acknowledge with profound respect and deep reverence the sacrifices made by countless South Africans in the pursuit of liberation.

The 1960 Sharpeville Massacre, a harrowing event that led to the

banning of our movement, stands as a testament to the resilience and tenacity of our people.

They faced adversity with unparalleled bravery, their actions echoing through history as a catalyst for change.

In the wake of oppression, the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in 1961 marked a pivotal moment, uniting men and women, black and white, in a shared commitment to justice.

These brave souls risked everything, joining the ranks of MK combatants to challenge the tyranny of apartheid.

The Soweto Uprising of 1976 further exemplified the unwavering resolve of our youth, who dared to disrupt the oppressive narrative enforced by the regime of a 'happy native', a 'happy kaffir' as it were.

These defining moments in our struggle highlight the relentless pursuit of freedom by the people of South Africa, who have consistently risen against injustice.

Recognising the unparalleled sacrifices of the men and women who laid down their homes, lives, and limbs for our liberation, the ANC regards the empowerment and upliftment of our people not as a favour but as a sacred duty.

Our commitment to eradicating poverty, underdevelopment, and the indignity of living in squalor is not merely a policy choice; it is a homage to the legacy of those who fought for the very freedoms we enjoy today.

As the governing party, we are dedicated to honouring this legacy by ensuring that our pol-

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icies and programmes reflect the valour and aspirations of our people.

Our mission is rooted in the historical imperative to lift every South African out of the shadows of the past and into the light of a prosperous, equitable future.

Investing in our people means prioritising education, healthcare, economic empowerment, and social security. It means creating opportunities that allow every South African to realise their full potential, contributing to the nation's growth and prosperity.

Our vision is for a South Africa where no one is left behind, where every citizen enjoys the fruits of democracy and the benefits of our collective progress, a Better Life as it were.

The ANC reiterates its unwavering commitment to building a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa.

We draw inspiration from the courage of our forebears and pledge to continue their struggle for a just and equitable society.

Together, we shall forge ahead, with the people of South Africa as our most cherished asset, ensuring that their sacrifices were not in vain and that their dreams of a better life for all become a reality. In this spirit, we call upon every South African to join us in this noble endeavour. Let us work hand in hand to honour the legacy of our heroes and heroines by dedicating ourselves to the upliftment of our nation.

It is through our collective efforts that we can truly pay tribute to those who made the ultimate



sacrifice for our freedom.

Together, as the ANC and the people of South Africa, we shall rise to the challenges of our time, inspired by our shared history and united in our pursuit of a brighter, more inclusive future.

We will invest in South Africa's people by improving access to quality education and health, expanding the use of science and technology, and ensuring all people have decent housing and basic services.

Today, we stand on the precipice of a new dawn, brought forth by the unwavering spirit and resilience of the South African people. It is a spirit that has, through the ages, confronted the scourge of apartheid with stoic resolve and has overcome adversities that would have faltered lesser nations.

In this enduring spirit, the African National Congress (ANC) reaffirms its commitment to the most valuable asset of our nation – its people.

The ANC recognises that the prosperity of our nation is inex-

tricably linked to the education of its people. It is through education that we equip our youth with the tools to build a brighter future, not just for themselves but for South Africa at large.

As we reflect on the strides we have made since the advent of democracy, the increase in educational institution attendance from 70.1% in 1996 to 73.4% among those aged 5 to 24, as per the 2022 Census, is a testament to our collective efforts.

This achievement is underscored by the universal attendance rate of 98% for 5- and 6-year-olds, mirroring the benchmarks of developed nations and signifying our resolve to leave no child behind.

Our journey towards educational excellence is further highlighted by the soaring literacy rate of 84%, a clear indicator of our successful campaigns against adult illiteracy.

These milestones are but stepping stones towards our ultimate goal – a nation where every citizen is empowered by the light of knowledge and the strength of education.

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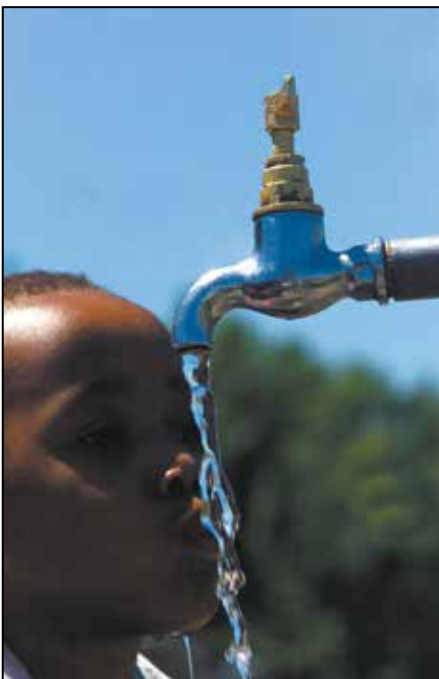
In our quest to prepare our youth for the challenges and opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the ANC has embarked on a bold journey to harness the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education.

The provision of assistive devices and connectivity to 435 public Special Schools is a step towards an inclusive educational system that leaves no learner behind.

Furthermore, the introduction of the Coding and Robotics Curriculum for Grades R to 3 across selected schools nationwide is a pioneering initiative aimed at nurturing the innovators and technologists of tomorrow.

The cornerstone of our educational achievements lies in the unwavering dedication and professionalism of our teachers.

Through initiatives such as the Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme, which has produced an average of 4,300 graduates annually since 2013, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering a new gen-



eration of passionate and qualified educators.

These educators are the lifeblood of our education system, shaping the minds and futures of our youth.

Invest in Our People

The African National Congress commits to enhancing the lives of South Africans by significantly improving access to quality education and healthcare, expanding the use of science and technology, and ensuring that all citizens enjoy decent housing and essential services.

Ensure Local Government Delivers

The ANC will:

- Grant national and provincial governments greater responsibilities to support municipalities struggling to provide services to communities.
- Hold public representatives and deployees accountable for delivering basic services to communities, as outlined in our 2021 Manifesto. We will monitor implementation through the ANC Local Government Monitor and act against public representatives who are not performing, which may include their recall.

Provide Clean Water for All

The ANC will:

- Empower national and provincial governments to intervene and provide clean water where municipalities are struggling, build maintenance capacity, and complete water infrastructure projects.
- Separate water services au-

thorities from water service providers to improve efficiency.

- Ensure proper planning and investment to meet immediate and future sanitation needs.
- Complete major dams and water schemes within the next five years to ensure sustainable access to water for a growing population, including the uMzimvubu and uMkhomazi dams, and raising the Clanwilliam and Tzaneen dam walls, among others.
- Assist municipalities, through our public employment projects, to fix water leaks.

Transport

The ANC will:

- Use public employment programmes to fix potholes, pave roads, and maintain community and rural roads, as well as other road infrastructure.
- Ensure a greater role for the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) in road maintenance and extension in towns and rural areas.
- Fast-track the reinstatement



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of all existing passenger rail lines, provide security for rail infrastructure and passengers, and develop further passenger rail networks, including high-speed rail.

- Strengthen the taxi industry, including formalisation, support taxi ownership and businesses in their industry value chains, promote commuter safety, and move towards subsidisation of taxi commuters.

Improve Education and Skills

Education, health, and science and technology are key areas through which the ANC pledges to continuously transform society for the better. A comprehensive framework for the transformation of basic education, the post-school education and training system, health, and our system of innovation has been established. This process has seen great advancements as well as setbacks.

The ANC will:

- Ensure universal access to quality early child development by 2030.
- Foster a culture of reading, numeracy, and technological skills.
- Expand skills development programmes in emerging fields like data analytics and artificial intelligence.
- Strengthen the post-school education and training sector through better coordination, responsiveness to labour market needs, and improved quality, throughput, and access.
- Expand vocational and technical training in schools and post-school institutions and build additional TVET and community colleges.



- Fast-track the public provision of student residences, using current expenditure on subsidies from NSFAS, to address the backlog in student accommodation.
- Offer more digital learning opportunities, invest in specialist medical training, and promote second chance and lifelong learning opportunities.

Ensure Healthcare for All

The ANC will:

- Promote healthy lifestyles and preventive healthcare campaigns.
- Move decisively towards implementing the National Health Insurance, strengthening health infrastructure, training personnel, and creating a single electronic health record.
- Expand the Ideal Clinic programme to improve the quality of care.
- Strengthen financial management and supply chain management in public health institutions.
- Collaborate with other coun-

tries on research and development of traditional medicine.

- Leverage new technologies like telemedicine and artificial intelligence in healthcare.

Use Science and Innovation for Development

The ANC will:

- Support innovation in green technologies, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and decarbonisation programmes.
- Increase research and development spending and prioritise areas like industrialisation, climate change, and technologies such as virtual reality, augmented reality, blockchain, artificial intelligence, and the internet of things.
- Foster the development of new and existing industries, increase patent development, and strengthen local innovation systems, including green energy technologies.
- Contribute to the African Union's goal of producing

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100,000 PhD graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the next decade.

Build More Houses and Provide Basic Services to All

The ANC will:

- Continue building subsidised housing for vulnerable groups.
- Increase land availability near economic centres for youth, military veterans, and seniors.
- Establish a Human Settlement Bank for affordable financing.
- Upgrade informal settlements and provide basic services.
- Strengthen the regulation of

rental prices and protect consumers.

- Improve access to clean water and increase bulk water infrastructure.
- Expand sanitation access through alternative technologies.
- Address challenges with wastewater treatment plants.
- Ensure safe drinking water and prevent pollution of water sources.
- Manage rapid urbanisation through a sustainable model of compact, connected cities and towns, including the development of new cities and towns.

The African National Congress remains steadfast in its commitment to the people of South Af-

rica, guided by the principles of inclusivity, progress, and shared prosperity.

Our Election Manifesto reflects not only the aspirations and voices of the nation but also our unwavering dedication to addressing the challenges and opportunities facing our society.

Through comprehensive initiatives spanning education, health-care, housing, and support for vulnerable groups, we aim to build a future where every South African can thrive and contribute to the nation's development.

Together, let us forge ahead, inspired by the vision of a brighter tomorrow and shared commitment, **“Let’s Do More, Together.”**

MYANC PLEDGE ELECTIONS INITIATIVE



A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

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DECISIVE VICTORY
AND A BETTER
LIFE FOR ALL!**

ALLIANCE

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY AT SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES DISAPPOINTING

STATEMENT by the Congress of South African Trade Unions

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) is extremely disappointed by the blatant disregard shown by some universities towards employment equity. It defies belief that 30 years into democracy, several historically White universities have shown very little movement towards an academic staff that reflects the diversity of not only South Africa but even their own university students.

Whilst the Federation has never expected overnight transformation, nor does the Employment Equity Act require this. We do expect tangible progress, more so given that thirty years has passed since 1994 and the amount of money that taxpayers have spent on not only funding student tuition but also the universities themselves.

A recent survey by News24 has found deeply worrying indications of a complete failure to embrace the spirit of diversity amongst several universities. Examples include 66% to 74% of the Universities of the North West, Stellenbosch, Free State and Pretoria's professoriate being White despite Whites being 8% of the



nation's population. Similar worrying trend appear with the University of the Free State only having 19 women professors, yet not one of them is African, Coloured or Indian. One can only assume similar painful figures for persons with disabilities.

These shameful failures to make substantial progress towards ensuring African, Coloured, Indian and women staff are appointed at all levels of the academic staff could be blamed on societal challenges, yet several universities have shown real progress, including the Universities of Johannesburg, Witwatersrand, Western Cape and Cape Peninsula.

This is a scandal that should not continue to be ignored or swept

under the carpet. The Ministry for Higher Education and Parliament should hold these tardy institutions accountable as they are entitled to under the Higher Education Act. The University Councils need to be rustled out of their deep slumber and fulfill their governance mandates. University administrations which continue to show contempt for the non-racial and non-sexist vision of the Constitution should be encouraged to make way for younger and more progressive persons. Those who refuse should be told their state funding will be made conditional on tangible progress.

Government needs to do more to not only ensure children from disadvantaged communities are able to access and succeed at tertiary education institutions, but also to mentor and invest in the next generation of academics and lecturers. The private sector, in particular large listed corporations, need to play their role and invest in historically disadvantaged universities.

What we cannot afford to do is to greet forty years of democracy in a decade and still see such depressing employment equity figures.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

ANC VETERANS LEAGUE COMMEMORATES HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

■ By **SNUKI ZIKALALA, ANC VL President**

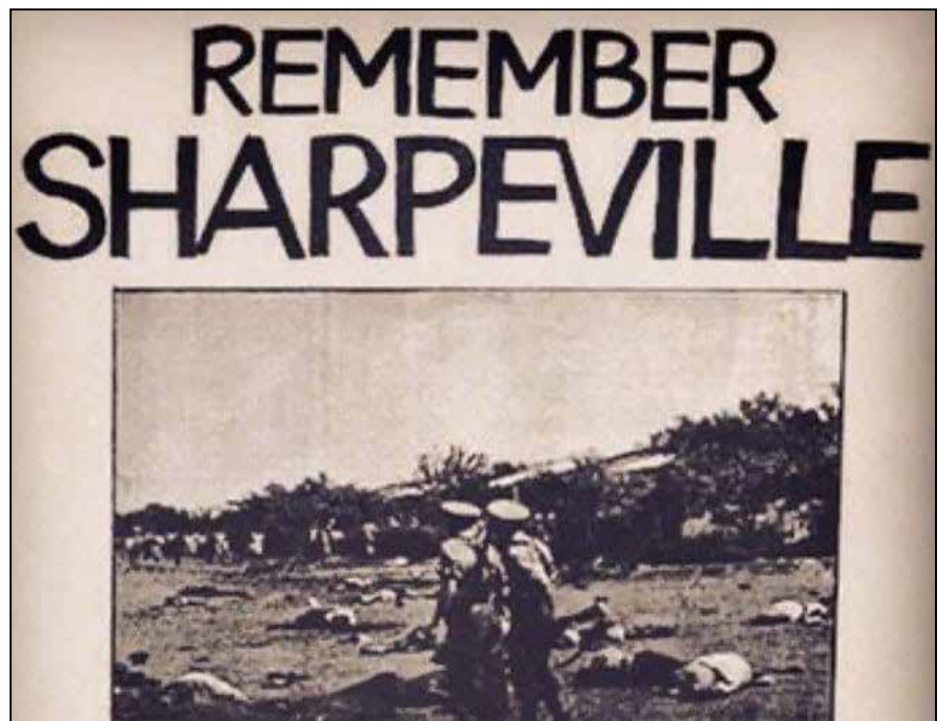
TODAY, as we commemorate Human Rights Day, the ANC Veterans League reflects on the journey of our nation, marked by the tragic events of Sharpeville in 1960, where demonstrators were unjustly gunned down by the police. Despite the challenges, our commitment to healing and forging a better future for all remains unwavering.

Cde Mac Maharaj, a stalwart within our ranks, eloquently captured the essence of our post-apartheid journey in his reflections on the historic 1994 elections. He aptly stated, “After 1994 our challenge has been to use the democracy we won in order to achieve the socio-economic transformation essential to give meaning and content to freedom.”

The ANC Door-to-Door Manual provides a poignant contrast between the apartheid era and the present-day reality, highlighting the progress made in securing human rights and fostering equality for all South Africans.

Before 1994:

- Apartheid entrenched racial segregation, denying the majority of South Africans their fundamental rights.
- Discrimination permeated every facet of society, from polit-



ical participation to access to basic services and opportunities.

- The ANC and other liberation movements faced harsh repression, with leaders detained and imprisoned without trial.

Today:

- Every citizen enjoys equal rights and the opportunity to participate in shaping our democracy.
- Our Constitution stands as a beacon of hope, guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms for all.
- We celebrate our diversity

and actively promote inclusivity, gender equality, and the rights of marginalized communities.

- South Africa is recognized globally for its commitment to democracy, with free and fair elections and a vibrant civil society.

As we commemorate Human Rights Day, the ANC Veterans League reaffirms our dedication to the ongoing struggle for justice, equality, and the renewal of our beloved organization. Together, let us continue to build a united, inclusive, and prosperous South Africa for future generations

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



COMMEMORATING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – THE MARTYRS OF STRUGGLE

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

IN a callous act that shocked the world, little did we know that the graves that adorn Sharpeville, where lies our martyrs, a legacy of human rights and dignity will be bequeathed upon us by those who in act of valour, defied the heinous system of apartheid.

In a sense of reflection, thinking of a painful yesterday, a history of twisted hairs and indignity of Albert Street in Johannesburg where our forebears were stripped naked of their being, the Group Areas Act which accounts for today's racial classification and polarization, the pass laws which confined us to the hinterlands, restricted and violated our movement, today is beautiful, full of hope.

21 March 2024 marks exactly 64 years since the murderous regime opened fire on 69 protesters unarmed protesters in Sharpeville, outside Vereninging. News of the killings evoked indignation throughout the country and abroad.

The martyrs who lie there are silently watching over us, guiding us through a tumultuous journey that birthed democracy on the 27 April 1994. This was a distinctive period where the African National Congress, in recognition of the injustices of the past and in honour of those who suffered for justice and freedom, declared the 21 March as the Human Rights Day.

To the envy and applause of the international community, on the

10th December 1996, Nelson Mandela and the people of South Africa descended upon Sharpeville and signed the Constitution into law. The choice of Sharpeville was in recognition of selfless contribution and heroic struggles to unchain the black majority from the yoke of oppression and mortification of secondary citizenship in the land of their birth. The 27th of April 1994 was not a miracle but an idea whose time had come.

The adoption of the Constitution birthed the seminal work of “*One Law one Nation – The Making of the South African Constitution*” which captures the essence of the Constitution as a catalytic and transformative instrument to advance freedom and to defend our democracy. It takes us

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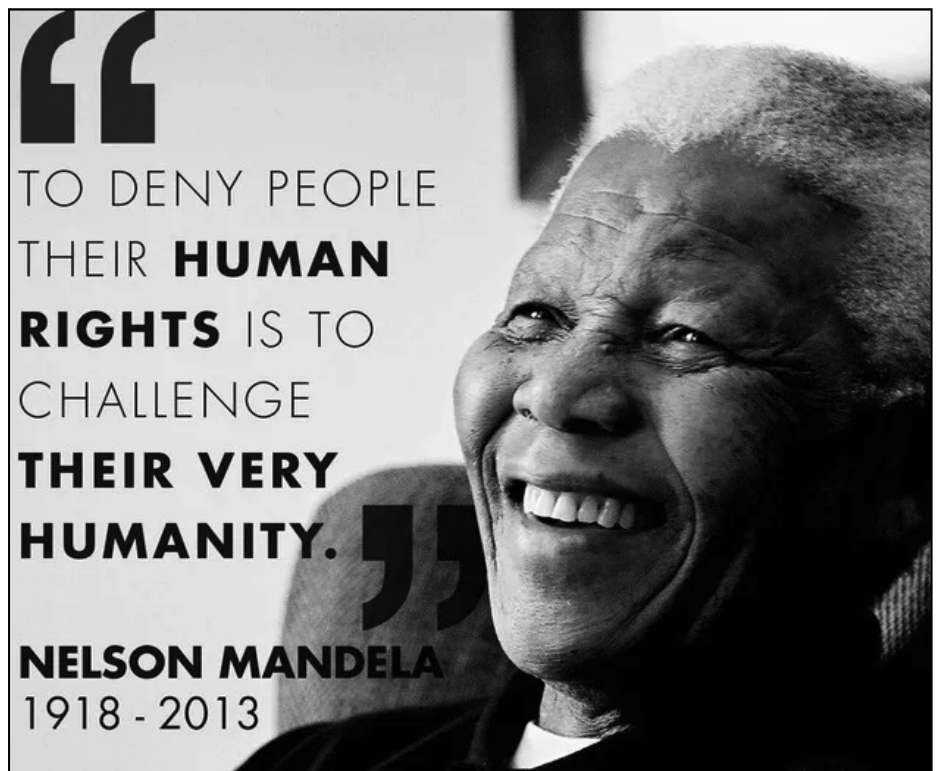
through an agonizing path of human resilience. The Sharpeville Massacre was an act of human defiance against injustice.

The year 2024 marks a momentous period in our history, a history written in blood and hope. This hope is about our freedom and our patriotic duty to defend democracy and consolidate the massive gains amassed since 1994, advancing the cause of those who stared into the barrel of the gun for our freedom.

This is a significant milestone of human dignity, equality, citizenship, freedom, security of a person, religion, belief, association, assembly, slavery, forced labour servitude, expression, political rights, movement, residence, property, labour relations, environment, housing, children, water, health, food, social security, education, cultural rights, information, culture, language, justice and many other rights contained in the Constitution as an advancement of the ideals outlined in the Freedom Charter in 1955 and the struggles of the people of Sharpeville in 1960.

This distinctive period changed the course of history and the liberation movement's outlook towards the apartheid regime. The ANC adopted the armed struggle, leading to the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in 1961. In a state of panic, the government imposed the State of Emergency to stifle political activism and banned political organisations.

This emboldened the ANC, which adopted new strategies and tactics which over a period of time, shook the apartheid foundations. 30 years of democracy, this period demonstrates the strength of our democracy and credibility



of the Constitution, the will of the people, adult universal suffrage, and the legitimacy of the state, free and fair elections. The ANC understands this important period of our history as a continuation of the journey travelled many years. It is a period of the advancement of freedom, defending democracy and investing in people.

Lets do more, together is a social contract between the ANC and society, an intrinsic feature that defines the relationship of the ANC and the people, the people and the ANC as a formidable force and developmental and change agents that work together in pursuance of the common objectives and a quest for a future and culture of human rights.

The struggle for democracy and freedom and the agenda of investing in the people is articulated in Priorities of the ANC Manifesto of advancing freedom and defending democracy and elevating people to the apex of the transformation agenda.

The priorities of the ANC 2024 Election Manifesto are a continuation of the struggles of the martyrs of the people of Sharpeville.

These priorities are:

Priority 1

Put South Africa to work, through public employment programme that creates work opportunities in the public, small businesses and social sector.

Priority 2

Build our industries for an inclusive economy, by implementing a cross-cutting industrial strategy that drives growth and creates opportunities for youth, women and people with disabilities.

Priority 3

Tackle the high cost of living, by taking steps to make everyday life more affordable for workers, unemployed persons, women-headed households and the middle class by addressing key needs like food, housing, health care, energy, transport and wages.

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Priority 4

Invest in people, by meeting the basic needs of all, investing in education, improving health outcome and improving service delivery.

Since 1994, the ANC has ensured quality education, free higher education, school infrastructure, scholar transport, feeding scheme, potable water, electricity, sanitation and a people-driven and people-centred local government entrusted with a legislative mandate of delivering basic services to communities for a better life for all.

Today, thousands of children have unfettered access to education. The dignity of our communities has been restored by providing housing in congruence with the injunction of "There shall be housing, security and comfort" as advocated by the Freedom Charter.

Priority 5

Defend democracy and advance freedom, promoting and defending the rights of all South Africans against racism, sexism, gender-based violence, homophobia, discrimination and other intolerances.

This includes intensifying the war on crime and making our communities, tackle corruption and improving public accountability.

Priority 6

Build a better Africa and a better world. Global instability threatens development and prosperity. The ANC will champion progressive internationalism, inclusive of multilateralism, party and party relation for a new global order of collaborations based on reciprocal benefit and mutual prosperity and growth.

We commit ourselves to the liberation of Palestine and an end to Israel monstrosity and conflict across the world for a peaceful order. *"There shall be peace and friendship."*

These Priorities are the cardinal pillars and foundations of our quest for a better. We shall, working together with the people, for more, advance the agenda of a better life based on the culture of

human rights and dignity.

The ANC dips its black, green and gold revolutionary colours in remembrance. We call upon the people of South Africa to join us in the journey towards a better life for all. Our full freedom can be attained by voting ANC on the 29th of May 2024.

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER, VOTE ANC.

ANC
A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER, VOTE ANC

African National Congress  **ANC**  

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Free State Department of Health observes Human Rights Day

■ By **MATHABO LEETO**

THE Free State Department of Health has dedicated its work to the ever increasing, widening and deepening scope of efforts at restoration of human dignity. This is an integral part of the commitment by the ANC Government to ensure observance of Human Rights in South Africa.

Health is arguably the most emotive pillar of service delivery which has been manipulated and turned as a weapon to undermine progress that has been achieved in a democratic era. The democratic order has enabled universal access to everyone in need of healthcare services in general and emergency care in particular. Our detractors count and loudly amplify areas that we are yet to reach and those in which we have fallen short on.

This year's commemoration of Human Rights Month happens to coincide with the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy. Our country commemorates this under the theme: ***“Three Decades of Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights”***.

The whole month of March will be used to reflect on our achievements to promote respect for basic human rights and restoring human dignity in line with the Bill



of Rights.

Our generational task is to preserve the memory of our struggle by commemorating such events purposefully to conscientize our Millennials and mobilise them and all other motive forces towards the realisation of the total emancipation of all South Africans irrespective of their class, race, gender, creed and religion, amongst others.

The history of Human Rights Day is grounded in the Sharpeville Massacre that took place on the 21 of March 1960, where the apartheid police shot and killed 69 people during a peaceful protest march, thus sparking violent protests in many parts of our

country. These brutal killings continued unabated beyond 1960 as an attempt by the brutal system of apartheid to erase the memory of our long walk to freedom. We are thankful to many generations beyond the Class of 1960 for their bravery and determination never to betray the just cause of our liberation struggle against all odds.

The oppression of Africans, Indians and Coloureds was systematically done by the apartheid government which denied our people of every possible human rights whilst subjecting them to the most inhumane living conditions and denied them of all basic human rights. The sustained liberation efforts were based on the power of united action by the

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masses of our people and the international work to isolate the apartheid government.

These efforts earned the apartheid government a pariah status of a rogue government which was tithing on acts of genocide with the mass killings that were frequently taking place. In 1966, the General Assembly of the United Nations labelled apartheid as a crime against humanity (resolution 2202 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966) and in 1984 the Security Council endorsed this determination (resolution 556 (1984) of 23 October 1984).

It is interesting that very few White South Africans ever denounced apartheid except those that were in the liberation movement. Today, South Africa's political parties with historically white backgrounds such as the DA and the Vryheidsfront Plus are still determined to protect exclusive white privileges and deny that apartheid was ever declared a crime against humanity.

In a study dated 1990 October by E O Nightingale et al titled **Apartheid medicine: Health and Human Rights in South Africa**, an attempt is made to demonstrate how discriminatory practices were deeply entrenched by the apartheid government on the health of the nation they divided.

The study by Nightingale et al amply demonstrates that Human rights violations, such as detention without charge or trial, assault and torture in police custody, and restriction orders, have had devastating effects on the health of persons experiencing them. These violations have occurred in the context of a deliberate policy of discriminatory health care favouring the white minority

over the black majority.

Nightingale et al further asserts that South Africa's medical societies have had mixed responses to the health problems raised by human rights violations and inequities in the health care system.

The amelioration of health care for all and prevention of human rights violations depended on ending apartheid and discrimination and focusing greater government attention to these problems. Apartheid apologists insist on labeling the 30 years of freedom and democracy as a failure but refuse to acknowledge that this mere 30 years has been a relentless effort to undo more than 400 years of colonial rule and systemic oppression of divide and

rule under apartheid.

The 30 years of democracy, therefore, is an opportunity to celebrate the great strides that we have made in building a democracy that is founded on equal human rights for all people.

The Census 2022 points to a basket of improvements across most human development indicators such as provision of housing and basic services such as electricity, water and waste removal which have increased steadily over the last three decades. Despite these massive advances, Census 2022 also pinpoints what still needs to be done and the ANC Government is determined to redouble efforts to build a better tomorrow for all and leave no one behind.

Patients' Rights Charter

Your right to dignity

Every patient has a right to

Healthy and safe environment

Participation in decision-making

Access to health care

Knowledge of one's health

Insurance/medical aid scheme

Choice of health services

Treated by a named health care provider

Confidentiality and privacy

Informed consent

Refusal of treatment

A second opinion

Continuity of care

Complaints about health services

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We are not in denial over the unfortunate detours that were experienced along the journey of liberating South Africans. Lack of common vision as well as fraud and corruption have had their fair share of weakening the ANC Government and diverting it from its historic mission.

Since 2019, the ANC Government has been impacted positively by the resounding calls for organisational renewal. The resolutions of the 55th National Conference deeply reflected on the ongoing challenges of renewal and the necessity of that renewal in many areas of good clean governance.

The approach to the broad elements of Organisational Renewal and Renewal of the State are informed by the need to reposition the character of the ANC as a liberation movement that must organise, mobilise and lead the motive forces in society in pursuit of a National Democratic Society. These organisational renewal actions resonate with long term planning in response to the 74th World Health Assembly in 2021 which adopted resolution WHA74.16 and encouraged Member States to take action to address the social determinants of health.

Taking care of the environment and responding to the challenges imposed by climate change at local community level is supportive and responsive to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, NDP2030 as well as building towards the Roadmap 2032.

The renewal of the ANC is the renewal of the State and strengthening of the guarantee of provision of basic services to the people including the much an-



tipicated implementation of the National Health Insurance. It is notable that the Free State is one of the NHI pilot sites in the country that achieved the 90-90-90 targets to curb the spread of HIV, AIDS and TB. Through the support of development partners the Free State is in a pole position to achieve the adjusted targets of 95-95-95 targets to end the scourge of HIV, AIDS and TB.

The strategy actions are that 95% of all people living with HIV, AIDS and TB to know their status, 95% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, and 95% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy to have viral suppression before or by 2030.

Part of this determination towards a renewal can also be found in many service delivery innovations that we announced on 21 November 2023 when we launched digital health services. These digital health services are adding impetus towards an NHI ready Free State.

These digital health services are:

- **Modernised Emergency Medical Management Services App** (known as Bophelo

App) – this app is earmarked to get our EMS clients to track the response time of our ambulances, amongst others.

- **Reality Medico-legal Surveillance System (ARMS)** will enable real time specialist guidance and assistance of paramedics who respond to emergency situations as well as specialist guidance and assistance in Theatres in District and Regional Hospitals that are far away from Pelonomi Tertiary and Universitas Academic Hospitals.
- **Electronic Health Record System (EHR) – (HMS2)** – this will help with the National Health Registration Number and Safe Keeping of Patient Files.
- **Electronic Recruitment System** – is already adding credibility of the recruitment system, saving time and costs for applicants who no longer need to have piles of photocopying of their qualifications; and
- **Digitisation of paper-based patient records** – these are historic files of patients that

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often lack storage space and are hard to find in instances of medico-legal claims and historic reference to patient records.

These projects are now in the stage of implementation. The Digitization of Paper Records project is currently underway at Universitas, Pelonomi, Dikhalabeng, Elizabeth Ross, and Mofumahali Manapo Mopeli Regional Hospital. Over 5 million pages of patient files have already been digitized. This will ensure that historical records of patients are kept safe and easily retrievable in the event of any medico-legal claims or historical reference. The project will continue until May 2025.

We are delivering 4 month's packages of ARVs and other medicines to our patients on chronic medication who are stable and adhering. This strategic move will greatly impact on reduction of long waiting times at our health facilities for people who are only coming to pick up their medications. We are also asking those who are 60 years and above to register at our health facilities to have their medication delivered

at home.

Our record of achievement has been impressive but as we have said above, the emotive elements of health have been rightfully lamented by our people but opportunistically blown out of proportion by our unrepentant detractors. We aim to move more faster to deepen the restoration of human rights of our people. Our elaborate Social Cluster Programme is based on an integrated wholesome meeting of basic needs of all the vulnerable groups.

We call this the focus on social determinants of health. These are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems.

The social determinants of health have an important influence on health inequities - the unfair and avoidable differences in health

status seen within and between countries. In countries at all levels of income, health and illness follow a social gradient: the lower the socioeconomic position, the worse the health.

The following list provides examples of the social determinants of health, which can influence health equity in positive and negative ways:

- Income and social protection;
- Education;
- Unemployment and job insecurity;
- Working life conditions;
- Food insecurity;
- Housing, basic amenities and the environment;
- Early childhood development
- Social inclusion and non-discrimination;
- Structural conflict;
- Access to affordable health services of decent quality.

Let's do more together to realise the human rights of all the people of our country.

Mathabo Leeto is Free State MEC for Health, Chairperson of Social Cluster and ANC Free State Provincial Treasurer



“
Health cannot be a question of income; it is a fundamental human right.
 ”

Nelson Mandela

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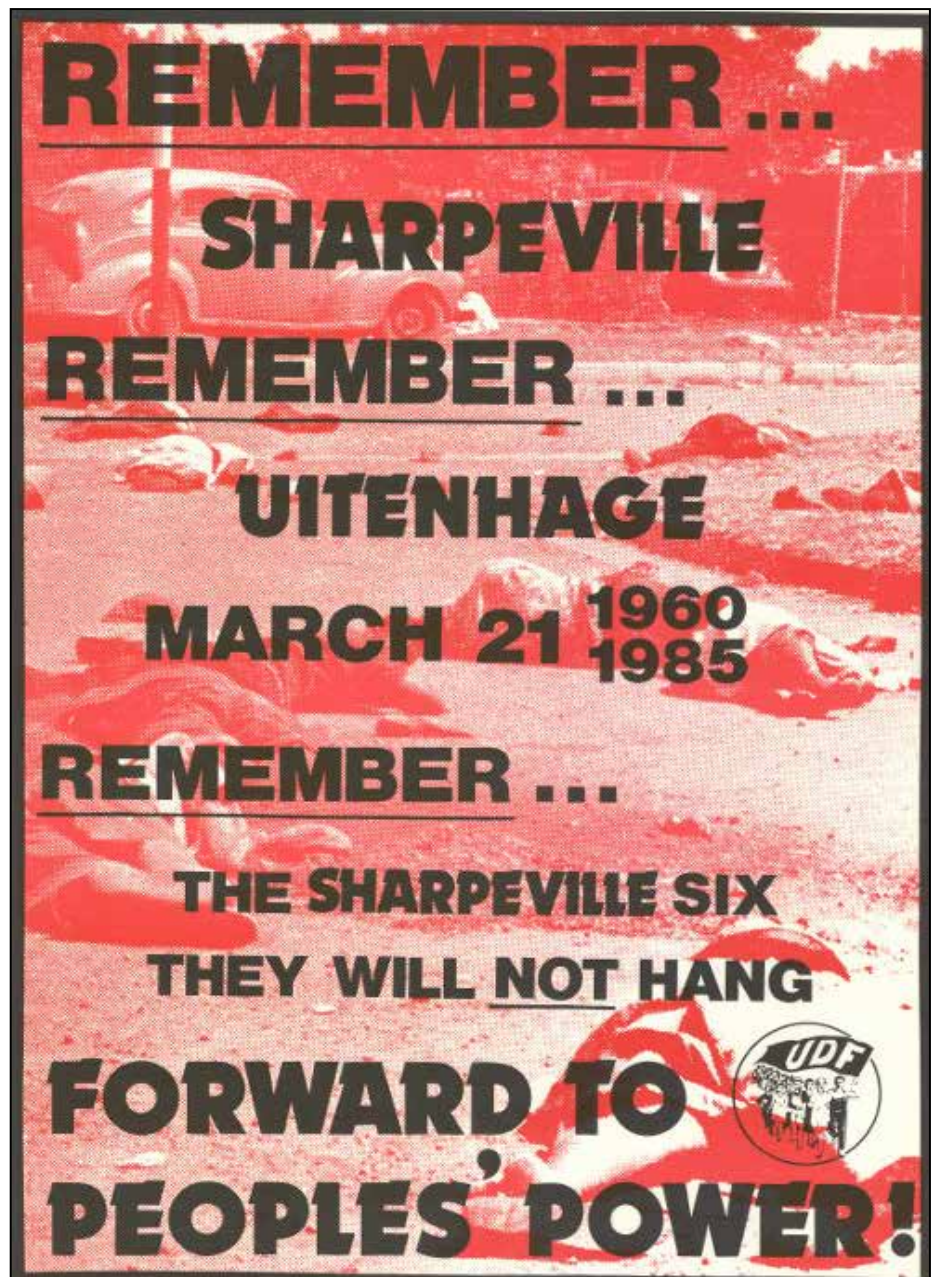
A LEAF OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

21 MARCH 1960: THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

THE Sharpeville massacre occurred on 21 March 1960 at the police station of the South African township of Sharpeville in the then Transvaal (today part of Gauteng). After a day of demonstrations against pass laws, a crowd of about 7,000 protesters arrived at the police station. The South African police opened fire on the crowd, killing 69 people and injuring 180 others. Sources disagree as to the behaviour of the crowd; some state that the crowd was peaceful, while others state that the crowd had been hurling stones at the police, and that the shooting started when the crowd started advancing towards the fence surrounding the station. There were 69 casualties in total, including 19 children. Many were shot in the back as they fled.

Sharpeville was first built in 1943 to replace Topville, a nearby township which suffered overcrowding and where illnesses like pneumonia were widespread, causing forced removals to begin in 1958. Approximately 10,00 Africans were forcibly removed to Sharpeville, an area which had a high rate of unemployment as well as a high crime rate. A new police station was erected, from which



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police were energetic in checking passes, deporting “illegal” residents and raiding shebeens.

Since the 18th century, South African governments had enacted measures to restrict the flow of black citizens into cities. Pass laws intended to control and direct their movement and employment were updated in the 1950's. Under the apartheid National Party government, black residents in urban districts were subject to influx control measures. Individuals over 16 years of age were required to carry passbooks which contained an identity card, employment and influx authorisation from a labour bureau, name and address of employer and details of personal history.

Leading up to the Sharpeville massacre, the National Party administration under the leadership of Hendrik Verwoerd, used these laws to enforce greater racial segregation and in 1959 – 1960 extended them to include women. From the 1960's, the pass laws were the primary instrument used by the state to detain and harass its political opponents.

The ANC prepared to initiate a campaign of protests against the pass laws.

These protests were to begin on 31 March 1960, but the rival PAC led by Robert Sobukwe, decided to pre-empt the ANC by launching its own campaign 10 days earlier on 21st March, because they believed that the ANC could not win the campaign.

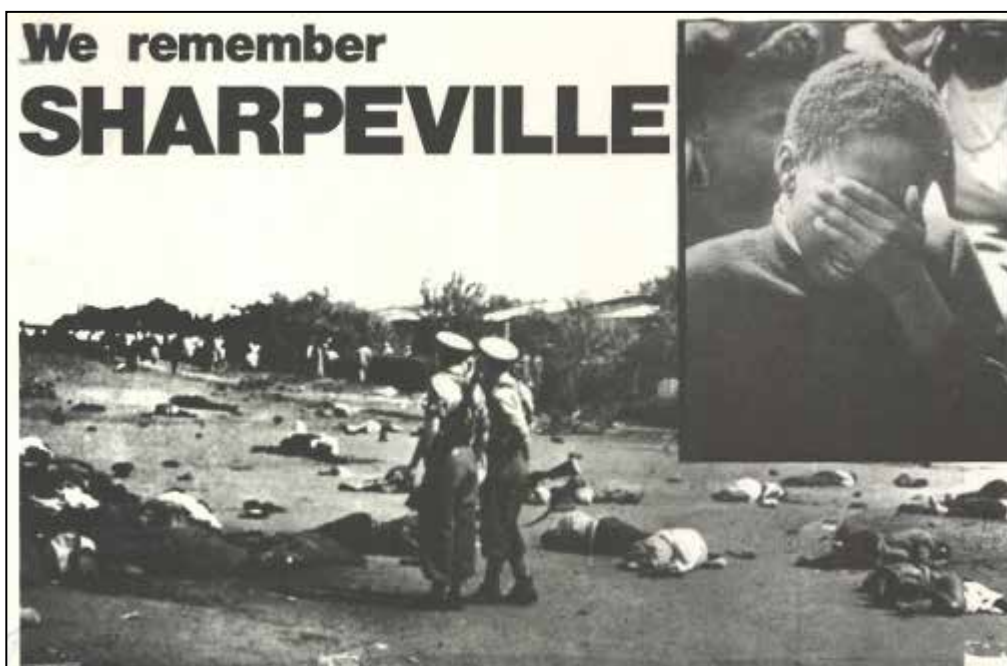
On that fateful day, a group of between 5,000 and 10,000 people converged on the local police station, offering themselves up for arrest for not carrying their pass books. Police officers attempted to use teargas to repel these advances, but it proved ineffectual, and the police fell back on the use of their batons. At about 13:00, the police tried to arrest a protester and the crowd

surged forward. The shooting began shortly thereafter.

Since 1995, Human Rights (aka Sharpeville) Day has been a public holiday commemorated in South Africa as it marks the anniversary of the infamous Sharpeville massacre. This gross violation of human life happened when a march by ordinary South Africans protesting the pass laws turned into a police-led bloodbath. The day marked a turning point for the future of SA and the struggle for liberation, which intensified in its wake, following the banning of the liberation movements.

The police brutality on display during Sharpeville as well as other innumerable acts of violence under apartheid, are what inspired SA's famously progressive bill of rights, in which the right to life, regardless of race, gender of age is entrenched.

21st March was also proclaimed as a United Nations International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination in 1966, inspired by events that took place six years in Sharpeville SA.



THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF SOUTH AFRICA ARE AT STAKE

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

ACCORDING to media-sponsored narratives of the opposition, in particular the DA, the forthcoming elections would only be free and fair if the ANC loses. Some of the weird actions of the opposition in frantic effort to unseat the ANC, would not only hurt the ANC, but would ultimately bring down the whole country.

The DA's desperate attempts to unseat the ANC by all means other than through the ballot, amounts to treachery, and should not be taken lightly. The DA is running amok, pleading for help from everyone – G7, Scandinavian foreign ministers, and the European Union. It has also sent a letter to the US, requesting assistance for South African NGOs to “ensure” there is no foreign interference in the upcoming elections. Its paranoia is getting out of hand, and it has to stop.

It is about time that strong action be taken against the DA's treasonous tendencies, because it has gone way too far this time around. If there are no consequences for these treasonous deeds, these repulsive actions will continue until the democratic government is overthrown with



the aid of foreign forces.

Foreigners interested in the country are also realizing that pumping money into Mickey Mouse political parties and useless NGOs does not seem to yield quick positive results, and would welcome any opportunity to come and seize power under any guise, including violent regime change. The DA is providing a fertile ground for foreign sponsored regime change uprisings in the country.

In the words of Benjamin Franklin, “*Tricks and treachery are the practice of fools that do not have*

brains enough to be honest”. It does not need one brain cell to know that the DA has crossed the line. The DA seems to have the propensity of undermining the security and sovereignty of the country, and it should not be allowed to get away with it this time around, just like it happened with the Lady R furore. What the DA has done by inviting the US to get involved in our elections is treasonous.

Moreover, by attending NATO meetings, the DA is directly risking the national security and sovereignty of the country. Apparently,

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DA MP, Emma Powell, attended a 2024 NATO Security Conference, where she even mourned the death of the Russian opposition leader, Alexei Navalny. Was she authorized by the South African government? Did the government at least know about this? If this treasonous behaviour is not nipped in the bud, we are likely to see the Arab Spring-like regime change uprisings in South Africa.

NATO's involvement in the Russia-Ukrainian conflict is well-documented. Likewise, the involvement of the US in various regime changes, is also common knowledge. Therefore, for someone owing allegiance to the Republic of South Africa to attend NATO events without government authorization raises alarm bells. South Africa's relationship with NATO countries has been shaky since the Russia-Ukrainian conflict, especially with the stance taken by South Africa in the conflict. Besides, *"an African country cannot join NATO, because it is a regional defence alliance formed to provide collective protection for North American and European countries. Its membership is limited to countries in the North Atlantic region who have been asked to join the alliance"*.

Therefore, what business does Ms Powell have in NATO affairs? Could this be genuine naivety or just plain stupidity? Whatever it is, she should not go unpunished, together with the DA itself, because these are all treasonous deeds, and they should not get away with such heinous crimes.

Surprisingly, the DA is committing high treason time and again, and nothing is being done to stop their wayward behaviour. A preliminary research about the crime of high treason is that, it includes

"Any conduct unlawfully committed by a person owing allegiance to a state with the intention of overthrowing the government of the Republic, or, violating, threatening or endangering the existence, independence or security of the Republic."

The actions of the DA meet the minimum requirements for definition of High Treason, just like it did with the issue of the Lady R debacle. In the Lady R furore, the DA leaked falsified information, thus compromising the security of the state and endangering the economy of the country. Immediately after publication of falsified information by the US Ambassador on the basis of lies peddled by the DA's Kobus Marais, it was estimated that over 100 billion USD left the country. South Africa apparently lost foreign direct investment as some investors disinvested from the country in solidarity with the Ukrainians in the Russian-Ukrainian war, under false belief that South Africa

supplied arms to Russia.

That was treachery, and it also amounted to economic sabotage of the country. Nothing happened to those involved in Lady R saga. They should have been held accountable for their deeds, but they were not. Is the DA and its delinquent MP going to be led off the hook that easily? Again!

In its letter to the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, the DA stated that it would like to *"appeal to the international community in helping to ensure the integrity of the upcoming elections"*. South Africa has held six elections since the dawn of democracy in 1994, and none of its elections' results have ever been contested for any wrongdoing or suffered lack of "integrity". All of the previous elections have been declared free and fair by everyone, including foreign observers.

Therefore, inviting foreign forces to interfere in the South African



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electoral system is criminal in itself. The contents of the letter is clear evidence that DA committed an act of High Treason. With the deliberate intention of badmouthing South Africa, and undermining security and sovereignty of the Republic, DA letter falsely stated, inter alia, that:

- *“...the powerful and strategic geopolitical position that our Country once occupied, is rapidly diminishing;*
- *We are witnessing an increasing willingness by the ANC to forge alliances with malign international actors, whose regimes are characterised by tyranny, terror and oppression;*
- *...ensure that civil society organisations are capacitated to provide voter education and capacity-building for domestic monitors.*
- *we note the potential for foreign interference in our elections by malign actors.*
- *Your Country can help to safeguard against any attempts to disrupt the democratic process or negatively influence the South African electorate through misinformation and disinformation campaigns.”*

Besides apparent high treason, at face value, the DA has already breached the South African electoral system. In terms of the pre-

vailing legislation, including the Code of Conduct, it is illegal, and no one should:

- publish false information about an election that may disrupt, prevent or influence the election results; or
- publish false information that may create anger or fear and could change the election results.

The Electoral Act, 1998 (Act No. 73 Of 1998), provides for sanctions for the violation of the electoral system. In terms of the Electoral Code of Conduct, parties and candidates must, amongst others, recognise the authority of the Electoral Commission. If the DA wanted the US as observers, the Electoral Act spells out in clear and unambiguous terms what needs to be done. Relevant provisions of the Electoral Act include the following:

84. Accreditation of Observers.

- (1) Any juristic person may apply to the Commission in the prescribed manner for accreditation to observe an election.
- (2) The Commission may require further information in support of an application.
- (3) The Commission may accredit an applicant to observe an election after considering the application, any further

information provided by the applicant, and whether:-

- (a) the accreditation of the applicant will promote conditions conducive to a free and fair election; and
- (b) the persons appointed by the applicant will –
 - (i) observe that election impartially and independently of any registered party or candidate contesting that election;
 - (ii) be competent and professional in observing that election; and
 - (iii) subscribe to a Code governing observers issued by the Commission in terms of section 99.

87. Undue Influence.

- (1) No person may –
 - (a) compel or unlawfully persuade any person-
 - (iv) to support or not to support any registered party or candidate; or
 - (b) interfere with the independence or impartiality of the Commission, any member, employee or officer of the Commission, or The Chief Electoral Officer;

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89. *Intentional False Statements.*

- (2) No person may publish any false information with the intention of –
- disrupting or preventing an election;
 - creating hostility or fear in order to influence the conduct or outcome of an election; or
 - influencing the conduct or outcome of an election.

Electoral Code of Conduct

9. *Prohibited conduct.*

- (1) No registered party or candidate may –
- publish false or defamatory allegations in connection with an election in respect of –
 - a party, its candidates, representatives or members;...

To the dismay of the DA, the US responded that it does not believe that South Africa's electoral agency is incapable of conducting free and fair elections, and that the US is confident that the IEC can manage free and fair elections. Spokesperson for the US Embassy in Pretoria, David Feldmann, rightfully said that, "*South Africa is a sovereign democracy that runs its own electoral processes. The Independent Electoral Commission has a longstanding and excellent reputation for conducting free and fair elections.*"

In conclusion, the DA's overzealous wings should be clipped and or its flurry branches be pruned. The IEC should take stern measures against the DA for violating the Electoral Act, and the Electoral Code of Conduct, and law enforcement agencies should also do what they are supposed to do.

Limpopo Provincial Education Department's Recruitment Drive

The Limpopo provincial education department is set to increase and prioritize its recruitment of educators who are 30 years old and below.

■ By **MATOME TAUETSOLA**

THE Limpopo Department of Education was allocated a total of R40.029 billion for the 2024/5 financial year. The province has made remarkable strides, which include a marked improvement in the province's matric results.

Limpopo, which came seventh overall with a 79.5% pass rate in the 2023 NSC results, was announced as the best-improved province with a 7.4% improvement from 2022.

In a move set to maintain its upward trend, MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya said the department has prioritized its drive to recruit and replenish the system with young new entrants to the profession.

"The recruitment of educators who are 30 years and below remains our priority.

The Limpopo Department, Funza Lushaka, and NSFAS Bursary scheme continue to be an



Limpopo MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya

CURRENT AFFAIRS



impactful pipeline for the supply of educators for scarce skills subjects,” Lerule-Ramkhanya said during the department’s budget vote speech in Polokwane.

“For the past 10 years, the Limpopo Department of Education has been one of the best performing provinces in the appointment of the Funza Lushaka Bursary graduates. The province managed to appoint 4,622 bursary holders. In the 2023/24 financial year, 429 bursary holders were appointed in our schools,” she said.

Lerule-Ramakhanya said in the 2023/24 financial year, the department appointed 1,622 teachers who are 30 years and below, an increase of 247 educators compared to the previous financial year.

“The departmental plan to appoint 2,000 young educators for the 2023/24 remains. The supply from the bursary schemes for 2023/24 is projected at 737 bur-

sary holders who will be appointed in schools based on need,” she said.

Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga revealed in a speech during Teacher’s Month in 2023 that Limpopo boasts one of the highest placement rates at 94%.

She said of 4,623 educators, 4,347 have been placed, leaving a mere 276 unplaced.

Lerule-Ramakhanya said one of the province’s achievements in the past financial year has been the marked increase in the reduction of underperforming schools.

She said the department managed to reduce the number of underperforming schools from 440 in 2022 to 310 in 2023, which translates to a reduction of 130 underperforming schools.

“It is worth noting that within the 310 underperforming schools, there are 114 newly underper-

formed schools, meaning that only 196 out of 440 had underperformed. The Department will continue to support all schools so that we can sustain the gains made in 2023,” Lerule-Ramakhanya said.

“The release of 2023 National Senior Certificate results provided context in which the class of 2023 wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations. Over the years, our education system had demonstrated resilience and determination in the face of numerous challenges.”

She said through concerted efforts and strategic interventions, Limpopo has witnessed a significant surge in the academic achievement of learners across the system.

“We are seeing a significant improvement across all grades and this will definitely ensure that our matric pass rate does not decline,” Lerule-Ramakhanya said.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

She said in the past financial year, there were 32 underperforming circuits which have now been reduced to 19.

“The Department has plans to strengthen and internalize the Rapid intervention plan to all 19 circuits in the 10 districts that are still performing below 70%,” Lerule-Ramakhanya said.

In the past, the province experienced a high rate of vacant positions which impacted on the management of schools but Lerule-Ramakhanya said this has now been addressed.

She said the department has since appointed 200 principals, 53 deputy principals, and 141 departmental heads in the year under review.

Furthermore, the department, the Limpopo Provincial Treasury has approved the filling of 2,550 promotion posts in schools, 506 principals, 400 deputy principals, and 1,644 departmental heads.

“This will assist in reducing the vacancy rate and strengthen the management of schools. The appointments will come into effect from 1 April 2024, as part of the recruitment for the 2024/25 financial year,” she said.

Lerule-Ramakhanya added that in the second quarter of the 2023/24 financial year, the department conducted workshops across all districts to newly appointed school principals of public schools on the management of school finances and applicable legislative frameworks in the school governance setting.

She said for the 2024/2025 financial year, the Department has allocated an amount of R2.7 billion

as part of norms and standards for school funding for public ordinary schools, R 108 million for special schools, and R167 million for independent schools.

Lerule-Ramakhanya also revealed that Early Childhood Development (ECD) remains a top education priority for this year.

She said a total of 129,784 children were enrolled for early childhood development education during the 2023 academic year. The children, she said, were accommodated at 3,936 ECD centers located across Limpopo.

In early 2023, the World Bank and the national Department of Basic Education jointly launched the Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (PEIR) for Early Childhood Development.

The PEIR is aimed at informing planning and programming to

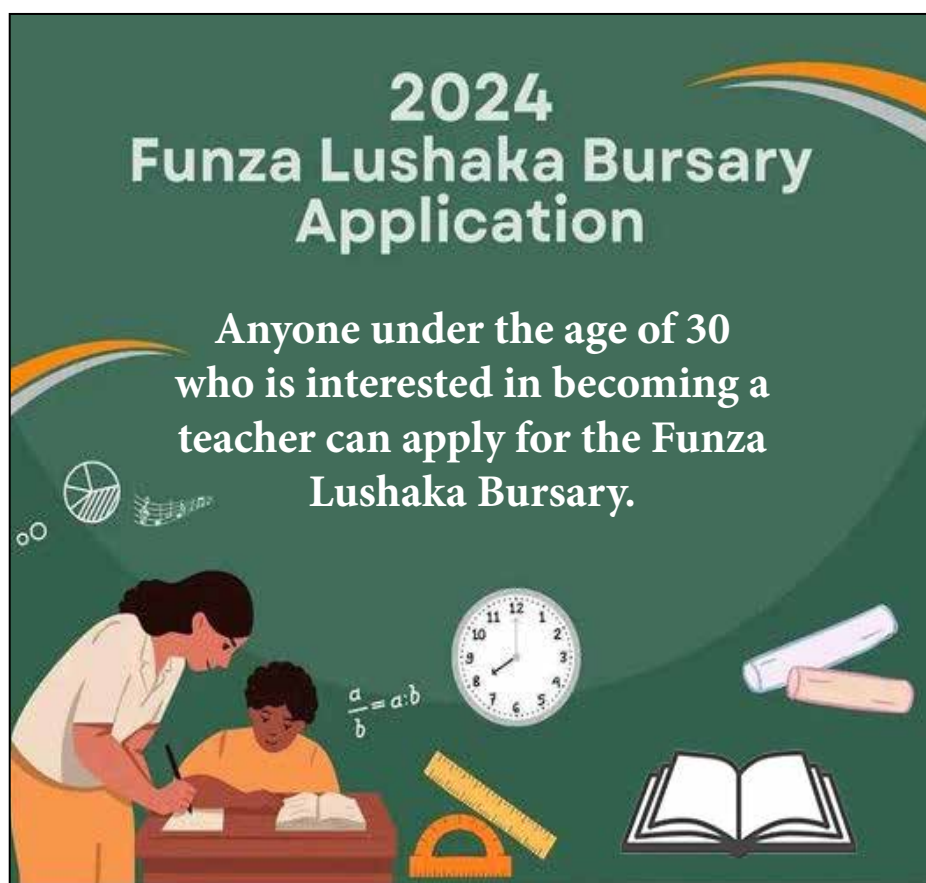
help ensure all young children in SA receive a comprehensive package of integrated ECD services to build the foundations to thrive later in life.

Lerule-Ramakhanya highlighted the significant strides made in capacitating the ECD programme with qualified educators.

“A total of 768 ECD Practitioners successfully completed a training programme on parenting,” she said.

Lerule-Ramakhanya noted that a further 2,312 practitioners were trained on jamboree/norms and standards whose main purpose was to capacitate participants on ECD norms and standards to increase compliance amongst ECD centers.

Matome Tauetsoala is Media Liaison at the Department of Education Limpopo



**2024
Funza Lushaka Bursary
Application**

**Anyone under the age of 30
who is interested in becoming a
teacher can apply for the Funza
Lushaka Bursary.**

The poster features a green background with various educational icons: a pie chart, musical notes, a clock, a ruler, a protractor, a rolled-up diploma, and an open book. In the foreground, a teacher is shown leaning over a desk, assisting a young student with their schoolwork.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

23 – 29 March 2024

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

23 March 1942

Author Ama Ata Aidoo born

Ghanaian writer, playwright and educationist is born in Abeadzi, the first African woman to publish a play, *Dilemma of the Ghost* (1964). She won the Commonwealth Writers Prize for her novel *Changes* (1992). Serving briefly as Ghana's Minister for Education, she was a lifelong educationist and advocate for women's education.

23 March 1950

Author Ahdaf Soueif born

The Egyptian writer and commentator, whose popular novels and short stories collections have been translated into 21 languages, was born on this day in Cairo. Her novel *The Map of Love* (1999) sold more than a million copies. Her most recent work is *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution* (2012), a personal account of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. Ahdaf Soueif writes regularly for *The Guardian* and is a key political commentator on Egypt and Palestine. She is the founder of the Palestine Festival of Literature, Pal Fest.

23 March 1960

Robert Sobukwe and others charged after anti-pass protests

PAC president, Robert Sobukwe, PAV national secretary, Kitchener Leballo and eleven others were

charged with incitement to riot, following anti-pass protests.

23 March 1967

Poet Chantal Magalie Mbaz'o-Kassa

The Gabonese poet was born on this day in Bitam, Woleu-Ntem province. A noted literary editor and advisor to Benin's National Council of Communications, her first book of poetry, *Noir, le sang de ma terre*, won literary prizes.

23 March 1984

Dorothy Nyembe released from prison



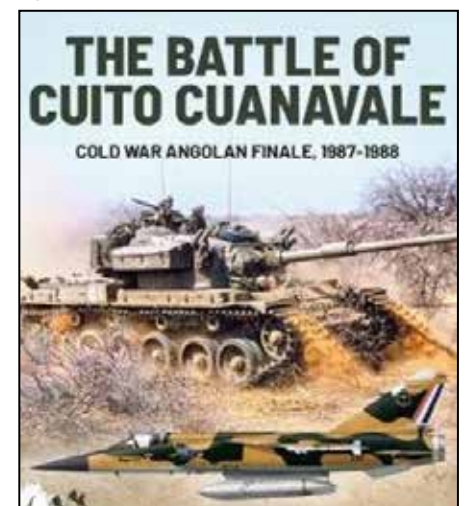
Dorothy Nyembe, a leader of the Cato Manor protests was released from prison. She went on to become one of the leaders of the Natal Organisation of Women (NOW), an affiliate of the United Democratic Front (UDF). Before her imprisonment, she was a founder of the ANC Women's League in Cato Manor in 1954,

led the Natal contingent of women to the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings, became ANCWL Natal President in 1959 where she led the League in the potato boycott against poor treatment of prisoners on farms. Dorothy Nyembe was amongst the first Umkhonto we Sizwe recruits in 1961. Her release on 23 March 1984 came after having sentenced to 15 years in prison for harboring Umkhonto we Sizwe members. After the first democratic elections of 1994, she was one of the pioneer Members of Parliament and one of the founding mothers and fathers of the South African democratic constitution. Mam Nyembe passed on in 1998.

23 March 1988

Battle of Cuito Cuanavale ends

The Battle of Cuito Cuanavale, which saw on Angolan soil the epic battle between the South



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

African apartheid forces, which backed UNITA, and the Angolan government forces, supported by the Cubans with over 300,000 troops, ended on this day in March 1988 in defeat for the Boers. The battle is regarded as the second largest battle after the World Wars, and part of the apartheid government's Border Wars started in 1966, for which it conscripted white South Africans. The defeat of the South African Defence Force marked a turning point, forcing the apartheid regime to sign the Angolan peace accords in 1988.

23 March 1991 SAFA founded



The South African Football Association (SAFA) was founded on 8 December 1991 after a long period of racial segregation. AFA's inaugural conference in Johannesburg was chaired by Interim Chairman, Mr Mluleki George, of the National Sports Congress (NSC). Four disparate units came together to form the organisation in Johannesburg to set South African football on the road to a return to international competition after a lifetime of apartheid in soccer. These four entities were the Football Association of South Africa (FASA), the South African Soccer Association (SASA), the South African Soccer Federation (SASF) and the South African National Football Association (SANFA), who later

withdrew from the process only to return again two years later. The proposal for SAFA to apply for CAF membership was taken at this congress.

23 March 2017 Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore founder passed on

Lee Kuan Yew was a Singaporean statesman and lawyer who served as the first Prime Minister of Singapore from 1959 to 1990, as well as Secretary-General of the People's Action Party from 1954 to 1992. Lee Kuan Yew drove the transformation of Singapore from an underdeveloped island state to a high income, prosperous nation. Under his leadership, Singapore's GDP grew at an annual rate of 8.2% per year, per capita GDP by 6.2%, transforming the productive forces of their economy. He stepped down as Prime Minister in 1990, remained active in the development of the country until his passing at the age of 91 on this day.

24 March 1855 Olive Schreiner, feminist and author born



Author, feminist, intellectual and anti-war campaigner Olive Emily Albertina Schreiner (1855- 1920) was born on this day at the Wesley Missionary Station in Witte-

bergen near Herschel and grew up in Cradock, Eastern Cape. A campaigner against the excesses of the Anglo Boer War, she is the author of the South African classic, *The Story of an African Farm* (1883), as well as *Women and Labour* (1911), and a host of other works. She was a prolific letter writer and over 5000 of her letters, written between 1871 and 1920 are available online at www.oliveschreiner.org

24 March 1961 Establishment of Ciskei as a bantustan

Ciskei was established as one of the bantustans, part of the apartheid government's separate development policy, which along with the Land Acts of 1913 and 1923, and the Group Areas Act, saw black people restricted to ownership of 13% of the land. In 1972 Ciskei became a self-governing territory with Zwelitsha as capital, and granted 'independence' in 1982. The Bantustan system was met with resistance from the onset, gaining momentum after the formation of the Border region of the United Democratic Front in 1983, and finally abolished in 1994

24 March 2013 Séléka rebels captures Bangui

An alliance of rebel groups took over the capital of Central African Republic, after taking over control of most other provinces in the country. The takeover of Bangui saw CAR President François Bozizé fleeing to neighbouring Congo. This led to a spiral into violence in the country, with thousands of internally displaced and refugees. The African Union in July 2013 deployed the African-led International Sup-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

port Mission in the CAR (AF-ISM-CAR), and also initiated peace talks in 2015, eventually leading to a peace agreement in 2018.

25 March 1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act passed



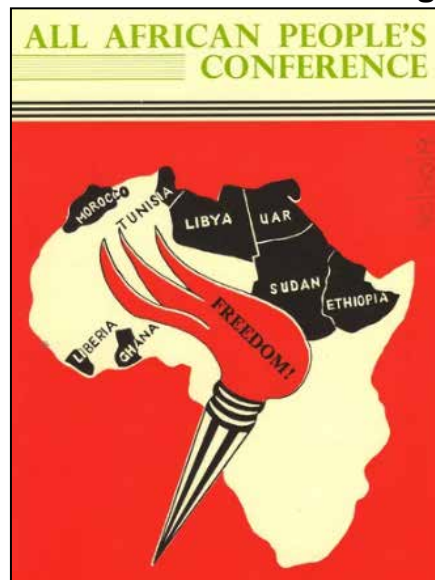
The British Parliament passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, which outlawed the slave trade within the British empire, but not slavery. An act abolishing slavery was only passed in Britain in 1834. According to the UK government archives, 3.1 million African slaves were transported to its various colonies in the Americas, Caribbean and other countries, of which only 2.7 million arrived alive over the 300 years of the slave trade. London, Bristol and Liverpool were the most important ports for the British slave trade.

25 March 1957 European Economic Community formed

The Community was a precursor to what is today known as the European Union, and was formed initially by six countries. The founding members of the Rome Treaty were Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany. The United Kingdom, Denmark, and Ireland joined in 1973, followed by Greece in 1981 and Portugal and

Spain in 1986. Its initial aim was to bring about economic integration, including a common market and customs union, among its six founding members. On 10 December 1991, the EEC transformed into the European Union with the signing of the Maastricht Treaty.

25 March 1961 All-in African Conference starts in Pietermaritzburg



The two-day All-in African Conference – with 1,400 delegates from 145 religious, cultural, peasant, intellectual and political bodies – was hosted in Pietermaritzburg. The conference called for a national convention of elected representatives of all adult men and women, regardless of race, colour or creed. Nelson Mandela was appointed secretary of the National Action Council. The conference was held four days after the first anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre.

25 March 1995 Wiki web introduced

Ward Cunningham introduced the wiki, or user-editable website. A wiki is a web-based tool that can be used by educators,

students, businesses and staff to work collaboratively to create materials, resources and instructional presentations. Known for their simplicity, users can easily add and edit wiki content, creating a group website. Wiki is a Hawaiian term meaning 'quick'. Today, Wikipedia is the world's most well-known and widely used wiki.

25 March 2001 Pedestrian week inaugurated

Pedestrian week (25-31 March 2001) was started by the South African government on this day. According to the UN, each year, over 270,000 pedestrians are killed in road accidents. In South Africa between 35-40% of road deaths are pedestrians. Contributing factors to these high figures, according to the Arrive Alive campaign, include drunk, distracted, reckless pedestrians, poor visibility and state of pavements. The Arrive Alive campaign includes educating children in schools on road safety, and physical infrastructure to encourage safety such as wider pavements, traffic bumps, and pedestrian bridges.

26 March 1881 Youngest judge appointed

Reinhold Gregorowski is appointed a judge in the Orange Free State at the age of 25, making him the youngest judge in SA history. Judge Gregorowski delivered the death penalty in the Jameson Raids, and died in 1922. In 1999, Leona Theron was appointed as judge at the age of 33, making her the second youngest judge.

26 March 1970 Bantustan citizenship law passed

The Black Homelands Citizens

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Act consolidated colonial land dispossession, the 1913 and 1926 Land Acts, by making all black South Africans aliens in their own country and citizens of tribal bantustans. By 1979, 17 other enabling laws were passed to enforce the act.

26 March 1979 Egypt suspended from Arab League for peace treaty with Israel

Egypt's President Anwar al-Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed a peace agreement, and was suspended from the Arab League. Sadat and Begin received the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for this betrayal of the Palestinian people. The League headquarters moved from Cairo to Tunis. It was only readmitted to the Arab League a decade later in 1989.

26 March 1984 Ahmed Sékou Touré passed on

Ahmed Sékou Touré (1922-1984) was a Guinean trade unionist and freedom fighter, who after the independence of Guinea became its first president. Touré, a brilliant organiser and planner, introduced far-reaching reforms to his country. He brought the notorious landlords under the control of the Guinean government and oversaw the distribution of land (and thus effectively, wealth). He was also an avid Pan Africanist and supported the struggles against colonialism across the continent.

26 March 1991 MERCOSUR formed

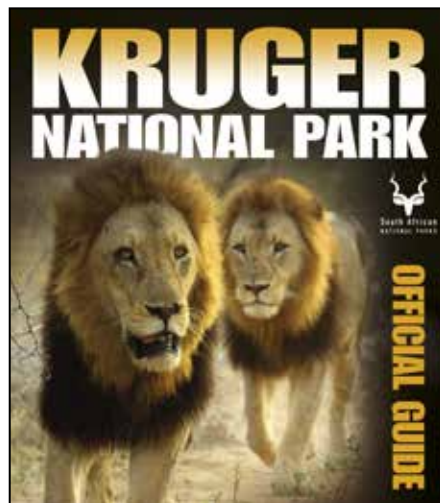
Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay were the founding members of the Southern Common Market; it was later joined by

Venezuela and Bolivia.

26 March 2019 Map of Africa Monument

The Map of Africa Monument is dedicated at the southernmost point of Africa, at the Cape Agulhas National Park. The monument has a circumference of 30 metres and includes the shape of the continent and the design elements of a compass.

26 March 1898 Hunting banned in the Kruger National Park



Hunting in the area now known as the Kruger National Park was banned through a proclamation by the then Zuid Afrikaanse Republic (the Boer republic of Transvaal). First named the Sabie Game Reserve, it was renamed after Paul Kruger in 1926, and opened to the public in 1927. The Kruger National Park is the largest game reserve in Africa, 19,633 square kilometres large. At last count, it had 93 mammal, 518 bird and 118 reptile species, including the Big Five: Buffalo, elephants, leopards, lions and rhinos and the Little Five: antlions, eastern rock elephant shrews, leopard tortoises, red-billed buffalo weavers and rhino beetles.

26 March 1943 Die Burger published use of "apartheid" for the first time

The Afrikaans newspaper, Die Burger, published the word "Apartheid" for the first time.

26 March 1956 NAFCOC leader and businessman Sheiks Makhado born

Sheiks Mutondi Makhado, businessman and well-known leader in the area of Black economic empowerment, was born in Johannesburg. He was executive director of NAFCOC (1989-91) and founder of the Retabile Group, with stakes in telecommunications, airlines and casinos.

26 March 2020 SA COVID-19 Lockdown starts

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in a televised announcement to the nation (family meetings) announced a lockdown as part of the National State of Disaster. The lockdown started at midnight on 26 March and was supposed to end 13 April 2020, but eventually the state of disaster and various lockdowns lasted for 750 days until April 2022.

27 March 1876 Cape Times newspaper hits the streets

This day was the Cape Times newspaper's first day on the streets of Cape Town. It was the first daily newspaper in southern Africa, published as an English language morning newspaper with Frederick York St Leger as editor. It sold for the cheap price of a penny and had been in continuous daily production ever since. The Cape Times: An Infor-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

mal History, written by Gerhard Shaw was published in 2000.

27 March 1963

Khady Sylla born

Senegalese writer and filmmaker, Khady Sylla was born in Dakar on March 27 1963. Following graduation, she went to Paris and studied philosophy at the École Normale Supérieure. Sylla became interested in a literary career, taught basic education to migrant workers and wrote many short stories and a novel before embarking on film production. She is part of an early wave of African women filmmakers. She worked on and participated in different projects. She also taught German at Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal.

27 March 1985

Westdene dam disaster

A bus with 76 learners from Vorentoe High school, Johannesburg plunged into the Westdene dam, killing 42 learners. To this day, the cause of the accident is not known.

27 March 1985

Boesak and Naude arrested for leading protest march

Two anti-apartheid clergy Reverends Beyers Naudé and Allan



Boesak, and 200 others protesters were arrested for leading a march through the city of Cape Town to Pollsmoor Prison. They were protesting against the Uitenhage massacre that took place on 21 March 1985 in the township of Langa, and also called for the release of Nelson Mandela. The charges were subsequently dropped, but the South African police kept the two men under surveillance.

27 March 2019

Warning to 7-year old rapper

Seven year old Ugandan rapper, Patrick Ssenyonjo, performing as Fresh Kid, was warned by the Minister of Youth to hang up his microphone, following reports that he skipped school and performed at clubs late into the night.

27 March 2022

Biniam Girmay wins World title

The Eritrean cyclist, born 2 April 2000 in Asmara, became the first African to win a classic world cycle race, when he led his team to victory in the UCI World championship in Gent-Wevelgem race in Belgium on 27 March 2022. He rides for Intermarché-Wanty (UCI WorldTeam), has won 12 UCI races, and is currently 109th in the UCI Ranking.

28 March 1656

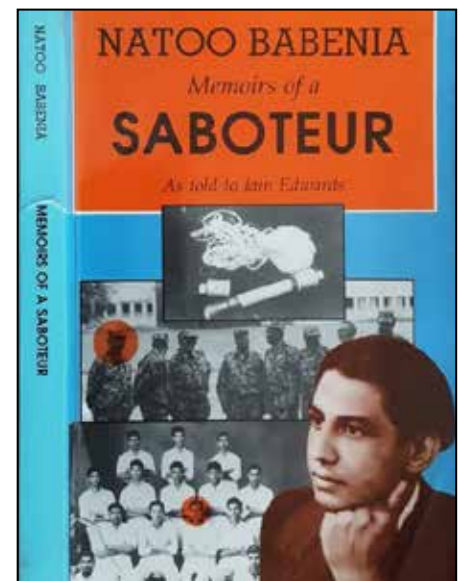
First slaves arrive in Cape Town

The first 174 slaves arrived in Cape Town – hardly four years after Van Riebeeck landed at the Cape of Good Hope to establish a halfway station for the Dutch East Indian Company (VOC). The slaves arrived on a VOC company ship, the Amersfoort.

They were part of a contingent of 250 Angolan slaves originally destined for Brazil, but stolen by the Amersfoort from the Portuguese slave traders. The rest died during the trip, before landing in Cape Town, where they were sold. The slave trade in the Cape colony officially lasted until 1822, with slaves captured from Angola, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Madagascar, and what is now known as Indonesia and Malaysia. When slavery was finally abolished in 1834 by the British, nearly 200 years later, the Cape had a population of over 38,000 slaves.

28 March 1924

Natoo Babenia was born



Natvarlal Dayalji “Natoo” Babenia, a political activist first in India, resisting British rule and later in South Africa against the Apartheid government, was born at Coedmore Road, Bellair, Durban. In 1936, faced with economic hardship, his family returned to India, where the struggle against British colonialism was being waged. Babenia played an active role in the Indian Congress movement in Baroda, and served several terms of imprisonment, before returning to Durban in Oc-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

tober 1949, settling in Beatrice Street, Durban. In South Africa he was a member of the National Indian Congress, the African National Congress (ANC), South African Communist Party (SACP) and Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK) and served sixteen years on Robben Island. In 1995, Babenia released his biography, which was titled "Memoirs of a Saboteur". Nattoo Babenia passed away on 1 January 1999 at the age of 75.

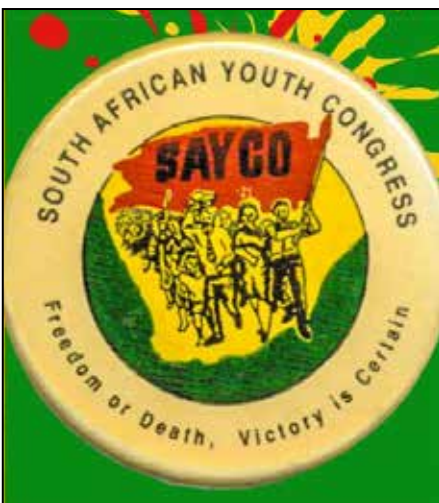
28 March 1960

Oliver Tambo leaves South Africa

Oliver Reginald Tambo was sent by the ANC to establish the ANC outside of South Africa, and to mobilise support for the struggle against apartheid. He left South Africa illegally, became ANC President and led the movement, returning only 30 years later in 1990.

28 March 1987

Launch of the South African Youth Congress



SAYCO was the most significant youth organization to emerge during the 1980s. Initiated by COSAS, it focused on organizing the non-student youth, unemployed youth and young workers who shared the interests and as-

pirations of COSAS but could not belong to it. In 1982, a COSAS Commission was established to investigate the formation of a national youth organization. It was decided that individual townships and regions establish their own youth congresses that would work in close cooperation with COSAS and AZASO. By 1983, 20 new youth organizations were launched and by 1986 more than 600 youth congresses were launched across the country. 28 March 1987 saw SAYCO launched amidst great secrecy, with representatives from nine regional structures elected to the national executive, at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). It adopted the Freedom Charter, pledged itself to work closely with COSATU and the NECC, and was affiliated to the UDF. Its principle objectives were to unify and politicize all progressive youth irrespective of race; to encourage young workers to join trade unions; and to ensure that women participate fully in the activities of the youth movement. At the outset SAYCO focused on the organization of all youth in order to tackle their problems through united and collective action and to develop a role for young people in their communities and in the broader democratic struggle.

28 March 1988

Dulcie September assassinated



Dulcie September, ANC chief representative in France, Luxembourg and Switzerland was assassinated. An activist who dedicated her life to freedom, she was born on 20 August 1953 in Athlone, Cape Town.

28 March 1994

Shell House "massacre"

20,000 IFP members armed with traditional weapons marched to ANC Headquarters in Johannesburg, in the midst of violence in Gauteng and KZN. In defense of the headquarters, 53 marchers were killed by ANC security personnel.

28 March 1996

Trevor Manuel appointed as Finance Minister



Trevor Manuel appointed as first black Finance minister, after the resignation of Chris Liebenberg, a position he served from 1996-2009). On the same day, the Reconstruction and Development (RDP) office in the Presidency was closed. Manuel unveiled the Growth Employment and Redistribution plan (GEAR) in June of the same year. He served as Finance minister from 1996 to 2009, and subsequently as Minister in the Presidency for the National Planning Commission from 2009-2014.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

29 March 1923 Psychiatrist Thomas Lambo born

Nigerian psychiatrist was born in Abeokuta, Ogun State, a pioneer of African psychiatry, working to reduce the stigma attached to mental illness with programmes to integrate persons with mental health issues into wider society, in partnership with traditional leaders.

29 March 1933 Dr Stanley Mogoba born



Dr. Stanley Mogoba, future president of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) in 1997, was born in Polokwane on this day. He was detained on Robben Island during the 1980s and was appointed as the presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of South Africa in 1988.

29 March 1945 Mathematician Josephine Guidy-Wandja born

The mathematician was born in Cameroon, the first African woman to earn a PhD in Mathematics (1991) and first female mathematics professor at the University of Abidjan. As president of the International Committee on Mathematics in Developing Countries, she worked to spread the teaching

and appreciation of mathematics worldwide. Guidy-Wandja published the children's mathematics comic book Yao crack en maths (1985), in collaboration with illustrator, Jess Sah Bi.

29 March 1974 Terracotta Army discovered in China

The famous collection of some 8000 soldier sculptures, depicting Emperor Qin Shi Huang's army, was located by local farmers when they were digging a water well.

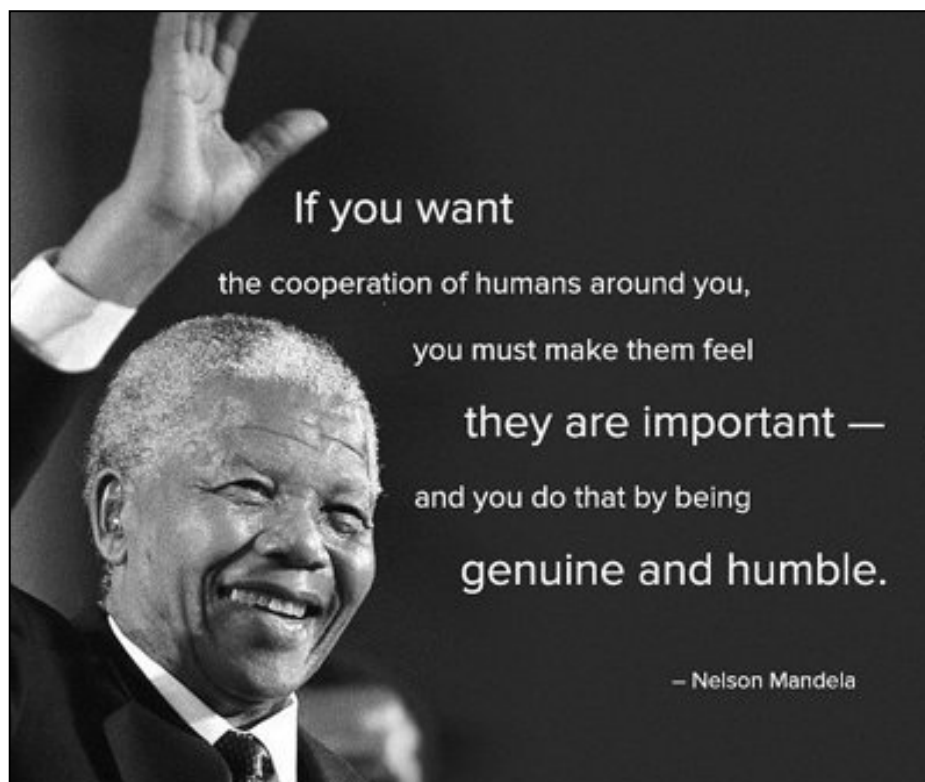
29 March 1982 Journalist Selby Msimang passed on

Journalist, farm manager, clerk, interpreter and political activist, Henry Selby Msimang, died on 29 March 1982 in Edendale, Pietermaritzburg. Msimang was a founding member of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC). He was a staunch labour organiser, and with Clements

Kadalie formed the national Industrial Commercial Union (ICU). Due to differences between the two, Msimang resigned as president of the ICU, but rejoined after Kadalie's resignation in 1929. Msimang was editor of the newspaper Morumioa-Inxusa (Messenger) and author of numerous articles. He was a founder member of the Liberal Party of South Africa (LPSA), formed in 1953.

29 March 1994 Rwanda refugees start trek to Tanzania, fleeing genocide

Thousands of Rwandan refugees fleeing violence in Burundi began a two-day trek toward Tanzania. In 1994, according to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), an estimated 1.3 million Rwandans fled genocide to eastern Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC), and more than half a million escaped to Tanzania. Hundreds of thousands went back to Rwanda from both DRC and Tanzania in 1996.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

23 – 29 March 2024

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

23 March

World Earth Hour



Every year on the last Saturday of March, this year on 25 March at 20:30 local time, millions of people observe Earth Hour by switching off their lights for one hour. This action raises awareness on the impact of the human footprint on our planet and all its other inhabitants. (earthhour.org)

24 March

World Tuberculosis Day

World Tuberculosis Day is commemorated to remind us that tuberculosis remains a global pandemic, amongst the world's deadliest infectious killers,



killing up to 4000 a day, although the condition is treatable. On this day in 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease. In 2022, South Africa released its first Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey, which showed that the prevalence of TB in South Africa in 2018 was 737 per 100,000.

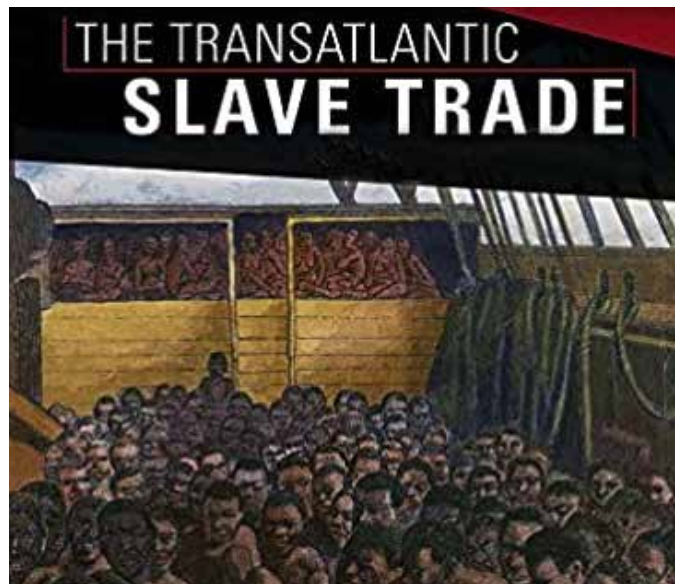
24 March

International Day for the Right to Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations

This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

25 March

International Day of Remembrance of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

The day remembers those who suffered and died as a consequence of the transatlantic slave trade, which has been called “the worst violation of human rights in history”. Over a period that lasted for more than 400 years, more than 15 million African men, women and children were traded as slaves. No compensation has ever been paid. The 2023 theme was: “Fighting slavery’s legacy of racism through transformative education.”

25 March International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff members



Observed annually, it commemorates the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

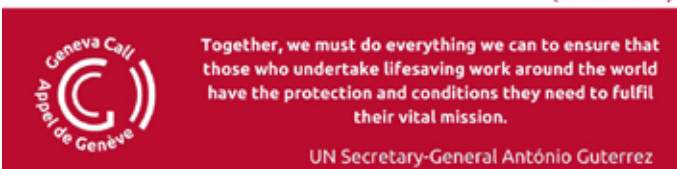
March 25

Facts:



The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is marked each year on the **anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist** who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) when he was **abducted by armed gunman** in 1985. His body was finally found in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley in 2009.

(UN website)



Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) when he was kidnapped by armed gunmen in 1985. His body was finally found in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon in 2009.

26 March Purple Day

This day is a grassroots celebration to raise awareness of epilepsy, a condition that affects over 65 million people globally. It is a neurological condition that causes seizures and often begins in childhood.

27 March World Theatre Day



Theatre has a long history as being part of human cultural expressions, telling stories through dramatic representation. “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” (Shakespeare)

27 March International Scribble Day

Show appreciation for and celebrate the simplicity of the activity of scribbling. All it takes is just a piece of paper along with a writing utensil, and it’s perfectly simple to enjoy the day! Art can come in any form and anyone can be encouraged to be an artist.

28 March World Piano Day

Piano day takes play on the 88th day of each year, since a piano has 88 keys. “Celebrate the piano and everything around it: performers, composers, piano builders, tuners, movers and most important, the listener.” (Nils Frahm)



X-WORD

#MyHourForEarth 23 March 2024



ACROSS

- 2. Pandemic in 2020 caused first fully digital Earth Hour campaign.
- 4. Changes in ecosystems as a result of human activity.
- 6. Theme 2014 Earth Hour, ... the Hour.
- 8. Earth hour theme 2021, Speak up for ...
- 10. Russia passed law in 2012 to better protect country's seas from... pollution.
- 11. Shows concern about ...
- 14. Variety of life on Earth.
- 15. 2022 Earth Hour theme was

DOWN

- 1. Galápagos Islands, first province in ... to ban plastics.
- 3. 3.4 million hectare ocean Banco Namuncurá tripling area of protected waters.
- 5. Rate of global loss of nature in last 50 years ... in human history.
- 7. On Earth Hour, each year, you are asked to switch off ... for 1 hour.
- 9. First-ever 2,700 hectare Earth Hour forest started in 2013 in
- 12. The first-ever Earth Hour... Spotlight in 2021.
- 13. A ... plant and animal species threatened with extinction.

WORD BANK

power climate change Uganda oil Argentina Equador
 virtual Covid19 Shape our Future Nature Amplify million
 unprecedented anthropogenic biodiversity

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