



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



Our relationship with the USA is built on mutual respect and cooperation

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

THE relationship between South Africa and the United States has received a great deal of attention recently.

Strengthening ties between the two countries was among the important issues that Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, discussed with US officials during a working visit to Washington last week. The topic also featured prominently in a meeting that I had in Cape Town last month with a bipartisan delegation from the US Congress.

Also last week, a committee of the US House of Representatives discussed a proposed bill that would require a full review of the bilateral relationship between the

United States and South Africa.

These discussions provide an opportunity to clarify our positions and to correct misperceptions about our foreign policy.

An important starting point for that discussion is that since the advent of democracy in 1994, South Africa has sought through its foreign policy to promote peace, security and development on the African continent and across the world.

Consistent with our history, South Africa has taken a non-aligned position in our international relations. We have deliberately avoided aligning our country with any of the major powers or blocs. Rather we have sought to forge

cordial relations with all countries. While we have taken a non-aligned position, we continue to pursue positions that are in keeping with the UN Charter.

We have sought to advance an inclusive and representative world order, to strengthen multilateralism and to promote the resolution of conflict through dialogue.

It is in pursuit of this approach that South Africa has worked to strengthen relations with countries around the world, including the United States.

Our relationship with the US is characterised by mutual respect and a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue even on issues where we may differ.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

Even on contentious issues – such as the docking of a Russian ship in Simonstown in late 2022, the Russia-Ukraine conflict or the current conflict in Gaza – the South African and US governments have been able to share views in a frank and open manner.

The matter regarding the docking of the Russian ship at Simonstown was fully investigated and satisfactorily put to rest. South Africa's participation in the African Peace Mission to Ukraine and Russia has led to South Africa's continuing involvement together with many other countries, including the United States, in discussions that are aimed at finding solutions to the resolution of the war.

In this way, we have encouraged greater understanding and cooperation between ourselves as South Africa, the United States and many other countries on matters of mutual interest.

One of the areas of contention on which there has been much commentary, as well as much misinformation, is the position that South Africa has taken on the conflict in Gaza. There has been a particular focus on the case that South Africa brought to the International Court of Justice, where we argued that the actions of the Israeli military in Gaza violate international law and includes actions that are prohibited under the Genocide Convention, to which South Africa, Israel and many other countries are signatories.

Our application to the court is consistent not only with our obligations as a signatory to the Genocide Convention, but also the call we have always made for an inclusive negotiated settlement of the Israel-Palestinian



conflict. This position is consistent with UN resolutions. We have always supported the legitimate aspirations of Palestinians to self-determination and statehood and of the state of Israel to peace and security.

We have consistently called for the application of international law, condemning the atrocities committed by Hamas against Israeli civilians on 7 October last year and calling for the release of hostages. We continue to call for an immediate ceasefire, the urgent provision of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza and meaningful negotiations towards a lasting solution.

These are positions that are increasingly being taken up by more and more countries around the world. The suggestion that the position we have taken on the conflict could lead to a deterioration of our relations with the United States is therefore unfounded.

South Africa has strong economic, political and social ties with the US. We remember the support from the American people during our struggle for democracy. Over the last 30 years, we have had, and continue to have, a supportive, mutually beneficial and cooperative relationship between our two countries.

We are grateful for the support that the US has provided to South Africa over many years in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The PEPFAR programme has contributed significantly – and continues to contribute – to the remarkable progress we have

made to deal with AIDS.

South Africa and the US have firm and expanding trade and investment ties. South Africa is home to more than 600 US companies and the US is the second largest destination for South African exports. Some of our large companies, such as Sasol, have made significant investments in key economic sectors in the United States.

An important part of the economic ties between South Africa and the US is the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which grants qualifying African countries duty-free access to the US market for their exports.

The recent AGOA Forum, held in South Africa in November last year, confirmed the value of AGOA to Africa's industrialisation and integration and to the diversification of its economies. The trade and investment ties that have been developed through AGOA, provide a platform for US investors to participate in the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area.

We also welcome US participation in the Just Energy Transition Partnership alongside a growing number of other countries. South Africa has great opportunities for investment in the green economy and for the supply of critical minerals for the global energy transition.

There is great potential to further develop our relationship with the United States and to find ways to work together for a more peaceful, stable and just world.

South Africa will continue to seek firm and friendly relations with countries around the world in pursuit of a better world.

STATEMENT OF THE ANC

ON THE OUTCOMES OF ELECTORAL COURT IN RELATION TO THE REGISTRATION OF THE MK PARTY BY THE IEC

THE African National Congress (ANC) notes the decision by the Electoral Court today (26 March 2024) on the registration of the MK Party (MKP).

The ANC reiterates our support for the rule of law and the integrity of our legal institutions and the legal principle of equality before the law. We accept the judgement and will fully comply with it.

Over the course of this matter, there has been much speculation, misinformation and baseless theories about the ANC's position and role. We welcome this opportunity to set out the reasons for the ANC's case:

Sometime last year, the MKP launched an application to be registered as a political party that is fit and proper to contest election.

As per the requirements of the Electoral Act, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) published the MKP application and invited the public to submit objections, if there were any. Thereafter, for a variety of valid legal reasons, the application was rejected by the IEC.

On 4 August 2023, the IEC dis-



patched a letter to MKP with which to notify MKP that the application was rejected and to outline the valid legal reasons for the rejection.

In rejecting the application, the IEC invited the MKP to file a new application, if they so desired. The MKP thereafter launched a new application.

However, contrary to the requirements of the Electoral Act, the IEC failed to advertise the new application, and proceeded instead to consider the new application.

The IEC then, based on the new application, approved the application, and favoured the MKP with registration.

As a direct consequence of not advertising the new application as required by law, few members of the public, including members of the ANC, knew about the ap-

plication.

Once the ANC became aware of the unlawfulness of the registration process that the IEC followed, the ANC approached the Electoral Court to challenge the process that the IEC followed when it registered MKP.

The ANC arguments were cogent and straightforward.

The law requires that applications for registration of political parties must be publicly advertised for all to know, and to invite objections to the application, if any exist.

Clearly, the IEC's Acting CEO, who considered the MKP second application, did so without following the spirit and the letter of the Electoral Act.

To avoid any misunderstanding, and contrary to what many people have claimed, the case brought by the ANC to the Electoral Court is not a case against the MKP.

The ANC accepts that all South Africans have rights to certain fundamental freedoms, among which is the right to join or establish a political party of one's choice. This is a fundamental freedom for which we fought.

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The case we are dealing with is essentially between the ANC and the IEC.

The MKP was invited to participate fully in the proceeding as an interested party whose “IEC registration” could be negatively affected by the probable outcome.

Therefore, the case is not one directly between the ANC and the MKP, as some have characterised it.

The issues that the ANC raised in court were also clear:

- Was the Electoral Court the proper court to consider the application brought before it by the ANC;
- Whether the court should issue a temporary injunction that would prevent the IEC to deal with the MKP as bona fide registered political party; and
- To convene a full hearing on the merits to determine whether the MKP was properly registered by the IEC.

The ANC upholds the principles of justice and legality.

We are not opposed to the party's presence on the ballot, provided the registration process conducted by the IEC was in accordance with the law.

The ANC strongly objects to the use of our Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) logo and name by this party, and we will be addressing this issue in the High Court in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

The MK logo and name is the heritage and intellectual property of the ANC; we will not allow counter-revolutionaries to hijack our movement for their personal gain.



Jacob Zuma's fake MK party logo



Original uMkhonto weSizwe logo

ANC CHALLENGES ZUMA PARTY'S THEFT OF ANC INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND HERITAGE IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA (KWAZULU NATAL DIVISION, DURBAN)

THE African National Congress (ANC) has filed an urgent High Court application to obtain a court order that stops Mr. Zuma's party (Zuma Party) currently referring to itself as the uMkhonto we Sizwe Party (MKP) from any further unlawful use of the ANC's trademarks, symbols, and heritage.

Mr. Zuma and his collaborators, in what the ANC considers to be a gross violation of the Trade Marks Act No. 194 of 1993, have registered a political party appropriating the uMkhonto weSizwe logo and related symbols unlawfully.

In 2014, the uMkhonto weSizwe trademark was registered by the

MK Legacy Project, a non-profit organization registered in terms of the Non-Profit Organizations Act, 1997, under registration number 137/345 NPO. The NPO was established to promote the preservation of the heritage and legacy of the liberation movement, including uMkhonto weSizwe, the People's Army, launched on 16 December 1961.

In furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Legacy Project, the NPO registered the symbol of uMkhonto weSizwe in terms of section 29(2) of the Trademarks Act, 1983, with effect from 20 August 2014. The MK Legacy Project NPO and the ANC have a Deed of Assignment, granting the African National Congress

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full ownership of the uMkhonto weSizwe trademark, including all goodwill that has accrued in the uMkhonto weSizwe trademark through its use and promotion.

The ANC has requested the High Court to interdict and restrain the Zuma Party from passing itself off as being connected with the ANC by the use of the name uMkhonto weSizwe and the related logo, or any other trademark, and to remove ANC intellectual property from any of the Zuma Party's websites, social media accounts, banners, t-shirts, signs, labels, promotional and advertising material, packaging, stationery, and other printed matter.

The ANC accepts that all South Africans have rights to certain fundamental freedoms, among which is the right to join or establish a political party of one's choice. This is a fundamental freedom for which we fought.

The ANC is not opposed to the Zuma Party's presence on the ballot. However, in our opinion, fair elections can only be achieved if the Zuma Party is ordered to cease and desist from

using our trademark and other symbols belonging to the ANC.

It is a matter of clear public interest that any voter confusion, caused by the unauthorized use of the ANC's intellectual property and heritage, is clarified before the elections take place.

The ANC is resolute in its view that it is to the benefit of all parties and the country as a whole that the matter be clarified before the general elections due to be held on 29th May 2024.

South Africans know uMkhonto weSizwe to be the armed wing of the ANC. There should be no dispute that uMkhonto weSizwe was established by the ANC in 1961, and that it fought gallantly for the liberation of South Africa under the full command of the ANC leadership. Around 1993, the ANC, under President Mandela, ordered its army, Umkhonto weSizwe, to disarm and to cease all military hostilities against all enemies of the ANC in order to give way to the negotiated transition which ushered in democracy in South Africa.

uMkhonto weSizwe's function as an army was stopped, but the members of the army units remained seized with a duty and responsibility to safeguard the struggle for liberation as bona fide members of the ANC. At no point in history was uMkhonto weSizwe disbanded.

Mr. Zuma's party is using the ANC trademark without the consent of the ANC and in flagrant and contemptuous disregard of the ANC's wishes.

Although MK cannot continue to exist as an army, its rich history is worth protecting and sharing with the generations to come. To this end, the ANC has continued to regard uMkhonto weSizwe as an integral part of its legacy and heritage, the custodians of which are the MK Liberation War Veterans.

It is an untenable situation for the Zuma Party to be allowed to dilute such a rich history for its own purposes, by irregularly and unlawfully abrogating to itself a name it thinks would have political traction, in this case a name people have literally died for, uMkhonto weSizwe.

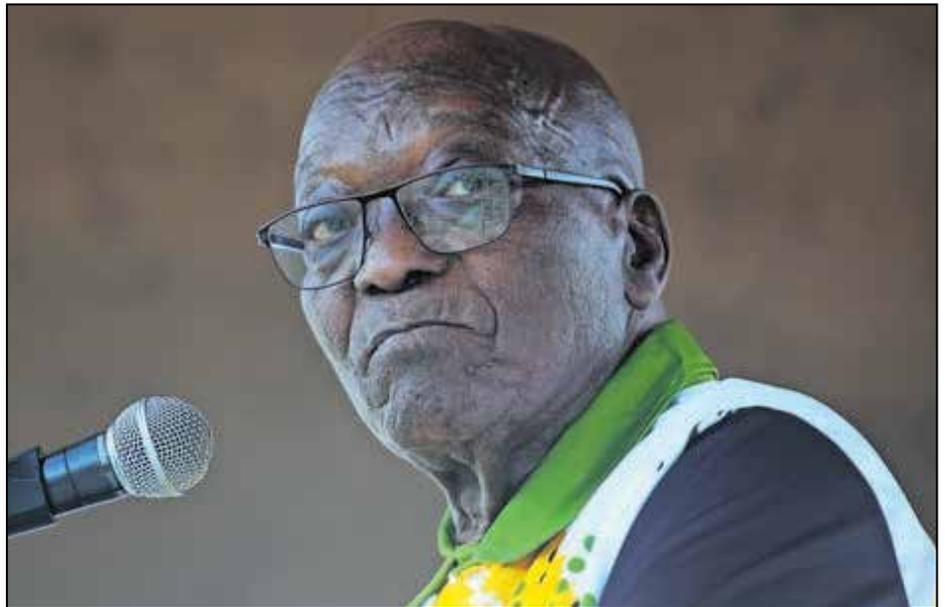
JACOB ZUMA'S RESURRECTION SAGA

■ By **ANC SECRETARY-GENERAL FIKILE APRIL MBALULA**

IN a dramatic twist of fate reminiscent of the biblical narrative of resurrection, Jacob Zuma, affectionately known as uBaba by his adherents, stands at the precipice of a political comeback that defies the very essence of political Waterloo. The uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) Party list, with uBaba's name prominently etched at the top in bold, heralds the possibility of his return to the National Assembly – a platform from which he has been ousted twice.

Yet, looming over this anticipated resurgence are the twin spectres of Sections 47 and 88 of the South African Constitution, formidable barriers to his aspirations of political rebirth. Not to mention the ANC's dual challenge against using and misusing its copyright, particularly in the sense that MK is associated with the ANC's former military wing. This second challenge involves the ANC requesting the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) to nullify the MK Party's registration. Both matters are expected to be heard in the courts respectively.

The narrative of Zuma's potential return evokes parallels with the story of resurrection, a concept that, while most famously associated with the biblical account of Jesus Christ's victory over death,



finds a curious echo in the turbulent waters of South African politics. Just as the resurrection story speaks to the triumph of hope and renewal over despair and finality, so too does the unfolding saga of Jacob Zuma's political journey.

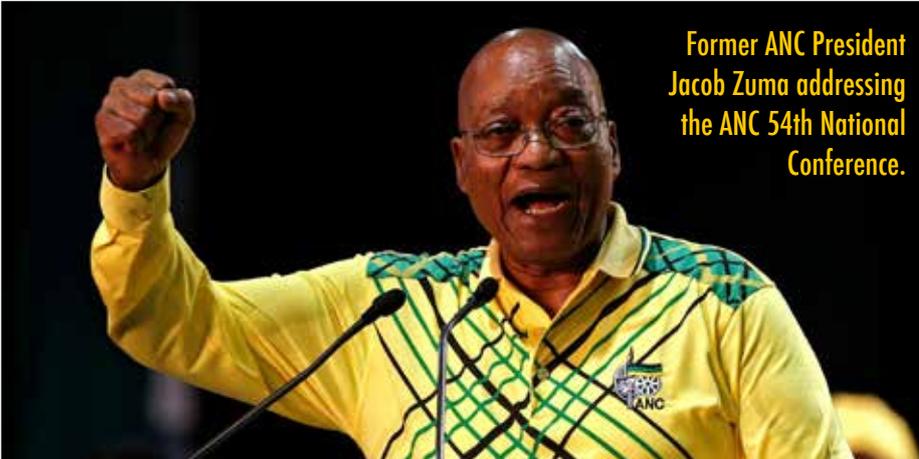
However, Zuma's path is fraught with legal and constitutional hurdles that challenge the feasibility of this "comeback kid" moniker. Section 88 of the Constitution clearly stipulates that the presidential term is capped at two stints, a decree that extinguishes the possibility of Zuma reoccupying the highest office in the land. His presidency, marred by controversy and cut short, cannot be resurrected within the legal confines of South Africa's gover-

nance framework.

Moreover, Section 47 stands as a sentinel, guarding the entry to the National Assembly. Having been sentenced to 15 months in jail for contempt of court, Zuma finds himself in direct contravention of this legislative mandate, which unequivocally bars those with recent custodial sentences from assuming the mantle of Member of Parliament. This, in essence, is the boulder sealing the tomb of his parliamentary aspirations, a legal impediment that seems insurmountable at first glance, at least for Zuma.

Yet, the resurrection narrative is one of overcoming the insurmountable of life bursting forth

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Former ANC President Jacob Zuma addressing the ANC 54th National Conference.

from the clutches of death. In the political arena, such resurrections are not unheard of, though they demand a confluence of public support, strategic maneuvering, and, occasionally, legal reinterpretation or reform. Despite being tainted by the Gupta scandal and associations with dubious figures such as Des van Rooyen, the infamous “Weekend Special”, and Roy Moodley, a known Zuma benefactor, the MK Party list serves as a rallying point for those still loyal to uBaba’s legacy, amidst the shadows of state capture and the lingering aroma of Gupta curry.

The notion of Jacob Zuma’s political resurrection, therefore, transcends the individual. It embodies the enduring struggle within South Africa’s body politic between the state capture combatants and new reformists, between entrenched loyalties and the imperative for renewal. As uBaba positions himself for a dramatic re-entry into the political fray, the country finds itself at a crossroads, contemplating the implications of a past that refuses to stay buried and a future still struggling to be born.

In this context, the story of resurrection takes on a dual significance. On the one hand, it depicts the tribulations of a man

besieged by a never-ending series of fraud and corruption trials, frivolous legal challenges, and public controversies. These range from fathering a child with his friend’s daughter to undisputed evidence of having unprotected sex with the child of a deceased comrade, all in his endeavour to reclaim a place in the nation’s political narrative. On the other hand, it reflects the nation’s ongoing journey towards reconciliation, accountability, and good governance – a journey marked by setbacks, victories, losses, and, ultimately, the hope of renewal, if not resurrection.

As South Africa watches this saga unfold, the question remains: can there be a political resurrection for Jacob Zuma within the confines of the current constitutional and legal framework? Or will the



Former ANC President Jacob Zuma after hearing the announcement of the newly elected President Cyril Ramaphosa

twin barriers of Sections 47 and 88 prove to be the final word on his political epitaph?

The resurrection story, both in scripture and in the annals of human endeavour, teaches us that endings are often just the prelude to new beginnings. For Jacob Zuma and South Africa, the coming months may well reveal whether a political phoenix can rise from the ashes of legal and ethical adjudications or whether the laws of the land will reaffirm the finality of political mortality.

In the end, the saga of Jacob’s resurrection is not just about the man but about the soul of a nation in search of its path of renewal. It is a narrative imbued with the complexities of forgiveness, redemption, and the relentless pursuit of justice, themes as ancient as they are contemporary, as personal as they are political, echoing the age-old question: ***Ubani lo (who is this) Zuma?***

I posit that his epitaph will read: *“Here lies a man twice removed from Parliament, whose departure from the ANC sealed his destiny. He rests in the iNkandla forest, devoid of life, defiant to the end, yet bereft of vitality and essence. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Mhlanganyelwa Msholozzi Zuma.”*

ALLIANCE

UPDATE ON TWO POT PENSION BILLS



By the Congress of South African Trade Unions

A short update with regards to the Two Pot Pension Reforms Bills currently being processed by Parliament.

There are two Bills:

- The Revenue Laws Amendment Bill providing for the Two Pot Reforms.
- And the Pension Fund Amendment Bill providing for the inclusion of pension funds that have their own separate Act, namely the Government Employees, Transnet, Post and Telecommunications Pension Funds.

The National Assembly passed the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill in February. The NCOP Select Committee on Finance was met to adopt it and it will then go to the NCOP House for passage.

The National Assembly's Finance Committee adopted the Pension Fund Amendment Bill and the NA was scheduled to adopt it this past Wednesday afternoon.

The NCOP is preparing to hold hearings on it shortly, most likely by the beginning of the following week and the NCOP should itself pass it by the second week of April.

Parliament will have then con-



cluded its role.

COSATU is part of all Parliamentary meetings on the Bills.

We have built a coalition of support for both Bills amongst the ANC, DA as well as the EFF in the Finance Committees. The smaller parties rarely pitch.

Once Parliament is done, the Bills will go to the President for assent. We will engage the Presidency to ensure this is expedited and concluded urgently, possibly by the end of April.

Treasury will then need to promulgate the 1 September 2024 implementation date. Again we will work with Treasury to get this done by beginning of May.

These three steps and time frames are key. There is no

space for delays.

Once they are done, SARS needs to adjust its tax systems. We will work with Treasury to ensure this is done.

The Pension Funds then need to amend their rules and submit these to the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA).

We are engaging with the FSCA and Treasury to ensure this happens and pensions are ready for 1 September 2024 implementation.

It will be critical for Affiliates to meet and engage their pension funds once Parliament and the President have signed off on the Bills.

There are over 1700 pension funds, so there is plenty of space for mischief that needs to be managed.

We have been doing statements and pamphlets each step of the Parliamentary processes as part of keeping members and workers up to date on issues.

Once Parliament has concluded passage by mid April we will then go all out with a media and publicity campaign with jpeg pamphlets, videos and audios in all 11 languages with COSATU and



ALLIANCE



Affiliates logos for the Federation and Affiliates to disseminate and flood workplaces with.

We would want to include leadership in these videos.

We should also use this as a recruitment platform for Affiliates to sign up members as this is a COSATU campaign and victory. Equally, we should use it to mobilise workers for the elections as this is a victory made possible because we have an Alliance with the ANC and SACP and are thus able to engage and negotiate with comrades in government and Parliament.

Our pamphlets will include a detailed breakdown of what the Two Pot Pension Reforms entail and answers to questions workers tend to raise.

We will alert leadership each step of the way in Parliament and

beyond and when matters have concluded.

In summary, we are making positive progress; we will be ready for 1 September 2024 implemen-

tation. Much remains to be done and we will thus continue to sit with Parliament, Treasury, the FSCA and the pension funds daily to manage any issues that may arise.

MYANC PLEDGE

ELECTIONS

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ANC
A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

TO PLEDGE

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www.anc1912.org.za/pledge

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37057

to **PLEDGE R10**

44892

to **PLEDGE R20**

42053

to **PLEDGE R30**

PLEDGE FOR A DECISIVE VICTORY AND A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL!

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COSATU REJECTS THE DA'S RECKLESS RESPONSIBLE SPENDING BILL

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) welcomes the decision by Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance to reject the Democratic Alliance (DA)'s reckless Responsible Spending Bill. The DA's Bill is a shocking attempt to impose brutal 10% plus salary cuts on nurses, teachers, police officers and other hard working and low paid public servants for the next 4 years and beyond.

The DA Bill tabled at Parliament proposes that for the next four years, the debt to gross domestic product ratio is:

- Under 55%, public servants receive a 1% increase on average.
- Between 55% and 60%, public servants receive a 0% increase.
- Over 60%, public servants receive a 5% increase.

The DA Bill delinks increases in wages for cleaners, nurses and correctional service officers and other public servants from being pegged to inflation and be linked instead to the economy's growth rate. This will mean that under a DA administration, public servants would see on average a 10% plus reduction in their wages each year for the next decade.

It is to the DA's discredit that the Bill is silent on the very comfortable salaries of its Members of Parliament, the Provincial Legislatures and Municipal Councils.



It is to the DA's shame that it has voted against the progressive Companies Amendment Bill currently before Parliament that requires listed companies and State-Owned Enterprises to disclose the salaries and gap between what they pay their highest and lower earners to their shareholders and the public as part of reducing the painful apartheid wage and moving South Africa to a fairer wage regime.

The public service wage bill, despite misleading scarecrows flighted by some, is not ballooning, in fact it has fallen from 35% to 31.7%. We should be worried about the declining public service headcount ratio when we had 1 million public servants servicing 34 million South Africans in 1994, to 1.2 million public servants today for a population that has nearly doubled to 62 million. This declining head count has placed great strain upon the ability of the state to provide the quality public services that working class communities and the economy depend upon.

The Bill is a brazen attempt to collapse workers' hard-won constitutional rights to collective bargaining, delegate this to a legislative fiat and thus would not pass constitutional muster.

The Federation agrees that a debate is needed on the correct debt level and a path to ensure that it is placed on a sustainable path. The solution however to managing the debt, is to grow the economy, fix Eskom and Transnet and other critical State-Owned Enterprises, rebuild the state, provide relief for the poor and unemployed. Pickpocketing paramedics and doctors will not only plunge them into debt but in fact spark a brain drain of skilled public servants from the state to the private sector and overseas.

COSATU urges the National Assembly to reject this anti-worker Bill as a populist election pamphlet and a misguided attempt to dump the bill for state capture and corruption upon nurses and teachers.

MELANGE OF MANIFESTOS, BUT NO EASY WALK TO ECONOMIC FREEDOM

■ By **ABBA OMAR**

POLITICAL parties make lofty promises but fail to appreciate how deep problems of poverty and unemployment are.

What accounts for the diversity of ideas on economic issues in the manifestos of political parties contesting the May 29 elections?

On one hand you have the creative and incredible Action SA's manifesto, which claims if we vote it into power the party will create 4.8-million jobs (a figure its leader has a habit of rounding off to 5-million) by 2029. The equally imaginative figure is that of Rise Mzansi's "people's manifesto" to achieve an annual minimum GDP growth rate of 6%.

In the same innovative camp is the EFF's promise to create at least 5.2-million jobs in the "short to medium term". Similarly fantastical is the MK party's manifesto, which aims to create 5-million jobs in five years.

A mistake these parties are making is the failure to appreciate how deep the problems of poverty and unemployment are, and hence the challenges to be surmounted.



Standard Bank's Elna Moolman has argued that the economic weakness we are seeing "stems from several headwinds, ranging from soft commodity prices to slow and fragile global economic growth, to high interest rates and severe infrastructure constraints".

To paraphrase the father of our nation, Nelson Mandela, there is no easy walk to economic freedom.

The DA lies at the other end of the imaginative spectrum. As one of its "apex priorities" for the

2024-29 term, it promises to create 2-million new jobs, with most of its policies indicating that we should turn a blind eye to the racial nature of the poverty, unemployment and inequality in SA.

As the late US president Lyndon B Johnson said when arguing for affirmative action policies: "You do not take a person who, for years, has been hobbled by chains and bring him up to the starting line of a race and then say 'you are free to compete with all the others' and still justly believe that you have been completely fair."

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The ANC, burdened with the mantle of incumbency, strikes a more sober, balanced tone, committing in its manifesto to creating and sustaining 2.5-million work opportunities. While working with the corporate sector in improving the business environment, President Cyril Ramaphosa's government has had to ensure the sheer survival, through an ever-widening social net, of South Africans as they slip into more and more desperate situations.

This was underlined by Liberty economist Zandile Makhoba, writing after the February budget speech, that *"in an election year where appeasing the majority may have been the preferred course of action, finance minister Enoch Godongwana chose SA over politics"*.

There is little a small, open economy such as SA can do about the global economy, but we are seeing the measures that the gov-

ernment and the private sector implemented through their joint working groups beginning to bear fruit.

Year-to-date load-shedding is about half as bad as the comparable period last year, *"a trend we expect to continue this year"*, Moolman wrote. Increases in private sector generation capacity and higher electricity output from Eskom contributes towards that. Also, Stats SA's reports confirm a slight increase in rail freight volumes in the past few months, while there are growing reports of operational improvements at ports.

The government's continued commitment to increasing infrastructure spend has, according to Moolman, been *"encouragingly shielded from the fiscal consolidation initiatives, while the underspending that has prevailed for many years seems to have reversed more recently"*.

The Treasury has tabled the public-private partnership framework, meant to guide the expenditure of the R946bn infrastructure budget and reignite the construction sector, one of SA's more labour-intensive industries. Makhoba noted that this was put forward just before the delivery of the budget, showing a sense of urgency on the part of the Treasury.

The private sector should acknowledge its role in ensuring the future wellbeing of our country.

Despite it sponsoring the magical thinking of small parties, it and this country will still have to face SA's tough economic realities after May 29.

A stable government committed to meeting the needs of all South Africans is what will be needed.

Abba Omar is director of operations at the Mapungubwe Institute.

LET US NOT FALL FOR THE ANTI-ANC PROPAGANDA

■ By **DAVID SEKGOBELA**

WE are on the election mode and we're going to hear all sorts of stories about the ANC. I will not allow myself to be lied into my face that the ANC government has failed. I'm not that gullible to believe in anything and everything that people with hidden agendas have to say about the ANC.

The ANC government has indeed its challenges, but credit must be given where it is due. People can say whatever they like about the ANC's performance in the past 30 years, because they are within their right to say whatever they like. Thanks to the ANC government to make it possible for them to express themselves whichever way they like. However, those of us who have experienced abject poverty under apartheid know the achievements and shortcomings of the ANC very well.

We are acutely aware that 30 years is not enough to undo service delivery backlog accumulated over 400 years, and it doesn't need more than one brain cell to know about this obvious reality. For those who didn't go through what some of us experienced might not understand. Perhaps they don't know what it means to be poor. We need to remind them of the actual personal experiences.

2019 MANIFESTO REVIEW
RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE

SOUTH AFRICANS USHERED IN DEMOCRACY IN 1994 TO END APARTHEID AND PATRIARCHY.

- The ANC-led government started building a united, **democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous** South Africa.
- Guided by the **Constitution, apartheid's legacy began to be dismantled.**

African National Congress

In as much as the ANC government is experiencing some service delivery challenges due to limited resources and corruption by unscrupulous individuals, we shouldn't forget that during apartheid, especially for those of us who were staying in the rural areas: - No government provided social grants for the underprivileged - child support grants, social relief grants. Old age grants were only provided bi-monthly,

and were very low. No one who has never gone to sleep without food would tell me anything about lack of service delivery by the government.

No one who doesn't know what kwashiorkor is can tell me about the poor service record of the government. I'm willing to engage with anyone who has experienced a death in the family due to hunger and starvation.

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- No government built any roads. The entire rural area where I am coming from didn't have tarred roads at all. Now we do have. Most of the major roads are now tarred. However, due to limited resources, maintenance isn't what it should be, hence the potholes here and there.
- No government built anyone houses. There were no RDP houses.
- No government provided electricity to anyone. It was for the privileged few. Loadshedding was a permanent phenomenon. I personally experienced the use of electricity when I came to Johannesburg at the age of 19 years. So loadshedding doesn't mean much to me, because I understand why we have it.
- No government provided water to anyone. Nothing. We drew water from the wells, which dry up sometimes.
- No children attended school for free at all levels. Today there are no-fee paying schools. At institutions of higher learning, deserving students are assisted by NSFAS for their studies – pocket money, tuition fees, and accommodation.
- No government provided food for any child at school.
- No government provided scholar transport to children of school going age.

We used to walk excessively long distances to school – 15 to 20km. Not even my children believe me when I tell them. Today, the government provides subsidy for scholar transport to all children of school going age who have to travel more than 5km. I can go on and on outlining what is supposed to be obvious to those who seem to have outsourced their thinking capacity.

A VOLUNTEER'S GUIDE TO THE ANC ELECTION MANIFESTO

■ By **HANIEF EBRAHIM**

WHEN the ANC came into power 30 years ago, the ANC-led government set out to build a new country that is based on equality, fairness and prosperity for all.

As the ANC, we understood that moving away from apartheid did not only mean protection from unjust laws, but it also meant breaking all the pillars of apartheid of which spatial configuration was one.

Inspired by the Freedom Charter, **“there shall be houses, securi-**

ty and comfort”, our ANC government adopted policies that allowed for the provision of houses for the poorest of the poor.

Thus far, our government has already restored the dignity of many people and it will continue to do so by providing them with a dignified shelter.

ON HOUSING the manifesto asks: how will we improve housing for those in shacks and backyards?

1. We need to increase the supply of affordable urban rental





housing and support low-income earners (who do not qualify for RDP houses) to access housing loans.

2. We are transferring ownership of state rental houses to people who live in them and rolling out title deeds to all homeowners to prove their legal ownership.
3. We aim to “densify and integrate” our cities and build more flats and housing close to cities so that workers can travel to work quickly and cheaply.
4. The government cannot give free houses to all who need them – we cannot afford it.
5. We have helped with RDP

houses and subsidies and today we have 15m families living in formal housing compared to about 6m in 1996.

6. There is a shortage of suitable land for development in many cities, and many poor people are forced to live in informal areas far from work opportunities.
7. We will identify and expropriate suitable land to densify and ensure access to housing, or prepare sites and services for new arrivals.
8. At the same time, we will upgrade informal settlements by improving household access to toilets, water, electricity, refuse removal, security of tenure, area lighting and public

transport.

Our ANC government understood too that “A house is made of walls and beams, but a home is built with love and dreams”.

It is for this reason that our housing policy has shifted since 1996, so that we could provide the majority of the people in this country with sustainable human settlements that are closer to economic opportunities and social amenities which enables them to fulfil their dreams in homes filled with love, health, safety and happiness.

I believe, indeed another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On this quiet Sunday, I can hear her breathing...***the ANC lives...the ANC leads...***



A LEAF OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

BATTLE OF MUTALE RIVER

– 28 MARCH 1988

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

 ON 28 March 1988, nine Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) Soldiers, aged between 19 and 21 years were surprised by heavy enemy fire from the apartheid South African Defence Force (SADF) and the then Venda Defence Force (VDF), in what came to be known as “The Battle of Mutale River”. The MK Unit was tasked with infiltrating the rural areas of the then Venda homeland in Northern Transvaal (now Limpopo), and they crossed from Zimbabwe into South Africa on 25 March 1988.

On the morning of 28 March 1988 while on a small island on the Mutale River, they were spotted by members of the Venda Defence Force (VDF), after being reported by local residents who identified their tracks near the river. A battle ensued that lasted the whole day between the then VDF and the nine person MK unit in the vicinity of Ha-Mutele village, near Tshikondeni mine.

The VDF called for reinforcements from the then SADF and helicopter gunships were deployed which ended in the demise of four of the nine MK guerrillas. One of them, Abram Moroe, was



tracked down to a nearby village and was shot dead on 18 April 1988. The Battle of Mutale constituted one of the many heroic battles that MK fought against the Apartheid forces during its 60 year history.

Recalling that fateful day, where they matched fire with fire, one of the survivors of the confrontation, James Sekgale said: “*We were special forces. They sent us to Cuba for training*”. Looking for a place to rest, the unit took refuge on the island. It wasn’t

long before they were spotted by members of the Venda Defence Force. Soon reinforcements were brought in, Sekgale said. A helicopter gunship began circling and firing on the guerrillas. They tried to shoot down the helicopter but were outgunned.

Sekgale had to watch his comrades fall one by one, which included Daniel Nkabinde (Vusi Mthembu), Abram Moroe (Happy Batho), Oupa Lukhele (Dan Mabaso), Mzimkhulu Goduka, Siphonkosi (Peter Molotsi) and

HISTORY



Ruben Lentsela (Benard Zondi). Sekgale was captured, but three members of the unit escaped and crossed back into Zimbabwe. These were Duma Mlambo, Ntwasihaye “Gabs” Magebhula and Thabo “Pele The Great” Dube. Sekgale later escaped from prison in Venda and made his way back to Zimbabwe, but the bodies of his three fallen comrades disappeared.

In 1998, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission gave the families of the three guerrillas their exhumed remains. *“At first we didn’t suspect it, until a member of the special branch came and told us that he had died,”* Siphso Sombane, a relative of Oupa Willie Lukhele, said at the reburial. But trauma followed when it was discovered these were not the remains of the families’ loved ones.

Years later, through studying police dockets and mortuary records, the National Prosecuting Authority’s Missing Persons Task Team was able to correctly identify the five, who had been buried in the Mbaleni cemetery in Thohoyandou. In his message of

support, the General Secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP), Solly Mapaila, representing the Tripartite Alliance, said that *“these young men were not hired assassins. They were not a gang of ‘tsotsis’ (gangsters).*

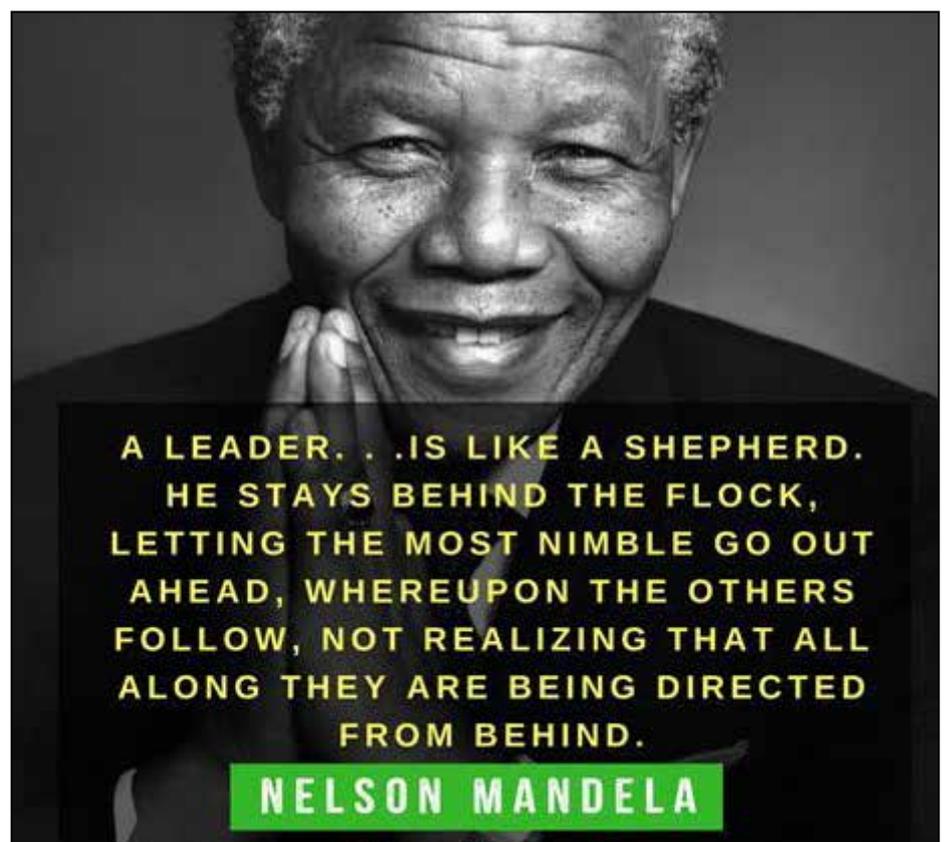
They had no expectations of ma-

terial gains, but freedom of our people was in their hearts. Some of them sacrificed their youthful bodies to cushion the everlasting bed, all in the name of freedom.”

No direct operations had previously been carried out against military personnel except for a number of skirmishes between MK cadres and the security forces, usually in the remote border areas.

Cadres were taught to maintain the moral high ground occupied by the liberation movement, owing to the justness of their cause, in the actual theatre of battle. This meant that the choice of targets, attitude towards civilians and treatment of captives had to reflect the ANC’s policies.

The forms of armed struggle adopted by the ANC and MK were intended to achieve the goals of the movement with the least loss of life.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

30 March – 5 April 2024

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

30 March 1951 Group Areas Act comes into effect

The Group Areas divided the country into separate residential and business areas for whites, Africans, Indians and Coloureds. This act completed the process started with the 1913 and 1926 Land Acts, which set aside 80% of land for white ownership. To enforce the separate development policy, forced removals became the order of the day. By 1982, over 3.5 million people were forcefully removed, including high profile cases such as Sophiatown and District Six.

30 March 1957 Marie-Christine Koundja born



Chadian writer and diplomat Marie-Christine Koundja is born in Iriba. She became the first woman of Chad to publish novels. Her first novel *Al-Istifakh, ou, L'idylle de mesa mis* (2001), tells the story of two young people who decide to marry despite

their parents withholding consent because of their tribal and religious differences. Her second novel *Kam-Ndjaha, la dévoreuse* (2009), deals with the themes of poverty, infidelity and friendship.

30 March 1970 Leleti Khumalo born



South African actress, dancer and singer was born in Durban on this day. Khumalo gained fame for her performances in musical *Sarafina*, first on stage in 1987 and then in the 1992 movie adaptation. She also acted in other films such as *Cry the Beloved Country* (1995), *Hotel Rwanda and Yesterday* (2004), *Invictus* (2009), *Winnie Mandela* (2011), *Free State* (2016) as well as series *Uzalo* and *Imbewu*.

30 March 1976 Thousands of Palestinians protest against Israeli land expropriation

Thousands of Palestinians protest against Israel's massive

land expropriation. In the event, which is annually commemorated on Land Day, 6 protesters were killed and scores injured by Israeli police. Since then, the violent expropriation of Palestinian land has continued unabated.

30 March 1987 Cheikh Anta Diop University named

The University of Dakar, Senegal is renamed the Cheik Anta Diop University in deference to the renowned scientist, historian and intellectual.

31 March 1694 Sheik Yusuf arrives in Cape

Sheik Yusuf, Islamic leader and brother of the sultan of Macassar, was banished to the Cape by the Dutch East India Company (DEIC). He arrived on board *De Voetboog* and with his family and retinue; they were forty-nine people in total. In order to minimise his influence on enslaved people at the Cape, he was housed by the Dutch East India Company on the farm *Zandvliet*, located outside Cape Town. Although he died in 1699, just five years after his arrival at the Cape, after more than three centuries his memory lives on and *Zandvliet* is a noted place of pilgrimage for Muslim people in South Africa. Although there were already some Muslims at the Cape before the arrival of Yusuf, he is regarded as the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

founder of the Islamic faith at the Cape.

31 March 1964 Scientist Kelly Chibale born



Zambian scientist of organic chemistry is born in Mpika district. Believing that Africa's health care future lies in medical research, he founded the Drug Discovery and Development Centre (HRD) at the University of Cape Town. In 2016, Professor Chibale discovered an antimalarial compound that went into testing as a vaccine against malaria. He continues work on cancer inhibitors at a cellular level. In 2018 he was recognized as one of Fortune magazine's top 50 World's Greatest Leaders.

31 March 2000 Jazz Festival starts in Cape Town

The North Sea Jazz Festival starts in Cape Town. It is the first time a jazz festival on four simultaneous stages takes place in SA. The jazz festival, now known as the Cape Town International Jazz Festival takes place annually.

31 March 2017 Pilot Lola Odujinrin around the globe

Ademilola 'Lola' Odujinrin, a Nige-

rian pilot living in the UK becomes the first African to circumnavigate the globe flying solo, when he landed on this day at Dulles Airport in Washington. At the age of 20, he obtained his Private Pilot License in just 19 days. Lola to date is one of only 117 people to complete the solo flight.

1 April 1913 Formation of the South African Police

The South African Police (SAP) formed as a national police force, after the Union of South Africa of 1910.

1 April 1940 Wangari Maathai born



Environmentalist, founder of the Green Belt Movement, gender activist and Nobel Peace Laureate was born on this day in Ithite, Nyeri in Kenya.

1 April 1955 ANC launches boycott against Bantu Education

The African National Congress (ANC) launches mass boycott of Bantu Education. This introduced high levels of inequality in expenditure on education of white and black children, resulting in highly unequal infrastructure, student-teacher ratios, access to text books, libraries, science fa-

cilities and sport fields. Bantu education came into effect in 1955 after the government had passed the Bantu Education Act. The call for the boycott of Bantu education was accompanied by the formation of alternative schools in communities, which were harshly suppressed by the apartheid government.

1 April 1960 Banjo Timothy Masele born

Motswana guitarist singer and songwriter is born on this day in Kanye, Botswana. Touring with bands he led like the Kalahari Band, he also recorded with musicians like High Masekela, Peter Gabriel and Jonas Gwangwa.

1 April 1960 First UNSC resolution on Apartheid South Africa

The Security Council, in its first action on South Africa, adopted resolution 134 (1960) deploring the policies and actions of the South African Government which had given rise to a loss of life of so many Africans and led to international friction, and called upon that Government to abandon its policies of apartheid and racial discrimination. It requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the South African Government, "to make such arrangements as would adequately help in upholding the purposes and principles of the [United Nations] Charter." The vote on the resolution was 9 in favour and 2 abstentions (France and the United Kingdom).

1 April 1977 Pik Botha appointed as Foreign Minister

Pik Botha appointed as Foreign Minister, a position that he served

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

in until 1994, when as part of the Government of National Unity, he served in the Cabinet of Nelson Mandela as Minister of Minerals and Energy.

1 April 1990 Cheetah Conservation Fund established

Namibia's Cheetah Conservation Fund is established, with the global cheetah population dropping from 100,00 a century ago to just 7000. The institute uses artificial insemination to achieve successful pregnancies for the big cats, the world's fastest land animals, capable of running up to 120 kph.

1 April 2016 PAC president Clarence Makwetu dies at age 88 years

Makwetu became active and joined the ANC Youth League in the 1950s and was part of the breakaway group from the ANC that formed the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) in 1959. He was imprisoned and banned for the next three decades. After the unbanning of the PAC and other political movements in 1990, Makwetu was elected as PAC President, which formed the Patriotic Front with the ANC during the negotiations and was elected as a Member of Parliament of the PAC, to the first democratic parliament in 1994.

2 April 1912 George Pemba, renowned artist and playwright born in Port Elizabeth

South African artist George Mnyaluzo Pemba (also documented as Mnyala, Milwa), was born in Korsten, Port Elizabeth. His father encouraged him to paint as

a child and he received rudimentary training from his brother. He went to become one of the celebrated South African artists, and managed to make a good living out of his art, despite indifference from the mainstream art world. Pemba was also a good writer and wrote two plays, one of them the well-known Nonqause. He later produced paintings to illustrate the play. Pemba passed on in 2001.

2 April 1928 Dolly Rathebe born



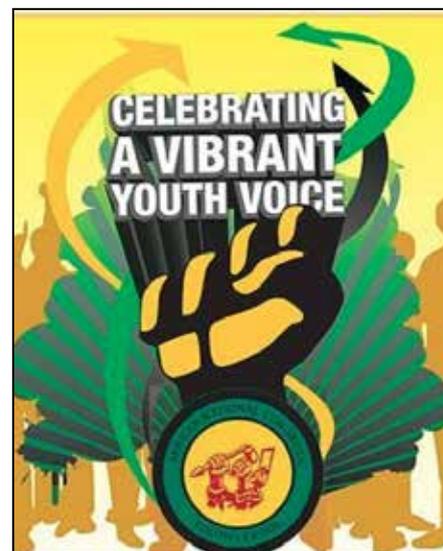
South African singer and actress Dolly Rathebe is born in Randfontein, Gauteng. In 1949 she was offered the female lead in the film *Jim Comes to Joburg*, regularly gracing the cover of *Drum* magazine, part of the illustrious cast of *King Kong* in 1962. She toured the country as a member of the Elite Swingsters in the 1960s, she received the Order of Ikamanga in Silver in 2004, in the same year that she passed on.

2 April 1930 Empress Zewditu passed on

The Empress of Ethiopia, Zewditu, the only woman head of an African country in the 20th century and Ethiopia's only female Empress Regent, passed on in Addis Ababa. She was regent since

1916 until her death in 1930, taking over from her father Emperor Menelike II, who passed on in 1913, her cousin, Tafari Mekonnen served as her prime minister.

2 April 1944 ANC Youth League formed, with Anton Lembede as first President



The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) was founded on 2 April 1944, by Anton Lembede (who became the League's first President), Nelson Mandela, Ashby Mda, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo, joined by Duma Nokwe, B Masekela, Ida Mtwla, Lillian Ngoyi, James Njongweni, William Nkomo and Dan Tloome. The Youth League's manifesto was launched at the Bantu Social Centre in Johannesburg in March 1944 ahead of its inaugural meeting. It promoted African nationalism (Africans should struggle for development, progress and national liberation to occupy their rightful and honourable place among nations of the world); and that the African youth should be united, consolidated, trained and disciplined, because from their ranks, future leaders would be recruited. Their motto was: "Africa's cause must triumph".

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

2 April 1997

Ellen Kuzwayo receives Wits Honorary degree



Author of *Call me Woman*, educationist and social worker and later ANC member of parliament, Ellen Kuzwayo, becomes the first Black woman to receive an honorary degree from the University of the Witwatersrand.

2 April 2018

Passing of Mme Winnie Madikizela Mandela

Anti-apartheid and global icon, Winnie Madikizela Mandela passed on from natural causes in Johannesburg. A social worker by profession, Nomzamo Winifred Zanyiwe Madikizela was born on 28 September 1936 in Bizana in the E Cape and moved to Johannesburg, where she became involved in the ANC and resistance to apartheid. She married Nelson Mandela in 1958, and after his sentence to life imprisonment in Robben Island in the 1960s, continued to keep the flame of resistance alive, and also to care for their family. A militant, she suffered imprisonment, harassment, torture and banishment to Brandfort by the regime, but her defiant spirit remained resilient throughout the 70s and 80s. She was president of the ANC Women's League and member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC. She was also a Member

of Parliament from 1994-2003 and from 2009 until her passing in 2018.

3 April 1930

Haile Selassie coronated as Emperor of Ethiopia

Prime Minister Tafari Makonnen is proclaimed Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia, succeeding Empress Zewditu as ruler. He continued his modernization of Ethiopia's systems of governance, education, industry and public service, having already abolished slavery whilst serving as prime minister. Emperor Haile Selassie was one of the proponents for the formation of the Organisation of African Unity, and hosted the founding conference of the OAU in Addis Ababa in May 1963. Selassie ruled Ethiopia as emperor

for thirty-seven years, until he was overthrown by Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1977, who formed the Derg socialist regime.

3 April 1968

Vorster announces establishment of five 'Black Colleges'

Prime Minister BJ Vorster announced the separation of five black university colleges, hitherto under the auspices of UNISA, after their reduction to satellites of UNISA (especially Fort Hare, which was in existence as the SA Native College, already in 1916). This led to separate and racially segregated black universities – the University of Fort Hare, University of the Western Cape, University of the North (Turfloop), University of Durban Westville and University of Zululand – func-

REMEMBERING
**MAMA WINNIE
MADIKIZELA
MANDELA**

28 September 1936 – 2 April 2018

“To those who oppose us, we say, 'Strike the woman, and you strike the rock!'”

ANC

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

tioning subject to certain conditions, be free to provide their own teaching and conduct examinations independently of UNISA. All the five university colleges played a tremendous role in shaping the history of South Africa during the liberation struggle.

3 April 2018 Salma Al-Majidi appointed as coach

Al-Majidi (b 1990) is appointed to coach the Sudan national male football team. Due to conservative views about the role of women, women was only allowed to play organised football in the Sudan in 2019, despite Sudan being one of the founding members of CAF after it joined FIFA in 1948. She started her career coaching the under-13 and under-16 teams of Al-Hilal club in Omdurman.

3 April 2022 Angélique Kidjo wins Best World Album



Benin's singer-songwriter Kidjo won a Grammy Award for Best World Album for her album, *Mother Nature*, with a diversity of collaborators including Yemi Alade, Burna Boy, Mr Eazi, Zeynab, Shungudzo, Sampa the Great and Salif Keita.

4 April 1982 Maya Angelou born

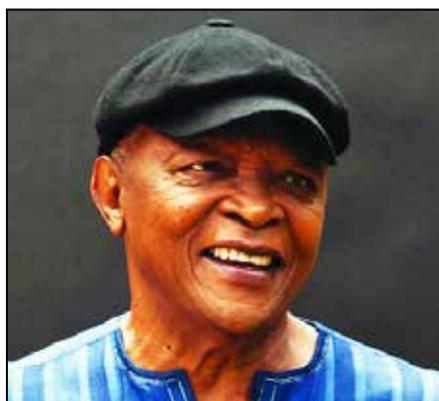
Maya Angelou (4 April 1928 – 28



May 2014) a memoirist, popular poet, and civil rights activist was born on this day. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. Angelou is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. The first, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), tells of her life up to the age of 17 and brought her international recognition and acclaim.

4 April 1939 Hugh Masekela born

On 4 April 1939, Hugh Ramapolo Masekela, musical legend, was born in Witbank, South Africa. Masekela grew up playing the piano and at a young age was introduced to the trumpet by Father Trevor Huddleston. Masekela mastered the trumpet and went



on to play in South Africa's first youth orchestra, the Huddleston Jazz Band. Masekela later collaborated with many famous artists and played in the orchestra for the successful South African Broadway style hit, *King Kong*. In 1961 Masekela went into exile after the political unrest surrounding the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre. His music career in exile went from strength to strength, as he also spread the word about the injustices of apartheid and colonialism. Masekela returned to South Africa in the early 1990s and continues to produce music and perform extensive tours around the world. Masekela remains one of South Africa's most celebrated musicians, producing over 40 albums in a career that spanned several decades.. He passed on away on 23 January 2018.

4 April 1965 Josie Wood, Founder of SA Library for the Blind passed on

Josephine Ethel (Josie) Wood, teacher and founder of the South African Library for the Blind, dies in Grahamstown.

4 April 1988 Tracy Chapman releases album

On this day, Tracy Chapman's self-titled debut album was released and cemented Chapman as the voice of a generation. Featuring classics "Fast Car", 'Baby Can I Hold You' and "Talkin' Bout a Revolution," her powerful lyrics and soulful voice continue to inspire.

4 April 2018 Cape Town towards Water Day Zero

Facing critical water shortages as a result of droughts, and close to

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

being the first major world city to run out of water, the DA-run City of Cape raises property rates by 7% and water/sanitation rates by 27% for a water treatment plant and other emergency measures.

4 April 2019 Mozambique national broadcaster, broadcasts in 15 languages

Mozambique's national broadcaster, TVM starts broadcasting in most of local languages, fifteen in total.

5 April 1906 The Regeneration of Africa speech

A young Pixley Isaka Seme makes history when he delivers "The Regeneration of Africa" speech at Columbia University in the USA. The speech was carried on the front page of the New York Times the next day, and reported in the UK and South Africa. He introduced his speech with the words... "I am an African, and I set my pride in my race over against a hostile public opinion." Eighty years later, making the speech on the occasion of the adoption of the South African Constitution in May 1996, Thabo Mbeki started his speech in a similar manner: "I am an African." The Regeneration of Africa speech should be prescribed reading for all young Africans.

5 April 1953 Kenyatta sentenced to seven years in prison

Jomo Kenyatta, Kenyan freedom fighter is sentenced to seven years in prison on the allegation that he is leader of the Mau Mau anti-colonial movement in Kenya. In 1964 he became the first President of a liberated Kenya, until

his death in 1978.

5 April 2022 COVID19 National State of Disaster lifted

Following drastic reductions in number of infections, hospitalisation and deaths due to COVID19, the National State of Disaster, declared by President Cyril Ramaphosa in the light of the global pandemic on 15 March 2020,



was lifted in South Africa. The WHO estimated that in 2020, excess deaths due to the pandemic was as high as 3 million, globally.

ANC
A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.
VOTE ANC

African National Congress **ANC**

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

30 March – 5 April 2024

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

30 March

World Bipolar Day

The day is observed each on the occasion of the death of great artist, Vincent van Gogh, who was diagnosed as being bipolar after he passed on. Bipolar is a mental illness, characterized by extreme shifts in moods, resulting in mania and depression.

30 March

International Day of Zero Waste



The day promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns, supports the societal shift towards circularity and raises awareness about how zero-waste initiatives. Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Recover, Repair.

31 March

Wear a Hat Day

Have fun by wearing a hat, and raise awareness for people with brain tumors.

1 April

April Fools' Day

Although the origin of the day is not known, it is observed through hoaxes and pranks, nowadays perpetuated through media, including social media, mainly to see how easily we are all fooled into believing outrageous things, outright lies and misinformation.

1 April

Reading is Funny Day

Reading a book of jokes, funny stories or comedies show children that books don't all have to be serious. "Knock Knock! Who's There? Peas. Peas Who? Peas open the door for me."

2 April

World Autism Awareness Day



Autism refers to a broad range of neurodevelopmental disorder that includes a spectrum of poor social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. Autistic people experience the world differently, and the condition manifests more likely in boys. Over half of autistic kids have average to above average levels of intelligence, and according to WHO, autism manifest today in one out of every 160 children.

2 April

Tangible Karma Day

Karma means action, work, or deed and refers to the spiritual principle of cause and effect, where the purpose and activities of an individual influence their future.

2 April

International Children's Book Day

Celebrated since 1967 by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), to promote read-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

ing amongst children and children's books. Each year a different country sponsors the day, and highlights its national contributions to children's literature. 2023 was the turn of Greece.

2 April Geologist Day

Geology is the study of rocks, and the day was started in 1966 by a group of Soviet geologists. It is the primary Earth science and looks at how the earth formed, its structure, composition, and the types of processes acting on it. It studies the history of the earth over the course of its 4.5 billion year life.

3 April World Aquatic Animal Day

This refers to any animal, whether vertebrae or invertebrate that lives in water for most or all of its life. They are of special concern, because of the fragility of their habitats to human intervention.

4 April International Day of Mine awareness and Assistance in Mine Action



The day raises awareness of the dangers posed by landmines, and recommit towards a mine-free world. The Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction, of 1977, has been signed by over 164 countries. It is estimated that in over 64 countries across the world, there are at least 110 million active landmines still hidden in the ground, killing and maiming children, civilians, life stock and animals in these countries. Countries most affected by landmines are Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia.

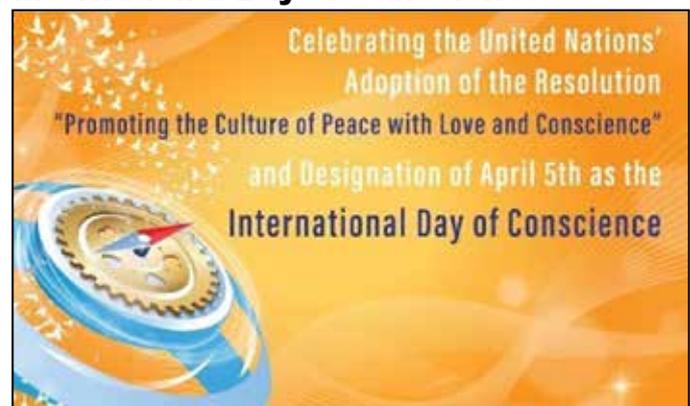
4 April International Carrot Day

The familiar root vegetable, the carrot is healthy and tasty. Orange carrots are the newest variety; originally white, they are also a variety of other colours including purple, red, white, yellow, or black.

4 April World Rat Day

Not the most well-liked animals, the day aims to shed a positive light on these animals and promote their care and welfare. In the Chinese culture, the Rat represents wisdom, wealth and prosperity.

5 April International Day of Conscience

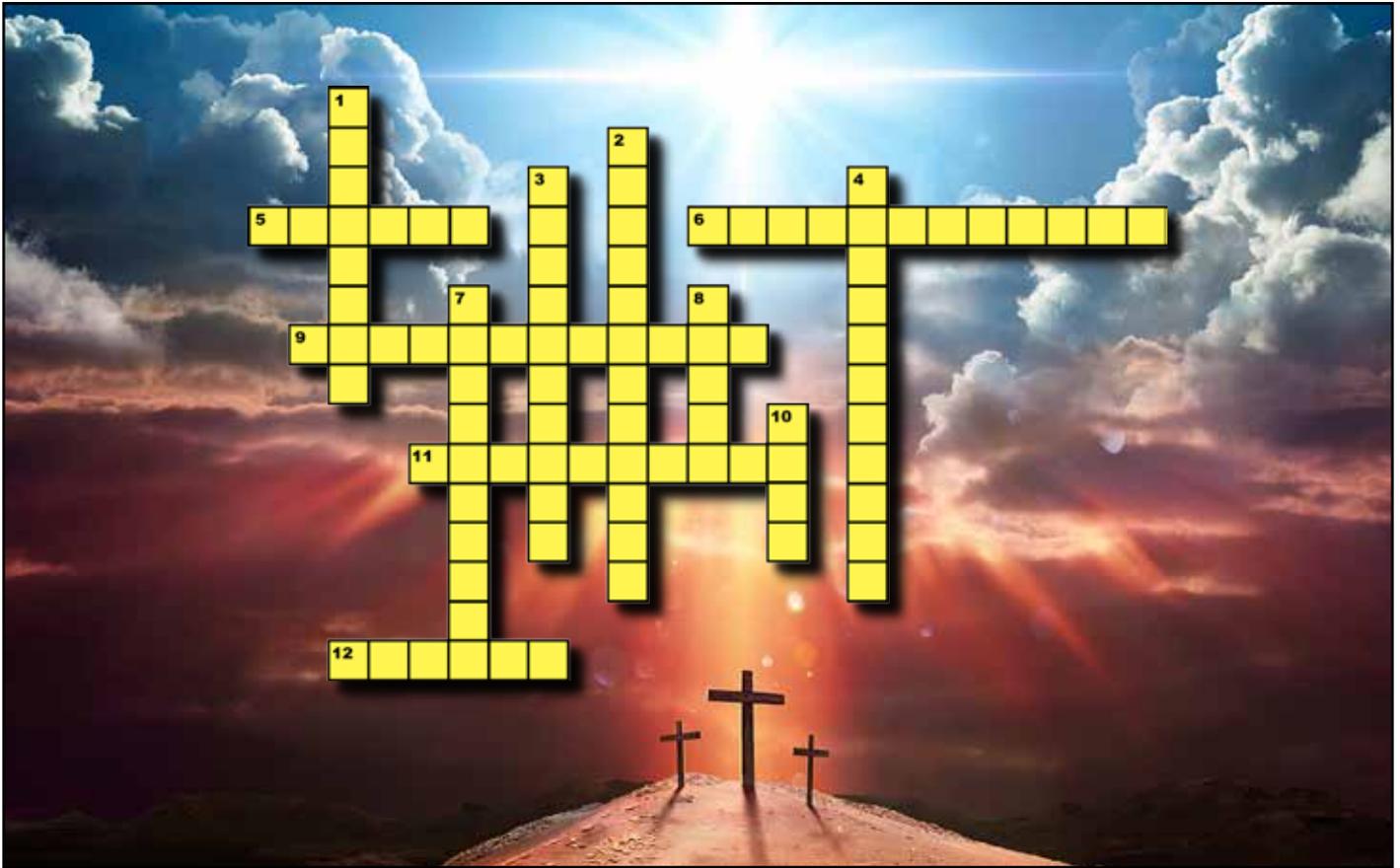


The day draws attention to the founding principles of the Universal Declaration on Human rights - freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, dignity, rejection of violence and prevention of conflicts by tackling root causes, solving problems through dialogue and negotiation, and the full exercise of all rights.



X-WORD

EASTER 2024



ACROSS

- 5. Dispute about date of resurrection known as the ... controversies
- 6. First of 40 days of Lent.
- 9. ... after three days.
- 11. ZCC founder Bishop Engenas Barnabas...
- 12. Ethiopians call Easter ... in Amaharic.

DOWN

- 1. Orthodox tradition prohibits Easter celebrated at same time as...
- 2. Easter celebrates major event of which religion?
- 3. Link with pagan traditions.
- 4. Who rose from the grave after 3 days?
- 7. Easter blessing by the Pope.
- 8. ZCC Easter pilgrimage of over 1 million congregants.
- 10. In the Christian calendar, Easter follows immediately after this period of fasting called ...

WORD BANK

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Christianity | resurrection | Jesus Christ | Pascal |
| Passover | Lent | Urbi et Orbi | Fasika |
| Moria | Lekganyane | Easter eggs | Ash Wednesday |