



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



ONE STEP CLOSER TO AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST WEEK I signed the National Health Insurance Act into law, bringing our country one step closer towards universal health coverage. This is a milestone in our quest to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of good health and well-being for all.

For many years, we have had parallel healthcare systems operating in our country.

The majority of the population, some 84%, uses public health facilities, while 16% are covered by medical schemes, enabling them to access private health care facilities. A small percentage of people use both.

This has perpetuated inequali-

ty, with the quality of health care one receives being determined by one's ability to pay. This runs contrary to our aspiration to be a society that is just and equal.

While achieving social justice is a key objective of National Health Insurance (NHI), efficiency and better resource allocation are equally important. We have said that the real challenge in implementing NHI lies not in the lack of funds but in the misallocation of resources that currently favour the private health sector at the expense of public health needs.

There is a misconception that the private health care sector operates and is funded completely independently of government.

Firstly, the training of doctors, nurses and other healthcare personnel that work in both the public and private sectors is subsidised by the state. Secondly, as an employer, the state pays billions of rands annually in subsidies for employees who are members of the various public sector medical aid schemes. Thirdly, taxpayers claim tax rebates for medical aid expenses amounting to approximately R37 billion. This is the money the state should earn in taxes which it foregoes to subsidise private health care.

We therefore have a situation where the state both directly and indirectly helps to fund a private health care sector that serves only a minority of society.

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Access to private health care through medical aids is also costly for users. It is said that without the tax rebate private health-care would not be affordable to the majority of users. Medical aid contributions are increasing faster than inflation. At the same time, benefits are being reduced. As the 2016 Healthcare Market Inquiry found, private healthcare services and medical scheme cover are frequently over-used without clear improvements in health outcomes.

The resources that are spent both by the state and private individuals can therefore be more efficiently used to build a single, unitary health care system that serves all.

Some people have claimed that the NHI will signal the end of private health care. To the contrary, the NHI aims to use the respective strengths and capabilities of both the private and public health sectors to build a single, quality health system for all.

South Africa's private health sector has world-class expertise and is a major source of domestic and foreign investment. The public sector too has numerous centres of excellence and is staffed by well-trained, experienced personnel.

The NHI Fund will procure services from accredited public and private service providers for every person in need of health care.

The NHI will be a lifeline for millions of poor South Africans whose resources will be freed up for other essential needs. It will also alleviate the burden on

those who are increasingly paying more in medical aid premiums for increasingly fewer services.

There may be different views on how NHI will be progressively implemented. The reality we must confront is that the current health care system is unsustainable.

Access to quality, decent health-care should not depend on one's ability to pay. The current situ-

ation does not serve the poor, does not serve the middle-class and does not serve the country.

With careful planning, effective oversight and monitoring, and the strategic allocation of resources we can achieve universal health coverage.

Working together in partnership, as both the public and private sectors, we can make the dream of quality health care for all a reality.

UNDERSTANDING THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI)

What is the NHI and how will it change the system?

The NHI is a Fund from which government will buy health care services for all of us from health care providers in the public sector and private sector. If you feel unwell, you can go to your nearest GP or clinic of your choice that has a contract with NHI and not worry about the cost of care.

NHI Benefits

- Healthcare for all
- Improving Quality of Services
- Reduced Burden of Disease
- Financial Risk Protection
- Economic Development and Growth
- Integration of the Healthcare System

Will unemployed people be able to access healthcare services?

Yes, all users will be able to access health care services without paying anything at the point of care, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

How to register:

- Go to a clinic, GP or hospital that has a contract with the NHI.
- You will need your ID book, passport, or other identity document to register. Your fingerprints will be taken and put on the NHI Fund system - making it easy when you visit the clinic, GP or hospital again, or if your ID is lost.
- There is no fee payable for registration.

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LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER. VOTE ANC

African National Congress ANC **ANC** A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

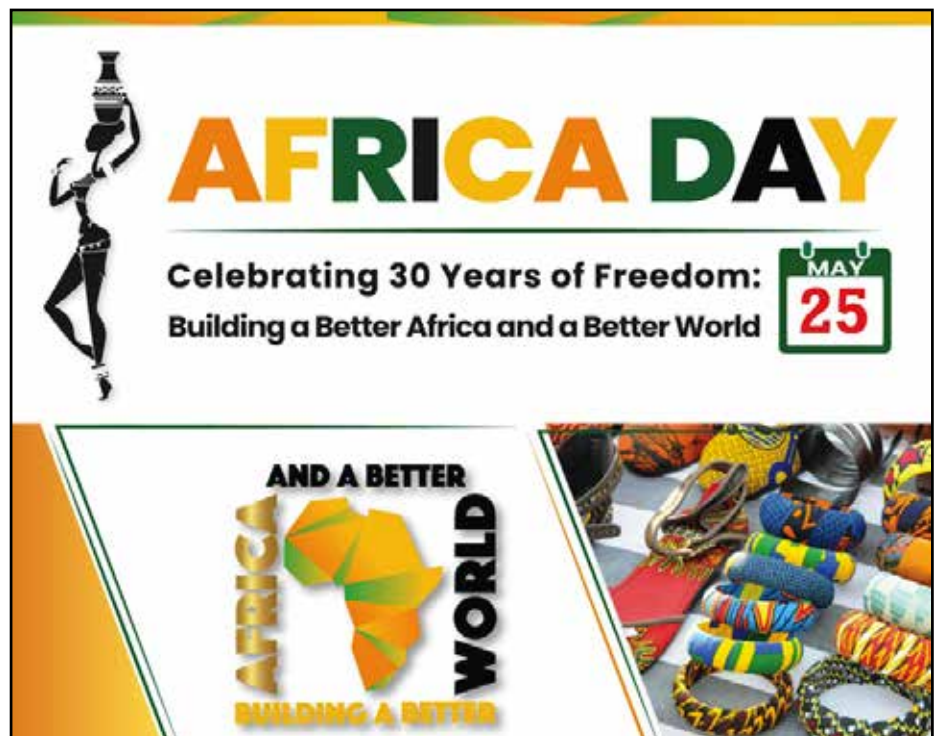
WITHOUT UNITY, THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR AFRICA

■ By **MAHLENGI BHENGU-MOTSIRI, ANC National Spokesperson and NEC Member**

IN reflecting on our collective history of colonialism and resistance, the profound words of the revolutionary socialist Walter Rodney resonate deeply: *“Decolonisation was a comprehensive political project, centred not in universities but in global mass struggle”* (Tenmin, 2023). These words encapsulate the African experience, where the struggle against colonial oppression transcended to become a global movement rooted in mass action.

In a historic gathering that echoed across the continent, the inaugural Pan-African conference convened, uniting diverse African nations under one roof for the first time. This landmark event not only served as a collective platform for solidarity but also made the genesis of Africa Day a symbolic milestone in the ongoing struggle against colonialism.

As the momentum of independence swept through the continent, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) emerged in 1963, recognising the need to redefine and commemorate Africa’s journey to freedom. Consequently, the date of Africa Freedom Day was rescheduled from 15 April to 25 May, a decision that resonates to this day, designating May as Africa Month – a time to honour our



shared heritage, resilience and aspiration for a brighter future.

Across the continent, colonial powers staunchly resisted change, prolonging the arduous journey of decolonisation. Despite these challenges, Africans remained steadfast in their quest for self-determination and political rights. The years between 1945 and 1956 marked a pivotal period, witnessing the emergence of several African nations gaining total independence from colonial rule. Ghana’s historic attainment of independence, as the first among many in the South

of the Sahara, ignited a flame of inspiration that fueled liberation movements in other countries still grappling with colonial dominance.

In a moment of historical resonance, former President Kwame Nkrumah, spurred by Ghana’s newfound independence in 1956, orchestrated a groundbreaking assembly. Thus, inaugural gathering held on 15 April 1958, marked the genesis of the first Conference of Independent Countries, a symphony of African voices united in purpose and vision.

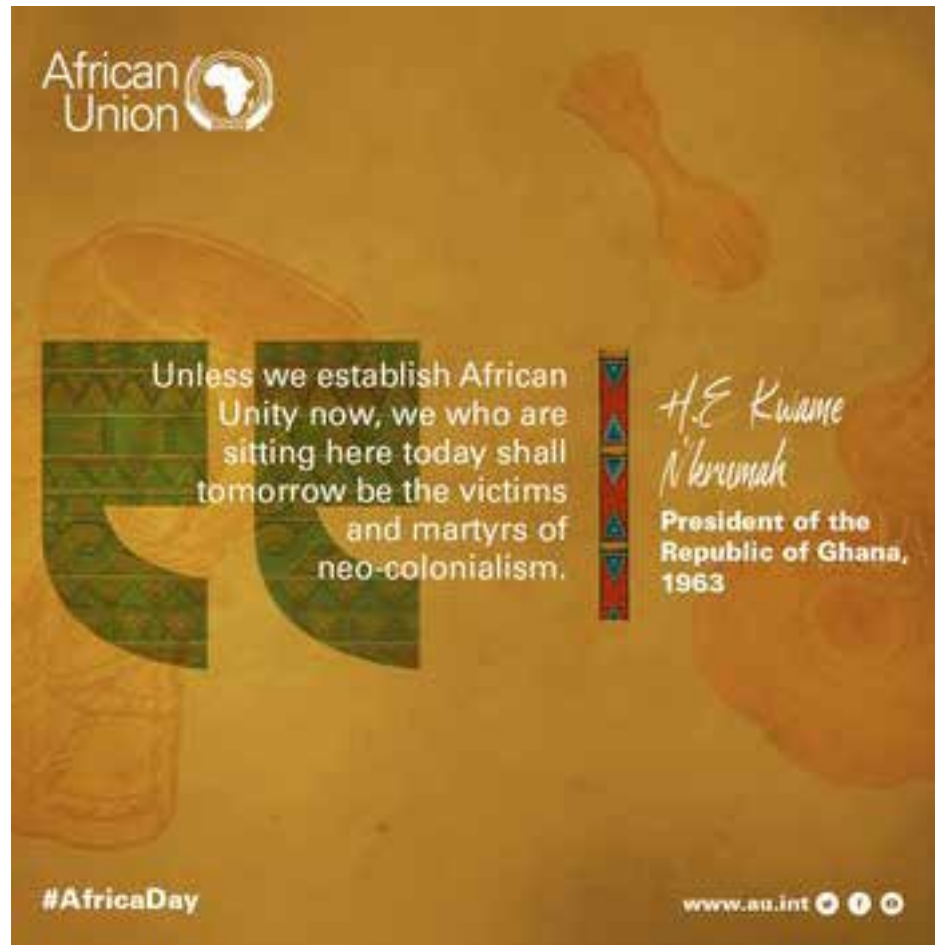
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Central to this symposium was Africa's resolute stance against colonial and imperialistic domination. The conference served as a rallying cry for unity in the liberation struggle, fostering a collective spirit of resilience and determination among the African nations. It echoed the fervent call for self-determination, echoing across the continent like a symphonic ode to freedom and empowerment.

Prof. Tshaka makes a compelling case against the casual use of "xenophobia" in discussions about migrants. He champions the term "Afrophobia" as a more precise descriptor of the fear directed towards black African foreigners. These shifts in terminology shed light on the targeted animosity faced by underprivileged black individuals, showcasing a poignant racial dimension in anti-migrant attitudes (Tshaka, 2016).

Amidst this linguistic recalibration, the tumultuous landscape of populism adds fuel to the fire of Afrophobic sentiments. Each day, we witness the troubling growth of these sentiments, spurred on by movements like Operation Dudula and Put South Africa First. Their actions not only threaten our democratic strides but also clash fundamentally with our cherished values and principles, which are firmly grounded in the inherent rights of all human beings.

Migrants often find themselves unfairly cast as scapegoats for the myriad challenges faced daily. However, directing anger towards them is a misguided response. We share a collective responsibility to build



a brighter future for Africa and the world, transcending boundaries and embracing our common humanity.

In reflecting on our continent's rich tapestry of struggles and tri-

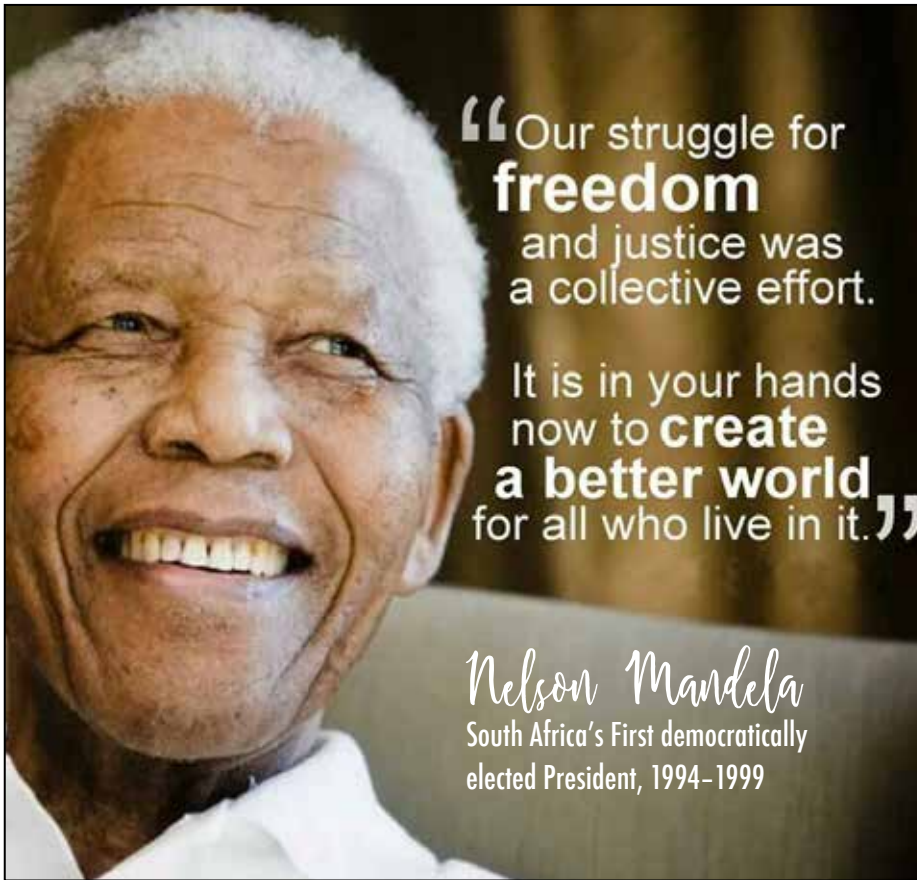
umphs, we are entrusted with a solemn duty to uphold our commitments to the core values and principles of human rights for all.

The emergence of Afrophobic sentiments stands as a stark contradiction to these fundamental ideals, demanding our unwavering vigilance and resolve. We as a country have consistently played a role in advocating for and upholding human rights. We need to remain steadfast in remembering and honouring our core values and principles.

As custodians of our collective heritage, we must tread carefully, ensuring the echoes of past injustices do not resurface in our actions and attitudes towards others. Let us stand firm in



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our conviction, safeguarding the rights and dignity of every individual, irrespective of race, creed, or background, for this is the essence of our shared humanity and the legacy we pass on to future generations. Africa Day is not just a date on the calendar,

it's a testament to the willful spirit of people which honours the rich heritage and embraces the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. It is about the celebration of Africa's past, present and potential that defines our collective journey.

Let us heed the call to action as the curtain rises on Africa Day. Together, let's weave a vibrant tapestry of gatherings and engagements that infuse life into our shared journey. This year's theme, "**Celebrating 30 years of Freedom: Building a Better Africa and Better World**" must not remain a merged slogan but should guide our actions towards unity, progress and shared prosperity.

In the everlasting words of Julius Nyerere, "*Without unity, there is no future for Africa*". Let's unite across borders, ideologies and backgrounds, foraging a path of solidarity and empowerment. It's time to translate words into action, to stand firm in our commitment to a brighter future for Africa and the world.

Join hands, amplify voices, and take concrete steps towards realising the dream of a liberated, thriving Africa. Together, we can build a better continent and contribute to a better world for generations to come.

The time for action is now.

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6th ANC Caucus and Parliament

CELEBRATING THE ADVANCES OF THE PEOPLES MANIFESTO AND ANC POLICY IN THE FRAME OF THE 30 YEARS OF REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF PARLIAMENT AND ANC'S CONTRIBUTION

■ By **PEMMY MAJODINA, ANC CHIEF WHIP**

“The People Shall Govern” – the principle tenant of the Freedom Charter, to which the African National Congress (ANC) constantly returns – comes from the People and remains their hope and aspiration. It galvanizes all genuinely progressive, democratic, and patriotic forces that love the realisation of socio-economic freedom and the improvement of people’s lives.

An assessment of the ANC’s performance in the 6th Term of Parliament, has to be contextualized within the frame of transforming the legislative arm of the state over the past 30 years.

The Transformation Agenda

The political success of 1994, provided more complex and interconnected challenges and contradictions within the legislative arm of state. Operating with an interim constitution, the first deployees of the ANC in 1994, had to radically transform an institution and its power relations, with other arms of state. The task was to construct a Parliament that was relevant to the needs of the people; was relevant to the legislative needs of a new South Africa and fitted the philosophy and vision of the governing party. A Parliament that allowed for participatory and representative

democracy, and that indeed the people do govern through their elected representatives.

The ANC drove Parliament’s role as an instrument for the transformation of society, of effecting concrete change for the majority.

This did not happen spontaneously, but over the different 5 year terms of Parliament. In a thorough-going and systematic manner, a new model of parliament emerged, promoting a culture of inclusiveness and readiness to negotiate in order to reach consensus. The first Parliament radically overhauled the modus operandi of Parliament to

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reflect the political culture of the governing party.

The first 5 years was about rapidly establishing Parliament as a People's Tribune. The rules, committee functioning, constituency work all changed, and a budgeting cycle was created with accountability to Parliament.

Politically the role of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, as the Chief Representative and custodian of the interests of the ANC in Parliament was advanced. The ANC led by its Chief Whip became the motive force of transformation of Parliament including on matters of policy formulation relating to the functioning of Parliament.

Armed with this agenda, and the policies adopted by the May 1992 National Policy Conference, compiled in the policy document, ***Ready to Govern***, the ANC set about introducing new legislation, amendment existing legislation and repealing obsolete legislation.

Legislation as a policy instrument to advance the rights of the people, and change their lives for the better became the primary focus of attention.

531 Bills were passed in the first parliament (1994–1999) including what was to become Act 108 of 1996, the Constitution.

The second parliament (1999–2004) passed 312 Bills and these two Parliaments became known for their repealing of discriminatory apartheid legislation, and passing Bills to give meaning to Constitutional imperatives and rights.

Since 1994, driven by the ANC, Parliament has passed 1,504



Bills, contributing to the social transformation of society and providing rights to the people. Of these, only 19 were returned by the President for Parliament to reconsider.

The character of parliament changed to one in which gender relations and the leading role of women changed radically. No longer white male domination of affairs, but Black women taking to the front and leading. Today, women's leadership in Parliament cements the transformation agenda, from speakers to chairs of committees and parliamentary bodies. In terms of women's representation, the ANC has led and continues to lead ahead of any other party. Today, women's representation in Parliament in 2024 is 46%. Before 1994, fewer than 3% of the members were women, with the democratic government's first speaker being a woman, the late Frene Ginwala.

The people at the centre with their wishes reflected in popular Manifesto's of the ANC

Democratic organs of self-government and the participation of

the people in the administration of the country and by extension Parliament, have meant that the ANC's Manifesto commitments over the years, find expression in the draft legislation that is brought to Parliament. Critically, unlike other political party manifesto's that grapple to link the current phenomena of society and then reproduce their ideas of what should happen, the ANC has undertaken a connected journey since 1992 in addressing what the people have expressed are their needs and how these should be addressed.

Each respective Manifesto of the ANC is a reflection of continuity and change, as it responds to the peoples needs. **1999** *"Together fighting for change – A better life for all"*; **2009** *"Working together we can do more"*; **2011 Local Government Manifesto** *"Together we can build better communities"*; **2014** *"Together we move South Africa Forward"*; **2019** *"Lets grow South Africa together"* and in **2024** *"Let's do more together."*

Against to the pillars of socio-economic transformation, the bills that have been passed have

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all drawn in different ways in building a democratic developmental state; transformed the economy (with all its contradictions); applied ideological work in the battle of ideas with opposition parties based on superior ideological arguments; involved the people in the work of parliament and in directly influencing the content of such bills and committed Parliament to play a progressive role in its International work, interfacing with work carried out by the ANC government.



Caucus has in each term of Parliament located itself at the centre of these pillars grappling with improving its functioning and impact.

The 6th Term 2019 – 2024

Seized with its Mandate from the 54th 2017 National Conference, the 2019 Caucus Lekgotla set in place a five year programme for all of the Caucus sub-structures. A practical programme set out the modus operandi of Caucus for the 6th Term. The Political Committee (selected NEC members who are MP's) received regular reports from the Chief Whip on progress.

A Strategy Committee of leading Cadres from the deployees was established to provide support to the Office of the Chief Whip. Key area of focus over the five years was to prepare the ANC in the battle of ideas, thoroughly preparing for any sitting of both the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces. It has been the Strategy Committee that has been

able to guide Caucus through the 5 years and intervene when and where necessary to keep the transformation agenda of the ANC on course in Parliament.

Key to this has been to ensure that draft legislation, an expression of ANC policy, is processed through ANC study group and debated, in terms of its objectives of improving the lives of the people. In line with the Organisational Renewal programme, a comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the functioning of Caucus and its substructures was undertaken.

The Mid-Term Review seek to evaluate the impact of Caucus and its substructures on the Manifesto mandate it was given and to oversee the implementation of ANC policy, through the oversight work of Committees. Based on this assessment, where changes had to be made, these were carried out.

The 6th Caucus, within the limits of its resources, mobilised 195 Parliamentary Constituency Of-

fices (PCO's), spread across all nine provinces, to provide a base for communities for find support and advice.

The Constituency Management Committees of each PCO's were tasked to provide a programme and received financial support to carry out outreach programmes, linking up with government in all 3 spheres, NGO's and State Enterprises.

Support staff in the PCO's have been trained and provided the necessary research

evidence for the ANC to act on.

The challenges that Parliament has faced in the 6th term have been substantial.

The onset of COVID in 2020, meant that Parliament had to learn an entirely new way of working. Virtual platforms for all meetings, a measure that was only partially relaxed later in 2021. The arson attack on Parliament in January 2022, effectively took out the National Assembly and the Old Assembly blocks of Parliament destroying over 350 offices.

The ANC also lost 24 MP's, 16 from COVID, and 19 members of Staff.

Where disaster struck different parts of the country, supported by the Joint Rules, the ANC took initiative and in consultation with other parties to establish joint ad hoc committees to oversee flood disaster relief and recovery interventions of government and restoration of livelihoods in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Eastern Cape and North West.



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With regards the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, the ANC has had to oversee the Parliamentary response after studying the recommendations. This resulted in a structured programme in parliament of responding to most of the recommendations. Those recommendations (non-binding) that we have not agreed with, we have articulated a rationale for this. All others are in the process of being responded to and in the case of Rules appropriate steps have been taken.

Transformative Legislation of the 6th Term

145 Bills were passed by the 6th Parliament. A selection of Bills that express ANC policy, Conference resolutions and commitments to the 2019 and 2024 ANC Manifesto undertakings include:

The Expropriation Bill – which establishes a process for the expropriation of property for public purposes and in the public interest.

The Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill – which deepens the framework of a structured and systemic manner in which the basic education system is operated; enhances organisational efficiency; improves school governance and accountability; and promotes learner well-being and access to learning.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bills – The Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill; Domestic Violence Amendment Bill; Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act; and the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Amendment Bill. All heighten the fight against GBV-F and develop systems to implement the National Strategic Plan on GBV-F.

National Health Insurance Bill – provides for a financing system for universal access to quality health care for all South Africans.

The 18th Constitutional Amendment Bill – which has brought Sign Language to become the 12th official language of South Africa.

Border Management Authority Bill which integrates and co-ordinates border management in accordance with the Constitution, international and domestic law.

National Prosecution Authority Amendment Bill – provides for the establishment of the Investigating Directorate against Corruption.

Employment Equity Amendment Bill – transforms the workplace by setting equity targets for economic sectors and geographical regions and requiring enterprises to develop transformation plans.

Climate Change Bill – for the development of an effective climate change response and a long-term just transition to a low carbon economy.

Public Procurement Bill – regulates public procurement and prescribes a framework for preferential procurement inclusive of localisation and set-asides for designated groups.

Pension Fund Amendment Bill – From the 1st September 2024, will enable workers once a year to withdraw to a limit, from their pension fund.

Small Enterprise Amendment Bill establishing the Small Enterprise Development Agency to design and implement development support programmes for small enterprises, de-establishing oth-

er Agencies in the process.

Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Bill providing for the development of petroleum resources and equitable access to and sustainable development of the nations' petroleum resources, and provides for the State and black empowerment and participation.

SA National Water Resources Infrastructure SOC Limited Bill establishing the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency as a State Owned Company and the resourcing of it.

Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Bill for the management of agricultural land and the: **Prevention of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill**; the **SA Post Bank Limited Amendment Bill** establishing the Post Bank; the **National Minimum Wage Amendment Bill**; the **Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Amendment Bill**; the **Traditional and Khoi-San leadership Bill** and the **Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill**.

Assessing MP's on their performance

Starting in May 2023, a thoroughgoing process was undertaken over 3 months of self-assessment, followed by interviews and finally, the leadership collective being interviewed by the Chief Whips panel. It constituted the first time that such an undertaking has been done so comprehensively and systematically.

The same exercise was carried out in the Provincial Legislatures. The reports of these interviews were submitted to the Office of the Secretary-General for processing.

WHAT WE CAN EXPECT OF A SECOND TERM FOR PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

■ By **YACOOB ABBA OMAR**

WITH a week to go before the elections, this may well be the moment to reflect on President Cyril Ramaphosa's next presidential term, given the near certainty of the ANC leading the next government.

At the Franschhoek Literary Festival last weekend, former public protector Thuli Madonsela surprised her audience when she declared Ramaphosa a really good president. Not to be deterred, Madonsela was pressed by the audience for her assessment of DA leaders. She was typically gracious, praising Alan Winde for engaging in positive campaigns.

The focus on remarkable individuals in Adekeye Adebajo's book *Global Africa* and in fellow panellists Nick Dall and Matthew Blackman's *Legends* is typical of discussions on leadership. The emphasis is on the single, heroic figure achieving great heights against huge odds. Hence the focus — for good or for bad — on the big personalities of Paul Kagame, Thabo Mbeki or Madonsela herself. Nelson Mandela is mentioned as a probably once-in-an-epoch type of leader belonging to



the pantheon of Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King.

I venture to argue that Ramaphosa's style falls within what scholars in this field term transformational leadership suitable for postmodern times. Larry Sackney of University of Saskatchewan and his collaborator, Coral Mitchell of Brock Universi-

ty, argue that "postmodern theories of leadership take the focus off vision and place it squarely on voice". They argue that instead of a compelling vision articulated by leaders, there are multiple voices and diverse cultural meanings. SA society has myriad forces and identities that voice their opinions loudly, making ours a very noisy democracy.

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So what's a president to do in this context? Klaus Kotze of the Inclusive Society Institute points out that given Jacob Zuma's state capture legacy, which Ramaphosa had to deal with, he sought to show he was advancing the national interest above that of the party, "leading the party by leading the nation". Ramaphosa had to draw the line between him and his predecessor by proclaiming the "new dawn".

Ramaphosa's primary source of inspiration is the very SA constitution he played a huge role in drafting, with Kotze arguing Ramaphosa "does not assert himself personally as a leader to be followed but embodies the norms and values enshrined in the constitution".

'Visionary pragmatism'

His biographer, Anthony Butler, described his approach as "visionary pragmatism". Hence his "thuma mina" – reminiscent of JF Kennedy's 1961 call, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country" – worked at various lev-



els: a repudiation of the sleaze and patronage that had come to grip government and business, while calling on South Africans to put in efforts to uplift the country. Similarly, the regular "family meetings" during the COVID-19 pandemic sought to unify the various voices and concerns of society.

Last week's signing into law of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill is vintage Ramaphosa setting a vision, a stretch target, for all our contending forces to

address, to work out how this can be implemented. We saw him operate in a similar fashion when in his February 2022 state of the nation address he called for a social compact in 100 days. This focused the minds of business, labour, civil society and government, and is now seen in the various mini-compacts such as against gender-based violence and the government-business working groups looking at some of the most burning issues of the day — the energy, water and logistics crises, as well as fighting crime and corruption.

Ramaphosa has echoed the call made by Mbeki for a national dialogue after the elections. Vague as this may sound, it could well become the successor to the traditions established in writing the new constitution, referred to as CODESA. Mbeki said the dialogue should consist of "civil society organisations, politicians, businesses, labour and other organisations to discuss a way forward". It's a recognition of the postmodern reality of contending voices and which would appeal to Ramaphosa's natural consensus building style.



Why I am voting for the ANC on election day 2024

■ By **JOHNNY DE LANGE**

A political party, can be said to be composed of: a BODY (which is represented by its membership), by its CHARACTER (which is represented by its stance on issues or “policies”) and by its SOUL (which is represented by its essence or morality; which determines how it will decide to act at times of extreme and unforeseen crises).

As for the membership and leadership of the ANC; it is the most diverse and geographically and sectorally representative party in our country. It attempts to include in its membership the racial, gender, class, labour, youth, disabled, sexual orientation and other diversities in our very diverse nation. When things get tough, it can harness this broad representativity to restore order and to build unity, especially when it pertains to strife between groups or communities.

We still have a long way to go to end inequality, racism, xenophobia and other negative tendencies in our society; which hold the potential of seriously and negatively impacting on peace and security in our country.

Also, we have slowly got rid of the worst serial and populist offenders from the ranks of the ANC; people like comrades JZ,



Ace Magashule and Carl Nieuhaus, for instance. The actions of the corrupt few amongst us are slowly but surely being met; by the actions of those who are responsible to bring those bad apples to book and to remove them from the body politic. And I remain hopeful we will still be able to get rid of the remaining few bad apples who remain on the ANC lists to represent the ANC.

As for the character of the ANC; it has the most progressive policies of all of the political parties in Mzansi on most issues. As a voter, I have the best chance of seeing my progressive views on subjects like the BIG, the economy, equality, poverty and human rights; being reflected, if the ANC is in government. Without being blind to some faults and weaknesses (of individual ANC lead-

ers and members) and some organisational weaknesses, which must and can be addressed; with the ANC I have the best chance of seeing my progressive and sustainable policies being adopted.

The most important thing for me as a voter is “the essence” or “soul” of the party that I chose, because this represents ultimately the true nature of the party; and is the single biggest determinant of its future behaviour on moral matters that voters cannot foresee at the time of going to the polls.

The greatest moral issue of our time is presently playing itself out in the dispossession and genocide of the Palestinian people; by the Zionist apartheid Israeli state. What a party says and more im-

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portantly does in response to this matter is the truest indicator of where it stands morally on the issues of humanity and the rule of law; and how it is likely to act in the face of grave adversity and injustice.

In this matter, the ANC has not faltered, and even though the moral character of some of its former leaders has strained its reputation in the recent past; its stance for true justice and humanity has been evident in its handling of the moral issue of this century, namely the genocide and attempted eradication of Palestinians. The Case brought by South Africa at the ICJ against Israel's unbridled atrocities and genocidal acts, while most of the world's leaders are either muted in their response or actively thwarting efforts to bring justice and peace to the people of Palestine; has distinguished the ANC from most parties in Mzansi and the world.

This decisive action of the government has distinguished the

ANC from most parties in Mzansi and the world. These actions most likely will be met by serious and severe negative consequences for the ANC and the government of our nation.

In this action alone, the ANC has proven that at its Centre sits an unflappable "essence or morality" which places the humanity of the Palestinians above its own very existence. On this issue alone, the ANC gets my vote and support; as it has shown that in a time of a moral crisis it can make the correct moral decision, despite the negative opprobrium it may face because of its decision.

In the recent past I was fearful that the ANC had lost its moral compass; but its new leadership has slowly righted the ship, jettisoned some of its bad apples; and so I am now more positive that the ANC will actively and speedily pursue its Renewal project and restore its revolutionary morality and credibility.

Viva ANC!

Vote ANC for a decisive electoral victory in 2024.



The democracy of its people: A democracy weaved with vibrant threads of diversity

■ By **MEAGAN ADONIS CHAUKE**

IN THE tapestry of democracy, the threads of inclusion must weave seamlessly, embracing all members of society, irrespective of age or ability. As a young person with a disability in South Africa, the responsibility of democracy towards us is not merely a matter of rhetoric; it's a call to action, a demand for genuine participation and equal opportunities.

Democracy, at its core, promises not just political freedom but economic and social justice for all citizens. Yet, for too long, persons with disabilities and young people have been marginalized, their voices silenced and distorted in decision-making processes. This exclusion undermines the very foundation of democracy, eroding trust and perpetuating inequalities.

As disabled individuals and citizens of South Africa, we must recognize our agency in shaping the democratic landscape. Our lived experiences, our struggles, and triumphs offer unique perspectives that enrich the discourse on governance and policy.



We must advocate tirelessly for accessibility and integration, both physical and attitudinal, ensuring that no barrier impedes our full participation in society. Similarly, as young people, we are not just the leaders of tomorrow; we are stakeholders in the present.

Our energy, idealism, and innovation have the power to cat-

alyze meaningful change. We must leverage our collective strength to hold elected officials accountable, to demand transparency and accountability in governance, and to champion progressive policies that prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable.

Protecting our democracy requires more than just casting

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ballots every few years; it demands sustained engagement and vigilance. We must resist attempts to erode democratic institutions, to suppress dissent, and to perpetuate systems of exclusion, privilege and oppression. Our democracy is only as strong as the collective will of its citizens to defend it.

Furthermore, ensuring the successful implementation of democracy means actively working towards economic and social justice. It means dismantling barriers to education, employment, and healthcare that disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and youth. It means investing in inclusive policies that promote diversity and foster a culture of respect and dignity for all. In this endeavour, we cannot afford to work in isolation. Solidarity across different demographics is essential in amplifying our voices and effecting meaningful change.

By forging alliances with civil society organizations, advocacy groups, and fellow citizens, we can build a more inclusive and equitable society for generations to come.

As we navigate the complexities of democracy, let us remember that our diversity is our strength.

Let us harness the power of inclusivity to build a nation where every voice is heard, every life is valued, and every dream is within reach.

In this shared pursuit of a more just and prosperous future, let us stand united, as disabled individuals, as young people, and as proud citizens of South Africa.

HAMBA KAHLE Comrade Unathi Bongco

1976 - 2024



A tribute to Unathi Bongco

■ By **MAC MAHARAJ**

I find it difficult to come to terms with the fact that just nine years ago – on the 10th of December 2015 – I was with Cde Unathi at a memorial celebrating the award of the Order of Mendi for Bravery in Gold to that brave son of the soil, Unathi's grandfather, Commander Mpumelelo Washington Bongco.

On that occasion I was asked to deliver an address by the late Lord Joel Joffe, who in 1964 had handled Bongco's appeal against

the death sentence, as well as his civil case, which he had instituted against Detective Sergeant Donald Card who had tortured him horribly.

Joel Joffe, who kept contact with Washington's daughter Lungelwa, found ways to support Cde Bongco's family for many years after Cde Bongco was executed. It included assisting in the education of Cde Unathi.

Joel was the instructing attorney

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in the Rivonia trial as well as the trial in which I was involved. He was an amazing human being with a generous, warm heart and an abiding aversion to injustice in whatever form it manifested itself. He passed away on 18 June 2017 and his wife Vanetta passed away last year. South Africa awarded Lord Joffe the **Order of the Grand Companion of O R Tambo in Gold** in 2010.

By the way, I think it is also appropriate that we remember that in 1997 Joel Joffe, with the support of Govan Mbeki and the Port Elizabeth ANC, arranged for the exhumation of Bongco's remains and the remains of five other heroes of uMkhonto from Pretoria Goal for reburial in their hometowns in Fort Beaufort and Port Elizabeth.

At his grandfather's memorial, I recall Unathi calling the long line of the Bongco family, going as far back as Zandlaphayo ka Msenge. We remember also the service of Washington's son, Lonwabo, who joined uMkhonto weSizwe and the daughter uNobolumko who served in the underground.

It is hard to come to terms with the passing of Cde Unathi for he was still in the prime of life. Others who had a closer contact with Unathi are better placed to speak of Unathi's sterling qualities, the work he did in the service of the people and the kind of person he was.

I shall, however, use this moment to remind ourselves of Mpumelelo Washington Bongco, who through his service, his unshakeable faith in the future and his bravery wrote the name of the Bongco family into the history of our country's path to democracy.

Washington joined the ANC in 1952 and was appointed the commander of the East London region of uMkhonto we Sizwe in 1962. The Border commander was Andrew Masondo and Mgabela was the liaison between the ANC and uMkhonto.

In 1996 Lord Joffe recalled that *"the last time I saw Washington was the afternoon before he was to be executed. He remained calm and composed and was quite prepared to meet his fate in the knowledge that he regretted nothing that he had done and had fought for the freedom of his people. His only concern was for his family and he was pleased that his wife was able to see him that day. We parted ways with Washington in full control of himself and I in tears. I have never met a braver person and was proud to have been his lawyer. I think his family should be immensely proud of their father who was a true hero and who deserves to be remembered for ever in South Africa."*

Joel Joffe tells us that *"while imprisoned in the death cells at Pretoria Gaol, Detective Sergeant Card arrived and told Comrade Bongco that his wife and children were starving, that his friends had turned from him and that his only true friend was Card who wanted to help him and would have the death sentence commuted if he would assist Card with his investigations. Comrade Bongco informed Card that rather than have Card as his only friend, he would have no friends, and that he would rather die than agree to help him."*

Even while awaiting execution, Washington remained incorruptible and true to the cause. This is a legacy he bequeathed us. It

is one that should guide us as we grapple with the renewal of our organisation and the need to root out corruption in our country so that we can firmly forge ahead to transform South Africa into a non-racial and non-sexist society grounded on the principle of equality.

Bongco was sentenced to death on 23 March 1963 in Queenstown and executed on 10 December 1964. Steve Tshwete, who was in the same trial, told us that when the judge wanted to know if Bongco wanted to say anything before sentence was imposed on him, Washington said he had and the judge called on him to say it. Bongco then told the judge: *"You are going to hang Bongco, but you will never hang freedom."*

Those were Bongco's last words to the apartheid Court.

That is the family line of Unathi Bongco whom we have gathered here today to pay homage to. In doing so, we have one request for you Unathi: In joining your grandfather and the long line of leaders of our ANC from John Langalibalele Dube through to Chief Albert Luthuli and Nelson Mandela, report to them that we are busy canvassing for elections due at the end of this month and that we're also hard at work striving to renew our organisation in order to make it capable of transforming our beloved country. Tell them that we are determined to keep faith with them.

And so we part with you, comrade Unathi, grieved at your passing, but proud that you lived your life in ways that preserved the legacy of your family and your indomitable grandfather.

Hamba kahle!

PRAXIS OF THE STATECRAFT: NHI SIGNED INTO LAW

■ By **TSHILIDZI MUNYAI**

FINALLY, the long-awaited unprecedented progressive National Health Insurance Bill (NHI), was signed into law by President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, which will grant access to free equitable, quality healthcare to the rest of millions of South Africans, ‘*without financial hardship*’ and consequently put an end to the apartheid two-tier health systems.

An enormous “*due consideration*” and public signing ceremony was a turning point in South African history, which was an irreversible legislative hallmark towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by removing all the barriers to integration of the people, to have access to health care services. The NHI ACT will ensure that every South African has “access to equitable quality of health care services, without facing financial hardship, to reduce maternal mortality and addressing inequality” as outlined by the United Nations Sustainable Development (UNSD) goal number 3 under UHC.

But despite this progressive fundamental policy shift since 1994, under the ANC-led government’s great strides, I was “*utterly dismayed*” by a barrage of propaganda and myth that flooded the



South African media discourse by the forces opposed to progressive change in our country, such as the Democratic Alliance, Afriforum and Solidarity who paraded outside the union building in protest against transformation health care for all, demanding that apartheid two-tier systems ‘status quo’ of health inequality must remain after 30 years of democracy

President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa said “*NHI is fundamentally about social justice. NHI will en-*

sure that all our people, whether you are black or white, rich or poor, will be able to access a comprehensive range of health care services”.

Accordingly, the root of the problem can be found in our two-tiered health system we inherited from the apartheid era, which reproduces the inequalities in access and good quality care. It is a system made of medical-aid funded and highly resourced private health care (“the first tier”), designed primarily for the rich and

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the publicly under-funded public health care for the poor majority (“the second tier”).

We in the African National Congress (ANC), have long declared that the answer to our two-tiered healthcare system is not an incremental, market driven solution as suggested by the Democratic Alliance (DA), to problems of health coverage and quality healthcare. All DA seeks to do, is to maintain the central role of private health insurance dominated by Health Administrators, in our national health system, thereby reproducing the inequalities in health care.

What needs to be changed is the two-tiered Health Systems Itself

As the NHI White Paper notes: *NHI represents a substantial*

policy shift that will necessitate massive reorganisation of the current health care system, to address structural changes that exist in both the public and private sectors. It reflects the kind of society we wish to live in: one based on the values of justice, fairness and social solidarity. Implementation of NHI is consistent with the global vision that health care should be a social investment.

In this regard, the NHI Fund will be fully functional, with access to all revenue collections; covering the majority or entire population; and purchasing capacity to pay accredited health providers who meet quality standards. The DA press conference outside the Union Building was hogwash characterised by myth, which we have a national duty and obliga-

tion to demystify and lay bare before the people!

Myth #1: ‘Healthcare will be nationalised’

The DA claims that the NHI will “nationalise healthcare”. Nowhere in the NHI ACT, NHI Bill, nor in the green and white papers, is the word ‘nationalisation’ used. Instead, the bill says it will purchase services from public and private healthcare providers – which include hospitals, private specialists and general practitioners as well as allied health professionals in private practice.

The NHI is not going to do away with private health providers, but it will operate in a completely different environment from the status quo.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

HEALTHCARE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS



Myth #2: ‘We cannot afford NHI; it is too expensive’

It is the current system, in which South Africans spend over R400 billion, that shows signs of unsustainability. Government spends 4.4% of our gross domestic product (GDP) on the health needs of 17% of the population, leaving 83% with a measly 4.1% of the GDP. The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have declared South Africa to be an outlier as we are the only country to spend so much on a minority of the population – a practice akin to apartheid, differing only by income levels.

Myth #3: Additional tax burden

To redistribute existing healthcare resources to ensure equity, there will be changes in the way we collect revenue for healthcare. This will include removing

CURRENT AFFAIRS

user fees in the NHI-funded services and increasing our taxes, based on the principle of social solidarity. Out-of-pocket expenses will play no role, and medical scheme contributions will need to be reduced as the future role of medical schemes is redefined. The DA plan does not say how it will offset the high cost of out-of-pocket expenses experienced by South Africans who have medical aid or not.

Myth #4: NHI fund will be a 'state-owned enterprise'

Nowhere is the NHI fund called a state-owned enterprise (SOE). It will operate like a Section 3A public entity. It will create a single pool of funds for universal health services, enabling the country to have the capacity to strategically buy services from public and private health providers, and achieve significant efficiencies. In many countries with single strategic purchasers like the NHI fund, administration costs are below 2% – far lower than medical schemes' existing costs, which average between 10% and 12%.

NHI is the bedrock in which the African Claims was founded in 1943, coupled with Freedom Charter clause number 08, which asserts "A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state; and free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children". Those who doubt the President do so in their own peril, South Africa witnessed a watershed, great leap forward in health care for all.

DA, Afriforum and Solidarity are opposed to constitutional democracy

Don't be fooled! The DA and Af-

riforum and Solidarity in their philosophy represent narrow minority 'white supremacy' and the apartheid era separate, two-tier health care systems. They represent private individual dominant health care represented by super-rich administrators, a network of the health insurance and medical schemes not the majority of people precisely because they are against section 27 of the constitution.

They want the court to make the law, not the legislatures, which is against the principle of our representative, participatory, constitutional democracy, and against the rule of law.

So, let's join our collectively efforts to help address the health needs and aspirations of our people through the implementation of an NHI that we can be

proud of.

We salute His Excellency President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa for statecraft, a clear and explicit decision-making process in the interest of the population as a whole.


"Let's do more, together".

Tshilidzi Munyai is an ANC Gauteng Provincial Working Committee Member, Provincial Executive Member, Convener of the Subcommittee of the Department of Political Education and the Convener of the ANC PEC deployees in the ANC Greater Johannesburg Region, Current Member of the Gauteng Legislature (MPL), Chairperson on Education Portfolio Committee, Chairperson of the ANC Caucus Economic Cluster, and Principal of the ANC Caucus Department of Political Education and Training.

UNDERSTANDING THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI)


How does the NHI affect those who are currently insured by medical schemes?

The Fund will be implemented over phases and over many years. Regulations will be published to address the phased implementation of the NHI Fund and phased implementation of service benefits as the money is moved to the Fund. Medical schemes will be given notice on the type of services that they will no longer be able to cover.


 @MY_ANC

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.


VOTE ANC




African National Congress




ANC



ANC



ANC



ANC
 A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

CURRENT AFFAIRS



South Africa at the Crossroads: A CALL TO ACTION

■ By **JABU NGWENYA, UDF Activist**

AS A nation, we find ourselves at a pivotal juncture, faced with challenges that threaten to unravel the very fabric of our hard-won democracy. South Africa stands at the crossroads, its mountainous problems overshadowing the hope and progress we once fervently pursued. In these calamitous times, we are reminded of the unity and resilience that characterized our struggle against apartheid. It is in this spirit that I, Jabu Ngwenya, a United Democratic Front (UDF) activist who worked alongside Mahomed Vali Moosa and other stalwarts, add my voice to the call to vote for the African National Congress (ANC).

Mahomed Vali Moosa, a leader whose moral compass has guided us through some of our dark-



est days, has called upon South Africans of all racial groups to join him in supporting the ANC. His plea is not just a political endorsement but a profound reminder of the unity and collective strength that once galvanized our nation against the injustices of apartheid.

The United Democratic Front (UDF), which Moosa and I helped to found, was instrumental in mobilizing South Africans from all walks of life against the oppressive regime. With leaders like Rev. Alan Boesak and the venerable Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu, we rallied the

CURRENT AFFAIRS

nation around a common cause: the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic South Africa. Our success was not merely in toppling a regime but in uniting a fractured society, instilling a sense of shared destiny and purpose.

Today, that sense of unity is more crucial than ever. Our nation faces an array of challenges: economic disparity, social unrest, and the looming threat of populist extremism. These forces seek to exploit our divisions, undermine our democratic institutions, and unravel the progress we have made. In such a climate, the ANC remains the only glue that holds South Africa together, a bulwark against the increasing chores of those who would fracture our nationhood for their gain.

The ANC is far from perfect. It has its flaws and has made mistakes. However, it remains the party that, despite its shortcomings, is committed to the ideals of a democratic, inclusive, and equitable South Africa. It is the party that has the experience, the historical legacy, and the foundational values necessary to navigate our nation through these turbulent times.

The alternatives, driven by populist and extremist rhetoric, offer nothing but a dangerous path towards division and instability. These forces, if given the slightest chance, would unravel the delicate tapestry of our nationhood, leading us away from the democratic principles that so many of us fought and sacrificed for.

I urge every South African, regardless of race or background, to reflect on the journey we have undertaken together. Remem-

ber the unity and solidarity that brought us freedom and democracy.

Let us not allow our nation to be torn apart by those who thrive on division and discord. Instead, let us rally once more around the ANC, the party that, despite its imperfections, remains our best hope for a united and prosperous South Africa.

In these testing times, our vote is more than a political statement; it


is a reaffirmation of our commitment to a democratic, inclusive, and just society. It is a vote for the principles and values that the UDF, the ANC, and countless South Africans have championed for decades.

Let us stand together, as we did in the past, and ensure that our beloved nation continues on the path of progress, unity, and hope.

Vote ANC for the future of South Africa.

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.

VOTE ANC

African National Congress   

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



PANEL OF EXPERTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

Why we support ICC prosecutions for crimes in Israel and Gaza

THE attacks by Hamas in Israel on 7 October and the military response by Israeli forces in Gaza have tested the system of international law to its limits. This is why, as international lawyers, we felt compelled to assist when the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, asked us to advise whether there was sufficient evidence to lay charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The prosecutor took a historic step to ensure justice for the victims in Israel and Palestine by issuing applications for five arrest warrants, including against Hamas commanders and Israel's prime minister.

For months, we have engaged in

an extensive process of review and analysis. We have carefully examined each of the applications for arrest warrants, as well as underlying material including witness statements, expert evidence, official communications, videos and photographs. In our legal report, we unanimously agree that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the suspects the prosecutor identifies have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity within the jurisdiction of the ICC.

It is not unusual for the prosecutor to invite external experts to participate in an evidence-review, under appropriate confidentiality arrangements, during an investigation or trial. And this

is not the first time an international prosecutor has formed a Panel of Experts to advise on potential charges related to a conflict. But this conflict is perhaps unprecedented in the extent to which it has given rise to misunderstandings about the ICC's role and jurisdiction, a particularly fractured discourse and, in some contexts, even anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

It is against this backdrop that, as lawyers specialised in international law hailing from diverse personal backgrounds, we felt we had a duty to accept the invitation to provide an impartial and independent legal opinion based on evidence. We were selected because of our expertise in inter-

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



national law, and, in the case of two of us, experience as former judges of international criminal tribunals. Our common goal is advancing accountability and we have reached our conclusions based on an assessment of the warrant applications against an objective legal standard. We have reached these conclusions unanimously. And we believe it is important to publish them given the extent to which discourse has been politicised, disinformation has been rife and international media has been denied access to the front lines.

The Panel unanimously agrees with the prosecutor's conclusion that there are reasonable grounds to believe that three of Hamas's most senior leaders — Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh — have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity for the killing of hundreds of civilians, the taking of at least 245 hostages and

acts of sexual violence committed against Israeli hostages. The Panel also unanimously agrees that the evidence presented by the prosecutor provides reasonable grounds to believe that Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and minister of defence Yoav Gallant have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. This includes the war crime of intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the murder and persecution of Palestinians as crimes against humanity. Our reasons for reaching these conclusions are set out in our legal report.

It is important to understand that the charges have nothing to do with the reasons for the conflict. The charges concern waging war in a manner that violates the long-established rules of international law that apply to armed groups and the armed forces in every state in the world. And, of

course, these warrant applications are just the first step, as investigations continue.

But there is no doubt that this moment is a milestone in the history of international criminal law. There is no conflict that should be excluded from the reach of the law; no child's life valued less than another's. The law we apply is humanity's law, not the law of any given side. It must protect all the victims of this conflict; and all civilians in conflicts to come.

The judges of the Court will ultimately determine which warrants, if any, should be issued. And as investigations continue, we hope that state authorities, witnesses and survivors will engage with the judicial process.

Ultimately, we hope that this process will contribute to increased protections for civilians and sustainable peace in a region that has already endured too much.

30 YEARS OF FREEDOM



YEARS OF FREEDOM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

IN NUMBERS

& FUN FACTS

PART 6



GBV-F Second Pandemic

- Presidential Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, 1-2 November 2018
- GBV Interim Steering Committee in April 2019
- National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2020-2030 to respond to GBV-F

Key Outcomes to Date

4

Four GBV-F-related Acts of 2022

- Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act
- Domestic Violence Amendment Act
- Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act commenced in 2023

Key Indicators

- Around R21 billion over 3 years to support the NSP
- 66 266 Police Officers trained on GBV-F Pro-Active and Re-Active Related Courses
- Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) - 24/7 Toll-Free Number: 0800 428 428 providing psychosocial support services. Over 100 thousand calls received
- SMS Based on Line 31531 for persons with disabilities
- SMS HELP to 31531
- 63 Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) one stop facilities for the prevention, response and support for rape victims
- The conviction rate in femicide prosecutions is 91.1%. 475/517 cases
- The conviction rate in intimate partner femicide prosecutions is 92.2%. 356/386
- The conviction rate in sexual offences 74.8% 3460/ 4627



30 YEARS OF FREEDOM

- NPA Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit distributed 28 110 DNA reports to courts since October 2020
- 70.7% of sentences are longer than 10 years
- courts registered a 50.04% increase of new sexual offences.
- As at 29 May 2019, the department had established 102 sexual offences courts compliant with 98 courts upgraded between May 2019 and December 2023
- Reduced the case backlog significantly
- 1112 victim-friendly rooms at police stations

Four GBV-F Acts of 2022

Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act	Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act	Domestic Violence Amendment Act	Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of intermediaries enables them to give evidence through audiovisual link • Regulate the granting and cancellation of bail • Enable evidence by means of closed-circuit television or similar electronic media • Enable evidence by a witness with physical, psychological or mental disability • Complainant to participate in parole proceedings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands definition of incest. • New offence of sexual intimidation • Regulate the inclusion and removal of particulars of persons in the National Register for Sex Offenders • Reporting duty of persons who are aware that sexual offences have been committed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate protection orders in response to acts of domestic violence • Expands the definition of domestic violence to include actions such as controlling or bullying behaviour • Makes provisions for protecting people in engagements, dating and in customary relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces mandatory DNA collection for certain crimes • DNA to be taken from people convicted for schedule 8 offences - rape, murder, human trafficking, robbery and culpable homicide

30 YEARS OF FREEDOM

National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Act

Object of Act

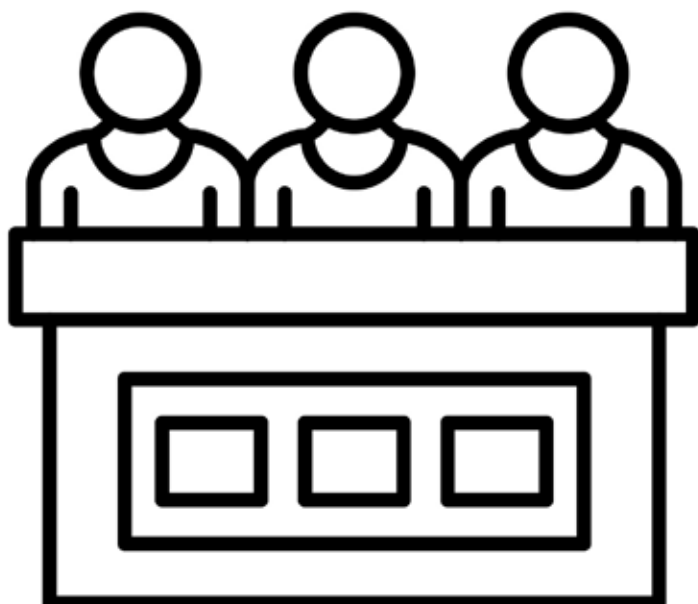
- Establish the National Council on Gender-Based Violence Council
- Coordinate a structured multi-sectoral approach.
- Set short-term, medium-term and long-term priorities, aligned with the national strategy addressing gender-based violence and femicide; and
- Advance a National Strategy by setting short-term, medium-term and long-term.
- Facilitate the sharing of information and best practices on the prevention of, and response to, gender-based violence and femicide.



Let's Do More Together with Civil Society

Council Composition

- 7 seven representatives from civil society (49%)
- 8 Representatives from Key Government Departments (51%)



Functions of Council

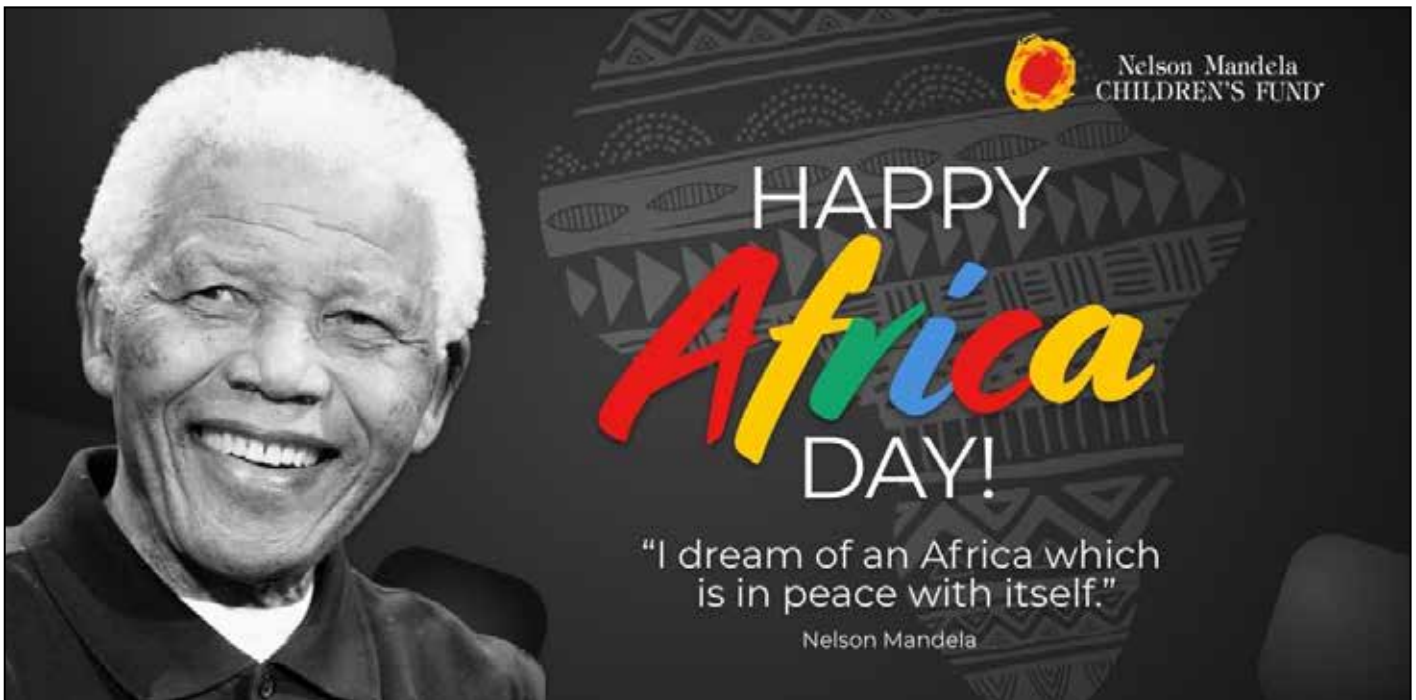
- Develop an action plan.
- Implementation of the national strategy addressing gender-based violence and femicide
- Co-ordinate measures for education and training
- Facilitate strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders.
- Establishment of inter-sectoral and multi-sectoral structures

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

25 – 31 May 2024

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



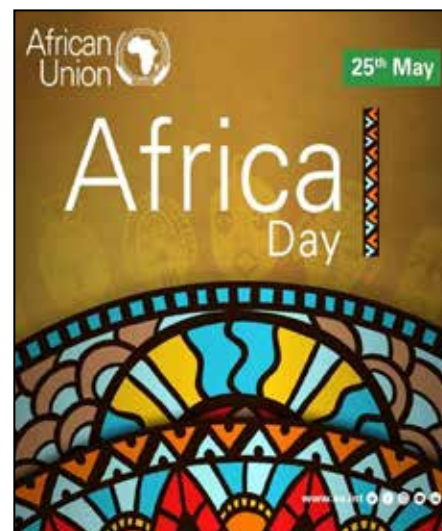
25 May 1948 Travel writer Jojo Cobbinah born

Ghananian author and travel writer Jojo Cobbinah was born in Bogosa. Providing clear historical and cultural descriptions of the continent, he has written travel guides on Senegal and The Gambia. His guides are legendary and ranked by UNESCO as among “the best travel guides of an African country.” Cobbinah is also the author of *Dr. Amo’s Lonely Planet*.

25 May 1963 OAU formed in Addis Ababa

The Pan African movement, born out of the anti-colonial and anti-slavery movements, debated approaches to African unity, in the

context of more and more countries gaining independence. Two strands emerged, the Casablanca group of countries advocated for the immediate unity of the African continent (along the line of a united states of Africa), whilst the Monrovia group of countries



called for a more gradual approach. Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie convened a conference of both groups, and this Pan African conference of independent African states (and anti-colonial and national liberation movements) met in Addis Ababa, and on 25 May signed the Charter which gave life to the Organisation of African Unity Charter (OAU). The Charter was signed by thirty-two (32) independent states. The OAU regarded as its *raison d’être* to support the remaining countries still under colonialism and apartheid, mainly in east and southern Africa, through the liberation committee. In July 2002, the OAU was transformed into the African Union in Durban, with the adoption of its Constitution Act. 25 May is celebrated across the country as Africa Day.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

25 May 1983

Panapress formed

The PanAfrican News Service, PanaPress begins service at its headquarters in Dakar, Senegal with regional offices in Kinshasa, Khartoum, Lusaka, Lagos and Tripoli and tells African news from the continent's perspectives.

25 May 1986

Witdoeke attacks Crossroads



The Cape Town City Council, after years of trying to move informal settlements of Crossroads near Cape Town Airport to Khayelitsha, eventually succeeded when on this day the so-called Witdoeke, a third force group attacked residents of Crossroads, leaving over 6,000 homeless.

25 May 2011

Togo students strike

Students at University of Lomé start strike and riot over poor living conditions and a new academic system, culminating in the closing of the university on 27 May by the government and negotiations with students starting. Finally by July that year, government acknowledges the legitimacy of the student demands and commit to finance the upgrade of the university.

25 May 2019

Mata Diop wins Grand Prix at Cannes

Senegalese/French actor and director, Mati Diop is the first black woman director to be nominated for the Palm d'Or and to win the Grand Prix award from her film *Atlantics*, a supernatural drama.

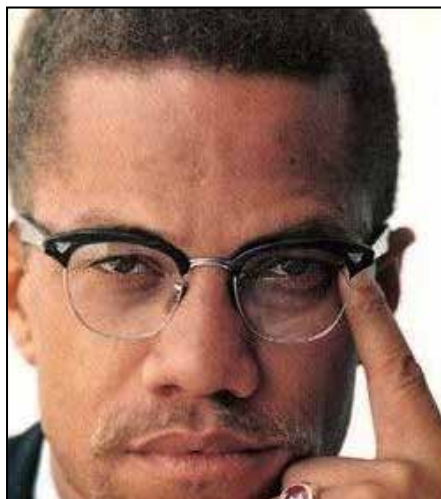
26 May 1956

Malawi human rights activist Emmie Chanika born

Chanika was born in Lilongwe and formed the country's first human rights organisation, the Civil Liberties Committee in 1992, also focusing on women's rights.

26 May 1964

Malcolm X addresses second OAU Summit



After the founding of the OAU a year earlier in Addis Ababa, its second summit is held in Cairo, Egypt with a membership growing to 34 countries. The summit is addressed by US civil rights leader, Malcolm X.

26 May 1966

Campaigner against rape, Rebecca Katsuva born

Born in Katana, DRC Rebecca Masika Katsuva was raped four

times during the Second Congolese Civil War by government soldiers and rebels. In one of the attacks, rebels killed her husband and raped her and her two daughters (ages 13 and 14), both children fell pregnant and were expelled by their dad's family. Rebecca founded the Association des Personnes Desherites Unies pour le Development, providing shelter to abused women, helping over 6000 survivors before her passing in 2016.

26 May 1989

Upington 14 sentenced to death

Fourteen of 25 accused – known as the Upington 14 – were handed the death sentence by Justice J. Basson for the murder of Lucas Tshenolo Sethwala, a police constable who fired at demonstrators attacking his home with stones on 13 November 1985. The rest of the twenty-five accused, the largest group ever to be convicted of murder in a single SA trial, received sentences ranging from 6-8 years imprisonment and another six defendants sentenced to community service. The group were all convicted on the basis of the "common purpose" principle, "a legal doctrine that imputes criminal liability on the participants involved in criminal activity for all that results from such activity." Campaigns for the release of the Upington 26, especially the 14 on death row, amongst them, Theresa Ramashamola, were conducted across the world and in South Africa.

26 May 2003

Sibusiso Vilane conquers Mount Everest summit

Sibusiso Vilane, a game ranger with dual South African and Swazi nationality reaches the summit of

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Mount Everest, where he plants a South African flag. 32-year-old Vilane is the first Black South African to successfully ascend Everest.

26 May 2021 Icon Mbuya Nehanda Myakasikana honoured

The 19th century Zimbabwe prophet and rebel is honoured with a 3 meter tall statue unveiled in Harare city center. The spiritual medium urged Zimbabweans to fight against the British South Africa Company's colonization of their lands. The uprising, called the *First Chimurenga* (1886-1897), ended with her defeat and death, but inspired decades of struggle for liberation. Nehanda is an icon of Africa's fight for independence.

27 May 1907 Rachel Carson, author of Silent Spring is born



Rachel Carson (1907–1964), American marine biologist, ecologist and author of *Silent Spring* (1962) was born in 1907. Her landmark book about the detrimental impact of pesticides on the environment is widely credited with helping launch the environmental movement.

27 May 1928 Ghanaian Poet Kwesi Brew born

Osborne Henry *Kwesi Brew* (27 May 1928 – 30 July 2007) was a poet, public servant and diplomat, born on this day in Cape Coast, Ghana. He was amongst the first graduates from the University of the Gold Coast and his Afrocentric poetry widely published.

27 May 1947 France brutal suppression of Malagasy Uprising

Malagasy (today Madagascar) was a French colony and during an uprising by the indigenous people in 1947 for independence, France suppressed the uprising through a reign of terror, including torture, war rape, mass executions, burning of villages, collective punishment of families and villages, and 'death flights' where prisoners were thrown out of airplanes while alive. The Malagasy Uprising lasted until 1948, by which time the leaders were killed or captured and estimated 100,000 Malagasy killed.

27 May 1991 Comedian Mark Angel born

Mark Angel is a Nigerian comedian, scriptwriter and video producer, whose Mark Angel Comedy channel has over 8 million YouTube subscribers and 20 million Facebook followers. He was born on this day in Port Harcourt.

27 May 1992 First Hindu temple opens in Seychelles

The iconic, colourful Navasakty Vinayagar Temple dedicated to Ganesh the elephant god, opens in Victoria, Seychelles to serve the around 2% of the population

who are Hindu.

27 May 2007 International Cricket Council President Percy Sonn passed on

International Cricket Council president Percy Sonn (57) passed on in a Cape Town hospital. An anti-apartheid campaigner for non-racial sports, served as vice-president on the South African Cricket Board after 1994 and president of the new United Cricket Board of South Africa until 2003.

27 May 2016 Lulu Dube passed on



The youngest daughter of former ANC President John Langalibalele Dube died in Durban at the age of 84 years. Lulu Joan Dube was born in Inanda Durban in 1931 and was the last surviving daughter of the John and Angelina Dube. She is well known for community leadership in her hometown. She was buried alongside her parents, John and Angelina Dube at the Ohlange Institute in Durban.

28 May 1913 Waihoek Women mass protest

Black women from Bloemfontein started a mass protest against

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



pass laws, meeting in the settlement of Waalhoek and marching into the city centre. The following day they managed to meet the Mayor of Bloemfontein, Ivan Haarburgen, who told them local authorities have no choice but to implement pass laws. The women then marched to the police station, where they burn their passes. 80 women were arrested in this peaceful protest action.

28 May 1975 ECOWAS formed

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was created by the Treaty of Lagos in Lagos, Nigeria, on May, 28, 1975. It followed earlier attempts at a West African economic community in the 1960s and was spearheaded by Yakuba Gowon of Nigeria and Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo. A revised treaty signed on July 24, 1993 aimed to create a common economic market, single currency, a West African parliament, economic and social councils, and a court of justice. <https://www.thoughtco.com/economic-community-west-african-states-ecowas-43900>

28 May 1984 Linguist Ernest Sedumedi Moloto passed on

Linguist, educationist and teach-

er, Ernest Sedumedi Moloto, who served as chair of both the Tswana Language Committee of South Africa and the Botswana National Language Committee, died in Mamelodi, Pretoria. He was buried at Moruleng, Rustenburg on 10 June 1984. Moloto was Ellen Kuzwayo's first husband.

28 May 1991 Mengistu regime fall



The Ethiopians People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) captured the capital Addis Ababa, overthrowing the Derg regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam, in power since 1977 when he overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie. The EPRDF was led by the Meles Zenawi, who became Ethiopian Prime Minister until his death in 2012.

29 May 1887 Chief Sandile killed in battle

Xhosa Chief Sandile, born in the Ciskei in 1820 from the Great House of Ngqika, was killed in battle in the Denge Forest. During the Seventh Frontier War (1846-47) Sandile was defeated and his territory was put under British command and called British Kaffraria. His dissatisfaction with the appointment British commissioners to rule the territory led to the Eighth Frontier War (1850-53).

Sandile was deposed and a White man, Charles Brownlee, was appointed in his place as paramount chief. In 1878 Sandile, joined by Krelie of the Galekas, waged war against Colonial forces, he was defeated and fled to Denge, where he met his untimely death.

29 May 1926 President Wade born

President of Senegal (2000-2012) was born in Kébémér, Senegal. An economics and law professor and dean at the University of Dakar, he served on the opposition benches before elected as president. President Abdoulaye Wade is one of the co-architects of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

29 May 1935 Author Andre P Brink born



South African novelist, Andre Phillipus Brink was born on 29 May 1935, in Vrede Freestate. Brink did a BA in Literature at University of Potchefstroom (1955), a Masters in Literature (1959), a Masters in Afrikaans and Dutch literature and a PhD from Rhodes University in 1960. In the 1960s, Brink, Ingrid Jonker and Breyten Breytenbach were part of the Afrikaans literary movement, *Die Sestigters* ("The Sixty-ers"), who used literature to speak up against Apartheid and to bring

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about a European influence to Afrikaans literature. His books include: *Lobola vir die Lewe* (1962), *A Dry White Season* (1979), *An Act of Terror* (1991) and *The Other Side of Silence* (2002). Brink wrote in both Afrikaans and English. His novel *Kennis van die Aand* (1973) was the first Afrikaans book to be banned by the Apartheid government. Brink passed on away on 6 February 2015.

29 May 1976

Eskom announces plan to order Nuclear generators from France

On 29 May 1976, the South African Electricity Supply Commission (ESKOM) announced its decision to order two nuclear power reactors from France. The two reactors, ordered from France in 1976 were installed at the Koeberg power station.

29 May 1998

Gen. Meiring hands over SANDF reigns to Gen. Nyanda



Accepting a seventeen-gun salute, outgoing South African National Defence Force (SANDF) chief, General Georg Meiring, formally hands over command of the SANDF to Lt Gen. Siphwe Nyanda in the sports stadium in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria.

29 May 1999

Ledwaba wins International Boxing title

Lehlohonolo Ledwaba, SA featherweight, wins the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title.

29 May 2005

Hamilton Naki passed on

Hamilton Naki, laboratory assistant to cardiac surgeon Dr Christian Barnard, who assisted during the first heart transplant, passed on.

30 May 1919

Britain and Belgium swop African territories

Belgium and Britain signed the Anglo-Belgium agreement where Britain gives Rwanda and Burundi (Ruanda-Urundi) to Belgium, in exchange for control of Belgium East Africa (Tanzania), of course without consulting the peoples about the exchange of their lands.

30 May 1921

Film maker Jamie Uys born

Uys was born in Boksburg, directing 24 films mainly in Afrikaans, including the 1980 hit, *The Gods Must be Crazy*.

30 May 1946

Annie Tempo passed away

Annie Tempo, known as Sister Nannie, was born of a slave mother and father who were kidnapped as children off the coast of Mozambique. She was born in the late 1870s and grew up in Worcester. She dedicated her life to helping the downtrodden and destitute in Cape Town, especially women sex workers. Her work resulted in the establishment of a formal 'Rescue House'. In 1937 Sister Nannie was honoured with one of King George's Coronation Medals.

30 May 1956

Louis Armstrong visits Ghana

On this day the legendary US trumpeter arrived in Accra, Ghana on a goodwill visit, leading his band and local trumpeters on the tarmac to When the Saints Go Marching In.

30 May 1960

Union of South Africa officially ceased to exist

In March 1961, at a Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London, the South African Prime Minister, H.F. Verwoerd formally announced that South Africa was changing from a Constitutional Monarchy to a Republic. The Union of South Africa of 1910 ceased to exist at midnight on 30 May 1961, changing to the Republic of South Africa.

30 May 1967

Biafra secedes from Nigeria

The Eastern region of Nigeria, Biafra, secedes from the country, which led to the Nigerian Civil War, also known as the Biafra War (1967–1970), resulting in over 100,000 military casualties and between half a million to two million civilian casualties, mainly due to starvation. Though the war ended with a united federal Nigeria, the underlying ethnic and economic causes of the Biafra War continue to be part of the fault lines of Africa's largest country. A number of books by prominent Nigerian authors and others have been written about the war, including *Destination Biafra* by **Buchi Emecheta** (1982), *Never Again* by **Flora Nwapa** (1975), *Survive the Peace* by **Cyprian Ekwensi** (1976), *Sunset in Biafra* by **Elechi Amadi** (1973), *The Nigerian Revolution and the Bi-*

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afra War by Alexandra Madiebo (1980); and more recently *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimanda Adichi Ngozi (2006), *In Biafra Africa Died* by Emifiana Eziani (2012) and *There was a Country* by Chinua Achebe (2012).

30 May 1974

President Andry Rajoelina born

President of Madagascar was born in Antsirabe. A DJ by profession, he was installed by the junta as president after a military coup in 2009, serving until 2014. In 2019 he was elected as President in a democratic election.

30 May 2012

President Charles Taylor sentenced

Liberian President from 1997 to 2003, Charles McArthur Ghankay Taylor, was sentenced to 50 years in prison, after a conviction for war crimes in the Sierra Leone. He was leader of the Patriotic Liberation Front of Liberia, a rebel group which overthrew the government of Samuel Doe in 1989, starting the First Liberian Civil War (1989-

1996), and was elected President after a peace agreement in 1997. In 2003, he was indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, judicial body established by the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations, to prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of international and Sierra Leone law during the country's civil war. Taylor was found guilty on all 11 charges, and on 30 May 2012 sentenced to 50 years imprisonment, serving his sentence in the United Kingdom.

31 May 1901

King Dinuzulu refused to join Anglo Boer War

King Dinuzulu kaCetshwayo of the Zulu Kingdom, refused to follow British instructions to take up arms against the Boer Republics during the Anglo Boer War.

31 May 1904

Rhodes University founded in Grahamstown

The university to this day named after British Imperialist Cecil John Rhodes, was founded after a gift from the Rhodes Foundation. It

became fully-fledge university in 1951, and remains one of South Africa's public universities.

31 May 1919

Die Stem composed by CJ Langenhoven

The poem *Die Stem van Suid Afrika* is composed by poet CJ Langenhoven, becoming lyrics to the song in 1921. It served as the dual anthem with *God Save the Queen of the Union of South African* from 1938–1957, and the sole anthem from 1957–1994. After 1997, it is incorporated into a hybrid anthem with *Nkosi Sikelele 'iAfrika*.

31 May 1945

Laurent Gbagbo born

Second president of Cote d'Ivoire (2000–2011), a former trade union activist and founder of the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) was born on this day. He was arrested in 2011 by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, and acquitted and released on all charges by the ICC 8 years later in 2019.

31 May 1958

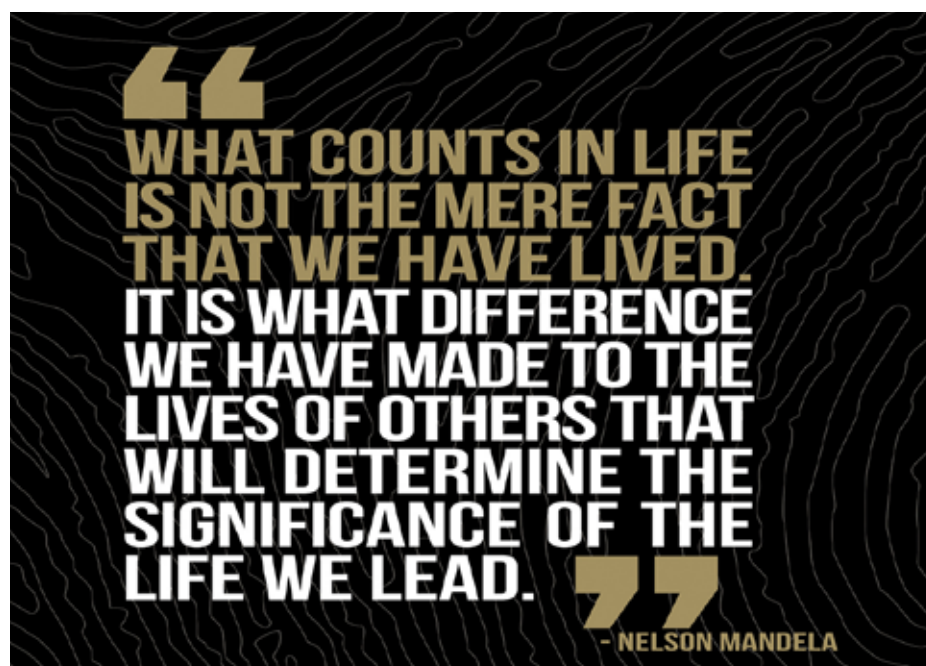
Potato boycott launched

The boycott of potatoes is launched to protest the harsh treatment of farmworkers on potato farms in Mpumalanga.

31 May 1989

Samuel Tshabalala first black athlete to win Comrades marathon

The first Comrades took place in 1921, with only 34 entrants. In 1989, Sam Tshabalala made history when he became the first black athlete to win the Comrades. Initially, black athletes were barred from participating in the race, the ban only lifted in 1975.



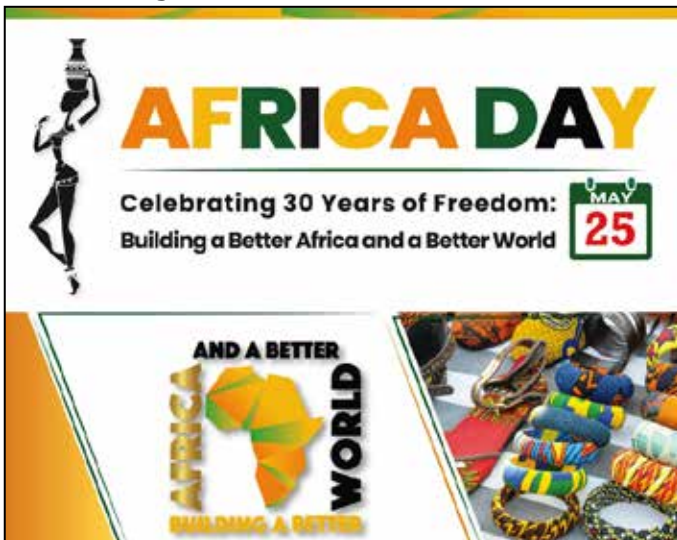
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

25 – 31 May 2024

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

25 May Africa Day



This year marks **61 years** since the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa on 25 May 1963. The continental union played a major role in supporting struggles against colonialization and apartheid, and for the self-determination of the African continent. The OAU in 2002 transformed into the African Union, with its overarching objective of building an Africa that is peaceful, integrated, democratic and prosperous, and take its rightful place in the world. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU in 2013, the continent resolved and committed towards a vision for the next 50 years, **Agenda 2063. The Africa We Want.**

25 May World Football Day

Football, as a prominent global sport, holds a unique position. Its broad appeal and accessibility make it a potent tool for health and well-being. It also serves as a vital platform for advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls, both on and off the field. football serves as a catalyst for

social inclusion, fostering unity and breaking down barriers between diverse communities

25-31 May International Week of Solidarity with Non-Self-governing Territories



The UN Charter defines a 'non-self-governing' territory as a territory "*whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.*" In many of these territories, the UN Declaration on Decolonization of 1960 applies, and there is a UN list of such places. In Africa, Western Sahara is still on this list, and we must therefore during this week reaffirm our solidarity with the Saharawi people, and their right to self-determination.

29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 29 May, offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour the more than 4,000 peacekeepers that have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948. Today, tens of thousands of young peacekeepers (between the ages of 18 and 29 years) are deployed around the world and play a major role

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



in helping the missions implement their mandated activities including the protection of civilians. The theme for 2024 is **“Fit for the Future: Building Better Together.”**

30 May

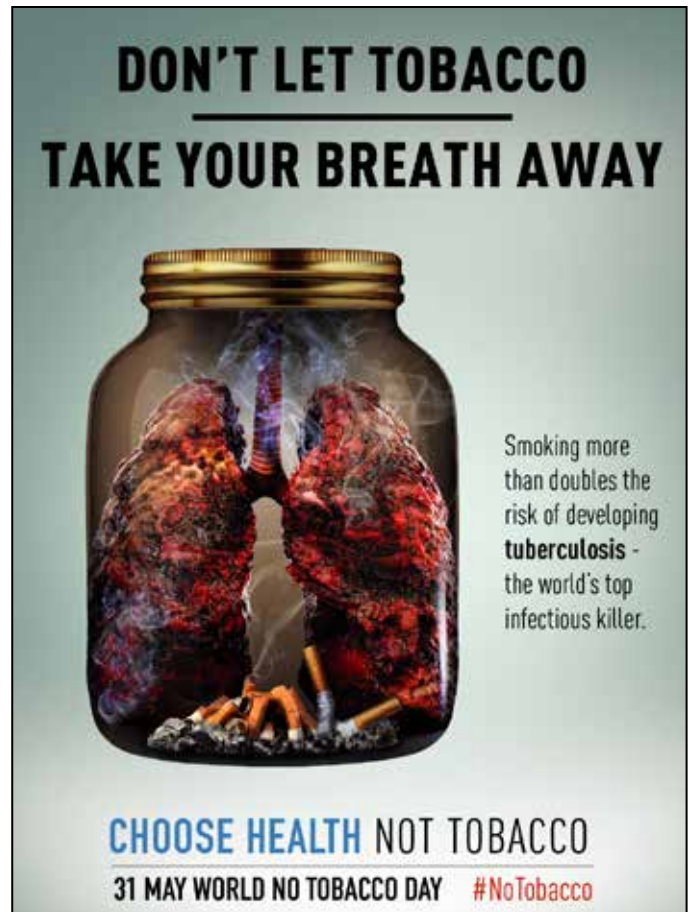
International Day of Potato

A 1000-old food with origins in the South American Andes region that made its way to Europe in the 16th century then spread around the world, the potato is much more than a source of nourishment. Potatoes are an important to accessible and nutritious food and improved livelihoods in rural and other areas where natural resources, especially arable land and water are limited and inputs expensive. The crop’s versatility, climate friendliness and ability to grow in a variety of conditions make it an advantageous crop choice.

31 May

World No-Tobacco Day

World Tobacco Day was declared by the World Health Organization in 1987. The day is observed by abstaining from tobacco for a period of 24 hours around the World. The objective is to encourage smokers to stop smoking altogether. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2013 is: ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. Statistics show that a third of South Africans are heavy smokers, with the average smoker spending over R400 a month on cigarettes. The country therefore has amongst the most progressive anti-smoking laws in the world.



#ANCFRIDAY

GET YOUR ANC REGALIA ON AND SHOW YOUR PRIDE!

POST YOUR PICTURE AND TAG US ON THE @MYANC SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER. VOTE ANC

The Year of United Action To Endorse Our Freedoms and Advance a Better Life for All (Promoted by the ANC)

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

X-WORD

#VoteANC2024



DOWN

1. ANC elections message: Lets Do More,
2. Voters had to apply for on 27-28 May 2024.
5. You must be in order to vote on 29 May 2024.
8. This elections, we will vote on three
10. ANC since its founding in 1912 has work to ... South Africans

ACROSS

3. On 29 May we must vote for our ... not our ...
4. We must all abide by the electoral ... of ...
6. Our commitment since 1994 is to create a ... life for all.
7. Coalition of anti-transformation parties led by DA
9. Observers from parties to ensure elections free and fair elections.
11. Institution running our elections.
12. Vote in the place where you are registered.

WORD BANK

registered
Together
unite

ballots
better
hopes fears

IEC
special votes
Moonshot

Voting station
code conduct
party agents

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