



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY MUST PUT PEOPLE'S INTERESTS FIRST

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

THE formation of the second Government of National Unity (GNU) is a momentous development in South Africa's democracy.

Every effort must be made to ensure that the GNU remains true to its founding spirit of collaboration in good faith to drive a programme that improves the lives of all South Africa's people.

South Africans made clear with their votes in last month's elections that they want their elected representatives to put aside narrow interests and work together to build the country. To do so, the GNU cannot be

preoccupied with jockeying for positions, tussles over appointments or squabbles within and between parties.

The success of the GNU will be measured by the extent to which we are prepared to focus not on who will govern, but on how we will govern, together.

The first GNU was established in 1994 to promote nation building and inclusivity from a racially divided past during a period of political transition. Among its main tasks was to ensure the passage of a new democratic Constitution.

Giving effect to the principles of that Constitution and the Bill

of Right must be the overriding focus of this GNU. This will be done by pursuing a common programme to eradicate poverty and build a more equal society, to create jobs, and to make government truly work for the people.

The GNU Statement of Intent provides a solid base for genuine cooperation between parties across the political spectrum who have signed up of their own accord.

The Statement of Intent commits the signatories to a set of foundational principles that include respect for constitutionalism; accountability, transparency and community

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

participation in government; evidence-based policy and decision-making; professionalisation of the public service; integrity and good governance.

The parties to the GNU have agreed on priorities for the incoming administration. At the top of the list of priorities is the achievement of rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth to create jobs.

It will be critical that the GNU stays the course on the structural reform that is underway to improve the business operating environment and establish South Africa as an investment destination of choice.

These reforms are necessary to resolve longstanding challenges in key industries and create more jobs and opportunities. We will need to build on the progress that has already been made, while accelerating the pace of reform.

The fact that there is broad consensus among the parties on the priorities of the incoming administration gives us encouragement that the GNU will indeed take the country forward. Emanating from the priorities outlined in the Statement of Intent, the parties will further refine the GNU's programme, including through the proposed National Dialogue process.

We remain committed to consensus-building and to the representation of a broad range of interests and viewpoints within government. At the same time,



we are all keenly aware that South Africans expect action, implementation and results.

In a robust defence of the first Government of National Unity in 1994, President Nelson Mandela described it as an enduring national consensus ***“that is neither an imposition of one party over others, nor a honeymoon premised on the fickle whims of a fleeting romance”***. The same is true today.

As parties finalise the modalities of the GNU guided by the Statement of Intent, the days and weeks that lie ahead will be crucial.

The country's hopes are

pinned on the success of the GNU. Our stated commitment to work together constructively and for South Africa's benefit has generated a great deal of goodwill that we should not squander.

South Africans are watching.

We should not waste our energies on those who stand in the way of our country's progress or lose momentum over differences that can be resolved.

We need to demonstrate in both word and deed that our programme is clear, coherent and sustainable, that our collaboration is genuine, and that the interests of the people will always come first.

GNU Must Learn the Lessons of 30 Years of Liberalism

Valuable Lessons from our first GNU

■ By **PROFESSOR MUXE NKONDO**

POLITICAL parties that contested the last elections agree that the encounter between power and equality is a dialectic at the core of our politics. What is important is not the admission but the way in which the two forces interact and function together in social, economic and political spaces.

Liberalism defines the problem in political terms: how to design a policy framework flexible and responsive enough to negotiate the tension. In that sense, electoral democracy is ultimately a search for openly reasoned consensus, periodically subjected to review. It is an invitation to think more complexly, a struggle for a democratic order that will suffice. It is a struggle for social cohesion, integrated development and regional integration. Electoral democracy, then, is a struggle for coherence and legitimate authority.

So, the dialectic between power and equality is related to how we define ourselves as a political community, how we relate to each other as citizens and imagine ourselves in the world. In this context, elections are an instrument for reviewing the way we order and regulate social, economic and political relations



inscribed in our constitution, itself a hallmark in our history, with a clear endpoint.

But how, practically, can we address the dialectic? The various political parties respond to the question differently. None, however, provides a final answer. What history confirms is the persistence, the endless co-presence of power and the push for equality in politics. It is an enigma, a wicked dilemma, the two forces always at war with each other, caught in a disparity between them.

Policy, law, management and regulation try hard to order and

regulate human relations, but they have been unable to substantially reduce, if not eliminate, socioeconomic inequality and systemic violence. This history invites all of us, particularly the government of national unity, to think of the dialectic as an urgent challenge. The two forces are entangled, in the same way in which revolution and subversion are. It is this interface that haunts electoral democracy. Perhaps that is what accounts for the crisis, following hard on 30 years of liberalism.

Learning from the last 30 years, we have to rethink the possibilities and limits of liberalism. Pol-

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icy and law are teetering on the brink. Responsibility and obligation — these basic principles — have a full-time job cut out for them as we encounter power and equality, and the various forms they take, in our liberal democracy.

Perhaps pragmatism, in which consequences on the lives of people is the measure of public value, is the best way to address the dialectic. We should do this without lapsing into ideology in the abstract and populist rhetoric. Fortunately, democratic struggles on the ground — ‘land expropriation without compensation, not in my name, nothing about me without me’ and others — enjoin us to assert the sovereignty of the people as a fundamental principle. This is a profound lesson from modern history. Our case at the International Court of Justice on the Israel-Palestine crisis confirms people’s will to justice and equality, as well as the possibilities of fundamental change.

But what happened to the South African revolution? What were the terms of the negotiated political settlement? The apartheid colonial system has been transformed since the democratic transition in 1994. Like the revolutions in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, it has been called a revolution by those who participated in it. It marked significant change, which entailed a measure of violence. It sought legitimacy in democratic law and a new political order that embodies some of the principles of the revolution and changed the apartheid colonial legal and policy tradition but, to an extent, remained within the liberal tradition.

Like other revolutions in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, it was not a coup d’état, although it was a rebellion. Consequently, the 30 years saw a series of incremental changes that, ironically, have been accommodated within the pre-existing colonial order. Primarily because of that,

the state failed to respond to the demands for equality and justice. The failure to anticipate the limits of liberalism accounts for the ongoing crisis.

Like each of the revolutions, the South African revolution has experienced an interim period in which new policies, laws, regulations, and institutions were enacted in rapid succession and, occasionally, repealed or replaced. But, eventually, for reasons the government of national unity still has to investigate, it has restored some of the colonial elements. The current political contestations are a product of this struggle.

Did the negotiated settlement backfire? Why has it given rise to contestations among political parties? At the same time, the push for radical economic transformation has produced a swing in the other direction, in a seemingly unstoppable sequence of action and reaction. What accounts for this? Liberalism does

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not have the same effect as apartheid colonialism, but hungry and homeless people cannot tell the difference. The cause of the failure is the incompatibility of liberalism with equality.

The World Bank has this to say: Many African governments still have an uneasy relationship with business, which suffers under poor services and regulations that raise costs and discourage investment. An essential part of empowering civil society must be to involve producers — in agriculture and other sectors — to foster higher productivity and more effective competition in global markets. Without strong producers, it will be impossible to reverse past trends and shift from aid dependence to trade dependence.

This explanation is rather narrow and self-serving. The predicament facing government is not a contingent or mechanical one, nor a question of structural adjustment. It is of a deeper nature. Our starting point in tackling it should relate back to the key factor in liberalism's crisis with equality and justice. There is the primary error. Equality and justice are based on the sovereignty of the people, which requires ordering social and economic relations in accordance with their will.

The liberal order is based simultaneously on the principles of the market, which maintains that the pursuit of self-interest, as a result of competition, is to the advantage of all.

Liberalism is often discussed in terms of the freedom of the individual, but the history of liberalism in South Africa in the last 30 years tells us that in liberal democracy individual freedom, choice and competition have been used to



justify exclusion and marginalisation. Liberal principles not only tolerate but require a measure of inequality and violence. Thus there is a mystification in liberalism. Whatever one's ideological position, a society is not the shrine of symbols and slogans on the front of its monuments, the value of a society is the value it places upon social and economic relations.

Such an effort would undoubtedly draw the government of national unity closer to the deep desire of millions of South Africans for a society where no person is left hungry, homeless, or uneducated, lacking medical or social assistance, or unable to afford justice.

Liberalism is premised on the belief that it is the aim of politics to preserve and protect individual rights and to maximise freedom of choice, allowing space for competition. It emerged, in South Africa, from the conjuncture of the revolution and the negotiated political settlement. It retains faith in the possibilities of social cohesion, integrated development and inclusive economic growth. It also embraces the prospects for

progress and innovation in information and communication technology.

Although confidence in fundamental change has now diminished, liberalism retains its ameliorative and empowerment ambition. But various democratic struggles in recent years have exposed its limits. Liberalism is still infected with elitist values and practices. Individuals are allowed to pursue their own ambition and interest even when they do not converge with the common good.

In sum, liberalism constitutes a system of ideas in which things are reflected. It aspires to be a mirror, and so expresses particular truths, but it is an arbitrary system. The last 30 years have revealed that it is a human construct, historical and contingent, and changes in time and place. It has a political geography; it is not a thing in nature. It is what it is because it carries interpretation and human meaning. So it can be deciphered, assessed and changed.

First published in the Sunday Times 23 June 2024

THE GNU MAY ADVANCE THE REVOLUTION, BUT THAT DEPENDS ON THE QUALITY OF OUR CADRES IN THE STATE

■ By **TISETSO MAKHELE**



I have listened to some of our deployed cadres, some deployed as Ministers, and felt like hiding under the tables. It is embarrassing when a cadre, who is supposed to be the most advanced amongst us, fails to articulate even the basic concepts on a public platform. With such cadres, we must not even ponder winning debates through persuasion.

The times of winning debates through raising hands or howling are over, since we have been unable to garner enough votes. This is the time when we are expected to use intellectual and ideological prowess to convince others of our vision and point of view.

I would therefore propose that the OR Tambo School of Lead-

ership develops a set of training modules specifically for our elected cadres. Such modules must include, amongst others:

- **Selected Works** by Vladimir Lenin, Volumes 1 to 3, with specific focus on Volume 2 *“The Role of the Proletariat in a Revolution”* as well as *“The State and Revolution”*.
- **Prison Notebooks** by Anto-

nio Gramsci

- **The Little Red Book** by Chairman Mao Tse-Tung.

I am relieved that the ANC didn't choose a coalition, which would have imposed on us a variety of demands, but chose a government of national unity (GNU). I am also happy that, unlike the GNU of 1994, this one is guided by a written and publicly distributed Statement of Intent, to ensure that all those who agree to it are bound by a set of principles contained therein.

It also gives me pleasure that the ANC, as leader of society, proposed the establishment of a GNU, and further approached all political parties in this regard.

This shows that the ANC is a visionary movement that is still dedicated to the advancement of the revolution.

But the GNU is not in itself revo-



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lutionary. It is a reformist cushion, but providing a credible platform to advance change.

For the GNU to work effectively, it must eliminate having too many spokespersons. Once parties agree to join, they must submit to the central command unit, with only one mouthpiece. This will discourage excited people who jump to the media at any slight provocation.

We expect men and women deployed in the cabinet and the Parliament to ensure that the ideals that have captured the imaginations of our people reign supreme in all debates, documents and legislation.

We expect the cadres of the ANC, from branch level to the NEC, to dominate spaces of the battle of ideas and popularize the injunctions contained in the Freedom Charter.

We expect the ANC structures to ensure that quality prevails over quantity. We must not have members who are recruited only to serve as voting fodder, but as volunteers in the revolution.

In conclusion, I argue that the ANC has a mammoth task to regain legitimacy as leader of society and the voice of the people. This depends on the quality of cadres we have in Parliament and cabinet. Now, more than ever before, we must work on the quality of our cadres to be able to use the GNU as a theatre to advance the gains of the revolution.

Tiisetso Makhele is a member of the ANC in Mangaung Region, Free State, a public sector Economist and an African Marxist. He writes in his personal capacity.



A LEAF OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

The Defiance Campaign of 1952 - Prelude to the Congress of the People

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

The Defiance Campaign was launched on 26 June 1952, the date that became the yearly National Day of Protest and Mourning. In major South African cities, people and organizations performed acts of defiance and civil disobedience

THE post-1948 period saw the African National Congress (ANC) abandoning its traditional reliance on tactics of moderation such as petitions and deputations. In December 1949, with the support of the ANC Youth League, a new leadership came to power in the ANC. Walter Sisulu was elected secretary-general and a number of Youth Leaguers were elected to the national executive, including Oliver Tambo, Sisulu's successor.

The period 1950–1952 began with a commitment to militant African nationalism and mass action and to tactics of boycotts, strikes and civil disobedience.

This period culminated in the Defiance Campaign, the largest scale non-violent resistance ever seen in South Africa and the first campaign pursued jointly by all racial groups under the leadership of the ANC and the South African Indian Congress (SAIC).

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Events leading up to the Defiance Campaign

The National Party (NP) government followed up its unexpected election victory in 1948 with a massive social restructuring programme, which included the enactment of new apartheid laws, as well as the stricter application of existing discriminatory legislation such as the Pass laws and amendments to the Immorality Act. In 1951 the Separate Representation of Voters Bill to remove Coloureds from the common roll was enacted. The apartheid policy of the nationalist government was not simply a small-scale social rearrangement and an extension of administrative controls.

It was in fact a process which sought to deny political representation and participation of Black people at all levels of government and which affected all sectors and all classes within the Black communities. It was this that provided a context for the mounting tide of popular democratic resistance to the apartheid state in the 1950s.

June 26 1952: Defiance Campaign launched

The Defiance Campaign was set for 26 June 1952. A “Day of the Volunteers” on Sunday 22 June, preceded the opening of the campaign. Volunteers signed the following pledge:

“I, the undersigned, Volunteer of the National Volunteer Corps, do hereby solemnly pledge and bind myself to serve my country and my people in accordance with the directives of the National Volunteer Corps and to participate fully and without reservations to the best of my ability in the Campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws. I shall obey the orders of my leader under whom I shall be placed and strictly abide by the



rules and regulations of the National Volunteer Corps framed from time to time. It shall be my duty to keep myself physically, mentally and morally fit.”

The first group of volunteers including Nelson Mandela, Yusuf Dadoo, Moses Kotane, JB Marks, David Bopape and Walter Sisulu defied apartheid laws in Johannesburg and other major city centres. The defiers, who began the campaign did so with a sense that history was being made. For the first time Africans and Indians, with a few whites and coloureds were engaging in joint political action under a common leadership. A national action committee, whose key members were Sisulu and Ismail ‘Maulvi’ Cachalia, and a national volunteer board, with Mandela as the volunteer-in-chief, conducted the campaign.

Groups of volunteers went into

action, small in numbers but high in spirits. During the campaign, acts of defiance were accompanied by freedom songs and the thumbs-up sign (introduced by the Cape ANC in 1949 as a sign of unity), cries of “Afrika!” and “Mayibuye!” and cheers from supporting onlookers. 52 Africans and Indians, including Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela and Ismail Cachalia, marched into Boksburg location near Johannesburg without permits. All were arrested. Mandela and Cachalia were present only as observers since they planned to avoid arrest. However, that evening they were among a group of protestors who were arrested in Johannesburg when they left a hall after curfew. In Port Elizabeth, 30 people entered a railway station through the “Europeans Only” entrance and were arrested. Others were arrested for entering the European sections of the post offices, sitting on benches marked for

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whites, or violating other apartheid regulations.

Slowly the campaign spread, from Port Elizabeth and East London to smaller towns in the Eastern Cape Province, from Johannesburg to a number of centres on the Witwatersrand, to Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Durban. During the last few days of June, 146 volunteers were arrested; in July 1, 504; during August 2015; and in September 2, 058. By mid-December an additional 2, 334 were arrested bringing the total number to 8, 057.

Because offences were minor, the penalties were usually no more than short-term imprisonment with the options of fines not exceeding ten pounds. Sometimes defiers were acquitted, most notably in the case of 24 who entered a railway waiting room in Cape Town and were acquitted when the magistrate found that facilities for whites and non-whites were unequal. As the campaign continued, magistrates sometimes decided on whippings for defendants under the age of 21, and allegations of assault and ill-treatment in prison became more frequent.

Reaction and significance

Although the offences and penalties were minor, the government became concerned and reacted with the arrest of national leaders of the campaign in Johannesburg and the Eastern Cape. All were charged under the Suppression of Communism Act with promoting communism but were released on bail. Four years later, some of the accused were to be arrested on charges of high treason and tried under an indictment covering a period that began on 1 October 1952. The

trial of amongst others, Moroka, Sisulu, Marks, Mandela, Dadoo, Cachalia and Kathrada, began in November. On 2 December 1952, all 20 were found guilty of "statutory communism" and sentenced to nine month's imprisonment with hard labour, but this was suspended for two years. In Port Elizabeth, 15 leaders were also found guilty and sentenced in 1953 for nine months, suspended for three years.

Although the campaign did not achieve the desired aim of overturning the apartheid laws, it was successful in a number of other respects. The resistance won United Nations recognition that the South African racial policy was an international issue and a UN Commission was established to investigate the situation. During the campaign, more than 8 000 people went to jail for defying apartheid laws and regula-

tions and the ANC's membership rose by tens of thousands. These years were crucial as the Defiance Campaign saw the movement of the ANC from moderation to militancy. The campaign also demonstrated the potential power of African leadership and its organisational skill and discipline.

This period marked the beginning of non-racial co-operation in the resistance to apartheid which would be further cemented by the formation of the Congress Alliance in 1954 in the run up to the Congress of the People.

Looking back later on the Congress of the People, ANC President Albert Luthuli exclaimed that *"nothing in the history of the liberatory movement in South Africa quite caught the popular imagination as this did, not even the Defiance Campaign."*

JUN
26
1952

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEFIANCE CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNJUST LAWS

The Defiance Campaign against Unjust Laws, launched by the African National Congress (ANC) on June 26, 1952, marked a pivotal moment in South Africa's history of anti-apartheid resistance. Spearheaded by ANC leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and Oliver Tambo, the campaign was a non-violent program of mass mobilization, aimed at directly challenging and disobeying racist apartheid laws. The defiance led to arrest and imprisonment drawing international attention to the oppressive regime. This date was strategically chosen to coincide with the 300th anniversary of white settlement in South Africa, underlining the long-standing resistance against colonial and racial domination. The campaign marked an escalation from petitioning to active resistance, significantly expanding ANC's membership and laying foundational strategies for future protests against apartheid.

112th ANNIVERSARY
ANC LIVES, ANC LEADS

**LET'S DO MORE,
TOGETHER.**

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli, HQ



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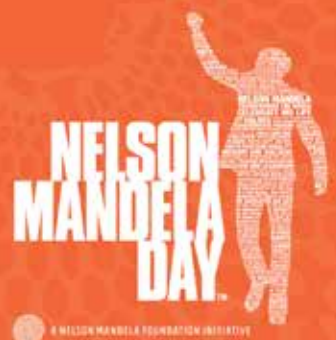
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YOUR HANDS TO
CREATE A BETTER
WORLD FOR ALL
WHO LIVE IN IT.”

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

29 June – 5 July 2024

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

JUN 28 1942 THIS DAY IN HISTORY

CHRIS HANI

28 JUNE 1942 – 10 APRIL 1993

Martin Thembisile Chris Hani, Umkhonto we Sizwe Chief of Staff, ANC NEC Member and General Secretary of the SACP was born on this day in Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape. In the struggle for the freedom of our people, he embodied the qualities our country needs today.

"I would rather fight apartheid than play sport."

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.

28 June 2016 Black Coffee wins BET Award

Black Coffee (Nkososinati Maphumulo) becomes the first South African artist to win a BET Award as Best International Act, Africa.

29 June 1914 Ellen Kuzwayo born

Nnoseng, Ellen Kate Kuzwayo (29 June 1914-19 April 2006) was born on this day in Thaba Nchu, Freestate. She is the author of *Call me Woman* and other books,

and after completed training at Fort Hare, worked as teacher from 1938-1952. She went on to



train as a social worker at the Jan Hofmyer School of Social Work, sharing a bench with another famous social worker, Winnie Mandela. A young Kuzwayo was also active in the youth movement, firstly in the South African Association of Youth Clubs, later as General secretary of the national Young Christian Women's Association (YWCA), in the ANC Youth League in the 1960s, and the only woman on the 1976 Committee of Ten. In 1994 she was elected to the first post-apartheid South African Parliament as an ANC MP.

29 June 1958 Tunisia Prime Minister Najla Bouden born

Tunisia's first female prime minister Najla Bouden, also known as Najla Romdhane is born in Kairouan, Tunisia. An engineer by profession, she has a PhD in geology and was a professor at the National Engineering School of the Tunis El Manar University. Romdhane served as Tunisian education minister, and became prime minister on 11 October 2021.

29 June 1976 Seychelles gains independence

The British flag is taken down at midnight and the Seychelles flag hoisted to signify its independence. The capital of this African island state is Victoria and at the time population 60,504.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

29 June 1976

Entebbe stand-off

A hijacked Air France A300B airbus which was traveling from Tel Aviv to Paris, lands in Entebbe Airport, Kampala Uganda on 29 June 1979. The hijackers (from Palestine and Germany) demanded the release of 53 Palestinian political prisoners. In the stand-off, 148 non-Israeli passengers are released, whilst 94 Israeli citizens along with the Air France crew are kept hostage at the Entebbe airport building. This starts of an international incident when on 4 July, the Israel Defense Forces launches a rescue mission, freeing the hostages. In the process 20 Ugandan soldiers, 3 of the hostages and all of the high-jackers were killed. To date two movies have been made about the incident: *Raid on Entebbe* in 1977 and more recent *7 Days in Entebbe* in 2018.

29 June 1998

Protea botanist Maria Vogts passed away

Maria Vogts, a botanist and pioneer of the South African protea industry passed away. Vogts did her PhD on the King Protea (1979), and studied and promoted protea plants as a lecturer at Paarl, and then went on to promote the growing of proteas as an industry, herself owning a farm. According to Cape Flora, a marketing organisation established in 2015 to promote proteas and fynbos, in 2016 about 712 hectares of protea flowers were planted in the country, with over 7.7 million stems of these flowers exported in 2018/2019, mostly to EU and Russia, the UK, Far East and Canada.

30 June 1921

SA Reserve Bank founded

The South African Reserve Bank

opens its doors for business for the first time, after the passing of the Currency and Bank Act of 1920 by the Union Parliament, making it the oldest central bank on the African continent.

30 June 1960

Democratic Republic of Congo independence

The DRC receives independence from Belgium, with Leopoldville (later Kinshasa) as its capital. Patrice Lumumba is the Democratic of Congo's first Prime Minister. The country has an estimated national population of 15.6million people.

30 June 1968

Queen of Gospel Rebeca Malope born



Rebecca Malope was born in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga and rose to fame when she won the Shell Road to Fame talent search in 1987, with a soulful rendition of the spiritual Sizwe Zako composition, *Shine On*. Initially singing Afropop, like Brenda Fassie and Yvonne Chaka Chaka, she switched to gospel with great success, not just at home but across the continent. She was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2003 from the University of Natal (now University of KwaZulu Natal – UKZN) for her contribution to music.

30 June 1978

Author Dinaw Mengestu born

The Ethiopian journalist and novelist was born in Addis Ababa, and fled the Red Terror upheaval and settled in the US where he worked as a journalist. He published his first book *Children of the Revolution* (2007), followed by *How to read the Air* (2010), *All Our Names* (2014) and *Sanctuary: The Preservation issue* (2018).

30 June 1989

Sudan coup

Military officer Omar al-Bashir leads a bloodless coup d'état in Sudan, suspends political parties and imposes Islamic legal code on national level. He served as President of Sudan from 1993 until 2019, when he was ousted in a military coup.

30 June 2001

Africa's Top Five airlines

In terms of capital, passenger volume and number aircraft, the continent's top five airlines were Air Afrique (bankrupt in 2002), Egypt Air, Kenya Airways, Royal Air Maroc and South African Airways. In 2022, according to the Skytrax World Airline Award, the top 5 African airlines were: Ethiopian Airlines, Royal Air Maroc, South African Airways, Kenya Airways and Air Mauritius.

1 July 1860

Four million African slaves

National census day in the US Tabulations shows that the country is home to 4 million African slaves, making the USA the worlds largest slave state. Slavery is abolished by law in the US in 1862, but most remain enslaved until 1865.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

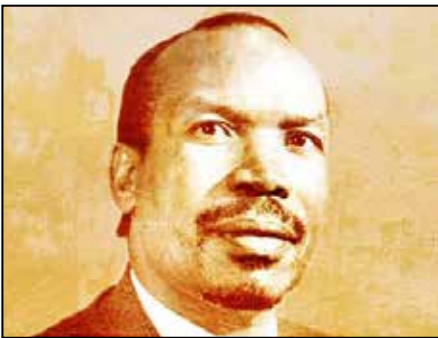
1 July 1899

Rhodes writes will

South African mining magnet, British imperialist and white supremacist Cecil John Rhodes writes his will, which establishes upon his death the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships to be awarded to outstanding (white, male) individuals to study at the University of Oxford in the UK. Females were admitted to the full scholarship in 1977 and the first black South Africans that qualified in 1992.

1 July 1921

Botswana founding President Seretse Khama born



Sir Seretse Khama was born on 1 July 1921 in Serowe, Bechuanaland, now known as Botswana. He studied in South Africa and graduated from Fort Hare College with a BA in 1944. In 1966, he became the first president of the Republic of Botswana. Under his leadership Botswana developed from an impoverished and internationally obscure protectorate inherited from Britain to an increasingly democratic and prosperous country with a significant role in Southern Africa. He served as president until his death on July 13, 1980, in Gaborone.

1 July 1938

South African Press Association formed

The South African Press Associ-

ation (SAPA) is formed as a not-for-profit platform for local newspapers to share national and international news. With changes in the industry, SAPA closed shop and sent out its last story on 31 March 2015; its archives bought by Sekunjalo Investment Holdings.

1 July 1959

Central Bank of Nigeria starts operations

The Central Bank of Nigeria, founded the previous year and entirely owned by the Nigerian government, begins operations in Lagos.

1 July 1960

Ghana becomes a republic

Ghana, the first African country to gain independence from Britain in 1957, became a republic on 1 July 1960. Kwame Nkrumah became its first President, the country remained a member of the British Commonwealth and became one of the founders of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963.

1 July 1960

Democratic Republic of Somalia founded

On 1 July 1960, the independent Somali Democratic Republic, commonly known as Somalia, was formed out of former British and Italian territories, with Mogadishu as capital and Aden Abdullah Osman Daar as its first president. Italian Somaliland and British Somaliland, situated on the eastern coast of Africa and bordered by the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, were occupied by the two colonial powers since the early 19th century. In 1956, in accordance with a decision by the United Nations, Italy grant-

ed its territory internal autonomy which evolved into independence in 1960. The same development took place in British Somaliland when Britain ended its protectorate in June 1960.

1 July 1966

African Development Bank starts operations

The African Development Bank (AfDB) created by a treaty signed by 23 African nations in 1963 begins operations at its headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Initially only African countries may join the bank, but in 1982, non-Africans are allowed to join. Today, the AfDB has 54 African member countries and 26 non-African members. The AfDB board is split according to the size of each member's share, currently 60%-40% between African and non-African members. The top ten shareholders are Nigeria, USA, Egypt, Japan, South Africa, Algeria, Germany, Canada, France and Cote d'Ivoire.

1 July 1970

Key African universities founded

This is a key day in the development of the university sector in Africa: the University of Nairobi, founded in 1956, becomes the first national university in Kenya. After being established as an affiliate college of the University of London in 1961, the University of Dar es Salaam is founded in post-independence Tanzania. The University of Benin becomes a fully-fledged university, on this day. On 1 July 2005, the South African Walter Sisulu University, main campus in Mthatha, E Cape is created out of the merger of the Border Technikon, Eastern Cape Technikon and University of Transkei.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

1 July 1975

Ethiopia nationalizes urban land

Ethiopia's Derg government nationalizes all urban land, including rental houses and apartments. Three million urban residents are organised into urban dwellers associations.

1 July 2010

East African Common Market Protocol launched

The Protocol, which permits free movement of workers, capital, goods and services is launched by the East African Community Chairperson, Kenya President Mwai Kibaki.

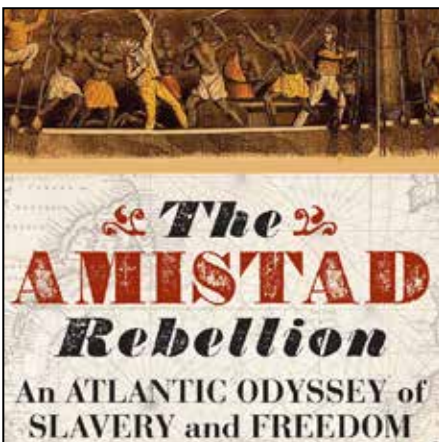
1 July 2011

Kingdom of Morocco reforms

Morocco voters approve political reforms proposed by King Mohammed VI, giving more power to the legislature, making the prime minister head of government and not the King, greater judicial independence from the monarchy and making the local Berber language the second official language besides Arabic.

2 July 1839

Amistad slave revolt



African slaves aboard the Amistad revolted in a bid to be

free. The slaves were mainly from Sierra Leone, part of millions of Africans taken during the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Their revolt was led by a young Mende man called Sengbe Pieh, popularly known as Cinque. Cinque on 2 July managed to free himself from his shackles, helped to free other slaves and they took charge of the ship, killing the captain. A US Confederate captain, Lt Thomas Gedney highjacked the ship, taking it to Connecticut, where slavery was still legal. The US anti-slavery movement came to their rescue and the matter taken to the courts. They eventually won their freedom. In January 1842, the surviving 35 Amistad Africans who survived returned to the continent. In 1997, Steven Spielberg directed the movie Amistad, based on these historic events.

2 July 1867

Griqua leader Andries Le Fleur born

Andries Abraham le Fleur, Griqua leader and visionary, was born in Herschel, CC. He was the son of Abraham le Fleur and one of the leading figures in Griqualand East. Both he and his father were extremely active in the 1890s on behalf of the Griqua who claimed that they had lost their land unfairly. His father, Abraham de Fleur was part of the commission appointed by Adam Kok II (1811-1875) to find alternative land for the Griqua, and served as Kok's secretary. He married into the Kok family, and after the death of Adam Kok IV, he assumed the position as Paramount chief of the Griquas. In April 1898 Andries le Fleur was sentenced to fourteen years' hard labour for sedition, but was released early in 1903. Le Fleur is also known as 'die Hervormer', the Reform-

er. A legendary figure, his grave is venerated among the Griqua people.

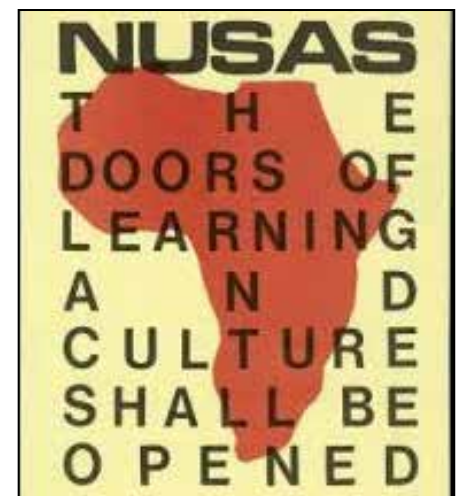
2 July 1925

Patrice Lumumba born

Patrice Emery Lumumba was born in the Katakombes region of the Kasai Province of Belgian Congo. Lumumba became involved in politics as a young man and in 1958 founded the Mouvement National Congolais (MNC). As MNC President, Lumumba helped win Congo's independence from Belgium in 1960. He was elected Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo. After only 12 weeks in power, the new government was deposed in a coup which led to Lumumba's arrest. He was executed by a firing squad on 17 January 1961. It later emerged that Lumumba's death had been orchestrated by Belgian and US forces who opposed his vision of a united Congo.

2 July 1991

NUSAS disbanded



The National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) decided to disband on this day. NUSAS was formed in 1924, organizing university students. It was open to members of all races; and also called for the end of Apartheid

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

and all discriminatory policies. In 1969, Steve Biko led black students in a walk-out from NUSAS to form SASO, feeling that the organisation did not represent their issues. NUSAS played an important role in mobilizing white youth and students against apartheid; including many playing a role in the trade union movement. In the 1980s, NUSAS adopted the Freedom Charter, became a member of the United Democratic Forum (UDF) in 1981, and formed a non-racial student alliance with COSAS and AZASO (fore-runner to SASCO). NUSAS was also represented (by Leila McKenna) in the Provisional National Youth Committee (PNYC) formed in 1990 to relaunch the ANC Youth League. NUSAS members decided to dissolve the organisation ahead of its merger with black student organisation, SANSCO in September 1991 at Rhodes University, to form SASCO.

2 July 2012

30 June stadium opens in Cairo

The 30th June stadium was built by the Egyptian Air Force for its team. The stadium opened on this day and was used during the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations.

2 July 1991

Burna Boy born

Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu MFR, known professionally as Burna Boy, is a Nigerian singer, songwriter and record producer. He rose to stardom in 2012 after releasing "Like to Party". During his world tour in 2023, he was the first African artist to sell out an American stadium when he performed in Queens, New York on July 8 and in June 2023, he was the first African artist to sell out a stadium in the United Kingdom.

3 July 1992

South Africa rejoins FIFA

South Africa's membership of the Football International Federation Association (Fifa) is reinstated on this day, 31 years after being expelled for its racial segregation policy in sports. Clubs were divided according to race, and in 1956 the apartheid government introduced its first racist policy on sport, and the South African Football Association (SAFA) became a federation of only white clubs. FIFA ruled that SAFA was not a 'real national association', and in 1961 South Africa was expelled. Before the readmittance in 1992, SAFA united into a non-racial federation for all South African footballers.

3 July 2007

AU Accra Declaration on the Union Government of Africa adopted

At the conclusion of the "Grand debate on the Union Government of Africa", held in Accra, Ghana the African Union Heads of State and Government resolved that "the ultimate objective of the African Union is the United States of Africa with a Union Government as envisaged by the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity and, in particular, the visionary leader, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana," and agreed to accelerate African economic and political integration of Africa.

4 July 1864

Extinct Dodo bird featured in Alice in Wonderland

Lewis Carroll children's classic Alice in Wonderland is published on this day, featuring the Dodo bird from Mauritius. The last dodo bird was killed by European settlers in 1681, rendering the species extinct, after first record-

ed mention of the bird in 1598 by Dutch sailors.

4 July 1874

Birth of South Africa's claimed oldest person



Birth of Granny Moloko Temo, South Africa's claimed oldest person who lived until the age of 135 before passing on in July 2009.

4 July 1979

President Ahmed Ben Bella released from prison

Algerian liberation icon, socialist and former President Ahmed Ben Bella is released from prison after 14 years. He was Algeria's first prime minister after independence in 1962 and elected president in 1963. Along with Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), Mobido Keita (Mali) and Sekou Toure (Guinea), he supported liberation and anti-colonial movements in the rest of the continent, including South Africa. He was at the founding conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. He was deposed in a coup in 1965 and arrested, until his release in 1979.

4 July 1994

Rwanda Patriotic Front enters Kigali

After the Rwanda Genocide that started in April 1994, the RFP enters Kigali, ending the Tutsi led

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

genocide, which saw in the space of less than two months nearly a million Rwandese, mainly Hutus and moderate Tutsis, being massacred.

4 July 2019

Advocacy for Kiswahili

The African Academy of Language joins the advocacy for Kiswahili to become the official Pan-African language. On the basis of this recommendation, the East African Community announced a partnership with the African Union to promote kiSwahili as “a language of wider communication.”

5 July 1937

Publisher and Author

Asenath Bole Odaga born

Kenyan publisher, Asenath Bole Odaga was born on this day in Raneda. Odaga founded Lake Publishers, the first woman-owned publishing company. Lake Publishing issues work of Kenyan publishers in book forms as well as through audio and visual story telling. She wrote several children’s books herself, so that African children could “read about their own background and know real African heroes with whom they can identify.”

5 July 1954

TANU formed

The Tanganyika African Association, formed in 1921 by Ali Saidi to advocate for African interests against British colonialism, is transformed into the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. TANU became the principle organisation in the achievement of independence.

5 July 1957

Afro-Shirazi Party of Zanzibar formed

The future ruling party of Zanzibar, the Afro-Shirazi Party is formed from a merger of the Afro Party (mainly African members) and the Shirazi Party (mainly Islamic members). TANU and Afro-Shirazi Party merged on 5 February 1977 to form Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)

5 July 1975

Cabo Verde gains independence

One of the African island states, Cabo Verde, which consists of 10 volcanic islands in the Atlantic oceans on the west coast of Africa, gains independence from Portugal. The capital of Cabo Verde is Praia, which is on the most populous island in the country, Santiago

5 July 1991

ANC Conference elects Nelson Mandela as President

The 48th National Conference of the ANC held in Durban elects

Nelson Mandela unopposed as its new President and Walter Sisulu as its Deputy President. Oliver Tambo becomes National Chairman, Cyril Ramaphosa Secretary General and Jacob Zuma Deputy Secretary General. Thomas Nkobi retains his post as Treasurer General. This was the first conference in South Africa of the ANC since the banning in 1960.

5 July 2000

Blood diamonds ban

The UN Security Council imposed a ban on Sierra Leone “blood diamonds”, as part of efforts to end the civil war, which started in 1991 and only ended in 2000. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) occupied diamond mines and used diamonds to fund its insurgency. The civil war saw over 50,000 casualties, and countless rapes, mutilations, torture and the abduction of children forced to become soldiers. The Kimberley Process Certification scheme came into effect in 2000, adopted by the World Diamond Congress in order for the industry to police conflict/blood diamonds.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

29 June – 5 July 2024

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



29 June

International Day of the Tropics

The tropics is one of Earth's climatic regions, which surrounds the Earth's equator. The tropics represent 40% of the Earth's total surface, 95% of the world's mangrove forests, 54% of renewable water sources, and generally have much higher levels of biodiversity than other regions. Countries in the tropics are also amongst the poorest in the world, number of people living in slum conditions and the most under-nourished. According to the State of the Tropics Report (2017), over 70% of global infrastructure gaps occur in the tropics, 20% do not have access to reliable water and only 30% have access to reliable electricity. The report also indicated that climate change is likely to disproportionately affect tropical regions.

30 June

Africa's Scientific Renaissance Day



Very little is known about African "science." How do indigenous knowledge systems provide ways to heal ailments, know how to read weather patterns to plan for food security and even know how to tell someone's medical condition with no blood tests and examinations? Such indigenous knowledge is typically not taught and unknown to Africa's youth. The Africa's Scientific Renaissance Day highlights the importance of indigenous knowledge in the continent, past and present.

30 June.

International Asteroid Day

Asteroids are small, rocky objects that orbit the sun. Although asteroids orbit the sun like planets, they are much smaller than planets. They are studied for what they can tell us about the universe, for their resources, for future exploration and finally how to protect Earth from asteroid impacts.

30 June

International Day of Parliamentarians

The day coincides with the establishment of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) which was formed in 1889. The day celebrates parliaments and the role parliamentarians play in advancing democracy and the well-being of society. The following facts about parliaments are worth noting: every country in the world has some form of represen-

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tative government; parliaments can be bicameral (with two chambers of parliament) or unicameral (with one chamber). There are 193 countries in the world with parliaments and over 46,000 members of parliament. The oldest parliament is the Althingi, the Icelandic Parliament, founded in 930.

30 June

World Social Media Day



World Social Media Day highlights the role of social media as a game changer and key tool for connecting friends, families, colleagues and people from across the world and for communications. It helps businesses, community workers, entrepreneurs, writers, artists, musicians, sports people, philanthropists and other influencers grow their brand. It allows for easy sharing of information and aid journalists to cover important news events.

JULY

- Plastic-Free July
- Mandela month
- Moral Regeneration month

Plastic-free July

Single-use disposable plastics (bags, cups, straws, packaging) are amongst the worst pollutants in our modern world. According to the United Nations En-



vironmental Programme (UNEP) around the world 1 million plastic water bottles are bought every minute, and 5 trillion single use plastic bags bought and disposed every year. The plastics end up in landfills, in our oceans, lakes and rivers, in the natural environment and in our communities. Plastic-free July is a campaign for all of us to try and for one month, to eliminate single-use plastic use.

1 July

International Reggae Day



This international day started in Jamaica, the birthplace of reggae music, and was inspired by a speech by Winnie Madikizela in Kingston, Jamaica in 1992, when she admired the capacity of reggae "to encourage, inspire and unite people." According to Folklife, an online music magazine, "roots or reggae music, through its close association with the philosophy and culture of the Rastafari, and inspired by Pan African Marcus Garvey, played a major role in transforming Jamaica's national identity from one of an Anglophilic British post-colony to a 'conscious' Black nation with a proud African heritage." It has since become an international day for lovers of the genre the world over.

3 July

International Cooperatives Day

Cooperatives are people-centred enterprises owned, controlled and run by and for their members to realise their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations. Co-ops range from small-scale to multi-million dollar businesses in over 100 countries across the globe, employ more than 100 million people and have more than 800 million individual members. In the fields of health, agriculture, production, retail, finance, housing, employment, education, social services and many other spheres where cooperatives are found, the more than one billion cooperative members

“Africa’s 21st Century Feminist Struggles”

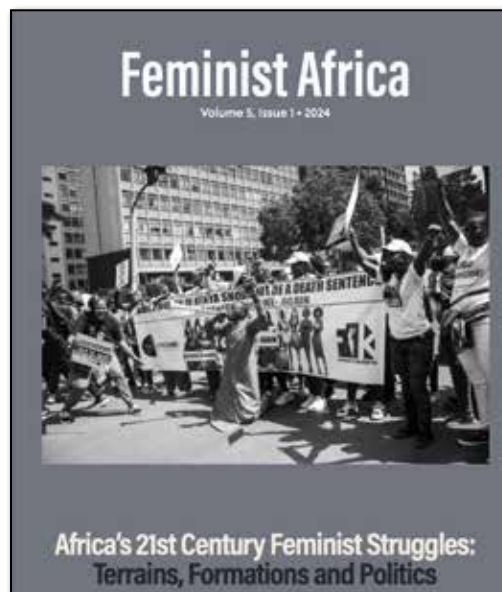
Feminist Africa, Volume 5, Issue 1. 2024

THE latest edition of the continental journal on gender studies, published by the Institute for African Studies and the University of Ghana, covers an important discussion on gender and women’s struggle in Africa.

The theme of this first edition for 2024 is **“Africa’s 21st Century Struggles: Terrain, Formations and Politics”** explores the contributions of new generations of gender and feminist activists. They emerged primarily from women’s participation and leadership in broader struggles, and their experiences of patriarchy as they engaged in these struggles.

The editors explain in the Introduction, that this was *“inspired by the visibility of young feminist leadership in recent and ongoing struggles for decolonisation, democratisation, economic justice, and emancipation such as the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East, otherwise referred to as the Arab Spring; the RhodesMustFall and FeesMustFall campaigns in South Africa; the Black Lives Matter movement; the uprisings against dictatorship and misrule in Sudan, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria; as well as more localised struggles against land and natural resource dispossession and immiseration across Africa.”*

The collection of articles give an in depth analysis on these themes, and women’s struggles in different parts of the continent, foregrounding *“gendered*



dimensions of struggle” that, if not for feminist activists, scholars and leaders, would once again be excluded from accounts of African history.

The edition acknowledges that the new generation of gender and feminist activists stand on the shoulders of those who went before them. It draws from struggles against colonialism and apartheid, *“in which women played pivotal roles such as the Aba Women’s War in Nigeria, the cocoa holdups in Ghana, the Nyabinghi movements of East and Central Africa, the*

Mau Mau uprising in Kenya, the liberation movements against Portuguese colonial rule in Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique, and the anti-apartheid movements in Namibia and South Africa, (which) laid firm foundations for the more recent struggles against imperialism, neoliberalism, and dispossession.”

This volume arises from an important three year research project, where contributions were sought to look at contemporary feminist struggles in the continent, bringing together an inter-generational collective.

African Feminist, brain child of its founding editor Professor Amina Mama, continues to play a critical role, not only in theorizing feminisms and its practice in the continent, but also continue to tell ‘her stories’ and challenging women’s exclusion from hi(s)tory.

X-WORD

Quarterly Employment Statistics Q1 2024

(https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1856&PPN=P0277&SCH=73514)



ACROSS

- 6. More jobs created in the Manufacturing sector.
- 7. Total employment in formal non-agricultural sector decreased by ...
- 8. Bonus paid to employees decreased to ...
- 9. Number of employed people in South Africa.

DOWN

- 1. Public agency that does the survey on employment.
- 2. Total gross earnings paid to employees.
- 3. Highest number of job losses in Trade sector.
- 4. Second largest losses in Community sector.
- 5. Average monthly earnings (AME) paid to employees.

WORD BANK

67 000

10.7 million

57 000

18 000

12 000

R957.9 billion

Statistics South Africa

R26 791

R81,4 billion

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