



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President

The onward march towards economic freedom for women

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST WEEK we commemorated the Women's March to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956. This historic protest by more than 20,000 South African women was a response to the cruel and dehumanising practices of the apartheid regime.

The march was also a protest against economic injustice.

As one of the regime's so-called 'influx control' measures, the pass laws restricted freedom of movement for black men, thereby curtailing their ability to work. The decision to extend the pass laws to black women would have effectively shut off all remaining opportunities for black families to earn a livelihood.

This spurred the pioneers of 1956 to march on the seat of apartheid power.

The significance of the 1956 Women's March is enduring, not least of all because it underscored the centrality of women's economic empowerment to the broader effort to achieve gender equality.

Thirty years into democracy we have made impressive strides in advancing gender equality across society, but we still have a long way to go in broadening women's economic participation. This is borne out by a recently published Gallup study titled 'Gender Power in Africa'. The report analyses the disparities and imbalances that shape the lives of women in five African countries, including South Africa.

South Africa ranks the highest of the countries surveyed with respect to the rate of female participation in political decision-making, low rates of child marriage,

and the participation and completion rates of girls in primary and secondary education.

However, of the countries surveyed, South Africa has the highest rate of unemployed women and women not in the workforce. The percentage of South African women considered to be self-employed or entrepreneurs is the lowest, at 5%. In this respect, we lag behind the rest of the continent. According to the World Economic Forum, women constitute 58% of self-employed people across Africa.

In a country such as ours, with a high unemployment rate, entrepreneurship is an important tool to empower more women and broaden their participation in the economy. This includes in the informal sector, which accounts for 18% of total employment in the country.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



Through its various departments and entities, the state provides financial support to women to enable them to start their own businesses and to sustain existing businesses. Women-owned businesses are also able to access training in business and project management, IT and other skills.

We have set a target to allocate at least 40% of public procurement spend to women-owned businesses. In 2021, we launched a Women's Economic Assembly to enable women-owned enterprises to participate in local industry value chains. Since its inception this programme has yielded promising results in a number of key economic sectors, notably the automotive sector.

We are also striving to expand women's access to economic activity through land ownership, enabling female farmers to own land through the state's land redistribution programme and supporting them with equipment and other agricultural inputs.

From citrus farmers in North West to cooperatives making affordable school furniture in KwaZulu-Natal, to cosmetics companies and tech start-ups in the Western Cape, all across the country women-owned enterprises are benefiting from an integrated approach to supporting small businesses.

The private sector is playing an important role in guiding these entrepreneurship journeys through start-up incubators, women entrepreneurship awards and programmes such as the Youth Employment Service.

With the help of the Social Employment Fund and others, government is enabling women entrepreneurs to employ workers and provide mentorship to trainees.

There is much more that the private sector can do. Access to financial resources, including credit lines, is vital to the viability of women-owned businesses.

Another important area is access to tools of financial inclusion like bank accounts and mobile money and payment technologies. It will be critical to broaden the reach of financial services to include women in the informal sector and in rural areas.

Empowering women contributes to thriving economies, spurs productivity and boosts economic growth.

With greater collaboration between government and business, together with the support of labour and civil society, we can use entrepreneurship to lift more women out of poverty.

We can create more jobs for women and help more women secure their financial freedom.

The achievement of economic freedom for South Africa's women would be the most fitting tribute to the courageous women who marched on the Union Buildings in 1956.

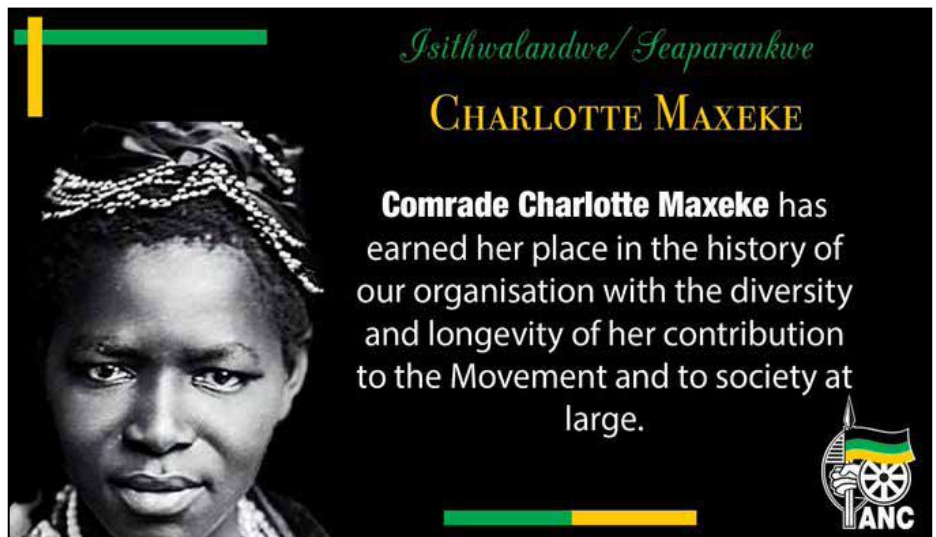
Unyielding Resolve: Celebrating the Pivotal Role of Women in South Africa's Liberation Struggle

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

HISTORY is a powerful teacher, reminding us that the African National Congress (ANC) when it was formed in 1912, did not accept women as members.

It was only in 1918 that the Bantu Women's League (BWL), under the leadership of the formidable Charlotte Makgomo Mannya Maxeke that the Bantu Women's League (BWL) was established as an affiliated organisation to advocate for women's rights within the ANC. The BWL played a crucial role in passive resistance, notably fighting against passes for black women and played a crucial role against systems that were aimed at destroying the minds of black men such as the struggle against beer halls in the townships.

In 1902, a year after she became the first woman to graduate with a degree in Southern Africa from Wilberforce University in Ohio, USA, Mme Maxeke began her formal activism by challenging the status quo in a male-dominated political arena. She went to the meeting (Inggungquthela) of the South African Native Congress (SANC) in Lesseyton



(Queenstown) uninvited. This icon forced her way into the *Inggungquthela*, attended only by men, demanded her seat, and asked three difficult questions:

- *What is the purpose of the meeting?*
- *What are the objectives of the meeting?*
- *Are women allowed to be part of the meeting?*

The men had to request a timeout to caucus, but they were unable to face her and give her an answer, *babenqanqazela* (They were trembling). Eventually, they opted to pen down a response and refused her entry. This colossus planted a seed in the fight

against discrimination, patriarchy, and male domination well before the 20th century. She demanded her seat, and rightfully and forcefully so, men shifted, and a space was created for her. Mama Maxeke's spirit of defiance carried her through to the 1912 gathering. On January 8th in Bloemfontein, Mme Charlotte Makgomo Mannya-Maxeke continued her journey and invaded male-dominated space at the inaugural South African Native National Congress (SANNK), a forerunner of the African National Congress. History tells us that she became the only woman in a room full of men. This fearless trailblazer represented the aspirations and dreams of all

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Leaders of the 1956 Women's March: Sophie De Bruyn, Rahima Moosa, Helen Josephs, Lillian Ngoyi and Lilian (Lily) Diedericks

African women. A year later, the first organised political march in 1913 took place in Bloemfontein, initiated and led by Mama Maxeke against pass laws which required black and African people that were to carry ipasi (pass laws) everywhere they went.

A significant shift occurred at the ANC conference in 1943, where women were formally accepted as members. This momentum continued, and by 1948, the ANC Women's League (WL) was established, providing a dedicated platform for women within the movement. During this period women were no longer mere participants but were at the forefront of the ANC-led defiance campaign in 1952. The campaign was instrumental in galvanising resistance and laying the groundwork for future anti-apartheid movements. It marked a radical shift in the national democratic struggle, demonstrating the power of organised resistance and mobilisation.

Their influence was strongly felt in 1955 during the Congress of the People, where the Freedom

Charter was adopted. Remarkable women like Rahima Moosa, Sophie de Bruyn, Helen Joseph, Lillian Ngoyi and Lily Diedericks were instrumental in shaping the Charter, ensuring that women's demands were prominently included.

The government's 1955 proposal to introduce reference books acted as a catalyst for the historic 1956 women's march. On August 9th, 20,000 women of all races marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria, protesting against the pass laws. This march gave birth to the iconic phrase, **"You strike a woman, you strike a rock,"** symbolising the unbreakable spirit and resolve of South African women. The march demonstrated unparalleled solidarity and highlighted the crucial role women played in the liberation struggle.

In the last week, South Africa commemorated the passing of one of our struggle icons Victoria Mxenge. A revered activist and lawyer, she provided legal assistance to anti-apartheid activists and was deeply involved in the liberation struggle. Tragically, she

was brutally killed at her home in Umlazi Township in August 1985, yet her contributions remain indelible. Victoria Mxenge stands among the heroes whose sacrifices propelled the movement forward, embodying the courage and resilience that defined the struggle.

Her dedication to justice and equality continues to inspire us all. Her legacy should provoke us all to continue to fight for a society where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a reality.

It has been 111 years since Charlotte Manny Mxenge pushed open the doors in the fight against patriarchy, and we should do better. Her legacy challenges us to continue the struggle for gender equality with renewed vigour and commitment.

Achieving true gender equality requires maximum unity in the gender struggle, with all people standing together against discrimination and injustice in particular the LGBTIAQ+ community. We must work collectively to dismantle the structures of patriarchy.

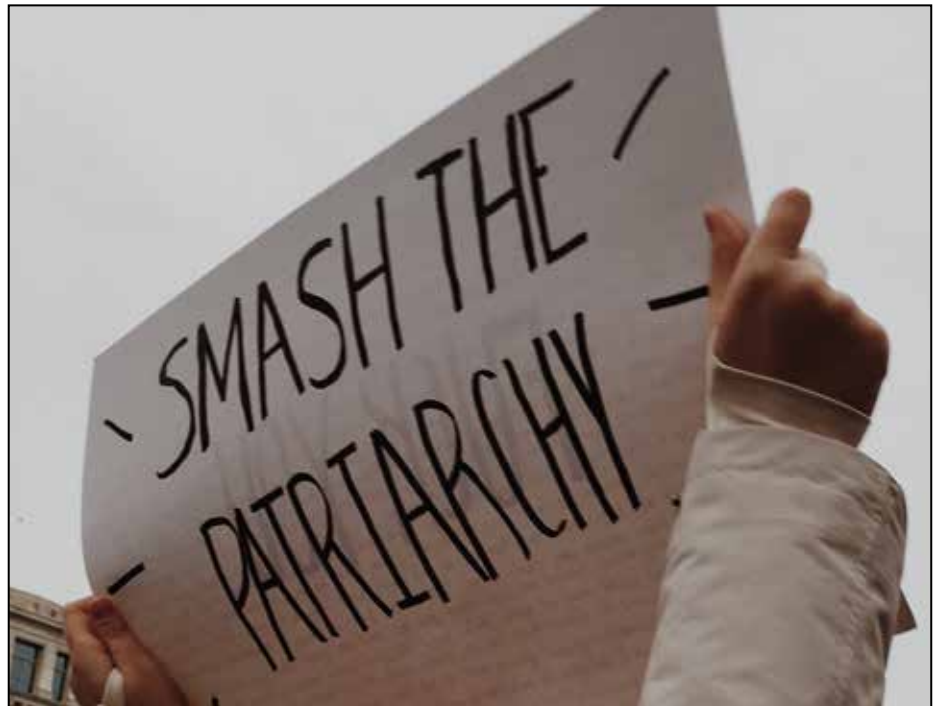
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Thirty years into democracy, the ANC-led government has made significant strides in advancing women's rights, the representation of women in all three spheres of governance. Women have also increasingly taken on leadership roles in all organs of the state, with representation in parliament reaching substantial levels. Our work as public representatives should remind us that not all women are free.

While significant strides have been made in gender representation, many women still face systemic injustices, discrimination, and inequality, particularly in rural and marginalised communities.

We must ensure that the rights and freedoms we advocate for reach every woman, leaving no one behind in the quest for true equality. The reality is that women continue to face injustices and poverty. Inequality persists, and the struggle for true gender equality remains an ongoing challenge.

Throughout history, women have consistently been at the vanguard of the liberation struggle, often without the recognition




they deserve. Their contributions have been pivotal, yet frequently overshadowed in historical narratives. It is imperative to acknowledge and celebrate the enduring legacy of these women who have fought tirelessly for freedom and justice. Their bravery and leadership inspire generations and shape the path towards equality and empowerment.

Let's continue to pay justice to memory. As we continue this journey, let us remember the words

of Charlotte Manny Maxeke: ***"If you rise, bring someone with you."***


Let's honour the legacy of those who came before us by ensuring that every rise we make as a society includes lifting others with us, especially the most marginalised.

Together, we can build a future where true gender equality is not just an aspiration but a lived reality for all.



“ This work is not for yourselves – kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them. IF YOU CAN RISE, BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU.”

Charlotte Maxeke



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A TRIBUTE BY MAM SOPHIE WILLIAMS DE BRUYN COMMEMORATING THE HISTORICAL 1956 WOMEN'S MARCH

WE meet here today, for yet another celebration of Women's Month and the seminal march of women on the 9th of August 1956. This day evokes many memories for me in particular, and I am sure to many women of South Africa, young and old.

The National Party had just been in power for eight (8) years and was very popular amongst whites, in particular the Afrikaners. It has passed many oppressive laws since it came into power and the law for women to carry the *dompas* was the last straw for us as women.

Already in 1955, on the 26th of June, the Congress of the People convened in Kliptown to adopt a Charter for a South Africa we wanted. This was the birth of the Freedom Charter.

The Freedom Charter declared that South Africa belongs to all and that no government can claim authority unless voted by the people.

There are two clauses in the Freedom Charter I would like to refer to, namely, "**all shall be equal before the law.**" Here the Freedom Charter further states that "*all laws which discriminate on grounds of race, colour or be-*



lief shall be repealed".

The second one is "**all shall enjoy equal human rights**". This goes on to state that "*Pass laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished*".

If you look at these two clauses, in the ten clauses of the Freedom Charter, you will realise how far-sighted were those who gathered

at the Congress of the People and adopted the Freedom Charter.

When the National Party trumped these fundamental rights as espoused in the Charter, we as women decided enough was enough and resolved to mobilise against the pass laws.

Thus the 9th of August 1956, 20,000 South African women,

from all walks of life and also representing races in South Africa, broke the Apartheid barriers and marched to the Union Buildings to protest the pass laws.

These were women from all walks of life and races. They came from many parts of South Africa. Even as the NP tried to frustrate many by blocking trains and other modes of transport, 20,000 gathered and declared at the Union Building – **wathint'abafazi wathint'imbokodo!**

This was a slogan of defiance. We knew that when women break the barriers and defy, that on its own marks a turn of history. If you look at those women who are in the forefront of the march – Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and myself, represent a tapestry of the Congress Movement – the African National Congress, the Congress of Democrats, Indian Congress and the Coloured People's Congress.

It is the unity of struggle that bonded the ANC throughout its history and confirmed the call in 1912 – **We are one People!**

I have been in the ANC since that march in 1956, having joined the ANC in Port Elizabeth under the guidance of stalwarts of the movement such as Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba and Vuyisile Mini. I was part of the Trade Union movement in Port Elizabeth.

I was sent by these leaders to reinforce the trade union federation in Johannesburg. In Johannesburg, I interacted with great women of the movement such as Bertha Gxowa, Ruth First, Albertina Sisulu, Violet Wynberg, Ama Naidoo, Ida Mntwana, Francis Baard, Mary Moodley, and others.



I was 18 years old when I was selected to be in the 1956 march. I am now 86 years old and I had an opportunity to once again vote on the 29th of May. Again since 1994, I voted for the ANC and I will continue to do so until the last breath of my life.

We went to the elections having celebrated 30 years of our freedom and democracy. Meaning for over 70 years I have been in the struggle and remained loyal to the ANC. I was loyal all these years, not because there were no problems and many problems confronted the movement and ourselves.

But what made me stay loyal and served the movement, was the example of service and commitment shown by the founding mothers of the women of the ANC, the Congress Movement as a whole. It was the resilience and commitment of leaders.

It was readiness to correct mistakes when found and move to higher levels.

I therefore would like to urge you that when you kick a stone and

hurt your big toe, don't be discouraged but use that as a resolve to continue the walk.

Walk every step, because we are the only organisation that is charged with resolving the problems of the people. No other organisation in South Africa can bring about a non-racial, non-sexist South Africa except the ANC.

If you look at the Constitution of the Republic and refer in particular to the Bill of Rights, you will see the following in the Bill of Rights among others:

- No person may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds.
- Everyone has the right to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes the right:
 - To make decisions concerning reproduction;
 - To security and control over their body; and
 - Not to be subjected to medical or scientific experiments without their informed consent.

Compare these to what is stated

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in the Freedom Charter, you will realise how farsighted the leaders of the ANC who, 69 years ago, adopted the Charter as the statement of aims of a free and democratic South Africa.

I implore our comrades and friends never to be tired to serve the people of South Africa in whatever field or profession you serve. The key is the people of South Africa must find a better life that they voted for in 1994.

They have remained loyal to the ANC even at the intense efforts to collapse it. It remains strong, standing, wounded, but unshakable in its resolve to be the instrument of change.

Today, we are in the Government of National Unity (GNU) because we did not win elections. We performed poorly. We did so because we dropped the ball. We did not care about our purpose as an instrument of the people but became inward-looking.

In the process, the people did not receive the required services and in some cases, our deployees did not care about doing their work.

Some, instead of providing these services, hoarded it to themselves and thus became corrupt and lived the lives of kings and queens.

In such situations, people know their weapon – they don't vote for you. As a result, the ANC received 40% and was unable on its own to form a government. It is the brilliance and strategic thinking of the leadership that saw fit to form a (GNU) rather than go into a coalition with one or two parties which might have been the recipe for disaster and instability.

It is a lesson we must now appreciate that if you don't serve the people, the people punish you. They did not punish us by voting for another party or parties but gave us a yellow card. It is up to us to behave better and be allowed back in the field of play and govern on our own.

Allow me to pay a special tribute to the Founding Mothers of the Women's League. If I reflect, I am the only one still existing, of those at the forefront of the historical march, through the grace of our Lord.

Mam Gertrude Shope, who will be exactly 99 years old on the 15th of August 2024, is also still amongst us.

Hers is a life well lived and all her life, all her energy has been dedicated to the struggle for freedom in South Africa. I have known Mam Gertrude for many years in exile and shared many moments with her.

Mam Gertrude was amongst the most trusted female cadres in our movement and was handed very delicate and strenuous matters

to execute, and I can attest, that through her astuteness, commitment, dedication and compassion, she carried out difficult assignments, effectively and efficiently and handed over findings of honest, fair and just reports.

I therefore conclude by stating that this August must be the month dedicated to serving the people far better, much wiser and with dignity and respect.

The ANC must be defended as the instrument of our people and its shield and spear to remain potent weapons in defense of the gains of freedom.

Let us emulate the call by our President, that all of us as South Africans must behave like 'weaver birds'. Weavers are among the most gregarious birds in that they build complex structures together and cooperate.

It is this cooperation that must weave us into a united people committed to an objective of peace and unity.

IGAMA LAMAKHOSIKAZI – MALIBONGWE



OPINION

The ANC Youth League critique of leadership's poor performance **does not negate its radicalism and militancy**

■ By **TLHOLOGELO COLLEN MALATJI**

RECENTLY, there have been critiques of the ANC Youth League (YL), which suggests that the ANCYL should abandon its militancy and radical approach to addressing societal issues and instead focus on mature politics and diplomacy. Contrary to that, others have falsely accused the ANCYL of lacking militancy and radicalism, particularly because we recently criticized members of the executive council appointed by Premier Lesufi in Gauteng, by arguing that they do not deserve reappointment to the cabinet due to their poor performance in government and their failure to deliver satisfactory electoral results, with the ANC in Gauteng dropping drastically from 50.19% to 34.76% in space of 5 years.

The ANCYL is, by its very nature, an evolving organization from ideological, organizational, and political vantage point of view. The social formation and structure of society have been defining features in the evolution of the ANCYL since its formation and post-existence the apartheid. While radicalism and militancy played significant roles, there was also an ideological astuteness that gave rise to the



ANC Youth League after its formation in 1944. Its founders—Nelson Mandela, Anton Lembede, Mxolisi Majombozi, A.P. Mda, O.R. Tambo, and Walter Sisulu and others—were characterized not only by militancy and radicalism but also by a firm ideological stance against national and class oppression.

There is a misconception about the existence of the ANCYL, largely due to its evolving role in society. This misconception stems from a lack of understanding of revolutionary theory and

philosophy that defines both the ANC and the ANCYL. The notion that the ANCYL's tasks are to mobilize the youth to support the ANC, and serves merely as inventory for preparatory school for its members who may one day lead the ANC, this kind of thinking is misleading.

The misconception about the ANCYL's existence among scholars, activists, and some ANC leaders arises from a lack of understanding that the consciousness of our masses in the ANCYL does not exist to negate the social

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structure of the society, but our consciousness is defined by our ever-evolving society. Therefore, ANCYL cannot be hang strum by conformity of radicalism and militancy which is defined outside of societal issues. Hence Marx contended that;

“It is not consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness.”

Marx provided a comprehensive account of this statement in *The German Ideology*. Central to the argument is the idea that our failure to understand society would lead to a grave misunderstanding of the existence of the ANCYL and its role in 21st-century society.

Of course, whenever there are issues that impact the youth directly or indirectly, the ANCYL must respond. In the current context; the ANC has faced electoral decline since the 2016 local government elections, followed by further declines in the provincial and national elections. It is the responsibility of the ANCYL, which will inherit the ANC, to hold accountable those who led these

elections and failed to achieve the expected results. For instance, in 2021 local government elections, the ANC in Gauteng received an aggregated vote outcome of 36.6%. This should have been a warning to our leadership that the ANC might face a drastic electoral decline in 2024, but instead, those in charge of running elections continued with business as usual, hence the ANC received 34.76%. Therefore, the ANCYL must critically assess the strategies and tactics of those who led the election campaigns.

This is similar to those who, born without an understanding of class society, were compelled to act by the social relations that dominated them, leading them to invent supernatural agencies, thereby doubling the state of society. This continues in our current context, where reductionist thinkers attempt to compartmentalize the existence of the ANCYL to mere militancy and radicalism, ignoring that the ANCYL's existence is inherently linked to societal evolution.

Our philosophy of understanding the society as the ANCYL is in reflection to our circumstances which appears upside down as in a camera obscura; we do not

just guess issues which we want to address but we critically reflect on the evolution of the society. The ANC from 1999, in assessing the balance of forces identified the loyalty vote as a liability which can be decommissioned depending on the performance of our organization in the state over time, which currently the ANC is living that prophecy of the shipwrecking soilers who had predicted that the ship they are stirring cannot reach its destination, therefore, hoped that the sea will push it to its destination.

Our ANC knew that the loyalty votes were dependent on the service offered by the state. Currently, 60% of the population is youth and to think that some of our depoyees in the state continue to preside over the society which is characterized by high cost of living, poverty, inequality and high level of unemployment with almost all our municipalities being at dysfunctional state, but expect 60% of the youth to support our ANC then we would be captive of our disillusion.

Therefore, ANC existence is threatened by persisting and emerging challenges which our philosophy failed to comprehensively give account to, such as climate crisis, state capture, and emerging Generative Artificial Intelligence. These issues, however, do not negate the existence of 12 million people being unemployed, 70% being the youth, poverty, inequality and saturated economic structure.

So, those deployed in the state must comprehend that campaigning for the ANC does not start with door to door, the mass campaign by door to door and filling up stadium should be the ultimate celebration of the victory

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of the ANC as the campaign start by those deployed in the state by fixing our infrastructure, providing water, affordable electricity and addressing the spatial design of the apartheid amongst those is to demystify the notion township should serve as their own economies through township economy, instead of integrating the township economy to the mainstream economy.

From a Marxist materialist perspective, the movement of society defines the evolution of its nature, which means that everything around us exists in motion. As the mode of production has evolved from slavery to feudalism and to capitalism, evolving with its people and how they respond to productive forces. Similarly, the ANCYL has evolved to remain relevant and address the emerging challenges that arise from these intersecting dynamics. For example, the ANCYL cannot simply shout about service delivery issues while conservative elements deployed within the state fail to take accountability for their poor performance.

Of course, the ANCYL should focus on addressing issues such as



New Energy Vehicles and Generative Artificial Intelligence to build digital economies that are inclusive of our youth. However, there is a misdiagnosis of the ANCYL's posture in the context of electoral decline. This misdiagnosis stems from the belief that the ANCYL cannot be critical of ANC leaders without negating its militancy and radicalism, which is flawed thinking. This is no different from those who attempted to deter the formation of the ANCYL because they foresaw that it would be critical of the ANC's strategy and tactics against the apartheid system.

To conclude, the ANCYL of our time does not exist merely to mobilize youth for the ANC or serve

as a preparatory school for future ANC members and leaders. Instead, our ANCYL exists to challenge the social structures that resist transformation. Our radicalism and militancy should not be viewed through a narrow lens that isolates the ANCYL's existence to the threat of the ANC losing loyal voters or failing to achieve radical transformation. It is our responsibility to critically assess and hold accountable those who are failing the ANC by not meeting expectations in the state and outside of the state.

Thlologelo Collen Malatji is the President of the ANCYL and former President of COSAS.



STATEMENT BY COSATU ON Statistics SA's Latest Unemployment Report

STATISTICS SA's latest unemployment report is a jarring national wake-up call. The stats for the second quarter of 2024 paint yet another painful picture with job losses across all formal sectors pushing expanded unemployment to 42.6% with a 0.7% rise. This marks the third consecutive quarter with job shedding.

We dare not continue to normalise an economy where 4 out of 10 South Africans and 6 out of 10 young people cannot find work. This is our greatest national crisis, and it is time government and the private sector respond to it with the same decisiveness as we did for COVID-19. The dangers of meandering along this path are tantamount to playing Russian Roulette with a live grenade.

As government prepares to table the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) at Parliament in October, it is critical Cabinet treats this ticking time bomb with the urgency it deserves. We need an MTBPS that will boldly declare war on unemployment and kick-start a painfully weak economy by:

- Continuing to support Eskom as it turns the corner on load-shedding and positions South Africa once again to provide



the economy and the region with the electricity needed for growth.

- Accelerating interventions at Transnet and Metro Rail to ensure freight and passenger rail are secured and our ports are modernised, providing commuters and goods reliable and affordable transport.
- Expediting the capacitation programmes for 140 struggling municipalities. This must be accompanied by urgent interventions to stabilise and rebuild local government and deliver municipal services.
- The fixing of local government, Eskom and Transnet, which are key to ensuring the massive R943 billion in-

frastructure allocations are spent.

- Ramping up financing for industrial and export programmes.
- Implementing the new mining rights application system to unlock badly needed investments in the mining sector and halt the flood of retrenchments.
- Promulgating the Public Procurement Act and ensuring supply chain management across the state is capacitated to implement it.
- Filling critical vacancies e.g. Home Affairs, Health, Schools, the SAPS, NPA and Courts to ensure workers and the economy have access to efficient public services.
- Overhauling and modernising embattled state entities, e.g. NSFAS, the UIF and Compensation of Occupational Injuries and Diseases Fund, and the CCMA.
- Placing the Road Accident Fund under administration and retabling the RAF and RABS Bills at Parliament to set it on a sustainable path and review the third of the fuel price going towards taxes.
- Drastically increasing and extending the Presidential

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Employment Stimulus to accommodate at least 2 million simultaneous participants to help young people enter the labour market.

- Raising the SRD Grant to the Food Poverty Line and linking its participants to skills and employment opportunities.
- Providing SARS the resources it requires to raise tax and customs compliance to 70% by 2025 and thus providing the state an additional R120 billion revenue whilst protecting local jobs and industries.
- Commencing negotiations on the next set of Two Pot Pension Reforms to provide further relief to highly indebted workers whilst boosting savings.

Whilst government must undertake the above interventions, the private sector which has been reaping a Government of National Unity JSE boom, needs to come to the party by:

- Declaring a moratorium on retrenchments and ramping up internship and artisanship programmes aimed at young people.
- Making credit more accessible and affordable for SMMEs



and industrial financing.

- Reducing the obscene wage gap between CEOs and the lowest paid workers and paying workers a living wage so they can afford the goods the economy produces.

More work needs to be done jointly by government, business, labour and society to ensure the industrial master plans take off, an aggressive buy local campaign is revived across the economy and our skills training regime is overhauled to ensure the skills provided are those required for the economy of today and tomorrow.

The Reserve Bank too, needs

to give some relief to a choking economy, by reducing the excessively high repo rate during its September and November reviews.

The leadership of government and the private sector need to appreciate the crises facing workers, their families and communities. We cannot afford to continue on a business as usual path and somehow expect different results. We are rapidly running out of political runway to turn things around and generate hope in society.

Politicians would do well to remember there are local elections in less than two years.



Women Business Leaders can do more to empower other women

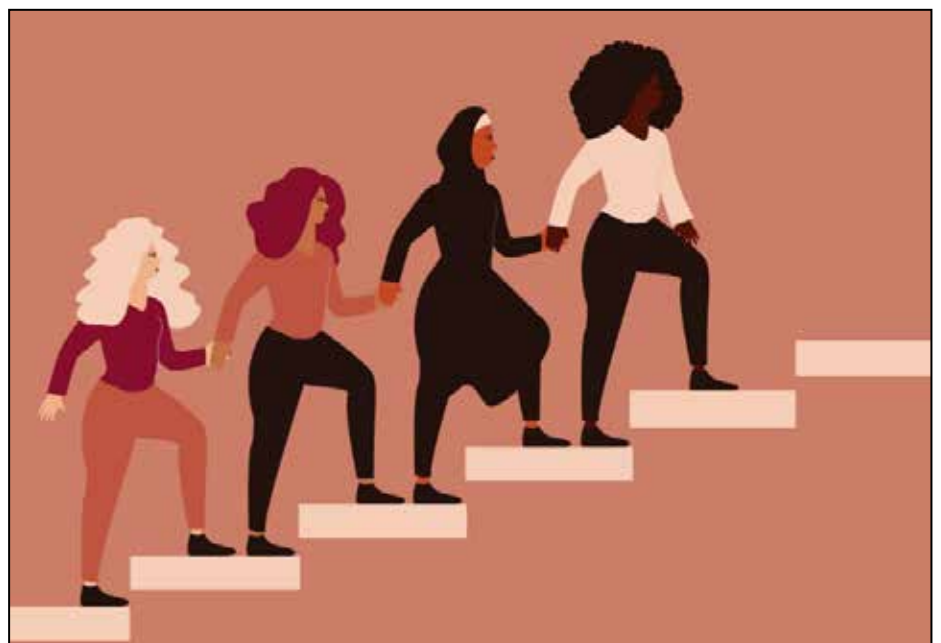
■ By **NONCEBA MHLAULI**

AS we observe women's month, it would be prudent for us to start by paying homage to the thousands of phenomenal women who have paved this path for us 68 years ago. These women during the most difficult time in our country decided their place is not in the kitchen but rather in the struggle when they said **"you strike a woman, you strike a rock."**

As a country, we have for the past 30 years of our democratic dispensation made strides in re-ordering a white supremacist patriarchal social order into one where the place of women is not relegated based on her class and race.

The late American Essayist and Poet, Adrienne Rich made a very important point in her book of *Woman Born* when she said: *"The most important thing one woman can do for another is to illuminate and expand her sense of actual possibilities."*

However, the tides are changing, especially after the democratic breakthrough and we are witnessing an era where women are stepping into leadership roles across various sectors, proving



that leadership knows no gender. These changes did not just happen in vacuum or because of the benevolent of men but because of the struggles that women have pursued since the turn of the twentieth century in our country.

The Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) provides an enabling framework that has guided the introduction of policies and laws to enforce transformation, non-discrimination; non-sexism and equality for women in the country. The legal framework includes laws that govern socio-economic development and protection and promotion of wom-

en's human rights and dignity. It also includes issues of their equal representation and full participation in national government structures, decision-making and leadership positions.

Women's access to justice and safety, economic empowerment and financial inclusion; women's rights to basic conditions in employment and labour; inclusion of women in sustainable development, climate change and in the environmental sector are contained within different laws governing the various sectors.

South Africa is in joint second

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place in the G20 ranking, behind Canada and tying with Australia with women accounting for 48.6% of the senior civil service in both countries. It has made the biggest improvement of all G20 countries in the two years since the last Women Leaders Index, with representation of women having jumped 7.2 percentage points over the period. It has also made double-digit improvement (of 14.8 points – the fourth largest rise of any nation) over the last 10 years.

Being 1.4 percentage points from reaching gender parity in its highest grades, that South Africa's public service has taken concrete and effective steps towards ensuring that women's voices are heard around the decision-making table. Nevertheless, the Public Service Commission believes that the civil service – and the country – have a long way to go before women are considered equal.

Our government departments have yet to achieve a target – set by the country's first democratically elected government nearly 30 years ago – that at least half of the leaders in the public service are women.

The 50/50 gender policy, which also applies to the private sector, introduced in 1994 as part of the government's strong gender-equality stance under Nelson Mandela.

Although South Africa's cabinet has been 50% female since 2019 for example, and declined in 2024 to the public service has not quite met the goal, but the private sector has performed dismally when it comes to women leadership as only less than 10% of CEOs are women.



Auditor General Tsakani Maluleke

The Government of South Africa has introduced programmes which specifically target women to facilitate their participation in the mainstream economy. Various initiatives targeted at women have been introduced with the goal of developing sustainable enterprises that contribute to the country's gross domestic product, employment equity and economic transformation to enable women to have equal access to and control over economic resources.

We are aware of the strides made by the auditing and accounting profession being led by Tsakani Maluleke, the first African Woman to be an Auditor General after over 100 years since the establishment of the institution.

The AGSA, only had six senior managers who were women in 1998, but today, it boasts of over 100. This milestone needs to be acknowledged as we come from far, and should not lose sight that

we still have a long way to go.

We encourage business leaders to do more to attract and mentor younger women into the profession. We however applaud the work that has been done of successfully training more close to 800 accounting professionals.

However, it is essential to recognize that their journeys were not without challenges. Gender bias, societal expectations, and systemic barriers are just a few of the obstacles that women leaders often face. It is our collective responsibility to address these issues and create an environment where women can thrive as the leaders they are.

One way to achieve this is through mentorship and support networks. Mentorship plays a crucial role in nurturing potential leaders by providing guidance, encouragement, and opportunities for growth. Support networks, both formal and informal, can offer a

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sense of community and solidarity, helping women navigate the complexities of leadership roles. Education is another critical factor in empowering women leaders. By ensuring equal access to education and promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields among young girls, we can equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in leadership positions. Initiatives like take a girl child to work are excellent examples of efforts aimed at bridging the gender gap in workplace and exposing young women to the corporate world.

Moreover, organizations must prioritize diversity and inclusion in their leadership structures. This involves not only hiring and promoting women but also creating a culture that values diverse perspectives and fosters an inclusive environment. Research has shown that diverse teams are more innovative and perform better, making a strong case for gender diversity in leadership.

As we celebrate the achievements of women leaders, let us also reflect on the work that remains to be done. Gender equality is not just a women's issue; it is a societal issue that requires the commitment and collaboration of all individuals, regardless of gender. By challenging stereotypes, advocating for equal opportunities, and supporting women in leadership roles, we can build a more equitable and prosperous society.

Societies free of GBV do not exist, and South Africa is no exception. Although accurate statistics are difficult to obtain for many reasons including the fact that most incidents of GBV are not reported, it is evident South Africa has particularly high rates of GBV, including violence against women and girls and violence against LGBT people.

Population-based surveys show very high levels of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence in particular, with

intimate partner violence being the most common form of violence against women.

And these were more prevalent during COVID19, and we must take all of society to fight and tackle this scourge. A society that abuses and kills women is a sick society. The reorientation and teaching of the boy child is an integral of dealing with this pandemic and all of us in our own homes, offices and spaces must not be apologetic or be tolerant to GBV.

In conclusion, a woman leader is not defined by her title or position but by her ability to inspire, influence, and drive positive change.

Whether in politics, business, science, auditing or any other field, women leaders bring unique perspectives and strengths that enrich our world. Let us celebrate their achievements, learn from their journeys, and continue to support and empower the next generation of women leaders.

NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND SOCIAL COMPACT NOT FLIPSIDES OF COIN

■ By **YACOOB ABBA OMAR**

In the lead-up to the 2024 elections two concepts seemed to have become joined at the hip: a national dialogue and the notion of social compacting.

Former president Thabo Mbeki asserted that the ANC did not have the answer to all SA's problems and that a national dialogue was needed after the May 29 elections. *"The people of SA must participate in a process of determining the future of this country,"* Mbeki said.

Since then, the foundations of Thabo Mbeki, Steve Biko, Ahmed Kathrada, Robert Sobukwe and OR Tambo issued a joint statement calling on *"the people of SA to join in a national dialogue to reorientate the direction of our nation"*.

The Afrikaner Leadership Network is already questioning the inclusiveness of this process, which it reminds us was meant to have been civil society's way of making inputs into the unity government.

SA has a rich experience of what's referred to as social compacting. This has included the writing of the democratic constitution in the 1990s, the Jobs Summit of 1998,



the Growth & Development summit of 2003, the 2020 response to the COVID pandemic, and the drafting of the Economic Recovery & Reconstruction Plan.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has been calling for a compact throughout his presidency. In his 2019 inauguration speech he said: *"Let us forge a compact – not merely as business and labour, not as those who govern and those who are governed – but as citizens and patriots of this great nation"*.

SA's social compacting experiences have underlined the importance of having the key role players and decision makers around

the negotiating table. In Ireland, the social compacting initiatives that led to its economic miracle and earned it the title of "Celtic Tiger" featured trade unions, employer organisations and several civic associations bargaining hard to reach wage agreements.

Rwanda has built a social compact around the pillars of democratic reform, truth, justice and reconciliation, and socio-economic development. The social compact of Mauritius is based on public-private signaling through rapprochement between the government and big business; a peak association that organised the business class across that island's ethnic groups and sectors;



and multiple formal and informal arenas for consultation with labour and civil society.

Since 2012 the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (Mistra) has played a seminal role in identifying the principles on which social compacting should be based. It has emphasised that international examples are all based on economic growth and jobs, with governments able to play a critical role in shaping the structure of the market economy. Also, compacts should provide both carrots and sticks for the equitable distribution of the fruits of the market economy.

Our research identified some practices to be avoided when negotiating a social compact. These include that interlocutors should avoid going for their maximum positions; that participants should not be attached to ideological positions and instead argue on the efficacy of their proposals; that organisations and parties should communicate compromises to their constituencies; and

that inconsistencies and lack of continuity of the delegations representing the different sectors should be avoided.

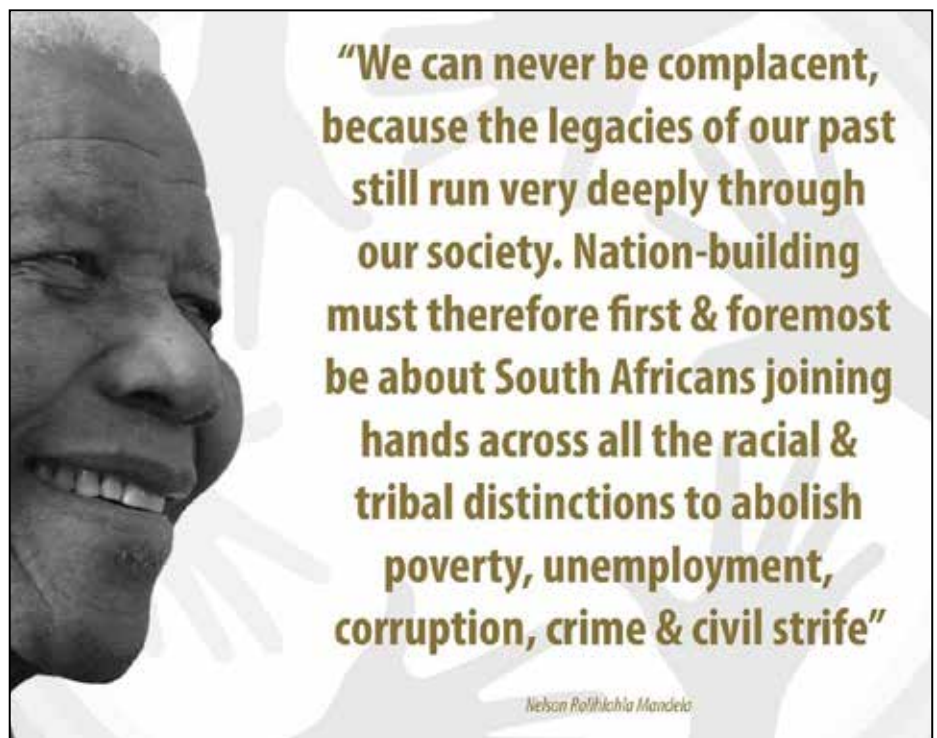
Some of the thorny issues to be addressed are the representation of the army of unemployed and whether the social partners in the National Economic Development &

Labour Council — labour, business and community — are truly representative of their constituencies.

Mistra's advice has been that all parties to the negotiations should place the interests of the nation first and accept that ongoing conflict is in nobody's long-term interests. Furthermore, institutions are needed to act as a platform for the negotiations as well as to monitor the implementation of the compact.

The government could base the process on the three priorities of the government of national unity announced by Ramaphosa during his opening of parliament address on July 18: drive inclusive growth and job creation; reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living; and build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

These could also be the key discussion points of the national dialogue, ensuring that the wide swathe of organisations it intends to assemble can make direct input into the social compact.



The ANC's Commitment to the National Interest Above All Else

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

AS the dust begins to settle on the recent political developments, it is fitting to commend the African National Congress (ANC) for its resolute decision to steer clear of a governing coalition with the MK Party. Despite the immense pressure brought to bear by those advocating for a coalition of so-called black and progressive parties, the ANC made a choice that reflects its deep commitment to the country's well-being, putting national interests above party politics.

This decision is not merely a political maneuver; it is a testament to the ANC's enduring principles.

The ANC's refusal to align with the MK Party echoes the wisdom that underpinned the formation of the Government of National Unity – a willingness to work with even those who differ fundamentally in ideology for the greater good of the nation. The ANC's focus remains steadfast on building unity to rejuvenate the economy and address the urgent socio-economic challenges facing South Africa today. In these trying times, pragmatism must take precedence over demagoguery and ideological rigidity.

The MK Party, by contrast, has yet to present a coherent and clear vision for South Africa. The few policies and statements made

by its leadership are not only concerning but pose a potential threat to our hard-won constitutional democracy. For instance, the suggestion by the MK Party's leader that pregnant girls be sent to Robben Island and the proposal to establish amakhosi as the upper legislature of the republic are deeply troubling. Such ideas seem less about governance and more about pandering to feudal elements for electoral gain.

Moreover, the MK Party's agenda, including the nationalization of the Reserve Bank and the ex-

propriation of land without compensation, while appearing revolutionary, fails to address the immediate and pressing challenges our country faces. South Africa needs economic revival and stability, not rhetoric that could jeopardize both.

The ANC deserves recognition for withstanding the pressure to form an alliance with a party whose positions on critical issues have raised more questions than they've answered. Aligning with the MK Party would have been a significant setback for the ANC's



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renewal programme — a programme essential for the future of the party and the country. The fact that the MK Party has become a refuge for individuals accused of complicity in state capture further underscores the wisdom of the ANC's decision. These are individuals who have consistently refused to acknowledge the damage wrought by state capture,

and their prominence within the MK Party is alarming.

The ANC's decision to place the interests of South Africa above any narrow political gains is commendable. In refusing to form a coalition with the MK Party, the ANC has reaffirmed its commitment to the principles that have guided it since its inception: a

dedication to the people of South Africa, the pursuit of national unity, and the prioritization of economic and social stability.

This decision will undoubtedly strengthen the ANC's ability to continue its mission of building a better South Africa for all.

Amandla!!!

UNCOORDINATED SOUNDS AT OUR OWN PERIL

■ By **THULANI BINASE**

ON the 9th of August today 2024, if death did not rob us of his presence, mind and intellect, a friend, brother, confidante and comrade of mine Cde Mayenzeke Ntlati would have celebrated his 52nd birthday. However, the universe conspired and it had its will, not ours.

I will forever be grateful for the manner and ways in which Cde Maye impacted my life to this day, even though he is no more. As an “*umXhosa*” boy he underwent the traditional initiation process at an early age of sixteen. When I became of age to undertake my traditional initiation journey, Cde Maye in the absence of my living father then, was ever present as a father figure to me throughout my journey.

Many of you acquaintances, foes and comrades can now understand and appreciate our bond.



The late Cde Thami Rubusana in his tone and hoarse voice rebuked some guy who came to complain about the singing of delegates at the relaunch conference of COSAS in 1991. Describing our singing as noise, Cde Thami quipped in response, “*A noise is an uncoordinated sound.*”

I woke up today on the 9th of August 2024 thinking about Cde

Maye and the loud bangs of uncoordinated sounds within and around our movement in the aftermath of the 29th of May 2024 elections results.

As we approached another round of elective conferences across the Province and with RTTs in place, the exasperation levels of the uncoordinated sounds were not only deafening but paralysing one's limbs and soul at the indif-

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ference displayed towards our only urgent task of rescuing the ANC from ourselves. At the NEC lekgotla, the President remarked *“This is not the time to be bitter. It is the time to be better, and to do better.”*

Furthermore, the President said *“As we do this, let us remember what is required of us above all else: honesty, hard work, humility, ethics, and respect for the people.”*

The uncoordinated sounds that are deafening and paralysing limbs are not in tandem with the organisational renewal injunctions. The only sound that is coordinated is the term that is gaining popularity now to describe a faction or a preferred consolidated list by interest groups, which is *“our perspectives.”*

There seems to be no urgency on the question of building the ANC and reconnecting it with the people. There seems to be no interest in working towards rekindling the ANC electoral support base as 2026 is in sight. I urge and call upon all so-called perspectives (factions) to pause and see what damage their leaning toward the satiable notion of *“garbage in, garbage out”* has caused our movement.

Indeed, the term *“garbage in, garbage out”* is not a figurative reference to individuals but to systems employed and their ancillary processes. Let us agree that any failure to have interrogated the election outcomes in Frances Baard and engaged the branches on the understanding and interpretation thereof equates to garbage in, garbage out because there is no basis for any election strategy come 2026 local government elections. What we have in terms

of the analysis of the election in Frances Baard are the uncoordinated sounds that say we have done better than other religions without recognising the higher number of people we have. The uncoordinated sounds that permeates through the Frances Baard region has nothing to do with the interests of the people and protecting the image of the ANC.

I argue that pitting comrades against one another without having provided a scientific analysis of the performance of the current regional leadership collective amounts to garbage in, garbage out because there is no basis to say these are the failures and successes of the current collective, including their shortcomings. Is this is how they complemented each other or not. How do we arrive at a decision to lobby that so and so must be ejected out of the structure and so and so must remain? The premise that is being moved from is the uncoordinated sounds of personal choices as a product of wheeling and dealing for self-preservation.

It is my contention that if we do not go out and rebuild, relaunch and reconstitute the majority of our branches if not all as per the constitutional prescripts, that will boil down to garbage in, garbage out. The uncoordinated sounds we have are from some unconstitutional branches, branches that were never properly aligned or reconstituted since the delimitation of boundaries before the 2021 local government elections in some instances, and some branches with overdue or lapsed terms of office in Frances Baard. With such uncoordinated sounds, we are going to a regional conference without knowing the real state of organisation in Frances

Baard. Clearly, going to a regional conference without correcting the state of our branches, we will be deluding ourselves that the organisation is strong and intact whilst we know that it is all a facade. Maybe the roadmap towards the regional conference will attempt to attend to such malcontents. This leads one to enquire: is 90 days sufficient for such a rebuilding crusade. The 29th of May 2024 exposed the real state and capacity of our branches.

I submit that deploying undemocratic means and money to emerge at a regional conference is in effect garbage in, garbage out. Indeed, one's capacity to manipulate processes, throw money to buy support, and booze to hire disruptors of democratic processes means that you are just making your protégés smarter. Next conference your own protégés will call for your head as they had learned from you. The uncoordinated sound that must reverberate throughout the Frances Baard Region is how perspectives (factions) in their hypnotic state must employ all means necessary to emerge at the regional conference.

Our failure to turn things around and not employ a radical turnaround strategy to heap up service delivery and change the face of our municipalities in Frances Baard is to spit in the face of our people and take them for granted. Going on as if things don't require drastic interventions is garbage in garbage out. The uncoordinated sound that is being witnessed by our people in Frances Baard is how we fight amongst ourselves and how we pretend to all talk on behalf of the people whilst the genuine servant leaders of our people are but just a handful.

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On Cde Maye's birthday, I call upon the leadership of the ANC in Frances Baard and the branches to change their ways for the sake of the ANC, the Region, and the Province, as the President called upon us all at the NEC Iekgotla.

This is my plea and my entreatment to the leadership collective and branches that are in good standing to take centre stage by coming together to discuss the state of health of the ANC and the connection of our branches with the people.

Do we think that if we behave the way we do we would inspire hope in the ANC from the people?

Our preoccupation should not be on the contending perspectives (factions) with the primary interest being the question of leadership, but rather on the strategic direction of the movement and it should become what we know it to be - an organisation which the people believe in, have faith and confidence in. We need to critically focus on the people and their interests to turn the tide against the electoral misfortunes we suffered on 29 May 2024.

We don't need a leadership contest that is manipulated and forced down everyone in an undemocratic manner by usurping the power of branches in good standing but rather a strategic contest to make the ANC the flavour of the people again. I think our collective endeavours need to propel us all to the renewal of the ANC and its strategic intent which is to execute the NDR.

Frances Baard Region doesn't need another conference that would eject others and have others emerge triumphalistic with the "indlovu iyangena attitude."



What we need is a process where we recognise that the ANC now needs everyone with respect to its internal democratic processes, not only conference winners who emerge with the sleight of hand.

If we assess how, after every conference a bigger segment of our cadreship just goes and sits back and does not work for the movement, we need to accept that manufactured outcomes do more harm than defined democratic processes outcomes. The time is now for all of us to make a coordinated sound by respecting internal democratic practices and safe guard and protect the integrity of such defined processes that for leadership, branches and cadreship. Our coordinated sound must say the ANC lives and the ANC leads.

If we are not to follow a pragmatic and realistic approach to rebuild the ANC in Frances Baard, we are doomed come 2026 and beyond. A question that needs to be asked is, what would it serve us to win a conference but be unable to consolidate state power? Our consolidation of state power requires a Frances Baard which leaves no one behind.

The Frances Baard Region must

recognise that with its numbers it can save the ANC at any election, and to do so, it must start to do things differently. My plea to all of the leadership, membership, and cadreship is to rise to the occasion and save our glorious movement from this downward spiral. Help to rebuild the movement of Oliver Tambo. The movement that Cde Maye and many others who lost their lives whilst toiling for the people and the ANC.

For the greater good of generations to come, let us pick up the spear and place the ANC in Frances Baard on the real renewal trajectory. On the 2nd of June 2024, a friend of mine opined in a written piece *"The ANC is severely wounded. Its head is concussed. Its body fractured, its vital organs critical and it bleeds profusely internally. To imagine the ANC right now in any other shape than on life support is to not adequately grasp its condition."*

If we all grasp the current condition of the ANC we will all make the right coordinated sounds. Sounds that will restore the ANC to what it ought to be.

Thulani Binase is former Francis Baard ANC Regional Chair and former ANCYL Northern Cape Chairperson.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



FORCED DISPLACEMENT EXHIBITION REFLECTIONS ON GAZA

■ By **AMBASSADOR SHAUN BYNEVELDT**

The historical ties between the South African struggle for liberation and justice and the Palestinian struggle for freedom, self-determination and justice are deeply intertwined, sharing numerous similarities that underscore a collective quest for liberation from oppression, racism and displacement.

In South Africa, the apartheid regime implemented policies of racial segregation and forced removals, epitomized by the Group Areas Act of 1950. Black South Africans were forcibly relocated from their homes and communities into designated “bantustans” or townships. Residents were forcibly evicted, and their homes demolished to make way

for white settlements. These removals were not just about spatial separation, but also about breaking the social and economic fabric of black communities, leading to long-lasting trauma and socio-economic disadvantages.

Similarly, Palestinians have faced forced displacement, most notably during the Nakba of 1948, when over 700,000 Palestinians were expelled from or fled their homes, at first by Zionist paramilitaries, and after the establishment of the State of Israel, by its military. This exodus has continued with ongoing demolitions, evictions, and land confiscations in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Palestinian homes are frequently destroyed to make

way for Israeli settlements, leaving thousands displaced and in a state of perpetual insecurity. Like in South Africa, these actions aim to disrupt and displace communities, creating a system of control and segregation.

The recent ICJ Advisory Opinion confirmed the illegality of the occupation and Israeli settlements and echoes a timeless call for justice. It reminds us that in the face of injustice, we must stand in solidarity with the oppressed and those being persecuted, just as the world once stood with South Africans in their fight against apartheid.

The Forced Displacement Exhibition being launched today,

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hosted by Iziko Museums in partnership with the Yasser Arafat Museum and Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa - facilitated by the South African Representative Office in Ramallah - is a powerful illustration that chronicles forced displacement, highlighting the experiences and stories of communities uprooted, fractured and displaced.

Through photographs, testimonies, and historical documents, the exhibition serves as a poignant reminder of the injustices of forced displacement, but also the enduring spirit of resistance.

Exhibitions like these are crucial for building solidarity and understanding across borders and generations. They provide a space for reflection, education, and the strengthening of bonds between peoples who have endured similar struggles. The visual and narrative power of such exhibitions transcends time, creating a shared consciousness and a united front against oppression and injustice.

At the heart of both the South African and Palestinian struggles lies a deeply spiritual quest for justice, dignity and the right to call a place home. The forced removals in South Africa and the forced displacement in Palestine are not merely political issues; they are profound human tragedies that touch the very essence of our shared humanity.

As the Prophet Isaiah once proclaimed, *“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”* This call to justice is not bound by geography or ethnicity but is a divine universal mandate that binds us all.

The ties between the South African and Palestinian struggles for freedom and justice are a testament to the universal desire for human dignity and self-determination. The forced removals in South Africa and the forced displacement in Palestine are stark reminders of the lengths to which oppressive regimes will go to maintain control. However, they also highlight the enduring spirit of resistance and the unyielding demand for justice that continues to inspire movements around the world. The recent ICJ Advisory Opinion and exhibitions such as these underscore the importance of international solidarity and the shared pursuit of a more just and equitable world.

As the South African Representative Office in Ramallah, permit me to extend our deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to especially Lynn Abrahams and Mohammad Halayka, and the entire leadership of Iziko Museums

and the Yasser Arafat Museum and Foundation. Your dedication, commitment and hard work brought us to this point. Today we illuminate these shared histories and struggles. This is a testament to the power of education and memory in fostering justice and empathy.

To Her Excellency Ambassador Hanan Jarrar, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Republic of South Africa, and to you ladies and gentlemen, all our esteemed guests present, your presence is a powerful reflection of our collective commitment to our shared humanity. Your solidarity, your willingness to bear witness and your dedication to justice remind us that together, we can transcend borders and time to stand united in the face of oppression.

Your involvement breathes life into the hope for a world where dignity and freedom are not just aspirations, but realities for ALL!



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Western hypocrisy knows no limits

■ By **MANDLA MANDELA**

Western hypocrisy knows no limits. On a daily basis vast quantities of arms and ammunition are shipped from the USA, UK, Germany, and Sweden to Apartheid Israel all this to continue its genocide against the Palestinian people. They are not interested in a ceasefire and are complicit in the deaths of thousands of babies, children, women and innocent civilians. Yet they call for restraint from all other countries. Why restraint? When they can end this genocide. Did they stop Israel from committing crimes on sovereign soil? Are all African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries viewed as substandard so sovereignty doesn't apply?

The West shelters Apartheid Israel from compliance with international law and from prosecution.

This is not a new phenomenon as they have done so long before the creation of Apartheid Israel and have emboldened Apartheid Israel to continue its brutal occupation, genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people from their land, disrupting their lives and livelihoods, engaging in multiple massacres of which the bombing of a civilian shelter two days ago killed and mutilated 100 people many of whom were children.

Where is the outcry? Where is the condemnation? Where is the moral outrage? Words mean nothing if actions show otherwise. The West with all its proclamations of being moral and just is just shameful and a disgrace.

As expected, western media has hardly covered the latest barbaric act of 100 people killed while

praying in a school. A six year old who left his home for morning prayers killed in cold blood.

No wonder the zionazi could inscribe the USA supplied bomb that killed them with the words: may it kill innocent civilians. Yet mainstream media is silent on this atrocity and have all been awash with bolstering Apartheid Israel in anticipation of retaliatory action from Iran for the assassination of Hamas leader Sheikh Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

So, what the US is saying is that in the supposed land of the free, all people are not born equal. That the statue of liberty is only liberty for those who look and talk like them? Is the blood of those innocents not gut wrenching? Who are these western powers thinking they have the high ground to condemn any immoral act when they are complicit and should be charged, tried and sentenced!

The USA announced for all the world to hear, another 20 billion dollars in military supplies as if there was no ICJ ruling ordering withdrawal from Gaza and all Occupied Palestinian land, stopping the genocide and ordering immediate flow of humanitarian aid. But perhaps the consequence of your actions will be felt one day as this will be fuel to the survivors, trust me there will be survivors, this will only give rise to a stronger Hamas, a stronger resistance.



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The USA in particular has propped up successive Apartheid Israeli regimes and not only condoned their war crimes and crimes against humanity, but shown a total disregard for Palestinian rights of self-determination, independence and statehood. They clearly support Netanyahu's agenda to obliterate every square inch of Gaza, and wipe the Palestinian people off the face of the earth.

The USA makes lots of noise about fighting terrorism whilst arming to the hilt Apartheid Israel's state terrorism including, dungeons, and torture chambers, secret camps where political prisoners are subjected to rape, torture, and the most vile violation of their dignity and fundamental human rights. What would these complicit countries say if the resistance was armed by other countries, would they too be called terrorists? It is clear who

the only terrorists are! Shameful, disgraceful and hypocritical West.

Apartheid Israel puts even Auschwitz, Berkina and Monowich to shame with 530 Palestinian villages completely wiped out of existence from 1947 to 1948. Where others would be held to account for their mass murders

of civilians, the USA and its allies allow Apartheid Israel to act with impunity and commit genocide in full view of the world.

If we harboured any illusions of Apartheid Israel and its allies being serious about a ceasefire, the assassination of the chief negotiator Sheikh Ismail Haniyeh, dispelled any such notions.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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17 – 23 August 2024

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

17 August 1972

Ruth First assassination in Maputo



Ruth First, journalist, academic, author, anti-apartheid activist and member of the South African Communist Party, was brutally killed by a letter bomb in Maputo, Mozambique, sent by apartheid South African government agents. At the time of her death, First was a lecturer at the Eduardo Mondlane University. Her funeral in Maputo was attended by presidents, members of parliament and envoys from 34 countries. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) granted amnesty to Craig Williamson and Roger Raven, two men responsible for the death of Ruth First.

17 August 1996

Ruth Perry becomes the first African female head of state and government

History was made in Western Africa when, for the first time, a woman, Ruth Sando Perry, was unanimously elected at a meet-



ing of West African heads of state to become the third chair of Liberia's ruling council. Perry, victorious over two male contestants, became head of the transitional government, thereby making her Africa's first woman to act as head of state. Perry was mandated to execute the daunting task of leading her country from a devastating seven-year civil war, to peace under a plan of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Although serving in a non-partisan capacity, Perry was a member of the National Democratic Party of Liberia. She was leader of Liberia from 3 September 1996 until 2 August 1997.

18 August 1972

First Bantu Affairs Administrative Boards Gazetted

The first four Bantu Affairs Administration Boards are gazette, intended to tighten influx and administrative control of black

people in so-called 'white South Africa', especially to facilitate the mobility of cheap labour on farms and mines.

19 August 1955

First Sudanese civil war starts

One of Africa's longest conflicts, between north and south, which eventually led to the split of Sudan, and the birth of the Republic of South Sudan in 2011. The First Sudanese Civil War was a twelve-year conflict between the two regions of Sudan between 1955 and 1972, a year for the country was declared independent from Great Britain. The main belligerents in the war were the central government of Sudan and the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM). Great Britain, Egypt, and the Soviet Union supported the central government while the SSLM was backed by Ethiopia, Uganda, and Israel. An estimated 500,000 people died during the twelve-year conflict. The second Sudanese civil war started in 1983 and continued till 2005, when peace process facilitated by IGAD, eventually led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the referendum leading to South Sudan independence.

19 August 1963

Hector Pieterse born

The 13-year old school boy, Hector Pieterse, who was shot by the police during the 1976 stu-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

dent march, sparking the historic events of that year, was born on this day in 1963. The iconic picture of Hector's lifeless body by photographer Sam Nzima carried by Mbuyisa Makhubo, next to his sister Antoinette Sithole, immortalized the young martyr.

19 August 1981 Gulf of Sidra incident

In 1973, Libya claimed the Gulf of Sidra as part of its territorial waters. The USA in response conducted freedom of navigation operations in the Gulf, leading to a number of skirmishes. On this day, the US deployed a large naval operation in the Gulf, and two Libyan fighter jets shot at an American aircraft. The Americans in return shot down two Libyan fighter jets.

19 August 1982 Bekeme Masade born



Masade, a Nigerian advocate for sustainable growth and corporate responsibility is born in Lagos. She works to bring together all stakeholders to address challenges of resource extraction that ruins the environment and impoverishes communities. In 2021 she won an award for her advocacy work from the Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences. She is the first West African to become a board member of the Global Reporting Initiative

(GRI), and is the convener of the sustainability in the extractive industries (SITEI) conference.

19 August 2002 Amina Lawal sentence upheld



On 19 August 2002, an Islamic high court in Katsina state, Nigeria, upheld a sentence of death by stoning for Amina Lawal. The 31-year old woman was convicted of adultery by a village court for having a child more than nine months after her divorce. She was not represented by a lawyer at the hearing and the man who allegedly fathered her daughter denied the offence and was acquitted. According to some interpretations of Sharia law, for a man to be convicted of adultery, he either has to confess to the crime or four men have to have witnessed the act. Following the intervention of lawyers appointed by Amnesty International, Lawal was granted 30 days to appeal against the decision; the appeal was filed to the Upper Sharia court of appeal in Katsina. Her sentence drew worldwide attention, with the sentence condemned as inhumane and discriminatory towards women. In February 2004 the Sharia Court of Appeal ruled that Amina Lawal's conviction was invalid because she had been pregnant already when the harsh Islamic Shariah law was implemented in her home province.

19 August 2013 Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka takes helm of UN Women



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was sworn in as the Executive Director of UN Women during a ceremony on 19 August 2013 at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City, presided over by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Mlambo-Ngcuka, who was South Africa's first female Deputy President (2005-2008), will be leading the UN's work on advancing gender equality and women empowerment. Ngcuka, a gender activist and educationist, was the first President of the Natal Organisation of Women (NOW), formed in 1983.

19-22 August 1963 Indonesia, Sudan, Mauritius tightens Apartheid sanctions

Indonesia announces the severance of diplomatic and commercial relations with South Africa, and the closure of Indonesian ports to South African vessels. Sudan closes her sea and airports to South Africa and Portugal; and so does Mauritius on 20 August 1963. South African Airways (SAA) announced on 22 August 1963, that it will be re-routing its flights to Europe via Luanda (Angola), Brazzaville, the Cape Verde Islands, and Las Palmas (all still Portuguese colonies).

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

20 August 1919

Author Noni Jabavu born



Helen Nontando (Noni) Jabavu was born in 1919 in the Eastern Cape into a literary family. From the age of thirteen, she was schooled in England, and continued to live there for many years. She went on to become one of the first African female writers and journalists. *The Ochre People* is one of her two autobiographical works; the other is *Drawn in Colour* (1960). Both were written early in her literary career and have been hailed by critics as being brilliant and fascinating. The works indicate that she preferred positioning herself as being simultaneously an African and a European, tracing her origins in both England and South Africa. In her books she looked at the alienation she felt, issues of identity and the impact of the West on Africa. Jabavu died on 19 June 2008 at the age of 88.

20 August 1935

Dulcie September born in Cape Town

Dulcie September was born on this day in Cape Town. She became active in the student movement in Cape Town, linked to the Non European Unity Movement. She campaigned against Bantu Education, and as a teacher, joined the Teachers League of South Africa and the African Peoples Democratic Union of



This Day in History

Anti-apartheid activist and ANC stalwart Dulcie September was born on this day in 1935.

Comrade September would've celebrated her 89th birthday today.

20 August 1935 – 29 March 1988

Southern Africa (APDUSA). After leaving the Unity Movement, September together with Neville Alexander, Marcus Solomon, Andreas Shapingo, Fikile Bam and Xenophon Pitt formed the anti-apartheid paramilitary Yu Chi Chan Club. She was arrested for her political activities and served five years, together with Doris van Heerden, Dorothy Alexander and Elizabeth van Heyden. September left the country after 1976, joining the ANC in the UK and becoming active in the ANC Women's League. She campaigned around children and women's issues, and worked at the ANC Lusaka headquarters from 1981, chairing its Regional Preparatory Committee. At the end of 1983, Dulcie September was appointed ANC Chief Representative in France, Switzerland and Luxembourg, and in this position, she was a leading organiser of the international campaign to isolate apartheid. On 29 March 1988, September was assassinated outside the ANC's Paris office.

20 August 1950

Anthropologist Tidiane N'Diaye born

Senegalise anthropologist, economist and author was born on

this day. He is the author of a number of publications on the history of Black Africa and the African diaspora, as well as numerous economic studies of the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques on the French overseas departments (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique). N'Diaye's essays on the Arab slave trade (Le génocide voilé "the veiled genocide", Étude de la traite négrière arabo-musulmane "study of the Arab-Muslim negro slave trade") were nominated for the Prix Renaudot in 2008.

20 August 1976

Nordic countries call for arms embargo against South Africa

At a Nordic Council meeting in Copenhagen, the Foreign Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden recommend an international weapons embargo against South Africa.

20 August 1983

UDF launched in Mitchells Plain

The United Democratic Front (UDF), a front of over 400 civic, women's, youth, faith-based, rural and other organisations

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

was launched, in opposition to the racist South African regime, under the slogan **UDF Unites. Apartheid Divides.** It campaigned against the tricameral parliament.

21 August 1927 4th Pan African Congress held in New York

The continental and diaspora movements against slavery and colonialism evolved as a global Pan African movement, with the holding of six Pan African Congresses between 1900-1945. The fourth Congress was held in New York, USA sponsored by Addie W Hunton and the African-American women's organisation, Circle for Peace and Foreign Relations. The 4th Pan African Congress included delegates from the United States, the Caribbean and from Africa, on delegates from the Gold Coast (Ghana), Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone, due to travel restrictions.

21 August 1929 Trade unionist Emma Mashinini born

Veteran trade unionist and political leader Emma Mashinini was born on this day in August 1929. Living in Johannesburg, her family was forcibly displaced several times during her childhood. She started working at age 14 and soon became a union organiser at her garment factory. She became active within the African National Congress (ANC) in 1956. Mashinini served for 12 years on the executive of the National Union of Clothing Workers (NUCW) and founded the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (SACCAWU) in 1975. She was arrested and detained without charges for six months in 1981–82. Mashinini

This Day in History

Trade Unionist and ANC stalwart Emma Mashinini was born on this day in 1929.

Comrade Emma would've celebrated her 95th birthday today.

21 August 1929 – 10 July 2017



played several important roles in the transition to ANC rule in the 1980s and 1990s. Mam Mashinini served on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and went on to become a Commissioner for Restitution of Land Rights. Her autobiography, titled **Strikes Have Followed Me All My Life**, was published in 1989 and republished in 2012. She received numerous awards and decorations, including the **Order of the Baobab** and the **Order of Luthuli**.

21 August 1982 King Sibhoza II passed on

In 1982, the Kingdom of Swaziland (now Eswatini) was plunged into mourning, when His Majesty, King Sobhuza II, passed away at the age of 83 at the Embo State House. The king died after a successful reign of sixty years and was the longest reigning monarch in the world at the time. King Mswati III ascended the throne in 1986 at the age of 18 – as the youngest reigning monarch in the world.

21 August 1998 PW Botha found guilty of contempt

George Magistrate Victor Lugaju

found former President PW Botha guilty of contempt for repeatedly ignoring subpoenas to testify in public before the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the body responsible for investigating human rights abuses committed during the apartheid era. Botha was fined ten thousand rand and given a one-year prison sentence, suspended for five years, which could be brought into effect if he defied another TRC subpoena. The TRC wanted to question Botha about human rights abuses perpetrated by security forces during the apartheid era, as he chaired the State Security Council from 1978 to 1989.

21 August 2008 Hargeisa International Book fair launched

This is an annual cultural event held in the Somaliland and has become amongst the largest book fairs in the Horn of Africa. The main goal of the festival is to promote a culture of reading and writing in the region by producing and publishing high quality Somali literature and translating international classical literature (including fiction, poetry and drama) into Somali.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

21 August 2020 **Kenyan camel population quadrupled**

Over a period of two decades, the camel population in Kenya have increased from 1 million in 1999 to over four million in 2020. Camels are reared by pastoral tribes in north east Kenya, and provide transportation, fur, meat and milk.

22 August 1788 **Sierra Leone created for freed slaves**

The colony of Sierra Leone was conceived by British philanthropists and abolitionists as a home for African slaves freed in England. A Temne king sold a strip of land on the north shore of the Sierra Leone Peninsula to the Sierra Leone Company for the “*free community of settlers, their heirs and successors.*” A few years later the settlers were also joined by settlers of African origin from other parts of the empire. Sierra Leone became a British crown colony in 1808. Throughout the 19th century, the colony steadily grew through various “*treaties of friend-*

ship” and cessions from the local chiefs. Sierra Leone achieved its independence on 27 April 1961.

22 August 1856 **Djidjelli earthquake causes Tsunami around Mediterranean**

An earthquake which destroyed the Algerian city of Djidelli also caused a tsunami that floods Mediterranean islands and the coastal towns of North Africa and Europe.

22 August 1894 **Natal Indian Congress formed**

The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) is formed by Mahatma Gandhi in order to fight discrimination against Indian traders in Natal. It became the first permanent political organisation to strive to maintain and protect the rights of Indians in South Africa. The NIC, Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and the Cape Indian Congress later went on to form the South African Indian Congress (SAIC). Thereafter, many joint activities


between the SAIC and African National Congress (ANC) were organised.

22 August 1924 **Agatha Christie novel set in Africa**

The Man in the Brown Suit is published on this day, one of the first European detective mysteries set in Cape Town, Bulawayo and other African locations.

22 August 1925 **Sculptor Nelson Mukhuba born**

Nelson Mukhuba, a versatile and talented South African artist, was born in Tshakhuma village, Venda. He worked as a carpenter, welder, gardener and house painter until he chose to promote his own Vhavhenda culture through his music and woodcarving skills. Mukhuba used mainly Marula and Jacaranda trees to produce his craftwork. During the 1960s, as a migrant worker in Johannesburg, he formed various Marabi dance bands and made recordings. Mukhuba com-



“ The overwhelming majority of women accept patriarchy unquestioningly and even protect it, working out the resultant frustrations not against men but against themselves, in their competition for men as sons, lovers and husbands.

Traditionally, the violated wife bides her time and off-loads her built-in aggression on her daughter-in-law. So men dominate women through the agency of women themselves.

WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA ”

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

mitted suicide in 1987; he set his storeroom alight and many of the works that survived bear the scars of this tragic event.

22-26 August 1977 World Conference against Apartheid in Lagos

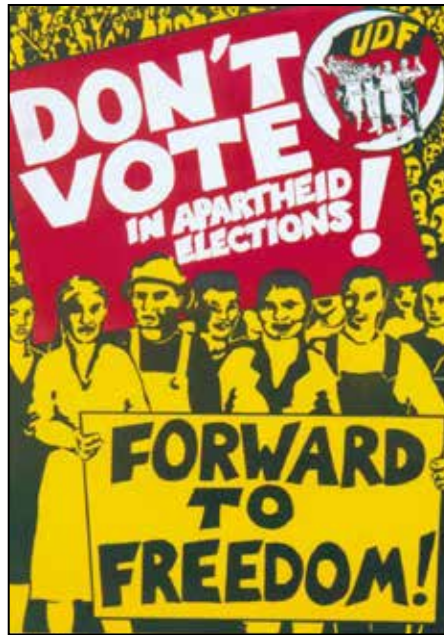
World Conference for Action against Apartheid, Lagos, organised by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organisation of African Unity and the Federal Republic of Nigeria took place on this day.

22 August 1977 Pretoria Show opens to all races

The Pretoria show is an annual event that began in 1939 as a whites only, agricultural show and grew to include arts, entertainment, education and exhibitions over the years. However, on 22 August 1977 the show was officially opened to all races. The show is the largest springtime show in South Africa, now called The Spring Show taking place every year between late August and early September at the Tshwane Events Center (previously Pretoria Show Grounds).

22 August 1984 UDF organises boycott of Tricameral parliament elections

On 22 August 1984 the United Democratic Front organised highly successful boycotts of the Coloured and Indian elections to parliament in 1984. The UDF was against the exclusion of African people from the Tricameral parliament and saw this as part of the racist divide and rule segregationist rule of apartheid. In early 1984, the UDF claimed a membership of more than 600



organizations and 3 million individuals and in that years mass action had rendered SA un governable. This led to a state of emergency being declared by PW Botha in 1985.

22 August 2010 Iconic Athlone towers demolished

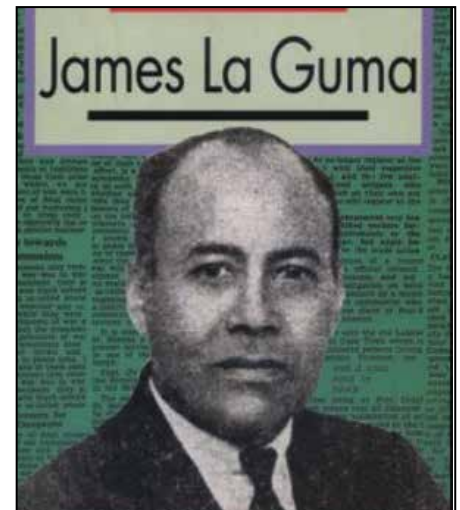
The iconic Athlone cooling towers also know by locals as “The two ladies of Athlone” were demolished in just eight seconds during a “surprise” implosion on 22 August 2010 by the City of Cape Town.

23 August 1862 First Rugby match played in SA

On 23 August 1862, the first rugby match heralded the start of what would become a hugely popular sport among White people in South Africa. The match took place in Green Point, Cape Town between one team made up of civilians and one made up of military members. The first rugby club, Hamilton, was formed in 1875 and was soon followed by the Villagers Club. As the

popularity of the sport grew, the Rugby Union Board was formed. After SA was banned from international sporting arena, it meant that it could no longer participate in international rugby matches. SA was only allowed to return to playing international rugby in 1992, following changes in the country’s political environment and the integration of rugby. The national team, the Springboks, has since the dawn of democracy won the Rugby World Cup three times, in 1995, 2007 and most recently in 2019.

23 August 1894 James La Guma born



Political activist and trade unionist James Arnold (Jimmy) La Guma, member of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and president of the South African Coloured People’s Organisation (SACPO) from 1957–1959 was born in Bloemfontein. He joined the Communist Party in 1925 and visited the Soviet Union (USSR) more than once. La Guma was an ardent Africanist and believed that the empowerment of Black political leadership was necessary for the success of communism in South Africa. He is the father of Alex La Guma, one of the 156 Treason Trial plaintiffs in 1956.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

23 August 1942

Music icon Letta Mbulu born



Letta Mbulu was born in Soweto on 23 August 1942. As a teenager she joined the cast of the play *King Kong* and toured the US with other artists like Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. At the end of the tour Mbulu returned to South Africa, but did not stay long because of the apartheid government policies. She returned to the US where she quickly became part of the exiled artists' circles that included Cai-phus Semenya. Mbulu released several albums in the US and slowly made a name for herself as a singer, songwriter and actor. In 1992 Mbulu and Semenya returned to South Africa; soon after working together on the album *Not yet Uhuru*, which introduced

them to the South African audience. Mbulu was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the South African Music Awards in 2001.

23 August 1960

Largest frog found in Equatorial Guinea

The largest species of frog, this one weighing 3.3 kg is found in Equatorial Guinea, named the Goliath bullfrog, only found in Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon. It is endangered due to habitat loss and being hunted for the exotic pet trade.

23 August 1976

Botswana adopts Pula currency

Botswana introduces its own currency, the Pula (meaning rain), replacing the South African Rand in use since the 1960s.

23 August 2006

Report on Rape in Khayelitsha

The Simelela Rape Survivors Centre in Cape Town reported that almost half of the rapes in Cape Town's Khayelitsha township involved girls under fourteen, with the youngest survivor aged

one and the oldest a grandmother aged seventy-six. From August 2005 to July 2006 the Centre treated 743 rape cases, an average of two to three a day. The Simelela Rape Survivors Centre was a response to the high degree of sexual violence against women and children in South African townships. Khayelitsha has one of the highest rates of rape cases in South Africa.

23 August 2011

AKA releases debut album

South African rapper Kiernan Jarryd Forbes, known as AKA, releases his debut album, *Alter-Ego*, quickly reaching gold status and earning him the Male Artist of the Year SAMA in 2012.

23 August 2022

South Africa largest exporter of Macadamia nuts

Native to Australia, South Africa has become the largest exporter of this rare slow-growing nuts this year, representing 34% of global exports, followed by Australia (26.7%) and Kenya (12.3%). China accounts for 33% of global imports of nuts, followed by the US at 23.9%, according to WorldTop-Exports.com

“ **OUR FIGHT IS NOT QUITE DONE. LET US FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO BE LITERATE, QUESTIONING, EDUCATED. ONLY THEN WILL WE TRULY BE ABLE TO CLAIM THAT WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY. EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION - ALL THE WAY!** ”

ADELAIDE TAMBO



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

17 – 23 August 2024

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



18 August Never Give Up Day

The day aims to cultivate a mindset of never giving up and supporting those who are still working hard to reach their goals. It's often easier said than done, but some of the tips to help master the art include pausing, but not giving up; motivating yourself, surrounding yourself with people who are resilient and choosing to be positive.

19 August World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day (WHD) focuses attention on various disasters that impact on people, wheth-



er manmade or natural. Most often, people need assistance to simply survive and re-establish their lives. Principles for effective provision of humanitarian aid include humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, which are central to establishing and maintaining access and delivering humanitarian assistance to people who need help, whether in a disaster or a complex emergency, such as armed conflict. The theme for 2024 is “**#Act For Humanity**”

20 August World Mosquito Day

The day celebrates the occasion on 20 August 1897, when Sir Ronald Ross discovered the link between the mosquito and malaria. Mosquitoes kill over 600 000 people every year, responsible for malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever and encephalitis. The African Union has a 'Zero Malaria Starts with Me' campaign in member states. The mosquito is the most dangerous animal in the world (even more than humans and snakes, who respectively kill about 475,000 and 50,000 people a year). Mosquitoes kill 725,000 people a year.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

21 August

International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/165 (2017), established 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in order to honor and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

22 August

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief

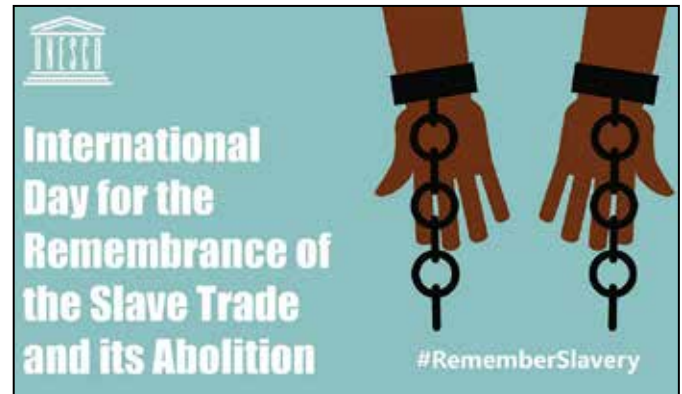


Freedom of religion or belief, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing. They are enshrined in articles 18, 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is also enshrined in the South African Constitution and Bill of Rights. Upholding these rights plays an important role in

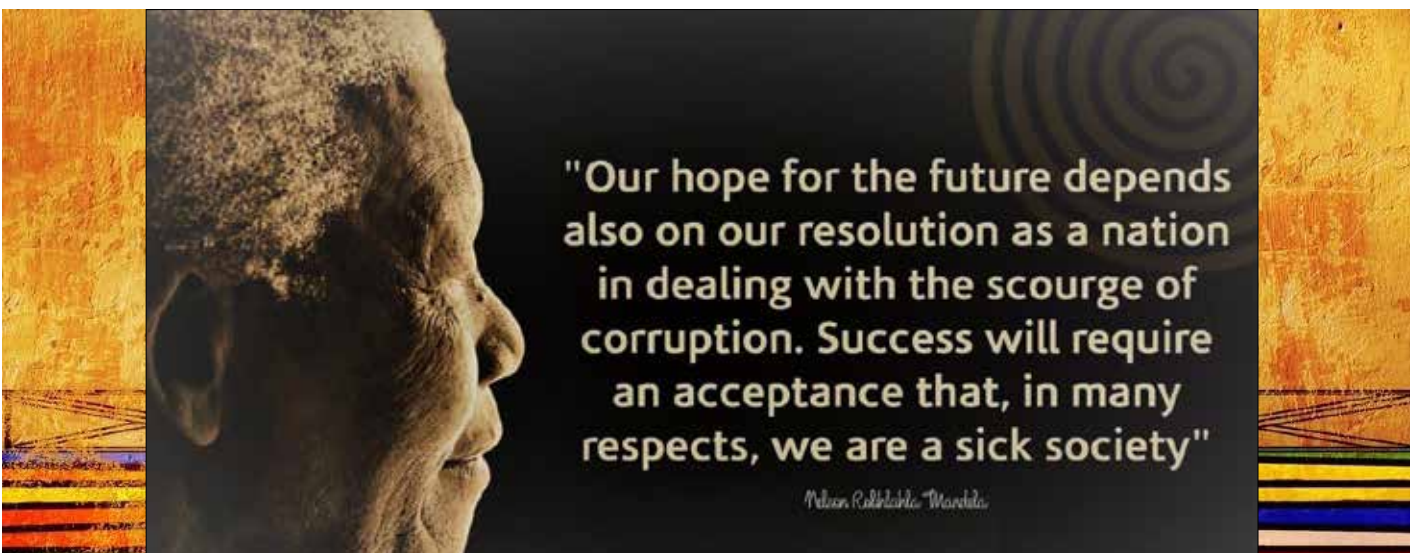
the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief.

23 August

International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition



The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. In remembrance, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August each year. The first slave from then Indonesia, Abraham van Batavia, was imported in 1653, shortly after the Dutch colonised South Africa, with an active slave trade starting by the Dutch East Company, hence the Malay heritage of Cape Town. Other slaves were trafficked from Angola, Mauritius, and Madagascar. Slavery in British colonies, including South Africa, was abolished with the Abolition of Slavery Act of 1833 and came into effect in 1834; amongst the reasons for the Great Trek by Dutch settlers into the hinterland.



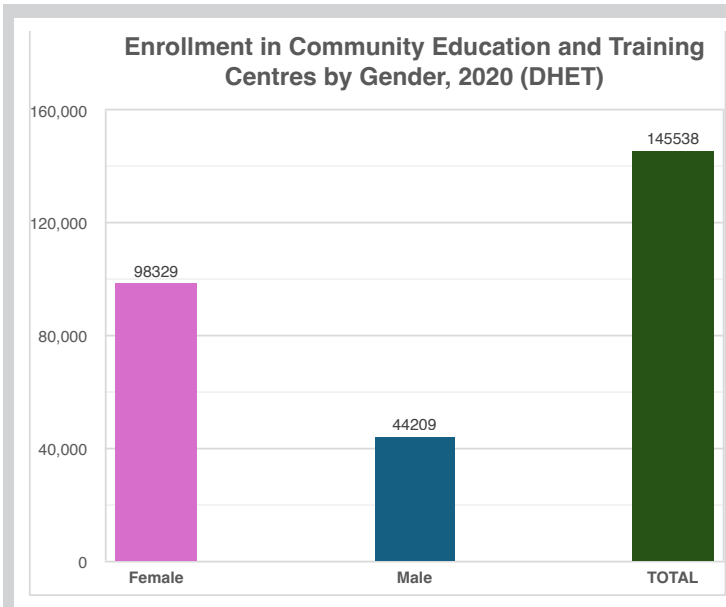
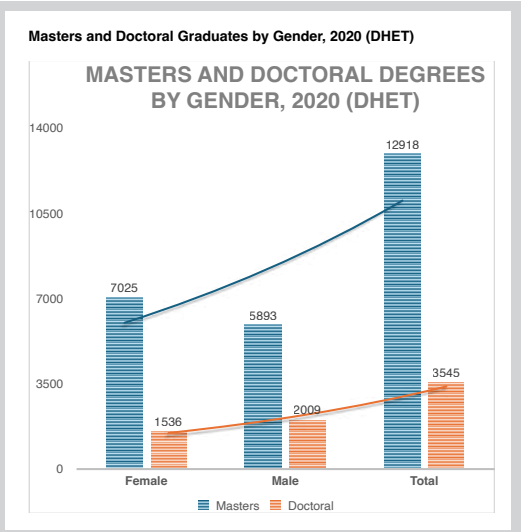
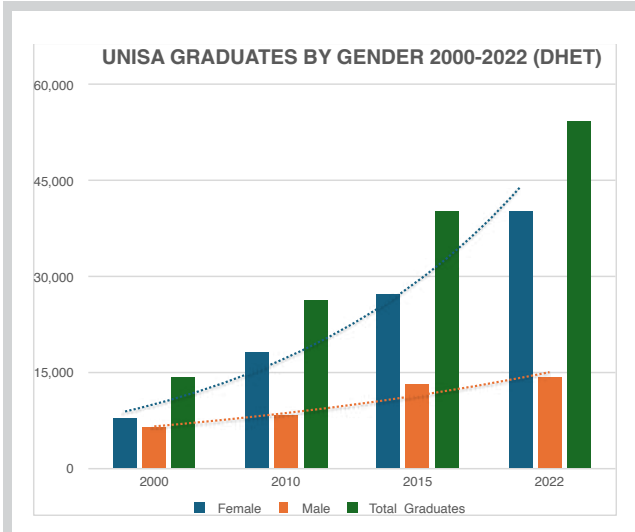
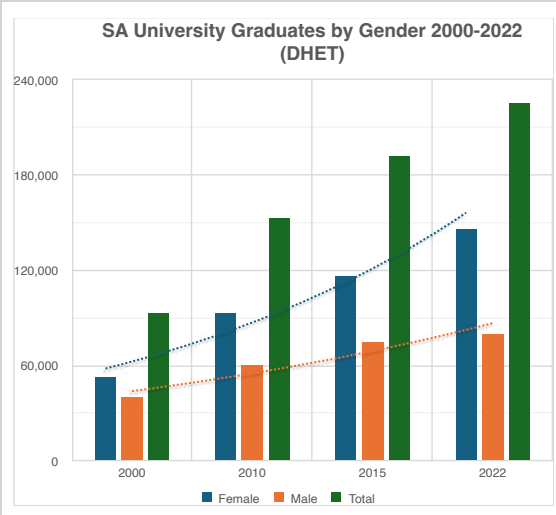


SOUTH AFRICA IN NUMBERS

Women in Higher Education



Women perform considerably better than Men in Distance Education



Enrollment in Community Education and Training Colleges by Gender, 2020 (DHET)

Community Colleges were established in 2015, incorporating adult basic education and community learning centres. Their aims are to cater for adult literacy programmes, second chance opportunities and other programmes for adult learners.

