



# ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the  
**President**



## Eskom is showing the way towards the empowerment of women in the workplace

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

**W**E have just ended Women's Month, in which we have celebrated the achievements of South Africa's women across many areas of life.

We have recognised the great progress that has been made in improving the position of women in our society. We have also recognised the many challenges that still remain and the tasks that we must undertake to build a truly non-sexist and equal society.

At the same time, the country has gone more than 150 days without load shedding. This is in large part due to the concerted efforts of the leadership and staff of Eskom to improve the performance of its power stations.

While there is much attention on what Eskom is doing to stabilise our electricity system, another significant change has been quietly underway at the company over the course of the last few years.

Women are taking a more prominent role in the work of Eskom and are playing a pivotal role in keeping the country's lights on.

Two years ago I met with Eskom's power station managers and I was pleased to see that a number of them were women. I found this to be a complete departure from the past where power station managers were always white men. This represented tremendous transformation on a demographic as well as gender basis.

The inspiring story of Maserati Lesolang, the general manager of Matla power station in Mpumalanga, is a demonstration of Eskom's successes in growing a new generation of female leaders. Under Lesolang's able leadership, Matla power station has implemented a turnaround plan resulting in it now being among Eskom's better performing power stations.

At a number of state-owned enterprises, women are excelling not only in management and leadership positions, but also in technical roles and occupations that were previously the preserve of men.

Within Eskom itself, women are working as power station manag-

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



**Maserati Lesolang, the general manager of Matla power station in Mpumalanga.**

ers, engineers, artisans, operators and technicians.

This is the result of a deliberate and sustained initiative to increase female representation in the form of Eskom's Women Advancement Programme. The programme was launched ten years ago to redress the under-representation of women in leadership and technical roles at Eskom.

The programme's focus has been on creating a pipeline of female leaders. It has also focused on transforming workplace culture to make it more gender-friendly, on skilling and training more women to occupy specialist roles, to conduct outreach in communities where Eskom operates, and to address issues of equal work for equal pay.

Among the achievements of the programme since its inception has been that just over 33% of Eskom's workforce is now female, 20% of Eskom executives are women, and women occupy approximately 43% of senior management roles. This is important progress, but there is still same way to go to achieve gender parity.

Eskom has succeeded in narrowing the gender pay gap from 41% to below 6%. The company's procurement spend on black-women owned businesses has increased from R6 billion in 2013 to over R16 billion by 2022.

The national power utility continues to invest heavily in skilling and training for women, with just over half of further study opportunities at Eskom taken up by women.

Another key focus area of the programme is conducting outreach at schools and in communities to encourage female learn-

ers to consider future careers at Eskom.

Earlier this year Eskom also launched a Young Professionals Development Programme, a graduate trainee programme that places participants in positions across the span of its operations. Eskom has made a concerted effort to encourage female graduates to apply.

We call on other companies, both public and private, to put in place deliberate programmes to eradicate workplace discrimination and make workplaces more conducive to women's participation and development. Companies need to empower women in decision-making and technical roles. This is to ensure that every workplace and every occupation reflects the demographics of our country.

We must commend the leadership of Eskom and of other state-owned entities, as well as many other businesses, for all they are doing to advance gender equality in the workplace. By continuing and intensifying this work, we can make sure that we have more and more to celebrate during Women's Month in the years to come.



**Participant in Eskom's Young Professionals Development Programme**



# ANC STATEMENT COMMEMORATING OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE MONTH

**T**HE African National Congress (ANC) joins South Africans in commemorating September as our **National Heritage Month**.

This month provides all of us as South Africans with the collective opportunity to reflect on our accumulated stock of cultural and social values across time. The moral, cultural, artistic, social and political histories of our land have shaped the present fibre of our society and of who we are as a people. Therefore, the month of September reconnects us with the best of those values and enjoins us to celebrate the best of our national heritage.

This includes celebrating all the various political efforts that defined our struggle against colonialism and apartheid, serving as the ethical midwife to the birth of our constitutional democracy. In this regard, as we celebrate 30 years of democracy we must reflect on key defining moments of our political struggle which we embrace as part of our heritage. The struggle for democracy has brought peace, security and progressive possibilities for all South Africans and therefore constitutes a shared heritage by all

citizens of this country.

In this Heritage month, the ANC commemorates key defining moments in our political history that took place during the month of September. Notable is the **80th Anniversary** of the formation of the **African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL)** founded in 1944. Of another significance in this month is the anniversary of the **South African Student**

**Congress (SASCO)** formed in 1991, which was a merger of the South African National Students Congress (SANSCO) and National Union of South African Students (NUSAS).

Moreover, there are events that took place around the country which were as a result of our struggle for freedom. These events include epoch-marking developments such as the **Vaal Uprising; Bisho Massa-**

**HERITAGE MONTH**

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Therefore, the month of September reconnects us with the best of those values and enjoins us to celebrate the best of our national heritage.

Let's embrace and foster social cohesion in this Heritage month, and continue to unite in our diversity.

**Amandla!**

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.

112th ANNIVERSARY  
ANC LIVES, ANC LEADS

30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

ANC

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cre; the coldblooded murder of Steve Biko; the passing of Cde Yusuf Dadoo, and the passing of Cde Imam Haron who was killed in detention.

As we commemorate our heritage, we also celebrate 30 years of democracy which ushered renewed hope for South Africans and established national identity to ensure that there is unity in our diversity to foster social cohesion.

The ANC celebrates this Heritage Month reflecting on what the gains of our democracy mean to our nation, celebrate the legacy of our forefathers of our struggle and embrace those who continue to contribute to our democracy.

As part of the process of remembering our national heritage, the ANC will be participating in the **repatriation of the remains of our fallen national heroes** who died in exile, in Zambia and Zimbabwe, and whose remains will be returned



Comrade  
Duma Nokwe

to the country to be laid to rest in this month of September. These include eminent stalwarts of our liberation struggle such as Comrade Duma Nokwe, former Secretary-General of the ANC.

As the various events in this month continue as part of celebrating our heritage, culture and values – we reiterate the message and theme of the government – as it calls upon all South Africans to support the culture of reading in our children, and endeavour to

incorporate it into their daily lifestyles. The ANC emphasises this aspect as an important practice that should be encouraged in our children, as there is rich history of our heritage in our books and cultural art, and reading is a key part of increasing general knowledge and developing an enriched vocabulary.

We call upon South Africans to embrace and foster social cohesion in this Heritage month as we continue to strive to unite in our diversity.



## ALLIANCE

# COSATU statement on appointment of public representatives with questionable credentials

**T**HE Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) is deeply dismayed by the Parliamentary rascals' sequel. Three months into the 7th Parliament, the nation has been made to watch various shenanigans and skulduggery by some less than illustrious Members of Parliament.

Just under three months ago, the Democratic Alliance (DA) promised swift action when one of its MPs, Mr. Renaldo Gouws, was found to have unleashed countless recordings dripping with incitements for racial violence on social media. Since then, nothing has been heard from the DA, yet it has found time to appoint this poster boy for racially inflammatory speech as one of its spokespersons at Parliament where he is proudly attending meetings notwithstanding his "suspension".

Whilst the DA is well known for its bizarre blind spot when it comes to understanding South Africa's painful racial history, its leader and now Minister for Agriculture, Mr. John Steenhuisen, has found fit to appoint another gem of racial incitement, Mr. Roman Cabanac, as his Ministerial Chief of Staff. To make matters worse, he appears to be woefully unqualified for such a senior position with his glaring lack of experience in government, Parliament or agriculture, beyond a fetish for being a twitter troll spewing all sorts of hate speech.

Few South Africans expect much from former President Jacob Zuma's MK Party. This low bar has been affirmed with a constant purging of its parliamentary ranks. Former President Zuma, himself now a convicted felon, has sought fit to scrounge the bottom of the barrel and unleash all sorts of disreputable characters found by the Judge Zondo Commission into State Capture and Corruption to have been at the heart of state capture of key State-Owned Enterprises, upon the august Houses of Parliament. Society has the right to be irritated and offended at having to foot the bill for the salaries of persons who oversaw the collapse of SOEs, who are now masquerading as Parliamentarians, more so when this rogue gallery has yet to account to the nation for their role in this chapter of treason.

Workers have paid the price for having public representatives with the moral compass of an infectious disease. COSATU felt the pain with the assassination of South African Municipal Workers' Union shop stewards and an African National Congress Councillor in Vhembe for blowing the whistle on the corruption that collapsed the Venda Building Society (VBS). It was VBS employees who lost their jobs, pensioners and workers who lost their savings, and municipal workers today struggling to get paid because of the looting of VBS. Yet we now

are plunged into deeply worrying circumstances of a Minister for Justice, Ms. Thembi Simelane, confirming she received what is at best a loan from a person currently before court for charges of VBS related corruption and at worst, what is not only a serious conflict of interest and non-disclosure but may also fall foul of the Prevention and Combatting of Corruption Act.

COSATU had hoped, like millions of exhausted South Africans, that the May 29th election results would be a sobering moment for all political parties and their public representatives. Given the growing instances of delinquency by our MPs, it is becoming increasingly clear, that too many of our elected public representatives are incapable of acting like adults, let alone within the parameters of the law.

Society has the right to expect those entrusted to hold the state accountable, pass budgets and draft laws, should be persons of integrity, and not hoodlums better placed in our Correctional Service facilities.

If we are to halt this slide into moral anarchy, Parliament and our law enforcement organs need to act when MPs lose their moral bearings. Treating political miscreants with kid gloves is not only an affront to the public but will embolden further chapters of state capture and looting.

# COULD CRITICISM AGAINST GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY BE JUSTIFIABLE IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER?

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

**O**WING to concerted efforts to weaken the ANC in all fronts, this year's national elections saw the ANC's dominance in the South African political landscape for the first time being reduced to just below 40% since the dawn of democratic dispensation, rendering it impossible to form a government without the involvement of other parties. Eligible voters exercised their democratic right to vote for parties of their own choices, including a myriad of smaller parties, and others did not vote at all.

It has been widely reported that, having failed to garner majority votes, the first call for the ANC was to engage in discussions with the EFF, and reluctantly, due to the hostility between the two parties, with MK Party as well. ANC negotiators were prepared to put aside ANC's differences with MK Party to negotiate for coalition government with it and the EFF for the sake of the country. It had also been widely reported that both parties made ridiculous demands to the ANC, which the ANC negotiators could not accede to.

The ANC could not persuade the EFF and MK Party to form a

grand coalition, which could have been attained with relative ease in terms of respective numbers acquired by the three parties. Negotiations with both the EFF and MK Party stagnated. On the other hand, the clock was ticking, and split decisions had to be made within given timelines. Racing against time for the establishment of a government within limited timeframes after the elections in terms of the Constitution, the ANC was left with no option but to look elsewhere for collab-

oration with other political parties who would be willing to form a government with it through a coalition or whatever manner.

The establishment of a government could not be held at ransom by the EFF and MK Party with their spurious demands and indecisiveness. There was no viable alternative for the ANC under those circumstances than to look for alternative options elsewhere.

Negotiations and horse-trading

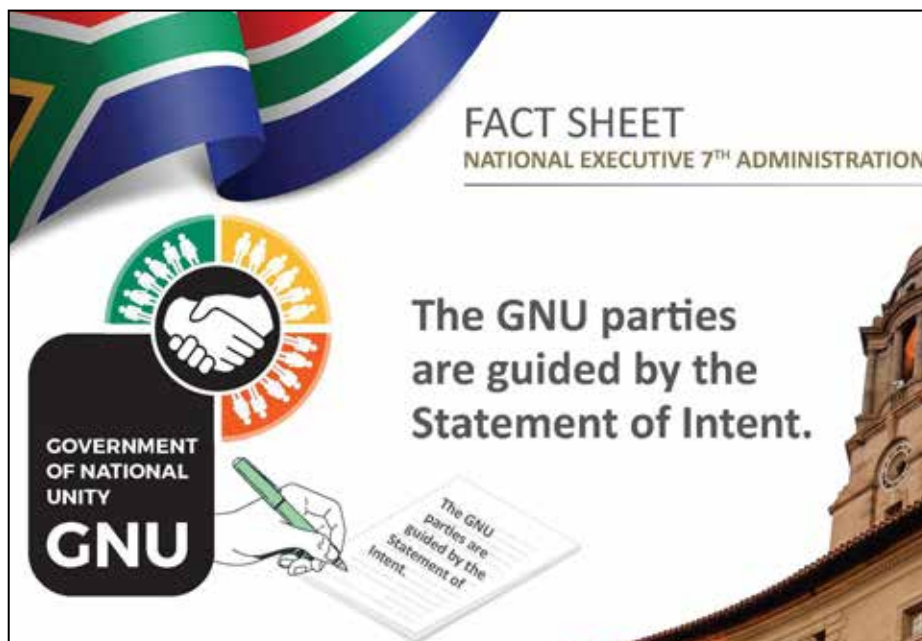


SACP General Secretary Solly Mapaila delivering message of support at the ANC 112th Anniversary

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processes with other stakeholders were intensified, and at some stage, with no visible sign of finality in sight. However, the ANC continued negotiations with parties like the DA, IFP, FF+, and other smaller parties like PAC, UDM, PA, Al Jama-ah, and newly established parties like Rise Mzansi. The ultimate decision was the establishment of a Government of National Unity (GNU) that included parties like the DA and FF+. The GNU was established, representing at least ten political parties – ANC, DA, IFP, FF+, PAC, UDM, GOOD, PA, Al Jama-ah, and Rise Mzansi. As things currently stand, GNU is there, and we just have to find ways to live with it, or, to make it work.

The GNU is indeed a compromise situation, and whether it succeeds or not, it is what people subconsciously chose. The electorate has to swallow that bitter pill, and live by the consequences of their own actions or inactions thereof. ANC negotiators need to be lauded for their tenacity during those trying times. After its advances to the EFF and MK Party were spurned by both parties, it was obvious that the ANC had no other choice, but to take the route that it did to co-govern the country with other parties, including its erstwhile political nemesis, the DA. It is unfortunate that the decision to establish the GNU that includes parties like the DA and FF+ seems to have rubbed some of the Alliance partners the wrong way. It irked them to see the ANC getting into a governing relationship with, according to their description, “neo-liberals”. Some of the ANC members and leadership of the Alliance partners, namely SACP and COSATU, used strong and unsavoury terms to describe their dislike for the ANC’s GNU arrangement.



However, amidst all the hullabaloo of whether it was right or wrong for the ANC to decide as it did regarding the establishment of the GNU, there is a crucial question that not even critics of the GNU could respond to in clear and unambiguous terms, i.e. what options were available to the ANC at that time?

Despite having failed to attain majority votes in the elections to form a government on its own, the ANC is still leader of the government. It is still in the driving seat to continue implementing its pro-poor policies.

GNU critics are of the view that the ANC sold out on the NDR by getting into a governing relationship with parties that include white-dominated parties like the DA and FF+. They are asserting that the involvement of “neo-liberals” in governance would reverse the little socio-economic gains attained in the advent of democratic dispensation. They are of the view that anti-poor and/or anti-worker policies could be sneaked in by “neo-liberal” members of cabinet to undermine the ground already covered in the attainment of the

rights of the poor and the working class respectively in the past thirty years of democracy.

However, it seems like their argument is laced with some racial connotations than reality. For instance, despite having worked with the DA to unseat the ANC in some of the metros in the past, the EFF’s argument was that they would not be part of the GNU government with the ANC if the DA and the FF+ were also part of the GNU. From its inception, the ANC has always been striving for a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society in which all people are equal regardless of race, colour and creed.

The ANC was not going to abandon its founding principles for narrow political convenience. MK Party’s demand to the ANC was even more ridiculous and presumptuous, because they made spurious demand that the ANC get rid of its President, Cyril Ramaphosa, as a condition for them to form a government with the ANC. ANC negotiators could obviously not entertain those conditions under any circumstances whatsoever.

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Could the GNU be the solution that the South African electorate have been waiting for? Perhaps yes, perhaps not, depending through which lenses one is looking at the issue. The fact that no single political party was given full mandate to solely govern on its own to the exclusion of others means that the electorate wanted their respective political parties to work together. It is immaterial how others see it, because if the electorate wanted the ANC to govern alone, they would have given it the majority votes to enable it to do so. The same goes with the other parties.

Almost all political parties forming part of the GNU are allocated ministry or deputy ministry portfolio or other significant role to play in government. Most of the portfolios in the GNU are the result of horse-trading during negotiations between the ANC and other parties forming part of the GNU. Proponents of GNU credit it for accountability of the ministers and deputy ministers. They aver that there would not be complacency anymore, as cabinet ministers would be keeping each other on their toes. The other advantage of GNU is that political parties attach too much sentimentality

around the positions that they occupy. Traditional opposition parties' members are now part of the GNU, and they have realised that being the opposition and being in cabinet are two different kettle of fish. Screaming and hurling insults at others in cabinet, whilst seated pretty in opposition benches, was easy to do, but not anymore.

It has recently been reported that DA Ministers and Deputy Ministers in GNU are poised to challenge unemployment rate in South Africa. Whilst that is appreciated and commendable, the downside of it is that, they seem to be looking at themselves in the GNU as a government within another government. However, is that not right if Ministers and Deputy Ministers set themselves targets to arrest the runaway unemployment rate in the country? Is it not better to deal decisively with unemployment than to face the social ills attributed thereto, especially crime?

The challenge that those DA Ministers are posing to their counterparts, including ANC Ministers should also be commended. The more cabinet ministers and their respective departments compete

amongst themselves, and trying to outsmart each other in terms of performance, the more the electorate would benefit in terms of service delivery. Thus healthy and acceptable competition.

Then there are others who are already trying to weaponize their votes, threatening that the ANC stands to lose even more in the forthcoming local government elections in 2026, because of the GNU. The SACP General Secretary, Solly Mapaila, is in the forefront of that campaign to vilify the ANC's establishment of the GNU.

However, Mapaila's tirade against the ANC does not seem to be the official position of the SACP, or, supported by the SACP Central Committee, because SACP members are Ministers, Deputy Ministers, MPs, Premiers, MECs, and MPLs in the same GNU/GPU that he is vociferously criticizing.

If Mapaila would like the SACP to be taken seriously, he would also recommend for the withdrawal of its members serving in the GNU in protest against the so-called "sell-out" GNU arrangement with the "neo-liberals". Actions speak louder than words. Crass hypocrisy is not doing well for the image and reputation of the SACP.

With benefit of hindsight, decision for establishment of GNU seems to be in the best interest of the country in terms of accountability and service delivery. Besides, GNU was the only viable option under the circumstances. Arm-chair critics and naysayers did not have, and still do not have any alternative to offer other than doing what they are good at – criticizing.

Section of the crowd at the Presidential Inauguration



*The views and opinions expressed in this article is solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy and position of the African National Congress.*



# Staying on Campaign Mode: The ANC's Path to 2026 and Beyond

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

**T**HE ANC's leadership is at a critical juncture. The recent national elections did not yield the results we hoped for, but despite the challenges, the ANC remains the largest party in South Africa. This position reflects our enduring legacy, but it is also a sobering reminder of the work ahead. As we look towards the 2026 local government elections, it is imperative that we remain in perpetual campaign mode – not just until election day, but continuously beyond. Our task extends far beyond securing votes; it is about restoring faith in the democratic project we lead and reaffirming the ANC as the driving force behind South Africa's progress.

The changing political landscape has forced the ANC into difficult and sometimes uncomfortable decisions, such as forming alliances with parties like the DA. These moves were not made lightly; they were calculated, tactical decisions made necessary by the current context. This strategy is deeply rooted in ANC's tradition of tactical alliances, something that has been part of our strategic approach to achieving our long-term goals since our formative years.

However, it is concerning that some of our comrades, includ-



ing alliance partners, have not fully grasped the need for these tactical decisions. Their resistance, often manifested in public criticisms of the ANC, does more harm than good. The constant back-and-forth – criticizing the ANC one moment and campaigning for it the next – sends a mixed message to the electorate. This inconsistency breeds confusion and erodes the trust that is essential for our movement. We need to be resolute and clear: the ANC's decisions are guided by our commitment to advancing the interests of the people, even when those decisions involve working with political rivals.

Our immediate task is to close ranks and foster internal unity. The ANC remains the only credi-

ble force capable of championing the needs of the poor and marginalized. It is the ANC that has a track record of transformative policies, from social grants to free basic services, that have improved millions of lives. The ANC is not just a political party; it is a movement that has always been grounded in the struggles and aspirations of the people. This connection with the grassroots is what sets us apart and must be the foundation upon which we build our future.

The rebuilding process starts from within. We need to foster a culture of discipline, accountability, and loyalty among our members. This means moving away from factionalism and self-interest, which have weakened our

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structures and diverted our focus from the real work at hand. The ANC's strength has always come from its unity, and our ability to act with a common purpose is more important now than ever. As we approach the 2027 elections, our leaders and members must be seen working together in unison, speaking with one voice, and projecting a coherent message that resonates with the electorate.

One of the biggest challenges facing the ANC is reconnecting with those who have lost faith in the democratic project led by our movement. The declining voter turnout, especially in traditional ANC strongholds, signals a growing disillusionment among our core supporters. Many South Africans feel that their lives have not improved significantly, and that the promises of democracy have not fully materialized. This disillusionment is not just a political problem; it is a crisis of confidence in the ANC's ability to lead.

To address this, we must go beyond rhetoric and take concrete steps to demonstrate our commitment to serving the people. Our branches, the heartbeat of the ANC, must continue their civic duties with renewed vigour. This means being present in communities, not just during election campaigns, but all year round. We must be seen addressing local issues, whether it is fixing service delivery problems, supporting community initiatives, or simply being available to listen to the concerns of the people. This is how we rebuild trust—through consistent, visible action that shows we are still the movement that cares deeply about the welfare of all South Africans.

Moreover, we need to broaden



our reach to engage the youth, women, and rural communities who have felt left out of the political process. Young people, in particular, are frustrated by high unemployment rates and limited opportunities. They need to see the ANC not just as the party of their parents and grandparents, but as a movement that is relevant to their lives today. This requires innovative approaches, such as leveraging social media and digital platforms to communicate our message, promote our achievements, and involve them in shaping the policies that will affect their future.

In our pursuit of reclaiming lost ground, it is crucial that we resist the allure of populism. We must not promise what we cannot deliver, and we must avoid simplistic solutions to complex problems. Our people do not need empty promises; they need tangible results. The delivery of basic services – water, electricity, housing, and quality healthcare – should be our top priority. We need to ensure that local government structures are functional, transparent, and responsive to the needs of the people.

We must be guided by the wisdom of revolutionary leaders like Amílcar Cabral, who famously said, “*Tell no lies; claim no easy*

*victories.*” This principle should underpin all our engagements with the electorate. We must be honest about the challenges we face, including the limitations of our government machinery and the difficult economic conditions. At the same time, we must communicate our plans clearly and ensure that our actions match our words. This honesty will go a long way in rebuilding the trust that has been eroded over time.

The rebuilding of the ANC is not an insurmountable mission; it is a challenge that we can and must meet with determination. This process requires introspection, discipline, and a commitment to our founding principles. We must tackle corruption decisively, hold members accountable, and ensure that our representatives are people of integrity who put the interests of the country first. This starts with a leadership that leads by example and inspires confidence in our ability to govern effectively.

We also need to reinvigorate our training and political education programmes to ensure that every member understands the ANC's mission and values. Political education should not be a box-ticking exercise but a continuous process that equips our cadres with the skills and knowledge needed

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to serve the people effectively. Our branches must become centers of learning and community action, where members are actively involved in solving local problems and advancing the ANC's agenda.

To remain in campaign mode beyond the 2026 local government elections, the ANC must maintain a high level of visibility and engagement. This means prioritizing community-based activities, regular community meetings, and robust feedback mechanisms that keep us connected to the people. We must celebrate our victories, no matter how small, and communicate them widely. At the same time, we need to be open to constructive criticism and willing to make adjustments where necessary.

The road to 2026 and beyond will not be easy, but the ANC has never shied away from difficult battles. We have faced challenges before, and we have emerged stronger each time. Now is the moment for us to rally together, to close ranks, and to reaffirm our commitment to the people of South Africa. The ANC remains the only weapon in the hands of the poor and downtrodden, and it is our duty to wield that weapon wisely, with courage and integrity.

Let us stay on campaign mode, not just for the sake of winning elections, but for the sake of our country's future. The ANC must continue to be the torchbearer of hope, progress, and transformation. Together, we can rebuild, renew, and reclaim our rightful place as the movement that leads South Africa forward. Let us seize this moment with purpose and conviction, for the ANC, for the people, and for the future of our beloved country.



# The Significance of Bringing Back the ANC to Power in the Tshwane Municipality

By **MIKATEKO BENEDICT PHALANE**

**T**HE political landscape of South Africa is characterized by rapid changes, especially in metropolitan municipalities where service delivery issues remain a contentious topic. One such municipality is Tshwane, which has witnessed significant political shifts in recent years.

As political tensions rise and the efficacy of service delivery comes under scrutiny, the African National Congress (ANC) seeks to redefine its role in Tshwane by presenting itself as a viable alternative to the Democratic Alliance (DA) and its coalition partners, who have faced criticism for their governance.

This opinion piece aims to analyze the decline of service delivery in Tshwane under the current leadership and the potential strategies the ANC could employ to reclaim power in the region.

### **The decline of Service Delivery under the DA Governance**

Since the DA gained control of Tshwane in 2016, the municipality has experienced a dramatic decline in service delivery, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among residents. Reports indicate that many communities face numerous challenges, including inconsistent water supply, erratic waste management, inadequate

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public transport systems, and poor maintenance of infrastructure.

The DA's coalition government has often been viewed as unable to transparently address these issues effectively. One of the most pressing concerns has been the water crisis in certain areas, where residents have reported weeks without access to clean water.

Waste management has also been a significant issue, with overflowing trash bins and uncollected waste becoming commonplace. Most notably, public transport has seen deterioration, with bus services often lacking in coverage. Such failings have led to a general disillusionment among voters who once supported the DA in townships.

The DA's coalition partners in Tshwane have also contributed to the struggles. Internal conflicts, divergent priorities, and differing governance styles have led to fragmentation and inconsistency in policy implementation.

This coalition's inability to present a unified front on critical issues has hampered efforts to re-

vitalize service delivery and meet the aspirations of residents of the City of Tshwane.

### **The ANC's Opportunity for a Comeback**

For the ANC, the landscape created by the DA's challenges represents a unique opportunity to reclaim its position in Tshwane. Several factors contribute to this potential, including growing discontent among voters, historical ties to the community, and a renewed focus on service delivery as a cornerstone of political strategy.

#### **1. Acknowledging Service Delivery as the Core Issue**

The first step for the ANC in rebuilding trust and support in Tshwane lies in a commitment to prioritize efficient service delivery as the core focus of the party's campaigns and governance. By addressing community concerns and presenting actionable plans, the ANC can dismantle the narrative that they are the "party of broken promises". The party must highlight its past successes in service delivery during its tenure in government while also learning from its past failures and adapting its approach based on current realities.

#### **2. Establishing Local Leadership**

Leadership quality within the ANC on a branch level is crucial for regaining lost ground. This necessitates recruiting passionate, competent, and community-oriented leaders who can genuinely connect with the electorate and be seen as advocates for their needs. Establishing a network of local leaders who understand the specific challenges faced by Tshwane residents – whether they be in finance, environmental management, or urban planning – can result in innovative solutions that resonate with the electorate.

#### **3. Engaging Voters and Building Trust**

To regain trust, the ANC must actively engage with the community through local dialogues and forums. Listening to constituencies' grievances and suggestions will demonstrate a genuine commitment to change, fostering a perception that the party is not just a political organization but a partner in community development. Also, leveraging social media campaigns and traditional media effectively to highlight community concerns can establish a relatable and responsive party image.



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### 4. Articulating a Clear and Compelling Vision

An effective strategy will require the ANC to articulate a clear and compelling vision for the City of Tshwane that not only addresses immediate service delivery concerns but also positions the municipality for long-term growth. By outlining concrete plans on infrastructure development, housing, and youth economic empowerment, the ANC can show voters that they have a roadmap to create a more livable and prosperous Tshwane.

### 5. Collaborating with Stakeholders

The ANC should prioritize collaboration with civic organizations, community leaders, and even business entities to create broad-based initiatives. By working with other entities vested in the welfare of the community, the ANC can pool resources, share insights, and amplify its impact on service delivery. Bringing various stakeholders together to tackle challenges can send a strong message that the ANC is focused on inclusivity and collaboration.

### 6. Focusing on Economic Development and Job Creation

Economic development is another essential component of the ANC's strategy to regain support in Tshwane. A focus on job cre-

ation and attracting investment, particularly in underserved areas, will resonate with voters who face unemployment challenges. The ANC can create public-private partnerships that stimulate local economies while committing to supporting small businesses to foster local entrepreneurship.

### Analyzing the ANC's Weaknesses

Despite its potential for recovery, the ANC also faces significant challenges that it must address to effectively campaign for power in Tshwane:

**1. Historical Negativity:** The ANC's legacy in certain areas is marred by perceptions of corruption and inefficiency. To counteract this, the party must take a strong stance against corruption and demonstrate accountability in its internal workings.

**2. Factionalism:** Internal divisions within the party can be detrimental to its rebranding efforts. The ANC must strive for unity within its ranks to present a cohesive and focused front to voters.

**3. Public Perception:** Given the DA's concerted effort to undermine the ANC's narrative, the party should prioritize reputation management and public relations

to counter negative stereotypes.

**4. Youth Engagement:** The youth are an increasingly pivotal demographic in politics. The ANC must work actively to engage young voters, presenting policies and initiatives that resonate with their values and aspirations.

**5. Adaptation to Changing Demographics:** With demographic shifts in Tshwane, the ANC must adapt its messaging and policies to reflect the changing needs and interests of a diverse population.

### Conclusion

Bringing back the ANC to power in the Tshwane municipality is not just a matter of political ambition; it reflects a critical juncture for service delivery in the region. As residents grow increasingly disenchanted with the current administration, the ANC has a unique opportunity to reposition itself as the party that prioritizes the community's needs above all. By focusing on service delivery, establishing effective branch leadership, engaging with voters, articulating a clear vision, collaborating with stakeholders, and emphasizing economic development, the ANC can effectively work to regain its standing in Tshwane.

However, it must also confront its weaknesses with transparency and adaptability. Should the ANC successfully navigate these challenges, it could reclaim the confidence of Tshwane's residents and restore the municipality to a path of effective governance and service delivery.

*Mikateko Benedict Phalane is an ANC BEC member, Ward 10 and AN-CYL Zonal deputy convener.*



# Revitalizing the African National Congress: The Leadership Needed for a New Era

■ By **THATOYAONE MOEPETSANE**

**T**HE African National Congress (ANC), once a beacon of hope and a symbol of resistance against apartheid, is facing an unprecedented crisis. After decades of leadership struggles, corruption scandals, and declining public trust, the party needs a revitalizing force to reclaim its former glory.

In today's fast-paced and ever-changing world, effective leadership is crucial for success. Visionary leaders who embody integrity, accountability and courage are essential for driving innovation, embracing youth, and

making decisive actions.

This article explores the key elements of visionary leadership and how they can inspire and empower individuals and organizations to reach new heights. The ANC has been the dominant political party in South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994. However, in recent years, the party has faced numerous challenges, including corruption, internal divisions, and declining popularity.

## **Visionary Leadership**

Visionary leaders have a clear and

compelling vision for the future. They inspire and motivate others to work towards a common goal, fostering a sense of purpose and direction. This type of leadership encourages innovation, creativity, and experimentation, leading to new ideas and solutions.

The ANC needs a leadership with a clear vision for the future, one that can inspire and unite the party and the nation. This leadership must possess a deep understanding of the country's challenges and opportunities, as well as the ability to articulate a compelling narrative for a better South Africa.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### **Integrity and Accountability**

Integrity is the foundation of visionary leadership. Leaders with integrity act with honesty, transparency, and ethics, earning the trust and respect of their team. Accountability follows, as leaders take ownership of their actions and decisions, acknowledging successes and failures.

A leader with unwavering integrity and a commitment to accountability is crucial for the ANC's redemption. This individual must be willing to confront the party's internal weaknesses, tackle corruption, and promote transparency in all aspects of governance.

### **Inclusive and Collaborative Approach**

Visionary leaders are courageous and decisive, making tough decisions with confidence and conviction. They take calculated risks, facing challenges head-on, and lead by example.

The ANC requires a leader who can foster a culture of inclusivity, collaboration, and constructive debate. By embracing diverse perspectives and empowering grassroots members, this leader can reinvigorate the party's democratic spirit and reconnect with its base.

### **Embracing Youth and Innovation**

Visionary leaders recognize the value of youth and innovation. They empower young minds, encouraging fresh perspectives and new ideas. By embracing innovation, leaders stay ahead of the curve, driving growth and progress.

A leader who recognizes the im-

portance of youth and innovation can help the ANC tap into the energy and creativity of South Africa's younger generation. By embracing new ideas and technologies, the party can revitalize its policy agenda and appeal to a broader constituency.

### **Decisive Action and Courage**

The ANC needs a leader willing to take bold and decisive action to address the country's pressing issues, such as unemployment, inequality, and poverty. This leader must demonstrate courage in confronting vested interests and making tough decisions to drive meaningful change.

Young leaders can play a crucial role in revitalizing the ANC by:

1. Bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas;
2. Injecting energy and enthusiasm into the party;
3. Connecting with younger voters and grassroots members;
4. Driving internal reforms and accountability;
5. Embracing technology and social media to enhance engagement;
6. Fostering inclusivity and diversity within the party;
7. Addressing the concerns of young South Africans, such as unemployment and education;
8. Promoting transparency and good governance;
9. Revitalizing the party's ideological foundation and values; and
10. Building coalitions and partnerships with other organizations.

Some potential strategies for young leaders to revitalize the ANC include:

1. Establishing youth-led task

teams to focus on specific issues;

2. Creating platforms for young members to engage with senior leaders;
3. Developing mentorship programmes to nurture future leaders;
4. Hosting town hall meetings and community forums to listen to constituents;
5. Leveraging social media to amplify the party's message and engage with voters;
6. Collaborating with civil society organizations to address social and economic issues;
7. Pushing for policy reforms and innovative solutions; and
8. Encouraging participatory democracy and inclusive decision-making.

### **Conclusion**

By empowering young leaders and embracing new ideas and approaches, the ANC can revitalize itself and remain relevant in South Africa's evolving political landscape.

The ANC stands at a crossroads, and its future hinges on the emergence of a new generation of leaders who can revitalize the party and restore its founding values. By embracing visionary leadership, integrity, inclusivity, innovation, and decisive action, the ANC can reclaim its position as a champion of the South African people and a force for positive change. Visionary leadership is about inspiring and empowering others to achieve greatness.

By embracing integrity, accountability, youth, innovation, and courageous action, leaders can create a culture of excellence and drive meaningful change. As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, visionary leadership is more crucial than ever.

# The Wheels of Transformation in Full Motion

■ By **MPUMELELO NYOKA**



“**T**ELL my people that I love them and that they must continue the fight, my blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruit of freedom,” SOLOMON MAHLANGU’s last words before being executed by the Apartheid regime in 1979.

12 years later the furious winds of change led to the unbanning of liberation movements; release of political detainees and activists, the return of exiles and the dismantling of Apartheid.

The wheels of transformation were in full motion. Also, the transformation of the Judiciary led to groundbreaking milestones along the way.

On 1 September 2024 SA reached another milestone in the transformation of the Judiciary when the first female Chief Justice Maya took over from CJ Zondo. She is not only female but Black as well.

The first milestone was when Adv

Ismail Mahomed becomes the first Black person to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Appeal in 1991.

The second milestone was when Judge Ismail Mahomed was appointed the first Black Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court in 1998 until he died in 2000 (CJ Ismail Mahomed was one of the two Advocates that represented Solomon Mahlangu earlier on. It was a fitting tribute for him to be the first among the first.

This wonderful wave of transformation was made possible within the sphere of law by a solid battalion of “activist lawyers” both advocates and Attorneys who fearlessly defended political activists and freedom fighters from the 1960s to the late 1980s. They were harassed, spied upon, killed etc. but gallantly soldiered on.

These brand of lawyers inspired us to be lawyers and eager to finish law school to join them in the noble fight against the injustices of Apartheid through legal repre-

sentation. I wish to name some of them as follows:

Advocate Pius Langa, Louis Skweyiya, Marumo Moerane, Justice Poswa, George Bizos, Dullah Omar, Desai, Mthiyana, Ismail Mahomed, Attorney Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge (both killed by the security system), Louis Mshizana, Silas Nkanunu, Thole Majodina, Madikizela Ngcuka, Ntobeko Maqhubela, Sangoni, Magqabi and Canca (both of who represented us as Fort Hare students when arrested or expelled for political activities for free).

From this group New South Africa judges were selected and joined the Judiciary in an irreversible quest to transform it. Yes, the Judiciary is not fully transformed, but slowly but surely we are getting there. I salute these legal stalwarts for their fearlessness and soulful legal contribution to a free South Africa. Their blood, sweat and tears have also nourished the tree of our freedom.

*Mpumelelo Nyoka is a Gqeberha Attorney.*



## REFLECTIONS

# THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VAAL UPRISING THE IMPLICATIONS THEREOF

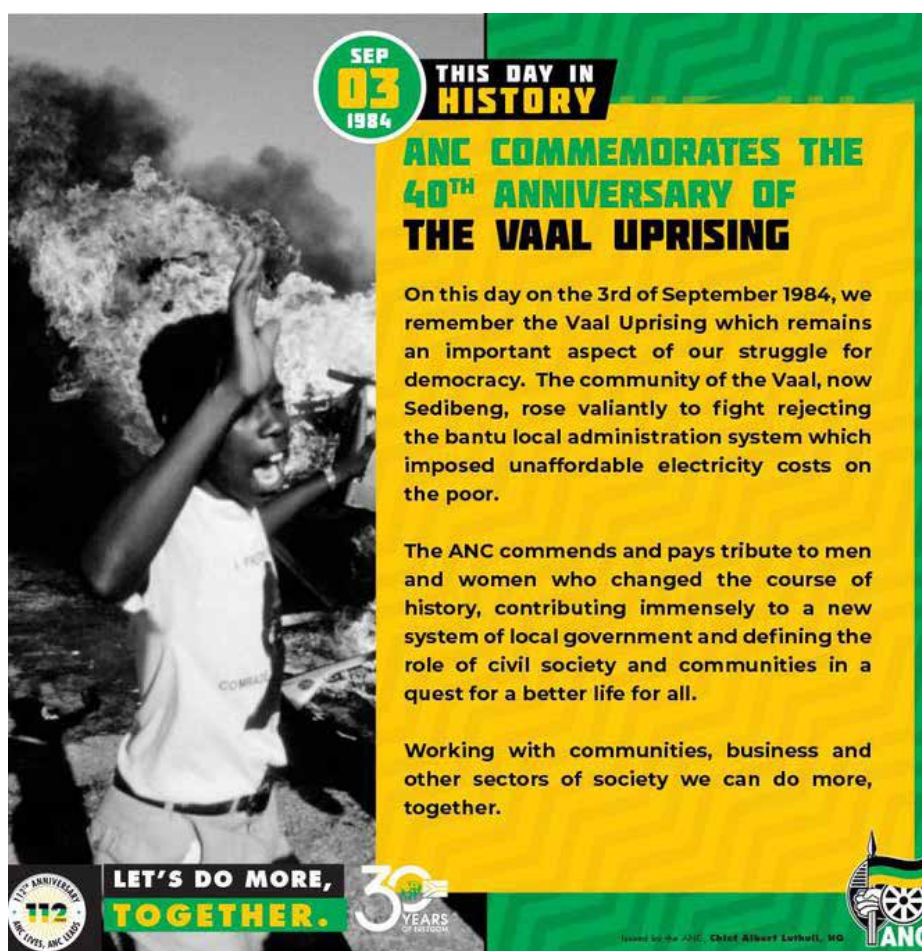
■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

**T**HE 3rd of September 1984 represents the turning point in history, etched as one of the key milestones in the epic chapters of our liberation struggle. This is history written in blood, and hope. The year 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of the Vaal Uprising.

This was a significant period preceded on the formation of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in 1983 under the slogan; **“UDF Unites, Apartheid Divides.”**; and the leadership of comrade Albertina Sisulu and many others. The UDF was established in 1983 to oppose the introduction of the Tri-cameral Parliament by the National Party government polarization strategy of divide and rule.

In 1979 the Congress of the South African Students was formed. This was also the birthing of the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO), and the emergence of the civic movement, including the formation of the Congress of the South African Trade Unions (COSATU) under the leadership of Comrade Elijah Barayi.

The unity of these organisations, the sense of purpose was the beginning of the gradual fall of the apartheid foundations, galvanised by mass mobilisation in addition to other pillars of struggle.



**SEP 03 1984** **THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

**ANC COMMEMORATES THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VAAL UPRISING**

On this day on the 3rd of September 1984, we remember the Vaal Uprising which remains an important aspect of our struggle for democracy. The community of the Vaal, now Sedibeng, rose valiantly to fight rejecting the bantu local administration system which imposed unaffordable electricity costs on the poor.

The ANC commends and pays tribute to men and women who changed the course of history, contributing immensely to a new system of local government and defining the role of civil society and communities in a quest for a better life for all.

Working with communities, business and other sectors of society we can do more, together.

**LET'S DO MORE TOGETHER.** **30 YEARS OF FREEDOM**

**ANC LIVES, ANC LEADS**

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthe, MD

On the Monday of the 3rd of September 1984, the community of the Vaal, the present day Sedi-beng, rose in unison to reject the odious system of Bantu local administration as tentacles of apartheid, segregation, councillors and the increment of electricity tariffs amidst the grinding poverty and high cost of living.

It was a painful period characterized by the lynching of Esau

Mahlatsi, the Mayor of Sharpeville and other mayors, the burning of government property, which amounted to sedition and treason according apartheid laws. This spread to other parts of the country.

Political activists were arrested, culminating in the Delmas Trial, one of the longest political trials in the country, the condemnation of the Sharpeville Six to the gal-

## REFLECTIONS

lows owing to the death of Esau Mahlatsi and acts of violence. It was a struggle for unity in purpose, demonstrating the potency of the unity of working class, the poor, the proletariat struggle, the church, youth, women, the civic movement and communities.

The civic movement, led by the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) due to the banning of the ANC and suppression of political activities, played a vanguard role in addressing the needs of communities through coordinated campaigns to reject the imposition of electricity rates by the illegitimate apartheid councils.

In 1985, Cde Oliver Tambo, the President of the ANC made a declaration to render South Africa ungovernable and apartheid unworkable. The country caught fire, shaking the apartheid foundations.

What were the implications of the rent boycott in a new democratic milieu? Is the South African National Civic Organisation still relevant in view of the existence of the ANC branch and the unbanning of the ANC? Why did SANCO not disband post 1990 like the UDF, is it a revolutionary guard over the ANC? Together with the key allies of the ANC, what was the role of the Congress of the South African Trade Unions and the South African Communist Party (SACP) in ensuring the victory of the ANC in the 2024 National General Elections?

To answer these questions, context and recent developments are important. Firstly, SANCO has to two options. The first is to re-orientate itself to be complementary in building a strong force rooted in communities in addition



to the role of the ANC branches, to address community interests and strengthen local government. This will jettison its tag as an opportunistic force whose life depends on its parasitic relationship with the ANC.

Secondly, SANCO has to close shop due to its irrelevance and absence of strategies of redefining its role in a democratic local government setting.

The Vaal Uprising had far reaching implications for democracy and shaped our jurisprudence. It also shaped the doctrine of common purpose and the abolishment of the death penalty. The Sharpeville Six were reprieved on account of international pressure, on account of the death penalty as a barbaric act apartheid and as a crime against humanity.

Prior to 1994, protests and boycotts were accompanied by violent acts of destruction of apartheid institutions. This culture is prevalent today, sinking municipalities into debt, decaying infrastructure and illegal connections which affect the state's ability to provide basic services as entrusted by the Constitution.

The ANC electoral decline saw the coalitions in local government. These governments, quid pro quo and the absence of principle have an adverse impact in the provision of services and the stability of municipalities, often leading to a change of political guard on account of the struggle for power and resources, to the neglect of communities. The ANC cannot afford this repeat in 2026 and beyond. There's huge collateral damage on communities.

## REFLECTIONS

In light of the poor state of local government, the ANC designed interventions and strategies to municipalities through funding, capable and visionary leadership, collaboration between government and business in the context of social cohesion, socio-economic transformation to create jobs and to fight poverty.

There is a need to inculcate a culture of payment of services, protection of state property, creating safer and secure environment, fighting crime by participating in the Community Policing Forums (CPFs) as organs of people's power and other strategies aimed at rescuing municipalities from total collapse.

This is aligned to the ANC's commitment to serve society, to advance the NDR. The 2024 electoral decline poses new responsibilities for the ANC. There are opportunities and a rainbow of hope after the 2024 tumultuous electoral storm. This is a lesson for the ANC as it prepares for the 2026 local government to ensure an overwhelming victory in order to obviate coalitions which severely impact on service delivery.

Over any years since the advent of local government the ANC government ensured the connection and provision of potable water to households, electrified houses, built roads, houses, clinics, schools and other amenities. In the face of grinding poverty the ANC introduced social grants and indigent policies to cushion the poor from economic hardship and the astronomical cost of living.

If the local government by-elections are indicators of a growing ANC voter support save in other areas, prospects for an ANC led local government are high.

To achieve this, the ANC needs to fulfil its election commitment of building a capable local government, unity, renewal, building active branches, working together with civil society to explore opportunities for growth and solutions to the problems plaguing local government, intensifying the fight against crime, the debilitating scourge of gender based violence, acts of sexism and racism, the construction mafia and extortion which hamstringing service delivery and infrastructure development as employment creation, poverty eradication, economic stimulation, investment and growth key driver.

The District Development Model is crucial in expediting service delivery through partnerships and increased funding. This is an innovative paradigm based on collaboration to ensure seamless provision of basic services.

The ANC joins South Africans in commemorating a milestone that changed the course of history, contributed to the demise of apartheid and the gradual erad-

ication of its vestiges which remain palpable as witnessed by apartheid spatial development, inequality, poverty and the competing needs of the developmental state amidst meagre and inequitable distribution of resources. In commemorating this milestone, the ANC commends the community of Sedibeng, pays tribute to those who fell in the fight against apartheid and its extensions in pursuance of a united democratic South Africa pillared on dignity and a country with strong democratic institutions based on the will of the people.

As we celebrate 30 years of democracy, the primary task is to consolidate our achievements which are a product of the struggles of the unity of the church, civil society, youth and student who valiantly resisted apartheid oppression in the face of death and heavily armed regime that respected no human rights.

The struggles of the 3rd September 1984 remain indelibly etched in the annals of our history, written in blood. And hope.



## HISTORY

### A LEAF OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

# 1984 Unrests in the Vaal Triangle

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

**O**N 6 September 1984, a riot-proof police van and two armoured personnel carriers were used to snake their way through the streets of Sharpeville ferrying four apartheid ministers following reports in the newspapers with alarming news from the Vaal Triangle townships of Sharpeville, Boipatong, Sebokeng, Evaton, Bophelong and Tembisa, to the south of Johannesburg. Reports from newspapers like the “Star”, revealed disturbing news of an ongoing school boycott, as youths went on the rampage on the night of 3 September 1984, gutting houses, bottle stores and cars.

In the riot-proof police van were Minister of Law and Order, Louis le Grange, Minister of Interior, F.W. de Klerk, Minister of Education, Gerrit Viljoen, and Defence Minister Magnus Malan. They were ferried around the township looking out at burnt shops and houses through the steel mesh protecting the vehicle windows.

The disturbances began on Monday, 3 September 1984, when the new apartheid Tri-cameral Constitution came into effect, with the apartheid Chief Justice Pierre Rabie swearing in P.W. Botha as Acting State President pending the election of a permanent president when the Tri-cameral Parliament was to begin its first sitting on 5 September 1984.



A report in the “Sowetan” newspaper revealed that meetings were held throughout the weekend in the Vaal townships, resulting in a decision by residents and students for a stay-away on 3 September 1984 against the imposition of higher rentals. The increases differed from township to township, with Sebokeng recording the lowest increase of around R50 per month in the Vaal, and with Soweto increasing its rent to R48 per month, as the lowest in the south of Johannesburg. Following reports of a possible stay-away in most townships, the “Sowetan” also reported that hundreds of policemen were ex-

pected to be out in force in the Vaal on that particular day.

Following the four apartheid Ministers being ferried through Sharpeville in a secured van, they were then flown by helicopter to Sebokeng and Evaton, where they were driven through the streets by a bus escorted by various police vehicles and armoured cars. At Sebokeng, the convoy approached a group of youths, which it tried to avoid by turning down a side street foreseeing a possible confrontation.

On 7 September 1984, the Associated Press issued a report

## HISTORY

in which it quoted the Minister of Law and Order, Louis le Grange, saying that he did not want to make any categorical statements at that moment, but that he was not convinced that the fifteen percent rent increases were the real reason for the rioting. According to Le Grange, "There are individuals and other forces and organisations very clearly behind what is happening in the Vaal Triangle". In the meantime, the Minister of the Interior, F.W. de Klerk mentioned that he felt shocked as they drove through the townships and saw all the havoc.

The beginning of the protest and demonstrations in the Vaal on 3 September 1984 marked the start of the longest and most widespread period of black resistance to white rule in the mid-1980s. The Lekoa and Evaton Town Councils' idea to raise tariffs for municipal services caused the demonstrations and stay-aways in the Vaal Triangle. The Vaal Civic Association organised the stay-away, school boycott and march for 3 September 1984, which led to clashes with both police and township councillors, and left thirty people dead. The marchers also looted shops, set fire to houses and killed 4 councillors.

The United Democratic Front (UDF) took little notice of township revolts in the first months of 1984, and only started to get involved as a result of police violence and state repression. However, the apartheid state placed a lot of the blame for the revolts on the UDF, and began to arrest and detain leaders of the UDF in late 1984.

Banners and Posters proclaimed, **"SADF AND POLICE OUT OF THE TOWNSHIPS!"**

# GONE "FOREVER"

■ By Gloria Nkadimeng

(Last tribute to our esteemed Comrade Moses Kotane)

He who made the sun shine upon the  
oppressed is gone....  
and it is forever  
in the flesh

He who uttered those brave words  
into thirsty ears  
is gone....  
and it is forever  
into earth

He who was leading us down  
to the valley of freedom

This knight in shining armour

This natural phenomenon  
this monster

Death has taken him from our  
parched eyes

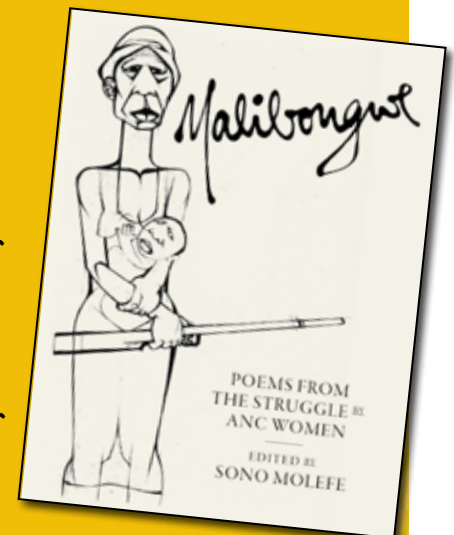
not our hearts  
he is gone...  
and it is forever

Brave he was amongst the bravest  
This gem that sparkled in the hands of  
the nation

but now he is gone.....  
and it is forever  
from our eyes

Let us all, clenched fist in clenched  
fist, therefore for a moment, bouquet  
his coffin, now

with revolutionary songs  
for new  
moment forever



**MALIBONGWE: Poems from the struggle by ANC Women**

Edited by Sono Molefe (Lindiwe Mabuza)

# A Quarter Century of Championing Competition: The South African Competition Commission's Success Stories

■ By **MANDISA MBELE**

**A**s the Competition Commission of South Africa (CCSA) celebrates its 25th anniversary, it's an opportune moment to reflect on the significant strides it has made in promoting competition and ensuring a fair marketplace for consumers and businesses alike. The Commission's work has been instrumental in fostering economic growth, protecting consumers, and fostering a level playing field for businesses.

One of the CCSA's most notable achievements has been its role in promoting market entry and reducing barriers to competition. By investigating and challenging anti-competitive practices such as cartels, mergers, and abuse of dominance, the Commission has helped to create a more dynamic and competitive business environment. This has led to lower prices for consumers, increased innovation, and improved efficiency.

A prime example of the CCSA's impact is its success in combating cartels. Cartels, where competing businesses collude to fix prices or restrict output, can harm consumers by limiting their choices and driving up costs. The Commission has been vigilant in identifying and prosecuting car-



tels, resulting in significant fines and penalties for offending companies. This has deterred anti-competitive behaviour and sent a clear message that such practices will not be tolerated.

Moreover, the CCSA has played a crucial role in promoting economic transformation. By ensuring that markets are open and competitive, the Commission has created opportunities for previously disadvantaged businesses to enter the market and compete on an equal footing. This has helped to address the legacy of

apartheid and promote a more inclusive economy.

Two particularly noteworthy cases highlight the CCSA's impact on South Africa's economy and society:

- **The AIDS Medication Case:** In 2001, the CCSA intervened in a case involving the pricing of antiretroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS treatment. The Commission found that the pricing practices of certain pharmaceutical companies were anti-competitive and hindering

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

access to life-saving medication. The CCSA's intervention led to a reduction in drug prices, making them more affordable for millions of South Africans living with HIV/AIDS.

- **The Banking Cases:** The CCSA has also been instrumental in addressing competition concerns within the South African banking sector. The Commission has investigated allegations of collusion, market dominance, and unfair practices by major banks. Through its investigations and interventions, the CCSA has helped to promote competition and ensure that consumers have access to fair and affordable banking services.

In addition to its enforcement activities, the CCSA has also been proactive in promoting competition through advocacy and education. The Commission has conducted research, published reports, and engaged with stakeholders to raise awareness about competition issues and promote best practices. This has helped to build a culture of competition and ensure that businesses understand their obligations under competition law.

While the CCSA has achieved significant success over the past 25 years, there is still work to be done. The Commission must continue to adapt to the evolving landscape of competition, including the challenges posed by digital markets and globalization.

By remaining vigilant, innovative, and committed to its mandate, the CCSA can continue to play a vital role in promoting a competitive and dynamic economy for South Africa.

## I am an African

I owe my being to the hills and the valleys, the mountains and the glades, the rivers, the deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seas and the ever-changing seasons that define the face of our native land.

I owe my being to the Khoi and the San whose desolate souls haunt the great expanses of the beautiful Cape - they who fell victim to the most merciless genocide our native land has ever seen, they who were the first to lose their lives in the struggle to defend our freedom and independence and they who, as a people, perished in the result.

I am formed of the migrants who left Europe to find a new home on our native land. Whatever their own actions, they remain still part of me.

In my veins courses the blood of the Malay slaves who came from the East. Their proud dignity informs my bearing, their culture a part of my essence. The stripes they bore on their bodies from the lash of the slave master are a reminder embossed on my consciousness of what should not be done.

I am the grandchild of the warrior men and women that Hintsa and Sekhukhune led, the patriots that Cetshwayo and Mphephu took to battle, the soldiers Moshoeshe and Ngungunyane taught never to dishonour the cause of freedom.

I am an African.

I am born of the peoples of the continent of Africa.

The evolution of humanity says that Africa reaffirms that she is continuing her rise from the ashes. Whatever the setbacks of the moment, nothing can stop us now! Whatever the difficulties, Africa shall be at peace!



Extracts from "I am an African" speech delivered by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, 8 May 1996, on behalf of the African National Congress.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

7 – 13 September 2024

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

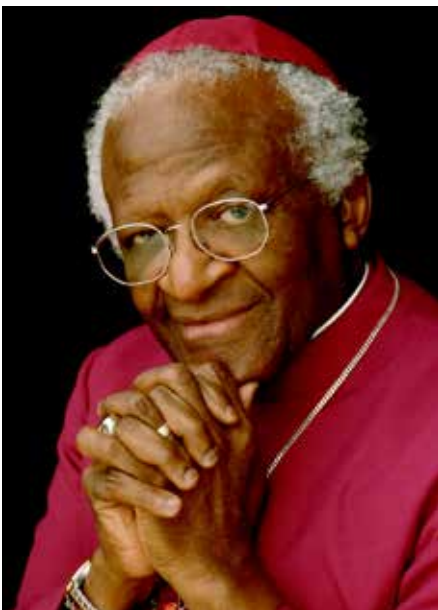
### 7 September 1971

#### Artist James Cudjoe born

One of the best-known painters in Ghana, James Cudjoe was born in Tokoradi. His cityscapes of contemporary West African life, especially his series of paintings featuring market women, are legendary.

### 7 September 1986

#### Tutu ordained as Archbishop of Cape Town



The Anglican Church ordains the bishop and anti-apartheid icon as first black Archbishop of Cape Town, which makes him the head of the Anglican Church in South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana and Eswatini.

### 7 September 1992

#### Bisho Massacre

80,000 protesters gathered outside Bisho, capital of Ciskei, de-



manding an end to the military government of Brigadier Joshua Gqozo and the re-absorption of the bantustan into South Africa. The protest was led by several senior African National Congress (ANC) leaders, including South African Communist Party Secretary General Chris Hani, Cyril Ramaphosa, Steve Tshwete and Ronnie Kasrils. Demonstrators tried to cross the Ciskei Defense Force lines and enter into Bisho. Soldiers opened fire and continued firing indiscriminately into the crowd for about five minutes using machine guns and rifle grenades, killing 28 people and over 200 injured.

### 7 September 1997

#### Mobutu Sese Seko dies

Mobutu Sese Seko (66), former president of Zaire (DRC) from 1965 to 1997, died in exile in Rabat, Morocco, three months after the end of his nearly 32-year reign. Sese Seko was exiled after he was ousted from power by Laurent Kabila's rebel movement, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

### 7 September 2004

#### Beyers Naudé, struggle icon and Afrikaner cleric passes on



Oom Bey, as he was affectionately known, passed away on 7 September 2004 at a retirement home in Johannesburg, with his wife, Ilse, by his side. Beyers Naudé was born in Roodepoort on 10 May 1915. One of eight children, he was born into a family fully committed to Afrikaner nationalism. His father was a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) and a founding member of the Afrikaner Broederbond. Beyers Naudé joined the Broederbond as one of its youngest members at the age of 25. He however defied his upbringing, aligning himself with the struggle of the oppressed after the Sharpeville Massacre, and in 1963 resigned from the Broederbond, after 22 years of membership. He condemned apartheid from the pulpit and was called a traitor by his community, harassed and eventually banned by the security forces and the



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

apartheid government. Forced to resign as a dominee, he continued his ministry and the struggle through the Christian Institute, which was banned in 1977. In 1985 he succeeded Archbishop Desmond Tutu as Secretary General of the South African Council of Churches, and was a leading figure in the Dakar meeting between Afrikaner leaders and the ANC in 1987. He opened the inauguration of President Thabo Mbeki in 1999; in 2001 he was given the freedom of the City of Johannesburg and one of the major roads named after him.

### 7 September 2015 Ibukun Awosika breaks finance glass ceiling

Nigerian financier Awosika is the first woman to be appointed chairperson of the First Bank of Nigeria, the first to hold a top job in the country's male dominated finance sector.

### 8 September 1998 Mpush Makambi wins World Boxing Title

Former APLA member and South African Middleweight Boxing



Champion, Mpush Makambi defeated Adrian Dodson of Britain to take the Middleweight Title Fight. He was later voted Boxer of the Year because of his exploits in that title match.

### 8 September 2017 Large scale culling of chickens

The agricultural department of South Africa orders the culling of poultry following an outbreak of avian flu in the industry.

### 8 September 2023 Morocco earthquake

The 6.8-magnitude earthquake, the most deadly in 120 years shook Morocco's High Atlas mountain range shortly after 11 p.m. local time at the relatively shallow depth of 18.5 kilometers. The epicenter was 72 kilometers from popular city of Marrakech, affected. Death toll from the quake numbered in the thousands.

### 8-9 September 2023 African Union becomes member of G20

At the 18th Summit hosted by Prime Minister Modi of India, the G20 officially admitted the African Union as a full member, bringing the number to 21 members, and the AU the second regional organisation member after the European Union. The G20 was formed in 1999 in response to the then Asian financial crisis, initially by the Finance Ministers and Central bankers, and later at leadership level, primarily focusing on economic and financial cooperation.

### 9 September 1913 Artist Gerald Sekoto born

Jan Gerard Sekoto was born on



9 September 1913 in Botshabelo, in the Middelburg district. Sekoto became one of South Africa's most renowned and celebrated artists, especially known for his evocative paintings. On 13 December 1989 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). In 2004 Sophiatown unveiled the Sekoto mural that depicts Archbishop Trevor Huddleston walking the dusty streets of Sophiatown. Sekoto passed away on 20 March 1993 at the age of 79, six months before his 80th birthday.

### 9 September 1919 Artist Tahia Halim born



Egyptian Painter Tahia Mohamed Halim (1919-2003) is born in Sudan. A pioneer of the Modern Expressive Movement in Egyptian Art in the 1960s, her art features Nubian culture, the Nile and boats.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### 9 September 1973 Regent Maqomo dies on Robben Island

Xhosa war hero, Maqomo and regent of the AmaNggika Xhosa clan died on Robben Island. He was captured in 1858 after the Cattle Killings of 1856-57, incited by Nongqawuse's vision on the banks of the Gxarha River. Maqoma was captured during the ensuing famine and convicted of having been a party to the murder of a chief who had refused to destroy his cattle. Maqoma and his wife Katyi were banished to Robben Island for twenty-one years. In 1869 they were released but he was sent back to Robben Island in 1871 after being found guilty of incitement, this time without his wife. According to historical sources, he was a brave warrior and *"a formidable tactician, a masterly politician and a brilliant orator."*

### 9 September 2006 Hilda Bernstein passes on



Veteran political activist, artist and writer Hilda Bernstein passed away on 9 September 2006 in Cape Town, at 91. In 1932 Bernstein and her mother immigrated to South Africa from England. She worked in the advertising and later publishing and journalism sectors. Bernstein got involved in politics when she

joined the South African Labour Party League of Youth, a member until 1940, when she left to join the Communist Party of South Africa. She made a historic entry into the Johannesburg City Council when she became the first communist to be elected as councilor to public office in South Africa on a "Whites only" vote. Bernstein participated actively in the major struggle campaigns such as the 1946 African Mine Workers' Strike, the 1952 Defiance Campaign, the 1954 FEDSAW launch, the 1955 Freedom Charter Campaign, the 1956 Women's March and 1960 Sharpeville Campaign. Bernstein was arrested and banned on several occasions. After the 1964 Rivonia Trial, Bernstein and her husband fled the country on foot to Botswana and exile. Her contribution to the liberation struggle was acknowledged and with the National Order of Luthuli.

### 10 September 1921 Editor JT Jabavu passes on

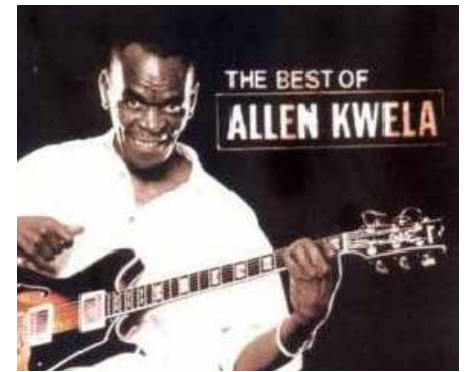
John Tengo Jabavu, the founder of the first Black-language newspaper, *Imvo Zabantsundu* (Native/Bantu Opinion) and political leader dies in Cape Town. He was the father to Davidson Don Jabavu, the first Black professor at the University of Fort Hare.

### 10 September 1944 Treaty of Tangier

In August 1844 French forces under General Thomas Bugeaud defeated the Moroccan army in the battle of Isly. The battle was a result of the French government's pursuit of Algerian resistance leader, Abd al-Qadir who had taken refuge in the country. Following the defeat Sultan Abd ar-Rahman of Morocco was

forced to accept French presence in Morocco. He also had to agree to remain neutral and not assist any enemy of France in any way. A peace treaty was signed in Tangier on 10 September 1844 and came to be known as the Treaty of Tangier.

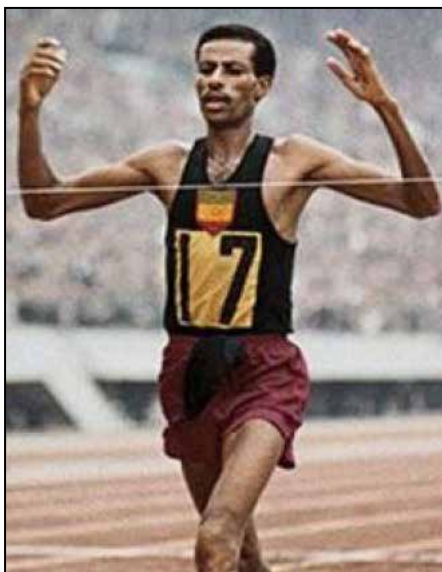
### 10 September 1936 Musician Allen Kwela born



Allen Kwela was born in KwaZulu Natal, having been exposed to music, both African and Western from an early age. After moving to Johannesburg during the 1950's, he met musician Spokes Mashiyane. They collaborated musically and Allen composed most of the kwela music, while Mashiyane performed. However, he remained in the shadow of his collaborator, who was later credited with the breakthrough of kwela during the 1950's. After his partnership with Mashiyane ended, he became interested in jazz, playing with well-known South African jazz artists such as Kippie Moeketsi and Barney Rchabane. He subsequently became one of South Africa's legendary jazz guitarists. His only album, *Broken Strings*, was released in 1998. Kwela passed on in 2003.

10 September 1960  
Abebe Bikila wins Olympic Gold Medal  
Ethiopian Abebe Bikila, running barefoot, became the first Black

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



African to win gold in the history of the Olympic Games, setting a new world record at 2:16:2. Explaining later why he ran barefoot, Bikila said, "I wanted the world to know that my country, Ethiopia, has always won with determination and heroism." Four years later during the Tokyo Olympics, Abebe's fame has already reached all corners of the globe. Six weeks before the big race that awaited him, Abebe was taken ill with appendicitis. He underwent surgery amid a public outcry for proper medical counsel to decide on the procedure. The day he arrived in Tokyo, Abebe hadn't fully recovered from the surgery and limped his way down the stairs. However, the reception Abebe received from the Japanese people helped him to become the first athlete ever to win two Olympic marathons. Bikila died in October 1973.

### **10 September 1990** **Côte d'Ivoire Our Lady of Peace Basilica consecrated**

The world's largest basilica build by 1200 workers in Ivorian administrative capital of Yamoussoukro, working day and night, is consecrated by Pope John Paul

II, who also gives blessing to the adjacent hospital.

### **10 September 2009** **4 de Abril Bridge inaugurated**

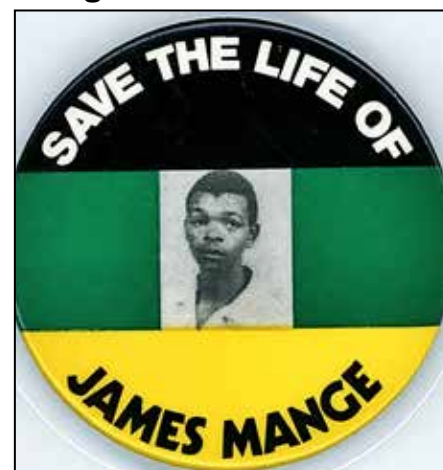
The bridge which connects the Angolan cities of Benguela and Lobita, is opened by former President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and named for the date of the 2002 peace agreement that ended the civil war in Angola. It is a 483m suspension bridge, construction started in 2007. The bridge provides for connection between the provinces of north, central and south of the country.

### **11 September 1896** **Johannesburg name explained**

In reaction to an inquiry, officials in Pretoria replied that Johannesburg was named after Johann Friedrich Bernhard Rissik and Christiaan Johannes Joubert. Some controversy exists concerning the origin of the name Johannesburg, as several men bearing the name Johann(es) occupied positions of authority in the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR or Transvaal Republic) or were involved in events leading to the founding of the town. Rissik was a principal clerk attached to the office of the surveyor-general of the ZAR, while Joubert was a member of the Volksraad and head of the government's office of mines. It was on the recommendation of these two men that the land involved was declared a public goldfield, while they also suggested the town to be laid out either on the farm Randjeslaagte (Randjeslaagte) or a section of the farm Doornfontein. Government authorities decided on the former place. Other evidence, notably a letter from the deputy

secretary of foreign affairs to the Swiss consul, dated 18 February 1896, substantiates the claim that the town was named after these two men.

### **11 September 1980** **Court commutes James Mange's sentence**



Following an international campaign led by international bodies such as the United Nations, Organisation of African Unity (now AU), Non-Aligned Movement, and non-governmental organisations in South Africa, the Bloemfontein Appeal Court commuted James Mange's death sentence on a charge of high treason to 20 years' imprisonment. The African National Congress (ANC) applauded the achievements of this international campaign. In a statement issued by its Secretary General, Alfred Nzo, the ANC called for the same solidarity to demand the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

### **12 September 1977** **Steve Bantu Biko dies in police detention**

Steven Bantu Biko, leader of the South African Student Organisation (SASO) and pioneer of the Black Consciousness philosophy, died in police custody at the age of thirty (30). Biko was

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



arrested in Grahamstown on 18 August 1977. During his detention in a Port Elizabeth police cell he was chained to a grill at night, left to lie naked in urine-soaked blankets, and kept in leg-irons for 48 hours in his cell. A blow in a scuffle with security police led to him suffering brain damage. The police transferred him, chained and untreated, at the back of a police van to a prison hospital in Pretoria, 1,133 km away. Biko died shortly after his arrival there. Peter Gabriel's song Biko commemorate this act of brutality. When asked for a comment, the then Minister of Justice and Po-

lice Jimmy Kruger lied about the cause death, saying about Biko's death: *"Dit laat my koud/I don't care."*

### 12 September 1989 SWAPO Secretary General assassinated

Advocate Anton Lubowski (37), secretary-general of the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo), was shot dead at close range with an AK47 rifle outside his home in Windhoek, Namibia. The Civil Co-Operation Bureau (CCB) of South Africa was held responsible for the assassination of Lubowski. Judge Harold Levy of the Namibian Supreme Court, concluded that the CCB conspired to murder Lubowski, with responsible CCB members Joe Verster, Staal Burger, Abraham 'Slang' van Zyl, Calla Botha, Leon 'Chappie' Maree, Johan Niemoller junior, Captain Wouter Basson (aka Christo

Britz), Ferdi Barnard and Charles Wildschudt (formerly Neelse) named. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) confirmed Judge Levy's report.

### 12 September 2004 Veteran Trade unionist Ray Alexander passes on



Rachel Alexander (Ray) Simons, legendary communist and trade unionist born in Latvia in 1914, died in Cape Town at the age of 91. Simons was instrumental in the formation of the Federation of



**THE MOST POTENT  
WEAPON  
IN THE HANDS  
OF THE OPPRESSOR  
IS THE MIND  
OF THE OPPRESSED.**

**STEVE BIKO**

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

South African Women (FEDSAW) and the drafting of the Women's Charter. A unionist throughout her life, she helped formed and lead the Food and Canning Workers Union and was named honorary life President of the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU). Ray married Professor Jack Simons in 1941, and together they were some of the first non-Africans to join the ANC. On 6 May 1965, Ray and Jack left South Africa for Zambia, and they were to remain in exile for 25 years until 2 March 1990. Jack and Ray Simons together wrote the classic labour history *Class and Colour in South Africa 1850-1950*, a pioneering analysis of the relationship between class and race, and how these have shaped the South African political and social landscape. In 1978, Ray joined MK as part of the Women's Battalion, and continued to write articles for the African Communist under various pseudonyms. Ray advised various trade unions, as well as the ANC and SACP, and worked on a book on her involvement in the FCWU. Ray Alexander, along with Lillian Ngoyi and Helen Joseph were the first three women to receive the ANC's highest order *Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe* in 2004. On 12 September 2004, Ray Alexander died at the age of 91.

### 13 September 1984 UDF leaders seek refuge in British Consulate

Six activists – Archie Gumede, Mewa Ramgobin, MJ Naidoo, Billy Nair, George Sewpersad and Paul David – hunted by police in a security clampdown on this day entered the British Consulate in Durban. Police had been trying to rearrest the six, leaders of the United Democratic Front and the Natal Indian Congress, following

their release from detention last Friday on the orders of a judge.

### 13 September 1985 WHO declares AIDS a global pandemic

It is unknown when AIDS emerged. However, the first reported cases were in the early eighties and its now believed that the disease first emerged as far back as the 1960's. On 13 September 1985, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the disease a worldwide epidemic. South Africa has amongst the highest infection rate in the continent, and has the largest ARV treatment programme for people living with HIV/AIDS.

### 13 September 1995 Bev Palesa Ditsie, first Lesbian woman to address UN



Beverley Palesa Ditsie made a statement at the historic Beijing Women's Conference in 1995 about including lesbian rights in discussions about the empowerment of women. She was the first openly lesbian woman to do so and it was the first time that the

United Nations was addressed about LGBT people in the protection of human rights. In her address, Ditsie argued that a focus on women's rights should include the struggles of lesbian women, saying that *"if the world conference on women is to address the concerns of all women, it must similarly recognise that discrimination based on sexual orientation is a violation of basic human rights"*. Born in Soweto in 1971, Ditsie was an anti-Apartheid and LGBT rights activist. She was one of the founding members of Gay and Lesbian Organisation of the Witwatersrand (GLOW), South Africa's first multiracial and political lesbian and gay rights group. During the drafting of South Africa's constitution, Ditsie was at the forefront of arguing for protecting people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation - the first constitution in the world to do so. Her participation at the conference was a first for the United Nations and was an opportunity for Ditsie to represent and speak to the intersectionality of race, gender and sexual orientation. Despite GLOW's mandate of non-sexism, Ditsie's participation at the conference was not welcomed by GLOW, who felt that spotlighting women was a 'distraction' from GLOW's focus on LGBT issues. Ditsie went to the conference despite this, saying that *"lesbians are women. Lesbian rights are women's rights"*.

### 13 September 1988 Three UDF leaders escaped from prison, seek refuge in US Consulate

Three leading anti-apartheid activists, Mohammed Valhi Moosa, Murphy Moroke, and Vusi Khanyile, escaped from detention and sought refuge in the American Consulate in Johannesburg.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

7 – 13 September 2024

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



### 7 September

#### International Police Cooperation Day

The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing highlights the importance of police integrity, accountability, and oversight in strengthening the rule of law, ensuring human rights-based and effective policing, and enhancing public trust towards law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement institutions are entrusted with a diverse set of tasks requiring a high degree of integrity within police agencies, supported by effective oversight mechanisms, while maintaining high standards of conduct and ensuring that they serve the communities in an effective and transparent way.

### 7 September

#### International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Air pollution is the biggest environmental health risk of our time. It also exacerbates climate change, causes economic losses, and reduces agricultural productivity. It knows no borders. The day recognizes the need to substantially reduce the number

of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030, paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

### 8 September

#### International Literacy Day

Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

literate and sustainable society. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with at least 773 million adults worldwide lacking basic literacy skills today.

### 9 September African Union Day



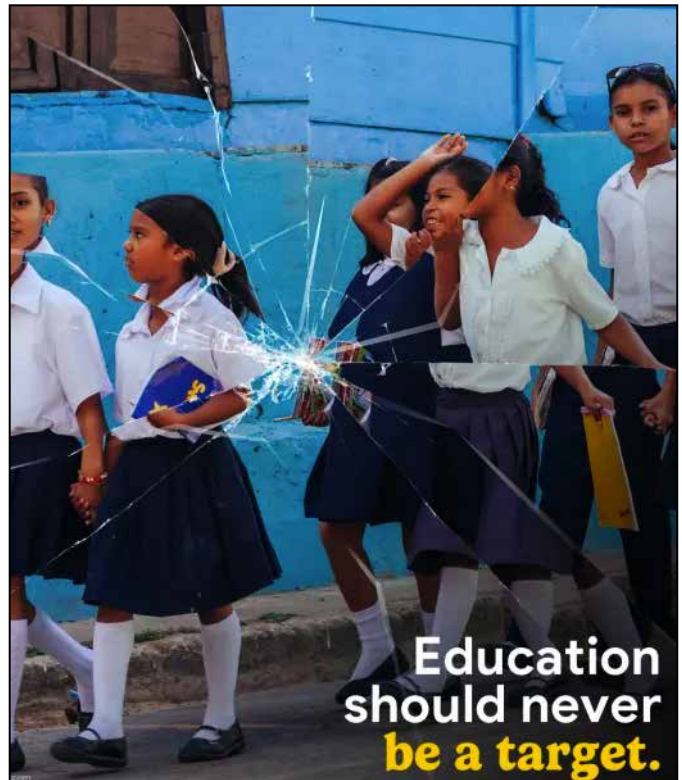
The day commemorates the decision by African Heads of State and Government, to transition from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union, as issued in the Sirte Declaration on 9 September 1999, which called for the establishment of an African Union, with the aim of accelerating the process of continental integration to enable Africa to play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded as they were by certain negative aspects of globalisation. AU Day also reflects on the Union's transformation and achievements in the African continent.

### 9 September International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome day

Fetal alcohol syndrome (FASD) is a condition that develops in a fetus (developing baby) when a pregnant person drinks alcohol during pregnancy. FASD rates from studies conducted in SA are among the highest worldwide, it affects all communities and is therefore a major public health concern. Multidisciplinary and intersectoral interventions are urgently required to raise awareness about the dangers of prenatal alcohol exposure and the devastating effect of FASD on the lives of children, families and communities.

### 9 September International Day to Protect Education from Attack

Schools should be places of safety for children



and teachers, but often they are targets of attacks during war and conflict. For example, according to UNICEF, up to July 6, 564 schools in the Gaza Strip have been directly hit or damaged by Israeli attacks. One year after the start of the civil war in the Sudan, over 10,400 schools are closed, affecting more than 19 million children (UNESCO).

### 12 September South-South Cooperation Day

We refer to developing countries, many of whom have been colonized at some point, as countries of the global South (also formerly known as the so-called Third World). As a result of colonialism and the Cold War that spurred global inequality, economic development, power and trade are highly unequal; and tended to take the form of raw materials from the "periphery" (global South) to the "centre" (global North). South-South Cooperation was and is about solidarity and common action amongst development, to work with each other to develop their countries and peoples, and to fight for a more just global world order. Today, the global dominance of the North is not as absolute as before, with 'emerging' economies, especially China, but also India and Brazil accounting for a greater share of global economic activity. South-South Cooperation takes place through various international forums, such as the Non-Aligned Movement, BRICS, the G77 and a range of other forums.