



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD AGREE ON A PACT FOR THE FUTURE

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

WE have just returned from representing South Africa at the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The General Assembly was preceded by the Summit of the Future convened by the UN Secretary-General to forge a new international consensus on the most pressing issues facing our world today. There was a reflection on the current geopolitical situation that gives rise to the challenges that many countries are facing, including national security, peace, economic development and the high cost of living.

The Summit aimed to mobilise

greater support for the achievement by 2030 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Many countries, particularly those with developing economies, are falling behind in meeting their targets, mainly due to a lack of funds.

The situation was made worse when scarce resources had to be re-directed to fight the COVID pandemic. This has meant that targets on poverty eradication, quality healthcare and actions against climate change are far from being met.

The UN estimates that the world needs about \$4 trillion to achieve these goals. Just as importantly, the leaders of the world need the political will to dedicate the nec-

essary resources to where they are most needed.

The Summit culminated in the adoption of a Pact for the Future, which reaffirms that extreme poverty is the greatest global challenge. It seeks to hold member states to their existing commitments to support sustainable development.

In South Africa's address to the UN General Assembly last week, I reiterated South Africa's position that sustainable development can only be achieved when it is being driven by inclusive, responsive and agile multi-lateral institutions.

This means that bodies like the United Nations and financial in-

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stitutions like the International Monetary Fund need to be fundamentally reformed.

We saw, for example, how the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the serious shortcomings of the international financial architecture.

Low income countries struggled to get financial and other forms of assistance from multilateral institutions to support their pandemic response. Onerous lending requirements and overly bureaucratic systems meant that many poorer countries were unable to get help when they needed it most.

Similarly, developing economy countries also struggle to get the funds they need, at sufficient scale, to respond to climate change and its impact. This is largely because the northern hemisphere countries that are largely responsible for the damage to the climate have not met the commitments they made at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015.

For many countries in Africa and the Global South, the cost of servicing their debt is diverting much-needed funds for development.

As South Africa, we endorsed the call made in the Pact for the Future for global financial institutions that are better, bigger and bolder, and are able to address the scale of the challenges facing the world.

The Pact for the Future presents the world with an opportunity not only to bridge the development divide, but also to reinvigorate the multilateral system. It is an opportunity to move forward on



the long overdue reform of the global governance architecture, including the UN Security Council.

At a time when the threats to international peace and security are many and complex, we can no longer place the world's security in the hands of a few major powers when all countries are affected. The current approach to world peace is unjust, unfair and unsustainable. The UN Security Council must therefore be more representative of the current membership of the United Nations.

The Pact for the Future commits member states to strengthen multilateral action towards a New Agenda for Peace. South Africa's message was that there should be a reinforced focus on mediation and the political settlement of disputes. We must pursue the attainment of just and sustainable peace based on international law.

When South Africa assumes the Presidency of the G20 later this

year, we will prioritise the needs and aspirations of our continent and the Global South. As a signatory to the Pact for the Future, we want people-driven, sustainable development to become a reality.

All the nations of the world have a right to development, and better resourced countries have a responsibility to support countries with developing economies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a society, we need to work together to ensure that development, poverty eradication and job creation remain at the centre of our national agenda.

Alongside the other nations of the world, we need to speed up the pace of progress so that we can realise the aspirations of the Pact for the Future and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

This is vital if we are to succeed in building a better life for all our people.

ANC VETERANS LEAGUE

The ANCVL joins the International Community in celebrating the **International Day of Older People**

■ By **ANCVL PRESIDENT SNUKI ZIKALALA**

THE United Nations introduced this day to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges faced by ageing populations, and to mobilise the wider community to address difficulties faced by older people, thus publicly draw attention to the challenges faced by elder persons.

In South Africa, the ANCVL celebrates this 01 October 2024 in recognition of the commencement of homecoming and the restitution of many freedom fighters and veterans of the liberation movements who the South African government has repatriated

from the countries they passed on whilst in exile.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the supreme sacrifices made by these heroines and heroes, stalwarts of our movement, the ANC. Their contributions have been instrumental in our democratic victories achieved since 1994, and we honour their legacy.

The tabling of amendments to the Older Persons Act deserves further celebration. They relate to the monitoring and evaluation of all services to older persons and for the removal of older persons to temporary safe care without a

court order.

Human rights must lie at the core of all our efforts. The scourge of abuse, sometimes brutally foisted, on the elderly, as well as financial abuse, requires drastic action. We should be a caring society where much-needed dignity should be restored to the members of society who had made valuable contributions to the upbringing of our children and the improvement of our society.

We also recognise the essential contribution the majority of older people continue to make to society's functioning since the burden



ANC VETERANS LEAGUE

Esteemed members of the ANC Veterans League, MamSophie Williams-De Bruyn and President Thabo Mbeki



of the high unemployment rate experienced, especially by young people, falls on the elderly, the majority of whom are reliant on social grants. This challenge cannot be celebrated and requires drastic interventions.

The ANCVL further welcomes

President Ramaphosa's signing into law of the National Health Insurance Act. The elderly members of our society would be deeply appreciative of health care where they no longer need to travel to health institutions at extreme early hours of the day and are being subjected to long

queues to receive regular medication.

The ANCVL will continue to support the implementation of the NHI so that we can overcome these challenges and celebrate 01 October with the dignity so required.



ANC Veterans League President Snuki Zikalala with members of the ANC Veterans League at the funeral of the late Pravin Gordhan.

ALLIANCE

COSATU condemns Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane's attacks on South Africans of Indian descent

■ By **MATTHEW PARKS (COSATU Parliamentary Coordinator)**

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) condemns the shameful utterances and attacks by Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane on South Africans of Indian descent in a bizarre ranting on X (formerly Twitter). It is unacceptable for a Member of Parliament (MP) to indulge herself in what amounts to hate speech against any section of South Africa's population, including compatriots of Indian origin.

Advocate Mkhwebane may not be familiar with the history of South Africa's liberation struggle, including the fundamental task of building a non-racial society.

She would do well to spend time not only reading the Freedom Charter adopted at the Congress of the People, where not only the African National Congress but also the then South African Indian Congress, Coloured People's Congress and Congress of Democrats as well as the South African Communist Party and the South African Congress of Trade Unions were signatories.

The clarion call of the Freedom Charter inspired generations to liberate South Africa and achieve the democratic breakthrough



of 1994. Advocate Mkhwebane may be a relative newcomer to South Africa's struggles, and she has the right to her views, even if they are not based upon common sense.

She however does not have the right to instigate hate speech on social media. Parliament, of which she is a Member, passed the Prevention and Combatting of Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Act, precisely to deal with malcontents who have no sense of self introspection or filter. Whilst it is easy to dismiss rantings on social media, South Africa cannot afford to condone or normalise hate speech.

South Africa is still battling to overcome three and half centuries of the most brutal forms of colonialism, apartheid, racism

and discrimination. Citizens have the right to expect better from our elected public representatives, more so when workers are paying their salaries to hold government accountable, grow the economy and improve the lives of the masses; not to divide society along racial lines.

We hope that the National Prosecuting Authority has had time to familiarise itself with the Prevention and Combatting of Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Act, and grasps its responsibilities to charge and prosecute those who fall foul of its progressive provisions. Equally, Parliament needs to hold its errant MPs accountable.

Our democratic journey is still in its infancy and requires all sober citizens to contribute to its continual nourishment. We should equally not take this process lightly as the history of not only South Africa but also Namibia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Israel, Palestine, Germany, the United States amongst many others are littered with the bodies of millions of innocent persons butchered upon the alter of hate speech. This is a history we should not allow to be whitewashed.

GOVERNANCE



THE MAINTENANCE SHUTDOWN OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

■ By **PEMMY MAJODINA**

IN January 1998, both the South African and Lesotho governments commissioned the Lesotho Highlands Water Project in order to ensure sustainable provision of water to South Africa in exchange of providing Lesotho with a reliable source of revenue as well as to generating its hydroelectricity requirements.

In order to fulfil the objectives of the project, two entities were established, namely the Lesotho Highland Development Agency (LHDA) which operates and maintains the Lesotho section of the project and the Trans-Cale-

don Tunnel Authority for the South African tunnel system.

As from the 1st of October 2024, a major shutdown of the tunnel system took place, requiring six months of major maintenance to execute. It will entail general inspections and repair works in order to ensure the integrity and reliability of the entire water tunnel system.

It will not be the first time that the shutdown of this tunnel happens. Its maintenance is conducted at 5-years intervals and similar types of outages to the project

were successfully executed in 2003, 2012 and 2019.

A unique feature about the 2024 shutdown is that unlike in the past where it took only between 1-3 months to complete, the outage will be for a longer period of six months where there will be no water deliveries from Lesotho to South Africa.

The scope of the work during the shutdown is massive. The repairs consists of the Mechanical, Electrical, Civil and General works to, among others, replace the dewatering and sump pumps

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at Caledon and Little Caledon; recoat the steel linings and repair damages especially at the Ash and Caledon Rivers.

The impact of the tunnel closure is huge to the Vaal River System in all its interconnected dams like Vaal, Sterkfontein, Grootdraai and Bloemhof dams which are linked to each other by a system of rivers, canals, tunnels, pipe-lines and pump stations.

The tunnel maintenance work also has a huge impact on the Free State municipalities such as Nketoane, Mafube and Dihlabeng, and to the agricultural irrigators along the Liebenbergsvlei and Saulspoort rivers.

Since 2022, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has taken specific risk mitigation measures before the shutdown period commence to ensure continuous supply of water. The measures included to ensure that the dams are filled to capacity and to upgrade and refurbish other sources of water.

In the last few weeks, the DWS leadership has visited the project and spared neither time nor energy to engage with various stakeholders including the Free State provincial government and the affected municipalities to prepare for the shutdown and to avert possible crisis borne out of water shortages.

These engagements were extremely helpful because they identified infrastructure shortcomings which prompted specific actions to address them. The actions included the upgrading of water treatment works, upgrading of raw water pumps, upgrading of abstraction works, the construction of new reservoirs as well as



the development of groundwater resources by drilling and equipping boreholes.

Also, the engagements helped to identify existing water supply challenges in the affected municipalities, the underlying cause of which is a lack of maintenance and upgrading of the other sources of water which are unrelated to the tunnel closure for planned maintenance.

Working with the affected municipalities in the Free State province, action plans have been developed as short-term interventions to address water supply during the tunnel shutdown. It has been realised that the majority of towns are 100% ready in terms of water availability.

We have identified specific issues in the town of Clarence in Dihlabeng in respect of the off-channel Townlands Dam that will no longer be able to receive water from the tunnel, and in the Tweeling town in Mafube relating to its limited storage capacity. The DWS is paying more attention to these areas by deploying its technical support to implement the mitigation measures.

In order to ensure continuous supply of water during the shutdown, a War Room consisting of affected stakeholders has been established. Its objectives are to prepare for the shutdown; to oversee the implementation of the project and to intervene whenever there are problems. This is important to address the water shortages and to sustain the supply of water during the shutdown.

To reach out to the people, communication is our central tool during the shutdown. It is vitally important to raise awareness of the tunnel closure and its effects to our people. We communicate to highlight the obligations of all the stakeholders in the water supply value chain and to support the affected municipalities to communicate with their water users and consumers. We use it also to educate the public about how to save water and how to take care of water resources during the tunnel closure and beyond.

Pemmy Majodina is a Member of the ANC National Executive Committee and Minister of Water and Sanitation.

The value of professionalising the public service: The case of Rand Water

■ By **MALAIKA LESEGO SAMORA MAHLATSI**

IN November 2021, Cabinet, under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphosa, approved the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Service. The Framework aims to build a state that better serves the people of South Africa, that is insulated from undue political interference and where appointments are made based on merit. The development of the Framework was a recognition that the lack of professionalisation that had permeated the public service system for many years was causing significant harm to the country.

Many challenges that characterise the public service, including but not limited to fruitless and wasteful expenditure, poor planning and execution, nepotism and corruption, are all linked to the recruitment of people who do not meet the relevant minimum requirements within the state. The number of such individuals is deeply concerning. According to the Department of Public Service and Administration, there are an estimated 1200 senior managers reported to not have the requisite qualifications for their role. These non-meritocratic appointments have been costly to our country.

The exponential increase in the frequency of service delivery protests arising from legitimate frustrations with the dysfunctionality



of local government in particular, negatively impacts the stability of our country economically, socially and politically.

There have been many debates about the value of professionalising the public service, with some arguing that the language of meritocracy is rooted in neo-liberal consciousness. In *Against Meritocracy: Culture, Power and Myths of Mobility*, cultural critic, Jo Littler, contends that meritocracy embeds the dangerous assumption that a level playing field exists in society, or that talent is universally recognisable. In a further critique of meritocracy, she contends that the incorporation

of meritocratic ideals has reproduced structural inequalities. At the core of Littler's argument is that in its current permutations, meritocracy facilitates the atomisation of individuals while extending competition and entrepreneurial behaviour into the functions of everyday life. This, she posits, has led to intensified stratification and inequality. There is no question that this argument, particularly in the context of a South Africa with a history of colonialism and apartheid which produced inequalities through separate and uneven development, has legitimacy. But in an evolving world where the production of goods and services is based principally on knowledge-intensive activities that contribute to advancement in technical and scientific innovation, there is value and a place for meritocracy. This can be gleaned in the success story of Rand Water.

Rand Water, the largest bulk water utility in Africa and one of the largest in the world, has a mandate to provide bulk potable water to more than 15 million people in Gauteng, parts of Mpumalanga, Free State and North West provinces – an area that stretches over 18 000km. The customer base served by Rand Water includes metropolitan municipalities, local municipalities, mines, and large industries in Gauteng and surrounding areas.

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Rand Water's mandate has been expanded to cover more parts of the country. The story of Rand Water, particularly over the last 5 years, has been one of the many untold success stories of state-owned enterprises in South Africa. Rand Water embarked on massive infrastructure development as part of its plan to mitigate the future growing demand for water. In February 2023, the move culminated in the launching of the 210 megalitres Vlakfontein Reservoir in Germiston, City of Ekurhuleni. The project was executed as part of the organisation's augmentation strategy that is aimed at building storage facilities to meet water demand in its areas of supply. Currently, Rand Water has 60 reservoirs.

Rand Water's operational performance is commendable. It has consistently surpassed its SANS 241 Composite Indicator on the quality of water. In 2023, it achieved 99.35% in this regard. It also did well in other areas, including overall project completion, reduction of water losses, and contribution to socio-economic development. Its financial performance has also been exceptional. Among other things, its gross profit has been increasing sustainably for the past five years.

Furthermore, the entity's funding position, at 12%, is well below the threshold of 50% as prescribed in the National Treasury Borrowing Limit Approval. Rand Water has also maintained 5 consecutive clean audits – evidence of its good governance practices. The reason that the entity has managed to sustain such exceptional performance in an environment where so many SOEs are in distress comes down to one fundamental fact: it is professionalised. And if we accept that the fish rots



Rand Water CEO Siphos Mosai with Deputy President Paul Mashatile at the Zuikerbosch Water Purification Plant in Vereeniging

from the head, then the opposite holds – that competent institutions are managed well from the top.

Rand Water is led by its Chief Executive Officer, Siphos Mosai, a qualified and experienced water scientist who holds a BSc and BSc Honours in Microbiology, and a Masters of Business Administration in Water Management. He started his career as a Senior Technician at the University of Zululand. He then moved to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) where he worked in various divisions including water quality management and water conservation management at regional and head office. After DWAF, Mosai worked at Mhlathuze Water as the General Manager of operations, where he was responsible for municipal water supply and environmental management. Before joining Rand Water over a decade and a half ago, he worked as a Director: Water and Sanitation at the City of Cape Town where he was responsi-

ble for bulk water and sanitation services, strategic asset management, water and sanitation reticulation, scientific services, water demand management and water conservation, waste water treatment, support services and finance. The education and extensive experience of Mosai is evidenced in the strategy he developed when he became Rand Water CEO 5 years ago – a strategy that has made the water board one of the best run entities on the continent. The story of Rand Water corroborates the argument by President Ramaphosa that only a capable, efficient, ethical, and development-oriented state can deliver on the commitment to improve the lives of the people of this country.

*Malaika Mahlatsi is the bestselling author of award-winning **Why We Vote For The ANC**. She is a researcher at the Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation at the University of Johannesburg and a PhD in Geography candidate at the University of Bayreuth in Germany.*

Unity in Purpose: Why Differences Among Comrades Should Not Be Labeled Factionalism

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

THE African National Congress (ANC) has, for more than a century, been the custodian of South Africa's democratic aspirations. Its mission to bring about a better life for all remains paramount, particularly for the marginalized and the poor. However, within any movement as large and multifaceted as the ANC, there will naturally be different ideas and approaches on how to best achieve this goal. But instead of encouraging healthy debate, these differences have, in recent years, been dismissed under the derogatory label of "*factionalism*." This label has come to carry a negative connotation – one that has done much damage to the organization.

True factionalism, in its most harmful form, has certainly become a cancer in our movement. It is a destructive force that prioritizes personal or factional interests over the collective mission of the ANC. However, not all disagreements within the ANC should be dismissed as factionalism. To do so is to ignore the importance of debate and diversity of thought in a democratic organization. In fact, what we truly need is more room for a battle of ideas – space for comrades to offer alternative perspectives and

challenge the status quo, not as a means of division, but as a way of strengthening the movement and ensuring that it remains responsive to the needs of the people.

We must be cautious not to conflate healthy differences in opinion with factionalism. It is not only misguided but also harmful to the party's overall mission. By labeling all dissenting voices as "*factionalist*," we risk stifling critical debate and closing ourselves off to the possibility of new ideas. Instead, we should see these differences as part of the natural

process of refining our values, objectives, and programme of action.

At the heart of the ANC's democratic tradition is the idea that comrades will not always agree. This diversity of thought is not a weakness; it is a strength. It allows the ANC to evolve and adapt in response to changing circumstances and the needs of the people. The notion that every member of the party must conform to a single way of thinking is antithetical to the very principles that the ANC has always stood for.



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Throughout history, the ANC has been a broad church, accommodating a range of ideologies and perspectives, from moderate pragmatists to radical reformers. It is this broad-based approach that has enabled the movement to remain relevant over the decades.

We must reclaim the idea that comrades can, and should, differ in their opinions on how to advance the struggle. Such differences, when rooted in a genuine commitment to the ANC's values, can serve as a guard rail against the misdirection of the movement's goals. Differing views should not be seen as a threat but as an opportunity to sharpen our strategies and strengthen the ANC's capacity to fulfill its historic mission.

When we allow room for differing perspectives, we create an environment where innovation and critical thinking can flourish. We must encourage comrades to challenge prevailing ideas if they believe there are better alternatives. As long as these debates are conducted in good faith and are centered on the ANC's core objectives, they are not signs of factionalism but of a dynamic and healthy political movement.

However, while healthy debate should be encouraged, we must draw a clear distinction between this and the kind of scorched earth factionalism that has sadly taken root in the party in recent years. This form of factionalism is not about the battle of ideas but about the pursuit of personal power, often at the expense of the ANC itself. It is a toxic form of politics that sees comrades refusing to participate in the work of the movement simply because they do not like the current lead-



ership or certain individuals within the party.

In its worst form, this factionalism leads to outright sabotage. We have seen instances where comrades covertly or overtly align themselves with forces opposed to the ANC, providing them with the ammunition to weaken the movement from within. This is a dangerous and self-destructive path. When comrades refuse to participate in party campaigns or actively work against the ANC's programmes, they are not just sabotaging the organization – they are betraying the people of South Africa, particularly the poor and marginalized, who depend on the ANC to represent their interests.

This rejectionist posture within the ANC is equivalent to cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. It is a short-sighted strategy that prioritizes personal grievances over the collective mission of the movement. The ANC does not belong to any individual or faction; it is a movement of the people, with a mandate to serve

the nation. When this mandate is undermined from within, it is the people of South Africa who suffer the most.

As we move forward, it is essential that we resist the temptation to label every internal disagreement as factionalism. Unity in the ANC does not mean the absence of debate. It does not mean that we all agree on every point or that there is no room for differing perspectives. Unity is about a shared commitment to the movement's core principles and objectives. It is about ensuring that, despite our differences, we are all pulling in the same direction toward a common goal: building a better life for the people of South Africa.

In this regard, it is important to remember that unity is not synonymous with uniformity. The ANC's strength lies in its diversity, in its ability to bring together comrades with different backgrounds, perspectives, and ideas, all working toward a shared vision. This diversity should be embraced, not feared. It is through debate and dialogue that the ANC can con-

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tinue to evolve and remain relevant in a rapidly changing world.

Rather than shutting down dissenting voices, we should create spaces for constructive dialogue, where comrades can engage in rigorous debate without fear of being labeled factionalists. This is how we build a stronger, more resilient movement—one that is capable of withstanding the challenges of the present and the future.

Ultimately, the ANC's mission is not about any one individual or faction. It is about fulfilling its historic role as the leader of South Africa's struggle for freedom, justice, and equality. This mission is far too important to be derailed by internal divisions and personal power struggles. The people of South Africa, especially the poor and marginalized, cannot afford for the ANC to be consumed by factional infighting.

The stakes are simply too high.

South Africa faces numerous challenges, from persistent inequality and unemployment to a fragile economy and social unrest. The ANC must be focused on addressing these challenges, not on internal squabbles. We cannot allow the corrosive factionalism of recent years to continue. We must reject the scorched earth politics that prioritizes individual interests over the collective good.

In conclusion, it is critical that we, as members of the ANC, accept that comrades will differ in their views on how to best pursue the struggle to build a better life for our people. These differences should not be dismissed as factionalism; rather, they should be seen as a necessary part of a healthy, democratic movement.

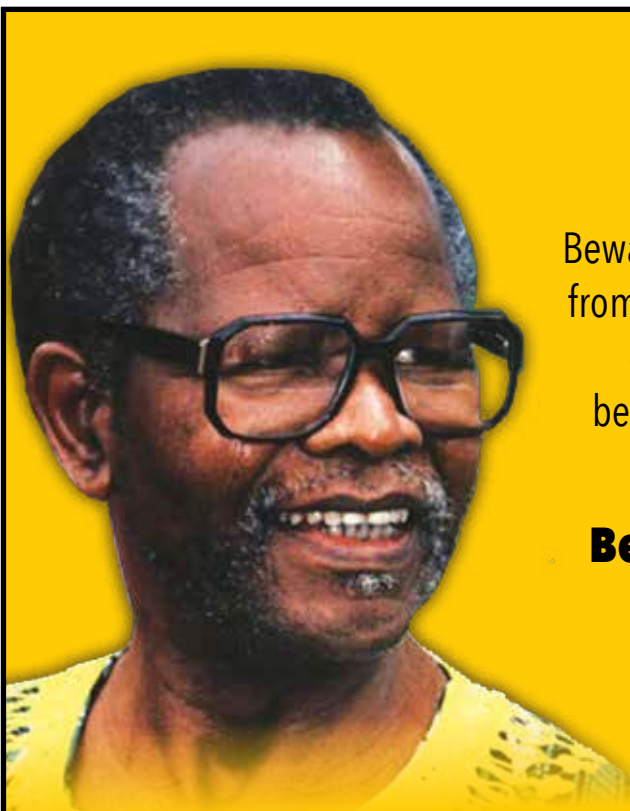
We do not need the kind of scorched earth factionalism that has taken root in recent years – a factionalism that seeks to undermine the ANC from within and

sabotages the movement's efforts to serve the people.

Instead, we must embrace a battle of ideas – one that strengthens the ANC and keeps it true to its historic mission. By fostering an environment where comrades can engage in constructive dialogue and debate, we can ensure that the ANC remains a dynamic and responsive force for change. Most importantly, we can ensure that the ANC continues to serve the people of South Africa, particularly the poor and marginalized, who depend on the movement to improve their lives.

Let us not allow personal grievances or factional agendas to distract us from the ANC's historic mission. Instead, let us commit to unity through dialogue and a shared commitment to building a better future for all South Africans.

Godfrey Nkosi is a member of the Andrew Mlangeni Branch in Tshwane



**Be vigilant comrades.
The enemy is vigilant.**

Beware of the **wedge-driver**, the man who creeps from ear to ear, **carrying a bag full of wedges**, driving them in between you and the next man, between a group and another, a **man who goes round creating splits and divisions.**

**Beware the wedge-driver, comrades.
Watch his poisonous tongue.** ”

**OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO
ANC PRESIDENT**

The Relationship Between the Youth League and the Mother Body: A REVIEW OF THE DIALECTICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE AND THE MOTHERBODY

■ By **LOYISO GANGATHA NGCESHU**

The relationship between a Youth League and its mother body is a critical factor in determining the success of the organization as a whole. A harmonious and collaborative relationship between these two entities can propel the organization forward, drive growth, and achieve shared objectives. Conversely, a strained or disconnected relationship can hinder progress and create unnecessary challenges. In this essay, we will explore the essential aspects of a productive relation-

ship between the Youth League and the mother body.

First and foremost, the Youth League should align its goals and activities with the overall vision and objectives of the mother body. This shared vision ensures a unified purpose and prevents conflicting agendas that may arise from divergent goals. By working towards a common objective, the Youth League and mother body can pool their resources, expertise, and energies to achieve greater impact.

Effective representation and participation are also vital components of a healthy relationship. Youth League members should have representation within the mother body's decision-making structures, enabling active participation and influence on policy decisions. This not only empowers young leaders but also ensures that their perspectives and concerns are integrated into the organization's overall strategy.

The mother body has a critical role to play in supporting and



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guiding the Youth League. This support encompasses providing training, mentorship, and financial assistance to equip young leaders with the necessary skills and resources to excel. By investing in the development of its youth, the mother body demonstrates its commitment to the growth and sustainability of the organization.

Autonomy and accountability are equally important in this relationship. While the Youth League should have the freedom to make decisions and take actions within its mandate, it should also be accountable to the mother body. Regular reporting and updates ensure transparency and facilitate corrective action when necessary.

Open communication and collaboration are the cornerstones of a successful partnership. Regular dialogue between the Youth League and mother body fosters mutual understanding, builds trust, and ensures coordinated efforts. Joint programmes and initiatives that leverage the strengths of both entities can maximize impact and demonstrate unity.

Capacity building is another crucial aspect of this relationship. The mother body should invest in programmes that enhance the skills, knowledge, and leadership abilities of Youth League members. This not only benefits the individual but also strengthens the organization as a whole.

Conflict resolution mechanisms should also be established to address any disagreements or issues that may arise. A clear and constructive process for resolving conflicts prevents unnecessary tension and ensures that the



Comrade
Duma Nokwe

relationship remains positive and productive.

Moreover, mutual respect, trust, and understanding between the Youth League and mother body provide the foundation for a productive relationship. By valuing each other's contributions and perspectives, both entities can work together seamlessly, driving the organization towards its goals.

Duma Nokwe's critique of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) in the 1940s resonates with the present-day challenges facing the South African youth. The country grapples with staggering youth unemployment rates exceeding 50%, entrenched wealth inequality, and widespread disillusionment among young people. Nokwe's

article highlights the ANCYL's historical struggle to mobilize the masses, noting that *"its failure to win the confidence of the masses of African youth can only be clearly understood against the background of its historical development."*

The ANCYL's initial focus on intellectual discourse and policy critique, rather than grassroots mobilization, limited its appeal. As Nokwe observes, *"To the Youth Leaguers then, the mobilisation of the vast masses of youth was of secondary importance. There was quite a strong feeling that the League should maintain its purity by not becoming a mass movement."* This prioritization of theory over practical action hindered the organization's ability to connect with the broader youth population.

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Moreover, the article underscores the tension between the ANCYL and the African National Congress (ANC), with Nokwe stating that “*sharp criticisms of ANC policies from Youth Leaguers resulted in a lack of harmony, suspicion and sometimes open hostility between Congress leaders and Youth Leaguers.*” This historical dynamic echoes contemporary concerns about the ANC’s effectiveness in addressing youth-related issues.

Today’s challenges demand a renewed focus on youth empowerment, education, and innovative solutions for community development. Organizations like Afrika Tikun are tackling these challenges through youth development programmes, supporting children from age 3 through education, skills training, and employment opportunities. By learning from the past and prioritizing collective action, South Africa can create a brighter future for its youth.

As Nokwe emphasizes, “*The contribution of the ANCYL towards introducing reforms within the ANC to establish it as a mass organisation should not be underestimated.*” Similarly, contemporary efforts to address youth unemployment, inequality, and

disillusionment require sustained collaboration and a commitment to empowering young people. By doing so, South Africa can harness the energy and potential of its youth to build a more equitable and prosperous society.

In conclusion, a strong, collabo-

orative relationship between the Youth League and mother body is essential for achieving shared objectives and driving organizational success. By embracing shared vision, representation, support, autonomy, communication, capacity building, conflict resolution, and mutual respect, both entities can cultivate a harmonious and productive partnership.

As the future leaders of the organization, the Youth League deserves investment, guidance, and empowerment. By working together, the Youth League and mother body can unlock the full potential of the organization and create a brighter future for all.

Loyiso Gangatha Ngceshu is a member of the ANC Youth League.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM MARCH

11 OCTOBER 2024
10H00

Assembly point: Beyers Naude Square, JHB
Destination: JHB Stock Exchange Office

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By **GRANT PASCOE**

The Auditor General and Auditing Firms are Failing Cape Town's People

THE Auditor General (AG) of South Africa, Tsakani Maluleke, is supposed to make sure public money is spent properly. But when it comes to Cape Town, it feels like the AG and the private firms they hire are dropping the ball. Every year, the city gets a clean audit, but people are still waiting for houses, dealing with sewage overflow, and living with poor services. How can the city get such good reports when people on the ground are struggling?

Thousands of people in Cape Town are waiting on housing lists, stuck in overcrowded informal settlements, and trying to survive without basic services. Places like Khayelitsha, Delft, and Du Noon are hit hard with basic services and terrible sanitation. Yet, the city's financial reports come out squeaky clean. If these audits are supposed to hold the city accountable, why are they ignoring these real problems?

One of the big issues is that the city isn't spending the money it sets aside for housing and infrastructure. Year after year, billions

of rands sit untouched while communities suffer. How is this not showing up in the AG's reports?

A clean audit looks great on paper, but it's cold comfort for people still waiting for decent homes and services.

Another issue is the private auditing firms. These companies are paid by the city to check the finances, but how can they really be neutral when the city is the one paying them? Can they really expose any mismanagement without worrying about losing their contract?

It also seems like Cape Town is getting an easier ride compared to other municipalities. Cities in ANC-run provinces often get slammed for similar issues, but Cape Town, run by the DA, seems to get away with more. Is the AG treating everyone the same, or are there some political games being played here? This makes you wonder if all cities are being held to the same standards.

Just this week, Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis was boasting about

Cape Town receiving another unqualified audit. But on the same day, former Mayoral Committee Member Malusi Booi and several city officials were arrested for alleged corruption. This contradiction is glaring: while the city claims everything is fine financially, scandals and problems keep surfacing.

We need audits that show what's really going on in the city, not just feel-good financial reports. The AG needs to hold the city accountable, just like they do with other places. The private auditors need to be checked to make sure they're truly independent.

So, the big questions are: Can we trust these audits? Is the system really making sure municipalities are doing their job? And what needs to change so that all South Africans, especially those in the poorer areas, get the services they deserve?

Until these questions are answered, the people of Cape Town will keep getting let down by a system that doesn't seem to care about their daily struggles.



Gasper Yanga: The African Slave, the First Liberator of the Americas, and His Enduring Struggle for Human Freedom

■ By **AMB. PHATSE JUSTICE PIITSO**

THIS is a truly remarkable story of Gasper Yanga, a slave leader from West Africa whose acts of resilience and heroism have earned him a special place among the world's legendary figures. His struggle against imperialism and colonialism positions him squarely in the annals of revolutionary history as the first liberator of the Americas.

Yanga's unyielding pursuit of freedom not only distinguished him as a hero in Mexico but also as a symbol of liberation across Latin America, Africa, and the world. In Mexico, he is celebrated as a national hero. In Latin America, he is revered as the first liberator of the Americas. In Africa, he is a symbol of the fight for liberation, and globally, he is remembered as a figurehead in the struggle for human freedom.

Yanga's tireless dedication to the cause of liberation remains an enduring example of courage

and self-sacrifice.

The name Yanga, derived from the Yoruba language of West Africa, means "*the pride of the nation*." It is a fitting description for such a colossal figure, whose actions freed many from slavery and helped usher in a new era of human civilisation.

Yanga, a descendant of a royal family from present-day Gabon, is credited with founding the first free settlement for enslaved people in the Americas. His leadership and vision left an indelible mark on the history of Africa's contribution to the liberation movements in the Americas.

The region known as New Spain (modern-day Mexico) was one of many territories where millions of African slaves were forcibly brought over four centuries. The enslaved population endured unimaginable brutality and oppression, governed by harsh colonial

laws. One such law decreed: "*A negro or negro woman absent from the service of their master for four days shall suffer fifty lashes. Should they be absent for more than eight days, or venture further than a league, they shall receive one hundred lashes. Iron fetters weighing twelve pounds shall be tied to their feet, which they must carry for two months. Should they remove them, they shall receive two hundred lashes for the first offence and, for the second offence, shall receive two hundred lashes and carry the fetters for four months.*"

Such brutal conditions spurred Gasper Yanga to lead a rebellion, helping thousands of slaves escape to the dense forests of Mexico where they established a self-sufficient community atop the Pico de Orizaba mountains. This maroon settlement thrived for over half a century, despite multiple Spanish attempts to conquer it. After many humiliating defeats,

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the colonial authorities finally conceded and negotiated peace with Yanga's followers, recognising their autonomy in 1570. The settlement of San Lorenzo de Los Negros became the first self-governing territory of freed slaves in the Americas and, following Mexico's independence, was renamed Yanga in honour of the liberator.

The city of Yanga is now a designated heritage site, recognised by the Mexican government and UNESCO as part of the World Slave Route Project. A towering statue of Yanga, wielding a machete, stands as a symbol of freedom from slavery. Yanga Day is celebrated annually, a reminder of his leadership in the fight against colonial oppression.

In his article, ***"Yanga: The Forgotten Rebellion Against Colonial Rule in Mexico"***, renowned Mexican sociologist and diplomat, Andries Medellin, recounts Yanga's extraordinary feats of resistance and bravery. He writes: *"This glorious chapter in the history of man's emancipation shows us that the will to be free is stronger than the fire and chains of slavery. Defying oppression does not depend on skin colour, for human dignity knows no obstacles when people organise and break their chains, rendering themselves invincible."*

The phenomenon of the transatlantic slave trade, which spanned centuries and empires, played a pivotal role in shaping the modern world. Karl Marx, in his seminal work, ***"Poverty of Philosophy"***, noted: *"Direct slavery is just as much the pivot of bourgeois industry as machinery or credit. Without slavery, there is no cotton; without cotton, there is no modern industry. Slavery gave*



Statue of Gasper Yanga in Mexico.

colonies their value, which created world trade, the precondition for large-scale industry."

Slavery is thus an economic category of the greatest importance. Marx further elaborated on this theme in his economic manuscripts, noting that on American plantations, slavery was a means of producing surplus value for capitalist profit. The system of slavery was, in many ways, a precursor to the capitalist modes of production that followed, especially in the "second colonies" of sugar, coffee, and rice plantations in the Americas.

The history of the slave economy is the material foundation upon which modern human civilisation was built. As we reflect on the past, it is crucial that we understand the complex relationships between slave labour, wage labour, and the capitalist system of private accumulation. The Industrial Revolution, often celebrated for its innovations, was in no small part made possible by the labour of enslaved people.

For our generation to comprehend the present and shape the future, we must learn from the lessons of history – how the modern world was built on the blood and sweat of working people, and how the fight for justice and equality continues. The story of Gasper Yanga and countless others who resisted oppression is a testament to the enduring struggle for a better world.

The dichotomy between the wealth of the Global North and the suffering of the Global South is a direct consequence of this history. The migration of people from former colonies in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America to the metropolises of Europe and North America is a reflection of centuries of exploitation.

The reality is that the global economy was built on the backs of enslaved people and the working class. This history, often hidden or distorted, is one that must be understood if we are to address the injustices of today. As the saying goes, history is written by the victors. The true story of humanity's struggle for freedom is often buried, but it is one that must be told.

Slavery was one of the most destructive forces in human history. Its legacy, like that of capitalism, continues to shape the world we live in today. However, we can find inspiration in the stories of those who resisted. Their courage, endurance, and commitment to the cause of freedom remain a beacon of hope for all who continue the fight for justice.

Ambassador Phatse Justice Piitso is a member of the African National Congress. He writes in his personal capacity.

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A LEAF OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

The Art of Guerrilla Warfare

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

IN order to understand guerrilla warfare, it is a type of asymmetric warfare, a competition between opponents of unequal strength, as was the case between Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the People's Army, and the apartheid South African Defence Force (SADF).

It is also a type of irregular warfare that is aimed not simply to defeat a settler enemy, but to win popular support and political influence, to the enemy's cost. Accordingly, guerrilla strategy aims to magnify the impact of small, mobile forces on a larger, more

cumbersome one. If successful, guerrillas weaken their enemy by attrition and overwhelming popular insurrection, eventually forcing them to surrender and to negotiate.

Tactically, guerrillas usually avoid confrontation with large units and formations of enemy troops but seek and attack enemy infrastructure, personnel and resources to gradually deplete the opposing force while minimising their own losses. The guerrilla prizes mobility, secrecy, and surprise, organising in small units and taking advantage of terrain

and the population that is difficult for larger units to use or control.

For Mao Tse Tung, basic guerrilla tactics were the following:

"THE ENEMY ADVANCES, WE RETREAT;

THE ENEMY CAMPS, WE HARASS;

THE ENEMY TIRES, WE ATTACK;

THE ENEMY RETREATS, WE PURSUE!"

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

5 – 11 October 2024

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

5 October 1945

Riaan Cruywagen born

Riaan Cruywagen, newsreader for the SABC, was born in Cape Town on this day. Cruywagen was a fixture in South African homes, from the first news broadcast on television in 1975 until his retirement in 2012, presenting the news in Afrikaans.

5 October 1946

Poet Mafika Gwala born



Mafika Pascal Gwala, South African poet and editor writing in English and isiZulu was born on 5 October 1946 in Verulam, KwaZulu-Natal. He matriculated in Ikhamanga High School and spent his adult life in Mpumalanga, working as a factory clerk. Gwala went on to study at the University of Natal (now UKZN) and obtained his MPhil in Politics. He started poetry in his early twenties, publishing poems, essays and short stories in local and international journals, including working as the editor of The Black Review journal. He was an

activist dating back to the 1960s, as a member of SASO and involved in various community projects in Durban. Apart from writing, he was a high school teacher and guest university lecturer. Gwala authored two volumes of *'Jol'iinkomo', (Bringing the cattle home)* which was later performed by Miriam Makeba. One of his best known poems was *"The Children of Nonti"* published in 1977. He passed away on 7 September 2014. Gwala influenced a number of contemporary poets in South Africa.

5 October 1960

SA Whites-Only referendum

The South African apartheid regime led by the National Party (NP) held a referendum in which white voters decided whether South Africa should remain a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations or declare a republic. The voting age restriction was lowered to eighteen years and included the white voters in South West Africa (now Namibia). The two former Boer republics, Transvaal and Orange Free State (now Free State), and South West Africa, voted in favour, while the Cape Province, though also in favour, had a smaller majority. Natal (now KwaZulu Natal), which was inhabited by more English-speaking whites than Afrikaners, voted against it. The result was 52 percent in favour of a republic.

5 October 1966

The Awakening sculpture gifted to the UN

The Nigerian government gifted the sculpture of the Igbo goddess of the sun, Anyanwu by African great Ben Enwonwu (1917–1977), to the United Nations. It became one of the global agency's most significant works of art.

5 October 1966

SA Military History Society established

The South African Military History Society (SAMHS) was formed following an appeal by Commandant-General H.B. Klopper to develop interest in South Africa's military history. The role of the society was to help to further interests of students of military history and the collection of military items of historical importance. It encouraged research into the history, traditions, uniforms, badges and other historical aspects of the armed forces of Southern Africa and, to a lesser extent, those of other countries.

5 October 1986

Queenstown UDF leader Mbuyiseli Songelwa died in detention

On October 1986, Mbuyiseli Songelwa, a Queenstown community and United Democratic Front leader died in police custody. He was awaiting trial on subversion charges at Fort Glamorgan Prison in East London. According to police reports he

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died of asthma on his way to the hospital. Songelwa had suffered the asthma attack on the Friday, but had only received medical assistance on the Saturday.

5 October 2016 Ethiopia-Djibouti Electric Railway starts service

Africa's first cross-border electrical rail line began the 750 km Ethiopia-Djibouti train service from Addis Ababa to Djibouti. This cuts down the journey from 3 days to 12 hours, used for freight for landlocked Ethiopia's trade.

6 October 1899 Long March by Black Mineworkers



With the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War imminent, thousands of Black men and women were left stranded in Johannesburg. Mine owners closed mines and paid off miners, without assisting them to get home safely. Thousands of miners were forced out of mine properties and had to leave the safety of the mine compounds. They faced the real possibility of being arrested for vagrancy, or being shot by Boer commandos. Though trains were readily available to transport refugees to Natal and many Black mineworkers could afford to pay the required train fares, they were not given passage, because they were black. As a result, more than

7000 Zulu mineworkers, escorted by Mr J.J. Marwick, representative of the Natal Native Affairs Department and six Republican policemen, left Johannesburg on their way home to Natal and Zululand, walking about 56 kilometres per day, with the exception of some seventy men and fifty women and children who were too ill to continue the march and who boarded trains at Heidelberg station. The march is fictionalised in a book by Fred Khumalo, *The Longest March* (2019).

6 October 1902 Cape Town-Beira Railway line completed

On 6 October 1902 the 3200 km long railway line between Cape Town and Beira in Mozambique was completed. The construction of the Beira Railway to Umtali was completed in February 1889, just before the South African War (Anglo-Boer War II, 1899-1902). On 16 February 1898, the first regular freight service began.

6 October 1994 Chess master Tunde Onakoya born

Nigerian chess master and humanitarian, Tunde Onakoya was born in Ikorodu. A top-ranked chess player who learned the game as a child in the barber-shop of his slum neighbourhood, he founded Chess in Slums Africa to empower children in poor urban settings.

6 October 1999 Agriculture South Africa changes its name to AgriSA

The SA Agricultural Union restructured and changed its name on the union's annual meeting in Rustenburg to Agri South Afri-

ca (AgriSA). Agriculture SA was formed in 1904 as a whites-only agricultural association, to promote the interests of its constituent members. AgriSA today consists of nine provincial and 26 commodity organisations as well as 44 corporate members.

6 October 2006 Mbuzini Samora Machel Public Library Opens

On 6 October 2006, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Pallo Jordan, opened a community library at Mbuzini in the Mpumalanga Province, known as the Mbuzini Samora Machel Public Library. This library was opened to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Samora Machel. On 19 October 1986, an air plane carrying the Mozambican president, his staff and other prominent politicians crashed at Mbuzini, killing all in the plane.

6 October 2019 First female Sudan Chief Justice appointed



Judge Nemat Abdullah Khair is appointed Sudan's first female Chief Justice, joining the small number of female judiciary heads on the African continent. Other female African Chief Justices at the time included, Hon. Meaza Ashenafi appointed in 2018 (Ethiopia); Hon. Dr. Mathilda Twomey

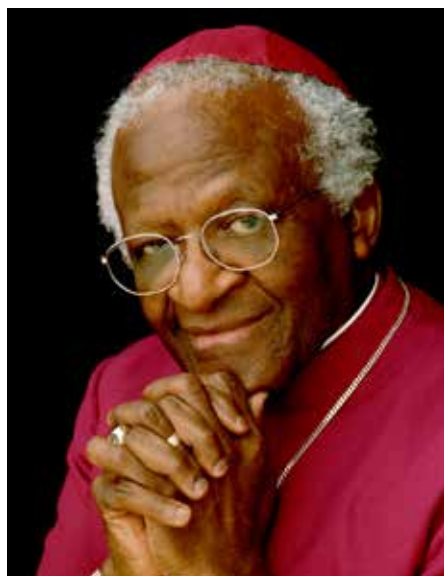
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since 2015 (Seychelles); Hon. Irene Mambilima since 2015 (Zambia); Hon Nthomeng Justina Majara since 2014 (Lesotho). All were the first woman judges to occupy this position in their countries.

7 October 1870 Sultan bin Said starts rule of Zanzibar

Sultan Barghash bin Said (1836–1888) started his 18-year rule as the second Sultan of Zanzibar on this day. During his rule he built much of Zanzibar's infrastructure, including piped water, telegraph cables, roads, public buildings, and the development of the Stone Town community and a police force. He signed an agreement with Britain to ban the slave trade in the sultanate and closed the slave market at Mkunazini.

7 October 1931 Archbishop Mpilo Desmond Tutu born



Archbishop Mpilo Desmond Tutu was born on this day in Klerksdorp, Transvaal. An anti-apartheid activists, he was former secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Nobel Peace Prize winner and first

black Archbishop of Anglican Church in South Africa. The Arch, as he was fondly known as, is best known for his role as chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). He passed away on 26 December 2021.

7 October 2000 Ebola in Uganda

An outbreak of Ebola was identified as such by doctor Matthew Lukwiya (1957–2000), hospital supervisor of St Mary's Hospital in Gulu in Uganda, after student nurses and villagers' deaths of viral hemorrhagic fever, taking action to contain the spread of the virus. However, he died of Ebola two months after diagnosing the cause of death. He saved Italian nuns from the Lord's Resistance Army in 1989, offering himself to the LRA instead of the nurses, and was later released. He also opened the gates of the hospital to people fleeing from rebel attacks. In 1990 he was offered to earn a master's degree in tropical pediatrics at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Despite having been offered a position at the school after completing his degree, he returned to St Mary's Hospital. Under Dr Lukwiya's administration, the hospital tripled its capacity to 18,000 patients annually, becoming one of the top hospitals in East Africa.

7 October 2002 Sydney Brenner wins Nobel Prize for Medicine

Sydney Brenner (1927–2019) was a South African biologist, who on this day was announced as sharing the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, along with colleagues Horvitz and Sulston. Brenner was born in Germiston, from immigrant parents from Lithuania and Latvia.

7 October 2004 14-year old convicted of murder

The SABC reported that a 14-year old girl was found guilty in the Pietermaritzburg High Court of murdering Radha Govender, a Pietermaritzburg socialite in 2002. The girl was only 12-years old when she committed the murder. She was also found guilty on charges of theft. After drugging her victim, she approached two men, Siphon Hadebe and Vusi Tshabalala, and asked them to kill Govender. They were given some items such as clothes, jewelry, a video machine and a decoder she stole from the house as their payments. She became the youngest girl ever to be convicted of murder in SA.

7 October 2021 Abdulrazak Gurnah wins Nobel for Literature

Tanzanian author, who was born in Zanzibar (1948), was announced as the 2021 Nobel Laureate for Literature. His works include novels *Paradise* (1994), *By the Sea* (2001), *Desertion* (2005) and *Afterlives* (2021).

8 October 1902 Afrikaans author Mikro born

Christoffel Hermanus Kahn (Mikro) (1903–1968) Afrikaans author, was born at Van Reenensplaas in Williston, attending school in Robertson and Carnarvon. He completed a BSc degree in Agriculture at Stellenbosch University and went to teach for a while in Kuilsrivier and Ritchie. From 1930 to 1931 he wrote poems for the magazine *Huisgenoot* and published biographies, novels and adventure stories. He also taught at Teachers' College in Oudtshoorn

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for 5 years, worked for Boerdery in Suid-Afrika (a farmers' magazine) as chief editor and a stint at Agricultural Ministry. He was awarded the Hertzog Prize for Prose (1936) and the Scheepers Prize for Youth Literature in 1957 for *Die Jongste Ruiter*.

8 October 1934 ANC leader and minister Prof Kader Asmal born



Kader Asmal, political activist, human rights lawyer, former Minister of Education (1999–2004) and Water Affairs and Forestry (1994–1999); was born in Kwa-Dukuza. His resistance against apartheid began in 1952 when he organized a school boycott in support of the Defiance Campaign. Asmal continued to be active in the resistance movement as a member of the ANC for the rest of the 1950s. Early in the 1960s, following the banning of the ANC, PAC and SACP, Asmal went into exile. He spent most of his time in exile based in Ireland, where he was active in the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM). On his return to the country, he continued to be active in the ANC, as a member of its Constitutional Committee, its National Disciplinary Committee and its national executive committee (NEC). Prof Asmal passed on in June 2011.

8 October 1999 Tanzanian suspect in US Embassy bombings denied charges

The 26-year-old Tanzanian, Khalifan Khamis Mohamed, a prime suspect in the bombing of two US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1998, pleaded not guilty to charges against him in New York. Mohamed was traced to Cape Town, South Africa, by the FBI and extradited to the USA to stand trial. He was charged along with 16 others, including Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, for allegedly planning attacks on Americans overseas and embassy bombings. Mohamed was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole in 2001, and serving his sentence in the US. He attempted an escape from prison in 2000 and in 2014 successfully sued the US government for preventing him from communicating with anyone but immediate family.

8 October 2004 Wangari Maathai wins Nobel prize



Kenyan member of parliament, activist and founder of the Green Belt Movement, which planted millions of trees, became the first African woman to win the Peace Prize.

8 October 2018 DRC Activist against GBV wins Nobel Peace prize

Dr Dennis Mukwege (b. 1955), a gynaecologist became recipient of the prestigious prize for his work to end sexual violence as a weapon for war. He studied medicine in Burundi, and returned to the village of Lemera, where he practiced. He founded the Panzi hospital in 1999 in Eastern DRC, dealing with thousands of cases of sexual violence, with patients of all ages. He used the evidence from this work to advocate for an end to sexual violence in conflict to be part of the UN and AU peacekeeping mandates. Dr Mukwege shared the Nobel with Iranian activist Nadia Murad.

9 October 1803 Augusta Uitenhage deMist, travel writer starts journey into interior

Augusta Uitenhage deMist was the daughter of the Dutch Commissioner General of the Cape Colony, and accompanied her father on a journey from the Cape of Good Hope to the inland, via Saldana Bay, Helena Bay, Calvinia, Tulbagh, Swellendam and Mosselbay, up to Algoa Bay and Graaff Reinet in the now Eastern Cape. Accompanied by a companion, Mietjie Versfeld, Augusta wrote a diary of their travels, later published as *Diary of a journey into the Cape of Good Hope and the interior of Africa in 1802 and 1803* by Jonkvrou Augusta Uitenhage de Mist, which was translated by Dr. Edmund Burrows in 1954. The town Uitenhage was named after the Commissioner General, Jacob Abraham Uitenhage de Mist. There is today still a guest house in Swellendam named the Augusta de Mist.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

9 October 1876 Sol Plaatje is born



Author, ANC founder, intellectual, linguist and journalist, Sol Plaatje was born in Boshoff, Free State on this day. Plaatje was a founding member and first General Secretary of the South African Native National Congress, which became the African National Congress. Plaatje established the first Setswana-English weekly, *Koranta ea Becoana* (Newspaper of the Tswana) in 1901. This existed, under Plaatje's editorship, for six or seven years, after which he moved from Mafeking to Kimberley. There he established a new paper; *Tsala ea Becoana*, later renamed *Tsala ea Batho* (The Friend of the People). While producing these papers, Plaatje also contributed many articles to other papers, particularly to the Kimberley Diamond Fields Advertiser. When the South African Native National Congress (later called the African National Congress) was formed in 1912, Plaatje was chosen its first secretary-general. An articulate opponent of tribalism, he exemplified the new spirit of national unity among African intellectuals. Sol Plaatje was part of an ANC delegation that traveled to England in June 1914 to protest against the 1913 Land Act.

He was accompanied by Thomas Mapike, Rev. Walter Rubusana, Rev John L Dube and Saul Msane.

9 October 1940 Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Health Minister born



Mantombazana Tshabalala-Msimang was born at Emfume, KwaZulu-Natal. Tshabalala-Msimang matriculated at Inanda Seminary School in Durban in 1959. She studied for her BA degree at Fort Hare University. Tshabalala-Msimang and other 27 student activists were ordered by the African National Congress (ANC) to skip the country, exiled in Tanzania (then Tanganyika). Tshabalala-Msimang spent 28 years in exile and continued with her studies, attaining a medical degree at the First Leningrad Medical Institute, to fulfill her mother's wish. She practiced as a Medical Doctor in different African countries. After returning from exile, she became a Member of Parliament in 1994, served as Chair of the Portfolio committee on Health, as Deputy Minister of Justice (1996–1999) and as Minister of Health from 1999–2008. Minister Tshabalala-Msimang passed on in December 2009.

9 October 1962 Uganda gains Independence



The East African country Uganda gained independence from Great Britain as a parliamentary democratic monarchy with traditional kingdoms Ankole, Buganda, Bunyoro and Toro receiving federal status and a degree of autonomy. Buganda, under the leadership of Sir Edward Mutesa, was the most powerful kingdom. Milton Obote, the leader of the socialist Uganda People's Congress (UPC) became the first prime minister of the newly independent Uganda. In 1963 Uganda became the Republic of Uganda, with Mutesa II as first (largely ceremonial) president.

9 October 1953 Reservation of Separate Amenities Act starts

The apartheid Nationalist Party (NP) regime developed the concept of allocation of resources such as general infrastructure, education and jobs and formalised this into law. The Amenities Act provided that there should be separate amenities such as toilets, parks and beaches for different racial groups. Subsequently, apartheid signs indicating which people were permitted to enter/use the facilities, were displayed throughout the country.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

The standards of amenities for non-Whites were generally lower than those for Whites.

9 October 1963

Rivonia Trialists starts

On this day Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada, Rusty Bernstein, Dennis Goldberg, James Kantor, Andrew Mlangeni, Elias Motsoaledi and Raymond Mhlaba (The Rivonia Trialist) were charged with sabotage and attempting to overthrow the state violently.

9 October 1964

Global calls for stop to execution for Vuyisile Mini and others



The United Nations Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid, at the special meeting, urgently demanded that South Africa refrain from executing three leaders of the ANC, sentenced to death in March 1964. The appeals of the three – Vuyisile Mini (44), Wilson Khayinga and Zinakile Mkaba – against their sentences had been rejected by the Supreme Court. Despite local and international appeals, including by President Nasser of Egypt who at the time chaired the Non-Aligned Movement, Mini and colleagues were executed

on 6 November 1964 and buried in secret by the apartheid regime.

9 October 1994

Footballer Asisat Oshoala born



Professional football player Asisat Oshoala is born in Ikorodu, Nigeria. She is one of the most decorated African female football players, including four times African Women's Footballer of the Year.

10 October 1825

Paul Kruger born

On 10 October 1825, Afrikaner leader Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, was born in Whittlesea, Eastern Cape on his grandfather's farm. Paul Kruger was elected as the State President of the South African Republic (Transvaal) at age 57. He became known as the face of the Boer resistance against the British during the Anglo Boer War of 1899-1902. The Kruger National Park as well as the Krugerrand coin was named after him after his death in 1904.

10 October 1926

South African Memorial at Delville Forest opened

The National War Memorial was opened outside the village of

Longueval, France, next to the historic Delville Wood. The Memorial was unveiled in commemoration of the thousands of South Africans who fought during the First World War. The inscription was later broadened to include those that fell during the Second World War too. After 1994, the War Memorial was updated to also recognize the sacrifices and contributions of black South Africans to the two world wars.

10 October 1963

United Nations Calls for Release of all Political prisoners

After the arrest of the MK High Command, including Nelson Mandela, Water Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and others, (the Rivonia trialists), with charges of sabotage, terrorism and communism, and the possibility of the death penalty sparked an international campaign for an end to the trial and release of political prisoners. On 11 October 1963, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution XVIII, requesting the South African government to end the Rivonia Trial and to unconditional release all prisoners in jail for opposing apartheid. The vote was 106 to 1, with only South Africa voting against. The apartheid government proceeded with the trial and in June 1964, sentenced 8 of the accused to life imprisonment. The response of the international community was to impose further economic and cultural sanctions on South Africa.

10 October 1989

De Klerk announces release of 8 Robben Islanders

Shortly after taking over from P.W. Botha as state president, F.W. de Klerk announced the un-

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conditional release of eight long serving political prisoners of the liberation movements African National Congress (ANC) and Pan Africanist Congress (PAC). The eight prisoners were former ANC secretary-general Walter Sisulu, Andrew Mlangeni, Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsoaledi, Wilton Mkwayi, Ahmed Kathrada, Jafta Masemola and Oscar Mpetha.

10 October 1999 Phakisa Freeway opens



The Phakisa Freeway located in Welkom, Free State, opened on 10 October 1999. The Phakisa Freeway combined the traditional oval and road course. Since inauguration, the racecourse hosted the penultimate leg of the 1999 Federation of International Motorcycling Grand Prix in 1999 and the World Motorcycle Championship Grand Prix in the years 1999, 2000 and 2001. The Phakisa Freeway has a capacity of 60000 spectators, with the racecourse comprising of a 4,24 kilometre road course, and a 2,4 kilometre oval race course with no chicane. In May 2021 the Mobil 1 V8 Supercars championship race was hosted at Phakisa.

10 October 2003 Oil pipeline opened in Chad

The first Chadian oil pipeline was opened by then Chad President Idriss Deby on 10 October 2003. Thus, the small West African republic of Chad joined the group

of oil-producing African nations. In 2020, Chad was ranked as holder of the 10th largest African oil reserves.

10 October 2005 Milton Obote, Uganda's first Prime Minister dies in Johannesburg

Milton Obote, a graduate from Makerere University and member of the legislative council of Uganda from 1957, founded the Uganda People's Congress in 1960. Obote became Uganda's Prime Minister after independence from the British in 1962 and by 1966 installed as president. He was overthrown by Idi Amin in 1971 and fled to Tanzania. He returned with the Tanzanian-aided invasion of 1979 and was re-elected in 1980. Factionalism led to an army coup in 1985 in which he was ousted a second time and exiled to Zambia. 10 years later Obote was rushed from Zambia to a hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he died of kidney failure on 10 October 2005. He was 81 when he died and was given a state funeral in Kampala.

11 October 1886 Standard Bank opens branch in Johannesburg

Standard Bank was established in Port Elizabeth in 1862, then known as The Standard Bank of British South Africa. It started doing business in a tent in Johannesburg, and then known as Ferreira's Camp, in 1886, when it became the first bank to open a branch on the Witwatersrand gold fields. The second branch in Johannesburg was opened in Eloff Street on 1 November 1901. In 1959 it moved its head office from Pretoria to Johannesburg and in 1970 it took owner-

ship of a prestigious new head office building at 78 Fox Street. The bank has grown to span 17 African countries and 16 countries across South East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The bank now boasts a multi-million Standard Bank Centre head office located in Simmonds Street, Johannesburg.

11 October 1954 Malan unveils Paul Kruger on Church Square



President of the former Afrikaner Republic of the Transvaal, Paul Kruger's bronze statue was sculpted by artist Anton Van Wouw in 1896, commissioned by industrialist, Sammy Marks. The statue was finally installed at Church Square after it had been previously installed at Prince's Park and later moved to the Pretoria Station. It was unveiled by then Prime Minister, Dr DF Malan on 11 October 1954. The square was initially used as a market place and sports field. In 1855, the city's first church was built on the site, hence the name Church square. Today the square attracts scores of tourists from all over the world. It is surrounded by historical buildings that boast beautiful architecture with the statue positioned as a central feature. There has been call since the Rhodes Must Fall movement for the removal of the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Kruger statue. During the 2021 local government elections, the ANC held its Manifesto launch at Church Square.

11 October 1955

Artist Tony Nkotsi born

Anthony Molebatsi Nkotsi, South African artist and the head of the Printmaking Department of the Johannesburg Art Foundation in 1988, was born in Johannesburg. During his schooling years he would spend any money that his mother gave him on art materials and spent his Saturdays at informal art classes in Orlando, Soweto. Here he was exposed to contemporary South African art and was particularly impressed by a large drawing by Dumile Feni. His involvement in the student uprisings of 1976 saw him being detained. On his release he attended art classes at the Mofolo Art Centre where he met Dumisani Mabaso and Gordon Gabashane who had then recently graduated from Rorke's Drift. Together with Mabaso he founded Skuzo, a printmaking studio in Johannesburg in 1983 and the Hammanskraal Art Project, north of Pretoria. His well-known work includes Portrait of a Man (Biko).

11 October 1978

Global Anti-Apartheid campaigners recognised

At a special meeting of the General Assembly, the United Nations gave awards to the following seven persons in recognition of their contribution to the international campaign against apartheid: Reverend Canon L. John Collins (UK); Michael Manley (Jamaica); Murtala Mohamed (Nigeria); Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt); Jawaharlal Nehru (India); Olof Palme (Sweden) and Paul Robeson (USA)

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

5 – 11 October 2024

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

5 October

World Teachers Day



The day celebrates the adoption of the ILO/UNESCO recommendations on the status of teachers, setting benchmarks for the rights and responsibilities of teachers and standards for their training, further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions. As populations grow and lifelong learning becomes the norm, the number of teachers (from pre-primary to vocational and higher education) grow exponentially. In 1993, there were just over 55 million teachers in the world across the different spheres of education, today this number is over 80 million and growing. Across the world, male teachers are under-represented in preschool and primary education, and over-represented in tertiary education. In 2023, there were 454,749 teachers in public and independent schools in South Africa, teaching 13.4 million learners. This figure excludes teachers in early childhood development centres and special schools.

7 October

Global Day for Decent Work

Decent work is central towards an inclusive society, and dignity for all. According to the ILO, decent work includes access to jobs, that provides dignity, with fair income, safe working conditions, a voice to workers and equality. With South Africa's catastrophic rate of unemployment, especially for young people and women, decent work must remain at the centre of our national development.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

7-11 October

National Marine Week

National Marine Week is celebrated every year during the second week of October. Its purpose is to create awareness on the marine and coastal environment, the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of these resources, for the benefit of all both present and future generations. South Africa is nestled between the warm Agulhas Current on its east coast with rich ocean biodiversity, but not large fish stocks and the cold Benguela system on its west coast that supports large fisheries such as anchovy, sardine and hake stocks. These currents are key drivers of South Africa's climate and rainfall conditions. To ensure the health of our oceans, we can reduce plastic consumption, make informed seafood choices, not dump chemicals in rivers and beaches, choose green detergents or make your own, keep beaches clean, and fill your yard with indigenous species. (www.dirco.gov.za)

9 October

World Post Day

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October. The event was declared by the 1969 Universal Postal Congress in Tokyo as a means to mark the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) creation in 1874. The purpose of World Post Day is to bring awareness to the Post's role in the everyday lives of people and businesses, as well as its contribution to global social and economic development. Postal services are facing seismic changes, due to the replacement of 'snail mail' with e-mail and other forms of messaging, as well as the entrance of private courier services, as e-commerce grows.

9 October

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

Hospice care (at home or in a specialized institution) is provided when a patient no longer respond to treatment and their



last days made as comfortable as possible, whilst palliative care is to assist with serious conditions that may not always be fatal, but still impacts on the patient's quality of life, mainly elderly persons. The year 2024 marks 10 years since the World Health Assembly (WHO's Governing Body) passed the only stand-alone resolution on palliative care, calling for all countries to "strengthen palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course." This is what inspired the theme for 2024, Ten Years Since the Resolution: How Are We Doing?

10 October

World Mental Health Day

Raising awareness of mental health issues and treatment is important to encourage well-being and prevent suicides. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many experience mental health challenges due to isolation, fear and grief of losing loved ones. The day encourages people to care for themselves and to care for others.

10 October

World Homeless Day

Two percent of the global population is homeless and live on the streets, in developed and developing countries. Homeless people face exposure to the weather conditions, and therefore poor health and exposure to crime. The main causes of homelessness are lack of affordable houses, unemployment, poverty and low wages, and also lack of access to land.

11 October

International Day of the Girl Child



The day is celebrated by the UN, led by its specialised agency on children, UNICEF, to focus on the issues faced by girl children, to amplify their voices and work with girls to stand up for their rights.

SA IN NUMBERS

SOUTH AFRICA IN NUMBERS

October
Mental Health Awareness Month



World
**MENTAL
HEALTH DAY**
10 OCTOBER

14

More than half of mental health disorders occurs before the age of 14 years

17%

South Africans who think their mental health is as important as their physical health



25.7%

South Africans who likely suffer from depression

48%

Young people felt most anxious about building skills for employment

10TH

South Africa ranked #10 on list of country with most suicides

1 IN 6

South Africans suffer from anxiety, depression or substance abuse

3,000

Number of daily calls received by the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) from people reaching out for help



355

Number of licensed community-based mental health facilities in the country

X-WORD

Global Day for Decent Work 7 October 2024



DOWN

1. When pregnant, right to ... leave.
2. Pillars of decent work.
3. Pillar of decent work.
4. Cross cutting in decent work agenda ... equality
5. Organization fighting for workers rights
6. Pillar of decent work (3).
7. Protection for vulnerable workers
8. SDG Goal 8: ... and productive employment.

ACROSS

9. 4 pillars of decent work.
10. SDG Goal 8: sustained,... and sustainable economic growth.
11. Right of workers to present their rights together called ... bargaining.
12. Decent work key to the Sustainable Development Goals.
13. 16 billion hours daily spent by mainly women in care and ... work.
14. UN agency focussing on social justice and decent work.
15. 31.7% of youth 15-24 not in employment, education or training.
16. Decent work is a social ... issue.

WORD BANK

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| job creation | social protection | workers rights | social dialogue | NEET |
| trade union | collective | minimum wage | maternity | SDG |
| inclusive | full | justice | ILO | unpaid |
| | | | | gender |

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