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Conversations with the
President



South Africa and the US have much to gain from working together

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST week, I undertook a successful working visit to the United States at the invitation of President Donald Trump to strengthen relations between our two countries.

The delegation that accompanied me included a diverse range of South Africans, with representatives from Government, business, labour and the sporting fraternity, all united in advancing our country's interests.

South Africa has always regarded the United States as a strong investment and trading partner. Our countries and our economies are bound together in many ways. We went to Washington to establish a basis for greater economic cooperation and to address some of the challenges

that have recently arisen in relations between our two countries.

Our visit came at a time when US-SA relations have come under increasing strain, largely as a result of misinformation peddled by fringe groups in our two countries, including a false narrative about a so-called genocide and an orchestrated campaign of violence against white farmers.

In this context, it was critical for us to engage directly with the US administration to correct misinformation and provide a true account of the progress we have made as a democracy and the many and complex challenges we still face.

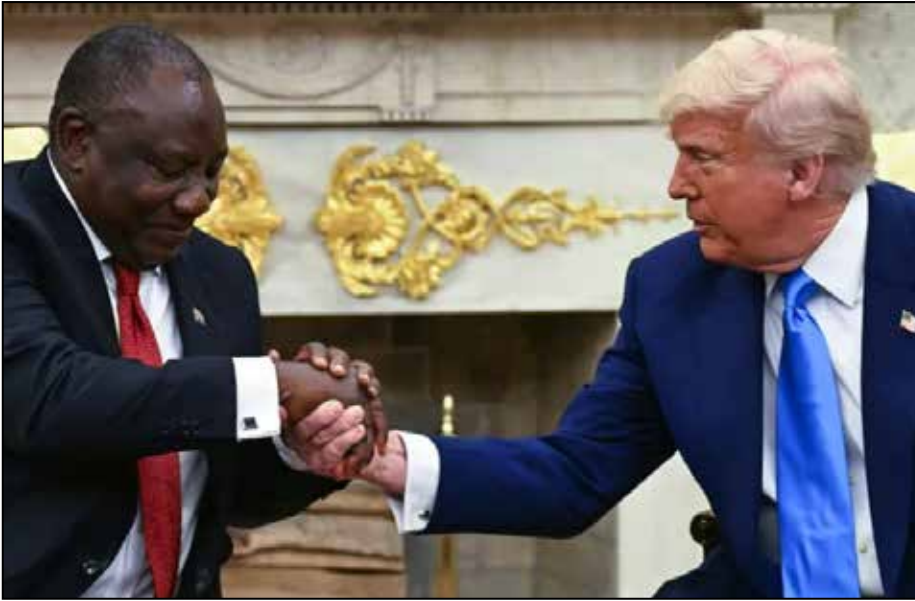
While this was a necessary conversation, the overarching aim of

our visit was to deepen our strategic economic partnership with the US as our second-largest trading partner.

The US is a key export market for South African goods, products and services, including motor vehicles, agricultural products and, increasingly, critical minerals. At the same time we buy many goods and services from the US.

There is potential to increase and diversify trade between our two countries in areas such as gas, mining and critical minerals, agriculture and nuclear products.

The US is a major source of investment in South Africa. There are over 600 US companies, many with a long-established presence here, who continue to



expand their investments.

By way of example, earlier this year tech giant Microsoft announced plans to invest an additional R5.4 billion in expanding its cloud and AI infrastructure in South Africa over the next two years. Last week, there was a strong showing of US companies at an important energy conference in Cape Town.

According to data from the US Department of Commerce, these South Africa-based US companies employ around 148,000 South Africans. South Africa continues to be a tourist destination to many US citizens. Last year close to 400,000 American tourists visited South Africa.

South Africa and the US have for many years had a longstanding development partnership in critical areas such as health, education and environmental conservation and protection.

One of the key outcomes of the substantive discussions we had with President Trump was agreement on an economic cooperation channel between the US administration and South Africa

to engage further on tariffs and a broad range of trade matters.

President Trump agreed that the US should continue playing a key role in the G20, including attending the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg later this year, where South Africa will hand over the presidency of the G20 to the US.

We also discussed exploring new opportunities for companies from South Africa and the US in each other's markets. We were able to update US officials on the ongoing structural reform process underway to improve the ease of doing business and facilitate a favourable investment climate.

We are operating from a firm base.

Last year's country Investment Climate Summit published by the US State Department highlights South Africa being an attractive investment hub, citing key factors such as deep and well-regulated capital markets, strengths in manufacturing stable institutions, an independent judiciary and robust legal sector, respect for the rule of law, a mature financial and services sector, and experienced local partners.

We have extended an invitation to President Trump to send a government and business delegation to South Africa to explore opportunities for deepening investment and trade.

In 1990, soon after his release from prison, Nelson Mandela addressed the US Congress. He spoke of the envisaged economic cooperation between a democratic South Africa and the US as "not a relationship between donor and recipient, between a dependent and a benefactor", but one of mutual benefit.

This spirit of cooperation remains firmly in place more than 30 years later.

Our successful working visit to the US reaffirmed the importance of keeping the channels of dialogue open. The willingness of the US to engage with South Africa on resetting our relationship is testament to the strength of the bilateral relationship.

We need to work together as Government, business, labour and all of society to overcome our domestic challenges, including the high rate of crime, if we are to attract investment that advances economic growth and creates jobs.

As South Africans, as a sovereign and independent nation, we are always ready to acknowledge and address our problems, just as we are always ready to engage our critics in meaningful discussion.

We are pleased that our visit to Washington established a basis for greater engagement and cooperation. Our two countries have everything to gain from working more closely together. ■

Advancing South Africa-France Economic Relations

■ **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** BY THE **DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SHIPOKOSA PAULUS MASHATILE**
ON THE OCCASION OF THE **SA-FRANCE INVESTMENT CONFERENCE**, FRANCE

I AM here with my delegation, of ministers, deputy ministers, senior government officials from both the public sector and CEOs of state-owned enterprises as well as business leaders, to consolidate existing business and new economic trade relations between South Africa and France.

Hence the theme for this conference is ***“Advancing South Africa-France economic relations”***, with the aim of encouraging collaboration. It offer investors the opportunity to explore diverse investment opportunities in key sectors, such as agriculture, mining, green manufacturing, and tourism, while also fostering new trade and investment avenues, exchanging ideas, and forging partnerships to drive our economies forward.

May is Africa Month and as we deliberate, we must acknowledge Africa’s significant role in the global economy and its developmental journey.

Historically, Africa was a trading hub, with routes traversing the continent and linking it to the rest of the globe. The most well-known were the trans-Saharan routes. African trade routes played a crucial role in the exchange of



goods, ideas, and culture, shaping African societies’ history and contributing to economic growth. This demonstrates that African progenitors comprehended and envisioned a prosperous, integrated continent in which economic growth is beneficial to all.

South Africa is committed to achieving our forebears’ vision of a better Africa. We believe that cooperation and global integration are crucial for economic, social, and political progress. We understand that by enhancing integration and collaborating

with countries like France, we can promote inclusive economic growth.

We are determine to continue enhancing this relationship. This is because our partnership in trade and investment has already created jobs and boosted economic growth. It has been a cornerstone of our economic development, and today, we have the opportunity to explore new avenues for collaboration, investment, and growth.

In this era of unprecedented challenges and opportunities, South



Africa stands at the crossroads of a fundamental economic transformation. Our country is committed to driving a bold agenda that ensures prosperity, stability, and progress for all.

As the world pivots to greener forms of energy, South Africa is undertaking one of the most ambitious energy transitions on the continent. With our abundant solar and wind resources, and supported by the \$8.5 billion Just Energy Transition Partnership, we are creating space for strategic investments in renewable energy infrastructure, green hydrogen, battery energy storage, and skills development.

Another important area for collaboration is on critical transition minerals, including rare earth elements, lithium, vanadium, and cobalt. These minerals are abundant in South Africa, and through beneficiation and ethical extraction, we hope to move up the value chain. In this regard, we are looking to our international partners, including France, to

bring advanced technologies, innovation, and sustainable practices to this space.

We welcome partnerships with French companies like Sanofi to scale local manufacturing capacity, support technology transfer, and invest in regional health resilience. We would like to build on existing partnerships such as the ongoing collaboration between Sanofi and Biovac for the production of Hesaxim and the new tech transfer partnership signed at the launch of the GAVI Accelerator.

Equally, promising is the hemp and cannabis economy. South Africa is developing a regulatory framework that encourages investment, research, and commercialization in this sector, which has the potential to spur industrial innovation, revitalise rural economies, and create thousands of jobs. We believe that French expertise in agritech and pharmaceuticals can play a significant role in this regard.

I would like to thank French

companies for their ongoing investment and commitment to the South African economy and the region. Since the first SA Investment Conference hosted in 2018, French companies have committed more than R70 billion, with the majority of projects either completed or being implemented. Announcements included investment in renewable energy generation capacity by the likes of Engie, EDF, and Total Energies, as well as investment in manufacturing, retail, agribusiness, and the services sector.

On the trade side, we need to extend our trade basket, and South Africa will be a partner for high value-added products. To this end, we have a list of the **top 100 products** that we would like to introduce to the French market through inward buying missions, exhibitions, and sourcing.

South Africa remains a competitive business and investment hub despite global economic challenges. Our goal is to unlock significant opportunities across

various sectors, promoting sustainable economic growth and inclusive development while maximising trade and investment opportunities.

We are committed to policy certainty, regulatory reform, and facilitating ease of doing business through our One Stop Shop platform. We are working across government and with the private sector to resolve bottlenecks and accelerate high-impact investments.

We have curated an **investment project book** of **\$40 billion** of private and public sector projects that are ready for investment. I urge you to have discussions with Deputy Minister Zuko Godlimpi and **the DTIC** team to explore these investment opportunities.

As we attract more investment and increase trade in various sectors, it is crucial that we also possess the necessary skills to match the investment. We appreciate French partnerships in skills and internships and are eager to see more of these initiatives.

In South Africa, we have introduced the National Skills Devel-

opment Plan (NSDP) 2030 to ensure a skilled workforce with the right competencies for economic growth and social development. With the increasing importance of digital technologies, we are investing in digital skills, AI, data science, and cybersecurity. In this regard we are also modernising government services through investing in digital public infrastructure.

We have a long-term infrastructure investment programme in partnership with the private sector, labour, and civil society. The plan is to spend over R940 billion on new and existing infrastructure over the next three years.

In conclusion, South Africa, strategically placed at the tip of the African continent, is an important investment site, both for the market prospects inside its boundaries and as a gateway to the rest of the continent, which has a population of around one billion people.

We wish to collaborate with France by investing in infrastructure like ports, power, and manufacturing to promote local value-added and trade through the

African Continental Free Trade Area.

South Africa's G20 Presidency under the theme **"Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability"** aims to boost investment and trade in the country and across Africa. We will focus on fostering inclusive growth through trade, addressing global challenges like climate change and food security, and promoting green industrialisation and resilient supply chains.

We consider France not only as a friend but as a strategic partner in achieving our vision of shared growth. On the margins of the G20 Summit, we will host the Presidential Investment Conference and look forward to seeing you.

Together, we can unlock immense potential and create shared prosperity for our nations. I am confident that this gathering will serve as a catalyst for deeper collaboration and open up new horizons for our bilateral relations.

I urge all participants to actively participate in discussions, share insights, and develop action plans to enhance our economic relations. ■





ANC WOMEN'S LEAGUE STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF MAMA GERTRUDE SHOPE

■ By **ANCWL SECRETARY GENERAL NOKUTHULA NQABA**

THE ANC Women's League is saddened by the passing of Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe Mama Gertrude Shope, a seasoned stalwart of our movement.

Mama Gertrude Shope hails from the trenches of our fierce struggle that were set in motion by gallant women under the banner of the defiant Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW), an antecedent of women formations that rejected the colonial system.

She became an epitome of resilience and formed part of a con-

tingent of women who made significant efforts in demonstrations that resisted the discriminatory laws of Apartheid, particularly the pass-laws that restricted the movement of black people in the land of their own birth.

Mama Shope, a teacher by profession, refused to fold her arms when women were restricted to the rural outskirts of our country, and were not allowed to participate in the economic and political affairs on the basis of their race and gender. She became active at an early age and was part of the generation that marched to

the Union Buildings in the historic moment of a massive gathering of women, and dared the then Prime Minister Strijdom to strike a woman and he'll be crushed.

This brave warrior of yesteryear was prominent in the Central Western Jabavu branch of this mass-based women formation, FEDSAW and the ANC Women's section throughout the 1950's, and immensely agitated the colonial masters and the institutions of Apartheid.

Mama Shope can be defined as an embodiment of resilience and



dedication, at a time when association with the liberation struggle was a commitment of preparedness to confront the wrath of the security forces, imprisonment or death.

Ma'Shope, as she was affectionately known by comrades and those who dearly loved her, was soon forced to leave her motherland to pursue the struggle for liberation across the borders of our country, as the security branch was slowly closing in on her, as a result of her political activism. She then went to exile to join many freedom fighters of her generation who were given asylum in various progressive independent African states after the banning of our liberation movement.

Ma'Shope moved to various countries representing the ANC in the execution of her organisational mandate.

Her unwavering conviction in the struggle for a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South

Africa, saw her working very closely with colossal women such as Florence Mophosho, in the ANC Women's Section in the diaspora, to inculcate the ANC's non-sexist character.

During the transition to our political dispensation, Ma'Shope returned home from exile, and immediately joined the new order to rebuild the liberation movement inside the country. She was then elected as the first President of the unbanned ANC Women's League.

She was also deployed by the ANC to Parliament after the first democratic elections of 1994, and served her country with dedication and humility. Ma'Shope was a lifelong revolutionary and a leader of profound discipline to the end, and she departed peacefully in her home at the age of 99.

The ANC Women's League and the Mass Democratic Movement are impoverished without her wisdom.

We extend our deepest condolences to the entire family. May her revolutionary soul rest in eternal peace. ■



A Diplomatic Assessment: Ramaphosa's Washington gambit

■ By **AMBASSADOR JERRY MATJILA (Retired)**

HAVING witnessed decades of high-stakes diplomatic theatre from Pretoria to New York, I can state unequivocally that President Cyril Ramaphosa's recent encounter with Donald Trump in the hallowed halls of Washington DC was nothing short of a masterclass in crisis diplomacy. On a scale of 1 to 10, this mission earns a resounding **8 – Excellent**.

This was no ordinary bilateral meeting. This was South Africa threading the needle in one of the most treacherous diplomatic environments imaginable – facing down a notoriously unpredictable American president amid a storm of manufactured controversy and orchestrated hostility.

The Art of Diplomatic Optics: A Textbook Display

The composition of our delegation was nothing short of inspired. In an era where South Africa faces relentless external pressure and toxic narratives, President Ramaphosa assembled a rainbow coalition that spoke to the very soul of our democratic project. This wasn't merely symbolic – it was strategic brilliance. Every face in that delegation room told the story of a united South Africa, representing all our people and social partners in the face of adversity.

The optics mattered immense-



ly when confronting a leader known for his theatrical tendencies and snap judgements. Our delegation's inclusive composition served as a living, breathing rebuttal to the divisive narratives swirling around our nation.

Strategic Process:

Chess mastery in real time

The pre-engagement groundwork was executed with the precision of a Swiss timepiece. Mapping the roadmap to and from Washington, identifying appropriate interlocutors, and orchestrating multi-layered engagement strategies demonstrated our diplomatic machinery at its finest.

The preliminary work with Amer-

ican Congress members across party lines, media influencers, business leaders, and policy architects created the essential foundation. By the time Air Force One South Africa touched down in DC, we had already begun reshaping the narrative landscape.

What impressed me most was the real-time adaptability once on the ground. The consultative processes, environmental assessments, and the calculated counter-offensive against the so-called "genocide" fabrication showed a delegation that could pivot and respond with remarkable agility.

President Ramaphosa's introductory remarks and subsequent media engagements revealed a

leader of exceptional composure under pressure. His steadfast focus on core objectives, even while navigating diplomatic land-mines, exemplified the kind of leadership our nation requires in these turbulent times.

Substantive Content: Realism meets ambition

The delegation's objectives struck the perfect balance between ambitious vision and hard-nosed realism:

The Reset Imperative: Recalibrating South Africa-US relations required bold diplomacy, and this mission was delivered. The bilateral engagement phase produced a concrete joint work plan with measurable pillars – exactly what sustainable diplomatic progress demands.

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement: Beyond the White House bubble, engaging the broader American power ecosystem was crucial for long-term success.

Narrative Warfare: Confronting and debunking the manufactured “Afrikaner genocide” mythology head-on was both necessary and courageous.

Economic Focus: Anchoring discussions in trade, investment, technology transfer, and job creation demonstrated our commitment to delivering tangible benefits for South Africans.

G20 Diplomacy: The audacious move to convince Trump to reconsider his G20 boycott and embrace South Africa's 2026 presidency showed remarkable diplomatic ambition.

The subsequent elaborations by Ministers Parks Tau (Trade and



Competition) and John Steenhuisen (Agriculture) provided the technical depth and policy substance that transforms diplomatic declarations into actionable frameworks.

The Shadows: Areas for diplomatic enhancement

Even masterful performances have room for refinement. The apparent ambush in the Oval Office – complete with videos and documents supporting genocide claims – raises uncomfortable questions about our intelligence preparation. Were we blindsided,

or did we anticipate this theatrical gambit?

Our diplomatic apparatus must elevate its game. Through established channels within the White House and State Department, we should have detected this propaganda offensive before walking into the lion's den. Intelligence collection and assessment require urgent enhancement if we're to navigate future encounters with such volatile counterparts.

Furthermore, delegation coordination could be tightened. When representing national interests

on the global stage, every voice must harmonize with our strategic messaging. Individual contributions should enhance, not dilute, our collective narrative power.

The Verdict: Diplomatic victory under fire

Despite these tactical considerations, this Washington mission represents a diplomatic triumph against overwhelming odds. President Ramaphosa led a delegation that understood the fundamental truth of international relations: optics, content, and process are the holy trinity of high-stakes diplomacy.

In an era of manufactured crises and weaponized narratives, South Africa demonstrated that principled leadership, strategic thinking, and inclusive representation can prevail even in the most hostile environments. This wasn't just diplomacy – it was statecraft of the highest order.

The roadmap ahead demands sustained effort, inclusive implementation, and continued vigilance. But this Washington encounter has reset the trajectory of SA-US relations and reminded the world that South Africa remains a force to be reckoned with on the global stage.

Kudos to our delegation.

They reminded us why diplomacy, at its finest, remains the art of the possible. ■

Ambassador Jerry Matjila served as South Africa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and brings decades of diplomatic experience to contemporary foreign policy analysis.

DIPLOMACY IN THE AGE OF POST-TRUTH POLITICS

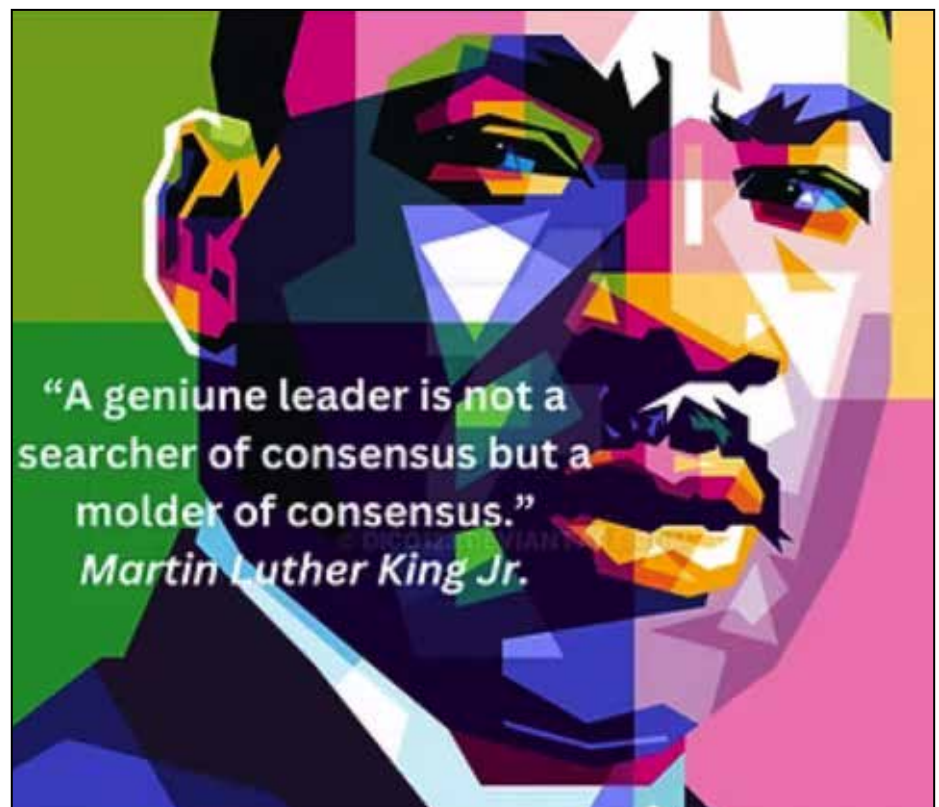
■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**



ON Wednesday, 21 May 2025, President Cyril Ramaphosa led a South African delegation to the White House for an engagement with US President Donald Trump and his team. The delegation was broadly representative, comprising government officials, private sector leaders, labour representatives, and prominent South African golfers. The backdrop to this visit was a period of increasingly strained relations between the two countries following Trump's return to the White House. Much of the tension has stemmed from the current US administration's embrace of the

long-debunked narrative of a so-called "white genocide" in South Africa – a dangerous and patently false claim that has gained traction among far-right circles.

Given this context, there was widespread speculation – some of it anxious, much of it cynical – about how the South African delegation would be received. Observers recalled with unease the disrespect shown to other world leaders, such as those of Ukraine and Canada, during their own visits to Trump's White House. It is fair to say that by 18h45 last Wednesday, many South Africans were holding their breath.



To the surprise of many, the South African delegation was met with ceremonial gestures typically reserved for state visits – this despite the fact that the visit was not formally designated as such. It was a small but symbolic gesture that suggested a willingness, however conditional, to engage with South Africa. For a moment, there was a collective sigh of relief.

The meeting began on a promising note but took a sharp turn when President Trump abruptly introduced a series of misleading video clips purporting to depict the situation in South Africa. These videos did not reflect the lived reality of most South Africans. They were not shared in good faith, but rather seemed designed to reinforce existing prejudices among Trump's domestic political base. Nonetheless, the South African delegation responded with calm restraint, pushing back diplomatically. Under the circumstances, the engagement concluded without incident – a significantly better outcome than that experienced by Ukraine's president in a similar setting.

President Ramaphosa's composure during the Oval Office encounter was rightly praised. His restraint and diplomatic discipline prevented what could easily have escalated into an undignified spectacle. We should not underestimate the importance of this. A confrontation would have been counterproductive, playing into the hands of those eager to portray South Africa as unstable or irrational.

It is worth reflecting, however, that our own intelligence structures might have done more to anticipate the use of such video material. In an ideal setting, briefing the delegation with foreknowledge of potential tactics could



have better prepared them for the ambush. That said, we must also recognize the limitations at play. The Trump administration is notoriously erratic and draws heavily on fringe media, partisan influencers, and non-governmental sources that sit outside traditional diplomatic and intelligence channels. Anticipating what might be presented in such a volatile context is extraordinarily difficult – even for the most capable agencies.

Despite the discomfort and the optics, this engagement was necessary. South Africa, as a leading voice on the African continent, cannot afford to have a dysfunctional or non-existent relationship with the United States. It was never going to be a comfortable meeting, but it was one we had to endure.

What is deeply troubling, however, is the nature of the criticism that has followed. On the one hand, there are those on the right – particularly racists and reactionaries – who have long participated in the disinformation campaign against our country. On the other hand, certain factions on the “left,” including the EFF and MK Party, have joined a chorus of criticism, now echoed by some analysts, suggesting that the South African delegation should have taken a more confrontational stance in defending the country's honour.

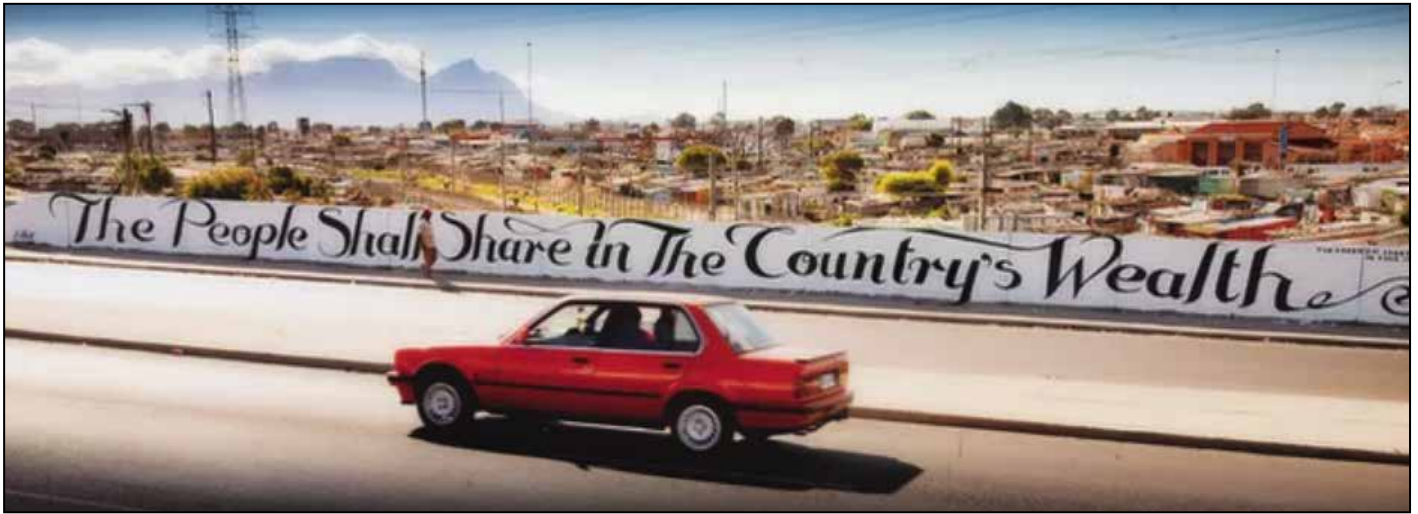
Anyone who watched that Oval Office engagement with an honest and discerning eye would recognize that the opportunity to mount a full and factual defence of our country was never truly available. Ramaphosa had to forcefully interject just to make brief remarks. Trump controlled the agenda and directed the narrative, not with facts, but with populist bait intended for his domestic supporters. This is the hallmark of a post-truth administration: facts are not engaged with – they are ignored, manipulated or replaced with belief-driven fiction.

The US government, with all its vast intelligence-gathering capabilities, knows exactly what is happening in South Africa. If truth was the objective, they would not rely on doctored videos or fringe sources. But it is clear that truth is not the objective – an agenda is.

Given this reality, the South African team handled an impossible situation as best as could be expected. They maintained dignity under pressure, re-opened lines of communication, and demonstrated South Africa's willingness to engage – without capitulating. That, in itself, is a diplomatic achievement.

It is disappointing, then, that elements within our own public discourse have failed to appreciate the complexity of what unfolded. Instead of nuanced analysis, we are fed a binary narrative that demands either outrage or submission. This reflects a deeper malaise in our political culture, where scoring points has become more important than sober reflection.

In truth, the delegation was damned if it did and damned if it didn't. Only the dishonest will pretend otherwise. ■



South Africa's transformation agenda is not for sale

■ By **MZWANDILE MASINA**

A few days ago, the Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies, Solly Malatsi, gazetted proposed ICT policy adjustment. The proposed policy directive, made to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), is supposedly intended to clarify the department's position on Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE). Despite arguments to the contrary, the fact that such a proposal comes at a time when Starlink, an international telecommunications provider that is a wholly owned subsidiary of American aerospace company SpaceX. The company is owned by South African-born American billionaire, Elon Musk, who has made false claims about what he calls "racist laws" in our country. Musk may conveniently misinterpret the law, but Minister Malatsi cannot do the same. Further-

more, the Minister ought to know that only parliament makes law in the Republic of South Africa.

Section 9(2)(b) of the Electronic Communications Act, 2005 prescribes individual licensing requirements, which include the percentage of equity ownership to be held by persons from historically disadvantaged groups. This equity ownership must not be less than 30 percent, or such higher percentage as may be prescribed. The Act is silent on the Equity Equivalent Investment Programme (EEIP), an argument that is being used to legitimise the questionable discourse on what some of us contend is a transformation objective. In my interpretation, the basis for what may be deemed ambiguity could be that the Act predates the Codes of Good Practice (the Codes), which includes the EEIP. The Codes were only issued in

2007, whilst the ICASA Act came into effect in 2005. To change this 30 percent requirement in the Act, the Act will have to be amended through the prescribed parliamentary process. The policy directive gazetted a week ago can neither amend the Act nor the regulations which the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) is empowered to issue. While the policy directive may seek to ensure alignment between the Electronic Communications Act and section 10(1)(a) of the B-BBEE Act, which requires an organ of state or a public entity such as ICASA to apply relevant Codes (i.e ICT sector Codes) the process therein is important.

ICASA, as per its Act, is empowered to make regulations (as contemplated by the Minister) and to inform the Minister of its intention to do so, as well as the subject

matter of such regulations. It is clear that the Act intends such powers of ICASA to be independent and not capable of being usurped or second-guessed by a policy directive of the Minister. Put differently, the Act does not appear to envision a situation where the Minister's powers to issue policy directives can encroach upon the independent powers the Act confers to ICASA. Furthermore, ICASA does not have enabling powers in the principal Act to make the (contemplated) regulations on the subject matter of incorporating the ICT Sector Codes or EEIP in its licensing requirements. The ICASA Act would have to be amended, after which such regulations can be issued. The regulations aligning to the B-BBEE Act would have to fully consider the ICT Codes and not only EEIP, because EEIP only replaces the ownership element. This means the affected entity would have to demonstrate compliance with the Codes. This include ownership or EEIP as well as scorecard elements, namely: management control, skills development, enterprise and supplier development and socio-economic development.

South African media incorrectly refers to EEIP as a new programme under the B-BBEE Act or ICT Sector Code. The reality is that the EEIP has been in force for several years. There are various multinational companies that are currently approved for EEIP in the ICT sector. These include but are not limited to Microsoft and IBM. But it is important to state that EEIP is not an automatic programme for multinational companies. The affected multinational companies must satisfy the set requirements, which includes a global practice of not diluting ownership outside home country. Furthermore, if approved by the



Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, the affected multinational will have to contribute 4 percent of total revenue from their South African operations or 25 percent of the value of such operations over a specific period (between 3-10 years depending on the Rand value). This raises a question of whether the entity in question has South African operations that can satisfy the said contribution requirements. The EEIP application process would be able to make that determination.

There is a narrative that seeks to suggest that Starlink is the only option for South Africa. This is an unfounded argument that is not supported by evidence. A report published in April by the non-partisan policy think tank, Secure World Foundation (SWF), illustrates how an increasing number of countries are investing in the development of their own counterspace capabilities. The report assesses the counterspace capabilities of 12 countries including the United States, Russia, China, India, Australia as well as North Korea and South Korea, based on publicly available information spanning February 2024 through February 2025. The most significant of the developments are emerging from China.

China has developed several initiatives to create satellite internet constellations that compete with Starlink, including projects like Guowang and Qianfan. These initiatives aim to provide global internet coverage, with some specifically targeting countries or regions where Starlink has faced challenges or is not yet fully established. Some key Chinese initiatives include Guowang, also known as Xingwang or SatNet. This project focuses on domestic telecommunications and national security. It has launched several satellites as part of its 13 000-satellite constellation plan. Another is Qianfan (Thousand Sails). This project, also known as Spacesail or SSST, is more focused on providing services to foreign telecom companies. It has launched satellites and is in talks with over 30 countries, with plans to have 648 satellites launched by the end of 2025 and 15 000 by 2030. Qianfan has signed deals with countries like Brazil, Malaysia, and Thailand, and is exploring opportunities in other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Russia is also developing a domestic satellite internet system called "Rassvet" (Sunrise), aimed at providing an alternative to Starlink, especially in areas

where ground-based networks are unavailable. This project, led by Bureau 1440, involves launching low-orbit satellites for broadband internet access, initially targeting regions like the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. The project aims to provide fast and cheap internet access across Russian territory, with export potential to friendly countries. The SWF report makes it clear that there are alternatives, some of which are emerging from historical allies of South Africa. They should be given an opportunity to contest the space in a fair and competitive environment.

It is important that this issue be managed within the existing legal framework. It is for this reason that we must implore that the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies not contradict the laws of our country, which were developed to redress injustices of our amoral past. As we set our eyes on the outright sale of MultiChoice to Canal Plus, we also call the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, through the Competition Commission, to ensure that transformation is not compromised in the deal. The value of transformation is incalculable, and it should not be sacrificed at the altar of expediency or under the threat of punitive actions by global superpowers.

We must stand firm on the instruction of President Cyril Ramaphosa whose assertion, **“we will not be bullied”**, is a moral demand for our patriotism and the defence of our hard-won sovereignty. ■

Mzwandile Masina is a member of the ANC NEC, an MP and the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition.



Satellites, Sovereignty, and the Soul of Our Republic: The Starlink Moment is a Constitutional Test for Us All

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

SOMETIMES the greatest threats to our sovereignty don't arrive in tanks or trade sanctions. They arrive in satellites. Silent, orbiting, corporate satellites bearing the promises of innovation, and the dangers of infiltration. They arrive wearing the suit of progress, but carrying the logic of recolonisation.

This is the real meaning of the Starlink debate now confronting South Africa.

It is not about whether we want broadband in our rural villages, farming schools, or unconnected townships. We do.

It is not about whether Elon Musk's Starlink satellite internet system is capable of delivering fast, high-capacity, low-Earth orbit connectivity. It is.

It is also not about whether foreign investment is welcome. It is, but only on terms defined by our Constitution, our laws, and our people's developmental agenda. This moment is, in fact, a referendum on whether a billionaire from abroad can override our black economic empowerment policies, our Electronic Communica-

tions Act, and the transformation principles enshrined in our Constitution using charm, pressure, and media spin.

We Must Defend the Integrity of Our Legal System

Let us begin with the facts. There are two distinct but complementary legal frameworks governing the issue:

1. The B-BBEE Act (No. 53 of 2003), and specifically State-ment 103, makes provision for Equity Equivalent Investment Programmes (EEIPs) for wholly foreign-owned multinationals. This allows companies to invest in black empowerment initiatives like skills development or enterprise incubation instead of selling equity, and still earn BEE points. This is a policy tool, not a loophole.
2. The Electronic Communications Act (No. 36 of 2005), however, is not about BEE scorecards. It sets a clear licensing condition: any applicant for an individual electronic communications license which Starlink would require to operate legally must have a minimum of 30% ownership by persons from historically disadvantaged groups.

These are not just regulatory guidelines. They are laws passed by Parliament, grounded in the moral obligation to correct the economic injustices of apartheid. We appreciate the inputs of both Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, who has consistently reminded us that the 30% equity requirement for historically disadvantaged groups is non-negotiable; and the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications, Khusela Sangoni Diko,

who cautioned against allowing international corporations to bypass Parliament and South Africa's democratic frameworks under the guise of progress.

What Minister Solly Malatsi is indirectly implying through his recently published "policy directive", is that Starlink might be allowed to operate by invoking an Equity Equivalent instead of fulfilling the ownership licensing condition under the ECA.

This is not just legally dubious, it is unconstitutional.

Only Parliament can amend the Electronic Communications Act. Only the courts can resolve conflicts between different laws. A DA Cabinet member cannot, by press conference or policy directive, recast legislation to suit a foreign entity.

Let the Law Speak. Let Sovereignty Reign.

The Starlink moment has become a test of three things:

- Our constitutional fidelity;
- Our political courage; and
- Our developmental integrity.

Minister Malatsi, whether knowingly or not, has triggered a collision between executive power and statutory law. If his department issues a license to Starlink without the 30% HDG ownership requirement, it will face inevitable litigation from citizens, civil society, and patriotic investors who have complied with the law.

Let us be abundantly clear: Equity Equivalents cannot override the ECA. BEE compliance does not confer a license. The law must lead, not PR. Transformation is not optional. Sovereignty is not for sale.

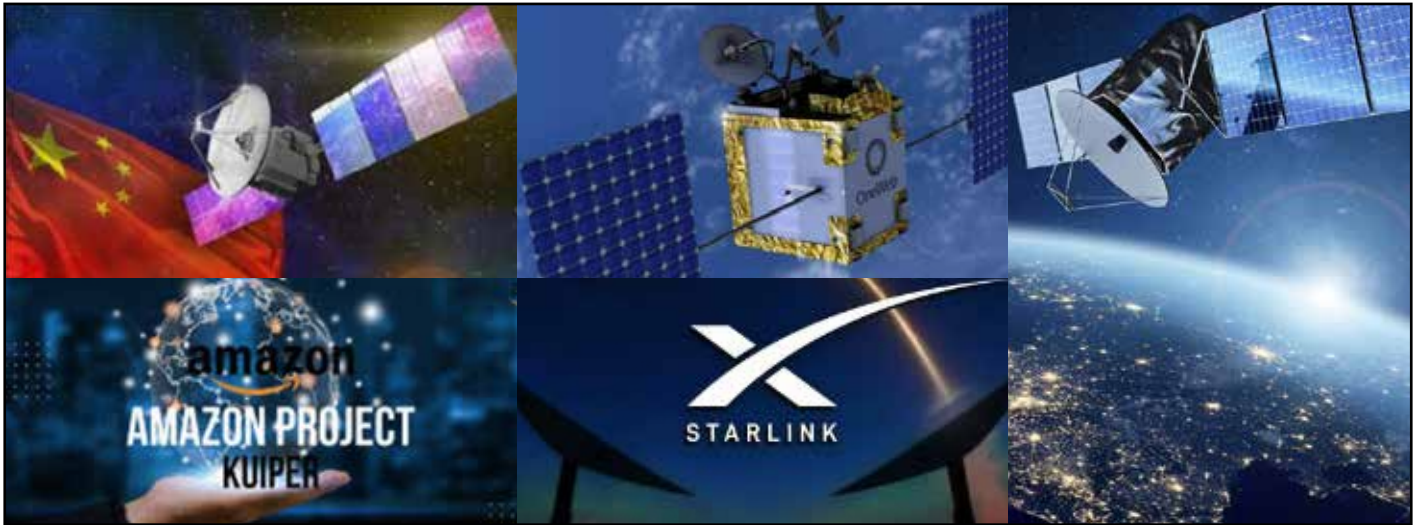
Let Us Not Forget:

Starlink is Just One Option

Contrary to the manufactured narrative that Starlink is the only path to connectivity, several global players are already offering or preparing similar services often with greater respect for state sovereignty:

- OneWeb-Eutelsat, backed by the French and UK governments, has expressed interest in working with African states to co-develop low-Earth orbit solutions with full localisation.
- Amazon's Project Kuiper, under Jeff Bezos, has yet to launch globally but comes without Musk's toxic political baggage or racist disinformation.
- China's laser satellite programme, already transmitting at speeds of 10Gbps, presents a compelling alternative especially when aligned with BRICS cooperation, local research partnerships, and technology transfer. In 2024, China successfully demonstrated laser-based satellite-to-earth communication at speeds exceeding 10 gigabits per second, eclipsing current satellite technologies. Combined with its 6G roadmap, China is building an ecosystem of connectivity that does not rely solely on traditional radio bandwidth but incorporates quantum encryption, AI integration, and smart governance technologies.

Where Starlink offers bandwidth, China offers partnership, research collaboration, and infrastructure investment all within the framework of BRICS cooperation, technology transfer, and multilateralism. Why then should we tie ourselves to one tech mogul when the world is full of strategic, sovereign alternatives?



We are not short of choices. What we are short of, at times, is clarity of principle.

Let us never again mistake connectivity for development, or access for equity. Bandwidth is not transformation. A satellite is not justice. We must connect our people to opportunity, but we must do it on terms that restore power to the many, not privilege the few. A fast connection means nothing if it deepens inequality, excludes the majority, or undermines South Africa's policy goals.

The Return of Ethical Statecraft: In Praise of Parks Tau

While Minister Malatsi has courted headlines and controversy, there is another figure quietly re-asserting the role of ethical, strategic, and principled governance: Minister Parks Tau.

Tau is no stranger to long-haul policy battles. As the architect behind the Black Industrialists Programme, the Automotive Investment Fund, and now the strategic oversight of multinational digital investment, he understands that development is not just about delivery it is about design.

He is quietly ensuring that:

- All foreign digital actors align with the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP);
- The ICT Sector Code remains the gold standard for transformation;
- And that digital sovereignty is not sacrificed for quick wins.

In a world where noise often drowns reason, Parks Tau is a welcome reminder that technocratic competence, disciplined strategy, and patriotic leadership still matter.

A Five-Point Call to Action

Let us now act with resolve. Here is what we must do:

1. Reject any license application that bypasses Section 9(2)(b) of the ECA. The 30% HDG requirement is law, not suggestion. Call Minister Malatsi to order.
2. Reaffirm B-BBEE and the ICT Sector Code as mandatory transformation frameworks, not optional preferences.
3. Mobilise civil society, professionals, and public servants to defend digital sovereignty in every public forum.
4. Build a BRICS Digital Alliance, advancing shared infrastructure, public clouds, open-source tools, and town-

ship-centred innovation.

5. Pass a Digital Sovereignty Charter, enshrining localisation, equity, and universal access as inviolable rights.

Conclusion: Sovereignty is the Signal

This is not a moment for technocratic confusion or political appeasement. This is a moment for constitutional clarity and economic courage.

Elon Musk can beam his satellites. But he must first respect the people of this land, their laws, their struggles, and their right to own the infrastructure of their own liberation.

Let Starlink come or any other. But let it land, not on political favour, but on constitutional, ethical, and transformative ground.

As we said in 1994 and must now say again with resolve: The people shall govern. The people shall own. And the people shall not be colonised again – not by cable, not by cloud, and not by satellite. ■

Faiez Jacobs is a Strategist, Advisor and Consultant, and Former ANC Member of Parliament.

Starlink, Equity Equivalents, and the South African Policy Labyrinth

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

What is Starlink?

Starlink is a satellite internet service launched by Elon Musk's SpaceX. It is built on a constellation of low-Earth orbit satellites that deliver high – speed broadband worldwide, particularly to remote and underserved areas. In technical terms, Starlink bypasses traditional terrestrial infrastructure like fiber optics or mobile towers and instead beams internet from orbit directly to user terminals.

In a South African context, this is game-changing:

- It expands internet access to rural schools, clinics, and farming communities;
- Empowers black-owned SMMEs with reliable broadband;
- Accelerates e-health and e-learning services;
- Supports national imperatives under the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 for inclusive digital transformation.

B-BBEE Equity Equivalents: A Tool, Not a Loophole

The Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003, and more specifically Statement 103 of the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice (published under Section 9(1) of the Act), makes provision for Equity Equivalent Investment Programmes (EEIPs). These are alternative ownership compliance mechanisms



specifically designed for wholly foreign-owned multinationals.

The logic is simple: instead of selling equity stakes, companies can earn full ownership scorecard points by investing in initiatives that benefit black South Africans, such as:

- Skills development programmes;
- Enterprise and supplier development;
- Critical infrastructure investments.

This mechanism was not invented by Minister Solly Malatsi. It is a long-standing regulatory tool approved and used by ANC-led administrations through the Department of Trade, Industry, and

Competition (DTIC). Examples include:

- IBM: R700 million over 10 years in ICT training and supplier development (approved 2015);
- Amazon: R365 million focused on creating 100% black-owned tech SMMEs (approved 2019);
- Microsoft: R708 million combined, focusing on enterprise development and the “APP Factory” model (approved 2011 & 2020). (Ref: DTIC EEIP Register, 2025)

So, when the media suggests that Malatsi is “*breaking new ground*,” they are either uninformed or complicit in public misinformation. As correctly stated in

recent civic forums:

"The Equity Equivalent in BBEE is not new... the regulation was always there... the Minister is not introducing new policies."

But There's a Catch: Licensing ≠ Ownership Compliance

Where the Minister is misleading the public – intentionally or not – is in conflating B-BBEE ownership compliance with telecommunications licensing law.

According to Section 9(2)(b) of the Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005, any applicant for an individual electronic communications license (such as one required by Starlink) must have: **"a minimum of 30% ownership by persons from historically disadvantaged groups."**

This ownership requirement is not just a BEE scorecard item – it is a legal licensing threshold, embedded in national telecommunications law, designed to transform the sector structurally, not cosmetically.

Thus, while Starlink may qualify for an EEIP under the B-BBEE Act, this does not exempt it from the 30% HDG ownership requirement under the ECA. The two operate in separate but interrelated legal regimes.

The Legal Minefield: What Malatsi is Attempting

By suggesting that Starlink might operate in South Africa without meeting the 30% HDG ownership requirement – through an EEIP – the Minister is effectively attempting to recast licensing law through policy directive. That is not within his powers. Only

Parliament can amend the ECA. Only courts can resolve interpretive contradictions between the ECA and B-BBEE frameworks.

This is why legal scholars warn: *"The Minister is seeking to play the role of a court... his policy directive is trying to override what the ECA says, and a legal battle is inevitable."*

If left unchallenged, this sets a dangerous precedent – where executive statements are used to bypass the legislative and constitutional process.

Parks Tau: The Strategist of Silence

While public attention was drawn to the press-ready performance of Minister Malatsi, Minister Parks Tau operated with the strategic gravitas of a statesman. He was not in the room for photo ops – he was there as a quiet force of diplomatic and trade policy consolidation, ensuring:

- That any foreign investment aligns with South Africa's Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP);
- That digital sovereignty and transformation are protected through the ICT Sector Code;
- That South Africa negotiates not just access, but reciprocal benefit.

Tau was instrumental in crafting the Black Industrialists Programme, the Automotive Investment Fund, and now, behind the scenes, shaping how multinationals like Starlink can enter South Africa on just terms – not exploitative ones.

His leadership represents a return to technocratic statecraft, where political quietness is not

weakness but surgical discipline. He is, as I've said, the silent killer of neoliberal appeasement, and with him, South Africa's digital future is in the safest hands possible.

Conclusion: Law Must Lead, Not PR

Starlink has immense potential to empower South Africans. It should be welcomed – but on our terms, in accordance with:

- The B-BBEE Act,
- The Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005,
- The ICT Sector Code (2016), and
- The National Development Plan (NDP).

If Starlink seeks a path through the Equity Equivalent Investment Programme, that is valid – but it cannot be used to evade licensing conditions. Otherwise, it is not transformation; it is recolonization by satellite.

South Africa's regulatory state must remain supreme – not subdued by billionaires in orbit.

Let Starlink come. But let it land on constitutional and ethical ground.

And as revolutionaries of thought, policy, and patriotism, we say:

Let the law speak.

Let Parks Tau lead.


Let the people benefit. ■

Stan Itshegetseng is a member, of the Vuyani Mabaxa Branch (Ward 27, Zone 10) and an NEC Member of the Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF). He writes in his personal capacity.

ECONOMIC POLICY: CAN RETROSPECT INFORM THE PROSPECT?

■ By **ALEC ERWIN**

INTRODUCTION

 NCE again South Africa is at a point where a political party needs to articulate, and then implement, a coherent and sustainable economic policy. As always, in such times, much recourse is had to a retrospective view of the preceding policies and their successes and failures. All too often such a retrospective narrative is shaped by the political needs of the present. All too often such political needs are, in reality, mere shadow boxing within the fragmented identities of political parties or between each other. However, this can be dangerous and inimical to effective and analytically informed economic policy. Under such miasmas real economies can collapse and citizens can suffer – this is an extreme risk in the present conjuncture!

An economic policy is only as good as the coherence and national capacity of the political party that seeks to implement that policy in the interests of all citizens, not only its own membership or leadership. In turn a political party is only as strong as its ability to understand the needs of the majority of citizens and to evolve an analytically sound and implementable socio-economic programme.



South Africa's economic recovery plan

At present the ANC is best placed to undertake such an analytically sound policy as a result of its origins and the fundamental principles that made it a real liberation movement. However, there is nothing automatic about this – in fact there is equally little doubt that the ANC was within a hairsbreadth of destroying itself in December 2017. We are moving slowly out of the hairsbreadth zone and time is passing. We need a new platform to propel that movement and it must not be the radical, but content void, slogans of the last ten years.

To contribute to this process let us look at the retrospect that seems

to inform much of the purported radicalism being espoused. Then let us attempt a more analytical assessment and proffer some thoughts, based on this, that will influence our prospect for the better. This is very much a '*heads of argument*' exercise as these are complex issues that need to be fully articulated and explicated.

RETROSPECT

A narrative, or in some ways a legend, developed around the failures of economic policy between 1994 and 2007. This was that it had essentially fallen into a market orientated neo-liberal framework that benefitted only

white monopoly capital. This is to state the narrative in its crudest form, but the elements are fairly consistently stated. Such a failure is variously attributed to a capitalist conspiracy, class collusion, ideologically corrupted leaders or a mixture of all these. There are, of course, more substantive critiques around jobless growth and the persistence of poverty and inequality that we will address more seriously in what follows.

The narrative was, however, convenient as it allowed an essentially populist mobilisation across elements of the left; aspirant bourgeois and those, embedded within these strata, who felt that they had limited the room for redress and personal gain by adopting a Constitutional State. The fact that inequality retained a predominately racial form created fertile ground for those who saw white privilege as being overly protected – the mammoth task of nation building that was envisaged in the Constitutional order came under increasing attack.

The radicalism and the radical economic transformation called for served, in reality, to hide a decade of policy stagnation – both in formulation and implementation – and a serious weakening of the state structures. The weakening of the state opened the way for those who could then divert state resources to their private needs rather than the public purpose for which it was intended. The dying kick of this radicalism was land expropriation without compensation. A radical slogan that clouds the underlying fundamentals of the need to carry out a real land reform that addresses the national question, allows for real asset acquisition for black persons and brings an end to the economic dormancy enforced upon black

areas of settlement by colonialism and Apartheid!

The dangers of a weakened state, hidden under populist rhetoric, manifested themselves clearly enough to invoke increasing analysis of this situation and a mobilisation against it. We need to analyse the actual political economy more carefully, if we are to move forward to the benefit of the economy.

AN ANALYTICAL ASSESSMENT

In essence, those who argue that the economic policies that effected the democratic transition were too cautious, and therefore neo-liberal, severely underestimate or even ignore the precariousness of the socio-economic situation at that time. The structural inequality between black and white was acute; the formal economy was highly protected, inefficient and many entire sectors were on the verge of collapse. Globalisation was on the rise and capital would flee manifestly anti-market economic policy. Endemic violence, sucking in whole communities, was dangerously on the rise. In short a serious collapse of the economy and social cohesion was a very realistic prospect. To ignore this reality is merely to wish away reality in favour of idealistic theory.

The first and foremost task was therefore to ensure stabilisation of the political economy. However, this had to be done whilst reintroducing the South African economy into the growing global economy. Space precludes an examination of this complex policy package that had evolved out of more than a decade of preparatory and participative policy formulation.

However, by 2004 the stabilisation process had succeeded at a macro level and fiscal stabilisation had generated a primary surplus opening the way for increased capital expenditure. In the main industrialisation had been stabilised, but only to the extent of preventing the total collapse of key manufacturing sectors like auto, clothing and textile, the engineering sector and construction. However, the move toward competition in global markets did lead to a slow growth of employment, compounded by significant decline in the manufacturing sector. The key state owned enterprises were also being stabilised and could enter the capital markets to fund infrastructure. South Africa was a key player in the rising economic fortunes of Africa.

By 2004 economic policy was beginning to focus on the micro dimensions crucial to addressing poverty and inequality. This was a focus on local government, communities and rural areas.

There was a realisation that capacity was weakest where it was needed most – at the interface with poor communities!

The factionalism and serious political manoeuvring, ushered in with the Zuma era after 2007, stopped this fundamental change in direction and replaced it with rhetoric. More seriously the era undermined fiscal stability; weakened all levels of the state; gutted the SOE and clearly diverted massive public resources toward private gain. There was in effect a moratorium on addressing the basic fundamental needs – growing the formal economy, poor and black settlement in urban and rural areas and the need to build the African economies.

PROSPECT

The narrative that has been used to justify the 2007 transition offers nothing for the future since it is fundamentally flawed. An analysis of the past 20 years points clearly to what our prospect should be! The following are the 'heads of argument' in a 'New Dawn' reconstruction and development programme.

Build a strong united ANC, in effect a new ANC since much has to be remedied and unity, only with an eye to electoral success, will merely complete the work started in the Zuma era. This ANC must develop policies and programmes that will benefit all South Africans and not only those who are politically loyal or subservient. We must continue the mammoth task of nation building as envisaged in our Constitutional democracy!

Re-stabilise the formal economy – macro stability, fiscal stability and the investment environment. The R100 million investment target must be seen in this light as it will not in itself generate the required growth. The degree of industrialisation and financial capacity within the formal economy that needs to be re-stabilised are a sine qua non for the more inclusive growth path that we must build.

Strengthen the state and key state institutions, particularly at local level. Stabilise the SOE, as fast as possible, so that they can play their crucial role, which is to lead an investment process to the benefit of the national economy.

Get back to the aborted task of 2007, which is to drive a new growth path. This must be based on lifting the deadweight of economic serfdom that holds the



townships and former reserves in thrall. This must be done by integrating them fully into the political economy. This requires providing modern integrative infrastructure, economic opportunity, asset wealth security and full municipal, social and citizen services. Land reform will be essential in order to unlock economic potential, carry out a nation-wide agro-industrial development programme and to create a more equitable distribution of asset wealth.

The structure of our economy, and that of most developing economies in Africa at present, cannot provide sufficient employment or redress of inequality, even at relatively high growth rates. The source of growth has to be the economic rebirth of those areas held in the legacies of colonialism and Apartheid – areas that were inadequately dealt with in the stabilisation period and largely ignored in the last decade. This is the only viable growth and equity path for the South African economy.

Our industrialisation and agricultural development will be boosted by this path as we have the industrial capacity to supply the products such a path needs. Financing such a path is a relatively minor challenge. The path is

sustainable for many decades to come since it is also fundamentally the path our massive continent has to walk. Stabilising the formal economy to revive its growth and the inclusion of areas of poverty in a new more egalitarian growth path are inextricably linked and one must not be pursued at the expense of the other!

Finally, we need to once again accept the fundamental fact that we are part of Africa and all our development depends on mutual growth and development in Africa. The structural eradication of the colonial and Apartheid legacies and our economic integration into Africa are the inclusive growth we must pursue.

There is a wealth of analysis available to us in all these areas to allow for the detailed articulation of analytically sound policy packages. It is the political capacity to mobilise and lead all sectors of society in the achievement of such a path that must be the starting point! ■

Alec Erwin is the current Chairman of Ubu Investment Holdings. He is a former Deputy Minister of Finance (1994–1996), Minister of Trade and Industry (1996–2004) and Minister of Public Enterprises (2004–2008).

Comrade Pemmy Majodina Intervenes Decisively to Address Water and Sewage Challenges In Emfuleni

■ By **CORNELIUS MONAMA**

THE Department of Water and Sanitation's intervention in Emfuleni Local Municipality has registered significant progress in addressing the water and sanitation challenges in the municipality. This progress can be attributed to strong intergovernmental relations demonstrated by the department, Gauteng provincial government, Rand Water and Emfuleni Local Municipality.

There has been a persistent problem of sewage pollution in the Vaal River System and sewage spillages into communities in Emfuleni for a long time. Following a number of unsuccessful interventions to address the challenge, including interventions involving Ekurhuleni Water Care Company (ERWAT) and the South African National Defence Force, the department eventually invoked the Water Services Act Section 63 in 2021 to deal with the situation. The department appointed Rand Water as its implementing agent for this intervention.

The purpose of the department's intervention was to eliminate the sewer spillages and to address sewer infrastructure challenges, including repair of sewer lines, repair and refurbishment of wastewater treatment works and

upgrading of infrastructure. The department has registered significant progress following this intervention. This includes unblocking of blocked sewer lines, replacing collapsed sewer pipelines, refurbishment of pumpstations and existing wastewater treatment works, and assisting the municipality with tools of trade, including vehicles, tools and security.

The remaining work is to upgrade the capacity of the existing Waste Water Treatment Works, which currently do not have the capacity to handle the increased

amount of sewage, which has resulted from population growth over the past few decades

The Department's total estimated cost of the intervention is R7.6 billion, over a seven-year period, including for completion of the major capital works. This is for the upgrades of the four WWTW, which will require 3-5 years to complete based on the engineer's estimation of the work. In addition, Rand Water has been assisting Emfuleni Local Municipality by, among other things, training of staff and procuring ve-

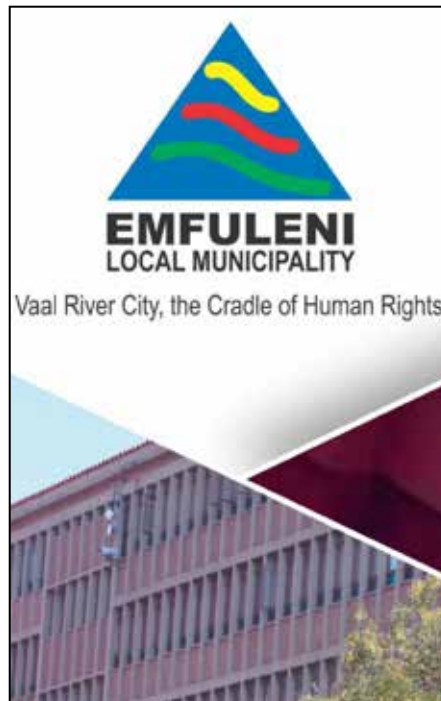


hicles and equipment to carry out maintenance work.

It is also heartening to note that the refurbishment of four pump stations has been completed and are now fully functional. The department has also completed the replacement of fifty collapsed sewer lines in Emfuleni. As part of this work, two major projects were completed to replace and upgrade the main sewer pipeline from Rothdene pump station to Meyerton Waste Water Treatment Works, as well to replace the main sewer pipeline from pumpstation 8 to pumpstation 2. In addition, a third project to replace the rising main sewer pipeline from pumpstation 2 to Leeukrui Waste Water Treatment Works is 90% complete.

As a result of these interventions incidents of sewage spillages into the community in Emfuleni have reduced markedly. Refurbishment of two of three Waste Water Treatment Works under Emfuleni LM is complete (Leeukuil and Rietspruit Waste Water Treatment Works). Refurbishment of the third Waste Water Treatment Works under Emfuleni LM (Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment Works) is approximately 50% complete. This has resulted in an improvement in the quality of the effluent from the Waste Water Treatment Works into the Vaal River. However, this improvement is limited by the fact that the Waste Water Treatment Works are overloaded, and the problem will only be fully addressed once the capacity of the Waste Water Treatment Works is upgraded.

Comrade Majodina's Ministry hard at work to increase the capacity of waste water treatment works. The capacity of the Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment



Works has been increased by 50 ML per day to 150 ML per day. Designs have been completed for a further 50 ML upgrade of Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment Works. Designs for the Rietspruit Waste Water Treatment Works (current capacity 36 ML per day). Designs have been completed to increase the capacity of the WWTW by 50 ML/day. The contractor is currently on-site. Designs have been completed to increase the capacity of the Leeukuil Waste Water Treatment Works by 15 ML/day from the current capacity of 36 ML per day. Work is expected to start anytime. Work is underway to increase the current capacity of the Meyerton Waste Water Treatment Works from 10ML per day to 25 ML/day.

As part of our overall intervention, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPC) is in the process of being established to serve as the Water Service Provider in the municipality. The establishment of the SPV will result in a professionally managed, dedicated utility with full responsibility and account-

ability for the provision of water and sanitation services in Emfuleni. The department, Emfuleni Local Municipality and Rand Water are currently engaging National Treasury to obtain the required PFMA and MFMA approvals for the establishment of the SPV.

Comrade Majodina is satisfied that these interventions are delivering the desired results. We can boldly state, without any fear of contradiction, that, as a result of Minister's decisive intervention, incidents of sewage spillages into the community in Emfuleni have been drastically reduced. Ongoing upgrading of the capacity of Waste Water Treatment Works is necessary to ensure that the problem is completely eliminated. The department will continue to fund Rand Water to complete the upgrades of the three Waste Water Treatment Works.

Upgrading of the Waste Water Treatment Works will also allow planned developments in the area to proceed which were partly undermined by the lack of capacity of the Waste Water Treatment Works to deal with additional sewage load.

To sustain this momentum of progress, focused attention and energy must be directed towards fighting vandalism and theft of infrastructure and addressing the scourge of non-revenue water. In this regard, we acknowledge the positive role that communities and other sectors, through the political steering committee, continue to play as we intensify efforts to address the water and sewage challenges in the area. ■

Cornelius Monama is Spokesperson for the Ministry of Water and Sanitation.

Mogalakwena Municipality adopts funded R2.1 Billion Budget and IDP

MOGALAKWENA Local Municipality has adopted a fully funded R2.1 billion budget along with its Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the 2025/2026 financial year – a move that could mark a critical step in restoring public trust and stabilizing municipal operations.

The budget outlines key areas of investment that respond to long-standing service delivery challenges in the region. These include:

- **Water Provision:** Expanding access to clean, reliable water supply;
- **Road Upgrades:** Improving infrastructure to drive local economic activity;
- **Electrification:** Extending electricity to underserved communities;
- **Sanitation:** Addressing waste management and hygiene, particularly in rural areas; and
- **Highmast Lighting:** Enhancing public safety in high-crime zones.

The adoption comes after the Draft Budget Steering Committee met on 19 March 2025 to review and finalize the IDP and budget, in compliance with the Municipal Systems Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), which require municipalities to conduct an annual review of their development and financial plans.

Mayor Ngoako Thulani Taveatsoala, who has led the municipality through a challenging recovery



period, described the budget as *“a commitment to sustainable development and responsible governance.”*

“We are determined to rebuild this institution to serve our communities with dignity, efficiency, and transparency,” Taveatsoala said during a council meeting on Tuesday.

However, while the announcement has drawn praise from some quarters, others remain cautious. Mogalakwena has been plagued in recent years by political infighting, financial mismanagement, and administrative paralysis. Critics argue that while the adoption of a funded budget is a positive sign, effective implementation remains the true measure of progress.

Local civil society organisations and opposition councillors have urged the municipality to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and prioritize transparency to ensure that funds translate into tangible improvements for residents.

“There is renewed hope, yes, but also a long trail of broken promises,” said one community representative. *“We welcome the plan, but we will be watching closely to see how this translates into action on the ground.”*

As Mogalakwena heads into the new financial year, the spotlight is firmly on its leadership and administrative machinery to follow through on these commitments – and to begin reshaping the municipality's legacy from dysfunction to delivery. ■

Queen Elizabeth, Slavery, and the Ocean of Tears – Reckoning with the savage civilisation of colonialism and imperialism

■ By **AMB. PHATSE JUSTICE PIITSO**

TOWERING the desert oasis of the Horn of Africa, fascinated by the wondrous beauty of our mother continent, thoughts wheeled by deep reflections, embedding a realisation that even from the temples of wisdom, philosophers of enlightenment could not appreciate, the remarkable endeavours of human civilisation.

My self consciousness, engrossed by the growing significance of false hypothesis, by dominant scholarly of western indoctrination, about the true history of the development of human society, interpolating remarkable episodes of civilisations, such as the Stone Age civilisation of Anatolia, the great Egyptian civilisation, the great Mesopotamian, Greek and Phoenician civilisations.

The Islamic civilisation of the Golden Age of Baghdad and the Ottoman Empire, the medieval Sultanate of Somali and the rich ancient cultural heritage of the Aksumite empire of Ethiopian Abyssinia, the hidden treasures of the grandeur architectural opulence, of the palace of the Queen of Sheba in the republic of Yemen.

The plane soaring the blue skies over the landscapes of the Persian gulf, discovering my imag-



inations on the pavilion of the universe, mountains rising above the clouds, perineal rivers flowing into the Mediterranean sea, the coming of the sunrise when the night breaks away from the day and the sunset when the day breaks away from the night, stars shinning at the illuminating moon, echoes of the waves at the mouth of the Red sea and Gulf of Aden, our mother nature, the beautiful garden of paradise.

Magnanimous civilisations which throughout the stages of development, contributed immensely in shaping the destiny of human progress, contours of human freedom, expanding frontiers of knowledge and innovation, re-

juvenating human society into a new trajectory of modernity.

We refer the accolades of accomplishments, of the first library of the ancient Egypt civilisation, the cultural and intellectual powerhouse in the making of the new world, inculcating high plateau ideas in the theatre of history, philosophy, art, music, literature, science and technology, knowledge advancements in the metier of geometry, arithmetic, astronomy, medicine, architecture, and the advent of the epic revolution, breakthrough to use the sun, moon and planet, for the universal routine of the clock, calendar and navigation.

The melting pot of human civilisation and diplomacy, between the three continents of Africa, Europe and Asia, its politics, commerce and social landscapes. A true testimony authenticating the scientific archeological research and evidence that from antiquity, centuries before materialisation of the Industrial revolution, nations states across the continents of the world, converging in the Mediterranean archipelago, for political, social and economic diplomacy.

The ancient Chinese Silk trade route, linking the Manchu epoch of civilisation to the Roman Empire, the Spice route which linked the East Indies to the European and African civilisations. The sub-Saharan Trade route from north Africa, West Africa and the great Kingdom of Mapungubwe of Zimbabwe, supplying precious metals to the Arabian and the Asian peninsula.

The growing admiration of the geography of the Mediterranean basin, which maps the footprints of our common ancestors, the breeding ground of new ideas, knowledge and cultures, the superhighway of trade and commerce, bringing together the diverse world of human solidarity and internationalism. The paradigm shift which continues to reshape the course of history.

Historical truth is contentious with the unfaltering habitude, by dominant scholarly of the Western Oligarchy, mistranslating the groundbreaking achievements of civilisation, by ancient societies. The dilemma is the continued effort to exaggerate the triumphs of the voyages of discovery into the new world, by the modern European monarchies, at the expense of the foundational stones, built

through epochs for the progress of human development.

This is the fundamental question we have to grapple with, withstanding the daunting political and socio economic challenges, facing millions of the people of the world. We have to see it coming, for we are the tutelage, tapping on the past experiences, in order to understand material conditions of today and tomorrow,

This equally brings to the fore the question of the moral standing of the capitalist system and its commitment, to the values of the struggles for the achievement of the freedom for humanity. A mantle bestowed to all generations of mankind.

The elephant in the kraal is the dark history of the involvement of the British monarchy, harvesting innocent people from the African continent into slavery in the Americas. The question we need to ask is why in the age of tremendous achievements of civilisation, the British Monarchy involved itself in such heinous crimes of violations of human rights and genocide?

During the year 1562, Queen

Elisabeth vested Sir John Walkins, British ship captain, the permission to transport slaves from the African continent into the Americas. More than three hundred African men, women and children, were taken by force into the transatlantic slave trade.

The ship was called the *Jesus of Lübeck*, with the crew destined to serve God the Almighty and give hand of life in his name. The people were lured into the ship with the promise of the land of milk and honey, promising them the abundant riches of the wealth in the shores of the new world.

On arrival from his first voyage of enslaving African people into the Americas, the Queen reprimanded John Walkins, urging that it was detestable and woe to call vengeance from heaven upon the undertakers of the horrible slave trade.

But upon realising the profits he has accumulated, the Queen bestowed him with the coat of arms by the Collage of arms, symbolising his wealth and social standing in society, decorating him to have become the first British ship captain, to have transported the slaves into the American archipelago.



Later in 1660, King Charles 11, founded the British Royal African Company, focusing on the trade of the African slaves and extraction of precious commodities from the African continent and the Americas. This is an abhorrent historical reality, which will continue to haunt the British empire into posterity.

The first General Secretary of the South African Communist Party, Ivon Jones, in his article titled, ***Africa awakening for a world Negro Congress***, published on the 13th July 1923, says the following:

"The Negro is the greatest living accuser of capitalist civilisation, the wealth of England and America, is built on his bones. The slave of Bristol and New York, with good Quaker prayers to speed them, founded the fortunes of many a Christian home. Every capitalist government is drenched with the blood of the Negro, British capitalism in South Africa, the French in the Cameroons, Belgium in the Congo, and the German empire in Damaraland."

He further says, *"they all constitute the blackest record in human history of mass slaughters, and human violation of every primitive human right, continued up to the present day. Even the liberation of the American slave, was only an incident of a civil war between two factions of property holders, engaged in a quarrel over the forms of exploitation, and was not the aim of the war as is commonly supposed. And as an aftermath of that war, there was created a social attitude towards the Negro race, which leaves the one time chattel slaves, still degraded outcasts among the peoples of the earth"*.

The testaments of courage and extraordinary heroism, are writ-



ten in all the walls of history, that humanity abhorred slavery and oppression, many have died, and the world is still tormented by the psychological effects of the horrors of colonialism and imperialism. But because they have planted the seeds of liberty, their living spirits will continue to rise again, multiplying in magnitudes, giving hope to the aspirations of future generations.

It is not enough to live in the opulence of the gold and the silver, extracted from the carcasses of the downtrodden in Buckingham palace, and it will never be enough to look at the splendour of the towers of London, it is time that the British Monarchy take responsibility, apologise for the atrocities the empire committed, against the innocent people of the world. The most sinful part, was to name the first ship to have transported the slaves from the African continent, Jesus.

Jesus Christ was the most humbled servant of God, the soul which is the holy spirit, led to our salvation, the one who teaches everybody, that the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. If you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your father

in heaven may forgive you your sins.

I join millions of the people of the African continent, from the former colonies and semi colonies, all those who carry the name of the barbarians at the gate, to implore on the British monarchy, to do what humanity will honour into salvation, asking apology for the crimes committed against humanity, during the transatlantic slave trade. It is only those in prosperity, who will come to call us the most humbled, by having contributed towards building a better future for all.

Even if you can cover the whole of the world of humanity with darkness, you can never stop the sun from rising. The darkest night will always end and the sun will always rise.

We are a generation of a new beginning, the beginning of the sunrise and sunset, we are the future of prosperity, the living monuments of peace and harmony. We are who we are, the creation of the beauty of our mother continent, the generation of the new beginning. ■

Phatse Justice Piitso is a former South African Ambassador to Cuba and a member of the African National Congress. He writes in his personal capacity.

A Lot LEFT to Fight For: Celebrating 100 Years of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

■ By **GIFT CHAUKE**

A gathering took place at the Lindiwe Mabuza centre on 22 May 2025 that transcended mere ceremony. It was not just an anniversary. It was a reckoning with memory. A reawakening of purpose. A centenary celebration of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), held under the resounding banner: ***“A Lot LEFT to Fight For! Celebrating collective wins & 100 years of FES.”***

This centennial moment served as more than an institutional milestone. It summed a century's worth of solidarity, struggle and socialist vision into the present – reminding us that history does not sleep. It lives on in how we organize, how we resist and how we imagine the future.

The Visionary: Friedrich Ebert

Friedrich Ebert, after whom the foundation is named, was more than Germany's first democratically elected president. He was a bricklayer of democracy, a son of the working class who built leadership not through inheritance but through struggle. Born in 1871 to a modest tailor's household in Heidelberg, Ebert rose from the ranks of the trade unions and the Social Democratic Party (SPD)

at a time when democracy itself was still a contested idea.

“Democracy needs democrats,” Ebert once said. A phrase that has echoed across generations.

Ebert championed a vision of a just and inclusive society anchored in democratic socialism. He fought for workers, women and the right to dignity. He stood for peace, when war was easier





to wage. He believed, perhaps above all, in dialogue; between classes, nations and people. And when he died in 1925, the world had not yet seen how long his legacy would endure.

Parallel Struggles: The ANC and FES

In a compelling twist of history in 1925 – the year of Ebert's passing – the African National Congress was undergoing a period in which it was evolving from an elite petitioning body into a mass-based movement of the people. The seeds of resistance planted in Bloemfontein in 1912 had begun to swell into the roots of a freedom struggle that would shake the foundations of racial tyranny in South Africa.

Both the FES and the ANC emerged in historical periods of immense political transition and moral clarity. In Germany, it was the collapse of monarchy and the call for workers' rights. In South Africa, it was the consolidation of colonial dispossession and the stirrings of anti-colonial resistance. What bound their begin-

nings is not coincidence but conviction: a belief in justice, equality and the moral necessity of resistance.

It is this alignment of values that would later cement a relationship of profound solidarity between the ANC and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. From the 1980s onward, FES stood with the liberation movement – offering not just funding but space, training and international amplification of the ANC's voice.

At a time when many turned their backs, FES chose to see the world from the perspective of the oppressed. As Oliver Tambo once said, ***"It is our responsibility to place the truth of our condition before the world and to call on all people of conscience to act."*** FES answered that call.

A Collective Declaration: What We Are Willing to Fight For

As we celebrate 100 years of FES, we honour the spirits of those who nourished the roots of our freedom through sacrifice and

toil, choosing to believe in the promise of something better. In their legacy, four voices – activists, both youthful and seasoned – answered the question put by them to FES: "what do we fight for together?"

Wesley Seale, ANC international relations manager: *"Progressive internationalism that seeks to harness a world where equality is supreme, diversity appreciated and inclusivity non-negotiable."*

Rantiti Penane, ANC international relations coordinator: *"I fight for decolonized mentality of the African youth, in which the Eurocentric approach is not perceived as the only way to achieve success. A situation in which Afrocentrism is embraced and adopted as a stepping stone for our socialization, the back to basic people centered approach."*

Rethabile Mophuthing, an ANC international relation intern: *"I fight for a society where non-governmental organizations amplify their work alongside the current education system to change the current status quo while using that space to capacitate young people to actively participate in the change that is relevant to them in 2025."*

Zanele Hlongwa, an ANC international relation intern: *"I am willing to fight for a National Democratic Society that is non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous. A society that promotes justice, equity, and prioritizes the visibility of all social agency." ■*

Gift Chauke is an Intern in the ANC International Relations Department.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

31 May—6 June 2025

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

31 May 1901

King Dinuzulu refused to join Anglo Boer War

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

31 May 1904

Rhodes University founded in Grahamstown

The university to this day named after British Imperialist Cecil John Rhodes, was founded after a gift from the Rhodes Foundation. It became fully-fledge university in 1951, and remains one of South Africa's public universities.

31 May 1919

Die Stem composed by CJ Langenhoven

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

31 May 1945

Laurent Gbagbo born

Second president of Cote d'Ivoire (2000-2011), a former trade union activist and founder of the Ivori-

an Popular Front (FPI) was born on this day. He was arrested in 2011 by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, and acquitted and released on all charges by the ICC 8 years later in 2019.

31 May 1958

Potato boycott launched

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

31 May 1989

Samuel Tshabalala first black athlete to win Comrades Marathon



Dubbed as "*The grandest marathon in the world*", athletes flock to South Africa from all over the world every year to take part in

the 90 kilometre race between Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The first comrades took place in 1921, with only 34 entrants. In 2008, more than 10 000 athletes entered the race. In 1989, Sam Tshabalala made history when he became the first black athlete to win the Comrades. Initially, black athletes were barred from participating in the race, but the ban was lifted in 1975. Unfortunately, Tshabalala was injured in a car accident in 1991. He however, returned to the race in subsequent years and managed to achieve four silver medals. In 1998, Tshabalala was awarded the prestigious Platinum Medal by the Comrades Marathon Association in recognition of his contribution to the Comrades Marathon.

31 May 1961

South Africa becomes a Republic

Two years after taking office, Verwoerd realised his republican dream, when a White-only referendum supported his plea for a republic. This was also the first time in 12 years of government that the National Party (NP) was able to gain a majority in parliament. Given this mandate, Verwoerd went to London in March 1961 to give formal notice to the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers that South Africa was changing from a monarchy to a republic and to argue his

case to remain within the British Commonwealth. This request for a constitutional change would normally have been granted, but because of South Africa's apartheid policy, it was vehemently opposed. Verwoerd then withdrew his application for membership of the Commonwealth. On 31 May 1961, the Republic of South Africa was established. It ushered in a period in which grand apartheid was consolidated and expanded, until its end in 1994.

1 June 1926

Artist Cecil Skotnes born

Cecil Edwin Frans Skotnes, a muralist and graphic artist, was born on 1 June 1926 in East London, Eastern Cape. In 1946 he studied drawing under Henrich Steiner in Florence, Italy. He also attended classes at what was called Wits Technical Art School in Johannesburg. Skotnes served in the South African forces in Italy. On his return to South Africa, he joined the Polly Street Art Centre in Johannesburg that led him to a lifelong career in the art world. Skotnes produced many drawings, paintings and woodcuts. He was a great inspiration to young Black artists, who he trained. The most successful series he did for his portfolios was *The Assassination of Shaka* and *The White Monday Disaster* based on a text by the poet Stephen Gray.

1 June 1937

Ezrom Kgobokanyo Sebata Legae is born

Ezrom Kgobokanyo Sebata Legae, South African artist, was born in Vrededorp, Johannesburg. He studied at the Polly Street Art Center and Jubilee Art Centre under Cecil Skotnes and Sydney Kumalo. When Kumalo retired in 1964, Legae became



the art instructor at Jubilee Art Centre. In 1970 he was awarded a travel scholarship sponsored by United States/South Africa Leadership Exchange Programme and visited the United States America. From 1972 to 1974 he was director of the art programme at African Music and Drama Association. In 1980 and 1981 he was instructor at FUBA. Between 1966 and 1987 he exhibited numerous in SA and abroad.

1 June 1989

Ferdi Barnard found guilty of assassination of academic David Webster

On 1 June 1998, Ferdi Barnard was convicted for the murder of Wits University academic, anti-Apartheid activist and Detainees Parent Support Committee founder, David Webster. Barnard shot Webster in 1989, in front of his home. Barnard was also found guilty of the attempted murder of another activist, Dullar Omar. Barnard was a former agent of the Civil Co-Operation Bureau. He was arrested on 25 charges including two of murder, two of attempted murder and various charges relating to fraudulent transactions and the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. He was acquitted on a further nine charges, because of a lack of evidence.

1 June 2001

Nkosi Johnson passed on



Nkosi Johnson, an HIV-positive pupil and subsequent activist for those living with the virus, passed away. South Africa's famous child Aids activist was born with HIV and died at the age of 12 in 2001. At the time of his death, he was the longest-surviving child born with HIV in the country. Nkosi rose to international prominence in July 2000 when he delivered his self-written address, televised worldwide, to 10 000 delegates at the 13th International Aids Conference in Durban. "Hi, my name is Nkosi Johnson," he began. "I am 11 years old and I have full-blown Aids. I was born HIV-positive."

2 June 1989

Last woman executed in South Africa

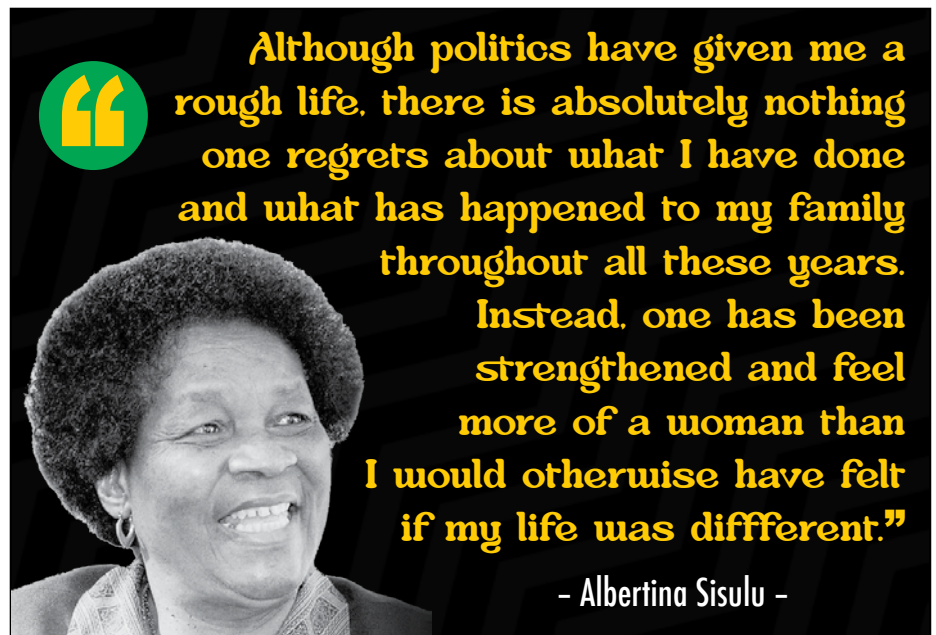
On 2 June, 24 year old Coloured woman, Sandra Smith, was executed by hanging at Pretoria Central Prison, the last woman to be executed in South Africa. Smith had been convicted alongside her boyfriend Yassiem Harris for the robbery and murder of Jermaine Abrahams. Smith was tried and sentenced for her part in Abrahams' murder and was hanged alongside Harris and two others. Out of nearly 3 000 hangings between 1959 and 1989, only 14 were women. Many women were

executed for the murder of their husbands, including infamous serial killer Daisy de Melker. The Apartheid years saw a steady increase in the number of people executed in South Africa. In the 1980s particularly, more people were executed per year than anywhere else in the world. In 1990, during the interregnum, FW de Klerk ordered a stay on all scheduled executions. Under the democratic dispensation, the death penalty was completely abolished, bringing an end to a system that saw 3 500 people hanged at Pretoria Central Prison.

2 June 2011

Ma Albertina Sisulu passed on

ANC stalwart, Albertina Sisulu died at her home in Johannesburg at the age of 92. Often referred to as the *'Mother of the Nation'*, she was a nurse and one of the most important leaders of anti-Apartheid resistance in South Africa. It was with husband Walter that she attended the first conference of the ANC Youth League where Albertina Sisulu was the only woman present. In 1948 she joined the ANC Women's League and in the 1950s she began to assume a leadership role – both in the ANC and in the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW). The second of five children of Bonilizwe and Monikazi



Tetiwe, Albertina was born on 21 October 1918 at Xolobeni, Tsomo in Transkei (now Eastern Cape). She and her husband Walter were jailed and banned several times for their political activities and she was constantly harassed by the Security Police. She was buried next to her husband, Walter at Newclare Cemetery, Johannesburg on 11 June 2011.

3 June 1946

NIC calls for Passive Resistance against Ghetto Act

Natal Indian Congress (NIC) led by Dr. G. M. Naicker, met in an emergency session in Durban and decided on a hartal on 13 June, which was designated "Resis-

tance Day" to mark the beginning of Passive Resistance against the Ghetto Act or The Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act no 28 of 1946, which was passed the previous day.

4 June 1978

Benjamin Tyamzashe passed on



On 4 June 1978, Benjamin John Peter Tyamzashe, Xhosa composer, choir conductor and organist, died in East London. Tyamzashe was born in Kimberley on 5 September 1890, trained and worked as a teacher in the Eastern Cape, where he also directed choirs and composed. Two years before his death, Tyamzashe was awarded



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

an honorary Masters of Arts degree from the University of Fort Hare in recognition of his contribution to the music industry. He died due to cardiac failure at Free Hospital, East London and was buried on his farm, Zinyoka, King William's Town.

4 June 1980

Apartheid forces bomb houses in Manzini, Swaziland

In response to attacks on the Sasol oil refinery in Secunda, the South African security police bombed two houses in Manzini, Swaziland. The attacks claimed the lives of Umkhonto we Sizwe member Patrick Makau and seven-year-old Patrick Nkosi, the son of an active ANC member, Mr Mawick Nkosi.

4 June 1986

First Legal Photo of Mandela released



On 4 June 1986, the first photograph of Mandela was released since 1964, when he was convicted and jailed on Robben Island after the Rivonia Trial. The name of Nelson Mandela was well known, but most people had never seen him as after 1964 it was illegal to have his photographs or to photograph him for the 22 years that he had been in prison. Mandela's reproduced

photograph appeared on a Booklet titled *'Talking to the ANC'*. The booklet was produced by the Bureau of information, revealing all the political prisoners and the banned African National Congress literature. The photograph was published by *The Weekly Mail* two days later, on 6 June 1986. Up to that point, it was illegal to publish a photograph of South Africa's and the world's most famous political prisoner.

5 June 1981

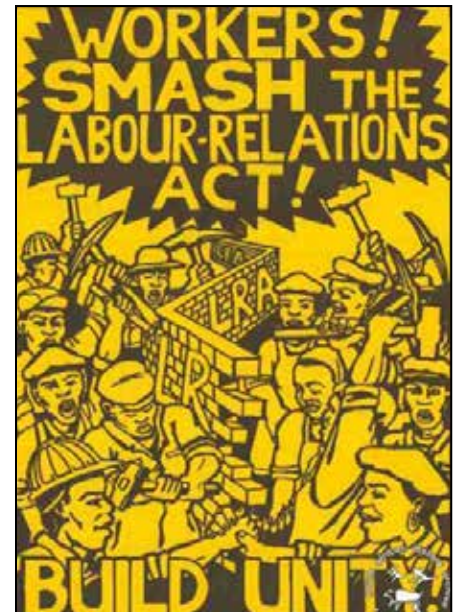
First recognized cases of AIDS reported in USA

On 5 June 1981, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (USA) reported that 5 gay men in California were suffering from a rare pneumonia (Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia or PCP). This strain of pneumonia was found in patients with weakened immune systems. These were the first 'recognised' cases of what became known as AIDS. Therefore, 1981 is often referred to as the beginning of the HIV/Aids epidemic in the USA, and at this stage doctors believed that the disease only affected gay men. Later in the 1980s, a blood sample taken in the Democratic Republic of Congo back in 1959 was tested to reveal the HIV virus. This suggested that HIV/AIDS might have been introduced to humans in the 1940s or early 1950s. However, in 2000 the results of a new study presented at the **7th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections**, suggested that the first case of HIV infection occurred as early as 1930.

5 June 1988

COSATU stay-away against the Labour Relations Act

At its Special Congress in May, the Congress of South African



Trade Unions (Cosatu) called for three days of national protest against the Labour Relations Amendment Bill (LRA) and restrictions on political organisations. The bill sought to curb the growing union movement and undermine gains made by workers since the 1970s. Cosatu's call led to the largest stay-away (5–7 June) up to that time in South African labour history and exceeded all expectations. On the first day, between 2.5 and three million workers stayed away.

6 June 1890

Chief Bambatha ascends to power



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Chief Magaduka Mancinza Bhambatha, who was held responsible for the Impi Yamakhanda (poll tax) uprising that was popularly known as the Bambatha rebellion of 1906, became chief of the AmaZondi people. Bhambatha succeeded to the throne after the death of his father and uncle, at the age of 25. He quickly established himself as a popular chief and earned the respect of the elders in the Amazondi traditional council.

6 June 1913 Women Anti-pass Campaign starts



The June 1913 anti-pass cam-

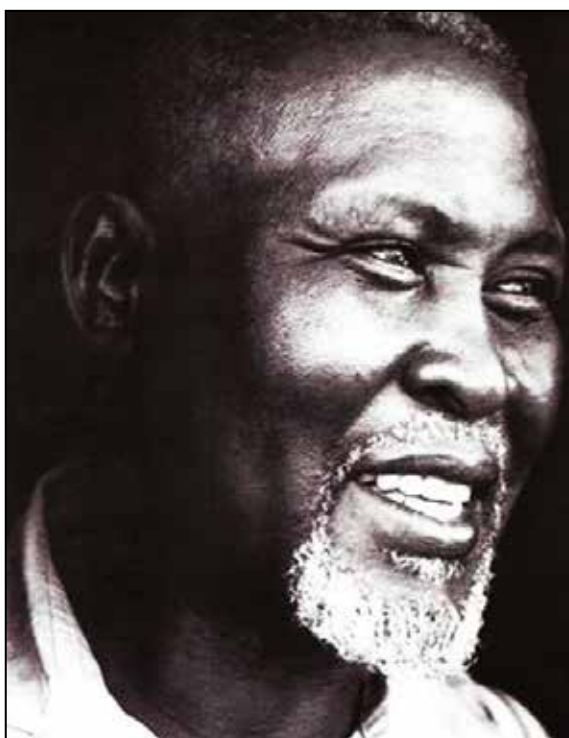
paigned was probably the first recorded incidence of protest by women against the Union government. About 700 women marched to the Bloemfontein City Council in the Orange Free State to petition the mayor. The Orange Free State was the only province in which passes were stringently enforced to control the movement of African and Coloured women residing and working in towns in large numbers. The pass had to be renewed monthly at a fee, placing financial strain on women. The Campaign gained momentum and spread to other areas in Bloemfontein. 34 women were arrested and convicted for not having passes. The direct result of this campaign was the establishment of the Bantu Women's League under the leadership of Charlotte Manye Maxeke.

6 June 1995 Constitutional Court abolished the Death penalty

On 6 June 1995 a historic resolution was taken by the Constitu-



tional Court to abolish the death penalty. The court ruled that capital punishment, as provided for under the Criminal Procedure Act, was in conflict with the country's 1994 constitution. The ruling did not apply, however, to the crime of treason committed in wartime. The Court ordered, with immediate effect, that *"the State and all its organs are forbidden to execute any person already sentenced to death under any provisions thus declared to be invalid."* The ruling followed the Constitutional Court's hearing on the death penalty which took place in February 1995. Until the use of the death penalty was suspended in February 1990, South Africa had one of the highest rates of judicial executions in the world.



May the day come soon, when the peoples of the world will rouse themselves, and together effectively stamp out any threat to peace, in whatever quarter of the world it may be found. When that day comes, there shall be peace on earth and goodwill between men."

- Chief Albert Luthuli, 1961 -

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

31 May—6 June 2025

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

31 May

World No-Tobacco Day



There are 1.3 billion tobacco users worldwide. That number would be even larger if tobacco didn't kill half of its users. Every four seconds, tobacco takes another life. Decades of the tobacco industry's deception and devious tactics have hooked generations of users to nicotine and tobacco, driving this global epidemic. The multi-billion-dollar industry recruits new tobacco and nicotine users to reward investors with as much profit as possible and keep its business alive. Tobacco and related industries have increasingly preyed on children and adolescents, employing advertising tactics and targeting them directly with a new portfolio of products that threaten their health. Tobacco and related industries continue to oppose evidence-based measures, such as increases in excise taxes and comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and have threatened legal actions against governments that try to protect the health of their citizens. Smoking tobacco damages your heart and blood vessels (cardiovascular system), increasing your risk of heart disease and stroke. It's a major cause of coronary heart disease, which can lead to a heart attack. Smoking causes high blood pressure, lowers your ability to exercise, and makes your blood more likely to clot. It is the cause of 9 out of 10 cases of lung cancer. It remains amongst one of the leading causes of preventative deaths in the world. Statistics show that a third of South Africans are heavy smokers,

with the average smoker spending over R400 a month on cigarettes. Our country has amongst the most progressive anti-smoking laws in the world.

1 June

International Children's Day



Every year, on June 1st, many countries around the world celebrate International Children's Day. It is a global observance dedicated to promoting the rights and well-being of children around the world. This day serves as a reminder of the need to address the challenges that children face, including poverty, lack of access to education, and exposure to violence or exploitation. It also celebrates the potential of children to shape a better future and calls for actions that ensure they grow up in safe, healthy, and supportive environments.

1 June

Global Day of Parents

Since the 1980s, the important role of the family has increasingly come to the attention of the international community. It recognizes that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, and that children should grow up in a family environment and atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Global Day of Parents appreciates all parents for their "selfless

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.”

1 June

Global Running Day

Global Running Day is a worldwide celebration of running that encourages people of all ages and abilities to get moving. This day plays an important role, reminding us of the positives that running can offer and the power of unification. During the past two years, many people have turned to running as a solution to help release anxiety, gain perspective, cope with cabin fever, and keep up wellbeing. This year let's run together on Global Running Day to reflect upon the challenges we've faced and how our communities have endured (globalrunningday.org).

3 June

World Bicycle Day

Regular physical activity, such as walking, cycling, or doing sports, has significant benefits for the health of persons of all ages. For the poorest, who often cannot afford private vehicles, walking and cycling can provide a form of transport while reducing the risk of heart disease, stroke, certain cancers, diabetes, and even death. Accordingly, improved active transport is not only healthy; it is also equitable and cost-effective. The bicycle is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable transport and it can serve as a tool for development and as a means not just of transportation but also of access to education, health care and sport.

4 June

International Day of Child Victims of Aggression

It is a sad reality that in situations where armed conflict breaks out, it is the most vulnerable members of societies – namely children, who are most affected by the consequences of war. The six most common violations are recruitment and use of children in war, killing, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access. The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children. Its work is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history.

5 June

World Environment Day



Plastic pollution permeates every corner of the planet – even in our bodies in the form of micro-plastics. World Environment Day 2025 calls for collective action to tackle plastic pollution. By drawing inspiration from nature and showcasing real-world solutions, the campaign will encourage individuals, organisations, industries, and governments to adopt sustainable practices that drive systemic change. This year's World Environment Day comes exactly two months before countries meet again to continue negotiating a global treaty to end plastic pollution.

5 June

International Day against Illegal Fishing

Fish and seafood are important sources of protein for local communities in the 34 coastal and island African states. Illegal fishing, mainly by nations outside of Africa, has decimated African fish stocks, impacting on the livelihoods of coastal and island communities. The AU Pan-African Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework and Reform Strategy, aims to get countries to work together to discourage and lobby against this practice.

6 June

Russian Language Day

The day was proclaimed by UNESCO, on the occasion of the birth of Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, in 2010 to celebrate language diversity and Russian as one of the six UN working languages. There are about 155 million Russian mother tongue speakers, and it is the official language of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan. The Russian alphabet uses Cyrillic script and has 33 letters. Apart from being one of the UN official languages, it is also an international space language.