



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



Debt sustainability is the key to development

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST week, the world came together at the 4th Financing for Development Conference in Seville, Spain, to agree on a set of actions to advance development over the next decade.

This year's conference took place at a moment of great consequence for humanity. We face more daunting challenges than at any other time, from the growing devastation caused by climate change to persistent levels of poverty in many parts of the world.

To confront these challenges, we need to mobilise funding to tackle climate change, reduce poverty and build infrastructure that enables sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

It is estimated that the world

needs an extra \$4 trillion dollars a year to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, a gap which can only be closed through more affordable, long-term sustainable financing.

A major contributor to this financing gap is the growing debt burden faced by many developing economies, particularly those in Africa. Around 3.4 billion people now live in countries that are spending more on interest payments to creditors than on health and education.

As the Jubilee Commission appointed by the late Pope Francis notes, while few countries have defaulted on their debt, *“they are defaulting on their people, their environment and their future”*.

Debt can be a tool for devel-

opment, if it is affordable and spent efficiently on infrastructure and other investments that support growth. However, a succession of external shocks – including the COVID-19 pandemic, the destabilising effect of various conflicts around the world and tightening financing conditions – has caused the cost of debt to rise rapidly for many developing economies.

At the inception of our G20 Presidency, we appointed an Africa Expert Panel led by Trevor Manuel, our former Minister of Finance, to develop recommendations that the G20 can take forward. We did so because we are convinced that Africa's development must remain front and centre this year and into the future.

We have since been focusing



on practical solutions to achieve debt sustainability, such as improving the G20 Common Framework for debt treatments to enable timely and adequate debt restructuring.

We are also working to expand the use of innovative mechanisms to alleviate the debt burden in times of crisis, such as climate resilient debt clauses, which automatically pause debt payments when a country faces a climate disaster.

Going forward, a key priority is to ensure that more support is available to countries facing financial liquidity challenges, with interventions taking place early enough and providing enough relief to avoid a crisis.

We have shown that this is possible through previous efforts spearheaded by the G20, such as the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, which creat-

ed fiscal space for low-income countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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SUL GLOBAL INCLUSIVO E SUSTENTÁVEL

Countries committed in Seville to “take concrete actions to enhance fiscal space, address debt challenges of developing countries and lower the cost of capital”.

This commitment was reinforced by the Rio de Janeiro Declaration adopted at the BRICS Leaders’s Summit in recent days, which recognised the need to “address in an effective, comprehensive and systematic manner the debt vulnerabilities of both low and middle income countries.”

The world cannot stand by and watch as rising debt service costs crowd out development for a generation or more.

For this reason, South Africa is committed to working together with all countries to confront the debt challenge in a manner that is effective, sustainable and just. ■

THE ANC PAYS TRIBUTE TO COMRADE DD MABUZA, CONDEMNS CORRUPTION, REAFFIRMS RENEWAL, AND DEFENDS MEDIA INTEGRITY

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

AS the African National Congress, we are in a time of deep reflection, collective mourning, and steadfast commitment to our historic mission. The past few days have brought moments of profound sadness and introspection. Today, we speak with clarity, conscience, and a resolute sense of duty to the people of South Africa.

Remembering Comrade David Dabede “Dd” Mabuza: A Humble Strategist, A Servant Leader

The African National Congress joins the nation and the broader progressive movement in mourning the passing of former Deputy President of the Republic and of the ANC, Comrade David Dabede “DD” Mabuza. This is not only a loss for the ANC, it is a national loss.

Comrade Mabuza embodied disciplined, humble, and people-centred leadership. A son of the soil, born of rural hardship, he never detached from the lived realities of ordinary South Africans. His leadership was quiet but effective, grounded in the ethos of care, dialogue, and delivery.



We remember his powerful and principled declaration: *“No child must be denied quality education because he or she is poor and living in a farm.”* This was not mere rhetoric. It was a conviction rooted in personal experience and a lifelong commitment to the struggle against inequality.

From his time as Premier of Mpumalanga to his leadership in the Union Buildings, Comrade Mabuza served with strategic calm, unity-building focus, and institutional wisdom. His election as Deputy President of the ANC in 2017 marked a critical moment

of renewal and stabilisation within the movement.

As Deputy President of the Republic, he led inter-ministerial committees focused on land reform, rural and township economic revitalisation, and accelerated service delivery. As Deputy President, he also assumed responsibilities for the SA National AIDS Council, work related to the plight of military veterans and a host of other issues assigned to him by the President. Internationally, he represented South Africa with quiet dignity and a firm strategic hand.

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Comrade Mabuza preferred action over attention, solutions over slogans. He was a unifier in moments of deep political uncertainty, a stabilising force whose legacy will grow in clarity and appreciation with time. The ANC salutes this loyal cadre and faithful patriot who walked with kings but never lost the common touch.

Sentencing of the Assassin who Brutally Murdered Comrade Magaqa

The African National Congress acknowledges the sentencing of the assassin Sibusiso Ncengwa to 25 years in prison for the murder of Comrade Sindiso Magaqa, the former Secretary-General of the ANC Youth League and a dedicated member of our movement. This sentencing reaffirms the principle that no act of political violence will go unpunished. While no amount of punishment can bring back the life of a revolutionary servant of the people, this ruling sends a strong message that our democracy will not tolerate violence as a means of silencing any voices.

Comrade Magaqa embodied a generation of courageous youth leaders, and we reiterate our unwavering commitment to eradicating all forms of political violence, safeguarding the right to life, and honouring the legacy of those who sacrificed their lives in service of our national democratic revolution.

MANDELA MONTH: Living The Values That Defined Madiba

As we enter Mandela Month, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the ideals of a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous



South Africa; ideals that guided uTata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and that continue to animate the soul of our movement and nation.

We call on all structures of the ANC, organs of people's power, civil society organisations, faith-based institutions, and all South Africans to honour Madiba not merely in memory, but through deeds; by deepening public service, advancing social solidarity, and renewing the spirit of *Ubuntu*.

Madiba believed in humility, forgiveness, discipline, justice, and unity. His legacy reminds us that leadership is not about position but about service, especially to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalised.

Let Mandela Month be a time of national renewal. Let it be marked by practical acts of compassion: cleaning communities, mentoring youth, protecting the elderly, and upholding the law.

Let us each be the difference that Madiba envisioned when he said, *"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others."*

70 YEARS OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER: A Living Mandate

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter; a foundational document of our struggle that continues to guide the moral and political compass of our democracy.

While the main commemoration event, initially planned for 12 July, has been postponed due to the passing of Comrade Mabuza, the ANC remains committed to a robust programme that will honour the brave men and women who convened in Kliptown in 1955.

The National Dialogue process, as part of the Government of National Unity (GNU), is a continuation of this spirit; building consensus, listening to the people, and shaping a shared future. We remain resolute that our democracy must always be rooted in the voices and aspirations of the people.

Renewal, Rebuilding, and Organisational Discipline

Over the past year, the ANC has accelerated its renewal programme with greater urgency. We have taken bold steps to enforce organisational discipline,

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combat corruption, and rebuild public trust.

More than 92,000 members have completed the Political Education Foundation Course; a clear sign that cadre development and ideological grounding are taking root across the organisation. We are rebuilding a principled movement; one that places service above self and integrity above convenience.

We remain steadfast in strengthening the state, improving service delivery, and restoring the legitimacy of public institutions through ethical leadership and decisive governance.

LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

SUMMIT: Advancing

Solidarity and Pan-Africanism

From 24 to 28 July 2025, we will host the Liberation Movements Summit in Gauteng, attended by FRELIMO (Mozambique), SWAPO (Namibia), ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe), CHAMA CHA MAPINDUZI (Tanzania), and the MPLA (Angola).

This strategic engagement will reaffirm our collective commitment to African unity, development, gender equality, and resistance against neo-colonialism and imperial domination.

In that spirit, the ANC expresses its deepening concern at the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Palestine. We call for an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian relief, and the restoration of basic dignity to the Palestinian people. As the ANC, we stand in firm solidarity with all oppressed peoples around the world.

Restoring Dignity Through Delivery

We remain committed to improving the lived realities of our people through transparent and responsive governance.

We commend the Department of Human Settlements for launching a digital housing application system that expands access, enhances transparency, and reduces corruption. We further welcome the acceleration in the issuance of title deeds; affirming the dignity of ownership and security for thousands of families.

We also applaud the decisive action by SAPS in dismantling a fraudulent UIF claims syndicate. We thank the Minister of Labour and Employment for ensuring that this investigation is followed by systemic reforms. Let it be known: corruption will not be tolerated. Crime will not go unpun-

ished. Public funds belong to the people; not to criminal syndicates or dishonest officials.

HIGHER EDUCATION:

Progress and Accountability

We are encouraged by gains in higher education, including expanded access to universities and TVET colleges, record numbers of graduates, and the inclusion of the University of Johannesburg in the top 500 global rankings.

We recognise the role of NSFAS and SETAs in improving access and skills development. However, we do not turn a blind eye to persistent challenges; including administrative inefficiencies, infrastructure gaps, and governance failures in some institutions.

The ANC is determined to work with stakeholders to address these issues decisively. We are committed to building an education system that is just, inclusive, and capable of driving innovation and development.

Responding to Commissioner Mkhwanazi's Allegations

The African National Congress takes seriously the recent allegations made by KZN Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi. These allegations touch on the very integrity of the criminal justice system and the constitutional obligation of the state to protect all South Africans.

We call upon President Cyril Ramaphosa to act with the seriousness and urgency this matter demands. The ANC reaffirms its commitment to accountability, non-interference in law enforcement, and the full protection of whistleblowers, investigators,



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and officers of the law.

We must all work to ensure that the rule of law stands above any undue interference, intimidation, or abuse of power.

Media Ethics and the Crisis of Compromised Journalism

We must raise an uncomfortable but necessary issue: the rise of unethical behaviour within sections of the media, and the corrosive impact it is having on South Africa's democracy. The African National Congress is gravely concerned by the growing pattern of what can only be described as **captured journalism**; a disturbing phenomenon where certain journalists are no longer reporting the news, but are actively involved in shaping political agendas, settling scores, and waging battles on behalf of those they align with or represent.

This is not journalism; it is political warfare waged under the banner of the Fourth Estate. We respect media freedom, we fought for it but that freedom must never be confused with impunity. The South African public has a right to expect truth, balance, and accountability from its media.

The ANC calls on the Press Council, SANEF, media ombuds institutions, journalism schools, and editors' forums to act decisively to confront this creeping ethical rot. If they do not, they risk presiding over the wholesale collapse of media credibility in the eyes of ordinary South Africans.

We also call on media houses to conduct internal audits of editorial independence and to develop stronger safeguards against political interference. Media owners

have a duty to protect their platforms from being used as weapons in power plays.

To be clear, we are not at war with the media. We are at war with misinformation and disinformation, with the manipulation of facts, and with the systematic erosion of journalistic ethics that undermines the public's right to know and distorts democratic discourse.

The ANC will continue to engage openly and transparently with ethical journalists and independent media houses. But we will not remain silent in the face of a growing information disorder that undermines our movement, sow division in society, and weakens the institutions that sustain our democracy. If South Africa is to thrive, the media must rise to its own moment of renewal.

Honouring the Past, Protecting the Future

As we reflect on the life of Comrade DD Mabuza and mark Mandela Month, we are reminded that real leadership is not about visibility; it is about consistency, character, and care.

The ANC recommits itself to the cause of ethical leadership, clean governance, and the ideals of the Freedom Charter. We dare not fail the people who placed their trust in us. We dare not betray the sacrifices of those who came before.

We are the movement of Tambo, Sisulu, Mandela, Maxeke, Plaatjie, Nokwe, and Winnie Mandela.

We serve the people. We advance the revolution.

And we move forward together. ■



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are insiders and outsiders who trade in gossip, disengage from constructive debate, and thrive on factionalism.

The formation of political parties such as ACT and MKP by Ace Magashule and Jacob Zuma is a consequence of failed attempts by wedge-drivers to orchestrate the death of the ANC through the collision of corruption and state capture. The continued support for these former ANC leaders shows that more ideological work is needed to awaken society to the dangers of supporting leaders who have weakened the state by collapsing its institutions, such as Transnet and Eskom, and who are now in parliament crying foul about the very institutions they themselves undermined.

As the ANC headed into the 2024 elections, polls predicted a decline below the 50% mark. The results confirmed it: the party secured just 40% of the vote, a sharp 17-point drop. Yet, even in this crisis, some leaders and members continue to fuel division, seemingly delighted to be agents of chaos rather than architects of renewal.

To rebuild, the ANC needs ideologically grounded leaders with strategic foresight – individuals capable of navigating the party through crisis with clarity of vision. Our current predicament stems, in part, from a failure to connect with contemporary challenges. While transformation remains a pressing issue, particularly in land ownership, where 75% remains in white hands and 95% of wealth is concentrated among 10% of the population, the ANC must communicate its mission more effectively.

The 1969 Strategy and Tactics

document remains a guiding text, affirming that only the success of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR), aimed at dismantling entrenched social and economic inequalities, can correct the historical injustices endured by the majority. This is not merely ideological nostalgia. As the document states, *“the national sense of grievance is the most potent revolutionary force which must be harnessed.”*

Efficiency does matter. But it must serve a broader purpose: the unity and prosperity of all South Africans. Comparing our trajectory with that of Singapore under Lee Kuan Yew – which focused relentlessly on attracting foreign investment – shows a different path. South Africa’s journey is not just about economic competitiveness; it is about moral and structural transformation. And that path does not have room for wedge-drivers. It requires leaders with a deep sense of purpose and clarity of mission.

Critics such as the Democratic Alliance’s Mark Burner have dismissed the relevance of the NDR, pointing to the inefficiencies

in state-owned enterprises like Transnet. While their concerns about operational performance may be valid, dismissing the ANC’s broader strategy shows a lack of nuance. As organisational theorist Chris Argyris argued, professionals often resist learning when it threatens their self-image. Similarly, ideological dismissiveness can blind one to the complexity of state transformation.

The ANC’s task now is to create a shared national vision, especially in the face of electoral setbacks. That means galvanizing support without the assumption of state power. It means telling compelling, accessible stories about transformation, stories that close the space currently occupied by wedge-drivers, who only thrive in disorder.

In conclusion, this is not the time for division. The ANC and its Youth League must resist the temptation of chaos. Instead, they must invest in building a moral, united, and strategic movement – one that can navigate uncertainty and continue the long project of liberation. Integrity, now more than ever, must be our lodestar. ■





The ANC without revolutionary nationalists

■ By **DAVID MASONDO**

IN my way back from my village to Gauteng, I had an intense discussion with some former fellow student and youth activists in Polokwane. As is often the case, our conversations ranged widely – from contemporary politics to music. But the debate took a sharper turn when someone from Sekhukhune asked whether Ngoako Ramathodi, the former ANC Limpopo chairperson and NEC member, was properly appointed as the Prime Minister of the Bapedi nationality.

To me, this is a secondary issue – at least, it should be from the ANC's perspective. Far more important is what this and similar

developments might represent: the emergence of political ethnic nationalism from within the ranks of a party historically committed to inclusive and revolutionary nationalism.

Ramathodi's rise to the position of Bapedi Prime Minister, and former President Jacob Zuma's statement that he did not expect Zulu-speaking people to sing a Sotho praise song for President Cyril Ramaphosa, are not isolated incidents.

Together, they point to an unsettling trend where political leaders who once claimed allegiance to non-ethnic, class-based national liberation politics are increasingly

retreating into ethnic chauvinism – especially once they leave formal ANC leadership.

This development is troubling. It suggests that the ANC may have long been harboring political ethnic nationalists masquerading as revolutionary nationalists.

These individuals, while holding leadership positions, formally conform to inclusive nationalism. But once out of formal power, they reveal a different political agenda – one rooted in the logic of political ethnic identity and exclusionary politics.

We are witnessing a slow but steady normalisation of political

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ethnic symbolism. Increasingly, leaders who once championed inclusive political nationalism now seek political affirmation from their ethnic communities.

They align themselves with traditional authorities and ethnic cultural organisations, using these as platforms for political mobilization. This shift is not just symbolic – it has real consequences for how political constituencies are built and how power is distributed.

Instead of building broad-based, ideologically coherent and multi-class constituencies, some leaders are choosing to retreat into political ethnic enclaves.

This undermines the founding principles of the ANC and the democratic promise of a united South Africa. The party's historical mission was always to unite the oppressed across class, ethnic, linguistic and racial lines. Today, that unifying vision is under threat.

Take the contested installation of Ngoako Ramatlhodi as Bapedi Prime Minister.

While framed as a cultural or traditional appointment, the political implications are clear. When such roles are assumed by prominent former ANC leaders, it suggests an emerging form of ethnic-political entrepreneurship – one that could easily evolve into ethnically driven political-economic formations under the guise of ethnic culture.

This should serve as a wake-up call.

Ethnicity, understood as cultural identity, is not inherently problematic. In fact, it can be a source of pride and contribute positively



to the building of a diverse and inclusive nation. Cultural identity is dynamic, voluntary, and open to transformation.

But when ethnicity becomes a political identity – fixed, exclusive, and institutionalized – it can fracture the social fabric. The danger lies in instrumentalizing ethnicity for political and economic gain. This often manifests in demands for public resources, positions, or representation based on ethnic affiliation rather than merit or broad democratic principles.

South Africa's post-apartheid democratic project is especially vulnerable to this.

The legacy of apartheid-era Bantustans like Lebowa and Gazankulu still lingers, not just in the names of places and institutions, but in the very spatial organisation of society. Municipal and provincial boundaries often overlap with ethnic geographies, unintentionally preserving the architecture of tribalism within a democratic framework.

Even institutions of higher learning like the University of Venda and the University of Zululand continue to bear the marks of

apartheid's ethnic engineering. In communities across Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal, slogans like *Shumela Venda* ("work for Venda") and rising Zulu political ethnic nationalism reflect a yearning for ethnic belonging in a time of deepening economic crisis. This reflects not only the erosion of national identity, but the weakening of class-based politics as a counterweight to identity-based populism.

The decline of the ANC's historic allies – the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) – has left a dangerous vacuum. These organisations once provided the ideological and organisational muscle to root ANC politics in class struggle and progressive social transformation. Their weakening has opened the door for ethnic and regional identities to fill the political void – especially under conditions of poverty, inequality and service delivery failure.

Globally, we see a similar pattern. The collapse of class-based political formations has been accompanied by the rise of identity politics and populism. South Afri-

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ca is no exception. Despite one of the highest inequality rates in the world, demands for redistribution are not being articulated through a lens of class solidarity. Instead, political mobilisation is increasingly shaped by ethnic, regional, or cultural identity.

If left unchecked, this trend will fracture South Africa's body politic and render impossible the dream of a united, non-racial, and egalitarian society. It will also hollow out the ANC's credibility as a national revolutionary movement.

That's why the ANC's renewal project must take the political ethnic question seriously. This means acknowledging that political ethnic nationalism is not merely symbolic – it's a growing force threatening to reshape the political terrain. It must be confronted ideologically and organisationally.

A few urgent interventions are necessary.

First, the ANC and its allies must take political education seriously, and the alliance itself must be revitalized. A strong, coherent,



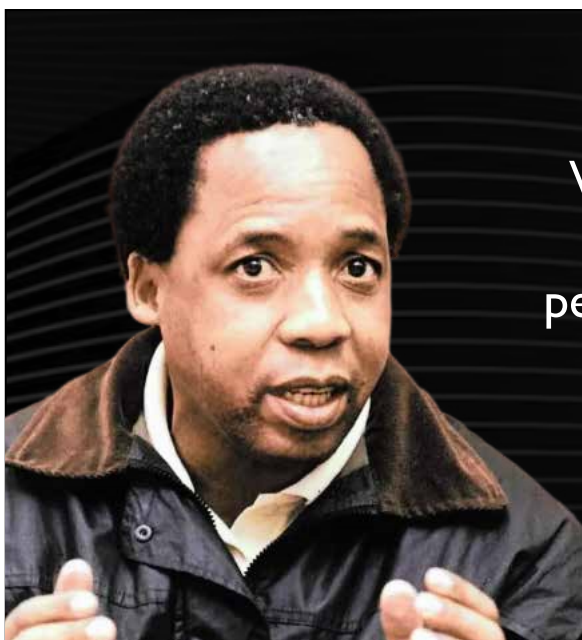
and class-conscious left is not a luxury – it's a necessity. The ANC cannot defend its progressive legacy or its political future without rebuilding COSATU and the SACP as meaningful vehicles of working-class organisation and solidarity.

Second, South Africa must begin redrawing spatial boundaries that reinforce apartheid-era ethnic divisions. A united nation cannot be built on the cartography of a racist past. Third, the ANC must lead the transformation of ethnic-based institutions – including universities and municipalities –

into inclusive civic entities that reflect the values of a shared South African identity.

For all its flaws, the ANC remains South Africa's most viable platform for inclusive nation-building. But unless it addresses the rise of political ethnic nationalism head-on – both within its own ranks and in society – it will continue to drift away from its historic mission.

The ANC must decide: will it be a movement of the people, or a collection of ethnic entrepreneurs vying for access to power? ■




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What we need in South Africa is for egos to be suppressed in favour of peace. We need to create a new breed of South Africans who love their country and love everybody, irrespective of their colour.

CHRIS HANI

Taking Stats to the People

■ By **NONCEBA MHLAULI**

 On Wednesday, 2 July 2025, I joined early morning commuters on the train from Gugulethu to Cape Town, alongside Statistician-General Mr. Risenga Maluleke and the executive leadership of Statistics South Africa. This was not a media stunt or ceremonial ride it was a practical, intentional act of democratic engagement. We were there to take Stats SA to the people and to demonstrate that meaningful government communication must meet citizens where they are.

We boarded one of the new, modern Prasa Metrorail trains, and I was genuinely impressed. The carriages were warm, clean, comfortable, and safe, a far cry

from the stigma sometimes associated with public transport in our country. And perhaps even more impressive the entire ride from Gugulethu to the Cape Town city centre costs just R9. This is not just affordable it's empowering, especially for students, job seekers, and working-class commuters who depend on public infrastructure to access opportunity.

As we rode, we engaged directly with commuters. We spoke about the work of Stats SA and why data collection matters but more importantly, we listened.

We heard from citizens about their daily realities, their frustrations, and their aspirations. These conversations reminded

me why data is never just numbers it is a mirror of our nation's lived experience.

Statistics South Africa plays a critical role in gathering and analysing the data we need to shape public policy. Whether we are planning school infrastructure, identifying service delivery backlogs, or tracking employment trends, it all starts with credible, inclusive data. And that data starts with you the citizen who responds to a census or household survey, who shares their circumstances so that government can plan more effectively.

By taking Stats SA to the train station, we were making it clear: your data counts, and your voice





matters. This campaign is about building trust in our statistical system, encouraging participation, and reinforcing the message that every person must be counted if we are to build an inclusive, capable state.

This engagement also aligns with our broader vision for a government that listens, adapts, and shows up in the real spaces where people live and work. We cannot afford to make policy in a vacuum. That is why I will continue supporting initiatives like these where we do the hard but necessary work of connecting governance to everyday experience.

As we to tabled Stats SA's Budget Vote in Parliament, let us remember that behind every figure we quoted is a real person a young woman catching the 6am train, a pensioner managing a household budget, a job seeker looking for a breakthrough. Their stories are what statistics must illuminate. ■

DD MABUZA AND MPUMALANGA'S ECONOMY: A Decisive and Visionary Leadership for Inclusive Growth

■ By **ISAAC MAHLANGU**

FORMER Mpumalanga African National Congress (ANC) Chairperson, Premier, and later Deputy President of both the country and ANC, David Dabede Mabuza (affectionately known as “DD”), dearly departed our shores on July 3 2025. Born on August 25, 1960, his was a life of service to the people of the province and we remember him fondly, especially for his contribution to an improved provincial economy.

As Premier of the Province, DD Mabuza took helm in 2009, right at the onset of the Global Financial Crisis (“GFC”). The crisis was quite brutal in its impact globally, and on the country, with close to a million jobs being lost locally between 2008 and 2009. The country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was reported to have declined 3% before beginning to recover in mid-2009.

It is partly due to Mabuza’s tenacity and decisiveness that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government was able to lay a foundation for resilience and recovery in the economy that was to last until the Covid-19 pandemic struck in 2020.

Born and raised in Phola Trust, near White River, Mabuza was passionate about rural devel-



opment and understood the difficulties faced by the people of the province including the much noted “triple challenges” of poverty, unemployment and inequality. This was alongside other “development deficits” he recognized that included inadequate infrastructure and access to services, poor education and skills, and a lack of access to health care, amongst others

A champion of the ‘development’ state

From his first State of the Province in 2009, Mabuza laid a clear marker and gave notice of his intention

to forge ahead with a well-crafted and capacitated “developmental” provincial government.

For example, in that 2019 SOPA he stated that ***“it is clear that the necessary condition for our success in implementing the priorities that we have set ourselves is the existence of a democratic developmental state that is able to provide strategic leadership and direction.”***

A reimagined Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) was one of the outcomes of his leadership. Upon assuming office, he immediately called for a

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merger of the then MEGA with the Mpumalanga Agricultural Development Corporation (MADC) and the Mpumalanga Housing Finance Company (MHFC) in an effort to accelerate enterprise development and the delivery of massive infrastructure.

In line with its founding legislation, the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency Act, 2010 (Act No.1 of 2010), MEGA today remains a strategic vehicle for “inclusive” economic development in the province focused on investment promotion, property development, and enterprise development.

Mabuza understood the role of MEGA as subnational (or “provincial”) Development Finance Institution (DFI).

In discussions with his colleagues and advisors, he indicated that he saw DFIs as potentially potent policy instruments for fixing market failures, incubating markets, and promoting structural transformation at the regional level. More than anyone, he wanted MEGA to play a more impactful role in fostering industrialization, job creation, and poverty alleviation.

Accelerated Infrastructure development

As Premier during the period 2009-2018 Mabuza championed a number of interventions that were targeted at facilitating faster economic growth whilst alleviating the conditions of the downtrodden and marginalized in many parts of the province.

One example of such an intervention is infrastructure development, which he viewed as likely to have a “catalytic” development impact.



He recognized that investment in infrastructure builds economic capacity and enhances competitiveness, while contributing to the quality of life of poor people.

A later provincial 25-year Review report suggests that from 2010 to 2019, Gross Domestic Fixed Investment (GDFI) in South Africa grew on average by 1.5% per annum and by 1.9% annually in Mpumalanga.

In 2010, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government adopted a boarding school strategy in rural areas in order to close small, non-viable farm schools and improve on the quality of education. Over time six boarding schools were constructed as part of the effort to improve quality of learning and teaching in the province, which include the Thaba Chweu, Shongwe, Ezakheni, Izimbali, Steve Tshwete and Emakhazeni Boarding schools.

By many accounts, these boarding facilities play a major role in ensuring that children from farming areas, those who are orphaned, and in particular those

who live below the bread line are afforded a conducive environment to live in and to learn.

These boarding schools stand as a legacy of Mabuza’s life as an educator and his passion for rural development.

He ably lived to our icon Nelson Mandela’s famous call that “*it is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to a good education*”, and that “*education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world*”.

One other notable accelerated infrastructure intervention that Mabuza facilitated related to the “*coal haulage*” network.

At the time, there were 12 Coal Fired Power Plants (CFPPs) located in the province but as a result the provincial coal haul network carried extensive volumes of traffic which placed an extra burden on the maintenance and rehabilitation demands of the province – due to the increased heavy traffic loads of coal haul trucks.

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Mabuza played a key role in the establishment of the Coal Haulage Road Rehabilitation Programme (CHRRP) which commenced in earnest in April 2011.

The Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market (MIFPM) is another brain child of Mabuza's but was finally realized after his tenure.

Located in the City of Mbombela, the MIFPM will become a key enabler of the broader fresh produce eco-system in the province. It creates a platform for stakeholders, including large and small farmers across the entire value chain.

Outcomes and the journey travelled

As Premier between 2009 and 2018 DD Mabuza led a provincial government that did not fail its people in delivering a better life.

Through his many interventions

in the performance of the government the results were there for all to see.

Although the provincial economy did not fully recover after the 2008/09 global financial crisis and recession, the provincial economic trajectory closely tracked the national one with some economic recovery between 2010 and 2014, but a fairly low growth rate after that and before the Covid-19 pandemic

Under Mabuza's stewardship and his focus on rural development much attention was on poverty alleviation. The outcomes were laudable. Reports show that the poverty rate in Mpumalanga, as measured by the lower bound poverty line (LBPL), declined from 64% just after 1994 to 48.1% in 2019.

Other estimates from the province show that a measure of inequality, the Gini-coefficient, (with closer to

0 being more equal distribution) of Mpumalanga deteriorated from 0.60 after 1994 to 0.64 in 2001, improving then to 0.61 in 2019.

Lessons learned from a selfless dedication to provincial economic progress

DD Mabuza assumed leadership as Premier of a province with significant challenges of development but stood firm to display excellent leadership acumen that improved the lives of the people.

Despite a global economy in turmoil he made the necessary choices to ensure the provincial government adopted his passion for rural development and implemented targeted interventions that delivered a growing and inclusive provincial economy though sometimes viewed as underwhelming for tracking a lacklustre national economy.

Mabuza faced head-on the structural and historical legacies stifling economic progress in Mpumalanga.

He was a visionary and decisive for all to see. He was also consultative and often called upon the private sector in the province to play its rightful role beyond just Corporate Social Investment (CSI).

Mpumalanga province and its provincial economy has been blessed with the astute leadership of former Premier DD Mabuza. It is perhaps fitting that someone as respected as the former Statistician General, Dr Pali Lehohla, has also written that "*he served the people of Mpumalanga well and was exemplary in addressing poverty.*"

Aluta continua. ■

In loving memory of Jack Tshoute Matutle

■ An Address by **SEISO MOHAI**, Member of the ANC Free State PEC

LIFE has the incredible propensity and tendency to push us out of our comfort zones, serving as constant reminder of who we are, where we come from.

On this chilly Friday afternoon with the biting cold in the air, it is once more the serendipity of life that returns us to our motherland to face harsh realities of death and conditions of abject poverty in which the people contend with on a daily basis.

As I stand here to first and foremost represent a collective memorisation of the life and times of comrade Jack Matutle on behalf the generation of death defiant young lions that broke the back of apartheid at the height of the struggle for liberation – I feel constrained by formalities and protocols as there were no such frills when we met in the battle trenches.

As Milan Kundera opines “*Ours is a struggle of memory against forgetfulness*”. Today, our presence here is not to mourn but to remember the heroic deeds of our fallen comrade.

Allow me to extend our deepest and most sincere condolences to the family, children of our beloved brother and comrade, Jack Tshoute Matutle. We have lost a soldier of justice, a husband, father and dearest family member. Your loss is not a mean feat, as the ANC and progressive organisations, we

say this because we feel your loss. Your loss is our loss.

Comrade Jack Matutle comes from a family that has not known peace during the years of our struggle against Apartheid and colonialism. His family, especially his mother and his siblings, suffered a constant state harassment for the better part of Jack’s schooling and youth years.

family to our struggle. His parent embraced all of us as their children – and extended all support and care reserved for their own, to the rest of us.

So, as we bid our last farewell to our beloved brother, friend and comrade – more than anyone else – our gratitude must be extended in particular to his mother and (late) father as well as his siblings.



Mamba Kahle
**COMRADE JACK TSHOUTE
MATUTLE**

A dedicated servant of the people,
a selfless and loyal revolutionary
until the end.







Issued by ANC Mangaung DCIP MANGAUNG REGION

TRIBUTE

Mma Matutle, as we often referred to you mamma, we feel your loss, and for many of us – who are your children – we wish to thank you dearly for all your care, your loving heart and commitment to our struggle. Thank you for turning your house into our home.

Indeed, many of us joined the struggle at a very tender age. We therefore needed the parental guidance and support that Jack's mom in particular, freely offered indiscriminately to all of us.

As I have mentioned Comrade Jack joined the struggle at a very tender age. His actual passion was sport in the form of Karate and engaging intensely in religious discussion with his peers.

This he did every day without fail during the early years of his secondary schooling. This love for sport and faith coincided with the period of mass mobilisation of youth in the early eighties. It's the combination of these hobbies and the urgency of our freedom that shaped Jack into a revolutionary cadre that we shared the front-lines of our struggles with.

Jack was a student leader and a dynamic member of the Botshabelo Youth Congress, SAYCO and the current ANC Youth League. He responded to the call made by President OR Tambo that we should intensify our struggle against apartheid on all fronts and leave no quarter to the enemy.

The ANC's voice echoed in Jack's ears from exile – to render the country ungovernable and to make the apartheid system unworkable. That informed the mass mobilisation of students and youth to hit the streets of Botshabelo and Qwaqwa, to organise students, youth, church leaders, workers and communities, one school and one street at a time.

Cde Jack had a presence about him that inspired hope and gave courage to the masses of our people as we engaged in community mass action. Many will remember him presiding over large community meetings and marches – forever leading from the front. His voice echoed in the hearts of our community and instilled fear in the minds of those opposed to our struggle for freedom. In his firmness as a revolutionary cadre, Jack will disarm the worst of critiques with his indelible smile and a warm embrace.

The Jack I know was fearless and brave, and his commitment to our struggle knew no boundaries. Throughout his youth, both Jack and his brother, Butcher – suffered the worst of the brutality meted out by the apartheid police. Both brothers spend inordinate amount of time in detention.

During all the torture, the man fought back like a wounded tiger. Even the police knew not to approach Jack individually. Those of us who spent some bit of time in detention with Jack – we are witness to obscene police brutality visited on the young Jack Matutle. Sometimes he would be released – only to be rearrested before even leaving the police station. His home and parents will be equally harassed and exposed to all forms of intimidation and police brutality. None of this dampened his spirit and commitment to the course of our struggle.

The Jack we know fought against the incorporation of Botshabelo to Qwaqwa with all the might he could muster. He pursued this struggle not only for the people of Botshabelo but for all communities in South Africa facing forced removals, arbitrary evictions, extension of homelands, and establishment of self-governing and so-called independent states. He

understood the centrality of land to the cause of our struggle and the value that our people attach to land ownership. The fight against incorporation was a fight against consolidation of Apartheid state from all fronts. He was part of a movement by several vulnerable communities to reject the homeland system and all forms of apartheid consolidation – that sought to deny black people access to land and turn us into tribal communities. Amongst these communities we remember the people of Richtersveld, the people of Mautse, the community led by Ntate Tseki that was forcefully removed from Hechel (the current Sterkspruit), the community of Thornhill and many more.

We remember him as a trade union organiser and dedicated champion of workers' rights. On the inception of Taiwanese sweat shops in Botshabelo – Jack led the fight to organise workers. Many of the workers started work very early and end their shift after sunset. When they leave work; they will often find Jack outside ready to educate them about their labour rights and the work of the unions.

He used his work in the Advice Office to pursue workers' rights and associated employment benefits. Many of our people from the surrounding mining towns would often be retrenched without payment of their pensions or UIF. Jack would fight these battles to the bitter end.

During the 1988 Transport and General Workers Union (T&GWU) strike, Comrade Jack was central to the sustained bus boycott that forced management into a round table with workers. He organised taxi industry support for the workers strike and entered negotiations with employers to represent community interests.



For this gallant fighter, any unfairness visited upon the workers by management – was an attack of the community of Botshabelo. This specific strike was settled with enormous victory for the workers. To him the COSATU slogan An Injury to All found both resonance and expression.

Of course, our struggle has gone beyond the apartheid era and ushered a democratic dispensation. Our new struggle required an ANC cadre ready to deliver to our people the promises of the Freedom Charter. Our contemporary struggle called upon all activists to occupy the centre stage of delivering decent services to our people.

The struggle to achieve a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist society in which each person has universal franchise, is not easy. There was no blueprint. Naturally we would make significant progress in some areas and do poorly in others. Equally, many amongst us would make mistakes and learn from them.

In this uncharted terrain – Our dear comrade was guided by his sense of Freedom, Justice, peace and Botho. We know this because we travelled the journey with him and also because we know that Jack was guided by his faith. It is this combination of his faith and commitment to justice that drove Jack to relentlessly mobilise communities across the Free State to continue trusting the ANC leadership.

My dear brother your departure comes at a painful time in the history of our organisation and South Africa. For the first time in the democratic era, the ANC suffered an electoral defeat.

We are a country besieged by a plethora of challenges ranging from endemic corruption, factionalism, gatekeeping, violence directed at girls, women, and the elderly, resurgence of racism and rise of right-wingers.

Our organisation is facing both domestic and global threats. The

ANC is fighting an existential threat posed by a counter-revolution that can only be defeated by remaining steadfast on the renewal trajectory.

In this, principally the ANC must be brutally frank in addressing internal and external threats to restore its hegemony and reclaim its role and place as the leaders of society.

Comrade Jack for now we are here to witness an occasion we neither expected soon nor planned for.

We are duty bound to gird our loins and gather fresh courage as we prepare to carry you shoulder high to your final resting place.

You may be physically gone but your undying spirit continues to live on...

You may have exited the theatre of life and gone off stage like a good actor or musician, but your legacy and melody lingers on. ■

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

11 – 18 July 2025

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

11 July 1957

Djamila Bouhired, Algerian militant appears in court



Djamila Bouhired (b.1935), a militant of the Algerian War of Independence appear in a French military court. She and co-defendants are charged with the bombing of an Algiers café that killed 11 people. She was eventually sentenced to death by guillotine, but her sentence was converted to life after pressure. Bouhired joined the Algerian Liberation Front as a student activist. She was released from prison after independence and became chair of the Algerian Women Association. She remains active in Algerian politics.

11 July 1960

Katanga declared secession from DRC

Congolese businessman and politician Moïse Tshombe declared that the mineral-rich Katanga region is seceding from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

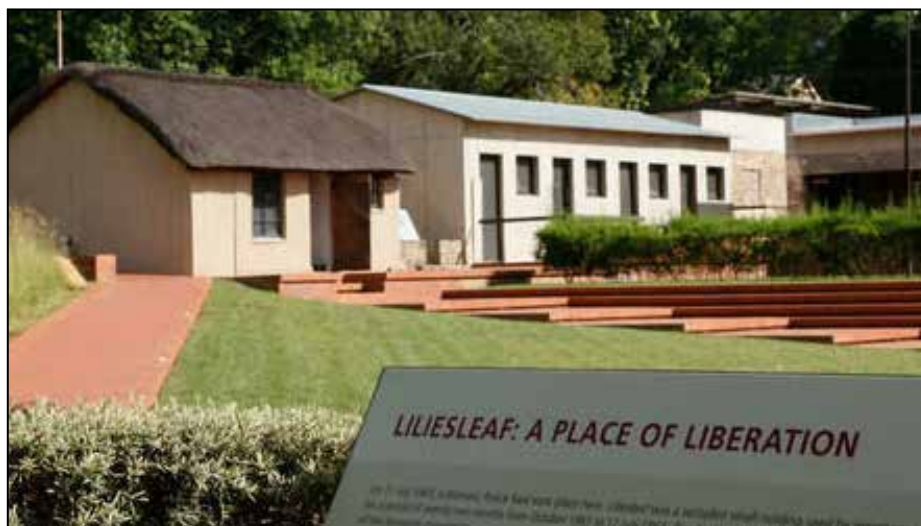
This threw the newly independent Congo into chaos, leading to a UN peacekeeping intervention. The crisis is further exacerbated by the assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and the death of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld.

11 July 1963

Umkhonto High Command arrested at Lilliesleaf farm

South African police raided the African National Congress (ANC) underground headquarters, the Lilliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, just outside Johannesburg. Virtually the entire leadership of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the armed wing of the ANC, were arrested on this day. This moment came as a terrible titanic dream in the history of the ANC. Amongst those arrested were the following: Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhla-

ba, Ahmed Kathrada, Lionel Bernstein and Bob Hepple. Nelson Mandela, the commander-in-chief of MK, was not arrested at the time as he was serving a five-year prison sentence for leaving the country illegally in 1962. The farm was privately owned by Arthur Goldreich, but bought with funds from the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA). At the farm police found documents relating to the manufacture of explosives, Mandela's diary of his African tour and copies of a draft memorandum, 'Operation Mayibuye'. It outlined a possible strategy of guerrilla warfare. The six men had been studying the document when police arrived. More arrests followed shortly after this incident, including Arthur Goldreich, Andrew Mlangeni, James Kantor, Dennis Goldberg, Harold Wolpe and Elias Motsoaledi. Goldreich and Wolpe later managed to escape from prison. Mandela and



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his co-accused were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia trial that ended in June 1964.

11 July 2000 Trans-African Highways Network Agreement signed

An Agreement to cooperate on a network of highways is signed by the Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union. This was an idea already touted as early as 1971 by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), spanning roads of over 60,000 km. Some of the TAH roads include a connection of highways from Tripoli, Libya to Windhoek, Namibia (9,610km), Cairo, Egypt to Dakar, Senegal (8,636km), Algiers, Algeria to Lagos, Nigeria (4,505 km), Cairo, Egypt to Gaborone, Botswana. The project is also referred to as transport corridors, since some aspect of rail is being incorporated. It is a joint project of the AU, UNECA and the African Development Bank.

12 July 1912 First Malian MP, Aoua Kéita born



Aoua Kéita, Malian writer, midwife and activist was born in Bamako. She was educated on her dad's insistence, despite objections from her mother. She was Active in the independence movement, a leader of the African

Democratic Rally (RDA) and also set up a women's trade union in Mali in 1956. After Mali independence in 1960, Kéita was elected as the first woman member of the National Assembly. She was also one of the founders of the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO). Her autobiography was published in 1975, and she passed on in 1980.

12 July 1929 Sudan author Tayeb Salih born

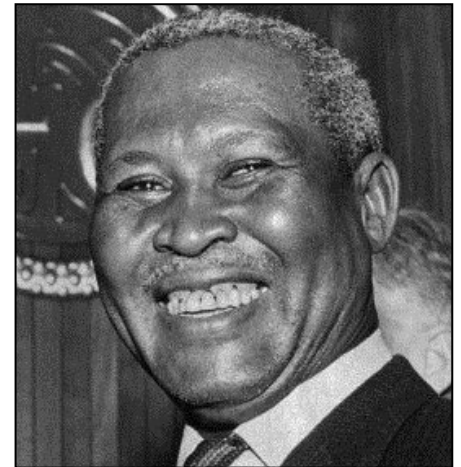
Writer and cultural expert Tayeb Salih was born in Karmakol, Sudan on this day. He popularized Sudanese, African and Arabic culture in broadcasts, working for UNESCO, and in newspaper columns and novels. His most famous work is *Season of Migration to the North* (1966).

12 July 1941 Children's writer Affaf Tobbala born

Egyptian children's book writer Affaf Tobbala was born in Cairo. After a successful career as a TV documentary director, at 64 she started writing award-winning children's stories, translated into several languages.

12 July 1954 Nkosi Albert Luthuli banned

Chief Albert Luthuli was elected as ANC President in 1952. In 1954 the Minister of Justice C.R. Swart issued the ANC President with two banning orders. One prohibited him from attending public gatherings and another confined him to the magisterial district of Lower Tugela, Natal. He was to report frequently to the SA Police in the area. After his part in leading the 1952 Defiance



Campaign, a non-violent, national, anti-pass protest, the apartheid government summoned him to Pretoria. Here he was challenged to denounce the ANC or be removed for his chieftainship, involving a loss of power and salary. He chose the latter. On 12 July 1954 Luthuli was scheduled to address a group protesting against forced removals of Black people in Johannesburg and the Minister served him with the banning notices under the 1950 Suppression of Communism Act.

12 July 1975 São Tomé and Príncipe national independence

São Tomé and Príncipe formally achieved its independence from Portugal on July 12, 1975, and Manuel Pinto da Costa of the Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe (Movimento Libertacao de São Tomé e Príncipe – MLSTP) assumed the presidency.

12 July 2002 Oldest person to run 200m in under 20 seconds

Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks becomes the oldest person to run 200 meters in under 20 seconds when at age 34 years and 283 days he runs the 200 meters in Rome at 19:99.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

13 July 1916

Linguist and educationist Sedumedi Moloto is born



Ernest Sedumedi Moloto, linguist, educationist and teacher who served as chairman of both the Tswana Language Committee of South Africa and the Botswana National Language Committee was born in Moruleng, Rustenburg district. During his long career as an educationist and linguist, he taught Setswana, Northern and Southern Sotho at Turfloop (University of the North), and later as Professor and Head of African Languages at the Botswana University in Gaborone, and later the same position at Vista University in Mamelodi. He was an excellent linguist and spoke Setswana, his mother tongue, English, Afrikaans and Dutch equally fluently. Moloto was once married to the South African struggle hero Ellen Khuzwayo.

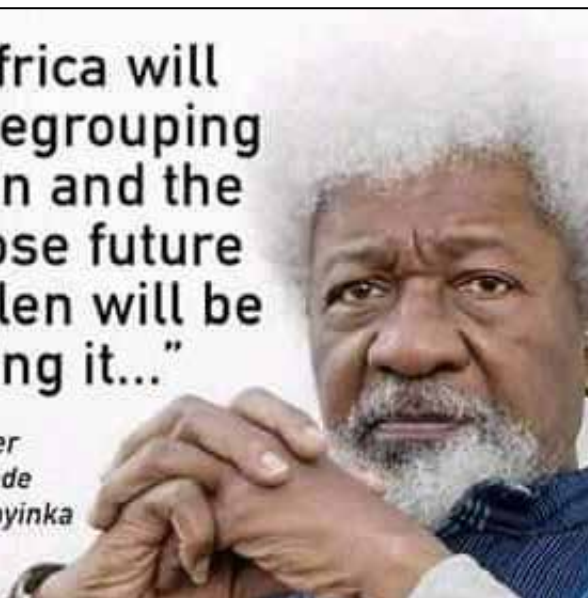
13 July 1934

Playwright and Author Wole Soyinka born

The Nigerian, novelist, playwright and poet, Wole Soyinka, (Akinwande Oluwole Soyinka) was born at Abeokuta, near Ibadan in western Nigeria. Soyinka became the first African to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature from the Nobel Prize Committee in 1986.

“Only in Africa will thieves be regrouping to loot again and the youths whose future is being stolen will be celebrating it...”

*Nobel Prize Winner
Professor Akinwande
Oluwole Babatunde Soyinka*



13 July 1963

India intensifies anti-apartheid struggle

The government of India announced that it was cutting India's last remaining link with South Africa by refusing landing and passage facilities to South African aircraft. India was one of the first states in the global struggle against apartheid in Namibia and South Africa.

14 July 1948

King Goodwill Zwelethini born



Zulu King Goodwill Zwelethini kaBhekuzulu, eldest son of King Cyprian Bhekuzulu kaSolomon and his second wife, Queen Thomo was born in Nongoma, Zululand (now

KwaZulu-Natal). He received formal instruction in traditional Zulu customs while he was at his father's residence of Khethomtan-dayo. Zwelethini was installed as the eighth monarch of the Zulus at a traditional ceremony attended by 20 000 people in Nongoma on the 3rd of December 1971. His reign lasted until his passing on 12 March 2021.

14 July 1965

Nat Nakasa passed on in exile

Ndazana Nathaniel Nat Nakasa was awarded the The Niemann Fellowship to study journalism at Harvard University in the US but the government rejected his application for a passport. This forced him to leave the country on an exit permit and never be allowed to return to South Africa. Nakasa was part of a group of journalists, many working for *Drum* Magazine, associated with the vibrant, violent and somewhat romantic culture that characterised Sophiatown in the 1950s. While Nakasa worked for the *Rand Daily Mail*, he was associated with legends like Can Themba, Arthur Maimane and Bloke Modisane. Nakasa was

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also the first black columnist at The Rand Daily Mail. While in America Nakasa became lonely and home sick. Knowing that he could never return home, it is alleged that he committed suicide by jumping from a high-rise building in New York on 14 July 1965, in the prime of his life. An annual award for courageous journalism has been named after him.

15 July 1916

Battle of Dellville Wood starts

South Africa entered WWI on 8 September 1914, on the side of the Allied Forces. On 15 July 1916, the S.A. Infantry Brigade under Major-General H.T. Lukin was ordered to clear the forest at d'Elville, France of enemy soldiers, thereby covering the flanks of the British Brigade. The South Africans occupied the wood on that day, but the problem was not so much to take the wood, than to hold it. Despite fierce counterattacks and artillery bombardments from German divisions, the SA brigade refused to surrender. The brigade was relieved on 20 July after six days and five nights of ferocious fighting. Only 750 soldiers remained of the Brigade's 3 433 soldiers, the rest had either been killed or wounded. Black people were also involved in this battle as unarmed combatants and non-military personnel. The Battle of Delville Wood went down in the history of WWI as an example of supreme sacrifice and heroism and remained the most costly action the South African Brigade fought on the Western Front. A memorial site was erected in remembrance of those who died in the Battle in 1926. 146 000 Whites volunteered for service in WW1, while altogether 83 000 Blacks and 2 000 Coloureds did service in non-combatant capacity.

15 July 1953

Walter Sisulu and Duma Nokwe leave SA



African National Congress (ANC) members, Walter Sisulu and Duma Nokwe, went overseas under false names and without passports. The two arrived in London, England and from there they went to Bucharest, Romania, where they attended the communist "World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship". After this, they embarked on an extensive tour to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia and China, to mobilise support for the struggle against apartheid. They returned to South Africa on December 1953 and attended the 41st annual conference of the ANC at Queenstown, where it was decided to begin The Defiance campaign.

15 July 1995

Mystery of the SS Waratah

The SS Waratah was a luxury steamer, en route from Cape Town to Durban, South Africa, on 26 July 1909. The ship, built in Scotland, was meant to serve as a passenger and cargo liner to Australia. After her second trip to Australia, the SS Waratah arrived in Durban on 1 July 1909. With 211 passengers and crew on board, she left for Cape Town, which she was expected to reach by 29 July. However, the Waratah did not reach its destination, and no trace of the wreckage was found. A number of wreck-

ages, bearing similarities to the outline of the steamer, were spotted along the coast of South Africa between 1925 and 1999. None of them, however, proved to be that of the Waratah. Several theories have developed as to what might have caused the disappearance of the SS Waratah. On 15 July 2009, the most popular theory, supported by research on sonar imaging, revealed that a freak wave may have capsized the boat, causing its rudder to malfunction. Although maintained as the most likely explanation for the disappearance of the SS Waratah, the mystery of this luxury steamer remains unsolved.

15 July 1932

CJ Langenhoven passed on in Oudtshoorn

Cornelis Jacob Langenhoven, who penned the words of *Die Stem van Suid-Afrika*, died at his home in Oudtshoorn. *Die Stem* was the official national anthem of SA from 2 May 1957 to 20 April 1994, when it was combined with *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* and recognised as the national anthem. CJ Langenhoven was also a poet, wrote short stories and other works. He played a major role in the development of Afrikaans literature. As a Member of Parliament and Senator from 1914, he fought for the recognition of Afrikaans, and was one of the founders of the newspaper *Die Burger*, and was a SA Freemason. Till today he is one of the most prolific Afrikaans authors, with his *Collective Works* of sixteen volumes.

16 July 1901

Ladies Commission to investigate Concentration camps appointed

On 16 July 1901, the Ladies commission was appointed, including

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

amongst its members Millicent G. Fawcett, Emily Hobhouse and Dr. Jane Waterson. They were appointed by the British Office to investigate the concentration camps in South Africa during the Second Anglo Boer War. At least 25 000 children and women died from epidemics of dysentery, measles, and enteric fever. Emily Hobhouse, an English philanthropist and social worker visited the camps to raise awareness and tried to improve the life of the concentration camp prisoners.

16 July 1947

Community leader Horatio M'belle passed on



Horatio Isaiiah Budlwana (Bud) M'belle, interpreter, insurance agent, community leader and politician, died in Pretoria. The first African to pass the Cape Civil Service Exam, he was widely regarded as the best court interpreter of his day and was a talented rugby and cricket player who took the lead in the local African community sports activities. He went to work in Kimberley, where he got involved in the founding of many schools for African people. He was also instrumental in the anti-pass campaign of 1919, under the banner of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC). He participated in the All African Convention of 1935 and founded the Pretoria Advisory Council for African affairs as

well as Joint Council of Europeans and Bantu. M'belle wrote a Xhosa scholar's companion and was a contributor to Abantu-Batho, an organ of the SANNC that was founded by Pixley ka Isaka Seme. He passed on 16 July 1947 at the age of 77.

(<http://www.thejournalist.org.za/pioneers/horatio-isaiah-budlwana-bud-mbelle>)

16 July 1966

Number of banned persons for anti-apartheid activities reached

In order to maintain the oppressive and brutal system of apartheid, all sorts of repressive laws were put in place to strangle opposition to apartheid. One such method was the banning of persons from participating in any political activities. By 1966, it was announced that 936 people in South Africa had been banned, with 467 listed as communists or under the Riotous Assembly Act. Between 1950 and 1990, more than 2000 people were banned in South Africa and labeled as terrorists, communists or perceived by the apartheid government as a threat to public security. The ban on anti-apartheid activists was finally lifted in 1990.

16 July 1990

ANC presents report on Police Violence to De Klerk

The African National Congress (ANC) sent a report on police violence to President F. W. de Klerk and demanded an end to "the shocking inhumanity" of police action in rural areas. The report was based on about 50 statements to lawyers by victims of police action in the farming towns of Ashton, Montague and Robertson. ANC leader Walter Sisulu had already accused the Government of fail-

ing to restrain the police after young activist Meshack Kunene was shot dead on 30 June in the Alexandra Township near Johannesburg.

16 July 2019

Johnny Clegg passed on



Johnny Clegg, at the age of 66 passed away at home in Johannesburg on 16 July 2019, after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2015. He is known as a songwriter, a dancer and an anthropologist. Clegg's music touched many with its vibrant blend of Western pop and African Zulu rhythms. His unique music style embraced different cultures and enhanced the social cohesion of South Africans. During his music career, he produced so many hits, including *Impi*, *Great Heart* and *African Sky Blue*.

17 July 1950

First SABC news bulletin broadcast

Broadcasting in South Africa can be traced back to 1923, when the first wireless broadcast was made in Johannesburg. By April 1927, an hour of Afrikaans programming and one daily news bulletin in Afrikaans was broadcast. Insufficient funding began to hamper the progress of the broadcaster and an investigation into all aspects of broadcasting in South Africa was

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

launched by the Prime Minister of South Africa, JBM Hertzog. This resulted in the establishment of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and by 17 July 1950 a commercial radio service was established, with daily news bulletins in both English and Afrikaans – this radio service was popularly known as Springbok Radio. Broadcasts were initially limited to the Johannesburg area, but soon became available in most major centres in South Africa. The SABC grew in the 1960s and 1970s as more radio stations, broadcasting in selected African languages, were established.

17 July 1955

Jomo Sono, footballer, coach and club owner born



Ephraim Matsilela Sono was born on this day in Orlando East, Soweto. His father, Eric “Scara” Bamuza Sono, a midfielder playing for Orlando Pirates, passed on when Jomo was still young, and he was brought up by his grandparents. Helping to support his family and pay school fees from a young age, he sold apples and peanuts at train stations and soccer games. During an Orlando Pirates game, a player was ill and he was asked to stand in and the rest is history. Jomo later went to North America where he played for teams New York

Cosmos, Colorado Caribous and Toronto Blizzard from 1978 and 1982. Upon his return to South Africa in 1982, he bought the Highlands Club which he renamed Jomo Cosmos, with the club winning a number of cups in various tournaments. Jomo Sono had two stints as Bafana Bafana coach, during the 1998 AFCON and 2002 FIFA World Cup. Sono is also a board member of the PSL and active in SAFA.

18 July 1919

Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela is born

Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela was born into the Madiba clan in the village of Mvezo, in the Eastern Cape, on 18 July 1918. His mother was Nonqaphi Nosekeni and his father was Nkosi Mphakanyiswa Gadla Mandela, principal counsellor to the Acting King of the Thembu people, Jongintaba Dalindyebo. He went on to study

at Fort Hare University where he became one of the founders of the ANC Youth League, and went on to serve on the National Executive of the ANC, as Volunteer in Chief of the Defiance campaign, serving on the High Command of Umkhonto we Sizwe after undergoing military training in Morocco and Ethiopia, and then arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment to Robben Island. After serving for 27 years, and becoming a symbol of political prisoners, he was released in 1990 and led the negotiations for a democratic South Africa. He was elected as ANC President in 1991, a position he held until 1997. He became South African President, when the ANC won the first democratic non-racial elections. South Africans of all races celebrates this day as Nelson Mandela Day, where they spent 67 minutes of doing charity work across the country. The 67 minutes symbolically represent



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



the number of years President Mandela fought for human rights and the abolition of apartheid.

18 July 1968 Hugh Masekela strikes gold with *Grazing in the Grass*

Hugh Masekela strikes gold with the breezy, instrumental *Grazing in the Grass*, topping the US charts as number one for two weeks and becoming an international hit. Masekela, playing piano from childhood and a trumpeter since age fourteen, Masekela was a member of the Huddleston Jazz Band, South Africa's first youth orchestra. He became one of the



jazz icons of the 1950s, most notably performing in Todd Matshikiza's musical *King Kong* (1959), and, soon thereafter, as a member of the legendary Jazz Epistles (with Kippie Moeketsi, Abdullah Ibrahim and Jonas Gwangwa). In addition to piano and trumpet, he also played the flugelhorn, and composed and sang. His music career spanned many decades, producing hit after hit until he passed on in January 2018. His autobiography, *Still Grazing: The Musical Journey of Hugh Masekela* (co-authored with D. Michael Cheers), has been described as an awesome description of "many lives packed into one."

18 July 1993 Agathe Uwilingiyimana (1953-1994) becomes Rwandan Prime Minister

Mathematics and science teacher, also known as Madame Agathe, was one of the first women to receive a Bachelor degree from the University of Rwanda in 1985. She rose to prominence through her formation of a self-help organisation, and went on to become Rwanda's first woman prime minister on this day. She participated in the Arusha Accord talks and after the assassination

of Burundian President Melchior Ndadaye, she publicly warned against retaliatory violence against Tutsis. She was assassinated on 7 April 1994, by soldiers from her government. Uwilingiyimana is remembered as a pioneer in women's rights and education in Rwanda, a founder of the Forum for African Women Educators (FAWE) and her efforts to reconcile ethnic differences in the country.

18 July 1999 Penny Heyns sets four world records in swimming

Swimmer Penny Heyns of SA sets four world records in just two days in the 100m and 200m breaststroke in South California, USA. Heyns became the first SA gold medallist in 44 years. In her first Olympics in Barcelona in 1992, the first since South Africa's return to the games, she was the youngest member of the team at the age of 17 years. She retired from swimming in 2000, having set 14 world records and the first and only woman and became the only woman in history to complete the Olympic double of winning both the 100 and 200metres breaststroke.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

11 – 18 July 2025

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

11 July

World Population Day

In 1950, the world population stood at 2.5 billion inhabitants, by 2022, this figure has reached just below 7.9 billion people. World Population Day seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, particularly in the context of overall development plans and programmes, and the need to find solutions for these issues. A world of nearly 8 billion humans is both a challenge and an opportunity with implications on urbanisation, access to health services, access to water, energy, food and for youth empowerment. It is also a challenge for other species – animal and plant – which have to share the planet with us.

11 July

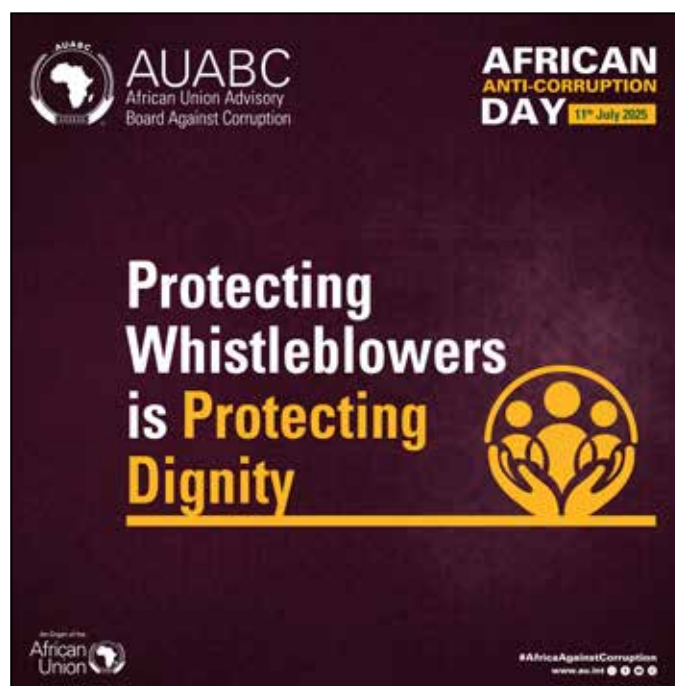
African Anti-Corruption Day



The African Union adopted 11th July as the African Anti-Corruption Day to commemorate the adoption of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) or the Convention. To date, Forty-Eight (48) Member States of the African Union have ratified the Convention and have proceeded to put in place measures to tackle corruption such as criminalizing corruption through various legislation, establishing institutions as well as engaging in corruption prevention initiatives. For 2025, the day will be commemorated under the theme, **“Promoting Human Dignity in the Fight Against Corruption”**. This is an opportune mo-

ment for countries on our Continent to reaffirm that anti-corruption is not simply a legal or institutional process, it is a human-centered imperative that demands empathy, fairness, and respect for the rights and dignity of all. This means that:

- **Prevention measures** prioritize inclusivity, social justice, and equitable access to public resources, ensuring that no group is left behind due to corruption.
- **Investigations** into corruption are conducted with fairness, integrity, and full respect for the rights of all persons involved – whether victims, witnesses, or suspects.
- **Prosecutions** are carried out impartially and under the rule of law, with safeguards against abuse of power, political persecution, or selective justice.
- **Respecting human dignity** also means protecting whistleblowers, empowering citizens to speak out against corruption without fear, and ensuring that justice serves both accountability and restoration.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

13 July

International Rock Day

We take them for granted, but rocks make up a large part of our planet. According to National Geographic, a rock is a “*natural substance composed of solid crystals of different minerals that have been fused together into a solid lump.*” There are three basic types of rock – igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. The study of rocks is not geology, which is the study of the earth, but is called petrology!

14 July

World Sharks Day

Sharks date back 420 million years, nearly 200 million years before the dinosaurs roamed the earth. Sharks have the reputation of being dangerous, but in fact human beings kill more sharks, about 100 million of all sizes each year. There are more than 500 different known species of sharks in our oceans, the smallest is as big as a human hand (the dwarf lantern shark) and the largest over 12 metres long (the whale shark). Sharks have excellent night eye-sight and can also see colours. Human pollution, especially plastics, and global warming also impact on the survival of sharks.

15 July

World Youth Skills Day

The day is commemorated to focus on the importance of equipping young people with skills for citizen participation, employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. The day pays special attention to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and the role to be played by TVET institutions, business, government, civil society and trade unions in equipping young people with appropriate skills. In South Africa there were at last count, 50 registered TVET colleges, across 364 campuses across the country, with over 700,000 students enrolled.

17 July

International Justice Day

International Justice Day (IJD) commemorates the historic adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, and marks the importance of continuing the fight against impunity and bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. IJD is a reminder for all states committed to fair and impartial justice for victims of the worst crimes around the world: to urgently ensure continued support for the international justice sys-

tem. IJD is also a reminder for the Court’s strongest advocates, civil society: to stand firm in their original commitment in getting the ICC established, now to advance a Rome Statute system of international justice that works for all.

17 July

World Emoji Day

An emoji is a pictogram, logogram, ideogram or smiley embedded in text, used in electronic messages and web pages. The word emoji comes from Japanese, originating in their cell phones in 1997. A grassroots organisation of women programmers, Emojination, has been working to make emoji’s more inclusive and diverse, with only half of global users feeling that their identities are represented in current emoji options. A young Ivorian student created over 360 emojis featuring African themed topics, through his Zouzoukwa mobile app.

18 July

Nelson Mandela International Day

Mandela Day is marked globally on the day of President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela’s birthday, when people are reminded that they can make a change in their world, and to do something for others for 67 minutes. It also celebrates Madiba’s humility, bravery and compassion, and the UN General Assembly has declared 2019-2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace, resolving “*to move beyond words in the promotion of peaceful, just, inclusive and non discriminatory societies.*”

