



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the **President**



We are acting to safeguard the integrity and effectiveness of our police service

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

JUST over a week ago, SAPS KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner Lt Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi held a media briefing at which he made serious allegations that the Minister of Police and other individuals had colluded to interfere with police investigations.

On Sunday night, I announced the establishment of a commission of inquiry headed by Acting Deputy Chief Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga to investigate these allegations.

We have taken this decisive step because we are determined that the important work that has been done to rebuild

our law enforcement agencies and security services should not be compromised.

It is necessary that we establish the facts through an independent, credible and thorough process so that we can safeguard public confidence in the police service. This is particularly important as we seek to put the era of state capture behind us.

As I announced last night, the Commission will investigate allegations relating to the infiltration of law enforcement, intelligence and associated institutions within the criminal justice system by criminal syndicates.

Among the allegations that the

Commission may investigate are the facilitation of organised crime; suppression or manipulation of investigations; inducement into criminal actions by law enforcement leadership; commission of any other criminal offences and intimidation, victimisation or targeted removal of whistleblowers or officials resisting criminal influence.

The Commission will investigate the role of current or former senior officials in certain institutions who may have aided or abetted the alleged criminal activity; failed to act on credible intelligence or internal warnings; or benefited financially or politically from a syndicate's operations.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

These institutions are the South African Police Service, National Prosecuting Authority, State Security Agency, the Judiciary and Magistracy, and the metropolitan police departments of Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and Tshwane.

The Commission will also investigate whether any members of the National Executive responsible for the criminal justice system, were complicit, aided and abetted, or participated in the acts mentioned above.

The Commission will be asked to report on the effectiveness or failure of oversight mechanisms, and the adequacy of current legislation, policies and institutional arrangements in preventing such infiltration.

It will make findings and recommendations for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary actions and institutional reform.

Once established, the Commission shall consider prima facie evidence relating to the involvement of individuals currently employed within law enforcement or intelligence agencies.

Where appropriate, the Commission must make recommendations on the employment status of such officials, including whether they should be suspended pending the outcome of further investigations.

The Commission will have the power to refer matters for immediate criminal investigation and urgent decisions on prosecution, taking into account the nature of the allegations and evidence the Commission will uncover.



Professor Firoz Cachalia

In order for the Commission to execute its functions effectively, I have decided to put the Minister of Police Mr Senzo Mchunu on a leave of absence with immediate effect. The Minister has undertaken to give his full cooperation to the Commission to enable it to do its work.

I have decided to appoint Professor Firoz Cachalia as acting Minister of Police. Professor Cachalia is currently a professor of law at the University of the Witwatersrand and is the chairperson of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council. He previously served as an MEC of Community Safety in Gauteng.

This Commission is being established against the backdrop of significant progress in rebuilding and strengthening our country's law enforcement agencies and security services.

In recent years, the South African Police Service, the Special Investigating Unit, the Asset Forfeiture Unit and other bodies have been making important in-

roads in the fight against organised crime and corruption.

It is essential that we maintain this momentum and that we intensify this work.

We will ensure that the SAPS and other law enforcement agencies continue to function without hindrance as the commission undertakes its work.

I call on all members of our law enforcement agencies and security services to remain steadfast in upholding the rule of law and adhering to their code of conduct.

I call on all South Africans to support the commission in its work and, where appropriate, to provide any information or assistance the commission may require.

In establishing this Commission of Inquiry, we are affirming our commitment to the rule of law, to transparency and accountability, and to building a South Africa in which all people are safe and secure. ■



FAREWELL TO THE BRAVE SON OF THE AFRICAN SOIL

EULOGY BY **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA** AT THE STATE FUNERAL OF FORMER DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, MR DAVID DABEDE MABUZA

WE are gathered here today in solemn remembrance, to honour the life of a man who, in many ways, made a huge contribution on our journey to a democratic South Africa.

But we are also here to celebrate the life of a fine son of Mpumalanga and a man of the people.

It is as a servant of the people for which our departed leader and comrade David Dabede Mabuza will be best known and for which he will be forever remembered.

David Mabuza, DD as he was fondly known, was a revered

leader not only in his home province of Mpumalanga but throughout the country as well.

He served as our country's Deputy President, as Premier of Mpumalanga and as the Deputy President of his movement, the African National Congress.

When he served as a Member of Parliament and as the Leader of Government Business, he proved to be a renowned political strategist, always deftly navigating the very difficult balance amongst parliamentary parties.

In all his roles he was often described as strategic, enigmatic

and fiercely loyal to the cause of stability and unity.

Yet despite his stature, he was forever humble. His own humble beginnings infused him with a mission to uplift our people.

He was most happy when he was among the people. He never isolated himself from them. He never lost the common touch.

Since the news came of his passing, we have seen throngs of ordinary citizens, traditional leaders and political leaders from across the spectrum flocking to DD's home in Barberton to pay their respects.

Such was his popularity. Such was his ability to unite the people of this province.

David Mabuza was not a man for standing on podiums and giving long speeches.

He was not a man for the pomp and ceremony of high office. He preferred to be on the ground with the masses of our people, listening to their concerns and working to improve their lives.

Over the past days we have heard from a number of young citizens of Mpumalanga who have described him as a father of the community, who helped bring development to many rural parts of Mpumalanga.

He was a man of sharp intellect, deep pragmatism and quiet resolve. To some, he was the “*cat with nine lives*” – resilient in the face of political storms.

But to many in his home province and beyond, he was a source of support, a provider of opportunities, and a champion for rural development and education.

His political activism began from a very young age. His former principal recalls how he was still in primary school when he first got involved in politics, first through the Black Consciousness Movement and later as a unionist.

David Dabede Mabuza loved education. When he finished high school, he chose to enter the teaching profession.

We have heard outpourings of love from those he encouraged to study.

There are probably some of his former high school learners



among us today, people who still called him Sir and Meneer because they clung to his passion for education long after he left the classroom.

Mpumalanga has so many more boarding schools in rural areas because DD wanted to eradicate the barrier to education for farm children.

True to his calling, the legacy that our former Deputy President leaves us is that of being quick to respond to matters of service delivery.

Today in this province, there are families who now live in decent homes because during door-to-door campaigns, DD intervened on the spot and at some point, dug into his own pockets to meet their needs.

Those houses were not built after years of follow-up meetings. They were erected within months because he was not one to make empty promises.

I had the privilege of serving alongside DD for five years in

government, and during this time I came to know him as a person who understood the responsibility that he had been given.

He was dependable, reliable and an excellent deputy.

As Leader of Government Business in Parliament he worked to ensure that the will of the people was reflected in the laws of the land and in the programmes of the state.

In all his responsibilities as Deputy President, from land reform to HIV and AIDS, from anti-poverty initiatives to addressing the needs of veterans, David Mabuza could always be relied on.

We will always remember him as a unifier.

As Premier he was committed to unifying the different people of the Land of the Rising Sun: emaSwati, amaNdebele, baPedi, maPulana, Indian, coloured and white.

In death, he has once again brought us all together across

many nations and continents to mourn, to pay homage, to remember and to fondly reminisce.

He had a very close relationship with traditional leaders and especially worked to restore the dignity of the traditional leaders of Mpumalanga.

He did so because he stayed rooted in his culture and amongst his kindred. The allure of high office failed to change him and isolate him from the people.

In his eternal sleep, he is demonstrating that our many differences along political party and racial lines and the numerous disputes we may have are eclipsed by our shared desire to follow his lead in building a just, equitable and caring society.

He stood firm for the unity of his movement, the ANC, and it was his lifelong dream to see a strong, united ANC.

David Mabuza leaves behind a legacy of someone who sought to ensure that the centre held. He played a key role in maintaining balance in deeply divided political times

We had hoped he was going to be with us longer, especially at such a time in our country, when we are facing many challenges.

As we work together to overcome these challenges, we draw strength, encouragement and comfort from the richness and profound meaning of his life.

The sad and untimely passing of our fellow comrade is a time for the leaders of this country to reflect.

Do we seek public office because

of the rewards we think we can reap, or do we take on the mantle of leadership so that we may improve the lives of our people?

Are we as selfless as we profess to be? Are we builders and unifiers, or do we divide and break?

These questions are easy to ask, but sometimes difficult to answer.

With the passing of a leader of the calibre of David Mabuza, we are left with a void.

In the words of King Solomon in the Book of Proverbs 19:17: *“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”*

Mshengu, Shabalala, Ludonga lwaMavuso waNgwane – indima yakho uyidlalile mnaka.

To the Mabuza and Mnisi families, loved ones, friends and his political family the ANC, we offer you our heartfelt condolences.

May you find comfort in the knowledge that he gave his all to his movement, to his country and

to his people.

To you my dear brother DD, I am here to bid you farewell.

You walked the path not always lit,
Through the dust of doubt, you did commit.

I worked with you and saw your commitment
Your voice was not loud, but it was firm and still,
You were able to shape the course with quiet will.

I saw you bear the weight of province and land,
With measured step and steady hand.

Though storms did gather, and winds did sway,
You held the centre night and day.

Now rest, my brother, brave son of the African soil,
Your work is done and complete.

The country remembers you.

Rest in eternal peace, DD. ■



A MIGHTY TREE HAS FALLEN

■ TRIBUTE BY **ANC DEPUTY PRESIDENT PAUL MASHATILE**

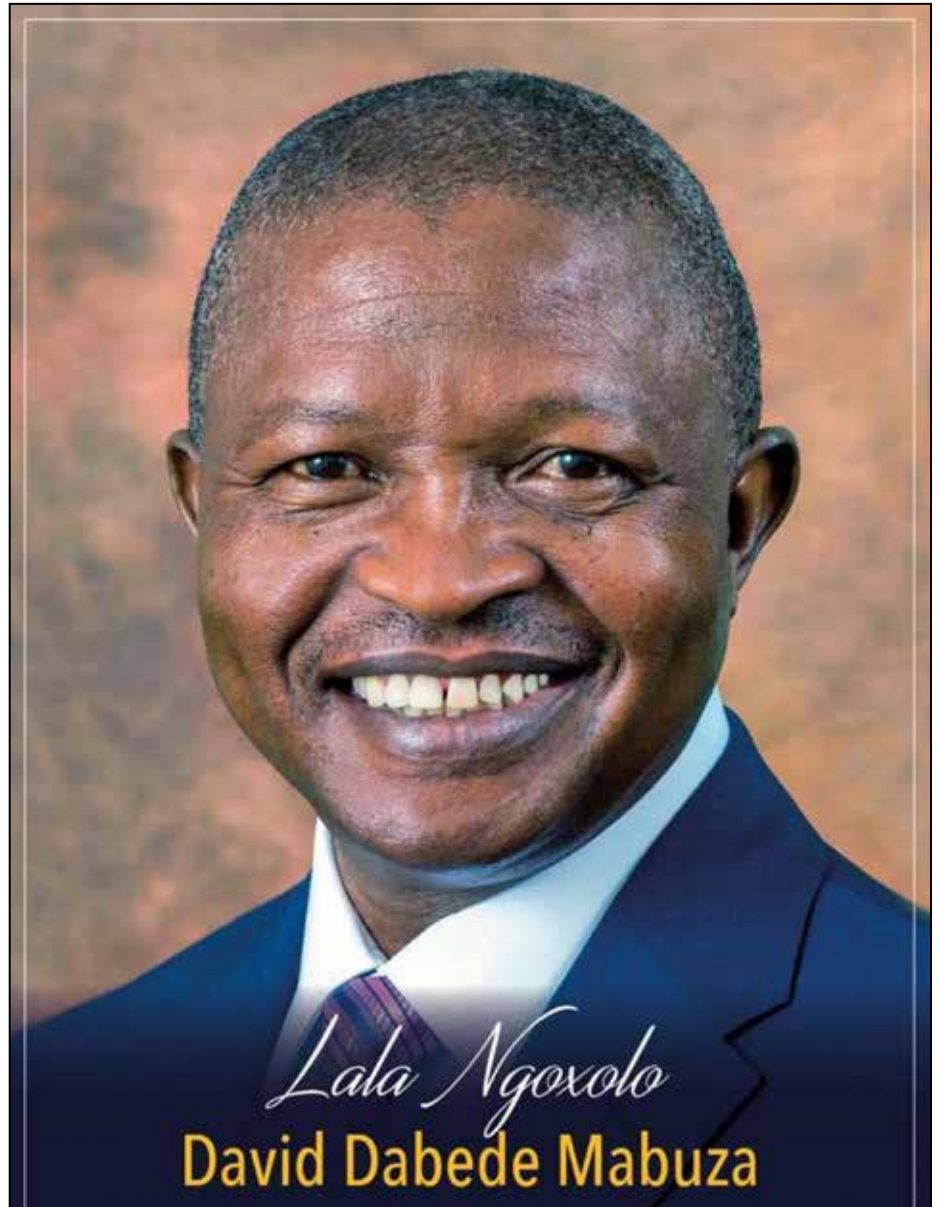
 On behalf of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, I wish to express my gratitude to the family and our Government for providing us with the opportunity to pay tribute to this remarkable, disciplined and committed South African – Comrade David Dabede Mabuza.

While we are here to celebrate his life, we also acknowledge that his untimely passing has left us scarred and deeply grieved.

Maqabane, Mphakathi wonke wase Mpumalanga, siyavumelana ukuthi ukuhlangana kwethu namhlanje, akukhona okwase-mhleni – akumnandi neze. To the family and friends, nathi amaqabane lesehlakalo esisizume kangaka, resembles a final fall of a mighty tree that has, over the years, provided shade, fruit, wood, herbal leaves and a vantage point for survival for many.

Like a tree that anchors the soil and protects it from erosion, Comrade DD has, since the early stages of his life, been hailed by his family and the community as an anchor of hope, a broker of peace in broken families, and a facilitator of solutions to both individual and community challenges.

This is the character he carried with him even when he joined new communities as a youth, student, teacher, local political activist, and a public representative.



He was part of young activists who established local youth congress structures that were a precursor to the South African Youth Congress and the ANC Youth League. He was an active member of the student movement and formed part of the AZASO leadership collective at Mgwenya College, where he was trained

as a mathematics and science teacher.

As a teacher, we saw him involved not only in education struggles, where he led teachers' struggles and established new structures like the National Education Union of South Africa that was later amalgamated with other teacher



unions to form the South African Democratic Teachers Union.

We are also informed that Comrade Mabuza collaborated with other maths and science activist teachers to form a collective that broke down racial and ethnic barriers by offering extra math lessons to students in the then-Kangwane, Gazankulu, and Lebowa schools.

Comrade Mabuza emphasised the importance of education as a tool for liberation and transformation. During apartheid, he aligned with progressive organisations advocating for non-racial, equitable education, demonstrating his commitment to education as a pillar of social justice.

He was also active in the establishment of Structures of the National Education Crisis Committee in the then Eastern Transvaal Lowveld Region. Cde DD became the Chairperson of the Lowveld sub region of the then Eastern Transvaal ANC. He was later elected as Provincial Deputy Chairperson and became the longest-serving Provincial Chairperson of the ANC in Mpumalan-

ga before becoming the Deputy President of the ANC in South Africa.

Throughout his leadership period, there has been overwhelming appreciation of his undying commitment to the struggles of the people of Mpumalanga and South Africa as a whole. At the same time, like any other leader, we also heard some other voices of dissent and dissatisfaction about him.

In isiZulu there is a saying that goes *“akuna soka elingenasici”* meaning that there is no human without a flaw. Human beings are not angels, and we must acknowledge their weaknesses. In this acknowledgement, however, we agree that his good deeds and character overwhelm what we might have perceived as his bad side.

We would like to put it on record that we, as the ANC, believe he has served as an exemplary Cadre of the ANC in his execution of its duties and also in serving communities. We have seen him supporting the rural and township communities through implement-

ing various empowerment initiatives.

He was indeed a backbone of many communities.

He was part of a generation of leaders who helped restore the people’s confidence in the Government after the erosion of trust during the apartheid era. His steadiness and ability to bring calm in times of uncertainty made him a key figure in the rebuilding of our nation.

Many can attest that within the ANC, he fostered a sense of unity, recognising that such cohesion is vital not just for the party but for all South Africans. He was committed to fighting for unity and defeating the demon of factionalism in the movement. This is a commitment he lived up to until the end.

Even in the conference that elected him Chairperson of the province in a contest that had cut the conference into two irreconcilable groups, Comrade DD had the courage to talk about a third phenomenon and bravely called for the ceasing of hostilities and

focusing on building the Unity of the organisation. A task that we must carry forward.

Comrade Mabuza was dedicated to transformation, aiming to provide basic needs, healthcare, and quality education to all citizens, especially those in remote regions.

He partnered with Traditional Leaders to address issues like agriculture, land tenure, social issues, education, health outcomes, and addressing social ills, ensuring a society where everyone can access these essential services.

Mabuza was a man deeply committed to the principles of unity and collaboration. He understood that leadership is not a solitary pursuit but a collective effort. He was a man of his word, someone who, once committed to a cause, followed through with determination, often at great personal cost.

His leadership was defined not by rhetoric but by action, and his calm demeanour allowed him to bridge divides and unite those around him in pursuit of a common goal.

As we remember Mabuza today, we also reflect on his unique contribution to the unity of the ANC and that of the country. In the lead-up to the 2017 ANC National Conference, Mabuza's advocacy for unity and internal party cohesion was unmatched.

His message of unity resonated across the party, and it was clear that his vision was one of an ANC that worked together, without division.

I recall that even during one of our last conversations, we exten-

sively discussed the importance of unity within the ANC and how to better serve our people as envisaged in the Freedom Charter.

Even though comrade DD has departed, we must work with speed to ensure that the vision of the Freedom Charter is achieved as he would have continued to advocate for.

As a principled member of the ANC, his priority was about building an inclusive economy that creates jobs, eradicates poverty, and reduces inequality. This is the responsibility he carried throughout his political career until he became the Deputy President.

As the Deputy President of South Africa, he was tasked with numerous critical responsibilities, all of which he executed with diligence and commitment.

In the role of Chairperson of the Presidential Task Team, he was dedicated to the urgent call to mend the wounds of history, ensuring that services and benefits flow to the noble community of military veterans.

Through his intervention he made sure that priority was given to members of the former Non-Statutory Forces as the main target group to access pension benefits.

The work that he led, such as the capacitating of Traditional Leaders to advance development in Mpumalanga Province, spoke for itself. All Traditional Leaders across the country used the Mpumalanga Province experience as a base for how development in rural communities should be spearheaded.

Leaders across the political divide

in South Sudan also speak fondly of his successful 2019–2020 facilitation efforts, which led to the resolution of a dispute about the country's number of provinces and their boundaries.

Still, he did not beat the drums in celebrating an achievement worthy of dispute settlement awards. DD was no medal seeker. His legacy is not complex. It is straightforward and easily understood. Mabuza did all this without fanfare or the need for recognition.

He was not one to seek the spotlight. His actions spoke louder than any words could, and he gave of himself selflessly, often quietly behind the scenes. This is because he believed that his work is not measured by the media coverage but by the impact it has on people.

As we reflect on the life of Mr Mabuza, we should pledge to continue with his legacy and ensure that it becomes a success. In our different responsibilities, from the ANC to Government, our objective and desire should be about the people.

As DD was, ANC members should be principled, meaning we should adhere to the organisation's core values, policies, and ethical guidelines. We should also demonstrate honesty, loyalty, and discipline in our conduct.

For the ANC to remain relevant, we must focus on practical solutions to address pressing issues of unemployment and poverty, reconnect with our base, and strengthen our internal structures.

Disconnecting from our people hinders our understanding of their frustrations and needs. We

need to actively engage with various social movements and build strong relationships with communities to ensure our policies resonate with the needs of the people. We have to be seen doing work on the ground and avoid locking ourselves in the offices.

The “**Through the Eye of a Needle**” document clearly calls on us to build and sustain the ANC as an agent for change, together. It further says those in leadership positions should unite and guide the Movement to be at the head of the process of change. They should lead the Movement in its mission to organise and inspire the masses to be their own liberators. They should lead the task of governance with diligence. And, together, they should reflect the continuity of a revolutionary tradition and renewal which sustains the Movement in the long-term.

If we follow these principles, we will be able to protect the legacy of the former Deputy President, which is about serving the people with humanity.

In his final years, despite battling health challenges, Cde Mabuza remained steadfast in his commitment to the work at hand. He did not shy away from responsibility, and he continued to serve the country with the same diligence and sense of duty that had characterised his entire career. I inherited many of his tasks as Deputy President, and I can personally attest to the quiet yet significant work he carried out with honour and humility.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his remarks, stated, “*The former Deputy President deserves our appreciation for his deep commitment to the liberation struggle and to the nation’s development as an inclusive and prosperous democratic state.*” These words



capture the essence of the man we honour today.

We will miss DD deeply, but his legacy lives on in the work he started, the lives he touched, and the values he instilled in those who were privileged to work alongside him. His leadership, his vision for a united South Africa, and his quiet strength serves as an example for all of us.

In a nutshell, let us commit to carrying forward the principles he embodied: unity, service, integrity, and a deep commitment to the people of South Africa.

Comrade David Dabede Mabuza, we thank you for your service! Your memory will live on in our hearts and in the progress we continue to make as a nation.

Once more, we extend our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the people of South Africa during this time of immense grief. May his soul rest in peace, and may his memory serve as a reminder of the enduring power of compassionate leadership in service to others.

To my sister Patience, the children and the entire Mabuza and Mnisi families and relatives, ak-

wehlanga lungehlanga! Let us draw solace from knowing that he served his nation with distinction.

In the second book of Timothy, chapter 4: verse 7-8, the Apostle Paul declares “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing*”.

Like the apostle Paul, you, my brother Baba Mabuza, have persevered, you finished the race, kept the faith to your nation and Lord God. Now it should be laid upon you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, should award to you on that day.

May the spirit of Comrade DD, our leader and comrade continue to inspire us in our pursuit of a united, inclusive and prosperous South Africa.

Hamba kahle, Mshengu, Ludvonga IwaMavuso.

Long live the revolutionary spirit of David Dabede Mabuza!

Amandla! ■

MEDIA STATEMENT

The ANC Welcomes President Ramaphosa's Establishment of a Judicial Commission of Inquiry Into Law Enforcement Allegations

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) extends its condolences to the government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria following the passing of former President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. We share in the pain and sorrow of our Nigerian brothers and sisters during this time of mourning. As fellow Africans united by a common vision of peace, development, and democratic governance, we stand in solidarity with Nigeria as they honour the legacy and service of their late former Head of State. May his soul rest in eternal peace and may the people of Nigeria find strength in this difficult moment.

The ANC also takes this opportunity to salute the people of South Africa for their recent triumphs across a range of sporting and cultural arenas. From podium finishes in global athletics, the winning streak of the Springboks, the recent victory of the Proteas, the sterling performance of Banyana-Banyana in the WAFCON 2025 currently underway and to inspiring wins in international dance competitions and youth sports tournaments, South Afri-



cans have yet again proven their resilience, talent, and ability to shine on the world stage.

These victories are more than moments of celebration, they are reminders of the indomitable spirit of our people. They demonstrate that South Africans, when united and determined, can overcome any challenge placed before them. This same spirit must now be harnessed in our collective effort to defeat crime and corruption and to renew the moral fibre of our nation.

In this context, the African Nation-

al Congress welcomes the decisive and constitutionally sound announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday, 13 July 2025, to establish a Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the deeply disturbing allegations that are serious, far-reaching, and go to the core of the integrity of the state.

These include claims of interference with sensitive investigations, complicity between senior state officials and criminal elements, and the possible existence of an organised criminal syndicate operating within the

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state's security architecture. Left unaddressed, such allegations threaten to erode public confidence in the institutions that are meant to protect the South African people and uphold the rule of law.

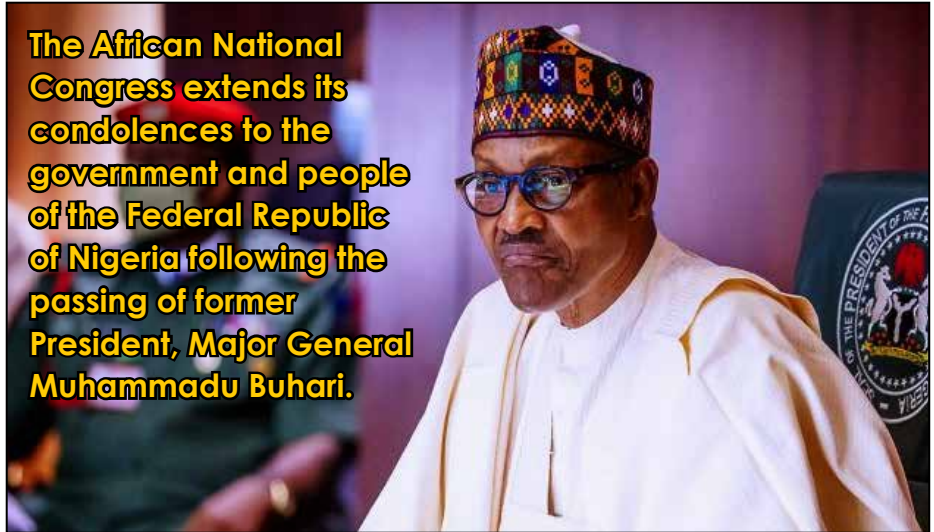
The ANC views the President's response as both necessary and responsible. His establishment of a Judicial Commission of Inquiry is an act of leadership that demonstrates an unwavering commitment to constitutional democracy, accountability, and the principle that no individual, regardless of their position, is above the law.

It affirms that the fight against crime and corruption will not be waged through expedient populism or grandstanding, but through lawful, transparent, and institutional processes grounded in our democratic order.

The decision to place Minister of Police, Comrade Senzo Mchunu, on a leave of absence is equally commendable. It is a proactive and considered measure, taken in the interest of ensuring that due process is not compromised. Importantly, this decision does not imply guilt or prejudice, it is a step that preserves the integrity of both the Executive and the investigation itself. The President has acted in full accordance with his constitutional authority, as provided in Section 91(2) of the Constitution, to appoint and relieve members of the Cabinet. The ANC reaffirms and respects this constitutional prerogative.

As the ANC, we welcome the President's consistent approach of allowing institutions to function independently, guided by law and not by political expediency. His actions continue to reflect a

The African National Congress extends its condolences to the government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria following the passing of former President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.



clear commitment to the restoration and strengthening of the state. This Commission is not an isolated intervention, it is part of a broader programme of institutional renewal, which has included the rebuilding of the National Prosecuting Authority, the formation of specialised anti-corruption units, and the strengthening of protection for whistleblowers.

We also congratulate and express our full confidence in the appointment of Professor Firoz Cachalia as Acting Minister of Police. A seasoned legal scholar, respected public servant, and staunch anti-corruption advocate, Professor Cachalia brings a wealth of experience and credibility to this crucial portfolio. His deep understanding of the security sector and his proven commitment to clean governance position him to provide the leadership required at this moment. We wish him strength and resolve as he assumes this responsibility during a critical period.

The African National Congress views setting of Commissions of Inquiry, while not a substitute for law enforcement, are essential instruments in the pursuit of justice, truth, and reform – especially where systemic failure, conflict

of interest, or possible political interference has paralysed existing institutions. The Zondo Commission into State Capture, despite its significant cost, has yielded substantial returns: over R14 billion in assets frozen, R5.4 billion recovered, and more than 60 individuals and entities facing criminal prosecution. The Nugent Commission triggered a renewal at SARS and exposed private sector complicity in undermining state capacity. These commissions have not only exposed wrongdoing but have informed meaningful legislative and structural reforms.

It must be understood that in a constitutional democracy, justice is not a spectacle. The separation of powers doctrine places limits on the Executive's direct intervention in investigations or prosecutions. The demand for instant arrests, politically driven prosecutions, or trial by media undermines the very foundations of the rule of law. South Africa's hard-won democracy does not permit leaders to act as judge, jury, and executioner. Instead, the President has correctly entrusted independent institutions to do their work and has created an enabling environment for them to succeed.

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We caution against the public consumption of a singular narrative that reduces complex institutional matters to simplistic tropes. As Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie reminds us: *“The problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.”*

This is precisely the danger we must avoid, a reductive public discourse that ignores context, dismisses due process, and undermines faith in democratic institutions.

In this regard, we call on the public, commentators, and all political parties to exercise restraint and respect the constitutional process now underway. The Commission must be allowed to conduct its work thoroughly, independently, and without fear or favour.

Commissions serve this very function. They provide an independent and credible basis for legal, disciplinary, and institutional action. Calls for immediate arrests or prosecutions without this process reflect a disregard for constitutionalism and due process, and would ironically mir-

ror the very abuses of power we seek to correct.

The ANC further urges all members of law enforcement and intelligence services to act with the highest levels of professionalism, patriotism, and respect for the Constitution. Now more than ever, the nation needs a law enforcement sector that is apolitical, accountable, and rooted in ethical leadership. We also call on all South Africans who may possess relevant information to come forward, cooperate with the Commission, and support efforts to cleanse our institutions of criminal capture and misconduct.

This is not a moment for complacency, nor is it a time for political theatre. It is a time for principled leadership, for renewal in action, and for a reaffirmation of the values that underpin the liberation movement’s commitment to building a capable, developmental, and ethical state.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has, even under intense political pressure, stayed the course of constitutionalism. He has not resorted to populist shortcuts or destructive purges. Instead, he has chosen the harder but ulti-

mately more sustainable path of rebuilding public institutions, brick by brick, law by law, reform by reform. His approach is not driven by the need for applause but by the imperative of transformation and accountability within the bounds of legality.

The African National Congress stands resolute in defence of constitutional governance.

We reaffirm our support for the Commission of Inquiry, for the President’s leadership, and for all lawful and transparent processes aimed at restoring the integrity of the state. In the end, the strength of our democracy will be judged not by the absence of crisis but by how we respond to it.

In a society faced with criminality, a demand for instant justice is understandable but it must not come at the expense of legal credibility. South Africa’s Constitution demands that even the fight against corruption be conducted within the bounds of legality, transparency, and fairness. The work of commissions of inquiry, show a maturing democracy, one that prioritises substance over spectacle, and long-term reform over short-term applause. ■



“
Honour belongs to those who never forsake the truth even when things seem dark and grim, who try over and over again, who are never discouraged by insults, humiliation and even defeat.”

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela



How reimagining the Public Works portfolio can drive South Africa's ECONOMIC GROWTH

■ By **ZINGISWA LOSI, COSATU President**

PUBLIC Works can and must become an enabler of state renewal and inclusive economic growth.

For far too long, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), has been synonymous with state capture and corruption. Ministers have come and gone and the rot has continued. Yet this portfolio with decisive interventions, can help turn South Africa into a construction site, creating jobs and unlocking badly needed economic growth. This was a vision first outlined by President Nelson Mandela and one that must be pursued by government led by President Cyril Ramaphosa and the African National Congress.

A reimagining of this portfolio is

all the more pressing with the economy barely averaging 1% annual growth over the past 15 years, unemployment a ticking time bomb at 43.1% and the fiscus facing a long list of equally pressing needs.

For this to happen, DPWI needs to be cleansed of the cancer of state capture. Politicians, business people and officials involved in corruption must be removed and made to face the law. To deal with corruption lifestyle audits by the South African Revenue Services and Special Investigations Unit must be deployed to such persons of influence.

Transparent procurement processes for the leasing of properties are needed as per the now assented to Public Procurement

Act. Its promulgation and Regulations need to be expedited.

The government must ensure the long-promised asset registry of all state property is completed and made available to the public. A cleansed and renewed DPWI needs to reimagine its role as the nation's leading property owner, but one tasked by Parliament and the Constitution to driving the nation's transformation and inclusive economic growth.

It needs to play its part in freeing state property for economic infrastructure investments, be it land to build roads to reduce traffic congestion or to overhaul aging water infrastructure, to rolling out electricity transmission lines (especially in the three Cape Provinces rich with renewable energy

potential, to expanding port facilities and thus boosting our export industries (in particular mining, agriculture and manufacturing), to securing passenger and freight railway lines and thus making it faster and cheaper for commuters and goods to reach their destinations, or to availing land for schools, colleges and universities to enable more young people to acquire the education and skills needed to find work.

DPWI needs to play its part in being the state's property agent. The state is naturally the largest employer in the economy and requires land and buildings to fulfill its responsibilities, yet the state is spending billions of Rands renting expensive properties across the country. This is despite countless state buildings and land standing empty, and in many cases, sites of criminal activities and illegal occupation. Often politicians and property owners have a vested interest in this as money is to be made off expensive leases with bribes to be collected.



This tragedy has a human face. In the Western Cape in 2024 2407 teachers were retrenched in 2024, yet the same provincial government is spending millions each month renting office space in Cape Town whilst provincial buildings are available! This crisis is replicated across the country. Billions can be saved and be better used to employ doctors, nurses, teachers and police officers.

DPWI needs to play a progressive

role availing property for housing, in particular for low income, single mothers, poorly paid public servants, for domestic workers to be close to their workplaces, in inner cities and to help deracialise still largely segregated communities. This can help boost the amount of public housing for the poor the state is able to provide. ■

This article was first published in IOL Opinion on 14 July 2025.



MAKE THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE A SUCCESS

■ By **MAC MAHARAJ**

THE National Dialogue is going to happen. It is happening, no matter the stay-aways and the sceptics.

For the stay-aways, their stance is not new.

When the people chose to speak and gathered in their thousands at Kliptown on 26 June 1955, both the lily-white ruling National Party and the so-called opposition party, the United Party, were stay-aways. But so too was the then Liberal Party.

For the stay-aways democracy was for whites-only. They feared the voice of the people. They were scared out of their wits by the idea of a democracy based on universal adult suffrage.

Stay-aways – prisoners of their own fears

Their stay away could not diminish the historical significance of the Freedom Charter, which assured all of a place in a South Africa where no government could claim legitimacy unless it was based on the will of the people

Until the adoption of the Charter, no other document could claim the legitimacy that was born out the processes through which people in all walks of life expressed their hopes and dreams of a future South Africa.



In April 1989 from prison Nelson Mandela addressed a memo to then then apartheid president PW Botha urging the need for a negotiated path from apartheid to democracy. He succinctly outlined the challenge that the negotiations would have to grapple with.

On the one hand there was the demand of majority rule in a unitary state. There could be no deviation, he said, from this principle. On the other hand, there were concerns of the white South Africans *“over this demand, as well as the insistence of whites on structural guarantees that majority rule will not mean domination of the white minority by blacks”*.

The most crucial task the negotiations would face, Mandela wrote, is how to reconcile these

two positions.

But Madiba made it absolutely clear that *“majority rule and internal peace are like the two sides of a single coin, and white South Africa simply has to accept that there will never be peace and stability in this country unless the principle is fully applied”*.

Despite the package of agreements reached at Codesa and the MultiParty Negotiating Forum, it is instructive to see how this issue so aptly captured by Mandela played itself out in the deliberations of the Constitutional Assembly (CA), which was in existence from 1994 to 1996. The CA was composed of 400 MPs elected on a national vote and 90 elected through the vote for the nine provinces.



President Nelson Mandela with members of the first Cabinet of democratic South Africa.

Never in the history of our country has there been a more credible and legitimate institution such as the CA. The Constitution it crafted was adopted on 8 May 1996 by 421 votes in favour, with only two votes – that of the African Christian Democratic Party – against it, while the IFP did not participate in the vote. That amounted to an 87% approval vote.

Even though the National Party (NP) had voted in favour of the Constitution, a day later on 9 May 1996 FW de Klerk announced the withdrawal of the NP from the Government of National Unity. In his announcement, he criticised the final Constitution. Among his reasons, was the belief that the Constitution did not sufficiently protect minority rights, particularly those of Afrikaners and other cultural groups, even though this matter had been resolved at a meeting between the ANC, the Freedom Front (FF) and the NP before it found expression in the final Constitution.

No surprise

Are we surprised that there should be stay-aways from the present National Dialogue?

Those who seek the perseverance, protection and enhancement of minority powers and privileges have every reason to fear the people's participation. In this pursuit its proponents will invoke every possible emotion-packed issue aimed at stoking fears – from culture, language, and religion to ethnicity.

This approach is advanced even though the Freedom Charter envisaged the building of a nation in which the diversity arising from culture, language, religion and ethnicity is an asset.

While we need not fear the damage to the legitimacy and credibility of the National Dialogue, it is important that we recognise the dangers that stay-aways and sceptics present.

Failure is not an option

South Africa cannot afford for the National Dialogue to be a failure. Such an outcome would prevent the deepening of our democracy and would risk people losing faith in democracy itself.

Whatever the pains of the present we cannot countenance diminishing the historic significance of

the democracy we have won. If we allowed this to happen, we would be spitting on our past and imprisoning the right of the SA nation to shape its destiny in the future.

How the National Dialogue pans out will depend on the leadership and guidance by the 31 Eminent Persons and the Steering Committee. Above all it will depend on the participation of the people in their different sectors and formations.

What then are the pitfalls and the opportunities that the National Dialogue presents? And what should be the process and content of the National Dialogue?

Worrisome trends

Instead of a deepening of democracy over the past three decades we are poised at a moment where disturbing trends are noteworthy:

- Voter turnout among registered voters in the elections has steadily declined from 86.87% in 1994 to about 58.61% in 2024;
- It is estimated that in the 2024 elections only 40% of those eligible to vote actually voted. This means that more people who were eligible to vote

- (60%) did not exercise their right to vote;
- Even though there was some improvement in 2024 in the turnout of young voters, in 2019 less than 20% of eligible voters under 30 were registered.

Despite efforts to bring about gender equality, gender based violence is on the rise. Despite efforts to deracialise society there is a growing sense of racial polarisation. This perception is borne out by the statistics:

- According to the World Bank income inequality in SA is among the highest in the world;
- The top 10% of South Africans hold more than 85% of the country's wealth while the bottom 60% own only 7% of the country's wealth;
- White South Africans who constitute about 7% of the population earn on average 3 to 6 times more than Black South Africans and hold a disproportionate share of high-income jobs and land
- Inequality is manifest in education and health.
- 80% of the population who are Black are more likely to be unemployed, live in pov-

erty and have less access to quality services.

Our commitment to build a society based on equality, non-racialism, non-sexism, the rule of law, and redress of past injustices is there in the Constitution. In the wake of each election our political office bearers swear an oath of allegiance to the Constitution.

What divides us?

Why then are we so divided?

The problem does not reside in our vision of the society we want. Our Constitution provides the space for us to undertake measures that would realise our vision.

Canvassing the people's views of what they want and what they do not want has the potential of the National Dialogue becoming a one-way listening exercise yielding a re-write of the Freedom Charter.

If this is allowed to happen, dialogue would have been reduced to consultation, and we shall have missed the opportunity to confront the critical issues that impede progress in rooting out the legacy of colonialism and

apartheid and building a prosperous nation.

Listening to each other is a pre-condition to engaging in dialogue. And consultation is not dialogue. South Africans are talking past each other. The National Dialogue must get us to talk to each other, to engage. That is the essence of dialogue.

Contestation – both adversarial and cooperative – are two sides of the same coin in a democracy. The challenge of leadership is how to steer the contestation to a constructive outcome.

How then can the Eminent Persons and the Steering Committee enable participants to dialogue, to engage in conversation with each other, and not talk past each other?

The record of the past thirty years shows that we are able to broadly agree where we want to go but are unable to agree on how to achieve those goals. The most recent evidence of this is to be found in the failure to implement the National Development Plan, a plan that was the product of widespread consultation and engagement.



President Cyril Ramaphosa and Deputy President Paul Mashatile with members of the National Dialogue Eminent Persons Group

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If the National Dialogue is to live up to the promise re-energising society and re-igniting the process of getting all elements and sectors to pull together, it will have to allow for people to articulate the kind of society they seek and to allow for bitterness-speak.

These two elements of what the people want, and ruthlessly criticising mistakes and missteps committed over the past 30 years are necessary scene setters to enable us to confront the elephant in the room.

The Dialogue must be about solutions

We want all participants drawn from all sectors, classes and communities to voice their concerns. But we would want them to outline their concerns side by side with presenting solutions that address these concerns. And we would have to urge that they should also show how the solutions they are advancing will serve the interests of the rest of society. That is to say, that those solutions are in the national interest as well.

This is the spirit in which the National Dialogue must take place. Fact based practical solutions should propel the engagements.

To be sure we do not expect all the contradictions immanent in our society to be resolved permanently. What we should be aiming for is to be able to embark together on a few steps that will take our country forward. The conditions are not present for an all-embracing long-term social compact to materialise.

Success breeds success. We need to create a momentum in which each administration that



ascends to office through elections is seen as an exchange of the baton in a relay race where the cumulative fulfilment of the interests and welfare of the nation is the test by which our actions are evaluated.

To be sure such a change in attitude, a mindset change where political rivalry is not measured by the degree to which they can rubbish each other, involves the development of a culture. We do not expect all interest groups to come on board, but we can work towards a sufficient convergence of interests for the country to advance. The mindset change will not happen through one event. But the National Dialogue can set the process in motion.

This approach is critical for the success of the National Dialogue. All sectors have to come into and emerge from the process with a mind-set that advances their interests in a way that consciously serves the nation.

What elements constitute the National Interest?

This raises the question of what constitutes the national interest. It would seem that the Eminent Persons group and the Steering Committee would have to settle on a succinct set of elements that constitute the national interest. A bullet-point exposition of the elements should be in a form that al-

lows for assessing whether a solution reduces inequality, advances non-racialism and non-sexism, deepens peoples participation in our constitutional democracy, and contributes to respect for our different cultures, languages and religion so that these can thrive within the boundaries contained in our Bill of Rights in the pursuit of the over-arching goal that we are one people, building one nation.

Solutions – the focal point of the National Dialogue

It appears that the Steering Committee is seized with plans to reach into communities at the grassroots level, though there is little communication at present coming that quarter. A deep and broad reach is necessary but not sufficient to trigger the change we seek.

Engagement around solutions is where the dialogue must happen. That is the area in which the search for common purpose must be grounded.

Can the Eminent Persons and the Steering Committee rise to the challenge and develop transparent guidelines regarding the process and its content so as to ensure that participants enter the National Dialogue with a solutions-based perspective?

The country cries out for a sense to emerge from the National Dialogue that we are entering an era of pulling together despite the many contradictory interests that drive us apart.

We succeeded in getting diverse forces within South Africa and around the world to pull together in the struggle against apartheid. We must strive to do so in building a South Africa envisaged in our Constitution. ■

THE LAST STRAW THAT BREAKS THE CAMEL'S BACK

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

WE live in times where the greatest threat to the African National Congress is not the Democratic Alliance, nor the Freedom Front Plus, nor some multinational rating agency plotting to strip us of economic sovereignty. The greatest threat is the Trojan horse we keep inside our own encampment: a cohort of politically rootless loudmouths who chant ANC slogans by day but spend their nights cannibalising the very house that shields them from complete irrelevance.

Look at these Zuma remnants – and let's call them what they are without romantic varnish. They squat on ANC platforms daily, scratching old wounds, peddling grievance folklore about why Jacob Zuma was supposedly hunted not for corruption but because some cabal did not like “*radical economic transformation*.” Meanwhile, in the same breath, they rant that Zuma “*never dismantled the structures he was accountable to*,” somehow trying to say he was a prisoner of systems while simultaneously elevating him as a messiah. They allege Fikile Mbalula is the whistleblower who exposed Zuma's network yet call Mbalula corrupt in the next post. This is factional schizophrenia masquerading as political insight.

There is an old quote from The



Godfather, a film ironically loved by some of these same backroom schemers: “*Never let anyone outside the family know what you are thinking*.” These Zuma lobbyists have flipped this on its head. They carry our internal contradictions straight to our enemies, wash our linen in front of the reactionary media, and gift ammunition to those whose singular agenda is to bury the ANC once and for all.

Why do they stay inside if their hearts already live in Nkandla's ghost corridors?

The ANC is a voluntary organisation. No one is chained to the Freedom Charter with iron locks.

Those who believe Jacob Zuma is still the answer to South Africa's problems are free to pack their ideological baggage and plant it under whatever political umbrella he may fashion. This right to freedom of association is enshrined in section 18 of the Constitution. But what they cannot do is remain inside the ANC like parasites eating through the ship's timber while we are at sea battling high waves of socio-economic crises, electoral threats, and an unforgiving global capitalist order.

Che Guevara warned that “*the revolution is not an apple that falls when it is ripe. You have to make it fall*.” In our context, that

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means unity does not drop from heaven like ripe fruit – it is forged by mercilessly weeding out contradictions that threaten the vessel carrying the hopes of millions. We have passengers drilling holes through the hull mid-voyage, then squealing when we bail water to stay afloat. We would be fools to keep them aboard.

Amílcar Cabral, who led Guinea-Bissau's liberation struggle, put it with surgical precision: *"Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories."* By extension, we must also expose those who operate within under false flags, who try to disguise their sabotage as principled debate. This endless whining about how our leadership collectively or individually is wrong for refusing to bend the knee to a man glaringly clear as our political opponent is not robust contestation. It is subterfuge.

When we fought the National Party, our common enemy was clearly identified. We had internal squabbles, yes, and sometimes tragic errors of fratricide. But we never lost sight of the bigger prize. Even in foreign camps, in prison, or moving silently in the underground, the guiding strategic line was unity to defeat white minority rule.

What is today's equivalent mission? It is to keep the ANC intact, renew its mandate, uproot systemic corruption. ■

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.

AS EXPECTED: THE PLATITUDES ARE FLOWING

■ By **RAVIN SINGH**

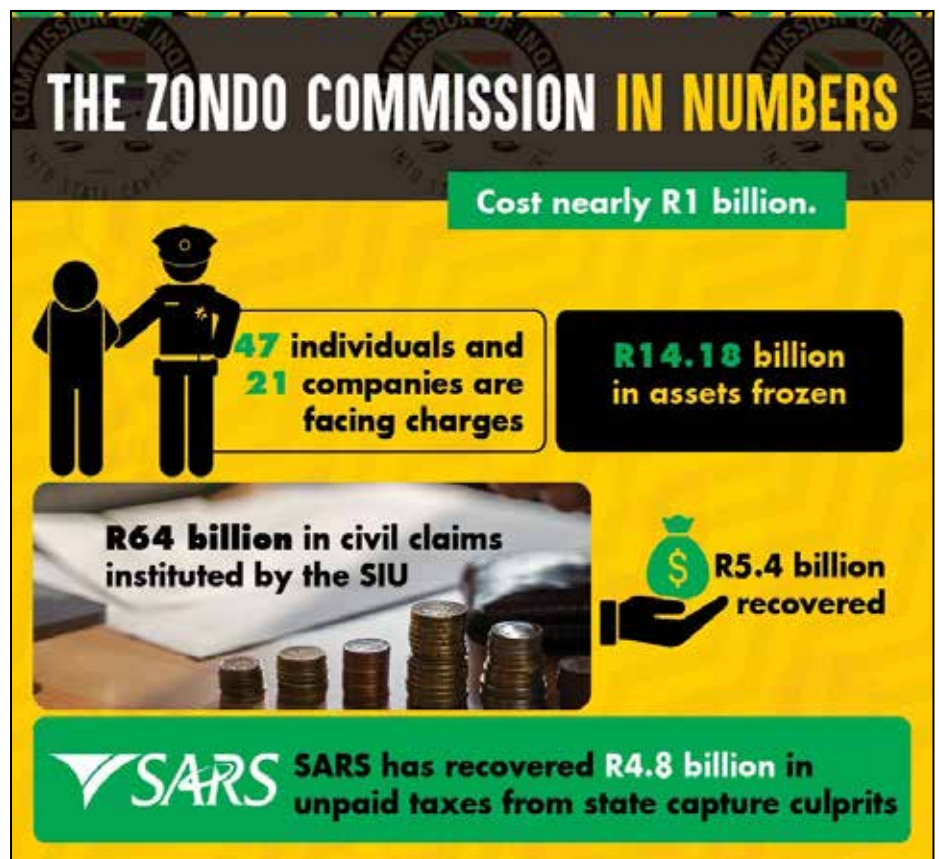
"Another commission?"
"Just a million rand talk shop!"
"Where are the arrests?"

John Steenhuisen, a Northwood Boy's matriculant, now a Cabinet Minister, says that commissions are a waste of money. He is joined by many from our pedestrian commentariat and some permanently incensed Facebookers.

Let's unpack the facts for a moment.

The Zondo Commission cost nearly R1 billion. Shocking, I know, until you see that:

- 47 individuals and 21 companies are facing charges;
- R14.18 billion in assets frozen;
- R5.4 billion recovered.
- SARS has recovered R4.8 billion in unpaid taxes from state capture culprits.
- R64 billion in civil claims instituted by the SIU.
- A permanent anti-corruption



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unit is now embedded in the NPA.

- Real laws passed on procurement and whistleblower protection.

The Nugent Commission, by the way, cost R8.8 million, resulting in:

- Bain repaying R217 million.
- A re-energised and strengthened SARS is now collecting R2.3 trillion annually.

That is not waste, it is ROI.

These commissions had to exist in the first place because the justice system was hollowed out. You cannot ask the getaway driver to do the forensic audit.

So maybe, just maybe, the commission is not the problem. Perhaps the real problem is that some people now sitting at the Cabinet table and many others posting furiously online are more interested in performing outrage than understanding what the commissions actually uncovered.

But do not worry. The reports are still there, and there is always time to catch up between interviews and Facebook moralising.

I, too, want prosecutions. I want orange overalls and accountability at every level. But building a prosecutable case is far harder than playing prosecutor on Facebook. Especially when you are working with a weakened NPA, broken institutions, and legal sabotage stretching back to more than a decade.

Real justice takes evidence. It takes time. And it takes rebuilding what was destroyed.

Facts are stubborn things. But not stubborn enough to interrupt a good Facebook rant. ■



From Gaza to Global Justice

Reclaiming South Africa's Moral Compass and Reflections from the Frontlines of Justice

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

Gaza Is Not the End. It's the Beginning of Global Clarity

The war that has followed the events of 7 October 2023 is not just a continuation of an age-old “*conflict*” between Israel and Palestine. It is the unveiling of a new planetary order one built not on peace, diplomacy, or human rights, but on surveillance, ethnonationalism, algorithmic warfare, and imperial impunity. The brutal and genocidal siege of Gaza, the expansion of Israel's regional military footprint, and the complicity of Western powers expose the unravelling of the so-called “*rules-based international order*.” The centre no longer

holds because the centre has lost its moral core.

Yet, amidst the ruins and silence, something is awakening.

It is the rise of a new global moral counterforce: a South-led, justice-centred, resistance-informed awakening that recognizes the war on Gaza as our generation's Sharpeville, our Sabra and Shatila, our Soweto Uprising. It is forcing us as ANC members, as South Africans, and as citizens of the Global South to ask hard questions about the world we are living in, and the future we must build now.

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Missing Lenses in the Gaza Discourse: Our Duty to Deepen the Frame

Adam Shatz's widely circulated essay "*The World Since 7 October*" provides a harrowing and honest account of the regional dynamics unleashed by Israel's war on Gaza and its broader confrontation with Iran. But it is a view largely framed through the prism of US, Israeli, and Iranian state actors.

We in the Global South must widen this lens. Here is what needs to be added:

a. *The Global South as a Moral Counterforce*

BRICS+, the African Union, CELAC, and ASEAN are not yet military powers but we are the moral majority of the planet. Our voices, our courts, and our resistance movements are beginning to challenge US exceptionalism and Israeli impunity.

South Africa's ICJ genocide case is not a sideshow it is the first major legal rupture in the post-Cold War order. It marks the return of the Global South as an active, moral, and legal protagonist in shaping international norms.

b. *The War Is Economic: De-Dollarization and Dependency*

The Gaza war is as much about financial power as it is about missiles. The US continues to weaponize the dollar, sanction dissenting states, and fund Zionist Apartheid with their settler colonial eradication agenda through unaccountable military aid.

BRICS' push for de-dollarization and trade corridors like China's Belt and Road Initiative are reconfiguring the global economy and South Africa must use its position

to make sure Palestine is not left behind in the post-dollar future.

c. *Apartheid by Algorithm: Gaza as the New Testing Ground*

Israel's Matrix of Control checkpoints, permits, biometric IDs already mirrors our own apartheid past. But it now fuses with next-generation AI, predictive policing, and surveillance capitalism. Gaza is not just a warzone it is a testing ground for urban warfare and military AI that will soon be exported to the rest of us. **BE AWARE!!**

Israel's cyber firms like NSO Group (maker of Pegasus spyware) are arming repressive regimes globally. As a continent still fighting for our own digital sovereignty, Africa must see Gaza as a warning of where unregulated surveillance leads.

The Myth of a Two-State Solution Is Dead. So What Now?

The events of the last year have finally shattered the illusion that a viable two-state solution is possible. What is left?

- A binational, secular, democratic state, rooted in equal rights for all.
- A global shift towards decolonial internationalism: one that recognizes that Palestine is not a "conflict" but a colonial project, and that Israel is no longer a besieged exception. It is a brutal pioneer in a world increasingly defined by walls, borders, and supremacist ideologies.
- The return of resistance movements like Hezbollah and Hamas blending ideology, governance, and armed struggle reveals the post-state logic of liberation, especially where diplomacy has utterly failed.

The Strategic Collapse of the West and the Rise of South-South Solidarity

The Abraham Accords, once hailed as a new era of peace, now lie in tatters. While Gulf leaders like MBZ and MBS continue their transactional ties with Israel, the Arab streets has spoken. From Casablanca to Jakarta, from Cape Town to Caracas, the people are unmasking the duplicity of normalization without justice.

And while Western governments remain silent or worse, complicit a new alliance is emerging:

- Algeria, South Africa, Bolivia, Venezuela, Malaysia, and Indonesia have begun to articulate a unified moral front.
- Youth-led protests in New York, Paris, London, and Johannesburg link Gaza to broader struggles: anti-police violence, climate justice, and anti-neoliberal organizing.
- The ANC must anchor this emerging South-South-diaspora solidarity as a core pillar of its international relations and ideological vision.

From Reaction to Strategy: What the ANC Must Do Now

We cannot wait for the next massacre to respond with statements. We need an offensive strategy for justice, grounded in law, solidarity, media, and economic pressure.

a. *Institutionalize Palestine Solidarity Inside the ANC*

- Launch a Palestine Solidarity Desk in Luthuli House.
- Integrate Palestine history and comparative settler colonialism into ANC political education.
- Host a Pan-African Summit on Settler Colonialism link-

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ing struggles in Palestine and Western Sahara.

b. Build a BRICS+ Palestine Action Bloc

- Propose a coordinated sanctions mechanism targeting firms complicit in Israeli apartheid.
- Introduce a BRICS Peace-keeping Framework for unarmed civilian protection in occupied territories.
- Push for financial tools outside SWIFT to support humanitarian and resistance economies in Gaza and beyond.

c. Upgrade BDS to BDS 2.0

- Use blockchain to track and expose trade in apartheid-linked products.
- Ban public procurement from companies like Elbit Systems, Caterpillar, and HP.
- Establish a South African Boycott Coordination Council with trade unions, artists, civil society, and municipalities.

d. Build a Narrative Arsenal

- Fund Afro-Palestinian film,

music, and digital storytelling collaborations.

- Create counter-disinformation teams to challenge Israeli and Western media framing.
- Launch a youth-run Palestine Campus Network across South Africa's universities.

From Mourning to Movement: Youth, Artists, and the Planetary Intifada

The future belongs to youth. And today's youth are connecting Gaza to everything they care about:

- Black Lives Matter is Gaza.
- Climate refugees are Gaza.
- FeesMustFall was a local intifada against neoliberal apartheid.

We are entering an age where Palestine is no longer foreign policy it is identity, consciousness, and clarity.

Scenario: A Global Uprising for Palestine connecting Soweto, Chicago, Marseille, and Ramal-

lah. From mural to megaphone, from tweet to tent city, this is not just solidarity it's shared survival.

What Comes After Genocide? New Myths, New Models

We must now dare to imagine a world beyond the genocide.

A few bold projects to feed that imagination:

- A Global People's Tribunal on Zionist Crimes, modelled after the Russell Tribunal but led from the South.
- A Digital Resistance Front using encrypted tools to fund, protect, and organize across borders.
- A Reconstruction as Resistance Program, rebuilding Gaza with green tech, cooperatives, and solidarity labour brigades.
- A New Bandung Conference, where the Global South crafts a post-imperial roadmap for justice, tech, and climate repair.

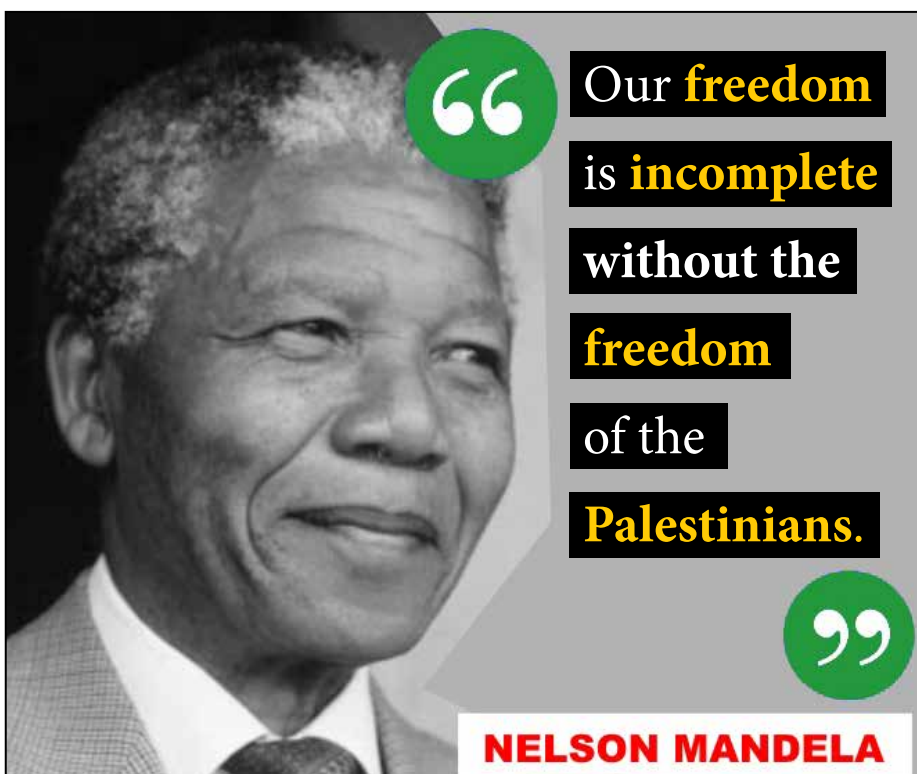
Final Word: The Future Is Now and It Must Be Decolonial

Israel, as Shatz rightly warns, is not the exception. It is the prototype of a brutal future: algorithmic apartheid, digital colonialism, unaccountable power. But it need not be the final chapter.

If the ANC remembers who we are if we root ourselves in the clarity of the struggle, the dignity of the oppressed, and the power of people's movements then we can play our part in bending history's arc once again.

The task is urgent.
The time is now.
The world is watching.
And Gaza is calling. ■

Faiez Jacobs is a Political Strategist and Social Activist.



TRIBUTE TO COMRADE DAVID DABEDE MABUZA, THE QUIET GENERAL OF PRINCIPLE

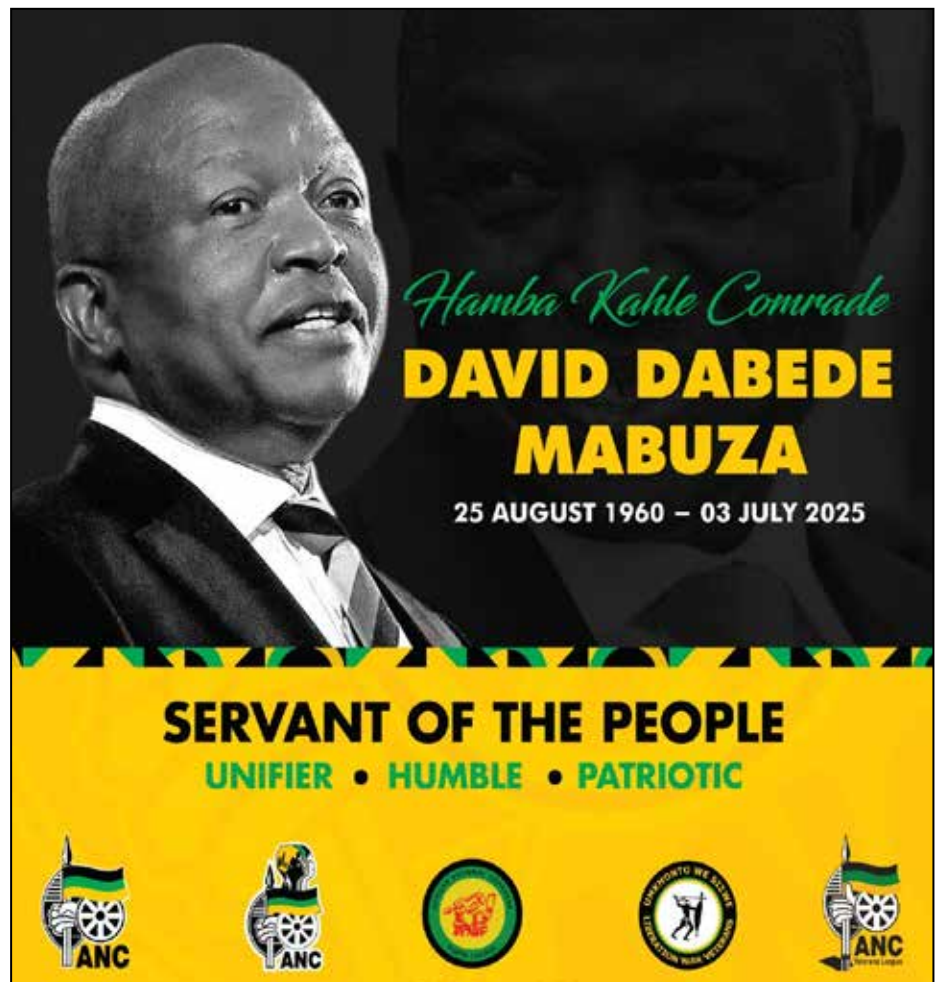
■ By **ANDILE LUNGISA**

IN the rhythm of revolutionary time, there are comrades who do not shout to be heard, but who leave behind a silence so profound that it echoes louder than any speech. Today, we pause as a nation, as a movement, and as comrades, to bow our heads and raise our hearts in honour of Comrade David Dabede (DD) Mabuza, a giant who walked among us with humility, courage, and principle.

DD was not a man of theatrics, he was a man of substance. In a political culture often dominated by noise, spectacle, and self-promotion, DD chose a path that was quieter, but infinitely more difficult, the path of discipline, restraint, and strategic conviction.

We did not always agree. At moments, and particularly around the heated and history-shaping 2017 Conference, we found ourselves on robustly opposite ends of internal battles. Our disagreements were real, and I will not pretend they were minor. But I have come to understand that DD's politics were never personal. He stood his ground not to win for himself, but to defend what he believed would preserve and strengthen the ANC.

Even in disagreement, one could not help but respect him. Because



his posture was never rooted in malice, it was anchored in a deep, quiet loyalty to the organisation. He believed in the ANC not as a convenience, but as a conviction. And when the dust of internal contest settled, DD emerged not bitter, not triumphant, but loyal. He stood by the movement. Unshaken. Unbought.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara teaches us that "A true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary without this quality."

This was Comrade DD Mabuza, he was precisely that, a revolutionary guided not by volume, but by vision. Not by ambition, but by

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love for his people. Not by fear, but by discipline.

He was not consumed by uncontrollable ambition. He did not chase positions for their own sake. Even when his name rose to national prominence and the glare of high office settled on him, he remained grounded. And when the time came to bow out, DD did not cling. Like a great dancer who knows when the music is about to change, he stepped off the stage with grace, with his dignity intact, and with his conscience clear.

What truly defined DD's political life was his unbreakable bond with the people of Mpumalanga. Alongside comrades like Mathews Phosa, Thabang Makwetla, Fish Mahlalela and Boy Nobela Mahlangu, he belonged to a generation of freedom fighters who did not wait for development to come, they fought fearlessly to bring it. Together, they carried the hopes of a province once sidelined, and turned it into a theatre of transformation.

DD's leadership in Mpumalanga was not built on promises, but on

the hard, gritty work of delivery. Roads that connected the forgotten. Schools that empowered the previously excluded. Clinics that reached deep into rural soil. He did not govern from air-conditioned offices alone, he governed from the ground, among the people, with the people, for the people.

He believed that governance was a sacred act, and that no community, however remote, should be beyond the reach of dignity.

Even when his health tested him, he did not retreat into comfort. He campaigned. He served. He endured. Because for DD, to serve the ANC was not an obligation, it was an act of faith.

We must say this clearly: he was not perfect. None of us are. But in him, we saw the rare combination of quiet strength, political patience, and deep commitment. In him, we witnessed what it means to wield power without being intoxicated by it, to leave the stage without being pushed, and to disagree with comrades without betraying the movement. Chris Hani taught us *"It is not the kings and*

generals that make history, but the masses of the people." Comrade DD never sought to be king, but he served like a general, always with the people, always for the people.

Today we say goodbye to more than a leader, we say goodbye to an era. An era of comrades who rose through struggle, not shortcuts. Who knew that unity is not the absence of contestation, but its disciplined management.

Who could stand still in the storm and still point north, when others were losing direction.

Go well, DD. Son of Mpumalanga. Lion in strategy, dove in conduct.

Warrior for development, disciple of unity.

May we who remain carry forward your example: of loyalty without arrogance, ambition without destruction, and service without spectacle. ■

Andile Lungisa is a member of the ANC National Executive Committee.



This Kettle Stays Boiling:

A Tribute to Comrade Theresa Solomon

■ By **MARELDIA CHOWGLAY** and All Who Were Raised by Her Warmth, Guided by Her Fire, and Changed by Her Love



THERE are people who make speeches, pass laws, shake hands in foreign embassies. And then there are those like Comrade Theresa Mary Solomon who open their homes, fill their kettles, hold our pain, and in doing so, shift history.

Tonight, across Cape Town, Mitchells Plain, Tanzania, and Canada, we are not merely mourning a diplomat, a former Mayor, or a comrade. We are remembering a woman who turned her home into a movement. A woman whose door was kicked in by apartheid security forces but who insisted that the same door be mounted as a monument because even broken things, when placed with intention, can teach generations.

The Politics of Everyday Care

To understand Theresa Solomon's life is to understand a politics beyond the podium. She knew that revolution wasn't only fought in marches or courtrooms it was fought in leaky homes, in schoolyards, in kitchens. She saw injustice not just in pass laws or forced removals, but in empty fridges, in girls without pads, and in boys being raised by grief.

She responded not with ideology alone, but with acts of care:

- Meals cooked before marches.
- Reading lessons after school.
- Letters written to international donors for food parcels.

- Deodorant and dignity packs for young girls.
- A never-ending supply of warm tea, honest words, and fierce love.

Comrade. Mother. Mentor.

In 1985, Mareldia Chowglay, a student at Woodlands High, found herself sjambokked by police at a protest and too afraid to return home. A classmate whispered, *"Go to the Solomon home. Speak to Theresa and Marcus."*

She did. And like many of us, she never left not emotionally, not politically.

Errol April, another young activist, found refuge there after being arrested at Beacon Hill High. On Friday nights, activists gathered at the Solomon home tuning into Radio Freedom, debating ANC pamphlets, crying, laughing, being held.

Theresa became our *"struggle mother."* Her only biological child shared her with hundreds. And we? We found in her the love, strategy, and healing we didn't even know we needed. She help us ordinary children find our inner voice, power and agency

Revolution Served Daily

She wrote thousands of letters to embassies and corporations, seeking support for impoverished families, children of detainees, elderly neighbours.



She showed us that serving the people wasn't about slogans it was about showing up.

Even when apartheid repression reached her own door literally she stood firm. When security police kicked in her front door looking for Errol, she refused to repair it. Instead, she had it mounted at the Woodlands People's Centre, plastered with buttons, slogans, stickers: a shrine of defiance. A visual memory. A lesson.

Reading as Resistance. Literacy as Love.

Com T believed that a child who can read is a child who can think. And a child who can think is dangerous to oppression and exploitation.

She ran literacy circles before they were fashionable. She made sure every child in her reach especially young girls had a book in hand and a story in their soul. Teaching reading wasn't just educational. It was insurgent. It was transformative. It was necessary.

This is why we propose:

- **The Theresa Solomon Literacy & Dignity Fund:** to distribute books, hygiene packs, and care kits in her name.
- **Com T Reading Circles:** in churches, mosques, classrooms, and ANC branches where the next generation

reads aloud and dares to imagine more.

Global Voice, Local Heart

Theresa Solomon was the first Black FEMALE Mayor of Cape Town. Later, she served South Africa as Ambassador to both Tanzania and Canada. She took the lessons of the Cape Flats into the chambers of diplomacy and brought the discipline of protocol into the chaos of grassroots governance.

But Mitchells Plain remained her heartbeat.

As Mayor, she championed schools, clinics, public housing, transport, and access to clean water in the poorest wards. Our current mayor must follow her example. She made sure that global titles never became a barrier to local accountability. If you called her at 3am from Tel Aviv, as Errol once did, she didn't scold. She answered with a political briefing and a reminder to remain compassionate.



TRIBUTE

She didn't forget where she came from because she never left.

A Living, Breathing Legacy

Her legacy isn't built in granite. It lives in:

- Struggle children who now run NGOs.
- Young mothers who found comfort in her arms.
- Teenagers who didn't drop out of school because she got them deodorant and dignity.
- Comrades who didn't crack under banning orders because she sat beside them in court.

She did not just change lives. She created them.



Let's Make This Legacy Practical

We propose the following in her honour:

- Rename reading rooms as the Theresa Solomon Literacy Hub.
- Install her door permanently, with an oral history archive alongside it.
- Publish *"The House With the Boiling Kettle"*, a community memoir with essays from comrades who remember her impact.
- Host *"Mother of the Movement"* mentorship weekends pairing veteran female activists with young women seeking direction.
- Nominate her posthumously for national honours not for her titles, but for her revolutionary love.

A Final Vow: This Door Remains Open

Theresa Solomon didn't need a microphone to make history.

She didn't wait for permission to

build movements.

She fed, mentored, strategised, prayed, argued, organised, and believed.

Every book we give a child, is in your name.

Every act of kindness in the middle of struggle is your legacy.

Every reading circle, every care package, every moment of political clarity born in the kitchen is your curriculum.

Ambassador, Alderman, ComTee, Bibi, your life has been a testament to the power of courage, breaking barriers as our first Black Female Cape Town Mayor and serving with distinction as an ambassador to both Canada and Tanzania. Your legacy is woven with threads of justice, service, and unwavering dedication to the people.

To her comrades across the country and the world let us low-

er our banners in mourning, but raise our fists in tribute. Comrade Theresa Solomons has joined the great wall of memory alongside Charlotte Maxeke, Lillian Ngoyi, Albertina Sisulu, and Dulcie September. Her name must live, her work must continue, and her example must guide us in these trying times.

Rest in power, ComTee.
Your kettle stays boiling.
Your door stays open.
Your light stays burning.
Hamba kahle, ComTee.
You have fought the good fight.
You have kept the faith.
You have run your race.
Now rest, Ma.
We will walk in your footsteps.

Lala ngoxolo, Comrade Theresa Solomons.

Rest in Revolutionary Peace. ■

Mareldia Chowglay is ANC Deputy Regional Secretary of Dullah Omar.

Oh Rascal Children of Gaza

■ By **KHALED JUMA**

Oh rascal children of Gaza,
You who constantly disturbed me with your screams
under my window,
You who filled every morning with rush and chaos,
You who broke my vase and stole the lonely flower
on my balcony,
Come back -
And scream as you want,
And break all the vases,
Steal all the flowers,
Come back,
Just come back....



**SAVE THE CHILDREN
OF PALESTINE**

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19–25 July 2025

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

19 July 1965

Poet Ingrid Jonker passed on

Ingrid Jonker, at the age of 31 when she took her own life, was already recognised as poet with advanced ideas, with her poems being studied, translated and published in many languages including English, isiZulu, German, French, Dutch, Polish and Hindi. President Mandela in May 1994 in his first state of the nation address (SONA) to Parliament quoted her poem: *The Child who Was Shot Dead by Soldiers at Nyanga*, said of jonkers: *"She was both a poet and a South African. She was both an Afrikaner and an African. She was both an artist and a human being. In the midst of despair, she celebrated hope. Confronted by death, she asserted the beauty of life."* Jonkers was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga posthumously. Her poetry collections are still available and Jacana Media published a pocket autobiography, *Ingrid Jonker*, written by Louise Viljoen in 2012.

19 July 1988

UDF activists released from prison

On 19 July 1988, Zolie Malindi, Bulelani Ngcuka, Omar Badsha, Jonathan Shapiro, Rehana Rossouw, Veronica Simmers, Saleem Mowzer, Ngconde Balfour and Nams Wessels were released from detention. At the time, the apartheid government

had banned all gatherings and the activists were arrested for being part of a Nelson Mandela Birthday Celebration organising committee.

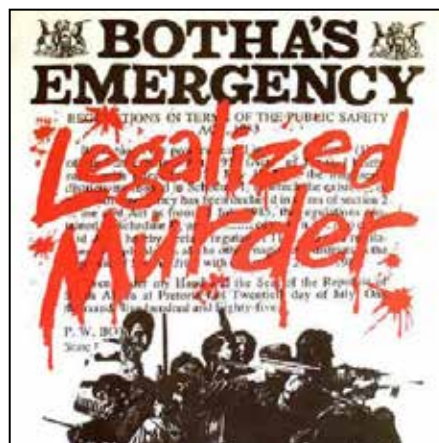
20 July 1969

South African invention on the Moon

Krugersdorp was the hometown of engineer George Pratley who founded the Pratley research group (PTY) and went on to invent Pratley Putty in the early 1960's. Pratley Putty was used by NASA in 1969 on Apollo XI's Eagle landing craft and is the only South African product ever to go to the moon. The Apollo XI mission was the first manned mission to land on the Moon.

20 July 1985

State of Emergency declared



On the day after the burial of the *Cradock Four*, killed by the apartheid government, a state of

emergency was declared in 36 magisterial districts across South Africa, to deal with the widespread and popular resistance of the 1980s. The state of emergency regulations allowed for detention without trial, banning of political activities and organisations, as well as blanket ban on media coverage of activities. It also gave powers to ban funerals and impose curfews.

20 July 1998

Adriaan Vlok implicates FW De Klerk at TRC

Whilst giving testimony in amnesty hearings, the former Minister of Police Adriaan Vlok, told the TRC that FW De Klerk was aware of illegal operations against the anti-apartheid organisations. Vlok, along with 30 other senior police officers were applying for amnesty. De Klerk, in two earlier submissions to the TRC categorically denied knowledge of the illegal operations of the apartheid police. Adriaan Vlok applied for amnesty for amongst others the bombing of the South African Council of Churches Khotso House, the bombing of COSATU offices, and attacks on cinemas showing the Biko movie, *Cry Freedom*.

20 July 1904

Agri-South Africa founded

The South African Agricultural Union, Agri-South Africa since, was formed in 1904, as a federation of

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

agricultural organisations. It played and continues to play an important role in the development of commercial agriculture in South Africa. Although its membership after 1994 includes black farmer associations and cooperatives, because of the nature of the sector, it remains predominantly white and male. The history of the union mirrors the evolution of the agricultural sector, with *“white farming built through massive state assistance – in the form of land, credit, and input and output markets (involving subsidies and financial assistance). Under apartheid, access to credit was mediated through parastatals which enabled farmers to obtain capital financing from the government at interest rates significantly lower than market rates, primarily from the Land Bank, Agricultural Credit Board and sub-sectoral cooperatives.”* (Helliker, 2013). Today, its stated mission is to promote *“the development, profitability, stability and sustainability of primary agriculture in South Africa by means of its involvement and input on national and international policy and the implementation thereof.”*

21 July 1967

Nkosi Albert Luthuli, ANC President killed in Groutville, Stanger



Chief Albert Luthuli was struck by a train in ‘*suspicious circumstances*’ and killed on this day. Luthuli, who was ANC President from 1952 until his death in 1967, was confined to Groutville by the apartheid police, under a form of semi-house arrest. He received the Nobel Peace prize in 1960, becoming amongst the most well-known African leaders of his generation. He trained as a teacher and lay Methodist preacher, and was active in political resistance throughout his life. The story of his life is told in his autobiography – *Let My People Go*, originally published in 1958, with many subsequent editions.

21 July 1977

Libyan-Egyptian war begins

This short border war between Libya and Egypt started with Libya striking Egyptian cities. The war lasted for 2 days with a ceasefire on July 24. The war was the result of enmities between the two countries’ leaders, Muammar Ghaddafi of Libya and Anwar Sadat of Egypt, after the latter signed a peace treaty with Israel after the Yom Kippur war of 1973.

21 July 2020

Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe Andrew Mlangeni passes on

ANC and SACP stalwart, and liberation struggle hero Dr Andrew Mokete Mlangeni passed away on this day. Born on a remote, white-owned farm just outside the town of Bethlehem in 1925, Bab’ Mlangeni was forced to abandon his studies owing to poverty, and went on to work as a factory worker and, later, a bus driver. Here – subjected to worker exploitation – he became active in strikes for better working conditions and higher wages. In 1951,



Bab’ Mlangeni joined the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL), and three years later became a member of the ANC. In 1961, Mlangeni was sent by the ANC for military training outside of South Africa – forming both the first group of anti-apartheid activists to be sent to China, as well as the establishment of uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the Spear of the Nation. Upon his return in 1963, he was arrested and accused of recruiting and training an armed force. Along with nine other defendants – one being former President Nelson Mandela – Mlangeni was sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island in what became known as the *“trial that changed South Africa”*. Focusing a global spotlight on the segregationist policies of the apartheid government, the Rivonia Trial defined the battle lines for the struggle against white minority rule in South Africa, and presented Mlangeni as part of a historic vanguard of opponents of apartheid. He served 26 years of his life sentence on Robben Island, and was released in 1989. He immediately became a member of the internal ANC structure led by Tata Walter Sisulu. He also served as Transport Head at the ANC’s Shell House after his election into the NEC in 1991. After the first democratic elections in 1994, he became an ANC Member of Parliament in Cape Town

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

until he retired in 2014. In 2012 he became Chairperson of the ANC's Integrity Commission because of his integrity and ethical conduct.

22 July 1899

King Sobhuza II born

King Sobhuza II was born on 22 July 1899 in Zombodze in Eswatini, the eldest son of King Bhunu and Queen Lomawa Ndwandwe in the then Protectorate of Swaziland. After his father died shortly after this, he was proclaimed king by the royal council and given the name Ngwenyama Sobhuza II, with the Queen Mother Labotsibeni as regent. He assumed the throne at the age of 22 in 1921, and reigned until his death in 1982. King Sobhuza was one of the founders of the OAU in 1963, and his kingdom gained independence from Britain in 1968. He was awarded the South African National Order of the Companions of Oliver Tambo in 2006.

22 July 1987

Murphy Morobe and Valli Moosa detained in Port Elizabeth



Police arrested United Democratic Front national secretary-general Mohammed Valli Moosa and its acting publicity secretary Murphy Morobe in a pre-dawn raid on the home of Judge Dayalin Chetty in Port Elizabeth. The two men had been on the run from the police for more than a year. The following year on 15 September 1988,

Valli and Morobe escaped from detention in Johannesburg after feigning illness and spent thirty-seven days in the American Consulate, before securing passports and flying out of the country.

22 July 1991

ANC NWC calls for dismissal of Ministers of Police and Defense

Following an emergency meeting of its National Working Committee, ANC called, among other things, for the dismissal of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and Defence Minister Magnus Malan, the establishment of a multi-party commission of inquiry into the authorities' involvement in the violence and the secret funding of political activity, as well as the public dismantling of all special counter-insurgency forces.

22 July 2020

41% of Businesses Owned by Women

Forty-one percent of businesses in Rwanda are owed by women, as against the global average of 10-20%, according to a survey by Credit Suisse.

23 July 1882

Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia born



Haile Selassie was born as Lij Tafari Makonnen in the village of Ejersa Gor, in the Harar province of

Ethiopia. Heir to a 13th century dynasty, he ascended to the throne of Ethiopia in 1930, proclaiming himself "*Haile Selassie*", which means "*Might of the Trinity*". In 1936, he led his country's resistance to Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and spoke out against the use of chemical weapons at the League of Nations. Exiled to England in 1936, he was restored to power in 1941. However, by the 1970s, his apparent indifference to the Wollo famine resulted in the loss of popular support. In 1974, he was dethroned in a military coup and murdered by his successor, Mengistu Haile Mariam.

23 July 1900

First Pan-African Congress held

The first of gatherings of Africans and the African Diaspora took place in London from 23-25 July 1900, to discuss common challenges of slavery, colonialism and racism. It was at this first Pan-African Congress, that WEB Du Bois made the much quoted statement, that the problem of the 20th Century, is the problem of the colour line.

23 July 1935

Solidarity with Ethiopia

The first meeting of the International African Friends of Abyssinia was held in London, attended by prominent Africans and the African Diaspora, including Jomo Kenyatta, Amy and Marcus Garvey, and Kwame Nkrumah, to organise solidarity with Ethiopia against Italian fascist invasion.

23 July 1973

Carlton Centre opens

For decades the tallest building in Africa, the Carlton Centre opened on this day in 1973. Construction on the 50 floor building started in 1967.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

23 July 1977

Phyllis Naidoo escapes to Lesotho



When her underground cell was arrested and detained, Phyllis Naidoo (1927-2013) escaped to Lesotho, where she joined the ANC. During her exile, she worked tirelessly with and for exiled children and assisting SACP and ANC members to escape from South Africa. She returned to South Africa in 1990. Naidoo was a lawyer, university lecturer, author, activist and a member of the Non-European Unity Movement, Natal Indian Congress, the South African Communist Party and uMkhonto we Sizwe. In 2003, she was awarded the Order of Luthuli, in silver. Phyllis Naidoo is author of the books *Waiting to Die in Pretoria* (1990), *Izinyanya: A Millenium Diary in the Year of Older Persons* (1992), *Le rona re batho* (1992), *Footprints in Grey Street* (2002), *156 Hands that built South Africa* (2006), *Footprints beyond Grey Street* (2007), and *Enduring Footprints* (2009).

23 July 1989

Coline Williams and Robert Waterwitch killed

On 23 July 1989, a blast occurred opposite the Athlone Magistrate's Court and police complex, which took the lives of two African National Congress (ANC) activists. Coline Williams (22) and Robbie Waterwitch (20) from Cape Town, were killed when the explosive device they were attempting to



plant opposite the Athlone Magistrates Court and Police Station detonated prematurely. During the TRC hearings, evidence was led that their MK unit was infiltrated by the security police, and that the injuries to their bodies were inconsistent with a blast, and more akin to torture.

23 July 1996

Penny Heyns wins gold at Atlanta Olympics



Penelope Penny Heyns was born on 8 November 1974 in Springs, Gauteng Province. Heyns began swimming at a young age and displayed great skills, eventually securing her a bursary to study at the University of Nebraska in the United States. In 1996, Heyns was part of Team South Africa in Atlanta. She made history by winning both

the 100m and 200m events at the games, the first and to date only woman in the history of the Olympic Games to have achieved this. Heyns was named Female World Swimmer of the year in 1996 and 1999 by Swimming World Magazine. She retired from professional swimming in 2001.

23 July 2021

Prim8 local car brand licensed

South African-based Zimbabwean Tatenda Mungofa received a license to produce the Prim8 car locally, which he designed. The manufacturing company is Murezo Auto Company, which he co-owns with an Iranian car company.

24 July 1926

President of Botswana Ketumile Masire born

Ketumile Quett Joni Masire was the second and longest serving President of Botswana, in office from 1980 and 1998. Before becoming President, he served as finance minister and deputy president under founding president, Seretse Khama. President Masire passed away on 22 June 2017.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

24 July 1961

South Africa signs the Antarctic Treaty

South Africa signed the multilateral agreement under article 18 of the Antarctic Treaty. This Treaty, now consisting of 53 Parties, established the legal framework for the management of the region. The Antarctic Treaty regulates international relations for scientific purposes, and the environmental protection of the territory. South Africa has had a base in Antarctica since 1959, and with two other bases on Marion and Goughs islands, as part of the SA National Antarctic Programme.

24 July 1978

Margaret Gardiner becomes Miss Universe

The 19-year old model from Cape Town became the first South African to win the title in Mexico in 1978.

24 July 1986

Kenneth Kaunda rebukes Howe and Reagan for supporting apartheid



Zambian President, Kenneth Kaunda publicly rebuked Britain's foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, accusing him and President Reagan of supporting South Africa's apartheid government. The attack by Kaunda on Howe and Reagan came at the height of popular unrest across South Africa. Kaunda's anger

was prompted by Reagan's rejection of stronger United States (US) economic sanctions. Kaunda said; *"As a fellow human being, Sir Geoffrey, I must welcome you. But as a messenger of what you have come to do in South Africa, you are not welcome at all."*

25 July 1913

ANC meeting to discuss Land Act

A meeting in Johannesburg, called by the South African Native National Congress, now ANC, was attended by a large number of men and women from South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland. The meeting was convened to discuss the conditions caused by the Native Land Act of 1913 and to chart a way forward. The meeting heard a report from a delegation, sent to Cape Town to present African objections against the act. Dr Walter Rubusana, presenter of the report, informed the public that the government would not delay the passage of the act. The meeting decided to send a deputation to London and meet with Her Majesty's Imperial Government. The delegation included Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje, Dr Walter Rubusana, and Pixley Ka Isaka Seme.

25 July 1990

Operation Vula operatives arrested

Senior ANC member, Mac Maharaj, Pravin Gordhan, Sphiwe Nyanda, Billy Nair and over forty other members of the ANC and the SACP, were detained for allegedly attempting to overthrow the government, known as Operation Vula. Operation Vula aimed to get larger numbers of MK soldiers into South Africa and to ensure closer communication links amongst ANC Leaders in exile, at home and in prison. With the unbanning of the ANC in 1990, Operation Vula continued, because there were no guarantees that the apartheid government would negotiate in good faith with the liberation movement.

25 July 2020

Major oil spill in Mauritius

On this day, oil tanker MV Wakashio, reported to be carrying nearly 4,000 metric tons of oil, ran aground on a coral reef on the island of Mauritius's south-east coast. According to media reports, more than 1,000 metric tons of fuel leaked from the cracked vessel into the Indian Ocean – polluting the nearby coral reefs, as well as the surrounding beaches and lagoons.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

19–25 July 2025

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

20 July

World Chess Day

This day has been observed by the UN since 1966, as one of the ancient games that combines competition, scientific thinking, and elements of arts. As a sport, it helps during times of crisis, improving mental health and reducing anxieties. Russia is ranked first in the world based on ranked players, and also has the most chess Grandmasters in the world. Bassem Amin (32) from Egypt is the highest ranked African in the world, ranked no. 38, achieving Grandmaster status in 2006, at the age of 18. The first woman chess player from southern Africa to get the World Grandmaster title is Tuduetsa Sabure, from Botswana, who won the title in 2005.

20 July

International Moon Day

International Moon day was decided by the United Nations in its resolution 76/76 on “*International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space*” in 2021. For thousands of years, human civilizations have looked up to the sky pondering the origin and mysteries of the Moon – our only natural satellite. With the birth of space activities, the Moon became the ultimate destination of countless missions, including crewed flights that brought the first human footprints to another place in the universe. International Moon Day marks the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon as part of the Apollo 11 lunar mission.

25 July

African Day of Oceans and Seas

Over 80% of today’s international goods are transported in sea vessels and over 90% of Africa’s imports and exports are conducted by sea. Over the past four decades, the volume of global sea borne trade has more than quadrupled. 90% of world trade and two-thirds of energy supplies are

carried by sea. The world’s oceans and seas are interlinked, and action in one sea or one policy area with impact on the sea may have positive or negative effects on other seas and policy areas. Fish and seafood make a vital contribution to the food and nutritional security of over 200 million Africans and provides income for over 10 million. The coastal and marine ecosystems also play a significant role in mitigating the impacts of climate change as they serve as carbon sinks. The paradox is that the marine and coastal areas in Africa are among the most vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change in the world, mainly attributed to the low adaptive capacity in the continent. These negative effects are compounded by human pollution, especially the dumping of plastic, with devastating consequences on marine life.

25 July

World Drowning Prevention Day

Every year, an estimated 236,000 people drown, making drowning a major public health problem worldwide. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death globally for children and young people aged 1-24 years. Proven measures to prevent drowning include: barriers controlling access to water; teaching swimming, water safety and safe rescue skills; training bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation; setting and enforcing safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations; and improving flood risk management.

