



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the **President**



We are making steady progress on economic reform

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST week, we released a progress report on **Operation Vulindlela**, a Government-wide initiative to accelerate progress on economic reform.

This report shows that the economic reform programme is making steady progress, opening the way to more rapid, inclusive and sustainable growth and job creation.

We established Operation Vulindlela in the Sixth Administration to remove the binding constraints that have long held back our economy's growth: an unreliable energy supply, inefficient rail and ports, high data costs, and a visa system

that had deterred investors and tourists.

We have made significant progress since then in clearing these obstacles with a clear view to enhance economic growth. The reduction in load shedding over the past year was supported by the reforms that we introduced to unlock private investment in electricity generation, while reforms in the telecommunications sector have brought down the cost of mobile data. We have reduced the turnaround times for approval processes for water use licences and energy projects, made great progress in clearing the visa application backlog, and expanding the eVisa scheme.

In April this year, we commenced the next phase of Operation Vulindlela to build on these successes and initiate a second wave of reform.

We are moving quickly towards a competitive electricity market, which will introduce greater competition in electricity generation and reduce the chances of experiencing load shedding again.

The reform underway in the energy sector will introduce greater choice for consumers and drive down costs. As part of this process, work is underway to establish an independent Transmission System Operator within the next five years, in line with

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

the Electricity Regulation Act.

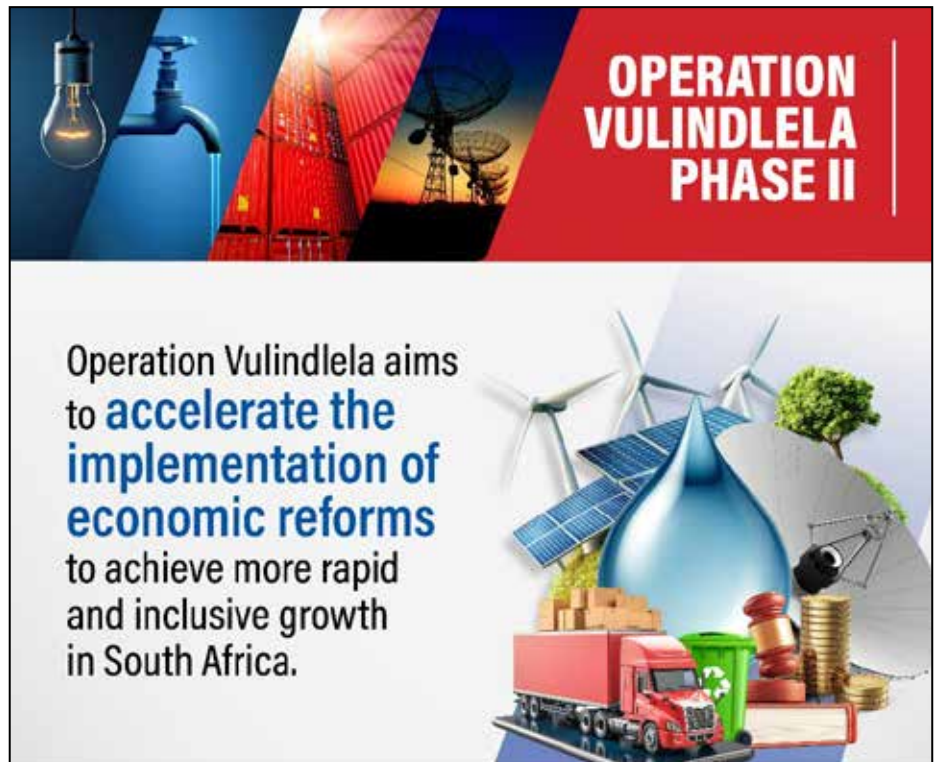
We have also made significant progress towards enabling greater investment in our transmission network, including from the private sector, with regulations to govern these investments.

In April, the Rail Infrastructure Manager was established as a separate operating division of Transnet with its own management and reporting structure. It has made capacity available across the freight rail network to private train operating companies and has received 98 requests for access to date.

A revised Network Statement will soon be published and capacity allocated in response to these requests, marking the start of open competition in freight rail. A Private Sector Participation Unit has been established within the Development Bank of Southern Africa to facilitate and fast-track private sector participation in logistics.

A request for information for private sector participation projects in the rail system and ports has received a strong response from the market, and will enable us to mobilise new investment to modernise and expand our logistics infrastructure.

The reform of our visa system is making it much easier for people to visit South Africa and bring much-needed skills and investment while enhancing border security through the Border Management Authority, which we established in the



Operation Vulindlela aims to **accelerate the implementation of economic reforms** to achieve more rapid and inclusive growth in South Africa.

Sixth Administration as part of the reform process. An Electronic Travel Authorisation system has been developed by the Department of Home Affairs and is being prepared to go live in September 2025.

As part of Operation Vulindlela Phase II, we are also reforming the local government system to ensure that basic services such as water and electricity – which are essential for economic growth – are delivered efficiently and reliably.

Several metros have submitted plans for the turnaround of their water and electricity utilities that outline a clear pathway for the ring-fencing of water and electricity services. Progress against these action plans will enable these municipalities to access a new performance-based incentive from National Treasury to drive much greater investment in water and electricity infra-

structure.

All of these reforms are designed to boost economic growth and create jobs for South Africans.

The claims by some opposition parties that these reforms represent a form of privatisation are baseless and misguided.

The measures we are taking are common sense reforms that will preserve public ownership of key infrastructure while introducing greater competition, dynamism and investment. A number of our peer countries introduced similar reforms, which have powered their economies to higher levels of growth.

Even as the world faces difficult economic headwinds, our economic reform agenda will create the conditions for higher growth and investment, while renewing our infrastructure for generations to come. ■

STATEMENT

COSATU presented its submission on an AGOA renewal to the United States Trade Representative

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) presented its submission in support of the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA)'s renewal to the United States' Trade Representative (USTR) during its annual review of AGOA member states' eligibility review. COSATU appreciates that AGOA's renewal lays within the domain of the US Congress. We support its renewal before it expires at the end of September and believe it provides a progressive framework for further and enhanced trade relations between the United States (US), South Africa and Africa.

AGOA has been an important stimulant for key jobs and revenue rich sectors in the South African economy, in particular mining, agriculture, motor and manufacturing. It has spurred trade and investment between the US and South Africa, with over 600 American companies invested in South Africa and 500 000 South African jobs linked to trade with the US. AGOA has been a critical boost for South Africa's economic integration with the region and continent with South African vehicle exports to the US include steering racks from Tunisia, rubber from Cote D'Ivoire, wire harnessing from Botswana and car seats from Lesotho. For any trade agreement to be sustainable, it must be mutually beneficial. AGOA has increased the supply of American components

to South African motor manufacturing plants and South African critical minerals and other raw materials to American factories.

AGOA's renewal before September will provide space for more detailed engagements between the US, South Africa and Africa on what an enhanced AGOA may look like, how additional products and nations can be included, what support can be given to emerging sectors in the continent, how Trade Adjustment Assistance can protect at risk workers, and how it can further support the African Continental Free Trade Area.

COSATU is pleased by the positive response its proposals have received in the US and humbled by the solidarity South African and African workers enjoy from our sister labour movement in America, the AFL-CIO.

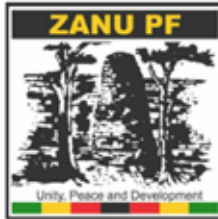
The Federation will continue to work closely with the Presidency and the Departments for International Relations and Cooperation and Trade, Industry and Competition, as well as Organised Business and our counterparts in the US, on measures to strengthen bilateral relations and to ensure that they are done so in a manner that respects both nations' sovereignty, economic growth and developmental paths.

We are heartened by the progress that has been made under Presi-

dent Cyril Ramaphosa's leadership to put in place processes to reset bilateral relations. It is important that government led by the African National Congress be given the necessary support and space to continue its efforts in this journey.

There is a need for parties and other key stakeholders in South Africa to tone down the unnecessary, over the top and destructive rhetoric that has only served and sought to inflame tensions, disseminate blatantly fake news and shamefully fuel racial tensions. We urge in particular AfriForum, NEASA, Sakeliga and the Freedom Front Plus to place the needs of all South Africans ahead of self-serving partisan point scoring. Whilst social media clicks may entertain friends over a braai, the malicious decampaigning of South Africa in the US will come at a real cost to all South Africans, in particular Afrikaans farmers and workers.

Ours is a robust constitutional democracy which has proven its ability to hold the state accountable. Any South African with legitimate concerns can use Parliament, the judiciary, law enforcement or other organs of state to address any real (not imaginary) grievances they may have. There is a time and place for partisanship and that is elections, now is the time to shed narrow racial interests and place those of the nation first. ■



LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SUMMIT

Carving the Future

By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

LIBERATION movements from across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will convene in Johannesburg, South Africa from the 25-28 July 2025 for the Liberation Movements Summit. These movements share common values and programme, lead their respective nations, pursue development and to drive the agenda of the African Union. This gathering is a platform for shared lessons, and a common future of prosperity.

This gathering provides the organisations with an opportunity to reflect on the path travelled since their formation, the risks and opportunities present in a complex geo-political shift and changing dynamics which witnessed the demise of most liberation movements, inherent challenges and how those challenges can be overcome to ensure that they serve the people, build the continent and advance the foundational principles, aims and objectives of the African Union (AU) and its 2063 development agenda.

The midwives to the Africa's con-



tinental body met on the 25 May 1963, Addis Ababa to establish the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). As the name denotes, the OAU was for the unity of the African states and their people to pursue a common and collective agenda. The OAU was founded on the principles of solidarity, unity, prosperity and to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the independence of the member states, eradication of colonialism and an end to apartheid in South Africa, promotion of bilateral relations, inclusive multilateralism, continental and

international cooperation and progressive internationalism and promoting peace and security.

At the time of the formation of the OAU, South Africa was under the colonial system of apartheid. The OAU, which later became the African Union (AU) fought for the eradication of apartheid in solidarity with the liberation movements led by the African National Congress (ANC) and progressive civil society, side by side struggles which birthed a free Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique, Angola and South Africa.



In 2002 South Africa became a member of the African Union after its readmission into the international community of nations as an independent sovereign state after many years of international isolation as a pariah state due to its policies of apartheid which stood against the foundational principles of the OAU and the Freedom Charter of 1955.

The purpose of the AU is to build a peaceful and secure Africa, a prosperous continent based on inclusive growth, sustainable development, an end to wars and military governments, foreign invasions, colonialism, imperialism promoting good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law pursued through a number of programmes which include the African Development Bank and the African Continental Free Trade Area as its flagship projects.

The 2063 agenda is a blueprint and strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 38 years. It aims to deliver on the AU's vision of "The Africa We Want" by galvanizing and unit-

ing all Africans and the diaspora around a common vision of a peaceful, integrated, and prosperous Africa. This agenda is aligned to the ANC's vision of a better Africa and a better world.

The struggles of these organisations were forged and steeped in the principles of unity and the common agenda of prosperity and continental growth. Their interrelatedness and complementarity are a potent force and key drivers of sustainable development, a bulwark against diseases, famine, climate change, deleterious corruption which inhibits development, and the collapse of governments. The liberation movements have a huge impact on the aspirations, breakdown of societal trust and voter apathy. These weaknesses led to the demise of liberation movements across the world.

Since the formation of the OAU, SWAPO, ZANU-PF, MPLA, FRELIMO, the ANC and other member states played a significant role in the liberation of their countries. This has not been an easy feat but a product of many struggles. However, these organisa-

tions are on a gradient of decline, suffering setbacks and reduced electoral majority. This is a trend not unique to these organisations but ubiquitous across the globe with the risk of irrelevance and obscurity.

For the ANC, its weaknesses have huge impact on the National Democratic Revolution (NDR). Cumulatively, the weaknesses of these organisations will invariably affect the African Union Agenda 2063 and the prosperity of the respective member nations, the will of the people and their shared struggles. To assess the effectiveness and capacity of its membership nations, the AU established the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as an instrument to appraise the capacity of the member states to drive development, the implement the AU objectives, its efficacy against the cancer of corruption which delays transformation and change, and the systems of good governance, accountability and transparency.

To extricate itself from the venal morass and moral rot which erode electoral trust, contributing



to poor electoral performance and diminishing support the ANC must approach the summit with an urgent sense of candidness and honesty as a diagnosis of its weaknesses that might sink it into oblivion, from power to the opposition benches virulent and inimical to development. In the recent national elections, the ANC support dropped to 40% of the electorate, Frelimo of Mozambique, ZANU-PF of Zimbabwe and SWAPO of Namibia suffered the same fate, which is the common denominator plaguing the liberation movements, underscoring a need for introspection, a change in strategies and shedding the crust of corruption. Except for South Africa the outcomes in favour of the liberation movements flared into violence due to the public rejection of the results. For the ANC, this was a strategic setback, leading to the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in the absence of an outright majority. This does not portend well for the ANC as it poses an existential threat.

The summit is important and necessary as a moment of reflection to restore the credibility of liber-

ation movements and society's confidence in their ability to drive development. Otherwise the AU Agenda lies in limbo with the emergence of liberal, right wing and regressive governments designed to reverse many gains of freedom and progressiveness.

For South Africa this marks 31 years of appraisal since the attainment of democracy in 1994, the 70 years of the Freedom Charter and 29 years of the democratic constitution which is a catalytic instrument for meaningful change, a better Africa, sustainable development goals and the African Union agenda 2063.

Beyond the borders of SADC, the ANC had cemented its place in the world, a leader of the G20 countries, securing a place in the international community of nations, its diplomatic efforts and policy of non-aggression and non-alignment by brokering peace in conflict invested areas, advocated for the independence, sovereignty and self-determination of Western Sahara against Morocco and the genocidal Israel occupation of Palestine, an end to the US-Cuba embargo, ces-

sation of hostilities between the Russia and Ukraine, the transformation of the United Nations and its institutions.

These achievements remain hollow and of no significance in the absence of a plan to address persisting domestic challenges of corruption, landlessness, penury, high cost of living, unemployment, the scourge of crime, lack of investment and social maladies of Gender Based Violence and femicide, corruption that affects provision of basic services and stifles economic growth.

The ANC must view this gathering as a platform for dialogue, shared experiences and values, common challenges, and its resilience to navigate treacherous storms. The summit reaffirms the ideological foundation of the SADC nations and political parties tied by the common objectives of development and unity. These liberation movements have transformed the region's political landscape, resisted colonial rule and fought apartheid's flagrant disregard of regional borders in blatant violation of international law.

Since independence these organisations have implemented landmark policies on health, education, housing, electricity and interventions to reduce poverty through industrialisation and infrastructure development. Of importance is a need to inculcate activism to advance freedom, defend democracy and consolidate the goals amassed over many years. This will enhance democracy, revitalise society's confidence and curb misrule. Renewal and unity are important to recalibrate the capacity of liberation movements in the advancement of their respective and collective goals, and redeem trust in the voters in the advancement of the objectives around which they pivot.

This includes the African Renaissance for Africa's rebirth for the cultural, social, political and economic renewal to address the pressing and urgent challenges plaguing the continent. The summit takes place under the theme ***"Defending the Liberation Gains, Advancing Integrated Socio-Economic Development, Strengthening Solidarity for a Better Africa."***

Africa, like the rest of the world, exist in a new and challenging environment. Intra-regional trade and continental partnerships are necessary panacea to the trade tariffs imposed by the United States, aid cuts and a threat to Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), bilateral relations, inclusive multilateralism and collaboration for reciprocal growth and shared prosperity. The world had undergone massive metamorphosis, a radical departure from unilateralism and a unipolar world, imperialism and dominance to a world of plenty opportunities based on progressive internationalism and inclusivity.

For the ANC, the summit should find expression in the commitment to deliver on its mandate of leading development, Africa's rebirth, aligning its theme of renewal, building the ANC into an effective instrument of the people to achieve the vision of the Freedom Charter. In this way the people shall govern and share in the country's wealth.

South Africa faces gargantuan challenges. These challenges are surmountable, requiring a visionary, innovative and ethical leadership with requisite skills, vision and capacity to drive and lead development, to build the ANC into an effective organisation and formidable force capable of meeting the imperatives of development and the priorities of the constitution and the Freedom Charter. The ANC's weakness have an adverse effect on the aspirations of

the people, the country, the region and the objectives upon which it is pillared, and its future.

The Liberation Movements Summit must be outcome based, not a talk show with no impact and effect. The liberation movement must be salvaged, its legacies restored and be recalibrated into a transformative vehicle for meaningful change.

In this way, and in a true sense, South Africa's flag will fly with pride in the international community of nations for the renewal and unity of the continent and the African Union Agenda 2063. In pursuance of and building a better Africa and better world the gains of the liberation must be defended to advance integrated socio-economic development and strengthen solidarity for a better Africa. ■



THINKING IS A POLITICAL ACT

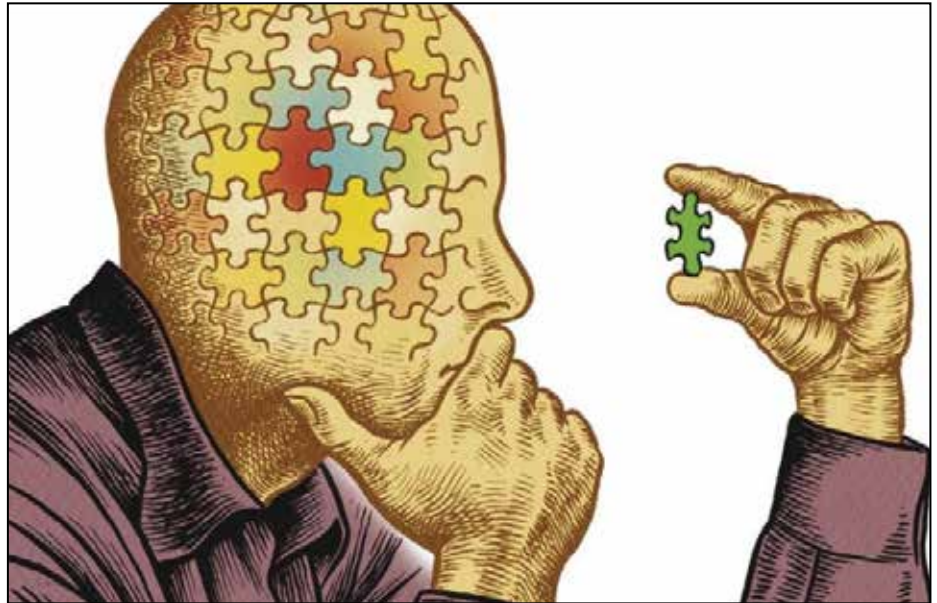
■ By **RAVIN SINGH**

OVER the last decade, few books have shaped my perspective on the world as much as *Factfulness* by Hans Rosling. It reminded me of the power of clear thinking in a noisy, fearful, and polarised world.

I am a political animal. I belong to the ANC. At times, I can behave like a party hack defending the line. But being a hack does not mean you lose the ability to be critical. Growing up in the mass democratic movement, we learnt the value of rigorous analysis over moralising, performative outrage, and optics. Unity never meant naive loyalty; it meant struggle within struggle, confronting contradictions honestly.

Those who led the fightback against state capture came from the broad mass democratic movement, people with skin in the game, not spectators moralising from the sidelines. And, yes, we are aware that the movement has attracted individuals with nefarious intentions. But the issue is about giving them no quarter.

We have rules, such as the step-aside resolution, which ensure that anyone formally charged with a criminal activity must step away from leadership. That is progress, a far cry from the days when such behaviour was swept under the carpet. Save the moralising game for elsewhere; here, accountability is being wrestled with, however imperfectly.



Before you accuse us of patronage and naive loyalty, think again. We are openly critical, unlike many who are still shackled in their private-sector jobs, quietly doing the bidding of those opposed to real transformation, while pretending to be “*above politics*” and posing as the eternal paragons of competence and morality.

Let me also be clear, I am not painting all critics with the same brush. South Africa needs sharp, fearless criticism, and we benefit from it. But if the cap fits, if your critique is lazy, ahistorical, and drenched in Afropessimism, then wear it.

I also acknowledge that the ANC’s poor handling of the sins of incumbency has contributed to this moment. By “*sins of incumbency*,” I mean the inevitable erosion of moral authority and or-

ganisational discipline that comes with holding state power for decades, including complacency, factionalism, patronage, and a culture of entitlement among some who view the movement as a means to privilege rather than service. We failed to pre-empt and correct these trends early and decisively. That failure has allowed shallow criticism from a weak commentariat and an ineffective opposition to dominate the discourse, reducing complex national problems to a simplistic battle of morals and competence. Worse still, it has given voice to those from the ranks of privilege to dominate the national conversation with an anti-transformation agenda, masking their interests in the language of “*clean governance*” while pushing neoliberal solutions that deepen inequality rather than resolve it.

It does not help that we have a

largely poor-thinking and pedestrian commentariat that reduces every debate to shallow binaries and soundbites. Complex histories are flattened into slogans. Policy is dismissed with memes. And so much of what passes for “analysis” is driven by vibes, optics, and outrage rather than any serious grappling with context, evidence, or systemic drivers.

And we must address the issue of “common sense.” Common sense often feels obvious, but it is frequently just the accumulated prejudice of the time, received wisdom repeated without question. “Common sense” once said that apartheid would last forever. “Common sense” still tells us corruption alone explains poverty, ignoring centuries of dispossession.

Thinking critically is more challenging than simply repeating what feels intuitive.

I am not a master of thinking. It is simply a habit I am trying to cultivate. And part of cultivating it is to slow down, to question what seems obvious, and to resist the lazy comfort of “common sense.”

Rosling’s **Factfulness** cuts through fear and anger with ten lessons that apply directly to South Africa’s problems, from political killings to corruption, from hollowed institutions to social despair.

But part of why South Africa is so harshly judged is Afropessimism. Afropessimism is a deeply ingrained worldview that assumes African states are inherently incapable of good governance, that collapse is inevitable, and that corruption is our natural state. It is a narrative that treats African failure as exceptional and African success as an anomaly. Afropessimism blinds people to



**IN SOUTH AFRICA, NOT ALL OF
THE SAPS IS CORRUPT. NOT
ALL POLITICIANS ARE THIEVES.
NOT ALL THE MONEY IS STOLEN.**

nuance and progress, reducing complex struggles to easy stereotypes: “nothing works,” “everything is stolen,” “all leaders are corrupt.” Factfulness teaches us to reject that simplistic fatalism.

Regurgitated MBA case-study “wisdom” (I have an MBA), braai-and-barroom banter, and the smug chatter between golf rounds with bro and bud who are still trapped in the myth that “everything was better under apartheid,” along with endless echo-chamber ranting, is not thinking.

Here is what I carry from that book into my political and activist work:

The first lesson is to avoid “all or nothing” thinking. In South Africa, not all of the SAPS is corrupt. Not all politicians are thieves. Not all the money is stolen. If everything was stolen, how are public servants still paid, and how are millions receiving social grants every month? Systems fail in parts, not in whole. For example, SARS continues to collect revenue effectively despite the attacks it suffered during state capture. Treasury still produces a national

budgeting process ranked among the top three in the world for transparency, and the Auditor-General remains globally respected for independence and professionalism. The problem is never everything, and that matters, because you must build on the pockets of integrity that still exist.

The second lesson is that progress exists, even in crisis. Even in a weakened state, there are green shoots in the economy, and inflation remains broadly manageable compared to global volatility. The Special Investigating Unit has recovered billions from corrupt contracts. The Hawks have made breakthroughs in dismantling construction mafia networks and cash-in-transit heists. SARS is slowly rebuilding itself after the hollowing out of the Moyane years. Progress is there if you know where to look, acknowledge it, while still demanding more.

Third, trends can change. Political violence feels permanent, but nothing is fixed. Post-1994, South Africa actually halved its murder rate before the spike of the mid-2000s, proof that violence can be curbed when governance

CURRENT AFFAIRS

is strong. Even Johann Rupert, our “*pet hate*”, recently reminded Donald Trump that New York in the 1970s was a crime-ridden mess, but it changed for the better with deliberate reforms.

The United States itself faced an era when mafia families controlled entire industries, construction, trucking, ports, and even major unions. Law enforcement there was deeply captured by politicians and private interests, with judges, police commissioners, and city officials on mob payrolls. It took decades of systemic rebuilding, special prosecutors, federal law enforcement reforms, and community-led pressure to finally break that grip. Chicago, once synonymous with Al Capone’s criminal empire, eventually dismantled those networks through persistent, institutional effort. Italy, too, faced a similar capture by the Sicilian mafia, yet anti-mafia prosecutors and civic movements slowly reclaimed state institutions. These examples remind us that no criminal capture is permanent when a society chooses to confront it, and that African countries are not uniquely “*cursed*,” contrary to Afropessimistic narratives.

Fourth, fear distorts reality. Here, we must understand what Rosling calls the “*drama effect*,” which refers to how shocking events dominate headlines and distort our sense of scale. A political killing makes it feel as though everywhere is burning, but the actual data might show targeted patterns rather than random chaos. Headlines about violent protests obscure the fact that most service delivery protests remain peaceful. Sensational coverage of a single cash-in-transit heist makes it feel like a daily occurrence, but statistically, it is a frac-



tion of overall crime. Fear amplifies noise and blinds us to deeper causes and smarter solutions.

Fifth, avoid easy villains. It is tempting to blame just one minister, one cadre, one judge. But scapegoats do not fix systems. Firing one police commissioner will not undo years of hollowed-out capacity in SAPS Crime Intelligence. Blaming a single SOE CEO does not solve decades of policy neglect, sabotage, and corruption networks at Eskom. Corruption is structural, not simply personal.

Sixth, do not rush into chaos. Quick fixes, such as firing people without due process or rushing arrests without solid evidence, create more damage than they solve. Firing someone without a watertight case opens the door to costly legal challenges that the taxpayer ultimately funds. Populist “*instant justice*” may win applause in the moment, but it undermines constitutional safeguards. Urgency must be guided by clarity, not mob justice.

Seventh, think about scale. One political assassination is horrifying, but only patterns show the true depth of the crisis. Political killings are concentrated in prov-

inces like KwaZulu-Natal, not evenly spread across the nation. One spectacular act of corruption, like the Estina dairy farm and other state capture scandals, distorts the perception of thousands of functional tenders quietly delivering services every day. Anecdotes mislead. Data reveals the bigger truth.

Eighth, no nation is destined to fail. South Africa is not doomed to remain trapped in corruption and decay. If the US could uproot entrenched mafia capture over decades, if Italy could begin reclaiming its institutions from Cosa Nostra, then we too can roll back state capture and organised crime through deliberate and sustained effort. Afropessimism insists that Africa is exceptional in its failure; history shows that all societies, even the richest democracies, have faced deep capture and clawed their way back.

Ninth, no single fix exists. A commission of inquiry helps, but it must be paired with NPA reform to ensure prosecutorial follow-through, stronger parliamentary and civic oversight, community intelligence, modern technology to disrupt crime syndicates, and possibly a new body similar to the Scorpions, with proper insulation



from political interference. Complex problems demand layered solutions, not magic bullets.

Tenth, stay precise. Not all commissions are time-wasters. The Zondo Commission exposed the machinery of state capture and paved the way for many of the cases now before our courts. Not all whistleblowers are pure; some have political motives. Not all officials are corrupt; some quietly keep the state afloat against impossible odds. We must deal with facts, not assumptions, if we want real change.

So-called “functional democracies” were not born perfect. They took decades, even centuries, to build. The United States only began seriously dismantling entrenched organised crime in the 1960s. Italy’s anti-mafia efforts span generations. France and Germany struggled with state capture by industrialists for much of the 20th century. These democracies endured their own long, messy fights before institutions became resilient.

As Professor Steven Friedman observed this week, *“as a student of democracy, I can’t think of too many democracies around the world in which a cabinet minister and others in the establishment are accused of wrongdoing and an independent inquiry by a senior judge is appointed within a week. I know of none at all in which the head of government is yelled at for doing this”*. We often forget how exceptional it is that South Africa’s constitutional framework allows for such swift action.

We must also confront a lazy narrative in much of our discourse: that corruption and incompetence are the sole drivers of poverty, unemployment, inequality, and landlessness. They are part of the problem, yes, but they are not the whole. These systemic crises are also rooted in centuries of colonial dispossession, structural inequality, global economic dominance by transnational capital, the financialisation of capital and the deep legacy of apartheid spatial and economic planning. To pretend they can all be reduced to *“if only the government were clean”* is a comforting but false simplification.

When I analyse the current crisis in policing, or the endless noise around commissions, allegations, and political killings, these lessons help me see beyond performance.

Outrage alone will not fix SAPS. Firing one minister will not rebuild trust. We need urgent action, but with due process, evidence, and a long view of systemic reform.

Clear, critical analysis, not moralising, outrage, Afropessimism, fallacies, “common sense” clichés, or optics, is what truly serves the cause. ■





What Confuses, a so-called “Pan Africanist Revolutionary Party” in the **Battle Between the Oppressed Saharawis And Morocco?**

■ By **ZAMANI SAUL**

THE struggle for justice in Western Sahara is complex and persisted for decades. The history of this region revolves around its colonization by Spain and the search for self-determination by the Saharawi people through their liberation movement, the Polisario Front (PF). After Spain withdrew in 1975, Morocco and Mauritania initiated a significant military advance into Western Sahara to affirm their claim for the territory.

The PF backed by Algeria fought for independence against Morocco,

and in 1976 declared Western Sahara as the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). A 16 year war ensued between the PF and Morocco/Mauritania. Mauritania withdrew in 1979 and Morocco claimed sovereignty over the area. The conduct of Morocco was and is still a brutal act of aggression and occupation against the Saharawis.

The PF is still prosecuting, on multiple fronts, an unending struggle against this occupation. The principal grievance of the PF is self-determination, which is

the right of a people to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development. The Saharawi people have a diverse history, made up of their traditions, language and way of life, which they seek to protect against external pressures and continuous occupation.

The continuous presence of Moroccan forces and the establishment of settlements have further deepened the tension. The actions of the Moroccan government, including human rights

Jacob Zuma meeting
with Moroccan
government
officials



violations and land confiscation, have triggered international criticism. This has resulted in calls for justice and the resolution of the conflict through peaceful negotiations.

As the Saharawi people continue their search for justice and recognition, the international community, particularly the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU), remain critical to mediate the conflict. The UN and AU have long recognized the right to self-determination for the Saharawi people.

The roles of the UN and the AU in the conflict reveal serious deficiencies in dealing with the situation. In 1991, the UN set up a mission in Western Sahara with the aim of organizing a referendum to allow the Saharawis to decide their future. However, more than three decades later, the situation remains unresolved as the referendum never materialised. The UN mission suffers from a lack of effectiveness due to geopolitical dynamics, as the US and some European powers support Morocco as the coun-

try serves as their crucial ally in North Africa.

In its support for the Saharawis, the AU passed various resolutions and declarations. In 2015, for example, the AU reiterated its commitment to help the Saharawi people to obtain independence and asked for urgent resumption of negotiations. However, these statements have often translated into limited actions.

For more than four decades, the ANC is steadfast in its support for self-determination and independence of the people of Western Sahara. The ANC remains true to this commitment. On the 30th of January 2017, together with Algeria, South Africa's ANC-led government opposed the re-admission of Morocco as a member State of the African Union.

The question still lingers. What confuses a self-proclaimed "*pan-Africanist revolutionary party*" like the MKP on a simple question of self-determination of the oppressed and brutalised Saharawi people?

MKP's support of the one sided Morocco's autonomy plan for Sahara is mind-boggling. It is a known fact that Morocco bribed many African leaders to support its re-admission into the AU. It is also a known fact that Morocco is a big spender on initiatives in Europe and African that support the retention of the oppressive status quo in the Western Sahara.

I really wonder what happened here... ■



ZUMA'S MOROCCAN DECEPTION: A Betrayal of South Africa's Foreign Policy and the Liberation Tradition

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

I write this piece in my personal capacity, as a disciplined and loyal member of the African National Congress (ANC), deeply disturbed by the reckless and offensive conduct of former President Jacob Zuma during his recent visit to Morocco. What Zuma did was not merely an act of poor judgment; it was a dangerous affront to South Africa's sovereign foreign policy, the ANC's revolutionary commitments, and the African Union's continental posture on the last

remaining colony on African soil: Western Sahara.

Cde Zuma's endorsement of Morocco's so-called autonomy plan over Western Sahara, while his newly formed party's flag flew alongside the official flag of South Africa, amounts to diplomatic vandalism. He was reportedly given the status of a head of state, addressed bilateral trade issues, and publicly pledged support for Morocco's illegal claim over Sahrawi territory. All of this

was done without any sanction from the democratically elected government of the Republic of South Africa.

This cannot go unchallenged.

South Africa's Foreign Policy is Not a Stomach-Based Free-for-All

As the leader of society and governing party, the ANC has long maintained a clear, principled, and internationally respected stance: support for the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination.

In 2004, under President Thabo Mbeki, South Africa officially recognised the SADR. This position is not symbolic but a revolutionary continuation of our solidarity with all oppressed peoples, in the spirit of Oliver Tambo and Chris Hani.

Zuma was part of that tradition. He once spoke from international platforms condemning Morocco's occupation and supporting the Sahrawi cause. Today, with his new belly-driven party, he sings for his supper in Rabat, standing under our national flag while publicly insulting the policies he once swore to uphold.



As an ordinary ANC member, I am outraged. And as an NEC member of the Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF), I am duty-bound to speak out when our country's dignity is traded for political relevance.

Diplomatic Protocols Are Not Suggestions

The South African Constitution is clear:

- Section 198(e) of the Constitution asserts the importance of international law in shaping South Africa's foreign relations.
- Section 7(2) of the Bill of Rights demands that the state act to protect and promote human rights, and that extends to our posture on global injustices such as the colonisation of Western Sahara.
- Our foreign policy is not a matter of personal opinion. The executive's prerogative, through the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), is in line with the Constitution's principles and the Parliament's mandates.

Zuma's visit, draped in national symbols and riddled with statements of support for Morocco, constituted a dangerous misrepresentation of South Africa's official position. This is not protected political speech – it is diplomatic sabotage. Zuma is not a sitting president. He holds no state title. Yet, he acted as if he represented the Republic of South Africa.

This Is Not New – But It Must Stop

The actions of AfriForum, Solidarity, and DA representatives like Emma Powell – who travel the world discrediting South Africa's



official policies on land reform, transformation, or crime—are cut from the same treasonous cloth. But Zuma's case is worse. As a former head of state, his voice carries historical legitimacy. He misuses that voice to undermine the people he once claimed to serve.

I reject his actions. I reject his hypocrisy.

AU and ANC Resolutions Are Not a Buffet

The African Union recognises the SADR. The United Nations has declared Morocco's occupation of Western Sahara illegal. The ANC's Conference Resolutions, including those of 2017 and 2022, reaffirm unwavering support for the Sahrawi people. These are not vague gestures – they are codified in international law, ANC tradition, and the struggle values we inherited.

Zuma's publicly reversing that position now that he has fallen out of favour with the ANC and the state exposes the transactional nature of his new politics. It is not ideology. It is opportunism.

Parliament Must Act

South Africa cannot allow rogue actors, former presidents, or party leaders to represent the country abroad without sanction. This is not just about Zuma – it is about setting a precedent.

Parliament must investigate whether Zuma's actions violate the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, or if a violation of the Executive Members' Ethics Act can be inferred through his unauthorised use of state symbolism and diplomatic representations.

At the very least, DIRCO must issue a public statement distancing the South African government from Zuma's remarks and clarifying that no such visit was authorised. Parliament's Portfolio Committee on International Relations must summon Zuma or his representatives to account.

The Hypocrisy is Staggering

Zuma once supported Western Sahara's freedom, upheld ANC policy, and condemned occupation and settler colonialism. What

happened? Was he born again in Morocco? This political reincarnation reveals the hollowness of his ideological posture. He is not fighting for freedom; he is lobbying for personal resurrection on foreign platforms.

It reminds us of the Biafra conflict, where internal fractures, opportunism, and ethnic ambitions nearly destroyed a post-colonial African nation. Zuma's actions are a chilling echo of those dangers.

As a proud ANC member in Ward 27, Vuyani Mabaxa, and as a revolutionary who still believes in the principles that guided our liberation movement, I say:

Zuma's Morocco visit was not diplomacy – it was betrayal.

His actions are a slap in the face of South Africa's foreign policy, the AU's moral compass, and the ANC's legacy of solidarity.

He must be exposed, confronted, and held to account.

South Africa is not for sale.

Our flag is not a tool of deception. And our foreign policy is not a buffet where the highest bidder gets to pick the parts that suit them.

Zuma has chosen to stand with colonisers.

We, the children of Tambo, decide to stand with the oppressed. ■

Stan Itshegetseng is a member, of the Vuyani Mabaxa Branch (Ward 27, Zone 10) and an NEC Member of the Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF). Patriot. Revolutionary. Pan-Africanist.



Evil Doesn't Wait for Language: Why We Must Name Xenophobia

■ By **NIGEL BRANKEN**

A friend of mine recently commented on my post about the counter-protest we held against Operation Dudula. She referred to something Thabo Mbeki once said to a group of African congregants:

“What is xenophobia in our African languages?”

Apparently, the room went quiet. She was suggesting that maybe, if we don't have a word for xenophobia in our languages, the concept itself is foreign – or maybe

not real in the way it's being described.

She went on to say that people who do have the words – shaped by other histories – sometimes use those words not to understand others, but to control them or to feel morally superior. And that those who are being labelled often have every reason to reject the labels, because they weren't part of shaping the words in the first place.

She said if we really took the time to listen, we might discover that

there's no hate at all – just frustration and disillusionment.

I've been thinking about that. And I want to respond not just in the comments but more publicly here.

The fact that a word doesn't exist in a language doesn't mean the thing it describes doesn't exist. Patriarchy, racism, apartheid – all of these systems existed long before we had names for them.

Evil doesn't wait for language. It just acts.

And this argument – that something doesn't exist because there's no word for it – has been used before. Hendrik Verwoerd said apartheid wasn't oppression, it was just "*separate development*." They tried to rename injustice to make it sound benign. But we all know renaming it didn't make it any less violent. If anything, it made it harder to fight.

The same is true of xenophobia.

I've stood face-to-face with Operation Dudula in the streets – at Hilbrow Clinic, where people were being chased away from medical care simply because they were foreign nationals. I was there at Yeoville Market when they were protesting to get rid of long-time traders, and that market ended up burned down. I've stood toe-to-toe with them on many occasions.

And I've also sat down with their leaders. I've had proper sit-down meetings with them – some of them former branch leaders. I've spent hours listening to them. I've brought documented evidence to show that what they were saying wasn't true. I've tried to have real conversations. I've listened to

stories from leaders in KwaZulu-Natal. I've listened. I've negotiated. I've tried to understand.

But I've also heard the scapegoating. The blaming. I've seen the twisting of truth to justify violence. And that's what we have to call it – violence.

I've also walked with the people who've suffered because of this movement. I've taken people to police stations to lay charges. I've sat with community members from across the country who've been threatened, beaten, chased, and traumatised.

Let me tell you about Dido.

He was a refugee from the DRC. One day, he was chased down the street in Johannesburg with people shouting, "*foreigner!*" A dog was set on him. It mauled him for four hours before someone finally intervened. He was taken to Baragwanath Hospital and lay in a coma for three months. After he was discharged, I took him into my home in Orange Grove

to help him recover. Later, we arranged for him to move in with a fellow Congolese man who could support him more long-term. But during another wave of xenophobic attacks, Dido was chased again. The stress triggered a fragment from his original injury to dislodge. He suffered a stroke and died. I mourned him as a friend and a brother. What do we call that, if not hatred?

Then there's my friend Nthombi. She was eight months pregnant, selling mielies on the pavement in Orange Grove. A leader from Operation Dudula from the Free State approached her, shouted at her, and violently overturned her mielie stand. I was there. I helped her pick up the pieces. Later, I sat down with that very man for three hours in a church-mediated conversation. I listened to him. And I didn't hear justice. I heard fear, I heard blame, and I heard an unwillingness to see her humanity.

And then there's Elvis Nyathi. He was a 43-year-old Zimbabwean man living in Diepsloot. During



a door-to-door “inspection,” he couldn’t produce ID. He was dragged from his home, beaten, doused in petrol, and necklaced – burned alive. I stood with his mother while his body was loaded into the hearse. I held her. I said, “I’m so sorry.” What words are enough to describe that kind of horror?

This isn’t just frustration. This isn’t just disillusionment. This is fear and anger weaponised against the vulnerable. It is xenophobia. And if we don’t name it, we’re complicit in it.

But there’s something else I’ve seen – something that gives me hope.

At the counter-protest this past week against Operation Dudula, we weren’t alone. Abahlali baseMjondolo came. Informal Traders Associations. The recyclers. The Inner City Federation. Civil society allies. It’s no exaggeration to say that more than 90% of the people on our side of that protest were poor South Africans – people living in shacks, in inner-city slums, in difficult, often horrific, conditions. These were not the elite. These were the people Dudula claims to speak for.

And yet, these are the people who stood up and said: *“No. The problem isn’t that we have foreign nationals living here. The problem is the unhealed legacy of apartheid. The problem is inequality. The problem is corruption, and neoliberalism, and capitalism. The problem is a government that has failed to deliver justice.”*

These are people who know hardship. And they know that turning on their neighbours is not the answer.



These are the people who reflect the heart of Africa. Who embody *Ubuntu*. They believe that South Africa – and Africa – belongs to all who live in it. They believe the Freedom Charter wasn’t just words. That we must give it meaning. That we must fight for land, for justice, for economic transformation. That we must build real solidarity, not deepen division.

Abahlali baseMjondolo is a co-applicant in the court case against Operation Dudula (<http://bit.ly/3Tlu0lm>). They represent far more people than Dudula ever has. They speak with the authority of lived experience and moral clarity. The Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI), whose lawyers are representing many of these grassroots organisations, continues to stand with them and with all who are defending the rights of the most marginalised.

We also need to name something else. Operation Dudula isn’t just some organic grassroots uprising. It is deeply influenced by the thinking and structure of colonialism. It upholds borders that were drawn by colonial powers – borders that split families and communities and turned African neighbours into strangers. It pro-

motes a nationalism rooted not in Pan-African unity but in division and exclusion. And if we’re honest, the language and tactics being used carry disturbing echoes of fascism – of movements in history that mobilised poor people’s pain to justify violence against scapegoated groups.

So no, we may not have always had the word “*xenophobia*” in indigenous African languages. But we’ve known the pain and lived the trauma.

Let’s not be distracted by whether or not we have the perfect word.

Let’s ask whether there is harm. And if there is, let’s name it and deal with it. ■

Nigel Branken is a South African social worker, pastor, and activist with a long history of community organising and public advocacy. He leads *Neighbours*, a civil society organisation committed to building solidarity with marginalised communities and confronting injustice. His work focuses on resisting xenophobia, defending human rights, and promoting systemic change. He has recently joined the South African Communist Party, aligning himself with its vision of justice, equality, and collective liberation.



From Reaction to Reflection, Reclaiming Thinking and Design in the ANC

Our Polycrisis is Structural, Not Just Political

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

THE ANC's 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports tell a story not just of electoral decline but of systemic breakdown.

The 2024 elections dealt the liberation movement a historic blow: the loss of our national majority, defeats in Gauteng and KZN, and fractured popular confidence. The enemy was not just external. The real antagonist is the system we've allowed to harden and decline:

- Branches not embedded in communities.
- Feedback loops blocked between ANC structures and the

people.

- Poor service delivery, worsened by local government dysfunction.
- A declining membership, with over 178,000 fewer members in good standing since 2021.
- A demoralised cadre core, disconnected from the motive forces of transformation.

We must say it plainly: this isn't just about campaigning harder or communicating better.

The ANC is producing exactly what it is designed to produce. If we want different outcomes, we

need a different system.

President Thabo Mbeki, in his many addresses, consistently reminded us of the centrality of thought in political life. He warned against the anti-intellectualism that has crept into our organisational culture. *"We must think more about our problems,"* he once said offering not a platitude, but a challenge. To think is to interrogate. To think is to design.

And to think is to accept that inherited systems must be remade. Let's accept the challenge. Let's think. Let's reflect...

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Think about our Branch Executive Committees. Our Provincial structures. Our REC and NEC.

Now ask: what kind of feedback loops do they support?

- Do members get heard, or are they filtered out by gatekeepers?
- Do our systems reward renewal, or reward those who play safe and survive politically?
- Are we able to sense what communities feel, or are we stuck in outdated reporting lines?
- Are we redesigning to include youth, women, and township innovators, or do we keep defaulting to the same names, the same styles, the same old strategies?

These are not rhetorical questions. These are design questions.

Systems Thinking:

A Tool for Political Renewal

In her classic book *Thinking in Systems*, Donella Meadows reminds us: “*The system you have is perfectly designed to produce the results you’re getting.*”

The ANC’s structures, cultures, incentives, and mental models no matter how well-intentioned are delivering low trust, poor performance, declining votes, and fractured coherence. This is not accidental. This is systems behaviour.

Systems Thinking allows us to:

- Diagnose feedback loops (e.g., how mistrust among youth leads to disengagement, which weakens branches, which worsens governance, which deepens mistrust).
- Identify leverage points (e.g., redesigning the role of ANC



branches, not just the number of them).

- Shift from reactive tactics to adaptive system design.
- Transform not just programmes but paradigms, mindsets, and relationships.

Why ANC Leaders Need Systems Thinking Now

Let us move from slogans to strategy. From structure to system. From firefighting to future-building.

Here are 7 system failures revealed in the Annual Reports and how systems thinking helps us redesign them:

1. Declining Branch Functionality

- 2024 report: Over 500 branches lost their status as branches in good standing since 2022.
- System issue: Gatekeeping, weak incentive structures, poor digital systems.
- Design remedy: Feedback-rich systems, branch audit loops, sectoral engagement mapping.

2. Stagnant Membership Culture

- Report shows a drop of 178,057 members in good standing since 2021.

- System issue: Membership as conference currency, not as active civic culture.
- Design remedy: Turn branches into community service hubs. Create self-renewing systems with Letsema, sectoral partnerships, and issue-based mobilisation.

3. Low Youth Turnout & Participation

- 2024 elections: Less than 45% of men under 35 registered or voted.
- System issue: Youth excluded from real influence loops.
- Design remedy: Systems of youth and women protagonism, peer-led governance, participatory design of campaigns. Redesign for equity in opportunity and youth mentorship.

4. Underperforming Service Delivery

- AG’s reports show worsening municipal audits in metros.
- System issue: Lack of real-time feedback, broken intergovernmental systems, poor monitoring.
- Design remedy: ANC-led citizen audit loops, branch-level service tracking, integration with SGBs/CPFs.

5. Disconnected Communication Flows

- Reports cite lack of community trust, blaming leaders for only appearing during elections.
- System issue: One-way communication, no loopback from ground.
- Design remedy: Storytelling systems, digital dashboarding, member-feedback integration, ward-based platforms.

6. Ideological Drift and Loss of Vision

- 2024 report: An “existential

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crisis” of the ANC with “*slow renewal and adaptation to changing conditions.*”

- System issue: No shared long-term narrative or future vision.
- Design remedy: Paradigm-shifting political education, intergenerational dialogue systems, reimagining the Freedom Charter in a 4IR era. Reignite vision, set higher benchmarks, and track delivery honestly.

7. Operational Incoherence

- Report highlights overlapping mandates, slow responses, siloed performance.
- System issue: Misaligned goals, weak horizontal design, no coordination feedback loops.
- Design remedy: Systemic results frameworks (not just compliance M&E), dynamic POA platforms, smart collaboration tools. Align goals, foster dialogue across factions, and use reflective facilitation.

Designing the ANC for the Next 30 Years

We are not in a communications crisis. We are in a systems design crisis.

Design systems thinking does not merely ask “*what should we do?*” but more importantly, “*how do all the elements interact to shape the outcomes we see?*” This discipline teaches us to identify leverage points within a system those small, focused interventions that can produce large-scale change. In a movement like the ANC, such leverage points may include: branch capacity, youth politicisation, cadre development, internal communications, and feedback loops between leadership and membership. To renew the ANC is not to polish its surface. It is to redesign

its nervous system.

Here are 10 Strategic Design System Questions for a Thinking ANC:

1. What is the real problem we’re trying to solve and for whom? (Have we distinguished root causes from symptoms, and centred the lived experiences of the motive forces?)
2. Who benefits, who participates, and who is left behind by our current system? (Are the actual users of the ANC members, branches, voters experiencing inclusion, or alienation?)
3. How do information and feedback flow across our structures and are we really listening? (Is data shared transparently, and are communities, cadres, and councillors part of two-way learning loops?)
4. Where does power flow, freeze, or fracture within the ANC and what enables or blocks renewal? (Do our organisational norms support trust, transformation, or only compliance and preservation?)
5. What are the hidden assumptions and outdated protocols limiting innovation and agility? (Have our procedures and positions adapted to a post-majority, multipolar, digital South Africa?)
6. How do we deal with failure and what systems exist to convert failure into wisdom? (Are mistakes punished or learned from? Do we practice collective self-critique with consequence?)
7. Are we equipping our members emotionally, intellectually, and politically to lead under pressure? (Do our leaders feel supported in reflective thinking, ethical decision-making, and moral stamina?)
8. How do we evolve our rules,

structures, and strategies as conditions change? (Do we have adaptive design capacity or are we stuck in static, defensive patterns?)

9. What does authentic renewal look like in daily practice, and how is it being measured or blocked? (Is “renewal” a slogan, or are we hardwiring renewal into branch culture, cadre deployment, and leadership?)
10. What philosophy or worldview drives our decisions and is it still fit for this historical moment? (Have we interrogated the mental models Marxist, developmentalist, liberationist, technocratic behind our strategic logic?)

Renewal as Systemic Design, Not Just Moral Cleansing

The ANC has often viewed “renewal” as a moral programme: clean governance, removing corrupt elements. That is necessary, but insufficient.

We must now engage in design renewal:

- Who is at the table when we make decisions?
- What is the incentive for branches to grow beyond gatekeeping?
- How do youth enter the system and influence it?
- What does success feel like for a cadre in 2025 not just for elections, but for meaning, contribution, and belonging?

Let’s make the ANC not only an electoral force, but a design system for a just society.

An Offer: Systems Thinking for ANC Capacity-Building

We have seen the ANC at its most powerful and its most painful. I’ve felt the fire of its legacy and the fatigue of its dysfunction. As a seasoned activist, for-

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mer Provincial Secretary, MP, and someone deeply involved in strategic facilitation and systems thinking, Let's offer the following:

A structured, practical ETD strategy session for your space of influence and work whether in the structures, in governance or in communities.

Session Outcomes:

- Learn how systems thinking works in political organisations.
- Diagnose systemic traps within your region or branch.
- Co-design interventions that are small but high-leverage.
- Connect renewal, delivery, and activism through a systems lens.

This session will help your collective: See the invisible systems behind your daily struggles; Di-

agnose recurring problems using feedback loop mapping; Identify your own leverage points for change; Build internal capacity for learning, feedback, and ethical design.

I will bring real tools. Real questions. And real pathways.

To Organise a Session or Dialogue for your region, league, study group, or branch, contact me at the following: *email* faiez@transcendhub.co.za or *WhatsApp*: 083 633 7690.

Final Word: We Must Learn to Dance with the System

We must remember: *"You can't control systems or figure them out. But you can dance with them."*

To dance with the system is to

observe it deeply, understand its rhythms, and move in creative, humble harmony with its reality.

Steve Biko once said, *"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed."* I would add: the most powerful tool in the hands of the liberated is systems thinking.

Let us move forward not just with slogans or survival strategies but with clarity, courage, and design intelligence. Let the ANC be known not only as the movement of Mandela but as a movement that learns, thinks, and designs a better world.

Let us be designers of freedom, not just managers of decline. Let us think anew, live differently, and build systems worthy of the people we claim to serve. ■

Drawing on Donella Meadows' framework, here are some leverage points we can begin working from:

Leverage Point	ANC Application
Parameters	Adjust budgets, quotas, electoral timelines.
Structures	How province, regions report, account, led, manage and act.
Delays	Cut time between problem raised and ANC response.
Information Flows	Public dashboard on service delivery + manifesto progress.
Rules of the System	Electoral committee rules, coalition protocols, disciplinary reform. How will our candidates REALLY be SELECTED? How discipline is enforced.
Goals of the System	Shift from majority-seeking to movement-building. What is our goal in upcoming 2026 Local Government elections? Winning elections or changing our society?
Mindsets	Replace fear, control, and loyalty tests with learning, solidarity, and accountability. Is our paradigm one of patronage or PEOPLE'S POWER.
Transcending Paradigms	Can the ANC learn from Ubuntu, ecosystems, and feminist leadership not just Marx, Mbeki, or Mandela? Can we imagine the ANC not as it was but as it MUST become?

This is not just a technical challenge. It is a spiritual and ethical one.

Once we were 'Comrades'

■ By **BUSANI NGCAWENI**

Corrupt people are not Comrades. They show no regard for the poor. Factionalists are also not Comrades, for they divide the people using pettiness and narrow interests. Neither believes in human solidarity, a key characteristic of being Comrade. They are in fact as counter-revolutionary as the incompetent, the anarchists and the murderous.

C In my mind this morning are the people who call themselves, or want us to call them, “Comrades” when they are in fact “comrades”.

I mean, there is a certain obligation that comes with this title:

1. How you treat people (comradely);
2. Your philosophical/ideological outlook (progressive);
3. How you conduct yourself (honour and integrity);
4. Your strategic objective (your thoughts and deeds must produce national liberation including economic and cultural freedoms); and
5. Locus of enunciation (a deep desire for and unshakeable belief in the value of life, humanity and justice).

Being a Comrade demands of you to be principled such that you can denounce wrongdoing and call for harsher punishment even if it is your own girlfriend or brother who must face the music. Hence the adage “*without fear or favour*”.

So fellows, let's not liberally bestow this progressive title on charlatans and acquaintances who pretend to be Comrades.

Calling someone a Comrade must go with the recognition that he or she who is called a Comrade is capable of empathising, of acting in the best interest of the majority, of sacrificing and of advancing a struggle to liberate the people from all forms of oppression.

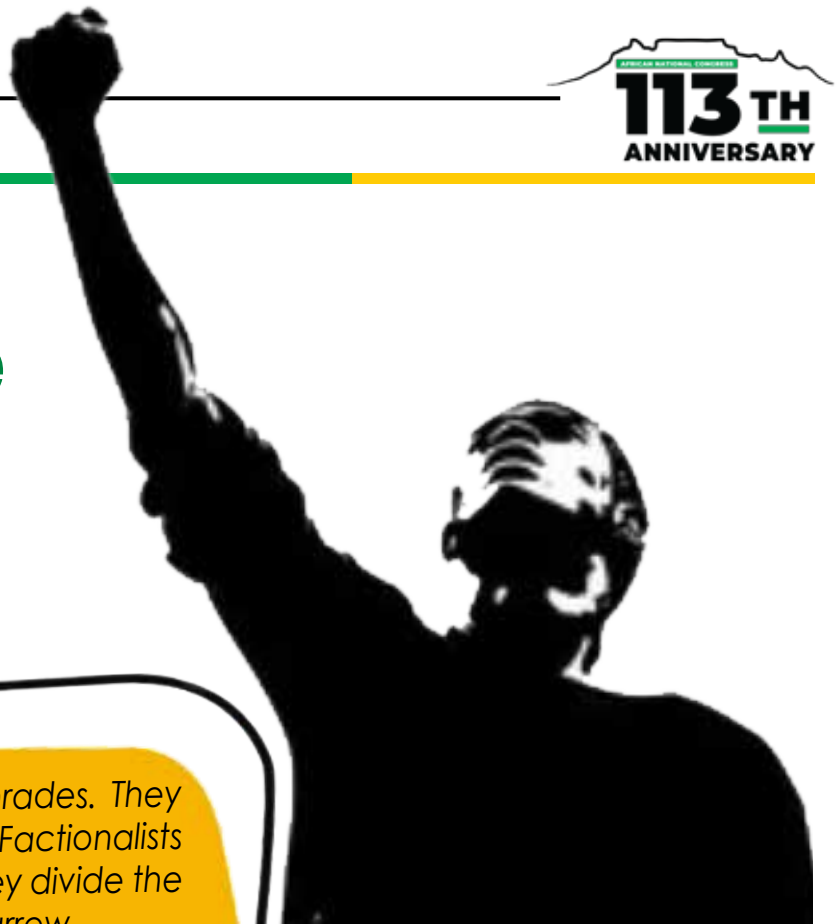
Corrupt people are not Comrades. They show no regard for the poor.

Factionalists are also not Comrades for they divide the people using pettiness and narrow interests. Neither believes in human solidarity, a key characteristic of a Comrade. They are in fact as counter-revolutionary as the incompetent, the anarchists and the murderous.

Just as well, those who divide us racially and ethnically can't legitimately lay claim to the honour of being called Comrade.

So, next time you call me Comrade, think again, and ask yourself: Am I capable of joining you in a struggle against racial injustice, inequality and patriarchy, or will our union end with slogans and single malts? ■

Busani Ngcaweni is Director-General of the National School of Government, South Africa. He writes here in his personal capacity.



Tribute to Comrade Fred Mokoko, *a Dedicated Public Servant*

■ By **HOPE PAPO, ANC Gauteng PTT Coordinator**

AS the ANC Gauteng PTT, we send our condolences to the family, relatives and friends of comrade Fred Mokoko.

We mourn the passing on of comrade Fred, a revolutionary democrat, youth and student activist, committed member of the African National Congress, hero, a dedicated and patriotic public servant who was politically produced by the Congress student and youth movement.

Comrade Fred was born in a South Africa characterised by colonialism of a special type and the crime of apartheid. He responded to the call to join the liberation movement and became part of the struggle for freedom in a politically organised and discipline way.

He joined the ranks of the progressive student and youth movement from the late 1980s through the COSAS/SOSCO, SASCO and ANC YL.

He joined the struggle during a very difficult decade which started in 1979 to 1990 after the launch of COSAS and AZASO in 1979. AZASO was initially a student wing of AZAPO but moved to the Congress movement in 1981 under the Presidency of Dr Joe Phaahla. That was a difficult and bloody decade which was characterised by mass detentions, assassinations, kidnappings, dis-



appearances and massacres.

It was also a decade characterised by the building of mass-based organisations such as COSAS (SOSCO in Soweto after the banning of COSAS on 1985), AZASO (renamed as SANSCO in December 1986), South African Youth Congress (SAYCO), Civic and Women's movement, trade unions, progressive religious, sport, arts and professional organisations which were organised under the banner of the United Democratic Front (UDF). It was also a period where organs of people's power such as street, block and village committees were built throughout the country.

It was during the period he was part of the progressive student and youth movement that he started to know and understand the history of our country and

continent from the pre and post-colonial era; the history of the liberation struggle and movement, its theory, ideology and cultural aspects which included songs, poetry and drama; heroic battles and wars waged by the oppressed people of South Africa against colonialism and apartheid; contemporary politics of the liberation movement in our country, continent and the world; the political meaning of the ten clauses of the Freedom Charter; understanding the relationship between the struggle for peoples education and national liberation of the oppressed and exploited black majority.

He further started to understand the relationship between the struggle for national liberation, gender equality and class struggle and their continental and international dimensions. He also

saw the cruelty and viciousness of the criminal apartheid system and the version of the South African capitalism which thrived and prospered on the basis of the oppression and exploitation of the black majority.

That is the summary of the environment and political foundation which shaped and made comrade Fred to start appreciating and valuing the importance of social and political consciousness, mobilisation, organisation and education of those who were part of the struggle for freedom.

This was also one of the then four pillars of the national democratic revolution which were formally adopted as part of the Strategy and Tactics at the ground breaking ANC National Consultative Conference convened in 1969 at the Tanzanian town of Morogoro. The Morogoro Conference was convened to assess the state of the struggle at the time and to develop a programme to improve and heighten its prosecution.

The other three pillars of the NDR were political underground, armed struggle and international solidarity which worked together, reinforced and strengthened each other.

He was committed, dedicated, passionate, rational and intellectually astute. He understood the political dangers to the NDR having any member or leader without proper political education and its internalisation in their day to day lives.

He also understood the importance of comrades being familiar and conversant with organisational policies, principles, decisions, programmes and adopted Conference resolutions to enrich the content of discussions and not to rely on rumour, gossip, fake news and what is at times is



reported in a distorted fashion by some media about our organisation and country.

He understood that the Freedom Charter evolved to become the basic foundation document at the centre of what was known as the Congress Alliance and now known as the Alliance between the ANC, SACP, COSATU and SANCO.

He understood that the Freedom Charter was not just a document which came out of the blue, but was preceded by important documents such as the African Claims of 1943 and the Women's Charter of 1954.

He also understood that the Freedom Charter is the foundation document to build a National Democratic Society as outlined in the 2017 ANC Strategy and Tactics document.

He appreciated and valued the decision of the ANC 55th National Conference to anchor organisational unity, rebuilding and renewal on political education and ideological development of members and leaders.

He also understood the importance of ANC Leagues, SACP, COSATU affiliates, SANCO and Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA)

to also unite, rebuild and renew themselves to have a strong ANC, Alliance and PYA.

Comrade Fred was a respected Congress activist and leader who could operate at various levels of the organisation. He is a son of Meadowlands in the biggest township in the country called Soweto.

His political sophistication, street wise mannerisms and language distinguished him as one of the sons of this great township.

In memory of the life of comrade Fred which we honour today, let us recall the wise words of our struggle leader, legend, veteran and stalwart Mama Albertina Sisulu when she said:

“We are each required to walk our own road and then stop, assess what we have learnt and share it with others. It is only in this way that the next generation can learn from those who have walked before them”

Let us take lessons from the progressive life of comrade Fred in our current difficult but doable task to unite, rebuild, renew and strengthen the ANC, its Leagues and Alliance. That is what preoccupied the life of comrade Fred until he passed on. ■

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

26 July—1 August 2025

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

26 July 1847

Establishment of Liberia

The republic of Liberia was formed by freed slaves and descendants from the Transatlantic slave trade, and who repatriated back to the continent. The American Decolonization Society founded Liberia in 1822, helping to settle those who chose to return. On this day, the Liberian Declaration of Independence was signed. The repatriated returnees made up 5% of the Liberian population, and dominated the first republic, until an uprising by indigenous Liberians led by Samuel Doe in 1980. The country went through two civil wars (1989–1996 and 1997–2003). Liberian women, through the Women in Peacebuilding Network and the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace, and the continental organisations (ECOWAS and the OAU/AU), played an important role in ending more than two decades of civil war. Liberia elected Africa's first female President, Dr Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, serving two terms from 2005–2018. In 2018, former footballer George Weah was elected as Liberia's 25th President.

26 July 1939

Poet and artist Wopko Jensma born

South African poet and graphic designer Wopko Jensma was born in Middelburg, Eastern Province. Highly talented but suffering from schizophrenia, he studied at



various tertiary institutions and majored in sculpture at the University of Pretoria. After having lived in Mozambique, Botswana and Swaziland for some time, Jensma returned to South Africa where he disappeared in 1993 without a trace from a Salvation Army Men's Home, a shelter that accommodates homeless people.

26 July 2004

Music legend Siphon Gumede passed on



Born in Cato Manor near Durban, Siphon Gumede started playing music on a homemade guitar. He joined his first band at the age of

16 and soon became a sought-after bass player. Over the course of his career, he recorded 18 albums under his own name and four with his band **Sakhile**, formed together with Khaya Mhlangu and Mabi Gabriel Thobejane. He recorded and performed with Timmy Thomas, Kippie Moeketsi, Stimela, Margaret Singane, Abdullah Ibrahim, Winston Mankunku, Hugh Masekela, Brenda Fassie, Caiphus Semanya and Letta Mbulu.

27 July 1914

Margaret Ekpo born



Nigerian women's rights activist and politician, Margaret Ekpo is born in Creek Town. She mobilised against colonialism in the 1940s, and organised a trade union for Aba market women, the Akba Township Womens Association. After independence, she continued to advocate for women's rights, in a male dominated political system. Ekpo won a seat in the Eastern Regional House of Assembly in 1961, a position that allowed her

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to fight for political and economic issues affecting women at the time. Her biography, *Margaret Ekpo. Lioness in Nigerian Politics* by Stella A. Effah-Attoe and Solomon Odimi Jaja was published in 1993. Ekpo passed away in 2006 at the age of 92.

27 July 1999 Law Society apologises to Mahatma Gandhi, 105 years later

The Natal Law Society, 105 years later, apologized to Mahatma Gandhi. In a statement issued in 1999, Law Society President David Randles said: “*The society apologises unconditionally, albeit posthumously, to the late Mahatma Gandhi for having attempted to restrict his rights to practice as an advocate in Natal.*”

27 July 1970 Establishment of Uranium Enrichment Council

Government release Uranium Enrichment Bill to cater for the establishment of the national Uranium Enrichment Council, and South Africa’s plans to become a nuclear power. Already in 1948, an Atomic Energy Board (now the Atomic Energy Corporation) was established, and the country became a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1957; two years later in 1959 government announced the creation of a domestic nuclear industry. Although the then Prime Minister, John Vorster proclaimed the sole objective was “*to promote the peaceful application of nuclear energy*”, the country went on to build nuclear weapons. Two nuclear power stations, Pelindaba and Koeberg were built, both still in existence today. In 1991, South Africa signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT),

voluntarily dismantled its nuclear weapons programme in 1993, and in 1996, South Africa signed the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty – also called the Pelindaba Treaty. (www.nnr.co.za/history)

28 July 2008 South Africa gets new R5 coin

In response to the wide circulation of a counterfeit version of the old R5 coin around 2003/2004, the Reserve Bank redesigned the R5 coin, to make it more difficult to copy. The new thicker and heavier bi-metal coin has a silver coloured border and a bronze coloured center.

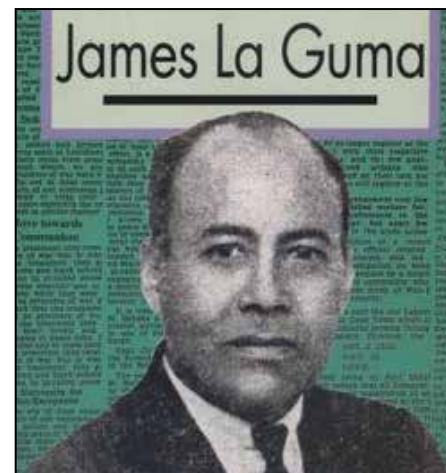
28 July 1945 Father of isiXhosa poetry, Samuel Mqhayi passes on



Samuel Edward Krune Mqhayi, author, educator, linguist, poet, translator and composer, grew up in rural Transkei, and was a teacher who also edited a number of isiXhosa-language journals, served on the board of the isiXhosa Bible Revision committee, and helped to standardize isiXhosa orthography and codify isiXhosa. His published works include his first “*U-Samson, Ityala lamawele*” (1914), “*The Lawsuit of the Twins*” and “*Imihobe Nemi-bongo*” (1927); “*Songs of Joy and Lullabies*” which included original

stanzas from Enoch Sontonga’s *Nkosi sikelel’ iAfrica*, to which Mqhayi added seven additional stanzas. He also wrote *U-Don Jadu* (1929), described a futuristic non-racial state that combines elements of Xhosa society and Western culture. Mqhayi’s autobiography, *U-Mqhayi wase Ntab’ozuko* (“*Mqhayi of the Mountain of Beauty*”), was published in 1939; and two other of his works, “*The Death of Hintsa*” and “*The Dismissal of Sir Benjamin D’Urban*,” were published posthumously in Mqhayi in Translation in 1976.

28 July 1961 James La Guma passes on



James La Guma, born in 1894 in Cape Town was a trade unionist, political activist and a member of the ANC and Communist Party of South Africa. Orphaned at age 5, he started work in a bakery in Parow at the age of eight. Having left school early, he was largely self-educated, buying books at second hand stalls on the Grand Parade. Reading exposed La Guma to radical ideas and in 1906 he participated in his first strike, organising workers on the diamond fields. He was escorted by police from the mines and shortly thereafter left for Namibia (then South West Africa) with a friend to work. Upon his return in 1921, he joined the Industrial Commercial

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Union (ICU), with the first task to revive the defunct Port Elizabeth ICU. In 1923, La Guma married Wilhelmina (Minnie) Alexander, the daughter of a carpenter who was active in the African Political Organisation (APO). In Minnie, La Guma found a lifelong companion and fellow activist. Of their marriage a son, Alexander, the celebrated novelist, and a daughter, Joan, were born. La Guma joined the Communist Party in 1925 and was elected to its Central Committee in 1926. He devoted his energies to the CPSA and the African National Congress (ANC). In 1927, he was elected secretary of the Cape Town branch of the ANC and the following year became the organisation's secretary for the Western Cape. In February 1927, he travelled to Brussels, Belgium, as CPSA delegate to the first international conference; also visiting Germany to give lectures; and visiting the Soviet Union with ANC president JT Gumede. Although a committed communist, La Guma displeased the largely white CPSA hierarchy because of his Africanist militancy. In 1929, La Guma was expelled from the CPSA for breach of discipline. He rejoined the CPSA in 1947, was elected to its Central Committee and served until the party's dissolution after the passage of the Suppression of Communism Act of 1950. La Guma re-entered protest politics in 1957 when his son, Alex La Guma, was arrested on a charge of high treason in December 1956 for his role in the Congress of the People. La Guma's health failed rapidly after his release from prison, and died on 28 July of a fatal heart attack at Groote Schuur Hospital in 1961. La Guma received the Order of Luthuli, Silver posthumously. (<http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/national-orders/recipient/james-arnold-jimmy-la-guma-1894-1961>)

29 July 1921 The Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA) founded



At a public meeting held in Cape Town, attended by thousands of mainly Coloured workers, Bill Andrews announced the establishment of the CPSA, and its aims and objectives. Its founding congress followed shortly, from 30 July – 1 August 1921. The CPSA was formed mainly by radical white worker leaders and socialists, inspired by similar communist and Marxist parties in Europe. The first CPSA executive included CP Tyler as Party chairperson, Bill Andrews as general secretary and SP Bunting as treasurer. By 1928, the CPSA and ANC started overtures to work together. The SACP was relaunched as a legal organisation on the same day in 1990, at a rally of over 45,000 people in Soweto. An interim leadership, the SACP named a 22-member interim leadership core to work on recruitment and building legal SACP structures, after decades of illegality. Members of the ILC included Joe Slovo, Dan Tloome, Chris Hani, Ronnie Kasrils, Sydney Mufamadi, Chris Dlamini, and Moses Mayekiso.

29 July 1931 Botanist George Clerck born

The pioneer of botanical science in West Africa, George Clerck is born in Accra, Ghana. Clerck published over 250 papers particularly in plant pathology,

influencing agricultural, forestry and conservation policies in the region. His study of fungi that attack cocoa beans helped West African cocoa farmers.

29 July 1960 Dr Salim Karim born

South African scientist and public health specialist, Dr Salim Abdool Karim is born in Durban. Karim worked as epidemiologist and infectious disease specialist, especially on the HIV and COVID-19 pandemics.

29 July 1990 Monrovia Church Massacre prompts ECOWAS intervention

In the single worst atrocity during the Liberian Civil War, 600 people are killed in a church in the capital Monrovia by soldiers loyal to President Samuel Doe. Only a few children survived hiding under the bodies of slain adults. The massacre pushed the Economic Community of West African States to send an intervention force to Liberia.

30-31 July 1967 Luthuli Combat Detachment and start of Wankie campaign

The '*Luthuli Detachment*', made up of units of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) operatives, and the Zimbabwean African People's Union (ZAPU) guerrillas, crossed the Zambezi River from the Zambian banks of the river into Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) on 30 and 31 July 1967, at the start of the Wankie and Sipolilo battles which continued until late 1968. Fearing possible leakage of information to the Rhodesian and South African Forces, the area where the crossing was to take place was kept

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Surviving members of the Luthuli Detachment

secret until the day of the event. The primary objective of this operation was to march across Rhodesia to South Africa to set up underground operations to politically mobilise South Africans in different sections of the country. The other mission was to set up military bases, together with ZAPU forces, in north-eastern Rhodesia. The operation became known as the Wankie campaign, after the Wankie Game Reserve, where the ANC and ZAPU guerrillas infiltrated into Rhodesia.

30 July 1947 Passing of ANC Youth League first President, Anton Lembede



Teacher, lawyer, activist and the founder thinker of Pan Africanism, Lembede suddenly died at the age of 33 in Johannesburg. At the time of his death, Lembede was doing his doctoral thesis through UNISA. Anton Muziwakhe Lembede was born on 21 March 1914 at Eston in the former Natal. Lembede started in formal schooling at the age of 13 at the Catholic Inkanyezi School. He secured a scholarship to train as a teacher at Adams College Durban, from 1933 to 1935. Through private studies two years later, he passed the matriculation equivalence exams with a distinction in Latin. He taught in Natal and the Orange Free State during which time he obtained BA AND LLB degrees over a six-year period from the University of South Africa (UNISA). In 1943, he moved to Johannesburg to serve legal articles under Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, the veteran African National Congress (ANC) leader. He qualified as an attorney in 1946 and became Pixley Seme's law partner. Two former acquaintances, Jordan Ngubane and AP Mda, initiated Lembede into the ANC in 1943. Together with other intellectuals, the three worked to form the ANC Youth

League (ANCYL) on 10 September 1944. Lembede was elected the League's first President. He was central in the drafting of the ANCYL's March 1944 Congress Youth League Manifesto. Lembede, a profound intellectual, was a leading advocate of more militant strategies and tactics in the ANC, and was later considered an architect of the 1949 programme of Action, even though he died before its adoption.

30 July 1976 Solly Sachs, socialist passed on

South African trade unionist and anti-apartheid activist Solly Sachs was born in Lithuania in 1900 and the family moved to Johannesburg in 1914. Sachs became active in trade unions, and joined the Communist Party of South Africa and the Communist Youth League, rising in the ranks and elected onto the CPSA Central Committee in 1930. Although Sachs left South Africa in 1953 and settled in England, he continued his opposition to the South African government. He is the father of former Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs.

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31 July 1969

Albertina Sisulu banning orders renewed



On 31 July 1969 Albertina Sisulu, had her banning order renewed for another five years after the expiry of a previous one. Reasons for the renewal included her activism in the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and the then banned ANC. As part of her banning orders, she was also placed under house arrest. Ma Albertina Sisulu became the South African person longest under banning orders.

31 July 2007

Joint AU-UN Darfur Mission

To prevent genocide in the war-torn Darfur region of the Sudan, the African Union and United Nations partner in a joint peacekeeping mission, the UNAU Mission in Darfur (UNAUMID). It is the first joint peacekeeping mission, and largest, at one point comprising close to 2000 military personnel, 3 772 police, and a further 3000 other personnel. The mission finally withdrew from Sudan in 2021.

1 August 1876

Sekhukhune defeats Boers Sekhukhune I, King of the Bapedi, successfully resisted the Boers during a protracted Boer/Bapedi land ownership war. On 16 May

1876, the Volksraad of the South African Republic declared war on Sekhukhune and his followers. A Boer commando under President T.F. Burgers, armed with 7 pounder Krupp guns, reached the Bapedi stronghold on 1 August. The Bapedi, also armed with rifles, offered stiff resistance and inflicted a humiliating defeat on the well-armed Boer force.

1 August 1936

Official Launch of SABC

In 1934, General James Barry Munnik (JBM) Hertzog, prime minister of South Africa, ordered an official investigation into all aspects of Broadcasting in South Africa. The investigation ultimately led to the formation of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), under Act 22 of 1936. The broadcasts of the African Broadcasting Company (ABC), which was formed in 1927, ceased and the broadcasts from the newly formed SABC began.

1 August 1973

Treaty establishing CARICOM signed

The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which was signed by Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago and came into effect on August 1, 1973. Subsequently, the other eight Caribbean territories joint CARICOM.

1 August 1985

Victoria Mxenge assassinated

Victoria Nonyamezelo Mxenge, human rights lawyer, a former nurse and UDF activist and leader, was murdered on 1 August 1985 in her home in Umlazi



Durban. This brutal murder of Mam M was meant to silence her crusade on behalf of her people against injustices. Shortly before her brutal slaying in front of her children, Victoria Mxenge spoke at the funeral of the Cradock Four. A leader of the Natal Organisation of Women, the UDF and Release Mandela Committee, as a lawyer she fought for the rights of those denied their human dignity. At the time of her death, she was also one of fifteen United Democratic Front team members facing trial for treason, was part of the defence team of the Pietermaritzburg Treason Trial, and represented the families affected by the cross border raids by the regime at Matole and Lesotho. Mam M's assassination happened nearly four years after the assassination of her activist husband Griffiths Mxenge in November 1981. A year later, on 1 August 1996, students from Claremont, King Williams Town and Chesterville staged a protest on the day of the commemoration of her assassination. Although one of her murderers admitted to the killing during the TRC hearing, none of those in the security branch who ordered her killing applied for amnesty or were prosecuted. Victoria Mxenge was awarded the Order of Luthuli posthumously in 2004.

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INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

26 July – 1 August 2025

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

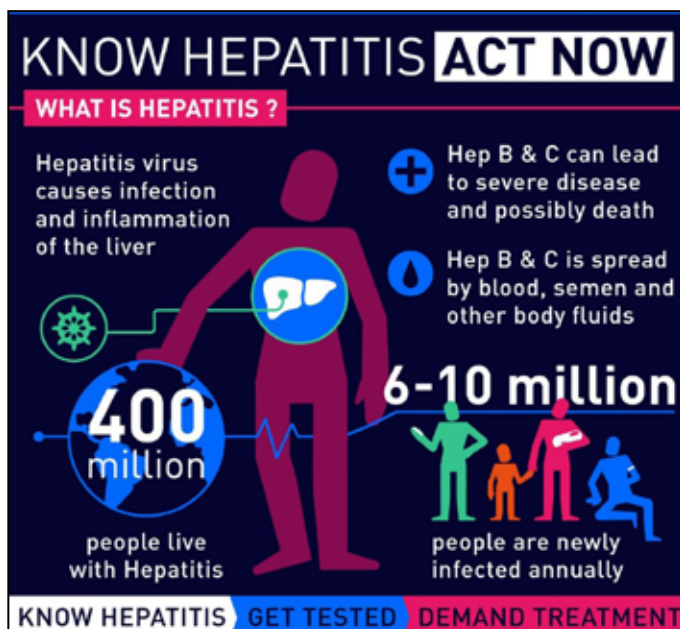


28 July

World Hepatitis Day

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection that causes severe liver disease and hepatocellular cancer. There are five main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A,

B, C, D and E. These five types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread. Hepatitis is spread through contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person. Viral hepatitis B and C affect 325 million people worldwide, causing 1.4 million deaths a year. It is the second major killer infectious disease after tuberculosis, and 9 times more people are infected with hepatitis than HIV. Hepatitis is preventable, treatable, and in the case of hepatitis C, curable. However, over 80% of people living with hepatitis are lacking prevention, testing and treatment services. The theme for 2024 is *Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down*.



30 July

International Day of Friendship

Our world faces many challenges, crises and forces of division – such as poverty, violence, and human rights abuses, among many others – that undermine peace, security, development and social harmony among the world's peoples. To confront those crises and challenges, their root causes must be addressed by promoting and defending a shared spirit

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of human solidarity that takes many forms – the simplest of which is friendship. Through friendship – by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust – we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good.

30 July

World Day against Human Trafficking



Human trafficking, also called ‘modern slave trade’ is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. Globally, countries are detecting and reporting more victims, and are convicting more traffickers. This can be the result of increased capacity to identify victims and/or an increased number of trafficked victims. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims. Traffickers the world over continue to target women and girls. The vast majority of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 35 per cent of those trafficked for forced labour are female. Conflict further exacerbates vulnerabilities, with armed groups exploiting civilians and traffickers targeting forcibly displaced people. Data also shows that trafficking happens all around us as the share of persons trafficked within their own country has doubled in recent years to 58 per cent of all detected victims, according to the 2018 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

31 July

African Women’s Day

The Day of the African Woman celebrates the first Pan African women’s gathering, when women from all parts of the continent gathered in Dar es Salaam on 31 July 1962 to form what was then known as the “Conference of African Women”, which later transformed into the Pan African Women’s Organisation



(PAWO). The main aim of the founding mothers was to establish an organisation which will ensure full and effective participation of women in political, economic and social development in their countries, continent and the world. The day is used to reflect on how far the continent has progressed in meeting this objective.

1 August

World Wide Web Day

Celebrated annually on August 1, World Wide Web Day is a tribute to the groundbreaking invention that has connected people globally. According to UNICEF, more than one third of young people do not have access to the internet or to adequate devices or data, and over 2.2 billion young people do not have access to stable internet at home, making online learning inaccessible. As we therefore celebrate World Wide Web day, we must continue to fight for digital inclusion through universal broadband access, as a basic human right.

1-7 August

World Breastfeeding Week

World Breastfeeding Week is an annual celebration which is held every year from 1 to 7 August in more than 120 countries. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), “Breastfeeding provides every child with the best possible start in life. It delivers health, nutritional and emotional benefits to both children and mothers. And it forms part of a sustainable food system. But while breastfeeding is a natural process, it is not always easy. Mothers need support – both to get started and to sustain breastfeeding.” In 2025, the theme for World Breastfeeding Week is “**Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems**” – which is a call to action to build lasting, equitable support for breastfeeding mothers everywhere. This week is more than a health campaign; it’s a global movement to invest in the future of children, families, and the planet.