

ANG TODAY

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Conversations with the **President**



Sustainable economic empowerment calls for innovative policy solutions

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

MONGST the most salient features of our country's empowerment aws are their practicality, feasibility and responsiveness to economic conditions without deviating from the objective of redressing the economic injustices of exclusion of the past..

This stems from the need to meet two separate but interdependent objectives.

The first is to achieve substantial change in the racial composition of ownership, control and management of the economy to overcome a history of exclusion.

The second is to achieve growth that is not only inclusive but sustainable in the long-term, by broadening the economic participation of enterprises owned by black South Africans, women and young people.

The Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment legal framework applies to all companies wishing to invest in and do business in our economy, whether they are local or foreign.

Empowerment laws are not unique to South Africa. These laws are often referred to as indigenisation or localisation measures. They exist in various forms in other emerging market economies with similar histories of race-based economic exclusion such as India, Zambia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Malaysia and Brazil.

A number of these jurisdictions compel foreign investors or mul-

tinationals who wish to invest in the economies of those countries or in certain sectors of their economy to fully set aside equity stakes in their companies to local entities as a prerequisite for operating in the country.

This can serve be seen as a barrier to entry for investment in certain environments.

However we have found that many would be investors do embrace these measures as they enhance inclusiveness, lead to broad acceptance of their companies and tend to grow market share.

South Africa's empowerment laws are distinct in that our empowerment or indigenisation measures are practical and innovative.



In addition to having a pure equity participation measure we have introduced the Equity Equivalent Investment Programme (EEIP).

It was created to accommodate multinationals whose global practices or policies prevent them from complying with the B-BBEE ownership element through the 'traditional' sale of equity or shares. It allows multinationals to invest in socio-economic, skills and enterprise development in South Africa without selling equity in their local subsidiaries.

Some in the public space have recently sought to suggest that the EEIP represents a circumvention of B-BBEE laws - and that it is a response to the conditions of a particular company or sector.

Neither are factually correct. Firstly the EEIP is not new and has been in existence for a decade.

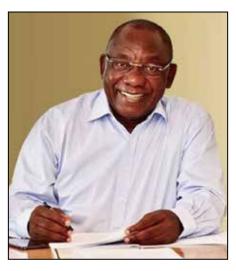
It is firmly embedded in our laws and is not a an attempt to 'water down' B-BBEE.

Secondly there are stringent requirements for multinationals to participate.

All EEIP initiatives must be aligned to government's economic policies and strategic goals.

There is firm government-backed oversight over EEIP programmes that must be broad-based in terms of impact.

Since its inception, the EEIP has encompassed a broad range of sectors and onboarded some of the world's leading multinational firms such as Hewlett-Packard, Samsung, JP Morgan, Amazon, IBM and automotive firms such as BMW, Volkswagen, Nissan and Toyota.



By way of example, last year IT giant Microsoft announced a R1,32 billion investment over ten years in skills and supplier and 4IR research and development under the EEIP.

These firms have leveraged the EEIP to direct investment into local development, to incubate black, youth and women-owned businesses, and to fund skills development. This has in turn assisted government in achieving a number of policy and also infrastructure goals.

Equity Equivalents have been proven to be a practical B-BBEE compliance tool for multinationals operating in South Africa, and we will continue to leverage them in pursuit of economic growth and job creation.

Not only do we have to move away from the perception that we must make a choice between growth and transformation - we also have to shift the mindset that compliance with B-BBEE is punitive or burdensome.

By supporting firms with compliance they are able to embrace empowerment as a meaningful investment in South African's long-term economic stability. This is a sound strategy that recognises that a transformed South African economy is one in which their investments are safe and quaranteed.

Just as our economy has evolved since our B-BBEE laws were first conceptualised, so has the playing field.

The emergence of new industries, whether it is digital technology, advanced manufacturing, Al or renewable energy - means South Africa must actively position itself to attract greater foreign and domestic investment in these sectors or risk being left behind.

As a country we have had to adapt and evolve in response to these economic trends, and continue to do so.

We are clear that our empowerment laws remain central to our goal of economic transformation in South Africa and are here to stay. As business and industry, as labour, and indeed as all of society we should remain firmly behind these laws that are integral to undoing the injustices of the past.

Our focus going forward must remain creating an enabling policy environment, driving key structural reforms, supporting innovation, and reducing regulatory barriers to harness the potential of emerging industries and support existing ones.

Beyond the spirited and often heated debates currently underway around B-BBEÉ and the EEIP, the pursuit of inclusive economic growth that creates jobs and improves the lives of our people remains our overriding goal.





Building Youth Capabilities for a Developmental State:

Advancing Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DEPUTY PRESIDENT PAUL MASHATILE ON THE OCCASION OF THE

G20 HIGH-LEVEL INTERGENERATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

T is an honour to be here today after I have just returned from a very successful Working Visit to the Russian Federation, where our delegation was warmly welcomed and engaged in an intense programme aimed at deepening bilateral trade and economic ties between South Africa and Russia.

As you all know, Russia has a longstanding relationship with South Africa, stretching back to

the fight against apartheid. Our visit thus allowed us to consolidate those historic ties, while also committing to strengthening political, bilateral, economic, and trade relations today.

Amongst other engagements, we visited the Saint Petersburg University, established in 1735, which trains a number South Africans and has relationships with nearly all universities in our own country. One of the pleasing as-

pects about the institution is that it has committed to teaching isi-Zulu and isiXhosa to improve people-to-people relations and cultural diplomacy between the two countries.

I also participated in the SPIEF Youth Academy, under the auspices of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2025. The SPIEF Youth Academy is a platform designed to inspire and support talented youth, focusing



on practical content and formats. It aims to provide opportunities for young leaders to fulfil their potential, support mentorship, and engage them in solving global socio-economic issues.

What fascinated me most, was the level of expertise and knowledge in the use of artificial intelligence and digital technology. This has further strengthened my belief that we too in South Africa, must invest in this area of work because we are living in the knowledge economy, and it is a requirement for us to be globally competitive.

We must follow the heed of Professor Tshilidzi Marwala by including artificial intelligence, machine learning and computational intelligence work in the Early Childhood Development curriculum for young people.

Equally, we must continue to invest in scientific training to remain competitive in nuclear medicine because we need more Professors like Professor Sathekga at the University of Pretoria, Professor Vilakazi at Wits University, and Mathematics Professors such as Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.

This is the only way we can be globally competitive, but also importantly, this will ensure that as a nation we can be self-reliant.

We are also gathering today, at a moment when the world is on the brink of war. We in the South uniformly condemn the attacks on the Iranian people. We are optimistic that a ceasefire between Israel and Iran will hold.

As South Africans, we fully understand the impact of war and instability on ordinary people



and continue to make a call for a permanent truce in all conflicts around the world. We therefore urge all young people throughout the world to unite and advocate for peaceful solutions in every platform.

Those who work closely with me will tell you that I always find immense joy and satisfaction in interacting with young people.

When young people participate actively in discussions and decision-making processes, they provide unique perspectives and ideas that assist in shaping a more inclusive and prosperous future.

Youth activism has been a significant force in history, with young people frequently leading social and political movements, even in the chronicles of history.

Young people consistently devised strategies to advocate for change, they led protests and organised themselves, frequently opposing the status quo and striving for a more promising future.

It is impossible for instance to discuss the liberation of South Africa without acknowledging the contributions of youth activists such as Hastings Ndlovu, Hector Pieterson, and Tsietsi Mashinini, who organised the mass demonstration that revolutionised our nation.

Through the scattered blood of these young souls on June 16, 1976, and in remembrance of others who perished for the same cause, such as Stanza Bopape, Solomon Mahlangu, Ashley Kriel, and Steve Biko, today South Africa has attained political freedom.

Indeed, we have achieved political freedom, vet economic freedom remains elusive. Hence the involvement of young people in tackling current issues like unemployment, inequality, and poverty is still as crucial as it was in the apartheid era. The question that confronts us therefore, is how can we further involve young people in addressing these challenges?



First and foremost, as I have said before, we need to create opportunities for their meaningful participation in solutions and decision-making processes. This involves ensuring that individuals have access to education and opportunities that improve their skills, support youth-led initiatives, and promote inclusive economic growth.

We need to turn our attention to vouth capabilities and development to empower young people to unleash their untapped potential. When we invest in youth development, we tap into this potential and convert it into a force for positive change and sustainable development.

Today's topic, "Building Youth Capabilities for a Developmental State: Advancing Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability," is an imperative. Investing in the capabilities of young people is essential for achieving meaningful solidarity, enduring equality, and sustainable development.

South Africa stands at a defining moment in its democratic journey.

The G20 provides South Africa with a strategic opportunity to frame global policy discussions around the capabilities of young people as agents of inclusive economic transformation, inclusivity, and sustainability.

This presents an opportunity for the African people to take charge of their own development. It is a call to reshape the global order toward justice, equity, and sustainability through the leadership and capabilities of our youth.

It is necessary for me to acknowledge that youth around the world, including South Africa, is confronted with a complicated terrain of potential and difficulties.

The growth of the Global South and the evolving nature of international cooperation are two examples of the shifts in global power dynamics that have a substantial influence on this generation.

In other words, we are witnessing a multi-polar shift of global power.

The Global South is asserting its voice. Institutions like BRICS, the African Union, and now our Presidency of the G20 reflect a growing consensus: that development must be inclusive, people-centred, and youth-driven.

This presents a collective moment for us to re-frame global discourse. A moment to insist that Africa's youth are not passive recipients of aid or policy, but agents of innovation, enterprise, and governance.

Our presence here in these multilateral platforms, however, is not without historical weight. South

Africa continues to advocate for equitable participation in the Global South.

This is a significant moment for renewal and inclusion, and that means ensuring that we leave no one behind. And the role of young people is crucial in shaping a more inclusive and stable global order.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 reminds us that the youth are Africa's greatest asset'.

Africa is the world's youngest continent, and if we do not leverage this demographic dividend into inclusive growth, we risk wasting our own future potential.

Young people can build the Africa we want.

An Africa that is well defined in the Agenda 2063, Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future.

Agenda 2063 encapsulates not





only Africa's aspirations for the future but also identifies key flagship programmes which can boost Africa's economic growth and development and lead to the rapid transformation of the continent.

These include the Integrated High-Speed Train Network, the flagship Grand Inga Dam Project, the Single African Air Transport Market and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The African Continental Free Trade Area presents unprecedented opportunities!

We must intentionally empower youth-owned businesses to participate in intra-African trade through simplified trade regimes, digitised customs, and youth quotas in procurement and export support.

We are pleased to announce that South Africa has officially ratified the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area. This milestone is not just a symbolic gesture; it is a decisive policy action that signals our intent to mainstream gender and youth equity within intra-African trade policy.

The protocol is significant because it operationalises the inclusion of woman-led and youth-led enterprises in regional and global value chains. It mandates the removal of structural trade barriers. prioritises access to information, finances, and markets, as well as requires state parties to create enabling legal and policy environments for inclusive economic participation.

In a continent where women and young people make up the majority of the population and yet remain on the margins of formal trade, this protocol helps to rewire trade systems to reflect demographic and developmental realities.

South Africa's ratification means we are committed not only to advocating for inclusive trade but also to designing trade systems that are fit for purpose. This inclusion reinforces South Africa's leadership role on the continent and supports the broader message of building youth capabilities for a developmental state.

We understand that we need young people to meaningfully build capable, ethical, and developmental states. We must integrate youth into national and continental planning frameworks, not just as beneficiaries but also as co-architects of development.

As you always say, "Nothing for us without us." And indeed we cannot make decisions about the youth without them.

This resonates with the ideals we have, to build a sustainable world, investing in intergenerational skills transfer, mentorship and co-leadership.

For the many young people trapped in high degrees of informality and pervasive cycles of unemployment, a functioning and competent government is their only opportunity of breaking free from marginalisation.

Therefore, the first and most pressing priority of our government is the promotion of inclusive economic growth, industrialisation, employment, and reducing inequality.

Our Government has laid foundational work to resolve the imminent challenges faced by young people:

Over 70% of government funding for post-school education now goes to no-fee universities and TVET colleges. The National Skills Fund and NSFAS support over a million students, with a specific focus on scarce and future-fit skills.





- Through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative. over 1.7 million temporary and full-time jobs have been created since 2020. These include roles in education, social services, and digital economy pilots.
- Programmes like the SA Youth.mobi platform have registered over 4 million young job-seekers, connecting them to work and training opportunities.

These efforts should indeed scale to match the number of young people that are in search of economic opportunities.

The South African Government will bring more focus towards:

- Strengthening education-to-employment pipelines that prepare youth for participation in both traditional industries and emerging sectors.
- Investing in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), particularly in green manufacturing, sustainable infrastructure, and digital services.
- Support and formalising informal sectors and revitalising the township economy linked with industrialisation efforts, allowing young entrepreneurs to contribute meaningfully to economic revitalisation.
- Provide incentives for youth inclusion in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), support for cooperatives, and start-up capital through development finance institutions.

The time has come for us to move beyond inclusion as a moral goal and make it a measurable outcome.

In this regard, it is important for

the economy to strengthen the viable pathways for youth inclusion.

We have noted that young people complain about the red tape and bureaucratic hurdles they need to overcome to access services designed to support and scale their entrepreneurial efforts.

The Presidency has established a specialised unit focused on enhancing the business climate by addressing regulatory obstacles. This team is adopting a coordinated, cross-sectoral approach, engaging various government departments and entities to streamline processes and enable business growth.

Key interventions in this regard will target the removal of administrative bottlenecks in strategic sectors. These include improvements to the mining licensing framework, facilitation of tourism transport permits, and streamlining of visa and work permit processes, as well as regulatory support for early childhood development services and the informal economy.

For us to achieve our developmental goals, we need to create an enabling ecosystem that removes red tape, fosters entrepreneurship, and ensures youth-led businesses can scale, trade, and thrive.

Our way forward must be bold and measurable:

- We will anchor youth inclusion in every major pillar of our G20 Presidency, from climate finance and trade facilitation to digital transformation and skills mobility.
- We will institutionalise intergenerational co-leadership in governance frameworks, moving beyond consultation

- to shared power and shared design.
- We will work with regional and global partners to implement targeted reforms that enable young people to start businesses, access capital, and engage in cross-border trade.

As South Africa prepares for the G20 Leaders' Summit in November, we do so with the consciousness that global leadership must be grounded in domestic credibility and continental solidarity.

The developmental state we seek to build is not a theoretical construct; it must be a living architecture built on the capabilities, aspirations, and contributions of its young people.

This roundtable has made one thing clear: youth are not merely beneficiaries of policy; they are builders of nations. We must now ensure that the decisions we take at multilateral forums reflect this truth. We look forward to receiving your submissions on how we can champion a new development compact where the youth agenda is not marginal but mainstreamed into public policy, budgeting, and delivery.

Let the G20 remember that Africa is young!

South Africa is ready, and we want young people to take the lead in the developmental and transformation agenda. The future is yours, and you are the future!

Stand up, persevere, and confront every challenge with persistence.

We are here to provide you with the support you need as you navigate this process.



WE MOURN THE PASSING OF COMRADE DAVID DABEDE MABUZA

A Dedicated Servant of the People, A Seasoned Leader of our Movement

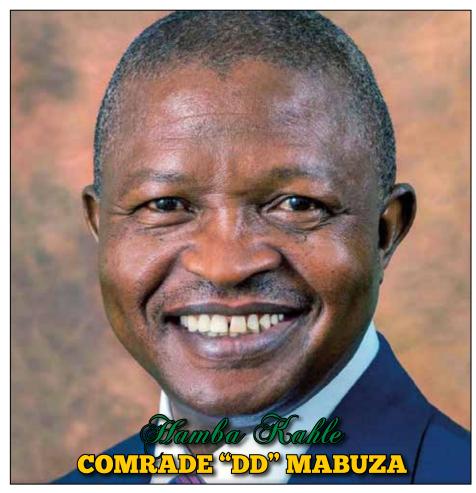
■ By ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA

HE African National Congress (ANC) mourns the passing of Comrade David Dabede Mabuza, a dedicated servant of the people, a seasoned leader of our movement, and a stalwart of the democratic struggle.

Cde David Mabuza, affectionately known as DD within society and our ranks, served as the Deputy President of the ANC, Deputy President of the country and leader of government business.

He had a charming personality that connected with the people, reflective of the ANC's rootedness in society. Rising from the ranks of student activism to becoming Premier of Mpumalanga and ultimately the Deputy President of the Republic, Cde Mabuza exemplified a life committed to the liberation and upliftment of the people.

As a leader, he played a critical role in building the ANC structures in Mpumalanga and the country. He was instrumental in strengthening unity and stability within the organisation. His term as Deputy President was marked by a calm and steady hand.



Cde Mabuza was deeply committed to reconciliation and nation-building, acting as a bridge-builder within both the movement and government. He served the ANC with loyalty, dignity, and discipline, always anchored in the values of the organisation.

The ANC extends its heartfelt condolences to the Mabuza family, friends, comrades, and the people of South Africa.

May his revolutionary spirit continue to guide us as we carry forward the struggle for a better life for all.



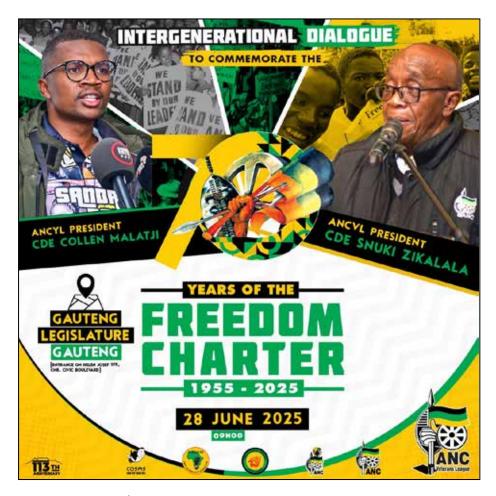
ANC Veterans League holds Intergenerational Dialogue with youth formations to reflect on and celebrate the Freedom Charter

By LISA SEFTEL

S part of the ANC's commemoration of 70 years since the adoption of the Freedom Charter, the Veterans League held an Intergenerational Dialogue with the ANC Youth League, Young Women's Desk of the ANC Women's League, COSAS and SASCO.

Hosted by the Gauteng Legislature, the event was attended by approximately 75 comrades. The meeting began with a screening of an extract of a video entitled Isithwalandwe: The Story of the South African Freedom This visual journey Charter. through history reminded everyone of the Charter's foundational role in the liberation struggle. The video can be viewed here.

Cde Snuki Zikalala, President of the ANC Veterans' League, and Cde Thlologelo Collen Malatii, President of the ANC Youth League, shared lessons from the Congress of the People and emphasised how some of the Charter's clauses, especially in respect of economic freedom, remain to be achieved. Cde Zikalala emphasised that the veterans want to "pass the baton" to the



younger generation.

The programme involved asking a selection of veterans and youth to briefly explain what had motivated them to join the liberation struggle. "It brought us all together in a symbiotic relationship of generational equals. It showed that both the old and the young were all equally young and cast in the same cloth - although in different periods," said ANC veteran. Ronnie Kasrils.

FREEDOM CHARTER 70TH ANNIVERSARY





In the afternoon, participants broke up into nine smaller groups, each focusing on a specific clause of the Freedom Charter, such as "The people shall govern" or "The land shall be shared among those

who work it." Facilitators guided the groups, where attendees introduced themselves and discussed ways to accelerate the implementation of the Freedom Charter. Lively exchanges highlighted the intergenerational con-

nections between veterans and youth, bridging past struggles with present-day challenges.

"This was a rewarding way of celebrating seventy years of the Freedom Charter and posing the vital questions of our achievements and shortcomings in all frankness", said Ronnie Kasrils.

"It is not simply a historic document for the classroom, but stands the test of time, which begs our drive to ensure its implementation in the face of enormous problems that need to be resolved in the service of our people and their needs", he concluded.

The Veterans League intends to continue rolling out intergenerational dialogues to reflect on the Freedom Charter at a provincial level in the coming months.





THE YOUTH MUST EMBRACE ANC FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

■ By **THEMBILE NQABENI**

S we enter the new month, having celebrated Youth Month, we must take stock of what this month means.

We know all about the heroism displayed by the lionised class of 1976. In fact, we take courage from their bravery and selfless sacrifice for the betterment of their fellow learners, and importantly, their country.

The question that young people today must ask themselves is, what kind of legacy do they want to leave behind? Have they done enough to etch their names in the annals of history, the same way Tsietsi Mashinini, Kgotso Seatlholo and many others of their generation did?

Do young people, particularly those who belong to our glorious movement, ANC, have the same courage that the class of '76 had? Would today's youth be willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice for an idea they believe in? Would today's youth, be willing to forego all the material trappings and social standing for the good of their fellow, less privileged comrades?

The youth must honestly deliberate on these questions and, as the future that will inherit this country, ask themselves what kind of country do they envision South Africa being. The African



National Congress has taken a position that crass materialism and opulence must be condemned.

Worryingly though, some of these young comrades have completely disregarded that organisational position and openly and proudly embraced that foreign culture. This is concerning because this is precisely what our people have been complaining about and has been identified as a key factor in bridging a divide between the African National Congress and the people.

That is why the reintroduction of the ANC Political Education must be welcomed by all of us who love this organisation. The African National Congress has, for the first time since 1998, introduced foundational political education foundational courses. The importance of these courses cannot be overemphasised. They shape the thinking of young comrades and dare I say, teach them the correct politics of the ANC.

It does become very disheartening to see the youth engaging in self-destructive and anti-revolutionary conduct. The country is faced with a myriad of challenges which require the youth to be at the forefront of addressing them.

Creative and innovative ideas are what is needed to get us out of the challenges that we are currently faced with. I listened to the





President of the Youth League, Comrade Collen Malatji with keen interest recently.

Addressing thousands of young people, President Malatji boldly declared that from now henceforth, the young people are going to demand to be in critical leadership positions. President Malatji went further to declare, much to the excitement of those in attendance, that President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa is the last, as he so colourfully described him, 'pensioner' to lead the country.

That effectively shuts the door for our beloved National Chairperson, Comrade Gwede Mantashe, Deputy President Comrade Paul Mashatile and many other senior comrades. These elders stand no chance, according to Comrade Malatji, of holding key leadership positions after this term.

That is all well and good. In fact, the youth must be encouraged to be decision-makers and be allowed to take their rightful place in steering the country to prosperity. There is absolutely no doubt that many of them are capable, all that is needed is for them to be

given an opportunity.

The Free State Provincial Government must be applauded for entrusting young people with major responsibilities. The Acting-Director General is fairly young, and so is the acting HOD for the Department of Social Development. That shows vision on the side of the provincial government. However, more can and must be done.

The youth must refuse to be spectators and neither must they allow to be overlooked in key positions. That is why the march by the Free State ANC Youth League on Monday, 30 June was important.

The Youth League, as we have come to know it, is radical in nature. One of its key characteristics is challenging the status quo.

Equally, the conduct of our young comrades in public, must be in line with what the ANC stands for.

The reintroduction of political education gives one hope that, out of these courses, a new cadre will be born. A cadre who, like the class of '76, put personal ambition to the side and fight for the good of the country instead of personal goals.

It is our hope that these courses, namely History of the ANC, Vision and Values, Country and the World, Constitution and Government as well as The Role of the Branch, will 'deprogram' some of our young comrades from incorrect conduct and to fully embrace what the organisation stands for. The African National Congress has always taken pride in revolutionary discipline. An ANC cadre did not just sing 'ayihlale phanzi, ibamb' umthetho' they lived it.

Thembile Nqabeni is the Acting Director Communications Services & District Development Model at the Free State Department of Social Development. He is also the ANC Free State Provincial POLEDU Coordinator, the National Archives Advisory Council Member, former National Coordinator OR Tambo School of Leadership (NPO) and a former CEO African Men's Voice Organisation (NPO). He writes in his own personal capacity.



ANC Councillors Must Serve as Ex-Officio Members in the BEC

■ By Thabang Maseko

HE ANC Branch constitutes the fundamental building block of the African National Congress. It serves as the primary unit where members engage in political discussions, formulate policy and leadership accountable. Branches also play a crucial role in mobilizing communities, implementing programmes and ensuring ANC policies and decisions are carried out at the grassroots level.

Historically, the ANC branch's role evolved from passive resistance to mass struggle through strikes, boycotts, and defiance campaigns.

This branch work intensified after the ANC's banning, relying on mass mobilisation as a pillar of the struggle. Branches were tasked with mobilising people against repressive government laws, disseminating information about ANC activities, and coordinating underground operations under the organisation's discipline.

These branches were the first line of defense against apartheid state propaganda and its armed forces, while mobilising communities to protect ANC leadership and Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) members from security forces. Today, ANC branches are called



to perform similar tasks under different material conditions. They must lead, articulate, defend, and actively participate in government programmes.

These branches engage in doorto-door campaigns, seeking people's partnership in creating a better life for all. Therefore, ANC branches must take full responsibility and accountability for service delivery and its shortcomings.

Against this backdrop, the following outlines the tasks of ANC branches in ensuring effective governance. Understanding the ANC and Its Strategic Objectives. This task is fundamental to ensuring the ANC's future and should not be taken for granted.

It involves consistent induction

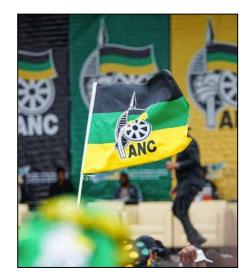
workshops for new members. Existing members must lead in orientating newcomers to the organisation's policies, strategies, tactics, constitution, culture, and protocols on a regular basis.

This exercise allows long-standing members to engage with these issues from perspectives informed by current material conditions. From my experience in the ANC Yure Mdyogolo branch, creating space for new members to express their views and perceptions about the ANC is an opportunity that must be valued.

The ANC has evolved over decades, and recruitment methods from the 1960s differ from those in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and the 21st century. Thus, foundational workshops are vital for sustaining the ANC's vibrancy.

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These should be mandatory for all branch members, with a minimum of two workshops per month. All Members must participate in the ANC. A vibrant ANC branch provides space for all members to contribute their ideas, skills, and competencies for the organisation's well-being.

This space must not be exclusive to those elected to the Branch Executive Committee (BEC). Vibrancy is further characterised by continuous engagement with broader society.

Branch members should review the concept of "Two Centres of Power in a Ward." A ward councillor automatically serving as Branch Chairperson or Secretary undermines the ANC's branch structure.

Some ward councillors manipulate ANC programmes for municipal elevation or promise Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) opportunities (e.g., Ntshentula), thus disrupting the ANC's daily operations.

I propose that the ANC reinstate councillors as ex-officio members of the BEC to ensure accountability to the entire branch. rather than to themselves, as is common in many branches.



THE DA'S BARK IS LOUD, **BUT ITS BITE IS TOOTHLESS**

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

AST week I attended a funeral. As is customary among comrades, the sombre tone of the service eventually gave way to the more reflective and, at times, spirited discussions during the "after tears." Among the many topics discussed - from local organizing to broader questions about the state of our politics - the issue of the DA's latest outburst featured prominently. The dismissal of Andrew Whitfield as Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition was dissected alongside other critical matters affecting our glorious movement. After those exchanges with comrades and reflecting on the DA's Saturday press conference, I am now firmly convinced: the DA is playing a loud but ultimately toothless game.

Let us start with the facts. The President removed Whitfield after it emerged that he had travelled to the United States without obtaining the necessary authorization from the Presidency. This was not an innocent mistake. It was entirely in line with the DA's established behaviour - undermining the legitimacy of the state when it does not suit them. This time, the President responded in a refreshingly direct manner, providing the public with a clear and formal explanation for the dismissal.

The DA, as expected, reacted with outrage. They called a press conference on Saturday, where they declared they were now "prepared" to table a motion of no confidence in the President. This

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followed their earlier 48-hour ultimatum - one that was calmly dismissed by the President. These sorts of threats have become routine from the DA: provoke, dramatize, threaten, and then backtrack.

But here is the simple political reality: the DA will not leave the Government of National Unitv. Not out of commitment, and certainly not out of loyalty to the country - but because they cannot afford to. A year into the GNU, they have alienated almost every other participating party. Only the Freedom Front Plus still tolerates them, largely because both parties appeal to the same conservative voter base and neither wants to be seen as capitulating to the ANC.

If the DA were to walk out of the GNU today, it would be left entirely isolated in Parliament. As for their motion of no confidence? It is a political non-starter. They would need 201 votes in the National Assembly to succeed, and they know they cannot get there. Their only chance would be to secure the support of the EFF and the MK Party - two formations they have attacked at every opportunity, both locally and abroad. It is the height of hypocrisy to expect support from parties they have consistently undermined and vilified.

This isn't strategy. It's desperation disguised as bravado. Their press conference wasn't about building pressure; it was about appeasing their base and trying to create the illusion that they still matter in a fast-changing political environment.

Now let us return to the core issue - the unauthorized trip to the United States. The DA has



long been building relationships with right-wing figures in America. This has become part of their broader strategy to apply foreign pressure on the South African government to roll back its transformation agenda. Before last year's elections, they even went as far as writing to the US government, requesting it to "monitor" our elections - casting doubt on the integrity of South Africa's democratic institutions without any evidence.

Their conduct is no different from that of AfriForum. The difference is only in style, not substance. On every major issue - Black Economic Empowerment, affirmative action, the BELA Bill, and land reform - the DA and AfriForum speak in one voice. The DA has simply become the polished face of a right-wing project that aims to erode redress and maintain the status quo.

So when diplomatic tensions arose between South Africa and the United States, the DA did not hesitate to step in. They believed these matters were too important to be left in the hands of what they likely perceive as incompetent black leadership. They saw an opportunity to present themselves - to their ideological kin in Washington – as the stabilizing force in an otherwise "untrustworthy" government. They didn't travel there to defend South Africa's position. They went to signal to the American right that they are the custodians of order - the ones keeping the natives in line.

That is not diplomacy. That is betrayal. It is also racist to the core. And the President had no choice but to act. To let such an action go unanswered would have sent the message that foreign-aligned insubordination is acceptable in government.

The outrage that followed Whitfield's dismissal is not about process or principle. It is about power and race. The real offence, in the DA's eyes, was that a black President dared to fire a white deputy minister. That is the subtext of the outrage. That is what has fueled the DA's tantrum. Once you understand that, the rest of their reaction begins to make sense.

The DA's bark is loud, but its bite is toothless. They are trapped in a position of their own making too arrogant to build coalitions, too entitled to play their role with humility, and too isolated to win without help from those they scorn. They do not want to build a better South Africa. They want to dominate it. And when they are unable to dominate, they seek to destabilize.

This moment calls for clarity. The DA's performance on Saturday was not a defence of principle, but the latest episode in a long history of selective outrage. They remain in the GNU because they have no better alternative. Their motion of no confidence will fail. And their growing irrelevance will continue - unless they begin to respect the democratic processes they claim to uphold.

The rest of us must remain vigilant, but not distracted. The DA can bark all it wants. It no longer holds the leash.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Kairos, Again: Truth, Morality and the **Crisis of Our Time**

■ By AARON LUNGA HOBONGWANA

HIS year marks the 40th anniversary of the Kairos Document, a courageous theological and political intervention born in 1985 at the height of the apartheid crisis. It came from the townships of Soweto, penned by South African theologians who refused to be silent while the state brutalised the people and the church either watched in silence or spoke in platitudes.

At its core, the Kairos Document was more than a religious statement – it was a political and moral reckoning. It challenged not only the State Theology that distorted scripture to defend apartheid, but also the Church Theology that preached reconciliation without justice. It called instead for a Prophetic Theology – one that took sides with the oppressed, named sin and injustice plainly, and demanded action.

Today, forty years on, the challenge of the Kairos Document confronts us again. It invites us - as a movement and as a country - to reflect deeply on how far we have come, and whether we have remained faithful to the truth and to the moral values that once

reminds us now: "There can be no real peace without justice and no reconciliation without repentance."

We are a long way from 1985. The apartheid state is gone. Millions have gained rights, services, and dignity denied to them for generations. Our democratic breakthrough in 1994 was a historic moment of liberation. But with that freedom came new responsibilities - and, if we are honest, new failures.

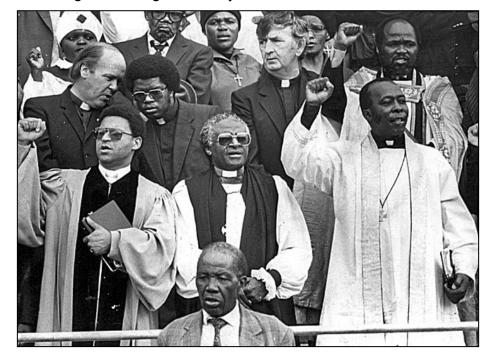
This 40-year milestone must become a moment of reflection:

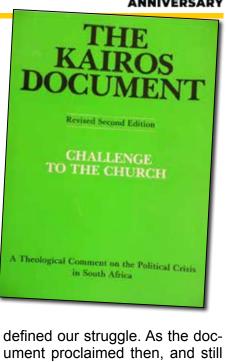
What is our relationship to truth today?

What has become of revolutionary morality, both in our individual conduct and in our collective leadership?

Have we held onto the moral clarity that once guided us in struggle, or have we become afraid of difficult truths?

Too often, we hear again the vague comforts of Church Theology - calls for peace without naming injustice, for unity without





CURRENT AFFAIRS





confronting betrayal, for calm in the face of collapse. We speak of reconciliation while corruption thrives. We call for hope while inequality deepens. We declare renewal, yet tolerate mediocrity and moral decay.

This is not only a policy failure. It is a crisis of conscience, a kairos moment. As the original document put it:

"This is the Kairos, the moment of grace and opportunity, the favourable time in which God issues a challenge to decisive action."

The ANC, historically, has understood such moments. Our movement was never only about votes or government — it was a moral force, rooted in the pain and hope of the people. Leaders like Chief Albert Luthuli, Oliver Tambo, and

Nelson Mandela did not separate politics from principle. They believed that liberation required a deep ethical commitment to justice, truth, and accountability.

In more recent times, leaders such as Thabo Mbeki warned against the corrosion of our movement's soul, cautioning that "the sins of incumbency" would test our integrity far more than the hardships of struggle. Today, that test is before us.

We are again in a kairos moment – a decisive juncture in history where we must choose between renewal and decay, between truth and evasion, between a revolutionary morality that serves the people and an opportunistic silence that protects the powerful.

This anniversary of the Kairos Document is not just for the

church. It is for all of us who still claim to walk in the tradition of liberation. It is for every cadre, every leader, every institution that once pledged loyalty to the people and to the cause of justice.

As we face this moment, we must ask hard questions:

- Are we telling the truth about the crisis we face?
- Do we act with moral courage, or do we retreat behind convenience?
- Have we turned our movement into a shelter for the ambitious, or do we still honour the revolutionary ethic of service and sacrifice?

It is not too late to recover what we have lost. But doing so requires honesty. It requires struggle – not just against injustice in society, but against decay within ourselves.

We must reclaim the boldness of that 1985 generation who, when faced with moral compromise, declared: "To remain neutral is to side with the oppressor."

Let us honour the Kairos legacy not with ceremonies and speeches, but with truth, action, and a return to revolutionary morality.

This is our kairos. Let us not waste it. ■



Kairos 40th Anniversary Gathering

Cape Town: 25 - 27 September 2025

Hosted by the University of the Western Cape's Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice





5-11 July 2025

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

5 July 1937Publisher and Author Asenath Bole Odaga born



Kenyan publisher, Asenath Bole Odaga was born on this day in Raneda. Odaga founded Lake Publishers, the first woman-owned publishing company. Lake Publishing issues work of Kenyan publishers in book forms as well as through audio and visual story telling. She wrote several children's books herself, so that African children could "read about their own background and know real African heroes with whom they can identity."

5 July 1954 TANU formed

The Tanganyika African Association, formed in 1921 by Ali Saidi to advocate for African interests against British colonialism, is transformed into the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. TANU became the principle organisation in the achievement of independence.

5 July 1957

Afro-Shirazi Party of Zanzibar formed

The future ruling party of Zanzibar, the Afro-Shirazi Party is formed from a merger of the Afro Party (mainly African members) and the Shirazi Party (mainly Islamic members). TANU and Afro-Shirazi Party merged on 5 February 1977 to form Chama Ca Mapinduzi (CCM)

5 July 1975 Cabo Verde gains independence



This year marks the 50th annivesary of the independence of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde). Cabo Verde, which consists of 10 volcanic islands in the Atlantic oceans on the west coast of Africa, gained independence from Portugal colonial rule on this day. The struggle for independence was primarily led by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), with Amílcar Cabral being a key figure in the movement.

5 July 1991 ANC Conference elects



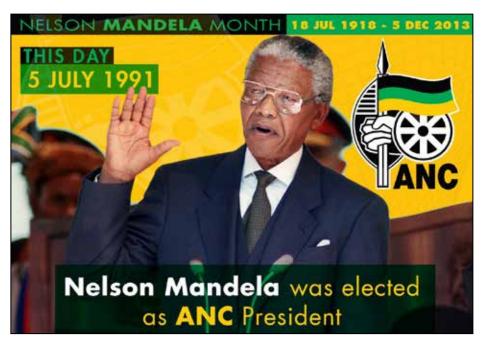
The 48th National Conference of the ANC held in Durban elects Nelson Mandela unopposed as its new President and Walter Sisulu as its Deputy President. Oliver Tambo becomes National Chairman, Cyril Ramaphosa Secretary General and Jacob Zuma Deputy Secretary General. Thomas Nkobi retains his post as Treasurer General. This was the first conference in South Africa of the ANC since its unbanning in 1990.

5 July 2000

Blood diamonds ban

The UN Security Council imposed a ban on Sierra Leone's "blood diamonds", as part of efforts to end the civil war, which started in 1991 and only ended in 2000. The Revo-





lutionary United Front (RUF) occupied diamond mines and used the diamonds to fund its insurgency. The civil war saw over 50,000 casualties, and countless rapes, mutilations, torture and the abduction of children forced to become soldiers. The ban was lifted in 2003. The Kimberley Process Certification scheme came into effect in 2000, adopted by the World Diamond Congress in order for the industry to police conflict/blood diamonds.

6 July 1937
Author and Historian
Bessie Head born



Bessie Amelia Emery was born in Pietermaritzburg on this day, as a child to mixed parents. Her mother was sent to a mental hospital when pregnant and Head given up for adoption. Her love for books manifested early, and she went on to train as a teacher in Durban. Bessie soon resigned from teaching and took the train to Cape Town to work as a journalist, and later worked in Johannesburg where she interacted with notable writers such as Can Temba, Lewis Nkosi and Dennis Brutus, and where she met Robert Sobukwe and joined the PAC. She immigrated to Botswana in the 1960s, where her career as an author took off, with three novels When Rain Clouds Gather (1968), Maru (1971), and A Question of Power (1973).

6 July 1967

Biafra war starts in Nigeria Nigeria with its many ethnic groups, a product of British colonialism and the forced integration of the three major groups, the Yoruba, Igbos and Fulani-Hausa that always had their own administration, culture and religion, into a unitary state. In 1966, a coup by Igbo army officers was followed by reprisals against the Igbo population and unilateral declaration of independence of Biafra in the eastern region by Emeka Odu-

megwu Ojukwu. On 6 July 1967, the Nigerian army sought to re-annex Biafra, leading to a 30 month civil war, that saw over a million people perish.

7 July 1889

Celebrated Nurse Constance Nothard born

Constance Annie Nothard, nursing sister and recipient of the Florence Nightingale Medal from the International Red Cross Society, was born in the Eastern Cape. Nothard rendered outstanding service in the South African Military Service in Europe during the First World War and was awarded the Croix de Recompense for distinguished service in France. She received the first Gold Medal of the South African Nursing Association on 12 May 1961 in recognition of exceptional service in times of war and peace. The Library at the South African Nursing Association headquarters in Pretoria was named the C.A. Nothard Library in her honour.

7 July 1988
Five Cape anti-apartheid leaders released



Five prominent anti-apartheid activists were released in Cape Town after being detained for up to two years under the Internal Security Act. The five were Trevor Manuel, Ebrahim Rasool, Mountrain Qumbela and Hilda Ndude, all officials of the United Democratic Front



(UDF) in the Western Cape region, and Mzonke Jacobs, president of the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO). Three of them, Manuel, Rasool, and Jacobs, were immediately served with restriction orders limiting their movements and activities and barring them from speaking to the press.

7 July 2017 Ghana launches its first nano-satellite

The satellite, GhanaSat-1 is launched from the International Space Station. The device will monitor the environment of Ghana's coastline, taking images and collecting atmospheric and other data.

8 July 1658 Khoisan leader imprisoned on Robben Island



Harry die Strandloper, also known as Autshumato, is banished to Robben Island with two of his followers. Autshumato was a chief of the Khoikhoi Gorinhaikonas who worked as an interpreter for the Europeans in present-day, Cape Town, South Africa prior and during the establishment of the Dutch settlement on the Cape of Good Hope in 1652.

8 July 1946 Stella Chiweshe born

The Zimbabwean musician was born in Mujumi village, Mhon-

doro. When she turned 20, she mastered the Shona instrument mbira dzavagdzimu, which few women played. When recording companies were not interested in mbira music, she formed her own record company. Stella Chiweshe performed internationally and recorded 12 albums between 1987 and 2021.

8 July 1949

Mixed Marraiges Act passed

1949: The Mixed Marriages Act made it illegal for Whites to <u>marry</u> Natives (Blacks) or Coloureds.



The Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, Act No 55 of 1949 that banned marriage or a sexual relationship between White people and people of other race groups in South Africa is passed. The law was introduced as part of the apartheid government's separate development policy and also nullified mix marriages between South Africans that took place abroad.

8 July 2003

Sudan plane crash

A Sudan Airways passenger jet lost power shortly after takeoff from Port Sudan, due to a engine failure. The plane returned to the airport, missed the runway and hit the ground killing all 117 people on board.

8 July 2004

South Africa to host Pan African Parliament

The third conference of the African Union (AU) meeting in Addis



Ababa, Ethiopia, selected South Africa as the seat of the future Pan African Parliament (PAP). President Thabo Mbeki announced that it would be erected on the site of the Gallagar Estate, Midrand.

9 July 1860

Last African slave ship arrives in Alabama

The last ship carrying enslaved Africans across the Atlantic ocean – from the Dahomey kingdom of Benin – arrives at the port of Mobile in Alabama, US.

9 July 1893

Durban's first mayor passed on

George Christopher Cato, first mayor of Durban, dies in the city on 9 July 1893. Cato was born in London, England in 1814 and came to South Africa as a trader. He was asked to plan Durban while it was still under the Natalia Republic Government and when Durban achieved municipal status in 1845 he was elected as the first Mayor. In 1865 Cato was granted an area of land behind the current day Natal University, which became the densely urban township of Cato Manor.



9 July 1992 **Fidel Castro honoured by Africa**



Cuba President Fidel Castro received Angola's Order of Agostinho Neto, the highest national order. Castro is later decorated with national orders by Ghana, Mali and South Africa in 1998, Algeria in 2001, Guinea-Bissau in 2007, Namibia in 2008 and Zambia in 2009, for Cuba's contribution to the liberation struggle in Africa.

9 July 1995

FW De Klerk implicated in Third Force violence by **Police Commissioner**

Ex-Police Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe and ex-Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, implicated former state President and Deputy President of the Government of National Unity, F.W. de Klerk, of knowing and condoning a 'dirty tricks' campaign that was waged against the African National Congress (ANC) between 1990 and the 1994 election in a bid to destabilise the organisation. Van der Merwe further testified that the entire National party (NP) leadership knew about this operation and at times instructed the police to carry out these brutalities against its opponents.

9 July 2002

African Union launched

The African Union, which re-

placed the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), is launched at a Summit in Durban. With fifty-five member states, the AU seeks to build an Africa that is united. peaceful, democratic and prosperous.

9 July 2011 South Sudan independence



After five decades of unrest and civil war, South Sudan was granted independence on 9 July 2011 with the town of Juba as a capital. The declaration of independence marked "the end" of intermittent clashes with the north. Salva Kiir became the first President of the newly born African state.

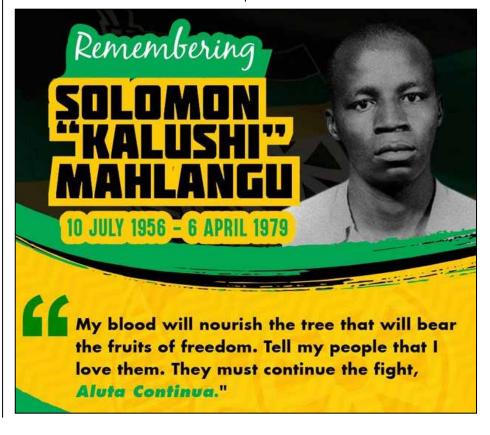
10 July 1924

Cairo Qur'an Published

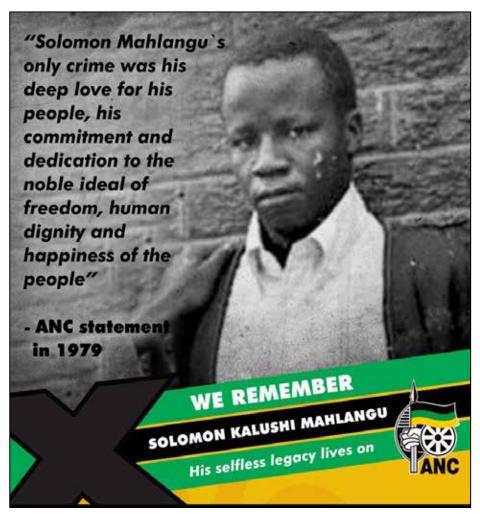
The King Fuad I Edition of the Qur'an is published at Egypt's Al-Azhar University. Work started on the work, also called the "Cairo Qur'an" in 1907. This edition of the Holy Book became immensely popular, easy to recite and accepted by both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims.

10 July 1956 Solomon Mahlangu born

Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, a soldier of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC), who was executed by hanging in Pretoria Central Prison, was born on 10 July 1956 in Mamelodi, east of Pretoria. Mahlangu left the country to join the ANC's military wing in exile in October 1976 after the student demonstrations of 1976. He received his military training in Angola and Mozambique. He returned to South Africa in 1977 on a mission to







help students commemorate the 1976 demonstrations. En route to Soweto, his group was accosted by the police and a gunfight ensued. Mahlangu was captured along with Monty Motloung who was beaten to the point of severe brain damage. The third member of the group, George Mahlangu, managed to escape. Kalushi was sentenced to death, and he went to the gallows singing early morning of 6 April 1976. His final words were, "Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue the fight, my blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom, Aluta continua."

10 July 1970 King of Kwaito Arthur Mafokate born

The musician and producer was born in Soweto. His first kwaito

hit, Kaffir in 1995, sold more than half a million copies, establishing The King of Kwaito as a major force in South African music.



10 July 1993 Kenyan Yobes Ondieki makes History

Kenyan runner Yobes Ondieki surprised the world when he became the first man to run 10000

Meters in less than 27 minutes. Ondieki was taking part in the Bislett Games in Oslo, Norway, when he made history. This achievement saw him ranked number one in the world in the 10 000 meters. Prior to the record in Oslo, Ondieki participated in the Olympic Games in 1988 and 1992 but failed to win medals. In 1991 he won the World Championships gold medal in Tokyo and set a Kenyan 5000 meter record of 13:01.82 in Zurich.



10 July 2000

OAU Summit adopts Lomé Declaration on DemocracyIn an address to the OAU Summit in Togo, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan raised concerns about the number of coups d'état destabilizing African countries. The summit adopted the Lomé Declaration that calls for a shared set of democratic values.

VERBATIM

"The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them."

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Former President of Liberia



INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

5—11 July 2025

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

5 JulyInternational Day of Cooperatives



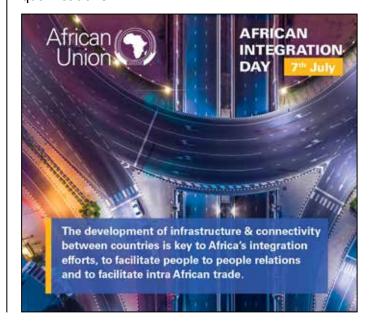
This day promotes cooperatives, and takes place the first Saturday of each July. Cooperatives are businesses, enterprises, or farms which is owned and run jointly by its members, who share the responsibilities as well as the profits and/or benefits. According to the UN, "at a time when income inequality is rising around the world, it is good to be reminded that solutions to inequality do exist. The co-operative model is foremost among these solutions, since it contains aspects of sustainable development at its core and is based on ethical values and principles." In South Africa, coops are governed by the Cooperatives Act, no.14 of 2015, and provides incentive grants to cooperatives of R350,000. There are different types of cooperatives, large and small. Large cooperatives include agricultural cooperatives, where farmers pool their resources in some areas, for example to buy seed, implements, fertilizer in bulk or to market their products, like a citrus fruit coop. The 2025 theme for International Cooperatives day is Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World. In 2025. the celebration marks:

- The 103rd International Cooperative Day, and
- The 31st UN International Day of Cooperatives.

As the world confronts intensifying economic and climate-related crises, persistent inequality, and fragile social protection systems, the 2025 Coops-Day theme calls attention to the powerful role of cooperatives in delivering evidence-based, people-centered solutions.

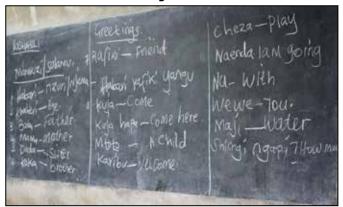
7 July African Integration Day

African Integration Day highlights progress with the integration of the continent, seen as key to its social and economic development, and shared prosperity. The economic integration plan is set out in the Abuja Treaty of 1991, ultimately to have a fully-fledged African common market. The operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area at the beginning of 2021 was one important step towards integration. The African Union Agenda 2063 highlights other areas of integration, such as integration through infrastructure, political integration including an African passport and harmonization of university qualifications.





7 July World Kiswahili Day



Swahili is amongst the official languages of the African Union (AU) and United Nations, and is spoken by over 200 million people in the world. Kiswahili originated in East Africa, and is spoken in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Comoros, and as far as Oman and Yemen in the Middle East. South Africa and Botswana have introduced it in schools, while Namibia and others are considering doing so.

7 July

World Chocolate Day

Chocolate is made from the seed of the cocoa bean, which is fermented and roasted, before used. Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana produce over half of the world's cocoa beans, and if you add production from Nigeria and Cameroon, that rises to over 70% of global production. According to www. makechocolatfair.org, "worldwide, 90% of cocoa is grown on small family farms of 2 to 5 hectares, while just 5% comes from large plantations of 40 hectares or more. Cocoa production provides livelihoods for between 40 and 50 million farmers, rural workers and their families in the Global South. In Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana up to 90% of the farmers rely on cocoa for their primary income."

10 July

Don't Step on a Bee Day

Bees play an important role in our ecosystems, as pollinators they support the growth of trees and other plants, and therefore the food we eat. According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), "in tropical forests, savannah woodlands, mangrove, and in temperate deciduous forests, many species of plants and animals would not survive if bees were missing. This is because the production of seeds, nuts, berries and fruits are highly dependent on insect pollination, and among the pollinating insects, bees are the major pollinators." Despite the critical role they play, the number of bees are drastically declining in different regions of the world, because of pesticides and other forms of human pollution and activities.







IT IS STILL IN OUR HANDS TO COMBAT POVERTY AND INEQUITY

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