



# ANC TODAY

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## Conversations with the **President**

# Let the dialogue begin. Let all voices be heard.

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

**T**HE first National Convention of the much-anticipated National Dialogue concluded on Saturday afternoon with a resounding call for the conversation among South Africans to begin.

The convention, which was attended by just over 1,000 delegates from organisations drawn from all sectors of society, was the kick-off for thousands of public dialogues that will take place for the next few months and into the beginning of next year.

The public dialogues will take place at a local level in wards and at a sectoral level. Citizens will also be encouraged to organise their own dialogues, bringing people together to discuss the issues that concern them and to look for solutions to the challenges they face.

The outcomes of each of these dialogues will be recorded and collated through a special digital platform. There will also be mechanisms in place to enable those without access to the technology to submit the outcomes of their dialogues.

All of these discussions will culminate in a second National Convention to be held during the first half of 2026. It is anticipated that this convention will produce a clear vision for the country and adopt a social compact that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all sections of society, from citizens to the arms of the state, from business, labour, traditional leaders, religious bodies to civil society, activist and civic organisations. The form and content of these outcomes will ultimately be determined by the South African people through their discussions.

The first National Convention reflected the great diversity of our country's people and their enthusiasm to get involved in the debate. Delegates were clear that citizens themselves must determine the issues discussed and must use whatever approaches and methods that suit them and their circumstances. They noted that what might work in a densely-populated city may not work in a rural area where villages are far apart. What might work in a sector that is well organised may not work among people who may not be part of organised formations.

There was a strong emphasis at the convention on inclusion and participation, with some delegates expressing concern that important voices were missing from the gathering. There was a firm view that special efforts should be made

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



to reach and include groups and people who were often left out or marginalised.

Preparations for the National Dialogue have been underway for many months, drawing together foundations of struggle stalwarts, civil society bodies and the Presidency. They were given the responsibility to organise the first National Convention and lay the basis for the public dialogues that would follow it.

The convention was the moment at which the people of South Africa would take over the National Dialogue. Delegates discussed the formation of a Steering Committee, consisting of nominees from all sectors of society, to take the process forward. Each of the sectors held discussions at the convention on how they would select their respective nominee for the Steering Committee by the end of August 2025. They agreed

that these processes need to be inclusive and that the Steering Committee needs to be representative.

In taking the National Dialogue forward, the Steering Committee would be supported and guided by the Eminent Persons Group, prominent South Africans tasked with championing the dialogue and providing advice. The Eminent Persons Group will also advise the Head of State as the convener of the National Dialogue to ensure that it is inclusive and credible.

There should be no person, no part of society and no institution – either public or private – that is excluded from the conversation. The dialogue should break down the barriers between ‘insiders’ and ‘outsiders’ and challenge notions of ‘us’ and ‘them’. At the same time, we should not seek a form of unity that is based only on sentiment, but a unity that is

forged through constructive and honest discussion on the difficult questions our country faces – and an agreed programme of action.

We should not be afraid to disagree. Disagreeing is part of engaging in a meaningful and robust dialogue. It is through the expression of different views that we will be able to give full legitimacy and credence to the dialogue. We should therefore make a determined effort to air our differences with a view to finding agreement on the actions we need to take together to build a better society, in which every person has an equal opportunity to prosper.

We are about to embark on one of the most important undertakings in the history of our democracy. We all have a responsibility to make it work.

Let the dialogue begin and let every voice be heard. ■

# Traditional Leadership play a critical role in democratic governance and stability in rural areas

REMARKS BY DEPUTY PRESIDENT  
**PAUL MASHATILE**

During a Working Visit to the Amampondo Ase-Nyandeni Kingship,  
Eastern Cape, 19 August 2025

**T**ODAY we started our day by paying a courtesy visit to His Majesty King Ndamase Ndamase at eNyandeni Royal Palace.

Our government acknowledges the authority of traditional leaders, their role in promoting social cohesion, and addressing developmental issues within their communities.

*(Urhulumente wethu uyaqonda ukuba abalawuli nee Nkosi zakwa Ntu banegunya, banendima ebalulekileyo ekukhuthazeni ubumbano kuluntu, nasekuqwalasele-ni imiba yophuhliso kwiindawo zabo).* We are here to engage with this community to get a high-level overview of the service delivery issues affecting the AmaMpondo Kingship and how best to strengthen our collaboration with the Kingdom.

This visit is part of a larger initiative to engage traditional leadership in the national development agenda and promote collaboration between traditional authorities and the government.

Specifically, we are here from



**Deputy President Paul Mashatile with His Majesty King Ndamase Ndamase at the eNyandeni Royal Palace**

different spheres of government, bound together by the District Development Model to create a platform for government and other entities to engage with His Majesty King of AmaMpondo aseNyandeni on service delivery issues affecting the Kingship and areas under its jurisdiction.

Our hope is that by working to-

gether, we can speed up the delivery of services that the traditional community relies on and support the Kingdom as they strive to develop their community. This institution not only has a place in the new democracy but also has the potential to transform and contribute significantly to restoring the moral fabric of our society.



His Majesty King Ndamase Ndamase

Additionally, it plays a crucial role in the reconstruction and development of the country, particularly in rural areas.

Traditional Leadership also plays a critical role in ensuring that the conditions for democratic governance and stability in rural areas are created so that accelerated service delivery and sustainable development can be achieved.

The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, 2019 (Act no. 3 of 2019), allows Traditional Leadership Institutions to participate in development programmes by advising the government on the needs of traditional communities and holding the government accountable for improving the lives of the people of traditional communities.

His Majesty King Ndamase Ndamase, if we are both accountable to each other as leaders, we have the invaluable opportunity to leverage the deep-rooted understanding of our community's needs and challenges. (*Obekekileyo uKumkani uNdamase Ndamase, ukuba sobabini sinoxanduva omnye komnye njengeenkokheli, sinethuba elixabisekileyo lokusebenzisa iingcambu ezinzulu*).

I believe that the wisdom of traditional leaders can guide us in developing sustainable solutions that truly address the issues facing our society.

Through my interaction with the community leadership, I have so far learnt about your concerns, which include, among others;

- Access to water at the Royal Palace and households within Nyandeni Municipality
- Upgrading of the gravel road to the Royal Palace to tarred or paved road
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Electricity-related matters
- The Libode Police Station that requires upgrades and the traditional Police Station at the Royal Palace that is not fully resourced
- Support of agricultural programs through the provision of targeted interventions
- High incidents of GBVF, crime rates, and drug abuse.

These are actual issues that our communities are facing, and they require immediate attention. To gain the government's attention in resolving service delivery issues, our communities should not have to stage protests; instead, we need to take the initiative and

solve the problem. Where there are challenges, we should be transparent to our communities and work with them in finding solutions.

For example, we must ensure that the provision and access to high-quality, drinkable water never violates these human rights. In this regard, we want the Provincial Government and the Local Government, to find an amicable solution that will see the taps in our community providing this vital resource.

Another pressing issue is the ongoing Gender-Based Violence and Femicide which persists in our communities. We must find a way to stop this from continuing! We must all work together to prevent every act that perpetuates GBV in our communities. We should not even entertain jokes that demean women and instigate violence against women and children.

As a government, we have made efforts to combat Gender-Based Violence and Femicide through the establishment of dedicated desks at police stations in hotspot areas, the implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF, and initiatives like the Men's Parliament aimed at promoting positive masculinity.

We urge you as a community to speak out against GBV to foster a safer environment for all. This includes challenging harmful norms, supporting survivors, and advocating for systemic change. Community involvement is crucial for both preventing GBV and ensuring access to essential support services for survivors.

*Kubantu baseNyandeni*, we have heard your concerns and frustrations regarding service delivery.

We will collaborate closely with municipal and provincial governments to devise timely solutions to your concerns.

Our current discussion will not devolve into a mere talk show; we will ensure that those entrusted with responsibilities fulfil their obligations.

As various branches of government, we recognise our shared responsibility to guarantee the provision of high-quality services to the public. However, the local government sphere is at the forefront of service delivery. Their importance is because they are the first point of contact for many residents needing access to services like water, sanitation, electricity, roads, and social amenities.

The local government's effectiveness directly impacts the quality of life for citizens and their ability to access basic necessities. Therefore, it is important to strengthen intergovernmental relations (IGR) by enhancing our synergies and collaboration to ensure that all levels of government work together to extend services to all communities, including to rural areas.

In the spirit of this collaboration, we urge the Nyandeni Local Municipality to work closely with Traditional Leaders, from the first stage of decision-making to implementation and monitoring to make sure that everyone has access to basic services.

Together, you must take responsibility for providing, regulating, and maintaining the infrastructure needed for these services, such as managing the water supply, supporting agricultural programmes through the provision of tractors and other equipment,



Member of the Amaondo community engaging with government leaders

upgrading of roads, and other related tasks.

Our work is therefore aligned with the national development goals, which include making sure that everyone has access to basic services, the importance of integrated infrastructure planning, and working together with other levels of government to solve persistent issues with service delivery.

This is in line with the District Development Model, which is a process where planning is done jointly across the local, district, and metropolitan levels. This leads to a single, strategically focused One-Plan for each of the country's 44 districts and 8 metropolitan areas.

The One-Plan, in collaboration with various government departments, aims to better lives by improving intergovernmental relations and fostering development in communities including Traditional Leadership.

By working together as different spheres of government, traditional leaders, and different sectors in the communities, we will gain

a common understanding of service delivery obstacles, growth challenges, and opportunities.

Furthermore, the partnership between our government and traditional leaders allows us to tap into a wealth of resources and expertise. By combining our strengths and insights, we can create a more holistic approach to service delivery that is inclusive, culturally sensitive, and responsive to the diverse needs of our community.

Through this collaborative action, we can bridge the gap between policy-making and grassroots implementation.

We can ensure that the voices of our community are heard and respected and that decisions are made with the best interests of all in mind.

In conclusion, let me assure this community that we are committed to improving the lives of the people by listening and addressing the service delivery matters of the Kingship and Traditional Communities to promote development and social cohesion for



building resilient communities.

As we move forward in our shared commitment to service delivery, we are going to set clear directions and deadlines for the issue you have raised and a clear monitoring process.

The first thing we will do to keep our commitment is to work with departments like Health, Home Affairs, Social Development, and SAPS to ensure that they make

it easier for people from the Traditional Community to obtain services through Services on Wheels.

Through these services, we want to increase accessibility, improve efficiency in service provision, and reduce travel costs for the community members.

Furthermore, we want to enhance community engagement and empowerment by bringing services

directly to the people, potentially leading to better health outcomes and the overall well-being of our people.

Our goal is that when we meet again, we give you an update of the progress that has been made and where there are challenges, to be frank with you, so that we together move in the same direction with understanding.

We want to build bridges of trust and understanding between our government and traditional leaders, setting an example of effective governance and community empowerment for all to follow.

As the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team on Matters of Traditional Leadership, I welcome your ongoing engagement with us as representatives of the community.

Together, we can work towards addressing challenges and fostering a stronger community.

*(Sisonke, singasebenza ekusombululeni imingeni nasekukhuliseni uluntu olomeleleyo)*

*Ndiyabulela!* ■



# ANC notes with serious concern and disapproval the recent conduct and public statements made by some NEC Members

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

**T**HE African National Congress has noted with serious concern and disapproval the recent conduct and public statements made by Cde Malusi Gigaba and Cde Senzo Mchunu. Their **conduct represents a flagrant violation of ANC internal communication protocols and undermines the fundamental discipline** of the movement.

These comrades acted outside of any sanctioned organisational mandate or collective structure making pronouncements that amount to deliberate de-campaigning of the ANC. Their remarks do not reflect the views of any legitimate structure of the movement and must be seen as an opportunistic assault on the collective image, credibility, and cohesion of the African National Congress.

The ANC categorically states that it is a revolutionary movement guided by democratic centralism principles and led through disciplined structures. No comrade, regardless of their history or standing is above the requirements of organisational discipline.

These comrades are casting aspersions on the character and

unity of the ANC, portraying the organisation as divided, incoherent and collapsing. This action only serves the strategic agenda of counter-revolution and weakens the people's confidence in their movement. No disciplined comrade would out of their own volition make statements that embolden forces that have long sought to reverse the gains of our revolution.

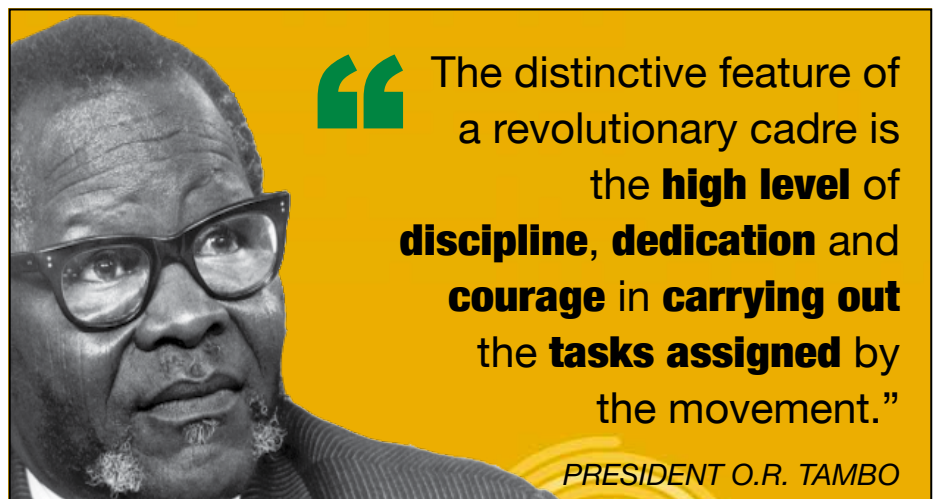
Communications in the ANC is a constitutional mandate of the Secretary-General, these powers are entrusted to the National Spokesperson for operational purposes. Any deviation from this established protocol undermines internal cohesion, unity and renewal.

The ANC will take the necessary

steps to correct this behaviour and no comrade will be exempt from the discipline of the organisation which demands unity, discipline, and revolutionary morality from all.

As we advance the programme of renewal in the ANC and society, we must intensify our efforts to serve our people with humility and dignity. The renewal programme cannot co-exist with ill-discipline; we have no tolerance for conduct that seeks to weaken the collective.

We call on all members and leaders of our movement to return to the basic principles and values of our movement, and be committed to respecting the integrity and sanctity of our organisational processes. ■



“ The distinctive feature of a revolutionary cadre is the **high level of discipline, dedication and courage in carrying out the tasks assigned by the movement.**”

PRESIDENT O.R. TAMBO

**POLICY, MONITORING,  
EVALUATION & RESEARCH (PMER)**

**For all your service delivery issues,  
send an email to:**

**[basic.services@anc1912.org.za](mailto:basic.services@anc1912.org.za)**

**Issues will be escalated to the  
relevant department, municipality,  
or province.**



Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

# South Africa's Response Measures to the US tariffs

*Joint Media Statement by the Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation and Trade, Industry and Competition, 4 August 2025*

**S**INCE the beginning of the 7th Administration, South Africa embarked on a process to stabilise and enhance mutually beneficial trade and investment relations with the US. The aim has been to address long-standing bilateral issues of concern for both sides in ways that move the trade relations forward. South Africa has been engaging the US at various levels with a view to ensure predictability in trade. However, even with these efforts, the US decided to impose a 30% unilateral tariff on South Africa. It is unfortunate that this government's efforts in resetting the relationship with the US has been undermined by some actors within South African society.

The unilateral tariffs have been implemented notwithstanding, South Africa's submission of a comprehensive and ambitious Framework Deal in May 2025 aimed at addressing the US trade deficit, address tariffs, promote digital trade, enhance commercial relations, promote investment and eliminate non-tariff barriers to enhance mutually beneficial trade relations with the United States.

The 30% unilateral tariffs on foreign imports apply to various US trading partners which will be implemented from 12:01 am on 8 August 2025. The Executive



order published by the United States clarifies that goods loaded onto a vessel at the port of loading and in transit on the final mode of transit before 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time 8 August 2025, and entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, before 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on October 5, 2025, shall not be subject to such additional duty and shall instead remain subject to the 10% tariff.

The US is South Africa's third biggest trading partner, with the European Union and China being the first and second largest trading partners. The US accounts for 7.5% of our global exports. Thus, we will continue to engage the US with a view to conclude a deal that advances the interests of both countries. South Africa seeks to

conclude deals that promote value addition and industrialisation, rather than extractive relations that deprive the country of the ability to benefit from our mineral wealth by mimicking extractive colonial era trade relations.

South Africa's minimal 0.25% share of total US imports makes the 30% tariff on our country are inscrutable, especially when these same tariffs have been applied indiscriminately to all US trading partners globally. Moreover, South Africa poses no trade threat to the US economy nor its national security. The calculation of US-SA "trade deficit" ignores the substantial US trade surplus in services, as well as the complementary nature of the bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries. South African exports do not

compete with US producers and do not pose a threat to US industry. On the contrary, our exports are crucial inputs that support America's own industrial base. Our agriculture exports are even counter-seasonal, meaning they fill gaps in the US market, not replace domestic products.

South Africa isn't just a trading partner – we're a major investor in the US, with our companies sustaining American jobs. Similarly, over 600 US companies in South Africa contribute to our industrial growth and create employment. Our goal is to preserve and grow these mutually beneficial relationships.

### Impact of the tariffs

The uncertainty of the new tariff line is already incorporated into economic projections. For example, various economists estimated that it may shave off 0,2% of South Africa's economic growth. The reduction in growth from the 30% tariff depends on a number of factors, including our ability to find alternative markets. It should be noted, however, that 35% of SA exports remain exempted from the tariffs. All applicable exceptions covered in the previous US Executive Order are set to remain in force and these exceptions covers products such as copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, lumber articles, certain critical minerals, stainless steel scrap and energy and energy products.

Importantly, due to South Africa not enjoying a country exemption for Section 232 duties on steel and aluminium, South African companies have already adjusted to the Section 232 duties since 2018. However, the heightened policy uncertainty creates

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South Africa isn't just a trading partner – we are a major investor in the US, with our companies sustaining American jobs.  
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instability in trade and may have an impact on exports.

The new tariff regime implemented by the United States is a significant departure from a low-tariff environment. This policy shift, which affects not only South Africa but the entire world, has already led to higher tariffs than before, changing the landscape of global trade as we know it.

### Response measures

#### 1. Continuation of negotiations with the US

South Africa is committed to a principled approach, and we will continue to use all available diplomatic channels to negotiate a mutually beneficial trade deal with the United States one that respects our national interests while advancing our long-standing partnership. Such a deal will be pursued in a pragmatic manner that preserves regional integration and the SACU common external tariff, noting that SACU accounts for 9% of our global exports and must be preserved. The South African Government is working with industry to consider aspects of the Framework Deal that can be modified, in a man-

ner that promotes predictability in trade.

#### 2. Implement an Economic Response Package which includes:

- a) The establishment of an Export Support Desk, which will serve as a direct point of contact for companies affected by the US tariff hike. The aim of this support measure is to support the diversification of export markets for increased resilience and facilitate the entry into alternative markets for affected exporters. The Desk will provide updates on developments and tailored advisory services to exporters on alternative destinations, guidance on market entry processes, insights into compliance requirements and linkages to South African Embassies and High Commissions abroad. The contact details of the Export Support Desk have been published on the dtic website.
- b) Measures to assist companies to absorb the tariff and facilitate long-term resilience and growth strategies to protect jobs and productive capacity in South Africa. The

details of these are being finalised and will be communicated shortly.

- c) Localisation Fund Support (LSF) stands ready to contribute to the national effort to support South African companies impacted by the imposition of 30% import tariffs by the United States. In collaboration with the dtic, IDC and other agencies – LSF will issue an open call from firms operating in affected value chains, with the aim of providing targeted competitiveness and efficiency support.
- d) To build resilience, we are working on an Export and Competitiveness Support Programme (ECSP), which will include a working capital facility and plant and equipment facility to address short to medium term needs across all industries.
- e) We are also working with the Department of Labour on measures to mitigate potential job losses, using existing instruments such as the UIF that can be adjusted to respond to the current challenges.

### 3. Block exemption for exporters

The diversification of markets that will be required following the introduction of additional tariffs on South African goods may require exporters to coordinate their activities in relation to developing joint infrastructure for exports, sharing of market information and coordination of activities to achieve economies of scale and efficiencies that enable them to be competitive.

These activities may contravene the provision of the Competition Act. The Minister has following consultations with the Competi-



tion Commission, introduced a Block Exemption for Exporters to enable collaboration and coordination by competitors. The Block Exemption details the scope of application. A draft Block Exemption will be published by the end of the week so that the process can be concluded expeditiously.

### 4. Diversification of markets

We have been strengthening trade and investment partnerships with various trade partners. These efforts are bearing fruits, targeting markets across Africa, as well as in Asia, Europe, Middle East, and Americas.

Our announcement on the Clean Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union in March has unlocked a R90 Billion Investment Package that has been initially committed. This Clean Trade and Investment Partnership also aims to unlock new market access opportunities for South Africa, including the export of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) by Sasol and the exports of hybrids and Electric Vehicles.

While facing global trade challenges, South Africa is proactively building a more resilient agricultural sector. We've made significant progress in opening up vast new markets like China and Thailand, securing vital pro-

ocols for products like citrus and others. With China alone being a \$200 billion market, we are confidently expanding our reach and creating new opportunities for our agricultural producers.

Our government has not been idle; we are proactively and collaboratively diversifying our trade portfolio. Under the coordinated leadership of the Presidency, DIRCO, and the dtic, we're making significant inroads into new, high-growth markets across Asia and the Middle East, including the UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. These efforts are not only opening doors to new opportunities but also reinforcing our commitment to retaining the vital markets we already have. South Africa's economic future is resilient, and we are working tirelessly to secure it.

We have also developed a number of Trade and Investment Packages with a number of countries, including Japan that aim to unlock new market access opportunities.

While the current measures present challenges, it also presents opportunities to build and accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA and to develop new partnerships in markets that have remained untapped, including ASEAN and Türkiye. ■



## To build a fair, inclusive, competitive SA, we must ensure no woman is left behind in the digital age

■ By **KHUSELA SANGONI-DIKO**

**W**HEN we talk about justice in South Africa, our minds often turn to issues of land, wages, safety, or education. But there is another form of justice that is fast becoming just as important: digital justice. In the 21st century, affordable data is no luxury – it is the gateway to education, healthcare, economic opportunity and dignity for millions of women.

In June this year, Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies, sat down with representatives from all of South Africa's major mobile network operators; Vodacom, MTN, Telkom, Cell C, and Rain. Our conversation was not a polite courtesy

call. It was a robust dialogue on why our people, especially in rural areas, still pay some of the highest data costs on the continent. Some of the questions we asked include: Why, in a country so proud of its Constitution, do millions still have to choose between buying bread and a gigabyte of data? Why is rural connectivity still treated as an afterthought, when the access to the internet is now the foundation for social and economic inclusion?

### **Data as a Women's Rights Issue**

The high cost of data is not gender-neutral. It affects women differently and often more severely. Women make up the majority of

the unemployed, the informally employed, and those living in rural areas. When data prices are high, it is women, particularly young women and mothers, who are cut off first.

Without affordable data, women cannot access education, healthcare, or research their employment prospects. Those trapped in domestic violence cannot discreetly search for shelters, legal advice, or emergency contacts. Digital exclusion becomes another layer of inequality, deepening poverty and dependence.

Reducing data costs is not just a matter of technology or economics, it is a matter of human rights.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

If women are to participate fully in South Africa's democracy and economy, they must be able to access the digital world without the barrier of unaffordable prices.

### Zero-Rated Platforms: A Lifeline

One of the most effective tools to close the digital divide, especially for women, is the zero-rating of key platforms. Imagine if platforms for learning, job searching, small business management, and healthcare advice were free to access, no matter your data balance.

Zero-rating is not charity; it is an investment in our national human capital. For a girl in a rural village, zero-rated educational content can mean the difference between dropping out and graduating. For a woman starting a small business, it can mean reaching new customers without taking on crippling debt for data. In our discussions with the mobile operators, we challenged them to think creatively and collaboratively about how they can zero-rate the digital spaces that matter the most for women in reformative ways.

### Pushing for Policy Reform

The responsibility cannot rest on the private sector alone. We in Parliament must ensure that our policy and legislative frameworks enable, not obstruct affordable access. That is why our Committee has been vocal about the urgent need to reform the Electronic Communications Act of 2005 and related policies.

The pace of reform has been wholly inadequate and too slow. Our Committee has asked the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies for a



clear and realistic timetable for updating these laws, and we will not hesitate to consider alternative measures to fast track change. Policy reform is not an abstract exercise. It determines whether we can allocate spectrum more fairly, regulate over-the-top services effectively, and create a digital economy that works for everyone. Especially those who have historically been left behind.

### Women in the Digital Economy

The ANC has long championed the cause of women's economic empowerment. In the digital age, that means ensuring women have the skills, tools, and networks to thrive online. Affordable data is the first step. When women have affordable, reliable internet access, they can run online businesses, freelance remotely, learn new skills, and connect with customers across the country, and the continent. They can use platforms like WhatsApp to market products, Instagram to showcase services, and mobile banking to manage finances without needing to travel long distances.

The story of M-Pesa in Kenya is a powerful example. By making

mobile banking affordable and accessible, Kenya opened the door for millions of women to gain financial independence. That is the kind of transformation we can achieve if we treat connectivity as a fundamental enabler, not a luxury.

### Connectivity as Nation-Building

South Africa cannot talk seriously about competing in the Fourth Industrial Revolution if half our population is digitally excluded. Connectivity is not just about individual opportunity, it is about national resilience and growth. When women are connected, families are stronger. Communities have better access to information. Small businesses can reach wider markets. Students can keep up with global knowledge.

That is why our Committee has also urged mobile operators to coordinate their corporate social investment projects. Too often, valuable initiatives work in silos, duplicating efforts instead of amplifying them. Imagine if the same determination we bring to building roads and clinics was applied to building digital infrastructure in every rural village.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### Looking Ahead

As Parliament continues to maintain oversight over the Department's budget for the next five years, we will be looking closely at how those funds are allocated to policy reform, rural connectivity, and gender-inclusive digital access. We will also continue to push for transparency and fairness in how prepaid data is managed. Data should not simply "disappear" on the basis of timelines decided by mobile operators. This practice is not only unfair, it undermines the already fragile trust between service providers and the people they serve. We must also think in bigger and more imaginative ways, and come up with solutions that will empower us, as opposed to leaving our connectivity future in the hands of foreign-owned services whose operations may not always align with our national priorities or public interest.

### Conclusion

Digital access is not a side issue. It is a women's issue, an economic issue, and a justice issue. If we are serious about building a South Africa that is fair, inclusive, and competitive, we must ensure that no woman is left behind in the digital age.

The day will come when every South African woman can open her phone and step into a world of opportunity without worrying about how much data she has left. That day will not come by accident. It will come because we demanded it, fought for it, and built it together. ■

**Khusela Diko** is the Chairperson of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technology.



## Women Has a Right to Be. Will "Madam Justice" Shelter Them?

■ By **SELLO SHAI-MORULE**

SIXTY-NINE years since the protest march of estimated 20,000 women of all races which took place on 9 August 1956 in Pretoria, South Africa, the triple challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment continue to rise in Sarah Baartman's homeland due to the unfavourable economic climate and the legacy of sorry history of women oppression in mother Africa and globally. As if is not enough even subsequent to almost seven decades of women struggle, despite the historical gains that women's rights activists fought for and realised, the barbaric behaviour that promote stereotyping of social roles based on gender still exist this day. When people manipulate

the justice system as alleged like this with this allegations of justice system, women are mostly affected by this ugly state of affairs. However women have been seen this day rising their heads above these trouble waters and continued to realise triumphs, under these difficult conditions beyond their commands. Powerful women like Justice Mandisa Maya and many others travelled this journey in terrains of many sorts and they emerged victorious.

Up to date, doubt has been cast on Madam Justice's standing in our homeland and this sorry state of affairs prompted the President to act. President Cyril Ramaphosa officially appointed a Judicial Commission of Inquiry to investigate

claims of alleged interference in South Africa's criminal justice system with an endeavour to find out whether criminal networks or individuals have been able to influence or manipulate the justice system for their benefit. The Commission according to him is expected to look into specific areas such as the police, the prosecution system, and other institutions meant to protect the public.

If the allegations happens to be proven without reasonable doubt to be true, it will indeed be a sad day if government officials are using their positions to protect criminals and interfere with investigations as alleged. Worse if amongst those cases they includes that of the abuse of children and women as well as GBVF. Then it would obviously mean that, the absence of the right of a woman has drastically moved from bad worse, if not hundreds of steps back. It is a fact that women continue to be unsafe and vulnerable at the hands of men and in their own society, and their only last line of defence is no one else but Madam Justice.

On this progressive and revolutionary step, the President of the Republic of South Africa has stated that the goal of the inquiry is to uncover the truth and restore trust in the justice system. He said that all South Africans have the right to feel safe and to believe that the justice system is working for them, not against them.

This gender tyranny against a girl child of yesterday, today, tomorrow and afar if not crushed, shall remain unjust before the eyes of a human race. Until this bullying cruel exercise of authority and gender discrimination is stopped now or never in Africa and glob-



Chief Justice Mandisa Maya

ally, the total emancipation of her people shall never be realised. Women have had a long history of oppression, harassment and abuse but every single battle gets us one step closer to freedom and equality. We will not be free as long as vulnerable sectors of our society, the weak, children, women and senior citizens are free.

August 2025, becomes more relevant as an opportune epoch to celebrate an Iron-Lady of Impartiality Crusade, Chief Justice Mandisa Maya, who just a year ago was appointment by President Cyril Ramaphosa as Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa. In terms of the Constitution, the Chief Justice is the head of the judiciary and exercises responsibility over the establishment and monitoring of norms and standards for the exercise of the judicial functions of all court. Therefore, for the first time a woman heads one of the most important arms of the state. Her appointment is a significant milestone for the country as Justice Maya became the first woman

in South Africa to be appointed Chief Justice. Irrespective of this Judicial Commission we expect her to restore the dignity and credibility of this arm of the state.

We are proud to be celebrating Women's Day, at the same time lower our banners as we continue to congratulate one of our own, Justice Mandisa Maya and the many other women who continue to make mementos strides in all spheres of society. She was not given this role because of her gender but because of her ability, capacity, qualifications and judicial record, her leadership qualities, her experience as a judge in various courts, her past leadership of the Supreme Court of Appeal and her role as Deputy Chief Justice in the period leading to her appointment by the President. She continues to hold the education of previously disadvantaged individuals very close to her heart and this is evident by her acceptance of the position as Chancellor of the rural University of Mpumalanga Province irrespective of her tight legal schedule and many other re-

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

sponsibilities in academic fields.

South Africa and the entire continent of Africa continue to occupy a one in a million space on the global map. Just recently the former public protector Thuli Madonsela has been appointed by António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the UN, to serve on his newly formed scientific advisory board, walking in the footsteps of former Deputy President of the Republic South Africa Mama Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, a former United Nations official, who served as the Executive Director of United Nations Women with the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. The first woman to hold the position and at that point the highest ranking woman in the history of South Africa as first woman Deputy President.

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma was the first woman elected to chair the African Union (AU) subsequent to her role as a former Minister of Health under President Nelson Mandela, she served as Minister of Foreign Affairs for ten years both under President Thabo Mbeki and President Kgalema Motlanthe respectively. Again during the first term of the now expelled both former ANC & RSA President Jacob Zuma, she was Minister of COGTA and during President Cyril Ramaphosa's first term she served briefly as Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

The list is endless. The likes of Judge Pillay who has presided over both criminal and civil cases, defended many opponents of apartheid and later elected by the United Nations General Assembly to be a judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where she served for eight years, including four years

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma



as president. Advocate Shamila Batohi who in 2019 were appointed as the new National Director of Public Prosecutions, (NDPP) and for at least ten years, also served as a Senior Legal Advisor to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Women in Africa has been clamping hierarchies of success irrespective of obstacles perpetuated by male species. I talk about the likes of Mamphela Aletta Ramphela a leader at her own right, politician, anti-apartheid activist medical doctor, businesswoman, a former vice-chancellor at the University of Cape and a former managing director at the World Bank. During my youth, I personally saw her building clinics, early childhood centres and presiding over food gardens for the poor around Tzaneen rural areas like Bokgaga, Motlhatlhareng, Tikiline, Lenyenye in Lebowa former Bantustan now Limpopo Province.

The appointment of the South African stupendous soldier, to the same bank, Ms Ayanda Dlodlo

as the World Bank Group Executive Director for Angola, Nigeria, South Africa since November 1, 2022 and World Bank's Alternate Executive from April to October, 2022 until her contract expired, who remains a member of the ANC since joining in her teenage years, is indeed an African women's' milestone triumph which could not pass unnoticed. Ms Dlodlo also made notable contributions to South Africa's role in global fora as an Envoy to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) from 2011 until 2019. She was also elected as the Head of the Youth Section of the ANC for England and Northern Ireland in 1990 at the London Institute of Shipping, where she pursued her studies.

She was the Minister for State Security in the Republic of South Africa from the commencement of the 6th government administration in June 2019. Before then, she served as the Minister of Public Service and Administration (2018–2019), Minister of Home Affairs (2017–2018) and as Minister of Communication



in mid-2017. She also served as the Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration, a position she held from 2010 until March 2017, after serving as the Parliamentary Counsellor to the President between 2009 and 2010. Ms Ayanda Dlodlo was the Secretary-General (SG) for uMkhonto weSizwe Military Veterans Association from 2007, the same year she joined the National Executive Committee of the ANC, until 2012.

August 2025, does not only become more relevant as an opportune moment to celebrate the appointment of the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa but this upward mobility of women through many Ms Mandisa Mayas of this world, who continue to wipe the blood, sweat and tears of Sarah Baartman, a Khoikhoi woman who was exhibited as a freak show attraction in 19th-century Europe under the name Hottentot Venus, those who came before her and inclusive of those women slaves who

experienced appalling violence, inclusive of sexual and reproductive enslavement, forced prostitution, repeated sexual assault, as well as forced childbearing and sale of their own children.

South Africa expect Justice Maya, to be a cottonwool that will wrap everyone but most partic-

ularly the weak, the vulnerable, poor women in the farms, domestic workers, street hawkers and those women who on a daily base continue to beg for maintenance of children they did not conceive alone. As we commemorate and celebrate women's month, let us also remember and continue to honour Ellen Kuzwayo, Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Helen Suzman, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Charlotte Maxeke, Ruth First, Rahima Moosa, Albertina Sisulu, Suzan Shabangu, Amina Cachalia, Adelaide Tambo and many more, for the only reason that, South Africa and her people is wrapped with a cottonwool this day because of them and they therefore remain true revolutionaries who were guided by great feelings of love for the struggles of their fellow homeland men and woman. They taught us that Women Rights are Human Rights. ■

**Sello Shai-Morule** *Is The Former Ancyf Western Region Deputy Chairperson In Mpumalanga Province.*



# “To go forward, we must look back.”

■ By **ANONYMOUS**

**I**N 1849, the French writer, Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote “*Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose*”, the more things change, the more they remain the same. This implies that despite changes that are introduced, certain things or patterns remain the same. With the current challenges in our geopolitical landscape, when one challenge is suppressed, another one re-emerges in a different form or location as seen in historical patterns of conflict, where seemingly resolved issues can resurface in new conflicts or with new actors.

Even the current trade wars echo some of the trade tensions and conflicts dating back to the 1930s. One good example is the scope and intensity of the historic US and China trade conflicts, while they have occurred throughout history, the scale and interconnectedness of the global economy today makes the potential impact of these current disputes unprecedented.

These challenges are like a Greek mythology, the “Hydra”, a massive serpent with multiple heads. I am told that a key feature of the Hydra was its ability to regenerate: if one head were cut off, two would grow back in its place instantly. The Hydra’s ability to regenerate has made it a symbol of persistent problems and the difficulty of overcoming them.

The hydra mythology is partic-



ularly relevant in areas like terrorism, where dismantling one group might lead to the emergence of others, or emergence of the same group but in a different location. The fight against terrorist organizations often involves battling a hydra-like network of extremists’ groups and ideologies. In resolving these complex issues, the hydra metaphor challenges traditional approaches to the fight against terrorism. If a problem has multiple points of origin and impact, a single-minded approach might be ineffective.

Reflecting on the past experiences, this analogy of a Greek “mythological hydra” sounds too familiar. For me, it summarises the Free State question where the hydra persistently regenerates itself. When one head is cut off, two emerge to replace it.

Whatever solution is brought to the fore, the more the challenge becomes even more complex, persistent, and capricious.

As they say, “to go forward, we must look back.” This suggests that learning from the past is crucial for progress and avoiding past mistakes. While often contrasted with the idea of “never looking back,” this perspective emphasizes the value of introspection and understanding past experiences to inform future actions. This saying creates a possibility for us to learn from our mistakes as we forge our way forward.

Looking back allows us to analyze what worked, what didn’t work and provides valuable insights on why it worked or did not work. If we are true to ourselves

we can learn and grow from the past and apply our knowledge to our future endeavors. This act of self-awareness can lead to more effective strategies that can contribute immensely to unity and renewal of the movement. By understanding past errors, we can consciously avoid making them again, saving ourselves from potential setbacks.

Reflecting on the past and acknowledging the part that we played in that past can provide clarity and a broader understanding of our current posture, helping us make more informed decisions. Past experiences can offer valuable insights into our goals and aspirations, helping us refine our path and stay true to our values. While looking back is important, it is crucial to balance this with forward-looking action. The idea is not to dwell too much on the past, but to learn from it and use that knowledge to propel us forward.

In the body politic of the ANC Free State province, I am intrigued by the fact that as the old factions fade away, new factions emerge fuelled by the same issues that characterised the old factions such as dissatisfaction about who is the Provincial Chairperson and who is the Premier.

Thinking about it, it feels like we are again reliving the Terror Lekota/Ace Magashule or Winnie Direko/Ace Magashule era or Beatrice Marshoff/Ace Magashule era. Most of the people who experienced the difficulties brought by these configurations are today in the government and party leadership but unfortunately the situation remains the same.

But like the Greek mythological hydra when one head is cut, two

heads emerge instantly. In our case, when factions are dismantled, new factional alliances are forged, and a cyclical reinforcement of divisions and reincarnation of old alliances resurfaces. This can only mean that the factional tendencies run deep and are systemic. From the TV line and Hlohlolwane factions we now hear things like Southern Sun, N8, Free State House etc.

It is now clear that cutting one head when the challenge is the entire body that bears and regenerates the multiple heads is a futile exercise. One would have hoped that with Ace Magashule not in the picture the province would stabilise but even though he has not been a factor in Free State politics for the last five years since his suspension as the Secretary General, same issues that defined the Free State question have again visited us.

For the longest time we attributed the Free State question to one man whose name has been synonymous with the word factionalism, corruption and gate keeping.

It now appears that the problem was not necessarily the Comrade in question but the system that produced him and made him the person he was. It doesn't matter who is in the leadership and who is not, if we cannot tackle the real issue the divisions remain unabated but are shaped by new realities and have new players.

Sadly, history is repeating itself with the old problem of *"the ANC in government and ANC out of government."* Although many have argued that this is not the issue, there is only one ANC, the state and party are levers of power. As someone who led the Free State through the Winkie Direko/ Magashule Era and Beatrice Marshoff/Ace Magashule Era, I can tell you without any fear of self contradiction that this matter was the genesis of the Free State Question and contributed to the four or five times the PEC was disbanded.

The notion of the *"Party and the State"* that bedevilled the province following the merger of the Northern and Southern Free



Former Premier of the Free State and former ANC SG, Ace Magashule

State have unfortunately resurfaced albeit in a different form and with different players, but the context is the same. Sadly, the new players are the old players dressed differently. Being an optimist I am, I had hoped that this fact was going to be an advantage as none of them would want history to repeat itself, but I guess I was too ambitious. Following a prolonged period of divisions, I thought everyone of us is exhausted and therefore the conflict was ripe enough following the last intervention led by Comrade Kgalema Motlanthe and post reconfiguration process led by President Thabo Mbeki.

In conflict resolution, “ripeness” refers to the point at which a conflict becomes amenable to resolution, often through negotiation or mediation. It’s not just about a conflict existing, but about a specific moment in time where parties are more likely to find a mutually acceptable solution. This moment is often characterized by a “mutually hurting stalemate,” where neither side can achieve its goals through further escalation and both recognise the costs of continued conflict.

I had hoped that the conflict has ripened and every one of us has realised that if the conflict and divisions persist, we have a lot to lose. Just yesterday we stood together to denounce disunity and committed ourselves to working together to build our province.

The vexing question is: Have we forgotten so soon how our province had become a laughing stock and a point of reference on disunity, factionalism and sheer incompetency of those we sent to represent us in Parliament and other strategic positions? Have we forgotten how the Organi-

sational Report to first National General Council (NGC) and the Stellenbosch National Conference described the Free State? Have we forgotten how many times our province was disbanded because we literally refused to work together? Have we forgotten how we came to be here?

Just like the hydra, with its many heads and its ability to regenerate when severed, the Free State question symbolise challenges that, when seemingly addressed in one area, reappear or manifest in new forms elsewhere, making them hard to fully eliminate. Just as the hydra has multiple heads, addressing one issue doesn’t solve the entire problem, and tackling one aspect might inadvertently exacerbate another. A good example here is that, when the national leadership was addressing the gender balance in its pursuit for gender equality, their good intentions that I fully support inadvertently led to recalibration of old politics of *“the Party and the State.”*

In the Free State, the hydra’s regenerative ability reflects the complexity of the system that breeds divisions, factionalism, and corruption. Talking as someone who hail from the Free State and once led this beautiful province, I can tell you without any fear of self-contradiction that factionalism is not static and often thrive when there are limited resources, limited employment opportunities and access to business opportunities.

In the same breath the mobilisation of factions and sustainability thereof require massive resources to thrive and keep their members and followers hungry enough to yearn for a better future and a little bit full to see fac-

tional leaders as Messiahs who are giving them a penny here to buy bread and another there to buy to buy milk. The reason for this is that factions must always be seen as a caring for its people and the only solution in the eyes of those who are desperate to change their socioeconomic conditions and be employed or do business with government or have ambitions to serve in a public office. So, the sustainability of factions is based on promising hope and sometimes even promising false hope.

What I think most of us fail to understand is that factionalism is constantly evolving and adapting to new circumstances. The one thing that factionalism never compromises is its love for power and its ability to multiply where structural inequalities are persistent, and employment or business deals are used as a carrot and a stick. Numbers are used as a currency for groups or individuals to compete for influence, power, and access to resources, leading to consistent internal divisions and conflict.

When resources are scarce, money, opportunities, or influence are used as bait to mobilise support for factions. The emergence of these groups gives ordinary members a sense of belonging, a shoulder to cry on and a reason to want to defend what has become a home within a home. Leaders use this bait to catch, exert control, influence, or authority over the unsuspecting ordinary members. Many Comrades who are in leadership today have never experienced an Organisation that is united. All that they know is that: “their core must emerge.” When you ask: “emerge and do what.” The answer is: “they must emerge so

that they can deploy us. It is our time to benefit.” No matter what you say to convince them otherwise about the founding principle of the ANC that if uniting African people, they stick to their guns because that is the organisation they know.

Leaders in the Party and the State unashamedly use differences of opinion (which should be a measure of a healthy organisation) to punish. These creates a culture of fear and conformity, hindering innovation and potentially leading to the suppression of valuable ideas. This type of environment can also breed resentment and distrust among members ultimately impacting on the morale. Without open dialogue and the exploration of different viewpoints, the organization may struggle to identify and address problems effectively.

In the past we have seen how individual desires for power, recognition, or advancement has driven the formation of factions or their configuration. A faction needs a person or system to fight against, especially when individuals within a faction feel their ambitions are not being adequately addressed within the existing structure or they were treated unfairly by those who wield power.

For a period leading up to Polokwane, this was a selling ticket for Comrade Ace Magashule who felt overlooked for the position of Free State premier. His hold on levers of power in the Party and the State made him to be the most powerful person in the Free State and he used this power to punish those who differed with him and compensate those who agreed with him mightily. This made him to be the most adored leader and the most hated leader depending



on individual's vantage points.

What is the common thread between him and leaders who came after him both in the Party and the State is access to power and resources. For some strange reasons, anyone who enters these spaces appears to forget their war cry and end up doing the same things that he did, if not better. One day you hear someone talking about the ills of a particular system and given an opportunity you see them improving the features of the same rotten system. It feels as though it was only bad when someone else did it not when you do it.

The hallmark of this system (perceived or real) is favouritism, unfair treatment of others and unfair distribution of resources. Those who feel disadvantaged seek to challenge the status quo and spend time mobilising against the ones in power. The election of leaders and selection methods used for Parliament, Provincial Legislature and local government to a large extent the degree of fuel factional battles. Those who are not favoured by these processes form an alliance of the wounded

and fight the ones elected or selected.

Having been in Singapore in the past three years I had an opportunity to observed the renewal of its ruling party, the People's Action Party (PAP) and how the notion of “continuity and change” was applied. Whilst the 4th generation leaders were given an opportunity to inject new blood and select a leader amongst themselves, the PAP also retained some leaders from the previous leadership core to preserve organisational memory.

For me, the Singapore's approach to selecting leaders stands out due to its emphasis on meritocracy, long-term vision, and a focus on cultivating a capable leadership pipeline. This involves actively identifying and nurturing talent within the public sector and ensuring a smooth leadership transition through a system of mentorship and succession planning.

Unlike in our system where we rely heavily on elections, Singapore's system emphasises competence, experience, and a com-

mitment to the nation's long-term interests. For sixty years, the PAP has effectively stifled the formation of factions and prioritised the selection of leaders based on their ability and performance, rather than solely on popularity. This is reflected in the way potential leaders are groomed for high-level positions.

Although the PAP is nominally organised as a mass party, it is de facto a secretive cadre party with centralised candidate selection based on the model Lee Kuan Yew learned from the Vatican. Leaders are expected to have a long-term perspective and a commitment to Singapore's continued success and development. This includes anticipating future challenges and proactively developing strategies to address them.

Future leaders are identified and nurtured to take over leadership positions in future, ensuring a smooth transition of power. This involves mentorship programs, opportunities for leaders to gain experience in various government roles, and a system for identifying potential successors. This long-term focus and deliberate leadership transition contribute to Singapore's political stability. This allows for consistent policy implementation and a focus on long-term development goals.

Sometimes we must look back in order to go forward. Learning from this experience, the only way to address factionalism is to address its root causes that include but not limited to competition for power and resources, internal contradictions relating to policy choices or the overall direction the party should take. This lead to the formation of distinct groups, each vying for influence

and control. In this instance, factionalism is fuelled by the desire of individuals or groups to gain control over leadership positions, resources, or access to political power.

In essence, factionalism is a symptom of underlying and unrelenting issues related to resource allocation, power dynamics, and communication breakdowns within a larger entity. It calls for holistic and multifaceted strategies that consider the interconnectedness of issues and the potential for unforeseen consequences.

Socio-structural factors, such as poverty, unemployment and in general the distribution of wealth and power influence factionalism.

The manifestation of these factors contributes to the formation of distinct groupings. These factors are further exacerbated by how organisation operates from its day-to-day operations to its electoral processes, selection of leaders to represent it in government, how its funding model and how it is organised. For example, an organisation with a decentralized structure might be more susceptible to factionalism than one with a strong centralized leadership commonly referred to as collective centralism.

From our immediate past experience, we have seen that true leadership is not synonymous with popularity. A leader who is well-liked might not necessarily be effective, and conversely, a leader who makes difficult decisions or faces unpopularity might still be a strong and impactful leader. Leadership is about guiding a team or organisation towards goals, even if those actions require making tough, potentially unpopular and choices.

Effective leaders irrespective of where they serve (State or the Party) prioritise achieving objectives and driving progress, which may sometimes involve making decisions that are not universally popular. True leadership is built on trust and respect, which are earned through consistent actions and integrity, rather than simply seeking to be liked. Effective leaders are willing to address challenging situations, enforce accountability, and make necessary but potentially unpopular decisions for the long-term benefit of the organization,

The role of money in politics is arguably the biggest threat to unity of the ANC Free State and perhaps the organisation as a whole. This threat knows no boundaries, and is evident across all political parties. Attempts to tackle these threat are often undermined by poorly designed and enforced measures that allows leaders to ignore reports of wrong doing when they involve a person they support or a company they benefit from as individuals or as a faction. Another issue that impact on unity is the funding model of the organisation itself. At the centre of this is the role of donors in influencing decisions and outcomes. In other words who funds the organisation can also shape dynamics that can easily fuel factionalism.

Understanding these root causes are crucial for analysing and addressing factionalism. By recognizing the factors that contribute to factionalism, it may be possible to eradicate it, mitigate its negative consequences and promote greater unity, cohesion and drive the renewal project!

In the final analysis, ***ke le rata kaofela, ke tsanaya le lona!*** ■



# Report on Human Rights Violations in the United States in 2024

## *An Abstract*

■ By **The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China**

**T**HE year 2024 was meant to be a defining moment for American citizens to exercise their political rights. Yet in reality the year was fraught with political violence as politics was controlled by money, justice was hijacked by politics, and voters were disenfranchised by electoral rules. As an election year in the United States, it was a year of special concern that featured aggravating political strife and social division. Such a landscape offers an opportunity to review the state of human rights in the country in an intensive manner.

Money controls U.S. politics, with partisan interests above voter rights. The total spending for the

2024 U.S. election cycle exceeded 15.9 billion U.S. dollars, once again setting a new record for the high cost of American political campaigns. Interest groups, operating in the “gray areas” beyond the effective reach of current U.S. campaign laws, used money to wantonly manipulate the fundamental logic and actual functioning of U.S. politics.

The Republican and Democratic parties manipulate electoral districts in highly distorted ways to choose their voters, while meticulously designing voter compositions that favor their own chances of winning.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a

6-3 decision, overturned a lower court ruling that had found a re-districting plan suppressed the voting rights of African American voters, effectively endorsing political actions that suppress voter participation. The Supreme Court decision in fact backed political action that suppressed voters. 24 states have passed voter suppression laws, while 17 states have passed new or stricter voter ID laws. As a result, large groups such as the elderly, minorities, people with disabilities, low-income voters, and students face limited or deprived opportunities to exercise their right to vote.

Extreme incidents of political violence occurred frequently, with

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the public deeply disillusioned with American-style democracy. The prolonged partisan gridlock fueled a culture of political obstruction, often leading to political violence against individuals.

During the 2024 election, both the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates and their teams faced varying degrees of political violence. *“Threats of violence become the new normal for politicians.”* Nearly half of voters expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of the U.S. political system, with 62 percent believing the government primarily served the elite rather than ordinary citizens. A vast majority of voters believed the United States was on the wrong track, and nearly 80 percent said the election had not made them proud of their country.

Skyrocketing inflation exacerbated the wealth gap, delivering catastrophic blows to low- and middle-income families. Economic and social inequalities in the

United States worsened with the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Over 40 million Americans lived in poverty, and 13.5 percent of U.S. households faced food insecurity, and 13.8 million children lived in families that did not have enough food. Educational inequality perpetuated inter-generational poverty, creating a vicious cycle. Many ordinary Americans saw higher debts than ever. U.S. credit card debt totaled a record high of 1.14 trillion dollars in the second quarter of 2024, and loan delinquency rates rose to the highest levels in nearly a decade. More than 700,000 people were homeless, marking an 18.1 percent increase from 2023 – the largest rise since records began in 2007. Compounding the crisis, the Supreme Court ruled in July 2024 to allow fines, arrests, or imprisonment against homeless individuals sleeping outdoors.

Government-business collusion fueled substance abuse and drug

crisis, while failed healthcare system triggers public anger. The root of America’s drug abuse and opioid crisis lies in interest hijacking, government-business collusion and regulatory failure. Interest groups, driven by profit, have intensified their lobbying efforts and deceptively promoted the use of opioids. Overdoses involving synthetic opioids and stimulants surged in the past few years. Opioids have become the narcotic of the American public. Cannabis retail sales exceeded 32 billion dollars in 2024 and drug overdose claimed over 100,000 lives. The United States is the only high-income country that does not provide universal healthcare, and it has the lowest life expectancy among its peers. Healthcare costs are spiraling upward, and insurance companies deal with policyholders through tactics such as *“delay, deny, and don’t pay,”* causing large numbers of low- and middle-income patients to go bankrupt due to medical debt.





Gun violence threatened lives and police brutality persisted in total disregard for human lives. The death toll from gun violence remained high. Frequent mass shootings and school shootings have plagued the nation. In 2024, there were 503 mass shootings and 45 school shootings in the United States. More than 40,000 Americans were killed by gun violence, including over 1,400 children. The culture of violence in the United States is deeply ingrained in its law enforcement agencies. Due to overly lax accountability standards, law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system frequently harm civilians with little consequence. This culture of impunity further exacerbates police violence. U.S. police officers use violence against at least 300,000 individuals annually, with approximately 100,000 sustaining injuries. In 2024 alone, police shootings claimed more than 1,300 lives.

Racist rhetoric runs rampant, with ethnic minorities subjected to persistent and widespread dis-

crimination and exclusion. By exploiting racial divides, politicians covered up structural problems in society by instigating antagonism between rival groups. African Americans are three times more likely to be shot and killed by police than white Americans. Among all children sentenced to life without parole, 61 percent are black. Nearly 80 percent of urban solid waste incinerators in the United States are located in African American, Hispanic, and low-income communities. African Americans have a life expectancy nearly five years shorter than that of white Americans, an infant mortality rate more than twice as high, and a maternal mortality rate nearly three times greater.

The American Indian boarding schools, which operated for over a century and a half, turned out to be hell with the discovery of the deaths of more than 3,100 native American children in them. Although Asians are the most educated segment of the American workforce, they are the least likely among all racial groups to ascend to leadership roles. About

two thirds of Chinese Americans (68 percent) face at least one form of discrimination in an average month.

The absence of legal protection has led to widespread infringement of women's and children's rights. The United States has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A constitutional amendment to "equal rights" for men and women has yet to be passed. About 40 percent of working women have experienced sexual harassment during their careers. 11 states in the United States have a domestic violence rate of more than 40 percent. Over 5 million women live in areas without access to maternity care. Child marriage remains "legal" in the vast majority of states. The harmful practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) remains widespread in the United States.

The number of illegally employed child laborers has surged to the highest level in decades, while

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those in power have loosened restrictions, making it easier to exploit children. Among immigrant children, the number of illegal child laborers has reached its highest level since the early 20th century.

The humanitarian crisis for migrants in border areas continues to worsen, with migrants subjected to torture and inhumane treatment. Politicians exploit the issue of immigration to attack one another, using stigmatizing narratives to attract attention and win votes. The number of migrant deaths in the El Paso area along the southern U.S. border surged from 72 in 2022 to 168 in 2024, with the youngest being only 1 year old. Immigration detention facilities have protected and tolerated their staff, becoming “black prisons” where torture is rampant. Hundreds of thousands of immigrant children go missing after entering the United States,

with many of them possibly being lured into forced labor and sexual trafficking.

Power politics intensifies regional conflicts and causes humanitarian disasters. The U.S. government has provided unwavering military and diplomatic support to Israel and exercised its veto power seven times to block United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict resulted in over 100,000 casualties and displaced approximately 90 percent of Gaza’s population. The United States is overwhelmingly the world’s biggest user of unilateral sanctions. It has increasingly imposed them in recent years, negatively affecting the lives of billions across the globe. More than 60 percent of low-income countries are now under some form of financial penalty. Despite 32 consecutive resolutions passed

overwhelmingly by the UN General Assembly, the United States persisted in maintaining its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. The torture apparatus at the Guantanamo Bay prison continued to operate, employing methods that were nothing short of appalling.

The tumultuous political stage of the United States in 2024 acts as a prism, reflecting the structural dilemmas of American-style human rights. As for the numerous human rights issues in the United States, politicians from both parties equivocated during election campaigns and dodged the question of how to earnestly fix the problems. Under the collusion of power and capital, human rights have been distorted into mere props in a political “show” and bargaining chips in a power “casino,” completely deviating from the core values and fundamental principles of human rights. ■



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

23—29 August 2025

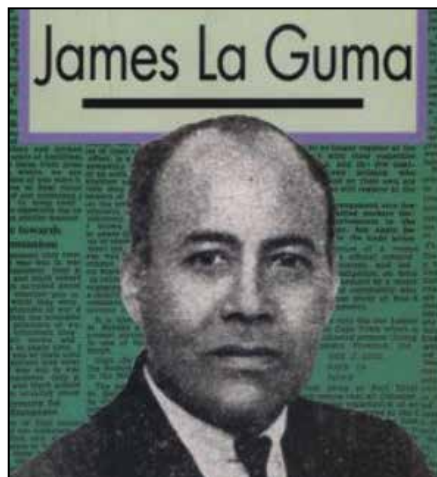
Source: SA History Online, O'Malley Archives, Africa Today/Yesterday, The Africa Factbook and Amazwi SA Museum of Literature

### 23 August 1862 First Rugby match played in SA

On 23 August 1862, the first rugby match heralded the start of what would become a hugely popular sport among White people in South Africa. The match took place in Green Point, Cape Town between one team made up of civilians and one made up of military members. The first rugby club, Hamilton, was formed in 1875 and was soon followed by the Villagers Club. As the popularity of the sport grew, the Rugby Union Board was formed. After SA was banned from international sporting arena, it meant that it could no longer participate in international rugby matches. SA was only allowed to return to playing international rugby in 1992, following changes in the country's political environment and the integration of rugby. The national team, the Springboks, has since the dawn of democracy won the Rugby World Cup three times, in 1995, 2007 and most recently in 2019.

### 23 August 1894 James La Guma born

Political activist and trade unionist James Arnold (Jimmy) La Guma, member of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and president of the South African Coloured People's Organisation (SACPO) from 1957–1959 was born in Bloemfontein. He joined the Communist Party in 1925 and visited the Soviet Union (USSR)



more than once. La Guma was an ardent Africanist and believed that the empowerment of Black political leadership was necessary for the success of communism in South Africa. He is the father of Alex La Guma, one of the 156 Treason Trial plaintiffs in 1956.

### 23 August 1942 Music icon Letta Mbulu born

Letta Mbulu was born in Soweto on 23 August 1942. As a teenager she joined the cast of the



play *King Kong* and toured the US with other artists like Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. At the end of the tour Mbulu returned to South Africa, but did not stay long because of the apartheid government policies. She returned to the US where she quickly became part of the exiled artists' circles that included Caiphus Semenya. Mbulu released several albums in the US and slowly made a name for herself as a singer, songwriter and actor. In 1992 Mbulu and Semenya returned to South Africa; soon after working together on the album *Not yet Uhuru*, which introduced them to the South African audience. Mbulu was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the South African Music Awards in 2001.

### 23 August 1960 Largest frog found in Equatorial Guinea

The largest species of frog, this one weighing 3.3 kg is found in Equatorial Guinea, named the Goliath bullfrog, only found in Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon. It is endangered due to habitat loss and being hunted for the exotic pet trade.

### 23 August 1976 Botswana adopts Pula currency

Botswana introduces its own currency, the Pula (meaning rain), replacing the South African Rand in use since the 1960s.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### 23 August 2006 Report on Rape in Khayelitsha

The Simelela Rape Survivors Centre in Cape Town reported that almost half of the rapes in Cape Town's Khayelitsha township involved girls under fourteen, with the youngest survivor aged one and the oldest a grandmother aged seventy-six. From August 2005 to July 2006 the Centre treated 743 rape cases, an average of two to three a day. The Simelela Rape Survivors Centre was a response to the high degree of sexual violence against women and children in South African townships. Khayelitsha has one of the highest rates of rape cases in South Africa.

### 23 August 2011 AKA releases debut album

South African rapper Kiernan Jarryd Forbes, known as AKA, releases his debut album, *Alter-Ego*, quickly reaching gold status and earning him the Male Artist of the Year SAMA in 2012.

### 23 August 2022 South Africa largest exporter of Macadamia nuts

Native to Australia, South Africa has become the largest exporter of this rare slow-growing nuts this year, representing 34% of global exports, followed by Australia (26.7%) and Kenya (12.3%). China accounts for 33% of global imports of nuts, followed by the US at 23.9%, according to WorldTop-Exports.com

### 24 August 1928 Angie Brooks born

Liberian jurist and diplomat, the first woman to be elected President of the UN General Assem-



bly, Angie Brooks was born on this day in Virginia, Liberia. She served as Liberia's Assistant Secretary of State, a Supreme Court Justice and Liberia's Ambassador to the United Nations.

### 24 August 1960. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi born



Geraldine Fraser was born on 24 August 1960, in Lansdowne, Cape Town, the daughter of a teacher and factory worker. She became politically active at Livingstone High School where she was elected to the Student Representative Council. A year after she enrolled for a Teachers Diploma at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), she left South Africa to join the ANC in exile, where she worked for Joe Gqabi, ANC Chief Representative in Zimbabwe. A member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Fraser-Moleketi received her military training in An-

gola, the former USSR and Cuba. She also became a member of the SACP and served in the regional leadership of the SACP, based in Zimbabwe, and upon her return to South Africa, Fraser-Moleketi worked at the SACP headquarters and became a member of the Politburo and also the ANC NEC. She was an ANC MP from 1994-2008, serving as Minister for Welfare and Population Development until 1999, and as Minister of Public Service and Administration until 2008. She has since worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the African Development Bank (AfDB). Cde Fraser Moleketi recently completed a Masters degree with the University of Pretoria.

### 24 August 1962 African countries call for Release of Nelson Mandela



African delegations requested Secretary-General U Thant to help obtain the release of Nelson Mandela. In a statement, they condemned the arrest on 5 August and noted that he was held under the Sabotage Act, which carries a possible death penalty.

### 25 August 1949 Zena Bacar born

Zena Bacar, Mozambican singer, one of her country's first popular

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

music star was born in Nampula. She recorded her first song in 1980 and toured internationally with her band Eyuphuro.

### 25 August 1949

#### Salif Keita born

Considered Mali's greatest singer, Keita was born in Djobila on this day. The most famous entertainer who has albinism, is known as "the Golden Voice of Africa."

### 25 August 1993

#### Amy Biehl killed in Cape Town

An American Fulbright post-graduate, Amy Elizabeth Biehl (26), was dragged from her car by a 100-strong mob of youths in Gugulethu, and stabbed to death. Biehl was driving three co-workers to their homes in the township, when some young men started throwing stones at her car and eventually surrounded the vehicle, shouting the Pan African Congress (PAC) militant slogan "One settler, one bullet!" Some of the perpetrators served sentences for the murder, and the US based Biehl family later reconciled with some of those responsible for their daughter's death, through the foundation named after her.

### 26 August 1966

#### PLAN launches armed struggle against South Africa

On 26 August 1966, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of SWAPO, fought in a battle against South African occupying forces at Omugulugwombashe in northern Namibia. In 1973 a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly declared 26 August, 'Namibia Day' to com-

memorate the gallant struggle of the Namibian people against South African occupation. On this date is also commemorated the anti-colonial war against Germany in the figure of Chief Samuel Maharero. This day is officially known as **National Heroes Day** in Namibia.

### 26 August 1975

#### Footballer Mercy Akide born



Pioneering African women's football player was born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. In 2001 she became the first recipient of CAF's African Woman Footballer of the year award.

### 26 August 1978

#### High jump champion born

Hestrie Cloete was born in Germiston, East of Johannesburg on 26 August 1978. She began participating in sports at an early



age. Her long-time coach, Martin Marx, discovered her at the age of 13. Hestrie won a gold medal at the world championships in Paris in 2003, and two silver medals at the Olympic Games, the following year. Hestrie Cloete was famous for her mental focus ritual of spinning her index fingers around each other and leaning sideways before every jump.

### 26 August 1985

#### Zola Budd Breaks World Record



In a low key event in Crystal Palace, England, South African born athlete Zola Budd broke the 5 000 metres world record set by Ingrid Kristiansens of Norway by more than ten seconds. Budd also stunned the sporting fraternity by running bare-footed on her way to claim this magnificent achievement. Kristiansens's record stood for 15 years before Budd broke it.

### 26 August 1996.

#### Eugene de Kock convicted of six murders

The Supreme Court convicted former Police Colonel Eugene de Kock (dubbed 'Prime Evil') of six murders of Black anti-apartheid activists during his service as commander of a police unit, C10 based at Vlakplaas, a farm outside Pretoria. He was also convicted of scores of lesser crimes,

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

from conspiracy to murder to fraud. Amongst those that were killed were ANC lawyer, Bheki Mlangeni, and former Vlakplaas colleague and Askari, Brian Ngqulunga.

### 26 August 1996 Johnnic Empowerment deal

In South Africa's then largest empowerment deal, the National Empowerment Consortium made a deal with Anglo-American Corporation to buy 48% of shares in Johnnic Industrial Corporation (an investment holding company with interests in entertainment, media, casino, exhibitions and property).

### 26 August 2006 Peace accord with Lord's Resistance Army

The Ugandan government signed a peace agreement with Lord's Resistance Army of Joseph Kony, with an agreement to leave Uganda for camps in the DRC. The LRA in 2010 resumed its activities, with killings, abductions leading to over 400,000 refugees in DRC, CAR and South Sudan.

### 26 August 2019 Rhino eggs harvested

Kenyan scientists successfully harvest white rhino eggs from the last two remaining white rhino females. The sperm of the last male was taken before his death and is used to inseminate the eggs and create rhino embryos, in order to prevent extinction of this species.

### 27 August 1943 Renowned author Sindiwe Magona born

Sindiwe Magona, author of a large number of books, including



children's books, was born on this day in the village of Gungulu, Transkei. A social worker and teacher as well, she writes about the experiences of women, her own experiences and tells South African stories. She has also produced plays and her internationally acclaimed books include *Beauty's Gift*, *Living, Loving, and Lying Awake at Night*, *To My Children's Children*, *Teach Yourself Xhosa*; and *Push-Push and Other Stories*. Her plays include *I Promised Myself*, *A Fabulous Middle-Age* and *Vukani!* She will be 80 this year.

### 27 August 1962 Johannesburg Civic Theatre opens

The modernist building was opened as a showcase for the performing arts, with more than 200,000 opera, theatre and ballet lovers attending the theatre in its first year. By law, black South Africans could not attend.

### 27 August 1963 WEB du Bois passed on

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, a giant amongst Pan African activists, was a founder of the NAACP, the largest and oldest civil rights organization in the United States, and from 1910 to 1934 served it as director of publicity and research, a member of

the board of directors, and editor of the Crisis, its magazine. During this period, NAACP advocacy was instrumental in securing anti-lynching legislation. WEB Du Bois was also active in the global Pan African movement, initiating the second and third Pan African Congresses. Du Bois published numerous important works on race. By the time of his death in 1963 he had written 17 books and edited four journals, and greatly influenced public discourse on race.

### 27 August 1975 Emperor Haile Selassie passed on



Haile Selassie was born Lij Tafari Makonnen, in the village of Ejersa Gor, in the Harar Province of Ethiopia. Heir to a 13th century dynasty, he ascended to the throne of Ethiopia in 1930, proclaiming himself 'Haile Selassie', which means '*Might of the Trinity*'. In 1936, Emperor Selassie led the resistance against Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and also spoke out against the use of chemical weapons at the League of Nations. Exiled in 1936, he was restored to power in 1941. However, by the 1970s, Emperor Selassie's apparent indifference to a major famine in the country resulted in the loss of popular support. In 1974, he was de-throned in a military coup by his

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

successor, Mengistu Haile Mariam. It was reported that Emperor Selassie had died on 27 August 1975, but the cause of his death remained a mystery.

### 27 August 2019 Rwanda efforts to protect cranes success

The number of endangered grey-crowned cranes nearly doubled from 459 in 2017 to 748 in 2019, after concerted efforts by Rwanda to protect the birds and crack down on their illegal trade.

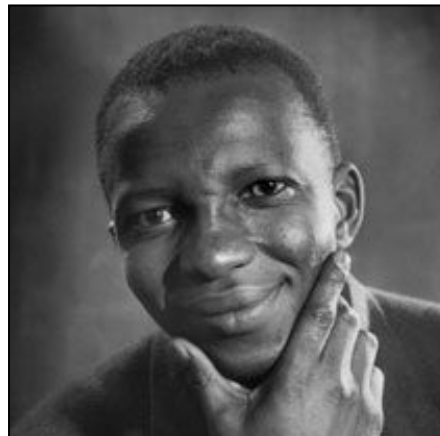
### 28 August 1878 Zulu king captured



King Cetshwayo, Zulu monarch was captured after his defeat during the British-Zulu War. When he took over from his father, King Mpande in 1873, he took a clear stance against British and Afrikaner colonial expansion. In 1875, Boers flooded across into Zululand, claiming land south of the Phongola River as well as attempting to tax Zulu homesteads in the north-west. King Cetshwayo sent several thousand warriors to the border and the Boers retreated. In December 1878, Cetshwayo rejected the British demand that he disbands his troops, and in January British forces invaded Zululand to suppress Cetshwayo. The British suffered grave a de-

feat at Isandlwana, where 1,300 British soldiers were killed or wounded. But, on March 29 the tide turned in favour of the British at the Battle of Khambula. King Cetshwayo was captured on this day and sent into exile. In 1887, the British formally annexed Zululand, and in 1897 it became a part of Natal, which joined the Union of South Africa in 1910.

### 28 August 1923 Journalist Bloke Modisane born



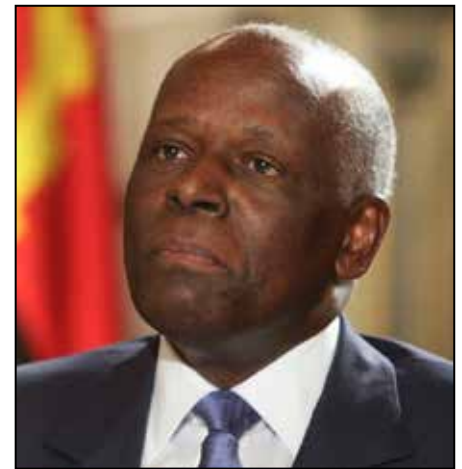
Journalist, short-story writer and actor William (Bloke) Modisane was born in Sophiatown, Johannesburg on 28 August 1923. Modisane left South Africa in 1959 and, while in exile he published his only and much acclaimed book *Blame Me on History*. *Blame Me on History* was an examination of what apartheid did to the character and self-esteem of the educated Black man. The book was banned in South Africa in 1966. Modisane died in 1986 in Dortmund, West Germany and is rated as one of the finest Black writers and intellectuals of the 20th century.

### 28 August 1940 Joseph Shabalala, Ladysmith Black Mambazo founder born

Dr. Bhekizizwe Joseph Shabala-

la (28 August 1940– 11 February 2020) was founder and musical director of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, taking isicathamiya to the global stage and winning five Grammys and nominated for 17, during his lifetime.

### 28 August 1942 President Eduardo dos Santos born



President of Angola from 1979 to 2017 and late leader of the MPLA, José Eduardo dos Santos was born in a Luanda shanty town on this day. The son of a bricklayer, he joined the MPLA (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola) in 1961 and worked under illegal conditions in Luanda. He resolved with a group of his friends to leave Angola to undergo training with the movement, which had been driven into exile after the Luanda Uprising of 4 February 1961. He spent six years in the Soviet Union where he graduated as a petroleum engineer. After independence, he became Angola's first foreign minister, later becoming the first vice-premier and gaining experience in the day-to-day running of government. In December 1978, he became Minister of Planning in the Government. Dos Santos passed away at the age of 79 on 8 July 2022 in Barcelona, Spain where he underwent treatment.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### 28 August 1962

#### Efuru starts journey

Flora Nwapa on this day sent her first novel, *Efuru* to Chinua Achebe for advice. He encouraged her to submit her work for publication and sent her money to post the manuscript to Britain. *Efuru* became the first novel published in Britain in English by an African woman, and became a pioneering milestone for African writers.

### 29 August 1987

#### FEDSAW Western Cape region Relunched

On 29 August 1987, a new FEDSAW region of the Western Cape was launched. Leading women in the South African struggle were honoured at the launch. Breaking restrictions placed on naming and honouring various people, the launch nevertheless honoured amongst others Ray Alexander Simons, Hilda Bernstein, Lillian Ngoyi, Frances Baard, Helen Joseph, Dorothy Nyembe, Amina Cachalia and Albertina Sisulu. Organisations such as the African National Congress

Women's League (ANCWL) and the women's branch of the South African Congress of Democrats (COD) were also honoured.

### 28 August 2000

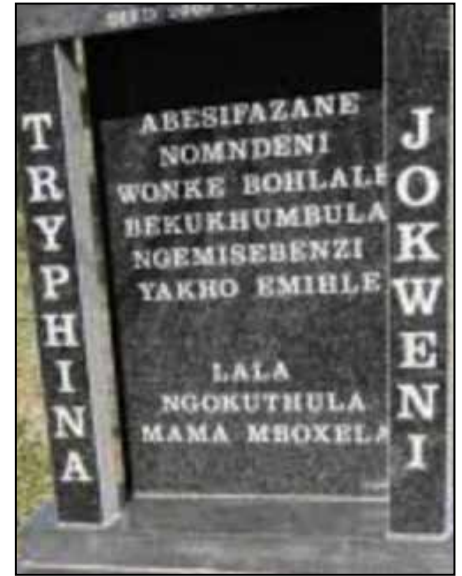
#### Arusha Accord signed

The Arusha Accords negotiated by former Presidents Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Nelson Mandela of South Africa were signed, bringing an end to the Burundi civil war, which saw 300,000 killed.

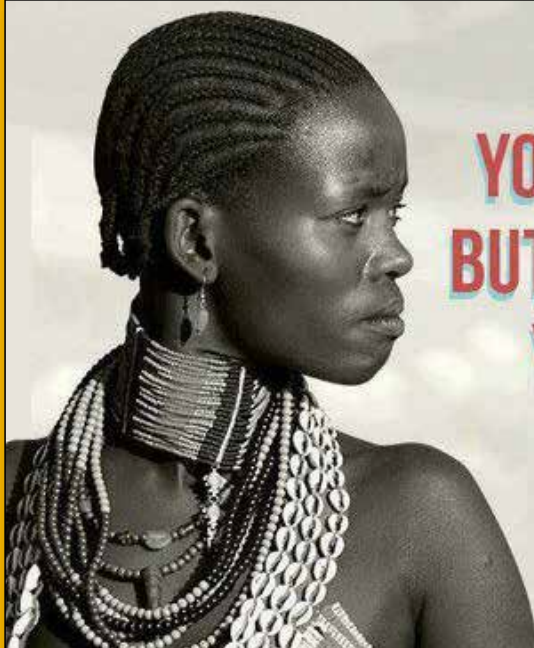
### 29 August 2012

#### ANC honours Tryphina Jokweni

Tryphina Mboxela Jokweni was amongst the women who organised the 1956 Women's march to the Union building. She was a member of the ANC at the time and when Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) was formed, she joined in 1962. She is one of the pioneers of MK. She was arrested in 1966 in her hometown, Umkhumbane, Durban and detained for six months. After her release,



she moved to Umlazi, where she continued working in the underground, using her home as a safe house for MK cadres. In 1987, she was detained and tortured by the police, and gave testimony to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Jokweni passed away in 2002. On 29 August 2012, the ANC commemorated Jokweni and recognized her contributions to the liberation struggle by laying a new tombstone for her at the Wentworth Cemetery, Durban.



**“IF YOU EDUCATE A MAN  
YOU EDUCATE AN INDIVIDUAL,  
BUT IF YOU EDUCATE A WOMAN,  
YOU EDUCATE A NATION.”**

**— AFRICAN PROVERB**

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

23—29 August 2025

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

### 23 August

#### International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition



The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. In remembrance, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August each year. The first slave from then Indonesia, Abraham van Batavia, was imported in 1653, shortly after the Dutch colonised South Africa, with an active slave trade starting by the Dutch East Company, hence the Malay heritage of Cape Town. Other slaves were trafficked from Angola, Mauritius, and Madagascar. Slavery in British colonies, including South Africa, was abolished with the Abolition of Slavery Act of 1833 and came into effect in 1834; amongst the reasons for the Great Trek by Dutch settlers into the hinterland.

### 26 August

#### Dog Day

Dogs have been domesticated as humans' best friend over 40 000 years. They are part of the wolf-

like canids. The World Canine Organisation recognises over 340 breeds of dogs. Organisations like the SPCA and others look after the well-being of dogs and other pets, but it's all our responsibility to care for our best friends.

### 28 August

#### International Day for Universal Access to Information

Access to information is key to democratic rights, enshrined in our Constitution and promoted and protected through laws such as the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) and the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA). POPIA affords the right to protection against the unlawful collection, retention, dissemination and use of personal information. It governs processing of personal information in a responsible way. PAIA provides a right of access to information held by private and public bodies.

### 28 August

#### Bow Tie Day

Bow ties are seen as worn by older men, nerds and scientists; but they are versatile and stylish and not just restricted to men. The day celebrates this dashing accessory!

### 29 August

#### International Day against Nuclear Tests

The first nuclear bomb, named Trinity and part of the Manhattan project, was tested by the USA on 16 July 1945 in New Mexico. Just over a month later, the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on 6 August 1945, immediately killing 80 000 people and tens of thousands' others later as the effects of radiation were felt in the years and decades to come. Since 1954, eight countries collectively have carried out over 2000 nuclear tests, with damaging

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



impact on people and the environment. France for example tested most of its nuclear weapons tests in its then colonies, Algeria and French Polynesia. The UN eventually adopted the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty in 1996, although this has not stopped countries' nuclear tests.

### 29 August

#### Independent Bookstore day

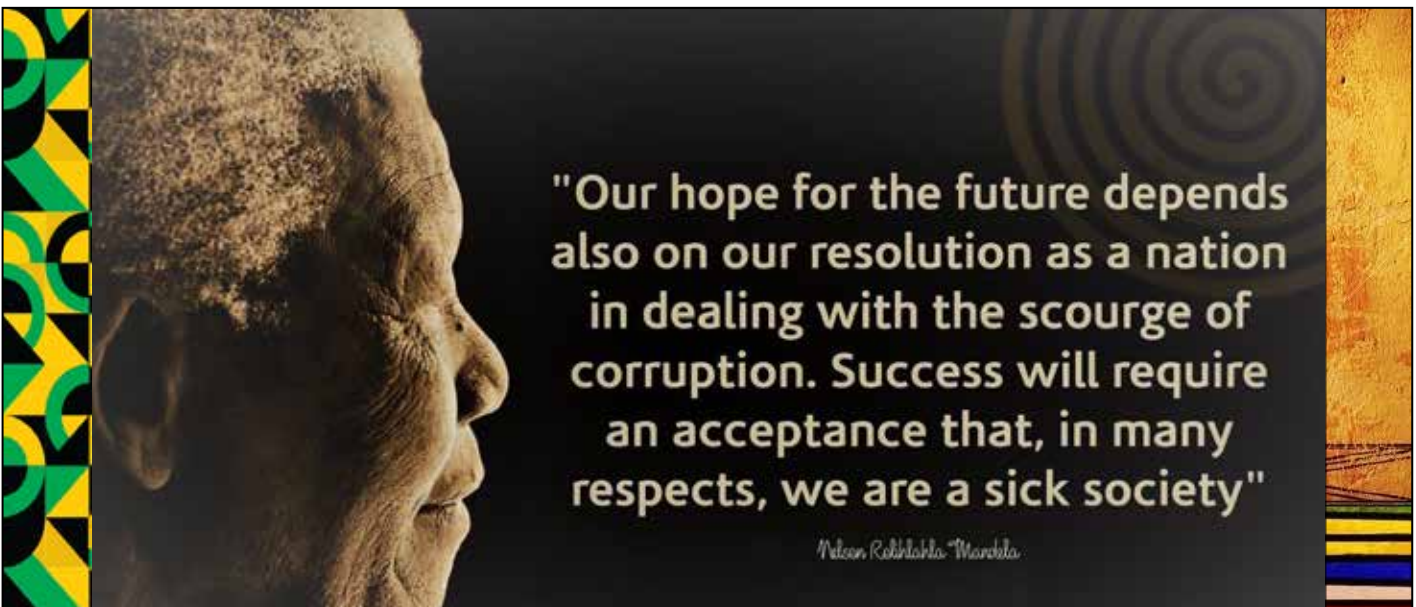
Independent bookstores are not linked to a chain store, often owner operated, allowing them to stock books of choice. Some independent bookstores specialize in poetry, progressive literature, crime or science fiction with a combination of new and secondhand books. Research showed that having an independent bookstore in a neighbourhood increases the value of properties. In South Africa, bookstores are mainly found in formerly white areas, and booksellers have looked at innovative

ways of getting books into all communities; with authors self-publishing and selling out of the boot of their cars, to an initiative like the Eyethu Pop-up library which sells books at a taxi-rank stand in Kimberley and the **'Booksellers of Mzansi'** initiative in Durban, that support homeless people to make a living by selling secondhand books on the streets of the city.

### 29 August

#### More Herbs, less Salt day

Most of us consume more than 1.5 teaspoons of salt every day, which is way, way too much for our bodies. Salt contains sodium, which can lead to high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke. On this day, try using herbs instead of salt in your food. You can use garlic, turmeric or ginger for anti-inflammatory benefits, or use onions, dill, cloves, nutmeg, or fresh herbs like parsley or coriander (dhanya).



"Our hope for the future depends also on our resolution as a nation in dealing with the scourge of corruption. Success will require an acceptance that, in many respects, we are a sick society"

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

**AUGUST 2025 WOMEN'S MONTH**

**TO ALL SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN**

# **HAPPY WOMEN'S MONTH**

**WATHINT' ABAFAZI,  
WATHINT' IMBOKODO!**

