



# ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the  
**President**



## Eskom's progress shows the value of partnership

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

**E**SKOM's latest financial results, showing a return to profitability for the first time in eight years, are a testament to the value of staying the course and to the benefits of partnerships.

When we announced the National Energy Action Plan in 2022, the national power utility's losses stood at R12.3 billion and its debt had ballooned to over R300 billion. At the time, Eskom's auditors noted that there was "material uncertainty relating to Eskom's ability to continue."

The relative improvement in

Eskom's financial position reflects the significant recovery in Eskom's operational performance.

Thanks to the collaboration between different Government departments, the stewardship of the National Electricity Crisis Committee (NECOM) and hard work by the leadership and staff of Eskom, Eskom is turning the corner.

Eskom's improved financial position, will enable it to invest in critical infrastructure and maintenance under its Generation Recovery Plan that has been pursued with diligence. There

are plans to invest more than R320 billion in expanding existing infrastructure.

As the reliability of Eskom's coal-fired plants has improved there has been less need to burn diesel, resulting in approximately R16 billion in savings on diesel costs. In the 2025 financial year, the country experienced loadshedding on just 13 days, down from 329 days the year before. Eskom is to be congratulated on this achievement.

However, there are still serious challenges. Municipal debt arrears have grown by 27%

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



since the previous financial year. That is why we continue to work with municipalities to come up with sustainable solutions that enable municipalities to settle their accounts with Eskom, as this is key to its financial viability.

Even as Eskom continues along the path to recovery, we continue to pursue the other pillars of the Energy Action Plan with equal vigour. These are accelerating the procurement of new generation capacity, increasing private investment and pursuing structural reforms to transform the electricity sector.

In this regard, the Electricity Regulation Amendment Act that came into force in January is a step towards progressively opening up the sector and paves the way for a more competitive electricity market. This legislative amendments allows for the restructuring of Eskom into separate generation, transmission and distribution units, as well as for private sector investment and diversification that will ultimately benefit consumers.

With grid expansion being central to getting more capacity, Eskom, in partnership with the private sector, has plans to build approximately 14 000 km of new transmission lines over the next decade.

On the road to achieving energy security, social partners will continue to be key. The role played by these partners in

NECOM and the Government Business Partnership has been invaluable. Two years since its inception, this collaborative model continues to yield results not only around energy but also in the other workstreams of transport and logistics, crime and corruption and youth unemployment.

The financial improvement at Eskom bears witness to the strength of these multi-sectoral partnerships, but also to the value of consistency and forging ahead with long-term goals, even in the face of strident criticism.

The ongoing structural reform process represents exactly this consistency and resilience. We will continue along this recovery path across the economy to achieve our goal of inclusive economic growth that creates more jobs for our people. ■





# Transformation is not an event

Statement by **ANC PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA** on the ANC's

## Economic Action Plan

at the Conclusion of the ANC National Executive Committee meeting

**T**HE ANC National Executive Committee has just concluded a special NEC meeting that focused in the main on key interventions to accelerate progress towards inclusive growth and faster job creation.

This special NEC meeting follows an extensive discussion in August 2025, where the NEC discussed the state of the economy and outlined key actions that need to be taken to give effect to the Medium Term Development Plan that has been adopted by government.

The discussion was informed by

the three strategic priorities of the 7th administration:

- **Firstly, to drive inclusive growth and job creation.**
- **Secondly, to reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living.**
- **Thirdly, to build a capable, ethical and developmental state.**

We are in discussing all these matters guided by the resolutions of the ANC's 55th National Conference of December 2022 and the 2024 National and Provincial Elections Manifesto, which reaffirmed our commitment to a fundamental transformation

of our country's economy. The NEC reaffirmed our commitment to broad-based black economic empowerment to ensure that we correct the injustices of our past and end the inequality of the present moment.

As the ANC, we have identified specific interventions to advance the vision of the National Development Plan and the economic programme of the Government and the Medium Term Development Plan.

These interventions are intended to support government's proposed implementation plan on

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growth and inclusion, and which inform the Annual Performance Plans (APPs) of various government departments.

In undertaking this work, we are not seeking to start from scratch. We have made progress over the last few years in advancing economic restructuring and transformation, in improving our capacity to increase infrastructure investment, for which we have budgeted R1 trillion, and in using public programmes to support employment and livelihoods.

We welcome in particular the progress made in resolving load-shedding, expanding generation capacity and establishing a competitive electricity market.

We have also seen great strides in the progress being made in the logistics sector, including steady recovery in the Transnet's performance.

But the impact of this work is yet to be felt in our growth and employment figures.

The intractable impact of poverty, unemployment and the high cost of living on the daily lives of South Africans is unacceptable.

The persistence of low economic growth, severe unemployment and the impact of global trade instability require that we should take action. We must accelerate the pace and massively scale up our efforts.

We will focus on implementation and delivery. Specifically, we have identified 10 priority interventions to reignite growth in our economy.

The **first intervention** is to use electricity tariffs and investment



in transmission infrastructure to drive economic activity.

Among other things, this means preferential electricity tariffs for ferrochrome, manganese and steel.

We will fast-track the Transmission Development Plan to install 14,500 km of new transmission lines for our electricity grid.

The **second intervention** is to accelerate the recovery of our freight and logistics sector.

This includes the implementation of Transnet's recovery plan, private sector participation in rail and port operations, and upgrading of export corridors.

The **third intervention** is to rebuild our chrome and manganese industries.

We will finalise chrome and manganese export tariffs, implement defensive duties on dumped imports, and expand alloys and battery precursor production.

The NEC resolved that the **fourth intervention** must be to improve the capacity of the state to manage major projects.

This is to address infrastructure delays due to weak capacity and fragmented coordination in making projects bankable and reach the stage of completion. We will professionalise the project management cadre, establish a cross-government coordination unit, and ringfence catalytic projects.

The **fifth intervention** is to drive local economic development and investment in local infrastructure.

With a particular focus on townships, rural areas and small towns, we will establish municipal local economic development technical units.

We will integrate local economic development into the District Development Model and link local infrastructure spend to industrial policy.

The **sixth intervention** focuses on labour activation initiatives as well as public employment.

This requires a massive scale up of the Presidential Employment Stimulus and other public employment programmes. Importantly, it will include reskilling for industrial sectors and expanding artisan and apprenticeship pipelines.

The **seventh intervention** agreed by the NEC is to expand SMME support and investment by Development Finance Institutions.

In particular, concessional finance and market access for SMMEs should be expanded.

Development Finance Institutions will be transformed into catalytic investors.

The **eighth intervention** is to enable the growth of provincial economies outside of the main economic centres.

This will include the revitalisation of industrial parks with localisation targets, aligning these with special economic zones and corridor planning.

The focus will be on labour-absorptive sectors, such as agro-processing, light manufacturing, cannabis and textiles.

The **ninth intervention** is to accelerate the diversification of our trade partners, strengthen our participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area and address the impact of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

This will include an emergency industrial support package for sectors affected by increased tariffs. We will expand exports under the African Continental Free Trade Area and exports to BRICS countries and to other markets where we will be paying visits in due course.

The **tenth and final intervention** is to ensure effective budget and macroeconomic coordination.

We will develop a sustainable budget negotiation strategy in the

context of the Government of National Unity.

We will align fiscal, monetary, trade and industrial policy, and mobilise development finance institutions and pension funds for productive investment.

In the course of this, we will craft innovative financing mechanisms and processes that will enable us to fund the key catalytic infrastructure projects.

These ten interventions align with and support the work underway in all spheres of government.

They signal the urgency and intent of the ANC as we move rapidly to address an economic emergency.

The NEC resolved that an Economic War Room be established in the Presidency to coordinate cross-government performance monitoring and publish regular scorecards on progress.

Fundamental to the success of these efforts is sound institutional governance.

Professionalisation and merit-based appointments are going

to be non-negotiable.

The ANC supports the implementation of the Public Service Professionalisation Framework, ensuring that the public administration is skilled, ethical and insulated from factional politics.

The capacity of the state to deliver on projects requires serious engineering, financial and project management capabilities that need to be rebuilt.

We will want to focus on this at all layers of government – national, provincial and especially local government.

We need to rebuild and reform state owned enterprises to be effective developmental instruments.

We are beginning to see progress in some of our SOEs that are improving their performance and attracting talented and competent people.

Efficient and well-governed SOEs are vital to economic growth and national competitiveness.

Corruption corrodes competitiveness. We therefore insist on con-



sequence management, lifestyle audits and enforcement of integrity standards across the public sector.

The SIU reports are demonstrating that we are serious in fighting corruption and these reports will be acted on.

Governance reform is not only about compliance. It is about restoring public confidence and trust and enabling the state to lead investment and industrialisation effectively.

Economic transformation is the moral and strategic mission of the African National Congress.

With coordinated industrial policy, strong institutions and an innovation-driven growth strategy, the nation can reclaim its role as Africa's industrial leader.

In this regard, many that we interact with globally see our country as a gateway into the rest of the continent. We need to strengthen this position.

This requires social partnerships to raise the levels of capital investment in strategic areas for growth, innovation and overall structural transformation.

The effectiveness of these interventions must be measured in factories that are opened, infrastructure projects that are embarked upon and opportunities created for a new generation, and an increasing flow of international and local investors.

Transformation is not an event. It is a process of building capacity, building confidence and enhancing our sovereignty as a country.

Through ethical leadership and

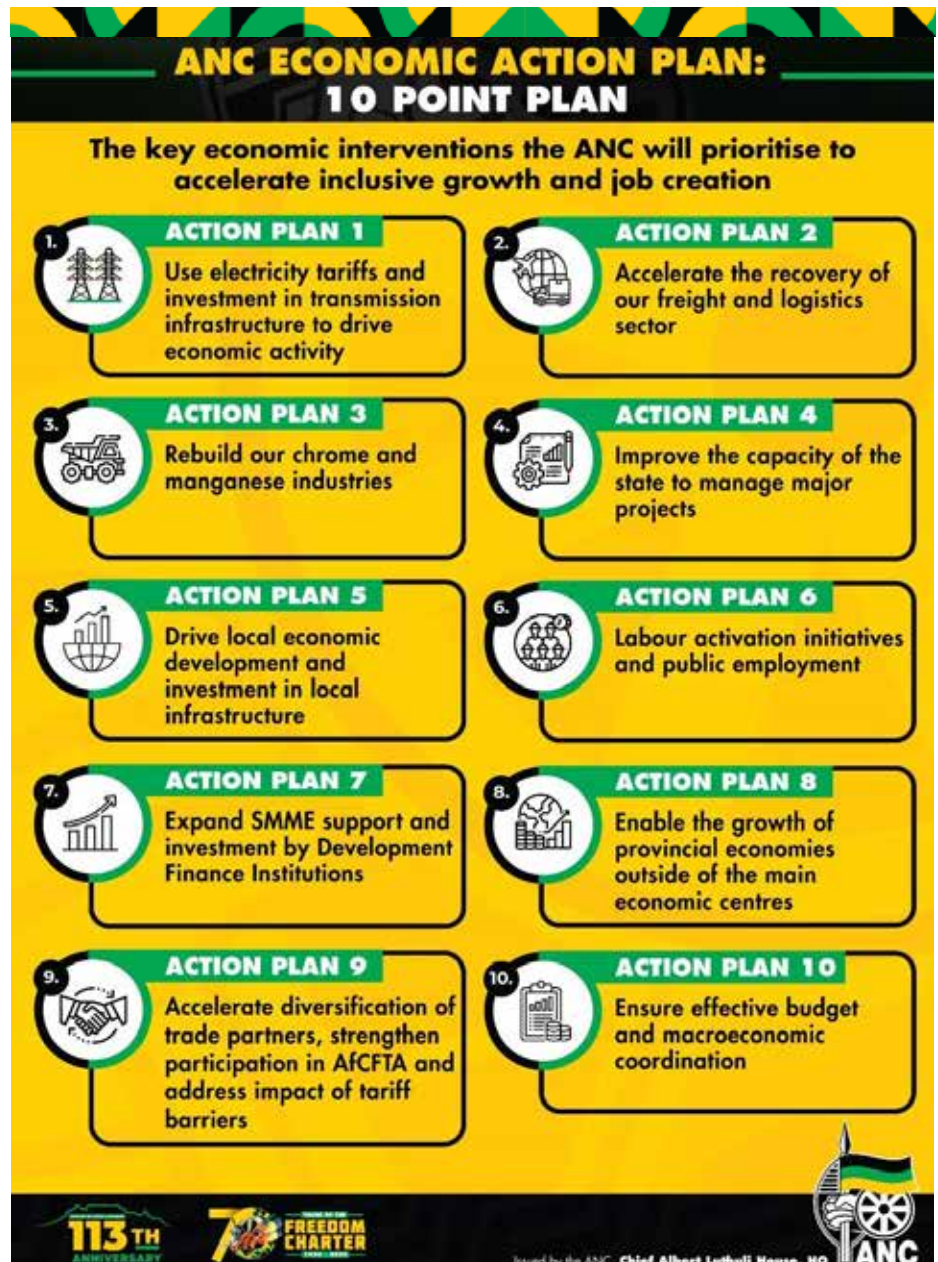
collective effort, the developmental state will secure prosperity and justice for all.

Arising out of our meeting this weekend, the NEC directs its deployees at all levels of government to act swiftly to finalise economic interventions that will rebuild our economy through ensuring that their APPs are streamlined to achieve all three strategic priorities of our organisation. Our organisation has significant policies and plans that can resolve the economic emergency we face. Our task is to ensure effective

and immediate implementation.

Through the Government of National Unity, through provincial and local government, through all our structures and working together, we will undertake these key interventions to reignite growth and create jobs.

Through this work, we will give effect to the mandate that we have been given to fundamentally transform our economy to meet the needs of all South Africans, leaving no one behind. ■



**ANC ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN:  
10 POINT PLAN**

The key economic interventions the ANC will prioritise to accelerate inclusive growth and job creation

- ACTION PLAN 1**  
Use electricity tariffs and investment in transmission infrastructure to drive economic activity
- ACTION PLAN 2**  
Accelerate the recovery of our freight and logistics sector
- ACTION PLAN 3**  
Rebuild our chrome and manganese industries
- ACTION PLAN 4**  
Improve the capacity of the state to manage major projects
- ACTION PLAN 5**  
Drive local economic development and investment in local infrastructure
- ACTION PLAN 6**  
Labour activation initiatives and public employment
- ACTION PLAN 7**  
Expand SMME support and investment by Development Finance Institutions
- ACTION PLAN 8**  
Enable the growth of provincial economies outside of the main economic centres
- ACTION PLAN 9**  
Accelerate diversification of trade partners, strengthen participation in AfCFTA and address impact of tariff barriers
- ACTION PLAN 10**  
Ensure effective budget and macroeconomic coordination

113<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
70<sup>TH</sup> FREEDOM CHARTER  
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## Tlou Cholo, receiver of the Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe award turns 100 on 20th October

Here, **MAVUSO MSIMANG**, ANC Veterans reflects on the life of Cde Cholo after reading his biography about three years ago

**T**HREE years ago, I came upon a biography of Tlou Theophilus Cholo, a distinguished uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) veteran who has been awarded the long-overdue recognition as the ANC's unquestionably distinguished *Seaparankoe*. The book, authored by Dr Tlou Setumu, bears the title: ***Heeding the Call to Fight for the Fatherland***.

It chronicles an indestructible commitment to the freedom cause and courage in the face of relentless, savage torture. What kind of physical, mental and spiritual conditioning enables a mortal being to spurn death, as Cholo did? No simple answer there, but this book has been a therapeutic and gives those associated with the ANC a badge of pride. Such is the quiet, dignified demeanour that has characterised Comrade T. T. Cholo's long life. He turns 100 years on 20 October 2025!

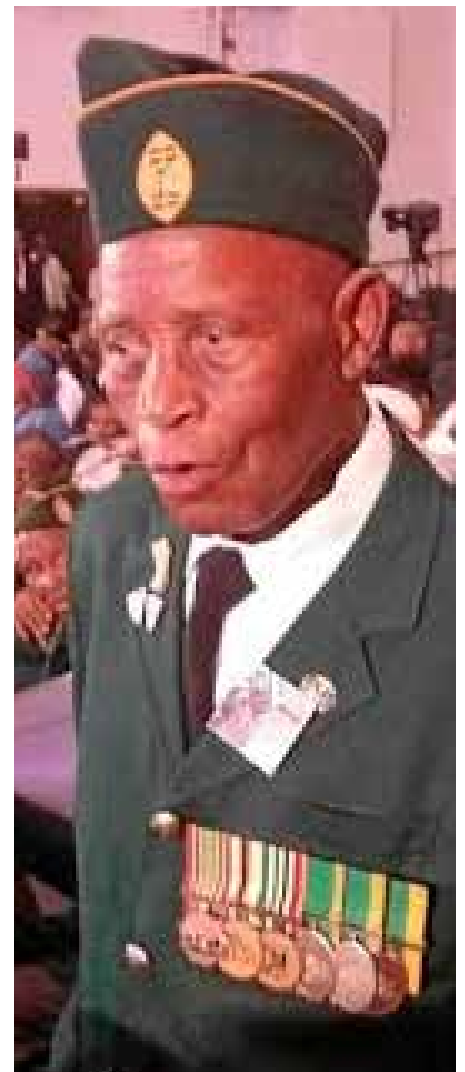
In the foreword to Cholo's biography, the respected, late Pro-

fessor Shadrack Gutto observes that it is only *"the partial histories of leaders constituting the tip of the iceberg that are recorded. The mass of the millions who participate in historic revolutions rarely get their stories written."*

Setumu's work should thus be welcomed for contributing to filling this gap. In his elegy, the English poet, Thomas Gray observes: *"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness in the desert air."* Surely, we should not allow Cholo's breath-taking accomplishments to lie buried in the pit of unsung heroes.

### TEMPERING THE STEEL

Cholo was born into the Bakoneba Ga Matlala clan in Limpopo on 20 October 1925. The tempering of his steel for the struggles that lay ahead began when, having started school at age 12, to do grades 5 and 6 he had to walk 30km daily to and from school. After finishing primary education,



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he went to find a job in the City of Gold, in the now appropriately named Gauteng Province.

A black man, he had to have a special permit to be allowed into the Witwatersrand. His expired before he could land a job, resulting in him spending a weekend in detention in the Yeoville police station. He took up a succession of demeaning jobs in white households that offered low pay and entailed long working hours, all done in an oppressively racist human environment.

Employment at the Union Building Corporation in 1949 enabled him to join a trade union, which brought him into contact with ANC members John Nkadimeng, Mark Shope, Alfred Nzo and others, all of whom were to become prominent struggle stalwarts. This distinguished company of comrades got Cholo started in struggle politics as an organiser of workers. For his troubles he lost his job.

A man of the moment, he participated in the 1952 Campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws. He campaigned for the adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955. He was in the Commissioner Street crowd that burnt their dompases, as directed by ANC president Chief AJ Luthuli when he visited Jozi in 1960.

When the ANC was banned in the same year, Cholo was among the first people to be instructed to continue its work covertly and in 1962 he left the country for trade union, political and military training in Moscow. He speaks with pride about the privilege of meeting Fidel Castro, the late Cuba and Nikita Khrushchev who was the president of union of Soviet Socialist Republics, now dissolved.



Upon completing his training in 1966, Cholo was back in Africa, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, ready to return home to mobilise for the commencement of the armed struggle. Next, he and Uria Maleka are cross the Zambezi River hidden under a false bottom in a special compartment covered by a pile of frozen fish and ice and created at the back of a fisherman's bakkie. The 'fisherman' was comrade Benjamin Ramotse, an ANC guerrilla with whom I trained in Moscow. The designer of the false bottom was comrade Peter Masemola, the ANC's highly skilled carpenter who ran the ANC-owned Star Furniture in Lusaka. Ramotse steers his precious cargo under the pile of fish safely to shore past a South African checkpoint mounted on the bridge in the middle of the mighty river. They reach the southern bank freezing cold but greatly relieved that they managed to fool the apartheid security police.

### POLICE AMBUSH

Disaster strikes when the person who is supposed to meet them on the Botswana side fails

to pitch. Up and down they pace in the bush alongside the road, to no avail. A Masarwa (San) man approaches them and offers to help them find transport to Francistown, their destination. Instead, he delivers them straight into a police ambush. They are promptly driven to Kasane police station, where the station commander, called Martin, a relic of the departed British colonial administration, oversees their dreadful treatment.

They are subsequently charged with being in the country illegally, carrying false passports and bearing weapons of war. Sentenced to three years and nine months' imprisonment, they appeal against the sentence, but lose. They are transferred to Gaborone prison to serve their sentence and are well treated. Botswana rejects the apartheid government's request for Cholo and Maleka to be deported to SA and instead sends them to Zambia.

After a refresher course in Russia in 1971, Cholo joins a select group of ANC guerrillas on a year-long naval training programme in Baku, Azerbaijan. It includes learning how to pilot a submarine. ANC president Oliver Tambo, Moses Mabhida, Joe Slovo and Chris Hani travel to Baku to discuss the mission. A Greek vessel, the Aventura, has been chartered for the voyage to SA. They'll be dropped off at several selected spots along the Indian Ocean coast between Durban and the former Transkei.

Upon completing their programme, group members travel clandestinely to Mogadishu in Somalia to start their journey home. No sooner has the Aventura set sail than it develops engine problems, forcing it to return

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to Mogadishu for repairs. The vessel leaves again but starts floundering due to the same mechanical problems. The mission is aborted. Suspecting sabotage, the ANC and Somalian authorities have the captain and the crew detained for questioning.

### SETBACKS

Undaunted by these setbacks, Cholo and his colleagues are ready to explore other ways and means of getting to SA. In July 1971, Cholo, Sandi Sijake and Joe Guma fly to Matsapha airport, in Eswatini, on their way to Polokwane for Cholo, and the Eastern Cape for Sijake and Guma. Alex Moumbaris, a French national who is part of the ANC infiltration machinery, drives them out of Eswatini and drops them a few kilometres from the border post. They enter the country through the border fence close to the hut of a security sentinel. Fortunately, they pass unnoticed. An emotional Cholo kneels down to kiss the ground, delighted to be back home. For the second time in his experience, the person assigned to meet them does not show up. They spend the night in the bush and resume their trek at the crack



of dawn. On the road a truck driver gives them a lift. Sitting on its load of tar-coated poles, they arrive in Ermelo quite a sight.

Observing strict security protocols, they board the evening train to Johannesburg. Sijake and Guma change trains along the way and head for the Eastern Cape. Cholo arrives at the Park Station terminal sporting a beard and sunglasses. He strolls down the street and waits for dusk before taking a train to Molapo in Soweto. There lives the Sekwele family, which has a close relationship with Ntsana Samuel Chokwe, a traditional healer.

“Seanne”, as Cholo introduces himself to the Sekwele family on whose door he knocks that evening, claims that he lives in Randburg and is looking for a traditional doctor called Chokwe, originally from Matjitjileng village in the Mokopane-Mogalakwena area of Limpopo. His story is convincing and the Sekweles welcome him and offer him accommodation pending his meeting with Chokwe. In fact, Chokwe and Cholo used to be close friends and members of the ANC in years gone by. After gaining the confidence of the Sekweles, Cholo decides to change his story and discloses his true identity. It works sublimely.

Chokwe eventually comes back from his travels in the Free State and meets Cholo at the Sekweles. It is agreed that it would be too risky for Cholo to return to his village. Chokwe, therefore, recommends that Cholo go to Burgwal and stay at the home of Vendah PHEME, Chokwe’s sister. PHEME will be told that Cholo is Chokwe’s patient and be asked to accommodate him while awaiting Chokwe’s arrival from Joburg. At one point, fearing that he might be killed, Cholo signals to the black guards that he is ready to talk.

On the train from Pretoria to Polokwane, Cholo suspects that he is being shadowed by a young man. He proceeds, anyway, and after alighting from the train he takes a bus to Burgwal, bound for the PHEME home where he is warmly welcomed after explaining the circumstances of his sojourn.

### DAYS OF TORTURE

All is well until one morning, some two months later, two policemen enter the PHEME homestead and arrest Cholo. A scuffle





breaks out and he is overpowered, handcuffed and placed in leg irons. The suspicious young man is in one of the cars. Ten police vehicles are parked nearby, ready to escort the captured “terrorist” to Polokwane police station, thence to a Pretoria prison. Verbally abused by his captors along the way, on his arrival Cholo is thrown into a basement cell where he is interrogated and subjected to torture for days on end. Stripped naked and his hands and feet tied together, he spends most of the time suspended from the roof of the cell. They pull out his toenails. Bleeding, he is splashed with cold water from a high-pressure hosepipe.

For days he isn’t given food. His tormentors continue trying to extract information from him. Nicolaas Jacobus Arlow, the brute who masterminds the persecution, is reputed to have taken a number of black lives. At one point, fearing that he might be killed, Cholo signals to the black guards that he is ready to talk. The message is conveyed to jubilant white officers who give instructions that he should be taken down from the ceiling and given his clothes. A press conference is arranged for

him to tell all, but Cholo somehow can’t bring himself to say anything that might compromise his comrades. He is promptly sent back to his cell for more assaults. Finally, Cholo is charged and makes his first court appearance in December 1972. He is joined by Peter Mthembu, Justice Mpanza and Sandi Sijake. The other co-accused are Alex Moumbaris and John Hosey. The trial starts in March 1973. Cholo, Sijake, Mpanza and Mthembu have pro deo representation. They are found guilty and sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment. Moumbaris and Hosey, both of whom are represented by George Bizos, get five years for what is considered a lesser crime.

Significantly, the state does not charge Jackson Mlenze and Joe Guma, who are part of this group. They had become informers. Cholo and his colleagues will eventually serve the bulk of their sentences on Robben Island.

### WIFE PERSECUTED

For 10 years while in exile and underground, Cholo did not contact Mmaphuti, his wife. In her own right, she was persecuted

for being the wife of a “terrorist”. Cholo only learnt about the death of his second son, Kgabane, long after his passing.

Ninety-nine years and soon to become a centenarian, Cholo is elated that the apartheid government is no more and very happy that the ANC is in government. He is, however, gravely disappointed that it has lost so much public trust that it could not form the government and that it seem capable of getting rid of corrupt people among its ranks. He is also saddened by the fact that so many people continue to live in abject poverty thirty years after the achievement of political freedom. He is distressed by the high levels of crime, including gender-based violence. His take is that the law is too lenient on criminals.

In 2018 the Tshwane University of Technology conferred the honorary doctorate in public administration on Tlou Theophilus Cholo. This exceptional man lives in Soshanguve. ■

**Mavuso Msimang** is a member of the ANC Veterans League and former Umkhonto WeSizwe member.

# Tribute to Comrade and Friend – Nathi Mthethwa

■ By **DR MALUSI GIGABA**

**W**HEN I first heard the news of Nathi's passing, I could not bring myself to believe it. How does one suddenly accept that a man so full of life – a brother, a comrade, a confidant – was gone? Even after official confirmation, it felt unreal. We cannot for our lives imagine Nyambose late – silent, still, and without a voice. We cannot still easily bring ourselves to refer to him in the past tense.

To lose Nyambose in such tragic circumstances is a wound that cuts deep; but the murky circumstances surrounding it all made it not only perplexing but even more painful. For me, Nyambose was not just Ambassador Mthethwa, Minister Mthethwa, or Comrade Mthethwa. He was Nathi, "Mnisi", Nyambose, Dingiswayo, Nkonyane – my friend, a brother with whom I shared decades of struggle, debate, laughter, and learning.

## **Our Journey Together**

We met as young activists in the ANC Youth League in KwaZulu-Natal. A few years older than me, he was already a trade unionist and youth activist. From those early days, his dedication to the struggle, political education, and organisation was unmatched. He worked tirelessly, first as the administrative secretary and then as regional secretary of the ANC



Youth League during a very difficult time in KZN.

Nathi was fearless in debate and profoundly loyal as a friend. I often reflected on his courage and integrity during the difficult days in the ANC leading up to the Polokwane conference in 2007, where he was always steadfast in articulating his beliefs.

These bonds endured across decades, through both public service and personal milestones. When I resigned from Parliament in 2001, following the ANCYL's National Congress, he was the one chosen to take my place (in Parliament). I had the privilege of being part of his lobola negotiating team and his best man at his wedding. See-

ing him with his wife and family revealed a devotion that extended to every part of his life. I was also one of the speakers for his first wedding anniversary as well as 50th birthday.

## **Nathi the Intellectual and Historian**

Few South Africans saw the depth of Nathi's intellect. He was a historian at heart, immersing himself in the political, economic, and military history of South Africa and the broader African continent. He believed history was not merely a record of the past but a guide for the present and future.

In his own words: *"To understand where we come from is to chart*

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*a path to where we must go.*" This was not a casual reflection – it was a principle he applied in thought and action.

His lectures, including the Oliver Tambo Memorial Lecture (2015) and the Nat Nakasa Memorial Service in New York (2014), revealed a man whose scholarship and insight were admired locally and internationally. Nathi explored the struggles of oppressed peoples globally, from Palestine to Western Sahara, showing how deeply he connected local, continental, and global histories.

He once told me during a discussion about political education: *"Knowledge of our history is the first step towards true liberation."* This was quintessential Nathi – deeply thoughtful, yet never detached from the struggles and realities around him.

Nat Nakasa Memorial Service quote: *"The act of reburial solidifies that which is a part of our heritage."*

Oliver Tambo Memorial Lecture quote: *"To grow up in South Africa was to be aware of disparity in every aspect of your life, every last cell of your being."*

### The Personal Side

Nathi was humble, unassuming, and full of warmth. He loved soccer, earning the nickname "Jazzman," and carried that playfulness into adult life. He loved African jazz and embraced laughter as a vital part of life.

I remember our walks through Durban, attending political meetings or heading to the beach, where his humour and love of life were always apparent. His devotion to friends and family was



matched by his dedication to service.

I remember fondly how he and the eThekweni Mayor, Cyril Xaba, led our ANCYL delegation in peace talks with the IFP Youth Brigade in 1993 during what were very difficult talks between two organisations whose members had for a decade been at bloody loggerheads. Not only were they visionary and firm in leading us, they were steady in marshalling us towards the vision of peace, always reminding us that peace was in the best interests of the youth.

Because of their calmness, they were able to keep the meeting on course, calming us down with firmness and humour when the temperatures soared. In them, we had steady heads and hands at the helm, and assurance that the ideal of a united, peaceful and democratic South Africa would not be betrayed.

Being his best man at his wed-

ding remains one of the most treasured moments of my life. Seeing him with his wife, his care and loyalty evident in every gesture, revealed the depth of his humanity.

### Sport, Arts, and Culture – A Perfect Match

Nathi's appointment as Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture was a natural fit. His love for soccer and understanding of its power to unite and inspire made him excel in this role. He championed multi-purpose sports courts in schools, expanded the School Sport Programme, and launched initiatives supporting athletes' and artists' well-being.

He also played a key role on the Local Organising Committee for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, demonstrating how personal passion and public service could align. He once told me with a smile: *"Bra Gigaba, football teaches patience, strategy, and teamwork – just like governance."*

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For Nathi, football was never just a game; it was a vehicle for identity, discipline, and opportunity. Few South Africans knew how seamlessly his love for sport complemented his ministerial responsibilities – a true match made in heaven.

### Dedication to Public Service

In every position he held – from ANC Chief Whip in Parliament, Minister of Police, to Arts and Culture, to Ambassador – Nathi carried out his duties with humility, singular mindedness and devotion. He never complained about assignments and consistently sought to serve South Africa with integrity.

His tenure as Ambassador to France reflected his commitment to international solidarity. He represented our country with dignity, wisdom, and a clear vision for advancing South Africa's interests in a complex global landscape.

### Farewell

South Africa has lost more than a minister or ambassador. We have lost an intellectual, a historian, a thinker, and a human being who gave his all.

Farewell, my brother Nathi. Your voice will echo in our memories, your wisdom will guide us, and your laughter will remind us of the humanity that sustained you – and us – through it all.

In the words of OR Tambo, whom you adored since our youth days, you were indeed *“a colossus that was supremely human”*.

Your name will echo across the centuries; time will never erase your contribution to the struggle! ■



## Nyambose – The Nathi Mthethwa we know and appreciated

■ By **SIBONGILE BESANI** and **SIBONGILE MBOTWE**

**I**N this world of the living, we are all graced with moments that involve others. Moments that build lasting relationships because of those that impact on our lives. We are always blessed with friends and comrades that seek to uplift us. They engage in these human endeavours in the whirlwinds of our unpredictable lives. They endure these tides of unpredictability because the human spirit never succumbs to evil. We state these because we are the beneficiaries of the wonderful deeds of Dingiswayo, comrade Nathi Mthethwa.

Tuesday, the 30th of September 2025, is forever etched in our memories because it is the day

the tragic news of the passing on of Comrade Nathi reached the shores of our mother land. We who had the privilege of working with him in close proximity and serving under his stewardship, we are also devastated. This was a comradeship that developed into brotherhood. It is a relationship that mastered boundaries of the personal relations and professionalism.

In every respect, Nathi Mthethwa was a political animal, an ideologue who enjoyed refining the theorization of the National Democratic Revolution. He was the Chairperson of the NEC Political Education Subcommittee. Therefore, developing and training others was not a

past time for him, but a call to duty and a necessity for renewal. It is during his tenure as Chairperson of Political Education subcommittee that the O.R. Tambo School of Leadership came into being.

Comrade Nathi was a firm believer in organizational processes, even in situations that would not benefit him. He approached every debate in the organization from a premise of adding value and bringing substance to the fore. This is a strong character of all those in the political commissariat of our movement. The elegance of debate and argument to persuade others is another hallmark of his character. In his fearlessness, he displayed decency and respect for others and collective decision making.

In various areas of deployment as Chief Whip of the Majority party in Parliament, he led by example giving political direction to ANC Caucus. As the Minister of Police, a very challenging deployment considering the challenges that our country faced at the time, he managed to bring stability to Police.

As the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, comrade Nathi Mthethwa had an amazing understanding of sector and made efforts that Sport, Arts and Culture sector is appreciated in all its facets. He understood that the sport, arts and culture was a canvas for battle of ideas, therefore he was unrelenting in positioning our stolen heritage and distorted history properly. He understood the power of the portfolio in the daily lives of our people and the nation.

Comrade Nathi Mthethwa had a full and a deeper grasp of the arts and culture sector and the department. His detailed articu-



lation in outlining the mandates of the more than 20 entities was flawless and rich. Consequently, he earned respect of leadership from these entities. Yes, he fought and differed with some of them, but they would always appreciate the fact he challenged them to do better.

Despite his bias towards the intellectual side of the arts and culture, he worked very hard for the unity of the industry. Comrade Nathi pushed for coherence in the industry that is why he worked hard for the formation of structures such as CCFISA. Despite his dislike for fragmentation in the industry, his leadership embraced other voices in the arts and culture. Clearly, he navigated this contested space with care and diligence of a diplomat. He also created a structure that recognizes South African legends (Living Legends Programme). He understood that the current generation of creatives stand on the shoulders of the previous.

Nathi Mthethwa was a patriot to the bone, in his deployment as a Minister of Arts and Culture. He

took national symbols seriously and thus pioneered a programme to enlist the youth promote them. The National Young Patriots Programme was able to hoist national flag in over 20 000 schools of our country. It was offensive to him to disrespect the protocols of national symbols. Educating the youth about our national symbols must continue because patriotism is critical to nation building and the future of our country.

Comrade Nathi's internationalist outlook found expression in the believe of the total freedom for the people of Western Sahara and the struggle for the self determination of the people of Palestine.

Comrade Nyambose was a Pan Africanist and made efforts to make issues of decoloniality to the fore. The programmes relating to Africa Month and Africa Day were always in his radar. He missed no opportunity to ensure that the colloquiums in this regard are graced by presence of luminaries and African scholars of note, such as Ngugi wa Thiongo, Wale Soyinka and many more to

the festival of ideas. It is in these platforms and programmes that Comrade Nathi Mthethwa traced our liberation heritage with brilliance.

He commissioned programmes that would ensure that our liberation remains a source of conscientization of future generations, here at home and in the continent. He was also bold to continue with the work that preceded his tenure as Minister. He paid attention to the work commissioned by UNESCO on history of Africa and liberation struggle. He took action to ensure the volumes of these works is accessible.

Nathi Mthethwa never carried himself as a celebrity. He always focused on the substance of the arts and culture. He was averse to tendencies that always confine arts and culture to entertainment. He despised tabloid approach to the arts and culture. He clearly understood the impact of arts on our daily lives. In this regard he would invoke Steve Biko that *"The greatest weapon in the hand of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed."* To accentuate importance of arts in transformation agenda of our country.

He made time to explore in-depth the works of others and their grinding authorship. He adapted with ease when deployed in the arts and culture space, therefore succeeded to internalize Ben Okri's exhortation when he said *"This is what you must like. Grow wherever life puts you down"*.

His familiarity with text empowered him to convert the most ordinary conversation into erudite discussions. He looked for counsel in the text of many giants in the continent. Therefore, he asserted that knowledge is power.

Comrade Nathi Mthethwa always decried that the arts and culture is unfortunately under-resourced. He made efforts to conclude legislation relating to transformation of the arts and culture. This arduous work is yet to manifest. Most importantly, he understood that these responsibilities were not about him but about executing the task at hand.

Nyambose! you will be missed, you were endowed with that tall body frame, which always carried air of presence. The presence that echoed no expletives but soft penetrating views. Your imperfections were no mark of weakness but an indelible stamp that you remained a human being who tried and achieved a lot for our country and humanity.

As we salute in bidding you farewell into another realm of life, we borrow the injunction of Nontsizi Mgqwetho from book, ***The Nation's Bounty***;

*Listen, Compatriots!  
Mercy, Nontsizi, renowned for  
your chanting,  
your poems are the nation's  
bounty.  
No elephant finds its own trunk  
clumsy  
Awu! Mercy, old hen's wing in Af-  
rica!*

*Turn Phalo's land on its head,  
Mgqwetho[i]  
whack nations and sap their  
standing.  
Wild beast too fierce to take from  
behind,  
those who know tremble in tack-  
ling you.*

We believe that his work will be appreciated by generations to come, as it always happen with human species that prophets are not recognised at home particularly in their lifetime

Long Live the spirit of Comrade Nathi Mthethwa! ■



# Adieu Ambassadeur!

## Tribute to Cde Nathi Mthethwa

■ By **SIFISO SONJICA**

**T**HE unexpected passing of Comrade Nathi Mthethwa has cast a deep shadow across our nation and the broader liberation movement. His departure has left us stunned and heartbroken, not because we believed that Mthethwa was immortal, but because his unwavering courage, wisdom, and leadership were still greatly needed in a time when our country faces complex social and political challenges. His passing is not only a loss to his family and comrades but to an entire nation that he served with humility and conviction.

Comrade Nyambose stood at the forefront of the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. He did not choose the easy path; he chose the path of sacrifice. As a young activist and later as a leader, he dedicated his life to the liberation of the oppressed, often at great personal risk. He was part of a fearless generation that faced the brutality of the apartheid state with dignity and determination. Many of his peers were detained, tortured, or killed yet he remained steadfast, driven by a vision of a free, just, and democratic South Africa. His courage was not born of arrogance, but of love for his people and his country.

Through the years, from the trenches of struggle to the corridors of democratic governance, Comrade Mthethwa continued to serve his nation with integrity



and commitment. His leadership was defined by discipline, compassion, and a deep sense of duty to uplift the lives of ordinary South Africans. He believed that true leadership was service and his record stands as a testament to that belief. Even in the face of criticism or misunderstanding, he remained resolute and focused on advancing the ideals of freedom, unity, and equality.

To his family, we extend our heartfelt condolences. We understand that while the nation mourns a hero, you mourn a father, husband, brother, and friend whose presence cannot be replaced.

May you find comfort in knowing that his legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched and the history he helped shape.

As we reflect on his life, we must also exercise caution and reject the myths and unfounded speculations surrounding his passing. In moments of grief, let us not allow rumours to tarnish the dignity of a man who dedicated his entire existence to the service of others. Instead, let us honour him through truth, unity, and continued commitment to the ideals for which he stood.

Comrade Nathi Mthethwa's journey reminds us that the path to justice is never easy, it demands sacrifice, courage, and vision. His was a life of purpose and patriotism, one that will continue to inspire generations to come.

May your revolutionary spirit find eternal rest and peace. Hamba kahle, Cde Nyambose. Lala ngoxolo, son of the soil. ■



## ANC “DRIVING INVESTMENT AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH” IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

■ By **ISAAC MAHLANGU**

**T**HE Mpumalanga Provincial Government has successfully held an Investment and Mining Conference on 2-3 October 2025 in Middelburg, a mining town located in the province’s Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. According to the Mpumalanga Premier, and provincial African National Congress (ANC) Chairperson Cde Mandla Ndlovu, the event managed to secure pledges or investment commitments close to R250 billion to the economy of the province.

Under the theme “*driving investment to foster a sustain-*

*able and inclusive economy,*” the Conference marked the province’s ambitious effort to position itself as a top investment destination. Notably, it also aligned with the 7th administration’s priorities of inclusive growth, job creation, poverty reduction, and building a capable state.

Attendees of the Conference included business leaders, government officials at all levels including local government and National Departments, government entities and parastatals, development finance institutions (DFIs), civil society and traditional leaders.

This event is testimony to the ANC’s resolve to grow the country’s economy and facilitate the creation of jobs, particularly for the youth unemployed. It is another example of the ANC turning into reality its Manifesto commitment to “*Advance industrialisation as a driver of economic transformation, with active support for localisation, and high growth and labour intensive industries.*”

The investment pledges at the Conference were aligned to the province’s economic strengths such as mining, forestry, agro-processing and the energy sector, with companies such

as Sappi, PG Bison and others committing billions of Rands to be spent over the next five years.

Remarkably, a large windfall of investment will come from the energy sector through Eskom and the move towards renewable energy together thus positioning the province as a hub for energy security and green industrialization.

At the Conference, the Minister of Electricity Cde Kgosientsho “Sputla” Ramokgopa revealed Eskom plans to add 20 gigawatts of renewable power, including 11 gigawatts of solar and 8.9 gigawatts of wind, that will also benefit the province through sizeable investments and job creation. Coal miner and renewable energy company, Seriti, has also committed billions of Rands to the province. It operates several coal mines that supply to Eskom but is pursuing, side by side, renewable energy projects that will also be part of the Just Energy Transition (JET).

As articulated by the Premier Cde Mandla Ndlovu, it is important that the pledges made at the Conference are translated into meaningful action plans that deliver tangible jobs and a better life for communities.

He committed the provincial government to playing a monitoring role for their delivery and being active in the removal of administrative obstacles to implementation. Again, this commitment to work with the private sector to unleash jobs and opportunities in the province echoes the ANC 2024 Election Manifesto on “cultivating partnerships to support the development and expansion of domestic industries with significant potential to create sustainable jobs”!

### **A growing regional powerhouse with plentiful economic opportunities**

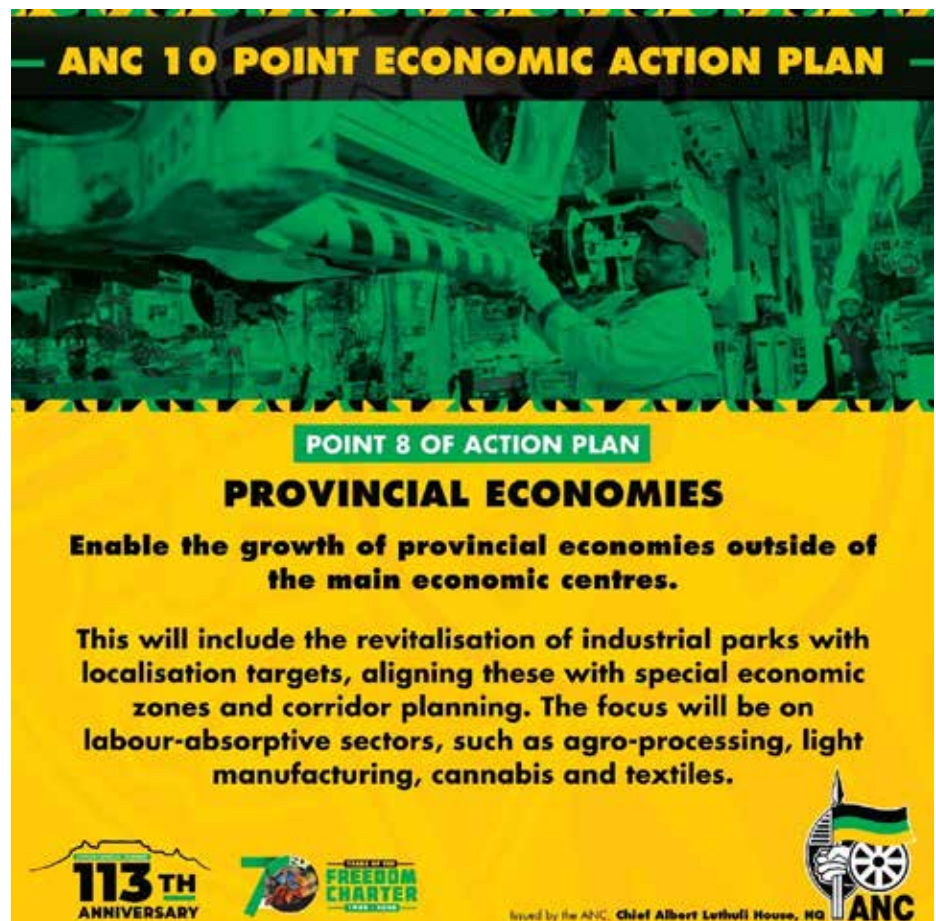
Mpumalanga, home to more than 5.14 million residents (8.3% of the national population), is the fifth biggest regional economy in South Africa, in 2024. The major contributors to provincial GDP were mining & quarrying, finance, personal services, and trade, catering and accommodation (which would include tourism). Agriculture is also a significant contributor to the rural economy both as an employer and source of food security.

The most recent provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data from Statistics South Africa show the regional economy to be growing though slowly and below the national performance. In 2023, and 2024, the province grew at 0.5 and 0.3 percent respectively. This is below the country figures of 0.8% and 0.5% for 2023 and

2024 (respectively).

Mpumalanga is one of South Africa’s most productive and important agricultural regions and plays a key role in the export profile of the country, primarily in fruit and nuts. It offers an ideal climate and topography for farming and forestry, but is also well endowed with major mineral resources (including being responsible for close to 80% of the country’s coal production).

In the province one is also to find formidable manufacturing capacity (e.g. the SASOL Secunda plant—the world’s largest synthetic fuels facility, or Columbus Stainless in Middelburg, Africa’s only producer of stainless-steel flat products), and a sophisticated tourism sector (Kruger National Park and the Blyde River Canyon are among major tourist attractions internationally).



**ANC 10 POINT ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN**

**POINT 8 OF ACTION PLAN**

**PROVINCIAL ECONOMIES**

**Enable the growth of provincial economies outside of the main economic centres.**

**This will include the revitalisation of industrial parks with localisation targets, aligning these with special economic zones and corridor planning. The focus will be on labour-absorptive sectors, such as agro-processing, light manufacturing, cannabis and textiles.**

113<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

70<sup>TH</sup> FREEDOM CHARTER

1994-2024

ANC

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

It would be amiss to exclude the province's role in the energy sector as home to Eskom's coal-fired power stations (11 out of 14), including the now recently completed "Kusile Power Station".

### **A successful investment conference despite global headwinds**

The success of the Mpumalanga Investment and Mining Conference is perhaps more remarkable given a fairly negative global economic outlook. According to various commentators, the global economy is grappling with a complex set of challenges such as mounting debt in many countries, persistent underperformance in GDP growth, geopolitical tensions, and structural shifts in trade and investment flows.

In its June 2025 Global Economic Prospects publication, the World Bank has highlighted how investment growth across the world has trended down since the 2008-09 global financial crisis.

However, despite the flawed narrative of the underperformance of ANC governments in providing economic leadership in the past 30 years, South Africans would be surprised to find that the country has actually attracted a net inflow (inflows minus outflows) of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) every year since the global financial crisis.

Most recently, in 2023, South Africa recorded FDI inflows amounting to R96.5 billion, equivalent to 1.4% of its GDP. (PriceWaterhouseCoopers, 2024)

### **New opportunities and drivers of success**

As the country aims to mitigate

the economic impact of new United States tariffs by focusing on export diversification, value-added production, and strengthening regional trade partnerships, Mpumalanga's attraction as an investment destination is amplified.

Mpumalanga is home to the Maputo Development Corridor (MDC) that links South Africa's highly industrialized Gauteng province, Limpopo and Mpumalanga with Mozambique's port of Maputo, and has its beginnings in the spatial development initiative programme launched back in 1996.

Apart from the rail component, the 590km N4 highway plays a significant role in facilitating market access, building the integrative infrastructure and bringing countries together.

The province's location next to Mozambique and ESwatini confirm it as a gateway to the African continent and beyond. It becomes an ideal investment location for export driven manufacturing and production, and access to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

### **Mpumalanga and "Green Industrialization"**

The threat of job losses in the province, as the country transitions towards being a low carbon economy and reduces reliance on coal, is one that was in the minds of many delegates at the conference.

However, the province has important advantages that can support the just transition, including an existing industrial base and experienced workforce; excellent wind and solar resources; and proximity to electricity load cen-

tres, with extensive transport and transmission infrastructure that can be used to support new initiatives in clean energy and other sectors.

The implementation of "green industrialization" initiatives, including the SA Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) has the potential to benefit Mpumalanga further.

SAREM aims to attract at least R15 billion (US\$784 million) in investment by 2030 and train "green workers" for employment in 25,000 direct jobs.

### **The road ahead- intensifying efforts to industrialize and create jobs**

*"Investment is more than just capital flows and project pipelines. It is a signal of where we are placing our bets as a society: on what we value, where we see potential and who we believe should be part of the future. As such, investment trends do more than track economic performance – they offer a mirror to our priorities, our systems and the choices we make collectively"* Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, (2025)

Under ANC stewardship and guidance, the province of the rising sun is poised to make enormous strides in delivering much needed jobs and opportunities, especially for its young people.

The recent Investment and Mining Conference has showed that much can be achieved when there is a clear focus and partnership towards a common goal-delivering a better life for our people! ■

# A Critical Thought on Leadership

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

**I**N 1989, before detention and during the Defiance Campaign, we proudly wore and waved a single truth on our T-shirts, posters, and banners: “ANC Lives... ANC Leads.” We – the people – unbanned the ANC. When the ANC was unbanned and Madiba walked free in 1990, that slogan became universal. ANC Lives... ANC Leads...

**Loyalty demands honesty.** If we love the African National Congress and the people it serves, we must speak plainly about the gap between the leadership our moment requires and the leadership we too often practice. This is not denunciation; it is self-correction – the essence of ANC renewal since Morogoro. What follows is a disciplined synthesis: a short review of ANC leadership praxis; a conversation with global leadership thought; and a practical charter for the calibre of cadre the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) now needs.

## What ANC Doctrine Already Teaches Us: A Short Review

The ANC has never been vague about leadership. Across conferences and discussion papers we have a **canon** – a living archive of ethos and method.

- **Morogoro (1969) – Strategy & Tactics:** set the standard of revolutionary morality, non-racialism, collective discipline, and leadership anchored in the people rather than above



them. Morogoro's warning against careerism reads as if written yesterday: leaders must be servants of the cause, not tenants of office.

- **Kabwe (1985) & the “motive forces” schema:** leadership must knit workers, rural poor, youth, women, and progressive professionals into a single hegemonic project. Leadership is not self-expression; it is coordination of social power. Is our leadership collective, representative, and mobilising the motive forces?
- **Mafikeng (1997) – Cadre Policy & Deployment:** deployment is the culmination of cadre development, not a substitute for it. Merit, political education and ethics precede placement; placement does not confer ethics ex post.
- **Through the Eye of a Needle? (2001, rev.):** our clearest

manual. The leader is selfless, humble, disciplined, rooted in branches, allergic to personal enrichment, able to listen before leading, and at ease with democratic centralism: robust debate followed by united execution.

- **Polokwane (2007), NASREC (2017 & 2022) – Renewal & Integrity:** named the diseases – factionalism, gatekeeping, money politics – and prescribed organisational renewal; consequence management; revitalised political education; and reasserting the centrality of the branch.
- **Batho Pele (Public Service ethos):** though administrative, it codifies our moral view of statecraft: consultation, access, courtesy, information, openness & transparency, redress, value for money. In short: the people come first.

## Putting ANC Doctrine in Conversation with Global Leadership Thought

Our doctrine is strong. Renewal grows when we test it against the best international thinking, adopting what fits our ethos and discarding what does not.

- **Transformational & Transactional (Burns/Bass):** Our historic leaders raised moral horizons and mobilised across difference; they also mastered the transactional craft of governance – budgets negotiated, systems stabilised, standards enforced, coalitions managed.

Purpose without craft begets slogans; craft without purpose breeds technocracy. We need both.

- **Adaptive Leadership (Heifetz):** Many of our crises are adaptive – crime, spatial injustice, youth unemployment, energy volatility. Authority and technical fixes alone will not do; we must learn with the people and disturb complacency. This complements Eye of the Needle: leaders as teachers and learners, creating spaces where loyal candour is safer than polite silence. Remember Amílcar Cabral: *“Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories.”*
- **Servant Leadership (Greenleaf):** *“The test is whether those served grow as persons.”* That is *Batho Pele* distilled. Our history of people’s committees, izimbizo, ward-based organising aligns naturally with servant leadership: proximity, humility, dignity.
- **Learning Organisation (Senge):** Movements die when they cannot learn. Remember **COSAS: EACH ONE = TEACH ONE**. Recast political education as a learning system where cadres reflect, experiment and share practice – from community hall and shopfloor to clinic, council chamber and legislature – turning lived experience into organisational competence.
- **Weber’s Ethics:** combine the ethic of conviction (ends) with the ethic of responsibility (means). For the ANC this means uncompromising constitutionalism and rights, with responsible stewardship of scarce resources and trade-offs.

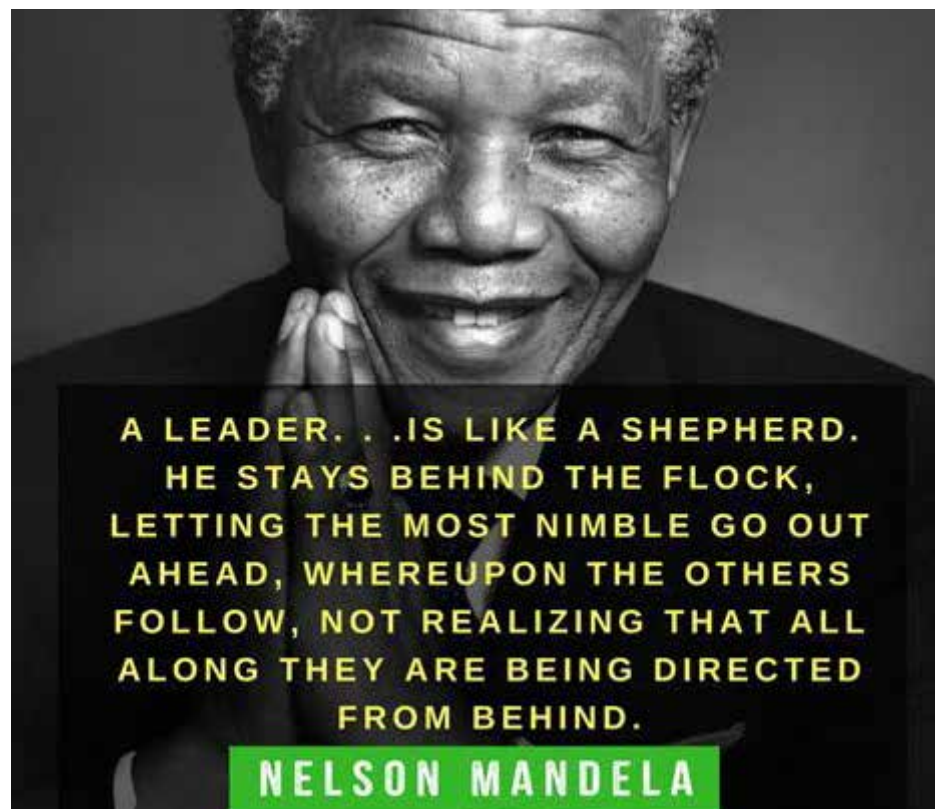
- **Gramsci’s Hegemony / Organic Intellectuals:** The ANC at its best formed common sense, not just policy. We need cadres as organic intellectuals again – shaping moral vocabulary in churches, mosques, unions, social media and schools – rebuilding a non-racial, gender-just common sense grounded in work, dignity and safety.
- **Ostrom’s Polycentric Governance:** Delivery flourishes when power is shared with organised communities: the **ANC & THE PEOPLE’S CONTRACT**. Ward committees, SGBs, clinic committees and CPFs must be leadership platforms, not decor.
- **Mintzberg’s “Community-ship”:** cultivate communities of practice, not celebrity followings. This resonates with collective leadership and disdain for personality cults. We are stronger together – not waiting for a messiah to miraculously fix what only movement can.

### The Leadership We Have: Loyal, Clear-Eyed Appraisal

We start with gratitude. Many comrades in councils, legislatures, SOEs and departments carry staggering burdens with quiet courage. Daily acts of competence and conscience – unseen, untrended – keep South Africa standing.

And also true:

- **Proximity has thinned.** Leadership is too often mediated by statements, security details and spreadsheets rather than classrooms, clinic queues, taxi ranks and factory floors. The mass line – listening before leading – is ceremonial, not habitual.
- **Ethics feel negotiable.** A minority’s misconduct stains a majority’s sacrifice because consequence management is late, uneven, or politicised. The movement’s immune system must act faster than factional antibodies.
- **Gatekeeping over merit.**



## VIEWPOINT

Eye of the Needle has been treated as poetry rather than policy. Money politics, branch capture and patronage chains block the pipeline for women and youth with craft and conscience.

- **Craft is inconsistent.** We have deep policy literacy but uneven mastery of the gritty disciplines that convert policy to progress: procurement integrity, maintenance, supervision, case management, inter-governmental coordination. Politics sets direction; craft delivers dignity.

These are not reasons for despair; they are organisational instructions.

### The Leadership We Need: A Charter of ANC Standards

A Leadership Charter distilled from ANC doctrine, sharpened by global best practice, stated in our idiom – standards any branch can recognise, any PEC can enforce, any community can feel.

#### A. Revolutionary Morality – Without Exhibitionism

- **Selflessness:** live modestly; separate public duty from private gain.
- **Truthfulness:** say what is so, even when it costs.
- **Courage with Courtesy:** confront wrongdoing without humiliation; uphold dignity even in discipline.

#### B. Collective, Not Courtly Leadership

- **Democratic centralism done properly:** fearless debate internally; unified execution externally.
- **No personality cults:** the work is the hero; the people are the author.
- **Alliance discipline:** respect



the Tripartite Alliance and mass democratic formations; lead by persuasion, not decree.

#### C. Proximity to the People – The Mass Line as a Habit

- **Presence:** time each week among the people you serve – schools, clinics, sites of crime, informal settlements, factories, farms.
- **Listening structures:** functioning ward committees, CPFs, SGBs, clinic committees – not as decor, but as instruments of co-production.
- **Plain language:** talk like a neighbour, not a circular.

#### D. Competence as a Political Virtue

- **Budget & oversight literacy:** a leader who cannot read a budget cannot lead a community.
- **Procurement integrity:** clean processes, transparent criteria, visible outcomes.
- **Maintenance culture:** protect what exists before announcing what glitters.
- **Inter-governmental craft:** knit local, provincial and national levers to one end – service to the people.

#### E. Mentorship and Pipeline – Renewal by Design

- **Veterans as builders:** each seasoned cadre mentors a

cohort; transfer networks and wisdom, not just war stories.

- **Women to the centre:** identify, protect and promote women leaders; end harassment and the informal veto of “boys’ rooms”.
- **Youth with responsibility:** give real mandates, not mascots; insist on discipline and delivery; defend young leaders against opportunistic sabotage.

#### F. Integrity with Consequence

- **Visible standards:** lifestyle disclosures, conflict-of-interest management, recusal where necessary.
- **Swift, fair discipline:** due process fast enough to matter; punishment for weaponised allegations; protection for whistle-blowers.
- **Reputation of the movement first:** we would rather lose a position than lose our soul. Full stop.

#### Habits That Make the Leadership Charter Real

- **The Branch as School:** revive political education blending history with the craft of governance – budgets, oversight, social compacts, conflict resolution, community safety partnerships. Learning circles should be as regular as BEC meetings.

## VIEWPOINT

- **Report-Back as Ritual:** not rallies, but honest conversations where leaders return to the same street and hall, with the same people, answering for promises and co-designing next steps.
- **Name the Good:** celebrate clean audits, functional clinics, safe streets, working libraries – and credit citizens who made it possible. Hope grows when people see their fingerprints on progress.
- **Stop the “Announcement Economy”:** we suffer an addiction to unveiling. Favour quiet execution over noisy beginnings. If it hasn’t improved a household’s life, it is not yet achievement.
- **Alliance as Engine, Not Ornament:** COSATU, the SACP, SANCO and broader civic, faith and youth formations are not audiences; they are co-authors. Make the alliance a planning table, not a press conference.
- **Public Service Ethos as Identity:** Batho Pele is not a poster; it is how ANC deployees answer phones, greet elders, resolve cases, and account for rands and cents. Courtesy and competence are revolutionary acts.

### Risks to Shut Down, Firmly and Kindly

- **Factionalism disguised as principle:** test every position against policy and people’s interest; if it fails, it is faction – even when it quotes the Freedom Charter.
- **Money politics and gate-keeping:** treat branch buying and membership manipulation as sabotage of the revolution; remove and prosecute, not re-assign.
- **Performative outrage:** lead-

ership by tweet weakens the muscle of organising. Anger that cannot organise is theatre.

- **Technocratic contempt:** expertise without humility breeds distance; always translate numbers into neighbourhoods.

### What Loyal Critique Looks Like in Practice

Loyalty to the ANC is not a standing ovation for the status quo. Loyalty is:

- Owning failures without alibi, publicly and promptly.
- Protecting honest cadres who deliver quietly and are punished by louder mediocrities.
- Refusing the false dilemma between unity and integrity: unity around integrity – otherwise it is collusion.
- Keeping faith with the people: when we err, we return, we repair, we report. The people are

not a backdrop; they are the judge.

### Lead So That the People Can Believe Again

Comrades, our country is not asking for miracles. It is asking for standards – water that runs, streets that are safe, clinics that heal, schools that teach, work that pays, officials who answer, leaders who arrive. These are not technocratic checklists; they are the everyday face of the Freedom Charter.

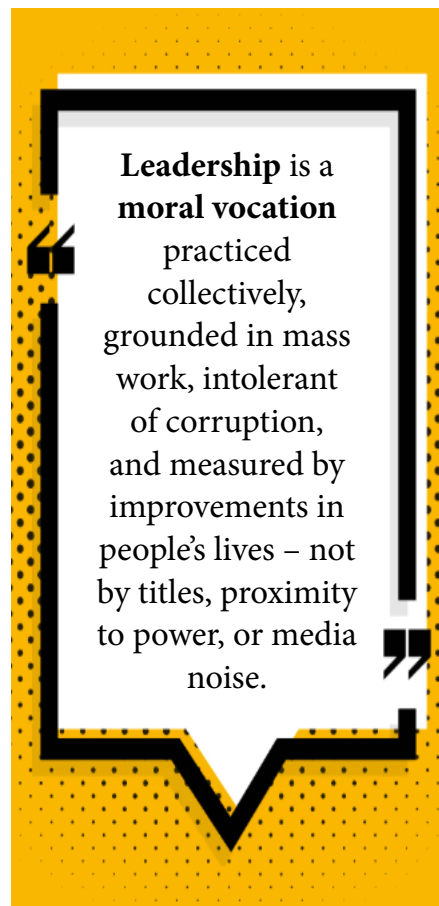
The leadership we have includes men and women who already live this charter. The leadership we need is the multiplication of that example – ethical, competent, proximate, collective, hopeful.

The literature of our movement is clear, and the best of international thought affirms it: transformational purpose, adaptive learning, servant humility, and the craft of delivery – woven together in a style we call cadre leadership.

Let us renew the covenant:

- **Be moral without being moralistic.**
- **Be collective without being bland.**
- **Be close to the people without pandering.**
- **Be competent without swagger.**
- **Be disciplined without cruelty.**

If we practice this – not as a season but as a way of being – the gap between the leadership we need and the leadership we have will close, not by decree but by example. Then, without fanfare, the people will feel the change and say again, with justified pride: **Let the “ANC LIVE” and let the “ANC LEAD” again. ■**



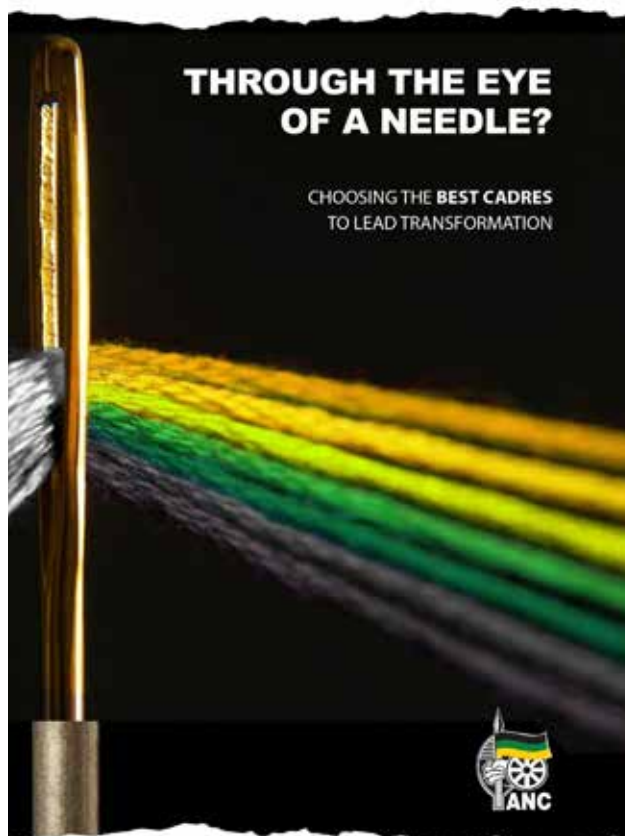
# Through the Eye of the Needle, and Our Times

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

It is one of those sleepless nights when the mind refuses to rest. The hours are consumed by reflection on matters that trouble the organisation, and perhaps that is the very reason for the lack of sleep. In the quiet of such moments, one cannot help but return to the ANC's seminal discussion document, *Through the Eye of the Needle?*

When the ANC published this document in 2001, it was not written for decoration. It was born out of anxiety within the movement itself, a recognition that the transition from opposition to incumbency carried with it grave temptations. The ANC had entered government, commanded state resources, and was now faced with the very dangers the liberation movement had always warned about. Leadership contests were becoming intense, money was beginning to find its way into lobbying, and patronage networks were threatening to erode the integrity of the movement.

The document reminded members that leadership in the ANC was not an entitlement or a ticket to status. To become a leader was to carry a burden of service, to be held to a higher standard, and to embody values that inspired trust among our people. It emphasised that leaders must be



above reproach, must fight corruption, and must be accountable to the collective. Political education was highlighted as the immune system of the movement. It was a sober attempt to ring alarm bells and guide the ANC through the challenges of incumbency.

Two decades later, those warnings read less like advice and more like prophecy. The behaviour of many in our ranks, including leaders at the highest levels, points not to a movement that has mastered the burden of incumbency but one that has allowed the very tendencies the document condemned to thrive. When we read about criminal networks finding safe harbour within

state institutions, when we watch the proceedings of the Madlanga Commission exposing how syndicates have intersected with police and political authority, we cannot pretend to be surprised. Through the Eye of the Needle foresaw exactly this collapse of ethical leadership and discipline.

We live in a time when being a leader is too often treated as a career, not a calling. Slates and money politics, which the Polokwane Conference in 2007 admitted needed urgent review, are now routine. Gatekeeping and patronage at local level are no longer whispered about but openly fought over. Instead of accountability to collectives, we see the rise of personal fiefdoms. Instead of humility and service, we see entitlement and arrogance.

The truth is that our movement has mocked Through the Eye of the Needle. We cite it in passing at conferences, place it on renewal banners, and yet fail to live by it. The document demanded that leaders must have track records of service that communities themselves appreciate. Today, the track record that matters most is who one is aligned to, what slate one is on, or what resources one can command. The document called for political education to anchor values and discipline.

Today, we rely on commissions of inquiry to tell us what we already know about ourselves.

When the document turned twenty years old in 2021, the movement did not mark the occasion with reflective opinion pieces. We celebrated other anniversaries and achievements, but we could not bring ourselves to reflect on this one. We were too ashamed to do so, because we knew that touching this document would turn us into ashes. Its words were too close to the bone. They reminded us of what we had failed to become. They reminded us that the leadership culture we were living out was the opposite of what we had committed to in 2001. Our silence was itself a confession.

One of the most glaring examples of this contradiction is the very debate about accountability in the face of corruption. For years, comrades who were charged with crimes insisted that they had the right to stay in office until the courts had pronounced on their guilt or innocence. This argument reduced the ANC's ethical standards to the minimum bar of the legal system. Yet the ANC itself corrected this path by adopting the step-aside resolution, which compels those charged with corruption or serious crimes to step down from leadership positions. It is no longer a matter of choice. The rule was designed to protect the integrity of the organisation and reaffirm the principle that ANC leaders must be above reproach. But the uneven implementation of this rule, the selective resistance to it, and the factional fights it has sparked demonstrate how far we are from the ethical leadership standard envisaged in *Through the Eye of the Needle*. Instead of strength-

ening our culture of accountability, the rule has exposed just how fragile that culture has become.

At the national level, the Madlanga Commission has placed in public view the intertwining of politics, policing, and organised crime. That such a commission is even necessary shows how far we have strayed from the standards we once set for ourselves. The ANC should have been the first to police itself, to prevent any suggestion that our name could be associated with criminality. Instead, we now sit in front of commissions as respondents and spectators, rather than as the vanguard cleansing itself from within.

This raises a painful truth: the tragedy of the ANC is not that it did not know the dangers of incumbency. It is that we knew, we diagnosed them, we debated them, and we wrote about them in our own documents. We crafted a clear organisational immune system in *Through the Eye of the Needle*. The tragedy is that we chose not to act, or we acted too late, or we applied rules selectively.

There is still a way forward. Renewal cannot be found in writing new documents, but in finally living according to the one we already have. That means refusing to nominate or elect leaders whose conduct and records are inconsistent with our values, regardless of their factional strength. It means enforcing the step-aside rule consistently, without fear or favour, not as a weapon in internal battles but as an expression of the organisation's integrity. It also means sustaining the revival of political education, which has returned in the form of the OR Tambo School and other

initiatives. But we must monitor its reach and its effectiveness. It cannot be enough that courses exist on paper or that cadres attend as a formality. Political education must once again shape character, sharpen ethics, and build the discipline that *Through the Eye of the Needle* envisaged.

The document told us that becoming a leader in the ANC is not an entitlement. It is a privilege earned through service, sacrifice, and humility. If we continue as we are, mocking its principles with our conduct, then we must accept that history will judge us harshly.

The people of South Africa will judge us even more harshly. The danger is not only the decline of electoral support, but the corrosion of the ANC's moral authority, the one asset that allowed us to lead society even in the darkest of times.

The ANC was once a school of values and discipline, where leaders emerged not because of the positions they sought but because of the trust they commanded. *Through the Eye of the Needle* was a reminder of that heritage. If we want to renew the ANC in 2025 and beyond, we must return to those principles and apply them without compromise. Only then can we once again say with confidence that we are a movement of service, a movement of integrity, and a movement that leads by example.

The eye of the needle is narrow, and perhaps that was always the point. To pass through it requires humility, discipline, and sacrifice. If we do not live by that standard, then we should stop quoting the document, because we would only be mocking ourselves. ■

# The ANC's Moral Decay: When Renewal Becomes a Whisper in the Wind

■ By **FEZILE KIES**

**T**HERE was a time when the African National Congress was an institution of moral authority – a disciplined movement that commanded respect even from its adversaries. It was a place where service was a calling, not a career; where comradeship meant sacrifice, not self-enrichment. But today, that legacy is fading, and what remains are echoes of slogans shouted into the wind – Renewal! Renewal! – yet without the courage to act on it.

## The Calvinia Lesson – When Numbers Lied

During the chairpersonship of Comrade Manne Dipico, a well-intentioned reward system was established to encourage excellence among ANC branches. The Calvinia branch, led by Comrades Jannie Madjiet and Cat Smit, emerged triumphant – crowned the Best Branch in the Northern Cape. They were celebrated by the Provincial Executive Committee for their impressive membership numbers, a model for organizational success.

But soon, reality struck. When a by-election was called in Calvinia, we approached it with supreme confidence. How could the best branch in the province possibly lose? On paper, we had the numbers. In spirit, we thought we had the people.



The result was a shocker. The ANC was humbled – defeated resoundingly by the National Party. We didn't even secure the votes to match the "members" on our books. An audit followed. The truth? Many of those "members" were names lifted straight from the telephone directory of the local post office. Fictional comrades. Phantom voters. Paper power.

The award was withdrawn. Disciplinary action followed. But

that incident was not an isolated scandal – it was a prophecy of things to come.

## The Death of Consequence

Today, the ANC's greatest weakness is not the opposition. It is impunity. Wrongdoers have mastered the art of survival. They commit every imaginable sin of incumbency – corruption, factionalism, deceit – and yet they remain within the movement, un-touchable and unashamed. They

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attend meetings. They lecture others about morality. They raise points of order about ethics they themselves do not possess.

Consequence management has become a myth. It is now easier to suspend a member for late payments of dues than to discipline one for looting millions. And so we shout “renewal!” louder and louder – but the louder we shout, the more it sounds like a scream in an empty hall.

### The Curious Case of Brian Mogotsi

The recent spectacle involving the Secretary-General (SG) and Brian Mogotsi is a case study in this moral erosion. The SG, in a moment of frustration, declared that Mogotsi’s membership had expired. But here’s the irony: for one’s membership to expire, one must first have been a member. Meaning – whatever mischief Mogotsi engaged in, he did so as part of the movement. Declaring him “expired” is like saying the crime no longer matters because the criminal has moved house.

The SG claims there are many like Mogotsi – shadowy figures

who emerge during leadership campaigns, whispering promises, trading influence, and carrying brown envelopes of cash. Mogotsi even tried to reach out to the SG, who reportedly recognized his number on Truecaller but refused to return the call.

It would be laughable if it weren’t tragic. How did we come to a point where leaders and fixers operate in the same ecosystem, trading favors in the name of a liberation movement?

### Conferencepreneurs – The New Political Middlemen

We’ve entered the age of the conferencepreneur – political entrepreneurs who treat ANC conferences like business ventures. They bankroll campaigns, control access to delegates, and decide who eats and who sleeps where.

Remember the Nasrec 1 conference? For years, people spoke in hushed tones about money changing hands. Then, the discredited Public Protector – perhaps accidentally – confirmed what many already knew: vast sums of money were funneled to influence internal elections. The

amounts dwarfed the ANC’s own official resources.

These conferencepreneurs have become the gatekeepers of power. Some regional leaders now take direct instructions from them. Delegates, instead of representing branches, arrive at conferences as commodities – bought, fed, transported, and housed by invisible sponsors.

At the Madlanga Commission, leaked WhatsApp exchanges between Mogotsi and Cat Matlala laid bare this grotesque marketplace. Delegates being fed by strangers? Delegates sleeping in lodges paid for by faceless funders? Delegates wearing T-shirts they did not buy, chanting slogans for leaders they barely know?

How can renewal start in such a contaminated environment?

### Churches Are More Organised Than the ANC

It is an indictment of our political culture that even churches – with far fewer resources – display better organizational discipline. Delegates to church conferences pay their own fees. They buy their own regalia. Their treasurers account for every cent.

Meanwhile, ANC branches can’t even say who bought the campaign T-shirts, who hired the buses, or who paid for accommodation. We have branches that can’t convene meetings without external funding, and branches that “meet quorum” through bulk-paid memberships – many of which belong to people who don’t even know they are members!

If we were serious about renewal, we would take a page from





Julius Malema's book. In the EFF, councillors must buy their own campaign vehicles within three months of assuming office. Those who fail to mobilize and fundraise are dismissed. EFF representatives contribute to the movement financially, not the other way around.

Imagine if ANC public representatives were held to that same standard. Imagine if every mayor, MEC, MP, and councillor were expected to contribute a vehicle or resources for campaigns – not to enrich leaders, but to rebuild trust and capacity.

### **A Movement Held Hostage by Greed**

The rot runs deep. There's now an ingrained belief that political office equals personal wealth. The line between public service and private gain has blurred beyond recognition. The ANC's historic identity as a pro-poor movement has been betrayed by its own members.

Figures like Mogotsi are not anomalies; they are products of a

broken system – one that rewards manipulation and punishes honesty. Leaders desperate for power turn to them for funding. Money flows, loyalty evaporates, and principle becomes a luxury.

This is not politics – it's plunder by another name.

### **Time for a Moral Reckoning**

The ANC needs a moral reckoning – not another policy conference or "renewal" workshop. It needs to confront itself, in public and in truth. We must call a press conference to restate our fundamental values – not for the cameras, but for our conscience.

Voices like Thabo Mbeki, Kgalema Motlanthe, and Frank Chikane have long cried out for such a reckoning. Their words ring hollow only because we, the movement, have stopped listening.

Week after week, we are confronted with scandals – confessions of wrongdoing by people who should be leading us to higher ground. And yet, there are no

perjury charges, no fraud prosecutions, no accountability.

The ANC can sue, and it can be sued. The question is: does it still have the moral will to defend its own soul?

### **Who Speaks for the Movement Now?**

In the absence of credibility, who speaks for the ANC today? Who articulates its moral vision? The Integrity Commission, once the conscience of the organization, has been reduced to a ceremonial body – its recommendations ignored, its warnings mocked.

Until we restore its authority – until wrongdoing carries consequence, until membership is earned, not bought – our renewal will remain rhetorical.

For now, our slogans are louder than our ethics, and our history more glorious than our present.

If the ANC is serious about surviving beyond nostalgia, it must choose – between renewal that is real, or ruin that is deserved. ■



# To Regulate or Not to Regulate? Let the Church be the Church

■ By **RT REV. DEZ FRANSMAN**

**T**HE recent calls by the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Rights Commission) to regulate religion threaten the autonomy of the Church and the freedom of worship guaranteed by our Constitution.

This article critically examines these proposals, identifies gaps, and argues against state regulation of churches. The discussion draws on constitutional, legal, and theological foundations, including the SACC submission to Parliament on 10 March 2020 by Lucas Nkosi, which emphasized that state regulation risks undermining religious freedom rather than protecting congregants.

**Core Argument: Criminal acts committed by unscrupulous religious leaders must be prosecuted through the criminal justice system** – not through blanket regulation of religious bodies.

If SAPS – whose motto is *Servamus et Servimus* (“We Serve and We Protect”) – fails to secure its own police stations, and their intelligence also failed to keep Bushiri in the country in order for him to account – where will the Church find resources to perform this function once regulated? If the entire NPA has failed to secure a successful prosecution against Omotoso and others, how long will it take for my theological peers to be trained to monitor, report, and enforce criminal law in churches, mosques, temples, and other places of worship?

The NPA’s motto, *Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security*, includes **all people** – and that means the church community too.

## **Background: CRL Commission Proposals and Legal Basis**

The CRL Commission, a Chapter 9 constitutional body, has raised

concerns regarding “commercialised religion” and the conduct of certain pastors, citing cases such as Omotoso and Bushiri. Their proposals include:

- Mandatory registration of religious practitioners and places of worship.
- Formation of umbrella organizations and peer-review committees.
- Oversight by an ombudsperson or the CRL Commission.

While the Commission presents these measures as a form of accountability, they risk overstepping constitutional boundaries – particularly Section 15 (freedom of religion) and Section 18 (freedom of association).

Lucas Nkosi’s SACC input to Parliament highlighted that state regulation of religion could:

1. Undermine congregational trust and the spiritual mission of churches.
2. Create an undue bureaucratic burden on faith communities.

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3. Misdiagnose the problem by conflating criminal acts with religious practices.

*“The law must respond to crime; regulation of belief is not the solution.”* – paraphrased from SACC /Lucas Nkosi, 10 March 2020

### Gaps and Flaws in the CRL Commission Approach

#### A. Overreach and Misdiagnosis

- The Commission generalizes the misconduct of a few pastors to justify sweeping interventions.
- Most pastors and congregations operate with integrity and pose no threat to public safety.
- Positioning itself as a moral arbiter risks turning a constitutional protector into a de facto regulator of faith.

#### B. Conflation of Criminality with Religious Expression

- Criminal actions – sexual abuse, assault, poisoning, financial fraud – should be handled by SAPS and the NPA.
- As Nkosi argued, the Church does not possess coercive authority; expecting it to pursue criminal cases is unrealistic.

#### C. Peer-Review Structures: Constitutionally Unwarranted

- Forcing churches to submit to state-mandated peer structures infringes on autonomy.
- Registration may be permissible, but doctrinal oversight or control over spiritual practices is constitutionally questionable.

#### Constitutional and Legal Safeguards

- South African criminal law al-

ready covers misconduct, including fraud, assault, sexual offences, and endangerment.

- Section 15 of the Constitution protects religious freedom; the state cannot impose doctrinal or organizational requirements.
- Section 18 protects freedom of association, affirming that churches may organize internally without government interference.

**Key Principle:** Let SAPS and the courts handle criminality; let the Church fulfill its spiritual mandate.

### Theological and Leadership Foundations

#### Church Autonomy

- **Dr Myles Munroe:** *“The church must remain free to serve its divine mission without government intrusion.”*
- **John Maxwell:** *“True leadership emerges when the leader points people to God, not to bureaucratic systems.”*

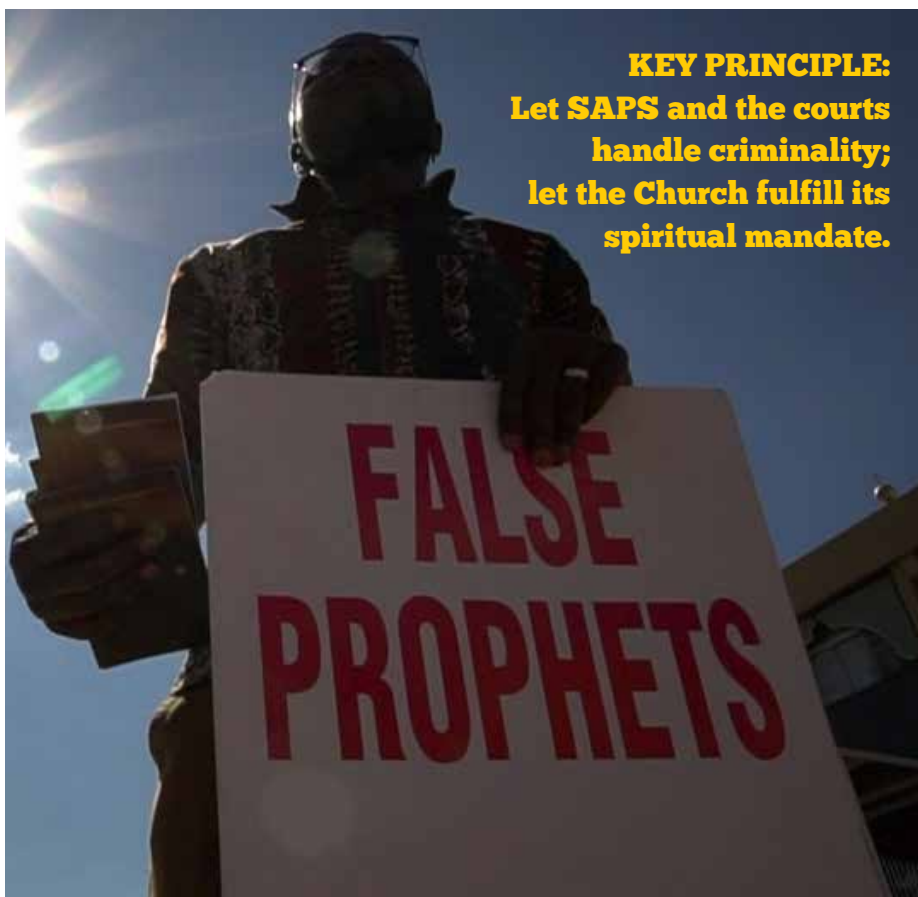
#### Ministry Integrity vs Market Professionalism

- State-mandated regulation imposes secular “professional” standards onto spiritual leadership.
- Faith leadership is spirit-led; bureaucratic oversight can diminish its authenticity and effectiveness.

### Alternative Remedies and Rebuttals

#### Strengthen Law Enforcement, Not Church Regulation

- Focus resources on SAPS, the NPA, and the courts to investigate and prosecute pastoral misconduct.



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- Internal denominational oversight can maintain ethical accountability without state interference.

### Frame the Problem Correctly

- The issue is criminals hiding behind religion, not religion itself.
- Target interventions at criminal acts, not faith practices.

### Mobilize Constitutional and Theological Resistance

- Ground objections in Sections 15 and 18 of the Constitution.
- Engage theologians, legal experts, and church leaders to oppose unnecessary regulation.

### Conclusion

The CRL's proposals to regulate religion, though well-intentioned, are constitutionally unsound and practically unworkable. Misconduct by pastors is criminal – not ecclesiastical – and should be prosecuted by the state.

The Church must retain its autonomy, spiritual authority, and freedom to fulfill its divine mandate, while the state protects citizens from crime without regulating belief.

**“If it's broken, don't fix it”** – but let's agree, something is broken.

The question is: What is broken? Is it the Church, or SAPS and the NPA's success rate? Fix SAPS. Fix the NPA!

Let me end this submission with something I said in 2024:

**“Leave the Doom for the flies. Grass for the cows. Let SAPS do the policing. Let the courts judge! But please – allow the Church to be the Church.”** ■

# When the DA's 'Good Governance' Turns Into Governmental Chaos

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

**T**HE Democratic Alliance has always boasted about *“running clean governments”* and *“governing better than the ANC.”* Yet every time they're handed real responsibility, their blue suits become blue screens of failure. This week's spectacle by Minister Siviwe Gwarube is not just embarrassing – it is a constitutional affront.

### When a Minister Tweets Before She Reads

On X, Minister Gwarube publicly declared that the payment of Education Assistants was *“not the responsibility of the DBE”* but that it was *“the work of the Department of Employment and Labour.”* Those

18 words exposed a breathtaking ignorance of her own department's policy instruments, intergovernmental agreements, and the constitutional principle of co-operative governance enshrined in Chapter 3 of the Constitution.

Her statement is factually wrong, administratively reckless, and legally misleading.

The Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI Phase V), signed between the Department of Basic Education (DBE), the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), divides funding into two streams: Treasury-funded and UIF-funded.



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The Implementation Framework clearly instructs that *“the second tranche is due on or before 31 July 2025 to pay stipends for September, October and November. The school should ensure that all assistants receive their monthly stipends on the last day of each month.”*

That is a DBE instruction, not an Employment and Labour clause. Her attempt to shift responsibility to another department betrays either negligence or deliberate distortion.

### The Law She Ignored

The Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) is unambiguous: no accounting officer may release or delay funds outside a lawful process. The PFMA’s preamble demands *“efficient and effective management of revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities”*. It is precisely this Act that binds the DBE to plan, verify, and account for stipend disbursements.

By pretending that another department *“must pay,”* Minister Gwarube effectively disowns the statutory accountability that attaches to her office under sections 38 and 40 of the PFMA, which obligate accounting officers to maintain complete and proper records, implement adequate internal controls, and prevent unauthorised expenditure.

The UIF Labour Activation Programme, governed by the Unemployment Insurance Act, cannot disburse a cent until verified attendance registers and compliance reports from the DBE are received. That is not bureaucracy; that is law.

### The Constitution She Undermined

Section 41(1)(h) of the Constitution compels organs of state to *“co-operate with one another in mutual*

**A hypocrite despises those whom he deceives, but has no respect for himself. He would make a dupe of himself too, if he could.**

William Hazlitt

*trust and good faith by informing one another of, and consulting one another on, matters of common interest.”*

When a Minister of Basic Education publicly attacks another department instead of invoking intergovernmental protocol or the President’s coordination mechanisms, she violates the spirit of that provision.

This reckless conduct drags public servants into political mud-slinging, creates uncertainty among thousands of youth workers, and undermines the credibility of Cabinet collective responsibility.

### The DA Habit of Media Over Management

This is not new. The DA’s idea of governance is to perform outrage, issue press statements, and pose for cameras while administrators scramble to fix what they broke. From the water-treatment failures in the Western Cape to chaotic housing allocations in Cape Town, their pattern is clear:

1. Deny responsibility.
2. Blame the national government.
3. Hide behind selective legal citations.
4. Run to the media.

Gwarube’s tweet follows the same formula – a social-media press conference instead of governance. In her world, public accountability is not an audit trail but a hashtag.

### Premier Lesufi Was Right

Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi hit the nail on the head: *“Come this side, Minister Siviwe Gwarube. I hope you’ll withdraw your unfortunate utterances... The DA must know governing is not like issuing media statements in opposition benches.”*

That message cuts deeper than politics – it is a civic reminder that governance is a discipline, not a debate club.

### When Youth Are the Collateral Damage

While politicians posture, thousands of Education Assistants and General School Assistants – young men and women who keep our schools running – are forced to wait.

They are the victims of DA arrogance dressed up as *“efficiency.”*

For a party that prides itself on *“clean government,”* the DA should

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start by cleaning its own administrative mess.

### This Is What Real Governance Looks Like

Real governance is guided by:

- The PFMA for lawful expenditure.
- The BEEI Implementation Framework for payment timelines.
- The UIF Labour Activation Programme for verification rules.
- The Constitution for cooperative governance.

All these instruments were ignored in favour of a politically convenient tweet.

### The Final Word

Minister Gwarube owes South Africans – and especially the thousands of unpaid Education Assistants – more than an apology. She owes them competence.

The DA's slogan of "good governance" collapses the moment they're forced to govern outside press conferences.

When a Minister weaponises misinformation to mask administrative failure, it is not opposition politics – it is dereliction of duty.

And when that Minister represents the Democratic Alliance, it becomes proof that the DA's "model government" is nothing more than a media illusion held together by microphones and misplaced arrogance.

Governing is not tweeting. It is accountability. ■

**Stan Itshegetseng** is a member of the ANC, a writer and South African citizen. He writes in his personal capacity.



## How Russia forced the West to face its own decline

■ By **TIMOFEY BORDACHEV**

**W**ITH the deterrent of guaranteed mutual destruction between Russia and the United States still intact, global politics is entering a new phase of "normality." For the first time in decades, there is no single center setting rules for all. Something older, more pluralistic, and less predictable is emerging – a return to the natural state of international affairs.

One of the least discussed effects of the decline of the liberal economic order that dominated the late 20th century is the erosion of Western capacity to manage global politics effectively. The European Union offers the starkest example of this change, though even the United States – despite its power – is less confident than it was twenty years ago.

At the same time, other nations have grown relatively more inde-

pendent. China has led the way, proving that economic success need not depend on direct control of other states. Its global political initiatives may still be taking shape, but they already offer a model based not on coercion, but coexistence.

Russia plays its own distinct role in this transformation. With immense military capabilities and a more modest economic footprint, Moscow contributes to the democratization of world politics simply by existing as an independent pole of power.

Its defiance of Western dominance has forced a rethink of US strategy itself – particularly after the failure of Washington's attempt to "isolate and strategically defeat" Russia.

India, the third pillar of the non-Western world, has also

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chosen its own path. It uses cooperation with the West to advance national development but remains fiercely independent when it comes to its core interests, especially the promise of steady growth for its population.

### The fading order

As a result, international politics is becoming less bound by the “rules-based order” created by centuries of Western infighting.

From the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 to the creation of the United Nations, the Western world shaped global norms through its own conflicts. But those internal rivalries have disappeared. Western Europe’s states are now consolidated around Washington in a way that appears irreversible.

This alignment accelerated after the 2008–2011 financial crisis and the EU’s subsequent shocks – from the migration crisis and pandemic to its technological stagnation. Unable to compete with the US or China in advanced industries such as artificial intelligence, Europe gradually surrendered its strategic autonomy. By the time of the 2022 confrontation over Ukraine, the continent was psychologically ready to outsource decision-making entirely to Washington.

Under the Biden administration, that control was exercised with diplomatic finesse. But since the return of the Republicans in 2025, the subordination has become more explicit. European leaders are now expected to comply with the White House’s every directive – even its most extravagant ones. Sovereignty, in the Western European context, no longer means strategy. It means finding a place within America’s.

### No competition, no renewal

This loss of internal competition has deprived the West of its traditional mechanism for renewal.

For centuries, rivalries among its own powers drove the creation of global rules and norms. The “civil wars” of the West once produced the framework that others – willingly or otherwise – adopted. Now, with no serious internal contest left, the West has lost its ability to generate ideas for the world.

Unable to adapt to its diminished power, it increasingly turns to destabilization. The West’s proxies – Israel, Turkey, and the Kiev regime – each manufacture crises within their regions as if to prove continued relevance. What cannot be achieved by attraction is now pursued through disruption.

Elsewhere, states are responding with varying degrees of confidence. Iran’s deterrent capacity is formidable; Russia’s resilience is grounded in strategic balance; China’s power is tempered by its vast internal and external constraints. Most other countries pursue cautious pragmatism – trying to shield their interests while avoiding confrontation. India stands out again for asserting its independence within this environment of uncertainty.

This new order – or rather, the lack of one – has created an unusual condition: there is no longer an “organizing center.” The United States remains powerful, but it cannot dictate universally. Western Europe lacks will and imagination. China and Russia, meanwhile, embody an alternative: a multipolar world of self-determining nations rather than ideological blocs.

### The new normal

The mutual nuclear deterrence between Russia and the United States gives humanity a paradoxical advantage: time. It prevents large-scale war and allows for the emergence of a new global equilibrium – one without a hegemon. The next phase of international politics may resemble earlier centuries, when multiple powers coexisted without a single “world policeman.”

How long this window will last is uncertain. Neither Russia nor the United States can halt the technological race that constantly redefines military balance. Yet, if this fragile moment endures long enough, it may allow the world to adapt – to learn how to function without the illusions of Western “leadership.”

For over five hundred years, the West imagined itself the author of civilization’s script. That story is now ending. The power to define “normality” in world politics is shifting to a broader cast – one that includes not only Russia, China, and India, but also dozens of smaller states finding their voices.

What replaces Western dominance will not be chaos but pluralism – a more honest reflection of the world as it is, not as one power wished it to be.

We may not yet see the contours of the new order, but its foundation is already visible: a global balance sustained not by faith in universal rules, but by the enduring reality of mutual restraint. ■

**Timofey Bordachev** is Program Director of the Valdai Club. This article was first published by the Valdai Discussion Club.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

11–17 October 2025

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

### 11 October 1886 Standard Bank opens branch in Johannesburg

Standard Bank was established in Port Elizabeth in 1862, then known as The Standard Bank of British South Africa. It started doing business in a tent in Johannesburg, and then known as Ferreira's Camp, in 1886, when it became the first bank to open a branch on the Witwatersrand gold fields. The second branch in Johannesburg was opened in Eloff Street on 1 November 1901. In 1959 it moved its head office from Pretoria to Johannesburg and in 1970 it took ownership of a prestigious new head office building at 78 Fox Street. The bank has grown to span 17 African countries and 16 countries across South East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The bank now boasts a multi-million Standard Bank Centre head office located in Simmonds Street, Johannesburg.

### 11 October 1954 Malan unveils Paul Kruger on Church Square

President of the former Afrikaner Republic of the Transvaal, Paul Kruger's bronze statue was sculpted by artist Anton Van Wouw in 1896, commissioned by industrialist, Sammy Marks. The statue was finally installed at Church Square after it had been previously installed at Prince's Park and later moved to the Pretoria Station. It was unveiled by

then Prime Minister, Dr DF Malan on 11 October 1954. The square was initially used as a market place and sports field. In 1855, the city's first church was built on the site, hence the name Church square. Today the square attracts scores of tourists from all over the world. It is surrounded by historical buildings that boast beautiful architecture with the statue positioned as a central feature. There has been call since the Rhodes Must Fall movement for the removal of the Kruger statue. During the 2021 local government elections, the ANC held its Manifesto launch at Church Square.



### 11 October 1955 Artist Tony Nkotsi born

Anthony Molebatsi Nkotsi, South African artist and the head of the Printmaking Department of the Johannesburg Art Foundation in 1988, was born in Johannesburg. During his schooling years he would spend any money that his mother gave him on art materials and spent his Saturdays at

informal art classes in Orlando, Soweto. Here he was exposed to contemporary South African art and was particularly impressed by a large drawing by Dumile Feni. His involvement in the student uprisings of 1976 saw him being detained. On his release he attended art classes at the Mofolo Art Centre where he met Dumisani Mabaso and Gordon Gabashane who had then recently graduated from Rorke's Drift. Together with Mabaso he founded Skuzo, a printmaking studio in Johannesburg in 1983 and the Hammanskraal Art Project, north of Pretoria. His well-known work includes Portrait of a Man (Biko).

### 11 October 1978 Global Anti-Apartheid campaigners recognised

At a special meeting of the General Assembly, the United Nations gave awards to the following seven persons in recognition of their contribution to the international campaign against apartheid: Reverend Canon L. John Collins (UK); Michael Manley (Jamaica); Murtala Mohamed (Nigeria); Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt); Jawaharlal Nehru (India); Olof Palme (Sweden) and Paul Robeson (USA)

### 12 October 1968 Equatorial Guinea gains independence from Spain

The colonial history of Equatorial Guinea dates back to 1471 when



Portuguese explorers descended on the country. On their way to India, Portuguese explorers 'discovered' the island of Bioko, and later colonized the islands of Fernando Poo and Annobon. They retained control of Equatorial Guinea until 1778, when the territory was ceded to Spain in exchange for land in South America. When the Spanish Civil War broke out in 1820, rebel forces took control of the colony. The mainland of Equatorial Guinea became a Spanish colony in 1900. With increasing nationalist sentiment and escalating pressure from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the journey to independence was underway. On 12 October 1968, Equatorial Guinea became an independent state with Francisco Macias Nguema as the first President.

### 12 October 1991 Nelson Mandela on ANC Nationalisation Policy

The African National Congress (ANC) Deputy President Nelson Mandela stated that the ANC was prepared to abandon its long-held policy of nationalisation if the business community could provide an alternative, which would redress the economic imbalances in the country. He further stated that nationalisation did not mean that the private sector will be excluded from certain areas of business and reiterated that the ANC welcomes dialogue with the business sector to ensure growth and equal distribution.

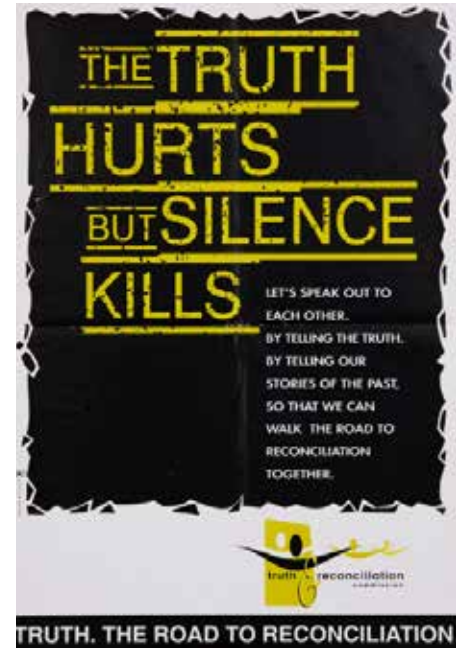
### 12 October 1995 Legislation approving Local Elections approved



An emergency session of the democratic Parliament on October 12, 1995, approved legislation to permit local elections to be held on November 1. This was in line with ruling by the Constitutional Court, necessitating the holding of elections before December, 1995. The Election Task Group, responsible for organising the elections, announced that in areas where electoral boundaries had not been settled, namely KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape, the voters would not go to the polls on November 1, as disputes were still pending. The two provinces held their first local elections in 1996.

### 12 October 2000 TRC hears testimony of Ladybrand Four

Umkhonto we Size cadres Joyce 'Betty Boom' Koekanyetswe, Nomasono Mashiya and Tax Sejaname were abducted by members of the then Orange Freestate security branch in Lesotho and held on a farm in Ladybrand, 18 kms from Maseru in December 1988. Betty Boom was a Commander and highly trained MK cadre as well as a committee member of the SACP. Nomasono Mashiya was abducted with her



one-year old baby but the police returned the baby to her (Mashiya's) parents in the Free State. Not much is known about Tax Sejaname's affiliations or abduction. Mbulelo 'Khaya Kasibe (KK)' Ngono was involved in a shoot-out with the security forces in Lesotho in 1987, but managed to escape only to be abducted in 1988 in Maseru by the same security branch who abducted Betty Boom, Nomasono Mashiya and Tax Sejaname. The four MK cadres were held at a farm and came to be known as the Ladybrand Four. During the TRC hearings starting this day, the security police applying for amnesty claimed that the entire unit was recruited as informers, and dropped back in Lesotho, but could produce no evidence to back this up and the TRC rejected their claims, ruling in its final report that the Ladybrand Four were killed and their bodies buried, since none of them were seen or heard from after their abduction in 1988.

### 13 October 1881 First electric lights in Adderley Street, Cape Town

Adderley Street is possibly the

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

most historically rich street in Cape Town. It gets its name from the man who vehemently opposed a proposal by the British to turn Cape Town into a convict colony, Charles B. Adderley. On 13 October 1881, the street got its first electric lights installed. The street is a main attraction for tourists and in close proximity to the Old Slave Lodge Museum, Groote Kerk (the oldest church in South Africa) and the Company Gardens. Adderley street was renamed Nelson Mandela Avenue in 2001.

### 13 October 1962 Helen Joseph placed under house arrest



Former political activist, Helen Joseph, often fell victim to the draconian apartheid legislations. She became the first person to be put under house arrest under the Sabotage Act, introduced by the newly appointed Minister of Justice, B.J Voster. The house arrest conditions included a ban on leaving her house at night and over weekends, and also on receiving visitors.

### 13 October 1987 SA blamed for Harare bombing

South Africa was blamed for a massive bomb blast in Harare, Zimbabwe in which several people were injured. Zimbabwe had

had a long relationship with the African National Congress (ANC) military wing, dating back to the Huange (Wankie) and Sipolilo military campaigns of the 1960s. South African covert forces were suspected of having planted the bomb with the aim of killing members of the liberation movement living in exile there.

### 13 October 1990 First Gay Pride March held in South Africa



On 13 October 1990, the first South African Lesbian and Gay Pride march was held in Johannesburg. It was also the first Pride March on the African continent and acted as both a gay pride event and an anti-Apartheid march. The march was organised by the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of the Witwatersrand (GLOW) and attracted a crowd of about 800 people. Speakers at the event included Beverly Ditsie, Simon Nkoli and Justice Edwin Cameron.

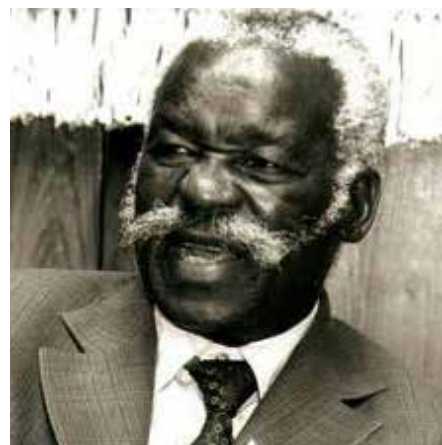
### 14 October 1906 Muslim Brotherhood founder born

Hassan al-Banna was a teacher and Imam, and founder of the Muslim Brotherhood in Mahmoudyah, Egypt. He originally sought change through reform rather than revolution, urging Arab countries to rise up against colonialism. He was killed in 1949.

### 14 October 1931 Pretoria becomes a City

On 14 October 1931, Pretoria achieved official city status. The initial town was named in 1855 by Marthinus Pretorius, a leader of the Voortrekkers who named it after his father Andries Pretorius, who was involved in the Battle of Blood River. Pretoria became the Administrative Capital of the Union of South Africa, formed in 1910 with the merger of the Transvaal Colony (former Boer Republic of the ZAR), the Orange Free State Colony (former Boer Republic of the Orange Free State), the Cape Colony and Natal Colony. After 1994, the city remained the administrative capital, and was renamed Tshwane.

### 14 October 1983 Moses Mabhida receives awards



Moses Mbheki Mabhida, trade unionist, politician and Umkhonto we Sizwe commander, was awarded the Soviet Order of the People and the Order of the People's Republic of Bulgaria First Class on his sixtieth birthday. He travelled extensively and was highly respected around the globe, in particular by trade unionists and socialists. Mabhida, a self-educated man, was steeped in the Marxist-Leninist ideology and tradition.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**14 October 1988**

### Naguib Mahfouz receives Nobel Prize for Literature



Egyptian author Naguib Mahfouz, focusing in his writings on existentialist themes, and with many of his novels made into film, was announced as the 1988 Nobel Laureate for Literature.

**15 October 1926**

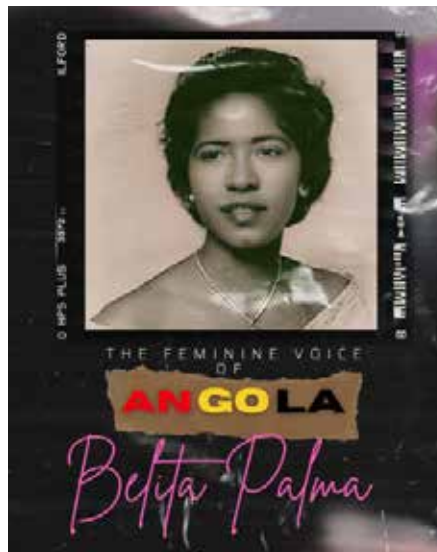
### Artist Rexon Mathebula born

Rexon Mathebula, was born in Sophiatown, Johannesburg. Scotch, as he was known, held several menial jobs and moved around for work a lot, working and living in Letaba, Hoedspruit, and Empangeni. Without formal art training, he sold his first artworks, images on pieces of glass made with a lump of tar and a tin of red paint, all randomly found, for 75c each. His first exhibition was in the student union of the University of Zululand, with the encouragement of Mrs BG Ndawonde-Nene. Mathebula's work has been discussed in detail in the book *The Neglected Tradition* by Steven Sack (1988) published by the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

**15 October 1932**

### Belita Palma born

Isabel Salomé Benedito de Palma, best known as Belita Palma, was born on this day. Belita, an



Angolan singer, used song to inspire the struggle against colonialism in her country. She was the lead singer of the group N'gola Ritmos. She passed away in 1988.

**15 October 1938**

### Fela Kuti born



Nigerian and African music icon and activist, Fela Kuti was born on this day in Abekuta, Nigeria. A pioneer of Afrobeat, he achieved huge success with his band Africa 70, fusing Yoruba vocalization and rhythms with funk and jazz.

**15 October 1985**

### Trojan Horse massacre in Athlone, Cape Town

In Athlone, Cape Town, the area bordered by Klipfontein Road,



Belgravia Road, Thornton Road and Alexander Sinton High School was a gathering place for anti-apartheid protests, particularly students. On 15 October 1985, members of the security forces shot and killed three young people who were part of student demonstrations against apartheid. A South African Railways truck, with armed police men hidden drove down Thornton Road in the middle of a student protest. The police with guns jumped out and opened fire, killing three young people, Jonathan Claasen (21), Shaun Magmoed (15), Michael Miranda (11) and injuring several others.

**15 October 1989**

### Five Rivonia Trialists released

On 15 October 1989, five of the eight African National Congress (ANC) long term political prisoners were released from Robben Island. Among the leaders set free were Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Raymond Mhlaba, Andrew Mlangeni and Elias Motsoaledi. Three of the eight prisoners who were released before and after 1989 were, Dennis Goldberg (1985), Govan Mbeki (5 November 1987) and Nelson Mandela (11 February 1990). They were arrested on 11 July 1963 when security police raided Lilliesleaf Farm, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**15 October 1993**

### Walus and Derby-Lewis sentenced to death for Hani assassination

Presiding Judge C.F. Eloff sentenced Polish immigrant and supporter of the Neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), Janusz Walus, and Conservative Party (CP) politician Clive Derby-Lewis to death for assassinating the South African Communist Party (SACP) leader, Chris Hani. They were found guilty the previous day with Gaye Derby-Lewis, Clive's wife, acquitted. Their sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment after the abolition of the death penalty when a democratic government took over.

**16 October 1939**

### Charlotte Maxeke passes on

Charlotte Maxeke (7 April 1871 – 16 October 1939), a pioneer in many fields, the first black woman to earn a Bachelor's of Science degree, attended the ANC founding Congress in 1912, and went on to form the Bantu Women's League, died in Johannesburg on this day at the age of 65. She was honoured as *'Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa'* at a meeting of the All-African Con-



vention in December 1935 by Dr. A.B. Xuma.

**16 October 1952**

### Nkosi Albert Luthuli elected ANC President-General

Albert Luthuli was elected the president-general on 16 October 1952 at the annual congress of the ANC. Following his election, Luthuli was served banning orders by the apartheid regime, and in 1956 was arrested and charged with treason. Despite the treason charge being dropped, Luthuli was slapped with another 5-year ban. In 1961, Luthuli was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Luthuli's enormous contribution to the liberation struggle in South Africa is without dispute. He has been lauded as one of the greatest patriots in South African history and the national *'Order of Luthuli'* was named after him, the highest award for contributions to democracy, human rights, justice and peace.

**17 October 1887**

### The Star published in Johannesburg

The Star newspaper appeared for the first time in Johannesburg as The Eastern Star. It was founded in Grahamstown under that title on January 6, 1871, and was moved to the Witwatersrand sixteen years later by its owners, brothers Thomas and George Sheffield. In 1889, the name Eastern Star was changed to The Star, currently owned by the Independent Media group.

**17 October 1973**

### Egyptian and Israeli forces in fierce fights

From 6 to 26 October 1973 a coalition of Arab nations led by Egypt and Syria, and Israel were involved in a bloody war in the Sinai desert and Golan Heights.

*Isithwalandwe / Seaparankoe*

*Charlotte Maxeke*

7 April 1871 – 16 October 1939

”

This work is not for ourselves – kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

The war began on Yom Kippur with joint attack by Egypt and Syria. Israel, caught unawares, was stunned by the fury and execution of the Arab onslaught, who made excellent progress during the first 24-48 hours. However, by the second week of the war, the Syrians had been pushed entirely out of the Golan Heights. The war also set the two superpowers (United States of America and Soviet Union) on a conflicting course. The USA supported Israel while Egypt received backing from the Soviet Union.

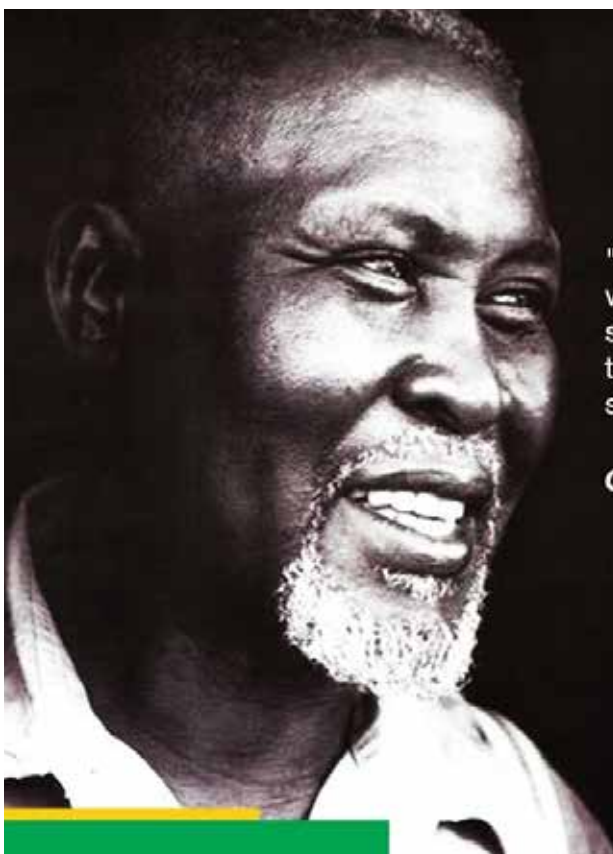
### 17 October 1989 Elephant poaching reached a height

While African elephants have been hunted for several centuries, the exploitation of elephant herds on a massive scale began in the 1970s. Organized gangs of poachers used automatic weapons and laundered tons of elephant tusks through several African countries



to destinations in Eastern and Western countries. The huge increase during the 1970s was the result of automatic weapons availability and growing demand, as ivory was perceived as a valuable hedge against rising inflation. In the 1960s, raw ivory prices remained between \$3 and \$10 per pound. In 1975, prices reached \$50 and by 1987, the price was \$125 per pound. This decimated elephant populations across Africa and they faced extinction in the wild. Eastern African nations

such as Kenya lost almost all of their elephants to poachers in the 1980s. Overall, the elephant population in Africa plummeted from about 1.2 million to 600,000 in the 1980s, prompting the global ban on all ivory trade in 1989, through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Despite this, elephant numbers continue to drop, the Wildlife organisation estimates that in 2020 there were just 415,000 elephants across the continent.



"May the day come soon, when the peoples of the world will rouse themselves, and together effectively stamp out any threat to peace, in whatever quarter of the world it may be found. When that day comes, there shall be peace on earth and goodwill between men"

*Chief Albert Luthuli, 1961*



# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

11–17 October 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)



## 11 October International Day of the Girl Child



The day is celebrated by the UN, led by its specialised agency on children, UNICEF, to focus on the issues faced by girl children, to amplify their voices and work with girls to stand up for their rights.

## 11 October World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

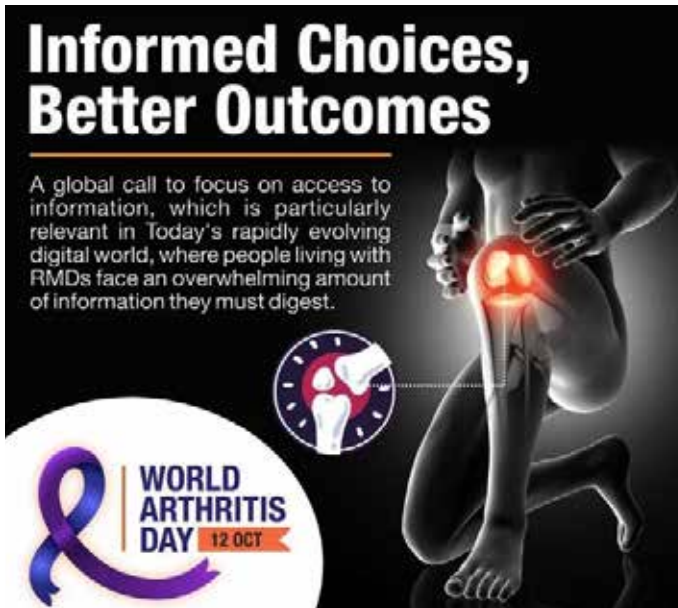
Hospice care (at home or in a specialized institution) is provided when a patient no longer responds to treatment and their last days made as comfortable as possible, whilst palliative care is to assist with serious conditions that may not always be fatal, but still impacts on the patient's quality of life, mainly elderly persons. The year 2025 marks 11

years since the World Health Assembly (WHO's Governing Body) passed the only stand-alone resolution on palliative care, calling for all countries to "strengthen palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course." This year's theme, **Achieving the Promise: Universal Access to Palliative Care**, builds on last year's to explore what is needed in the coming 5-10 years to build toward universal access to palliative care, especially as part of universal health coverage. World Hospice and Palliative Care Day takes place on the second Saturday of October every year. It is a unified day of action to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### 12 October World Arthritis day



One of the most common illnesses, it refers to a large number of conditions that cause inflammation of the joints. World Arthritis Day was established in 1996 by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) and is celebrated each year on 12 October. People with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) from around the world can join together to make their voices heard on this day. The aims of World Arthritis Day are to:

- raise awareness of RMDs amongst the medical community, people with RMDs and the general public;
- influence public policy by making decision-makers aware of the burden of RMDs and the steps which can be taken to ease it;
- ensure all people with RMDs and their caregivers are aware of the vast support network available to them.

### 13 October International Day for Disaster Reduction

The anniversary of this day started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. As global warming manifest in more extreme weather conditions, all countries have to build disaster risk capacities to prevent and mitigate loss of lives and livelihoods.

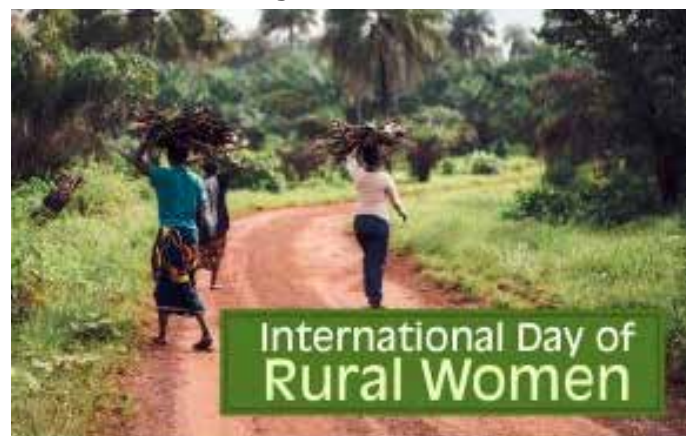
### 14 October World Standards Day

Thousands of experts, especially those from organizations like the International Electrotechnical Commission (I.E.C.), the International Telecommunication Union (I.T.U.), and the International Standards Organization (I.S.O.), are involved in the creation of common global standards, to encourage cooperation. They create voluntary technical agreements that are published as international standards. World Standards Day is a celebration of their teamwork and its impact on our interconnected world. It encourages us to value the efforts of those who work behind the scenes to ensure that products and processes meet universal criteria, making our global marketplace more efficient and connected.

### 14 October World Sight Day

Across the world, there are 2.2 billion people with problems of eyesight, including 91 million children. World Sight day advocates for good eye sight, and caring for our eyes. 90% of people experiencing sight loss are from developing countries. Get your eyes tested regularly.

### 15 October International Day of Rural Women



As the world faces an increasingly critical need to act against climate change, the important role that rural women and girls play in building resilience is unquestionable. Rural women and girls are leaders in agriculture, food security and nutrition, land, managing natural resource management and unpaid and domestic care work. They are at the front-line when agriculture and natural resources are threatened. One third of women are employed in agriculture. (Source: [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org))

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**15 October**

### Global Handwashing Day



A global advocacy day raises awareness about the importance of handwashing with soap as fundamental to good health and development. Across the world only 60% of the population has access to a basic handwashing facility; in least developed countries, only 28% of people have access to basic handwashing facilities; and there are 17 countries where more than 10 million people lack handwashing facilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, hand washing with soap was one of the basic measures to stop the spread of infections and germs.

**15 October**

### World Students Day

The day is celebrated to value students of all ages who dedicate themselves to learning, whatever the field. The day is in honour of the late Indian aerospace scientist Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, a consummate educationist who believed teachers and students were the builders of society. He famously said: *“Dream, Dream, Dream, Dreams transform into thoughts. And thoughts result in action.”*

**15 October**

### World White Cane Day

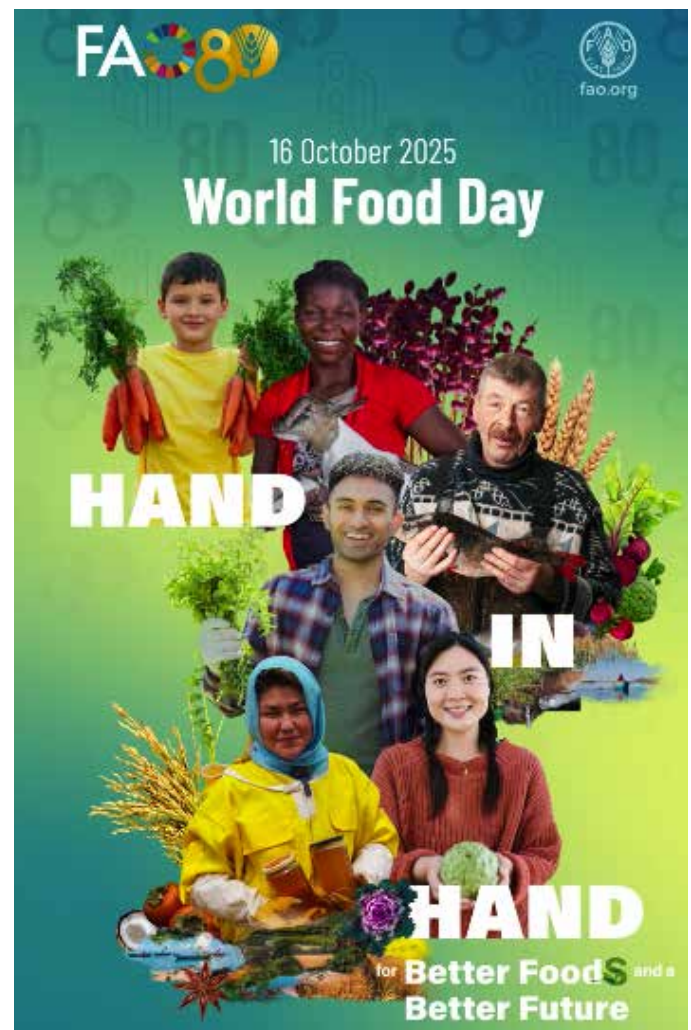
Poor or loss of sight impact on mobility, and the white cane is the most recognisable symbol of the loss of sight. The white cane was introduced to be safer for blind people to be more visible to motorists and others.

**16 October**

### World Food Day

World Food Day highlights the plight of 870 million

undernourished people in the world. Most of them live in rural areas where their main source of income is agriculture. Global warming and the biofuel boom are now threatening to push the number of hungry even higher. The day is also used to take forward the campaign spearheaded by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) towards Zero Hunger. It also aims to promote healthy diets. This year the Food and Agriculture Organisation, which was established and launched by the United Nations on this day in 1945 celebrates its 80th anniversary.



**17 October**

### International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Celebrated since 1987 as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty and recognized by the United Nations in 1992, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty focuses on the persistence of poverty, and the choices societies make. The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have at its centre the goal of eradication of poverty across the world.

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CHARTER  
1955 - 2025

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