



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

17–23 October 2025

Conversations with the
President



EU investment supports inclusive and sustainable growth in South Africa

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST week, we had the opportunity to attend the Global Gateway Forum in Brussels at the invitation of European Union (EU) Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The forum showcases the EU's investment initiatives in other regions of the world and is meant to advance its global relationships.

South Africa's attendance at the forum follows the South Africa-European Union Summit that was held in Cape Town in March to further advance political and economic ties between our country and EU member countries.

At the Summit in Cape Town, the EU announced an investment package of 4.7 billion Euros to support strategic projects in South Africa.

Last week, the EU announced a further investment package that will bring the total investment value to 11.5 billion Euros, which is over R230 billion.

This innovative partnership focuses on priorities that South Africa has set for itself as it strives to improve the lives of its people. These priorities include investment, the clean energy transition, skills and technology, connectivity and developing strategic industries. Importantly, the partnership will contribute to the work being

done to create jobs.

The investment package covers areas such as critical minerals, e-battery development, green hydrogen, renewable energy and vaccines. This will lead to the creation of a number of jobs, skills development and transfer of technology.

As we said in Brussels, these investments will support our effort to build the economy of the future in the South Africa of the present. They will help to accelerate South Africa's ambitious transition to a low-carbon economy that is just and inclusive.

The package aims to mobilise financing to invest in local

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



processing and refining of minerals that are critical to the energy transition. It includes investments in projects to produce green hydrogen and derivatives that will set South Africa up as a world-leading producer for the local economy and for export.

The investments are also expected to accelerate large-scale solar and wind power projects, while boosting energy efficiency in industry, housing and public services. These measures will reduce reliance on coal, lower costs and improve energy security for households and businesses.

As a country, we have always insisted that our energy transition must be just and inclusive, and that we must take deliberate measures to protect workers, communities and businesses that would be affected. That is why part of the investment package is dedicated to re-skill, train and provide entrepreneurship opportunities. It will also be used to expand access to clean water, waste management and energy efficient public services.

The investment package will also support the work that South Africa is undertaking to develop our rail, road and ports infra-

structure, logistics and digital connectivity.

These investments will also support the local manufacturing of pharmaceuticals through partnerships with regulatory authorities, as well as innovative research projects, training and capacity building on biotechnology and pharmaceutical infrastructure.

This investment package is being announced against the backdrop of the progress we are making in addressing some of the critical impediments to inclusive economic growth.

As our country, we have made

immense progress in overcoming our energy supply constraints through the improved performance by Eskom and a massive investment in renewable energy generation. We are improving efficiencies at our ports and opening our freight rail lines to private operators. We are undertaking a massive investment in infrastructure and streamlining regulations to improve the environment for investors. The progress we are making with our reforms is recognised and it's making our country an investment destination. We are seen as the gateway into the African continent.

The EU investment takes place in the context of a more volatile global environment. There is a significant realignment of trade and investment between countries. In addition, rapid advances in technology and the escalating climate crisis are contributing to greater uncertainty.

That is why South Africa is forging ahead with the work of building a resilient and sustainable economy that address the needs of the present while positioning itself for the needs and challenges of the future. ■



MEDIA STATEMENT

THE ANC THANKS THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR CONTINUED TRUST AS RENEWAL AND SERVICE DELIVERY TAKE ROOT

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress extends its heartfelt appreciation to the people of South Africa following the outcomes of the recent by-elections. These results reflect the people's enduring confidence in the ANC and affirm the growing strength of our renewal and service delivery programme that continues to take shape following the recent Special NEC on Local Government and the Roll Call of Councillors.

The African National Congress celebrates the people's victories across the country. In Musina Local Municipality in the Vhembe Region (Limpopo), the ANC triumphed decisively, electing **Councillor Raymond Mashudu Nyathi** to serve the community with dedication and accountability. In the Dr AB Xuma Local Municipality in the Chris Hani Region (Eastern Cape), the people reaffirmed their confidence in the ANC through the election of **Councillor Vuyiswa Poswa**. In the Langeberg Local Municipality in the Boland Region (Western Cape), **Councillor Daniel Badjies** successfully retained the ward for the ANC, demonstrating that even in contested terrain, the



people continue to trust the ANC to lead them.

We express our deepest gratitude to the communities of Musina, Dr AB Xuma and Langeberg, and to every voter, volunteer, activist and supporter who made these victories possible. We also thank the people of Soweto, Swellendam and Ramotshere Moiloa for their participation and commitment to democracy. These outcomes reaffirm the ANC bond with the people and strengthen our resolve to work harder, rebuild confidence and serve with integrity.

The Local Government Action Plan, adopted earlier this year, has sharpened the movement's focus on service delivery performance, discipline and ac-

countability among councillors. It serves as a compass for ensuring that ANC-led municipalities deliver with urgency, efficiency and consistency. Guided by the principles of consultation, openness, transparency and redress, every ANC councillor is expected to embody the values of ethical leadership and people-centred governance in daily service to their communities.

The recent by-elections have shown that renewal is not a slogan but a living reality.

The ANC is regaining stability, unity and trust as our cadres reconnect with the people and serve with renewed discipline and purpose. We remain committed to delivery, accountability and ethical leadership. ■

ANC Veterans League remembers Black Wednesday in the face of new threats to press freedom here and abroad

■ By **ANC VETERANS LEAGUE PRESIDENT SNUKI ZIKALALA**

“AT the rate that journalists are being killed in Gaza by Israel’s military, the IDF, there will soon be no one left to keep you informed”– this was the warning cry from Reporters Without Borders (RSF) at the massacre of five journalists killed in one airstrike on Nasser Hospital not so long ago.

By the end of August, Israel had already killed up to 274 journalists, 269 of them Palestinians reporting for leading news outlets like Al Jazeera, Middle Eastern Eye, Reuters and Associated Press. According to UN figures, Israel has killed over 63,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October 2023. The only reason we know this is because of the fearless journalists who continue to put themselves in the line of fire to tell the Gaza story and penetrate the censorship imposed by the Israelis.

As we prepare to commemorate Black Wednesday, that day in 1977, when The World and Weekend World newspapers were banned, along with 18 Black Consciousness organizations, together with the detention and banning of leading activists and community members, it is opportune to reflect on press freedom.



We use 19th October to remember our hard-won right of Freedom of Speech – one of the cornerstones of our constitutional democracy.

While South Africans can relate to the barbaric behavior of the Israeli government and the IDF, South Africa’s vibrant and adversarial media landscape of today is a far cry from the suppression of journalists during Apartheid, when journalists were harassed, tortured, jailed, and beaten to death for telling the truth.

Today, the country has developed a well-established culture of investigative journalism. According to the Freedom in the World 2024 report, South Africa scores three out of four for “*having free and independent media*”.

We have an environment where civil society can expose government malpractice, and the media landscape is “*diverse, sturdy and dynamic*”.

However, we should never take press freedom for granted. In 1992, two years before the end of apartheid, former president Nelson Mandela bemoaned the state of South Africa’s print media. He was of the view that the greatest threat to freedom of expression was the media’s domination by middle-class men from the minority white population.

In the same year, the ANC adopted a media charter calling for all citizens to be empowered with the necessary information and to contest views to make informed choices. An ignorant society cannot be democratic, Mandela asserted.

How far have we come today to address media domination by certain interests?

Unfortunately, with news purveyors adding paywalls on their websites, fewer people are able to read the dominant news online, including numerous eager news consumers in South Africa who simply cannot afford to pay for news.

The impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on journalism is a new threat to media freedom. On World Press Freedom Day earlier this year, the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) noted that AI may offer opportunities for media efficiency, but cautioned that, with technological advances, there are also potential dangers.

AI-generated misinformation and disinformation, deep-fake technology, biased content moderation and surveillance, pose real threats to journalists. Sanef also endorsed the stand of UNESCO, who expressed concern about the threat AI poses to fair remuneration for journalistic content and media viability.

The brutal crackdown on media and academic freedom in the United States (US) is a clear demonstration of the fragile line between liberty and oppression. President Donald Trump's autocratic censure and threatened closure of TV shows, podcasts, and so-called Antifa (anti-fascist) media sites, has caught many unaware.

There is a palpable climate of fear and intimidation.

U.S. journalists and online media are facing increasing pressure, both financially and politically, from powerful individuals seeking to punish media outlets. The attack is led by Trump and his oligarchs, including two South Africans, Peter Thiel and Elon Musk, who are using their money to drive a fascist agenda in the country they now call home.

We are also facing new threats. South Africans are hailing the revelations of KZN Police Commissioner, Nhlanhla Mkwanazi. Many admire *his kragdaddigheid*

approach, but he has also made allegations against journalists, supports the surveillance of journalists by South Africa's State Security Agency, suggested that reporters be jailed for misinformation and believes that social media should have been banned during the July 2021 unrest.

There are also parts of the media that jump to scandal, as was witnessed with the recent tragic passing away of former Minister

of Police, Nathi Mthethwa. However, this should not lead us to curtail press freedom, but rather ensure that our regulatory bodies, such as the Press Council, remain robust.

And as we remember how far we have come, let us continue to demonstrate our solidarity to the journalists in Palestine and elsewhere who are experiencing what we experienced in apartheid SA, if not worse! ■



REMEMBERING



THE banning of *The World* and *Weekend World* newspapers, along with 18 Black Consciousness organizations, and the detention and banning of leading activists and community members on Wednesday, 19 October 1977, were at the time an extreme measure taken by the Apartheid state to crush the anti-Apartheid struggle.

At two am on Wednesday, 19 October 1977, Percy Qoboza's phone rang. It was the head of

the Apartheid Security Police, Major AJ Visser, informing Qoboza in a sneering manner that *The World* and *Weekend World* had been banned under the Internal Security Act. Visser's taunting was not unexpected, Qoboza wrote in *City Press* in 1984. "*He was one of the nastiest human beings I have ever had the displeasure of meeting.*"

As the 39-year-old Percy Peter Tshidiso Qoboza was frog marched from the offices of his now-banned newspapers on that

PERSPECTIVE

Wednesday morning, the Apartheid regime simultaneously unleashed an unprecedented and wide-ranging, violent crackdown on free speech in the country.

Overnight, the massive security apparatus swooped on black leaders and anti-establishment voices. They closed newspapers, detained editors, banned most black-led political organizations, and either banned or detained the country's leading political voices.

Qoboza was detained without trial and incarcerated in solitary confinement for five months at Modderbee Prison under Section 10 of the Internal Security Act. A vocal international solidarity campaign eventually secured his release.

It was Qoboza's relentless coverage of black voices and his questioning of the regime's brutal torture and killing of Biko that irked Prime Minister John Vorster, and he unleashed his state security henchman. Qoboza used his pen as an instrument of protest. Despite knowing that he could face arrest, detention and long periods of banning, Qoboza continued to reveal the Apartheid state's heinous human rights abuses fearlessly.

In 1977, Vorster warned Qoboza that he was *"getting impatient"* with *The World* and the *Weekend World*. His point of ire was a poll run in the newspaper where readers were asked whether they considered the Dr Nthato Motlana and the Committee of Ten to be truly representative of the feelings of the people of Soweto.

The vast majority of Sowetans favoured Dr Motlana and the Committee of Ten. Motlana was

a leading activist and the ANC's Youth League secretary-general in 1952. Qoboza was instrumental in setting up the Committee of Ten at his offices.

"Vorster wanted me to abandon the poll," Qoboza recalls. *"I tried very hard to explain to Vorster that by running the poll, we were merely gauging and giving expression to the will of the people. But it was difficult to explain anything to that man. He was a despot – intoxicated with power, he enjoyed to the limit."*

Qoboza and his colleagues were not crushed but they were jailed, beaten up, shot at and tear-gassed as Vorster and Kruger's dogs of war persecuted journalists and political activists. *"But we survived,"* he said. *"They closed down the newspapers because they told the truth without fear or favour"*.

Fellow journalists also taken to Modderbee at the time included Aggrey Klaaste, Willie Bokale, Godwin Mahlomi, Moffat Zungu, ZB Molefe and Duma kaNdlovu. Joe Thloloe, Peter Magubane, Mike Mzileni and Gabu Tugwana joined them later. Many, including Mathatha Tsedu, Thloloe and Don Mattera, were banned upon their release. The iconic playwright Gibson Kente was also detained at Modderbee. These writers and photographers are all now revered for never relenting in their quest to tell the South African story under extreme repression.

The Union of Black Journalists were given a severe blow on Black Wednesday but would later re-emerge as the Writers Association of South Africa. It widened its scope to include media practitioners across the board in the

Media Workers Association of South Africa.

Percy Qoboza not only changed the character of the political coverage at the newspapers he edited, he took a tough and uncompromising stand against racial oppression and preached non-violence and negotiation. The regular fare of soccer, witchcraft, crime and celebrity beauties were replaced with serious journalism. He was the first editor to distribute educational supplements to help pupils cope at school.

Today Qoboza is remembered as a masterful and sharp-witted political and social commentator with a forceful writing style and flair. He was also a good orator and a skillful public speaker who could command the big stage. He set up a solid foundation for press freedom in South Africa.

He and so many journalists before and after him dared to challenge the status quo and the ever-present silencing hand of white superiors and executives. He changed white-owned newspapers to reflect the issues affecting black readers, its target market. His role and influence in the evolution and revolution of South African media remain synonymous with our memory of Black Wednesday.

Qoboza, born on 17 January 1938 in Sophiatown, Johannesburg, died on January 17, 1988. He died in the darkest days of Apartheid and never saw a democratic South Africa. But his legacy lives on.

Today, 48 years later, we honour Qoboza's words: ***"It is true that for evil to succeed, it takes far too many good people to keep quiet and stand by."*** ■



Moment of Rupture: When National Security and Political Interests Collide

■ By **BUSANI NGCAWENI**

HISTORY in the post-colony rarely unfolds in a straight line, although a retrospective look at patterns of history may suggest linear movement. Our history circles its own beginnings, repeating promises of liberation while rehearsing the familiar failures of power. Ruptures that follow present possibilities of restarts. Each rupture begins with noise, a promise of change, and ends in silence, a return to the old order. The post-colonial condition is still one of unfinished revolutions, dreams deferred and the endless labour of becoming.

Often these moments of rupture are occasioned by the collision between political (factional) interests and national security (in this case broadly defined to include the economy). The current rupture is unfortunately not about

growing the economy or saving the youth from the perils of poverty and inequality. Be that as it may, it is important to prospect how this rupture might unfold.

I argue that both those celebrating and those condemning this moment may come to regret it. Neither side deeply appreciates its weight and meaning nor is actively constructing cogent scenarios for its outcomes.

Yet there is a reality. Ruptures can, as the Arab Spring taught us, end in winter, barren, cold and without substance.

It is therefore vital that we deploy sound instruments of analysis and forecasting to find pathways toward the future.

My strong view is that there is, in truth, nothing to celebrate or

to despise in this moment. Our emotions are driven by factional interests, not foresight. Events are random, spontaneous and without a strategic horizon. The winds of history may carry this rupture towards destinations shaped by headwinds beyond our control.

It is complicated, though not complex.

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

Scenario 1: Moral Paralysis

As black people, we may find ourselves in a weakened moral position, without the authority needed to advance the transformation agenda. The state will enter a phase of paralysis, a void in which opportunists will thrive. This scenario will produce moral fatigue and political stagnation,

VIEWPOINT

where the vision of transformation risks fading into mere rhetoric. The attack on transformation by mainstream politicians, supported by local and international agents, adds fuel to this burning platform.

Scenario 2: Erosion of Trust

Trust in the liberation movement and political leadership in general will continue to decline. Political legitimacy will be lost. A weak criminal justice system, combined with sluggish prosecutions of newly exposed rogues, might dampen the national mood, and return the nation to cynicism – do-lolo. In this scenario, institutions will further hollow out and public belief in collective progress will collapse.

Scenario 3: Economic Drift

Economic stagnation and failing service delivery, the twin frontiers of national discontent, may persist. The spectacle of this drama might yield minor change, deepening despair. Because the desire for conspicuous consumption outweighs the fear of consequence, rogues will keep gambling on corruption. We all know that each reform intended to curb corruption has, paradoxically, generated new modalities of graft. This scenario suggests a continuing cycle of waste, theft and moral decay.

State owned enterprises are not reforming fast enough. The poor sales-pitch of the private sector participation strategy plays to the privatisation narrative, further creating uncertainty and weakening legitimacy of public policy.

Scenario 4: Social Fracture

White arrogance will intensify, as

it has been perceived to be. Social cohesion will weaken. South Africa's geopolitical position will become more exposed as global partners grow disillusioned with weakening governance and economic performance.

The judiciary and the media will come under fire as rogues in their ranks are exposed. The Constitution will continue to be attacked as an elite pact responsible for entrenching ultra-liberalism at the expense of national development and social transformation. This scenario will mark the acceleration of the erosion of the social fabric, where resentment becomes the language of politics. We are returning to racial politics of the apartheid era.

Scenario 5: The Authoritarian Turn

Those perceived as strongmen, promising order and stability, will gain favour. Authoritarianism will become a preferred response to chaos. The electorate, weary of uncertainty, will surrender certain freedoms for the promise of control. This scenario will bring temporary calm but at the cost of weakened institutions and dimin-

ished democratic culture. Parties representing this tendency have one dividing line: immigration. One favour open borders while the other calls for a crackdown on illegal immigration; the irony is not lost.

Scenario 6: Fragmented Democracy

Public trust will continue to collapse to such an extent that no party commands a decisive majority. Votes will splinter across factions, independents, new parties and even stokvels with personal agendas. A fragile coalition will emerge, incapable of decisive reform and burdened by weak legitimacy. Government will remain in the ICU of survival, where the state rules by compromise among narrow sectarian interests rather than the pursuit of a coherent and ambitious national development agenda. This scenario will yield a false sense of continuity without real change, reform without courage. Poverty multiplies.

Scenario 7: Which Inanda will Survive

When this drama ends, we will



VIEWPOINT

contend with what happens to Inanda of Durban and Inanda of Sandton. One represents regression (crime, governance failure and hopelessness) and the other represents privilege and opulence. South Africans live in both, with common aspirations for security and economic progress. Yet, one (Inanda of Sandton) will thrive despite government whilst the other (Inanda of Durban) will die if the state fails. It's a lose-lose scenario.

In the final analysis, the economic and social gains that follow this rupture may prove insubstantial.

The reasons could vary, but at the centre lies a paralysis of leadership, a lack of courage, imagination, and statecraft across the political spectrum.

The history of the post-colony is not merely a chronicle of failed states, as Western observers tend to write, but one of exhausted imaginations, an incapacity to forge compacts and to place national interests ahead of the personal and factional.

Each generation inherits both the ruins and the myths of freedom.

This moment may yet become another unfinished revolution, a repetition disguised as renewal.

Whether we break the circle will depend not on heroes of the moment, but on the courage to imagine differently, to think beyond our limitations and forge meaningful compacts.

And so, to quote a friend, either we become Ngizwe (the chat-box homophobe) or General Mkhwanazi (a daring public servant). Both are probable future scenarios. ■



OR TAMBO MONTH

Celebrating the life and times of the longest serving President of the ANC, Oliver Reginald Tambo

■ By **THABANG MASEKO**

AS the nation celebrates the life of struggle icon and long-serving ANC president Oliver Reginald Tambo, it is worth reflecting on his teachings about leadership, particularly during times of turbulence such as those leading up to the historic Morogoro Conference.

Tambo had every reason to step down at the height of internal divisions and mounting pressure within the movement. Yet, his political consciousness and unwavering commitment to unity kept him at the helm when others faltered.

He understood that the survival of the ANC, battered by imprisonment, exile and persecution depended on disciplined, visionary leadership.

Under the current Government of National Unity, South Africans might well ask: what signal would Tambo send about who should lead the ANC through its present challenges?

Lessons from Morogoro and Beyond

Tambo worked tirelessly to unite

the ANC in exile, ultimately handing it back to South Africa as a solid, organised force at the Natal Conference in 1992.

The Morogoro Conference had earlier called on the movement to clarify the objectives of the armed struggle and to ensure that political and military structures functioned in coordination.

Delegates at Morogoro concluded: *“When we talk of revolutionary armed struggle, we are talking of political struggle by means which include the use of military force. Our movement must reject all manifestations of militarism which separate the people’s armed struggle from its political context.”*

The 1960s brought new leadership challenges. Many senior members were imprisoned, forcing the ANC to cultivate a new generation of leaders.

The movement also had to define how the exiled leadership related to those organising inside the

country, a tension that persists in different forms even today.

At a recent Eastern Cape Provincial General Council of the MK Liberation War Veterans in East London, discussions revisited these historic questions. Delegates reflected on the motive forces of the revolution and the enduring role of the Tripartite Alliance.

Echoes of Tambo in Troubled Times

What would OR Tambo say about today’s unrest, from the controversies surrounding the Madlanga Commission to the shocking reports of young people burning down the University of Fort Hare, the very institution that shaped him?

Tambo would surely remind us that the ANC once built strong security structures to protect the gains of our people. He would denounce corruption and the destruction of public property as alien to the values of the movement.

Building on Morogoro, the Kabwe Conference later emphasised intensifying the struggle on all fronts, urging organisers to shift focus *“from within the black ghettos into the enemy camp”* and to weaken oppressive systems from within. That same sense of purpose and urgency is needed as the country heads towards the 2026 local government elections.

The State of the Movement

In November 1966, the Congress Alliance met to strengthen its operations. Its Recommendations Committee reviewed the functioning of the alliance just as in recent times, the ANC’s National Executive Committee and the SACP have revisited questions about the Party’s role in state power.

By March 1969, the Morogoro organisers received a commission report warning that the ANC leadership had lost the confidence of many cadres. The Hani Memorandum soon followed, a stinging critique of leadership complacency in exile.





History it seems is repeating itself. Former Umkhonto we Sizwe veteran Comrade Siziwe Bobelo recently trended on social media for condemning President Cyril Ramaphosa, accusing him of degrading the Congress movement by praising the DA in public. *“It has never happened in the history of the ANC that our president would prefer an opposition party over the ANC,”* she said.

While the democratic era has ushered in major political, social, and economic advances, it has also bred troubling tendencies such as careerism, factionalism, patronage, and opportunism.

Even with only 40 percent support in the last election, the ANC remains in power but the moral authority that once defined it is under strain.

As Pallo Jordan once observed, *“National liberation has rarely come in the form that the movement sought.”* The ANC’s rise to power was achieved not through military conquest, but through negotiation.

That transition, while peaceful, left the movement vulnerable to the temptations of governance.

Tambo’s Call: What Must Be Done?

Tambo’s legacy offers enduring guidance. When Chris Hani faced threats after exposing corruption in exile, it was Tambo who sheltered him in Zambia until it was safe for him to re-emerge. He defended principle over comfort, a

rare quality in today’s politics.

Though South Africa has achieved freedom, too many now exploit the ANC for personal gain. The movement that once symbolised sacrifice and integrity is increasingly associated with corruption and internal decay.

In this political moment, one can only imagine Tambo’s voice rising once more with the question: **“What must be done?”**



The recent burning of the University of Fort Hare, an institution that educated some of Africa’s greatest leaders, including Tambo himself represents not only lawlessness but an attempt to erase our collective history.

The ANC stands at a crossroads. The forthcoming findings of the Madlanga Commission may expose many of the foreign tendencies that have taken root within its ranks. Whether the movement can rediscover its moral compass as Tambo once did, will determine who is truly fit to lead it into the future. ■

AFRIFORUM – A DANGER TO NATIONAL HEALING

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

THE creation of a non-racial society, nation healing, and unity is a collective responsibility of all South African citizens across the political and colour divide.

For catharsis and closure, and digging deep into the delays in prosecuting those who committed atrocities against the people, the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission President Cyril Ramaphosa established a Commission of Inquiry headed by retired Justice Khampepe in what is known as the Khampepe Commission.

This is not just an inquiry but an investigation into a delaying hand that punctuated the prosecution of apartheid crimes. These crimes were declared crimes against humanity by the global community, leading to the isolation of the apartheid state and its declaration as a pariah state.

After its banning in 1960 in the aftermath of the Sharpeville Massacre and many massacres and acts of brutality by the racist National Party government the liberation movement rose to take up the cudgels on behalf of the oppressed. The nation cannot forget the state sponsored terror, systematic killings and torture.

The Khampepe Commission probes amongst others the inexplicable disappearance of No-

kuthula Simelane, the delays in the prosecution of deaths of the Cradock Four and other mysterious deaths which denied justice and healing to their families and the nation.

In the establishment of the Khampepe Commission the President was enjoined by the Constitution to “recognise the injustices of the past, and honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land.” It was a moral response to a call for the truth, and

justice. These are the martyrs who fought and sacrificed their lives for freedom and democracy.

As we so do, the racist Afriforum opens deep wounds, polarising the nation which is on a healing path, and a project of nation-building and unity. In their submission to the Khampepe Commission they don't mention Benjamin Moloisi, Solomon Mahlangu, Josephine Moshobane and many who died at the brutal hands of apartheid.

RACIST AFRIFORUM CAN'T REWRITE HISTORY



Apartheid was a crime against humanity. Our struggle was justice in action, not terror. AfriForum's nostalgia for apartheid exposes its contempt for truth and democracy. The fight for freedom was humanity itself.

VIEWPOINT

This is an insult to our democracy and our constitution which promotes healing. This is an insult to Steve Biko, Vuyisile Mini and many others who perished at Vlakplaas and other secret locations, their voices wallowing in unmarked graves as their families and the nation seek the truth. They don't mention the Boipatong Massacre, the Trojan horse killings and many egregious acts.

Together with the racist Solidariteit, Afriforum is the same organisation that lied to the world about the ANC's persecution of minorities, against the grain of non-racialism, common citizenship and equality going so far as the United States (US) to de-campaign the country, soiling the country's flag casting the country on the slaughter of the majority and ethnic cleansing like the slaughter of the yesteryear Bosnia and the internecine war of the Hutus-Tutsis of Rwanda.

"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the banner moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself." – Marcus Tullius Cicero

Afriforum is such an enemy at the gates of the democratic state, loudly whispering all manner of lies, distorting transformation. It had nailed its racist colours to the mast, exposing itself openly as the enemy of non-racialism and transformation. Cicero's postulation fits aptly within the times of treason veiled as freedom of expression and association, but association with apartheid is a

"When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you."

Winston Churchill

betrayal of our constitutional values. Their anti-transformation agenda is a deliberate assault on the Constitution. This stratagem and racist manoeuvre are inimical and repugnant to national unity. Through their deliberate disinformation campaign in the United States, they harmed the economy, pushed for sanctions against ANC leaders and jeopardised the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and other collaborative relations for mutual growth and shared prosperity. These must be classified as treasonous acts against the state, the people and development.

In buttressing Cicero this is what Winston Churchill had to say "When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you." Afriforum exposes the country to too much harm. They are enemies within.

This is the truth about Afriforum and its cronies. They have declared war against all progressive laws, the National Health Insurance Act, Basic Education Laws Amendment Act, the Expropriation Act and the Employment Equity Amendment Act designed to ensure equity, diversity, access, land distribution and inclusivity as promoted by the Constitution.

In the face of this anti-transformation fightback South Africans must unite to expose and isolate

Afriforum and its racist ideas and lies. A lot of blood was profusely shed in the fight against apartheid as a crime against humanity. And many lives were lost. But Afriforum is in denial, as if apartheid never existed, that there were no quasi-judicial killings and torture.

In its deplorable submission to the Khampepe Commission, Afriforum is apologetic to apartheid and nostalgic to an oppressive and racist past and minority privileges, separate development and minority rule. Above all, its actions are an insult to attempts by the Khampepe Commission to expose the truth, promote healing and closure and take our country forward in building a truly non-racial society.

The fight back is a sham and unsustainable. Amidst all these, the South African flag is flying high with pride. The work of the Commission is continuing. The Afriforum gambit is dangerous and suicidal. The people and the world are not blind to South Africa's positive contributions to global peace efforts, its Presidency of the G20 countries and positive role on many fronts.

Afriforum must stop with its campaign of lies. In the end, *"betrayal teaches us the importance of resilience, forgiveness, and the power of moving forward with grace and strength."* ■



When the Clean Hands Drip Dust

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

THEY call it clean governance. They boast of cities that shine, provinces that sparkle beneath audit trails and manicured promenades. But press your hand against the glass and you feel the dust beneath the polish. The rhetoric of cleanliness often hides the stains of exclusion, the scent of inequality, the arrogance of moral superiority that refuses to see the people left outside the gates – even the whitest marble cracks when justice is absent.

In one part of this country, “good governance” means efficiency

without empathy – narrow corridors of development where race and class still map the streets, where the skyline tells you who belongs and who serves. Auditor-General reports have long praised financial compliance while recording persistent inequality in service delivery (Auditor-General, 2024). A city cannot be clean when its children drink from broken taps and its workers travel two hours to reach the promise they helped to build but will never own.

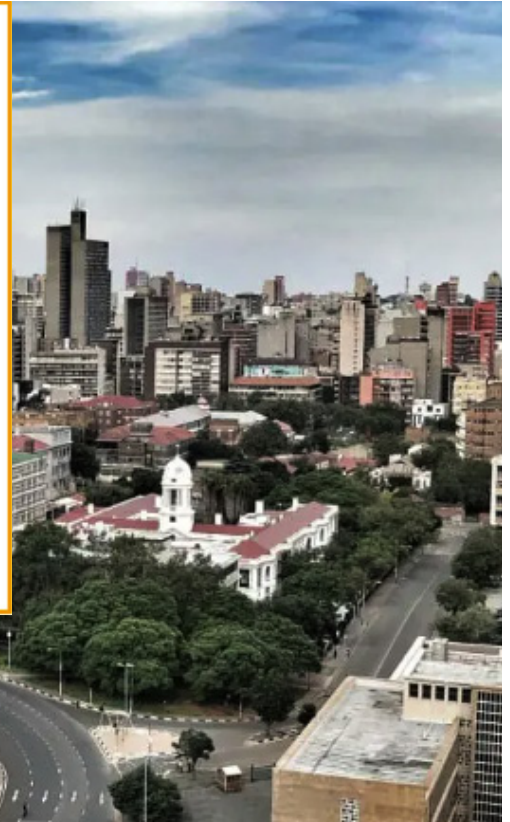
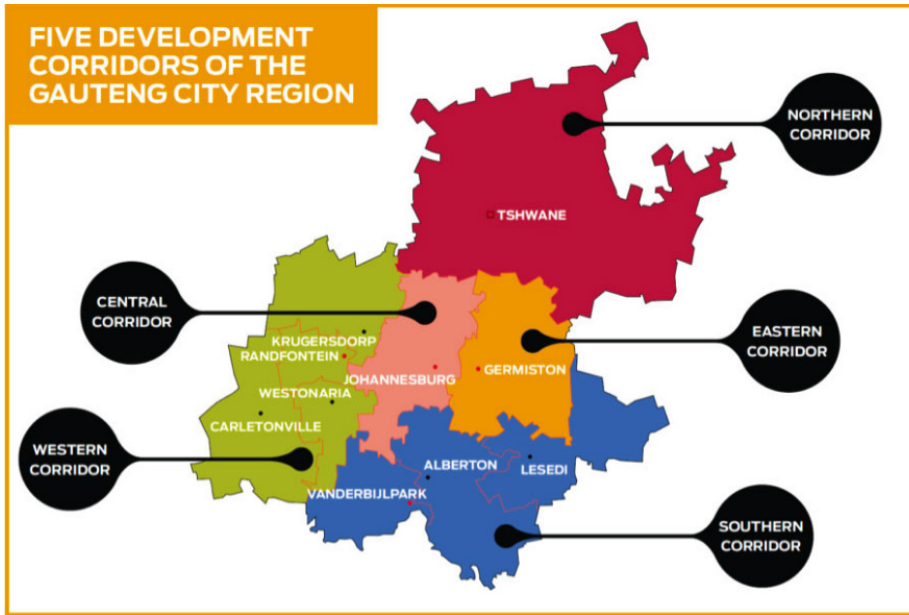
Elsewhere, another kind of leadership unfolds quietly – one that

speaks the language of progress, not perfection. It builds, not boasts. It expands, not excludes. Gauteng’s urban vision – from the Integrated Development Plans (City of Johannesburg IDP, 2025) to the Gauteng City-Region Strategy (National Treasury Urban Network Strategy, 2023) – imagines the city as a living organism that must integrate its people, its infrastructure, and its future. New cities are rising from red soil and steel: Lanseria Smart City, the corridors of Cosmo City, the arterial lifelines linking townships to industrial parks, and the Gautrain Phase 2 expansion that winds through the West Rand and south of Soweto (Gautrain Management Agency, 2025).

At the heart of this network stands the modernised Lanseria International Airport – identified in Department of Transport and Gauteng Infrastructure Development reports (2024) as a strategic enabler of commerce and connectivity. Its renewal anchors the Smart City around it, linking industrial corridors, logistics



VIEWPOINT



hubs, and new housing precincts across the region. It is proof that practical delivery outlives the noise of political theatre.

These are not monuments; they are promises in motion.

There are still challenges. Water systems buckle, roads crumble under the weight of history, and revenue battles rage between old debts and new demands. Yet, as Global Credit Ratings noted in September 2025, Johannesburg's finances have begun to stabilise through disciplined budgeting and infrastructure reinvestment (GCR, 29 Sept 2025).

Progress is not perfection, but perfection has never built a nation – struggle has.

Those who declare themselves spotless forget their own Day Zero, when a major city almost ran dry and national intervention prevented a humanitarian disaster (Department of Water and

Sanitation, 2018). They forget the open-toilet scandals that forced communities to protest for dignity. They forget the inequality their own statistics reveal: housing waiting lists stretching beyond a decade, crime rates that stalk the poor while the rich retreat behind electric fences. *“Clean hands”* mean nothing when the water that washes them comes from the sweat of the forgotten.

What is clean about a city that pushes its working class to the periphery? What is moral about development that is divided by postcode? The Gauteng City-Region model – imperfect but evolving – builds toward integration, mixed-income neighbourhoods, transport equity, and industrial diversification. It is not the dream of saints but the labour of citizens who refuse to inherit the geography of apartheid.

Cities are not judged by who they exclude, but by who they embrace. A metropolis that reserves

its beauty for the few is not a success – it is an indictment. The future belongs to those who build cities where human dignity is the measure of cleanliness, where development is not a showpiece but a shared inheritance.

The next frontier of South Africa's democracy will not be fought in hashtags or press conferences. It will be fought in the quality of water that runs through our taps, the time it takes a nurse to reach work, and the safety of a child walking home after school. It will be fought between those who worship the mirror and those who build the road.

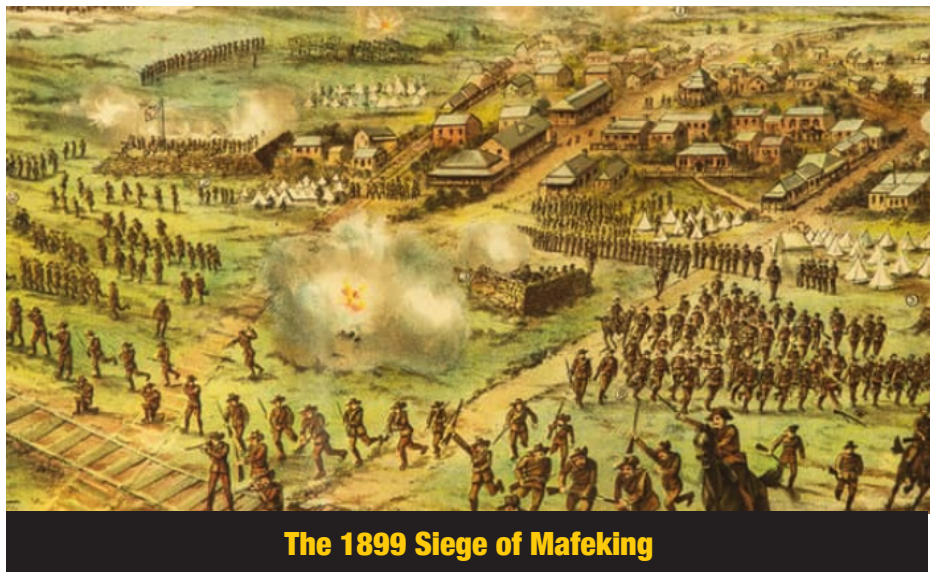
Let the people rise and choose builders over dividers.

Let them remember that the true measure of clean governance is not the absence of dirt but the presence of justice. For in the end, when the clean hands drip dust, only the hands that build will be remembered. ■

MAHIKENG: One of the Few Places in Our Country that Epitomise the Struggle for Land

■ By **GOMOLEMO MOTHIBI**

On 14 October 1899, the Siege of Mafeking began – one of the most significant events of the Anglo-Boer War, later known as the South African War. For 217 days, the small town of Mafeking (today's Mahikeng) became the center of global attention as British forces under Colonel Robert Baden-Powell were besieged by Boer commandos. Mahikeng would later become the administrative seat of the post-apartheid North West Province under a democratic South Africa.



The 1899 Siege of Mafeking

While history has often been told through a colonial lens that glorifies British heroism, it was the Barolong people, under Chief Besele Montshioa, together with many African auxiliaries, who bore the true brunt of the siege. Their land was occupied, their livelihoods disrupted, and their labour exploited for a war that was never theirs. Yet, they remained steadfast in defence of their territory and their right to self-determination.

Their courage, fortitude and resilience are exemplified by Makgotheng Kepadisa, who played a critical role in reconnaissance and sabotage operations against the Boer commandos. This moment in history also marked the early stirrings of African political consciousness. Out of this very town would emerge one of Africa's sharpest intellectuals and

freedom fighters, Sol T. Plaatje. Witnessing the aftermath of the war, Plaatje devoted his life to documenting the dispossession of African people. During the siege, Plaatje, who worked as an interpreter and typist for the resident magistrate in the then Mafeking colonial administration, kept a detailed diary chronicling the events of the war.

The Barolong people had hoped that, following the war, a new administration inclusive of all racial groups would emerge. However, that vision was short-lived. In 1902, the British and the Boers signed the Treaty of Vereeniging, which paved the way for the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, under the leadership of Boer General Louis Botha as Prime Minister. These developments marked a turbulent period for Africans. Just three years

after the Union's formation, the Native Land Act of 1913 came into effect, a law that legally dispossessed Black Africans of their land.

In his seminal book, *Native Life in South Africa*, Plaatje writes: "Awakening on Friday morning, June 20, 1913, the South African native found himself not actually a slave, but a pariah in the land of his birth." He described how the Act confined Black Africans to a small fraction of the country's land and made it illegal for them to buy or lease land outside of designated reserves. This legislation entrenched a system in which the indigenous population became outcasts in their own homeland, creating a fertile ground for labour exploitation by monopoly capital.

Plaatje's writings and activism



laid the intellectual foundation for the broader liberation struggle and inspired the formation of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1912.

The Siege of Mafeking is, therefore, not merely a colonial war story. It is a Mahikeng story, a South African story, and most importantly, a liberation story. It reminds us of the resilience of our ancestors and the long road our people travelled toward self-determination. Yet, more than a century after our democratic breakthrough, Africans still grapple with landlessness, poverty, unemployment, and inequality, enduring legacies of the very struggle our forebears resisted.

As we reflect on these issues, it is my wish that in fu-

ture, the Mahikeng Local Municipality and the broader community will commemorate this history through exhibitions, school de-

bates, heritage walks and cultural performances, so that especially the youth can reconnect with this powerful chapter of our past and, more importantly, draw lessons to address the socio-economic challenges that persist today.

Mahikeng remains one of the few places in our country that truly epitomise the struggle for land, identity, and liberation, and it deserves to be celebrated with pride. ■

*Gomolemo Mothibi is an activist and co-founder of the **Maftown Book Club**. She writes in her personal capacity.*

POLICY, MONITORING, EVALUATION & RESEARCH (PMER)

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

basic.services@anc1912.org.za

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

113TH
ANNIVERSARY

70 YEARS OF THE
FREEDOM CHARTER
1955 - 2025

ANC

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

18–24 October 2025

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

18 October 1983 SADF bombs ANC offices in Maputo

South African National Defense Force (SADF) commandos bombed the African National Congress (ANC) office in Maputo, Mozambique and injured 5 people. Captain Wynand Petrus du Toit was caught later and admitted his role in the raid. This was one of many cross border raids by the SADF in the 1980s to neighbouring countries who gave refuge to South African freedom fighters.

18 October 1966 Rand Afrikaanse Universiteit established

The Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), the second university in Johannesburg after Witwatersrand University, was established by an act of parliament as the academic home of Afrikaans-speaking students. The University attracted students, academics, donors and business partners from other language groups, but explicitly excluded black South Africans. RAU was merged with the Witwatersrand Technikon and the two Vista campuses of Soweto and the East Rand, to form the University of Johannesburg (UJ). UJ was officially launched on 1 January 2005. It now boasts four campuses, Auckland Park Kingsway, Auckland Park Bunting, Doornfontein and Soweto. The University has approximately 46 000 students spread over five campuses across Jo'burg.

18 October 1985 Benjamin Moloise executed



Upholsterer and poet, Benjamin Moloise was executed by apartheid government on 18 October 1985. Moloise was accused of murdering a black police officer. The African National Congress claimed responsibility for the murder and repudiated the claim that Moloise was involved. The US and the Soviet Union warned the apartheid government against the execution, but the government still decided to go ahead with it. The execution aroused so much anger in the townships that violence escalated, reaching Johannesburg CBD which had previously remained sheltered from it.

18 October 1990 Nomsa Mapongwana assassinated

Nomsa Mapongwana (34), wife of chairperson Michael Mapongwana of the Western Cape Civic

Organisation, a UDF affiliate, was shot dead at night in her home in Lingeletu West. Mapongwana and her husband woke up to the sound of shots fired from the front and rear windows of their house. Petrol bombs were thrown through the windows. Mr Mapongwana dragged his wife and children into the kitchen and hid underneath the table until the shooting stopped, when he found that his wife had died from a bullet wound in the chest. The Urban Monitoring and Awareness Committee later reported that neighbours saw four balaclava-clad men run from the burning house and jump over the back fence, escaping in a white combi.

19 October 1954 Britain and Egypt sign the Suez Canal agreement

The Suez Canal was opened in 1869, linking the Indian and Mediterranean Oceans, thus a strategic asset. It forms part of Egyptian territory, and was largely owned by Egypt. Shares in the canal operating company were sold to the British government in 1875, and when the British invaded Egypt in 1882, they seized full control of the canal, throughout the Second World War. This situation was resisted by the Egyptians, and the Agreement signed on this day was an attempt to maintain the status quo, with Britain maintaining control of the Suez canal even after withdrawal from Egypt, especially with the discovery of

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

oil in the Middle East. Two years later, Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser renationalized the Suez Canal.

19 October 1977 Apartheid government bans BC organisations and media

After the Soweto uprisings in 1976 and ongoing protests, followed by arrests and the death in detention of Steve Bantu Biko, the Apartheid government banned SASO and 18 other black consciousness organisations, and also clamped down on media freedoms, banning *The World*, *Weekend World* and the church publication *Pro Veritate*.

19 October 1977 Editor Percy Qoboza and Aggrey Klaaste arrested

Editor of *The World* and *Weekend World*, Percy Qoboza and his deputy, Aggrey Klaaste were arrested by the Special Branch police in a mission to shut down the two Black publications. Qoboza and Klaaste spent five months in solitary confinement after being led straight to their cells – in their suits and ties – from the newspapers' building. Journalists Mathatha Tsedu, Joe Tiholoe, Don Materra and many others were detained and handed down 5 year banning orders upon their release.

19 October 1992 Skweyiya report on abuses in camps released

ANC President Oliver Tambo appointed the Skweyiya Commission, following reports of abuses in ANC camps, especially Quatro in Angola. On 19 October 1992, the internal commission with members Louis Skweyiya



(chairperson), Gilbert Marcus and Bridgette Mabandla, found evidence of brutality and torture to extract confessions from alleged South African spies and other detainees. The worst abuses were at the Quatro rehabilitation centre in Angola, but they added that the conditions in other ANC camps in Angola, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia had in no way been acceptable. On behalf of the ANC, Nelson Mandela accepted responsibility for the findings of the commission.

19 October 1986 Samora Machel, President of Mozambique dies in a plane crash



On 19 October 1986, Mozambique President, Samora Machel and thirty-three other passengers, died when their Tupolev 134 plane crashed into the Lebombo Mountains, South Africa.

Machel was a prominent leader of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) and a leader of the liberation struggle. In 1975, FRELIMO won independence and he was elected as Mozambique's first president. Machel was returning from an African leaders' summit in Zambia. His death sent shockwaves throughout Southern Africa and the entire world. The crash remains a mystery; with some blaming it on bad weather and others believing that the South African authorities were to blame.

20 October 2011 Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi killed in Tripoli



The death of Pan Africanist and Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi made global headlines, following soon after the attack by NATO on Libya. Initially Gaddafi was said to have perished in the bombings

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



THIS DAY

MAMA NONTSIKELELO ALBERTINA SISULU WAS BORN

21 OCTOBER 1918

ANC and ANC Women's League stalwart Nontsikelelo Albertina Thetiwe was born on 21 October 1918 in the village of Xolobe in the Tsomo district of the Transkei. MaSisulu, as she became fondly known as, married fellow ANC activist, Walter Sisulu on 15 July 1944. Despite constant harassment by the apartheid regime, she was one of a handful of political activists who managed to continue with clandestine ANC work. MaSisulu became an ANC Member of Parliament after the first democratic elections in 1994. She passed away on 2 June 2011.

of Sirte, but it later emerged he was captured and tortured before he was killed in Tripoli.

21 October 1968 Author, Linguist and Activist, AC Jordan passed on

Archibald Campbell Mzolisa Jordan (62), acclaimed and exceptional academic, author, linguist, teacher and activist, passed on this day. Born on 30 October 1906 at the Mbokothwane mission station in the Tsolo district of Pondoland, he studied at St John's College in Umtata, Lovedale College at Alice and Fort Hare University College, where he obtained a BA degree in 1934. He taught for 10 years in Kroonstad, where he mastered Sesotho and was elected president of the African Teachers' Association. Some of his poetry was published in the *Imvo Zabantsundu* newspaper. In 1940 he started working on his only novel, *Ingqumbo Yeminyana*, a novel that was to become a landmark in South African literature. His voice continued to

be heard long after his death. In 1972 his critical study of Xhosa literature was published, and in 1973 a collection of short stories in Xhosa was translated into English under the title *Tales from Southern Africa*. His great novel *Ingqumbo Yeminyana* was published in English as *The Wrath of the Ancestors* (1980), in Afrikaans as *Die Toorn van die Voorvaders* (1990) and in Dutch as *De Wraak van het Voorgeslacht* (1999). In 2004, 36 years after his death, the University of Port Elizabeth conferred a doctorate in literature on him. He was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Gold for his contributions. The award was collected by his son, Pallo Jordan. [Source: <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/national-orders/recipient/archibald-campbell-mzolisa-jordan-1906-1968>]

22 October 1931 Mammo Wudneh born

Mammo Wudneh (1931-2012) was a playwright, journalist and president of the Ethiopian Writers Association. He was actively in-

involved as a peacemaker between Ethiopia and Eritrea working on an interfaith committee chaired by Abune Paulos, the Patriarch of the Tewahedo Church.

22 October 1999 SA boxers, Zolile Mbityi and Peter Malinga win world titles

22 October 1999 was a red-letter day in South African boxing history, as both Zolile Mbityi and Peter Malinga captured world titles. Mbityi, South African (SA) flyweight, won the International Boxing Organisation (IBO) flyweight title, while Peter Malinga, SA welterweight, won the International Boxing Organisation (IBO) welterweight title.

22 October Birthday of many prominent South Africans

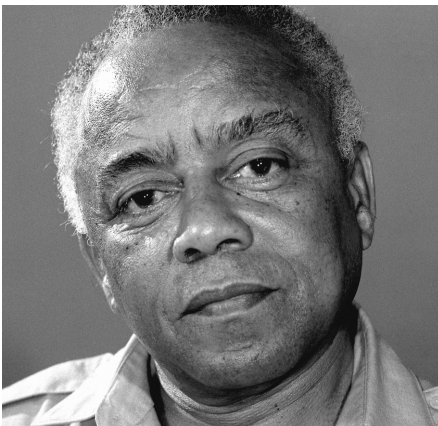
- **Thomas Titus Nkobi**—ANC Treasurer General, born on 22 October 1922 in South Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe); lived and went to school in Soweto, following his father who was a migrant mine worker. He did his BA at the University of Lesotho, where he joined the ANC and getting involved in the Alexandra Bus Boycott. He was one of the Alex delegates to the Congress of the People in 1955,



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

and participated in the potato boycott. Nkobi he was arrested, banned and left for exile, where he became ANC chief representative. He became Treasurer in 1977, and was a member of the ANC NEC until his death in 1994.

- **Dr Neville Alexander** was born on 22 October 1936. An intellectual, activist, academic and linguist, born in Cradock, Eastern Cape and co-founder of the Yu Chi Chan Club (YCCC) along with Dulcie September, and later the National Liberation Front. He was imprisoned for 10 years on Robben Island. Neville Alexander passed away in Cape Town in 2012.



- **Dr Baldwin Siphos (Ben) Ngubane**, political activist and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) politician, was born at Inchanga Roman Catholic Mission, Camperdown, Natal on 22 October 1941. Dr. Ngubane occupied many high po-



litical positions in the IFP and other spheres of government. He was minister of arts, culture and technology in President Mandela's Government of National Unity from 1994 until August 1997. In March 1997, Ngubane was appointed as premier of KwaZulu-Natal province, until he was replaced by Lionel Mtshali in 1999. In 2006, he resigned from the IFP and joined the ANC.

- **Amanda Coetzer** – born on 22 October 1971 in Hoopstad, Free State, Amanda Coetzer began playing tennis at the age of six and began her professional tennis career in 1988. At only 1.58m in height, her petite stature did not hindered her performance as she managed to beat bigger players (both in size and rank) throughout her career, earning her the nick name “giant killer”.

23 October 1920 Poet Nontisi Cizama first poem, Mgqwetho, is published



The first poem of Nontstizi (Cizama, Imbongikazi yakwaCizama) Mgqwetho is published in Umteteli under her clan name, Cizama. Nontsizi Cizama is the amongst the most significant female Xhosa poets, with her work only recently being rediscovered. She contributed close to ninety

poems, which urged South African Black people to put aside their differences and unite to fight against the White oppressors. Her poetry also recognised the role of rural people in the struggle against apartheid.

23 October 1954 FLN of Algeria formed

The Algerian independence movement, the National Liberation Front (FLN) is formed to unite the people of the country to fight against French colonialism.

23 October 1958 Apartheid government established a department of Coloured Affairs

Long before the inception of apartheid, the name “Coloured” people was used for people ranging from descendants of the Khoi and San, Malay and other slaves, and people of mixed heritage in South Africa. They occupied this precarious position between White and Black South Africans. This position was intensified during apartheid by the creation of a separate identity, reinforced by the various apartheid laws that strived to keep racial groups apart. Some of these laws included the Mixed Marriages Act, the Immorality Act, the Group Areas Act and others. The apartheid classification of Coloured was sub-divided into Cape Coloured, Malay, Griqua, Chinese, Indian, Other Asiatic and Other Coloured.

23 October 1984 SADF seals off Vaal Townships

A combined force of seven thousand South African Defence Force (SADF) troops and the South African Police (SAP) sealed off the Vaal Triangle townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

and Boipatong, in the aftermath of the Vaal Uprising, which fuelled the resistance and heightened struggles to destroy apartheid of the 1980s.

23 October 1968 Kip Keino wins Olympic Gold

Kipchego "Kip" Keino was born in Kipsano, Kenya on 17 January 1940. Keino began his international running career in 1962. From early on he trained under very high altitudes to prepare his body to perform under all conditions. Keino won several gold medals between 1962 and 1972, but it was his gold medal win in the 1500 m athletics, within 3 minutes, 34.9 seconds and setting of a new record in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico, that catapulted him to stardom. He later served as the President of the National Olympic Committee of Kenya. In 2012 Keino was amongst the first inductees in the IAAF Hall of Fame

23 October 2006 Songster Lebo Mathosa passed on



Kwaito star Lebo Mathosa (29), one of the lead duo of Boom Shaka, passed on after a car accident in Johannesburg. Born in Daveyton, she started singing in the church choir at age 7, and

attended St Mary's in Johannesburg. She joined the four member Boom Shaka at age 14, along with Thembi Seete, Theo Nhlengethwa and Junior Sokhela, and soon launched their overnight hit, *Its Summer Time, Listen to Boom Shaka*. Mathosa went solo in 1999, charting her own success and winning a SAMA in 2001 for best female vocalist. The versatile Lebo Mathosa also acted in the soapie Muvhango.

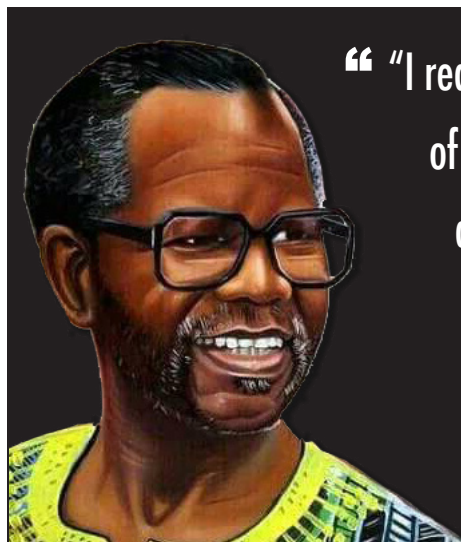
24 October 1985 'Purple rain' used on Women Protestors in Cape Town

Apartheid police in Adderley street, Cape Town used their new water cannons to suppress a Cape protest in White areas. Women wearing T-shirts with the slogan "Troops Out" marched to the city centre to demand that the South African Defense Force that was permanently stationed in townships because of the state of emergency, pull out of the townships. The police ordered the people to disperse, but the crowds refused. The police decided to use water cannons with purpled dyed water to force the crowd to disperse. It was called 'Purple Rain' after the title of the first album of songwriter Prince.

24 October 2004 ANC leader and communicator Dumisani Makhaya passed on



Following a battle with cancer, NEC member and activist, Dumisani Makhaya, affectionately known as Magagula passed on. Speaking at his funeral, then ANC President Thabo Mbeki called him and "*outstanding patriot and activists*", calling for more such "*(p)ricipled and courageous combatants for the victory of the democratic revolution; skilled and disciplined activists for the reconstruction and development of our country.*" Makhaya was KZN MEC for Local Government and Traditional affairs at the time of his passing, and was born on 27 March 1955 in Cato Manor in KwaZulu-Natal.



“ “I reaffirm the principled solidarity of the African National Congress and the people of South Africa with the struggle of the Palestinian people” .”

OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO
ANC PRESIDENT

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

18–24 October 2025

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


 A portrait of Oliver Reginald Tambo, an elderly Black man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie.

OCTOBER: O.R. TAMBO MONTH

OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO

BORN 27 OCTOBER 1917
 LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT OF THE ANC
 FOUNDER MEMBER
 AND FIRST NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE ANCYL

18 October

World Menopause Day

Menopause is a point in time 12 months after a woman's last period, and signal the end of her reproductive years. The years leading up to that point, when women may have changes in their monthly cycles, hot flashes, or other symptoms, are called the menopausal transition or perimenopause. The menopausal transition most often begins between ages 45 and 55.

19 October

International Gin and Tonic Day

Genever was first used in Holland in the 17th century. During one of the European tribal wars, the British discovered genever and brought it back to the UK, shortened as Gin. Later as the British colonial empire spread across the globe, quinine, a treatment for malaria, was drunk in tonic water but the bitter taste was unpleasant. Colonial armies' officers in India in the early 19th century took to adding a mixture of water, sugar, lime and gin to the quinine in order to make the drink more palatable, and thus the gin and tonic cocktail was born.

20 October

World Statistics Day

The theme for World Statistics Day 2025 is *“Driving change with quality statistics and data for everyone.”* This theme emphasises how reliable and accessible data is essential for informed decision-making, effective policy formulation and sustainable development. The day also raises awareness about the importance of building national statistics capacity, such as our official Statistics South Africa. Statistics shed light on problems that might otherwise remain hidden, helping our government in their mission to leave no one behind.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

20 October

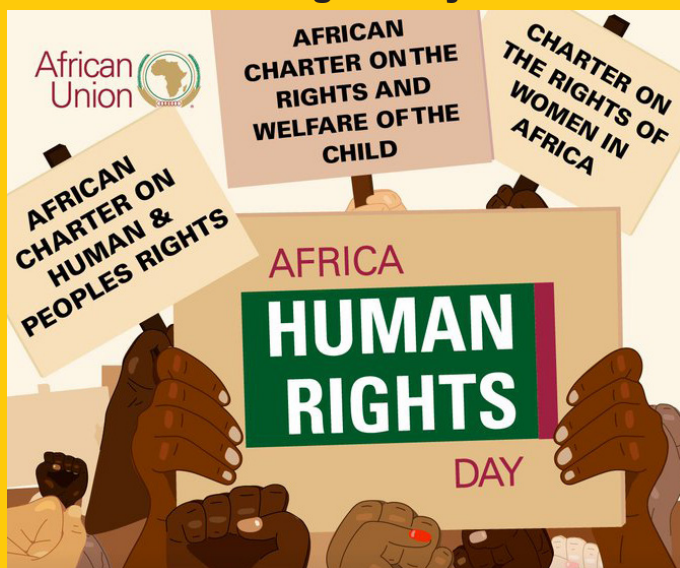
World Information Overload Day



From social media and online news to radio, television, emails and text messages, we're constantly bombarded with a plethora of information. Some research suggests we are bombarded with 7.9 gigabytes per day, the equivalent of watching 16 movies! On this day, try to switch off, and smell the coffee, or fresh air!

21 October

African Human Rights Day



African Human Rights day commemorates the date in 1986 when the African Charter on Human and People's Rights came into effect. The

Charter is a central commitment of the states of the Organisation of African Unity and its successor, the African Union, to the continent's citizens numerous rights and freedoms.

22 October

World Stuttering Awareness Day

Stuttering is a communications disorder, that sees a person struggling to produce words and sounds fluently. It usually starts in childhood, but can also evolve over time or appear suddenly. About 1% of the world's population stutters, and it is more prevalent amongst men than amongst women. 80% of young children who stutters, eventually outgrow it.

24 October

United Nations Day

United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force, and celebrates everything that the UN represents and has achieved since its establishment in 1945. The primary role of the UN is to promote and work for global peace and security. The day also seeks as a reminder of some of the principles of the UN Charter, such as diversity, cooperation among nations, equality, peace, unity, universal respect for justice and international law and human rights and fundamental freedoms.

24 October

World Development Information Day

World Development Information Day is used to distribute information on the state of development of the world, on all fronts and on international cooperation. The day also focuses on the role of journalism, TV, radio, newspapers, the Internet, and all other major forms of media used throughout the world since that is the means of getting the "information" out about development. In recent years, there has also been a big focus on information technology and how help spreads the word about development and as a tool for development.

Connect with ANC Today and be part of the conversation via our social media platforms.

CONNECT WITH US

Communications@anc1912.org.za
011 376 1000
www.anc1912.org.za

Visit our interactive ANC Website
www.anc1912.org.za

 Follow us on @MyANC
 Follow Us @MyANC Twitter page
 Follow @myanc_ on Instagram
 View @MyANC on YouTube