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Conversations with the
President



Business ties with the United States are strong and expanding

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST week I addressed a Trade and Investment Dialogue between South African and US businesses on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

This was one of a number of engagements we had with US companies while in the city. Some of these companies already have business operations in South Africa, while others are interested in investing. All of the companies commended the reforms being undertaken by the government and the prospects for growth in our economy.

As part of strengthening ties with the United States, we also used the opportunity to meet with members of the US Congress and Senate. Some of our ministers and officials also held meetings with representatives of the US administration.

The Trade and Investment Dialogue was convened by the US Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business advocacy organisation with representation in more than 120 countries, including South Africa. A number of government officials and representatives from business and industry from both countries were present.

The optimistic, future-focused tone of this important engagement underscored how, beyond the headlines and debates around trade policy and political frictions, US and South African businesses are forging ahead.

Addressing the dialogue, the President of the US-Africa Business Center of the US Chamber of Commerce Kendra Gaither said that there was “no economic relationship more foundational than the ties that the US and South Africa have”. She said it was a vital relationship that merits dedicated attention.



As further testimony to the strength of this relationship, later this year the US Chamber of Commerce will be sending a high-powered delegation, led by its CEO, to the B20 Summit, the official dialogue forum of the G20 for the global business community.

Commercial ties between South Africa and the US have proven to be both durable and resilient. There are more than 600 US companies in South Africa. Our country is the second-largest African destination for US exports. Both South African and US businesses can see the clear opportunities and commercial gains of investing in the other's respective markets.

South Africa is positioning itself as an investment destination for critical minerals, with the digital transition and the global move towards net zero driving global demand. We also had the opportunity to engage with US industry around investment opportunities in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, healthcare,

advanced manufacturing, technology and other key sectors.

We announced the establishment of the South Africa-United States Trade and Investment Forum, which will be inaugurated at next year's South Africa Investment Conference as a vital bridge between the two countries.

These engagements with business take place alongside discussions with the US administration around a reciprocal trade agreement. Our Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has been meeting with the US Trade Representative to finalise an agreement that benefits both our countries.

We are also encouraged that the US Chamber of Commerce supports the reauthorisation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), describing it as *"the cornerstone of US-Africa commerce"*. Predictable, preferential access to the US market isn't just vital to South Africa's own exports, but also to US companies that depend

on reliable imports. We are also prioritising the African Continental Free Trade Area as a vital tool for strengthening US-South Africa trade and investment.

As a country we will continue to advocate for the principle of reciprocity in investment and trade relations with the US. As the presence of US companies on South African soil continues to grow, we want to expand the number of South African companies operating in the US market, thereby creating more jobs for Americans.

As the official talks around trade tariffs continue, we take to heart the words of the US Chamber of Commerce representative at the recent dialogue, that expanding commercial partnerships *"happens one deal, one investment at time"*.

Our engagements in the US show that South African and US businesses remain deeply connected and are committed to mutually beneficial partnerships well into the future. ■

MEDIA STATEMENT

The African National Congress' Commitment to Action on Renewal, Service Delivery, Accountability and Honouring OR Tambo

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

INTRODUCTION

The African National Congress (ANC) convenes this media briefing following the recent deliberations of the National Working Committee (NWC), a body entrusted with providing collective leadership on behalf of our movement between sittings of the National Executive Committee (NEC). We do so conscious of our historic mandate, bestowed upon us by generations of struggle, to remain the leader of society and the custodian of South Africa's democratic transition.

This October holds a special significance for our movement and our nation, as it is the month set aside to celebrate, honour and learn from the life, values and principles of President Oliver Reginald Tambo. OR Tambo was the embodiment of disciplined, selfless and visionary leadership, a leader who carried the torch of the ANC in the darkest days of exile and inspired generations with his clarity of purpose.

As he once reminded us, *"The fight for freedom must go on until it is won; until our country is free and happy and peaceful as*



part of the community of man, we cannot rest." These words must continue to inspire ANC members and South Africans alike, as we recommit to building a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

The ANC acknowledges that the current political environment is one of both a challenge and opportunity. On the one hand, we face persistent socio-economic difficulties, rising public scepticism, and aggressive opposition campaigns. On the other, our renewal

agenda, our Action Plan on local government, and our unwavering solidarity with global progressive struggles demonstrate that the ANC continues to set the pace, inspire confidence, and chart the course of transformation.

ROLL CALL IS BEGINNING TO SHOW IMPACT

The Roll Call was not symbolic but operational. Councillors have been instructed to report monthly on the six pillars of the **Local Government Action Plan**. Baseline

EDITORIAL

reports from Chief Whips are now under review, and by November the ANC will release a “**Local Government Barometer**” measuring progress against manifesto commitments.

Already, communities are beginning to feel the impact of this renewed focus. In Myra Village, North West, where residents reported no access to water, urgent intervention was coordinated involving the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), the Office of the Premier in the North West, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District, and Magalies Water. Through urgent action, repairs, and collaboration between institutions, water supply was restored. This case demonstrates the ANC’s commitment to unlock service delivery challenges, strengthen accountability, and restore dignity to communities.

These achievements show that renewal is tangible, measured not in speeches but in roads fixed, taps flowing, lights switched on, and communities served. To this extent, in the coming days, the ANC will embark on unannounced visits across the country to see, first-hand, the work being done to ensure service delivery in our communities.

These visits will prioritise engagement with our people: we will meet with communities first, listen to their concerns directly, and only thereafter will we engage councillors and leadership structures in those areas. This approach is a clear demonstration that the ANC’s renewal is people-centred, that accountability begins with the community, and that our commitment is to restore dignity through direct action, not distant reports.

PROGRESS IN STRATEGIC SECTORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

The African National Congress is clear, service delivery must be felt in every municipality, from the smallest village to our biggest metros and in all State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). Our people deserve working roads, reliable water, proper housing, functioning electricity networks and cities that restore dignity and hope. Guided by the outcomes of the Councillor Roll Call and the President’s marching orders, the ANC is acting decisively to unblock challenges, drive accountability, and ensure visible improvements across our metros. The progress already under way in Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and eThekweni is evidence that renewal is not a slogan but a lived reality of change on the ground.

- **Johannesburg:** Roads are being rehabilitated, waste collection is stabilising, housing upgrades are under way, and a clear plan to resolve water issues is being implemented.
- **Ekurhuleni:** Water reticulation in Tembisa and Vosloorus is being upgraded, while long-delayed title deeds are

finally reaching our people.

- **eThekweni:** Post-flood repairs are restoring infrastructure, electricity networks are being improved, roads are being upgraded, and the city is once again reclaiming its place as the fun city, the playground for all South Africans to enjoy.

The ANC welcomes Eskom’s R16 billion after-tax profit, the first in eight years, reflecting the turnaround of a once-ailing utility. Coupled with the synchronisation of Kusile Unit 6 and steady improvements in the Energy Availability Factor, this is a milestone in restoring energy security. This achievement is testimony to years of disciplined work and the leadership of the Minister of Electricity, Dr Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa, and his collective.

We acknowledge that challenges remain, particularly the continued implementation of load reduction in some communities, which has been a source of frustration and hardship for our people. The ANC supports the Minister and Eskom in their efforts to find lasting, equitable solutions that protect the grid while ensuring fairness in



EDITORIAL

supply. Load reduction must be tackled with urgency, innovation and sensitivity to the realities of poor households.

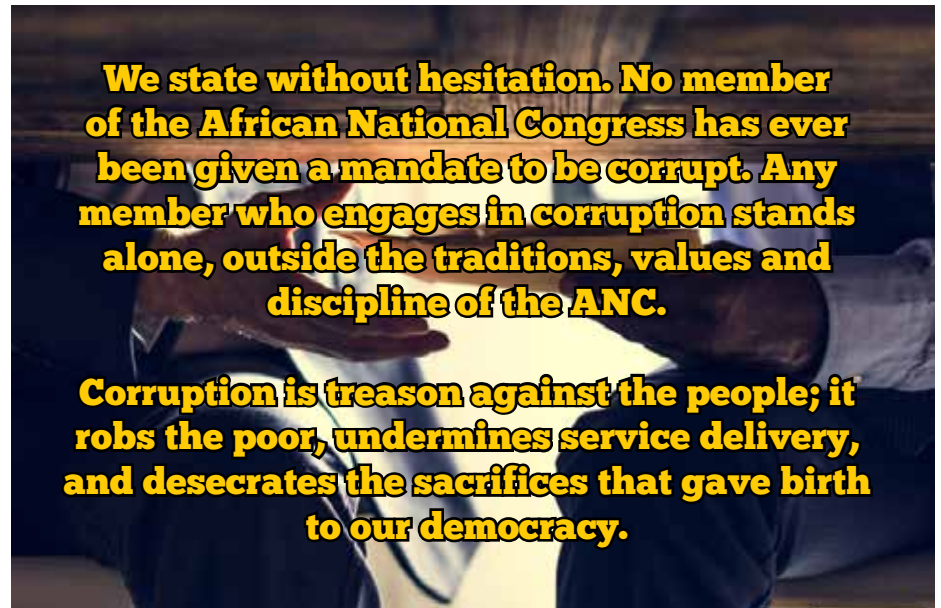
Equally, the ANC is deeply concerned about the rising cost of electricity, which places a heavy burden on households and businesses alike. We support the Minister of Electricity, Eskom, and government in their engagements with the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NER-SA) to ensure that tariff increases are balanced, fair, and sensitive to the living conditions of ordinary South Africans. Energy reform must not only guarantee stability of supply, but also affordability, so that electricity becomes an enabler of growth and dignity, not a barrier to development.

Other SOEs are stabilising including Transnet is addressing port congestion through the Freight Logistics Roadmap, SAA has resumed regional routes, and Denel has secured contracts that retain critical engineering capacity.

UNDERSTANDING THE NATIONAL MOOD, LEADING THE RESPONSE

Recent IPSOS surveys confirm both the scale of the challenges and the opportunities before us. Twenty-two percent of South Africans believes the country is moving in the right direction, but unemployment, crime and corruption, and the rising cost of living dominate our concerns and resolve to overcome them.

The ANC does not deny these realities. Rather, we confront them with a clear programme to restore safety, create jobs, reduce household pressures, and intensify the fight against corruption.



In this regard, the ANC reiterates its full support for the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry, established to investigate serious allegations affecting the integrity of state institutions by the President of the Republic and of the ANC, Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa. The Commission is evidence of the ANC's fight against corruption and maladministration. We note that names of individuals may arise in testimony or submissions; we emphasise that all those mentioned will have the right to reply and the opportunity to clear their names, in line with our constitutional values of fairness and justice.

Equally, the SIU report on Tembisa Hospital has laid bare disturbing patterns of procurement irregularities and criminality. The ANC welcomes the work of the SIU in exposing these networks, which have siphoned resources meant for the most vulnerable in our society. This demonstrates, once again, that our state institutions are working to uncover wrongdoing and hold perpetrators accountable. The ANC will continue to support law enforcement agencies and Parliament in ensuring that those implicated

face the full might of the law.

We state without hesitation. No member of the African National Congress has ever been given a mandate to be corrupt. Any member who engages in corruption stands alone, outside the traditions, values and discipline of the ANC. Corruption is treason against the people; it robs the poor, undermines service delivery, and desecrates the sacrifices that gave birth to our democracy.

The ANC's position is unmistakable. We will never defend corruption; we will expose it, confront it, and defeat it. Those who commit acts of corruption cannot hide behind the ANC, cannot drag our name into their crimes, and cannot claim legitimacy from the movement.

The ANC will not sink with those who choose the path of corruption. Those who betray the people for personal gain will be isolated, disciplined and removed. Renewal means drawing a line, those on the side of corruption place themselves outside the ANC.

Our fight against corruption is not borrowed from anywhere, it

EDITORIAL

is the ANC's own fight, guided by the policies and resolutions of our conferences. In government, this is implemented through consequence management, lifestyle audits, procurement reforms and the strengthening of institutions such as the SIU and the NPA. When action is taken against wrongdoing, it is because the ANC has resolved that corruption must be rooted out, wherever it hides, whoever is implicated, whatever the cost.

The ANC is unwavering in its commitment to a South Africa free of corruption, a country where public resources serve the people, not thieves; where government is an instrument of transformation, not personal enrichment; and where accountability is the standard, not the exception.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS AND ORGANISATIONAL WORK

The African National Congress emerges from yesterday's by-elections with renewed confidence and pride, having secured important victories in Ward 5, Elundini sub-region in the Joe Gqabi Region of the Eastern Cape, and Ward 10, in Greater Tshwane, Gauteng. We thank residents, voters, volunteers, activists and supporters who stood firmly with the movement.

These victories are not just electoral wins, they are proof that the ANC continues to live, continues to lead, and continues to inspire the confidence of our people. These victories are a mandate for us to intensify renewal, deepen accountability, and accelerate the transformation agenda.

The renewal of the ANC is not an abstract slogan, it is lived daily



through the discipline of our comrades, the accountability of our councillors, and the active participation of our volunteers in communities. Across provinces and regions, the ANC is intensifying organisational work. Branches are reconnecting with communities, provincial and regional structures are driving programmes of service, and activists are already on the ground ensuring that the ANC remains present in the daily struggles of our people.

Already, regional conferences have been successfully convened across our provinces, reflecting the vitality of our structures. In the Eastern Cape, the Chris Hani, OR Tambo, Alfred Nzo and Joe Gqabi regions have completed their conferences, while Nelson Mandela and Dr WB Rubusana regions are at advanced stages. In Limpopo, all five regions, Sekhukhune, Vhembe, Norman Mashabane, Peter Mokaba and Waterberg, have convened their conferences. In Mpumalanga, both Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande regions have completed their processes, while Nkangala is finalising prepara-

tions. In Gauteng, Ekurhuleni has successfully convened, while Johannesburg, Tshwane and Sedibeng are ready to proceed pending dispute resolution.

These conferences are not merely organisational rituals; they are platforms of accountability, unity and renewal. They reaffirm the strength of our democratic traditions inside the ANC, where branches and delegates shape the direction of the movement.

Above all, the ANC is clear, those who represent our people must embody the highest standards of service, loyalty and humility. Renewal means placing the people at the centre, never personal ambition. It is this discipline and selflessness that will once again inspire the confidence of our people and secure victory for the ANC.

The African National Congress will convene a **Special National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting** from **Saturday, 04 October to Monday, 06 October 2025**, at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre.

EDITORIAL

This NEC will deliberate on and resolve critical matters, including the Guidelines on the List Process and key questions of economic development. These discussions are central to strengthening organisational renewal, ensuring integrity and accountability in candidate selection, and sharpening the ANC's response to the pressing economic challenges facing our people.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The African National Congress continues to play its role as part of the global progressive movement. At the United Nations General Assembly, the President reaffirmed South Africa's principled positions on Palestine, economic sovereignty, and multilateralism.

The ANC commends the courageous South African activists who have joined the Global Sumud Flotilla, a powerful symbol of international solidarity with the Palestinian people. Their journey, which echoes our own struggle for freedom from apartheid, stands as a testament to our nation's enduring commitment to justice, human rights and inter-

national law.

We salute their principled stand, which reflects the values of the ANC and aligns with our government's historic action at the International Court of Justice against Israeli apartheid and genocide. The Flotilla is not only a humanitarian mission; it is a vital, non-violent act of defiance against the illegal blockade of Gaza, and a moral statement against the daily injustices and suffering imposed on the Palestinian people.

The ANC calls on Israel to immediately desist from obstructing this humanitarian effort and to respect international law. We further call on the international community to provide protection and support to those onboard, who are now facing intimidation and unlawful threats from the Israeli navy. Their courage should inspire us all to intensify the global campaign to end the occupation, lift the blockade, and secure freedom and dignity for the people of Palestine.

The ANC is engaged in the solemn and dignified process of exhuming and repatriating the mortal remains of our combat-

ants who fell in Angola during the difficult years of exile and armed struggle. This historic task is being carried out in partnership with liberation movements, the government of Angola, and the South African government, to ensure that those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom are honoured with dignity. It is more than a logistical exercise; it is a profound act of remembrance and justice.

By bringing our heroes and heroines home, we preserve our shared history, we reconnect families with their loved ones, and we teach new generations about the sacrifices that underpin the democracy we enjoy today. The ANC regards this process as a sacred duty, rooted in our values of respect, solidarity, and loyalty to those who carried the spear of liberation into battle.

In collaboration with the Russian Embassy and relevant ANC sub-committees, the African National Congress will host the **ANC/SACP/MK and Soviet Solidarity Exhibition** under the theme: **"Solidarity in Action; Honouring the Role of the Soviet Union and Cuba in Supporting Southern Africa's Liberation Struggles."** This historic exhibition will officially open at **Chief Albert Luthuli House** on **23 October 2025, running until 30 October 2025**, before moving to Cape Town as part of a national programme of remembrance and education.

Taking place during **OR Tambo Month**, the exhibition pays special tribute to President Oliver Reginald Tambo's visionary leadership in building enduring bonds of solidarity between the ANC and the global progressive movement.



EDITORIAL

It was under his stewardship that relations with the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other international allies were strengthened, ensuring that our liberation struggle was not isolated but sustained through material, diplomatic, and moral support.

The exhibition is therefore both a tribute to the unwavering solidarity extended to our liberation movements, and a reminder to current and future generations of the internationalism that sustained our struggle for freedom. It is also a call to deepen today's global solidarity with oppressed peoples, including the Palestinian struggle, in the spirit of Tambo's enduring message that **"The fight for freedom must go on until it is won."**

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF COMRADE NATHI MTHETHWA

It is with profound sadness that the African National Congress conveys its heartfelt condolences to the family of our dearly departed Comrade Nathi Mthethwa. Cde Mthethwa was not only a loyal member of the ANC, but also a servant of the people who dedicated his entire adult life to the liberation struggle and the building of a democratic order.

As an organiser in Northern Natal, a Regional Secretary, which is an equivalent of a Provincial Secretary in our current Constitution, and freedom fighter, Cde Nathi played a decisive role in advancing free political activity under repressive apartheid conditions. His activism in communities and trade unions laid the ground for democratic participation and broadened the reach of the ANC in that region.

He served the movement and the country with diligence, humility and commitment, whether as Minister of Police, where he worked to stabilise the security services; or as Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, where he championed heritage, creativity and social cohesion. He embodied the qualities of discipline, loyalty and selfless service that the ANC continues to demand of its cadres, as Head of Political Education in our movement, he imparted these very values that characterised him.

Cde Nathi Mthethwa's passing is not only a loss to his family, but to the entire movement and nation. We extend our deepest sympathies to his loved ones, comrades and friends. We dip our revolutionary banner in his honour and pledge to carry forward the ideals he so faithfully lived for. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

CONCLUSION

As we confront the months ahead, the ANC calls upon all South Africans to unite in the struggle for a better life for all.

The challenges of unemployment, crime, poverty and inequality demand collective action, not despair. The ANC remains the only movement with the vision, depth and experience to lead this struggle.

In this month of OR Tambo, we remind ourselves of his enduring counsel that **"It is our responsibility to break down barriers of division and create a country where there will be neither whites nor blacks, just South Africans, free and united in diversity."** As we recommit to renewal and service, let us draw from his wisdom to strengthen our resolve and inspire our path forward. ■



COMRADE
NATHI MTHETHWA
23 January 1967 – 29 September 2025

The African National Congress (ANC) is deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Comrade Nathi Mthethwa, a former NEC member of our movement, former Minister and Ambassador. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and comrades during this difficult time.

We salute his life of sacrifice and leadership. We pledge to support his family in their grief, and to honour him by redoubling our efforts to build the South Africa he believed in, a National Democratic Society.

113TH ANNIVERSARY
75TH FREEDOM CHARTER

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Lutulu House, HQ

ANC NEC perspective on the SACP by the Secretary General



■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

Introduction

In its 5th Special National Congress held in December 2024, the SACP adopted a resolution to contest elections independently, starting with 2026 Local Government Elections. In principle, there is no question regarding the right of the SACP as an independent political formation to make its decisions as it sees fit. All Alliance partners are independent organizations that make decisions through their legitimate processes and structures provided for in their respective constitutions. However, decisions that have fundamental implications for the Alliance and the NDR must be examined and discussed by all Alliance partners because they can result in the common

ruin of the progressive forces. It is for this reason that the ANC is deliberating on this matter.

As a starting point, there must be an appreciation of the how the strategic alliance between the ANC, SACP, COSATU and SANCO developed. Firstly, we need to understand the unique relationship between the ANC and SACP – a relationship between the oldest national liberation movement and the oldest Communist Party in the African Continent that has spanned the better part of the 20th century. Since the 1920s, the two political formations have shared trenches through a common strategic approach to the struggle for national liberation in South Africa – the theory of the

National Democratic Revolution.

Secondly, we need to understand how the Alliance developed and grew to include the progressive trade union movement. In the 1940s and 1950s, the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses and the Coloured People's Congress together with the ANC adopted adopted the Freedom Charter which became a shared vision and common minimum programme of the Alliance with regard to the South Africa we aspired. The civic movement became formally part of the alliance in the 1990s. It is for this reason that this has been referred to as a strategic alliance, rather than a tactical and issue-based alliance or cooperation. Ours is a much

PERSPECTIVE

deeper relationship than a coalition of parties that have many areas of divergence.

Thirdly, we argue that the Alliance was a critical ingredient of the mass democratic movement which played a major role in bringing down the walls of apartheid through popular resistance. Accordingly, the resolution of the SACP to contest elections separately from the ANC is a matter that has far-reaching implications with regard to the strategy and tactics of the NDR.

Lastly, the consequential nature of the resolution requires that we examine the theoretical, historical and strategic basis as well as the implications for the National Democratic Revolution. This resolution of the SACP Special National Congress to contest the upcoming 2026 local government election independent of the ANC has sparked a difficult conversation in the Congress movement. Whilst the Party insists that this is not intended to breakup of the Alliance, the resolution presents challenges that can indeed be referred to as unchartered waters.

This NEC paper discussed and adopted in August 2025 serves as a framework within which the ANC will approach the discussion on the SACP's resolution to contest the 2026 local government elections.

Historical origins of the relationship between the ANC and the SACP

The alliance between the ANC and SACP is an organic expression of the relationship between the national and class struggle in South Africa. This is a relationship born of two distinct and separate organizations, a multi-class

national liberation movement whose ultimate goal is to achieve a national democratic society and a working-class party whose ultimate objective is to achieve socialism.

How have we in the democratic movement understood this relationship and how has the concept of a multi-class democratic revolution evolved conceptually in the experiences of revolutionary movements broadly?

In an article entitled *“The Communists and Karl Heinzen”* written by Engels in 1847 on the role of the progressive press in a democratic revolution, he argued: *“Its task is to reveal the oppression of the proletarians, small peasants and urban petty bourgeoisie, for in Germany these constitute the “people”, by the bureaucracy, the nobility and the bourgeoisie; how not only political but above all social oppression has come about, and by what means it can be eliminated; its task is to show that the conquest of political power by the proletarians, small peasants and urban petty bourgeoisie is the first condition for the application of these means. Its task is further to examine the extent to which a rapid realisation of democracy may be expected, what resources the party can command and what other parties it must ally itself with as long as it too weak to act alone.”* (Marx and Engels, Collected Works, Volume 6, p 291).

There must be conceptual clarity that a progressive multi-class alliance pursuing a people's democratic revolution which is composed of “the proletarians, small peasants and the urban petty bourgeoisie” as well as other social strata or groups among

the oppressed is distinct from a socialist revolution. In a people's democratic revolution different classes and strata form alliances around a minimum programme focusing on achieving national democracy. The emphasises the importance of different classes cooperating in the context of the struggle for democracy. In this case it was important for the working class not to go it alone and to bring alongside it the peasants, if the struggle for democracy was to be advanced.

In the Communist Manifesto of 1848 where Marx and Engels take this question further by outlining the role of Communists in working class organisations, similar to liberation and mass movements:

“In what relation do the Communists stand to the proletarians as a whole? The Communists do not form a separate party opposed to other working-class parties. They have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole. They do not set up any sectarian principles of their own, by which to shape and mould the proletarian movement. The Communists are distinguished from the other working class parties by this only:

- *In the national struggles of the proletarians of the different countries, they point out and bring to the front the common interests of the entire proletariat, independently of all nationality.*
- *In the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through, they always and everywhere represent the interests of the movement as a whole. The Communists,*

therefore, are on the one hand, practically, the most advanced and resolute section of the working class parties of every country, that section which pushes forward all others; on the other hand, theoretically, they have over the great mass of the proletariat the advantage of clearly understanding the line of march, the conditions, and the ultimate general results of the proletarian movement.”

The role of the South African Communists in the struggle for national liberation and in the broader organizations of the “people” has been very consistent with this articulation by Marx and Engels in the Communist Manifesto. The Party represent(ed) the interests of the movement as a whole. The Communists in our country have been, over decades of common struggle, among the most advanced and resolute section of the liberation movement. They have never sought to constitute themselves into caucuses within the mass organisations.

The Native Republic Thesis and the struggle for socialism

What has been most important, and novel, has been the way the South African Communists have understood how to relate to the liberation movement particularly its premier organization, the African National Congress (ANC). Whilst in the beginning the young Communist Party was not very clear of the nature of its relationship with a multi class organization such as the ANC, seven years after its formation through the influence of the Communist International it came to embrace the thesis adopted by the Communist International in 1928, the

Native Republic Thesis.

The Native Republic Thesis enjoined the Communist Party of South Africa to:

“Pay particular attention to the embryonic organizations among the native such as the African National Congress. The Party, while retaining its full independence, should participate in these organizations, should seek to broaden and extend their activity. Our aim should be to transform the African National Congress into a fighting nationalist revolutionary organization against the white bourgeoisie and the British imperialists, based upon the trade unions, the peasant organizations etc. developing systematically the leadership of the workers and the Communist Party in this organization.” (Brian Bunting in Moses Kotane, p 31, 1975).

The thesis was very consequential for both the SACP, and the ANC. Communists invested a great deal of effort into building the ANC into a fighting force of genuine liberation. On the other hand, the SACP was itself transformed to focus on organizing the Black working class as the mainstay of its policies, membership and leadership structures. Moses

Kotane, through his Cradock Letter, became the embodiment of this major paradigm shift in how the South African Communists embraced the national liberation struggle and movement as the critical site of their struggle for socialism.

The SACP’s Road to South African Freedom

In the aftermath of the massive crackdown on the people’s organization and arrests of the people’s leaders in 1960, the SACP had to review its own strategy and tactics, still informed by the profound tasks enunciated in the Native Republic Thesis: achieving national liberation and national democracy as the most effective route towards pursuing its socialist objective. In 1962, the SACP adopted **“The Road to South African Freedom”** as its programme which guided the party’s approach to the struggle in South Africa from 1962 to 1989.

In section 5 of *“The Road to South African Freedom”* the SACP argued:

“The main aims and lines of the South African democratic revolution have been defined in the



PERSPECTIVE

Freedom Charter, which has been endorsed by the African National Congress and the other partners in the national liberation alliance. The Freedom Charter is not a programme for socialism. It is a common programme for a free, democratic South Africa, agreed on by socialists and non-socialists. At the same time, in order to guarantee the abolition of racial oppression and White minority domination, the Freedom Charter necessarily and realistically calls for profound economic changes: drastic agrarian reform to restore the land to the people; widespread nationalisation of key industries to break the grip of White monopoly capital on the main centres of the country's economy; radical improvements in the conditions and standards of living for the working people. The Communist Party pledges its unqualified support for the Freedom Charter. It considers that the achievement of its aims will answer the pressing and immediate needs of the people and lay the indispensable basis for the advance of our country along non-capitalist lines to a communist and socialist future. To win these aims is the immediate task of all the oppressed and democratic people of South Africa, headed by the working class and its party, the Communist Party"

It goes on to say:

*"It is in this situation that the Communist Party advances its immediate proposals before the workers and democratic people of South Africa. **These are not proposals for a socialist state. They are proposals for the building of a national democratic state.** These proposals are put forward within the framework of the Freedom Charter which the Party considers to be suitable as a general statement of the aims*

of a state of national democracy. Our proposals are not directed towards communists and socialists alone, but are submitted as a basis for discussion for all democratic and patriotic people, and in particular for members and supporters of the national liberation and trade union movements."

It is evident from the programme that, throughout this period, the SACP was clear that the focus of all progressive forces was first and foremost to ensure that South Africa becomes a national democratic state, not a socialist state. The Freedom Charter was to be the defining vision for the kind of national democracy that would lay a basis for the SACP's journey to socialism. The Freedom Charter was itself a statement of policy that espoused national democratic aims, which while radical and thoroughly transformative, were not necessarily socialist. This was understood, as articulated in the Native Republic Thesis and the 1962 SACP Programme.

The shift from passive resistance to a mass revolutionary confrontation

The ANC is a direct product of over four hundred years of anti-colonial resistance. It was formed to unite all the indigenous people after suffering the ultimate defeat and humiliating dispossession in the hands of colonial invaders and imperialist occupiers of their motherland.

During its first three decades of existence, the movement pursued passive forms of struggle. In the latter half of the 1940s and the 1950s, the movement began to organise active mass campaigns of defiance, adopting a much clearer vision of an alter-

native South Africa, in the form of the Freedom Charter. The apartheid regime intensified its crack down on such mass campaigns.

The escalating intensity of mass defiance and the increasing repression and violent response from the apartheid state led to the turning point in the 1960s where the turn to armed struggle was the only logical response. The banning of the people's organisation and the Rivonia arrests plunged the movement into some moment of crisis.

It was in the context of the major setbacks suffered after the Rivonia arrests and the difficulties of the Wankie/Sipolilo military campaigns that the leaders came together in Morogoro in Tanzania in 1969 to discuss the future of our revolution which was at the crossroads – facing the stark choice of either admitting defeat or regrouping and renewing to continue the fight for freedom.

After a bruising and brutally frank diagnosis of the challenges, the ANC emerged from Morogoro with document called the **Strategy and Tactics**, which had a profound impact on the conduct of struggle until 1990: In the Strategy and Tactics the ANC argued: *"The national character of the struggle must therefore dominate our approach. But it is a national struggle which is taking place in a different era and in a different context from those that characterized the early struggles against colonialism. It is happening in a new kind of world—a world which is no longer monopolized by the imperialist world system; a world in which the existence of the powerful socialist system and a significant sector of newly liberated areas has altered the balance of forces, a world in which*

PERSPECTIVE

the horizons liberated from foreign oppression extend beyond mere formal political control and encompass the element which makes such control meaningful- economic emancipation."

It went further to say:

"thus, our nationalism must not be confused with chauvinism or narrow nationalism of a previous epoch. It must not be confused with the classical drive by an elitist group among the oppressed people to gain ascendancy so that they can replace the oppressor in the exploitation of the mass". (Turok, 153; 1980)

The Morogoro Strategy and Tactics of the ANC also made two fundamental assertions about its understanding of its objectives. The struggle was not about mere formal political control; it is equally about economic emancipation. Consistent with the Freedom Charter, the ANC distinguishes itself as a movement that sought fundamental change instead of harbouring ambitions of replacing the oppressor in the exploitation of the mass. In other words, for the ANC, liberation and national democracy meant pursuing a political dispensation dedicated to the fundamental social and economic transformation in order to improve the lives of the overwhelming majority of the people, especially the working class and the poor.

The Working Class and the National Democratic Revolution

One of the issues that has occupied centre stage in the discourse about our revolution is the question of the motive forces. From the native Republic Thesis to the Morogoro Strategy and Tactics up



to today, there is continuity on the principal idea that the main content of national liberation struggle is the liberation of Africans in particular and Blacks in general. In class terms, the NDR seeks mainly to improve the conditions of the working class and the poor in general. However, the working class has to lead the NDR by being better organised and ideologically consistent in order to build strong alliances with other classes and strata that stand to benefit from the success of the NDR. Though the leadership role of the working class is acknowledged in our strategy documents, it has to constantly be earned in concrete battles for transformation in all pillars and fronts. It cannot be decreed.

At the height of the state of emergency in 1988 anticipating the possibilities of a democratic breakthrough, Cde Joe Slovo as the General Secretary of the SACP penned a seminal pamphlet entitled "The Working Class and the National Democratic Revolution". Amongst the things he addresses is how the working class should relate with other classes in a democratic revolution. Like Marx and Engels, Cde Slovo vehemently opposes the

idea of the working class going it alone:

"By rejecting class alliances and going it alone, the working class would in fact be surrendering the leadership of the national struggle to the upper and middle strata. This would become the shortest route towards a sell-out reformist solution and a purely capitalist post-apartheid South Africa under the hegemony of a bourgeois-dominated black national movement. Along this path, 'class purity' will surely lead to class suicide and 'socialist'-sounding slogans will actually hold back the achievement of socialism."

Slovo maintains that:

"there is a distinction between the social content of our National Democratic Revolution and socialist transformation. For reasons which are special to our own situation, the present phase of our revolution contains elements of both national and social emancipation; it is not the classic bourgeois-democratic revolution nor is it yet the socialist revolution. This is so because of the unique relationship between capitalist exploitation and national domination in SA."

Today, we contend that this dialectic is often lost. There are those who speak about the NDR and the socialist revolution as if they are one and the same thing. Of course, the NDR cannot be reduced to a classic bourgeois revolution because apartheid colonialism is a variant of bourgeois rule except that it was a bourgeois that is defined in racial terms. The white bourgeoisie had no interest in the democratic revolution. It is only the Black section of the bourgeoisie (whether real or aspirant) that has an interest in the democratic revolution.

But the NDR should also not be equated to a socialist revolution as its principal focus is national liberation, the one project that unites all the historically oppressed across class lines. The only guarantee that the NDR will remain progressive is if the working class continue to lead it and shape its social and economic content. For the working class to go it alone would in the words of Cde Joe Slovo, be class suicide. Any notion that the working class must abandon the national liberation movement and focus on contesting elections separate from the ANC at this point in our history will be a fatal mistake. It will only fragment and further fracture the working class and the motive forces at a time when the right-wing bloc is consolidating and getting emboldened.

From this theoretical and historical overview of our collective approach to the struggle for national liberation and socioeconomic transformation in our country, the ANC would like to arrive at the following five conclusions:

1. We are still involved in a multi-class people's national democratic revolution made

at the head of which is the working class. What we are involved in is a popular revolution which is neither a bourgeois democratic nor socialist revolution – it has a radical national democratic content that is transformative and emancipatory, to the benefit of all motive forces.

2. It has a unique political economy expressive of the classes that are involved in it. It can be referred as a mixed economy designed to cater for the political economy of the working class, the rural poor and peasantry and the aspirant bourgeoisie with a clear and central role for the state.
3. The NDR has made significant achievements in some areas, while it has slowed down and is reversing in others. But it will be a profound mistake to suggest or conclude that our revolution is totally defeated. It will also be a mistake to think that the NDR is on course and does not need reinvigoration and renewal. There is a convergence of counter-revolutionary forces that found it easy to attack transformation due to the internal divisions and fragmentation of the progressive forces and motive forces.
4. The ANC's fraternal advice is that, while respecting the SACP's right to take its own decisions, the ANC believes, Communists should not set themselves apart from the proletariat and people's movement. They should be at the center of such movements and play a leading role, including in the ANC. As enjoined by the Native Republic Thesis, Communists must pay attention to

an organization such as the ANC with the intention to continue to transform and renew the movement into a revolutionary nationalist organization that can overcome its current subjective weaknesses at organisational and ideological level. The Communist Party and the working class should not go it alone as that would in Slovo's terms be class suicide.

5. From Morogoro up to this day, the Strategy and Tactics define the ANC as a revolutionary nationalist organisation fighting for "national democracy with social content"; a disciplined force of the left which continues to take up its rightful place among international progressive forces and fearlessly stand up to imperialist aggressors. Whatever challenges we face even after the electoral setback of 2024 elections, the ANC remains committed to defend and advance the fundamental transformation and progressive development agenda in our country, our continent and the world.

Concerns of the ANC on the SACP and its resolution on contesting elections independently

Having reached the broad conclusions outlined above, the ANC would like to highlight the following concerns which arise from the implications of the SACP decision:

- The danger of asking members to choose between the ANC and SACP: the resolution may have unintended consequences of forcing Communists to choose between the Party and the Movement. For more than a century all patriots and democrats



were welcomed and played a central role in the ANC. It did not matter what political views they had as long they were committed to democracy, they were welcomed in the ANC. Many Communists have been loyal to both the ANC and the Communist Party for many years. The practice of dual membership in both the ANC and the SACP has been a great source of strength for both organisations – dual membership expresses in concrete terms the unity of the working class and the liberation movement.

- The potential negative impact such as further fragmenting the motive forces and causing divisions in the Alliance organisations, including dividing COSATU: The independent electoral contestation by the Party will have the effect of splitting the vote of Black people in general and African people in particular, and the working class.
- The independent contestation by the Party means the abandoning the working-class leadership of the South Af-

rican Revolution in as far as the ANC has always been understood as the parliament of the people. This will weaken leftwing ideas in the ANC and create an imbalance - the progressive left ideas and orientation of the ANC will be weakened if working class activists are running away from the battle of ideas.

- The ANC believes that the Party is forgoing the advantages that a mass liberation movement with broader legitimacy (even if it has currently suffered a strategic setback) offers to a Communist Party. Because the ANC has for more than a century been a custodian of the aspirations of the historically oppressed people of our country, influencing the ANC, defacto meant influencing the representative of most of the people in the country, the motive forces. This gave enormous advantages to the Party unmatched in other Third World revolutions. This is an asset that should not be easily given up by revolutionaries, particularly communist revolutionaries. The notion among the rightwing forces

that the ANC is finished is either a serious miscalculation or wishful thinking.

- In this stance, the Party is giving up more than 100 years of Communist investment and contribution in the liberation movement including the strategic victories that the Party has achieved within the ANC over the years.
- We understand the Party has said it is not abandoning the Alliance with the ANC. What the Party seems to be advancing is the idea of a Popular Front with the ANC. Each organization will contest elections and after the elections will come together to form a government. Popular Fronts have been used successfully in the past as in the case of the Left in Chile in early 1970s with the Front of the Socialist and Communist Party that put Salvador Allende into power. The same is happening with the Left Front in Venezuela. The ANC's view that advantages of a of Popular Front are far outweighed by the advantages of a Communist presence and influence in a

Liberation movement, particularly a movement with the historic hegemonic presence in the country which the ANC has had for more than a century in South Africa.

- Exploring and advancing a Popular Front approach might appear to be correct, but what happens if the ANC is successful in its renewal program and it is able to reclaim the support of the Black majority from the parties that are currently contesting the motive forces? What happens if the SACP does not do well in the elections and is not able to have a significant say in the new government as a function of limited support from the electorate? What happens if the conservative forces in the ANC, now as a singular influential force, no longer contested by Communists do not want to participate in and have an alliance with the SACP?
- There are also the risks to the Party if this resolution is taken to its logical conclusion. Some of the current membership of the Party may not continue with the Party if this resolution is implemented. This might weaken the Party in the same way that the exodus of senior Party leaders who left the party after Cuban congress in 1989 did after the fall of the Berlin wall. We are aware that some left for genuine reasons. The ANC will also be weakened particularly ideologically if a critical number of Communists leave the movement. The trade union movement might be split in the middle, becoming more weakened than it already is, particular with the breakaway

of SAFTU. The socialist and communist Left will be made up of a weakened and fragmented SACP, ideologically inconsistent elements and opportunists in the EFF who claim to be Left and some elements in MKP. This is what will become the South African Socialist Left. Is this what a century long Marxist investment of the SACP to the South African revolution will have amounted to?

- As the ANC we would advise the party not to get into the trap of a tendency that can be called resolutionism. A resolutionist approach to politics is when an organization allows itself to be bound strategically on a decision that is engendered by conjunctural circumstances. Conjunctures come and go. They are not an epoch. The Party cannot be resolutionist. We all know that a congress resolution cannot make or unmake the balance of forces in society. The implementation of any resolution must be informed by the balance of forces. As we conceded in the last bilateral there might have been in the past material grounds for the Party to be unhappy with how the movement handled many strategic questions regarding policy and state craft. We are committed to putting such practices behind us. We are committed to our renewal including improving and fortifying our approach to matters of government in such a manner that we continue with our character as a Disciplined Force of the Left.
- As the ANC we are of the view that the issue is not contesting or not contesting elec-

tions. The issue is the strategic goal of advancing and consolidating the National Democratic Revolution and in the case of the SACP advancing the struggle for socialism. A tactic such as contesting or not contesting elections may advance or impede such a process. We have to find common ground on how we address the concerns of both the ANC and SACP within the framework of an Alliance that can be united, renewed and re-configured to ensure the NDR is defended and advanced.

In conclusion

As the ANC, we are willing to accept and engage with measures to improve the workings of the Alliance. That is why we have agreed on the need for reconfiguration. We have a national conference resolution mandating the NEC to attend the matter of the reconfiguration of the alliance. If the current moment presents challenges to our historic modes of working together, we are willing to engage and where possible to refine and change those modes of work that appear not to work.

However, we are of the opinion that the Party contesting elections outside of the ANC will weaken significantly the forces for national democratic change.

It is our view that we must together put shoulders to the wheel and find a common way to engage with the SACP's Special National Congress resolution in a manner that strengthens the Party and the ANC. **Let us do everything to snatch victory from the jaws of what we see as a potential monumental defeat of the National Democratic Revolution in our country.** ■

A Revolutionary Treatise on Cadres, Cash and the Cannibalisation of the ANC

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**



Introduction, and the problem stated plain

Che Guevara told us that cadres are the backbone of the revolution, the dynamic screw of the ideological motor, the bridge between the masses and leadership, the people who feel the pulse of the street and who translate grand directives into concrete action.

Today this backbone is weakened, not from external forces alone, but from a rot that eats from within. Politics is being converted into a market, where votes are for sale, where campaign cash buys access, and where careerists and criminal syndicates treat our movement as if it were a company open for auction. The symptoms are obvious to anyone who watches regional confer-

ence season with honest eyes. Personal campaigns outspend organisational effort, mass political education is treated as optional, and a small class of predators now measures return on investment in state contracts, not in the wellbeing of communities.

This treatise is a warning. It is a manual of political triage, and a call to revolutionary medicine. If we do not resuscitate cadre development, we will have sacrificed the ANC to thieves who wear our colours, and then mock us as we cry over the corpse.

What Che taught us about the cadre

Che defined the cadre not as a mere functionary, but as a human formation, an ethical and

technical person. The cadre must have political clarity and dialectical reasoning, administrative competence and technical skill, moral courage and loyalty tested by sacrifice, the capacity for self analysis and creative initiative that does not conflict with discipline. The cadre is both transmitter and creator, someone who brings orientation to the masses and brings the masses' pulse to the leadership.

He also emphasized that the cadre must be developed in the doing, but within a system. He warned that without intermediate level cadres the party becomes a bureaucratic vehicle, insulated from the masses, a springboard for promotion, and a magnet for complacency. That warning is our present diagnosis.

Anatomy of the current malaise

We face three related pathologies.

One, careerism as vocation. Politics has become a ladder for the ambitious whose primary investment is themselves. The public good is subordinated to personal advancement. Cadres are now judged by their capacity to procure funds, not their capacity to educate the people.

Two, loot as campaign capital.

VIEWPOINT

The auctioning of positions by cash, by promises of contracts, by the laundering of illicit proceeds to secure delegates, converts elective processes into markets. Hungry comrades are baited with bread or with luxuries, depending on their price. The most dangerous effect is that campaign cash buys not just votes, but impunity. Once in office those who bought their way will prioritize return on investment and they will pillage the state to pay their suppliers. The result is predictable, it is catastrophic.

Three, the death of political education. Where Che demanded schools for cadres, where Cabral demanded honesty and hard study, where Sankara demanded the courage to invent the future, we now observe a collapse in political training. Oral slogans replace study, and appearance replaces theory. The consequence is leaders without horizon, technicians without conscience, and a movement where form eclipses substance.

Historical lessons from revolutions that teach and warn

We cannot pretend we invent problems. The history of liberation is a laboratory of victories

and of tragic reversals. We must learn, painfully and with precision.

Amílcar Cabral, who led the struggle in Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde, told cadres to tell no lies, to claim no easy victories, to make education a sacred discipline. That insistence on truth and sobriety is essential in moments when the enemy is not only outside, but inside our own ranks.

Thomas Sankara taught us that fundamental change requires a degree of madness, by which he meant nonconformity and the courage to break the old formulas. Sankara's point was not irresponsibility, it was the demand for moral daring. We need comparable daring to criminalise the auction economy inside our own party, to make the act of stealing political life as disgraceful as any betrayal.

Mao warned that a revolution is not a dinner party. Revolution is demanding, and it will not be gentle to those who convert it into a banquet for their personal appetites. That old blunt phrase must be turned back on those who treat our conferences as marketplaces and our delegates as customers.

Samora Machel, for different reasons and in a different language, insisted that "for the nation to live, the tribe must die". By that he meant that narrow identities, factional loyalties, and sectional bargains must not determine the fate of the national project. In our context this means we cannot let provincial and factional money politics determine national leadership, we cannot let vote buying along narrow lines substitute for merit and capacity.

The "Eye of the Needle", the political leadership assessment tool

I propose a crude and necessary metaphor, the eye of the needle political leadership assessment tool. It is a sieve through which every aspirant cadre must pass. What passes is not decided by rhetoric or by social media reach, it is decided by three measures.

Capacity, that is technical and managerial skill to run state functions, to develop policy, to implement projects honestly, and to understand budgets. Capacity is not inherited, it is cultivated.

Character, the moral contour of a person. Did they steal to buy votes? Were they implicated in laundering? Do they show consistent solidarity with the people or only with the wallets that financed them?

Connection, the persistent contact with organised communities, unions, social movements, the daily relay of grievances, and the capacity to educate and elevate popular consciousness.

The eye of the needle must be narrowed. No more candidates who pass because they have money. No more promo-





tions because someone has a chequebook. The tests must be public, they must be rigorous, and they must be enforceable. Che was clear, cadres should be selected by the best coming to the fore, and then given opportunities to be tested in the field.

The practical revolutionary program to save the ANC from cannibalisation

This is not poetic. It is policy. It is a programme of immediate interventions, and long term cultural repair.

First, reinstate and expand cadre development schools. Not token weekend workshops, but national and provincial Schools of Revolutionary Instruction with rigorous curricula, mandatory internships in public administration, continuous assessment, and public examinations. Make passing those exams a formal requirement for certain categories of public office and party office.

Second, financial transparency and campaign policing. Every campaign must publish audited receipts, donors, and expenditure. The Hawks, the NPA, and

the relevant oversight agencies must be enabled to trace large cash flows linked to internal party elections. Where illicit cash is identified, swift legal action must follow, with politically neutral prosecutions. In short, follow the money and turn it into evidence.

Our revolution must not be for sale.

Third, delegate empowerment and anti-vote buying measures. The party must institute immediate rules that punish delegates and candidates found taking or giving money. Suspensions must be automatic on credible evidence, and appeals should be narrow and fast. Make electoral buying a career ending offence.

Fourth, elevate apprenticeship and mentorship. Pair every young leader with a tested cadre, require community service records, require demonstrable projects delivered in the public interest, not glossy vanity events. The cadres must be forged, not purchased.

Fifth, ideology plus technique. Political education must be married to practical administration.

We cannot have ideologues who cannot manage budgets, nor technicians who lack political soul. Both must be cultivated. Che insisted that a cadre must be a technician with a political level. This remains the only sane requirement for public service.

Naming the disease without naming individuals

I do not need to point fingers at specific people to describe the pathology. The danger is structural. When leadership selection becomes an auction, when the first priority of those elected is repayment of their investors, the state becomes a mine for private enrichment. Pensions, housing projects, clinics, they will all be repurposed as value streams for syndicates. That is not hyperbole. History is full of revolutions that were hollowed out from within and then sold back to the highest bidder. Our duty is to stop that at the threshold.

Comparative sanctions and methods that work

When corruption hits the marrow, decisive action has saved political movements elsewhere.

VIEWPOINT

Post revolution, some states imposed public asset declarations with independent verification, others created rapid investigative commissions that cut across factional lines, others required that executives who previously held business interests divest into blind trusts. These are not exotic measures. They are tools we can adapt to our constitutional order.

Amílcar Cabral's ethic is also an instrument. He demanded honesty, relentless education, and the refusal to paper over mistakes. That ethic is the opposite of vote buying. It is the cure.

Rhetorical weapons, historical quotes you will not forget

Let us borrow voices that sharpen the conscience.

Cabral: "Tell no lies, claim no easy victories, make education a duty."

Sankara: "You cannot carry out fundamental change without a certain amount of madness, dare to invent the future, refuse the old formulas that let thieves thrive."

Mao: "A revolution is not a dinner party, meaning, do not treat revolution as a banquet of personal gain."

Machel: "For the nation to live the tribe must die, meaning, do not let narrow sectional bargains decide national fate."

A direct warning to delegates and a closing summons

To the delegates who will go to regional and provincial conferences, hear me plainly. If you are tempted by cash, if you imagine that the vote you sell will buy protection from accountability, you are mistaken. The revolution does not belong to any one generation,

and you cannot sell its future for a pocketful of immediate comforts. To those still pure, still hungry for justice and not for the trinkets of office, study, organise, demand tests of capacity, insist on vetting, and push for the eye of the needle to be institutionalised.

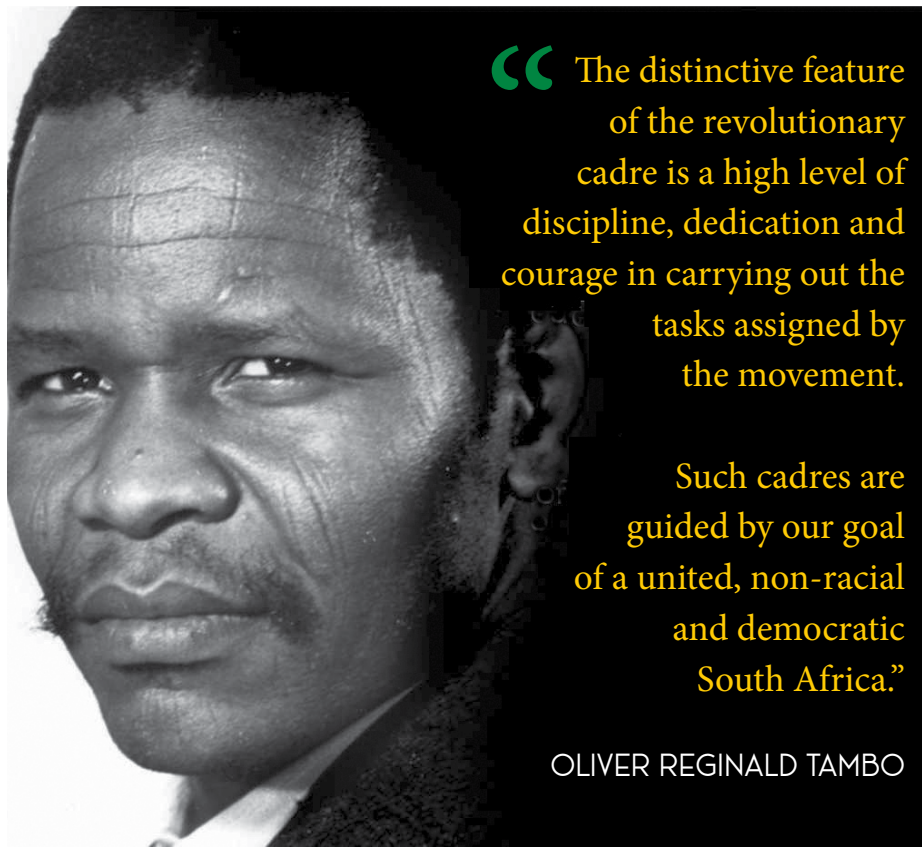
If the ANC is to survive as an instrument for emancipation it must become severe with thieves, tender with the masses, strict with its own. We must make the act of stealing political life the most dishonourable act imaginable. We must make the orange overalls more fashionable than any designer suit for those who think they can loot and then lead.

Conclusion – a revolutionary oath

We are at a fork. The path of auction and decline leads to a hollowed out party, the path of cadre renewal leads to a restored movement, able to govern with skill and conscience. He told us what cadres must be. Cabral taught us to be honest, Sankara taught us to be brave, Mao taught us to be ruthless with counterrevolution, and Machel taught us to reject narrow loyalties for national life. These voices can be our medicine or our indictment.

I close with Cabral again, because it is Cabral who supplies the ethic we need most: tell no lies, claim no easy victories. Commit to education, to sacrifice, to the public good, and let those who wish to buy power find there is no shop open to them in our halls. Let the real cadres, forged by struggle and study, take back the backbone of the revolution. ■

Stan Itshegetseng is a member of the ANC in good standing. He writes in his personal capacity.



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

Such cadres are guided by our goal of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.”

OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO

It's the politics, stupid: Political agency and national development

■ By **BUSANI NGCAWENI**

THE famous phrase “*It’s the economy, stupid!*” defined Bill Clinton’s campaign for the US presidency. Numerous books were written about it. While it holds true for South Africa and other Global South countries, it must be nuanced to avoid oversimplification.

Economic crises are symptoms of deeper political failure. Until we fix our politics, no amount of investment or policy tweaks will deliver the change people are fighting for. It’s the politics, stupid! In South Africa the economy cannot be separated from politics. Hunger, joblessness and failing services are not accidents of the market; they are the direct consequences of political choices.

This is the theme Thomas Sankara embodied: liberation is a material reality; people are not fighting for ideas in the clouds, they are fighting for bread, for water, for health, for education. These are outcomes of political decisions.

If the politics is right, the economy can recover and society can be transformed. If the politics is wrong, no resource wealth will save us.

What follows are 10 reflections on why politics is the decisive force in shaping a nation’s destiny.

- **Politics builds institutions:** an economy cannot thrive on



shaky ground. Independent courts, credible regulators and transparent administrations are not natural facts; they are political creations. Where institutions are weak, investment flees and inequality deepens. South Africa’s state fracture is a masterclass in how quickly institutions collapse when politics turns predatory. Their rebuilding is not just a technical task; it is the fundamental project of political renewal.

- **Politics directs the economy:** markets are never truly free from politics; they are shaped by them. From the industrial policy of South Korea to Singapore’s state-led strategy, politics sets the rules of growth. These so-called miracle economies were political

projects before they became economic outcomes. South Africa’s minerals, energy and land can be engines of development, but only if politics sets a coherent direction instead of allowing factional battles to waste opportunities.

- **Politics defines justice:** economic systems can distribute wealth fairly or cruelly, but politics sets the rules of distribution. The welfare state in Scandinavia was born from political compromise and struggle. South Africa’s constitution promises social justice and dignity, yet the gap between promise and practice is a measure of political failure. Closing that gap will not come from markets alone but from a political will that prioritises fairness.

VIEWPOINT

- **Politics creates confidence:** foreign investors and local entrepreneurs alike look for political stability. Singapore's success rests not only on its trade routes but on a politics that built certainty. In contrast, South Africa's volatility, corruption scandals and policy flip-flops have kept capital on the sidelines. Stability is a political achievement, not a by-product of growth. Without it, trust cannot return.
- **Politics unlocks talent:** education and health care are not mere costs on a budget sheet. They are political commitments to human development. Postwar Britain expanded access to universities and built the National Health Service (NHS), transforming its society in one generation. If South Africa's politics placed the same commitment on schools and clinics, millions of young people would be able to contribute fully to the economy instead of being trapped by exclusion.
- **Politics manages diversity:** plural societies can fracture or flourish. Malaysia and Singapore both faced ethnic tensions, yet Singapore turned diversity into a national development project through deliberate leadership. South Africa's diversity is an asset, but it has too often been used as a weapon to divide. The difference lies in a politics that leverages and celebrates difference, rather than exploiting it for power.
- **Politics steers global integration:** South Korea chose openness and technology transfer. Botswana chose sound governance of its diamond wealth. Both illustrate

that integration into global systems is never automatic; it is a political strategy. South Africa risks being left behind if its politics cannot provide clear policies on trade, energy transition and regional leadership, notwithstanding all the access it has through platforms like Brics+ and the G20. The global economy does not wait for indecision.

- **Politics defines priorities:** every rand spent is political. Roads or private jets, clinics or luxury villas; budgets are moral documents. Singapore built affordable housing as a central political priority, transforming living standards.

In South Africa, choices about spending still reveal distorted priorities that keep millions in informal settlements and without services. The question is not whether resources exist, but how politics chooses to allocate them.

- **Politics inspires hope:** societies live not only on bread but on belief. Nelson Mandela's presidency offered the politics of dignity and unity that lifted the nation's spirit. Where politics turns cynical, as it has too often in recent years, people

retreat into survivalism, factional interests and distrust. Renewal requires leadership that restores collective purpose, reminding South Africans that democracy can still deliver a national democratic society.

- **Politics is destiny:** economists like to speak of fundamentals — capital, labour, productivity. But these fundamentals are shaped by politics. Get the politics right and everything else is possible. Get it wrong and no resource wealth or technical fix will save you.

South Africa has learnt painful lessons over the past decades. Sankara's reminder rings loud: people are not fighting for ideas alone, they are fighting for bread, water, health and education.

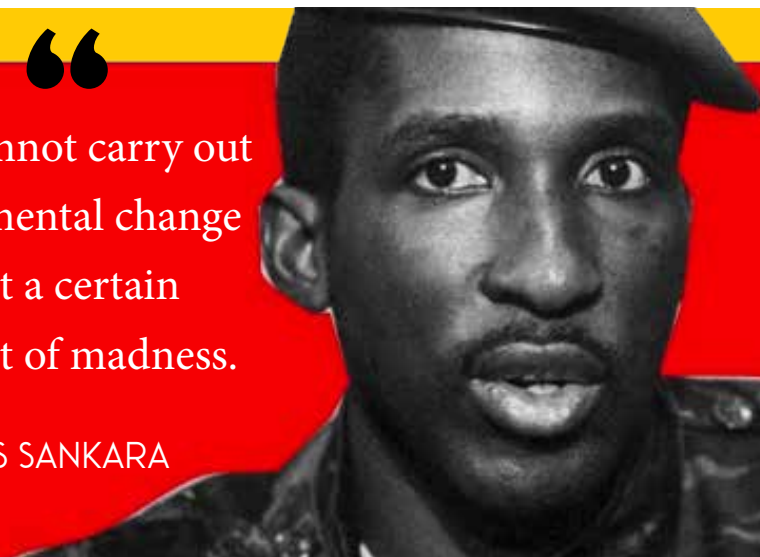
These are political struggles, and only politics can decide whether they are won. The wealth gap between Inanda of Sandton and Inanda of Durban can be narrowed if political institutions can imagine solutions.

The central question for our nation is whether we can summon the political will to win them. ■



You cannot carry out fundamental change without a certain amount of madness.

THOMAS SANKARA





No Peace without Justice for Palestine

Address by the President of the State of Palestine, **H.E. MAHMOUD ABBAS**
Before the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
New York, 25 September 2025

PEACE, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you. I speak to you today after nearly two years in which our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip have been facing a genocidal war of extermination, destruction, starvation, and displacement waged by the Israeli occupation forces. This war has killed and wounded more than 220,000 Palestinians, the majority of them children, women, and elderly civilians, displaced hundreds of thousands, prevented the delivery of food and medicine, and starved two million Palestinians.

A suffocating siege has been imposed on an entire people, de-

stroying more than 80% of homes, schools, hospitals, churches, mosques, and infrastructure. What Israel is carrying out is not just aggression – it is a war crime and a crime against humanity, documented and monitored, and it will be recorded in history books and in the conscience of humanity as one of the most horrific chapters of human tragedy in the 20th and 21st centuries.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, the extremist Israeli government continues implementing colonial policies through illegal settlement expansion and annexation projects, the

latest being the construction plan in E1, which divides the West Bank, isolates occupied Jerusalem from its surroundings, and destroys the two-state solution, in blatant violation of international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, foremost among them Resolution 2334.

This is in addition to the Israeli Prime Minister's announcement of his so-called "**Greater Israel**" plan, which we categorically reject and condemn, as it includes expansion into sovereign Arab states. We also condemn the recent brutal attack against the sister State of Qatar, which we consider a dangerous escalation

INTERNATIONAL

and a flagrant violation of international law requiring decisive intervention and deterrent measures against such expansionist schemes.

With official encouragement and growing impunity, settler terrorism is escalating: settlers burn homes and fields, uproot trees, attack villages, assault unarmed Palestinian civilians, and even kill them in broad daylight under the protection of the Israeli army.

Holy places – Muslim and Christian alike – in Jerusalem, Hebron and the rest of the West Bank, and Gaza Strip have not been spared from assaults and violations, targeting mosques, churches, and cemeteries in a blatant transgression of the legal and historical status quo and in clear violation of international law.

Despite all that our people have suffered, we reject what Hamas carried out on October 7th – acts that targeted Israeli civilians and took them as hostages – because such actions do not represent the

Palestinian people nor their just struggle for freedom and independence.

We have affirmed – and will continue to affirm – that Gaza is an integral part of the State of Palestine, and that we are ready to assume full responsibility for governance and security there. Hamas will have no role in governance, and it, along with other factions, must hand over its weapons to the Palestinian National Authority within the framework of building the institutions of one state, one law, and one legitimate security force. We reiterate that we do not want an armed state.

Palestinian wounds are deep

Our wounds are deep, our catastrophe immense. Seven million Palestinians still endure the trauma of the Nakba and displacement since 1948. Our people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Gaza continue to suffer decades of occupation and aggression: killings,

arrests, settlement expansion, theft of land and resources, without deterrent or accountability.

For decades our people have endured oppression and dispossession, while the occupier is shielded and empowered instead of the occupied being protected. Their right to self-determination, freedom, dignity, independence, and sovereignty over the land of the State of Palestine occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, continues to be denied.

More than a thousand UN resolutions remain unimplemented. Numerous initiatives and efforts have failed to bring an end to this tragic situation under occupation.

In 1993, we signed a peace agreement. We fulfilled all our obligations: we recognized the State of Israel, Israel recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, we restructured our institutions, amended our National Charter, renounced violence and terrorism, adopted the culture of



INTERNATIONAL

peace, and worked tirelessly to build modern Palestinian state institutions to live side by side in peace and security with Israel. Yet Israel failed to honor its commitments and deliberately undermined the signed agreements.

Outcomes on Global Conference on Palestine

Just three days ago, we gathered in a high-level international conference in New York, co-chaired by France and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with broad international participation and unified positions reflecting a genuine global will to end this historic conflict through recognition of the State of Palestine, ending the occupation, and restoring hope to both Palestinians and Israelis.

Here, on behalf of the Palestinian people, I extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all the states that have recently recognized the State of Palestine and those preparing to do so soon. We call upon all states that have not yet recognized Palestine to do so, and we demand support for Palestine's full UN membership. It must be recalled that we already recognized Israel's right to exist in 1988 and again in 1993, and we continue to do so.

In this regard, we thank France, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Belgium, Portugal, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, San Marino, Andorra, and Denmark for their recognition. We also thank the 149 states that previously recognized Palestine. Our people will never forget this noble stance.

We also highly commend the crucial leadership of the conference's co-chairs, Saudi Arabia and France, as well as the Unit-



ed Kingdom, and thank all states that chaired working groups, participated, and continue to participate in the International Coalition for Peace. Our thanks also go to all states supporting our efforts to stop genocide, end the occupation, and achieve peace.

We deeply value the peoples and organizations worldwide that have demonstrated in solidarity with the Palestinian people's rights to freedom and independence and to end war, destruction, and starvation. We reject any conflation between solidarity with Palestine and antisemitism, which we categorically reject, based on our values and principles.

In light of the international peace conference's outcomes, we reaffirm today before the General Assembly the following:

1. The immediate and permanent cessation of the war in Gaza.
2. The unconditional delivery of humanitarian aid through UN agencies, including UNRWA, and an end to the use of starvation as a weapon. We thank all sister and friendly states and organizations sending aid.
3. The release of all hostages and prisoners on both sides.
4. The full withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from

Gaza, rejection of displacement schemes, cessation of settlement activity and settler terrorism, halting the theft of Palestinian land and property under annexation pretexts, and stopping violations of the historical and legal status of holy sites – all unilateral actions that undermine the two-state solution in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.

5. The State of Palestine assuming full responsibilities, beginning with the Administrative Committee for Gaza, chaired by a minister in the Palestinian government, to manage the sector temporarily and link it to the West Bank, with Arab and international support to protect civilians in Gaza, and support for Palestinian security forces under UN auspices – not as a replacement.
6. Guaranteeing that Gaza's residents remain in their land without displacement, and implementing a recovery and reconstruction plan in both Gaza and the West Bank.
7. The release of Palestinian tax revenues illegally withheld by Israel, lifting of barriers, and ending the economic siege imposed on Palestinian towns, villages, and refugee camps.
8. Support for our national reform efforts, and holding

INTERNATIONAL

presidential and parliamentary elections within one year after the war's end. Practical steps have begun, including the formation of a temporary constitutional drafting committee to complete its work within three months, enabling the transition from authority to statehood. We want a modern democratic state committed to international law, rule of law, pluralism, peaceful transfer of power, and empowering women and youth. We will develop the educational curricula in accordance with UNESCO standards within two years, and we have established a unified social welfare system, abolishing the previous system of payments to the families of prisoners and martyrs, which is now ready for auditing.

9. We declare our readiness to work with President Donald Trump, with Saudi Arabia, France, the United Nations, and all partners to implement the peace plan adopted at the September 22 conference, paving the way to a just

peace and comprehensive regional cooperation.

No Peace without Justice for Palestine

We say it clearly today: there will be no peace without justice, and no justice without Palestine's liberation.

We want to live in freedom, security, and peace like all other peoples of the earth – in an independent, sovereign state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, living in peace with our neighbors. We want a modern, civil state, free of violence, weapons, and extremism, respectful of law and human rights, investing in people, development, technology, and education – not in wars and conflicts.

The time has come for the international community to grant justice to the Palestinian people, so they may achieve their legitimate rights and break free from occupation. Our people must no longer remain hostage to the whims of Israeli politics that continue to

deny our basic rights and perpetuate oppression, injustice, and aggression.

We will continue along our path, pursuing peaceful, legal, and diplomatic struggle until we secure our rights.

Finally, we say to our sons and daughters in the homeland and in exile: however deep our wounds, however long our suffering, they will not break our will to live and endure. The dawn of freedom will rise, and the flag of Palestine will fly high in our skies, symbolizing dignity, resilience, and liberation from occupation.

Palestine is ours, and Jerusalem is the jewel of our hearts and our eternal capital. We will not abandon our homeland, we will not leave our land. Our people will remain rooted like the olive tree, steadfast as rock, rising from beneath the rubble to rebuild anew, sending from their blessed land messages of hope, the voice of truth, and bridges of just peace to the peoples of our region and the world at large. ■



Venezuela stands firm against U.S. military threats

■ By **AMBASSADOR CARLOS FEO**

VENEZUELA once again faces a threat from the U.S. administration, which for the past 26 years has persistently sought to overthrow the Bolivarian Revolution and seize control of the world's largest oil reserves.

The U.S. policy of regime change in Venezuela is not new. The nation has endured countless attacks in recent years: destabilization efforts and conspiracies, including a drone assassination attempt against President Maduro; economic warfare, most cruelly expressed through the 1,042 criminal sanctions imposed on our oil industry and productive sectors; and various mercenary incursions.

This latest threat involves the



deployment of military warships, including a nuclear submarine, to the Caribbean Sea near the

Venezuelan coast. It is accompanied by a fabricated narrative that falsely labels President Nicolás



American warships near Venezuela coast



Venezuelan Revolution

Maduro as the head of the “*Cartel of the Suns*,” a so-called drug trafficking organization. This script mirrors the false pretext of weapons of mass destruction used to justify the invasion of Iraq. They are also the same producers of the fake narrative of the “*white genocide*” in South Africa.

This military escalation is both illegal and immoral, violating the UN Charter, Venezuela’s rights as a sovereign state, and even U.S. domestic law. When President Trump publicly claims ordering the “*elimination*” of vessels suspected of drug trafficking, he also avoid the extrajudicial executions on 14 people – a crime under international law and U.S. law itself. In the face of these threats, Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to peace and self-determination. Guided by the United Nations Charter, it fully asserts its right to defend its sovereignty and to promote peace throughout the Caribbean and South America.

The revolutionary government of President Nicolás Maduro reiter-

The Venezuelan people cherish peace and are therefore ever-ready to defend it. We will not be intimidated by threats, lies, or military might. The love of freedom runs through our veins.

ates its dedication to building a world order that respects international law – free from hegemonic and warmongering empires – and that guarantees the right to peace and a future for the peoples of the Global South.

Today’s Nazis, like yesterday’s Hitlers, are working for its destruction. We are committed to consolidating a world of dignity and multipolarity.

Today, we also reaffirm the course freely chosen by the Venezuelan people. The world should know that Venezuela is prepared to continue on the path charted by

Simón Bolívar and the liberators of Latin America. We stand, fight, and work for a balanced, just, and equal world, free from colonial empires.

The Venezuelan people cherish peace and are therefore ever-ready to defend it. We will not be intimidated by threats, lies, or military might. The love of freedom runs through our veins.

The spirit of Bolívar still awake in Venezuela, remembering when in 1818, confronted by an insolent envoy from Washington, he declared:

“It seems you are trying to provoke me into responding to your insults; I shall not do so. But I will say that I will not allow you to insult or scorn the government and the rights of Venezuela... Fortunately, history has often shown that a handful of free men can defeat the mightiest of empires.” ■

Carlos Feo is the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to South Africa.

Mama Nolandile Mabuyane is Larger than Life

■ By **THABANG MASEKO**

THE passing of ANC Eastern Cape Chairperson Oscar Mabuyane's mother, better known by her clan name, **Mambathane** brought together all eight regions of the African National Congress in the province under one roof.

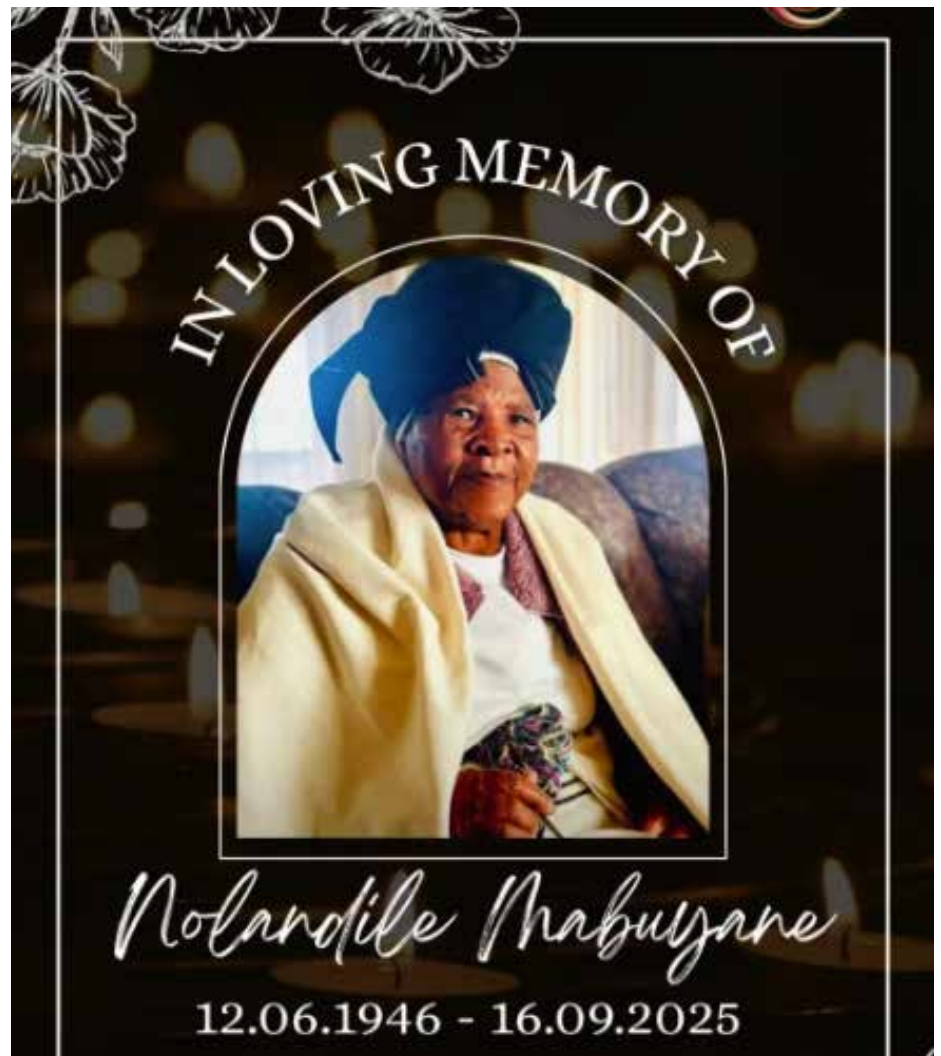
It was a difficult time for the Mabuyane family, who had lost their beloved mother, as many leaders, including Deputy President Paul Mashatile, cabinet ministers and opposition party leaders came to offer their condolences.

Mama Nolandile Mabuyane is amongst the brave mothers who deserve to be honoured for moulding and raising a leader of Oscar's calibre.

As the English idiom goes, "*Charity begins at home.*" Mama Nolandile nurtured Oscar to know that, before being recognised as an ANC leader, one must first be a child who fears God and respects others.

The ANC is a vast organisation founded by the clergy and kings; its survival is guided by the spirit of its ancestors in order to remain relevant and united.

The building and defence of the ANC is a major organisational task as the movement heads towards 2026. Under Mabuyane's leadership in the Eastern Cape,



the ANC alliance remains intact.

The working relations among alliance partners are stronger than ever, and indeed, there is an ongoing process of renewal within the alliance itself. We are obliged to consult one another and to work together on key issues and programmes.

The ANC, as leader of the revo-

lutionary alliance, has the historic duty and responsibility to provide direction. It must also ensure that the ANC remains strong and united in order to fulfil its leadership responsibilities.

The most effective and concrete way of strengthening the ANC-led alliance is through a common programme of action, based on shared strategic objectives.

TRIBUTE



This programme of action must be implemented at all levels of the organisation. The Alliance is expected to produce such a programme this year, to provide a line of march for every cadre of the movement.

However, among the political challenges that the Alliance faces today, Mama Nolandile played a tremendous role in raising a leader capable of finding solutions. Like many rural children born during the apartheid era, Oscar entered the world under very difficult circumstances in Debehera. There were no healthcare facilities to assist his mother; there were no accessible roads, so the one doctor in the area struggled to reach the homestead. Oscar's mother endured severe pain as the child moved with difficulty in the womb.

The family knew of a doctor, Dr Mbekeni, who lived in a distant village and was the only physician in the area. Oscar's uncle, a younger brother to his father, had to travel several kilometres on horseback to persuade the doctor to come and help deliver Oscar.

He even took another horse with him so that Dr Mbekeni could

ride back with him. Unfortunately, Dr Mbekeni had never ridden a horse in his life. It was raining, and the only thing he could do was prescribe medication without examining the patient, handing it to Oscar's uncle instead.

Despite these challenges, Oscar Lubabalo Mabuyane, the first-born child, was delivered safely and named Sowetu, which loosely translates to "*man of the house*". As we celebrate the legacy of Mama Nolandile, Oscar remains a humble servant of the people, shaped by a mother who believed in prayer.

He has a keen sense of destiny, a clear vision, and a deep empathy for the people of South Africa. To many, he is a brilliant leader, a humble and gentle soul endowed with a spirit of kindness – one expected to guide the African National Congress through its many challenges.

These sentiments are borne out by his proven leadership abilities in the various positions he has held over the years. Mabuyane's detractors are acutely aware of his fierce determination, compassion and moral compass, yet they deliberately choose to ignore these qualities for political expediency.

To his family, ngumntana wongquba (a true son of the soil), Cde Oscar, a husband, and a father to three sons, remain grounded in a personality defined by unflinching honesty. These multiple identities have earned him grudging respect from all quarters.

Mama Nolandile may have passed away, but she leaves behind a legacy that will endure for generations of the Mabuyane family to come. ■



ANC Eastern Cape Chairperson Oscar Mabuyane with Mama Nolandile

The Forgotten Gender

by **Madiepetsane Charlotte Lobe, Part 1 and Part 2**
(2025)

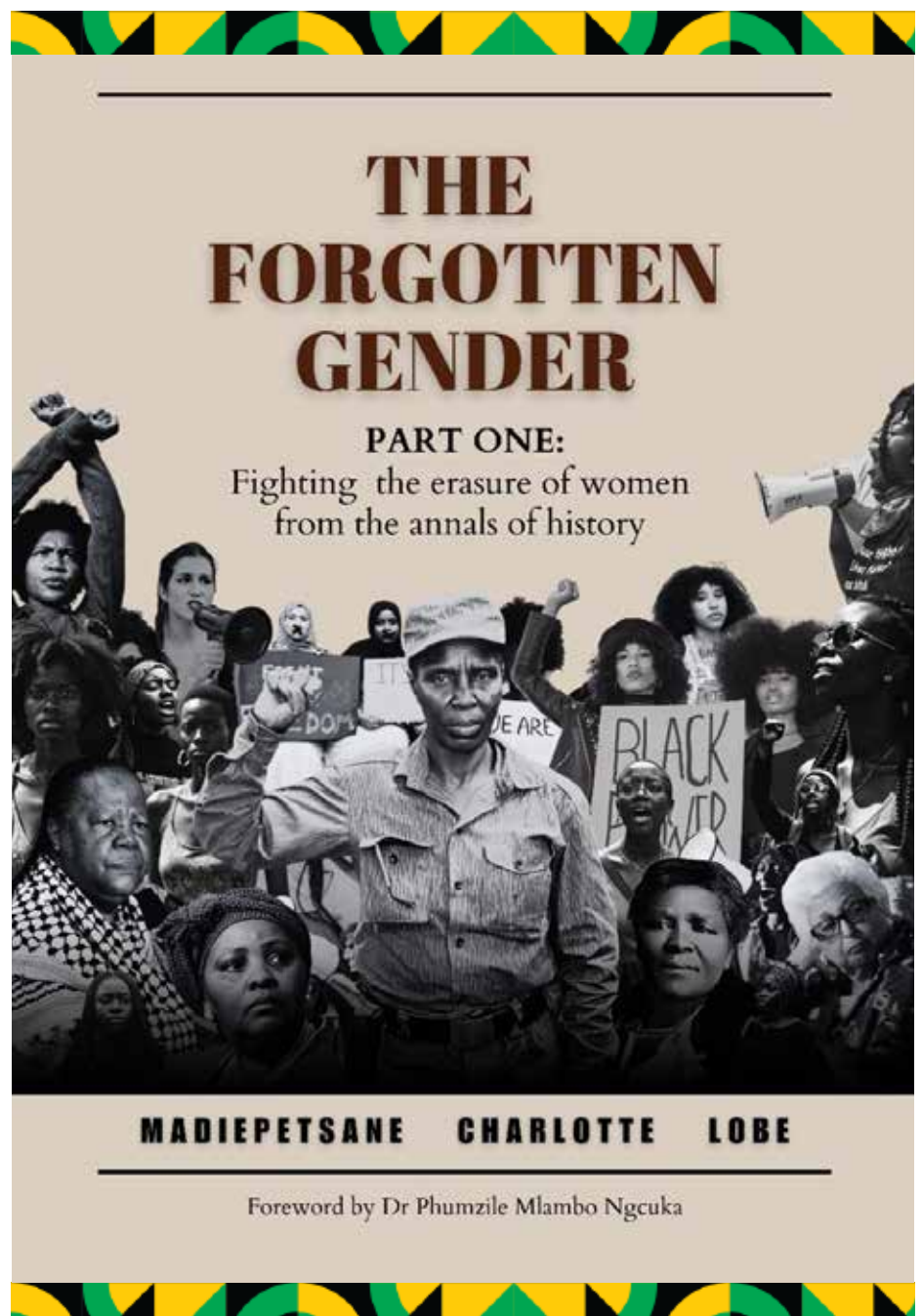
Extract from *Foreword to Part 2. The Nexus* by **FÉBÉ POTGIETER-GQUBULE**

IT'S difficult to reflect on the role of women in South Africa, without talking about the historic 1956 Women's March. This significant event in the annals of the liberation struggle is celebrated every year as National Women's Day and often referred to in speeches.

However, **Charlotte Lobe** in this book asks the pertinent question: *"How did we arrive at the 1956 march? What role did women play before 1956, and what role did women play in pre- and post-colonial times in the evolution of our society and the fight against patriarchy?"*

The book *Forgotten Gender* contributes towards filling this gap, telling stories of women, not just South African, but the continent and other parts of the world. Because indeed, one of the features of patriarchy is how it relegates women and girls to second class citizens, by deliberately underplaying and undervaluing their contributions to societies and therefore writing them out of history. Indeed, history became His Story only.

Amongst the major contributions of the global women's and feminist movements have therefore been researching, telling, un-



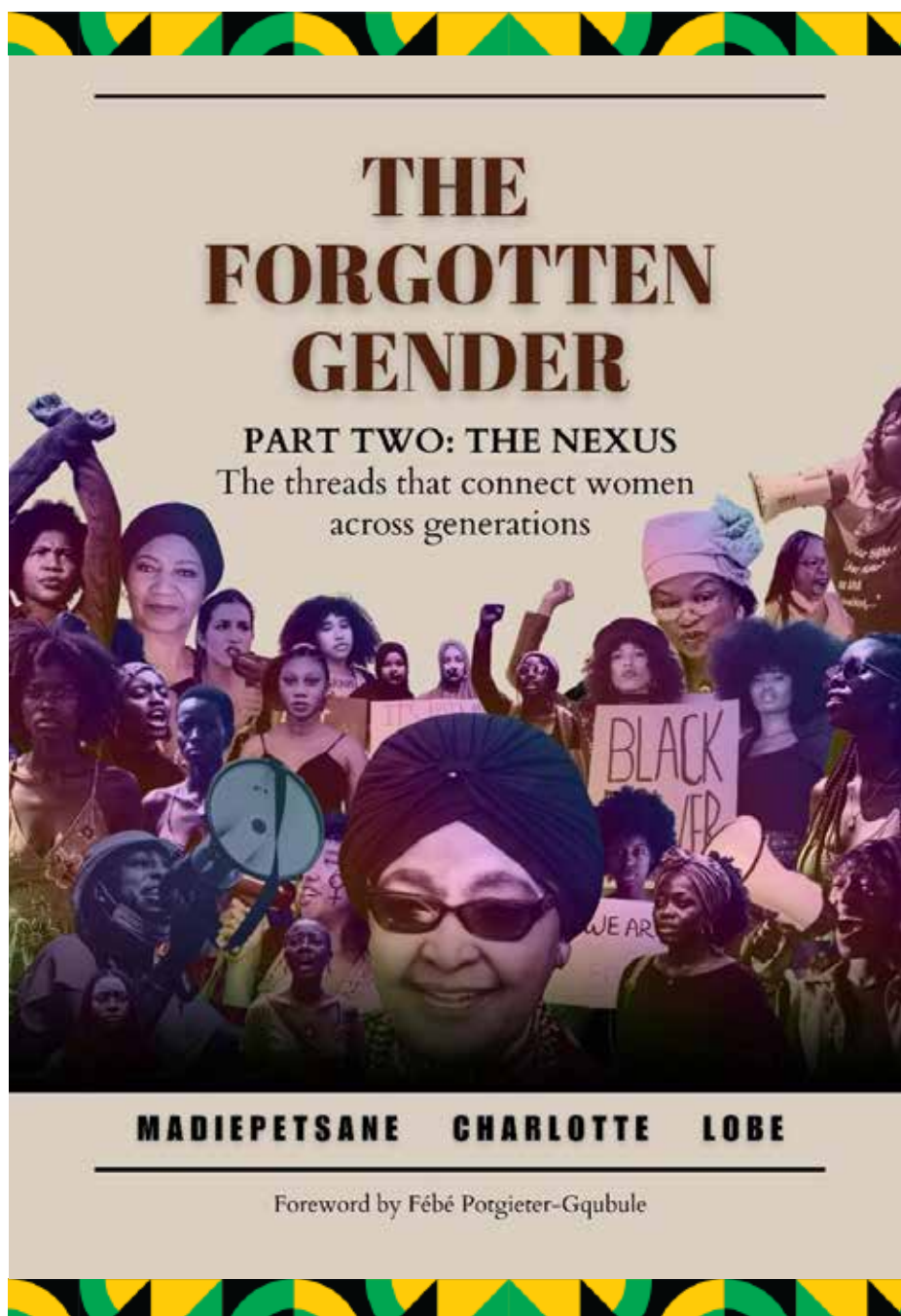
BOOK REVIEW

earthing, writing and foregrounding women's history in various societies, or as the title of Nigerian feminist Professor Molaria Ogunpide-Leslie (1940-2019) essay suggests, to ensure that we don't continue "*Spinning on the Axis of Maleness.*"

The exclusion of women from history, and every other aspect of human knowledge, is widespread. In the STEM, we know about physicist and scientist Marie Curie, but what about Emmy Noether, whom Zing Tsjeng in *Forgotten Women: The Scientists* dubbed 'The Mighty Mathematician You've Never Heard Off' or engineer Mary W. Jackson whose role in NASA space mission was exposed in the 2016 movie 'Hidden Figures.'

We know about the military strategies of Sun Tzu, Alexander the Great, King Shaka, Saladin, and Genghis Khan, but do we know about the women warriors of the Dahomey, or Empress Taytu Betul who alongside Emperor Melek II in battle ensured that Ethiopia defeated the Italians at the Battle of Adwa in 1896; or Queen Nzinga Ana de Sousa Mbande of Angola who was regarded as 'the most significant military strategist that ever confronted the armed forces of Portugal.' Indeed, as Umkhonto we Sizwe commander Thenjiwe Mthintso wrote in her foreword to Professor Siphokazi Magadla's book on *South African women in the armed struggle*, these stories "put to rest the tired patriarchal view that the fight for one's citizenship and liberation is the monopoly of men, or put differently, that only men go to war to fight for their country."

Telling women's stories and their contributions are therefore critical, because it gives us a fuller



picture of our societies and histories. As my colleague Tokologo Ngakane refers to it, to strengthen "the lineage of women's writings and struggles."

So, if not for Dr Xuma's pamphlet *What an educated African girl can do* (1930), Dr Frene Ginwala's article "*Women in the ANC, 1912-1943*" (1990) and more recent research and books by Dr Thozama April, Zubeida Jaffer and Dr Athambile Mosala, we

may have forgotten about the role of Charlotte Manye-Maxeke.

And, without the autobiographies of Phyllis Ntantala, Emma Mashinini, Ellen Kuzwayo, Katie Makanya, Sindiwe Magona, to name but a few, our knowledge of the lives of black academics and teachers, of trade unionists, social workers, and migrants to Cape Town, would be so much the poorer. We would not know that if not for Emma Mashinini, the logo of

BOOK REVIEW

COSATU would just have figures of male workers. Or be reminded by Sindiwe Magona of how women teachers, once they married, were not allowed to hold a permanent teaching post and had to drift from school to school.

Women's stories open up the world. And that is why they must be told, frequently, timeously and confidently, in all sectors of society. As Lola Olufemi (2020) writes:

"Black women's history travels in whispers and memories recalled around the dining table by mothers and grandmothers and it often dies when those voices leave us. The power of these stories is that they make us feel less alone and give us the courage to act by providing us with a blueprint."

Knowing and learning about women's history is therefore part of understanding our societies and building a better world, which feminists fervently believe, is possible. We must learn and understand history, because *"no situation, concept or person can ever be fully understood without probing their histories."* (Sylvia Tamale, 2020)

Charlotte Lobe is well-placed to take up the spear of telling our stories. A political activist and leader, a feminist, a diplomat, internationalist and author, as the Preface indicates, she cut her teeth at a young age in the struggle against apartheid colonialism and patriarchy in South Africa.

Forgotten Gender is therefore a work that spans the continent and world, telling women's stories, but it is also a story of a generation of young women, the Young Lionesses who were part of the student and youth movements of the 1980s. ■

EXILE BLUES

(An extract)

By **BALEKA KGOSITSILE**

When some other comrades have fallen victim
to mental breakdown
and you shudder wondering
if you won't be next to be ambushed
when you make a habit of exchanging blows
that should be kept for the enemy
when you feel trapped
suffocating cornered
at a cul-de-sac
and your tears roll down uncontrollably
as memories invade you daily
maybe let them roll
let them blues roll out
let them roll out the blues
till oblivion sneaks to your rescue
when later you feel lighter
retrieve the zeal that made you leave home
lest you go down the drain
with the stinking rot of history
when the song goes
'this load is heavy it requires men'
that has nothing to do with baritone or beard
it is a word of wisdom and warning
that our history is so reddened
with the blood of the best of our land
even the enemy gets more vicious by the second
because the enemy also knows
'victory is certain!'
is not an empty slogan.

Malibongwe:

Poems from the Struggle by ANC Women.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

4–10 October 2025

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

4 October 1922

Wits University Inaugurated



The inauguration of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits) was celebrated a few months after the University College, Johannesburg was granted full university status on 1 March 1922. Prince Arthur of Connaught, governor-general of the Union of South Africa, became the University's first chancellor, and Professor Jan H. Hofmeyr its first principal. Building began at Milner Park on a site donated to the University by the Johannesburg municipality.

4 October 1929

Table Mountain Cable Car Inaugurated

On 4 October 1929 the Table Mountain cableway, one of the world's biggest tourist attractions in Cape Town, was inaugurated by then Mayor of Cape Town, Rev. A. J. S. Lewis. By the 1870s many Cape Town citizens had suggested the introduction of a railway line to the top of Table Mountain but plans to implement a proposed rack railway were

delayed by the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer war. A Norwegian engineer, Trygve Stromsøe, proposed to the Council the building of a cableway. Within two years, at a cost of £60 000, the cableway was complete. The car could ascend the mountain in under 10 minutes and carried 19 passengers and a conductor.

4 October 1974

Oliver Kgadime Matsepe, writer and poet dies in Groblersdal



Oliver Kgadime (Phukubjane) Matsepe is a novelist and poet who was twice awarded the S.E. Mqhayi Prize by the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns (South African Academy for Arts and Science). He was born in the Groblersdal District on 22 March 1932. He received his education in various mission schools in Northern Transvaal (now Limpopo) and was ulti-

mately baptized in the Lutheran church. For most of his adult life, Matsepe worked as a clerk and interpreter for the Department of Bantu Administration and Development. A devout Christian, his religious beliefs were reflected in his books. Matsepe died on 4 October 1974. In the two years prior to his death, he had produced 5 novels and 4 volumes of poetry, including *Megokgo ya Bjoko* (1968), published in English as *Tears of the Brain* (2018).

5 October 1946

Poet Mafika Gwala born



Mafika Pascal Gwala, South African poet and editor writing in both English and Zulu was born on 5 October 1946 in Verulam, KwaZulu-Natal. He matriculated in Inkamana High School. He spent his adult life in Mpumalanga, working as a factory clerk. Gwala went on to study at the University of Natal (now UKZN) and obtained his MPhil in Politics. He started poet-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

ry in his early twenties, publishing poems, essays and short stories in local and international journals, including working as the editor of *The Black Review* journal. He was an activist dating back to the 1960s, as a member of SASO and involved in various community projects in Durban. Apart from writing, he was also a high school teacher, and a guest University lecturer. Gwala authored two volumes of 'Jol'iinkomo', (*Bringing the cattle home*) which was later performed by Mme Miriam Makeba. One of his best known poems was "The Children of Nonti" published in 1977. He passed away on 7 September 2014. Gwala influenced a number of contemporary poets in South Africa.

5 October 1960

SA referendum on whether to become a republic

The South African government led by National Party (NP) held a referendum in which white voters decided whether South Africa should remain a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations or declare a republic. The voting age restriction was lowered to eighteen years and included the white voters in South West Africa (now Namibia). The two former Boer republics, Transvaal and Orange Free State (now Free State), and South West Africa, voted in favour, while the Cape Province, though also in favour, had a smaller majority. Natal (now KwaZulu Natal), which was inhabited by more English-speaking whites than Afrikaners, voted against it. The result was 52 per cent in favour of a republic.

5 October 1966

The Awakening sculpture gifted to the UN

The Nigerian government gifted the sculpture of the Igbo goddess

of the sun, Anyanwu by African great Ben Enwonwu (1917–1977), to the United Nations. It became one of the global agency's most significant works of art.

5 October 1966

SA Military History Society established

The South African Military History Society (SAMHS) was formed following an appeal by Commandant-General H.B. Klopper to develop interest in South Africa's military history. The role of the society was to help to further interests of students of military history and the collection of military items of historical importance. It encouraged research into the history, traditions, uniforms, badges and other historical aspects of the armed forces of Southern Africa and, to a lesser extent, those of other countries.

5 October 1986

Queenstown UDF leader Mbuyiseli Songelwa died in detention

On October 1986, Mbuyiseli Songelwa, a Queenstown community and United Democratic Front leader died in police custody. He was awaiting trial on subversion charges at Fort Glamorgan Prison in East London. According to police reports he died of asthma on his way to the hospital. Songelwa had suffered the asthma attack on the Friday, but had only received medical assistance on the Saturday.

5 October 2016

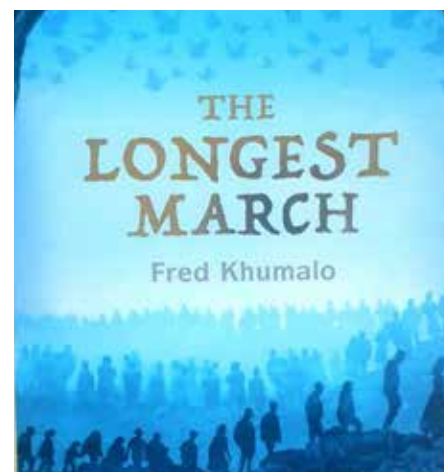
Ethiopia-Djibouti Electric Railway starts service

Africa's first cross-border electrical rail line began the 750 km Ethiopia-Djibouti train service from Addis Ababa to Djibouti.

This cuts down the journey from 3 days to 12 hours, used for freight for landlocked Ethiopia's trade.

6 October 1899

Long March by Black Mineworkers



With the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War imminent, thousands of Black men and women were left stranded in Johannesburg. Mine owners closed mines and paid off miners, without assisting them to get home safely. Thousands of miners were forced out of mine properties and had to leave the safety of the mine compounds. They faced the real possibility of being arrested for vagrancy, or being shot by Boer commandos. Though trains were readily available to transport refugees to Natal and many Black mineworkers could afford to pay the required train fares, they were not given passage, because they were black. As a result, more than 7000 Zulu mineworkers, escorted by Mr J.J. Marwick, representative of the Natal Native Affairs Department and six Republican policemen, left Johannesburg on their way home to Natal and Zululand, walking about 56 kilometres per day, with the exception of some seventy men and fifty women and children who were too ill to continue the march and who boarded trains at Heidelberg

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

station. The march is fictionalised in a book by Fred Khumalo, *The Longest March* (2019).

6 October 1902 Cape Town-Beira Railway line completed

On 6 October 1902 the 3200 km long railway line between Cape Town and Beira in Mozambique was completed. The construction of the Beira Railway to Umtali was completed in February 1889, just before the South African War (Anglo-Boer War II, 1899-1902). On 16 February 1898, the first regular freight service began.

6 October 1994 Chess master Tunde Onakoya born



Nigerian chess master and humanitarian, Tunde Onakoya was born in Ikorodu. A top-ranked chess player who learned the game as a child in the barber-shop of his slum neighbourhood, he founded Chess in Slums Africa to empower children in poor urban settings.

6 October 1999 Agriculture South Africa changes its name to AgriSA

The SA Agricultural Union restructured and changed its name on the union's annual meeting in Rustenburg to Agri South Afri-

ca (AgriSA). Agriculture SA was formed in 1904 as a whites-only agricultural association, to promote the interests of its constituent members. AgriSA today consists of nine provincial and 26 commodity organisations as well as 44 corporate members.

6 October 2006 Mbuzini Samora Machel Public Library Opens

On 6 October 2006, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Pallo Jordan, opened a community library at Mbuzini in the Mpumalanga Province, known as the Mbuzini Samora Machel Public Library. This library was opened to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Samora Machel. On 19 October 1986, an air plane carrying the Mozambican president, his staff and other prominent politicians crashed at Mbuzini, killing all in the plane.

6 October 2019 First female Sudan Chief Justice appointed



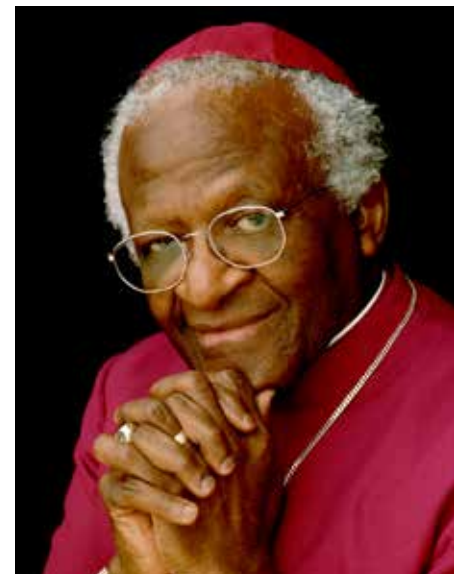
Judge Nemat Abdullah Khair is appointed Sudan's first female Chief Justice, joining the small number of female judiciary heads on the African continent. Other female African Chief Justices at the time included, Hon. Meaza Ashenafi appointed in 2018 (Ethiopia); Hon. Dr. Mathilda Twomey

since 2015 (Seychelles); Hon. Irene Mambilima since 2015 (Zambia); Hon. Nthomeng Justina Majara since 2014 (Lesotho). All were the first woman judges to occupy this position in their countries.

7 October 1870 Sultan bin Said starts rule of Zanzibar

Sultan Barghash bin Said (1836–1888) started his 18-year rule as the second Sultan of Zanzibar on this day. During his rule he built much of Zanzibar's infrastructure, including piped water, telegraph cables, roads, public buildings, and the development of the Stone Town community and a police force. He signed an agreement with Britain to ban the slave trade in the sultanate and closed the slave market at Mkunazini.

7 October 1931 Archbishop Mpilo Desmond Tutu born



Archbishop Mpilo Desmond Tutu was born on this day in Klerksdorp, Transvaal. An anti-apartheid activists, he was former secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Nobel Peace Prize winner and first

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

black Archbishop of Anglican Church in South Africa. The Arch, as he was fondly known as, is best known for his role as chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). He passed away on 26 December 2021.

7 October 2000 Ebola in Uganda

An outbreak of Ebola was identified as such by doctor Matthew Lukwiya (1957–2000), hospital supervisor of St Mary's Hospital in Gulu in Uganda, after student nurses and villagers' deaths of viral hemorrhagic fever, taking action to contain the spread of the virus. However, he died of Ebola two months after diagnosing the cause of death. He saved Italian nuns from the Lord's Resistance Army in 1989, offering himself to the LRA instead of the nurses, and was later released. He also opened the gates of the hospital to people fleeing from rebel attacks. In 1990 he was offered to earn a master's degree in tropical pediatrics at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Despite having been offered a position at the school after completing his degree, he returned to St Mary's Hospital. Under Dr Lukwiya's administration, the hospital tripled its capacity to 18,000 patients annually, becoming one of the top hospitals in East Africa.

7 October 2002 Sydney Brenner wins Nobel Prize for Medicine

Sydney Brenner (1927–2019) was a South African biologist, who on this day was announced as sharing the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, along with colleagues Horvitz and Sulston. Brenner was born in Germiston, from immigrant parents from Lithuania and Latvia.

7 October 2004 14-year old convicted of murder

The SABC reported that a 14-year old girl was found guilty in the Pietermaritzburg High Court of murdering Radha Govender, a Pietermaritzburg socialite in 2002. The girl was only 12-years old when she committed the murder. She was also found guilty on charges of theft. After drugging her victim, she approached two men, Siphon Hadebe and Vusi Tshabalala, and asked them to kill Govender. They were given some items such as clothes, jewelry, a video machine and a decoder she stole from the house as their payments. She became the youngest girl ever to be convicted of murder in SA.

7 October 2021 Abdulrazak Gurnah wins Nobel for Literature

Tanzanian author, who was born in Zanzibar (1948), was announced as the 2021 Nobel Laureate for Literature. His works include novels *Paradise* (1994), *By the Sea* (2001), *Desertion* (2005) and *Afterlives* (2021).

8 October 1902 Afrikaans author Mikro born

Christoffel Hermanus Kahn (Mikro) (1903–1968) Afrikaans author, was born at Van Reensplaas in Williston, attending school in Robertson and Carnarvon. He completed a BSc degree in Agriculture at Stellenbosch University and went to teach for a while in Kuilsrivier and Ritchie. From 1930 to 1931 he wrote poems for the magazine *Huisgenoot* and published biographies, novels and adventure stories. He also taught at Teachers' College in Oudtshoorn

for 5 years, worked for Boerdery in Suid-Afrika (a farmers' magazine) as chief editor and a stint at Agricultural Ministry. He was awarded the Hertzog Prize for Prose (1936) and the Scheepers Prize for Youth Literature in 1957 for *Die Jongste Ruiter*.

8 October 1934 ANC leader and minister Prof Kader Asmal born



Kader Asmal, political activist, human rights lawyer, former Minister of Education (1999–2004) and Water Affairs and Forestry (1994–1999); was born in Kwa-Dukuza. His resistance against apartheid began in 1952 when he organized a school boycott in support of the Defiance Campaign. Asmal continued to be active in the resistance movement as a member of the ANC for the rest of the 1950s. Early in the 1960s, following the banning of the ANC, PAC and SACP, Asmal went into exile. He spent most of his time in exile based in Ireland, where he was active in the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM). On his return to the country, he continued to be active in the ANC, as a member of its Constitutional Committee, its National Disciplinary Committee and its national executive committee (NEC). Prof Asmal passed on in June 2011.

8 October 1999 Tanzanian suspect in US Embassy bombings denied charges

The 26-year-old Tanzanian, Khalifan Khamis Mohamed, a prime suspect in the bombing of two US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1998, pleaded not guilty to charges against him in New York. Mohamed was traced to Cape Town, South Africa, by the FBI and extradited to the USA to stand trial. He was charged along with 16 others, including Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, for allegedly planning attacks on Americans overseas and embassy bombings. Mohamed was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole in 2001, and serving his sentence in the US. He attempted an escape from prison in 2000 and in 2014 successfully sued the US government for preventing him from communicating with anyone but immediate family.

8 October 2004 Wangari Maathai wins Nobel prize



Kenyan member of parliament, activist and founder of the Green Belt Movement, which planted millions of trees, became the first African woman to win the Peace Prize.

8 October 2018 DRC Activist against GBV wins Nobel Peace prize



Dr Denis Mukwege (b. 1955), a gynaecologist became recipient of the prestigious prize for his work to end sexual violence as a weapon for war. He studied medicine in Burundi, and returned to the village of Lemera, where he practiced. He founded the Panzi hospital in 1999 in Eastern DRC, dealing with thousands of cases of sexual violence, with patients of all ages. He used the evidence from this work to advocate for an end to sexual violence in conflict to be part of the UN and AU peacekeeping mandates. Dr Mukwege shared the Nobel with Iranian activist Nadia Murad.

9 October 1803 Augusta Uitenhage deMist, travel writer starts journey into interior

Augusta Uitenhage deMist was the daughter of the Dutch Commissioner General of the Cape Colony, and accompanied her father on a journey from the Cape of Good Hope to the inland, via Saldana Bay, Helena Bay, Calvinia, Tulbagh, Swellendam and Mosselbay, up to Algoa Bay and Graaff Reinet in the now Eastern Cape. Accompanied by a com-

panion, Mietjie Versfeld, Augusta wrote a diary of their travels, later published as *Diary of a journey into the Cape of Good Hope and the interior of Africa in 1802 and 1803* by Jonkvrou Augusta Uitenhage de Mist, which was translated by Dr. Edmund Burrows in 1954. The town Uitenhage was named after the Commissioner General, Jacob Abraham Uitenhage de Mist. There is today still a guest house in Swellendam named the Augusta de Mist.

9 October 1876 Sol Plaatje is born



Author, ANC founder, intellectual, linguist and journalist, Sol Plaatje was born in Boshoff, Free State on this day. Plaatje was a founding member and first General Secretary of the South African Native National Congress, which became the African National Congress. Plaatje established the first Setswana-English weekly, *Koranta ea Becoana* (*Newspaper of the Tswana*) in 1901. This existed, under Plaatje's editorship, for six or seven years, after which he moved from Mafeking to Kimberley. There he established a new paper; *Tsala ea Becoana*, later renamed *Tsala ea Batho* (*The Friend of the People*). While producing these

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

papers, Plaatje also contributed many articles to other papers, particularly to the Kimberley Diamond Fields Advertiser. When the South African Native National Congress (later called the African National Congress) was formed in 1912, Plaatje was chosen its first secretary-general. An articulate opponent of tribalism, he exemplified the new spirit of national unity among African intellectuals. Sol Plaatje was part of an ANC delegation that traveled to England in June 1914 to protest against the 1913 Land Act. He was accompanied by Thomas Mapike, Rev. Walter Rubusana, Rev John L Dube and Saul Msane.

9 October 1940 Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Health Minister born



Mantombazana Tshabalala-Msimang was born at Emfume, Kwa-Zulu-Natal. Tshabalala-Msimang matriculated at Inanda Seminary School in Durban in 1959. She studied for her BA degree at Fort Hare University. Tshabalala-Msimang and other 27 student activists were ordered by the African National Congress (ANC) to skip the country, exiled in Tanzania

(then Tanganyika). Tshabalala-Msimang spent 28 years in exile and continued with her studies, attaining a medical degree at the First Leningrad Medical Institute, to fulfill her mother's wish. She practiced as a Medical Doctor in different African countries. After returning from exile, she became a Member of Parliament in 1994, served as Chair of the Portfolio committee on Health, as Deputy Minister of Justice (1996–1999) and as Minister of Health from 1999–2008. Minister Tshabalala-Msimang passed on in December 2009.

9 October 1953 Reservation of Separate Amenities Act starts



The apartheid Nationalist Party (NP) regime developed the concept of allocation of resources such as general infrastructure, education and jobs and formalised this into law. The Amenities Act provided that there should be separate amenities such as toilets, parks and beaches for different racial groups. Subsequently, apartheid signs indicating which people were permitted to enter/use the facilities, were displayed throughout the country. The standards of amenities for non-Whites were generally lower than those for Whites.

9 October 1962 Uganda gains Independence



The East African country Uganda gained independence from Great Britain as a parliamentary democratic monarchy with traditional kingdoms Ankole, Buganda, Bunyoro and Toro receiving federal status and a degree of autonomy. Buganda, under the leadership of Sir Edward Mutesa, was the most powerful kingdom. Milton Obote, the leader of the socialist Uganda People's Congress (UPC) became the first prime minister of the newly independent Uganda. In 1963 Uganda became the Republic of Uganda, with Mutesa II as first (largely ceremonial) president.

9 October 1963 Rivonia Trialists starts

On this day Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada, Rusty Bernstein, Dennis Goldberg, James Kantor, Andrew Mlangeni, Elias Motsoaledi and Raymond Mhlaba (The Rivonia Trialist) were charged with sabotage and attempting to overthrow the state violently.

9 October 1964 Global calls for stop to execution for Vuyisile Mini and others

The United Nations Special Committee on the Policies of Apart-



RIVONIA TRIAL

9 October 1963 - 12 June 1964



The Rivonia Trial took place between **9 October 1963 and 12 June 1964**. This trial led to the imprisonment of our senior leaders, including Nelson Mandela, Ahmed Kathrada, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Andrew Mlangeni, Elias Motsoaledi, Walter Sisulu and others who were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

heid, at the special meeting, urgently demanded that South Africa refrain from executing three leaders of the ANC, sentenced to death in March 1964. The appeals of the three – Vuyisile Mini (44), Wilson Khayinga and Zinakile Mkaba – against their sentences had been rejected by the Supreme Court. Despite local and international appeals, including by President Nasser of Egypt who at the time chaired the Non-Aligned Movement, Mini and colleagues were executed on 6 November 1964 and buried in secret by the apartheid regime.



9 October 1994 Footballer Asisat Oshoala born



Professional football player Asisat Oshoala is born in Ikorodu, Nigeria. She is one of the most decorated African female football players, including four times African Women's Footballer of the Year.

10 October 1825 Paul Kruger born

On 10 October 1825, Afrikaner leader Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, was born in Whit-

tlesea, Eastern Cape on his grandfather's farm. Paul Kruger was elected as the State President of the South African Republic (Transvaal) at age 57. He became known as the face of the Boer resistance against the British during the Anglo Boer War of 1899-1902. The Kruger National Park as well as the Krugerrand coin was named after him after his death in 1904.

10 October 1926 South African Memorial at Delville Forest opened

The National War Memorial was opened outside the village of Longueval, France, next to the historic Delville Wood. The Memorial was unveiled in commemoration of the thousands of South Africans who fought during the First World War. The inscription was later broadened to include those that fell during the Second World War too. After 1994, the War Memorial was updated to also recognize the sacrifices and contributions of black South Africans to the two world wars.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

10 October 1963

United Nations Calls for Release of all Political prisoners



After the arrest of the MK High Command, including Nelson Mandela, Water Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and others, (the Rivonia trialists), with charges of sabotage, terrorism and communism, and the possibility of the death penalty sparked an international campaign for an end to the trial and release of political prisoners. On 11 October 1963, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution XVIII, requesting the South African government to end the Rivonia Trial and to unconditional release all prisoners in jail for opposing apartheid. The vote was 106 to 1, with only South Africa voting against. The apartheid government proceeded with the trial and in June 1964, sentenced 8 of the accused to life

imprisonment. The response of the international community was to impose further economic and cultural sanctions on South Africa.

10 October 1989

De Klerk announces release of 8 Robben Islanders

Shortly after taking over from P.W. Botha as state president, F.W. de Klerk announced the unconditional release of eight long serving political prisoners of the liberation movements African National Congress (ANC) and Pan Africanist Congress (PAC). The eight prisoners were former ANC secretary-general Walter Sisulu, Andrew Mlangeni, Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsoaledi, Wilton Mkwayi, Ahmed Kathrada, Jafta Masemola and Oscar Mpetsha.

10 October 1999

Phakisa Freeway opens

The Phakisa Freeway located in Welkom, Free State, opened on 10 October 1999. The Phakisa Freeway combined the traditional oval and road course. Since inauguration, the racecourse hosted the penultimate leg of the 1999 Federation of International Motorcycling Grand Prix in

1999 and the World Motorcycle Championship Grand Prix in the years 1999, 2000 and 2001. The Phakisa Freeway has a capacity of 60000 spectators, with the racecourse comprising of a 4,24 kilometre road course, and a 2,4 kilometre oval race course with no chicane. In May 2021 the Mobil 1 V8 Supercars championship race was hosted at Phakisa.

10 October 2003

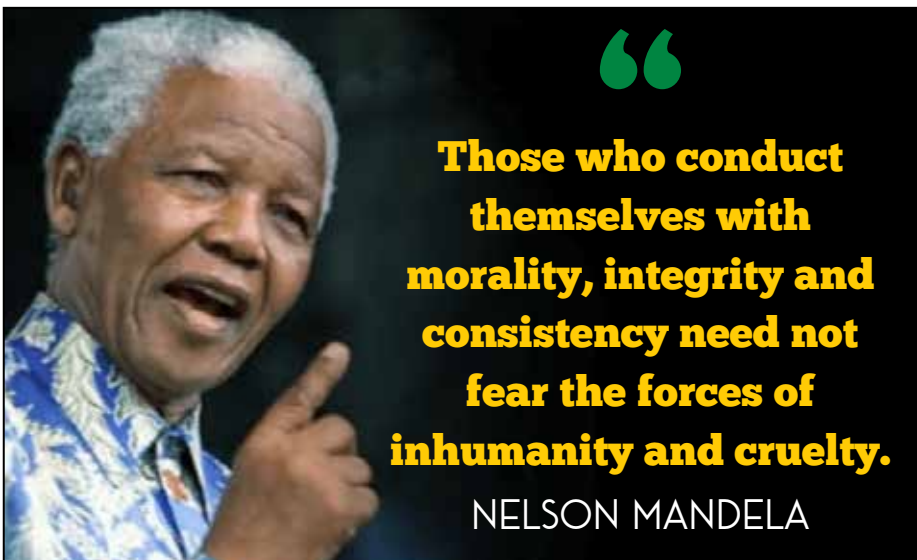
Oil pipeline opened in Chad

The first Chadian oil pipeline was opened by then Chad President Idriss Deby on 10 October 2003. Thus, the small West African republic of Chad joined the group of oil-producing African nations. In 2020, Chad was ranked as holder of the 10th largest African oil reserves.

10 October 2005

Milton Obote, Uganda's first Prime Minister dies in Johannesburg

Milton Obote, a graduate from Makerere University and member of the legislative council of Uganda from 1957, founded the Uganda People's Congress in 1960. Obote became Uganda's Prime Minister after independence from the British in 1962 and by 1966 installed as president. He was overthrown by Idi Amin in 1971 and fled to Tanzania. He returned with the Tanzanian-aided invasion of 1979 and was re-elected in 1980. Factionalism led to an army coup in 1985 in which he was ousted a second time and exiled to Zambia. 10 years later Obote was rushed from Zambia to a hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he died of kidney failure on 10 October 2005. He was 81 when he died and was given a state funeral in Kampala.



INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

4–10 October 2025

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



4 October

World Animal Welfare Day

We share our planet with many other species, including plants and animals, but often care only about human well-being. We cut down forests, pollute rivers and the oceans, take up space for our homes, agriculture, mines and cities and displace animals. We illegally hunt and kill animals, taking away resources and habitats from animals and plants. Many animal species are disappearing completely because of the activities of human beings. With human created global warming, we also impact on the habitats of animals. This year's theme **"Save Animals, Save the Planet!"**, reminds us that animals are not just part of our environment, but part of our communities and caring for them is our shared responsibility.

5 October

World Teachers Day

World Teachers' Day is an international day held annually on 5 October to celebrate the work of teachers. Established in 1994, it commemorates the signing of recommendation by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). It is a day to celebrate how teachers are transforming education but also to reflect on the support they

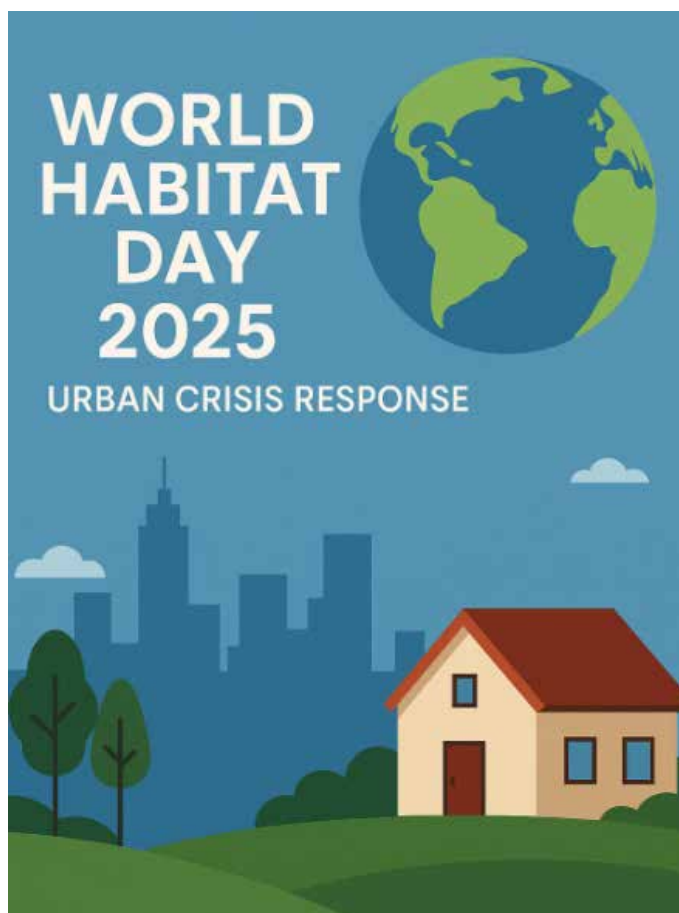
need to fully deploy their talent and vocation, and to rethink the way ahead for the profession globally. Teachers play vital roles in education systems, driving learning, inclusion, and innovation in schools and societies. Yet many work without collaborative structures to support their pedagogy, agency, professionalism or well-being. In many systems, the profession remains marked by isolation, fragmented structures and limited opportunities to build networks with peers, mentors and school leaders, affecting both educational quality and teacher retention. This year, World Teachers' Day celebrations



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

will centre on the theme **“Recasting teaching as a collaborative profession,”** highlighting the transformative potential of collaboration for teachers, schools and education systems. Reframing teaching as inherently collaborative – supported by policies, practices, and environments that value mutual support, shared expertise, and joint responsibility – is essential to strengthen teaching, learning, and teachers’ professional fulfilment. As the Leader of Society, the African National Congress honor and celebrate all our teachers. Your hard work and dedication continue to inspire not only our learners, but the entire community. Thank you for your passion, creativity and unwavering support and commitment to all pupils across our diverse nation. Every lesson you teach shapes futures and fosters a love for learning. We are truly grateful for all that you do!

6 October World Habitat Day



World Habitat Day is marked on the first Monday of October each year and is recognized by the United Nations to reflect on the state of towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. On 6 October 2025, the Global Observance of World Habitat Day will be linked to, **urban crisis re-**

sponse. The theme will focus on addressing multiple crises affecting urban areas, including climate and conflicts that are contributing to inequality, and promote existing tools and approaches to effective crisis response.

6-12 October National Marine Week

National Marine Week is celebrated every year during the second week of October. Its purpose is to create awareness on the marine and coastal environment, the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of these resources, for the benefit of all both present and future generations. South Africa is nestled between the warm Agulhas Current on its east coast with rich ocean biodiversity, but not large fish stocks and the cold Benguela system on its west coast that supports large fisheries such as anchovy, sardine and hake stocks. These currents are key drivers of South Africa’s climate and rainfall conditions. To ensure the health of our oceans, we can reduce plastic consumption, make informed seafood choices, not to dump chemicals in rivers and beaches, choose green detergents or make your own, keep beaches clean, and fill your yard with indigenous species. (www.dirco.gov.za)

7 October Global Day for Decent Work

Decent work is central towards an inclusive society, and dignity for all. According to the ILO, decent work includes access to jobs, that provides dignity, with fair income, safe working conditions, a voice to workers and equality. With South Africa’s catastrophic rate of unemployment, especially for young people and women, decent work must remain at the centre of our national development.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

9 October

World Post Day

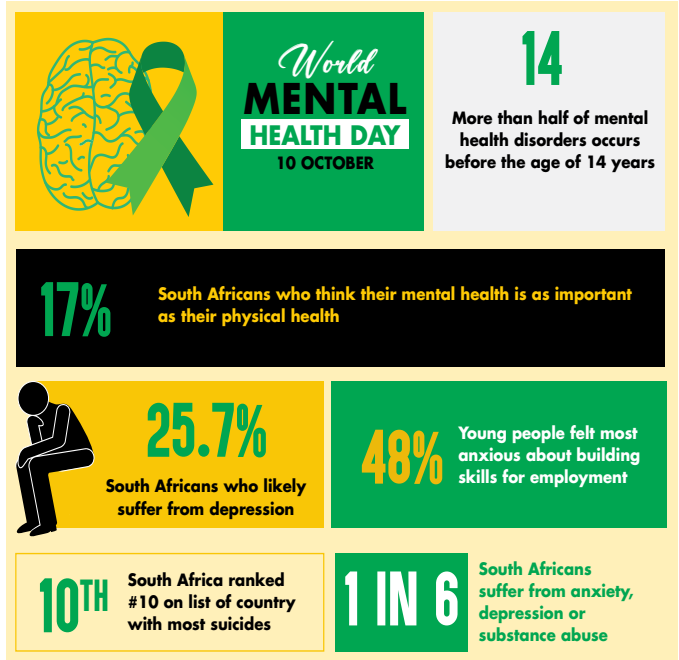


World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October. The event was declared by the 1969 Universal Postal Congress in Tokyo as a means to mark the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) formed in 1874. The purpose of World Post Day is to bring awareness to the Post's role in the everyday lives of people and businesses, as well as its contribution to global social and economic development. Postal services are facing seismic changes, due to the replacement of 'snail mail' with e-mail and other forms of messaging, as well as the entrance of private courier services, as e-commerce grows.

10 October

World Mental Health Day

Raising awareness of mental health issues and treatment is important to encourage well-being and prevent suicides. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many experience mental health challenges due to isolation, fear and grief of losing loved



ones. The day encourages people to care for themselves and to care for others.

10 October

World Homeless Day

Two percent of the global population is homeless and live on the streets, in developed and developing countries. Homeless people face exposure to the weather conditions, and therefore poor health and exposure to crime. The main causes of homelessness are lack of affordable houses, unemployment, poverty and low wages, and also lack of access to land.

