



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President

Southeast Asia is closer now than ever before

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

WE have just returned a successful visit to Southeast Asia, where we visited Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia. South Africa has long-standing relations with all three countries.

Our ties to Indonesia and Malaysia go back more than 300 years, when the Dutch East India Company brought people from what were then known as the Dutch East Indies to South Africa as slaves. Together with political exiles, skilled artisans and religious scholars, these people formed what was to become the Cape Malay community. The descendants of these early arrivals remain an integral part of the South African people.

Alongside Indonesia and Malaysia, Vietnam was a firm supporter of the struggle against apartheid. Vietnam's struggle for independence and self-determination was an inspiration to many South African freedom fighters.

As we recognise these strong historical ties, these visits have been firmly focused on the future. There is enormous potential for greater trade and investment between South Africa and each of these countries.

The three countries we visited have a combined population of 380 million people and have recorded significant economic growth over many years. The combined value of trade between South Africa

and these three countries in 2024 stood at R83 billion.

In the midst of global economic uncertainty, it has become more important than ever for South Africa to diversify its trade and investment relations. As we continue to expand trade with traditional partners, we see great value in strengthening links with other countries of the Global South.

Already, South Africa exports many agricultural products to these countries. During our visits, we discussed how to expand the range and the quantity of agricultural products we supply these countries, ranging from beef to soybeans to fruit. Among other things, we agreed to look at some

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



of the regulatory barriers to market access.

Over time, each of these countries has expanded their advanced manufacturing capacity, with some taking the lead in semiconductors, batteries and electric vehicles. South Africa, with its substantial reserves of critical minerals, is well placed to supply the products that these industries need. We are keen to develop partnerships with these countries to ensure that we add value to these minerals before exporting them. This is part of our ambition to move away from being an exporter of raw material to producing finished goods.

In each country, we met with com-

panies that were keen to invest in South Africa. Some of these companies already have a presence in our country. All of them recognised the great potential of our economy, our well-developed infrastructure, our world-class financial sector, our independent judiciary and stable institutions.

A number of companies told us about their plans to build new manufacturing plants in South Africa to serve both our domestic market and markets in the Southern African region and on the African continent.

They want to locate their operations in South Africa so that they can take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

While much of our visit focused on expanding trade and investment ties, we share with all three countries a common approach to international matters. We are all firm advocates of multilateralism and international law, the reform of the United Nations and cooperation between the countries of the Global South. We therefore agreed to work together to promote peace and security, climate action and sustainable development.

Our common approach was evident also at the 47th Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which we attended at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. The theme for the ASEAN summit, **'Inclusivity and Sustainability'**, mirrors the theme for our G20 Presidency, **'Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability'**. This underlines the alignment between our vision of the world and that of the countries of Southeast Asia.

Although we are separated by the Indian Ocean, South Africa and Southeast Asia are closer now than we have been before. We share a determination to build a common future of development and inclusive growth from which all our people benefit. ■



STATEMENT ON RECENT BY-ELECTIONS

The People Continue to Stand with the ANC as Renewal Gains Strength

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress warmly thanks the people of South Africa for once again reaffirming their confidence in the movement during the by-elections held on Wednesday, 5 November 2025. These results confirm that the ANC's renewal programme is not only alive, it is winning the hearts and minds of our people.

The ANC celebrates the victories in **Ward 14, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Gert Sibande Region, Mpumalanga)**, and **Ward 37, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality (Sekhukhune Region, Limpopo)**. Both wards delivered victories for the ANC, showing that where the organisation is united, present, and connected to the people, the people respond with trust and loyalty.

We congratulate **Comrade Bishop Fana Nzimande** in **Ward 14, Govan Mbeki**, and **Comrade Motubatse Zacharia Ngake** in **Ward 37, Fetakgomo-Tubatse**, on their election as councillors. They must now lead with humility, selflessness and loyalty to the people, upholding the highest standards of service and accountability implementing the Local Government Action Plan.

These victories are more than



We extend our deepest gratitude to every voter, volunteer, activist and cadre who worked tirelessly to ensure these victories. Your dedication on the ground, from door-to-door engagement to community mobilisation, is the living proof of the ANC's renewal in action.

numbers. They are a reflection of the people's confidence in the ANC's commitment to delivery, unity and ethical leadership. The organisation is stabilising, reconnecting, and proving that disciplined work among the people restores both credibility and hope.

As we prepare for the upcoming by-elections, the ANC calls on all members, activists and supporters across the country to draw strength from these results. Every household visit, every community meeting, and every act of service is a step forward in rebuilding the movement of the people.



STATEMENT

On the Departure of Neville Delpont from the African National Congress

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) is not surprised nor shaken by the departure of Neville Delpont from the organisation. His exit affirms the correctness and necessity of the ongoing reconfiguration process, which seeks to restore the ANC's integrity, discipline, and ideological clarity.

We have always been aware of his regressive and narrow ideological posture, which sought to divide our people on the basis of apartheid classification. His departure is a confirmation that those who hold these kinds of tendencies in the movement will not survive an ANC that is renewed. The renewal of our movement is a deliberate act to cleanse it of opportunism, self-interest, and political convenience.

Delpont's decision to join a right-wing formation that is openly anti-transformation, anti-justice, and indifferent to the suffering of Palestinians exposes the moral and political bankruptcy of those who abandon the cause of equality. His self-ejection validates that the ANC is on the right path; a path that prizes principle over position, and loyalty to the people over loyalty to privilege.

Renewal is not about removing



individuals but about restoring the moral centre of the ANC. We are rebuilding a movement of service, humility, and honesty, guided by the Freedom Charter and anchored in the struggles of the working class and the poor.

The ANC of Luthuli, Tambo, and Hani will not be captured by personal ambition; it will remain the people's movement, shaped by their aspirations and grounded in their daily realities.

The ANC's mission in the Western Cape is to unite all South Africans, black (Africans, Coloureds, Indians) and white; behind one vision of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa. We seek a province where the children of Bonteheuwel, Delft, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, and Mitchells Plain can live with the

same dignity, safety, and opportunity as those in Franschhoek, Stellenbosch, and Sandton. This is the essence of our revolution; the restoration of dignity and equality for all.

Our renewal is not a slogan but a living programme for change, to build communities that work, to create jobs, and to return hope to every South African. Those who depart expose their own contradictions; those who remain strengthen our resolve. The ANC is being purified by truth and propelled by conviction; towards the ultimate goal of a better life for all.

The ANC, Africa's oldest and greatest liberation movement, marches firmly on; renewed in spirit, anchored in purpose, and unwavering in its commitment to justice and dignity for all. ■

Shame on the small group of Black and White men who campaign against equal rights and our fundamental freedoms

The Kader Asmal Annual Memorial Lecture

■ Delivered by **VALLI MOOSA**

We, the people of South Africa,

Recognise the injustices of our past;

Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;

Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to:

- *Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;*
- *Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;*
- *Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and*
- *Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.*



May God protect our people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.

With these opening words, the adoption of the Constitution in 1996 marked the end of the long nightmare of apartheid and colonialism.

It marked the end of White Supremacy and of Black humiliation.

But who would have imagined that an entire generation after the momentous adoption of the democratic constitution, there would be a small group of men, both Black and White, who would unashamedly campaign against equal rights and fundamental freedoms.

This is the subject of my talk today in honour of that great South African law professor and freedom fighter, Kader Asmal.

As I speak purely in my personal capacity, I can say it as it is and call it by its name.

On the one hand there are those who rubbish the Constitution by

making the claim that the Constitution is Eurocentric, that it was drafted by Whites, or that it was secretly drafted by imperialists in Washington and imposed on us.

On the other hand there are those who rubbish the Constitution by claiming that our Constitution promotes white genocide, is a blueprint for 'socialism', and that the Bill of Rights is 'woke'.

It is, O so tempting, to simply dismiss these views by saying: take it from whence it comes.

Of course, from whence it comes is not unimportant, but let me first deal with the actual substance.

Our Constitution is no accident of history. It is the product of a glorious freedom struggle against apartheid, that crime against humanity, and, it is product of a vision for an enlightened future.

It was drafted by 490 democratically elected members of the Constitutional Assembly over a two-year period from 1994 to 1996.

The very composition of the Assembly was a representation of South African society in all its diversity.

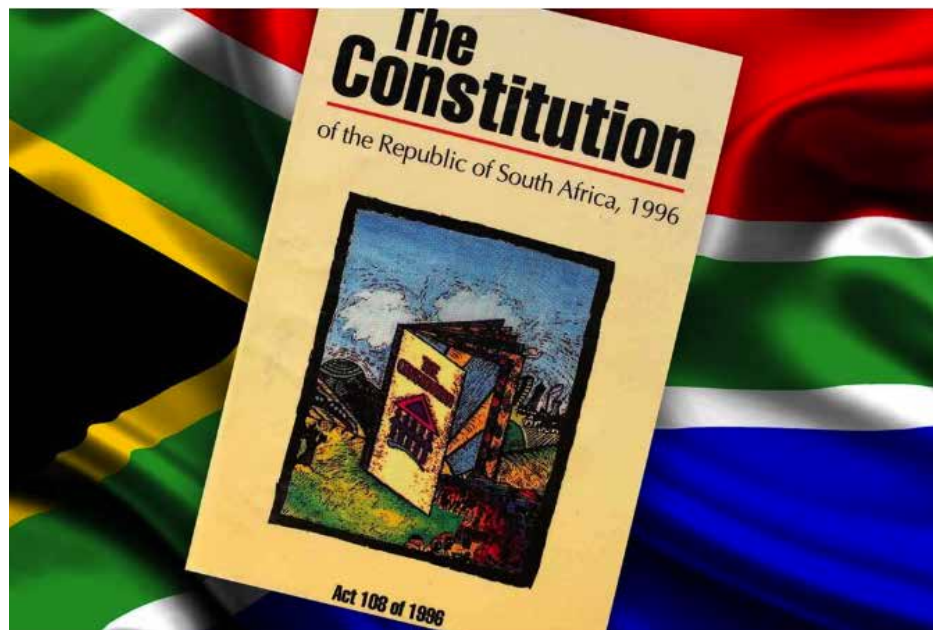
It was an intergenerational group composed of members in their twenties to some in their eighties.

There were trade union official and shop stewards from the mines and across industries.

There were business owners.

There were school teachers, domestic workers, lawyers and medical doctors.

There were former SADF Gen-



erals and former uMkhonto We Sizwe combatants.

There were Traditional Leaders, Christian priests, Muslim imams and other religious leaders.

There were recently returned exiles and activists of the United Democratic Front.

There were writers, poets and musicians.

They came from the ANC, the PAC, The Communist Party, the National Party, the Democratic Party, Inkatha Freedom Party, the Freedom Front and range of other small parties.

And, they came from every corner of urban and rural South Africa.

When you looked at this body of people, you knew that you were looking at South Africa.

On 27 April 1994, over twenty million voters granted the 490 members of the Constitutional Assembly, the sovereign mandate to draft and adopt a Constitution for the free South Africa.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Constitutional Assembly had the democratic mandate to draft and adopt a new constitution, it decided to go beyond the call of duty by doing everything humanly possible to actively involve the people as a whole in the drafting process.

The public consultation process that followed stands out as a monument in itself. Its extent, scale and reach has no equal in the pre or post-apartheid South Africa.

It is also safe to say that no other Constitution anywhere else in the world is a product of such extensive public consultation and active participation of the citizenry.

The first step was to hold all meetings of the CA and its myriad of committees in full public view. None of the debates and discussions were held behind closed doors.

All the proceedings were extensively reported in the media.

The mantra was: the Constitution should not be drafted behind the

backs or above the heads of the people.

Members of the CA travelled the length and breadth of the country holding public consultation meetings.

The proceedings of each such consultation are on record.

Widely publicised calls, in all languages, were made requesting the public to submit their views to the Assembly.

A staggering 1 753 424 written and voice submissions were received.

Between the years 1994 to 1996, the general public was intimately engaged in the Constitution making process.

When the new Constitution was finally voted upon, it was supported by an overwhelming majority in the CA. (As a matter of interest, only 2 (out of 490) members voted against. This is less than 0.5%).

This Constitution was genuinely the making of the South African nation.

The very first provision of the adopted Constitution says:

“The Republic of South Africa is one, sovereign, democratic state founded on the following values:

- a. Human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms.*
- b. Non-racialism and non-sexism.*
- c. Supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law.*
- d. Universal adult suffrage, a national common voters roll, regular elections and a multi-party system of demo-*



cratic government, to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness.”

On the occasion of the adoption of the Constitution, the leader of the majority party in the CA, President Thabo Mbeki, said:

“The constitution whose adoption we celebrate constitutes an unequivocal statement that we refuse to accept that our Africanness shall be defined by our race, colour, gender or historical origins. It is a firm assertion made by ourselves that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. It gives concrete expression to the sentiment we share as Africans, and will defend to the death, that the people shall govern. It recognises the fact that the dignity of the individual is both an objective which society must pursue, and is a goal which cannot be separated from the material well-being of that individual. It seeks to create the situation in which all our people shall be free from fear, including the fear of the oppression of one national group by another, the fear of the disempowerment of

one social echelon by another, the fear of the use of state power to deny anybody their fundamental human rights and the fear of tyranny. It aims to open the doors so that those who were disadvantaged can assume their place in society as equals with their fellow human beings without regard to colour, race, gender, age or geographic dispersal.

It provides the opportunity to enable each one and all to state their views, promote them, strive for their implementation in the process of governance without fear that a contrary view will be met with repression. It creates a law-governed society which shall be inimical to arbitrary rule. It enables the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means rather than resort to force. It rejoices in the diversity of our people and creates the space for all of us voluntarily to define ourselves as one people.

As an African, this is an achievement of which I am proud, proud without reservation and proud without any feeling of conceit. Our sense of elevation at this

moment also derives from the fact that this magnificent product is the unique creation of African hands and African minds.”

How is it that a small number of people are doing everything to question the legitimacy of the constitution? Anyone who knows the history of our Constitution will find this very perplexing. Is it really out of genuine ignorance of how and who made our constitution?

They answer this question themselves when they rubbish the very fundamentals of the Constitution.

Let's say it like it is: these Anti-Democrats are backward reactionaries who are opposed to the fundamental democratic values contained in the constitution.

They are opposed to political and social progress.

They yearn for a nostalgic past in which the common man and women is denied freedom.

Without looking too hard, one can see many common characteristics of these Anti-Democrats.

Yes, let's look at it for what it is.

Many of those rubbishing the Constitution are the very ones who have been found guilty of wrongdoing, stand accused of wrongdoing or work as paid legal advisors to wrongdoers.

This is hardly a co-incidence!

They also resort to reviving the demon of tribalism. They openly yearn for a return to patriarchy.

And then there are those who just happen to be the very ones who openly praise apartheid, promote

religious intolerance and naked white supremacy.

2025 will go down in history as the year in which white supremacist in South Africa, the US, the UK, Europe and elsewhere abandoned all sense of shame and walked out of the shadows to spit bile on anyone who is not white.

Could it be that after centuries of a world ruled by white men through slavery, colonialism and apartheid, the short 5 or 6 decades since the civil rights movement in the US, the adoption of the Universal declaration of human rights, the feminist movement and the fall of apartheid, what we are seeing is a rebellion against the sharing of wealth and power with others – with women and with people of colour?

Their brazenness takes ones breath away. In thinly veiled racism, they talk about the '*western way of life*' being under threat – of course, meaning that white monopoly of privilege and power is under threat.

We are fortunate that in South Africa this is not a generalised sentiment among whites. The few

who promote white supremacy are regarded as an embarrassment.

By the way, they enjoy free speech here. In America, which they consider to be heaven on earth, it is now a crime to speak out against fascism.

Let us be unambiguous: diversity, inclusiveness, openness and tolerance are fundamental to what the free South Africa is about... not just a nice to have.

It is deeply offensive for anybody to rubbish these values...especially if it is done by white supremacists.

South African's both black and white fought long and hard for the achievement of a sovereign republic.

Is it a wonder that the same supremacist are calling on the US to impose its imperial power over South Africa?

They are obviously impressed that in the US, freedom loving journalists, academics, judges and civil servants are being persecuted.



They are calling for the recolonisation of South Africa.

The idea of a sovereign republic only makes sense to them if it is controlled by a white-minority regime.

Both these White and Black anti-democrats make extensive use of social media and the glib one-liners that this medium lends itself to.

Both these groups rely heavily on podcasts – a medium through which fact-checking does not apply and a medium in which the one-sided point of view is revered.

It is interesting that in style, both resort to incendiary language, hyperbole and profanities.

They both resort to ethnic mobilisation...a common refuge for scoundrels.

Ethics, compassion and fundamental human rights are alien to their discourse.

Let's look at some of their arguments against the Constitution:

The anti-democrats say that the constitution is 'woke'.

By this they mean that the Constitution prohibits – without equivocation – the promotion of racism. That it promotes tolerance and compassion.

That it prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race or gender or religion or sexual orientation.

That it says a woman is first and foremost a full human being.

They also don't like religious freedom. The constitutional right

to freely practice ones religion is far too 'woke' for them.

The Anti-Democrats say that the Constitution discriminates against white males and/or it promotes white genocide.

This is nothing more than a desperate yearning for the days when every privilege was reserved by white men for white men.

Their real gripe is against the opening of the doors of learning, of the corridors of power, the professions and the economy to women and blacks.

The Constitution requires of the state to correct the imbalances of the past. That those who were trampled upon for centuries are given the opportunity to study to work and live a life of dignity.



White and Black anti-democrats rely heavily on podcasts – a medium through which fact-checking does not apply and a medium in which the one-sided point of view is revered.

Those anti-democrats are really asking for white privilege and black disadvantage to be frozen in time.

If this Constitution were anti-white, it would not have been the case that more than a generation after freedom the standard of living of white males is miles ahead of any other group in society.

As mentioned by Rob Rose and Monica Mark in the Financial Times dated 18 October 2025: *“Households headed by white South Africans earn, on average, more than four times the income of Black households, according to Statistics South Africa. An unemployment rate of 37 per cent for Black households falls to 8 per cent for their white peers.”* The actual data speaks for itself.

The far left anti-democrats say that the Constitution was drafted in Washington and imposed on us.

We are fortunate that the South African constitution was drafted in the modern electronic era. As a result, every step of its drafting is available in video and audio footage for anyone who cares to see.

The utterly false claim is nothing but a deliberate attempt by those who act unlawfully and those who are apologists for wrongdoers to legitimise their contemptuous behaviour.

These anti-democrats say that Constitution is Eurocentric and that it is un-African.

An extension of this argument would be that the struggle for one person one vote is unAfrican; that the struggle for a living wage is

unAfrican; that the long struggle of South African women for equal rights is unAfrican.

One is reminded of the claim by the Apartheid oppressors that the freedom struggle for the overthrow of apartheid and equal rights was the work of soviet inspired communist – that these were really unAfrican ideals.

Now we are told that the equal rights and freedoms that form the backbone of the Constitution are being imposed on us by 'others'.

The anti-democrats say that the Constitution grants too much power to an unelected judiciary.

Our Constitution grants parliament the right to make the laws that governs us but not the right to take away our freedoms.

Yes, an elected parliament is free to rule but not free to oppress us.

Parliament should not be able to scrap regular elections, free speech, religious freedom, equal rights for workers, etc.

In any case, it is not uncommon for scoundrels and anti-democrats all over the world to rubbish the judges and courts that stops them from wrongdoing.

By the way, the judges do not appoint themselves. They are appointed by the JSC, which is controlled by parliament.

The anti-democrats say that the Constitution does not allow for the redistribution of land.

Show me the evidence please. The constitution not only allows for land redistribution, it requires government to do it. There is no evidence that the slow pace of

land redistribution is a result of the property clause in the Bill of Rights.

In any event, the fundamental essence of the Constitution does not stand or fall by any particular formulation of the property clause. The constitution itself allows for an amendment to the property clause or any other clause... provided this is supported by an overwhelming majority of South Africans. There is no demonstrable evidence that the overwhelming majority are opposed to the property clause.

And, of course, as strange is the false claim by white anti-democrats that the Constitution allows for farms to be unjustly appropriated.

Sunset Clauses

Then there is this constant false claim that there are serious 'compromises' in the Constitution called sunset clauses and that this is what is holding us back. Please show me the sunset clauses.

There are none!

There were sunset clauses in terms of which the Government of National Unity operated from 1994 to 1996. The sun on these clauses have long set. They no longer exist!

Conclusion

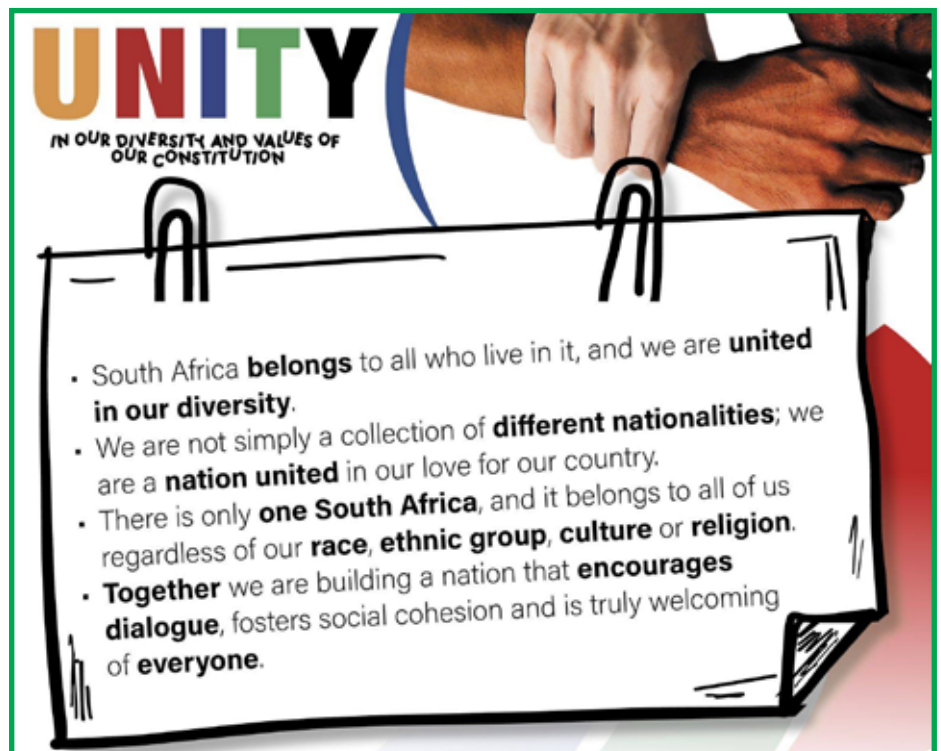
The Constitution serves as the mirror we use to judge ourselves.

It is the standard we expect those in political and economic power to respect.

It is the ultimate weapon of the poor, the weak and the disadvantaged.

It is the window through which the nation looks at the future we want. ■

Valli Moosa was one of the architects of the Constitution. He served as Minister of Constitutional Development in President Mandela's cabinet.



Exposé of a Self Styled “Analyst”: Why Prince Mashele Is Unfit to Pose as a Public Intellectual and Why Media Houses Are Complicit

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

IN the era of organisational renewal, disciplined messaging and ideological clarity demanded by the African National Congress ahead of the 2026 Local Government Elections, we must refuse to permit charlatans of the sort of Prince Mashele to dominate our airwaves and other media. His conduct is not merely objectionable, it is an affront to intellectual integrity, public accountability and the constitutional order.

The Mashele Façade – The Book Scandal Speaks Volumes
In May 2023, it emerged that Mashele’s so called “*unauthorised biography*” of Herman Mashaba, titled ***The Outsider***, was in fact financed to the tune of R12.5 million by Mashaba himself (News24).

The publisher, Jonathan Ball Publishers, withdrew the book after Mashele failed to disclose the funding arrangement, calling it a “*material non-disclosure*” and a “*breach of trust*” (Mail & Guardian).

The researcher on the project, Brutus Malada, later revealed he was paid R3.2 million for his work yet was never credited, a betrayal now on public record (News24). Mashele defended himself by claiming confidentiality clauses

barred him from disclosing the source of funding (TimesLIVE).

He therefore sold an “*unauthorised*” narrative while hiding its sponsorship, erased a co author, and pocketed millions under false pretenses. That is not the mark of a public intellectual, it is the signature of a mercenary masquerading as a moral compass.

A History of Obsession – from the Midrand Group to the Mashaba Years

Prince Mashele’s history of hostility toward the ANC is not new, it is chronic.

From his early years in the so called Midrand Group – a cluster

of young black “*commentators*” and “*academics*” who made their name by predicting the ANC’s demise – Mashele has nursed a sustained obsession with the fall of the ANC and its leadership.

In 2012, the Mail & Guardian described the Midrand Group as “*ungovernable, fearless and disrespectful,*” noting that its members were “largely resigned to being watched closely” for their consistent attacks on the ANC.

In another piece titled “***Prince Mashele, Zuma and the Rural-Italians,***” his fixation on portraying the ANC as collapsing was laid bare.

He later published ***The Fall of***



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the ANC: What Next? (2014) and *The Fall of the ANC Continues* (2017, with Mzukisi Qobo), texts dripping with contempt for the liberation movement and its leadership.

By the time he took Mashaba's R12.5 million to produce a paid political hagiography, his ideological bias was fully formed.

That is why his current tirades against President Cyril Ramaphosa and the ANC cannot be viewed as neutral analysis. They are part of a decade long vendetta dressed as commentary.

Even in October 2025, he repeated that *"the ANC is South Africa's biggest liability,"* declaring on eNCA and EWN platforms that *"criminals bribe ANC politicians to make big money in the state."*

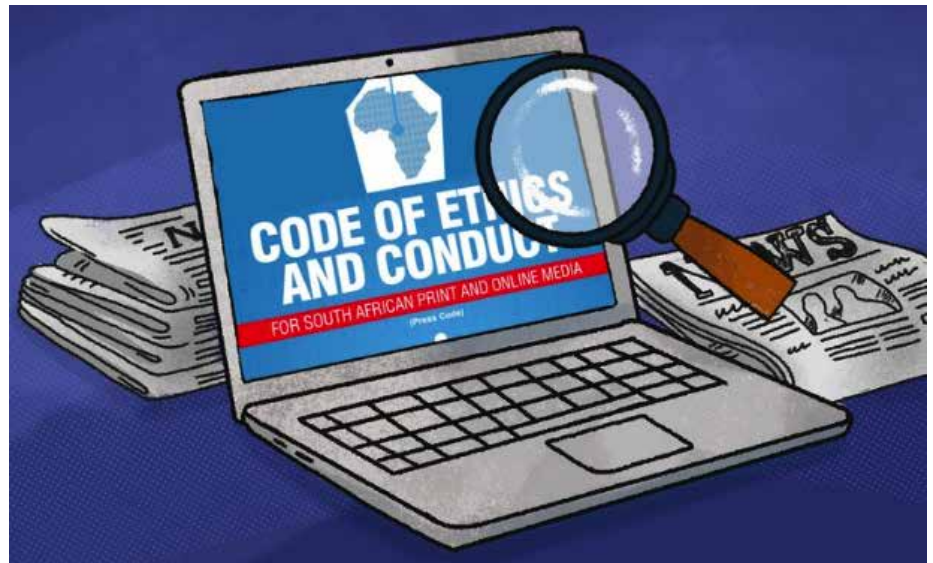
These blanket statements, devoid of evidence, reveal a pattern of obsession rather than analysis.

Mashele's tirade and hatred for the ANC does not give him a licence to cast unverified innuendos against the ANC nor any of its leaders. The nation is watching.

Why This Matters – Betrayal of Ethics, Abuse of Media, Corruption of Discourse

Mashele's misconduct must be viewed through several lenses:

- **Intellectual integrity:** Authorship requires transparency. His concealment of a political funder and suppression of a collaborator's credit expose calculated deceit.
- **Media complicity:** Media houses that keep giving Mashele space are not innocent. They are partners in deception, lending institutional credibility to a proven liar.



- **Erosion of renewal:** *"As an ANC member in good standing, co opted into the Communications Subcommittee, I am acutely aware that the ANC's project of organisational renewal demands that all who speak in its name, whether leaders or communicators, must live by the same ethical standards they promote."* Mashele's conduct embodies everything renewal seeks to purge, opportunism, deceit and self enrichment dressed as intellect.
- **Damage to public trust:** The Press Code obliges the media to verify facts and give right of reply. Mashele's unchecked tirades against the President and the ANC violate this principle.
- **Hidden agendas:** If he once accepted millions from Mashaba to produce outright propaganda, would it surprise anyone if he were collecting from other patrons today? His orchestrated attacks reek of paid narrative warfare.

Constitutional and Normative Foundations

a. Freedom of Expression vs Integrity

Section 16 of the Constitution protects expression, but not lies.

The Press Code forbids *"inaccurate, misleading or distorted information"* and compels fairness and balance. When Mashele labels President Ramaphosa a *"liar"* and *"professional denialist"* without proof, his moral authority collapses under the weight of his own deceit. Freedom of expression is not freedom to defame.

b. Equality and Dignity – Sections 9 and 10 of the Constitution

Section 9, *"Equality"*, states *oppositis verbis*:

"Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law."

"Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. To promote the achievement of equality, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination may be taken."

"The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour,

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sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.”

Section 10, “*Human Dignity*”, provides that:

“Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected.”

These are not ornamental clauses, they are foundational obligations binding on all persons, including media actors and commentators.

When an individual like Mashele disseminates falsehoods against the Head of State, he offends both equality and dignity:

- **Equality:** By weaponising lies, he undermines the equal protection of the law that applies to every citizen, including the President. No one enjoys a higher licence to defame.
- **Dignity:** By branding the Head of State a liar without factual basis, he strips the President, and the office itself, of the respect owed under Section 10. Dignity, constitutionally, is about recognition of personhood and protection of honour from malicious harm.

- **Institutional harm:** The dignity of the presidency symbolises the sovereignty of the Republic. To defile it with deceit is to corrode constitutional order itself.

Malicious disinformation is thus not “*analysis*,” it is a constitutional transgression. The right to criticise cannot morph into the right to malign. Freedom of expression (s 16) cannot be elevated above equality (s 9) and dignity (s 10); the Constitution is a harmony, not a hierarchy.

c) Ubuntu and Moral Treachery
Ubuntu demands fairness and truthfulness. To accept secret funding, exploit a colleague, and then hurl insults at the President is moral treachery. It offends the African ethos of integrity.

Specific Critique – Mashele’s Words vs His Conduct

- **Claim:** “*Cyril Ramaphosa is a liar and a professional denialist.*”
Counterpoint: Mashele publicly admitted to lying about his own funding source (IOL).
- **Claim:** “*Ninety percent of South Africans have lost*

confidence in the President.”

Counterpoint: No empirical data supports this. It is fabrication, not fact.

- **Claim:** *His media appearances are mere “analysis.”*

Counterpoint: When a paid propagandist speaks unchallenged, it is not analysis, it is collusion.

Legal and Constitutional Thresholds – Sedition by Stealth

Treason in South African common law means conduct aimed at overthrowing or impairing the constitutional authority of the State or Head of State.

Mashele’s sustained disinformation may not reach that threshold, but it drifts perilously close to sedition, a deliberate effort to incite contempt and distrust toward lawful authority.

Statutes such as the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Act 33 of 2004 and the Cybercrimes Act 19 of 2020 criminalise false information intended to harm the State or its institutions.

Mashele’s behaviour, repeated defamation of the President through demonstrable falsehoods, sits squarely within that moral and legal danger zone.

Freedom of speech cannot mutate into a weapon of national destabilisation.

Call to Media, to the ANC, and to the Public

- **To Media Houses:** Apply the Press Code. Verify, question, and disclose funding before platforming compromised voices.



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- **To the ANC:** Tighten narrative discipline. Do not concede media space to opportunists.
- **To the Public:** Beware of “analysts for hire.” They trade integrity for payment.



Conclusion – The Bulldog’s Final Bite

Prince Mashele is no courageous critic. He is a proven money collector who misled a publisher, pocketed millions from Herman Mashaba, robbed his researcher of credit, and now performs outrage for profit.

It would surprise no one if he is again collecting from unseen patrons to attack the ANC and its President. The publications and platforms that host him are not innocent; they are complicit. They know his record yet continue to amplify him because controversy sells.

We will not remain silent while intellectual fraud parades as analysis. We will defend truth, dignity and the constitutional order with the ferocity of those who built this democracy from the trenches of struggle.

The bulldog is awake, its teeth sunk deep into deceit, and this time the echo of the bone crush will not fade until every lie is exposed. ■

Stan Itshegetseng is an ANC Member in good standing, from the Ward 27, Vuyani Mabaxa Branch in Zone 10 Greater Joburg Region.



A Revolution that Forgets Its People Will Eventually Be Forgotten By Them!

■ By **GOMOLEMO MOTHIBI**

FOLLOWING the 2007 ANC Polokwane Elective Conference there has been an unease political trajectory running through the African National Congress, riddled with a silence between songs, and a space between slogans.

This internal rupture marked a turning point in the organisation’s political prospects since advent of democracy, culminating in the formation of a number of splinter organisations, beginning with Congress of the People (COPE).

That moment was not just a split; it was the birth of a trend that would later result in the loss of the ANC’s hegemony in the realm

of South African politics. These developments reflect a painful reality: once-loyal freedom fighters now find alternative homes for their revolutionary convictions.

The splintering of the movement over the years is a contemporary reminder that if political grievances are not resolved amicably they have a potential to delay the realization of the National Democratic Revolution.

But equally these challenges, impresses upon us to reflect widely and objectively on the existential crises confronting the ANC.

The crises of neo-patrimony, political clientelism and careerism

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as reflected by President Nelson Mandela in the 1997 Elective Conference, only to result in the establishment of the State Capture Commission and recently the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry, decades later.

Even the recently published 30-Year Review of Democracy by the Institute of Race Relations reflects this sobering reality. It speaks to the erosion and the decline of the moral compass that once defined this glorious movement as well as its intellectual prowess since the Polokwane Conference onwards.

The downtrodden masses of our people have been left in limbo, confronted with a plethora of service delivery challenges, high unemployment and poverty levels.

And as Africa's revered novelist, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, opines in *The River Between*; "when the water that once nourished the people becomes polluted" ... "the river rejects its own...". And people will flow elsewhere to survive.

But this not a peculiar phenomenon. The ANC has faced a similar crisis before, the difference however is that it was not a governing party.

In the harshest years of exile and banning, Oliver Reginald Tambo, the organisation's longest serving President, became the glue that kept the movement intact.

With calm strength, he guided the ANC not through purges, but through reconciliation. A diplomacy of unity that can be defined as **rapprochement**. Even when confronted with the internal dissent of the Group of 8, who challenged the direction of the movement, pre and post the 1969 Morogoro Conference, Tambo did not initially agree to their ex-

pulsion until the mid-1970s, as recently remarked by President Thabo Mbeki during his interview with Dr Mbuyiseni Ndlozi on the African Renaissance Podcast. This gives credence to his leadership philosophy which was centred on organisational counselling, not banishment; persuasion, not persecution. That is how he ensured the ANC remained a broad church, wounded at times, but unbroken.

Today, we must ask ourselves: Where is that Tambo spirit now?

One by one, comrades are leaving the movement that once held the dreams of a nation in its hands. They are crossing to other parties, carrying with them not only membership cards but memories, experience and pieces of the ANC's soul.

This may very well have far more serious ramifications for the longest liberation movement on the continent particularly during this epoch, when the masses of our people particularly the marginalised and downtrodden no longer locate themselves within their own liberation movement.

So what does it mean when veterans, the thinkers, organisers and activists who kept the flame alive in forgotten corners of our democracy begin to lose faith? It reflects a widening disconnection. A revolution that once uplifted ordinary people from despair now seems estranged from those very people.

There is an uncomfortable truth here: one cannot preach unity while nurturing division. Moreover, renewal while side-lining renewal-minded voices remains a futile exercise. Unity and Renewal were meant to restore discipline, dignity and purpose. Not to shrink the movement until only

factions remain.

Before we misuse President Thabo Mbeki's words, we must return to their origin. Lenin's idea of "fewer but better" was not a justification for dwindling membership. It was a call for ideological clarity, ethical leadership and revolutionary discipline and to transform quantity to quality.

Mbeki, drawing from Lenin, meant that quality must triumph over mere quantity. But today, that slogan has been repurposed as an alibi for quiet decline. We cannot applaud fewer if the better are the ones who feel forced out. Fewer only means better when ethical leadership is restored, branches become centres of political education, corruption is confronted without fear and the organisation listens when the people whisper their pain.

We must choose cleansing of bad habits, not cleansing of good comrades. We must revive the values that guided Tambo; patience, persuasion and unity in struggle. The ANC must look in the mirror, not out of the window. Renewal must therefore move from resolutions to reality, from the Conference hall to the community street as well as the disfranchised who sacrificed their lives in the attainment of our democracy.

A revolution must always remember the people who carried it.

Because a revolution that forgets its people will eventually be forgotten by them. ■

Gomolemo Mothibi is an activist and co-founder of the Maf-town Book Club. She writes in her personal capacity about politics, people, and the continued work of South Africa's democratic project.

Who is Counter-Revolutionary in the ANC?

■ By **THABANG MASEKO**

THE ANC Veterans League Nelson Mandela Region Political School hosted former President Thabo Mbeki at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Gqeberha to deliberate on the challenges confronting the National Democratic Revolution, including the state's inability to fully realise its mandate as a vehicle for transformative change.

The event was attended by numerous ANC members, as well as the party's interim leadership structures from the Nelson Mandela Bay and Sarah Baartman regions.

The Veterans League Political School remains committed to deepening political education, sharpening the battle of ideas, and strengthening ideological grounding as part of the ANC's broader renewal agenda.

Former President Thabo Mbeki, speaking at the Political School organised by the ANC Veterans League on Sunday, said, "There are people who have set out to make the ANC fail."

Mbeki was referring to a document presented by Dr Percy Mahlathi, which contained resolutions adopted at the ANC's 2017 National Conference. The ANC NEC, he said, must lead in addressing these concerns and report back at the next National General Council. The document provides a breakdown of steps



needed to effect renewal, but questions arise: when we speak of "renewal", what exactly do we mean?

Mbeki said he had attended a meeting with the leadership of both the Nelson Mandela and Sarah Baartman regions.

"One interesting issue raised in that meeting," he noted, "was the negative impact of factionalism."

He asked, "What are people actually being factional about, instead of pursuing a political or ideological agenda?"

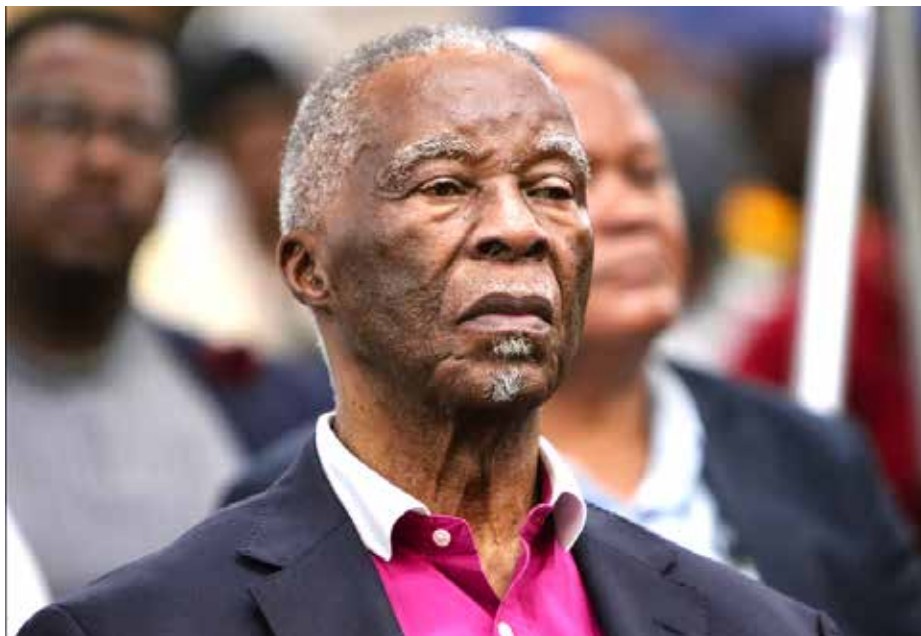
While some comrades mumbled in the hall, Mbeki continued: "Factions in the Nelson Mandela region are about positions to access resources. You cannot claim to be an ANC member when your mission is to gain power in order to enrich yourself. That is not an

ANC member," said Mbeki.

"The ANC has to hold regional conferences as per its constitution. But how can we go to a regional conference with such behaviour? What comes first, the conference or the ANC?" asked Mbeki.

"These problems began around 1994 when we came to power and became a ruling party. Before 1994, we had a small community of disciplined and dedicated activists at the core of the mass democratic movement. They were guided by selflessness, sacrifice, and struggle. Nowhere were they promised any reward for their involvement in the struggle. These included members of Umkhonto we Sizwe and underground operatives.

"We knew that between the conduct of the struggle and the



attainment of freedom lay detention, torture, death, and disappearance. These were terrifying disincentives to any life-loving person from participating in such a risky venture for an 'ill-defined' freedom to come yet we lived with the ever-present threat to life and limb. But because of our commitment to the finality of the revolution, comrades soldiered on. Let us reflect on what derailed the process and what lessons we must now harvest."

Suddenly, there was talk of creating a so-called "*patriotic bourgeoisie*" within the ranks of the ANC. This represented a shift away from the reaffirmation of the working class and the poor as the motive force of the National Democratic Revolution, as upheld by successive ANC conferences.

We did not know who would be so privileged as to be selected and ordained into this clan of the nouveau riche. Nor were the criteria publicised or the selection procedure explained. Thus began the bourgeoisification of the ANC, a rat race for the theft of state resources, coupled with disturbing

manifestations of venal corruption. There was a shift from revolutionary focus; everyone wanted to be rich. Allegations of corruption began to surface against our comrades.

Corruption has now become an internal pandemic that has spun out of control. Hardly three months pass without media revelations of yet another allegation of corruption by ANC employees in government. I am not suggesting an overreaction to such reports, but an organisation of the ANC's stature must respond with shock and alarm to these allegations.

As the Madlanga Commission proceeds with investigations into corruption in the police sector involving our comrades, the exercise aims to expose those using ANC leadership positions to advance personal agendas that are killing the ANC. The movement has been hijacked by cartels using our leaders to gain access to tenders. Mbeki added that some people even sought to collapse the South African Revenue Service, which would have prevented tax collection needed to pay government employees.

In the post-Mafikeng ANC, within the dark corridors of power, the survival of careerism required a ruthless cult of leadership singing praises to leaders in exchange for patronage, and selective indifference to corruption and fraud. To succeed, perpetrators cloaked themselves in ANC legitimacy. Publicly, they were "*revolutionaries*", but privately, they had not joined the ANC to remain poor.

Corruption is the antithesis of the revolutionary morality that should be upheld by all members of the liberation movement. In South Africa, corruption emerged from excessive revisionism the denial of scientifically grounded theories of social development, including key truths within the NDR thesis as understood by the broader ANC family. One of these truths is that national oppression was characterised by the denial of political rights and the economic exploitation of Africans. The essence of this struggle was that without political oppression, there could be no successful economic exploitation of the black masses (African, Coloured, Indian, and Chinese people).

What were the effects of national oppression?

They can be summed up as genocidal meaning lack of access to education (leading to widespread ignorance and low self-esteem), poverty and disease, and the proliferation of a lumpen culture manifesting in overcrowded prisons and social dysfunction. No self-respecting society can remain a helpless audience to these challenges and it was precisely these conditions that shaped the character of the African National Congress, drawing members of the oppressed and exploited classes into its fold.

Raising Anti-Corruption Consciousness

Anyone who loves the ANC must stand up to protect this movement against corruption and revisionism.

Before 1994, we created activists committed to the total destruction of apartheid. Today, we face the daunting challenge of rebuilding and renewing the ANC to transform South African society.

Building the ANC

Among all the resolutions adopted at the Polokwane Conference, the one on building the ANC must be treated as socially critical, politically necessary, and historically urgent.

To be socially critical is to locate the ANC at the epicentre of the struggle for the transformation of South African society. This will inform the nature and quality of the cadre entrusted with responsibility.

Many political battles can be lost if our strategic focus is not guided by the objective of social transformation – hence its political necessity.

The historical mandate of the ANC remains to eliminate all manifestations of national oppression without delay.

I strongly believe that the ANC remains a people's organisation. The people of this country, in particular the working class and the poor remains loyal in their support of the ANC.

The ANC of Mandela, Sisulu, Hani and Tambo will come out strong after all the challenges affecting it has been addressed.



Mamdani and the People's Contract: Turning The Volume Up On Dignity Politics

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

I watched Zohran Mamdani's victory address after the New York Democratic mayoral primary and, for the first time in a long time, felt an old certainty return: ordinary working people still move history when leadership listens, serves, and organises. That speech "**turn the volume up**" was not a slogan; it was a summons. It asked a people to stop whispering its pain and start speaking its future into being. Watch the speech for yourself here: <https://youtu.be/hFH2dY-wH3rl>

As someone who has spent 35 years in struggle and in govern-

ment from youthful organising in Mitchells Plain and detention in the late 1980s, through public service and Parliament, I recognised the political DNA. Mamdani was not only a candidate. He is a reminder of the People's Contract: politics as the hard, disciplined work of lowering costs, making life easier, and building coalitions that put dignity first. His line "**This power is yours. The city belongs to you.**" could have been written for our streets, our wards, our country.

I write this with hope for our movement and for all South Africans who still believe that Amandla!

must meet Ngawethu! with delivery. It is also a mirror. We cannot fix municipalities with the same habits that broke public trust. If 2026 is to be a reset, our councillor candidates must be servant leaders with competence, courage, and character. Mamdani's run shows how.

Why the Mamdani method pierced the noise

Bread-and-butter clarity

He pared politics down to what a family can feel in a month-end budget and a Monday morning commute: rent, food, transport, childcare, wages, safety. His mantra "*Lower costs. Make life easier.*" never drifted into abstraction.

Compassion with competence

Behind every slogan sat memos, numbers, and operations. Free buses were backed by cost benefit modelling; tenant protection came with code-enforcement plans; childcare mapped salaries and staffing pipelines. The tone was moral without being moralistic: firm against bigotry and corporate predation, generous to ordinary people doing their best.

Movement over marketing

Tens of thousands of volunteers, hundreds of thousands of doors, nightly debriefs, community captains, mobile-first explainer videos that teach while they mobilise. He did not chase virality; he earned trust.

Courage that serves, not performs

He refused to appease the powerful or dehumanise the weak. He was clear on Gaza and clear on antisemitism; clear on safety and clear on the limits of policing. That blend of conviction and care

is what many South Africans are begging to hear from us again.

The People's Contract, relearned

We once promised to make the life of the poor less costly and more dignified. Let us say so plainly again and prove it, ward by ward.

Material politics or nothing

If a proposal does not reduce a bill or save time, redesign it. Talk about the tariff on the municipal account in isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho, Afrikaans, English. Show how many minutes a protected bus lane saves a nurse on night shift. Demonstrate how a repaired leak lowers a pensioner's account next month.

Permanent organising beats seasonal canvassing

Stop behaving like a marketing agency; start behaving like a movement. Build ward teams that knock doors every week, not only during registration drives. Log faults publicly; close them publicly. End every week with three numbers: doors reached, issues logged, issues fixed plus one lesson learnt.

Human contact restores human trust

Answer the ward WhatsApp and telephone with a person, not a bot. Hold People's Assemblies where residents teach us the city they live in the light that is always out, the fee that is always unclear, the form they always fail.

As I wrote in an earlier reflection: "*Politics doesn't have to be cynical. We can build a city where nurses feel safe, elders are respected, kids are fed, and rents are fair.*" This is how.

Who we select: from loyalists to servant-operators

If we want Mamdani-level legitimacy, we must recruit Mamdani-grade councillors. Not singers and salary collectors. Servant-operators who can run a ward like a workshop.

Non-negotiable values (the spine):

- **Service first:** "*I work for the ward, not the ward for me.*"
- **Dignity politics:** speak to rent, food, transport, safety, childcare without scapegoating migrants, minorities, or the poor.



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- **Integrity under pressure:** clean finances; full disclosure of conflicts; willing to be audited.
- **Courage plus compassion:** able to say “no” to factional pressure and “yes” to hard community truths.
- **Ubuntu in practice:** listens deeply; builds bridges across race, class, language.

Core competencies:

- **Ward operations:** set up a war room; run door shifts; log faults; close them with the municipality.
- **Issue literacy:** understand water/electric basics, indigent policy, trader by-laws, the housing pipeline.
- **Budget fluency:** read the IDP/SDBIP; argue trade-offs publicly in plain language.
- **Organising & data:** recruit and retain volunteers; build lists; track weekly KPIs.
- **Communication:** 60-second multilingual updates that teach while speaking.
- **Coalition craft:** convene taxi associations, street committees, traders, ratepayers, youth, and faith leaders with ground rules.

Red lines and non-negotiables:

Bribe collectors; tenderpreneur linkages; gender-based violence; hate speech/xenophobia; self-serving, narcissist, wedge driver, systematic non-payment with means to pay; not living the ANC values and principles, nepotism, greed, jobs for pals.

How we choose (principles, not bureaucracy):

Proof of service in the community; integrity checks; basic compe-



tence, a practical test (one-page ward plan, a simple explainer video, a basic tracking sheet); a short service sprint before endorsement to demonstrate presence and problem-solving; a public performance contract with quarterly reporting and a recall clause. We tie party advancement to ward performance not to factional loyalty.

Ten guarantees every ward can feel

Let every ANC ward structure anchor around a handful of visible, measurable guarantees that cut costs or save time:

1. **Lighting & safety:** fix 90% of faults within a week; light school-to-home “safe paths.”
2. **Water & sanitation:** fast leak-repair teams; indigent relief with dignity, not humiliation.
3. **Transport time:** enforce BRT/taxi priority where it saves the most minutes; pilot fare-free off-peak windows for learners and clinic users where viable.
4. **Housing dignity:** stop illegal evictions; set minimum standards for backyard and informal sanitation and lights; publish the housing queue transparently.
5. **Food access:** municipal

fresh-produce markets; township bulk-buy co-ops at ranks; monitor and act on price gouging.

6. **ECD & schools:** add seats; after-school sport and arts; “school-street” calming zones.
7. **Small business respect:** 10-day permit turnaround; 21-day payment for clean invoices; a one-stop “Mom-and-Dad Helpdesk.”
8. **Clean & green:** weekly illegal-dumping blitzes with community monitors and timestamped evidence.
9. **Open contracts:** ward-level tender trackers; community observers (MFMA-compliant) for high-value awards.
10. **Human contact:** live-answered ward lines; 24-hour escalation protocol for emergencies.

Not everything needs a billboard. Proof beats propaganda. A before/after photo with a date, a GPS pin, and a thank-you to the residents who helped is worth more than ten posters.

Stop the rot publicly and consistently. Draw the line in the sand

- **Enforce a No-Tender Pledge** for councillors and immediate

family, with consequences for breaches.

- **Separate party and state:** party structures do not direct procurement or job placement; establish a complaints unit for cadre interference.
- **Independent ethics panel** hears ward complaints; quarterly summaries published.
- **Developer transparency:** publish engagements within 72 hours (topic, attendees); invite community reps to site meetings affecting residents.
- **Annual lifestyle audits;** rotate high-risk officials; peer reviews across municipalities.
- **Zero tolerance for GBV:** immediate suspension on credible allegation; survivor-centred processes.

A national frame, local proof

This is not only a Cape Town lesson. From Umlazi to Upington, Mamelodi to Mthatha, the formula holds. Household costs are strangling dignity; time theft is a hidden tax. Fix what people touch: the bill, the bus, the burst pipe, the pot hole, the clinic queue, the backyard tap, the trader's permit, the safety of the night shift. Speak with clarity. Deliver with humility. Report with honesty.

As I've said before: **"Politics doesn't have to be cynical."** The People's Contract lives or dies in small, stubborn acts of service the ones that make a grandmother's bill smaller and a

young worker's route home safer.

From whisper to chorus

Mamdani's voice travelled because it carried the grain of the streets that raised him: *"Turn the volume up."* Let us do the same not on outrage, but on dignity; not on noise, but on delivery; not on division, but on belonging.

We have no messiah to wait for. We have neighbours, stories, scars, skills and a country that still expects us to lead with virtue and valour. If New York can turn the volume up on working people and shift the centre of gravity, so can we: ward by ward, street by street, family by family.

Amandla! Ngawethu! ■

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basic.services@anc1912.org.za



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



Issued by the ANC Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ





The State of the Diamond Industry in South Africa: An Imperative to Reinvent or Face Decline

By **ASHLEY NYIKO MABASA**

THE global diamond industry, long a symbol of enduring value and luxury, finds itself at a critical juncture. This inherent vulnerability has been starkly exposed by a significant cyclical downturn in diamond pricing, ushering in a challenging period for a sector deeply susceptible to macroeconomic shifts and evolving consumer preferences.

The ramifications are particularly pronounced for economies such as South Africa, which have historically relied heavily on the extraction of natural diamonds.

At the epicentre of this disruption is the rapid ascent of lab-grown diamonds (LGDs). This technological advancement presents a direct and formidable challenge to the once-unassailable natural diamond mining sector, whose global expansion, notably in South Africa and Botswana, was significantly shaped by entities such as De Beers.

Five Forces Reshaping the Diamond Market

Currently, five principal factors are fundamentally reshaping the diamond industry landscape, demanding a strategic re-evaluation from all stakeholders:

1. **Shifting Consumer Demand:**

A discernible migration in consumer preferences for jewellery is underway, moving from natural to synthetic diamonds. This shift is primarily driven by changing demographics, particularly among younger generations, and a heightened awareness of social and environmental sustainability. This trend has also catalysed demand for enhanced supply chain traceability, from 'mine to finger'.

2. **Technological Advancements:**

The evolution of LGD technology, pioneered by nations such as China, has rendered the production of jewellery-grade synthetic diamonds increasingly accessible and cost-effective. China's early

foray into diamond synthesis, initially for industrial applications following the breakdown of trade relations with the Soviet Union in the 1960s, inadvertently laid the groundwork for its current dominance in LGD production.

3. **Economic Disparity:**

The price differential between natural and lab-grown diamonds is substantial. A flawless three-carat natural diamond engagement ring can command approximately \$57,000 in the U.S. retail market, whereas a comparable LGD is priced around \$3,800. This significant economic advantage, coupled with efficient production management and lower electricity costs in regions such as China, has enabled LGDs to rapidly capture market share.

4. **Market Share Erosion:**

China's efficiency in LGD production has delivered a severe blow to the natural diamond industry globally. Over half of

all engagement rings sold in the U.S. and 20% of the global market now feature lab-grown stones. This trend has compelled major diamond companies to reassess their strategies, with smaller enterprises facing bankruptcy and larger players reporting substantial revenue declines. De Beers, for instance, reported revenues last year that were half of those recorded in 2022. Other major producers, including Russia's Alrosa and Rio Tinto, are also feeling the impact.

5. **Geopolitical Tensions:** Global supply chains are increasingly affected by geopolitical dynamics. Despite US sanctions on Russian diamonds, which contributed to a fall in global diamond prices in 2022, regional dislocations persist. Alrosa, the world's largest diamond producer by volume, has been subject to US sanctions since 2022 and recently added to the EU sanctions list, impacting midstream and downstream players.

The Plight of Diamond-Dependent Economies and Industry Giants

The economic repercussions extend deeply into diamond-dependent economies. Botswana, for example, derives approximately one-third of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the diamond industry. With diamonds accounting for 90% of the nation's exports since 1971, the shifting market dynamics expose profound economic vulnerability and place considerable strain on the government.

De Beers, a cornerstone of the natural diamond industry, has been particularly impacted by the

rise of LGDs. Its parent company, Anglo American, is now revisiting its strategy amidst declining revenues and market share. De Beers' total revenue plummeted from \$6.6 billion in 2022 to \$3.3 billion in 2024, a 50% decrease.

Consequently, Anglo American is exploring the sale of De Beers, currently valued at \$4.9 billion on its books. Market speculation suggests a sale price significantly lower, potentially between one and two billion rand, reflecting the decimation of the natural diamond market by synthetic alternatives.

Customer demographics and behavioural changes are also influencing De Beers' strategic decisions. Generation Z consumers, now a significant part of the fine jewellery market, are driving demand for more frequent, ethically sourced purchases through diverse channels. Euromonitor data indicates that 58% of Gen Zers made fashion purchases three times last year, compared to 41% of baby boomers globally, highlighting a generational shift towards conscious consumption.

Amidst these challenges, De Beers currently holds approximately \$2 billion worth of inventory due to subdued demand, a deliberate strategy to avoid flooding the market and further depressing prices.

The Future of De Beers and Natural Diamonds

Anglo American aims to complete the sale of De Beers by the first quarter of 2026. The initial round of non-binding bids saw ten offers. Botswana, which already owns 15% of De Beers, is reportedly interested in increasing its stake. Should a sale not

materialise, Anglo American's contingency plan involves an Initial Public Offering (IPO), a move that would be noteworthy given the current absence of listed diamond companies. However, a direct sale is seen as the optimal path to maximise value and enhance Botswana's role in the diamond industry.

While De Beers does not currently sell synthetic diamonds for jewellery, focusing instead on industrial applications, its past venture into the LGD jewellery market with 'Lightbox' aimed to differentiate synthetic from natural diamonds. This initiative, however, appears not to have yielded the desired market impact.

In conclusion, South Africa's total rough diamond sales dropped by 21% from 2023 to 2024, with production also declining. Despite the shaky future for natural diamonds, South Africa and other diamond-producing nations have pledged 1% of their annual diamond revenues towards marketing natural diamonds. The objective is to reposition natural diamonds as a luxury, responsibly sourced product, a strategy critical for the survival of an industry facing unprecedented disruption.

This strategic pivot underscores the urgent need for the natural diamond sector to adapt to a new market reality shaped by technological innovation, evolving consumer values, and geopolitical shifts. ■

Ashley Nyiko Mabasa is a developmental economist and PEC Member of the ANC Youth League in Gauteng with a double Master degree from Wits University and currently studying Post-Graduate Degree in Information Systems at UCT

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

8–14 November 2025

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

8 November 1887 The Johannesburg Stock Exchange established

The Johannesburg's Stock Exchange (JSE) was established to facilitate the explosion of trade sparked by gold mining in the Witwatersrand. Mining and financial companies with investors needed a central facility to access primary capital. Initially, trading took place in a miner's tent and moved to the stables at the corner of what is now Sauer and Commissioner Streets. On 8th November 1887 Benjamin Minors Woollan founded the JSE by providing a facility to conduct trading. The JSE is the oldest stock exchange facility in Africa.

8 November 1922 Heart doctor Chris Barnard born

Pioneering heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard (1922-2001) was born in Beaufort West on this day. He headed the surgical team that achieved the first-ever human heart transplant at Groote Schuur hospital in 1967.

8 November 1958 All African People's Conference held in Accra, Ghana

A year after Ghana's independence from Britain under the presidency of Kwame Nkrumah, the All African People Conference (AAP) was held in the capital city Accra on this day. Nkrumah felt



that Ghana independence would be meaningless if other African states were still colonised by the European powers. Earlier in the year, Nkrumah, as a pioneer of Pan-Africanism convened the Conference of All Independent African States (Libya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan United Republic of Egypt and Ghana), which was followed by this historic AAP Conference. The AAP Conference was attended by all independent and non-independent African states, liberation movements and public organisations. The slogan for the conference was *"Hands off Africa"*, meeting to chart a way forward on how to achieve continental freedom. The conference committed African countries and liberation movements to anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, anti-racialism, African Unity and non-alignment.

8 November 1974 Olympic Swimmer Penny Heyns born



Penelope Heyns, was born on the 8th of November 1974 in Springs, Transvaal. Her parents later moved to the Natal South Coast. She attended Doon Heights Primary and Amanzimtoti High, where she excelled in both academics and in athletics. At the age of 13 she became the swim team captain at school. In 1992 she was the youngest member of the South African Olympic team at the Barcelona Games. While she did not win any medals, she did attract attention. She was offered an athletic scholarship from the University of Nebraska, where she later earned her Degree in Psychology. She was also a member of the South African squad at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, where she won a bronze medal in the 200 m breaststroke event. Heyns continued her swimming career and

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

was asked to represent the USA in the Olympic games but she decided instead to represent her native South Africans in the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta. She won both the 100m and 200m breaststroke event and this made her the only woman in the history of the Olympic games to do so. In 1999 she set four world records. Penny Heyns established herself as perhaps the world's greatest female breastroker of all time, breaking 14 individual world records during her career. In the year 2000 Penny announced her retirement from swimming.

8 November 2014 African Union organise Africa Against Ebola roundtable

The Ebola crisis in West Africa, especially Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone saw the WHO declaring a 'public health emergency.' Shortly thereafter, the African Union Peace and Security Council resolved to deploy a joint humanitarian/military mission of volunteers (ASEOWA) to the three countries, to assist with tackling the pandemic. After a joint visit by AU Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, UN Economic Commission Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes and African Development Bank President Donald Kaberuka to the three countries in October 2014, Dlamini Zuma wrote to all African Presidents, requesting them to provide more health workers to strengthen ASEOWA. On 8 November 2014, the AU Commission Chairperson, with UNECA and the AfDB convened the Africa against Ebola roundtable at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa with the private sector. At this roundtable, the private sector pledged 32 million USD towards the additional deploy-

ment of African health workers. By December 2014, 178 Nigerian health workers, 187 Ethiopian health workers, and 81 health workers from the DRC joined the ASEOWA contingent in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. On the 9th of January 2015, 170 health workers joined the ASEOWA team from Kenya. The ASEOWA contingent in the three countries played a critical role in supporting the health departments and communities of the three AU member states to bring the pandemic under control.

(Source: <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/30999-doc-factsheetsof26jan2015.pdf>)

9 November 2008 "Mama Africa", Miriam Makeba passes on

South African singer Miriam Makeba dies at the age of 76 after a 30 minute performance in the Italian town of Caserta. Nicknamed '**Mama Africa**', Makeba's music transcended South African borders and entered the global stage. Makeba built her reputation in the music industry in the 1950s singing for the Cuban Brothers, the Manhattan Brothers and the Skylarks. In 1959 Makeba starred in the anti-apartheid documentary **Come Back**,



after which she was subjected to harassment by the apartheid government. Her passport was revoked and withdrawn while she was outside the country, leading to her stay in exile in London. When her mother died in 1960 she could not return for her funeral because her passport had been revoked. In 1963 Makeba testified before the United Nations (UN) of how the apartheid government had stripped her of her citizenship. She performed at the inaugural conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in May 1963 in Addis Ababa. After speaking out against apartheid at the United Nations, her music was banned by the state broadcasters in South Africa. Makeba lived in numerous countries such as the United States of America, France, Guinea and Belgium; and whilst in exile, she received passports from Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, the US, and Belgium, whilst being denied a South African passport. Makeba toured various parts of the world in the 1970s and 1980s and continued to speak out against apartheid in various forums. At the end of apartheid, she returned to South Africa and continued with her singing career. In 2005, Makeba announced her retirement from the mainstream music industry but she continued to make appearances and to do smaller performances.

9 November 2004 Mbeki and entourage welcomed in Abidjan

South African President Thabo Mbeki, accompanied by Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, arrived in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to help find a solution to the political unrest in the country. Thousands of people turned out

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on the streets to greet President Thabo Mbeki and the rest of his delegation. Mbeki was received in Abidjan by the secretary general of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), Mohammed Ibn Chambas, as well as local ministers.

10 November 1871 Stanley found Livingstone at Ujiji, Tanzania

David Livingstone (1813-1873) was a Scottish missionary and explorer, also known as an anti-slavery advocate, whilst promoting British colonial and economic expansion in Africa. His first postings were in Southern Africa, which he abandoned to travel, convert and explore and map the rivers or highways of the continent. He left the London Missionary Society and was appointed as Her Majesty Queen Victoria's consul, paving the way for explorations across the continent. He is credited with being the first European to "discover" the Mosi-o-Tunya ("the smoke that thunders") waterfalls, which he named Victoria Falls. In 1886 he returned to Africa, this time seeking the origins of the river Nile, starting his journey in Zanzibar. After many tribulations, he ended in Ujiji, Tanzania, gravely ill. Livingstone by then lost contact with Europe, and New York Herald newspaper sent journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley to try and find Livingstone. He found him in the town of Ujiji on 10 November 1871, and greeted him with the now famous words: "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

10 November 1985 Dr JS Moroka passed on

Dr James Sebe Mokoka, a medical doctor, politician, and great-grandson of Chief Moroka



of the Barolong Boo Moroka in Thaba Nchu died in his village of Ratlou. He was an active member of the African National Congress and in 1949 he became its president until 1952.

10 November 2002 Mass grave found near SADF base in Namibia

Reports were made that two mass graves were found at a former South African Defence Force base, Eenhana, in northern Namibia. Construction workers discovered the first mass grave containing human bones and ammunition 400 metres from the former military base on 9 November. The second grave was discovered the next day near the base's airstrip, it contained human remains. The bones were suspected to be those of South West African People's Organisation fighters who may have been killed in the so-called nine-day war near the end of South Africa's occupation of Namibia, which ended in 1990. It was not known how many bodies the grave contained. Constand Viljoen, who was chief of the army from 1977 to 1985, reacted to the finding by saying that it was impossible for well-disciplined South African troops to have buried guerrillas in mass graves.

10 November 1995 Ken Saro-Wiwa is executed



Born in the Ogoni District of Nigeria, Ken Saro Wiwa studied English at the Government College Umuahia. He took up a post as a Civil Administrator during the Nigerian Civil War and wrote a novel based on his experiences. In 1973, after serving as Regional Commissioner for Education in the River State Cabinet, he was dismissed for his support of Ogoni autonomy, and Saro Wiwa became a member of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). A major issue faced by the Ogoni people, which MOSOP campaigned around, was that of the crude oil extraction in the region. Since the 1950's, Ogoniland had been dumped with oil waste, causing irreversible environmental damage. Saro Wiwa led a passive resistance campaign against the multi-national corporations, Royal Dutch Shell in particular, and was also critical of the Nigerian government for its reluctance in curbing the wastage of oil companies. Due to his outspoken views, Saro Wiwa was imprisoned by the Nigerian military government for several months, without trial. In 1994, four Ogoni chiefs were murdered, and although he had been denied entry into Ogoniland on the day of the murders, Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

leaders were arrested for inciting the killings. Due to the false testimony of two witnesses, bribed by Shell officials, he was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to death by hanging. On 11 November 1995, Saro Wiwa was executed, as were the other eight defendants. The international community responded with outrage, and Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth for almost four years. Law suits were brought against Shell, as well as Brian Anderson, the head of the Nigerian operation at the time. Shell offered \$15.5 million to the families of the nine victims, but denied any responsibility for the executions.

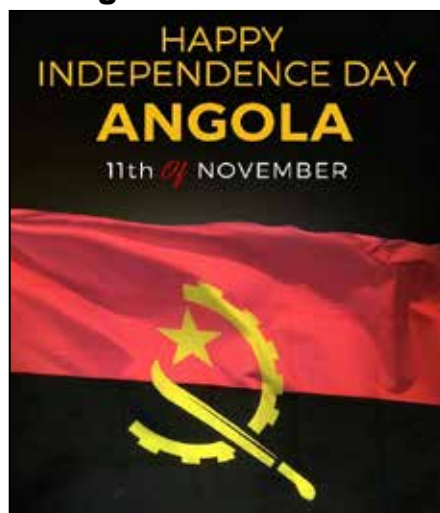
10 November 2006 Red Location Museum opens



The museum was opened in Gqeberha to the public on 10 November 2006 as a tribute to the struggle against Apartheid. It is situated in a shack settlement that is one of the oldest townships in Port Elizabeth. It was designed by the award winner Architect Joe Noero and derived its name from a series of corrugated iron barracks buildings, which were rusted a deep red colour. These were part of a Boer concentration camp in Uitenhage and moved in 1900's, to Red Location, where the first urban Black families settled. It became a site of struggle

during the years of Apartheid. The Museum also comprises an Auditorium, Library, art gallery, offices, a Memorial space to commemorate the local heroes of the struggle, and an adjoining tomb where Raymond Mhlaba and Govan Mbeki, national struggle heroes and Izithwalandwe, are buried.

11 November 1975 Angola gains independence from Portugal



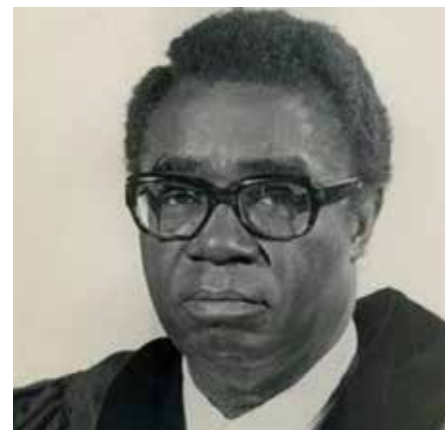
Angola becomes independent after 14 years of armed resistance to Portuguese colonial rule. The three major movements, the Movimento Popular de Liberação de Angola, (MPLA), the Front for the National Liberation of Angola (FLNA) and National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) signed the Alvor agreement in January 1975. Due to political differences amongst the parties that signed the agreement, civil war broke out. The MPLA which seized power was supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union, and UNITA which went to war was supported by South Africa and the USA. The independence of Angola paved way for other liberation movements in Southern Africa to establish bases for military training. For

instance, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) established bases in Angola. In 1976 the African National Congress (ANC) set up the Central Operations Headquarters of uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) and began a process of establishing military training camps in Angola.

11 November 1992 Church of England Votes to allow Women to become Priests

The Synod of the Church of England on this day voted to allow women to be ordained as priests, following a trend in the Anglican Church across the world. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa voted for the ordainment of women priests earlier in 1992, whilst countries such as Canada, New Zealand and the US had women priests ordained since the 1970s. The first female Anglican bishop was ordained in Canada in 1994, and the first Southern African female bishop in 2012. The Church of England's first female bishop was ordained only in 2015!

11 November 1914 Judge Taslim Olawale Elias born



The first African to become President of the International Court of

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Justice (1982–1985) was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He was Nigeria's first Attorney General and Minister of Justice after independence. In 1972, he became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 1972. Through his judgements and various books published, he made an invaluable contribution to Nigerian customary law and to Africa in international legal context. Judge Elias passed on in 1991.

11 November 1933 Miriam Tlali born



Miriam Tlali (1933–2017) was a South African novelist and the first black woman in the country to publish an English Language novel, *Muriel at the Metropolitan* (1975). She was born in Doornfontein and grew up in Sophiatown. She applied to study at the University of Witwatersrand, but was refused because she was black, and went on to study in Lesotho. She completed her first book in 1969, but only managed to publish it in 1975, and it was banned in 1979. She was co-founder of *Staffrider* magazine, and penned a regular column called "Soweto Speaks". Tlali went on to lecture in the USA, where she wrote her second novel, *Amandla* (1980) about the Soweto uprising. In an interview with Barbara Boswell in 2006, "Tlali recalled being brutal-

ly beaten in her home in Soweto by police on several occasions. During those years, she would wrap her manuscripts-in-progress in plastic shopping bags at the end of each day, and bury them in her back yard to avoid police confiscating them during raids." Mme Tlali passed away in 2017, after receiving many rewards for her contribution to literature and publishing.

11 November 1935 Dr Esther Mahlangu born



Dr Esther Mahlangu is a South African artist best known for her bold large-scale contemporary paintings that reference her Ndebele heritage. She was born on 11 November 1935 on a farm near Middleburg in Mpumalanga. Mam Esther was conferred with an honorary doctorate by the University of Johannesburg, 9 April 2018. She painted her geometric patterns on a BMW 525i in 1991 and was invited to decorate the inside of a Rollys Royce Phantom. In 2006 Mam Esther was conferred the Order of Ikhamanga, silver class by President Cyril Ramaphosa. Today Mam Esther's work is represented in private, corporate and public galleries around the world. Her village home in Mpumalanga is inundated with visitors from around the world, keen to explore her complex approach to wall decora-

tion. Even at the age of 75, she is involved in sustainable development in her community and trains young women in this art of their forebears.

11 November 1956 President Edgar Lungu born



The President of Zambia, Edgar Lungu (2015-2021), an accomplished military officer prior to his presidency, was born in Ndola. He served one full term as president, before losing his re-election bid.

11 November 1975 Angola gains independence from Portugal

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11 November 1996 Malawi Stock Exchange opens

The first national stock exchange opened in Blantyre, the industrial and commercial capital of Malawi on this day. On the first day of business, 2300 Malawians bought stocks in the first company to be listed, the National Insurance Company. Today, The MSE also runs two other market platforms, namely, the Alternative Capital Market (to raise capital for small and medium-sized companies at lower cost) and the Debt Market. Today, there are over 30 stock

exchanges across the continent. These include three regional exchanges: the Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BRVM), based in Côte d'Ivoire; the East Africa Exchange, based in Rwanda; and the Bourse des Valeurs Mobilières de l'Afrique Centrale (BVMAC) in Gabon.

11 November 2018 New bank headquarters dominates Addis skies

The new headquarters of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) was completed, with the 198 storey skyscraper now the country's highest building. The bank's history dates back to 1942, when established as the State Bank of Ethiopia, and evolved as the CBE in 1963 as a share company. It has over 37.9 million account holders and 1900 branches across the country.

11 November 2020 Magician Wian van den Berg becomes Tik Tok legend

The magician became one of the top SA Tik Tok star when his followers passed 10 million and over 200 million watching his videos (@Wianmagic. A self-taught magician, Wian was born in 1995, and grew to fame when he appeared on SA Got Talent.

12 November 1906 How Pretoria became Jacaranda City

On this day, flower and tree supplier James Clark, who imported jacaranda seedlings from Australia and began growing them on a large scale, donated 200 tree saplings to the Pretoria City Council. They were planted and by 1971 the city had over 55,000 jacaranda trees (70,000 by 2022), hence



the nickname Jacaranda City, as it turns purple when the trees bloom in October each year.

12 November 1930 Black Sash leader and activist, Molly Blackburn born



Political activist and civil rights campaigner Molly Blackburn was born in Port Elizabeth. In 1981 she started her political career by winning the Provincial Council seat of Walmer, Port Elizabeth, for the Progressive Federal Party (PFP). A year later she became involved in the advice office of the Black Sash, where she learned more about the problems that faced South Africa. The National Party (NP) regarded her as a trouble maker, for her constant questioning of police actions and the dealings of the Development

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Board in the upliftment of Black areas in the Port Elizabeth region. Her unselfish life of service came to an abrupt end on 28 December, 1985, when she died in a car accident.

12 November 1938 Steve Tshwete born



Steve Vukile Tshwete was born in Springs on 12 November. He spent his childhood in the village of Peelton, and later in King William's Town and East London. His parents, Vuyelwa Nolayiti and Brongher Palamente Tshwete, were workers but placed great emphasis on education and kept young Steve in school despite being poor. As he was growing up, the treason trial of the 50's dominated the headlines and was a catalyst for his consciousness and after leaving school he began working for the African National Congress (ANC). He joined the African Students Association, joined Umkhonto we Sizwe and became secretary of the regional command of the Border region MK. He was arrested in 1963 and sentenced to 15 years on Robben Island, where he earned a BA from UNISA, majoring in English and Philosophy. After his release in 1978, he worked as a teacher and during the 1980s became president of the

UDF Border region. After being declared a persona non grata by the apartheid regime, Tshwete left for exile, where he became Umkhonto we Sizwe commissar. On his return to South Africa in 1990 after the un-banning of the African National Congress (ANC) he became its National Organiser, responsible for rebuilding the organisation's structures, and later as coordinator on sports matters. This is when he got his nickname of "Mr Fixit" for his interventions to build non-racial sporting codes. In 1994 he became the first democratic Minister of Sport and Recreation and in 1999 President Thabo Mbeki appointed Tshwete as Minister of Safety and Security. He passed away on 26 April 2002.

12 November 1967 Association of African Universities formed

The association was founded in Rabat, Morocco bringing together the heads of African universities, many formed after independence. The decision to create the AAU was taken at a meeting of Heads of African Institutions of Higher Education held for this purpose at the University of Khartoum, Sudan in September 1963. The AAU Secretariat is hosted in Ghana since 1970. With an initial membership of 34, the Association now has over 360 members, cutting across the language and other divides.

12 November 1984 Morocco leaves OAU

The Kingdom of Morocco, one of the founder members of the Organisation of African Unity, leaves the OAU in protest against the admission of the Saharawi Democratic Republic as a member, claiming Western Sahara as its territory.

12 November 2021 Storm brings scorpions to Egypt

Three people died and nearly 500 hospitalised when a freak storm and flooding blew thousands of scorpions from the desert into Aswan. The scorpions swarmed cars and houses, injecting people with venom in panic.

13 November 1956 Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula born



Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula was born on 13 November 1956. She served as the Speaker of the National Assembly from 19 August 2021 to 3 April 2024. She was a cabinet minister from 2004 to 2021, including as Minister of Defence and Military Veterans between June 2012 and August 2021. She was an elected member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC) between 2002 and 2022 and is a former president of the ANC Women's League. Raised in the Eastern Cape, Mapisa-Nqakula trained as a teacher and worked in youth development until 1984, when she left South Africa to join Umkhonto we Sizwe in exile. She returned to the country in 1990 and became a national organiser for the newly relaunched ANC Women's League; she was later

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its secretary-general from 1993 to 1997 under league president Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. She joined the National Assembly after the April 1994 general election and chaired Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence from 1996 to 2001.

13 November 1967

Artist Bonnie Ntshalintshali born



Bonnie Mayvee Ntshalintshali was born in Winterton, Natal. She fell into art when she apprenticed as a studio assistant for ceramics artist Fèe Halsted-Berning. Her talent in ceramics and painting soon shined through and Halsted-Berning encouraged her to pursue her own path. In many of her works, Ntshalintshali drew inspiration from her early years at mission school. She won numerous awards throughout her career, among them the Corobrik National Ceramic Award in 1988 and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award in 1990. Her work is represented in collections locally and overseas. Ntshalintshali died in 1999 and was buried at the farm where she was born.

14 November 1922

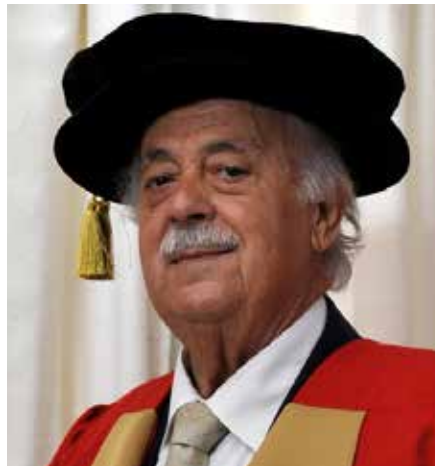
Boutros Boutros Ghali UN Secretary General born

The first African elected as UN Secretary General, Boutros

Boutros Ghali (1922–2016) was born in Egypt on 14 November 1922. He studied International Law and International Relations, and was appointed as a Professor in both these fields at the University of Cairo. Ghali started his political career as a member of the Arab Socialist Union in 1974, later serving as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs before moving to the United Nations (UN). He was elected as UN Secretary General in 1992, with the 1994 Rwanda Genocide without intervention from the UN as well as the Bosnian War, taking place on his watch. He failed to win a second term as UNSG in 1996, and was succeeded by Kofi Annan in 1997

14 November 1927

Advocate George Bizos born



The Human rights lawyer and anti-apartheid campaigner, was born in Vasilitsi, Greece on this day and came to South Africa as a refugee from the Second World War in 1941. He was part of the defense team that represented Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and others during the Rivonia Trial. In 1969 he acted for the defense of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and 21 others on charges of contravening the Suppression of Communism Act and Unlawful Organisations Act.

Bizos became a senior member of the Johannesburg Bar in 1978. He was also a member of the National Council of Lawyers for Human Rights, which he helped found in 1979. Bizos represented the families of anti-apartheid activists killed by the apartheid government, throughout the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Bizos became a member of the ANC's Legal and Constitutional Committee in 1990 and served as advisor to the negotiating teams and participated in drawing up the Interim Constitution. In 1994 he was appointed by President Mandela to serve on the Judicial Services Commission. Bizos was awarded with the Order for Meritorious Service Class II by then President Mandela in 1999. George Bizos passed away at home on 9 September 2020 at the age of 92 and was given a special state funeral on 17 September.

14 November 1961

Egypt launches first rocket

Egypt launches its first rocket from Al Kahir launch site. Its space programme started in the 1950s.

14 November 1962

Eritrea made an Ethiopian province

On this day in 1962, the Ethiopian parliament and Eritrean Assembly voted unanimously for the abolition of Eritrea's federal status, making Eritrea a simple province of the Ethiopian empire.

14 November 1975

Spain hands over Western Sahara

Spain gives portions of Western Sahara to Mauritania and Morocco in the Madrid Accords, as

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it pulls out of the territory. One month before, the International Court of Justice ruled that neither Mauritania nor Morocco has a claim to Western Sahara, and that it is up to the Saharawi people to determine their future. The Madrid Accords were signed without the Saharawi people.

14 November 1977

Biko inquest starts

Steve Biko died on the cement floor of a cell in a Pretoria prison hospital after torture at the hands of the police. An inquest into his death was held two months later in Pretoria. His death and the inquest received worldwide coverage. Police admitted to keeping Steve Biko shackled and naked for two days, but still dismissed allegations of assault. As it would later come to light, the inquest proved to be just



one big conspiracy to conceal the real cause of Biko's death, with all the witnesses and all court officials playing a part.

14 November 2006

SA Parliament approves Bill for Same-sex Marriages

On 14 November 2006, parliament approved the Civil Unions

Bill, which provided for same-sex marriage, making South Africa the first African country to do so and one of only a few in the world at the time. MPs from the African National Congress were required to support the bill, which was passed by the National Assembly 230 to 41. The measure was opposed by almost all opposition parties except the Democratic Alliance. The DA allowed its members a free vote on the issue. The bill provided for opposite-sex and same-sex couples of 18 years or older to register a voluntary union, either by marriage or civil partnership. Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka signed the bill into law on 30 November 2006. The first couple to wed, Vernon Gibbs and Tony Halls, did so in George, Western Cape, the following day, 1 December 2006.

“We believe in our country there shall be **no minority**, there shall be **no majority**; there shall just be **people**. And those people will have the **same status** before the law and they will have the **same political rights** before the law. In this instance, it will be a **completely non-racial egalitarian society.**”

STEVE BANTU BIKO



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

8–14 November 2025

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

9 November

Visit an Art Museum Day



This day invites everyone to explore the fascinating world of art by visiting museums. Whether you're a seasoned art lover or just curious, it's a perfect opportunity to experience the diversity and beauty of art collections near and far. Museums across the globe participate, offering a unique glimpse into both historical and contemporary works.

10 November

World Science Day for Peace and Development



World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. **The link between science and**

peace is particularly important in current uncertain times, when artificial intelligence and other technologies are used on a mass scale to kill and maim, instead of directed towards solving the key challenges of humanity and our planet.

10 November

International Accounting Day

The history of accounting as a recognised profession goes back thousands of years. Modern day accounting is credited to 15th century thinker and mathematician Luca Pacioli, who introduced the double-entry method of accounting, for traders to keep track of incoming and outgoing revenue and stock. As time progressed into the industrial revolution, it became evermore necessary to hire teams of professional accountants to manage large sums effectively and oversee a company's finance. Accountancy today is a global profession, used in small and large enterprises, and by individuals, to manage finances.

12 November

African Universities Day

The day celebrates the founding of the African Association of Universities in 1967, highlighting the contributions of the higher education sector to the development of the African continent.

13 November

World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is a global observance dedicated to promoting and celebrating acts of kindness. This day serves as a reminder of the positive impact that kindness can have on individuals, communities, and the world at large. It encourages people to perform intentional acts of kindness and foster a culture

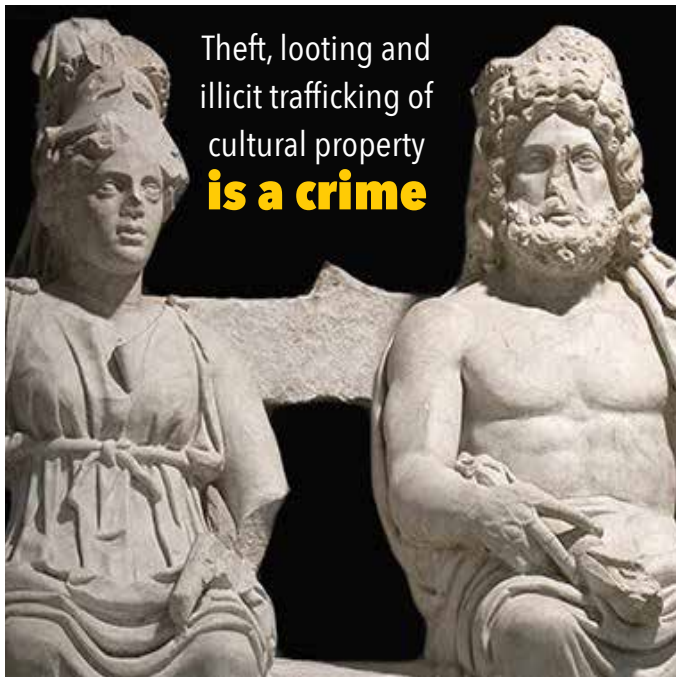
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



of compassion and generosity. **World Kindness Day** is observed on November 13th each year. It is an annual event that encourages individuals to practice kindness in their daily lives. It highlights the importance of empathy,

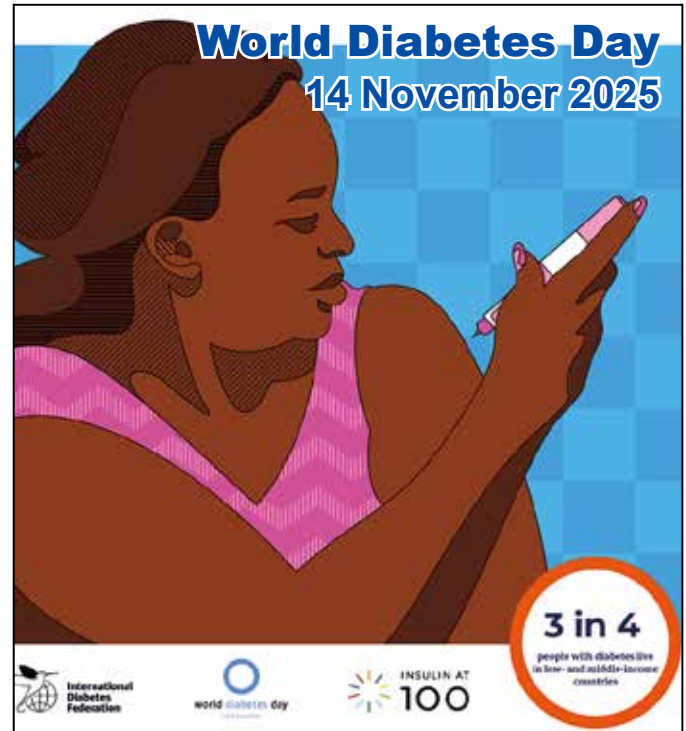
understanding, and cooperation to create a more harmonious and caring world.

14 November International Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural objects



The day reminds the world that theft, looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property takes place in every country, robbing people of their culture, identity and history, and that we have to work together to combat this crime. As a result of colonialism, a report by Sarr and Savoy (2018) indicated that up to 90% of African material cultural heritage is outside the continent. For example, according to this report, the Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale in Belgium holds 180,000 African artifacts, the Humboldt museum in Germany 75,000, Musée du Quai Branly Jacques Chirac 70,000 and the British Museum 69,000. African ministers of culture have been lobbying for the return of African cultural objects since the days of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

14 November World Diabetes Day



Globally, an estimated 537 million adults were living with diabetes in 2024, compared to 108 million in 1980. The global prevalence of diabetes has nearly doubled since 1980, rising from 4.7% to 8.5% in the adult population, and an increase in associated risk factors such as being overweight or obese. Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and lower limb amputation. Healthy diet, physical activity and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. In addition diabetes can be treated and its consequences avoided or delayed with medication, regular screening and treatment for complications. The campaign focus for 2025 is **“Diabetes and the Workplace.”** With appropriate access to care and support for their wellbeing, everyone with diabetes has the chance to live well.

For the 537 million people worldwide living with diabetes, everyday life can be a struggle.

They have to approach every part of the day with **constant caution and extra effort**. It can lead to stigma, bullying, and a sense of hopelessness, especially when access to care is limited, making it a matter of life and death. While **diabetes affects both physical and mental well-being**, care often focuses only on blood sugar management, leaving many overwhelmed.